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THE INSTITUTE FOR MEDIEVAL STUDIES AND ITS RESEARCH ON MARITIME CONFLICTS

The Middle Ages witnessed the first major expansion of maritime trade, which connected rivers, seas and oceans, and the people of different continents and cultures.

The oceans may sometimes be perceived as dangerous places. In fact, in the words of Sebastian I. Sobekki, "Amazement, fear and admiration for the sea are merely permutations of human responses to the sea's greatness and grandeur, simultaneously conveying its categorical alterity and the resulting incapability of human societies to control it, as well as the futility of all such efforts, enshrined in Xerxes' quixotic whipping of the sea." If punishing the sea seems a bit odd and senseless, judging the people that execute crimes in the ocean is not.

The Middle Ages witnessed the first major expansion of maritime trade, which connected rivers, seas and oceans, and the people of different continents and cultures. For those engaged in long-distance maritime trade, it was not the unpredictability of the sea that they feared the most, but the actions of other men. That is why, little by little, merchants and seafarers began relying on new institutions and mechanisms that promised to regulate their life at sea. This is the age of the first maritime insurances, of the first evolutionary steps from customary law towards maritime law, the development of formal instruments of conflict resolution, and of the emergence of state policies for the ocean. As part of the international project *Maritime Conflict Management in Atlantic Europe, 1200-1600* (coordinated by Louis Sicking, Vrije U. Amsterdam, U. Leiden), the Institute for Medieval Studies contributes to deepening our knowledge of this specific facet of the sea by promoting the discussion on the role of central governments in the resolution of maritime conflicts at a seminar to be held in Lisbon on October 25 and 26, 2018 - with the promise that neither the sea nor the people will be punished, but that it will seek to present relevant results on the medieval past of the Atlantic Ocean.

Flávio Miranda

A RESEARCHER AND HER WORK

Amélia Aguiar Andrade

Amélia Aguiar Andrade is full professor of Medieval History and researcher in the Institute for Medieval Studies at the NOVA School of Social Sciences and Humanities. Amélia published dozens of articles, chapters and books on urban history, the history of powers, territories and landscapes, and on the royal enquiries in medieval Portugal. From 2011 to 2016, she was director of the Institute for Medieval Studies, and from 2012 to 2014 she was president of the European Association for Urban History. More recently, Amélia has devoted much of her time researching Lisbon, and supervising MA and PhD students working on problems related to the economic, social and maritime history of late medieval Portugal – which will surely contribute to the advancement of our knowledge of the oceans' past, and to the purpose of this UNESCO chair.



THE BEACHES OF PORTUGAL

Furadouro beach

The famous writer Ramalho Ortigão (1876) wrote only one line and a half about the beach of Furadouro, near the city of Ovar. He said the beach was used by families of Aveiro and the nearby areas. This means that this was a secondary beach, used by locals, without the pomp and circumstance of the neighboring seaside resorts of Espinho and Granja.

The Furadouro was visited, at least since the 16th century, by the people of Ovar, that used to go there to fish in the summer. At the end of the 18th century / beginning of the 19th century, settlement became permanent, because of the increase of fishing and sardine cannery industry. In 1801, about 1000 men were working there. The first bathers arrived in 1850-60. A road was built between Furadouro and Ovar. Small hotels, cafes and houses to rent appeared in that beach. Despite that, Furadouro never stopped being a simple fishing village. In 1950-60, as in many other areas of the seashore, urbanistic concerns lead to a new organization of the space and the construction of a seaside avenue.

As Espinho, Furadouro has serious problems of coastal erosion. Since the appearance of the first bathers until today, the sea has destroyed part of the village. However, unlike Espinho, the elite's beach, that was protected almost since the beginning, Furadouro was only protected, with groynes and a seawall, in the 1970s, when the phenomenon increased.

Nowadays the fishing activities are almost gone. Part of the population works in Ovar. Most of the houses are second homes. Everything changed, except for the sea that keeps being a threat every winter.



▲ *Furadouro beach* (2014). Photo: Joana Gaspar de Freitas.

HERITAGE COMMUNICATION

The submarine cables of Faial island: connecting the world

The submarine cables, transmitting messages through electrical impulses, were a revolution in communications in the 19th century. The city of Horta, in Faial island, Azores, located strategically in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, worked as a bridge between continents. The cables that connected Europe and America were tied in the island.

The first cable became operational in 1893 and connected Carcavelos (near Lisbon, Portugal) to Horta. In the 1920s, fifteen cables linked this city to England, USA, Italy, Germany, Canada, Cape Verde and other countries. Horta was then a worldwide communication center. English, German and American telegraph companies had their headquarters in the island. They worked here for 60 years, until 1969, when the last foreign company closed as the telegraph became obsolete.

