
FORUM

Howard F. Cline: 1915–1971

THE FOLLOWING MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR HOWARD CLINE was prepared by Professor Robert A. Potash and presented at the Third National Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association, held at The University of Texas at Austin, December 2–5, 1971. It is published here, with Professor Potash's permission as an act of adherence by the *Latin American Research Review* to the sentiments expressed in the Resolution.

The Latin American Studies Association notes with deep regret the death, unexpected and premature, in June 1971, of one of LASA's founding members, Howard F. Cline. It seems appropriate to take note here at the National meeting of his passing and to comment briefly on his career and contributions.

A midwesterner by birth, a member of the depression generation that learned the necessity of determination and doggedness, Howard Cline worked his way through Harvard College, where his intellectual abilities and tremendous drive won for him on graduation a Sheldon Travelling Fellowship. This permitted him to spend a year in the Mexico of Cárdenas and to lay the bases for what was to become a life-long interest in that country. After completing his doctorate at Harvard, he taught there briefly, at Yale, and at Northwestern University before assuming the direction, in 1952, of the Library of Congress' Hispanic Foundation.

By academic training an historian, but with strong interests in anthropology and geography, Howard Cline was particularly aware of the artificial limits imposed by academic disciplines and of the need to relate several approaches to achieve understanding of Latin America. In his teaching, in his writings, and in his nearly twenty years as director of the Hispanic Foundation, he offered constant encouragement to individuals and groups engaged in scholarly endeavor, regardless of discipline, topic, or period of interest. His knowledge of who was doing what in the way of research, long before the LARR inventory was created, was always impressive and sometimes uncanny.

The Latin American Studies Association was a major beneficiary of his enthusiasm and energy. A member of various committees and subcommittees that, over the years, nurtured the idea of a multi-disciplinary national organization, he served in the dual role of host and midwife at the May 1966 "constituent assembly" meeting at the Library of Congress that gave birth to LASA. In the five years since that event,

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apart from serving as its first executive secretary, he provided the organization with an operational base in the Hispanic Foundation and with varieties of assistance that cannot even be detailed. It is perhaps not too much to state that without his enthusiastic support in these difficult first years, LASA might have gone the way of earlier and unsuccessful efforts at national association.

In view of his contributions to this organization and to the field of Latin American studies as a whole, I would hope that LASA can find some enduring manner to honor his memory.