

COMING EVENTS

Saturday 26th October - A one-day visit to Santiago do Cacém and to the Roman site at Mirobriga. Dep. Lisbon (Rua Castilho) at 7.30 a.m. / Estoril (Casino) 8.00 a.m. (Min. 28 / Max. 35 people)

Walking is rough at the Roman site at Mirobriga which stands in hilly country just outside the town. We will visit the small museum which has been set up since the Society last visited Mirobriga some years ago and will be shown the partly reconstructed Temple of Jupiter, the small forum with a row of shops built into its supporting wall and the paved street descending to a villa and bath complex where the underground central heating system is still intact. After lunch in a nearby restaurant we will pay an afternoon visit to the municipal museum in Santiago do Cacém, one of the most interesting of its kind, located in the former town gaol. The price for the day will be 45 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 18th October. (since time is short, preliminary bookings may be made by phoning Patricia Lamb on 21-465-8177, after 10th October.)**

Wednesday 6th November at 3.00 p.m. – Guided visit to the Casa-Museu Dr. Anastácio Gonçalves, Avenida 5 de Outubro n° 6, Lisbon (close to the hotel Sheraton and Picoas metro station) (Max. 25 people).

We will be led by the museum's curator, Dr. José António Proença, on a visit to the permanent collection, which includes 17th and 18th century Chinese porcelain, 19th and 20th century

Portuguese paintings, and jewellery from the 16th to the 20th century (most of which formed part of the private collection of the founder). We will also see a temporary exhibition of sculptures from Flanders and from the Far East. The museum is housed in the former home of the great 19th century Portuguese painter José Malhoa, a building which won the highly considered Valmor Prize in 1905. **There is no fee for this visit but numbers are limited and prior enrolment is essential (form attached).**

Tuesday 26th November at 6.30 p.m.
– A talk by the Indian Ambassador to Portugal, H.E. Mrs. Madhu Bhaduri, on aspects of the British presence in India. Conference room of the British Council, Rua Luís Fernandes (corner of Rua de São Marçal), Lisbon (take metro to Rato and then walk along Rua da Escola Politécnica and turn right down Rua de São Marçal) (Max. 30 people).

Mrs. Bhaduri will address us on an aspect of the British presence in India, which is not often examined. After her talk there will be an opportunity to enjoy a glass of wine and to meet our speaker personally. **Due to space limitations, members wishing to attend are requested to complete the attached enrolment form and mail it to Patricia Lamb to reach her not later than 12th November. Any cancellations after that date must be notified by telephone to Patricia Lamb.**

Saturday 7th December at 2.30 p.m. - Guided visit to a temporary exhibition "Religions of Lusitania" at the National Museum of Archaeology in Belém (next door to the Jerónimos Monastery) (Max. 25 people).

This fine temporary exhibit covers the period from pre-history up to the time of the Roman occupation of Portugal. **There is a registration fee of 5 euros and this should be sent to Patricia Lamb at the address shown on the**

attached enrolment form to reach her not later than 22nd November.

Saturday 25th January 2003.

Please keep this date free for our Annual Lunch. Details will be announced in our next Newsletter.



Inauguration of the Bust

The inauguration of the bust of Queen Catherine of Braganza took place on September 16th in front of the Paço da Rainha, also known as the Palácio da Bemposta. Now it is the Military

Academy. The bust, by Tim Fargher (see separate article in this newsletter), was unveiled by the Mayor of Lisbon, Dr. Pedro Santana Lopes, who said a few words thanking the British Historical Society of Portugal and the Espirito Santo Financial Group, who sponsored the project for commissioning and giving this bust to Lisbon. The bust commemorates Queen Elizabeth's II golden jubilee. A second equal bust will be placed in London later this year in a location as yet to be decided.

The British Ambassador and Patron of this Society, Dame Glynne Evans, was also present. Curiously, also witnessing the unveiling of his 6th great-aunt, was D. Duarte, Duke of Braganza who is a direct descendent of this Queen's brother King D. Pedro II. After the event, the Commanding Officer of the Military Academy, General Salgueiro Porto, kindly invited all those present for a cup of tea inside the palace, which Queen Catherine had built for herself and where she died.

Tim Fargher

Tim Fargher is the sculptor who conceived and is the author of Queen Catherine of Braganza's bust, which was recently inaugurated before the Palace of Bemposta. Tim Fargher was born in 1952 and did his training at St. Martins' School of Art, from which he graduated in 1979.

