

PIEDAD PEÑAHERRERA DE COSTALES

Anthropologist
(Quito, Ecuador, 1929-1994)



GALLERY
of HISTORIANS
and GEOGRAPHERS of
AMERICA

She was the initiator and the first woman to graduate from the Institute of Anthropology and Geography of Ecuador, dedicated to the study of anthropology and ethnological and historical research, co-founder of the School of Anthropology and Ethnology of the Catholic University, passionate researcher and teacher of indigenous languages and worldview, winner of various awards. She was the director of several journals, and author of works covering a variety of topics in the social history of Ecuador, agrarian structure, population, ethnocultural survivals, territorial organization, evaluation of natural resources, among others. With her husband, she delved into social historical issues to find the reasons for the country's current situation, extending the historian's action toward its transformation.

The Costales Samaniego spouses were an example for researchers of the Republic due to their perseverance, consistency, and patriotism. She had a special gift for interpreting human phenomena and the concepts of indigenous languages, which are not entirely phonetic. Her works established her as a leading figure in Ecuadorian culture, who, starting from archaeology through ethnology, rescued the heritage of values held by indigenous communities. She suffered from a long illness and passed away in Quito on September 1, 1994.