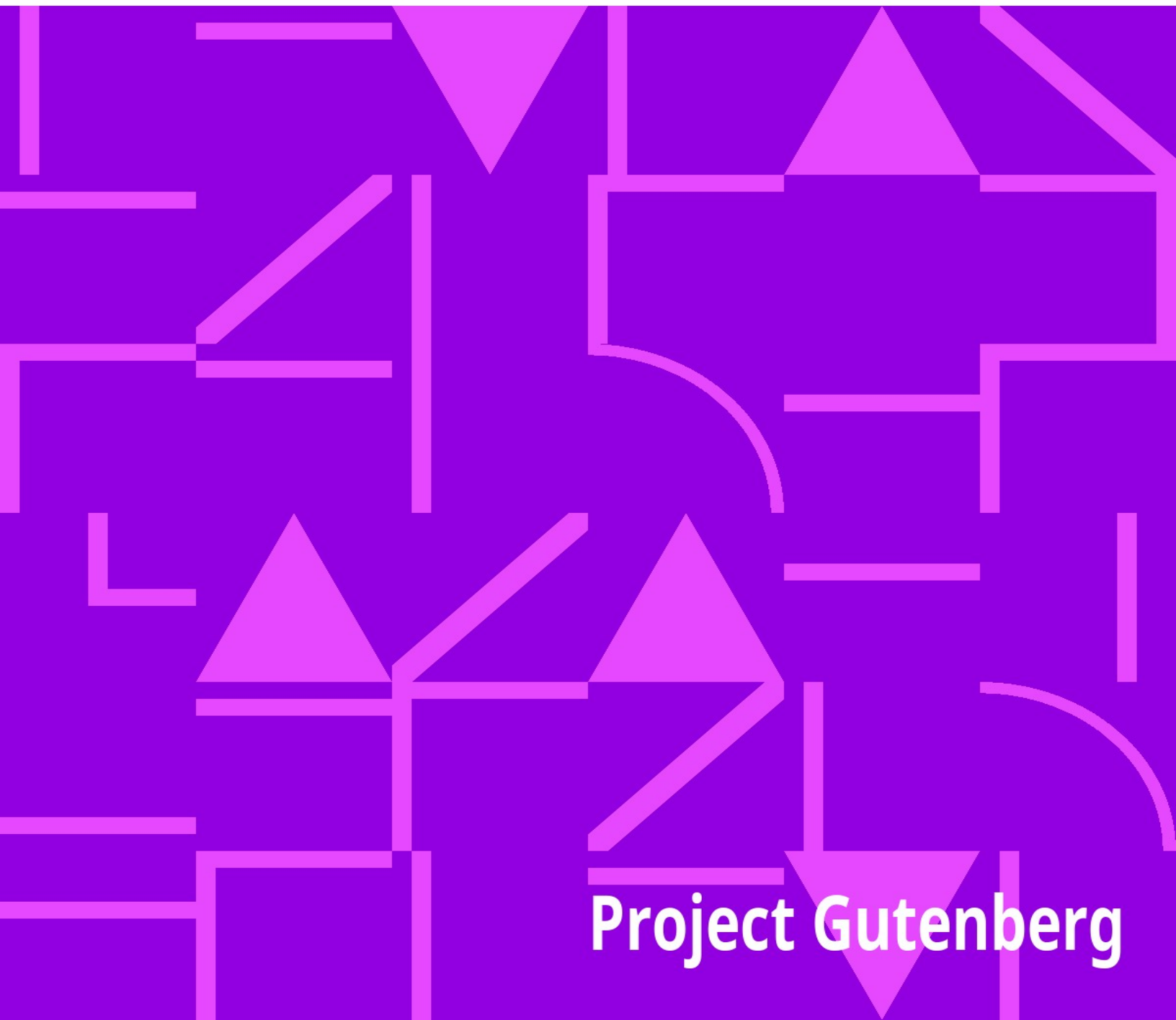


Testamento Poetico-Anachreontico

João de Figueiredo Maio e Lima



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TESTAMENTO POETICO-ANACHREONTICO ***

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TESTAMENTO

POETICO-ANACHREONTICO

POR

+João de Figueiredo Maio e Lima+

(Precedido d'uma noticia bibliographica pelo editor e d'uma poesia
dedicatoria pelo dr. Francisco Nunes Pousão).

