



LUIS PONCE DE LEÓN
LA SEDUCCIÓN DE HERNÁN CORTÉS

Victor Toro

The Latin quarter of San Francisco, *el Barrio de la Misión*, is making history again. This time a very well known Spanish writer, Luis Ponce de León, who lives in San Francisco and who has also published extensive literary works in Europe, writes about the Mission District with humor and satire in a novel where dreams and frustrations are the common currency of everyday life in the Latin neighborhood. The novel was written in colorful Spanish and is full of dialogues and entertaining anecdotes that quickly catch the reader's interest.

La Seducción de Hernán Cortés captures the complex relationship between Spain and Mexico, and between Mexico and California. It is to a great extent, the story of present day life in the Mission district, where immigrants, both legal and illegal, strive to survive in an environment that is frequently hostile to them.

Luis Ponce de León was born in Spain and presently lives in San Francisco. A former Spanish language and literature teacher at Stanford and Cal-State Hayward universities, Mr. Ponce de León is also the author of *La Novela Española de la Guerra Civil* (1936-39) and of several articles and reports about both contemporary and Spanish literature.

