

Brazil at Fondren

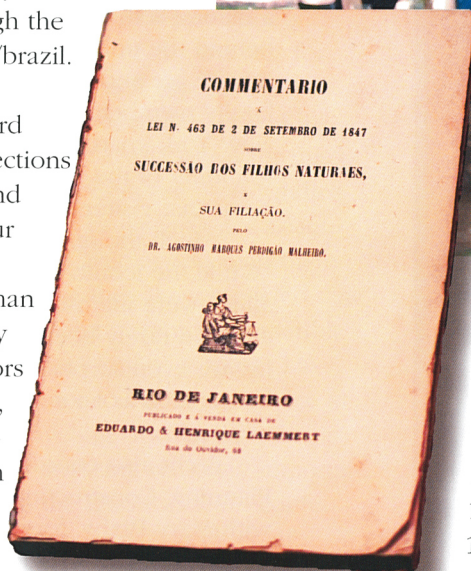
During the past few years, Rice has embarked on numerous collaborative initiatives with Brazilian institutions of higher education, corporations and government agencies, representing both the humanities and the sciences. These initiatives include dual degree programs, study abroad opportunities and support for research and travel in this rapidly developing South American country. Rice's Brazilian initiatives are supported through the program office Brasil@Rice (<http://brazil.rice.edu/>).

Fondren Library is working hard to grow our Brazilian studies collections in response to the booming demand for materials about the country. Our art and architecture librarian, Jet Prendeville, has purchased more than 200 books on Brazil's urban history to support the research of professors Alida Metcalf and Fares El Dahdah, who are preparing a digital historical atlas of Rio de Janeiro. Fondren has also purchased numerous facsimile maps and codices about the Atlantic exploration and the early history of Latin America. These maps can be seen at the Woodson Research Center.

The library is benefitting directly from opportunities created by vibrant exchanges of scholars and ideas. This year we are getting expert help in selecting Brazilian books on humanities and social sciences from Brazilian graduate student Ludmila Maia. A scholar of the social and cultural history of Brazil, Maia is the first candidate for a dual Ph.D. degree in history from Rice and Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP). As part of her doctoral work here, Maia has selected more than 1,000 titles, dramatically expanding our holdings in Brazilian history, literature, women's studies, religious history, anthropology, theatre, art



Ludmila Maia, doctoral candidate and collection development assistant for Brazilian studies



and geography. Among these new acquisitions are rare finds, such as the only known North American copy of "Commentario a lei n.463" (a 19th-century legal text clarifying an important 1847 law of patrilineal succession). Maia considers her work at Fondren to be one of the most enjoyable aspects of her year at Rice.

In addition, Fondren librarians are working with the Brasil@Rice office to set up book exchanges and gift programs with large Brazilian university presses. The library stacks already hold numerous gift items from Brazilian institutions and corporations, such as the Itaú Cultural Foundation and Petrobras. We look to the future to build on our successes in expanding Fondren's Brazilian studies holdings and responding to the evolving needs of the scholarly community.

Anna Shparberg, Humanities Librarian

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- Pg. 4** Canvas poster printing eases scholarly travel
- Pg. 6** Fondren goes to the dogs (and cats!)
- Pg. 11** Thresher issues now searchable online



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