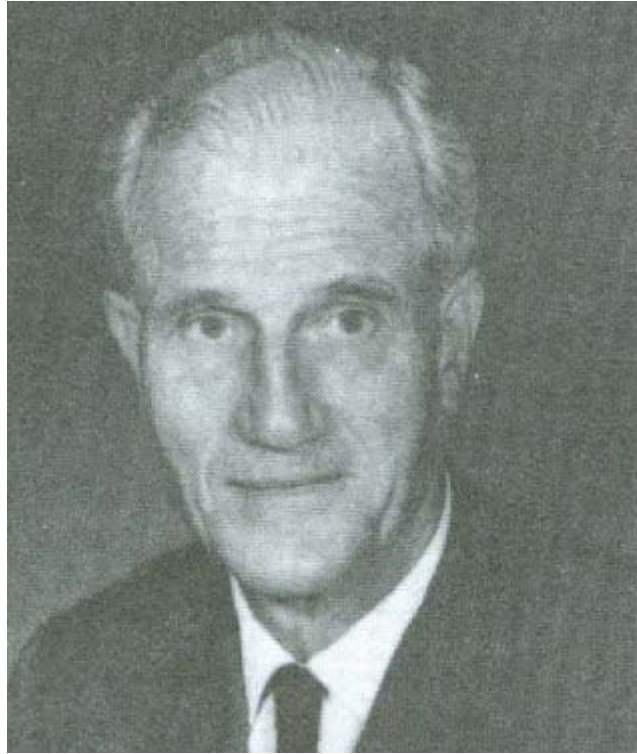


Raymond E. Crist



The Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers is privileged to honor Raymond E. Crist for his lifelong contributions to the development of Latin American geography. Recognized by his peers as the individual who has probably traveled more widely in Latin America than any other North American geographer, Ray has epitomized for over 60 years the Indo-Latin culture area; in 1926 as a young petroleum geologist in Mexico, and later in Venezuela he developed not only an intimate knowledge of the physical environments of the region but also a deep awareness of the impact of land tenure relationships and culture on the human utilization of physical resources. He accordingly undertook graduate studies in geography at the universities of Zurich, Bonn, and Grenoble, receiving the degree of Docteur des Lettres in 1937 from the latter. By the time of his first academic appointment, at the University of Illinois, Ray had already established himself as one of the leading scholars in academic geography. His residence in Latin America as well as in Europe, and his command of five languages resulted in scholarly publications ranging from contributions in the major academic journals of Europe, the United States, and Latin America to a textbook entitled, *A Geography of Europe*, coauthored with Raoul Blanchard. Although he would later publish extensively on land tenure issues ranging from Ireland to the Middle East, his "Along the Llanos-Andes Border in Zamora, Venezuela," which appeared in the *Geographical Review* in 1932, was to set the tone for his lifelong interest in pioneer settlements in the eastern foothills of the Andes. Subsequent fieldwork was made possible through a four-year academic appointment at the University of Puerto Rico in the 1940s, as well as through support from the U.S. Rubber Reserve, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Creole Petroleum Corporation, and Fulbright-Hays.

As distinguished as his scholarly researches were, Ray's most lasting contribution to Latin American geography may have been his graduate teaching which began in earnest following his move from the University of Maryland to the University of Florida as Research Professor in 1951. During the next quarter century, his courses on "Land, Man, and Migration," "Land Tenure," and the regional geography of Latin America attracted a rich interdisciplinary cross-section of the finest students from the social and agricultural

sciences. Those students who enrolled in his courses found a superior teacher, one whose knowledge seemed to know no bounds of time or space and one whose every observation was based on personal field experience. Those who were fortunate enough to undertake their graduate research under his direct supervision also came to know a caring, optimistic friend who greeted every colleague with "and how are you this splendid day?" Perhaps most importantly, they were privileged. to associate with a master teacher who was comfortable directing research on seemingly any facet of the Latin American way of life and who personally spent time with each of his students in the field. Upon his formal retirement in 1975, Ray had directed more doctoral dissertations (28) on Latin America than any other geographer. Upon receiving their Ph.D.s, each of his students officially became one of Ray and Hilda's "sons," and was ever thereafter addressed by his given name rather than his surname. Ray's active interest in and support of each of their careers continues as his academic descendants multiply at institutions throughout Anglo and Latin America.

Ray is the author of scores of scientific papers, three monographs, and five books. He was for 25 years a member of the Educational Advisory Board of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and of the foundation's selection committee for Latin Americans. Honors accorded him include the 1967 Fermat Medal of the Academie des Sciences, Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres of Toulouse; the degree of Doctor of Science, *Honoris Causa*, from the University of Cincinnati in 1969; the 1979 National Council for Geographic Education Master Teacher Award; and the Association of American Geographers Honors Award in 1985. Ray's continuing field work and writing are an inspiration to all. The Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers is honored to recognize Raymond E. Crist with its **Eminent Latin Americanist Geographer Career Award for 1987.**

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