

LETTERS

We received the following letter from Joseph C. Miller of the University of Virginia

I am moved by your appreciative introduction to the interview with Father Silva Rego in ITINERARIO 1983 (2) to add a note of my own admiration for the man and his work, based in part on his striking support of foreign researchers working in Lisbon on the overseas, but based also on work that apparently had not come to your attention at the time you composed your comments and bibliography.

From about 1965 you will find a *Roteiro topográfico dos códices* of the Luanda Arquivo Histórico de Angola (Instituto de Investigação Científica de Angola) and a whole series of less formally produced roteiros of the *avulsos*. The work known to me as of about 1972 was listed in a comment on that archive that I published in the *International Journal of African Historical Studies*. It was all the result of the effort of Father Silva Rego, and a heroic job it was to collect papers from all over the province (or colony, as most would have had it), train the usual group of young female assistants, and make accessible for the first time in centuries that wealth of documentation that had been long rotting in old forts scattered all over Angola.

None of this is to slight the important contributions of Dr. Carlos Coimbra and others in Angola in the 1960s and early 1970s who contributed significantly to the organization of that archive. However, I thought you might like to know of contributions to scholarship by Father Silva Rego that go even beyond the impressive list that you compiled. I suspect that a bit of further investigation would show comparable efforts made at least in São Tomé and in Moçambique. We all, personally and professionally, owe Father Silva Rego a tremendous amount.

Joseph C. Miller