

New Mexico Historical Review

Volume 40 | Number 3

Article 5

7-1-1965

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Recommended Citation

. "Miguel Jorin." *New Mexico Historical Review* 40, 3 (1965). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmhr/vol40/iss3/5>

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MIGUEL JORRÍN

MEMORIAL MINUTE ADOPTED
BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO FACULTY
MAY 18, 1965

PROFESSOR MIGUEL JORRÍN died of a heart attack on May 7, 1965, just short of his 63d birthday. To that day he had been teaching his classes in political theory and governments of Latin-America, and administering the Division of Foreign Studies of which he was director.

Miguel Jorrín was born in Cuba and educated at the University of Havana, where he was awarded the degrees of Doctor of Public Law in 1924 and Doctor of Civil Law in 1925. His interests and studies were already broad and interdisciplinary, for he received university honors in philosophy, legal anthropology, political economy, municipal government, finance, and public international law. Here at UNM he taught courses in Spanish and Latin-American literature and Ibero-American civilization, as well as Latin-American politics, political theory, and international relations.

From 1925 to 1942 he practiced law in Havana, becoming a member of the Board of Governors of the Havana Bar Association. He was active among those seeking to free Cuba from the Machado dictatorship.

He went to Williams College in 1942 as a visiting lecturer in political science, and in 1944 he joined the faculty of the University of New Mexico. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1949.

Among his publications were *Governments of Latin America* (1953), a considerable number of articles in Cuban journals including notable contributions on the philosophy of José Martí, the Cuban liberal patriot, and regular contributions for the *New International Yearbook* on the governments of Spain, Portugal, and the twenty Latin-American Republics. At the time of his death he was working on a new book on Latin-American political thought.

Professor Jorrín was a lifelong exponent of liberal democracy and of friendly relations between the United States and its Latin-American neighbors, based on mutual respect, non-intervention, and international law. He had the courage to be outspoken and also the strength to maintain the objectivity of the true scholar. These qualities were evident in his refusal to join the chorus of partisan denunciation of the Cuban revolution and his interest in research on the increasingly important force of the non-Communist extreme left in Latin-American politics.

But Miguel Jorrín's greatest contribution was as a teacher who was interested in his students and inspired their respect and affection. It has been very evident since his death how deeply they feel their loss. As director of the Division of Foreign Studies since 1959 and of its predecessor, the School of Inter-American Affairs, since 1948, he contributed in a unique way to the development of Latin-American studies at this University, and attracted many able Latin-American students to the campus.

His colleagues on the faculty of the University of New Mexico record their deep sorrow at his passing.