He has dedicated his artistic life mostly to painting and the present British Ambassador's residence in Lisbon holds a large and beautiful oil on canvas, described as "Portuguese Spring" depicting a landscape in the Alentejo. It was donated to the Embassy by the retiring Ambassador Roger Westbrook (presently Chairman of the Anglo-Portuguese Society) and friends.

Tim Fargher has, over the years, many connections with Portugal. He spends his holidays usually in the Algarve. The artist has had a varied artistic life, which includes portrait commissions and various decorative pieces. He was

once commissioned to paint 50 landscape painting for H.M the Sultan of Oman.

He lives in Suffolk with his wife Elisabeth and their four children.

Queen Catherine of Braganza

Here is a small talk, which the Chairman of the BHSP gave at the bust's inauguration:

"This Palace known correctly as the Paço da Rainha began to be built by the Queen in 1699. She was now a widow and had returned to Portugal. The property was and is also known as the Palácio da Bemposta and when the land was bought it extended to where now the Estefânia Hospital exists. May I advise General Salgueiro Porto that there is a clause in the purchase contract, which says that it is rumoured that a treasure lies buried. Should such treasure be discovered it should return to the vendors. You have, Sir, been advised.

Queen Catherine had returned to Portugal in 1693, aged 54. She had left

Lisbon and the Tagus aged 24 in 1662. Her father, King D. João IV (the first of the Braganza dynasty), had already died and her brother D. Afonso VI reigned. Her husband, King Charles II had died in 1685 but politics obliged her to continue in England for a further eight years. She always kept great “saudades do sol de Portugal” and when she, eventually, returned she spent many happy days in S. José de Ribamar, at Algés, contemplating the Tagus. Indeed there are letters she writes to her brother King D. Pedro II, stained with her tears such were the “saudades” and problems she had with her husband’s ways.

For she adored her husband (as did many other women) that “Prince of many virtues and many great imperfections” as John Evelyn says. Her tragedy was that she couldn’t have children whereas Charles II had 15 illegitimate offspring. Although the king was, obviously, not faithful to her he was, curiously, very loyal. When he came under pressure to divorce her due

to the approaching protestant catholic crisis (his brother and heir, the future James II, was a staunch catholic), given the precedent of King Henry VIII, he always absolutely refused to abandon Catherine.

After the king’s death her brother-in-law, James II, reigned briefly and was overthrown by what English history calls the “Glorious Revolution” of 1688. William and Mary gave scant courtesy to Catherine who, however, was allowed to keep her household. She lived at Somerset House. She became a sort of Catholic hostage in a militant Protestant Court. The new queen, Mary was unkind to her. When years before Mary cried as she was leaving for Holand to marry William, Catherine consoled her saying: “I also left Portugal to come to England” to which, Mary rudely replied “But you, Madam, came to England, whereas I am leaving England.”

Catherine is often reputed to have introduced tea into England. This is not exactly so. Tea was known in England

as in the rest of Europe. What Catherine did was to introduce the taking of tea as a habit in polite society at given times. Less known is that the new Queen also introduced the eating off porcelain. She complained that eating off silver or gold made all food cold! She stated that in Portugal they introduced porcelain from China where they even decorated the plates according to European tastes.

When she finally came back she travelled overland entering Portugal by Almeida. She met her royal brother, D. Pedro II, at Lumiar and, together, they made a royal progress through Campo Grande, campos de Alvalade, down the Rua do Andaluz and entered Lisbon proper by the Portas de Santo Antão (where the Coliseu now is).

During the Wars of the Spanish Succession she was appointed Regent by her brother and contributed with energetic leadership. In 1705, the king was not well and again appointed her as Regent. On the last day of 1705 she died quickly of “colic” at this palace of

Bemposta, accompanied by her faithful doctor Dr. Street. She was 67 years of age.

The Queen had accumulated a considerable fortune, which she left to the king her brother. She also left legacies to several British religious institutions in Lisbon such as the Irish Dominicans at Corpo Santo and the English Bridgitine nuns (there is still a street in the Madragoa called “Rua das Inglesinhas”).

She was buried at Jerónimos next to her long dead brother, D. Teodósio. Buried with her was her small dog. History does not relate whether her pet died at the same time! Her body was taken to the Braganza pantheon in S. Vicente de Fora in 1855 by D. Fernando of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (a first cousin of Prince Albert). The Pantheon was only organized by Dr. Salazar’s government in 1932.

When Queen Catherine died 10.000 masses were said for the repose of her soul. But this virtuous, kind hearted and generous woman needed little of

this. Much more grievously, masses stopped being said for her royal spouse who, surely, stood in much greater need of them.”