

CHARLES EDWARD CHAPMAN
1880-1941

By the death of Dr. Charles Edward Chapman on November 17, 1941, at Berkeley, California, *THE HISPANIC AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW* has lost another of its "founding fathers." In fact, while never editor of the *REVIEW*, in one respect Dr. Chapman was *the* founder, for it was he who called the meeting, during the sessions of the American Historical Association at Cincinnati in 1916, at which the decision was made to establish the *REVIEW*. He was a member of the original Board of Editors (1917-1919) and from 1922 to the day of his death he served as an Advisory Editor.

Great indeed were his contributions to the *REVIEW*, but even more marked were his achievements in the field of Hispanic-American history. Out of his experiences in Spain (he was Native Sons Traveling Fellow, 1912-1914) came his *Founding of Spanish California* (1916), *A History of Spain* (1917), *Catalogue of Materials in the Archivo General de Indias for the History of the Pacific Coast and the American Southwest* (1919) and *A History of California—the Spanish Period* (1921). Since catholicity of interests was one of Dr. Chapman's outstanding characteristics, it is not surprising that with time he turned from Spain and North America to the Caribbean and South America. In 1916 he represented the University of California at the American Congress of

Bibliography and History which met at Buenos Aires (in 1913 he had represented the same institution at the Majorca celebration of the second anniversary of Junípero Serra's birth), in 1920 he was exchange professor in Santiago de Chile and five years later he spent considerable time in Cuba. From these peregrinations came *A Californian in South America* (1917), *A History of the Cuban Republic* (1927), *Colonial Hispanic America—A History* (1933), and *Republican Hispanic America—A History* (1937).

Unlike many scholars Dr. Chapman was a real teacher, a man outstanding in his ability to stimulate and interest his students. His undergraduate courses at the University of California (where he began as an assistant in 1910 and in 1927 became Professor of History) were exceedingly popular. It was, however, in his Graduate Seminar that he achieved his greatest success. His exacting methods coupled with a marked originality (no member of his seminars will ever forget "The Man from Boston") gave his students a training in historical methodology which may best be summed up in a statement by the REVIEW's managing editor to the effect that Dr. Chapman "was a pillar of fire by night to me." The reader who would know more about his methods can well go to the *Pacific Historical Review* (Vol. III, pp. 113-129, June, 1934) where is published the address occasioned by his presidency (1933) of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association.

Along with his insistence on extreme accuracy went a constant flow of the milk of human kindness with the result that the barbs of criticism did not wound but rather stimulated further endeavor. As a result his students looked upon him not only as mentor but also as friend.

His ability to be a friend was augmented undoubtedly by the fact that his fund of experiences was extremely broad. His B.A. at Tufts (1902) was followed by a law degree from Harvard (1905) and a Ph.D. at California (1915). In between times he learned something of business from employment with the United Railways and Western Electric, secured admission to the bars of Massachusetts and California (1906), taught in Riverside (California) High School (1909-1910),

and at odd times played professional baseball. Although he never developed major league capacity, he was a keen student of the national pastime, so keen in fact that he was Pacific Coast Scout for the St. Louis Cardinals (N. L.) from 1921 to 1932 and for the Cincinnati Reds (N. L.) from 1932 to his death. For some years after tennis and golf became a bit too strenuous he took his athletics vicariously and his success in managing sandlot baseball leagues meant as much to him as the publication of another erudite volume.

His sudden death came from a heart attack and was most unexpected. It has left his friends quite unable to realize that he has gone. They can only say in the language which had become to him almost a second tongue,

“Que se quede con Dios,
Caballero erudito, maestro y amigo.”

OSGOOD HARDY.

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