Contents

Preface to the Third Edition  ix
Acknowledgments  xi
Introduction  xiii

1. O Pessoal  1
   A growing city causes problems for the mailman
   Rubem Braga

2. O Padeiro  4
   A young reporter learns a lesson in humility from the bread man
   Rubem Braga

3. Cem Cruzeiros a Mais  9
   Government bureaucracy defeated!
   Fernando Sabino

4. A Mulher Vestida  14
   A chubby lady has a harrowing experience in Copacabana
   Fernando Sabino

5. O Sonho do Feijão  19
   Keeping the apartment well stocked in times of shortages
   Carlos Eduardo Novaes

6. Erro  25
   Marriage and the fascination of television drama
   Edla Van Steen

7. Férias Conjugais  27
   Problems of a temporary bachelor
   Paulo Mendes Campos

8. Crônica do Mandiocal  31
   A modern metropolis fails to impress an indigenous youth
   Dinah Silveira de Queiroz

9. A Companheira de Viagem  35
   A monkey creates a problem of classification
   Fernando Sabino
10. Raconto de Natividade  41  
   A clever man gets the best for his wife and their first child  
   Helena Silveira

11. No Cinema  47  
   Routine leads to a misunderstanding at the movies  
   Flávio José Cardozo

12. Aula de Inglês  52  
   Learning English fit for an ambassador  
   Rubem Braga

13. A Abobrinha  58  
   A female passenger causes complications on a bus in Rio de Janeiro  
   Carlos Drummond de Andrade

14. A Arara Apaixonada  63  
   A parrot in love flies across the city on a daily basis  
   Affonso Romano de Sant’Anna

15. O Beijo Como Cultura  69  
   A new foreign-exchange student learns about local customs  
   Matthew Shirts

16. Falta d’Água  74  
   Problems with water pumps at a monumental condominium complex  
   Regina Rheda

17. Brasileiro, Homem do Amanhã  80  
   A lighthearted look at the Brazilian tendency to procrastinate  
   Paulo Mendes Campos
   “Canção do Exílio”  85  
   Gonçalves Dias
   “Se Eu Morresse Amanhã”  86  
   Álvares de Azevedo

18. Dar um Jeitinho  87  
   The Brazilian knack for dealing with tough situations  
   Paulo Mendes Campos

19. O Brasileiro, Se Eu Fosse Inglês  93  
   A feigned foreigner writes about behaviors observed in Rio de Janeiro  
   Fernando Sabino

20. Nem com uma Flor  102  
   Words about the ugly problem of violence against women  
   Affonso Romano de Sant’Anna
21. Novas Galerias dos Estados  110
   *A newcomer to Brasília discovers a solution to pedestrian woes*
   Márcio Cotrim

22. As Duas Famas de Curitiba  115
   *Opinions about people and urban efficiency in a celebrated city*
   Cristóvão Tezza

23. Abaixo a Pichação  120
   *Abuses motivate a campaign against spray-painted messages*
   Marcelo Cerqueira

24. O Flagelo do Vestibular  126
   *College-entrance exams terrify mothers more than kids*
   Luís Fernando Veríssimo

25. Torcer  132
   *The passion for soccer is greater for the national team*
   Roberto DaMatta

26. Minas: Um Modo de Ser e de Estar  138
   *Contemplating the rich heritage of a very important state*
   Affonso Romano de Sant'Anna

27. Então, Foi Natal  143
   *Christmas time in twenty-first-century São Paulo*
   Elisa Andrade Buzzo

28. Perdidos em Perdizes  147
   *A traditional neighborhood begins to gain in status*
   Elisa Andrade Buzzo

29. Intelectuais e Racismo no Brasil  152
   *Solving problems of inequality is not the same in different lands*
   Matthew Shirts

30. O Padre Cícero Romão Batista  158
   *The story of an extraordinary leader and popular hero*
   Rachel de Queiroz

31. Pai, Filho, Neto  170
   *Three letters, eighty years apart, show how times have changed*
   Luís Martins

32. A Moléstia da Época  176
   *Spend all day at the movies and rush to meet a deadline*
   Olavo Bilac
33. A Carroça dos Cachorros  182

Dog catchers and feminine reason in the olden days
Lima Barreto

34. As Mariposas do Luxo  185

Young women of modest means window shopping in old downtown Rio
João do Rio

35. As Barbas do Romualdo: (Conto que não é Conto)  194

A bearded public servant shows diplomatic linguistic skills
Artur Azevedo

36. Abílio e Schopenhauer  200

Ironies of the short and unhappy life of an unwanted child
Machado de Assis

37. O Nascimento da Crônica  207

Imagining the very first writings of this type
Machado de Assis

38. Como Aprendi o Português  212

Learning Portuguese, from Budapest to Lisbon to Rio de Janeiro
Paulo Rónai

39. Um Gênero Brasileiro: A Crônica  221

Is the crônica a new literary genre? Yes, indeed
Paulo Rónai

40. A Crônica  226

A brief and smart introduction to the genre Brazilians so love
Moacir Amâncio

41. A Crônica: Vinte e Cinco Anos de Evolução  229

A national genre as a mirror of changing social values
Richard A. Preto-Rodas

42. Plugada no Dia-a-Dia: A Crônica no Século XXI  234

The continued evolution of the genre in the new millennium
Dário Borim Jr.

Authors and Texts  241

Vocabulary  247