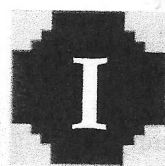




## Distinguished Scholar Stan Hordes Shares Remarks At Tribute

by Stan Hordes

*Note: Stan Hordes was honored by the Society on April 29, 2012. Below are his remarks to the assembled group following tributes by his professional colleagues, associates and friends.*



I can't imagine any greater tribute than that offered by one's peers. I am truly honored by the very kind words expressed by my friends and colleagues

this afternoon.

I am particularly appreciative of the pains that so many of you took to travel here from so far away to be here to honor my work. I also know that events like this don't just happen. They take a huge amount of time and thought to organize and execute, and I would like to express my profound appreciation to Ron Duncan Hart, Program Chair, and Dorothy Amsden, President of the NMJHS for their extraordinary efforts to put this program together.

The great Jewish philosopher, Alan Koenigsberg (aka Woody Allen) once said, "Eighty percent of success is showing up." Well, so much of my career has been shaped by just "showing up" at the

right place at the right time – and taking advantage of the many opportunities with which circumstances provided me. I *happened* to grow up in the suburbs of Washington DC, and when it was time to go to college, there was no question as to where to attend – it was "the university down the street," or nowhere at all.

So, I enrolled at the University of Maryland, which happened to have an outstanding history department. The colonial Latin American historian, Professor J. Benedict Warren, just *happened* to have studied at the University of New Mexico under the direction of the pioneering Inquisition scholar, France V. Scholes. When Ben Warren, having stimulated my interest in the relationship between the Inquisition and the crypto-Jews of Mexico, recommended that I pursue graduate study under Professor Scholes at UNM, I "showed up" at UNM in 1971 to do precisely that.

And it just so *happened* that Professor Scholes had been deemed "too old" to take on graduate students, and then a few months later it so *happened* that another of Professor Scholes' students, Richard E. Greenleaf (THE leading historian of the Mexican Inquisition), was in Albuquerque visiting Professor Scholes at the same time I *happened* to be over there, and he encouraged me to continue my Ph.D. work at Tulane University, which I did. Under the guidance (and financial support) of Professor Greenleaf, I completed my doctoral dissertation in 1980 on the history of the crypto-Jews of Mexico in the 17th century. And, "showing up" in New



Stan Hordes

Mexico shortly thereafter, there *happened* to be a vacancy up in Santa Fe for the position of New Mexico State Historian, which I applied for and received. Santa Fe being a small town, many people whose roots went back some 400 years wondered who this newcomer was, who was going to be the historian of *their* state. And it just so *happened* that, having learned about the work that I had just done on the history of the crypto-Jews of Mexico, some people from within the Hispano community felt compelled to

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