

CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE
AZORES

Personalities



MANUEL
DE ARRIAGA




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governo dos açores

MANUEL José DE ARRIAGA Brum da Silveira — lawyer, teacher, poet, congressman —, became part of history as one of the most notorious Portuguese politicians of the 19th - 20th century transition and from the monarchy to the republic, assuming the purest profile of a republican who was honest, selfless and completely devoted to the public cause. He was the first President of the Portuguese Republic.

According to the available documental information, Manuel de Arriaga was born in Horta on July 8th 1840. However, some defend that he might have been born in the Arriagas manor, on Pico Island, where his family used to spend the summer months and was later baptized and registered in Horta, his parents' legal residence at the time. Born into a wealthy family with traditions in politics and military life — his father was the family primogeniture, his grandfather on his father's side was a general who had distinguished in the Peninsular War, and a great-uncle had been a congressman to the Constituent Courts from 1821-22 —, Manuel de Arriaga had his elementary schooling in his hometown and, in 1861, moved to Coimbra to attend Law School. In University, where he was an honor student, he soon proved to be a speaker of note and actively intervened in student struggles, being a subscriber of *University of Coimbra Students' Manifesto to the Country's Illustrated Opinion*, written and published by Antero de Quental. His adherence to philosophical positivism and the defense of democratic republican ideals got him rejected by his family having been disowned by his father, who banned him from coming home.

Thus, Manuel de Arriaga had to work as a private tutor in order to complete his studies and help his brother, also a student in Coimbra and equally a defender of ideals their family considered to be subversive. Once he graduated (1865), he began a career as a lawyer in Lisbon. However, he wanted to be a teacher and applied to the Lisbon Polytechnic School (1866) and to the Humanities Studies Degree (1878) always being passed over and ending up teaching at the Lisbon Central High-School (1875), as well as being a lawyer.

Parallel to his activities as a teacher and a lawyer, Arriaga was an active participant in the country's cultural and political life: together with Antero de Quental (1842- -1891), Ramalho Ortigão (1836-1915), and Jaime Batalha Reis (1847-1935), among other young intellectuals, he was part of a discussion group influenced by the ideals of Proudhon, later called "Cenáculo" (1868), and was the origin of the "Casino Conferences" (1871), whose objective was to research Portuguese society as it was and as it should be and to study all the new ideals and all the ideological currents of the 19th century. He was a militant and head of the Republican Party, several times Lisbon congressman candidate (in 1878 and 1881, with no success), having finally been elected by Funchal (1882), thus becoming, together with Elias Garcia, one of the two republicans in the House of Representatives. Having left parliament in 1882, stating he would not return "until new laws or better conditions gave better guarantees to the people's representatives" (despite being an elected congressman, he was arrested on February 1890, after a demonstration motivated by the English Ultimatum; and his republican condition, considered subversive in the monarchy parliament for defending popular sovereignty against regal sovereignty that didn't come from the people's express will, kept him from being nominated to incorporate parliamentary commissions), he would however, run again in October of 1889, through Horta, wasn't elected and once again, in April 1890, now successfully, through Lisbon.

With the establishment of the Republic (October 5, 1910), Manuel de Arriaga was appointed Republic Attorney-General (October 16) and a few days later (October 23), Dean of the University of Coimbra, a position he resigned from in February 1911. On August 24th he was elected President of the Portuguese Republic; his term of office was marked by political instability (8 governments were inducted in less than 4 years), resigning on May 26th 1815, after a political crisis that had led him to appoint to the position of prime-minister General Pimenta de Castro, who closed down Parliament and was shortly thereafter dismissed, after a revolutionary coup; both were considered outlaws in a secret Parliament meeting. Later, amnesty was awarded to him, but Manuel de Arriaga rejected it. From his presidential experience, Arriaga left us testimony in the book *Na Primeira Presidência da República Portuguesa (In the First Presidency of the Portuguese Republic)* (1916). He died in Lisbon on March 5th 1917, and was buried in Prazeres Cemetery. On September 16th 2004, by Congressional decision, he was moved to the National Pantheon, with Chief Of State honors.

The preparation of the texts that make up this guide is owed to:

Dr. Luís Menezes, Director of the Museum of Horta.

