



EMBASSY OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED STATES
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Exhibition and Lecture Featuring the Collection of the late Miguel Corte-Real.

The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives announces the opening of the exhibit "Miguel Corte-Real: the Man and his Collection" and a lecture, organized in collaboration with the Claire T. Carney Library.

The event will take place on Friday, October 22nd, 2010 at 6:00 PM, in the Prince Henry Society Reading Room of the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives, Claire T. Carney Library, Parking Lot 13.

Curated by librarian/archivist Sonia Pacheco, the exhibit features key items from the collection, such as books and archival documents. Irene de Amaral, a PhD candidate in the Department of Portuguese at UMD, who is using the Côte-Real materials to research her doctoral dissertation, will speak about her experience using the collection and its importance for the field of Azorean studies in the U.S.

Born in Ponta Delgada, S. Miguel, Azores, to Luis de Figueiredo Lemos do Canto Corte-Real and Filomena M. da Conceição, Miguel de Figueiredo Corte-Real was the youngest son of an old aristocratic family. He was raised in Santa Maria, an island which always held a special place in his heart. In 1969, he immigrated to the United States with his wife and children and settled in New Bedford.

Unlike the majority of immigrants who arrive in the U.S. with little more than a suitcase of personal items, Miguel Corte-Real was able to bring along an extensive number of cherished family heirlooms and household items including a large number of books, manuscripts and other historical documents. Once established in his new country, he continued to add to his existing library and archive by collecting items associated with the presence of the Portuguese in the U.S. In 2008, he donated his personal library and archive to the Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives asking that the collection receive the name of his father Luis de Figueiredo Côte-Real.

Miguel Corte-Real's library was the work of a lifetime and contains rare, and sometimes difficult to find volumes. Considered by some to be the best private collection of *Açoriana* outside of the Acores, it includes fictional works by Azorean authors and about the Azores; comprehensive histories of individual islands and of the archipelago; geographical and geological studies; monographs on various topics related to the Azores; and texts that document religious and cultural practices and rituals specific to the Azores. The Archival Collection includes personal correspondence; various scrapbooks; genealogical research; and Luso-American newspapers published in the last 30 years.

(Consulate in New Bedford)