

THE PAULO LOWNDES MARQUES LIBRARY

St Julian's School, Carcavelos

Clive Gilbert

In the year following the death of our late Chairman, Dr. Paulo Lowndes Marques, the Governors and Headmaster of St. Julian's School, Carcavelos, took the decision to honour the memory of this former pupil, former governor and lifelong friend of the School by giving his name to the school library. On 26th September 2012 members of the British Historical Society of Portugal joined Dra. Isabel Lowndes Marques and her family, the governors and headmaster, staff and pupils of the School for the naming ceremony of the Paulo Lowndes Marques Memorial Library.

After some opening remarks, Clive Brooks, Chairman of the Board of Governors, introduced the keynote speaker, Clive Gilbert, current Chairman of the British Historical Society of Portugal. Clive's words, which are quoted here in full, provide a most fitting tribute to Paulo Lowndes Marques:

"Tu foste o mais inglês dos portugueses e o mais português dos ingleses!" So Ambassador António Pinto da França described his friend Paulo Lowndes Marques in the final words of a tribute written a few weeks after his death. I think this sums up Paulo pretty well although of course there was rather more to him than these brief words.

Paulo Lowndes Marques was involved with St. Julian's from an early age. He came to the School in the late 40's when his mother, Susan Lowndes Marques, was an active member of the Board of Governors. During that period after the Second World War, the school was involved in an unusual international environment as a result of contact with children of parents who had sought refuge here in peaceful Portugal; pupils whose parents, for instance, had fled Communist China or those who had

left their devastated countries behind in search of peace and security. Amongst these were members of the Central European aristocracy, such as the Hapsburgs from Austria. Already 33 different nationalities were represented at St. Julian's although the number of pupils in those days did not total more than 250. This unique cosmopolitan environment was quite possibly instrumental in developing Paulo's natural ease in any social, cultural or business situation.

Paulo was passionately dedicated to the school. He was its legal advisor as well as Chairman of the General Meeting for many years. Here, he would study in great detail the annual reports and accounts and come up with searching and pertinent questions which kept members of the Board of Governors and the Headmaster on their toes! Paulo was, I know, immensely proud that his son continued the family tradition of service to St. Julian's by following on his father, as legal advisor, and his grandmother, as a member of the Board of Governors.

He was also a dedicated husband and father and a doting grandfather. He was, as we all know, a successful lawyer and with countless interests outside his professional life. Amongst these was the chairmanship of the Portuguese branch of the World Monuments Fund, through which he was instrumental in the restoration of the Torre de Belém, the Jerónimos Monastery and the John Cheere lead statues at Queluz Palace. One of his great loves, of course, was The British Historical Society of Portugal, of which he was Chairman for twenty-five years. His great knowledge of history, and particularly that of Portugal and Britain, was legendary. In fact, shortly before his death he was able to complete and publish a book on one of his heroes, the Marquess of Soveral, the Portuguese ambassador to the Court of St. James during the reign of HM King Edward VII. Had he lived longer, I feel sure he would have written one on his other favourite, Catherine of Braganza.

One of the most relevant periods of Paulo's life was in helping to set up the CDS political party shortly after the 1974 Portuguese

Revolution. Later on he was nominated Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in a PSD/CDS government. In his eulogy Ambassador Manuel Côrte Real recalled that on the first occasion Paulo, that 'most Portuguese of the English and most English of the Portuguese', substituted his minister at a Council of Minister's meeting in Brussels he caused a certain amount of confusion when he rose to speak as delegates began to comment and I quote:

'It is not the turn of the British representative to speak'

or

'The British delegate has taken the seat of the Portuguese representative'

or even

'Where IS the Portuguese representative?'

We all knew Paulo and his outstanding qualities. With his great charm and wit, he was able to enrich a moment or situation. He was also a true and loyal friend. A few weeks before he died I helped to organize a talk at the Institute of Political Studies of the Catholic University. I did this on behalf of the Ministry of Information of the Sultanate of Oman that I represent here in Portugal. Although I did not tell Paulo about this event, he received a personal invitation from the Institute. Despite the fact that his illness was far advanced and also that on this late November evening it was cold, wet and windy, he came and supported me. At the end of the talk, he was the first to ask a relevant question that prompted a lively discussion. This transformed the evening into a success and as such I shall never forget this show of friendship and solidarity.

Quite apart from the many activities I have mentioned, Paulo was also a valued and trusted advisor, over many years, to British ambassadors in Lisbon. I remember, for instance, when the Society was preparing to publish 'Eyewitness Accounts of the Portuguese Revolution' I visited the Public Records Office at Kew to see if we could obtain any relevant material for the book. I found little of great interest in the documents referring to the year of

1974 which had just been released, but on the other hand there were several references to Paulo such as 'met Paulo Lowndes Marques at a reception and he told me that...' or 'Paulo Lowndes Marques came to lunch yesterday and he informed that....'

It is, therefore, most fitting for the Board of Governors to name this building the 'Paulo Lowndes Marques Memorial Library', not only because it is home to the British Historical Society but also because of Paulo's longstanding love of literature and invaluable links to the school. His spirit will, I am sure, live on here, that of a remarkable former pupil and a true Anglo-Portuguese gentleman.

Following Clive Gilbert's address, the unveiling of the memorial plaque was performed by the British Ambassador, H.E. Ms. Jill Gallard, who said that, sadly, she had not had the privilege of knowing Paulo Lowndes Marques. Indeed, she arrived in Portugal shortly after his death, but found that his memory still lingers on strongly at the British Embassy and among her predecessors. Ms. Gallard said that for British diplomats lucky enough to have been posted in Portugal over recent decades, he was a truly reliable source of a wealth of knowledge about the history of bilateral relations, about how the British are perceived in Portugal, and how the Portuguese are perceived in the UK. One recent Ambassador used to say that he was the perfect combination of Portuguese charm and British good manners!

Ms. Gallard said that the British Diplomatic Service benefited immensely from having Paulo Marques as the Honorary Legal Adviser to the Embassy for many years – not always an easy task! No matter how complex the question, it seemed Paulo was always there at the other end of the phone, to give sensible advice. And his presence always brightened up Embassy events, whether official, formal or informal.

The Ambassador concluded by saying she felt very privileged to be present at the renaming ceremony, actively contributing to perpetuating the memory of Paulo Lowndes Marques, and that it was an honour for her to unveil the plaque set above the library

door, formed by a pile of four books in different coloured bindings placed one on top of the other, and bearing the words PAULO LOWNDES MARQUES LIBRARY.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, those present were offered refreshments and were invited to look around the well-stocked and well-equipped library, a great credit to a school that prides itself on giving its pupils every possible opportunity to acquire a very complete modern-day education.

Clive Gilbert is Chairman of The British Historical Society of Portugal. He has lived in Portugal all his life and was CEO of Fábrica de Loiça de Sacavém. Currently, he leads battlefield tours for BHS Tours and is representative in Portugal for the Ministry of Information of the Sultanate of Oman.