

About the Authors

Samuel G. Armistead (University of California, Davis) is the leading American scholar in the field of the Spanish epic and ballad. His many books and articles on the Sephardic ballad in collaboration with Joseph Silverman are models of their kind. He has also published, among other works, a three-volume catalogue of the Judeo-Spanish ballads in the Menéndez Pidal Archives as well as several valuable bibliographies of the *romancero*.

Diego Catalán is director of the Seminario Menéndez Pidal, an institute of the Universidad Complutense of Madrid dedicated to *romancero* studies. In addition he is Professor at both the Universidad Autónoma in Madrid and the University of California, San Diego. His long and distinguished list of publications includes studies of the Spanish epic and ballad together with the chronicles and other medieval texts, as well as studies in linguistics and textual analysis.

Manuel da Costa Fontes is Professor of Spanish and Portuguese at Kent State University. His interest in the Portuguese ballad had its origin in his own roots. He has been an extraordinarily successful collector of Portuguese ballads both on this side of the Atlantic and abroad, resulting to date in five volumes of ballad texts from different localities. He is now working on the Portuguese folk tale.

Mercedes Díaz Roig is a distinguished professor at the Colegio de México, where she has become the expert in the study of the *romance* in Mexico. She has recently completed the definitive collection of the traditional Mexican ballad and is now at work on a Pan-American *romancero* study under the auspices of the Seminario Menéndez Pidal. Her many books and articles treat various aspects of the ballad and the popular lyric.

Beatriz Mariscal de Rhett is Professor at the Colegio de México as well as a member of the staff of the Seminario Menéndez Pidal. She has just published *La muerte ocultada*, the latest volume in the series of the *Romancero tradicional* put out by the Seminario Menéndez Pidal. It includes a semiotic study of the ballad narrative, a topic in which she is particularly interested.

Suzanne H. Petersen (University of Washington) is at present one of the most innovative scholars working on the *romancero*. She has carried out extensive studies both of the mechanism of variation in ballads and of ballad geography by means of new computer techniques. In addition she has edited several volumes for the Seminario Menéndez Pidal.

Antonio Sánchez Romeralo (University of California, Davis) has been an active collaborator and editor of various volumes published by the Seminario Menéndez Pidal. One of them, *Romancero rústico*, was the product of his own special interest, that of searching for *romances* along shepherds' routes. In addition, he is the author of an important study on the *villancico*, a traditional lyric song type.

Judith Seeger is a writer, musician, anthropologist, and sometime teacher as well as ballad collector. She undertook a protracted search for traditional ballads in Espiritu Santo, Brazil in an effort to record *romances* sung under natural conditions. Recently she has carried out a similar project in the mountains of León in Spain.

Joseph H. Silverman (University of California, Santa Cruz) has joined with Samuel Armistead to form an outstanding team. They have collected Sephardic ballads in many parts of the world and published them in volumes of great scholarly value. Professor Silverman has also written several important studies on the Golden Age in Spain.

Maximiano Trapero is Professor at the Colegio Universitario of Las Palmas in the Canary Islands. He has devoted the last several years to systematically collecting Spanish ballads throughout all the islands of the archipelago, where he has recorded some rare *romances*. He has published two important collections of ballads up to the present as well as a number of articles. He has also been carrying out investigations on the popular theater in Castile and León.

Ana Valenciano is a veteran member of the permanent staff of the Seminario Menéndez Pidal whose name appears as collaborator on most of the volumes the Institute has published. One of her chief responsibilities has been to direct the Seminario's field expeditions, an activity which has involved all the organizational work, training the fieldworkers, and taking active part in the expeditions themselves.