

DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

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PINA [GUIMARÃES], Luís José de (Luanda, 1901 – Porto, 1972)

Luís de Pina, the name he chose for his public life, was the son of Captain Luís Augusto de Pina Guimarães. He was born on 24 August in Luanda, the city where his father served as a army officer and where Luís spent his childhood. When his father retired from military life in 1910, the family returned to their ancestral roots in Guimarães. Here Luís received his secondary school education in the Liceu Central in Braga, the Liceu Central in Guimarães and the Martins Sarmiento Society, a local cultural institution. Here his interest in historical, archaeological and cultural studies in general can be seen since he frequently consulted the Society's famous Library and Archive. From his father he inherited a love of art and drawing which would continue till the end of his life as well as a love of caricature and sculpture. He also shared his father's passion for the history of Guimarães, a recurring topic in his first academic research projects.

Luís de Pina had a great desire to study medicine so, after he had attended the necessary preparatory courses in the Faculties of Science of both Coimbra and Porto Universities, he matriculated in the University of Porto in 1922, where as a student he stood out for his pro-active organisation of and involvement in numerous academic and cultural activities. He finished his degree in 1927 with distinction in a course of excellence that would come to be called the "course of the five lecturers". In the same year he was invited to join the teaching body at the Faculty as a Second Assistant Lecturer in Anatomy after serving a voluntary internship in the Institute of Anatomy with Professor Joaquim Pires de Lima, where he used his artistic skills to produce iconographic material for the teaching of medical matters. This master later invited him to take on further duties as Head of Service of the Criminal Anthropology, Experimental Psychology and Civil Identification Office of Porto which came under the Ministry of Justice (1929), where he was responsible for important internal organisational reforms. He was also a member of the state committee set up to evaluate the archaeological site of Citânia de Briteiros (a pre-Roman fortified settlement).

On 6 March 1930, encouraged by the Academic Board of the Faculty of Medicine of Porto, he defended his doctoral thesis *Vimaranes: materiais para a história da medicina portuguesa*, (Vimaranes: material for the history of Portuguese medicine), a study of an anthropological, archaeological, ethnographic and historical nature about Guimarães. He focused on its medical history through the inventory and analysis of unpublished documents collected from the archives of the Municipal Council, the Misericórdia and religious orders which were all in the possession of the Martins Sarmiento Society. Following the pioneering tradition

that the history of Portuguese medicine enjoyed in this Porto school, to which he himself would pay homage by dedicating his work to such figures as Gouveia Osório, Maximiano de Lemos and João de Meira, he chose his main field of knowledge in a work in which he proposed to complete the chapter on local medical history from pre-history to the early 1800s.

However, faced with the immediate demands of his teaching career at the University, the direction his scientific specialisation took led him to the areas of anatomy and anthropology, and he left to go on a study mission as a scholarship holder of the National Board of Education to France, Poland and Italy (1930-1931); he maintained his contractual relationship with the Faculty of Medicine of Porto where he was appointed, after public examination, Auxiliary Professor and where he founded the Maximiano Lemos Museum of the History of Medicine (1933). In addition to this, he was a teacher at the Regional School for Graduates [older boys] of the *Mocidade Portuguesa* in Porto (1937) and also taught a course offered by the city council that was open to the public called "Portuguese Studies" (1938), accumulating these activities with management of the Criminology Institute of Porto where he succeeded Pires de Lima as Director (1937).

A man with deep-rooted Catholic convictions, he welcomed the implantation of the *Estado Novo* in Portugal with conservative pleasure. He did not hesitate to join the *União Nacional* (National Union) nor from starting out on a political career when he won the nomination to become a member of the Consultative Committee of the regime's political party. The consensus surrounding his academic and social prestige in the Porto area were decisive in his being chosen as a city councillor (1935), a deputy to the National Assembly for his constituency in two different legislatures (1938-1945), president of the administrative committee of the Porto Municipal Council (1945-1949) and *procurador* (representative) to the *Câmara Corporativa* (Corporative Chamber) (1945-1949), where he undertook parliamentary activities particularly in such areas as hygiene, medicine, education, social welfare and culture. Two examples serve to demonstrate his ideological alignment with the political model in power: his participation in many of the national commemorative programmes celebrating events in Portuguese history - he was the key organiser in Porto of the 5th Centenary of the Death of Infante D. Henrique (1960) - and his intransigent defence both political and religious of the Portuguese Colonial Empire. This was expressed in his numerous academic works on the Overseas Provinces and even in his discourse of a providentialist type of philosophy of history, inspired by Jacques Maritain, to justify the civilising mission of Portugal. On the civic side, throughout his life he held various different positions in the Ordem dos Médicos (Professional Order of Medical Practitioners), the Santa Casa da Misericórdia of Porto, the Portuguese Red Cross and the Porto Catholic Association as well as becoming a representative member of the Centre for Demographic Studies of the National Institute of Statistics, a member of the National Commission for the History of the Sciences and a member of the Board of Geographical Missions and Colonial Research.

