IN MEMORIAN

JOHN LLOYD MECHAM

John Lloyd Mecham, Professor Emeritus of Government at The University of Texas at Austin, died October 31, 1992, age 99, at Westminster Manor, a retirement community in Austin. Lloyd, as he was known to family, friends, and colleagues, was born July 16, 1893, in San Bernardino, California, to Stephen C. and Lucy Preciado Mecham. Proud of his Hispanic heritage through his mother, his dedication to Hispanic affairs manifested itself primarily by his devotion to Latin American scholarly pursuits throughout his adult life.

After he completed his secondary education at San Bernardino High School in 1912, he enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley, and attained a B.A. degree in history in 1916 and an M.A. degree in 1917. He then enlisted in the Army and served a year in France in the Ambulance Service, University of California Unit. Remaining in Europe after the First World War he enrolled at University College of the University of London for the spring term of 1919. When he was awarded a Fellowship in Pacific Coast History, he re-enrolled at Berkeley in the fall of 1919 and completed course work for his Ph.D. degree during that academic year. With a Traveling Fellowship he spent the next academic year on research in French and Spanish archives and in 1923, with his dissertation "Francisco de Ibarra and the Founding of Nueva Vizcaya," he received his doctorate in history.

Before arriving at The University of Texas, Austin, in 1925 as a Visiting Associate Professor in the History Department, Mecham taught as Instructor (1921-22) and as Assistant Professor (1924-25) at Washington University in St. Louis, as Instructor (1922-24) at Columbia University in New York, and as Assistant Professor (Summer 1925) at the University of Michigan. In 1926 Mecham shifted fields, moving from the History Department to the Government Department at U.T. For the next 37 years, until his retirement in 1963 at age of 70, he taught courses on U.S.-Latin American relations and on the politics of the various Latin American countries. He
said on one occasion that he believed he offered the first course on Latin American politics anywhere in the United States when he began teaching it in the 1920s. His publications bridged the disciplines of history and politics at a time when the two fields were more closely related. Some of his work is strictly historical, but he also published a series of articles on current political themes, especially on international relations. In 1933 Lloyd Mecham was promoted to Professor and during the Second World War served in the Department of State (1943-44) as an area specialist on Latin America. He also served as a Visiting Professor at various times at the Universities of Michigan, Chicago, Iowa, and New Mexico, and at the National University of Mexico. He was a participant in the founding of The University of Texas Institute of Latin American Studies in 1940 and served brief terms as its Acting Director in 1951 and 1953.

John Lloyd Mecham has a long and distinguished publication record. His doctoral dissertation, published in 1927, remains the authoritative study on the founding of Nueva Vizcaya, and his last works, The United States and Inter-American Security (1961) and A Survey of United States-Latin American Relations (1965) were well received. But Mecham is best and long remembered for his classic work, Church and State in Latin America (1934; revised 1966). Although much new information has come to light since the book was first published, and many new directions have been taken in the study of church and state, all scholars in the field must still begin with Mecham's ground-breaking study. It is an accomplishment for which every scholar strives but few attain.

During his early teaching career in St. Louis, Lloyd Mecham met Mabel Fisher and on June 14, 1925, they married. From this marriage were born one son, John Stephen, in 1928 and one daughter, Lois Eleanor, in 1929. Mabel Mecham died in 1970. In addition to his children, Lloyd is survived by two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.
Robert M. Berdahl, President
The University of Texas at Austin

H. Paul Kelley, Secretary
The General Faculty

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professor Emeritus Karl M. Schmitt (Chair), Professor Emeritus Edward Taborsky, and Professor Emeritus H. Malcolm MacDonald.
BOOKS


ARTICLES


