

Argote, Jerónimo Contador de, b. 1676, Colares, Portugal, d. Lisbon. Teatin friar, erudite and celebrated polyglot, linguist in the Renaissance tradition who wrote about such subjects as orthography, dialectology and grammar.

Beginning his education in Porto, A. entered the Convento de Nossa Senhora da Providência at the age of eleven, devoting himself to the study of scholastic philosophy. He deepened his knowledge of Latin in the Colégio Jesuíta de San Francisco Javier, in Lisbon. Health problems compelled him to interrupt his studies and settle in the Minho region until 1715. Once recovered and back in Lisbon, he specialized in Sacred and Profane History at the Portuguese Academy.

In his *Regras*, written in the shape of a dialogue between a student and his master, he follows the Latin tradition represented by → Donatus, therefore excluding the article from the list of word classes (noun, pronoun, verb, participle, adverb, preposition, conjunction and interjection) (Assunção 2002: 18). The first edition of *Regras da língua portuguesa* (1721) was published under the pseudonym of “Padre Caetano Maldonado da Gama”; in the second edition, now under his real name, there is a very important supplement with an outstanding chapter on Portuguese dialects. “It was the first publication of a general, although imperfect, description of our dialects” (Leite de Vasconcelos ²1970: 37 and 55, apud Teyssier 1994).

(Undated [1721, under the pseudonym Po Caetano Maldonado]): *Regras da língua portuguesa*, no place, of publ. (1725); *Espelho da língua latina ou disposição para facilitar o ensino da língua latina pelas regras da portuguesa*, no place of publ. (2nd ed. of [undated], above); available at: http://purl.pt/10/index-HTML/M_index.html; Biblioteca Nacional Digital.

ASSUNÇÃO, C. (2002): “As classes de palavras: dos primórdios a Cunha e Cintra”, in: Esparza, M. Á. et al., eds., *SEHL Actas III*, 15–24. CARDOSO, S. (1994): *Historiografia gramatical (1500–1920)*, Porto. LEITE DE VASCONCELOS, J. (1970): *Esquisse d’une dialectologie portugaise*, 2nd ed., Lisboa. TEYSSIER, P. (1994): “Portugiesisch: Externe Sprachgeschichte”, in: *LRL VI/2*, 461–72. VARIOUS (1981–87): *Grande Enciclopédia Portuguesa e Brasileira*, 2nd ed., Lisboa & Rio de Janeiro, III, 202.

Manuel Martí