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## V. CELESTINA in California:

Professor Hugh M. Richmond, of the Univ. of California at Berkeley's Department of English, writes that as a result of teaching *Celestina*, and of using videotaped performances of dramas for scholarly and instructional purposes, he produced his own television version of Rojas' masterpiece to take advantage of its similarities to *Romeo and Juliet*. Prof. Richmond teaches a course there on Backgrounds of English Literature in the Continental Renaissance in which part of the context for *Romeo and Juliet* is *Celestina*. The students are non-specialists in Spanish and this created the motive for his desire to provide some lively sense of the main outlines of the Calisto and Melibea story in videotape form. His version, prepared in the autumn of 1981, is about 55 minutes running time and stresses scenes analogous to some in the Shakespeare play. The production uses 16th-century costumes and appropriate locations. The players were students recruited from a wide variety of disciplines, mostly within the humanities. The resulting version of *Celestina* proved sufficiently effective to be shown with repeated success on the weekly "Open Windows" television program (a cable program from the UC-Berkeley campus) with its approximately one million household audience in California.

In the current year, Prof. Richmond is cross-editing *Celestina* with a recently-completed full-length television version of *Romeo and Juliet*. To this version a commentary will be added which will emphasize, through comparisons, the tone, style, setting, and characterizations of the two works.

Any persons interested in viewing or securing a copy of the videotapes of either work should contact: Dr. Paul Shepard, Educational Television Office, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720