

The Anglo-Portuguese News (1937 – 2004)

The Anglo-Portuguese News (APN) was first published in February 1937, with the initial owner being the correspondent of *The Times* in Lisbon. With Portuguese law requiring newspapers to have a Portuguese editor, this role was taken by Luiz Artur de Oliveira Marques, who would become the owner in 1954. Marques married Susan Lowndes in December 1938 and, with just one full-time assistant, they would publish the APN fortnightly, and during WW2 weekly, until his death in 1976. Lowndes carried on almost singlehandedly for three years before selling the paper to Nigel Batley, an Englishman with no knowledge of Portugal, who expanded the size of the paper and returned it to being a weekly. The paper mysteriously ceased publication in February 2004 with no explanation other than that it was undergoing “restructuring”. Described by the Germans as “the voice of Churchill in Lisbon”, the APN provided an important service for the British community, as well as for other international residents. That it is now a valuable historical resource on Anglo-Portuguese relations and on the lives of expatriates in Portugal was first recognised by the preparation of an index covering the years when Marques was in charge and, now, by a new website that provides online access to scanned copies of all issues.

By Andrew Shepherd¹

Introduction

The *Anglo-Portuguese News* (APN) was not the first newspaper targeted at the British community. In an article published in the Annual Report of the British Historical Society in 1996, D.C. d'Arcy Orders identifies several, going back to the 1830s. The first was *The Lisbon English Journal*, probably first published in May 1836, which was aimed at the British merchants in Lisbon. It was quickly followed in the same year by *The Lisbon Mail*, aimed at the same readership, and this was replaced by *The Lisbon Chronicle* in late 1837 or early 1838. It seems that the *Chronicle* ceased publication in 1839, leaving Portugal with no English-language newspaper until the *Lisbon Rag* came out in 1912, published by a Miss Hickey (or Hickie). This was targeted at a wider readership than were the newspapers of the 1830s, but it also did not last long. *The Times of Portugal* appeared in 1924, backed by a publisher and an editor with considerable newspaper experience. D'Arcy Orders was unable to track down any issues after the second. Next, in 1931, came *The Lisbon Magazine*, which was published from the same address as the St. George's Church parsonage. It was an informative 32-page magazine, but it took a further nine months for the second issue to be published and no further issues have been found. Finally, just two years before the APN started life, *The Portuguese Times* was published in January 1935.²

Early days

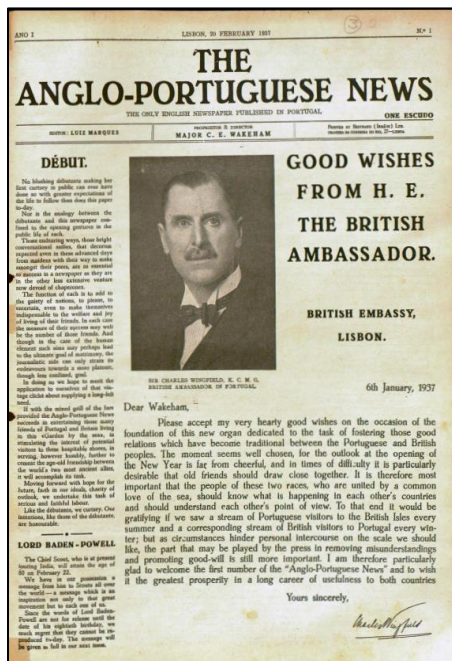
The first issue of the *Anglo-Portuguese News* was published on February 20th 1937 for a price of One Escudo, double that charged by Portugal's daily newspapers.³ The front page contained a goodwill message from the British Ambassador, Sir Charles Wingfield, and an editorial in which the paper was compared to a “blushing debutante”, although one who can have no greater “*expectations of the life to follow than does*

¹ I am grateful to Filipe Lowndes Marques, Barry Hatton, Carol Rankin, Jane Manaster, Edward Godfrey, and Mark Crathorne, for their advice and corrections

² D'Arcy Orders D.C. *English Language Newspapers*. BHSP Annual Report No. 23. 1996
<https://www.bhspportugal.org/library/articles/english-language-newspapers>

³ Vicente, Ana. 2006. *Arcádia - Notícia de uma Família Anglo-Portuguesa*. Lisbon. Editora Gótica. [ISBN 9789727921584](https://www.isbn.org/9789727921584)

this paper today". The proprietor was Major Charles Eric Wakeham, a retired British Cavalry Officer of the Indian Army who had come to Portugal for his health and was *The Times* of London correspondent. Although *The Portuguese Times* had been short-lived and had folded in 1936, Wakeham felt that he could make a go of the APN, with the plan to "further cement the age-old friendship between the world's two most ancient allies...". According to Marques, Wakeham's subconscious plan was to attract fellow British officers who could not afford to spend all their leave in Britain to visit Portugal. It was started as a fortnightly paper, although some issues were missed in the hot summer months when Wakeham escaped from Lisbon. Wakeham was assisted by Ethel Rosenthal, a trained concert pianist, who was a keen writer and contributed many articles about where to travel in Portugal.⁴



