

CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE
AZORES

Personalities



ANTERO
DE QUENTAL



ANTERO Tarquínio DE QUENTAL — poet, philosopher, thinker and political agitator — is one of the most remarkable characters in Portuguese cultural history. Born in Ponta Delgada on April 18 1842, from an illustrious family descendent of the first settlers in the island of São Miguel, young Antero received a brushed, yet traditional catholic education. Despite having left his home island very young to continue his studies in Lisbon (1852, 1855) and then in Coimbra (1856) in which university he would graduate law school (1858-1864), Antero always kept a strong connection to São Miguel, which he visited somewhat often, and where he sometimes spent long periods.

Unchallenged leader of his generation since his University days, Antero was linked to all movements that sought the renewal of culture, of society and of the Portuguese mindsets of his time, in light of the new ideas from more developed European countries, especially France. In this context the famous *Letter to Castilho* (1865) appears, and it would trigger the *Questão Coimbrã (Coimbrã Question)* which confronted the new intellectual generation, defenders of the European scientific spirit and a socially committed literature, versus the sentimentalist current of ultra-romanticism, which was centered around the patriarchal figure of the poet Castilho whose house Antero frequented as a child during his stay in Ponta Delgada (1847-1850).

More interested in knowing the world of labor and worker classes than in enjoying the rural properties inherited in São Miguel or practicing the profession for which he had prepared in university, Antero decided to learn typography, first in Lisbon, then in Paris (1866), from where he returned disillusioned, now with severe bipolar symptoms (manic-depressive psychosis). Later (1869), he travelled through North America.

When he returned to Portugal, he developed an intensive poetical, political and essayistic activity, devoting himself to the creation of worker associations and the publishing of articles and leaflets of discussion and divulgence of the socialist ideology, cooperating with poetry and essay in several newspapers in the country. He integrates with Ramalho Ortigão (1836-1915), Manuel de Arriaga (1840-1917), Eça de Queiroz (1845-1900) and Jaime Batalha Reis (1847-1935), amongst other intellectual youngsters, a discussion group influenced by the ideals of Proudhon, later named Cenáculo (Dining Hall, 1868) which would be the origin of the *Conferências do Casino (Casino Conferences, 1871)*, whose goal was to research Portuguese society as it was and as it should be, and to study any and all new ideas and ideological currents of the 19th century (Antero spoke at the inaugural conference *O Espírito das Conferências (The Spirit of Conferences)*, and had a second intervention entitled *Causas da Decadência dos Povos Peninsulares nos Três Últimos Séculos (Causes of Decadence in the Peninsular Peoples in the Last Three Centuries)*. He was part of the editorial commission for the program of the Party of Socialist Workers (1871), he wrote the statutes for the Association for the Protection of National Work, and he headed the *Revista Ocidental (Western Magazine, 1875)*, together with Batalha Reis; he ran for congress through the Socialist Party (1879, 1881); and took an active part in the North Patriotic League, created in Oporto after the *English Ultimatum* (1890) and was elected its president.

Tormented by illness, he travelled to Paris twice (1877, 1878) to consult with Doctor Jean-Martin Charcot (1825-1893) and undergo hydrotherapy treatments, which did not work. Entering a depressive phase, he dedicated himself to reading the masters of pessimism, Schopenhauer and Hartmann, to writing an essay, which he would destroy (as he did to several poems), entitled *Programa Para os Trabalhos da Geração Nova (Program for Works of the New Generation)*, and to writing poetry in which, under the influence of theories of the unconscious (Hartmann), he conveyed his metaphysical

anguishes and elected death as the only chance for liberating the unconscious forces that mark Man's destiny. In 1890, now in a euphoric phase, free from pessimistic despair, he published *Ensaio Sobre as Tendências Gerais da Filosofia na última Metade do Século XIX* (*Essay On the General Philosophical Tendencies in the Latter Half of the 19th Century*). Finally, taking in the general disillusionment caused by the grave recession that hit the country and, tormented by family problems, he once again entered a deep depression which led him to commit suicide in Ponta Delgada on September 11, 1891.

Poetic activity structures Antero de Quental's work. Thus, whereas poetry from his youth — *Sonetos de Antero* (*Sonnets of Antero*, 1861), *Odes Modernas* (*Modern Odes*, 1863) and *Primaveras Românticas* (*Romantic Springs*, 1872) — is highly marked by the ideals of Portuguese cultural renewal, poetry from his mature days successively echo his pessimistic phase, most distinct of which, are the sonnets that make up the series *Elogio da Morte* (*Death's Praise*, 1875) and euphoric phase, documented in sonnets such as *O Convertido* (*The Converted*, 1875), *Na Mão de Deus* (*In God's Hand*) and *Redenção* (*Redemption*, 1882), *Voz Interior* (*Inner Voice*, 1883), or “*Solemnia Verba*” (1884). His sonnets — poetic form in which he attained one of the most perfect degrees in the history of Portuguese language literatures — were object of several editions in his life: in 1881 he published the book *Sonetos* (*Sonnets*) and later, organized by Oliveira Martins, *Sonetos Completos* (*Complete Sonnets*, 1886); some of these poems were translated into German by Wilhelm Storck (1829-1905), translator of Camões to whom Antero sent an autobiographic letter (1887) containing important information to understand his personality, his literary work, and his involvement in the enterprise of modernizing Portuguese political and literary ideals.

