

In Memoriam

CLARENCE HENRY HARING, 1885–1960

THE death of Professor Clarence Henry Haring of Harvard University on September 4, 1960, left a void in Latin American scholarship. Professor Haring through fifty years of productive scholarship in historical investigations of Hispanic matters not only was one of the major pioneers in the field, but his solid and outstanding achievements over this long span won him international renown as the leading Latin Americanist in the United States. Of the many honors he received during his fruitful life, none was more cherished than the Serra Award bestowed on him by the Academy of American Franciscan History in 1953. The citation of that award expresses the esteem in which he was held by his colleagues and friends.¹ On that occasion, the writer was asked to give an address, as a former student and younger professional colleague of Professor Haring. Then it was not appropriate to express many of the feelings which Professor Haring's former students had about him, nor necessarily is the writer a typical spokesman for that distinguished group, but it now seems important to record some impressions of and about Mr. Haring which perhaps the more formal necrologies must omit.

The general consensus of his former students and many friends in the field of Latin American history was expressed by creation of the Clarence H. Haring Memorial Fund, which is administered by the Conference on Latin American History. The Fund was the outgrowth of

¹ The words of Rev. Alexander Wyse, Director of the Academy of American Franciscan History, are in part as follows:

The large number of experts whom [Dr. Haring] trained in his more than forty years as a teacher . . . bears witness to the importance of his work and the scope of his beneficent influence. Lest his own objectives of inter-American friendship perish with him, he has meanwhile happily given them indestructible form in a small shelf of outstanding publications. In addition, he has engaged in several missions in the interests of inter-American harmony and has taken part in many inter-American learned assemblies—an ambassador of good will whose devotion to the truth has ever enhanced his prestige in those other Americas. Affiliated with half a score scholarly institutions in the Latin American world, and decorated by several of our sister republics, he enjoys a reputation that transcends the boundaries of our own country. He truly is an honored citizen of that supranational community dedicated to truth, learning and understanding.

deeply felt sentiments among those who had taken their doctoral degrees under direction by Mr. Haring. About a decade ago, a small group, among which the late Miron Burgin, the late Richard McCornack, and the writer formed the nucleus, had hoped to present Professor Haring with a *Festschrift* on the occasion of his retirement from active teaching at Harvard University. Rather elaborate plans were drawn, and a considerable correspondence among Mr. Haring's pupils ensued; it is perhaps noteworthy that of the thirty or so Latin Americanists who had completed their post-graduate studies under the guidance of Mr. Haring, only one felt that he could not spare the time to prepare an article to the proposed volume. Difficulties in various forms, including the lamented death of Mr. Burgin, prevented the original plan from being completed. The idea, however, did not languish. A second group of the younger students revived the idea some three or four years ago, but again formidable obstacles prevented the development of a memorial volume. At an American Historical Association meeting three or four years ago, an informal caucus among Mr. Haring's former students was held, and it was agreed that action was imperative and that an adequate substitute for the proposed memorial volume would be the Haring Memorial Fund.

In consultation with representatives of that group, Mr. Haring himself set the terms of grants. Characteristically, after considering the desirability of offering a prize for the best first published work of a young United States scholar on a Latin American subject, Mr. Haring finally decided that most appropriate would be a prize for a work in the field of history by a Latin American author. Thus even after his passing, Mr. Haring's continued interest in practical development of inter-American relations will, through the Memorial Fund, be perpetuated. Perhaps the significant point here is that there has been for some time a spontaneous feeling among those who worked with Mr. Haring that somehow his great contributions should be signalized, and the universally favorable responses to requests for contributions to the Memorial Fund was a concrete manifestation of affection and esteem.

In looking over the standard biographical sketch which Mr. Haring prepared for inclusion in the most recent *Who's Who in America*, one recalls various aspects of his life and career that do not appear in it. The notice tells us that he was born in Philadelphia in 1885 and received his A. B. from Harvard in 1907. At that point he won a Rhodes Scholarship which he took at Oxford, where he received the degree B. Litt. in 1909. The fruit of the Oxford years, terminating in 1910, was his first monograph on the buccaneers, which he published at the age of

twenty-five. On his return to Cambridge (Mass.), somewhat unexpectedly Roger B. Merriman, who always referred to Mr. Haring as "my quondam student," pressed him into service to give a course on Latin America in the academic years 1910-1911, during graduate student days. Before he received his doctorate at Harvard in 1916, Mr. Haring taught at Bryn Mawr (where he was head of the department) and at Clark University, finding time to court and marry Helen Garnsey in 1913.

