

Editorial – 20 years of ALCEU:

Long and good life

Editorial – 20 anos da ALCEU:

Vida longa e boa

Fernando Sá

It was still the second half of 1999 - we were all still concerned about the Millennium Bug or the catastrophic predictions of Nostradamus or the Mayans about the end of humanity at the beginning of the year 2000 - when I was invited by professors Cesar Romero, Miguel Pereira and Fernando Ferreira to participate in the planning, implementation and coordination of two editorial projects for PUC-Rio. Both projects were primarily focused on the 60th anniversary of PUC-Rio, which would be celebrated on October 30th, 2000, and originated from the Department of Social Communication (DCS).

The first, more comprehensive, project aimed to develop a Publishing House for PUC-Rio. The second project, which was more focused on meeting the academic demands of the Department of Social Communication, was aimed at implementing an academic journal that, although published by the Department of Communication, at first was not limited to publishing academic articles whose contents were restricted to the area of Social Communication. Once it was established, following the suggestion of Professor Cesar Romero, the magazine received the name Alceu (for being the first name of Alceu Amoroso Lima, a Brazilian Catholic intellectual, with remarkable activity as a journalist and one of the founders of PUC-Rio). To highlight the transdisciplinary perspective we wanted to achieve, being careful to control the scope in order to maintain the desired editorial profile, we added to the title 'Alceu' the subtitle 'Communication, Culture and Politics'. At first, the journal would be published every six months, it would be printed, the authors were required to have their articles formatted according to the strict rules of ABNT (Brazilian Association for Technical Rules), and its first issue would circulate as of the second half of 2000.

With this in mind, we set out to provide the different institutional contacts and the necessary practical measures to organize the first issue of the magazine. The first step was to request authorization from the family of Alceu Amososo Lima to use his name as the title of the magazine, which was provided with ease and enthusiasm. In addition, we would need a graphic project to publish a semiannual academic journal that required certain morphological characteristics. We invited designer José Antônio de Oliveira, also a professor at DCS, to carry out this task. We then contacted members to compose the two Boards: the Editorial Board, which would always be composed of the professors of the Department's main staff and the magazine editor on the date of publication of each issue, and the Advisory Board, to be formed by significant names from the local, national and international academic world. We would certainly also need the main raw material in any editorial project: the authors. We then requested the help of professors from the Department of Social Communication to collaborate, themselves, with texts of their own for the publication of this first issue. We also asked them to help us to gather new articles, based on their networks of academic contacts, so that we could compose the following issues of the magazine.

We were successful in meeting these first requirements, and the Department of Social Communication, with the support of the Academic Vice-Rector, who was headed by Professor Danilo Marcondes, and the Dean of PUC-Rio, which was occupied by Father Jesus Hortal, S.J., launched the first issue of Alceu magazine covering the period from July to December 2000.

Since then, a lot has happened, but, to our delight, the magazine was very well received by the PUC-Rio community and by the external academic world. During 33 issues I had the privilege of editing hundreds of articles, thousands of pages, signed by authors from the most different origins and with the most diverse contents. To manage this, I have always counted on the support of Professor Cesar Romero and the help of Professor Felipe Gomberg. After my retirement, numbers 34 to 37 were edited by professor Felipe Gomberg, and now the magazine is in the hands of professors Gustavo Chataignier and Alexandre Carauta, to whom I wish very good luck.

On October 30, 2020, PUC-Rio will celebrate its 80th anniversary, and Alceu will complete 20 years of existence, with the semiannual publication of 40 uninterrupted editions, an average of 200 pages per edition, maintaining the quality of the content of its writings and without ever losing its periodicity. I sincerely hope that the magazine will keep up with the good that has been accomplished and take flight towards broader goals that have not yet been achieved.



Congratulations and a long and good life to PUC-Rio and Alceu magazine.

Fernando Sá

*Former professor at PUC-Rio, former editor of the ALCEU magazine, former editorial coordinator of the
PUC-Rio Publishing House
PhD in Political History through the Rio de Janeiro State University (UERJ)*