

MANUEL GARCIA MONTEIRO, M. D.
NEW CONTRIBUTIONS FOR HIS BIOGRAPHY

GEORGE MONTEIRO

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Summary: On April 17, 1890, the *Boston Journal* reported on the commencement exercises of the city's College of Physicians and Surgeons. Manuel Garcia Monteiro (from Fayal) was listed among the fifteen individuals receiving degrees in medicine. On February 10, 1913, the same newspaper reported the unusual details surrounding Dr. M. Garcia Monteiro's funeral – especially the fact that, at his request, phonograph music was substituted for the customary funeral march – along with the information that cremation of the body would follow on the next day at Mt. Auburn Cemetery.

Monteiro, G. (2011), Manuel Garcia Monteiro, M. D. – Novos contributos para a sua biografia. *Boletim do Núcleo Cultural da Horta*, 20: 205-207.

Sumário: A edição de 17 de Abril de 1890 do *Boston Journal* dava notícia da cerimónia de graduação da Faculdade de Medicina e Cirurgia da cidade. Manuel Garcia Monteiro, do Faial, constava da lista dos quinze indivíduos que a obter a licenciatura em medicina. A 10 de Fevereiro de 1913 o mesmo jornal dava informações fora do comum a propósito do funeral do Dr. M. Garcia Monteiro, sobretudo o facto de, de acordo com o seu pedido, a habitual marcha fúnebre ser substituída por música de gramofone, e ao mesmo tempo dava a informação que a cremação do corpo teria lugar no dia seguinte no Cemitério de Mt. Auburn.

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Key-words: *Boston Daily Journal*, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Manuel Garcia Monteiro, *Rimas de ironia alegre*, medical degree, funeral, phonograph music.

Palavras-chave: *Boston Daily Journal*, Faculdade de Medicina e Cirurgia, Manuel Garcia Monteiro, *Rimas de Ironia Alegre*, licenciatura em medicina, funeral, musica de gramofone.

The *Boston Journal* (Massachusetts) provides information pertaining to Manuel Garcia Monteiro, the Faya-lense now best remembered for his *Rimas de ironia alegre* (1896).¹ The earlier of two accounts in this daily newspaper offers information on Garcia Monteiro's training in medicine. The later one describes the somewhat unusual service held when he died.

1.

It will come as little or no surprise to anyone familiar with the basic facts of Garcia Monteiro's life that he completed a course in medical studies after emigrating from Fayal. There may be novelty, however, in learning some of the details of Garcia Monteiro's graduation from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Boston, Massachusetts, as reported on page six of the *Boston Journal* for April 17, 1890.

College of Physicians and Surgeons

The exercises of the ninth annual Commencement of the College of Physicians

and surgeons were held yesterday afternoon in the hall of the Boston Young Men's Christian Union. An address was made by Rev. Alexander McKenzie, D.D. of Cambridge and the valedictory delivered by Caroline Maria Macdermott of the graduating class. Music was furnished by Schubert Ladies' Quartette. Diplomas were presented by the President of the college, Rev. J. H. Gunning, D.D. to the following graduates: Fidelia Greene Campbell, Massachusetts; George Moriah Carlisle, Rhode Island; Charles Edwin Colby, Massachusetts; Jerrie Allen Eldredge, Massachusetts; Edwin Scott Foster, Massachusetts; Joseph Witter Godfrey, Massachusetts; Eunice Draper Kinney, Massachusetts; Caroline Maria Macdermott, Massachusetts, Manuel Garcia Monteiro, Fayal, Azores; Mary Anna Nutting, New Hampshire; Cynthia Estella Pingree, North Dakota; Tateos Kasbar Serijanjan, Asia Minor; Alexander Louis Siskind, Russia; Ezra Kimball Sprague, A. B. Maine, William Allen White, Massachusetts.

In the evening the usual dinner was tendered the members of the graduating class by the Faculty at the Hotel Thorndike, at which the President of the college, R. J. H. Gunning, D.D., presided.

2.

For over two decades Garcia Monteiro practiced medicine in Massachusetts. His death occasioned the following account on page one of the *Boston Journal* for February 10, 1913.

¹ According to the World Catalogue, in the United States copies of the 1896 edition of *Rimas de ironia alegre* (self-published in Boston, Massachusetts) are in library collections at Brown University (Providence, Rhode Island), Harvard University (Cambridge, Massachusetts), Arizona State University (Tempe, Arizona), and the Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.).

Phonograph Plays at Physician's Funeral

Dr. Monteiro of Cambridge Expressed Wish that Favorite Selections Be Used.

The strains of his two favorite selections, played on his prized graphophone, took the place of the funeral march at the services over the body of Dr. M. Garcia Monteiro, of 1433 Cambridge street, yesterday. As the mourners sat silently in the house of death a silent attendant wound the phonograph and placed the records therein.

When the music was finished short prayers were said by the Rev. Mr. Wilson, pastor of the Unitarian Church of Waltham. The funeral was over. The body was removed immediately from the house to Mt. Auburn Cemetery, where it will be cremated today.

The two phonograph selections were played in accordance with the last wish of Dr. Monteiro, for nearly thirty years

one of the best-known practicing physicians in Cambridge. The "Calm After the Storm" and the "Angels' Serenade" appealed to him greatly when he was alive. It was his desire that they should be played over his body.

Dr. Monteiro was born in Fayal, Azores, fifty-four years ago. In his early youth he was well known in Spain as a newspaper editor and author. His satirical poems and editorials still attract attention in Spain. It was Dr. Monteiro who brought the first printing press to the Azores. It was a hand affair and he set the type for it. His book of poems was printed on it by himself.

Of the compositions named above, "Angels' Serenade" ("Serenata") is the work of the Italian composer Gaetano Braga (1829-1907), but "Calm After the Storm" – the proverbial phrase is a commonplace among song titles – has not been identified.

