

# Introduction

This special issue of the *Luso-Brazilian Review* marks the journal's fortieth anniversary as a biannual, interdisciplinary publication dedicated to stimulating and disseminating research on the Portuguese-speaking world.

Founded in 1964 by Professor Alberto Machado da Rosa and published by the University of Wisconsin Press, the *Luso-Brazilian Review* has been edited or co-edited by professors from the University of Wisconsin's Department of Spanish and Portuguese since its inception. In late 1965, shortly after the *LBR* began publication, Professor Lloyd Kasten became Editor. In the journal's inaugural issue, the *Review's* founders stated that: "The magazine will gather studies of a wide range of interests, surveying scholarly progress in the specified areas, and serving as an outlet for current research in Luso-Brazilian Studies. Investigations in the humanities and the social sciences will undoubtedly bulk large in the material included, but nothing related to the Portuguese-speaking areas of the world will be excluded from consideration." During the first decade and a half of the *LBR's* publication, however, the ideal of an interdisciplinary publication was difficult to achieve in practice, and a major portion of the review's contents was taken up by literary studies.

While Mr. Kasten continued as Editor for several years after his retirement in 1975, much of the responsibility for editing the review devolved at that time upon the Managing Editor, Professor John Nitti. When Professor Mary L. Daniel joined the Department of Spanish and Portuguese in 1978, she assumed the position of Co-Editor, with responsibility for editing submissions in the areas of linguistic and literary studies. Professor Thomas Skidmore, of the University of Wisconsin's Department of History, became Co-Editor for history and the social sciences. It was at this moment also that the Ibero-American Center (known today as LACIS, the Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program) began to actively participate in the journal's operation, with a grant from the Cyril W. Nave Foundation to aid in funding the position of Editorial Assistant.

Because the practice of a shared editorship succeeded in opening the journal's pages to a wider variety of topics, it has been maintained to the present. In 1986, Professor Stanley G. Payne, also of the UW Department of History, took over the job of editing papers from history and social sciences and, from 1990 to 2003, that position was held by Professor Robert M. Levine, from the University of Miami. Since Professor Daniel's retirement in 1998, Professors Severino J. Albuquerque and Ellen W. Sapega have shared the responsibility of editing literary and linguistics submissions to the *LBR*.

Over the four decades of its publication, the *Luso-Brazilian Review* has benefited from the collaboration of a wide range of well-known scholars from throughout the world and the editors have continued the practice of seeking to include a variety of topics and critical approaches. In an effort to maintain and further its reputation as the foremost interdisciplinary publication in the field of Luso-Brazilian Studies in the U.S., the Co-Editors of the *Luso-Brazilian Review* invited speakers from the U.S., Brazil, and Portugal to attend a two-day conference entitled "Luso-Brazilian Studies in the New Millennium" in June of 2002. During this conference, participants assessed the current state of Luso-Brazilian Studies in the U.S. academy and discussed the methodological trends that are shaping research conducted on and in the Portuguese-speaking world.

The papers gathered from that conference and published in the present issue attest to the

emergence of new and exciting critical paths to be followed within the field of Luso-Brazilian Studies. They also bear witness, however, to a series of challenges that specialists must address if Luso-Brazilian Studies are to continue in the U.S. as a vital and important area of academic enquiry during the twenty first century. As traditional boundaries between the humanities and the social sciences are being brought into question and often redrawn, scholars should not hasten to abandon the study of national cultures; nevertheless, it has become imperative to rethink the role played by language, literature, geography and history in a world that is increasingly, yet unevenly, globalized and transnational.

We begin a new century in which Portuguese is the official language of eight countries on four different continents; however, it has yet to be determined what new models and methodologies will best inform future investigations on the particulars of these cultures as well as on the complex links and networks through which they are often connected. As we strive to rethink traditional boundaries and ties, key critical concepts emerging from the practices of cultural studies and postcolonial studies may provide us with useful tools for the study of the diverse cultures that make up the Portuguese-speaking world. Researchers in these areas, moreover, may gain new insights as to the workings of their discipline when confronted with theories developed on the Lusophone world. Finally, we cannot underestimate the fact that, by developing and practicing fresh critical concepts, we will revitalize the teaching of Luso-Afro-Brazilian Studies in U.S. universities. Through the creation of new courses and the incorporation of current, interdisciplinary approaches into our teaching about the culture and history of the Portuguese-speaking world, we will remain active participants in dialogues about the future of our academic departments, and the future of the area studies programs to which we often belong.

Organized as a commemoration of the *Luso-Brazilian Review*'s forty years of continued publication at the UW-Madison, the conference "Luso-Brazilian Studies in the New Millennium" provided a particularly auspicious forum for looking back over the history of Luso-Brazilian Studies and for discussing the future that awaits those who specialize in the language, literature, history and social sciences of Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, São Tomé e Príncipe, and East Timor. We were very fortunate to share the planning and execution of the conference with our colleague and friend, *Luso-Brazilian Review* Co-Editor, Bob Levine. Greatly saddened that Bob was not able to witness the papers' publication, we dedicate this special commemorative issue to his memory.

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