

Tree'n'Sea Living



UC Library Friends To Present Rare Book

Holdings of the University Library at UCSC will reach the half million mark when the Friends of the UCSC Library make formal presentation of a gift of Francisco Palou's life of Father Junipero Serra at ceremonies Sunday, August 8, at 3 p.m. in the McHenry Library.

Members of the Friends, their guests and the public are invited to attend.

The gift volume, titled "Relacion Historica de la Vida y Apostolicas Tareas del Venerable Padre Fray Junipero Serra, Y de las Misiones que fundo en la California Septentrional, y nuevos establecimientos de Monterey", (Historical Account of the Life and Priestly Works of the Revered Father Junipero Serra, and of the Missions that he founded in the Northern Regions of California, and New Monterey settlements), was printed in Mexico in 1787.

"Fr. Palou's book is the first literary work ever undertaken in San Francisco and is considered one of the monuments of Californiana," says University Librarian David Heron. "Its addition to UCSC's Special Collections will greatly enrich our established archives on California history and will serve to benefit students, scholars, and researchers for generations to come. We are extremely grateful to the Friends for their farsighted and generous gift."

Following the presentation ceremonies, Dr. John Caughey, professor emeritus of history at UCLA, will speak on the significance of Fr. Palou's work to the study of early California. An eminent historian, Dr. Caughey is the author of a dozen books on California and the West.

Other guests of honor will include UCSC's Chancellor

Emeritus Dean McHenry, for whom the main library at UCSC is named; and University Librarian Emeritus Donald Clark.

Paulou's 344-page work is regarded as the main source on the life of Father Junipero Serra, founder of the California missions. In the book, Palou gives a detailed account of the establishment and operations of the missions and describes the character and achievements of Serra.

The Friends' gift volume, bound in its original vellum, is considered a "very fine copy". It will be displayed during Sunday's ceremonies.

The book contains as illustrations a portrait of Fr. Serra and a fold-out map of upper and lower California, marked with the locations of all the missions founded by the priest.

Father Palou, born in Palma on the Island of Mallorca, became a disciple of Junipero Serra in 1749. That same year, with Serra, he left Spain for the New World.

Upon his arrival in Vera Cruz near Mexico City, Father Palou joined the college of San Fernando and devoted his life to missionary work in the Californias.

He was one of the founders of the mission at San Francisco; his, the first entry in the registers of that mission, bears the date August 10, 1776.

After Father Serra's death in 1784, Fr. Palou as senior missionary was appointed acting president. He resided part of the time in San Carlos de Monterey but chiefly in San Francisco where he wrote his life of Serra. He returned in retirement to the college of San Fernando in 1786 and is believed to have died there in 1790.