

Above is a rambling kind of description of some of the things used in celebrating Carnaval. How do the people go about their celebrating? Some dress up, in costumes varying from just masks to fancy dresses, from the clothing of the poor, which many people here can find fairly easily, to the beautiful costumes which are like those which have been until recent years quite customarily worn in some part of Portugal. Other dress as clowns. Quite frequently there were men dressed as women, but more frequently women dressed as men. In the public gardens the photographers did a good deal of business for three days. But the costumes of Portugal, national costumes, were quite lacking I should say. And the youngsters were dressed in costumes which delighted the fancy of the parents many times I think. But the majority of the dress-up ones were artfully done, and beautiful in design, form and colors. I hope later to have some pictures in color for you to see. Whether these colors are like those of the South American Carnaval costumes I dare not say. I saw no movies, and know too little about the South American ways, but there is apparently a similarity or two.

I got^A pictures of a pretty little girl with dark curls (quite typical of Portuguese youngsters of course, though some have very straight hair) in her clown suit of red with big black dots on it. I hope I caught some of the sparkle in her dark eyes under the white cap with its black dots. She was buying a balloon from the vendor when I took her picture and was all excited. I was not successful when I asked what I assume was a fond granddad for a picture of his teen-aged charming neta (granddaughter) in her becoming yellow silk full skirt with black hearts design appliqué, embroidered basque, vest, in black, with gold and red and blue threads as I remember, light blue kerchief under a flat, black, round and boxlike cap. I think she was wearing some sort of wooden shoe, but don't remember at all about stockings. Guess not much of the stockings showed, but I can imagine they were in keeping. The girl's complexion was dusky with rose. She had long dark curls and lovely eyes. Nose slightly curved. All in all a lovely picture. I wish I could have captured it in film, but her escort said no. After that I could have snapped, but decided not to. Too many photographers walk the Avenida de Liberdade where I saw this youngsters. They are always appearing to snap and then always handing out a card. I think the old man did not really hear me say that I was American. But because of deafness he did not hear, and he took me for a cameraman of the usual order. He did not want anything of the sort and so brushed me off. A few seconds later he and his neta stopped and I think she was saying that she would not mind having me take a picture, but of course the old gentleman had said no and could not very well turn about and say something different. And I did not ask again. Perhaps I should have. On the other hand, I might have been rebuffed again, and I would not have felt good about that. So-o-o-o, no picture. Later I got several which I hope will turn out, but enough of this and on to Tuesday night.

After using up my film on the costumes and crowds at Restauradores I went back to a simple afternoon party at our teacher's house and got sprayed with water immediately. Afterward heard a bit more about the customs of Carnaval, had tea and cakes and got back home in time to help take care of the boys and go out to the party at the Episcopal church. The young people of several churches put on a bang-up grand one-act play, written by one of them, followed by dramatic recitations and songs in harmony with the festive occasion. It was nicely done and fun on both sides, for the actors and the audience.

Now if I have omitted something, check with Ruby. But I think I have told you more than I told her. We got in late Tuesday night the 10th of February. But we thought that at least not all of the celebration was along the lines of eating much meat before the days of fasting began. Of course there is some licentiousness connected with some of the observances. I say "of course". I am told so. Meat eating is also taken in the figurative sense and apparently