

ROBERT HAYWARD BARLOW — 1918-1951

WITH THE PASSING OF ROBERT H. BARLOW, Middle American researchers lose a dear friend, a thorough scholar, and a congenial co-worker. Born in Leavenworth, Kansas, May 18, 1918, at a time when his father, Col. B. L. Barlow, was serving with the American forces in France, he received training at the Kansas City Art Institute and subsequently at San Francisco Junior College. He went to Mexico in 1940-41, studied at the Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Biologicas, and upon his return to California received the B.A. degree at the University of California in 1942. Returning to Mexico as a permanent resident, he joined the staff of the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico and subsequently became head of the Department of Anthropology at Mexico City College, which position he held at the time of his passing on January 2, 1951.

For Bob Barlow to become a scholar of stature was inevitable. He arrived in Mexico as a student, laden with plans, problems, and a pent-up ambition to delve into the complex problems of Mexican antiquities. Indicative of his unbounded energy and planning was his card index of all glyphs in the Mexican codices. At the same time he cooperated with Prof. Salvador Mateos Higuera in a descriptive survey of Mexican codices. Within a brief three years he had cooperated with Mr. George T. Smisor to plan and edit "Tlalocan," a journal of source materials on native cultures of Mexico. Beginning in 1943 with the appearance of "Tlalocan," his productivity attained added momentum and his articles appeared with increasing frequency in the scholarly journals of Mexico, United States, and Europe.

Many were the facets of his friendly character, many were the scholarly attributes of his research. Concern for minutia led to such works of detail as "The 18th Century *Relaciones Geograficas*." With the zeal of a Zelia Nuttall he searched for and deciphered little known or dimly recalled codices and colonial manuscripts. He combined his zeal for search, his concern for detail, and his inexhaustible capacity for work by surveying and evaluating Mexican source material with the care and caution of a skilled detective. He published the results of his survey with acumen and insight. This task brought him to many important libraries or archives and earned him such honors as a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship in 1944 and a Guggenheim Fellowship 1946-48.

Robert's enthusiasm and buoyancy won him friends wherever he traveled. Unselfishly he encouraged his colleagues and sponsored their publications. In this endeavor he was motivated by a genuine interest in the research of others and an enduring concern to make the many rare and unpublished documents available to all. Also testimony of his cooperative efforts is the long list of articles which he co-authored with his colleagues in colonial history, linguistics, codices, and archaeology.

In the brief span of a decade Barlow gave Middle American research an impetus and perspective of enduring consequence. His contributions in Mexican archaeology, classical and modern Nahuatl, Mexican colonial history, and what he preferred to call "Bilderhandschriften" are of lasting importance.

—CHARLES E. DIBBLE