

DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

<http://dichp.bnportugal.pt/>



VELOSO, José Maria de Queirós (Barcelos, 1860 – Lisboa, 1952)

Queirós Veloso began his further education at the Polytechnic Academy and the Medical-Surgery School in Porto. However, he gave up the medical profession to follow a career as a journalist (*Folha Nova* and *Província*), a world in which he met Oliveira Martins, Eça de Queirós, Antero de Quental and others. In 1892, he moved to Lisbon where he collaborated on *Novidades*, where he met Eugénio de Castro, and had an administrative position in the Carris transport company. He entered the teaching profession at the time of the high school reform carried out by Jaime Moniz (1895) and was appointed a teacher at the Liceu Central in Évora. In this Alentejo city he later became director of the *Escola de Habilitação para o Magistério Primário* [Training School for Primary Teachers] and the Public Library.

In 1900 he became a member of the Regeneration Party [Partido Regenerador] and was elected as a deputy for the Vila Verde (Braga) circuit the following year. Immediately afterwards he was chosen to be the Civil Governor of Viana do Castelo, a post he would occupy twice (1901-04 and 1906). He returned to the national parliament in Lisbon in the 1905, 1908 and 1910 legislatures when the 5th October revolution ushered in the republican regime. In the new institutional framework he occupied top positions in the field of education, being Director-General of Secondary, Higher and Special Education (first in the Ministry of the Interior and then in the new Ministry of Public Education), Vice-Rector of the University of Lisbon and representative of the Universities in the Senate of the Republic (1918).

With the 1901 reform of the *Curso Superior de Letras* [Higher School of Letters], he returned to teaching and was chosen to teach the course *História do Ensino secundário desde o século XVI* [History of Secondary Education since the 16th Century]. In 1910, even before the Republic was declared and as a result of the death of Consiglieri Pedroso, the director of the Higher School of Letters at that time, Queirós Veloso was elected to take over the position. In 1911 he won the first election held for the deanship of the Lisbon Faculty of Letters, and later he would become Vice-Rector of the University. He retained the post of Dean of the Faculty until 1929, when he reached the maximum age limit and had to give up all his positions within the university structure. However, it was after this that he wrote most of his historiographical works. When he moved over from the Higher School of Letters to the new Faculty, Queirós Veloso became part of the History Section, where he was responsible for the following courses: General History of Civilization



(1911-1930), Introduction to History (1918/19), History of Portugal II (1917-1930) and, for a short period, History of Modern and Contemporary Philosophy (1914/15).

In Queirós Veloso's historiographical work are to be found some of the characteristics of erudite historiography such as the value given to documents, the centrality of the leading figures and the pre-eminence of the political factor. His work was marked by his defence that any construction of the historical past must be supported by thorough documental research. His greatest concern was to seek to reconstitute the key facts of national history using sources that supported the whole historical argumentation. Queirós Veloso devoted himself to the 16th century, reconstructing national politics from the death of D. João III to the Battle of Alcácer-Quibir [Ksar El Kebir]. His analyses, based on diplomatic correspondence and negotiations, focused on political-institutional constructions surrounding the actions of the main figures of Portuguese political life in the second half of the 16th century (D. Catarina of Austria, Cardinal D. Henrique and D. Sebastião). To do this, he "brought" the General Archive of Simancas (Spain) and the endless resources available there to his study of Portuguese history. In the Archive he collected the documental sources that could be used as proof to structure his work. This type of archival work, which he had observed and appreciated in both Alexandre Herculano and Gama Barros, earned him praise from both his contemporaries and those who came later in particular for the unpublished documents he found but also for his positive and methodical analysis of them.

His historiographical work, denouncing the limits of erudite historiography, came to be criticized by historians inspired by the theses of the *Annales* movement (Vitorino Magalhães Godinho) since, by limiting himself to diplomatic documentation, Queirós Veloso only shows the issues from the point of view of secret negotiations and the actions of the key figures in the whole process. The view of the Portuguese people, of the popular masses, is almost imperceptible, being no more than a small part of the backdrop against which the main action – palace intrigues and machinations - takes place. Concern with the carefully dated fact seems to leave no space for the popular, and even national, conscience's perception of the historical process of the second half of the 16th century.

Queirós Veloso was concerned in his studies with going beyond the historiographical context which said that this period marked the start of the country's "decline". He himself did not express such a definition of the age so emphatically. He did not allow himself to be influenced by political or teleological motives nor by *fin-de-siècle* pessimism; instead he believed that the country's deterioration began after the death of Filipe II and the decline of Spanish political and maritime hegemony, which made Portugal vulnerable to those who opposed the Catholic monarchy. Thus, he sought to rehabilitate historically such controversial figures as D. Catarina of Austria and Cardinal D. Henrique by affirming the concern of these Portuguese historical figures with national issues at a time when the nationalizing ideal was gaining ground (*História de Portugal*, dir. Damião Peres, 1933).

