

### COMING EVENTS

**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May - A talk by Miss Patricia O'Connell on "The Irish Religious Presence in Portugal in Penal Times" – St. Mary's Parish Centre, Estrada de Murtal, n<sup>o</sup> 368, São Pedro do Estoril – 11.00 am.**

Miss O'Connell, author of "The Irish College at Lisbon 1590-1834" (published in Dublin in 2001), will tell us something of the colourful story of the Irish College and of the young men who studied there. After her talk there will be an opportunity to meet her over wine and cheese. For logistical reasons, members planning to attend are requested to complete the attached enrolment form and mail it to Patricia Lamb to reach her not later than 7<sup>th</sup> May. Any changes in enrolments after that date should be notified to Mrs. Anne Woolston (Phone: 21-68-2578).

**Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May – A talk on "William Beckford and Monserrate" by Mrs. Emma Gilbert – St. Julian's School, Carcavelos – 6.00 p.m.**

Emma Gilbert recently spoke on this subject in London as part of the series of lectures accompanying the current exhibition at the Dulwich Picture

Gallery: "William Beckford 1760-1844 – An Eye for the Magnificent." As Chairwoman of the Friends of Monserrate, Mrs. Gilbert is certainly the ideal person to speak to us on this subject and again, after her talk, there will be an opportunity to meet our speaker over wine and cheese. Members planning to attend are requested to complete the attached enrolment form and mail it to Patricia Lamb to reach her not later than 7<sup>th</sup> May. Any changes in enrolments after that date should be notified to Mrs. Anne Woolston (Phone: 21-468-2578).

**Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June at 6.00 p.m. - Annual General Meeting (members only) at St. Julian's School, Carcavelos.**

Our Annual General Meeting this year will be held at St. Julian's School. The meeting will be followed by an illustrated talk by Mrs. Angela Delaforce on her approach to the research for her recent book "Art and Patronage in 18<sup>th</sup> century Portugal". To end the afternoon refreshments will be served, weather permitting, in the garden. To help with catering, members

who plan to attend the A.G.M. are requested to reserve a place by completing and returning the enclosed form to Patricia Lamb to reach her not later than 27<sup>th</sup> May.

**Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June – A one-day visit to the historical centre of the city of Almada. Depart Lisbon (Rua Castilho) at 8.30 a.m. / Estoril Casino at 9.00 a.m. (Minimum 20, Maximum 25 people).**

Almada stands so close to Lisbon, just across the Tagus, and yet few of us know it as anything more than an agglomeration of high-rise "dormitories". In fact human habitation of Almada dates back to the Paleolithic Age. The Phoenicians left traces of their stay there seven centuries before Christ and the Romans settled on this strategically located clifftop five centuries later. Almada was largely destroyed by the 1755 earthquake so most of its older buildings date from the post-earthquake period. However, we will plan to see the mediaeval corn stores in the Rua da Judiaria, a 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century mansion (the Casa da Cerca) and the former Dominican Convento de São Paulo, built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, which has fine tiles and interesting

pictures. We will be guided round the old town by Dr. Francisco Silva of the Centro de Arqueologia de Almada and members are warned that our visit will involve walking in steep streets, often with very uneven paving. The price for the day will be 35.75 Euros per person and this includes transportation and the cost of lunch in a local restaurant. Enrolment forms, together with a cheque for the full cost, made payable to The British Historical Society of Portugal, should be mailed to Patricia Lamb at the address given on the enclosed form to reach her not later than 27<sup>th</sup> May.

**Please keep Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> July free for the Annual Picnic, which closes our season of visits. Full details will be announced shortly.**

Here is Dürer's impression of the rhinoceros, which King D. Manuel sent to the Pope. Contrary to the famous elephant, the rhinoceros never arrived because it went down in a storm in the bay of Genoa. It was fished out and stuffed and paraded around. Dürer was so impressed by this strong exotic animal that he drew this picture in black ink. The original is in the British Museum.

