

# DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

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**PINHO, José Wanderley** (Santo Amaro, Bahia 1890 – Rio de Janeiro, 1967)

A Brazilian historian, born on 19 March 1890 in Santo Amaro, in the state of Bahia, and passed away on 07 October 1967 in the city of Rio de Janeiro. A descendant of a traditional Recôncavo family, he was the son of Dr. José Ferreira de Araújo Pinho, who served as a deputy in the *Assembléia Geral do Império* [General Assembly of the Empire] and later as governor of Bahia during the Republican regime. His maternal grandfather was João Maurício Wanderley, the Baron of Cotegipe (1815-1889), a prominent statesman of the Second Reign.

He graduated in Legal and Social Sciences from the Law Faculty of Bahia, practised as a lawyer, and held several positions within the judiciary. He entered politics, serving as a federal member of parliament in successive legislatures (1924-1930), and became mayor of the city of Salvador during the administration of Otávio Mangabeira (1947-1951). He conceived and organised the celebrations for the 400th anniversary of the founding of Bahia's capital in 1949. The highlight of the festivities was the "Four Centuries Historical Parade", an event closely resembling the "Portuguese World Parade," held a few years earlier during the Portugal's Centenary Celebrations (1940). In the festivities in Salvador, as in all his work, his positive perception of Portuguese colonisation shines through, unlike other scholars of the time who condemned the Lusitanian socio-cultural matrix in the formation of Brazilian identity. It is worth noting that Wanderley Pinho contributed to the collection published by the *Agência Geral das Colônias* [General Agency for the Colonies] in 1940, commemorating the double centenary of Portugal's foundation and restoration, with the biography *D. Marcos Teixeira, quinto bispo do Brasil* [D. Marcos Teixeira, fifth bishop of Brazil]. In addition to his political activities, he dedicated himself to historical research and teaching at the university level. He served as a full professor of Brazilian history at the Federal University of Bahia and was a member of the *Instituto Histórico e Geográfico Brasileiro* [Brazilian Historic and Geographic Institute], the *Instituto Geográfico e Histórico da Bahia* [Geographical and Historical Institute of Bahia], and the *Academia de Letras da Bahia* [Bahian Academy of Letters].

Wanderley Pinho's historiographical legacy primarily focuses on figures and issues related to Bahia, with some of the themes he explores closely intertwined with the history of his own family. Like many historians of his generation, Wanderley did not deeply reflect on the nature of historical knowledge. However, although he regarded it as a science, with its premises requiring empirical validation by the historian. His research preferences vary between the field of political history and that of social history. In the former, his work is characterised by monographs, documentary studies, and biographical analyses, blending erudition with literary



elegance. Notable among his titles is *Cotegipe e seu tempo. Primeira Fase* (1815-1867) [Cotegipe and its time. First Phase], a work planned to be continued and to represent a lengthy biography of his grandfather, but which unfortunately remained incomplete. He also authored the comprehensive historical synthesis on Bahia between 1808 and 1856, included in the volume *O Brasil Monárquico* [Monarchical Brazil] from the collection *História Geral da Civilização Brasileira* [General History of Brazilian Civilization], led by Sérgio Buarque de Holanda.

Also centred on the 19th-century political scene are his works transcribing and annotating the letters of Emperor Pedro II to the Baron of Cotegipe (1933), as well as the active correspondence of Councillor Francisco Otaviano de Almeida Rosa (1825-1889). This final task remained incomplete due to his death but was later finished through the efforts of Enéas Martins Filho and subsequently Alphonsus de Guimaraens Filho, who undertook the preparation of the content of the letters for publication (1977). His work within the field of social history began early, in 1918, with the thought-provoking monograph “Costumes monásticos na Bahia – freiras e recolhidas” (Monastic Customs in Bahia – Nuns and Reclused), a book now regarded as a classic. At the time of its publication, however, the subject matter surprised readers by uncovering mundane customs and social practices within the convents of Lapa and Desterro in 18th-century Bahia, previously unknown aspects of cloistered life that today would be considered part of cultural history.

The same innovative approach defines his publication “Damas e salões do Segundo Reinado” [Ladies and Salons of the Second Reign] (1942). The result of extensive research into a wide array of sources, this work focuses on the salons—the quintessential social spaces of the imperial elite—where Brazil's bourgeoisie gathered to converse, enjoy music, and dance. From the art of hospitality to exquisite decoration, from the cordial atmosphere between rival politicians to the latest fashion trends, including vivid descriptions of parties, games, and soirées, Wanderley presents a rich inventory of the practices, customs, and values of the so-called “good society”. Furthermore, it highlights the significant role played by women in these spaces, a subject that has received scant attention in contemporary historiography. In this regard, the Bahian historian anticipates, so to speak, what is now regarded as gender studies.

Wanderley Pinho broadened his research horizons even further with his work *História de um engenho do recôncavo 1552-1944* [History of a sugar mill in the Recôncavo 1552-1944] (1946). The original version won the first place prize in a competition sponsored by the *Instituto do Açúcar e do Alcool* [Sugar and Alcohol Institute]. This extensive work examines the history of the Freguesia Sugar Mill (also known as Matoim or Novo Caboto), which belonged to his family and was one of the most significant sugar mills in the Recôncavo of Bahia during the colonial period. The mill has since been transformed into the *Museu do Recôncavo Wanderley Pinho* [Wanderley Pinho Museum of the Recôncavo]. For this purpose, he drew on the accounts of early chroniclers, ancient codices, and testimonies collected from Brazilian and Portuguese cartorial archives. The exhaustive study aims to capture life at the sugar mill in its entirety, encompassing the multitude of aspects explored by the author: the activities of the Jesuits, the distribution of *sesmarias* [land distribution system], the influence of the Inquisition, pirate attacks, the Dutch occupation, slave labour, the daily routines of the *casa grande* [big house], and the evolution of sugar production across the Colonial, Imperial, and Republican periods. Enriched with an abundance of iconographic material, the contribution is acclaimed for its documentary richness and lucid presentation, standing as one of the finest analyses of the economic

framework of agrarian, slave-owning, and mercantilist Brazil.

In the realm of political history, the bibliography left by Wanderley Pinho had only a moderate impact on historiographical production of the Second Reign, despite the scholarly depth of his writings. In the field of Brazilian social history, his work is regarded as pioneering. His work continues to inspire new generations of historians, sociologists, geographers, ethnographers, and anthropologists, serving as an essential reference for scholars studying regional history and gender relations.

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