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RIBEIRO, Ângelo Pinto (Angra do Heroísmo, 1886 – Lisboa, 1936)

Ângelo Pinto Ribeiro was born on 7 January 1886 in Rua da Alfândega, in the parish of Sé in Angra do Heroísmo in the Azores. He was the legitimate son of Jácome de Sousa Ribeiro, a well-known Azorean musician and journalist, and Maria Leonor Pinto and grew up in a deeply Catholic music-loving family which had connections to the press and the world of publishing. Ângelo Ribeiro spent part of his childhood in Angra do Heroísmo. However, in 1899 his father took up a post as secretary to the Municipal Council of Calheta and so moved with his family, including Ângelo, to the island of São Jorge.

Between 9 January and 30 September 1911, Ribeiro, then 25 years old, held the position of administrator of the *Concelho* (County) of Praia da Vitória, which clearly reflects his republican ideology. Shortly after leaving this job, he became administrator of the *Concelho* of Angra do Heroísmo, a post he occupied until 29 April 1912. At the same time during this period, he attended the Complementary Course in Letters at the Liceu Central (secondary school) in Ponta Delgada. He completed the course, having followed the German language variant of the curriculum, on 4 July 1912 finishing with a final grade of 12 out of 20. In the same year he set out for Lisbon with the idea of enrolling in the recently established Faculty of Letters, a desire that he fulfilled on 9 October of that year. In October 1917 he gained his *bacharel* in the Philosophy section. In February 1918 he was admitted to the Escola Normal Superior of Lisbon to take the *Curso de Habilitação ao Magistério Liceal* (a teacher training course for secondary school teachers) where he studied pedagogical practice and became a trainee teacher at the Liceu de Gil Vicente.

While he was still studying for his bachelor's degree, owing to financial difficulties Ribeiro began to work as a journalist on various daily newspapers in the capital such as *As Novidades*, producing invaluable studies on literary figures. From 1919 on, we can find documents relating to his friendship with Leonardo Coimbra and linking him to the *Renascença Portuguesa* (Portuguese Renaissance) movement. In the same year, Ribeiro published some articles in the magazine *Atlântida: Mensário Artístico, Literário e Social para Portugal e Brasil*. In the post-World War I period, he devoted himself to translating and publishing several works by Plato under the auspices of the Portuguese Renaissance movement and to editing works of poetry.

He was also invited to be a member of the teaching staff of the recently founded Faculty of Letters of Porto since a teaching position in the Germanic Philology section had become vacant. Ribeiro, who was working at the time in the Escola Normal Primária Superior (Primary School) and was considered one of the

most outstanding figures of his academic generation, accepted the invitation. He thus became part of a teaching body of excellence made up of academics such as Damião Peres, Homem de Cristo, Newton de Macedo and Luis Cardim. In July 1923 he was awarded tenure in this institution and started teaching the courses of Medieval History, Modern and Contemporary History, and General History of Civilisation, becoming the head of the latter in 1930. During his career at the Faculty of Letters of Porto, Ribeiro published some articles in the magazine *A Águia* and there is also a record of his collaboration on the Faculty's *Revista de Estudos Históricos*. In April 1926 he was unanimously awarded the degree of Doctor in Germanic Philology. In this same year he undertook a study trip to the Experimental Phonetics Laboratories in Paris and Hamburg with the idea of setting one up in the Faculty of Letters of Porto.

During the period when he was a professor at the Faculty of Letters, between 1921 and 1931, Ribeiro collaborated on the magnum opus that would become *História de Portugal* (History of Portugal), better known as “the Barcelos History”, the first and for decades the only general history of the country produced by academics. It was edited by Damião Peres and was published on the occasion of the commemoration of the 800th anniversary of the founding of the nation. Ângelo Ribeiro wrote forty-eight chapters for this work, one in partnership with Damião Peres, spread throughout its six volumes. For this monumental work he composed studies on the Middle Ages, the Modern Age and the Contemporary Era but, however, his greatest output was related to the Medieval period. Of note are the six chapters he wrote on the subject of the history of welfare in Portugal, all now considered works of reference in this field, and the various articles where he wrote short political biographies of some Portuguese monarchs: “O Rei Filósofo” [The Philosopher King], “O Príncipe Perfeito” [The Perfect Prince] and “D. João V” [King John I]. Well versed in political and especially welfare history, Ribeiro gave much emphasis to localisms and decentralisation was a noticeable feature of his discourse. This is proved by various chapters he wrote for the second volume of the work which refer to a variety of places: “Santarém”, “Lisboa”, “Silves”, “Elvas, Mértola, Tavira”...