Antero de Quental was the undisputed spiritual leader of the generation of brilliant intellectual youngsters which would become known as the “70s Generation”, among which, besides him, were Eça de Queiroz, Teófilo Braga (1843-1924), Oliveira Martins (1845-1894), Ramalho Ortigão and Batalha Reis. After his death, these and other friends collaborated in the volume Antero de Quental — *In Memoriam* (1896), with texts that are precious testimonies of the man and his work, and through him, of the generation to which he belonged — one of the most dynamic and productive in terms of the renewal of thought, literature and politics in Portugal. Eça de Queiroz, who in *In Memoriam* collaborated with the text *Um Génio Que Era Um Santo* (*A Genius who was a Saint*) — crucial to know the man Antero was, from a friend, a companion and a critic's perspective — sketched out in the novel *A Capital!* (*The Capital!*) (written between 1877 and 1884, never finished), an acrimonious portrait of Antero and other companions of the Coimbra generation, himself included, where Antero lives through the character Damião, a socialist activist intellectual who, after leading his generation in Coimbra University, hovers, cold and brilliant over the interests and the incompatibilities of the political parties who cannot and don't know how to manage, in the field, the programmatic legacy of the 1870s generation.

It is this fascinating character and his path through life and death, measured between idealistic euphoria and the despair of disillusionment, characteristic of the Portuguese intellectual circles of the last quarter of the 19th century, which we have adopted as a guide to revisiting the city of Ponta Delgada — his cradle, his refuge and his tomb.

The texts that make up this guide are based on two main works:

CARREIRO, José Bruno Tavares (1948). *Antero de Quental: Subsídios para a sua Biografia* (*Antero de Quental – Subsidies for His Biography*). Lisbon: Instituto Cultural de Ponta Delgada, 2 volumes (Ponta Delgada Cultural Institute, reprinted in 1981).

MARTINS, Ana M^a de Almeida (1986), *Antero de Quental: Photobiography*. Lisbon: Imprensa Nacional-Casa da Moeda (new edition, revised and enlarged, 2008).



ANTERIAN SITES in PONTA DELGADA

PONTA DELGADA



fonte: DRT, 2006

Rua - Street / Avenida - Avenue
Caminho, Canada - Road / Largo, Praça - Square



Antero, in 1887.
Photo by A. Raposo.



SÃO MIGUEL



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- 1 House where Antero de Quental was born (April 18, 1842). Rua do Castilho (previously Rua do Lameiro).
- 2 Quental family's Solar do Bom Sucesso. Antero lived here between August 23, 1867 and October 29, 1868. Lugar do Ramalho in the parish of Arrifes, outskirts of Ponta Delgada.
- 3 House where A. Raposo's "Fotografia Artística" (Artistic Photography) operated. It was here that Antero took one of his last portraits (August 18, 1887), which he considered his "only good photograph". Rua da Esperança, 19.
- 4 Hotel Brown, where Antero stayed during his final return to São Miguel (June 12, 1891). Rua São Francisco Xavier (now Pousada da Juventude – Youth Hostel).
- 5 Casa de José Bensaúde, Antero's final address (from August 26, 1891), until the day he left it to commit suicide. Rua José Bensaúde (then Rua de Santa Catarina de Baixo).
- 6 Conceição Palace (former Civil Government headquarters), where Antero met with his sister twice, before committing suicide.
- 7 House where Benjamin Férin's store was located. Here, Antero purchased the revolver he used to commit suicide. Esquina do Largo da Matriz (Southeast) with Rua dos Mercadores.
- 8 Rua Direita de Santa Catarina.
- 9 Bench where he committed suicide, Campo de São Francisco.
- 10 Antero's Funerary Monument. São Joaquim Cemetery, Ponta Delgada.
- 11 Monument to Antero de Quental. Antero de Quental Garden, Ponta Delgada.



ANTERO DE QUENTAL

CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE AZORES Personalities

- 1842** **April 18:** Born in the family home on Rua do Lameiro, 11-15 (now Rua do Castilho), in Ponta Delgada.
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- 1852** **August 8:** Quental moves to Lisbon to attend the Colégio do Pórtico, run by his French teacher, António Feliciano de Castilho.
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- 1853** **June 6:** Returns to Ponta Delgada, where he attends the local high school.
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- 1855** **October 20:** Leaves for Lisbon and enrolls in the Escola Académica College.
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- 1856** **April:** Boards at São Bento School in Coimbra. **October 17:** Sends a letter in verse to his brother André; this is his first known poem.
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- 1858** **September 29:** Enrolls in Law School at the University of Coimbra.
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- 1859** **June 23:** Leaves Lisbon for Ponta Delgada. **July 16:** Writes the poem “Motherly Love” at the Bom Sucesso Manor, where, on **July 29**, he writes “On the Path to the Calvary”. **September 24:** Writes “Improvised Couplet” in Sete Cidades. **September 28:** Returns to Lisbon, then Coimbra.
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- 1860** Publishes texts in several newspapers and magazines. **March:** Along with a few friends, Quental founds and runs the newspaper *O Académico – Publicação Mensal Científica e Literária* (*The Academic – Monthly Scientific and Literary Publication*).
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- 1861** Publishes miscellaneous texts in newspapers and magazines. **December:** *Sonnets of Antero* (Coimbra).
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- 1862** Publishes miscellaneous texts in newspapers and magazines. **December:** Writes and published the leaflet *Manifesto dos Estudantes da Universidade de Coimbra à Opinião Ilustrada do País* (*Manifesto of the University of Coimbra's Students to the Country's Illustrated Opinion*), signed by 314 students.
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- 1863** Publishes miscellaneous texts in newspapers and magazines. **November:** *Beatrice* (Coimbra).
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- 1864** Publishes miscellaneous texts in newspapers and magazines. **April 30-May 13:** Lead by Antero, university students leave Coimbra and lodge in Oporto, protesting a government decision.
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- 1865** Publishes miscellaneous texts in newspapers and magazines. **August:** *Odes Modernas* (*Modern Odes*) (Coimbra). **November 2:** *Bom-Senso e Bom-Gosto – Carta ao Excelentíssimo Senhor António Feliciano de Castilho* (*Good Sense and Good Taste – Letter to His Excellence Mr. António Feliciano de Castilho*) (Coimbra), which starts the *Questão Coimbrã* (*Coimbrã Question*). **December:** *A Dignidade das Letras e as Literaturas Oficiais* (*The Dignity of Letters and Official Literatures*) (Lisboa).
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- 1866** Plans to enlist in Garibaldi's army to help in the siege of Rome. **March 15:** Travels to Ponta Delgada. **May 25:** Returns to Lisbon. **July-August:** Works as a typographer at the Imprensa Nacional (National Press), in Lisbon. **November:** Travels to Paris, where he works as a typographer. **December:** Attends classes at the Collège de France.
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- 1867** **January:** Returns to Portugal. **End of Spring:** Travels again to Paris, where he visits the Universal Expo. **August 2:** Visits Jules Michelet. **First week of August:** Returns to Portugal. **August 19:** Travels to Ponta Delgada, lodging himself at the Bom Sucesso Manor.
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- 1868** **August 19:** Returns to Lisbon. **November:** Following the fall of the Spanish Monarchy, he is invited to collaborate with a democratic Iberian newspaper, headquartered in Madrid. **End of the year:** *Portugal perante a Revolução em Espanha – Considerações sobre o Futuro da Política Portuguesa no Ponto de Vista da Democracia Ibérica* (*Portugal in light of the Spanish Revolution – Thoughts on the Future of Portuguese Politics from the Iberian Democracy Perspective*) (Lisbon). Establishes the “Cenáculo” group.
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- 1869** **July 7:** Travels to North America, where he visits Halifax, Lunenburg and New York. **September 29:** Returns to Portugal.

