

PROJETO ACERVO: INFORMAÇÕES HOSPITAIS COLÔNIAS

1 –Name of the Institution: Hospital Colônia Itapuã (HCI)

2 –Historical Overview

Inaugurated on May 11, 1940, in the district of Itapuã, the Hospital-Colony was constructed in accordance with the national politics of leprosy control. Divided into three zones: “the healthy zone” with the residences of the medical director and the administrator, houses (in pairs) for staff, an electricity generator, a garage and a residence for a driver; an “intermediate zone” consisting of administrative buildings, the bakery, the convent, and the chaplain’s house; the “dirty zone” with 14 pavilions in the “Carville” style, 11 paired houses, a kitchen, a cafeteria, a hospital with outpatient clinics, infirmaries (men and women), a laundry room, a chapel, an incinerator, a morgue, offices, and a cemetery. Next to the entrance to the “dirty zone” were the parlatory (place where patients and family could talk) and the waste site. The hospital still maintains a rural area. Even with though construction was complete, the Leprosarium began to receive patients. In the first year alone hundreds arrived. The Hospital was conceived of as a small city, where the sick would remain isolated to contain the propagation of the disease, a prophylactic measure that remained in practice until the 1950s.

Originating from various other municipalities of the state, the sick found in Itapuã a space designed to protect them, where in addition to the hospital structure there was a structure similar to that of a small city. Within this model were institutions that were meant to be economically self-sustaining, using the work of the interned, who would also be involved in the administrative structure of the colony through filling various positions related to the colony’s functioning.

With medical advances in the treatment of the disease, the 1970s saw the hospital area become particularly useless. In accordance with another aspect of health policy of the same period, mental patients were transferred from Hospital Psiquiátrico São Pedro to HCI, increasing the segregationist nature of the institution.

During the 67 years of its functioning (commemorated this year), HCI received more than 2000 patients. Between treatments that ranged from exclusion, medication, and reintegration, these patients left their personal trajectories, allowing us to retell the story not only of the particularities of this institution, but also of the history of leprosy control in the State.

3. The current situation of the institution:

Today HCI functions as an asylum for those interned with Hansen’s disease and mental illness. It also provides medical services to the surrounding community.

Close to 50 ex-Hansen’s patients live within the institution and 70 within the psychiatric area. The average age of these residents is near 60 years. As a result, several studies

are being done as to what can be done with the area.

Information about Documents and Memoirs

4 –Type of Documentation:

(X) textual (X) Iconographic (X) bibliographic (X) oral

(X) other (specify): MUSEOLOGICO (objects)

5 – Aproximate amount of documentation: (units; boxes of archives, volumes: *specify the maximum amount*)

1. Textual: aproximately 60 boxes of archives (close to 2000 documents)
2. Iconographic: around 300 photogrpahs
3. Bibliographic: close to 100 books
4. Oral: 15 interviews
5. Other: different objects from the hospital (unknown amount)

6 – Is there some time of preservation project?

(X) yes () no

7 – If yes: What type of preservation work is being done?

- () Museum
() Memorial
(X) Center of Documentation
() Library
() Other: specify

8 – Regarding the place where the documents are kept:

8.1 Within the institution

(X) yes () no

8.2. In satisfactory condition

() yes

(X) no

9 – The location is furnished: (*shelves, work table, etc.*)

The location has close to 10 steel shelves, 3 wooden closets, 1 wooden table, 3 chairs, and one steel file cabinet

10 – Summary of the work:

With the Center of Documentation and Research (CEDOPE/HCI) having been instituted in 1999, up until now, the documents have been divided according to their origin (the Charitable Society, or *Caixa Beneficiente*; the city hall of the interned; etc); put into identified archives; cleaned; and have had their content summarized.

11 – The current state of development of the historical: *(If there is some kind of organization of documents, lists, files, etc, describe how the documents were listed, the years covered by the documentation, in short as much information as possible so that we can do a precise diagnosis)*

Part of the work that has been done in CEDOPE/HCI needs to be redone due to structural and administrative problems in the hospital in recent years. Much information and organization has been lost. Nonetheless, the documental archive CEDOPE is partially organized into the following sections:

- Administration;
- Regiments;
- City Hall;
- SAME (Medical Archives Registry)
- AFUCI (Association of Workers at Colony Hospital Itapua)
- The Santa Cruz Protectorate;
- Religious themes;
- CAR
- Movie theater;
- Mother's club;
- Charity House;
- Community movements;
- The Frei Pacífico School;
- The Sports Club of Itapuã;
- Social Services;
- The Internment Unit of Hansen's Patients;
- The Psychiatric Internment Unit;
- Vigilance;
- Finances;
- Recreation House;
- Testimonials;
- Photographs

The documentation was listed, as previously mentioned, according to its origin. This documentation corresponds basically to the period between 1940 and 1980.

12 – Human resources involved *(quantify and qualify)*

Even though human resources were not reserved for CEDOPE, the minimal organization attained was completed with the work of a previous institutional administration and the work of volunteers.

13 – Financial resources: (how was this work done, is there some kind of financial support, what type, from where)

This work was done without any financial support.

14 – Does the community within the Colony know about the work that is being done:

(X) yes

() no

14.1. Is the community involved in this work:

() yes

(X) no

15. Is there some kind of recovery of residents' experiences through Oral History?

(X) yes

() no

16. Is there some kind of work about the history of the institution?? (academic, institutional, etc)

(X) yes

() no

SERRES, Juliane C. Primon. “Nós não caminhamos sós”: o Hospital Colônia Itapuã E o combate à Lepra no Rio Grande do Sul (1920-1950). São Leopoldo, RS, Brasil. 2004. (Dissertação de Mestrado).

QUEVEDO, Éverton Reis. “Isolamento, isolamento e ainda isolamento”: O Hospital Colônia Itapuã e o Amparo Santa Cruz na profilaxia da lepra no Rio Grande do Sul. PUCRS, 2005. (Dissertação de Mestrado).

FONTOURA, Arsele de Andrade; BARCELOS, Artur HF; BORGES, Viviane Trindade. Desvendando uma história de exclusão: a experiência do Centro de Documentação e Pesquisa do Hospital-Colônia Itapuã. *História, Ciências e Saúde – Manguinhos* v. 10 (supplement 1) 397-414, 2003.

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