EDITOR

Antonio José Torres de Carvalho

ELVAS

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ELVAS Typographia e Stereotypia Progresso *Rua de Manoel
Gomes Estella, 2-B*

1906

JOÃO DE FIGUEIREDO MAIO E LIMA

+Noticia bibliographica+

Á falta de elementos proprios para traçar uma ligeira bibliographia de tão distincto poeta soccorremo-nos das poucas noticias colhidas a seu respeito por Innocencio da Silva e Nunes Pousão.

João de Figueiredo Maio e Lima, author da Ode epodica que sob a epigraphie—*Testamento poetico-anachreontico*—publicou em 1838 no *Ramalhete*, jornal d'instrucção e recreio, nasceu, no Alemtejo, na villa das Galvêas, em 10 de Fevereiro de 1779, sendo seus paes Bernardo de Figueiredo Maio e Lima e D. Joanna Michaéla de Bastos.

Destinado á vida ecclesiastica e já professo na ordem de Aviz, cursava em 1808 os estudos universitarios de Coimbra, quando as hostes napoleonicas irromperam em Portugal.

Levado quiça do ardor da mocidade e de seus sentimentos patrioticos, interrompeu a carreira academica e sentou praça de cadete em artilharia 3, onde serviu por espaço d'um anno, findo o

qual, foi promovido a alferes para o regimento de infantaria 22, em cujo posto e corpo se conservou até ao termo da campanha.

Com que saudade elle invoca o *venturoso* tempo em que, esbelto mancebo, lustrava a sua brilhante farda d'official pelas ruas d'Elvas!...

Bastas vezes pediu e instou em prosa e verso para ser elevado ao posto de capitão, mas nunca obteve o desejado deferimento.

Julgando-se preterido em seus direitos não poucas vezes requereu tambem sem ser attendido, a exoneração do serviço, que só lhe veio a ser concedida em 1814, quando finda a guerra peninsular.

Desligado da vida de soldado, voltou de novo os olhos para o altar, entrando como freire professo na ordem d'Aviz, e, ordenando-se pouco depois de presbytero, conseguiu o priorado da matriz da villa de Borba que era da apresentação dos freires d'Aviz.

Aqui, na pastoreação do seu rebanho e no cultivo predilecto das bellas lettras, perdeu completamente a luz dos olhos, mas não a do espirito rutilante que resalta da composição agora reproduzida, e que, como outras do author, não merecia ser votada ao esquecimento.

Maio e Lima—tem qualidades poeticas apreciaveis: vivo de phantasia, feliz nas imagens, harmonioso no canto e correcto na metrificacção, é pouco menos que conhecido, ainda entre gente lida e illustrada.

Verdade seja que identico stygma pesa ingratamente sobre outros poetas. Quem se lembra hoje, por exemplo, de João Xavier de Mattos, cujas odes e canções encantam pela concepção, contextura e harmonia?!... E comtudo merecia não ser esquecido numa litteratura onde os verdadeiros engenhos não abundam.

Dá-se frequentemente no mundo intellectual o phenomeno singular d'uma lei do mundo physico: as *palhas* sobrenadam ou fluctuam á superficie do lago, em quanto os *graves* se afundam nos abysmos do pego!...

Reparâmos em parte a injustiça trazendo novamente á luz o *Testamento* de Maio e Lima que inspirou a Francisco Nunes Pousão, quando delegado do procurador regio em Elvas, a poesia dedicatoria, inedita, que o precede.

Não perdoaram ao poeta, cego e sexagenario, que esquecesse a gravidade do sacerdocio, e bem caro lhe fizeram pagar a ousio da sua musa erotica e travêssa arrojando-o aos horrores d'uma prisão, onde jazeria os ultimos annos da vida, se mão piedosa e valedora o não fosse de lá arrancar.

O seu temperamento e rara energia resistiram ainda por muito tempo ás vicissitudes da sua existencia atribulada, pois que tendo publicado o *Testamento* em 1838, só veio a fallecer 12 annos depois, em 15 de Janeiro de 1851.

Embora publicadas em sua vida, algumas das suas composições, senão todas, são hoje rarissimas. Innocencio dá o catalogo d'ellas, a que juntaremos uma *Ode* dedicada ao seu amigo dr. José Valentim d'Oliveira e Gama, a qual reputâmos inedita e que brevemente publicaremos.