His fondness for enhancing the value of regionalisms and the biographies of the great monarchs, for the study of welfare institutions and for the importance he gave to the action of the common people in history all reveal some influences of republican historiography and a certain historical nationalism cultivated by the Portuguese Renaissance movement to which he belonged. He offers us a factual perception of historical reality, and we can often observe in his discourse an almost theatrical succession of events. However, Ângelo Ribeiro does not neglect an analysis of the facts; he questions history, puts forward hypotheses and dissects contexts, always based on primary and reliable sources, and he is always careful to ensure the clarity of concepts.

During the last few years of his life, Ângelo Ribeiro collaborated once more on a *História de Portugal*, but this one edited by Hernâni Cidade and published by Lello & Irmão in 1936. For this work, he wrote seven chapters on modern history topics. It was, however, a less ambitious publication than the *História de Portugal* edited by Damião Peres. With the closure of the first Faculty of Letters of Porto in 1931, Ângelo Ribeiro, who was a full professor at the time, became a ‘professor adido’ or auxiliary teacher. In 1933, he

returned to Lisbon where he was successively posted as a teacher in various Lisbon secondary schools - Liceu de Passos Manuel, Liceu de Gil Vicente and Liceu de Camões. During this period he collaborated on the *Enciclopédia Italiana* (Italian Encyclopaedia), writing an article about the history of Portugal, a summary beginning with the formation of nationality and ending with the rise of Salazar's corporative state, in which he highlighted two key periods - the Expansion and the crisis of national autonomy - once again using a discourse that was both factual and political. During the year 1936, as a result of the regulatory decree relating to the situation of auxiliary teachers, he was forced to retire. In the same year, on 5 October, he died suddenly in his house in Lisbon, the victim of a heart attack, at the age of 50. The memory of him as a pedagogue *par excellence* would appear to have been retained by some of his students who later became historians themselves, one such being Jorge Borges de Macedo who would remember him reverently as his teacher at the Liceu de Passos Manuel.

Works by the author: «O Pensamento Filosófico de Leonardo Coimbra: a Propósito do seu Último Livro *A Luta pela Liberdade*», *Atlântida: Mensário Artístico, Literário e Social para Portugal e Brasil*. Lisboa, nº. 33/34, Ano III, vol. IX, 1919; Curso de Iniciação Filosófica, Lisboa, Livraria Férrin, 1919; «As Trovas de Walther, o mais ilustre dos Minnesinger». *Revista da Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto*, Porto, nº 5-6, 1923, pp. 469-483; «Silva Mourisca; Arabesco; Versículos; A Caminho da Morte; A Alcáçova», *A Águia*. Porto, nºs. 34,35,36 – Abril, Maio e Junho de 1925, pp. 96-99; «A Maria Stuart de Schiller», *Separata da Revista de Estudos Históricos: Boletim do Instituto de Estudos Históricos da Faculdade de Letras*, Porto, Instituto de Estudos Históricos, 1928; «Portugal e Algarve», «Santarém», «Lisboa», «O Povoador», «Silves», «Elvas, Mértola, Tavira», «A Revolução do Bolonhês», «O Rei Filósofo», «O Desastre de Tânger», «Alfarrobeira», «Afonso-o-Africano», «Toro», «Afonso V e Luís XI. As Terçarias de Moura», «O Príncipe Perfeito», «Albergarias e Hospitais», «Gafarias», «Hospitais Reais-Misericórdias», «A Deposição de D. Afonso VI», «D. João V», «A Renovação Pombalina», «José I e Pombal: o Governo da Força», «A Implantação da República», «Consolidação do Novo Regime», in PERES, Damião (coord.), *História de Portugal*, vol. II – VII, Barcelos, Portucalense Editora, 1928-1981; Lessing, Porto, Edição de Autor, 1931; «Portogallo-Storia», *Enciclopedia Italiana di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti*, Roma, vol. 28, Instituto della Enciclopedia Italiana, 1935, pp. 42-49; «Da Lusitânia a D. Fernando», «De D. João IV a D. Maria», in CIDADE, Hernani (coord.), *História de Portugal*, vol I, III, Porto, Lello & Irmão, 1936; «A formação do território - da Lusitânia ao alargamento do país», «A afirmação do país – da conquista do Algarve à regência de Leonor Teles», «A restauração da Independência – o início da Dinastia de Bragança», «A Monarquia Absolutista – da Afirmação do Poder às Invasões Francesas», in SARAIVA, José Hermano (coord.), *História de Portugal*, vols. I, II, V, VI, Matosinhos, Quidnovi, 2003.

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APOIOS:

