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Towards a Biography of Jacinto Cordeiro

What we know about the life of the Portuguese *comedia* author Jacinto Cordeiro can be summarized in few words: he was born in Lisbon, reportedly in 1606, and later garnered fame as an accomplished poet and playwright whose work was staged across the Iberian Peninsula. He was also a soldier, an *alférez*, who embraced the cause for Portuguese independence, as evidenced by the poems *Silva al Rey Nosso Senhor Dom Ioam Quarto* (1641) and *Triumpho françes* (1641). Cordeiro died in his native city on the 28th of February in 1646, only six years after the restoration of the Lusitanian Monarchy. His body was laid to rest in Lisbon's Santa Maria Magdalena parish. Cordeiro was, by all accounts, one of Lisbon's most prolific and celebrated dramatists during a period in Lusitanian theater dominated by plays written in Spanish by Spaniards. Still, the most basic information about his career and life remain a mystery. This study aims to fill, in part, this void by using manuscripts recently made available in digital form to establish a timeline of Cordeiro's movement from Lisbon to Madrid and back, and argues that his apparent friendship with noted *autor* and actor Bartolomé Romero places Cordeiro in Madrid in the mid-1620s, at the height of his career. This evidence indicates that Cordeiro's reputation was established in Madrilenian *corrales* and not in Lisboan *pátios*, as past critics, myself included, had assumed.