As a newly fledged Ph. D., Mr. Haring was named an Assistant Professor in history at Yale in 1916, and rose to Associate by 1923. His major monograph on trade and navigation appeared in 1918 and fully established a professional reputation that further work until his death embellished. Mr. Haring never felt that his Yale experience was particularly rewarding, chiefly because he had no real opportunity to give courses or direct theses in his field of interest. Hence it was with considerable pleasure that he responded to an offer from Harvard to become the Robert Woods Bliss Professor of Latin American History and Economics. During the remainder of his life, Mr. Haring was closely associated with Harvard. He was a full Professor from 1923 to 1953 and remained on the Cambridge scene until 1960. For many years he was the Master of Dunster House, in which he took justifiable pride. In part due to his efforts, Dunster had two main traditions distinguishing it from the other Harvard Houses: it was the stronghold of individualism and of strong interest in historical studies, for which its library was especially well provided.

The stress on individualism ran through much of Mr. Haring's relations with his graduate students. Although his own interests tended to focus on Argentina and Brazil in the modern period, he was interested and encouraged students to follow any likely path through whatever geographical area or time period seemed to offer rewarding historical insights. No one can remember him ever really assigning in advance a thesis or even a seminar topic, much preferring to consider proposals by the student himself and making salutary suggestions. Much of this same easy-going atmosphere even pervaded the horror chamber of general and special exams for the doctorate. For many years they were held in the living room of the Master's residence in Dunster House and even though the probings and questionings might be quite unnerving to the candidate, the informal atmosphere and unobtrusive hospitality to some degree acted as counterweight. This tolerance for individual preferences by his students was a major trait.

Mr. Haring had a strong affection for family, not only his own but

for the larger family of students and former students. He was especially attractive to younger children with whom he got along famously; on one occasion while visiting the writer's residence, Mr. Haring so enthralled my seven-year-old daughter that she recruited her age-mates to come in and talk with her friend, Mr. Haring. Mr. Haring was not a demonstrative person in his high regard for his students, but as those who read his recommendations for jobs and fellowships soon learned, he put the best foot forward for them, and in times of their own troubles and development as younger scholars and teachers was ever a sympathetic counselor.

The many honors—decorations from foreign governments, honorary memberships in learned societies throughout the world, and the like—are a matter of record. It should also be noted for balance that due to his guidance and efforts a number of important scholarly enterprises were launched to aid scholarship in the Latin American field. One of those of permanent value has been the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, on whose Advisory Board Mr. Haring served as Chairman until shortly before his death. His genial personality at meetings of the Board paralleled his similar deportment on the great number of panels and discussion groups which he was asked to head or on which he participated during half a century of work in Latin American matters.

It would be possible, and perhaps even desirable, to continue in this anecdotal vein for considerable length. However, undoubtedly the main purpose has been served: to indicate that Mr. Haring was a warm person who left a lasting impression on those who worked with and under him. Such groups ranged from the under-graduates through half a century, to mature naval officers whom he taught at the Naval War College after his retirement from Harvard, and the staff of the Department of History at the University of Puerto Rico to which he acted as Resident Consultant for an academic year.

The public image of Professor Haring as the highest type of scholar and gentleman was borne out and enhanced by more intimate contacts. Exemplifying integrity, imagination, thoroughness, and maintenance of high standards, Mr. Haring stood out in a field where these qualities, and especially their combination, have not been conspicuous. His own students quietly and individually mourn his passing, with the sense of loss that comes when a beloved and honored patriarch of the family finally is no more. To say more would bring us on the verge of sentimentality, a lapse which Mr. Haring abhorred more than quackery in scholarship, if that is possible. But we all do remember that we were in the presence of a great man.

A CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF PUBLICATIONS

By CLARENCE H. HARING, 1910-1960

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- and Miron Burgin. "History; Spanish South America, the national period," *HLAS*, No. 9 (1943), pp. 293-303.
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The editors wish to correct a regrettable error in the last number (XVII, 2 [October, 1960]), in which "Ots" was omitted from the name of José M. Ots Capdequí.