

The Posthumous Memoirs of Bras Cubas: A Novel, 1997, 219 pages, Machado de Assis, 0195101693, 9780195101690, Oxford University Press, 1997

The Posthumous Memoirs of Bras Cubas Joachim Machado de Assis Translated by Gregory Rabassa Edited by Enylton de Sa Rego and Gilberto Pinheiro Passos "Be aware that frankness is the prime virtue of a dead man," writes the extraordinary narrator of The Posthumous Memoirs of Bras Cubas. "The gaze of public opinion, that sharp and judgmental gaze, loses its virtue the moment we tread the territory of death. I'm not saying that it doesn't reach here and examine and judge us, but we don't care about the examination or the judgment. My dear living gentlemen and ladies, there's nothing as incommensurable as the disdain of the deceased." Indeed, writing his memoirs from the other world gives Bras Cubas a certain freedom from both social and literary conventions. And while he may be dead, he is surely one of the liveliest characters in fiction, a product of one of the most remarkable imaginations in all of literature, Brazil's greatest novelist of the nineteenth century, Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis. Famous in his lifetime and still revered throughout Latin America, Machado de Assis has remained little known in the English-speaking world. He represents an important antecedent for the experimental fictions of Borges, Cortazar, Fuentes, and others. In this wildly inventive book, de Assis is, in fact, much closer to such postmodern masters as Calvino, Kundera, and Marquez than to the conventions of the nineteenth century realist and romantic novel, which the narrator continually and hilariously mocks. Irrepressibly whimsical, irreverent, chatty, and charmingly self-absorbed, Bras Cubas is forever intruding into his narrative, questioning, lecturing, and elbowing the reader, commenting on his writing and its highly unusual style--"this book and my style are like drunkards, they stagger left and right, they walk and stop, mumble, yell, cackle, shake their fists at the sky, stumble, and fall"--congratulating himself on particular chapters, wondering whether to cut others out, and interrupting his life story with all manner of digressions, from a philosophical discourse on the purpose of the nose to a visionary ride on the back of a rhinoceros to find the origin of the centuries. Along the way we're treated to a marvelous cast of characters, including the outlandish philosopher Quincas Borcas, who asserts that "asceticism is the perfection of human idiocy," and Virgilia, the beautiful married woman with whom Bras Cubas carries on a passionate and not-so-secret love affair. By turns flippant and profound, The Posthumous Memoirs of Bras Cubas is the story of an unheroic man with half-hearted political ambitions, a harebrained idea for curing the world of melancholy, and a thousand quixotic theories unleashed from beyond the grave. It is a novel that has influenced generations of Latin American writers but remains refreshingly and unforgettably unlike anything written before or after it. Newly translated by Gregory Rabassa and superbly edited by Enylton de Sa Rego and Gilberto Pinheiro Passos, who provide an insightful introduction and afterword, this edition inaugurates Oxford's Library of Latin America series, and brings to English-speaking readers a literary delight of the highest order.

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IaiŸ Garcia , Machado de Assis, Jul 10, 2013, , 124 pages. .

MemŸrias PŸstumas de BrŸs Cubas Texto integral, Machado de Assis, Jul 21, 2014, , 148 pages. Machado de Assis inaugurou o realismo no Brasil ao publicar, em 1881, o desconcertante e revolucionŸrio MemŸrias PŸstumas de BrŸs Cubas. A obra apresenta uma novidade: Ÿ©.

The Crisis of Institutionalized Literature in Spain , Wlad Godzich, Nicholas Spadaccini, 1988, Literary Criticism, 374 pages. .

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Dom Casmurro , Machado de Assis, 1964, Brazilian literature, 434 pages. Escritor dos mais aclamados, Machado de Assis representa um dos pontos culminantes da literatura brasileira. No conjunto de sua obra, o romance 'Dom Casmurro' destaca-se, sendo.

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