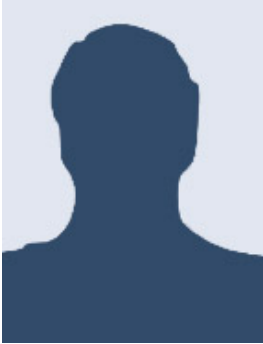


# DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

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**RAMOS, Manuel Maria de Oliveira** (Santa Maria da Válega, Ovar, 1862 – Lisboa, 1931)

Manuel Maria de Oliveira Ramos was the son of the Porto journalist João Oliveira Ramos, usually known as “Pai Ramos” or Father Ramos, from whom he got his taste for journalism. Oliveira Ramos wrote articles for numerous periodicals such as the *Revista de Portugal*, *A Época*, *Diário de Notícias*, *O Século*, *Diário Ilustrado*, *Primeiro de Janeiro* and *Novidades*. He finished his secondary education in Porto before moving on to the Army School and later he studied Mathematics at the University of Coimbra. He took the General Staff course and then served first in the 3rd Army Division (Porto) and later in the General Staff corps. He was promoted to the rank of second lieutenant (1888), lieutenant (1890), captain (1893), major (1907) and colonel (1912) and maintained his connection to the armed forces until he passed into the Reserve (1924).

He was responsible for the History course at the Colégio Militar at the request of the principal of the time, General Morais Sarmiento. He was also an interim teacher at the Liceu de Lisboa [Lisbon Secondary School] at the invitation of the rector, José Maria Rodrigues. In 1907 he even taught History and Literature to the two princes, D. Luís Filipe and D. Manuel. In 1901, the reform carried out by Jaime Moniz of the *Curso Superior de Letras* [Higher School of Letters] led to applications being invited for teaching positions for the subjects created by the new study programme. When the application process ended in 1904, Oliveira Ramos finished first before Agostinho Fortes and Manuel Abúndio da Silva (in 2nd and 3rd place, respectively). After having taken the oral and written examinations required by the regulations, Oliveira Ramos presented for the public selection process his dissertation *Origens Europeias. Esquema etno-histórico*, which demonstrated the author's personal predilection for medieval themes. He was appointed as a lecturer on the Ancient, Medieval and Modern History course. The death of Consiglieri Pedroso (1910) left the chair of the History of Portugal course vacant and Oliveira Ramos took this on, thereby allowing Agostinho Fortes to be appointed to the post he had left vacant.

When the Faculty of Letters of the University of Lisbon was set up, he joined the Historical Sciences Section as an ordinary lecturer, but assumed coordination of the History of Portugal and Aesthetics and History of Art courses (a decision that would have been influenced by his works on art criticism: *A Música Portuguesa*, 1891 and *A Baixela Barahona – um problema de Arte*, 1900). Later he taught the courses of Medieval History (1915-31), History of the Discoveries and Portuguese Colonisation (1918-30) and History Propaedeutic (1918-31). When the History of Portugal course was divided into two courses, each of a year's

duration, he became the coordinator of the first part (1917-1931). Due to a shortage of teaching staff in the Faculty of Letters, he also taught a course in the Philosophy Section (Philosophy II, 1915) for six months.

In his study *Origens Europeias. Esquema etno-histórico*, Oliveira Ramos defends the importance of the evolutive nature of Spenserian inspiration within the historical process, underlining that events were consequences of multiple causes in the complexity of civilisational becoming, a position close to positivist historiography. He uses the concept of evolution to expound his idea of the long-term event in opposition to the concept of the short-term historical fact that occurs at a precise and particular moment and is the result of direct and concrete causes. His following works, however, were inspired by the work of Alexandre Herculano and his ideas relating to the method to apply in historiographical investigation, but nevertheless he did not allow himself to become influenced by the master's interpretations, notably his thesis of national decadence and anticlericalism. Like Herculano, he was concerned with the "character of the Nation" and with the participation of the lower classes in the historical process of the country. Oliveira Ramos did not repeat Herculano's lesson on the origins of the Nation, but sought to adapt it in the light of the works that several of his colleagues (Teófilo Braga, Adolfo Coelho, Leite de Vasconcelos, Paulo Mêrea) had produced on the insurrecional or political theses of the founding of the nation and on works on the continuity between the Lusitanians and the Portuguese. For him, the country's independence was linked to a series of complex causes of an ethnic, geographical and political nature. Besides medieval studies, Oliveira Ramos also devoted himself to the History of the Portuguese Discoveries, seeking to enhance the value of the huge overseas campaign undertaken by the country in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. This can be proved by his texts in the *História de Portugal (History of Portugal)*, edited by Damião Peres, which he wrote towards the end of his life at a time when blindness had almost totally taken away his sight.

Oliveira Ramos also translated works by Edgar Allan Poe, Beaumarchais and Jules Verne and, in the field of historiography, he translated Sophus Ruge's *History of the Age of the Discoveries* and edited the Portuguese translation of G. Oncken's *Universal History* from the sixth volume on.

**Works by the author:** *Origens Europeias. Esquema etno-histórico*, dissertação de concurso à cadeira de história antiga, medieval e moderna, Lisboa, Tipografia d' O Diário, 1904; «O Condado Portucalense», vol. I, VIII parte, *História de Portugal* (dir. Damião Peres), Barcelos, Portucalense Editora, 1928, pp. 483-504; «Idade Média. Aspectos Gerais: a sociedade», *História da Literatura Portuguesa Ilustrada* (dir. Forjaz de Sampaio), vol 1., Paris-Lisboa, Aillaud e Bertrand, 1929, 41-72; «A consolidação da Independência», vol. II, I parte, *História de Portugal* (dir. Damião Peres), Barcelos, Portucalense Editora, 1929, pp. 9-16; «Descobrimento do caminho marítimo para a Índia», vol. III, II parte, *História de Portugal* (dir. Damião Peres), Barcelos, Portucalense Editora, 1931, pp. 574-589; «A tradição portuguesa de terras e viagens para Ocidente; Cabral e o Brasil», vol. III, II parte, *História de Portugal* (dir. Damião Peres), Barcelos, Portucalense Editora, 1931, pp. 590-598; «Fernão de Magalhães: a 1<sup>a</sup> viagem de circum-navegação do globo», vol. III, II parte, *História de Portugal* (dir. Damião Peres), Barcelos, Portucalense Editora, 1931, pp.

599-604; «Périplo de penetração da Ásia», vol. III, II parte, *História de Portugal* (dir. Damião Peres), Barcelos, Portucalense Editora, 1931, pp. 605-608.

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Hugo Dores