



*Boletim da Segunda Classe* [Bulletin of the Second Class], Coimbra, 1898-1929

Published for thirty years (1903-1933), the *Boletim da Segunda Classe* [Bulletin of the Second Class] (Minutes, Communications, Opinions, Studies, Documents and News) filled a significant documentary gap in the record of the intellectual life of the *Academia das Ciências de Lisboa* [Lisbon Academy of Sciences] (ACL) during the period 1898-1929. The publication begins by noting, "Minutes of academic sessions have not been printed since 1851" (vol. I, 1898, p. VI). In 1898, Teófilo Braga (1843-1924), a full member of the class, was an influential figure. Two decades later, he would be commemorated by his disciple António Ferrão, president of an idealised institution positioned in opposition to the ACL, the Academy of Sciences of Portugal (António Ferrão, *As Causas «Ideais» da Conflagração e a Função Pedagógica das Academias Científicas após a Guerra*, 1918).

The end of the 19th century was evidently a period of transition, bridging those who had lived and worked alongside Alexandre Herculano with newer generations of academics and researchers. On 1 February 1898, the death of João Pedro da Costa Basto, a former official of the Torre do Tombo (1876-1880), marked another setback in the publication of the *Portugaliae Monumenta Historica*. Following his passing, his brother and former assistant, José Manuel, requested to be relieved of his responsibility for the *História dos Descobrimentos Portugueses* [History of the Portuguese Discoveries]. The *Boletim* recounts the history of this project, tracing its origins back to Andrade Corvo and Pinheiro Chagas in 1882 and 1892, respectively (vol. I, 1898, pp. 28-38).

Like its successor, the *Boletim da Academia das Ciências* [Bulletin of the Academy of Sciences], the *Boletim da Segunda Classe* initially consisted of monthly issues compiled into annual volumes. From the fourth issue onwards, it began to span periods covering multiple years, such as November 1916 to October 1917, representing a complete academic season. This foundational structure is outlined in volume III: "This *Boletim*, published in fascicles to ensure its content remains timely and relevant, is divided into two parts: the first consisting of the correspondence of the Class and opinions presented at its respective sessions; the second comprising studies, communications, documents, and news designated for publication, with a French summary of content that may be of interest abroad" (vol. III, 1909-1910, pp. 2-3). Such a summary, however, quickly becomes obsolete. The *Boletim*, in the words of Teófilo Braga, oscillates between "purely literary matters, such



as the reading of poetry, prose excerpts, and translations of notable works" (which he advocates and defends) and "the investigation of points and questions of mere erudition and study, as is generally the tendency in organisations of this nature" (Vol. I, 1898, p. 60). The first line of the programme appears to have been successful from the session held on 30 March 1898 onwards, as the extensive documentary transcripts were significantly reduced after this approach was introduced. Over time, however, these transcripts came to dominate the printed pages, to the extent that reports of sessions, admissions, and communications nearly disappeared. As is typical of periodical narratives, it becomes essential to understand the institution's dynamics in the field of letters. This includes knowing who attends the academic sessions, participates in them, is admitted to the class, the reasons for their inclusion, and their progression within the hierarchy (if any). This will be examined further below.

As time went on, the publication of volumes faced increasing delays, beginning with the 13th and 14th volumes, which coincided with the end of the First World War. The final volume, XX, is divided into two parts, as was customary in the previous century with the *História e Memórias* [History and Memoirs] of the ACL. Even the title underwent changes, as noted in Vol. XX, Part 2, p. 22: "Note: This Bulletin was titled *Boletim da Segunda Classe* until Volume XII. In Volume XIII, it was renamed *Boletim da Classe de Letras* [Bulletin of the Arts and Humanities Class] until Volume XV, reverting to *Boletim da Segunda Classe* in Volume XVI."

We can identify some of the most notable figures in the class between January 1898 and December 1909. The second session of 1898, held on 28 January, was attended by full members Gama Barros, Teixeira de Aragão, and Teófilo Braga, along with corresponding members Brito Aranha, Consiglieri Pedroso, Gonçalves Vianna, Leite de Vasconcelos, and Vasconcelos Abreu (Vol. I, 1898, p. 28). Noteworthy elections during this period include Christovam Ayres, who was elected a corresponding member in 1899, and Hintze Ribeiro and Veiga Beirão, who became full members in 1900. Machado de Assis was elected in 1904, followed by Júlio Dantas and Carlos Malheiro Dias as corresponding members in 1908 and Edgar Prestage as a foreign correspondent in 1909. In December 1909, opinions were issued regarding the admission of Silva Gaio and Oliveira Lima. In January and February 1907, Hintze Ribeiro (1849–1907), a former President of the Council of Ministers, and Júlio de Vilhena, then Secretary of State, presided over the sessions (Vol. II, 1910, pp. 195 and 201). This highlights how porous the ACL has remained since its foundation in relation to established political powers and intellectuals with a public role.

The year 1910 was, unsurprisingly, dedicated to the centenary of Alexandre Herculano's birth. Issue no. 3 of Volume III (February) is entirely devoted to texts about the renowned historian (pp. 145–279). Issues 1, 3, and 4 include a three-part study by David Lopes titled *Os árabes nas obras de Alexandre Herculano* [The Arabs in the Works of Alexandre Herculano], one of the author's early works, where he applies the philological method and his knowledge of the Arabic language. Herculano's polemics with José Joaquim Costa de Macedo and António Caetano Pereira are also discussed.

