

Interview with Edson de Oliveira Filho, *É Realizações* Publisher

Last December, Russell Kirk's memory and moral imagination arrived in Brazil. Having as hosts Mrs. Annette Kirk, *É Realizações* Publishing Company, and the legacy of T. S. Eliot, "Russell Kirk" visited the cities of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. For the first time, a broader Portuguese-speaking audience could have access to his writings and pose questions to Mrs. Kirk and to scholars such as Alex Catharino and Pedro Sette-Câmara.

The awakening to Russell Kirk's intellectual work in these far-away lands was remarkable: big Brazilian and Latin American media companies opened space to debate Kirk's thought. Large numbers of letters and e-mails from enthusiastic readers arrived at the publisher's mailbox, and *Eliot and His Age* was a great success in one of the main Brazilian book fairs at São Paulo University. Curiously, this was the first time our publishing company had a display at this book fair.

The Moral Imagination in the Twentieth Century, as says the subtitle, in the clear perception of Kirk and in the subtleties of Eliot's poetry, is enlightening the Brazilian moral imagination in the twenty-first century, in a world dramatically changed since the book appeared for the first time, in 1971.

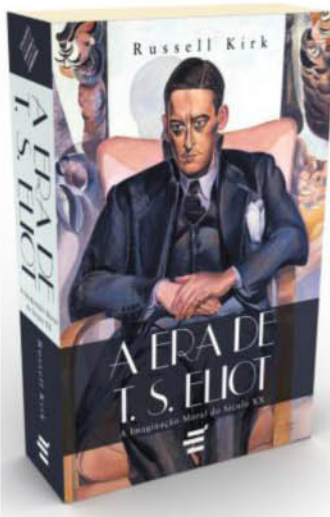
It is a world of disappearing borders and access to information for a number of people never seen before in human history. In a time where we are quickly passing from the "era of libraries" to the "era of internet," we are called to conceive of ourselves once more as moral beings, exercising even more responsibly this intrinsic human ability. The term "moral imagination," coined by Edmund Burke, is renewed by Kirk and shown in its fullness in writers such as John Henry Newman, G. K. Chesterton, Irving Babbitt, and T. S. Eliot.

The twenty-first century mentality, which speaks of freedom of speech and entitles us, new global citizens, with many other rights, has to become aware that all technological gains come with additional responsibilities. In this context, the publishing of Russell Kirk's works in Brazil in partnership with the Russell Kirk Center, is not only filling a gap in the Brazilian publishing market, but it is an answer, a way of making available Kirk's exemplary intellectual life as well as his ability to understand the world and ourselves. As he writes in his *Sword of Imagination*, in a sentence

quoted by Alex Catharino in the Introduction to the Portuguese edition of *Eliot and His Age*, "The world is governed, in any age, not by rationality but by faith: by love, loyalty, and imagination."

1. What is the profile and vision of *É Realizações* Publishing?

Our vision is to carry out large, long term projects. There is, for example, the René Girard Library project (a total of 60 titles written not only by Girard but by other scholars about his work). We are also publishing Eric Voegelin, Christopher Dawson, Bernard Lonergan and Russell Kirk. And we have other large-scale academic and cultural publishing projects right now, unparalleled even in Europe or the United States.



I believe *É Realizações* must create a cultural model in publishing that can be exported for its outstanding quality, while in Brazil our company also plays the role of a producing and diffusing center of culture. We are plural and globalized, without any political distinctions—as is our contemporary world. Another important thing is that our publishing company never wanted to sell only "products," but to create knowledge in a unique way that combines editorial projects and research. Another aspect is that in our books we emphasize everything that shows the union of a multitude of different perspectives—everything that links culture, religion and arts—giving readers the chance to know

the best that has been produced in these areas of human knowledge.

2. Could you talk about the partnership between *É Realizações* and The Russell Kirk Center? What can we expect for the future?

This partnership gives me great happiness. We will continue not only to publish the works of Russell Kirk, but the whole intellectual circle that revolves around his legacy. Our publishing house wants to be the bridge between the Russell Kirk Center and Brazil, creating a healthy and productive exchange between Brazilian researchers and Kirk scholars worldwide. Concerning Kirk's works, the next three books to be published in the near future are *The Politics of Prudence*, *Edmund Burke*, and *The Conservative Mind*.

Felipe Cherubin
Press Agent of *É Realizações*