

PORTUGUESE STUDIES IN OXFORD

Oxford's interest in Portuguese goes back a very long way. There were students from Portugal at the University in the Middle Ages, and in the sixteenth century - as Mr McNeill explains below in his account of the Portuguese holdings of the Bodleian Library - the University's lust for Portuguese material was such that it appears to have resorted to force to obtain it.

The modern history of Portuguese at Oxford, however, began exactly fifty years ago, in November 1933, when the University accepted, from the Junta de Educação Nacional, 'the sum of £700 sterling per annum for the maintenance of a Lecturer in Portuguese Studies ... and generally for the furtherance of Portuguese Studies at Oxford'. Professor António Augusto Gonçalves Rodrigues, who arrived in Oxford in the following year, was the first of a series of distinguished Portuguese teachers (now known as *leitores* or *leitoras*) who have continued to work here ever since. The present *leitora*, Miss Maria Teresa Pinto-Pereira, took up office in 1980. The generous financial support of the Portuguese Government, which has greatly increased its initial grant, has continued throughout the period, and is now administered by the Instituto de Cultura e Língua Portuguesa. Since 1968 the University has also maintained a lectureship in Portuguese Studies from its own funds.

Thanks to an *ad hoc* grant from the Gulbenkian Foundation St Antony's College was able to appoint a Portuguese Research Fellow, Dr Manuel V. Cabral, a specialist in rural social structure and change, with wide research interests on questions concerning modernisation, the formation of the working class and the social bases of Fascism. Some of his work is available in English, including papers in the *Journal of Peasant Studies* and elsewhere. The College is seeking to create a permanent Portuguese Fellowship

to enable young Portuguese in the field of social and historical studies to pursue research in this area in Oxford.

In addition to the Portuguese *leitor* and the eventual Portuguese Fellow at St Antony's, three permanent members of Oxford's academic staff research in Portuguese studies : Dr David Goldey (Lincoln), in contemporary politics, Dr Tom Earle (Linacre), in modern Portuguese literature, and Herminio Martins (St Antony's), in sociology and politics.

The study of the Portuguese language and literature is controlled by the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages. The place of Portuguese in the faculty is exactly the same as that of the other modern languages taught at Oxford. Undergraduates may read for a Honours degree in Portuguese alone, or Portuguese may be combined with another modern language, or with history, classics or philosophy. The syllabus is flexible, and allows students to concentrate on Portuguese studies, Brazilian studies or both. The faculty offers no subsidiary or part-time courses - though it is possible for undergraduates reading another language to take one optional paper in Portuguese in Finals - and accordingly there are not so many students reading the subject as there are at some other British universities. Last academic year there were 21 students, however, which is the highest total ever. The fact that Portuguese is taken solely as an Honours subject means that a generally high standard is reached.

Post-graduates may work on Portuguese or Brazilian topics for the two research degrees offered by the University, the D.Phil. and the M.Litt. Those interested in post-graduate work in literature have a third option, the M.Phil., which is a taught course, lasting two years, examined by written papers and a short thesis. Portuguese and Brazilian studies can be offered in the M.Phil. in European Literature and in the M.Phil. in Latin American Studies. Courses are also available for post-graduate students interested in Portuguese anthropology and sociology.

Recent doctoral dissertations in Oxford have included José Cutileiro's anthropological study of a rural community in the Alentejo, a version of which was published by Oxford University Press, and João de Pina-Cabral's anthropology dissertation on a community in Northwestern Portugal. Maria Filomena Mónica's sociology dissertation on education in Salazar's Portugal has been published in Portugal, as have V.Pulido Valente's history dissertation on the early years of the Portuguese Republic, and Graça Almeida Rodrigues' history dissertation on 16th-century Portuguese humanism.

In recent years five post-graduates have successfully completed theses on Portuguese or Brazilian literature, three for the D.Phil. and two for the M.Litt. Some of these have been published, as have two D.Phil. theses submitted to the Faculty of Modern History.

