

LANSING BARTLETT BLOOM

1880-1946

Editor of the *New Mexico Historical Review*

Advisory Editor of THE AMERICAS

Corresponding Member of the Academy of American  
Franciscan History

PROFESSOR LANSING BARTLETT BLOOM, noted historian of the Southwest and member of the faculty of the University of New Mexico, died at his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on February 14, 1946. With his passing we have lost one of the most venerable and productive research scholars in the field of the Franciscan Mission History of the Spanish Borderlands of the United States. Descended from an old New England family, Professor Bloom was born at Auburn, New York, April 12, 1880. After obtaining his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Williams College, he entered the Presbyterian ministry and worked in Mexico, Utah, and New Mexico, where he became interested in the history, archaeology and folklore of the ancient Pueblos and their old Missions.

Mr. Bloom left the Presbyterian ministry in 1917 to join the staff of the School of American Research and the New Mexico Museum at Santa Fé. He was Editor of the *New Mexico Historical Review* from its founding in 1926 until his death. Under his able direction this review achieved high prestige. In 1929 he was appointed associate professor of history at the University of New Mexico, from which position he retired a year ago with the rank of professor emeritus.

Over the course of years, from 1928 to 1940, Mr. Bloom made numerous trips to the Archives of Mexico, Spain and Italy. He did very painstaking and profitable work in investigating the New Mexico material in the Archivo General de la Nación and the Museo Nacional in Mexico City; in the Archivo Histórico Nacional, the Biblioteca Nacional and the Real Academia de la Historia in Madrid; the Archivo de Simancas; and the Archivo General de Indias in Seville; the Laurentian Library in Florence; and the Vatican Library in Rome. At the Vatican Library, Bloom found and

copied Bandelier's sketches of the Franciscan Missions in New Mexico, and at the Florentine Library he copied the great work of Fray Bernardino de Sahagún on the Indians of New Spain. In addition he brought back to this country many thousands of pages of photostat and microfilm copies of important documents bearing on the history of New Mexico and its Franciscan missions. These documents today make up a notable part of the Coronado Research Collection of the University of New Mexico.

Professor Bloom's historical writings were just as carefully and completely done as his archival research. Most of his work is to be found in the many volumes of the *New Mexico Historical Review*. He was one of the founders of the Quivira Society, and held membership in the New Mexico Historical Society, the American Historical Association, the Archaeological Institute of America, and other learned societies.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to Franciscan Mission History, Professor Bloom was made a Corresponding Member of the Academy of American Franciscan History at the time of its formation in the Fall of 1943. He graciously accepted to act as Advisory Editor of the Academy's new Review, *THE AMERICAS*, and contributed to its opening number an important study entitled: "Spain's Investment in New Mexico under the Hapsburgs" (Vol. I, No. 1, July, 1944, pp. 3-14). This article aroused considerable interest and evoked very favorable comment from scholars and historical journals of the United States, Latin America and Spain.

For some years past, and right up to the time of his death, Professor Bloom was preparing a bio-bibliographical catalogue of all the Franciscan missionaries who ever worked in the New Mexican Missions from the first days of the Spanish era. This extremely important work was based on the many thousands of notes which he had taken during his decades of research and study and upon a thorough investigation of the church records of Santa Fé, done with the permission and encouragement of Archbishop Byrne. Altogether, he had found the names and records of some 700 friar-missionaries. In this long and tedious task, he was aided by his wife, who had accompanied and helped him during all his trips of study and research. It is to be hoped that this last work of Professor Bloom will be published as a fitting monument to his memory.

The Academy of American Franciscan History and the Editors of *THE AMERICAS* extend sincere and heartfelt condolences to the colleagues and friends of Professor Bloom at the University of New Mexico and his co-workers of the *New Mexico Historical Review*, and above all, to Mrs. Bloom and her bereaved family.