+A João de Figueiredo Maio e Lima+

D'um destino cruel ferio-te a farpa...
Véo de prantos nas faces te desceu!
Em lagrimas soltaste então da harpa
Tristes cantos de dôr, que me prendeu.

Tu havias cantado a relva, as flôres
O estendal de matiz do patrio Sôr,
E o gorgueio das aves, e os pastores,
E d'estes o singello, ardente amor;

As campestres choréas... as meiguices
Da pastora gentil ao seu dilecto...
Do amor juvenil as mil doidices...
Vehementes canções d'um igneo affecto;

Aquellas confissões, que d'alma sahem
Á luz da meiga lua, junto á fonte...
E as promessas, que a flux dos labios cahem
E os adeoses, que curvão triste a fronte;

Aquelles *sins* soltados tão medrosos
Em tapetes florídos nos rosaes...
Aquelles mil protestos calorosos,
Que d'amor a chamma accendem muito mais!...

Quando a patria depois pedio teu braço,
Tu da patria o pendão seguiste altivo;
Mas sempre da ventura o sopro escasso!
Mas sempre da intriga um traço vivo!

Tu infloras então o aureo plectro
Das saudades, que tens, co'a roxa flôr;
Relembras, Figueiredo! em triste metro
Os tempos juvenis no argenteo Sôr;

E os jardins amenos do teu rio *Mais doces, mais mimosos, mais dourados* [1] De mais verde tapete e mais macio *Que os Jardins das Hesperídos sonhados!*

[1] Os versos em letra italica são tirados da varias composições do poeta Figueiredo.

É de ver como então plangente endeixa
Lembra o tempo da tua Marcía qu'rida,
Como em terno suspiro a dor se queixa,
Como a alma na dôr se vai perdida!!

E tu cantas tambem, como aborrias
Do Sacerdocio a vida destinada,
Pensando em modos mil, por que podias
Sem ser padre no Céu dar a entrada!

Contra a França em soccorro a patria chama
Ai! do filho! que a mãe não vio bradar!
Brandos myrthos, que a doce Venus ama
Pelos louros mavorcios vaes trocar!

Longo tempo nas armas é passado
E mão clemente a banda te cingia...
Mas pela *cara irmã* (rigor do fado!)
Dragona solitaria em vão carpia.

Mais tarde, Lima! a *Virgem Durindana*
Trocaste pela estolla, pelo altar;
Como dizes, rubra cinta ao Guadiana
Aureas franjas e elmo vaes lançar.

Mas n'essa nova senda ora trilhada
Sempre as plantas o espinho vem fender;
No fatal *Testamento* desfolhada
A rosa da ventura vês morrer!

É certo, Figueiredo, que imprudente
Foste um pouco no acceso imaginar!
Ergueu-se em altos vôos teu estro ardente,
E não viste o calyx sancto, o teu altar!!

Pobre Vate! O arrojo bem pagaste!
Em tetrica masmorra o pranto cae!
Mas d'um anjo o amparo emfim ganhaste, [2]
Adeja bemfeitor, soltar-te vae!

[2] A Condessa das Galvêas empenhou-se a favor do poeta para
elle ser solto.

E tornaste, Pastor, ao teu armento!
E voltaste, Poeta, ás tuas canções!
Brilhou de novo o sol no firmamento,
Fallou de novo o plectro aos corações!

Acceita, excelso Vate, em teu sudario,
Aljofar de saudade—este meu pranto!
Ha quem tenha na terra o teu Calvario,
Ai! mas falta-lhe o teu mimoso canto!

