

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

**Affonso Gil “Ferreira-Mendes” Mendes Ferreira Papers
MC 92/PAA**

Extent:

Historical note: Affonso Gil Mendes Ferreira was born in Portugal, and immigrated to Taunton, Massachusetts in 1920. He was known to his listeners in Rhode Island and Massachusetts as “Ferreira Mendes”, and first aired his radio program, “A Voz de Portugal” (Voice of Portugal) in 1930. He also founded the first daily Portuguese radio station in United States, which operated from 1952 to 1967, in Providence, Rhode Island. Over the years, he solicited more than \$500,000 in charitable donations from his listeners for various humanitarian causes. He also biannually published “O Heraldo Portugues”, a Portuguese newspaper, from 1925-1976. In 1983 the Portuguese government awarded him the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator, the highest award presented to a civilian, for his pioneer work in the field of broadcasting and journalism.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of materials related to Affonso’s career and accomplishments as a radio broadcaster and journalist, personal documents and photographs, immigration and naturalization records, and records related to the monarchist cause.

Acquisition: The collection was donated by Otilia Ferreira, daughter of Affonso Ferreira-Ferreira Mendes in 2005 and 2006.

Access: Unrestricted

Language: materials in Portuguese and English

See also: MC 54/PAA: Affonso Ferreira-Ferreira Mendes Collection of Portuguese Musical Recordings, 1930s-1950s

MC 85/PAA: *A Voz de Portugal* “The Voice of Portugal”

O Heraldo Portugues: <http://lib.umassd.edu/archives/paa/PADigitalNewsColl.html>

Processing Note:

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
		<i>Comendador da Ordem do Infante Dom Henrique/ Commander of the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator</i> May 26, 1983
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certificate and medal• Congratulatory letters• Photographs• Newspaper articles• Text of the WPEP Community Salute
		Proclamations, Citations, Awards and Medals
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City of Taunton “Proclamation—Affonso Gil Mendes Ferreira Day” September 6, 1983• City of Fall River “Citation—Afonso Gil Ferreira Mendes, July 23rd, 1933-July 23rd, 1983. In recognition of Golden Anniversary Radio Broadcaster A Voz de Portugal and Print Journalist”

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognition to “Affonso Ferreira for the 26 years on the Voice of Portugal radio program” July 10, 1969
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the House of Representatives “Citation—Affonso Gil Mendes Ferreira—in recognition of his many outstanding contributions and his dedicated and tireless service to the Portuguese community”, September 11, 1983
- State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations “Citation—Alfonso Gil Ferreira (Ferreira-Mendes) in recognition of 50 years of unselfish and dedicated service to R.I.’s Portuguese American community” September 8, 1983
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Senate “Official Resolutions—Affonso Ferreira, in recognition of 40 years participation in the *Voice of Portugal* radion program” September 21, 1972
- The Portuguese Continental Union of the United States of America
- The Portuguese American Federation Inc.

Personal Documents

- Death Benefit Certificate issued by the Supreme Lodge of the Portuguese Continental Union of the United States of America for Justina Santos Ferreira
- “Buy War Bonds” brochure
- *A Cidade de Evora ou Apontamentos sobre A Cidade de Evora e seus monumentos* (1900) by Caetano da Camara Manoel
- “Happy Anniversary” card from the Central Association of the Miraculous Medal sent by Mrs. Arruda
- Program “Humberto Cardinal Medeiros, D.D.—Honorary Member Don Luiz Filipe Association”
- “Our Lady of Lourdes—First Annual Harvest Ball” program, November 16 1962
- 1924-1964 *Souvenir Book published every five years by the Portuguese Alliance Ben. Association of Massachusetts*
- *Familiar Paroquial de Santo António de Lisboa Church*, bulletin, September 15 2002
- Newspaper articles
- 1988 Christmas card from “A Casa da Divina Providência e de Maria Auxiladora”
- Remitters receipts
- Purchaser’s receipt from John G. Lage
- John F. Parker’s business card [while Republican floor leader] with personal note

Immigration and Naturalization Records

- Inspection card
- Passage ticket for the *Canada*
- Ministério da Guerra, 2ª Direcção Geral, 5ª Repartição do Serviço da Saude
- Model nº13—Ordem do Exercito nº15-1916
- Correspondence between Affonso Gil Ferreira Mendes and Alfonso Ferreira [uncle]
- Receipts from travel agency for passage

- Remittance for payment for passage from Lisbon
 - Naturalization certificates for Affonso Ferreira and Maria Rose Ferreira
- Photographs
- “Father and his boys”, “Fonseca brothers”
 - Wedding portrait (digital image)
 - Patrocinia Coutinho Santos and Pedro Santos (maternal grandparents) holding son Joachim Santos c. 1914
 - Various portraits of Gil
- O Heraldo Portugues*
- Letterhead
- Juventudes Monarchicas Conservadoras
- Centro Monarchico Portuguez
 - Documents related to the Liga Monarchica Portugueza dos Estados da America do Norte
 - Portrait of D. Manuel II of Portugal [last Portuguese monarch]
- John Parker
- Address
 - Flag
- Postcards
- Various locations and personalities
- Voz de Portugal*
- Newspaper articles
 - Scrapbooks
 - List of money collected on radio program [names and amounts]
 - “Relação das musicas do Sr. Padre F. Alves”
 - Thank you from Bonneville International Corporation for the program
 - Text for programs
 - Letterhead
 - Correspondence regarding money {thank you letters and requests}
 - LP player
- Various newspapers