

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, 15th March – A guided walk around the four churches of the Chiado. Meet in the centre of the Largo do Camões, at the foot of the statue, at 3.00 p.m.

Our Chairman, Dr. Paulo Lowndes Marques, will lead us through the Chiado area, visiting the four historic churches which stand there and concluding in the Largo do Carmo. No enrolment is needed for this walk.

Saturday, 29th March – A one-day visit to Loures – Dep. Rua Castilho, Lisbon (beside hotel Meridien) at 9.00 a.m / Estoril Casino 9.30 a.m.

In the morning we will be shown around the recently opened Museu de Cerâmica in Sacavém which tells the story of the very well known Fabrica da Loiça de Sacavém, with its strong British connections. After lunch in a local restaurant, we will go on in the afternoon to the Municipal Museum, a beautifully laid out small museum in the Quinta do Conventinho, which members will recall visiting a couple of

years ago. Our special interest on this occasion is to see a temporary exhibit related to the construction of the Lines of Torres Vedras as this affected the people of Loures. It is not generally known that in 1809-1810 some 150,000 local men and women were employed in the construction of the defensive lines around Lisbon and the work was planned by Wellington in such a way that Napoleon's spies never got wind of it. Cost of the day will be Euros 49.50 per person and the enclosed enrolment form, together with a cheque in full payment, should be mailed to Patricia Lamb, Apartado 110, 2766-501 São Pedro do Estoril, to reach her not later than 28th February. (Maximum 25 people).

Tuesday, April 1st / Sunday, April 6th 2003 – A six-day visit to the province of Cadiz. Dep. Rua Castilho, Lisbon (beside hotel Meridien) 7.30 a.m. / Estoril Casino 8.00 a.m.

On the first day we will drive eastward across the Alentejo, stopping for lunch

in Vila Verde de Ficalho before crossing into Spain at Rosal de la Frontera and turning south for Cadiz. Dinner and the five nights of our stay will be at the Hotel Santa Maria, a comfortable and lively 3-star hotel with a strong regional flavour, located in the historic port town of Puerto de Santa Maria. On Wednesday we will make a 40-minute boat trip to Cadiz on the historic "Vaporcito" ferry boat and will spend the day on foot visiting the hilly, cobbled streets of the old part of the city, which has strong (if sometimes somewhat unfortunate) links with England. Thursday will find us in Jerez de la Frontera, the home of sherry. In the morning we will go on foot (here again walking is rough) to see the small but beautifully laid out Municipal Museum of Archaeology and our afternoon will be spent visiting Sandeman's vineyard and wine lodge. On Friday morning we hope to see the site of a Phoenician village close to El Puerto de Santa Maria and in the afternoon one of the highlights of our week will be a visit, aboard the M/V Real Fernando, to the Parque Nacional de Doñana, at the mouth of the

Guadalquivir. On Saturday morning we will be at the Yeguada de la Cartuja stud farm to see the famous locally bred Cartujan mares. In the afternoon we will drive south to Cape Trafalgar, to gaze out to sea at the site of Nelson's great victory. On Sunday morning we will leave for our long drive north, travelling this time via Badajoz and stopping for lunch at our old friend the Varchotel, just outside Elvas. Lunches will be included in the cost of our journey only on Tuesday and Sunday. On the other days members will be free to choose between sampling the local "tapas" or staying with more simple fare. Evening meals, which are all included in the cost of the journey, will be taken at the Hotel Santa Maria with the exception of Saturday, when we will have our farewell dinner at a fine local restaurant. The price for the journey is 520.00 Euros per person in a double room, with a single room supplement of Euros 80.00 per person. Enrolments, together with a deposit of 80.00 Euros per person, should be mailed to Patricia Lamb, Apartado 110, 2766-501, São Pedro do Estoril, to reach her not later than 28th February. The balance should

be sent to reach her by 17th March. (Please note that places on this journey are strictly limited to a maximum of 32 people).