N. Pousão.

+Testamento poetico anachreontico+

Aut prodesse volunt, aut delectare Poetoe Horacio—*Art. Poet.*

Na solitaria testa já branqueiam
Os desbotados louros,
Que as Muzas algum dia me enramávam
Com grinaldas de rosas
E em dourados anneis por estes hombros,
Ao desdem esparsidos,
Eram do vento alegre o dezenfado.
D'onze lustros ao pêzo
Á carga enorme o corpo já succumbe
Carunchôzo e quebrado;
Ruga senil as faces lavra e cresta,
Sinto estalar os ossos,
Vérgam as costas, não circula o sangue
Na intumecida artéria;
Frio torpor occupa os membros todos,
Vão-me cahindo os dentes
Uns apóz outros, falta o lume aos olhos,
Aos olhos perspicazes,
Que nos d'outros amantes descubriam
Reconditos mysterios;
E sob o véo mais denso e o mais escuro
De travessas Nerinas

Os lacteos peitos, os limões de neve,
Quando de amôr e zêlos,
De susto ou de prazer lhes tetilavam.
Não, meus socios amigos,
Não me custa, não vêr o Sol brilhante,
A rôxa, a fresca Aurora,
O Iris de furta côres, o d'estrellas
Azul manto da Noite
Cá e lá embutido, plantas, bosques,
Loura seara ondeando
Com o bafejado Norte, um horizonte
Immenso e dilatado,
Onde o pincel apura, esgota as tintas,
Toda a Arte, e a Natureza;
Não ver da meiga Lilia as tranças de ouro,
Da trefega Corina
Os gestos, os tregeitos, os acênos
Com que a um tempo engana
Sagaz, dois, trez, quatro, cinco amantes;
Não ver da terna Elfira
Os nedios braços, os cabellos d'ouro;
Não vêr de Clores e Filis
Os rubros lábios, quando a furto beijam
No baile mãos alheias;
Em fim não ver... Não vêr um ar, um rizo,
Uns meneios suaves,
Uns olhos côr do Céu, um alvo rosto,
Eis o que mais me custa!!...
O gáz Celeste, o sácro enthuziasmo,
Que me fervia n'alma,

Já se extinguiu de todo; o arrebatado
Giro dos annos tudo
Levou comsigo inexoravel; tempo,
Tempo aquelle venturoso,
Em que eu d'Elvas as ruas descalçava
Cô a ferrage á ingleza,
Na luzidia bota, e quazi sempre
A passo acelerado:
Quando do infausto gallo negras pennas,
Que outras ainda mais negras
Já então me agouravam, o acharoadado
Murrião meu compunham;
Quando aurea franja me pendia aos hombros,
Purpurea banda á cinta,
Virgineo sábre ao lado, que impio abria
Profundas brexas, rêgos
Em bêcos e travessas da cidade,
E a azul, e airoza farda,
Obra do insigne meste Nigromante
Em Adonis, em Marte,
Me transformáva. E agora esta sotaina
Da côr de meus peccados!
E azas, que o Sul a bel' prazer meneia,
Qual ronceira falua,
Ou barco d'agua-acima com dous rêmos;
Um chapéo de trez ventas,
Candieiro das trévas c'o a pombinha,
Que topeta com tudo,
E diz a todos—Alto! vade rétro!—
Enorme horrenda aranha,

De que o mesmo S. Bento horror teria,
Que aos nossos Hebreos luzos
O seu Moisés tricórnio me figura,
Ou moinho gigantesco
Ao bravo heróe da Mancha! Então que vezes,
Musico Amphião canóro,
Pedras, peitos crueis tornei mais brandos,
Mais dôces, que o mél de Ibla;
Mais que o alvo assucar do Brazil em ponto!
Quantas e quantas vezes,
Manhozas mães, rapôzas surrateiras,
Finas abelhas mestras,
Féros Dragões, mil Argos de cem olhos,
Que guardávam insomnes
D'ouro as bellas maçans, d'Inâco as vaccas,
Outro Alcides valente
Amancei, enganei c'o ambrozia, o pasto
Da mélica Poezia,
E engenhozo Mercurio ao som da flauta,
Ao som da minha Lyra,
Dos Numes, dom adormeci cantando!
Nem vós, cáros doutores,
Jocoso Valentim, sisudo Salles,
Avicenas peritos
Da nossa cidade, Hypócrates famosos,
Deozes da Medicina,
Nem vós co' as garatujas Tubalenses,
Infalveis, heróicos
Filtros, venenos, Sam Migueis, balanças,
Tudo e toda a Pharmácia,