- 1871** **March:** Plans to apply for the position of Logic teacher at the Ponta Delgada High School. **May 22:** Inaugurates the Conferências do Casino (Casino Conferences), in Lisbon, with “O Espírito das Conferências” (The Spirit of Conferences). **May 27:** Proclaims the “Causes of Decadence in Peninsular People in the Last Three Centuries” conference, later published in leaflet form (Oporto). **June 26:** The Marquis de Ávila e Bolama, President of the Council of Ministers, has the Casino Conferences shut down. **End of June:** Antero secretly meets with emissaries of the *International*.
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- 1872** **February:** *Primaveras Românticas (Romantic Springs) – Versos dos Vinte Anos (Twenty Year Verses)* (Oporto). **June:** *Considerações sobre a Filosofia da História Literária Portuguesa (Thoughts on the Philosophy of Portuguese Literary History)* (Oporto).
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- 1873** **April 5:** Travels to Ponta Delgada.
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- 1874** **June 22:** Travels to Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira Island, for homeopathic consultations with a local physician. **August 26:** Returns to Ponta Delgada. **September 28:** Returns to Lisbon.
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- 1875** **January 10:** Nominated to the essay writing committee of the Socialist Workers’ Party program. **February 15:** Begins publishing the *Revista Ocidental (Western Magazine)*, which he runs with Jaime Batalha Reis. **March:** *Modern Odes*, 2nd edition (Oporto). **July 15:** End of *Revista Ocidental (Western Magazine)*. **October:** Writes the statutes for the Association for the Protection of National Labour.
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- 1876** **May 15:** Travels to Ponta Delgada. **July 15:** Returns to Lisbon.
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- 1877** **June 22:** Travels to Paris to consult with physician Jean-Martin Charcot, where he undergoes hydrotherapy treatment. **July 4:** Joins the Partido dos Operários Socialistas de Portugal (Socialist Workers’ Party of Portugal). August-September: Meets some exiled Spanish democrats in Paris. **December 5:** Returns to Lisbon.
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- 1878** **June 5:** Travels to Paris again for new hydrotherapy treatments. **End of September:** Returns to Lisbon.
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- 1879** **October 19:** Socialist Party candidate to Congress.
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- 1881** **March:** *Sonnets* (Oporto). **August 21:** Runs again as the Socialist Party’s candidate to Congress.
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- 1886** **August 20:** *Complete Sonnets* (Oliveira Martins Edition, Oporto). **December:** Receives some of his sonnets, translated by Wilhelm Storck into German.
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- 1887** **March 8:** Travels to Ponta Delgada. **July 9-29:** Visits his friend Fernando Rocha in Angra do Heroísmo. **August 18:** Takes what he considers his best portrait at the photographer Raposo, in Ponta Delgada. **October 20:** Returns to Lisbon. **December 20:** Thanks Wilhelm Storck for the German translation of *Sonnets (Ausgewählte Sonette)* (Paderborn und Münster, 1887).
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- 1889** **June 29:** Columbano paints Quental’s portrait, currently at the Museu do Chiado, in Lisbon.
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- 1890** **January 11:** *English Ultimatum*. **January:** Begins publishing “Tendências Gerais da Filosofia na Segunda Metade do Século XIX” (General Philosophical Tendencies in the Latter Half of the 19th Century) (*Revista de Portugal – Portugal Magazine*). **February 6:** Elected president of the Liga Patriótica do Norte (Northern Patriotic League) (Oporto). **March 14:** His portrait by Columbano is accepted by the jury at the Paris Salon. **Summer:** *Sonetos Completos (Complete Sonnets)* (2nd edition).
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- 1891** **June 5:** Travels to Ponta Delgada, where he lodges at the Hotel Brown. **August 26:** Lodges at his friend José Bensaúde’s house. **September 11, 8:00 p.m.:** Commits suicide with two shots from a *Lefauchaux* revolver, on the north side of Campo de São Francisco, in Ponta Delgada, **September 12:** Buried at the São Joaquim Cemetery in Ponta Delgada.



On September 11, 1891, at 2:30 p.m., Antero leaves José Bensaúde's house **5**, where he is lodged. Going up Rua de Baixo de Santa Catarina, he heads towards the Civil Government **6** and meets with his sister Ana, to whom he leaves some money. Next, he heads to the Largo da Matriz, enters Benjamim Férin's shop **7** and purchases a *Lefauchaux* revolver. He returns to the Civil Government **6** and meets with his sister again. He leaves shortly after and walks towards Rua Direita de Santa Catarina **8**, where he stops by his pupils' house. He then makes his way to Rua de São Braz, towards the Campo de São Francisco. It is 8:00 p.m. He sits on a bench near the surrounding wall of the Convento da Esperança (Convent of Hope) **9**, and fires two shots into his mouth. He dies an hour later. He is buried the following day in the São Joaquim Cemetery **10**.



House where Antero de Quental was born, on [Rua do] Castilho Street (previously [Rua do] Lameiro Street).



Antero's Funerary Monument. Detail.



Model of a *Lefauchaux* revolver, used by Antero to commit suicide.



Antero's Funerary Monument in São Joaquim Cemetery.



José Bensaúde's House, on [Rua de] Santa Catarina de Baixo Street, now [Rua] José Bensaúde Street, Antero's last residence in Ponta Delgada.



Wall surrounding the Convento da Esperança (Convent of Hope), in Campo de São Francisco, where Antero committed suicide.



Benjamin Ferin's store, in Largo da Matriz.



fonte: DFT, 2006
 Rua - Street / Avenida - Avenue
 Caminho, Canada - Road / Largo, Praça - Square

PONTA DELGADA

ANTERO'S FINAL TRIP DOWN (likely route)

- first stage
- second stage
- third stage



Bench near the surrounding wall of the Convento da Esperança (Convent of Hope), where Antero committed suicide.

ROTEIROS CULTURAIS
ACORES
Personalidades





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