He was a member of numerous scientific institutions among which were the Lisbon Academy of Sciences



DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

<http://dichp.bnportugal.pt/>

(permanent member and president of the Letters section), the Portuguese Academy of History (numbered academic and first vice-president) and the Royal Academy of History in Madrid (corresponding member). He was decorated with the Grand Cross of the Order of the Conception and the Grand Cross of the Order of Isabella the Catholic and he was also a Grand Officer of the Order of Santiago da Espada and a Grand Officer of the Order of the Southern Cross.

Works by the author: *O Arquivo Geral de Simancas. Sua importância capital para a História Portuguesa*, discurso inaugural da 6ª secção do Congresso de Salamanca (Ciências filosóficas, históricas e filológicas) pronunciado na sessão de 26 de Junho de 1923, separata de *O Instituto*, vol. 70, nº 7, Coimbra, Imprensa da Universidade, 1923; «A formação profissional dos professores liceais – simples esboço da história do ensino secundário em Portugal», Oração de Sapiência lida na sessão solene de abertura da Universidade de Lisboa no dia 20 de Novembro de 1920, separata dos nº6-7 da *Labor*, Aveiro, 1927; «A dominação filipina», discurso pronunciado na 4ª sessão comemorativa do 3º jubileu da Academia das Ciências de Lisboa em 12 de Dezembro de 1929, *Biblos*, vol. VI, Coimbra, Coimbra Editora, 1930, pp. 387-410; «O Cardeal-rei D. Henrique. Novos aspectos da sua história», Conferência realizada no curso de férias da Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Coimbra, em 6 de Agosto de 1930, *Biblos*, vol. VI, Coimbra, Coimbra Editora, 1930, pp. 513-523; «Terceira Época (1557-1640) – História Política», vol. V, I parte, *História de Portugal* (dir, Damião Peres), Barcelos, Portucalense Editora, 1933, 9-272; «O significado histórico do 1º de Dezembro», *Palestra pronunciada na sessão de 3 de Dezembro de 1935 pelo Exmo. Sr. Prof. Dr. Queirós Veloso ilustre académico e antigo professor universitário*, Lisboa, Rotary Club de Lisboa, 1935; *No centenário do historiador Oliveira Martins*, separata da *Academia das Ciências de Lisboa*, vol. XVII, Lisboa, Academia das Ciências de Lisboa, 1945; *Gama Barros*, Coimbra, separata da *Revista Portuguesa de História*, tomo IV, 1949; *O Interregno dos Governadores e o Reinado de D. António*, Lisboa, Academia Portuguesa da História, 1953.

Works with references to the author: AGUILAR, Manuel Busquets de, *O Curso Superior de Letras (1858-1911)*, Lisboa, 1939; *Discurso pronunciado na Sessão Plenária de consagração ao eminente académico e historiador Prof. Dr. Queirós Veloso em 23 de Novembro de 1950*, Lisboa, separata do *Boletim da Academia das Ciências de Lisboa*, vol. XXII, 1950; DORES, Hugo Gonçalves, *A História na Faculdade de Letras de Lisboa (1911-1930)*, dissertação de Mestrado em História Contemporânea apresentada à Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa, 2009; *Elogio do Prof. Dr. José Maria Queirós Veloso*, Lisboa, Academia da História Portuguesa, 1958; GODINHO, Vitorino Magalhães, *Ensaios, III – sobre Teoria da História e Historiografia*, Lisboa, Livraria Sá da Costa Editora, 1971; *Enciclopédia Luso-Brasileira de Cultura*, vol. 18, Lisboa, Editorial Verbo, 1976, p. 846; MALPIQUE, Cruz, «Aquele que foi meu professor de História da Civilização, o Dr. José Maria de Queirós Veloso», *Barcelos*, nº 2, vol. 2, 1985, 188-198;



MARQUES, A. H. Oliveira, «Notícia Histórica da Faculdade de Letras (1911-1961)», *Ensaio de Historiografia Portuguesa*, Lisboa, Palas Editora, 1988, pp.123-198; SERRÃO, Joel, «Historiografia. Na Idade Contemporânea», *Dicionário da História de Portugal*, vol. IV, Lisboa, Iniciativas Editoriais, 1971, pp. 438-446.

Hugo Soares



APOIOS:

