



Archival Project: Information about Hospita-Colonies

1 – Name of the Institution: Hospital Frei Antônio or Hospital dos Lázaros

2 –Historical Overview:

The church Nossa Senhora da Candelária, a monument to religious art, is located in Praça Pio X, in the center of Rio de Janeiro. The church replaced an older chapel, erected some time between the end of the 16th century and the first three decades of the 17th. The Sisterhood of the Santíssimo Sacramento da Nossa Senhora da Candelária (The Sacred Sacrament of Our Lady of Candelária) was founded in the first chapel on August 18, 1634.

The former church was renovated in 1710, and in 1775 it was decided that a new and majestic building would be constructed. The cornerstone of the new church was laid on the 6th of June of the same year. The grandiosity of the project, as well as financial difficulties, led to the halting of construction for many years. Even though construction was still unfinished, on the 8th of September, 1811, the first mass was celebrated in the new church. The building was only officially inaugurated on July 10, 1898.

On February 15, 1763, the Sisterhood founded the Hospital dos Lázaros. Even though the buildings were inadequate for the task, the Sisterhood began to serve Hansen's patients that lived in small huts along the Beach of São Cristóvão. Shortly afterward, the Bishop Dom Frei Antonio do Desterro pleaded with the Vice-Rei Conde da Cunha to persuade Dom José I to donate the recreation house of the Jesuits, which had been confiscated after the expulsion of the Company of Jesus in 1759. There the Sisterhood installed the Hospital dos Lázaros, or the Hospital Frei Antônio. This hospital, therefore, predates by several centuries the

national policy for the isolation of the ill.

With the arrival of the royal family in Brazil, the Hospital building became again property of the Crown and was transformed into a barracks. The sick were transferred to the island of Enxadas, and from there to the former island of Frades (today the island of Bom Jesus), where they lived in precarious conditions. The Sisterhood of Candelária continued to attend to them, and meanwhile to attempt to recover their former building.

The hospital, a pioneer in public health, functioned for more than two centuries. It was there that for many years that the National Service of Leprosy was created, after sanitation authorities began to look at the problem of leprosy more objectively OBJETIVAMENTE. The National Department of Sanitary Dermatology was also installed there. The maintenance of the hospital, nevertheless, always remained the responsibility of the Sisterhood, who received medical assistance from the government and a more or less symbolic financial contribution.

Over time, the Sisterhood began to run the hospital entirely independently from the government. Today, there are only two ex-patients still living there. The venerable and beautiful building, conserved and maintained by the Candelária, is a striking example of 17th century art.

3. The situation today:

Only two ex-patients currently live in the ex-hospital. Both have been cured, but have no other place to live. The Candelária manages the care of these two women, as well as the maintenance of the building.

Documentation and Memoirs

4 – Type of documentation:

(x) textual (x) Iconographic (x) Bibliographic (x) Oral

() Other: specify: _____

electronically catalogued. The bibliographic section is very well organized within the church.

11 – Current status of work:

The archives have been consulted, though only the catalog of printed documents was made available. At the moment, this catalog (of more than 400 documents) is being typed up in the spreadsheet format for the project. The bibliography found will also be put into spreadsheet form. More than 70 documents have been typed; of these, the oldest is from 1833, and the most recent is from 1963. The documents were not physically accessed, but the catalog notes that they are either in desks, shelves, boxes, or packets.

12 – Human resources involved (quantify and qualify)

I am the only one working on the project in this hospital. It should be noted, however, that I have received considerable assistance from Dr. José, caretaker of the Candelária, Dr. Celina, responsible for the archive of the Candelária, and Dr. Jussara, librarian of the Candelária.

13 – Financial resources: *(how this work is being done, if there is some kind of financial support, from whom)*

No. Since I work from 9 to 19:00 every day, I have been doing this research voluntarily during my lunch break.

14 – Does the community in the colony know about the work being done?

yes
 no

14.1. The community will be involved in the work:

yes
 no

In what way:

Since the archives are not physically in the Hospital Frei Antônio, and since I have little free time to do this research, I have as of yet been unable to go to the hospital and speak with the ex-patients that live there. It should be noted that there will be an exhibition in the Hospital of a documentary, in which these two women participated. My intention is to use this occasion to converse with them, film a few interviews with them, as well as interview Dr. José, the current caretaker of the Candelária.

15. Is there some kind of recovery of the experiences of the residents of the Colonia through oral history?

(x) yes

() no

There is a film, of which MORHAN possesses a copy.

16. Is there some kind of historical work about the Institution?

(academic, institutional, etc)

(x) yes

() no

16.1. If possible include a reference:

- *O hospital dos Lázaros do Rio de Janeiro. Irmandade do Santíssimo Sacramento da Candelária.* Typ. E Lith. De Olympio de Campos & C..Rio de Janeiro, 1900.
 - Regarding the foundation of the hospital, this shows the testimonies of some visitors, as well as fotos of the buildings.
- PINHEIRO, F. B. Marques. *Irmandade do Santíssimo Sacramento da Freguezia de Nossa Senhora da Candelária.* Volume I e II. Typog. Do Jornal do Commercio Rodrigues & C.. Rio de Janeiro, 1930.
 - Volume II has innumerable facts about the Hospital.
- *Revista Ocidente* de maio de 1896. Número 626
 - Material about the foundation of the church and about the history of the Sisterhood. It also tell a little of the story of the hospital, referring to the book by F. B. Marques Pinheiro. There is a foto of the Hospital.
- *Irmandade do Santíssimo Sacramento da Candelária. Terceiro Centenário.* Rio de Janeiro, 1934.
 - Publication from the three hundredth anniversary of the Sisterhood. It has fotos of the Hospital.
- Recorte de Jornal – 1970-1972
 - *O Mundo Português.* “Frei Antônio”. Rio de Janeiro, 3 de junho de 1972
 - Material from a journalist’s visit to the Hospital.
 - *O Mundo Português.* “Candelária inaugura gabinete dentário no H. Frei Antônio”. Rio de Janeiro, 3 de junho de 1972
 - *Voz de Portugal.* “Instituto de Leprologia e sua ajuda à Candelária”. 1971
 - Explanation from the director of the Institute of Leprology regarding a delaration from the caretaker of the Hospital, in which he declared that the resources for the maintenance of hte hospital grew exclusively out of the Candelária

- *O Mundo Português*. “Hospital em feste”. Rio de Janeiro, 15 de agosto de 1970.
 - Fotos from the commemoration of the Santíssima Trindade.
- *Instituto de Leprologia. Organização e atividade*. Ministério da Saúde. Divisão Nacional da Lepra. Rio de Janeiro, 1970.
 - Publication about the disease, with a foto on page 63 of the Hospital with a small text speaking about the partnership of the National Leprosy Service with the Sisterhood.
- *Jornal do Brasil. Revista de Domingo*. “Um palacete escondido no gasômetro do Rio de Janeiro”. Número 1249 de 9 de abril de 2000.
 - Material mainly about the architectural and historical value of the hospital building.
- FERREZ, Gilberto. *Aquarelas DE Richard Bate. O Rio de Janeiro de 1808 – 1848*. Editado pela Galeria Brasileira. Rio de Janeiro, 1965.
 - Page 76 has a watercolor painting from 1851 (based on a sketch from 1809) where there is a picture of the Jesuits house transformed, in 1765, into the Hospital dos Lázarus (Frei Antônio).

There are still a few bibliographic references to be catalogued.

Responsible for the information provided:

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