

Barros, João de. b. 1496?, Viseu, Portugal, d. 1570, Ribeira de Litem, Portugal; senior royal official, scholar and humanist, one of the first Portuguese grammarians.

B.'s *Gramática da Língua Portuguesa*, including the *Cartinha*, his *Diálogo em louvor da nossa língua* and his *Diálogo da Viçiosa Vergonha*, are typical of Renaissance didactics. Influenced by A. de → Nebrija and by Italian grammarians, B. claimed that his *Gramática da Língua Portuguesa* (1540a) was the only complete Portuguese grammar of the 16th century. This is why Buescu (2000: 756) considers it to be the first Portuguese grammar. It is divided into the four classical parts: spelling, prosody, etymology, syntax. In his study of the *signifiant*, B. focuses on the graphic representation, including its historical evolution; in fact, his orthography is the first orthographic proposal for the Portuguese language, with consecutive and systematic rules for the use of each *lêtera*, 'letter', followed by some comments on punctuation marks (Mattos e Silva 1994). Etymology and syntax are the most developed fields in his grammar. Following → Priscian, and making use of formal and semantic criteria, he divides words into nine classes: noun, pronoun, article, verb, participle, preposition, adverb, conjunction and interjection (Assunção 2002: 18). His book ends with the "figuras e viços que assi na fala como na escritura cometemos" ['turns of phrase and mistakes that we make in both speech and writing'] (1971[1540]:357), as was usual in Renaissance grammars opting for the → Quintilian tradition.

The *Cartinha* (1540) is an introduction to the *Gramática*, while the *Diálogo em louvor* is a defense of Portuguese as a national language, in line with the increasing prominence of the vernaculars during the Renaissance.

In addition to being a grammarian, B. was acknowledged as a poet and novelist for his *Crônica do Imperador Clarimundo* (1520); as an Erasmian philosopher for *Ropica Pnefma* or *Mercadoria Espiritual* (1531–32); as a historiographer for *Décadas*; as a moralist for his *Diálogo da Viçiosa Vergonha* and the *Diálogo sobre Preceitos morais* (1540); as a panegyrist for the *Panegírico da Infanta D. Maria* and *D. João III* (1655).

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