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AZEVEDO, Julião Soares (Pico, Açores, 1920 - ?, 1953)

Born on the island of Pico (Azores), Julião Soares de Azevedo was one of the historians who graduated in Historical-Philosophical Sciences from the School of Arts and Humanities in Lisbon in the 1940s. He made his debut in 1943 with an undergraduate degree thesis on the Revolution of 1820, entitled *Subsídios para a interpretação da Revolução Portuguesa de 1820* [Subsidies for the interpretation of the Portuguese Revolution of 1820]— one of the rare theses dedicated to a 19th-century topic at that School (another would be, a few years later, that of Fernando Piteira Santos). There, he was a student of Vitorino Magalhães Godinho and friends with Joaquim Barradas de Carvalho and Jorge Borges de Macedo – who paid for the publication of his thesis, as stated in the dedication of the copy that Soares de Azevedo gave him, which is kept in the FLUL library.

He went on to become a secondary school teacher (1945). But he soon left for France on a scholarship from the Institute of High Culture (IAC), where he was a lecturer at the School of Arts and Humanities in Poitiers (1945-48) and then at the Sorbonne in Paris (1948-52). He had contacts with Fernand Braudel, Marcel Bataillon, and Robert Ricard. Back in Portugal (July 1952), on a commission from the IAC, he was tasked with putting together a bibliographic collection that was to be offered as a fund for the library of the Centre for Portuguese Studies, founded at the School of Arts and Humanities of São Paulo in the context of the centenary of that city.

In those years, Julião Soares de Azevedo was already carrying out research for a doctoral thesis entitled *As relações comerciais entre França e Portugal de 1640 ao Tratado de Methuen* [Trade relations between France and Portugal from 1640 to the Methuen Treaty] but he never completed the task – he died prematurely in April 1953. He left several preparatory works in which he made known the partial results of his research in French and Portuguese archives on this subject. In the introduction to one of these articles, he noted that the study of transnational trade in the Azores had yet to be realised since local historians were more dedicated to the political field ('Os Açores e o Comércio do Norte no final do século XVII' [the Azores and the North trade at the end of the 17th century], 1953, p. 5). This was also the case (with rare exceptions) in mainland Portugal at the time.

His undergraduate degree thesis outlines an integrated understanding of the liberal revolution of 1820,

considering the Western European context (England and France) and the economic, political and technical issues.

Not just the field of political ideas. He rejects the idea that it was a popular movement. Instead, it was 'the work of the bourgeoisie, burdened primarily by the consequences of the royal residence in Brazil and the weakening of industry and trade' (*Condições económicas da Revolução Portuguesa de 1820* [Economic conditions of the Portuguese Revolution of 1820], 2nd ed., pp. 174-175). However, he was well aware that this social class included different occupational groups: landowners, merchants, industrialists, and legal experts. Fernando Piteira Santos and, later, Miriam Halpern Pereira would provide more elements for characterising the first liberal elite that the young historian only sketched. However, Soares de Azevedo was already distancing himself from the thesis that Freemasonry, as a group, played a decisive role in the revolution – a thesis that would find continuity in the work of Piteira Santos and, later, Silva Dias. On the other hand, JSA relativised the influence of the liberal ideology among the elite in 1820, not forgetting that it was a 'reaction to a previous system' (p. 22).

José G. Reis Leite noted that Soares de Azevedo sowed in the Azores 'the seeds of the *Annales* [Annals] journal, the taste for economic history and the broadening of the horizons of Azorean history to include the Atlantic and European Expansion' ('A historiografia açoriana na 1.^a metade do século XX...' [Azorean Historiography in the first half of the 20th century]). Also on the continent, he was one of the young historians who, in the 1940s and early 1950s, contributed to spreading interest in economic history from a transnational perspective, which was characterised by French historiography at the time. Among others, he cited Marc Bloch, Henri Sée, Albert Matthiez, and Pierre-Maxime Schull. As Fernando Piteira Santos would later observe, 'Forging the doors to the 19th century, this historical territory that the teaching at the old School did not contemplate, a forbidden area only traversed in the field of literary history, was probably the subversive attitude of Julião Soares de Azevedo in the 1940s' ('Última aula – Do antigo regime ao Portugal liberal' [Last lesson- from the ancient regime to liberal Portugal] [1988]). In fact, contrary to what happened in Spain, research into the 19th century was not well regarded in Salazar's Portugal since it was identified with journalism and politics.

Active bibliography: *Condições económicas da Revolução Portuguesa de 1820*, Lisboa, Empresa Contemporânea de Edições, 1944 (2^a ed. com pref. de Maria Antonieta Soares de Azevedo, Lisboa, Básica Ed., s.d.[1976]); *Duas notas para a história do comércio francês em Portugal*, Coimbra, Sep. da *Revista Portuguesa de História*, t.III, 1945; *Nota e documentos sobre o comércio de La Rochelle com a Terceira no séc. XVII*, Angra do Heroísmo, Sep. do *Boletim do Instituto Histórico da Ilha Terceira*, vol. VI, s.d.; "Os Açores e o Comércio do Norte no final do séc. XVII", *Boletim do Arquivo Distrital de Angra do Heroísmo*, vol.2, nºs 4-5 1953 (póstumo); "A propósito de uma memória inédita de Luís Caetano de Lima sobre as Províncias Unidas existente em Poitiers", Coimbra, Sep. de *Biblos*, vol.XXV; "Note sur les consuls français à Lisbonne et leurs attributions à la fin du XVI siècle", Paris, *Revue Historique*, Abril-Jun, 1951. Colaborou em

Robert Ricard, *Sources Inédites de l'Histoire du Maroc*, 2 vols., Paris 1951-53.

Passive bibliography: Azevedo, Maria Antonieta Soares de, "Prefácio da 2ª ed." *Condições económicas da Revolução Portuguesa de 1820*, Lisboa, Básica Ed., 1976, s.d. [1976], pp.7-10; Leite, José Guilherme Reis "A historiografia açoriana na 1ª metade do século xx uma tentativa de compreensão", *Arquipélago - Revista da Universidade dos Açores ARQ - História*, 2ª série ARQ - Hist2s - Vol 05 (2001) <https://repositorio.uac.pt/handle/10400.3/352>; Santos, Fernando Piteira, "Última aula - Do "antigo regime" ao Portugal liberal" [1988] <https://www.cm-amadora.pt/176-fundo-piteira-santos/711-ultima-aula-do-antigo-regime-ao-portugal-liberal.html> acedido em 13-06-2021.

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