

Portugal has never attracted many people. Considerable work was done by the Cisterians of Alcobaça, by Ribeiro in his *Dissertações*, by Herculano in his *Portugalíae 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 Michäelis 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

policy. At times he corrects what he considers to be misstatements that have been circulating about the Baron's actions, but his corrections are stated suavely and serve to express what he considers to have been the Baron's thought. The restraint shown extends to the Ambassador's recollections of his father's personal traits. Here he is forced at times to disagree in part with the may Rio Branco legends that even today are repeated in Rio, such as the almost mythological accounts of the Baron's memory and his habits of work in his office in the Itamaratí. The volume does not pretend to be a full biography. Much less does it set out to be a diplomatic history. It contains the Ambassador's reminiscences of his father. Its title is exact, and it is invaluable to students of that admirable man and diplomat, the Baron.

The Baron's life of his own father, the Viscount, is different in tone. It was written as an exposition of the life and career of the Viscount and as a defense of his policies, many of which the Baron continued to follow as his own. It is a description of political events, especially those connected with Paraguay, in which the Viscount figured; and it lacks almost entirely the biographical and personal touches that add so much to the Ambassador's book.

Dr. Mendonça's edition of the Baron's exposition is, so far as I am aware, the first to appear in book form. When the Baron wrote it is not certain, but the only previous publication seems to have been serially in the *Revista americana* (Rio de Janeiro) for 1916-1918, four to six years after the Baron's death in 1912. Dr. Mendonça's annotations begin with his introduction giving the background for the Viscount's mission to Asunción in 1869-1870 and continue in the form of footnotes to the Baron's text. In the back of the book, Dr. Mendonça prints excerpts, mainly from Joaquim Nabuco's *Um estadista do Império*, to supplement and clarify the text, and, in an appendix, he provides comments of his own, with supporting documents, on phases of Brazilian policy toward Paraguay. Here he makes good use of some of the material that he found in preparing his biography of the Baron of Penedo.

Taken together, these two volumes provide a panorama of Brazilian foreign policy over five decades. Because they are expressions of a family point of view, they show diplomatic and political problems as they appeared to the Rio Brancos, but for the very reason of their reticences and family loyalties, they offer an uncommon amount of insight into the personalities of the two men who contributed so much to the Brazilian tradition of peaceful settlement of international problems.

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