

DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

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CARVALHO, Joaquim Martins de (Coimbra, 1822 – Coimbra, 1898)

In a text from 1884, Abílio Augusto da Fonseca Pinto wrote that Joaquim Martins de Carvalho was an example of what persistence in useful work could do: 'He climbed the slope of a steep mountain, what one might call journalistic influence, and from there he calmly and unassumingly took in the vast horizons of politics and contemporary national history. In the latter, his expertise is undisputed. He was a master of all in the investigation of facts, a guide in teaching, and an inflexible censor of misleading deviations or unconscious carelessness.' Born in Coimbra on 19 November 1822, a few months after the constitutional consecration of *Vintismo*, Joaquim Martins de Carvalho was orphaned at a very young age. The precariousness of his economic conditions prevented him from pursuing further studies, pointing him in the direction of working in trade and he began working as a tinsmith, a circumstance that suggested the nicknames *Doutor das Latas* [Tin Doctor] or *Lord Latas* [Lord Tin] by which he was known. With unswerving liberal convictions, he took part in the Maria da Fonte events, suffering for this reason 'the torture of the Limoeiro's secrets and dungeons'. A member and leader of the Carbonari and the Freemasons, Joaquim Martins de Carvalho established himself as a notable journalist of Coimbra life in the second half of the 19th century. A contributor to the *Jornal dos Artistas* [Artists' newspaper], *O Aristarco Portuguez* [Portuguese Aristarchus] and *O Instituto* [The institute], he founded and edited until his death in October 1898, *O Conimbricense*, a title that succeeded from 24 January 1854 *O Observador* [The observer], whose publication had begun in 1847. A pioneer of associative organisations, Joaquim Martins de Carvalho was linked to the most important initiatives in the life of Coimbra in his time. A man of unusual culture and curiosity, he organised, with the *exceptional patience of a Benedictine*, in the words of Brito Aranha, a remarkable library, which he was fittingly proud of.

Worried about the fate of his books, collections of miscellaneous items and periodicals, he confessed towards the end of his life in the pages of *O Conimbricense* that he wished they would one day be brought together in the Coimbra University Library or the National Library, if an auction were not to 'disperse the fruit of so much labour'. His fears came true, and Henrique de Campos Ferreira Lima regretted this in the *brief words* with which he opens the *Catálogo da Importante Livraria que pertenceu aos falecidos Jornalistas Joaquim Martins de Carvalho e General Francisco Augusto Martins de Carvalho, com um prefácio de*



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Henrique de Campos Ferreira Lima que há-de ser vendida em leilão no dia 29 de Fevereiro e seguintes de 1923 na Rua Corpo de Deus, 47, Coimbra, [Catalogue of the important bookshop that belonged to the late journalist Joaquim Martins de Carvalho and General Francisco Augusto Martins de Carvalho, with a preface of Henrique de Campos Ferreira Lima, which will be sold at auction on 29 February 1923 at Rua Corpo de Deus, 47, Coimbra] Coimbra, Imprensa da Universidade, 1923 (a valuable set of works not sold at this auction would be incorporated by family decision into the João Paulo II University Library). In addition to his vast collaboration with the press, which reveals the extent of his knowledge and historiographical thoroughness, Joaquim Martins de Carvalho published two works of great interest to our knowledge of the Portuguese 19th century: *Apontamentos para a História Contemporânea* [Notes for Contemporary History], Coimbra, Imprensa da Universidade, 1868 – the reading of which should be complemented with that of ‘Apontamentos para a História Contemporânea’ [Notes for Contemporary History], published by Manuel Lopes de Almeida in *Arquivo Coimbrão* [Coimbra archives] (1968), and *Os Assassinos da Beira – Novos Apontamentos para a História Contemporânea* [The Beira assassins- new notes on contemporary History], Coimbra, Imprensa da Universidade, 1890.

J. Martins de Carvalho supports the old concept of the ‘master story of life’ (*Apontamentos para a História Contemporânea* [Notes for Contemporary History], p. 43). From a liberal perspective, which has always been his, he constructs a detailed narrative of the political and military events that marked 19th-century Portugal, gathering information that is relevant to understanding the Inquisition, secret societies, and the Coimbra press. A significant part of his press writings was part of a civic activity centred, in particular, on defending the interests of Coimbra, which due to its importance had a national impact and recognition.

The front page of *O Conimbricense* of 12 January 1895 reported the election of Joaquim Martins de Carvalho as a corresponding member of the Academia das Ciências de Lisboa. Teófilo Braga was in charge of writing the opinion on his application, in which he praised the applicant’s literary work and civic intervention, characterised by his defence of the parliamentary regime, public freedoms, and local interests. Teófilo Braga also refers to the high regard in which Martins de Carvalho was held by the late academic José Silvestre Ribeiro, from whom he had received valuable notes for the *História dos Estabelecimentos Científicos, Litterários e Artísticos de Portugal* [History of Scientific, Literary and Artistic Establishments in Portugal]. Considering *O Conimbricense* to be ‘an invaluable archive of facts and documents, an indispensable compass for all pioneers of national history’, Marques Gomes (*O Conimbricense e a História Contemporânea, Publicação comemorativa do 50.º aniversário do mesmo jornal* [The Conimbricense and Contemporary History, Commemorative publication of the 50th anniversary of the same newspaper], Aveiro, 1897) emphasised the work of ‘careful research’ recorded in the periodical, which alone was enough ‘to establish the reputation of a few historians’. The inestimable value of Martins de Carvalho’s newspaper, particularly for historical studies, justified Lopes de Almeida’s initiative, which was realised by José Pinto Loureiro: the publication of the *Índice Ideográfico de ‘O Conimbricense’* [Ideographic Index of ‘O Conimbricense’], Supplement to vol. XXI of the *Boletim da Biblioteca da Universidade* [University library

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bulletin] , Coimbra, 1953. Francisco Augusto Martins de Carvalho, an army officer and bibliophile and renowned bibliographer, dedicated the work *Algumas Horas na Minha Livraria, Artigos, Notas e Apontamentos* [A few hours in my Bookshop, articles and notes], Coimbra, Imprensa Académica, 1910, to the memory of his father Joaquim Martins de Carvalho.

Active bibliography: *Apontamentos para a História Contemporânea*, Coimbra, Imprensa da Universidade, 1868 <https://archive.org/details/apontamentospara00mart>; «Apontamentos para a História Contemporânea», ed. Manuel Lopes de Almeida *Arquivo Coimbrão*, 1968; Id., *Os Assassinos da Beira – Novos Apontamentos para a História Contemporânea*, Coimbra, Imprensa da Universidade, 1890.

Passive bibliography: Carvalho, Francisco Augusto Martins de, *Algumas Horas na Minha Livraria, Artigos, Notas e Apontamentos*, Coimbra, Imprensa Académica, 1910, Gomes, Marques, *O Conimbricense e a História Contemporânea, Publicação comemorativa do 50.º aniversário do mesmo jornal*, Aveiro, 1897; Loureiro, José Pinto Loureiro, *Índice Ideográfico de “O Conimbricense”*, Suplemento ao Vol. XXI do *Boletim da Biblioteca da Universidade*, Coimbra, 1953.

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