The first issue

Wakeham was soon to leave Lisbon, returning to England after the outbreak of war and serving as the Director of the Monitoring Service of the BBC, based at Caversham Park near Reading. This monitored and transcribed broadcasts, particularly those from enemy countries or countries controlled by the enemy.^{5,6}

Under Portuguese law, newspapers could not have a foreign editor. Luiz Artur de Oliveira Marques, who had spent twelve years in England, was the nominal editor from the beginning. After Wakeham left, Marques also became the publisher, with the ownership being transferred to the *Jornal do Comércio e das Colônias*, which also printed the APN. The *Jornal*, which was owned by the Anglophile, Dinis Bordalo Pinheiro, had its offices and print shop in the centre of Lisbon and the APN occupied a small office opposite. Wakeham was replaced as *The Times* correspondent by Walter Lucas, who similarly became a director of the APN. Lucas was expelled from Portugal on 10 January 1941 after publication in the USA of a long article he had written that offended the authorities. *The Times* replaced him with Douglas Brown. According

⁴ Marques, Luiz. *Upon this day*. APN Issue 1000. 1 May 1971. Page 1

⁵ Riccio, Guy J. and Lloyd McCune, 1985. *The Anglo-Portuguese News, Index 1937-1977. Introduction*

⁶ Lowndes Marques, Susan. *Churchill's Mouthpiece in Europe Still Going Strong 50 Years On*. Anglo-Portuguese News, Golden Jubilee Commemorative Souvenir, 20 February 1987

to Marques this caused some confusion as the British Embassy had confirmed him as the editor while the British Council in London had appointed Brown as the editor.^{7,8} However, differences were resolved with, by May 1941, the front page proclaiming “Propriedade da Empresa do Jornal do Comércio e das Colônias; Administrador - Douglas Brown; Editor e Director - Luiz Marques”. There were clearly no hard feelings as in July 1966 the APN gave a positive review to a book by Brown, entitled *Against the World*, a book about South Africa in the apartheid era.

Luiz Marques took over ownership in 1954, having paid a token sum to Bordalo Pinheiro when the latter sold the *Jornal do Comércio*. Marques was born in 1898 and was educated in British and Portuguese schools. Among the schools he attended in England was Penketh School, near Warrington, where he almost singlehandedly wrote a school newspaper, *The Penketh Trumpet*.⁹ His mastery of English would allow him to return to London after World War I, to study engineering at the City and Guilds College, obtaining a job at the Anglo-Portuguese Colonial and Overseas Bank to fund his studies after his father suffered from the collapse of the Escudo.¹⁰ He also worked as the London correspondent of the *Diário de Notícias*, staying in London until 1932. Returning to Portugal he became a teacher at the *Liceu Pedro Nunes*, and worked as a translator.¹¹



Luiz Marques (by X. Giovanna)



Susan Lowndes Marques

Luiz would be the editor until his death in 1976. In August 1938 he had met his wife to be, Susan Antonia Dorothea Priestley Lowndes, at the Hotel Inglaterra in Estoril when she went with her father, Frederick Lowndes, an editor for *The Times*, for a brief holiday in Portugal. It was not an accidental meeting: Luiz was friends with an English couple, Guy and Joan Wainwright, who were, like him and

⁷ Guerreiro, Carlos. 2012. *O processo de expulsão de Walter Lucas*. <http://aterremempportugal.blogspot.com/2012/12/o-processo-de-expulsao-de-walter-lucas.html>

⁸ Marques, Luiz, 1972, *op cit*

⁹ Vicente, 2006. *op cit*

¹⁰ Vicente, 2006. *op cit*

¹¹ Cascais Cultura, 2007. *Luiz Marques e Susan Lowndes*.

<https://arquivodigital.cascais.pt/xarqweb/Result.aspx?id=118365&type=PCD>

Susan Lowndes, fervent Catholics. Guy was a cousin of Susan and thought that Luiz would be an excellent person to show the father and daughter around the Lisbon area.

