

MANUEL MARZAL

Manuel Marzal, honorary life member of the IAHR, died in Lima on July 16, 2005. Our association has lost one of his most respected academics. He was born Spain in 1931. At the age of twenty he left for Peru, the place where he lived the largest part of his life and where he developed his academic career. He completed his doctorate in philosophy in Ecuador in 1964; he also studied theology at the Instituto Teológico de Jesuitas in Mexico, and obtained an M.A. in social anthropology at the Universidad Ibero-Americana of Mexico in 1968. It is precisely in the field of anthropology, and specifically in the anthropology of religion, that he developed his teaching and research work, from 1968 in the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Perú (Lima), and in the last five years of his life, successfully creating in Lima the Jesuit University Antonio Ruiz de Montoya, of which he became the first president.

In his research trajectory we can highlight his ethnographic task, centered around the study of the religion of the peasant communities in Peru and the migrants from the rural areas to Lima (*El mundo religioso de Urcos*, Cusco 1971; *Estudios de religión campesina*, Lima 1977; *Los caminos religiosos de los inmigrantes de*

la Gran Lima, Lima 1988). Sensitive to the values of religious change, so essential in Latin America, he dedicated different works of synthesis to these processes (*La transformación religiosa peruana*, Lima 1983; *El sincretismo iberoamericano*, Lima 1985), which he resumed, from the global perspective of an academic career at its height, in his book *Tierra encantada. Tratado de antropología religiosa de América Latina* (Madrid-Lima 2002). A project to which he dedicated his efforts in the last years was the consolidation of the EIR (*Enciclopedia Iberoamericana de Religiones*, Madrid, 2002–), in whose academic committee he was one of the most active members and where he was he editor of the fourth volume on Andean religions (*Religiones andinas*, Madrid 2005), which he saw published only two months before his death.

A great anthropologist and a very intelligent person disappears with Marzal, but also a scholar who did not show disdain for general analyses and for the use of the comparative method in trying to understand the complexity of religions in their diversity and similarities, an intellectual profile and an ambition which seems to be a distinctive stamp of the IAHR since its foundation.

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