

Interest in Japanese Grows Among Mexicans

"Interest in Japan among Mexican people has grown steadily in the past 20 years," declared a visiting Mexican scholar recently in his interview with the Asahi Evening News.

Dr. Adalberto Garcia de Mendoza is currently here for the second time at the invitation of the International Cultural Promotion Association.

He began to take interest in Japan through reading books on Japanese science and culture, and on travel in the country. In 1930 his dream came true and he visited this country for the first time.

In 1940, his essay, "The Position of Japanese Culture in the World" won first prize in the international essay contest in competition with about 1,000 other essays submitted from throughout the world. He started to work on this subject about ten years before the contest and the essay dealt with Japanese and Oriental philosophy and culture.

Among several thousand Japanese living in Mexico, there are about 100 Japanese students studying at the University of Mexico. In most cases they are majoring in either medicine or agriculture. Japanese medical people are very favorably received in the country, the scholar said.

Dr. De Mendoza is scheduled to meet Education Minister Shigeo Odachi, President Tadao Yanaibara of Tokyo University and Koichi Shimada of Waseda University. "Exchange of Japanese and Mexican cultures is



Dr. A. G. de Mendoza

very important and I hope I can do something towards this end. I am particularly interested in Japanese philosophy, mathematics, physics and pedagogics. So I want to collect materials for study in these fields during my short stay here," he said.

Dr. De Mendoza established in Mexico City the Society of Japanese and Oriental Study in 1932 and is now its President. The Society has a membership of about 80 at present and three or four members speak fairly good Japanese. Its activities are now being intensified, Dr. De Mendoza stated.

While he is here, he is scheduled to visit various cultural institutions and broadcast over the radio besides his trips to Nikko and Kansai District.