

Abstract

Cerqueira, Roberta Cardoso; Neves, Margarida de Souza (Advisor). **Lima Barreto and the road to madness. Alienation, alcoholism and race at the turn of the 20th century.** Rio de Janeiro, 2002. 109p. MSc. Dissertation – Departamento de História, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro.

The present study aims at analyzing mental diseases in the city of Rio de Janeiro at the end of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century, as well as the issues related to madness, such as race, alcoholism and heredity, through the eyes of the writer-patient Afonso Henriques de Lima Barreto, mainly through his fiction and autobiographic writings. The present analysis tried to include individual records, i.e. records of a man who was segregated and treated according to the procedures given to the mentally sick at that time, so that the research could be carried out within a broader perspective. The dissertation consists of three parts: the attempt to establish similarities between the experience of madness and the experience lived by the population in Rio de Janeiro during the first years of the 20th century, the analysis of scientific information and doctors' concepts on mental disturbance and the presence of the theme in the writer's works and last, the writer's experience with madness both at home and at the asylum Hospício Nacional de Alienados.

Keywords

Lima Barreto; experience of madness, psychiatry; literature; alcoholism; heredity; race; asylum.