Battle of Albuera

Members will recall that Albuera is just over the Spanish border from Elvas and the battle fought there on 16th May 1811 was considered to be the bloodiest in the Peninsular War, with a great loss of military and civilian lives and huge damage to property. The anniversary this year falls on a Friday and the usual commemorative ceremony will be held in the little town of Albuera. It is understood that the celebrations will include re-enactments by various Napoleonic Societies. On Sunday 18th May there will be a commemorative ceremony in the British Cemetery in Elvas, followed by lunch. As in previous years Col. Peter Knox will be bringing a group from England and they are planning battlefield tours on 14th (Albuera) and 15th (Badajoz). Details can be obtained from Major Nick Hallidie, Quinta Vale de Marmelos, 7350-111 Elvas, Tel: 268

626 193, or from Col. P.J. Knox OBE at peterjknex@cadole.fsworld.co.uk.

The British Community and the Portuguese Revolution of 1974-75

Contributions continue to arrive of personal impressions and experiences during these times. Among, perhaps, the most interesting one those pertaining to Angola and how life could be so normal among all the turmoil. Please put down your witness however small and seemingly irrelevant. History is made up of personal impressions. On the coming up of the next 25 April 2003 it will be 29 years since the Revolution. Think of personal impressions of, say, France occupied by the Germans in 1944, being written down in 1973. That is the amount of time, which has already passed.

“A Comunidade Britânica do Porto durante as Invasões Francesas”

(1807-1811)

by Jorge Martins Ribeiro

This is not a new book. Published in 1990 by the Fundação Eng. António de Almeida (Rua Tenente Valadim, 331 – 4100 Porto). It's origin is a Master's

thesis at the University of Oporto. It is a curious and interested book, which should be translated into English, and I see it has extensively used the Port wine shippers' archives such as Taylor's.

French Marshals in Portugal

During the three Napoleonic invasions of Portugal, curiously, three marshals were involved. But not in the way you may guess.

Soult

The commander of the second invasion, Soult was indeed a Marshal (created in 1804) when he invaded the north of Portugal in 1809, occupied Oporto, and was outmaneuvered by Wellesley.

Junot

The first invasion (1807) was commanded by Junot. He was never a Marshal although the Emperor made him Duke of Abrantes. He was killed by jumping out of a window in 1813.

Massena

Finally when Portugal was invaded the third time, the French army (“The Army of Portugal”) was commanded by Massena (also a Marshal in 1804). This in 1810. But he was past his best and distracted during the campaign by his mistress Henriette Leberton who accompanied his staff dressed as an officer. After Torres Vedras and the retreat into Spain he was relieved of his command in 1811.

But originally he fought with him as subordinates Junot (of first invasion fame) and the red haired great cavalry commander Ney. Now Ney was (like the others) made a Marshall in 1804.

Ney

The title of Marshal was not a hierarchical post but rather an honour won for military distinction.

Napoleon himself never came to Portugal unless you consider that his prison ship, on his way to St. Helena, anchored at Funchal bay although the great man was not allowed to disembark.

Approaching Centenary

In 1807 came the first Napoleonic invasion of Portugal led by Junot. It was the start of the Peninsular War and soon it will be its second centenary. Preparations are starting to be made at the various battle sites and towns for what surely will be a considerable flow of what economists like to describe as “quality tourism”. The Society is already being sought by some Municipalities for support, which, of course, we are gladly giving. Watch this place!

**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.

Query

We have had a curious query:

A friend living near Salisbury has written seeking information about a **John Myrie** who, according to family tradition, was the illegitimate son of King John V of Portugal (1689-1750). His mother was a lady of the court named Elisabeth (or Isabel) and when she became pregnant she was married off to a **Dennis Myrie** and the couple then immigrated to Jamaica where more children were born.

Elisabeth died in 1758 and Dennis in 1746. John Myrie was born in 1726 and died, a General, in Jamaica in 1786. Braganza was sometimes used as a family name.

Can anybody help?

Jerónimos in the XVII century

Note that the belfry was “improved” in the XIX century with a cupola by Cinatti who was not really an architect but rather a theatre scenic designer