

Dr. Luis Montané Dardé was born in Havana, Cuba on April 7, 1849. At age two his parents took him to France where he stayed for almost a five-lustrum period. He completed Secondary School in literature in Toulouse, France and similar studies in science in Paris. In Paris he joined the medical school from 1867 to 1874. He received his medical training in Barcelona, Spain and Paris, France where he studied under Armand de Quatrefages, Théodore Hamy, and particularly Paul Broca¹. These three eminent professors of Anthropology greatly influenced Dr. Montané's professional activities. His M.D. thesis *Etude anatomique du crane chez les microcephales*² deserved a special mention by the tribunal formed by doctors Broca, Jean-Martin Charcot and Jean Cruvelhier. His thesis resulted in a classification system that was widely attributed to Dr. Broca, rather than Dr. Montané. Before returning to Cuba he revalidated his medical degree in Barcelona, Spain.

During the Franco-Prussian war (1870) he joined the French Army as assistant physician (*Médecin aide-major*). This same year he joined the Anthropological Society of France, which he presided over in 1919. Upon his return to Havana he worked at a civil hospital where he introduced the use of cotton as an everyday practice in the cure of wounds and the application of the Esmarch³ band.

In 1876, the Academy of Medical, Physical and Natural Sciences of Havana created an Anthropology Section presided by Dr. Montané.

In 1888, Dr. Montané led an anthropological expedition to the Sancti-Spitus region, Cuba. At the Boca del Purial cave in the Banao range; he performed important findings of human remains and other signs of an archaic culture of the Indo-Cuban

Paleolithic. The discovery was assigned for some time to the taxon *Homo cubensis*⁴. He continued his exploration in different parts of Cuba.

The University of Havana inaugurated a Museum of Anthropology in 1903, naming it after Dr. Montané.

"Dr. Montané is, by the way, the only person that in Cuba has studied anthropology from a practical point of view and that, additionally, was a favorite pupil of the unforgettable Broca"⁵.

When Dr. Montané decided to retire from his professorial activities, he went to live in France. He spent the last days of his life at Chatou (Seine et Oise) at "Villa Carmen", dying in Paris on December 1, 1936.

The French government appointed him *Chevalier de la Legion*

d'Honneur. France also honored him with the Order of the Academic Glory as *Officier de' académie*.

Throughout his life, Dr. Luis Montané received many honors and decorations. He authored many papers, mainly in the area of anthropology and was a member of several



Cuba June 29, 1963 (Scott # 791-93)
Taino Civilization Artifacts from the Montané Anthropology Museum
2c, Cemi Taino(ritual effigy) 3c Dujo Taino(wood-carved throne)
9c Cemi Taino(stone-carved figurine)

anthropological societies.

"During his career, Montané was an active participant in international anthropology circles, attending meetings and delivering papers in Europe and throughout the Americas. He served as an official delegate from Cuba to scientific congresses in Monaco and Turin in 1906 and as a corresponding member of several european and american scientific societies"⁶.

The Cuban Postal Administration issued a set of three stamps (Scott 791/93) in 1963, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the Montané Anthropology Museum.

¹ Montané, Luis (1849-1936) by Professor Curtis W. Wienker

² Six lithographic plates by Formant (Paris, 1874.) accompanied this study

³ Friedrich August von Esmarch (1823-1908). German surgeon. He was a pioneer in asepsis and antisepsis. He introduced a compressor to stop hemorrhage, an elastic band, and an anesthetic mask.

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⁵ "Deformaciones artificiales del cráneo." Dr. José R. Montalvo. Sociedad Antropológica. Revista de Cuba, 1884.)

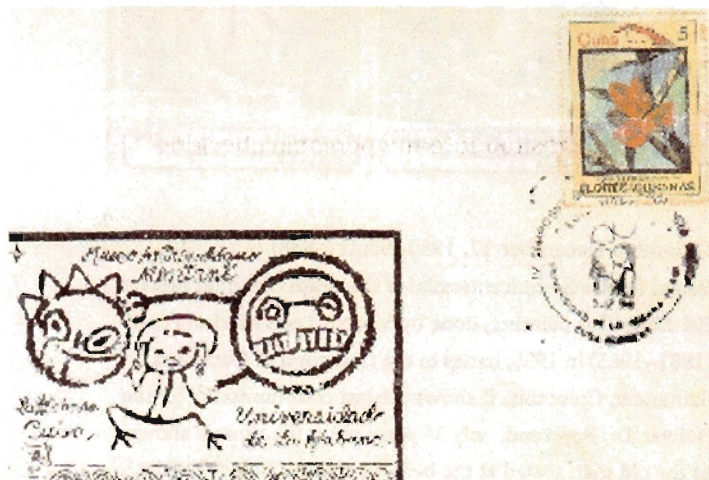
⁶ Professor Curtis W. Wienker

The author wishes to acknowledge the valuable contribution and information provided him by Professor Curtis W. Wienker, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida.

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2. *Montané, Luis (1849 – 1936)*, by Professor Curtis W. Wienker
3. *Montané en Nuestra Antropología*. By Professor Dr. Aristides Mestre (Homage-session April 29, 1938)
4. Information received from M. Adrien Mattatia, Conservateur, Bibliothèque du Musée de l'Homme, Paris, France.



Special cancellation commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Montané Museum in Havana, Cuba.

Parmenides of Elea (circa 515-445bc)

By Adolf W. Schwartz

This philosopher–physician is mainly remembered for his writings: a two volume work on *The Truth and The Semblance*. Very little is known of his education. For a time he lived and taught philosophy and medical subjects on the island of Sardinia.

Like most of the great philosophers the Eleates were physicians. He formulated the law of YES and NO from which he followed the TO BE and NOT TO BE. According to him it is one OR the other while his predecessors like Heraklit postulated the CO-EXISTENCE

of TO BE and NOT TO BE. Many of the Eleates postulated that the human race

originated from the earth (like plants)

and life perpetuated from the balance between cold and warm. The aging process is a gradual loss of warmth with the final disappearance of the warmth after death and its replacement by silence, cold and darkness. At birth the sex of the embryo is determined from which testicle the semen originated and the uterus is the source of the original warmth. Unseen rays radiate from the eyes which touch objects and return to the sender (like radar?).



Portrait cancel from Sant' Arsenio SA (Sardinia) commemorating the Congress of Internal Medicine, November 14, 2003

Adolf W. Schwartz, 3252 Mulberry Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93301–1524

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Luis Montané Dardé, MD

By: Marcos A. Iglesias
Mississauga, Canada

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“Cemís” Taínos (idols) in the Montané Museum.



“Dujo” (seat) Taíno.
Montané Museum, Havana.

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