

RECENT DEATHS

P. ANDRÉS MESANZA, O. P.

In the little village of Chiquinquirá, in his beloved Sanctuary of Our Lady of the same title, one of the most popular devotional spots in Colombia, Father Andrés died on July 3, 1959. He was a renowned historian and a singularly outstanding personality in the religious and intellectual world of Colombia and Venezuela. He was born in Lagrán in the province of Alava, Spain, on November 30, 1878, but in 1890 his family moved to Colombia, where three years later he entered the novitiate of the Order of Saint Dominic in that country. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1902. With the exception of short visits to Spain and of one year (1923-1924) as professor in the Dominican house of studies in Almagro (Ciudad Real, Spain), he passed his whole life in Venezuela and Colombia. From 1924 to 1950 he resided in Caracas, and from then until his death he divided his time between Bogotá and the Sanctuary of Chiquinquirá.

Since his early youth Fr. Mesanza was interested in historical studies, especially those relative to the origin of the cult of the Virgen de Chiquinquirá. His works *Nuestra Señora de Chiquinquirá y monografía histórica de esta Villa* (Bogotá, 1913), and *Historia de la milagrosa Imagen de Nuestra Señora del Rosario de Chiquinquirá y de su ciudad y de su convento* (Bogotá, 1919; 2nd. ed. Chiquinquirá, 1950), this last in collaboration with Fr. Vicente María Cornejo, O. P., are the two best studies we have on this subject. Other works of his followed: *Célebres Imágenes y Sanctuarios de Nuestra Señora en Colombia* (Almagro, Spain, 1921; 2nd. ed. Chiquinquirá, 1950); *Bibliografía de la Provincia Dominicana de Colombia* (Caracas, 1934); *La Orden Dominicana en Colombia* (Caracas, 1936); *Los Obispos de la Orden Dominicana en América* (Einsiedeln, Switzerland, 1939), and numerous minor books and pamphlets. During his time in Venezuela he prepared, in collaboration with the lamented Dr. Caraciolo Parra, a re-edition of the work entitled *Historia de la Provincia de San Antonio del Nuevo Reino de Granada*, by Fr. Alonso de Zamora. Both editors contributed copious footnotes to the edition (Caracas, 1930). This is perhaps the most important contribution made by Fr. Mesanza to the historiography of America.

Fr. Mesanza was a self-taught historian, and besides possessed very original and definite ideas; but he was a man of wide knowledge gained from reading and of an acute, precise intellectuality, and this compensated in great part for the deficiencies of his historical method.

RICHARD BLAINE McCORNACK

Died on May 14 in Hanover, New Hampshire. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, on July 19, 1919. He received his degrees from Dartmouth College and Harvard University. Afterwards he joined the history department of

Dartmouth College in 1947, and, with the exception of two years (1951-1953) spent with the Department of State, Division of the American Republics, he remained there until his untimely death at the early age of forty. Dr. McCornak's special interest lay in nineteenth-century Mexican history. He published numerous articles and reviews on Latin American subjects. Included among them were two in *THE AMERICAS*: "The San Patricio Deserters in the Mexican War," VIII, No. 2 (October, 1951), 131-142; and "Attitudes towards Religious Matters in Mexican School History Text-books," XV, No. 3 (January, 1959), 235-248.