

*George Monteiro (1932-2019):
an Autobiography Scattered in Myriad Writings*

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The Luso-American world recently lost a formidable figure, arguably the most exceptional cultural bridge between Portuguese and American letters. George Monteiro, Professor Emeritus of English and Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, passed away on November 5th from a heart attack. He was also, for many years, co-editor of this journal.

Born in Valley Falls, RI, in 1932, he was a graduate of Cumberland High School. He received a B.A. from Brown in 1954, an M.A. from Columbia University in 1956, and a Ph.D. from Brown in English and American Literature in 1964. Monteiro spent his whole professional career at Brown. He was hired as an Instructor in English in 1961, became an Assistant Professor in 1965, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1968, and Full Professor in 1972. He served as Assistant Dean of the College in 1965-66, co-chaired the Program in American Civilization (now known as the Department of American Studies) from 1971 to 1973, and was an Assistant Chair of the English department from 1978 to 1980.

From 1969 to 1971, he was a Fulbright Lecturer in American Literature at the University of São Paulo, Brazil, an experience that had a profound effect on him both personally and professionally. Having learned Portuguese as a child from parents that had immigrated from mainland Portugal, he immediately felt at home in Brazil as he rediscovered the Portuguese language and reconnected with his family's cultural roots. When he returned to Brown, he was determined to establish a program

in Portuguese and Brazilian Studies at his Alma Mater. In the mid-1970s, as the University increasingly moved in the direction of interdisciplinary studies, Professor Monteiro was instrumental in gathering a group of faculty members from various departments, whose scholarship and teaching were related to the Lusophone world, and successfully proposed to the administration the establishment of a multidisciplinary Center for Portuguese and Brazilian Studies and Bilingual Education. He was appointed its first Director in 1975, serving in that capacity until 1980. That was the beginning of what could be called his second academic career. While continuing as an active member of the English Department, he spent considerable time at the new center (which, after 1991, was renamed the Department of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies), well beyond his official 25% FTE¹. He was a caring and dedicated mentor to generations of undergraduate and graduate students in English, American Studies, and Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, all of whom remember him fondly.

Professor Monteiro was the author of some forty books and published more than three hundred articles in dozens of academic journals spanning the United States, Europe, and Brazil. His books cover a variety of topics, ranging from Nathaniel Hawthorne, William Dean Howells, Henry James, Emily Dickinson, Ernest Hemingway, Elizabeth Bishop, Stephen Crane, Robert Frost, and Herman Melville in the field of American Literature, to Portuguese authors such as Luís de Camões, Jorge de Sena, and Fernando Pessoa, on whose works he became an expert. In addition to being an internationally recognized scholar, Professor Monteiro was a translator of Portuguese poetry as well as a poet himself. Notable among his several volumes of poetry is a book-length poetic dialogue with Pessoa, *The Pessoa Chronicles – Poems, 1980-2016*. His many translations of Portuguese poetry into English include Pessoa, Sena, Miguel Torga, and, most recently, Pedro da Silveira. He has left more than thirty unpublished volumes on a wide range of topics.

In 1989 he was awarded the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator by the Portuguese government “for distinguished contributions to the study and dissemination of Portuguese culture,” and in 1993 he received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of

¹ ¼ of his appointment was in Portuguese and Brazilian Studies; ¾ remained in the English Department.

Massachusetts, Dartmouth, for his accomplishments as a scholar of both American and Portuguese literature.²

Some time after George Monteiro retired from Brown, his life and works were the subject of a collective volume, *George Monteiro: the Discreet Charm of a Portuguese-American Scholar*³, coordinated by myself and his high school Portuguese-American friend, Professor Alice Clemente, Emerita from Smith College. Born in the same town of Cumberland, Alice Clemente and George Monteiro were friends throughout high school and, later, they were both undergraduate students at Brown. Their friendship lasted all of George's life, and I was lucky to partake of many of their happy moments together, including some not infrequent three-hour-long lunches at the Portuguese restaurant, O Dinis, in East Providence. In the Festschrift mentioned above, the editors collected a variety of testimonials from colleagues and former students who offered to write about their experiences with George Monteiro. Sixty-nine pages of that volume comprised the list of publications – books, journals, and newspaper articles, as well as miscellaneous writings, covering his bibliography up to February 4, 2005. George Monteiro lived almost fifteen years after that date, and in his retirement, he just continued writing almost non-stop.

Because George Monteiro organized his bibliography according to genres, it will be a demanding job to update each section. However, since we feel that it will be a service to our readers and future researchers to have his complete bibliography available online, we decided to publish it here. Even those who are familiar with George Monteiro's outpouring will appreciate this since nobody, including his closest friends, knows the full extent of his writings.

We thank his widow, Professor Brenda Murphy, for her cooperation in providing us with this updated version.

Those of us who, for decades, were part of George's life as a colleague and, as a friend, will always remember him with profound admiration and deep affection.

² Readers familiar with the Memorial Minute record presented at the Brown University Faculty Meeting of February 4, 2020, and distributed by the University may notice substantial similarity between the preceding paragraphs. Both texts have the same author.

³ Providence, RI: Gávea-Brown, 2005.