

Roland Dennis Hussey (1897-1959)

ROBERT JONES SHAFER

Death came on October 28, 1959, to Roland Dennis Hussey, distinguished scholar and teacher of Latin American history. His chief interest was in colonial Spanish America, especially economic history and international rivalry in the Caribbean. The scholarly world always will be indebted to him for his investigation of Spanish monopolistic trading companies. His colleagues and his graduate students never will forget his readiness to contribute to the efforts of others from his wide knowledge, and from his fine bibliographical files. His keen intelligence and incisive comments enlivened many a professional gathering.

Roland Hussey was born at Milford, Massachusetts, October 13, 1897. He served in the United State Army in 1915-1917; graduated from Boston University in 1923; received the A.M. from Harvard University in 1928, and the Ph.D. in 1930. Joining the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1926, he participated in the great growth of that institution and its History Department until the time of his death. He served two terms as Chairman of the Department. All who have been associated with the University are grateful for his indefatigable efforts to build the library and other research facilities.

In July, 1944-September, 1947, he was on leave from UCLA to serve in the United States Department of State in various capacities, including that of Chief, Office of Intelligence Research. He was on the Board of Editors of the *Hispanic American Historical Review* in 1940-1946, and served as an Advisory Editor since 1957. From 1940 until his death he was associated with the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, making important contributions nearly every year.

He made research visits to European archives and libraries in 1925-1926, 1930-1931, 1951, and 1958-1959; and to the Caribbean area in 1938. He made patient and systematic searches of the Hispanic American holdings of many of the most important libraries in the United States. Aside from the material gathered in Spanish archives for his definitive study of the Guipúscoa Company, the most important result of this labor was a large collection of copies of archival

materials for a multi-volume history of international rivalry in the Caribbean, which unhappily he did not live to complete. Some of this material certainly will be of use to historians. He also made notable bibliographical collections on special subjects (e.g., tobacco, Freemasonry), which deserve posthumous publication.

In 1929 he married Bertha Freeman, who survives him, as do their three children.

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