

In other times Iriarte could have expected a decorous career in the army or as a diplomat, like the British naval officers stationed in the Plata whom he so admired. Instead, along with many others in those times, he had been obliged to sell everything he owned, had two children die of scarlet fever, and could not support his family. When he sought reentrance into the service, so as to support them, he discovered that even though he carried the rank of general, his services were not particularly wanted. The last entry ends, “cargado de obligaciones como reo, mi situación es horrible; la muerte es preferible a tan larga agonía” (p. 559).

Brandeis University

MILTON I. VANGER

*A pesquisa histórica no Brasil*. 2nd ed. By JOSÉ HONÓRIO RODRIGUES. São Paulo, 1969. Companhia Editôra Nacional. Brasiliana. Notes. Appendices. Index. Pp. 283. Paper.

José Honório Rodriguez is unquestionably Brazil's leading historiographer and the man who by his writing has done the most to further the study of Brazilian history. Although the publication under review is presented as a revised second edition of an earlier work with the same title (1952), it is so much enlarged and changed that it is in reality a new book and as such a valuable history of and guide to research in Brazilian history.

Rodrigues divides the book into six sections. The first serves as an introduction to the nature of historical inquiry in which the author once again emphasizes the contemporary nature of history. In the next section he sets forth the history of the major missions of historical research carried out in Brazil and Europe. This section, much expanded from the previous edition, is an extremely informative account about the successes and failures of archival searches. Major and minor figures are present here, and Rodrigues has not hesitated to criticize their methods. For example, when he deals with the work of Jaime Cortesão in editing the Pedro de Angelis collection, Rodrigues not only attacks the failure to prepare a complete inventory and the use of outmoded techniques of transcription, but also points out that Father Bruxel, S.J. was already at work on the project before Cortesão's intervention. Mentioning the efforts of José Antônio Gonsalves de Mello to collect materials on the history of Pernambuco, Rodrigues praises the techniques, but feels that “the result did not correspond to the effort.” Such statements give this book a liveliness not common to the genre.

In Section III, “Instruments of Historical Study,” Rodrigues

draws upon his experience as an active researcher and as former director of the National Archive to raise a number of important questions concerning the use and abuse of certain research policies and institutions. He indicates the lack of care in preserving historical documents and monuments, the dispersion of sources, and ill-conceived policies of archival restrictions as major difficulties in Brazil. He often points to institutions and policies in the United States as models that Brazil might follow. At the same time, Rodrigues notes the cultural sack of Brazil caused by national neglect and the sale of rare books to foreign universities and libraries. The growth of Latin American studies in the United States is responsible for this development, and Rodrigues suggests the creation of five or six centers in the United States as a way of eliminating the depletion of Brazil's cultural resources. It is a suggestion which merits some thought on our part.

Sections IV and V, entirely new, are of the greatest value to the practicing historian. In the former, Rodrigues lists and discusses the major categories of documentation and includes an excellent selected bibliography for each type. This part of his book is especially useful to students of modern and contemporary Brazil. Section V, "Arquivos e Bibliotecas," first analyses the various types of archives in Brazil (national, municipal, ecclesiastic, etc.) and includes under each category a pertinent bibliography of guides and descriptions. Rodrigues then turns to European and Latin American institutions, listing the significant bibliography on each, especially in terms of their materials on Brazil. This section alone is worth the price of the volume.

Rodrigues concludes with a series of positive recommendations for the improvement of historical studies in Brazil. These include the creation of a National Institute of Historical Research and a Central Microfilm Archive as well as many specific projects such as dictionaries of Brazilian history and a biography, projects long desired by students of Brazilian history.

This book is an indispensable research tool for the serious student of Brazil. Moreover, it is a lively and personal approach to the problems and pleasures of historical research in that country. José Honório Rodrigues has long fought to make history an active and living discipline and to keep his nation's archives from becoming "Temples of the Past." The evidence of his efforts is presented here.

University of Minnesota

STUART B. SCHWARTZ