In recent years the Oxford University Press - whose first Portuguese imprint was a translation of the *Book of Common Prayer*, published in 1695 - has re-issued Aubrey F.G. Bell, *Portuguese Literature* (first published in 1922), and has published an

edition of *Os Lusíadas* by Professor Frank Pierce in 1973.

The success of Portuguese at Oxford is largely due to the excellence of Oxford libraries. There are three libraries concerned with the subject. The Spanish and Portuguese section of the Modern Languages Faculty Library (librarian: Mr A.Seldon) is intended especially for undergraduate use. Its Portuguese and Brazilian holdings amount to some 2,500 volumes.

Since the nineteenth century the Taylorian library has been the Oxford library principally responsible for literature in the European languages. It now has about 7,500 books in Portuguese, and is actively buying new material. In addition, the library receives 25 current periodicals in the field, and has long runs of a number of important older journals, including *Panorama* (1837-1858), *Revista Universal Lisbonense* (1841-1857), *Ilustração Luso-Brasileira* (1856-1859), *Revista Lusitana* (1887-1943), *Revista Nova* (1901-1902), *A Águia* (1912-1919), *Afinidades* (1942-1946), *Mundo Literário* (1946-1947) etc.

Although the library was founded only in the last century, it has been able to acquire a number of antiquarian books in Portuguese. There are Portuguese books in the Martin and Finch collections, and the library has also bought a number of early editions, especially of Portuguese poetry. There are early editions of Sá de Miranda, António Ferreira, Diogo Bernardes, Andrade Caminha, Camões, Manuel de Melo, Veiga Tagarro and others. The librarian in charge of Hispanic acquisitions is Mr J.Wainwright, to whom we are grateful for this information.

The third and perhaps the most important holding of Portuguese material in Oxford is to be found in the Bodleian, Oxford's largest library, on which a separate note, by a member of the Library's staff, is appended below.

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Bodleian Portuguese Holdings

The Bodleian Library has been collecting in the field of Portuguese studies since 1600, when we received by donation - only the second donation after Bodley's re-founding of the Library - some 200 volumes from the collection of Fernão Martins Mascarenhas, bishop of Faro from 1594 to 1618 and later Grand Inquisitor of Portugal. The donation came in fact from the Earl of Essex, who had sacked Faro on his expedition against Cadiz in 1596 and removed the books from the bishop's palace. The collection included 15th- and 16th-century imprints from Lisbon and Coimbra, and a manuscript life of John the Baptist in Portuguese by Antonio Pireira - the first manuscript to enter the Bodleian.

Over the next two hundred years there was no deliberate

attempt to acquire Portuguese material, though many works of Hispanic interest were received by donation. One way and another, the Bodleian built up a collection of early Portuguese literature that should not be underestimated: there are extensive holdings of Camões, for example, with editions of the *Lusiads* going back to 1572. But by the first half of the nineteenth century the Library had fallen into the pattern of collecting works principally on the history, rather than the literature, of the Iberian nations. Bandinel, the Librarian from 1813 to 1860, was active throughout his incumbency in acquiring works on Spanish and Portuguese history, though we have the word of George Ticknor that in 1838 the holdings of Spanish literature were 'miserably deficient'.

After the establishment of the Taylor Institution the Bodleian gradually abandoned any attempt to cover literature in European languages, and in the twentieth century has come to regard itself, insofar as Portuguese studies are concerned, simply as the major Oxford library for history and the social sciences. Our aim nowadays is to collect all the major current publications on the history, geography and social conditions of Portugal, Brazil and such of the former Portuguese colonies as are not covered by dependent libraries. (Rhodes House is responsible for all Bodleian collections on Africa south of the Sahara, and much of the coverage of Goa and Timor is shared with the Indian Institute.) In addition, we are still trying to improve our holdings of earlier, out-of-print materials: our recent acquisition of several contemporary pamphlets on the Miguelite Wars is a case in point. And to keep us up to date, we receive most of the current Luso-Brazilian historical journals, published in Portugal and elsewhere.

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