

# Recaredo Santos Tornado

## Recaredo Santos Tornado

<b>Born</b>	October 14, 1842 <a href="#">Valparaíso, Chile</a>
<b>Died</b>	July 26, 1902 (aged 59) <a href="#">Santiago, Chile</a>
<b>Nationality</b>	Chilean
<b>Occupation(s)</b>	Journalist, Editor and Director of <a href="#">El Mercurio de Valparaíso</a>
<b>Years active</b>	1860–1902
<b>Spouse</b>	Elena Stuenkel Olmos
<b>Children</b>	Carmela, Recaredo, Teresa and Enrique

**Recaredo Santos Tornado** (October 14, 1842 – July 26, 1902) was a [Chilean](#) editor and journalist. He was the director of [El Mercurio de Valparaíso](#) and founder of [El Comercio](#).

## Biography

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Tornado was born in [Valparaíso](#), on October 14, 1842. His parents were Carmen Olmos de Aguilera Orrego, and the [Spanish](#) immigrant [José Santos Tornado Monteros](#), who was also the owner of the first public [library](#) in Chile. Recaredo Tornado studied at the National Institute of Santiago, and later attended the [École Supérieure de Commerce de Paris](#), in France. He came back to Chile in 1860.<sup>[1]</sup> In 1866, he succeeded his father as the director of *El Mercurio de Valparaíso*.<sup>[2]</sup> He married Elena Stuenkel Olmos, and they had four children: Carmela, Recaredo, Teresa and Enrique.<sup>[1]</sup>

His father's businesses included the Spanish Library ([Spanish](#): *Librería Española*), the [printing house](#) of *El Mercurio* and the [Valparaíso](#) newspaper of the same name. The enterprise remained in the family's possession for 33 years. In 1866, Tornado and his brother Orestes bought the enterprise from their father.<sup>[1]</sup>

Orestes took care of the library and its other parts, while Recaredo continued running the printing house and the newspaper.<sup>[1]</sup> Later, they formed the Tornado & Sons Society ([Spanish](#): *Sociedad Tornado e Hijos*) with his father, who was living outside Chile.<sup>[3]</sup>

Front page of [Chile Ilustrado](#) (1872).

Tornado was the only editor of *El Mercurio de Valparaíso* from 1867 to 1870. In 1870, he partnered with Camilo Letelier.<sup>[1]</sup> Blanco Cuartín became the

main editor of the newspaper later and suggested that it focus on [culture](#) and [literacy](#)<sup>[3]</sup>

He published *Chile Ilustrado* in 1872, the first illustrated album of Chile, with a descriptive guide, historic, politic, industrial, social and statistical review of the country and a rich graphic backup,<sup>[2]</sup> with more than 200 wood engravings and 10 litographs.<sup>[1]</sup> He was given a prize for this book at the 1876 Philadelphia Exposition.<sup>[3]</sup>

After running it for nine years, he sold his part of the newspaper to Camilo Letelier.<sup>[3]</sup> He revisited Europe in 1875, and bought machinery to create the first [paper mill](#) in Chile in 1880. At that time, he also started to publish foreign works translated into Spanish.<sup>[2][3][4]</sup>

After his return to Valparaíso, Tornero founded a library and a printing house in [Almendral](#). His brother Orestes died in 1881, and Tornero he took over the Mercurio library, which was mainly focused on editing teaching material and works translated from French.<sup>[1]</sup>

President [José Manuel Balmaceda](#) had a bad relationship with the Chilean press.<sup>[2]</sup> For this reason, Recaredo started the newspaper *El Comercio* to support him.<sup>[2]</sup>

Recaredo died in [Santiago](#) on July 26, 1902.<sup>[4]</sup>

## References

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- ↑  [1.0](#) [1.1](#) [1.2](#) [1.3](#) [1.4](#) [1.5](#) [1.6](#) "[Recaredo Santos Tornero: 1842-1902. Editor y periodista](#)" (in Spanish). Biografías de Chile. Archived from [the original](#) on July 7, 2011. Retrieved July 2, 2010.
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