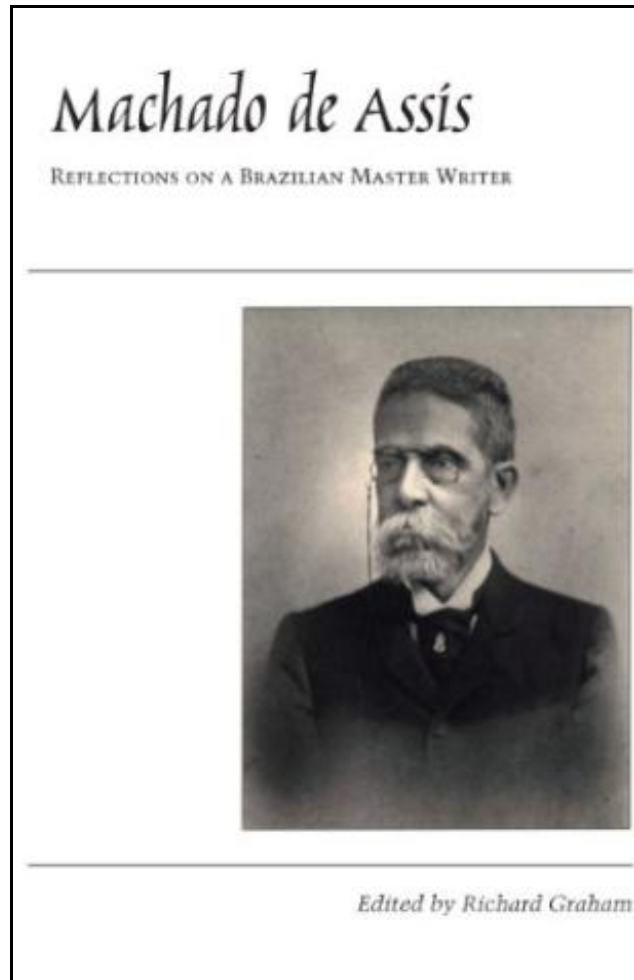


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Reviews

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MACHADO DE ASSIS: REFLECTIONS ON A BRAZILIAN MASTER WRITER



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University of Texas Press, United States, 1999. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 227 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis (1839-1908) never left Brazil and rarely traveled outside his native city of Rio de Janeiro, yet he is widely acknowledged by those who have read him as one of the major authors of the nineteenth century. His works are full of subtle irony, relentless psychological insights, and brilliant literary innovations. Yet, because he wrote in Portuguese, a language outside the mainstream of Western culture, those with access to his writings are relatively few. This book is designed not only to call new attention to this master but also to raise questions about the nature of literature itself and current alternative views on how it can be approached. Four essays address the question of Machado s realism in the five masterpiece novels of his maturity, especially *Dom Casmurro*. The noted contributors include John Gledson (University of Liverpool), Joao Adolfo Hansen (Universidade de Sao Paulo), Sidney Chalhoub (Universidade de Campinas), and Daphne Patai (University of Massachusetts at Amherst). Dain Borges of the University of California at San Diego says, [This is the] only collection explicitly debating the question that polarizes contemporary Brazilian criticism of Machado de Assis: was he a sophisticated late realist, or was he a pioneering anti-realist, even a postmodernist? The [essayists] marshal their evidence and argument with virtuosity and arrive at sharply opposing conclusions.



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