

Senior High School

SALEM, OREGON

J. C. NELSON, PRINCIPAL EMERITUS
AND HEAD OF HISTORY DEPT.

104 E. Wilson St.
April 7, 1936

Dear Mr. Salles:

It was very kind of you to communicate to me so promptly the sad news of the death of our mutual friend Father Rosa. I find myself very deeply affected. We had carried on a correspondence for several years, and I had come to value his letters very highly. He was so keenly interested in all aspects of knowledge, his culture was so sound and his moral convictions so sincere that I felt him as a very admirable and gifted human being. Not the least admirable of his fine qualities was his spirit of toleration. I think it was in his last letter, in reply to my surprise that he could find any satisfaction in corresponding with a "heretic", he replied with the beautiful words of Scripture: "Alias oves habeo, quae non sunt ex hoc ovili". I felt very strongly that ^{he} was not only a very talented and intelligent man, but also a good man in the fullest sense of the word. And if at this remote distance I feel his loss so keenly, what must be the grief of those of you who were privileged to know him personally?

Your obituary notice is beautifully done—a sample of that stately and melodious prose that makes Aves de Arribação such a masterpiece. Father Rosa's family are indeed fortunate in having you to perform this labor of love for them. You must feel his loss very keenly, after so many years of close association; and as age comes on we cling so much more closely to the friends who have stood the test of time.. I have written a few lines to the surviving brother; I hope you will show him this letter also.

It is most generous of you to propose yourself as a substitute for Father Rosa in my correspondence; I cannot conceive of a greater honor. For you must remember that to me you are the greatest name in the literary history of Brazil; try to imagine then what it must mean for me to have you as a correspondent! I can do no more than gratefully accept, and hope that I shall not be too much of a bore in my efforts to convey my ideas to you. There are many subjects connected with Brazilian literature on which I should like to have your opinion; it hardly seems appropriate now, in the presence of death, to begin them; but I shall hope to have opportunity in future to avail myself of your kind offer. Just one question: is D. Rachel de Queiroz (I forget her married name) still writing? Since her marriage she had not written to me—a calamity that I deeply regret. For if I must place you at the summit of the Brazilian Parnassus, she stands only one step below you. Surely she has not abandoned literature? Should you happen to see her, please convey to her my heart-felt regards. Let me hope to hear from you again soon; tell me some more about Father Rosa's life and work; and believe me, with the deepest respect,

Very sincerely yours,

J. C. Nelson