Judith R. Goodstein* (jrg@caltech.edu), Institute Archives 015A-74, Caltech, Pasadena, CA 91107. Volterra in America.

Vito Volterra, who developed powerful mathematical language and theories impinging on everything from physics and applied mathematics to biology and economics, was also an inveterate traveler. In 1909, he accepted an invitation to participate in the twentieth anniversary celebration of the founding of Clark University, in Worcester, Massachusetts. He returned home with vivid stories about life in America and a determination to see it again. In fall 1912, with a foreboding sense of the gathering storm on the European horizon, Volterra returned to the United States for the inauguration of the Rice Institute, in Houston. On his third, and last trip to the New World, in 1919, he gave a series of public lectures at Berkeley, and then took the train to Pasadena, where his host, the astronomer George Ellery Hale, brought him up to the summit of Mount Wilson to inspect Hale's 100-inch telescope, then the world's largest. Volterra often spoke of returning to America as a professor. (Received September 19, 2006)