Inventory of Azores Real Estate. Horta. Angra do Heroísmo: Regional Directorate for Culture, 2003.

Manuel de Arriaga. Political Documents. Sérgio Campos Matos, and others (Org.). Lisbon: Livros Horizonte, 2007.

Plan for the Recovery and Safeguarding of the Horta Historical Area. Horta: City Hall, 1990.



A WALK THROUGH HORTA in MANUEL DE ARRIAGA's days

MANUEL DE ARRIAGA left Horta in 1861, to attend University of Coimbra. He was 21 years old. Elevated to Town and district capital in 1836, Horta then lived a period of urban renewal, with the opening of new roads, the demolition of old buildings, especially convents, churches and chapels **7**, **9**, and the building of new social equipment, for example the **8** Fayalense Theater (1856) and, after young Arriaga's departure, **12** Conceição bridge (1866), the dock **10** (started in 1876), and the infrastructures connected to the underwater cape (1893). The route we propose here is meant to draw visitors' attention to contemporary buildings and places of Manuel de Arriaga's life in Horta, or whose construction he followed from afar and that make up monuments to life and the town at the end of the 19th century and early 20th century. As if walking on the footprints and looking through the eyes of one of the most important national public figures of his time.



Beginning of the tour:



1 House where Manuel de Arriaga was born, according to available documentation [San Francisco Cross Street]

Going down Monsenhor José de Freitas Fortuna Street, in front of the house, we turn left onto Conselheiro Medeiros Street and carry on along Walter Bensaúde Street, where we can see the



2 Bensaúde House, currently João José da Graça Public Library and Regional Archive [Old San Francisco Street].



Enter Duque D'Ávila e Bolama Square, where we can visit the



3 Old Jesuit School (17th century), in which, currently, operate the Horta Museum and City Hall, as well as the Mother Church.

From where we can enjoy a magnificent view of the town, Pico Island ahead and the channel separating the two:



5 View from the Nossa Senhora do Carmo Churchyard, with Pico in the background.

By the Eastern corner of the property, we go up Dr. Azevedo Street up to



4 Nossa Senhora do Carmo Church (17th-18th centuries),

Going down the steps in front of the church, and going forward, we make a left into São João Street, and then a right into Amor da Pátria Cross Street up to D. Pedro IV Street, at the top of which we'll find



6 Noblemen Chapel (18th century).

Next, we enter República Square, where once stood the



7 **Glória Church and Convent** (17th century), demolished in 1900.

Going down Ladeira da Paiva, we make a left at Conceição Street, up to the



12 **Conceição Bridge**, built in 1866. On the right, the **Lacerdas' Manor** (18th century).

Carrying on through Barão de Roches Alameda, where we can see the



8 **Fayalense Theater**, built in 1856, altered at a later date.

Going up Advogado Graça Street up to D. Luís I Square, we arrive at the



9 **Clock Tower** (18th century), which was used as a bell tower for the old Mother Church, demolished between 1836 and 1842.

Going down José Fialho Street, until we reach the Roundabout where 25th of April Avenue starts, and wherefrom we have a



13 **Panoramic view of the Horta sandy beach**, on which the Main Avenue would be built (construction started in 1956).

From up on the tower, one gets a



10 **South View of the Town**, in the late 1870s, with the old Glória Convent at the center and the dock, under construction, in the background;

Follow 25th of April Avenue to the



14 **Infante D. Henrique Square**.

And a

Next, we take Vasco da Gama Street, enter the Santa Cruz Fort (15th-17th centuries), now Santa Cruz Hostel, from whose walls we can see the



11 **North View**, with the Espalamarca Hill in the background.



15 **Customs Building** (19th century).

To the South, there is a view of



16 José de Azevedo (Peter) Street, with the harbor warehouses in the background and the Nossa Senhora das Angústias Church on the right.

