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[Braille]



On June 27, 2008 **Brazil** issued a stamp for the *Centennial of the Birth of Joao Guimaraes Rosa* 27th June 1908 – 19th November 1967), novelist, short story writer and diplomat. He was a Brazilian novelist, probably the greatest Brazilian novelist born in the 20th century. His best known work is the novel *Grande Sertao: Veredas* (translated as *The Devil to Pay in the Backlands*) Some people consider this to be the Brazilian equivalent of *Ulysses*. One of his most notable novels is **Sagarana**.

The stamp shows him seated writing. *Embossed* in Braille is the word **Sagarana**. The reason for the Braille is that this year is the 40th anniversary of the publication in Braille of this book. It was printed at the Braille Press at the “Instituto Benjamin Constant”. The Institute is the oldest school for the blind in South America being founded in 1854 by Emperor Pedro II as the Imperial Institute for Blind Children. Today it is a national reference center relating to questions regarding the education and health of blind children. It includes a school, health center, Braille library named for Louis Braille and Braille press.

Note: the leaflet (Edital, 18) from the Brazilian Post mentions only that Sagarana was printed in Braille and that it has ‘dry relief’.

Other Brazilian Braille Stamps.

1954 Centennial of the Instituto Benjamin Constant. Shows hands reading a Braille book,

1974 Meeting of 5th World Assembly of the World Council of the Blind, Sao Paulo, August 7, 1974.
This is the first stamp to have embossed Braille.

1979 150th Anniversary first Braille book.
Embossed with Braille,

Sagarana

Is a cycle of stories so densely interwoven as to form a discernible system whose components we can identify and whose design we can chart in a manner reminiscent of folk tale analysis...each of the nine stories of Sagarana plays out a drama involving a battle between two fields of motifs whose themes embrace man's whole being. The full sensual presence of nature, a macrocosm, provides the backdrop for each of these dramas. To capture the totality of man and nature without exceeding the bounds of empirical reality is a goal descriptive of the epic.

From: Sagarana: A Story System. By Stephanie Merrim
American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.
1983

Thanks for all this information to our friend Luis Alberto Ribeiro Kalife and to bring the stamp to our attention.