

HIST 471
History of Brazil
First Primary Source Critique

Anonymous¹
Tomás debes apresentar isto a El Rei²
[Tomás, you should present this to The King³]

Se queres ainda Reinar
Olha beato João,
Deves ir a Portugal
E assinara a Constituição.

If you⁴ still wish to Reign
Look here blessed João,
You should go to Portugal
And sign the Constitution.

Se tu depressa não vais
Para o teu país natal
Ô João olha que perdes
O Brasil, e Portugal.

If you do not hurry
To your native country
Oh! João behold you will lose
Brazil, and even Portugal.

Detesta qualquer traidor
Que o contrário te encareça,
Uma vez ao Mundo mostra
Qu'ainda tens uma cabeça.

Reject any and all treason
That resistance may throw at you,
And show to the World
That you still have a head.

Não te fies no malvado
No pérfido Tomás António:
Olha que quando te fala
Por ele fala o Demônio

Do not fall into evil ways
Into the perfidious Tomás António⁵:
Mark my words,
Because he speaks to you as the Devil

Isto o que debes fazer,
Se não és um toleirão,
De outra sorte virá
A faltar o mesmo pão.

This is what you should do,
And if not you are a dupe,
Another fate will come upon you
You will be denied sustenance.

¹ Although the author is anonymous, the pasquinade's theme and style, not to mention the context, leave some tantalizing hints about the author's social condition, including his (or her?) knowledge of important political figures and events in the transatlantic world.

² A facsimile version of the handwritten original is reprinted in Shultz, *Tropical Versailles*, p. 255.

³ The English translation does not maintain the rhyme scheme of the original.

⁴ Verb-tense usage is inconsistent in the pasquinade. The author uses verbs conjugated in both the formal and informal tenses of the second person. Use of the tenses related to the second person informal (*vós* and *tu*) would be unusual form an address meant for the King. Conspicuously absent are the florid salutations *Senhor*, *Vossa Excelência*, *Vossa Alteza*, *Sua Magestade* etc. [Lord, Your Excellence, Your Highness, etc.] often used in petitions to the royals.

⁵ Tomás António Vila Nova Portugal, D. João 's absolutist counselor.

Assina a Constituição
Não te faças singular,
Olha que a teus vizinhos
Já se tem feito assinar.

Isto não só é bastante,
Deves deixar o Brasil,
Se não virás em breve
A sofrer desgostos mil.

Se assim o não fizeres
Diz adeus à Portugal,
E Rei lá verás depressa
O Duque de Cadaval.

Repara pr'a o te digo,
Não sejas um papa sorda,
Não desgostes Portugal
Antes que a desgraça te morda.

Se tu assim o fizeres
Serás de todos amado,
De vassalos e vizinhos,
O teu nome respeitado.

Por um amante da Pátria

Sign the Constitution
Do not go it alone,
Take note of your neighbors
Who have already signed [their
Constitutions]

And that is not all,
You should leave Brazil,
And if you do not go shortly
You will suffer a thousands
unpleasantness.

If you do not act
Say goodbye to Portugal.
And quickly there as King you will see,
The Duke of Cadaval.⁶

Pay heed to what I am telling you,
Do not be a foolish pontiff,
Do not displease Portugal
Lest ill-fate come up and bite you.

And should you follow the right course
You will be loved by all,
Among vassals and neighbors,
Your name will be respected.

*By a lover of the Pátria*⁷

⁶ See Shultz's Appendix, footnote 9 for a brief note on the Duke of Cadaval.

⁷ *Pátria* means "home country" or Fatherland. It has a highly patriotic connotation.