

The wedding

Maria Augusta Viana Bandeira (23/Oct/1855 – 27/Apr/1948) was an outstanding figure in Rui's life. She was the penultimate of the five children of modest civil servant Alfredo Ferreira Bandeira, from a traditional Bahian family, and Maria Luísa Viana Ferreira Bandeira. Taller than Rui, she was of slender build, walked with graceful and pride, and displayed an almost irritating, though natural, pose that made her look like a grand lady. Doctor Salustiano Ferreira Souto, a friend of the family, introduced Rui to Maria Augusta.

Letter from Rui Barbosa to Maria Augusta from August 1, 1876.

Maria Augusta, dear bride. Allow me to offer you these songs, which I mention here. If I send you them, it is because each one of them kindled in me remembrance of you. The first is Gottschalk's "Ricordati", a melancholy and mournful harmony like my musings at night, thinking of my soul's beloved bride. [...] Lambert's "Piaisir des champs" is a beautiful stretch; and, I don't know why, it vividly reminded me of that Sunday in Barra, where we spent hours beside each other under the shade of the trees, among our dear family. We were so happy! "Premier jour de bonheur" deserves its seductive name. Serene and home-sick as reminiscent of the first hours of the love that reveals itself. Do you remember, my Cota? [...] "Stella confidente" and the answer "Non ti scordar di me", those I recommend with a lot of expertise and commitment. [...] Go for thee – "Je t'aime!" – "Dize-me que me amas" ("Tell me you love me" – "Deixe-me adormecer sobre o seu coração" ("Let me fall asleep upon your heart" – "Não chores mais, meu bem!" Cry no more, my dear!) – "Tudo nos diz esperança" (Everything tells us to hope) – Each of these expresses a feeling I or you feel." (BARBOSA, Rui, 1876, p. 358).



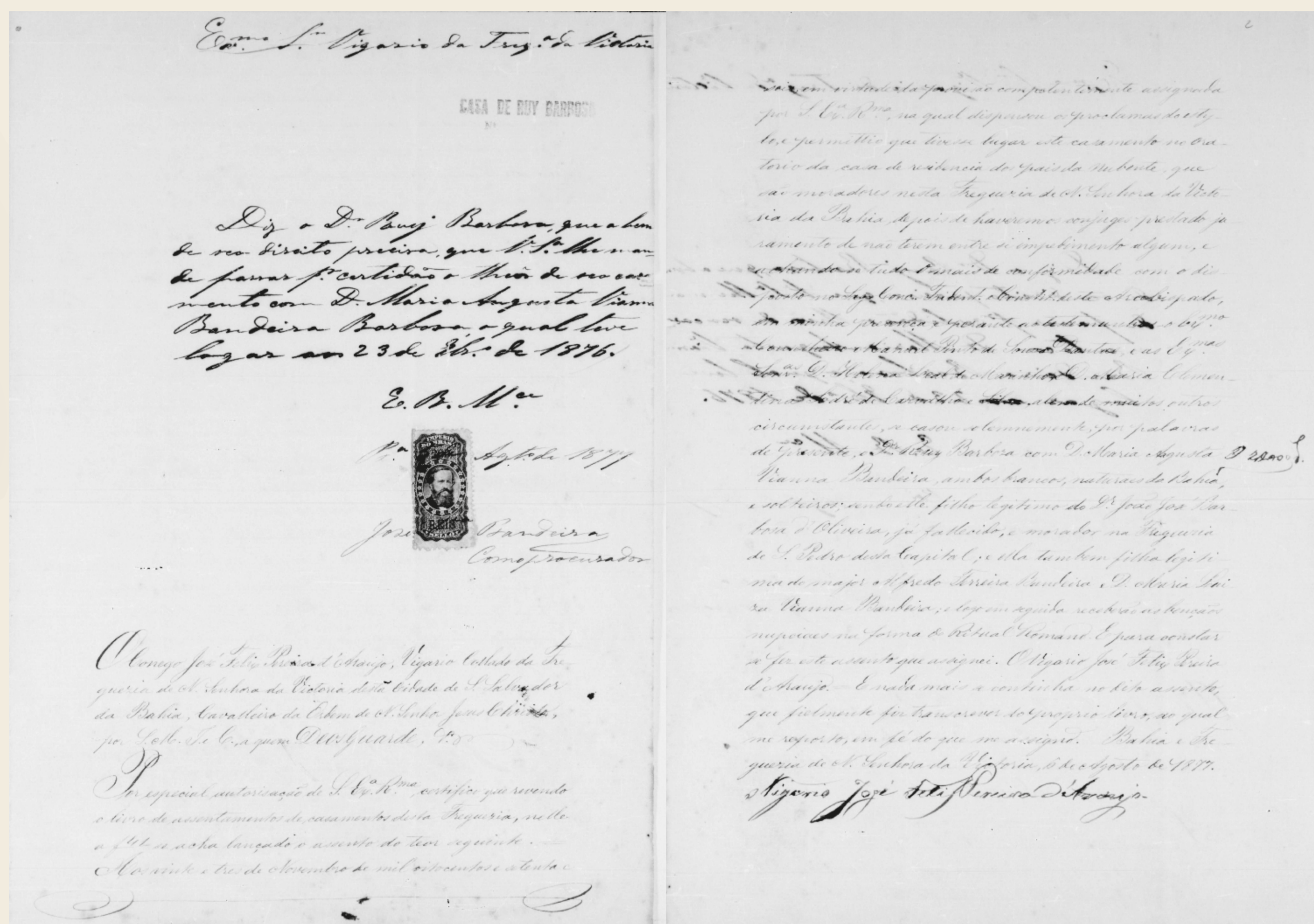
Maria Augusta Rui Barbosa, 1890.
Original from "Photographia americana"



Lenka hraje: L. M. Gottschalk - Ricordati

To my wife, whose brave and effective sympathy for all causes of the heart, freedom and honor has always been an inspiration, or an encouragement in the good deeds of my life." (BARBOSA, Rui, 1892. p. 7)

They got married on November 23, 1876; she was 21 and he, 27, already at the beginning of his brilliant career as a lawyer, a speaker and a journalist. She always treated him with great affection, calling him "my son".



