

## ENRIQUE GOMEZ ARBOLEYA

Enrique Gomez Arboleya, Professor of Sociology in the Faculty of Political and Economic Sciences of Madrid, died suddenly on the 21st of December, 1959. Born at Cebrero, near Avila, the 13th of September, 1910, he studied at the University of Granada. In 1941 he became Professor of the Philosophy of Law at the University of Seville and in 1942 at the University of Granada. In 1954 he was chosen to become the first holder of the chair of Sociology at the University of Madrid, where he taught until his death.

Professor Arboleya was Editor of the *Revista de Filosofia del Derecho* and was the representative in Spain of the Editorial Board of *Comparative Studies in Society and History*.

Starting in the history of philosophy (his thesis, published in 1946, is the authoritative work on Francisco Suarez), he specialized first in the philosophy of law. This then led him into sociology, to which he devoted the last twenty years of his life. His chief work was the *Historia de la estructura y del pensamiento social*, the first volume of which, dealing with the structure of social thought from Antiquity to the French Revolution, was published by the Instituto de Estudios Politicos of Madrid in 1957. It is a study at the same time of ideas and of forms of society, showing how these influence one another, how they can reinforce one another or on occasion come into conflict. It is the work of a man who was philosopher, sociologist and historian; he was able to use these three points of view simultaneously. The book contains highly original remarks on the physiognomy of streets and housing and on those habits and special sensibilities of city people that enter into "urbanity". Such observations are brought into relationship with acute analyses of, say, English political thought or German Enlightenment. The book is one of the best examples of that "total" history which I believe to be the coming form of humane studies. At the time of his premature death he was engaged on the second volume of this work, a volume dealing with the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. His colleagues are now preparing this volume for publication.

By the death of Enrique Gomez Arboleya we have lost one of the best synthesizing brains of our time.

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