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## In Passing: Robert W. Kern

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## In Passing

ROBERT W. KERN, 1934–2000

*Meredith D. Dodge*

Cancer took Robert W. Kern on 15 April 2000. While he may have been ready, the rest of us, colleagues, former students, and friends, were not. We can look to his academic credentials, which included a B.A. from Antioch College, M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, and thirty-two years at the University of New Mexico, to tell us something of his life, but these do not begin to describe the man we shall remember.

Bob was a prodigious researcher and writer, as evidenced by his historical output. He not only seemed tireless when involved in producing a book, he actually was. The completion of a manuscript invariably meant that another was in the planning stages, if not already begun. All his enthusiasms, from Spain's past to the history of labor, received scholarly treatment of the first order and reflected a fundamental truth about him: here was a man who truly loved his work.

80 These same qualities accompanied him into the classroom. Although he was the first to admit that his delivery needed work (though less so as the years passed), his lectures inspired students with their scholarship, thoughtfulness,



mastery of detail, and humor. He was the professor who always had time for his students, encouraging the intellectual curiosity he valued so highly.

Bob was a man of the Left, even when it was no longer fashionable or particularly prudent to be so. He was political, though not dogmatic, for his allegiance was always to the truth of the matter at hand. He welcomed debate and discussion, so long as they were well reasoned and strongly supported, but had little patience for pedantry, jargon, or arguments that were sloppily made. His wit, pointed and often self-deprecatory, was never mean-spirited, for at its base lay his genuine respect for others.

Bob's intellectual generosity and passion for history produced superior work and outstanding students. He challenged and sometimes changed those who had the privilege of knowing and working with him.

For those among us who cannot yet bear to bid good-bye, we say simply, "Nos vemos, Bob."

### A Selected Bibliography of Robert W. Kern

*Liberals, Reformers and Caciques in Restoration Spain, 1875–1909.* Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1974.

*Red Years/Black Years: A Political History of Spanish Anarchism, 1911–1937.* Philadelphia: Institute for the Study of Human Issues, 1978.

Ed., with Jane Slaughter. *European Women of the Left: Feminism, Socialism, and the Problems Faced by Political Women Since 1880.* Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1981.

Ed., with Meredith D. Dodge. *A Historical Dictionary of Modern Spanish History, 1700–1988.* Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1990.

*The Regions of Spain: A Reference Guide to History and Culture.* Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1996.

## Robert W. Kern Fellowship

The *New Mexico Historical Review* is pleased to announce the Robert W. Kern Fellowship. The Center for Regional Studies, directed by Dr. Tobías Durán, has established the fellowship to honor historian Robert W. Kern, who taught at the University of New Mexico for three decades and was a great friend to students and the *Review*, one of the few teaching journals in the United States. The object of the Kern Fellowship is to train students in the discipline and craft of scholarly journal editing. The learning process will include all dimensions of the editorial regimen from critiquing submissions to copyediting articles to checking page proofs and blue lines. The Kern Fellow will be chosen by Dr. Durán, the *Review* editor, and designated members of the *Review* Editorial Board. We are pleased to announce Patricia Hughes as the first recipient of the Robert W. Kern Fellowship for the 2000–2001 academic year. Ms. Hughes is studying toward a Master's Degree in Latin American studies at the University of New Mexico. She brings to the *Review* background in Spanish language, Latin American history, and journal editing. The staff looks forward to working with Ms. Hughes on the editing and production of the *New Mexico Historical Review*.