



Organização  
das Nações Unidas  
para a Educação  
a Ciência e a Cultura



Cátedra UNESCO  
O Património Cultural  
dos Oceanos  
Portugal



UNIVERSIDADE  
**NOVA**  
DE LISBOA

# OCEANICA

This issue of the *Oceanica* is published at a time the world faces a large-scale pandemic, with unforeseen effects in politics, society, economy, and culture in the long run. This is not the first time in history the human societies face epidemiological outbreaks: the fourteenth-century Black Death, the proliferation of typhus, smallpox between the Old and New Worlds in the Early Modern period; the nineteenth-century cholera; and the Influenza virus of 1918–1920 caused hundreds of millions of casualties. In remote periods of our history, the sea and the oceans played a crucial role in these crises: merchants, mariners, and other folks became the primary vectors for the internationalisation of bacteria and viruses, transporting them on board their ships, and from port to port.

With its origin in the Chinese market of Wuhan, Covid-19 is now present in all parts of the world and ruthlessly rocked societies, including the daily life of students, researchers, and professors. But research is far from halted, and there is evidence that the oceans contain one of the keys to a faster diagnosis of the new coronavirus. A [news published in the UNESCO's website](#) reveals that certain organisms in the deep ocean contain [an enzyme isolated from a microbe](#) that speeds up the detection of COVID-19. Rather than being an aquatic desert, the oceans are a place of biodiversity and riches with unlimited potential.

In this issue of *Oceanica*, the oceans appear related to their human agents, for the role they had in merchant activities, knowledge of the sea, fishing exploration, and transformation of the coastal line. Small contributions to continue Pierre Garcie's mission of capturing "the subtle art and science and the noble, almost divine, craft of the sea".

[Flávio Miranda](#) (CITCEM, UP, IEM collaborator) &  
[Amélia Aguiar Andrade](#) (IEM, NOVA-FCSH)

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*OCEANICA* – Newsletter of the UNESCO Chair "The Ocean's Cultural Heritage", n. 2 of the 2nd Series (June, 2020).

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[Sea Chart Fragment](#), 16th century; CF  
Pasta vermelha.  
PT/TT/FRA/20.01/07.

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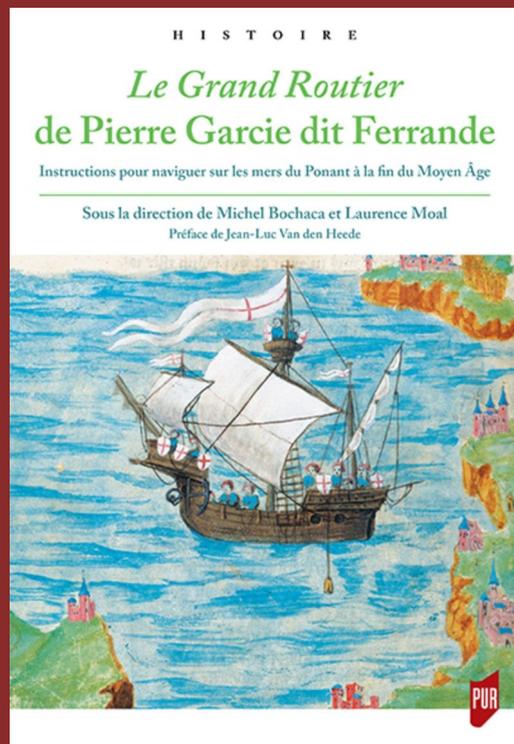
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## A RESEARCHER AND HIS WORK

Michel Bochaca is a professor of medieval history at the University of La Rochelle (France) and has collaborated with of the Institute of Medieval Studies of the NOVA-FCSH for over a decade. He has dedicated his career to the study of port towns and the organisation of costal Atlantic spaces, in addition to his research on littoral societies, the exploration of resources and its mental representations. Together with Laurence Moal, Bochaca published, in 2019, the work *Le Grand Routier de Pierre Garcie dit Ferrande. Instructions pour naviguer sur les mers du Ponant à la fin du Moyen Âge* with Presses Universitaires de Rennes. This is an edited book on a source written in 1483 and 1484, containing the instructions on how sailors navigated along the Atlantic coast of Europe at the end of the Middle Ages. A magnificent work that takes us to a sea of details of the shores and navigation instruments of that past time.

