

*About the author of this book:*

**WILLIAM JOHNSON** first thought of writing a book about Cortés in 1931. As a student he traveled throughout Mexico and later, when he was a foreign correspondent there, he visited many of the famous places touched on by the Cortés expedition, such as Yucatán and Vera Cruz. Thus he approached his subject with a great and long-felt interest. Mr. Johnson writes: "Although I have worked as a war correspondent and foreign correspondent in many parts of the world, no other country holds as much fascination for me."

William Johnson is the author of another Landmark entitled, *Sam Houston, The Tallest Texan*. He was born and educated in Illinois and at the present time lives in California.

*About the illustrator of this book:*

**JOSE CISNEROS** was born in Mexico, but he has been a naturalized American citizen since 1948, living in Texas since 1934. From his childhood, history has always fascinated Mr. Cisneros—particularly in relation to costume—hence his interest in the graphic portrayal of it.

Although a self-taught artist, Jose Cisneros has developed his style by reading and by constantly observing the work of America's great illustrators, past and present. He is the illustrator of many books.