

DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

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DÓRIA, António Álvaro da Silva (Porto, 1902 - Braga, 1990)

Of bourgeois origin and the son of Professor Raul Dória, the author completed a general commerce course at his father's professional school in 1919, at the age of 16, and began teaching at the institution the following year. He later worked as a bookkeeper. In 1929, he married and settled in Braga, returning to technical and vocational education in 1938. The scholar cultivated a humanist profile, engaging in diverse areas such as accounting and its teaching, dictionary production, translation, and historical writing. In the latter field, he was self-taught, a common phenomenon at the time, often running parallel to university historiography, which was largely dominated by journalists and literati.

From an early age, Dória demonstrated a deep interest in researching and promoting national culture. He exhibited a bibliophilic passion and a flair for essay writing and erudition, remaining attentive to both contemporary issues and everyday life as well as historical events. His work sought to balance a narrative of events with methodological rigour and a restrained expression of opinion. The author began working in translation in the early 1930s, later contributing to Livraria Civilização's historical sources collection and the *Dicionário de História de Portugal* [Dictionary of the History of Portugal], directed by Joel Serrão (notably the entry on "Afonso VI," 1963, pp. 44–46).

The historiographical work of this scholar can be divided into two main periods: the first spanning the 1940s to the 1970s and the second beginning in the late 1970s. During the earlier period, he focused on themes of modern history with political implications, adopting a chronological, narrative, and descriptive approach aligned with traditional analysis. In the second phase, his attention shifted to contemporary history and historiography, with Álvaro Dória emphasising cultural history. This later work displayed a more opinionated perspective, incorporating subtle yet effective problematisation. Since the 1940s, the author has demonstrated exegetical rigour in his critique of sources, identifying the dawn of overseas expansion as a golden age. In contrast, he regarded the period of Philippine domination as a decline, which he saw as having been decisively reversed by the Restoration.

It is no coincidence that the author's first published investigation, in 1944, focused on Queen Maria Francisca of Savoy. That same year, he published the booklet *O Problema do Descobrimento da Madeira* [The Problem of the Discovery of Madeira], in which he applied methodological procedures grounded in



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document criticism (*O problema do Descobrimento da Madeira*, 1944, p. 45). In 1945, he wrote the preface to *História de Portugal Restaurado* [History of Portugal Restored] by the Count of Ericeira, praising it as an exemplary model of narrative history. In 1947, the historian returned to political history with *A deposição de D. Afonso VI* [The Deposition of King Afonso VI], where he sought to blend scientific erudition with accessibility (Preface to *A deposição de D. Afonso VI*, 1947, p. 13). His work often combined biographical studies with social analyses. The author also explored the local history of his birthplace, exemplified by *Movimentos Políticos no Porto do século XIX* [Political Movements in 19th Century Porto], published in 1957. In 1961, he critically examined the Iberian Union in a work later reissued under the same title, *Ainda a União Ibérica* [Still the Iberian Union] (*Ainda a União Ibérica*, Braga, 1961). In 1966, he reaffirmed his commitment to methodological rigour, insisting on the separation of historical reality from fantasy. In this work, *Realidade Histórica e Fantasia* [Historical Reality and Fantasy], he criticised the defence of nobility based more on genealogical origins than on intelligence and ethics (*Bracara Augusta*, vol. XX, fasc. 43–44 (55–56), 1966, pp. 3–24).

The author has always been interested in literature. In 1950 he published a book on *A vida Rural no Romance português* [Rural life in the Portuguese novel]. Portuguese culture also captured Álvaro Dória's attention, leading him to write about the *Geração de 70* [Generation of 70]. He regarded it as a brilliant period in Portuguese intellectual history, appreciating its democratic ideals but lamenting its limited outcomes beyond the political sphere (*Ainda a Geração de 70*, 1975, pp. 15–16). Drawing on his professional background, Álvaro Dória authored numerous articles on the history of accounting, mainly for the *Revista de Contabilidade e Comércio* [Journal of Accounting and Commerce] from the 1940s onwards. These articles often dealt with familiar topics, such as his father, Raúl Dória, and his school (*O Prof. Raul Dória e a sua escola*, pp. 194–208; 236–264). He also highlighted figures like the accountant Ricardo de Sá in his writings.

In the field of literary historiography, Dória paid tribute to Aubrey Bell and Edgar Prestage upon their deaths in 1950 and 1951, respectively. Later in life, he turned his focus to the origins of Portuguese historiography, particularly that of the 19th century. In 1978, he analysed the career of Alexandre Herculano on the occasion of the centenary of his death, publishing his findings in *Bracara Augusta* (*Alexandre Herculano no 1º centenário do seu falecimento*, *Bracara Augusta*, vol. 32, 1978, p. 5–35 [Separata]). In 1979, Dória published *Os Primórdios das Navegações Portuguesas na obra de Alberto Sampaio* [The Beginnings of Portuguese Navigation in the Work of Alberto Sampaio], where he began by situating himself within the historiographical tradition that shaped his work (*Os Primórdios...*, 1979, 36 pp. [Separata]). Dória primarily expressed a traditional conception of history, favouring the narration of events and facts. His approach was inspired by critical romanticism, synthesising the work of Alexandre Herculano and Oliveira Martins. He emphasised individuals and personalities over collectives, society, or structures, adopting perspectives that contrasted with Comtean positivism, Marxism, and even the economic and social history dominant in the second phase of the *Annales* school.

In 1979, Dória was elected a Corresponding Member of the *Academia Portuguesa de História* [Portuguese



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Academy of History]. He also received the Commendation of Sciences, Letters, and Arts from the Military Order of St. James and the Sword. In 1980, he published a study on Teófilo Braga, titled *Teófilo Braga, biógrafo de Camões* [Teófilo Braga, Biographer of Camões], first in *Bracara Augusta* and later as a separate edition. In 1983, he wrote a work on Oliveira Martins, focusing on his contributions as a historian and exploring different facets of his personality in a series of studies compiled in the unpublished volume *Oliveira Martins e o século XIX* [Oliveira Martins and the 19th Century]. In his 1979 work *Um livro, uma época* [A Book, An Era], Dória expressed his admiration for José Relvas (*Um livro, uma época*, 1979, pp. 5-76. [Separata]). In 1986, the Clio scholar published a study related to the centenary of *Vida Nova* [New Life], a movement closely linked to Oliveira Martins. Álvaro Dória passed away in 1990. His intellectual and professional career was multifaceted, seeking to blend various interests and reconcile his family's connection to accountancy with his passion for Portuguese history. From a historiographical perspective, his work was discreet and erudite, assimilating Rankean historicism in an open and receptive manner, incorporating both interpretative and problematising elements.

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Nuno Bessa Moreira.

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