The publications of 1911 reflect the emergence of new values brought to prominence by the establishment of the Republic. One notable theme is the increased recognition of women in society and culture. A

comprehensive dossier is dedicated to Carolina Michaëlis de Vasconcelos, who is subsequently proposed as a corresponding member (Vols. IV and V, 1911 and 1912). Although times had changed, her entry into the Academy seems to require justification through an extensive array of texts by and about her. Notably, Maria Amália Vaz de Carvalho was the first Portuguese woman to be proposed and elected as a Corresponding Member (sic). The Count of Sabugosa underscores his symbolic role as one of the "41st fauteuil" of the immortals of the French Academy, due to his presence at the Convent of Jesus, the ACL's headquarters, during the reign of King Luís. Sabugosa, one of life's self-proclaimed "losers," firmly rejects excluding women from "scientific, literary, and academic guilds, the full cloister of the University, the liberal professions, honorary military orders, or the cenacles of letters" (Vol. VI, 1912, pp. 474–483).

In 1917 and 1918, a controversy arose within the Class regarding a regulatory norm common to institutions of this kind: the elevation or promotion of corresponding members to full membership (similar to the ACL's 19th-century practice of promoting free members to full membership). At the session on 22 February 1917, opinions from Cândido de Figueiredo and Henrique Lopes de Mendonça were read regarding the proposals for two new full members: Afonso Costa (former President of the Council of Ministers) and Bernardino Machado, then President of the Republic (Vol. XI, 1916–1917, pp. 42–46). This prompted Joaquim José Coelho de Carvalho, the president of the Class, to express his regret that "one of the Academy's corresponding members, natural-born candidates for the position, was not favoured to fill the vacancy" (Idem, p. 39). On 8 March, a debate ensued over whether Article 1 of the regulation dated 1 July 1868— which designated corresponding members as "natural candidates" for full membership— had become a dead letter. Júlio Dantas argued that beyond formal regulations, there was an "old practice" of recognising precedence for such positions (Idem, pp. 48–49).

Despite these considerations, the following year, in 1918, Afonso Costa was elected by nine votes, with one abstention— that of Joaquim José Coelho de Carvalho, who justified his position by stating that he could not prefer "a person who was still a stranger to [the ACL] over some of the corresponding members, and for no other reason" (Vol. XII, 1917–1918, p. 601).

Volume XII (1917–1918) of the *Boletim da Segunda Classe* spans 599 pages, the majority of which consist of analyses and transcriptions of documents. The influence of António Ferrão, a prominent publicist known for his extensive documentary studies, is particularly evident in the final volumes of this series: Volumes XIX, XX (Part 1), and XX (Part 2), covering the years 1924–1925 and 1926–1929, although they were likely not printed until after 1932 (two volumes are undated). In the penultimate volume, Ferrão proposed suspending the publication of the *Quadro Elementar* [Elementary Chart], which had ceased in 1876, and replacing it with "a collection of diplomatic instructions." He also suggested reviving the long-interrupted *Corpo Diplomático* [Diplomatic Corps], which had been dormant for 62 years. Among his ambitious proposals was the creation of a Portuguese mission to the Vatican archives and the establishment of "a Portuguese historical institute in Rome, dependent on this Class." He was even appointed to travel "abroad" to gather materials that could serve as the basis for writing a History of Portugal— a project that had been an ambition of the *Academia das*

*Ciências* [Academy of Sciences] since the late 18th century— and a History of Portuguese Culture. However, neither project was ever realised (Vol. XX (1st part), n.d., pp. 28–29 and 38). The *Boletim* was initially printed in Lisbon at the ACL during the first five volumes (1903–1912), covering the years 1898–1911. Additional volumes were printed in 1915 (Vol. IX) and the final two volumes (Vol. XX, Parts 1 and 2, n.d.). The remainder, from Vol. VI–VIII (1913–1914) and Vol. VIII (1916) through to Vol. XIX (1933), were printed in Coimbra. The *Boletim da Academia das Ciências* [Bulletin of the Academy of Sciences], which succeeded the *Boletim da Segunda Classe*, was printed in Coimbra starting in 1929 before moving back to Lisbon in 1935. The *Boletim da Segunda Classe* existed in nomine solely to fulfil its role as a repository for minutes and opinions until 1929, after which it coexisted with a new or second series.

In summary, this ACL publication, which filled a gap in documenting minutes and opinions from the Regeneration to the early 20th century, reflects many of the key elements that characterise the life of an academy in modern times. These include: debate and polemics over which topics should take precedence— literary or scholarly; The inclusion or exclusion of politicians and women as members; The evolving emphasis on session minutes and the extensive transcription of documents; Collective projects inherited from the past— such as the *Portugaliae Monumenta Historica*, the *Corpo Diplomático*, and the *Quadro Elementar*— and their interruptions due to the perceived need for archival research for historical summaries, as exemplified by António Ferrão; The variable timeliness of printing volumes and fascicles, which made the *Boletim da Segunda Classe* (or *Boletim das Letras* [Bulletin of Arts and Humanities] for its co-evaluated public) either a desirable product for its novelty or uninteresting due to being outdated.

**Active bibliography:** *Boletim da Segunda Classe (Boletim da Classe de Letras*, vols. XIII–XV), Lisboa, por ordem e na Tipografia da Academia, vols. I–V, 1903–1912, IX, 1915 e XX (1ª e 2ª partes), s.d.; Coimbra, vols. VI–VII, 1913–1914 e VIII–XIX, 1916–1933.

**Passive bibliography:** António Ferrão, *As Causas «Ideais» da Conflagração e a Função Pedagógica das Academias Científicas após a Guerra...*, Coimbra, Imprensa da Universidade, 1918; *Catálogo das Publicações da Academia*, Lisboa, Academia das Ciências de Lisboa, 1983, pp. 20–22 e 60; Daniel Protásio, verbete sobre António Ferrão no *Dicionário de Historiadores Portugueses*.

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