Flávio Miranda



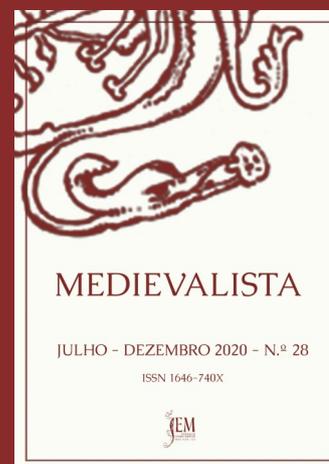
Bochaca, Michel e Laurence Moal. 2019. *Le Grand Routier de Pierre Garcie dit Ferrande. Instructions pour naviguer sur les mers du Ponant à la fin du Moyen Âge*. Rennes: Presses Universitaires de Rennes.

## ONE EDITION, ONE PHOTO



João Vasques (?–1487) was a merchant and personal secretary of Duchess Isabel of Burgundy making his fortune trading in Euro-Atlantic markets. He lived in Bruges for most of his lifetime and had his house in current day Zilverstraat.

Author: Flávio Miranda.



### THE CHAIR PROMOTES

*Medievalista* No. 28 is already available [here](#). *Medievalista* is a scientific and specialized journal that is available in open access and is indexed on the platforms: SciELO Portugal, Latindex, Dialnet, DOAJ, LusOpenEdition, ERIH PLUS and Web of Science - SciELO Citation Index. This issue has several articles, a thematic dossier and a renewed edition and graphics.

## 4 SMALL MOMENTS OF KNOWLEDGE IN MEDIEVAL TIMES

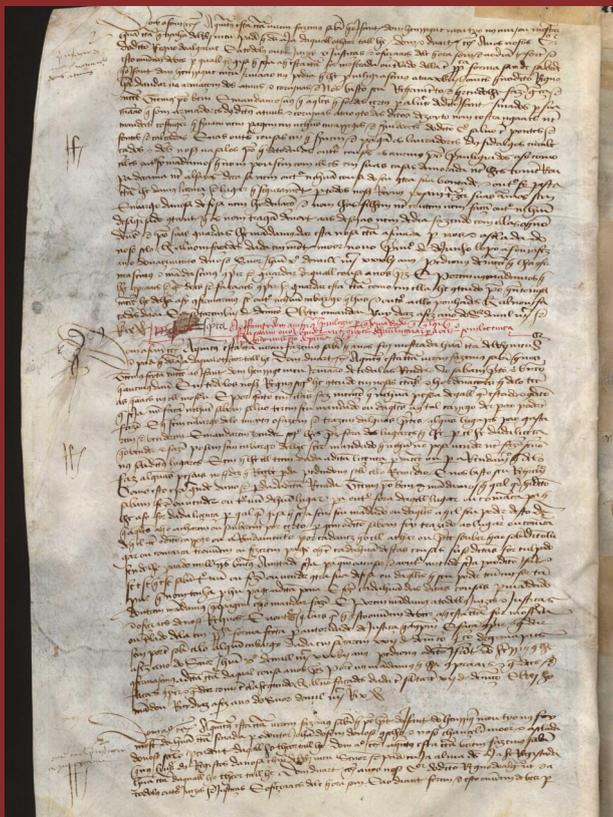
Concept, object, traditional fishing craft and marine species



Maritime Cultural Heritage: an array of tangible and intangible aspects related to human activities that take place in the maritime environment in the past or present time (*Revisiting the Coast: new practices in Maritime Heritage*, Ed. Joan Lluís Alegret Tejero; Eliseu Carbonell Camós, Institut Català de Recerca en Patrimoni Cultural, 2014). Sado Estuary, Portugal. Photo credits: [Ana Cláudia Silveira](#).



Mourisca Tide Mill. Milling structure driven by the ebb tide, which is document at least since 1497. It is one of the many tide mill facilities built on the River Sado estuary, having belonged in the past to the Queimado Vilalobos – Miranda Henriques family. Sado Estuary Nature Reserve, Portugal. Photo credits: Ana Cláudia Silveira.



