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LANSING BARTLETT BLOOM

By EDGAR L. HEWETT

WE ARE called upon to record the loss of one who for more than a quarter of a century has been intimately connected with the School of American Research and Museum of New Mexico, Lansing Bartlett Bloom. He came to us during the first world war to take charge of the War History Service, an important and lasting work which he did with marked success. He was given charge of our department of history and soon advanced to the post of Assistant Director, in which capacity he served until called to the faculty of the University of New Mexico in 1929. In addition to his teaching program he became editor of the *NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW* and a leader in Hispanic American research. His rank in the University was Associate Professor of History. His academic degrees were from Williams College.

From 1928 Professor Bloom made repeated trips to Mexico for documentary studies, and was on a similar mission to Spain in 1928-29. In 1938 the University and School of Research joined in sending him to Spain and Italy. His work in the Spanish archives yielded copies of many important documents. In the Vatican archives in Rome he found and copied the three hundred illustrations for Bandelier's great work on the Franciscan missions of New Mexico, Arizona, Chihuahua, and Sonora, the text of which has disappeared. In Florence he procured a photographic transcript of the original manuscript of the Great Florentine Codex, the only complete manuscript of Fray Bernardino de Sahagun's *History of Ancient Mexico*; approximately 2,800 folios. This was his most important achievement in research in foreign archives. He brought back from this expedition upward of 22,000 negatives.

In spite of life-long ill health, Lansing was a tireless worker. He put into his professional life the same devotion that he gave to his early work in the ministry. In his editorial capacity he was almost over-exacting, but he made

of the HISTORICAL REVIEW an authoritative and highly appreciated magazine. All his work reflected the integrity of his personal character. In his many activities he was accompanied and ably assisted by his devoted wife, Maude McFie, daughter of that staunch friend of our school, John R. McFie, for years an honored member of the Supreme Court of New Mexico. Long association in work makes her loss unusually heavy, but in compensation she has the cherished recollection that to Maude McFie there came the highest privilege that can come to any woman, that of having through life a mate of irreproachable manhood.—*El Palacio*, March, 1946.