Wedding certificate.

[...] the most inescapable of all influences that work on the formation of human nature, in all its elements, is the woman. Mother, lover, wife, daughter, teacher, she is the explanation for both the individual and society. The greatest men of all the centuries owed their first inspirations and their first habits of thought to the tutelary providence of their childhood; and, in the most obscure individuality, the conscience that searches the unfathomable bottom for the intimate riddles of our existence and our destiny, will perchance not unearth a vocation, an insistent idea, a lonely feeling, whose springs are not lost, during the first years of life, in the bosom of a mother." (BARBOSA, Rui, 1882. p. 263)

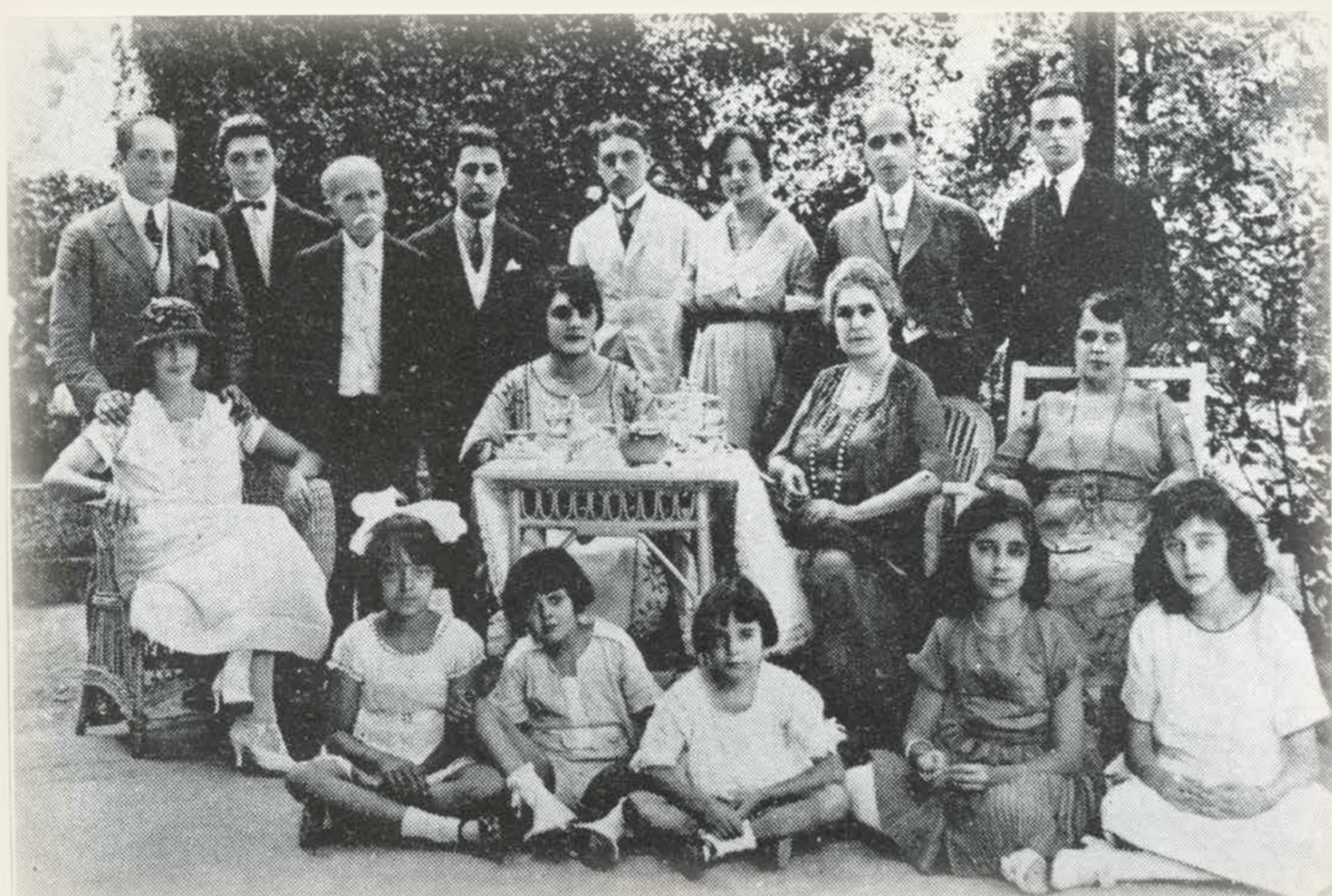
Poem dedicated to Maria Augusta. Written in the year of the wedding.

"To M.A.

Your curly hair in those days
You let me see always
In long rings black
Down thy shoulders raining.
My soul, in those locks
Caught in love's trappings;
And my eyes, with desire burning
Never tired of looking." (BARBOSA, Rui, 1876)"



Rui Barbosa and Maria Augusta, [1916].



Rui Barbosa and his family in the garden.

Five children were born from their union: Maria Adélia (1878), Alfredo Rui (1879), Francisca (1880), João (1890) and Maria Luísa Vitória (1894).

"Never in my life have I seen such passion. Should she die first, I don't think he would resist. It's not that he loved her more than she loved him, but that papa had that very affectionate temper; mamma too, but he was madly in love with her." (PEREIRA, STELLA MARIA BATISTA, 1985)