

COMING EVENTS

Saturday 25th January – Annual Lunch, preceded by a BBC film (one of a series of three) on the life of the Duke of Wellington: ‘Iron Duke - A Thirst for Reputation’ - St. Julian's School, Carcavelos – 11.00 a.m.

This film, the second of the trilogy, particularly concerns the period which the Iron Duke spent campaigning in the Iberian Peninsula and will be of special interest to members since it was made with the collaboration of one of our Council Members, Clive Gilbert.

Our guest of honour at the Annual Lunch will be Joan Croft de Moura, a long-term Council Member of the Society.

Members wishing to attend are requested to send Patricia Lamb the enclosed enrolment form, together with a cheque for 30.00 Euros per person, to cover the cost of the meal (which includes wine and coffee), **to reach her not later than 10th January 2003.**

Monday 3rd February - A guided visit to the Assembleia da República –

Assemble at Palácio de São Bento, Largo de São Bento at 3:00p.m.

We will be shown the historic halls and chambers of the parliament buildings, located on the site of the former Benedictine Monastery of São Bento. There is no fee for this visit but prior enrolment is required for security reasons. Please mail the attached form to Patricia Lamb **to reach her not later than 10th January 2003.**

Saturday 15th February - A one-day visit to the prehistoric cave site at Escoural and to Montemor-o-Novo – Dep. Lisbon (Rua Castilho) at 7:30a.m. / Estoril (Casino) 8:00a.m. (Min. 28 / Max. 35 people).

Discovered in 1963 the cave contains the first Palaeolithic rock art to be identified in Portugal. We will call first at the modern Visitors Centre in the village of Escoural and then drive into the countryside to see the cave. (IPPAR, which is responsible for the site, has

warned us that anyone with a mobility problem is advised against entering the cave.) After lunch at a restaurant in Montemor-o-Novo renowned for its good regional cooking we will pay an afternoon visit to the historic centre of this friendly Alentejo town, which most of us know only as a coffee stop on the pre-motorway road to Évora. The price for the day will be 47.50 per person and this includes transportation, lunch and any entry fees incurred. 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 1st February 2003.**

Saturday 22nd February - St. Julian's School, Carcavelos – 3.00 p.m.

Following on the film shown at our Annual Lunch, we will be showing the remaining two films of the BBC trilogy on the life of the Duke of Wellington, “IRON DUKE – A THIRST FOR REPUTATION”. The first film covers the beginning of the Duke's life including

his early military career in India, whilst the third film follows on the one shown at our Annual Lunch and covers the Battle of Waterloo and the Duke's later political career. Between the two films there will be a break for light refreshments. Prior enrolment is essential for this event and the attached form should be sent to Patricia Lamb, at the address given, **to reach her not later than 8th February 2003.**

Tuesday April 1st / Sunday April 6th 2003.

The Society is planning a 6-day visit to south-west Spain. Full details will be announced in January but meanwhile please put these dates in your diary.

**Temas, Mitos e Imagens de Portugal
Numa Revista Inglesa do Porto
“The Lusitanian”**

**by João Paulo Ascenso Pereira da
Silva. Fundação Gulbenkian.
Fundação para a Ciência e
Tecnologia. 577 pgs.**

This new book constitutes a Ph.d thesis on this practically unknown English

language publication, which was published in Oporto from 1844 to 1845. Distributed by Dinalivro, its cost is € 13,50.

**“São Lourenço Palace”
by José Leite Monteiro.**

In 1950 José Leite Monteiro wrote and published the book "*Palácio de São Lourenço na Cidade do Funchal*". As Acting Governor of Madeira for long periods, his office was right in the Palace with records and manuscripts at his fingertips.

José Leite Monteiro's son Francisco, supported by the Madeira Government Cultural Department, recently decided to re-issue the original Portuguese-language edition of the book, which is now on sale in Funchal. As a second stage he and his wife, Susan Roebuck Leite Monteiro, arranged for the book to be translated into English and published under the title "São Lourenço Palace".

The reader is taken back to the time of the *Donatários* when the Palace was known as the São Lourenço Fortress, then through the invasion of French

adventurers – commanded by Pierre de Montluc – and on to 1807 when Madeira was occupied by British forces. In the meantime the Fortress underwent successive construction work before it gained its title of Palace. Descriptions of royal visits and sumptuous banquets transport the reader into the twentieth century right up to 1950 when José Leite Monteiro wrote this fascinating book.

“São Lourenço Palace” by José Leite Monteiro is available from The British Historical Society of Portugal. Price 10.00 Euros plus P+P.

Visits to Ajuda Palace

Two of our members, Jean Brandão and Julete Roquette, are on duty on Friday mornings at Ajuda Palace as volunteer guides to show English-language visitors around the palace. If you would like to give prior notice of your visit, or book a visit for another day of the week, please phone Jean Brandão on 21-486-9500.

