

## Colonial Latin American Historical Review

---

Volume 9  
Issue 1 *Volume 9, Issue 1 (Winter 2000)*

Article 2

---

12-1-2000

### In Memoriam: Della M. Flusche, 1936-1999

Robert M. Citino

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/clahr>

---

#### Recommended Citation

Citino, Robert M.. "In Memoriam: Della M. Flusche, 1936-1999." *Colonial Latin American Historical Review* 9, 1 (2000): iii.  
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/clahr/vol9/iss1/2>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Colonial Latin American Historical Review by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [disc@unm.edu](mailto:disc@unm.edu).



Photograph courtesy of Robert M. Citino.

# In Memoriam: Della M. Flusche, 1936-1999

---

ROBERT M. CITINO

Professor Della M. Flusche's death in July 1999 left a void in the hearts of her family, colleagues, and friends that will never truly be filled. She was a wonderful woman of wit and sagacity, a true friend capable of numerous favors great and small (as this present writer knows, perhaps, better than anyone), and a meticulous and prolific scholar, as well.

During her nearly thirty years at Eastern Michigan University (1969-1997), she touched literally thousands of lives. Amongst her students, she enjoyed a reputation as a demanding teacher who tolerated little nonsense and entertained few excuses, but also as a professor who cared deeply for them. In fact, as Professor Flusche said on numerous occasions, she believed that caring about the students and demanding excellence from them were two sides of the same coin. She would never have insulted them by demanding anything less than their best.

In the area of scholarship, Professor Flusche's achievements extend well beyond a simple list of her publications. As impressive as that list is (including two books, a large number of articles, and a host of book reviews and conference papers), it was the meticulous care with which she worked that was her defining characteristic. She spent a lifetime uncovering previously untapped archival sources on colonial Latin America, as well as offering fresh interpretations of sources that were already well known. In careful, painstaking fashion, she utilized records of property holdings, land tenure, and inheritance in order to offer a detailed reconstruction of the lives of women and families in colonial Chile. This current work, based on the records of the Chilean Juzgado de Bienes de Difuntos (Tribunal of Posthumous Estates), is therefore both a logical continuation, as well as a fitting culmination, to her life's work.

Beyond the teacher and the scholar, of course, it is impossible to forget Della as a friend and colleague. She was a unique presence within the Department of History and Philosophy at Eastern Michigan

University. She could (and usually did) take her stand on what she considered to be the unshakable principles of her life: her faith, her sense of fair play, and her uncompromising quest for excellence. At the same time, however, she took a deep and abiding interest in newly hired faculty members, especially their spouses and children. She came to visit on holidays, always bearing gifts for the little ones. She would often invite a colleague into her office in order to show off, with unabashed pride and love, photos of her newest niece or nephew. She could discuss the War of Devolution and the fortunes of Notre Dame football with equal expertise and passion. In short, she was a well-rounded woman, completely devoted to her scholarly pursuits but never losing sight of the things that mattered: family, friends, and laughter.

Acting in the name of Della M. Flusche, I respectfully dedicate the following work to her family, especially to her sisters, Mariana Simeroth and Joanne Duffy.