

The University of Chicago

Reynolds Student Clubhouse

August 27, 1934

Sr. Oliveira Vianna,
care Companhia Edirora Nacional,
Sao Paulo.

Dear Sir:

I am a candidate for the doctorate in Sociology at the University of Chicago. The peculiarly significant racial situation in Brazil interests me greatly and I am eager to learn more about it, especially since it differs so profoundly from the racial situation here - very much, I am inclined to think, to the credit of Brazil.

I am acquainted with your works, having now acquired some proficiency in reading Portuguese. But at this distance it is very difficult to learn what literature is available and to judge its significance for giving an understanding of race relations in past and present Brazil. Consequently, I would welcome your opinion regarding the accuracy and adequacy of such works as Historia da Civilizaçao Brasileira by Pedro Calmon and Os Africanos No Brasil by Nina Rodrigues. I have read a considerable portion of the latter and would particularly desire your appraisal of its significance. It apparently presupposes considerable acquaintance with previous historical writing, and I would consequently appreciate your suggestion on what to read in this connection. Do you consider Robert Southey's History of Brazil accurate and relatively adequate?

Your suggestions regarding further bibliography (particularly on Negro-White relations) will be greatly appreciated. I hope some day to visit Brazil and to see at first hand your doubtlessly more just treatment of the Negro.

Sincerely,
Donald Pierson