King Afonso V (r. 1438–81) confirms the privileges granted to 18 men working for Henry, the Navigator, in the fishing frames to catch tuna and corvina in Algarve. ANTT, Chancelaria de D. Afonso V, liv. 20, fl. 39v. Published in: *Monumenta Henricina*, vol. 5, pp. 236-237; vol. 6, pp. 303-304. Author: [Gonçalo Melo da Silva](#).



In the late Middle Ages, the *armazões* were explored by *armadores* and directed by the *atalaia*. He could stay on the beach or in the cliffs to warn his companions of the approaching shoals and signal their location. The fishermen working on the *armazões* used the *alamdrava* system, which combined the use of boats with large nets made of *esparto* (esparto grass, fiber used to make ropes) or *cânhamo* (hemp) in order to trap and capture the fish. Although the fishermen preferred to catch tuna and corvina, they did not despise a small fish caught in their nets, the sardine. Image: *Voyage Pittoresque des Isles de Sicile, De Malte et De Lipari [...]*, Houel Jean-Pierre, Tome Premier (Quatrième). Paris, 1782-1787. Author: [Gonçalo Melo da Silva](#).

## “WE ARE ALL ON THE SAME BOAT”

*Projects, news, publications and quick readings*

### Research projects:

#### ◆ *MEDCRAFTS Crafts regulation in Portugal in Late Middle Ages: 14th - 15th centuries.*

The IEM participates in the MEDCRAFTS project (PTDC/HAR-HIS/31427/2017) which aims to study the regulations of crafts activities in late medieval Portugal, in the 14th and 15th centuries, through the analysis of several Portuguese towns, from different regions, in a comparative perspective. For that purpose, the project team includes researchers from several Portuguese universities. The IEM contributes to this project with a team of members associated to the UNESCO Chair, with the responsibility of investigating maritime-fluvial urban communities: Lisbon, Setúbal, Santarém, and the towns and cities of Algarve. The comparative approach of this project aims at developing a deep analysis of the regulations, the practices and the access to the exercise of power of the crafts linked to sea related artisanal activities, to fishing and to the port's daily life. The project is coordinated by Arnaldo Melo (Minho) and includes and is currently being developed at CITCEM-FLUP, LABP2-U: Minho, CIDEHUS-UE, CH-UL, CHSC- UC, and IEM - NOVA FCSH. The IEM team for this project is Amélia Aguiar Andrade, Ana Cláudia Silveira, Gonçalo Melo da Silva, Mário Farelo and Mário Viana.



Amélia Aguiar Andrade

#### ◆ *WORCK: Worlds of Related Coercions in work (Cost Action CA18205)*

WORCK represents a radical change of perspective on labour history by contending that the coexistence, entanglement and overlapping of diverse work relations has been the rule throughout history. It seeks to overcome the classic divides of labour history discourse (productive/unproductive, free/unfree, capitalist/pre-capitalist) by linking the stories of work and production with those of violence, expropriation and marginalisation. Neither the male-breadwinner model nor the free wage labourer or the capitalist mode of production can form a blueprint for our endeavour; instead we address the persistence and transformation of coercion and bondage across gender orders, world empires and historical eras. WORCK establish four working groups: Grammars of Coercion; Sites and Fields of Coercion; (Im) Mobilisations of the Workforce; and Intersecting Marginalities. This conceptual approach will create an interdisciplinary environment that enables exchanges between scholars working on topics as various as: construction work in ancient civilisations; indentured work and sharecropping in rural societies; slavery; convict labour; and coercive mechanisms in shipyards. Moreover, it develops an analytical framework that helps to overcome the dominance of the conceptual matrix of the modern West in the humanities and to conceptualise a new history of work, in which maritime work will not be forgotten. The action coordinator is Professor Dr. Juliane Schiel (Universität Wien). Gonçalo Melo da Silva (IEM, NOVA FCSH), collaborator in the UNESCO Chair, participates in the action as a member of the management committee, core group, co-coordinator of the “Think Thank” and the “Training Schools”.

