

Alberto Machado da Rosa,
Founding Editor of the Luso-Brazilian Review

Ellen W. Sapega¹

The inaugural issue of the *Luso-Brazilian Review* was published in the summer of 1964 under the editorship of Professor Alberto Machado da Rosa. An “Opening Statement from the Editor” observed that the time was “ripe for a journal of an interdisciplinary nature to serve the community of scholars devoted to all aspects of Luso-Brazilian culture” (*LBR* Vol. 1, no. 1, 1964, p. 3). Noting that interest in Portuguese and Brazilian culture and institutions had been steadily growing since the end of the Second World War, and that younger scholars were emerging with specialized interests in fields related to language, literature, economics, commerce, sociology, anthropology, geography, art, and music, Professor Machado da Rosa explained that the new journal would serve as an outlet for current research in Luso-Brazilian Studies in the broadest sense. This ambitious plan for the journal would soon bear fruit. An interdisciplinary periodical exclusively devoted to the Portuguese-speaking world, the *Luso-Brazilian Review* was the first of its kind in the English-speaking world and has enjoyed continuous publication for more than fifty years.

Professor Alberto Machado da Rosa spent 17 years at the University of Wisconsin, arriving in the fall of 1947 to begin work toward a Ph.D. In 1950, while still writing his doctoral dissertation, he was appointed as an instructor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. During this time, he served as faculty advisor for the department’s Spanish-Portuguese Club, as recorded in the University of Wisconsin *Badger Yearbook* of 1952 (Fig. 1). One year after this photo was taken, in 1953, Professor Machado da Rosa was awarded a Ph.D. in Spanish. His dissertation, titled *Rosalía de Castro: A Mulher e o Poeta*, was written under the direction of Professor Antonio Sánchez Barbudo. Upon completion of the Ph.D., Professor Machado da Rosa remained on the faculty of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. In the fall 1959, the University of Wisconsin Center for Luso-Brazilian Studies opened with funding provided by the National Defense Education Act and, in 1960, Professor Machado da Rosa became the center’s director (Fig. 2).

One of the first events he organized as director of the Center for Luso-Brazilian Studies was a campus visit by the well-known North American novelist John dos Passos, who was invited to give a talk on “The Portuguese-speaking World.” This event was organized to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the death of Henry the Navigator, and it also included the presence of the Portuguese ambassador (Dr. Lus [sic] Esteves Fernandes) and the Brazilian consul in Chicago (Dr. Eunco [sic] Nogueira Ribeiro) (*Daily Cardinal*, 11/9/1960, p. 6). As reported by the student newspaper at the time (Fig. 3), the lecture by John dos Passos was the first of a series of events organized by the University of Wisconsin Center for Luso-Brazilian Studies. Two years later, in April 1962, the center, in conjunction with the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, organized a Symposium on Luso-Brazilian Studies. Bringing together some of the most important scholars in the field, the symposium

¹ University of Wisconsin–Madison, Professor and Chair, Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

included lectures by Ernesto Guerra Da Cal (“O Renascimento Galego Contemporâneo”), Gerald M. Moser (“Contemporary Portuguese Scholarship in North America”), Francis M. Rogers (“The Attraction of the East and Early Portuguese Discoveries”), Antônio Soares Amora (“O Ensino da Literatura no Brasil”), Raymond S. Sayers (“Brazilian Literary Criticism Today”), and Érico Veríssimo (“O Escritor Brasileiro em Nossos Dias”). These essays became the source material for the inaugural issue (#1.1) of the *Luso-Brazilian Review* in 1964 (Fig. 4).

With the following issue, published in late 1964, the journal’s cover would change (Fig. 5), and its contents assumed the structure of a peer reviewed academic journal: besides presenting a cluster of three presentations from a 1963 Symposium on Brazil held at the University of Wisconsin, the issue published four scholarly essays on such literary topics as Sebastianism, the *cantigas* of D. Dinis, and humor in contemporary Brazilian poetry, followed by one essay on linguistics, and a report on Brazilian and Portuguese Studies in the United States and Canada in 1963–1964. The second issue of volume one also included five book reviews, a list of books received, and brief reports on three new translations of books by Gilberto Freyre, Vianna Moog, and Rachel de Queiroz.

The *Luso-Brazilian Review* has continued its publication to this day, following roughly the same format that was instituted in issue 1.2. Over the years, it has published essays by renowned scholars working in the United States, Brazil, Portugal, and from across Europe, and Portuguese-speaking Africa. Published by the University of Wisconsin Press since its inception, the *LBR* is one of three UW Press journals dedicated to the study of literature and culture (*Monatshefte*, founded in 1899, has been published by the press since 1927; *Contemporary Literature* was launched in 1970). The senior editors of these UW Press journals have traditionally been faculty members based at the University of Wisconsin. For that reason, Alberto Machado da Rosa’s tenure as editor would soon come to an end.

After serving as editor for the first three issues of the *LBR*, Professor Alberto Machado da Rosa left Madison in 1964 to join the faculty at the University of California at Los Angeles. He stepped down as editor of the *Luso-Brazilian Review* at that time, but he remained active on the journal’s Advisory Board until his untimely death in 1974. That year, a memorial issue (11.2, Winter 1974) was dedicated to the memory of Professor Machado da Rosa, who was recalled as the journal’s founder. In that dedication, attention was paid to his qualities as an outstanding teacher with a record of solid scholarship, and he was remembered as “a dynamic, enthusiastic worker in all that he undertook” (*LBR* 11.2, 1974, front matter).



Spanish- Portuguese Club

First Row (l. to r.): B. Jenss, P. Creager, D. Nemec, B. Leuze. *Second Row:* J. Rieck, H. Salgado, R. Berger, A. Rosa, faculty advisor; H. Nino, I. Petter, D. Kehoe, H. Faillace. *Third Row:* N. Neilsen, P. James, V. Dambeakals, J. Hoelzlhammer, R. Stanton, N. Lankau, K. Stromgren. *Fourth Row:* A. Allen, J. Ebert, S. Fredrick, M. Mathieu, J. Leverenz, B. Lehnerr, W. Fitzpatrick, A. Goldsmith.

The Spanish-Portuguese Club, sponsored by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, presented again this year a number of cultural and social programs with emphasis on Hispanic customs and tradition.

Officers for the year were: H. Nino, president; R. Berger and H. Salgado, vice-presidents; I. Petter, secretary; D. Kehoe, treasurer.

Figure 1: University of Wisconsin *Badger Yearbook* of 1952, p. 88.

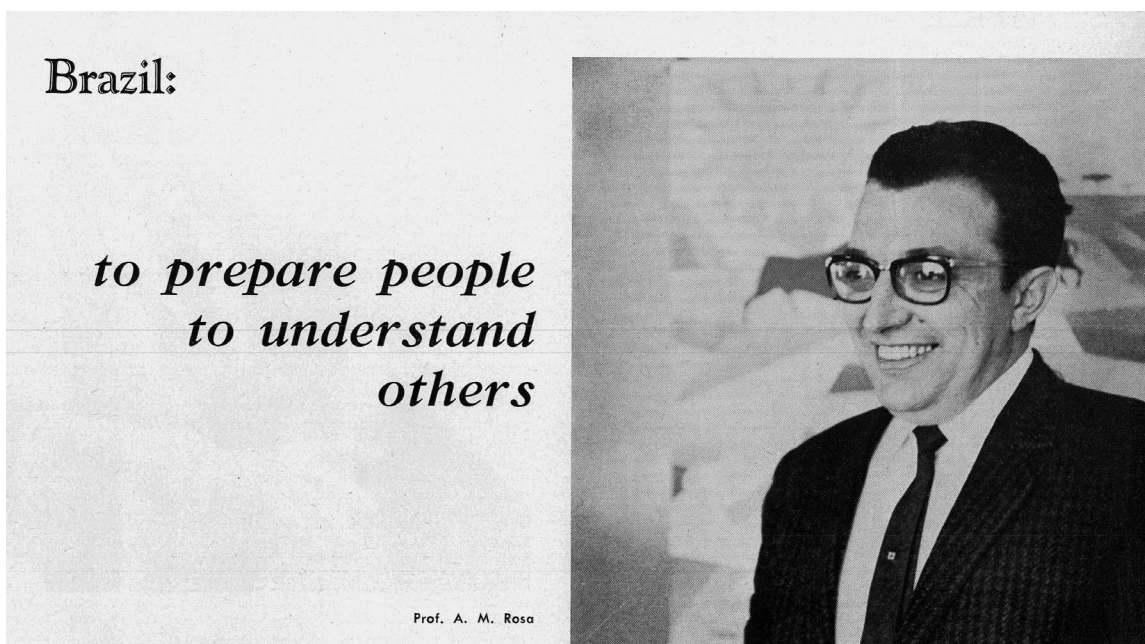


Figure 2: "Brazil: To prepare people to understand others." *Wisconsin Alumnus*, vol. 64, no. 6, March 1963, p. 15.

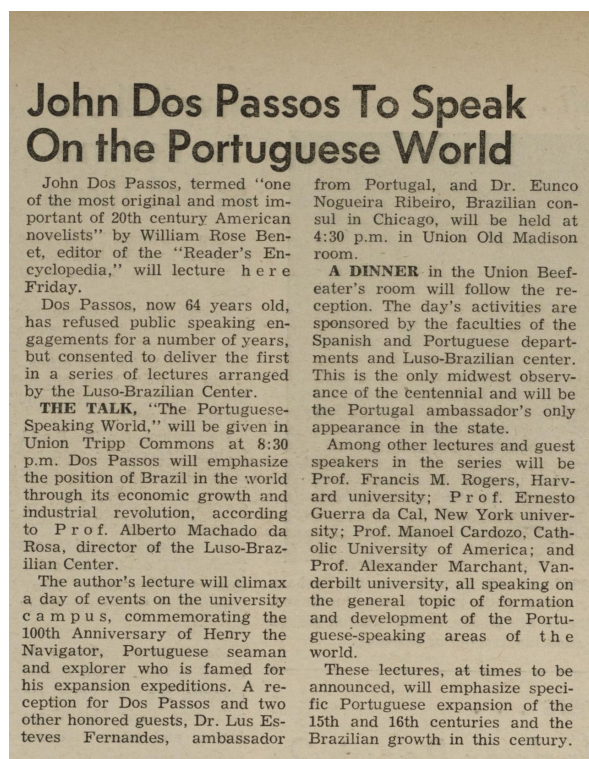


Figure 3: "John Dos Passos To Speak On the Portuguese World," *Daily Cardinal*, 11/9/1960, p. 6



Figure 4: Front Cover, *Luso-Brazilian Review*, vol. 1, no. 1, Summer 1964.

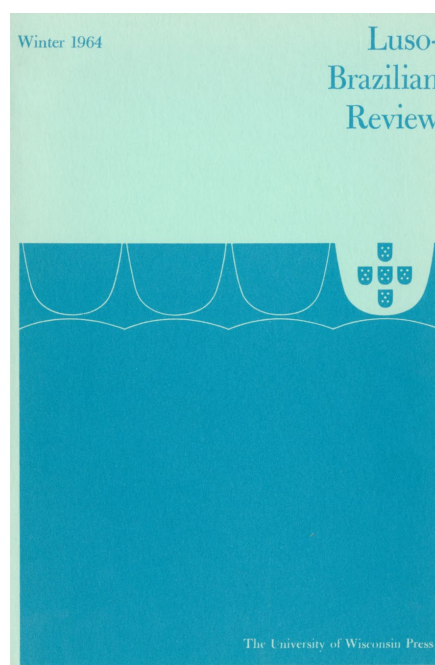


Figure 5: Front Cover, *Luso-Brazilian Review*, vol. 1, no. 2, Winter 1964.