**Ground Zero
The Lisbon Earthquake of 1755**

A curious and interesting book has been published by Columbia University in New York, edited by Joan Ockman and called "Out of Ground Zero. Studies in Urban Reinvention". The book following the great New York catastrophe of September 11, 2001 looks at other great historical dramas, which left great cities gutted and how the inhabitants and their rules went about "reinventing" their cities.

Among the essays there is an interesting study on the great Lisbon earthquake of 1755 by Kenneth Maxwell. Maxwell, a professor of Columbia University, is a historian who has published extensively about this period. In 1995, the Cambridge University Press published: "Pombal: Paradox of the Enlightenment" which was also translated into Portuguese.

In this essay Maxwell gives a very interesting account of all the options considered to reconstruct the devastated Lisbon, including the radical option of building a new city entirely in the Belém area, which had not suffered much with the earthquake. The Jerónimos

monastery, for example, hardly suffered at all.

The plan chosen was, even so, radical enough and carried through by three military engineers: Manuel da Maia (1677-1768), Eugénio dos Santos (1711-1760) and Carlos Mardel (1695-1763), a Hungarian émigré who had come to Lisbon to work on the great aqueduct in 1733. The author discusses their options with great interest and remarks on the political will, which was necessary to carry them through. For example, contrary to Sir Christopher Wren's reconstruction of London after the great fire, the new Lisbon did not have to respect the old location of churches, which Wren did. Maxwell defends that London was, however, the principle influence, especially Inigo Jones' plans for Convent Garden. Comparing the plans and architectural drawings they are indeed very similar.

Sadly, as the author remarks, the great Lisbon earthquake had, no doubt, a great impact on European thought but not the measures taken to deal with its consequences. Pombal is known outside

Portugal for expelling the Jesuits and butchering the Távoras not for reconstructing Lisbon.

**The Portuguese Revolution of 1974
and the British Community**

Our Patron, the British Ambassador Dame Glynne Evans, has suggested to the Council that a project should be launched to gather witnesses, impressions and memories among the British Community of what it was like to live though and personal experiences of the Portuguese Revolution of 1974 and 1975. They were the best of times and the worst of times as Charles Dickens would say, and exiting and difficult times were experienced in the Alentejo and for those concerned with industrial and manufacturing companies.

The project will be led by the Society's Chairman (Rua Filipe Folque, nº 2 – 4º andar, 1069-121 Lisbon or paulo.marques@amva.pt) and members and other are requested to send in their reports.

Oral History

The Society has decided to launch the gathering of personal witnesses by long established members of the English speaking community.

History is mainly stored in the memory of man and death only too often wipes out precious knowledge, impressions and witnesses of occasions past. The project is being led by Jay Ross (Tel.: 219 281 166) and members are very welcome to contact him seeking to divulge your memories of things past.

**Royal Garrison Church
Portsmouth**

Those with a spare hour in Portsmouth should try and see this church. Originally known as Domus Dei (God's House) it dates back to the XIII century. But its main interest to us is that it was here, in 1662, that Catherine of Braganza was married to King Charles II. She arrived in Portsmouth after a difficult crossing and was offered a large glass of ale. She declined and said she would prefer a cup of tea!

The King kept her waiting as he was busy in London with Parliament. He arrived a few days later among much movement. Samuel Pepys observes: "I followed the crowd of gallants through the Queen's lodging to Chapel, the rooms being all rarely furnished". There is, however, some confusion on where the royal couple actually got married for there were two ceremonies. One Catholic in private and a Protestant one. So, when Lady Fanshawe writes in her diary: "Upon 22nd May, the King married the Queen in the Presence Chamber of His Majesty's House. The Bishop of London declared them married in the name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and then they caused the ribbons Her Majesty wore to be in cut in little pieces, and, as far as they would go, everyone had one", was she referring to which form of marriage? Presumably the Protestant one as it refers to the Bishop of London. The marriage did not take place in Portsmouth Cathedral as it had greatly suffered during the Civil War and was not yet rebuilt. The Cathedral is also worth a

visit and there you will find in the north tower transept the marriage certificate displayed.

The Royal Garrison church was bombed in 1941 which destroyed the roof of the nave but not the Chancel.

Annual Subscriptions

Members are reminded that Annual Subscriptions become due for payment in January and you will recall that the rates of subscriptions for 2003 will be 25.00 Euros for individual membership and 30.00 Euros for family membership. The Annual Lunch lunch is traditionally used as an opportunity to settle Annual Subscriptions but if you would like to pay by post, please make your cheque payable to The British Historical Society of Portugal and mail it to: The Treasurer, The British Historical Society of Portugal, c/o St. Julian's School, Quinta Nova, 2776-601 CARCAVELOS. Members living overseas may prefer to send a sterling cheque (£16.50 for individual membership, £20.00 for family membership) to Barry Vernon,

180 Penrose Avenue, Carpenders Park,
Watford, Herts. WD19 5AH, U.K.

You can now visit our website in
www.tinyurl.com/35wo.

Happy Christmas to you all!