Podiam revocar tam bellos tempos
De saudosa memoria,
Restituir ao pálido semblante
A côr de rosa e neve,
A luz perdida aos olhos, claros dentes
Ao deslocado queixo,
A deserta cabeça povoar-me
De meus antigos louros,
Tornar-me finalmente á juventude;
Nestores de trez séculos,
Mathusalens de novo já caducos,
E sem calôr, nem forças,
Só banhos e aguas do Jurdão remóçam.
Quando alta noite sinto
Bater na velha porta a férrea argólla,
Cuido que a Parca horrenda
Já vem buscar-me, e que me bate á porta
Com a fouce longa e curva,
Impune devassando, e então a que horas!
Das leis em menoscábo,
A casa, o lár, o azilo, o sancto alcaçar,
Os penetraes sagrados
Do cidadão pacífico e innocente,
Que dórme a sômnio solto!
Ah! quando eu lhe cahir nas impias garras
Sabei, ternos amigos,
Minha ultima vontade: não, não quero,
Que a triste campainha
Publique aos mais viventes minha morte
Pelos cantos das ruas,

Que em ádro escuro, em êrmo cemitério
Repousem minhas cinzas;
Nem que o frio cadáver seja invôlto
Em vestimenta escura;
Nem com funebres cirios, negros vultos,
A passo grave e lento,
Mudos cabisbaixos me acompanhem:
Quero que a minha amada
Co' os dêdos de jasmim piedosa e meiga
Meus turvos olhos cêrre,
E co' avarento véo, que ao Sol esconde
Glôbos de neve e leite,
E o Sol beijar dezeja, a derradeira
Lágrima então me enchugue
Ao longo pela face escorregando
Em reluzente fio.
Item—que sôbre o feretro me ponham
A lyra, a penna, a espada,
Que seis louros mancebos revestidos
De tunicas bem alvas,
E ornados de odoríferas cape'las,
Aos hombros me conduzam;
Quero que oito donzellas das mais lindas,
Que houver n'estes contôrnos,
Tambem de branco e flores adornadas,
Ao tumulo precedam,
E que em vêz de canções, tristes endeixas,
Ou luctuozas nenias,
Tangendo adufes, charamellas, flautas,
Me cantem sempre alegres

Hymnos do meu Cãmões, versos de Lôbo,
De Bernardes, e d'outros
Da nossa antiga, illustre, douta, e honrada
Mas pobre confraria:
Que juncto de hum loureiro e de huma fonte
O sepulchro me cavem;
E não quero que o barbaro coveiro,
Homem sem dó, abutre,
De carne morta nunca farto côrvo,
Cô a ferrugenta enxada,
Com maço funeral, rodeiro e horrendo,
Qual de Hercules e clava,
Meus tristes, velhos e cançados ossos
Môa, desfaça, strua,
E a cabeça me quebre ainda em môrto!
Basta, o que basta em vida!—
Item—mais,—que os mancebos, e donzellas
Em tripudios e danças,
Ao derredór da campa honrem meu nome
Porque estou livre e solto
Já do cárcere da vida, tantos males,
Perigos e cegueira;
Que a par e par, de espaço a espaço todos
Venham mui mansamente,
Lançar-me terra, e flores no jazigo;
E trez vezes batendo
Cô esquerdo pé no chão, por Figueiredo
Brádem trez vezes todos,
Dizendo em alta voz: Em páz descança!
A mesma cerimónia

Se fará em meu dia anniversario
Até ao fim do mundo;
Que findas as exéquias, findo tudo
A donzella mais tenra,
Mais môça, mais mimoza, mais galante,
D'entre as oito que fôrem,
Séle, cérre o caixão, e entregue a chave
A Márcia, que beijando-a,
Pranto saudôso ha-de verter sobre ella,
Pranto, que dár podia
Ao môrto vida, se tocásse o morto:
E finalmente quero
Que no tronco do proximo loureiro
Em caracteres grandes,
Por que melhor o viajante o leia,
Se escreva este epitaphio.—
«Aqui jaz Figueiredo, que em mancebo
«Seguiu armas e lettras;
«Não imitou no genio a Homero e Milton,
«Na cegueira imitou-os;
«Foi das nimphas cantor, cantor d'amores,
«Cantou heróes e guerras;
«Foi sempre ao rei fiel, temente aos Deoses,
«Sempre amigo dos homens;
«Sempre objecto da intriga, alvo da inveja,
«Em todos os estados;
«Quanto lhe foi pesada a vida, agora
«Lhe seja a terra leve!»

*** END OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK TESTAMENTO
POETICO-ANACHREONTICO ***

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