

Taken from an old IAMPETH Newsletter

Enrique 'Henry' Benguria (1893-1998)

By Eileen Richardson

We regret to report the death of our Honorary President, Enrique Benguria on April 8, 1985 in New York City. He would have been 92 on May 26, "Henry" as we called him was one of the group of seven penmen who met on an island in Lake Nipissing at a meeting at which our association was founded. He flew up from Cuba to be with us. Enrique had taken Penmanship from H. P. Behrensmeyer at Gem City Business College in Quincy, Illinois and became expert in Business Penmanship, Ornamental, Roundhand, Lettering and Engrossing. He was considered to be Cuba's finest penman, and the finest penman south of the U.S. He had a correspondence course that covered South and Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean Islands as well as Cuba. He taught Penmanship in a Commercial High School in Havana, Cuba for many years. After Castro came to power, Enrique got out of Cuba with only \$4 in his pocket, leaving behind his home, pension, everything. Later he was able to bring his family to U. S. We sent out a letter to the penmen telling them of Enrique's plight, they rallied around with gifts of money and one of our members, Mr. J. G. Steele, gave him a job in his studio. When he had saved enough, he established himself in New York where he did pen work. He is survived by his wife and two daughters, Henry was a fine Christian gentleman and he came to convention after convention. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife and family, Losing Enrique makes us very sad. It means that Fred and I are the only surviving members of the original group of seven penmen who founded the International Association of Master Penmen and Teachers of Handwriting in 1950.