

Aside from this very curious anomaly, Latin Americanists will want to read both essays for their insights into the clash of Indian and Spanish cultures. I found convincing, Parry's subtle development of the theme that one of the reasons the Spanish failed to subdue and colonize extensively in Eastern North America was because of their military dependence on mounted, armored men and foot soldiers armed with swords, crossbows, firearms and lances. While these weapons were effective against the massed native armies of Mexico and Peru, they were nearly useless in the dense forests of the north.

One minor irritation; Elliott implies (p. 62) Cortés was a Castilian. The descendants of his Extremaduran neighbors probably would take exception, and pridefully state that only someone from Extremadura could have endured the hardship and faced the colossal military odds of the conquista. R.W.G.

## IN MEMORIAM

*Thomas F. McGann (1920-1982)*

The field of Latin American Studies suffered a great loss with the death of Thomas F. McGann in Austin, Texas on July 13, 1982. His distinguished career endowed a generation of students with the craftsmanship that is history, and colleagues with the gifts of his scholarship and intellectual prowess. Students at Harvard, Stanford, Columbia, and the University of Texas at Austin heard his undergraduate lectures and were guided in his graduate seminars. At both levels he devoted his energies to instilling in students a sense of clarity in writing and poise in oral expression that were the marks of Tom McGann's intellectual presence.

He received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from Harvard, where he also served on the history faculty. From 1958 he served as professor in Latin American History at the University of Texas at Austin, where for 25 years he contributed to the international reputation of its Latin American program. His energy and devotion to the field of Latin American history is suggested by the nearly 30 doctoral dissertations he directed to completion; the care and attention behind this level of energy is shown by the fact that one-third of them were published as books. His scholarly legacy is thus maintained, in different ways, by the writings he helped to inspire; furthermore, since even in a period of diminished possibilities of academic positions nearly all of Tom's students are found teaching in colleges and universities from coast to coast, his high pedagogical standards will be transferred to generations of students for many years to come. They (and we) will continue to be given an unusually keen understanding of Latin America's past through such efforts as *Argentina, the United States, and the Inter-American System, 1880-1914* (1957), *Argentina, the Divided Land* (1966), and

the introduction to and translation of José Luis Romero's *Las ideas políticas en Argentina* as *A History of Argentine Political Thought* (1963).

Tom McGann was one of the first scholars to address political and diplomatic issues from the perspectives of the social historian, thereby informing debates and correspondence, resolutions and pacts, conferences and caucus room meetings with probing cultural understanding and a sociological profile of the actors and their times seldom seen in such literature. In these days, when one is considered to be *au courant* to the extent that one is conversant in the debates over paradigms, such as dependency, it gives us pause to note that Tom McGann had used that term already in 1957 in his *Argentina, the United States and the Inter-American System* with language that was no less accurate for being graceful: "By this extravagant performance in domestic and international finance, the Argentine ruling class bound itself to Europe with chains of gold. In return for these bonds (literal and figurative) the nation paid interest, and also surrendered to foreigners the ownership of its railroads and other utilities, and of vast tracts of land. At the same time, this money enabled the nation to become equipped (in certain regions, at least) with the mechanical trappings of European civilization . . . ."

Beyond his monographic scholarship, which also appeared in many journals, including the *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *The Americas*, *Inter-American Economic Affairs* and others, Tom McGann provided our field with analytical introductions to anthologies on Latin America and Spain that will serve us to understand and put in context the writings of other scholars. This type of selfless energy and dedication to service is exemplified in his masterly translation of José L. Romero's classic on political ideas. I know of no other English prose which so readably traces the evolution of political thought in Argentina. This natural ability to write and edit, combined with his energy and dedication will be clear to anyone combing through the issues of the *Latin American Research Review*, which he edited from 1969 to 1974. Through his many service activities in positions in CLAH, LASA, AHA, HAHR and others, his colleagues will remember his sober, common-sensical style.

I will remember him for the same qualities that will others: his humanity, sense of purpose, high standards and *class*. But I will also remember him for what an Argentine at the University of Córdoba asked me a decade ago. He was bemoaning the lack of comprehension by scholars of the *realidad argentina*; and then, with an enlivened and puzzled look, he asked me: "how could a *yanqui* like McGann have apprehended the *mentalités* of our predecessors?"

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