Coming back through Castelo Street, Conde De Ávila Street, Angústias Street, Manuel Arriaga Square, Vasco da Gama Street, Infante Square and Conselheiro Medeiros Street, up to



20 San Francisco Church (17th century).

Leaving the Fort, we descend to the pier next to it, from where we get a view of the



17 Bensaúde House and Coal and Supplies Company of Fayal office buildings (19th century).

taking to S. Francisco Cross Street, into the



21 House where the First President of the Portuguese Republic was born.

Taking to José Azevedo Street up to Manuel de Arriaga Square, going up Rosa Street and, from it, to the left, a narrow pathway leading up to Monte Queimado, from where we can see the



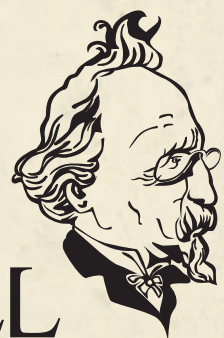
18 Porto Pim beach, with the fortified gate in the center and, on the left, S. Sebastião Fort and walls (15th-17th centuries).

By which we conclude our tour of the town of Horta.

Returning to Rosa Street, going down towards the sandy beach, taking Porto Pim lane, follow Castelo Street up to the S. Sebastião Fort, after which we get a



19 View of Porto Pim Bay, with the S. Sebastião Fort on the left and the Dabney Family's summer home (19th century) on the right, at the bottom of Monte da Guia. In the background, Pico Island.



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CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE of MANUEL DE ARRIAGA

- 1840** **July 8th:** Born in Horta, according to the available legal documentation.
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- 1861** **October:** Enrolled into Law at the University of Coimbra.
-
- 1862** **December:** Signed the leaflet *University of Coimbra Students' Manifesto to the Country's Illustrated Opinion*, written and published by Antero de Quental and signed by 314 students.
-
- 1866** **May:** Graduated Law School, got his diploma on November 8th. Published the thesis *About the Human Family Unit from an Economic Point of View*.
-
- 1867** **January 31st:** Applied to the Political Economics subject in the Polytechnic School, but was passed over (**February 8th**).
-
- 1868** Introduced Batalha Reis to Antero de Quental.
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- 1870** **March:** With Antero de Quental, Oliveira Martins, Luciano Cordeiro, Eça de Queiroz and Batalha Reis, joined the team of the newspaper *A Republica. Jornal da Democracia Portuguesa (The Republic. Journal of the Portuguese Democracy)*.
-
- 1871** **May 18th:** Subscribed the Casino Conferences manifesto, published in the newspaper *A Revolução de Setembro (The September Revolution)*. **July 1st:** Signed a protest to the closing of the Conferences together with Teófilo Braga, Augusto Fuschini and Germano Vieira Meireles.
-
- 1874** **May 14th:** Married D. Lucrecia de Brito Barreto Furtado de Melo, coming from a family from Pico Island.
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- 1875** **May 24th:** Graduation exam. October: English teacher at Lisbon Central High School. Opened his legal practice.
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- 1876** Was part of the commission to reform secondary education, by Central High School.
-
- 1878** **January 16th:** He applied to the subject Universal History and Practice of the Superior Humanities Course with the thesis *Renovações Históricas. Necessidade da intervenção das ciências naturais na história universal dos povos para assentá-la em bases positivas e dar-lhe um carácter verdadeiramente científico (Historical Renovations. The need for the natural sciences' intervention in the peoples' universal history in order to set it positive basis and give it a truly scientific character)* (Lisbon: Rosa Street Press). **October 7th:** In a rally presided by Ramalho Ortigão, he presented his candidacy for congressman by Downtown Lisbon (Circle 96), later supported by the Federal Republican Party. For ideological reasons, he refused King D. Luís's invitation to be the Princes' D. Carlos and D. Afonso's tutor.
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- 1880** **May:** Was elected president of the General Assembly of the Federal Republican Center. **July:** Resigned the position, for incompatibilities. **November:** Dismissed from the Central High School.
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- 1881** **August:** Presented himself once again as a congressman candidate by Downtown Lisbon.
-
- 1882** **June 10th:** Presented the project for the definitive organization of the Portuguese Republican Party. **September 16th:** was invited by a group of republicans from Madeira to be their candidate for congress. **November 26th:** Was elected congressman through Madeira, on the second round, after a tie with Braancamp Freire in the elections held on November 5th. **December 26th:** Republican banquet in Lisbon, to commemorate his victory in the election.
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- 1884** **June 29th:** Was defeated by the monarchics in the elections in Madeira. **August:** He visited Madeira.
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- 1885** **April:** He travelled to Madeira to defend the republicans who had been arrested after the 1884 election. **December 13th:** Was elected city councilman for Lisbon City Hall.
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- 1887** **July:** Published *Traços gerais para um Programa do Partido Republicano Português propostos no terceiro congresso (General Guidelines for a Portuguese Republican Party Program proposed on the third congress)*. **August:** He visited Madeira. **December:** Head of the Republican Party faction opposed to negotiation with monarchics. Published the poetry book *Canto ao Pico (Ode to Pico)*.

