

90-Day Print Garden

Museum of Goa MORPHOLOGY OF ARCHIVE: CONNECTED HISTORIES OF GOA

Starting in February 1st , I sent a daily postcard with an imaginary correspondence of Orta, a 16th century herbalist with Goans until the 2 of May when the show closed. The correspondence transforms an archive giving it a new shape which grows from day to day. The postcards are hung on strings with clothes pegs. Day by day, the collection of postcards grew as a garden.

The imaginary dialogue drew on the words by [Garcia de Orta](#), a [Portuguese Jewish](#) physician and naturalist, a pioneer of [tropical medicine](#) and published in Goa 1563, '*Colóquios* ' or *Conversations on the simples, drugs and materia medica of India and also on some fruits found there, in which some matters relevant to medicine, practice, and other matters good to know are discussed*'.

Orta worked and carried out his research at [Goa](#), where he died in 1568.

Colóquios is in a dialogue format. It consists of a series of 57 conversations between Garcia de Orta and an imaginary colleague, Ruano, who is visiting India and wishes to know more about its drugs, spices and other natural products. I imagined myself to be Orta and I wrote to:

- Antonia, a slave, Garcia de Orta's research assistant
- Several unnamed slaves
- D. Jeronimo, brother of a cholera sufferer
- Dimas Bosque, a colleague who also contributes a preface to the book
- Malupa, an Indian physician

wikipedia

Garcia de Orta was the first European to catalogue Indian medicinal herbs in their native habitat collaborating with local Indian doctors and herbalists.

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/printpostcard/>

The project was part of Museum of Goa's MORPHOLOGY OF ARCHIVE: CONNECTED HISTORIES OF GOA

Morphology of Archive, an international exhibition featuring the work of thirty three artists curated by Sabitha TP and Lina Vincent, is conceptualised around connected migrant histories of Goa. Goa's position as a significant port of trade and travel creates a unique cosmopolitan archive from which the various agents of history emerge. Goa has been an active site of trade and conquest from the 350 years of medieval Kadamba rule to the more recent 450 years under the Portuguese, profoundly shaping its architecture, music, cuisine, customs, and morphing identities. It is this deep cosmopolitanism in the internal and external landscape of Goa that this exhibition reflects.

Morphology of Archive is a multimedia artistic engagement with the archive

of transoceanic associations with Goa, its memories of other places, other peoples, other visual and tactile cultures that have all gone into the making of its diverse identity.

Web: www.museumofgoa.com