This politico-ideological connection was also reflected in the wider scope of the objects of his historical research, but without any diminishing of his scientific reputation, and through invitations for new projects and access to new primary sources. In Portugal he was chosen by L' Académie Internationale d'Histoire des



Sciences to write the *Tábuas Cronológicas da História das Ciências em Portugal no século XVI* (Chronological Tables of the History of the Sciences in Portugal in the 16th century, 1931), and six years later the Ministry for the Colonies charged him with the task of studying and making an inventory of the documentation on the Portuguese presence in Angola and Brazil in the modern period that was housed in the Colonial Historical Archive.

In 1944 Luís de Pina rose to become Full Professor of the History of Medicine and Professional Deontology in his Faculty. This provided a new impetus for his studies in the history of medicine and professional deontology while, in parallel, he sought to increase the importance given to the subject in the students' academic training and to strengthen the pedagogic link to the museological centre he coordinated. He also took on a prominent role in the University of Porto, constantly battling against the lack of humanistic studies. With this in mind, it is important to mention the creation and management of the Centre for Humanistic Studies attached to the University of Porto (1947). Later, in the second Faculty of Letters of Porto (1961), he also lectured in the area of Philosophical and Pedagogical Sciences, assuming interim management of the course as the Rector's delegate until 1966.

As a historian, the core of his academic output was undoubtedly related to the history of medicine. He retained, however, an interest in other areas of knowledge and their contribution to the evolution of human scientific thought, seeking to integrate this within the history of science and, consequently, within universal history itself. Thus, Luís de Pina, inspired by the example of Maximiano de Lemos, not only revised, enlarged and included new historical facts in the works that the latter had published but also published in 1954 the first volume of *História Geral da Medicina* (General History of Medicine) as a complement to his historiographical production while at the Faculty of Medicine in Porto. In his methodology, the remaining traces of the positivist trend to overvalue the written documents and books of the period as an answer to the hypotheses formulated were confronted with a modern conception that upheld the interdisciplinary and global nature of medical history and critical and objective practice creating an interplay between the fields of the exact sciences and the social sciences when exploring themes.

His studies are a fusion of cultural, zoological, archaeological, ethnographic, botanical, anthropological and medical-clinical notes when dealing with personalities, institutions, scientific currents, teaching models or medical vocabulary to update the history of medicine, demonstrating by the bibliography he consulted a deep font of knowledge that engaged in a dialogue with the international research panorama. As for other historical topics he gave his attention to, his scientific objectivity became compromised with his biased treatment of such topics as the Portuguese Expansion or the Overseas Territories, chapters that were agreeable to the *Estado Novo* as grounds for the political positions adopted, which were analysed according to the principles of Civilisation, Christianisation and Portuguese Culture on the world stage. Although he explored in great detail the factors of national decadence as a lesson to remember for the present and the future, what primarily stand out are the golden facts of the historical reality of Portugal in its heyday, but contextualised within a civic and spiritual view of History which he sought to transpose to the universality of

the human past.

Luís de Pina received various national and international decorations from Spain, Italy, the Holy See and Cuba. He finally retired in 1970 when he reached the legal retirement age and died in the city of Porto on 29 April 1972. His cultural and scientific legacy merited extraordinary recognition during his lifetime as can be seen not only by the many national prizes he was awarded for his publications (*António Enes*, *Maximiano Lemos* and *Alvarenga*), but also from the numerous invitations he received from important foreign figures to set up Portuguese sections or to become associated to scientific institutions. For example, he was linked to almost fifty cultural and scientific groups and bodies either as a member or as an academic. Among these were the *Instituto Português de Arqueologia, História e Etnografia*, the *Société Française d'Histoire de la Médecine*, the *Istituto Nazionale di Studi sul Rinascimento*, the *Sociedade Anatómica Luso-Hispano-Americana*, the *Instituto de História da Medicina do Rio de Janeiro* and the *Accademia del Mediterraneo*, and he was also the academic holder of 'Chair number 12' of the Portuguese Academy of History (1945). A multifaceted man in terms of human knowledge, "Luís de Pina, a convinced humanist" (*Professor Dr. Luís de Pina*, 1998, p. 81) was the author of a bibliographic legacy that numbers over three hundred publications, without counting the many unpublished works he preferred not to publish or had no opportunity to do so, which cover a wide variety of fields ranging from Anthropology to Anatomy, Forensic Medicine, Pedagogy, the History of Medicine and the History of Science. Finally, mention should be made of the fact that he collaborated on some of the most important Portuguese works of the 20th century: Damião Peres' *História de Portugal* (History of Portugal), the *História da Expansão Portuguesa no Mundo* (History of the Portuguese Expansion in the World) and the *Grande Enciclopédia Luso-Brasileira* (Great Luso-Brazilian Encyclopaedia).

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APOIOS:

