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MINISTÉRIO DAS RELAÇÕES EXTERIORES
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À Secretaria de Estado das Relações Exteriores o Consulado Geral do Brasil em Nova York cumprimenta atenciosamente e, com referência ao ofício número 57, de 9 de maio corrente, relativo ao levantamento de uma estátua de José Bonifácio nesta cidade, tem a honra de remeter, em anexo, um recorte do "New York Times", de 8 dêste mês, sôbre diversas passagens da vida dêsse estadista brasileiro.

Nova York, em 11 de maio de 1951.

Cons. Geral em Nova York/ 60 /1951/Anexo único.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1951.

Topics of The Times

No Soldier Stands for Brazil

The man Brazil has elected to honor by presenting his image in bronze to New York—his very name little known to most of us—is not a military hero, like Bolivar and San Martín, honored in like fashion and on horseback by Venezuela and Argentina, the two Liberators already assigned a place at the top of the avenue officially named for both Americas. Indeed, José Bonifacio Andrada e Silva was not a soldier at all. Before he made his contribution to Brazilian history he was a professor at the ancient University of Coimbra—and, besides, secretary of the Academy of Lisbon. Such was the career behind him when in his fifty-sixth year he returned to his native land to win from his countrymen the title of Patriarch of their Independence.

Scholar Into Statesman

José Andrada was born in 1765 at Villa de Santos, near Rio de Janeiro. His specialty was geology, and in Portugal he had been inspector of state mines as well as professor. He came home in 1819 just in time to be a powerful influence in the events which brought about the separation of Brazil and the mother country. A decade had passed since, with Napoleon's armies under Junot about to enter Portugal, Dom John, heir to the throne and regent for the insane Queen, Donna Maria, had taken refuge in Brazil for himself and the royal family. The Brazilians had received him with acclaim, and Dom John had remained in Brazil even after the death of the Queen had made him King John VI of Portugal. It was not until some years after the fall of Napoleon and a revolution in the old country that he returned to Lisbon, leaving his son Dom Pedro in charge in Brazil.

The Prince and the Professor

That was in 1821. Jealous of Brazil's influence as the seat of royal authority for so many years, the Portuguese assembly summoned Dom Pedro to follow his father to Lisbon and "complete his political education." Dom Pedro refused to obey. He chose rather to go along with the Brazilians, equally jealous of the Portuguese, and eager for independence. He formed a Ministry in which José Andrada and his brother Carlos Antonio held key posts and were largely responsible for shaping policy, and summoned a constituent assembly to set the new regime in order. In September, 1822, he proclaimed Brazil's independence, and in the following December was crowned Emperor as Dom Pedro I.

Two Brothers Go Into Exile

However, he found the assembly "unmanageable" and the Andrada brothers too attached to "democratic principles" for his taste, and in 1823 he dissolved the assembly and banished the brothers to France.

Dom Pedro Has His Troubles

Brazil's proclamation of independence was the act of a Prince, not, like ours, a declaration of the people. But the people were consulted and consenting, and, though the Prince was not disposed to let democratic principles carry too far, he set up in 1824 a liberal Constitution, showing that the influence of the Andradas remained even when they were in exile. Dom Pedro I had plenty of trouble with the old jealousies, with the landowners and the question of abolishing slavery, but he carried on in Brazil even at the price of renouncing the Portuguese throne when King John VI died in 1826. Weary of the struggle at last, he abdicated in 1831 in favor of his 5-year-old son.

The Exile Comes Home

Not until two years earlier had José Andrada been permitted to return to his native land—he had been living near Bordeaux in the long interval. And it is curious to note that in 1833 he was arrested again and tried for intriguing in favor of the abdicated monarch who had banished him. Five years later, at the age of 73, the Patriarch of Brazilian Independence died in retirement at Nictheroy, just across the bay from Rio.