

1040-01-61

Fernando Q. Gouva* (fqgouvea@colby.edu), Dept. of Mathematics, Colby College, Mayflower Hill 5836, Waterville, ME 04901. *Emilia's Arithmetic: A Brazilian Intellectual Tackles Mathematics Education*. Preliminary report.

Despite being a prominent Brazilian public intellectual during the first half of the 20th century, Monteiro Lobato never really managed to be influential until he started writing for children. In his children's books, he preached, taught, and demonstrated his vision for the country. Because he believed in the power of education as an agent of change, he wrote a series of books in which he gives "his" take on various school subjects, from grammar to history. *Aritmética da Emília*, first published in 1935, was his attempt at teaching arithmetic. We will look at Lobato's text, try to locate it in its historical context, both with respect to Brazilian history as a whole and with respect to the history of mathematics education in Brazil, and consider whether it still has anything to teach us. (Received January 21, 2008)