

Life in São Paulo

In 1868, Rui moved to the city of São Paulo, where he completed the last three years of his course. "The fight between João Barbosa de Oliveira and his brother-in-law Luís Antônio, the death of Dona Maria Adélia, the Drummond affair, the illness he suffered, which was diagnosed cerebral congestion, the paternal desire to have him know the two academies: these are the factors that determined Rui Barbosa's trip to São Paulo." (CARVALHO, 1949, p. [10])



Building where the São Paulo Law School was located and which had previously been the convent of the Seraphic Order of St. Francis of Assis.

Rui arrived in Santos on the same ship that was carrying Castro Alves and actress Eugênia Câmara. Rui drew attention for his excessive luggage, which comprised several boxes of books which he no longer separated himself from.

Rui started working as a journalist in student and non-student newspapers as: "A Tribuna acadêmica" (The Academic Tribune), "O Ipiranga" and "Imprensa Acadêmica" (Academic Press). His debut dates from June 11, 1868, with the publication of a long article on "The Centralization of Academies", in the political and literary newspaper, founded by Joaquim Nabuco, "A Independência" (The Independence). The number of articles, speeches, and projects by Rui Barbosa in all these institutions was considerable. In 1869, he proposed the creation of the Radical Paulistano. A body of the Radical Club, it preached liberalizing and democratic measures, such as the extinction of slave labor.



Rui Barbosa in 1870, among graduates of the São Paulo College of Law. From left to right, seated: Santos Werneck, Rui Barbosa, Adriano Fortes de Bustamante Sá; standing: Félix José da Costa e Sousa and Emídio dos Santos Lobo.



Drawing representing Rui Barbosa as an illustration to the text "Os Discursos de São Paulo" (The São Paulo Speeches).

On August 13, Rui gave his first political speech, greeting José Bonifácio, "the Youth," his third year professor.

"Gentlemen! When nations – already unpillared and without beliefs, exhausted by the efforts from endless and discouraging struggles against the corrupt tendencies of authorities and parties – see their holiest yearnings, their noblest hopes, their most venerable institutions fall one by one; when, gazing back to the past, they find nothing but an arena of sterile transformations, and, contemplating the future, they see only a dark horizon of uncertainty and threats, Providence, lifting over them a hand full of blessings, makes arise from out the slime of misery that surrounds societies the fruitful principle, the regenerating idea that will save them from imminent dissolution. It is the moral regeneration of humanity – Christianity operating in the bosom of a society most debased by vices; it is the political regeneration of the states – the French revolution rising out of the soil of absolutism to crush despotic governments, which oppress civilized nations."