- 1889** Presented before the Juridical Congress, held in Lisbon, the thesis *O sistema penitenciário, quando exclusivo e único, abrangerá os fenómenos mais importantes da criminalidade, e, não os abrangendo, converter-se-á numa instituição contraproducente nefasta?* (*The penitentiary system, when exclusive and unique, will encompass the main criminality phenomena and, in failing to do so, will it turn into a nefarious counter-productive institution?*)
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- 1890** **January 11th:** Was arrested for addressing the crowd in Rossio, Lisbon. **March:** Was elected congressman by Lisbon.
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- 1891** **January:** Was elected to the Republican Party's directory.
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- 1897** **September:** Was elected President of the Republican Party's directory. Finished the never published novel, *Síntese Suprema, a um Mundo novo, a uma Alma nova* (*Supreme Synthesis, to a New World, to a New Soul*).
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- 1899** **November:** Was elected member of the Republican Party's Consulting Chamber. Published the book *Cantos Sagrados* (*Holy Chants*).
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- 1901** Published the poetry book *Irradiações* (*Irradiations*).
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- 1907** Published the book *Harmonias Sociais. O problema humano e a futura organização social (no debate da sua fase definitiva). A Paz dos Povos. [Social Harmonies. The human issue and the future social organization (at the debut of its definitive phase). The Peoples' Peace.]*
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- 1910** **October 16th:** Was appointed Republic Attorney-General. **October 23rd:** Was appointed Dean of the University of Coimbra.
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- 1911** **February 2nd:** Resigned from the office of Dean of the University of Coimbra. **June 11th:** Homage session at the Coliseu dos Recreios, in Lisbon. Was elected congressman to the Constituent Parliament, presiding over the Editorial and Foreign Affairs Commissions. **August 24th:** Was elected President of the Republic. **September 3rd:** Appointed the 1st constitutional Government, presided by João Chagas. **November 12th:** Appointed the 2nd constitutional government, presided by Augusto de Vasconcelos.
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- 1912** **June 16th:** Appointed the 3rd constitutional Government, presided by Duarte Leite. **December 20th:** Intended to Grant amnesty to political prisoners and clergy.
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- 1913** **January 9th:** Appointed the 4th constitutional Government, presided by Afonso Costa.
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- 1914** **February 10th:** Appointed the 5th constitutional Governemnt, presided by Bernardino Machado. **December 12th:** Appointed the 6th constitutional Government, presided by Victor Hugo de Azevedo Coutinho.
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- 1915** **January 23th:** He requested General Pimenta de Castro's help in solving the political crisis. **January 28th:** Appointed the 7th constitutional Government, presided by Pimenta de Castro. **March 4th:** Pimenta de Castro prohibits opening Parliament. **May 4th:** In a secret meeting, the members of Parliament declare Manuel de Arriaga and Pimenta de Castro outlaws and nullify their actions. **May 14th:** Dismissal of Pimenta de Castro's government, after a revolutionary coup. **May 15th:** Appointed the 8th constitutional Government, presided by João Chagas. **May 26th:** Resigned the office of President of the Republic.
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- 1916** **April 15th:** He refused the amnesty that had been awarded to him. May: Published *Na Primeira Presidência da República Portuguesa. Um rápido relatório* (*In the First Presidency of the Portuguese Republic. A brief account*).
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- 1917** **March 5th:** Passed away in Lisbon. **March 6th:** Was buried in Prazeres Cemetery.
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- 2004** **September 16th:** By Republic Parliament decision, his remains were moved to the National Pantheon with Chief of State honors.



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