Gonçalo Melo da Silva



### For slow reading:

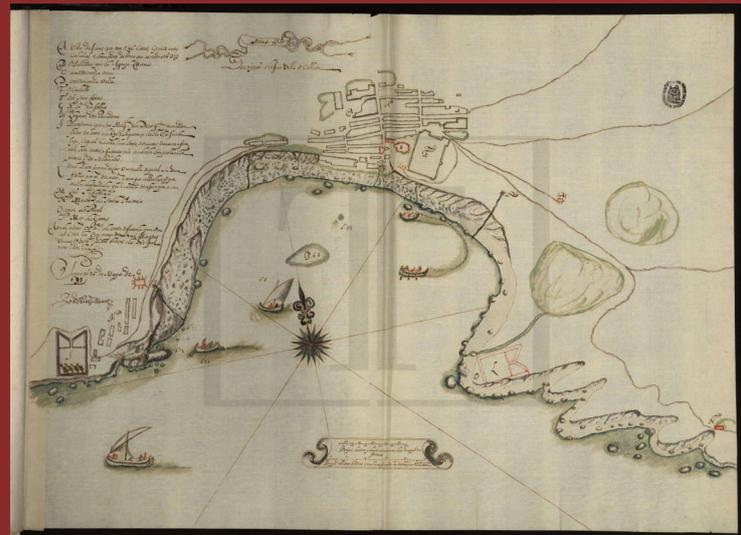
David Abulafia (2019), *The Boundless Sea. A Human History of the Oceans*. London: Allen Lane. The epic and millenary history of the oceans and its relationship with humans has a new book with 1088 pages. The British historian David Abulafia is the author of this wide-ranging work that encompasses the history of human movement and oceanic interactions, following the trail left by merchants, explorers, pirates, cartographers and travellers in their quest for spices, gold, ivory, slaves and knowledge.

### Quick reading:

António Barreto, *The Sea as Heritage*, available [here](#) (only in portuguese). A proposal of civic intervention. It aims at urgently creating an intellectual attraction pole capable of generating the energies and pointing towards the right directions to change the dominant intellectual atmosphere. António Barreto, at a talk presented on 8 January 2019, Academia de Marinha, Lisbon, as part of the opening ceremony of the academic year of 2019.

## THE PORT OF THE CITY

In the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the kingdom's policies towards the defence of the country generated a series of "descriptions": reports commissioned by the crown, normally accompanied by cartographical representations of the places depicted, which constituted important instruments for the administration of the territory. In 1617 and 1621, Alexandre Massai published two of these descriptions: *Diligencias que em o mes de Maio passado deste presente ano de 1617 se mandou fazer nas obras e fortalezas da calheta de Sines e do Reino do Algarve* (Codex 29 of the Casa Cadaval, compiled by Luís de Figueiredo Falcão), and *Descrição do Reino do Algarve*. These works constitute pivotal testimonies of the past, with peculiar recommendations for the improvement of the defence of the territory. Alexandre Massai arrived in Portugal in 1589, in the beginning of Portugal's period of Iberian Union by the Spanish Crown, accompanied by his uncle, Friar Vicencio Cazale, from Naples, where he had worked for King Felipe II of Spain. Massai worked in the construction works of the fort in the Pessegueiro Island (Vila Nova de Milfontes), in the construction of the creek of the port of Sines, and projected several works in Algarve.



Sines's harbour in the 17<sup>th</sup> century  
Source: ANTT, Casa de Cadaval, n.º 28.

Ana Cláudia Silveira

## NOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM:

In this 2nd issue of the Series II of OCEANICA we focus on Maritime History and we sail to the Medieval period. Through collaborative research and cooperative work, combined with an interdisciplinary dialogue (basic principles of the UNESCO Chair "Ocean's Cultural Heritage"), we provide another example that we hope to contribute to a greater knowledge and understanding of our heritage, those small large traces that history leaves behind, whether by the water, at the bottom of the sea or through secular practices that persist.

To shape this past, the researchers and collaborators of the Institute of Medieval Studies of NOVA-FCSH continue their research, projects and publications that have allowed a better interpretation and understanding of the human relationship with the sea, its transformations and ways of exploiting its resources. This team work values a systemic vision that also includes the presence of Islam, the integration of peripheries, strategies and processes of enlargement and expansion - in its knowledge and space aspects.