

**University of Massachusetts Dartmouth  
Archives and Special Collections  
Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives**

**Drama Miséria da Vida / Drama das Cenas da Miséria  
Handwritten manuscript of play, 1919**

**MC 89/PAA**

**Extent:** one volume, one oral history interview and one transcript

**Scope and contents note:** Handwritten play by José Pedro Alves, around 1919. Alves was born around 1902 in Saint Antony, St. Michael, Azores. The play was completed when the author was seventeen years old, and was first performed in 1922 for parish priests with an all-male cast, as was custom to local parish audiences. Prof. M. de Gloria de Sá completed an oral history interview with the son and daughter of Alves, available on audiocassette and in transcription.

**Description of the play:**

Characters: Alfredo, Etelvina, Roque, Augusto, Paulo, José, Gaspar, Criado (Waiter), Carcereiro (prison guard), Primeiro Polícia (First police officer), Segundo Polícia (Second police officer), Senhorio (Landlord).

Synopsis: This is a tragedy in three acts. A married couple, Alfredo and Etelvina, live in extreme poverty. Etelvina is wooed by Paulo, a rich aristocrat who convinces her to leave her husband and live with him, for he can better provide for her. Alfredo, who would rather steal than have his wife accept money from another man, goes to prison for his crime. Once out of prison, Alfredo gets his revenge on those he believes have betrayed him.

**Access:** Unrestricted.

**Acquisition:** Gift of Lorraine and Robert Alves of Tiverton, Rhode Island, daughter and son of the author, May 29, 2008 (accession # 08-21).

**Language:** Materials in Portuguese and English

**Repository:** University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Ferreira-Mendes Portuguese-American Archives, Claire T. Carney Library, 285 Old Westport Road, N. Dartmouth, MA 02747. Telephone: 508-999-8684.

**Processed by:** Silvia Oliveira, November 2008.