

The *Bibliografia* is most welcome. The official status of the commission, combined with the prestige of the members, should provide a command of the field of history that will in time produce the completeness of coverage toward which the present number aspires. It is to be hoped that in the future every item (at least among the books and pamphlets) will be annotated. It seems safe to assume that the list of periodicals from which items are drawn will be expanded to cover the appropriate publications of historical and learned societies outside as well as within Brazil.

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*A demanda do santo graal.* BY AUGUSTO MAGNE, S.J. (Rio de Janeiro: Imprensa Nacional, 1944. 3 vols. Pp. 437, 436, 454. Paper.)

This careful edition of the earliest Portuguese translation extant of the quest of the Holy Grail, transcribed from the fifteenth-century manuscript in the Vienna National Library, is a credit to Father Magne, who has thus climaxed a long and fruitful career of philological investigations; to Américo Facó, of the Instituto Nacional do Livro of Rio, for a learned preface written with fine feeling; and to the Institute itself, of which Augusto Meyer is director, for having made possible the publication of an outstanding work. Indeed, the appearance of the present edition, with its two sturdy volumes of text and one of glossary, is another evidence of the high type of work that the Instituto is doing. Not since the extinction of the University of Coimbra Press has any organization in the Portuguese-speaking world been able to carry out a more commendable program of publications in the learned field than the Instituto Nacional do Livro of Rio de Janeiro.

*A demanda do santo graal* is a welcome addition to the Instituto's already long list of publications; and our congratulations will go to Father Magne for having made one of the few worthwhile contributions of a Brazilian to medieval studies. He has produced a work which will directly interest not only students of the Arthurian legends and Romance philologists generally, but also scholars in the field of Spanish letters; for, as is known, the Castilian version of the quest of the Grail was taken from an early Portuguese copy.

In this connection it may not be out of place to remark that Brazilians have never showed much concern over medieval studies. Part of this failing may be attributed to deficient library facilities, and part, I think, to the fact that Brazilians have received little encouragement from Portugal. Everyone knows that the study of the Middle Ages in

Portugal has never attracted many people. Considerable work was done by the Cisterians of Alcobaça, by Ribeiro in his *Dissertações*, by Herculano in his *Portugaliae monumenta historica*, by Gama Barros in his *História administrativa* (one of the excellent monographs on the subject to come out of the Iberian Peninsula), and by Carolina Michæelis de Vasconcelos. But the long tradition of scholarly investigations in medieval subjects, such as one found in pre-war Germany, France, and England, and still finds in the United States, is not characteristic of the Portuguese. They have concentrated most of their attention on the Age of Exploration, on various aspects of foreign policy, on local and antiquarian topics, and on the nineteenth century.

The lack of such a tradition in Brazil, while in some ways understandable, is very unfortunate. Serious work in the medieval field would not only redound to a more direct knowledge of the historical development of the Catholic Church and of the origins of the former mother country, but also to a better appreciation and understanding of the Portuguese language. The Middle Ages are too rich a source of cultural values, along lines that are most in harmony with Brazil's own historical traditions, to be neglected by Brazilian scholars.

Let us hope therefore that Father Magne's splendid effort will point the way to others. Some positive results may be expected from the recently-founded Sociedade de Estudos Filológicos of São Paulo, and additional studies may be expected from Father Magne himself. The field, however, is very wide, and workers in it must necessarily continue to be in demand.

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*Reminiscências do barão do Rio-Branco por seu filho o embaixador Raúl do Rio-Branco.* [Coleção documentos brasileiros, No. 32.] (Rio de Janeiro: Livraria José Olympio Editora, 1942. Pp. 205. Illus.)

*O visconde do Rio Branco.* BY JOSE MARIA DA SILVA PARANHOS, Baron of Rio Branco. Introduction and notes by Renato de Mendonça. (Rio de Janeiro: A Noite Editora, 1943. Pp. 347. Illus.)

Three generations of a family illustrious in Brazilian diplomacy appear in these two volumes, to which a melancholy interest is given by the news of the death of Ambassador Raúl do Rio Branco in January, 1945.

The Ambassador's recollections of his father, the Baron, are more an adventure into perspective than a display of new evidence. The Ambassador follows the chronology of his father's life and official career, without polemic and without reviving discussions of the Baron's foreign