In 2010 and 2012, the Association of the Former Alumni of Horta High School and the Horta Museum organized, with the support of several local institutions, two colloquia and an exhibition dedicated to the cultural heritage of the submarine cables: the colloquium *Horta Port in the Atlantic History/The submarine cables time [O Porto da Horta na História Atlântica/O Tempo dos cabos submarinos]*, the exhibition *The submarine cables of Horta [A Horta dos cabos submarinos]* (2010) and the colloquium *The submarine cables of Horta in the History of worldwide communications. The universal value of local heritage [A Horta dos cabos submarinos na História das comunicações mundiais. Valor universal do património local]* (2012). The communications presented at the colloquia were published in two books. In 2015, the Portuguese Foundation of Communications (in Lisbon) organized the exhibition *The Submarine cable – a sea of connections*, that won that year's Prize for the Best exhibition in Portugal. This Foundation also has in permanent exhibition *Cable and Wireless*, with material from Faial.

The purpose of the Faial's movement is to gather other partners connected to the cable history (Carcavelos/Madeira/Cape Verde), to built a transnational network, and propose it to UNESCO as tangible and intangible heritage of Humanity.

More information at: <http://turismo.cmhorta.pt/index.php/pt/historia-e-tradicoes/cabos-submarinos>



▲ Cable House, where the submarine cables were tied, in Porto Pim Bay, Faial, Azores (June 2017). Photo by: Joana Gaspar de Freitas.

NEWS AND EVENTS

VIII MEETING

OF BRASPOR NETWORK

Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil,

September 19-22, 2018

The next meeting of BRASPOR network, an informal group dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of coastal areas, will be held in the city of Rio Grande, in the south of Brazil. Vulnerabilities and future risks, human-environment interactions in the seaside and watersheds, ecosystems services, coastal evolution and paleogeography will be some of the themes in debate. The call for presentations is open until July 31. More information at: www.braspor2018.com.br

THE SEA IN THE RELIGIOUS IMAGINARY: CULTS, SPACES, REPRESENTATIONS

Lisbon, November 26-28, 2018

The relation between the sea and religion represents a rich and promising field of studies, which is yet to be fully explored. Thus, IEM, CHAM and CEHR will begin a series of annual conferences on this theme, organising the International Conference "The Sea in the Religious Imaginary: Cults, Spaces, Representations" on 26-28 November 2018. This conference intends to explore the presence of the sea in the religious imaginary, in a diachronic and multidisciplinary perspective, focusing on the following themes: I) The search for protection against the sea: cults and hagiographic memories; II) Sanctuaries and religious spaces: history, patrimony and functionalities; III) Discourses and religious representations on the maritime imagination: literature, liturgy, iconography and music. The call for papers will open soon and close on 30 June.

MARITIME ARCHEOLOGY

Concepts of underwater archaeological park in the spirit of the UNESCO Convention

Underwater archaeological heritage *in situ* conservation is a way of protection against possible damage to sites integrity, in response to one of the UNESCO Convention principles, which advises to avoid unnecessary intrusive actions, such as excavation or the complete dismantling and removal of vestiges. The classification of areas for a better preservation is increasingly encouraged, especially after the 2001 UNESCO Convention, as a priority option before any other type of intervention on archaeological sites. Classification practices already occur at international level and tend to differentiate protection zones according to the following categories: underwater archaeological parks; underwater archaeological reserves; marine and archaeological reserves; underwater archaeological reserves without any interventions. The first category corresponds to a public area open to divers and observation boats. Underwater archaeological reserves can only be accessed by professionals such as archaeologists or other related researchers. Marine and archaeological reserves are a combination between heritage and environmental protection and can usually be visited by tourists. And finally, there are the underwater archaeological reserves without any interventions where, due to their value or importance, access is totally prohibited. The purpose is to create preservation zones for future generations.

Catarina Garcia

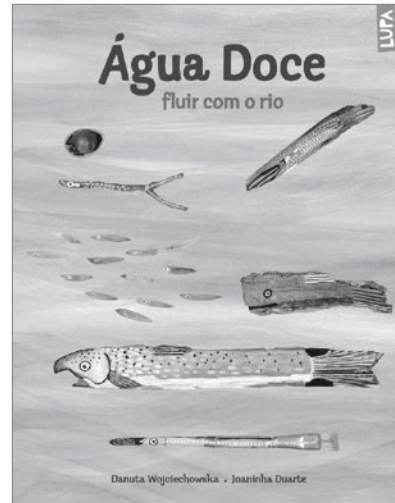


▲ Underwater board introducing to the Underwater Archaeological Park in Croatia, in the Adriatic Sea. Divers are able to see a large number of Roman shipwrecks which are protected from external intrusion by means of metal cages. © I. Radic/UNESCO. Available at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/underwater-cultural-heritage/partners/diving-community/diver-access/>

PUBLICATION

Água Doce, fluir como o rio (Fresh water, flowing like a river)
Danuta Wojciechowska and Joaninha Duarte

It was recently published, by Lupa Design, the book *Água Doce, fluir como o rio*. This children's book aims to explore the wonderful world of fresh water, as a precious limited resource. Using a ludic language, games, activities, short narratives, scientific facts, tips and curiosities, the authors point to the relevance and need of the protection of rivers and water flows and their ecosystems. They also highlight the value of these natural and cultural (tangible and intangible) heritage. More information at: www.lupadesign.pt



OCEANICA newsletter was created to disseminate the initiatives and activities carried out within the frame of the UNESCO Chair “The Ocean’s Cultural Heritage”.

Its other purpose is to foster the development of a worldwide network of people and institutions interested in the theme. Partnerships, news and suggestions are welcome.

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