

Grave of murdered Spanish poet remains unknown

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CBC News



A monolith in memoriam for Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca is seen in the village of Viznar, near Granada, Spain. An excavation nearby failed to yield his remains. (Sergio Torres/Associated Press)

The body of Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca remains missing after a high-profile excavation in southern Spain failed to find human remains.

Garcia Lorca was executed in 1936 at the start of the Spanish Civil War and his killing became a symbol of General Francisco Franco's brutal regime.

Local authorities had ordered excavation of a hillside near Granada believed for decades to be a gravesite for execution victims.

It was the site that Manuel Castilla, a Franco supporter who claimed he had helped to bury Garcia Lorca, had pointed out to Irish historian Ian Gibson in 1966.

But no remains of human bones have been found, according to a report by archeologists from the University of Granada.

Work crews dug down 40 centimetres and then hit rock, reports said.

Garcia Lorca was an acclaimed poet and playwright who penned *Blood Wedding*, *Poet in New York* and *Gypsy Ballads*.

He was captured in August 1936 and shot for his suspected leftist sympathies, along with a teacher and two anarchists. More than 100,000 people went missing during the 1936-39 civil war.

Efforts to find where he was buried were delayed by 40 years of Franco's dictatorship and Spain's uneasy transition to democracy.

The poet's family had opposed the excavations but the families of other people believed to have been killed with him had supported efforts to find the bodies.

With files from The Associated Press

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***narthex* wrote:**Posted 2009/12/18
at 8:29 PM ETincredible

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***camnai* wrote:**Posted 2009/12/18
at 7:53 PM ETEven though the story said 'Federico' by the time I got to it, I saw 'Frederico', just as I have for decades. Thank you, Sparkshiver, for telling me something I didn't know.

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***CynicalDragon* wrote:**Posted 2009/12/18
at 5:08 PM ETTo sparkshiver: I do not understand where you got the misspelled name Frederico. I have read the article and all the comments and not once did I read Frederico....only Federico.

You Should not be so quick to point out mistakes, for you are the only one doing a mistake!!

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***Atropa* wrote:**Posted 2009/12/18
at 4:35 PM ETI learned Spanish just so I could read Lorca without translation. They might not know where your body is, but we know where your spirit it.

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