**The First Global Village  
How Portugal Changed the World  
by Martin Page  
Published by Editorial Noticias,  
Lisbon.**

The best person to review this book would have been a newcomer to Portugal, interested in but largely uninformed about its history - a potential member, indeed, of the British Historical Society - since it is, however mildly silly the title, an introductory outline. However, Martin Page puts more of his personality into this work of synthesis than others who have written histories available in English: Livermore, Birmingham, Saraiva. As well as varied non-fiction, Mr Page tells us he has written fiction and worked in

journalism. He knows how to tell a story; a gift no historian should despise. Did you know for example that the guard who shot dead the assassins of D.Carlos felt it dangerous to live in Portugal for forty years afterwards? You probably did, but I didn't, and such colour abounds to give a new slant on the familiar narrative. We learn of Mr Page's life in Estoril and Sintra, where he shared the friendship and religion of Portuguese people. He suggests (page 29) that his perspective on Portugal's early history is the most important. I disagree: there is too much uncritical use of legend and classical sources in the early chapters, although his confusion of various different characters called St James is surely forgivable. I found the other end of the story, with its treatment of the Portugal of Cascais Shopping and telemóvel-using drivers on the IC19, perceptive and infectiously hopeful. There are nits to pick in the details, but I was left feeling this was a book I wish I had written.

*Michael Bullock*

**Peninsular War Veteran!**

As you may know, Marshal Beresford, who was an important figure in Portugal during and after the War in the

Peninsula, ended his days in south-east England and is buried at Kilndown Parish Church, Tunbridge Wells, close to his former home at Bedgebury, which is now a private school. A short time ago your Society was advised that the Marshal's tomb was in a sad state of disrepair and we began looking for support to have it restored. We are pleased to tell you, however, that Kilndown Parochial Church Council has managed to obtain a grant from their Borough Council, which, together with local donations, covered the cost of repairs. As a result, the great man no longer gets wet when it rains!

**Queen Catherine of Braganza  
by Dirck Stoop  
(1660-61)**

This is reputedly the portrait painted in Portugal and sent to London for inspection by Charles II.

Here she is dressed like a Spanish Infanta in a Velazquez picture. Her curl on her forehead was apparently famous. It is now in the National Portrait Gallery in London.

This Society to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee has commissioned two identical busts of this Queen, one to be placed in Lisbon, the other in London.

**Anniversary of the Battle of Albuera**

The 191<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Albuera, one of the bloodiest battles of the Peninsular War, will be marked by ceremonies at the British Cemetery in Elvas on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May and in the little town of La Albuera on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May, the actual anniversary of the battle. Full details can be obtained from Major N.A. Hallidie (Phone: 268-623-97; Fax: 268-626-193).

### **Oporto Branch**

It is impossible to set up an Oporto Branch of the Society? The Algarve has an Arqueological Society, which though not the same, covers similar ground. But Oporto has no structured activity in research and promotion of Anglo-Portuguese history. Specially, the activity of conserving records and memories of Anglo-Portuguese families is important. Can we interest anybody in Oporto to dedicate some time to such a project? Please contact us.

### **Isabella of Portugal (1397-1471)**

Isabella was a sister of Henry the Navigator and married Phillippe the Good, Duke of Burgundy who founded

the Order of the Golden Fleece (1429) to commemorate his marriage.

### **Congress on the Peninsular War 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2002**

Members are invited to submit papers on this subject to be read at a Congress, which is being organized by the Instituto de Defesa Nacional. Papers may be on other historical subjects of Anglo-Portuguese interest. We will give further information. You may contact Gen. José Garcia Leandro – Instituto de Defesa Nacional, Calçada das Necessidades, 5, 1350 Lisboa.

### **Sir Ronald Campbell**

Britain's wartime ambassador to Portugal has been hailed as a "British Oskar Schindler" following the discovery that he helped save 1000 European Jews from the Nazis. Sir Ronald Hugh Campbell, who died in 1953, never spoke about his activities. But they came to light when researchers found details of the rescue operation in the archives of Joseph Hertz. Britain's wartime

chief rabbi, Sir Ronald, it transpires, was behind a Foreign Office scheme to issue visas to the colony of Mauritius. These were then distributed by diplomats and the Red Cross to rabbis and their families trapped in occupied Europe. Around 1000 Jews are believed to have used the visas as a means of escaping Nazi territory.

**Bird of Paradise**  
**Jewish National and University**  
**Library, Jerusalem**