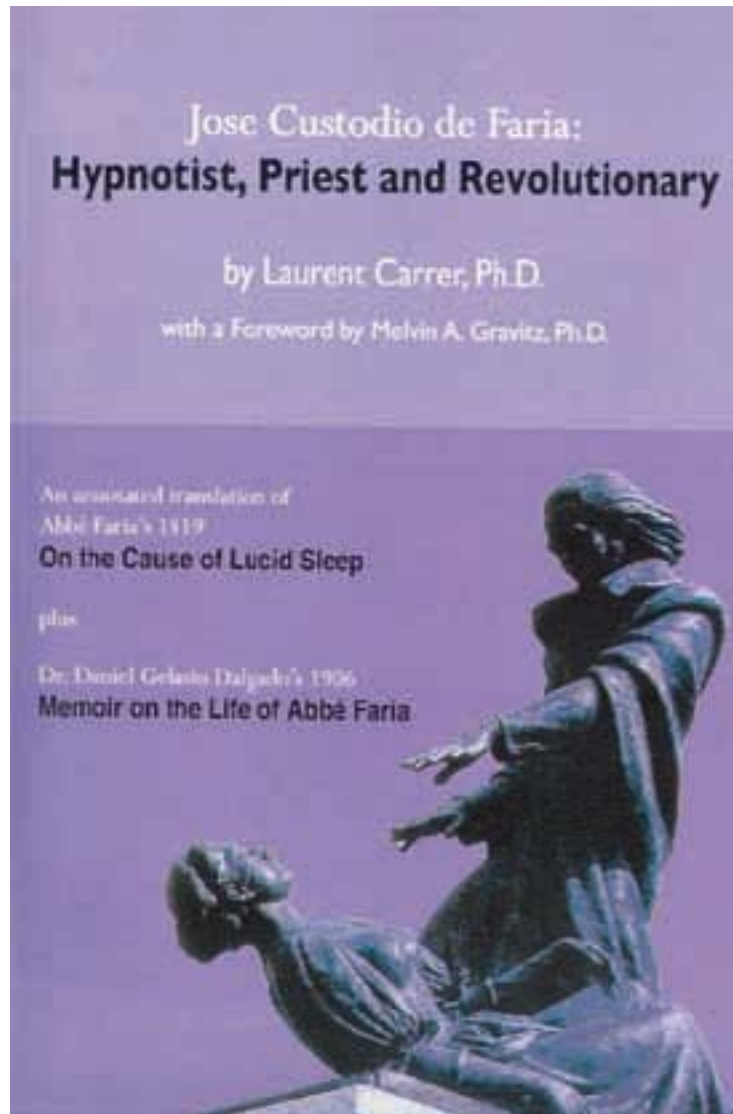


A book that no Goa lover should miss. **Goa Research Net** is dedicated to Abbé Faria and carries him on its logo.



<http://www.trafford.com/robots/04-2296.html>

Jose Custodio de Faria: Hypnotist, Priest and Revolutionary
by Laurent Carrer, PhD, with foreword by Melvin A. Gravitz, PhD
307 pages; Perfect bound; catalogue #04-2296; ISBN 1-4120-4488-X;
US\$35.00, C\$44.00, EUR28.60, £19.82

A quirky fictional individual named Abbé Faria became popular when the movie *The Count of Monte Cristo*, an adaptation of the Alexandre Dumas

1844 novel, was released in 2002. Few know, however, that the character of the old man imprisoned with Edmond Dantes in the sinister Castle of If was loosely based on José Custodio de Faria (known as Abbé Faria), a pioneer of hypnosis whose life was as exciting, adventurous and eventful as any swashbuckler.

* * *

This is the first English translation of the 1906 edition of Abbé Faria's 1819 *De la cause du sommeil lucide*. Several modern researchers have looked at the original French text in an attempt to extract its essential matter, only to find themselves recoiling in terror: tackling 18th Century language and concepts expressed awkwardly by a non French native is indeed not for the faint of heart. But Carrer took up the gauntlet. A veteran translator and practicing hypnotherapist, he has delivered yet another masterful annotated translation more legible than its original.

This book also contains Laurent's translation of *Memoir on the Life of Abbé Faria*, a 1906 study by Dr. Daniel Gelasio Dalgado, of the Royal Academy of Sciences in Lisbon. Dalgado presents copious biographical data unavailable almost anywhere else today, retracing in detail the famous priest's life from his native Goa to Paris, by way of Lisbon and Rome. His research is thorough, and sources are copiously cited.

Laurent has strewn his text with informative historical, literary and linguistic notes explaining certain terms, untangling complex historical events and at times correcting erroneous names, facts or statements.

While hypnosis enthusiasts may already be familiar with Faria's role in the history of psychology, the following synopsis may help summarize the scope of his influential work.

* * *

Faria's contributions to the field of hypnosis:

- Experimented with hypnosis, a state he called "lucid sleep," on more than five thousand individuals.
- Questioned Mesmer's theory of magnetic fluid and believed that "magnetic fits" were not only unnecessary to healing, but potentially harmful. His own approach was to keep his subjects in a state of calm, and he believed the magnetic fit to be "a state contrary to the normal development of nature."
- Held the original view, though uncomfortably caught between Mesmerists, skeptics and religious opponents, that hypnotic phenomena were not due to magnetism, trickery or the Devil but to the expectancy and cooperation of the patient.
- Discovered the suggestive method of inducing and interrupting trance verbally.
- Observed and described numerous hypnotic phenomena, now well known, and gave them psychological explanations.
- Postulated that ordinary sleep and the hypnotic state are of similar nature (a theory that was later adopted by the School of Nancy, but has now been proven wrong).

ADDENDUM

To the bibliography presented by Laurent Carrer, we could draw attention to the Portuguese nobel laureate Dr. Egas Moniz, *O Padre*

Faria na história do hipnotismo (Abbé Faria in the history of hypnotism), Lisbon, 1925.

<http://nobelprize.org/medicine/laureates/1949/moniz-bio.html>

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