



## In Memoriam

FATHER BENJAMIN GENTO SANZ, O. F. M.

1910-1955

THE Academy of American Franciscan History sadly announces the death of a resident member, Fr. Benjamín Gento Sanz, O. F. M., on December 28, 1955. Unexpectedly stricken by a severe heart attack on the afternoon of December 22, Fr. Benjamín seemed to be winning his gallant fight for life, when complications arose to bring about his death. He was fully resigned to God's will.

The deceased was born in Peñafiel, Spain, on December 12, 1910. As a boy, he emigrated to Quito, Ecuador, where he received his early training and where he became a Franciscan priest. Surrounded by the glories of colonial art, Fr. Benjamín became interested in the history of these monuments. Numerous articles in newspapers and magazines and several books concerning his specialty were the result of this interest. Of special value are *Historia de la Obra Constructiva del Convento e Iglesia de San Francisco de Quito* (Quito, 1942) and *San Francisco de Lima* (Lima, 1945).

In December, 1948, Fr. Benjamín accepted an invitation to join this Academy as a resident member. During his term, the deceased friar devoted himself with rare fidelity and self-sacrifice to those anonymous labors so requisite for the success of any learned group. His first assignment was to check the correction of the transcription of the writings of Junípero Serra, which the Academy is now publishing. Later, many tedious hours were spent in the archives of Mexico and Spain searching for and copying documents required for several Academy projects. At the time of his death, he was engaged in transcribing the letters of Fr. Narciso Durán, the last Presidente of the Fernandinos in California, in preparation for their translation and publication.

The Academy has lost a devoted historical researcher and its present members mourn a genial companion and enthusiastic co-worker. May God grant him peace.

THE EDITORS