

In Memoriam

Word reached *Itinerario* just a few weeks before going to press that Padre António da Silva Rego had died suddenly in Lisbon, on July 9. It came hardly as a surprise because it was apparent during our interview with him three years ago that he was failing. With this in mind, we wrote our tribute to him then, while he might still be aware of it. He indeed needed cheering up because he had patently not recovered from the dissolution of the *Ultramar* which he had so fervently attempted to preserve. And in its wake his C.E.H.U. (Centro de Estudos Históricos Ultramarinos) all but disappeared, too. He bore all these disappointments nobly, but no one can doubt that he was deeply aggrieved.

He belongs to the greatest among the Portuguese historians. It is true that he was no *lumens gloriae* as a historiographer, but neither was the writing of history his primary interest or passion. He was a historian of documentation. Thanks to his zeal, hundreds of thousands of primary manuscript sources came into print; he must easily have doubled the amount of Portuguese documental material available to libraries throughout the world. This will ensure that his memory remains fresh and positive for centuries to come.

Many scholars were envious of his success in building his C.E.H.U. and of the prominence he achieved. But there was no trace of selfishness or pettiness in him. Lisbon will seem much emptier without his kindly presence.