Luiz and Susan were married in December of the same year in a small ceremony in the Crypt of Westminster Cathedral, with a formal announcement being made in the APN. They initially made their home in Lisbon, moving in 1947 to a house in Monte Estoril, which would also become the base for the APN. Lowndes came from a distinguished family. Her great, great-grandfather was Joseph Priestley, who was credited with the discovery of oxygen. Her grandmother was a prominent champion of women's suffrage. Her mother, Marie Belloc Lowndes, was a well-known writer of crime novels and biographies, as well as being a police officer. Her uncle was the poet and novelist Hilaire Belloc.¹²

World War II

During World War II, in addition to both working on the *Anglo-Portuguese News*, Luiz and Susan assisted at the Press section of the British Embassy, reviewing the Portuguese press for items of interest to the British military. For this and translation work for the embassy, Luiz was awarded an MBE, while Susan would be awarded an OBE in 1975 for services to the British community in Portugal. Luiz was also the Lisbon correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph* and *New York Times* and during the war was invited to write a chapter on Portugal for a book called *Neutral War Aims*, edited by Christopher Hollis. During the war they had an office in Palácio Foz in Restauradores in the centre of Lisbon, where Marques translated secret documents, also translating British propaganda for inclusion in the APN.¹³

The APN was the only English-language newspaper published in Continental Europe during the war and received support from the British Government, paid through the British Council, amounting to £1,200 a year. It was generally agreed that the publication should be kept going at any cost as its demise would have been a propaganda victory for the Germans, even though the paper was not entirely aligned to the British Council's ideals.¹⁴ However, in return for this funding, the APN was expected to publish some pages in Portuguese from 1939 and to publish weekly instead of fortnightly from 1941, as well as to distribute some copies free of charge. At this time, it changed from being in large tabloid format to a smaller size. Over its lifetime several further changes to the format would be made.

The sudden appearance of Portuguese pages was perhaps not to the liking of the management but it put a brave face on the decision: *The life and prosperity of the British community in Portugal is in the last analysis dependent upon the centuries old friendship between England and Portugal.....It is essential that the customs, traditions, and policy of each should be interpreted so that they can be fully understood. It is with this in view that the APN has for the first time a section written in Portuguese.*¹⁵

The APN clearly made waves in Berlin: Luiz was referred to by Joseph Goebbels as “a man to be destroyed” and German propaganda called the paper “the voice of Churchill in Lisbon”. As a consequence, despite their enjoying the absurdity of that statement, the couple were on the British Embassy's list for

¹² *ibid*

¹³ Vicente, *op cit*

¹⁴ Corse, Edward. *A Battle for Neutral Europe: British Cultural Propaganda During the Second World War*. A&C Black. 2013

¹⁵ APN Issue 49, 28 October 1939. Page 2

immediate evacuation should Portugal have been invaded and a large sum of cash was always kept at their house, just in case.^{16,17,18}

The paper was not without its critics even in its early days. For example, John Steegman, a frequent contributor, who had been seconded to the British Council in Lisbon, wrote that it was a sad fact that almost all the English residents criticised it. He listed the main objections as being that the lay-out was unattractive, the contents were so dull that it was almost useless as an organ of propaganda, and it was difficult to see to what kind of reader it was addressed as it was neither a review nor a news sheet. Really going for the jugular, Steegman argued that the APN was apparently addressed to readers of a not very high intelligence but failed to attract even them!¹⁹ Marques would have agreed with some of these observations as they related to the war year. “When I look through the bound copies for this period, I am shocked by the drabness of the layout”.²⁰ Susan Lowndes Marques, however, was in no doubt about the readership of the paper, at least in its post-war years. Commenting on the APN’s success in attracting advertisers she noted that the “value of the paper to advertisers has always lain in the fact that the readers consist of people who can afford to buy or use the goods and services presented”.²¹ Some of the comments by Steegman did, however, remain valid, particularly that regarding the layout. For example, the article by Susan Lowndes in the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Souvenir edition was spread out over four pages, confusingly mixed up with other text.



10 May 1945. Celebrating VE Day

¹⁶ Raposo, Francisco Hipolito; Mollet, M. I.(trans) 1993. *Goodbye Mrs Lowndes*. British Historical Society of Portugal Annual Report. 19: p. 15 [https://www.bhspportugal.org/uploads/fotos_artigos/files/ObituarySusanLowndes\(1\).pdf](https://www.bhspportugal.org/uploads/fotos_artigos/files/ObituarySusanLowndes(1).pdf)

¹⁷ Booker, Peter Kingdon, 2008. Portugal’s Secret War. Algarve History Association. <https://www.algarvehistoryassociation.com/en/previous-presentations/155-portugal-s-secret-war>

¹⁸ Lowndes Marques, Susan, 1987. *op cit*

¹⁹ Corse, *op cit*

²⁰ Marques, Luiz, 1971, *op cit*

²¹ Lowndes Marques, Susan, 1987. *op cit*

Life under the *Estado Novo*

The British subsidy came to an end early in 1946 and the APN returned to being a fortnightly publication. It appears that at this time the paper was in some danger of closing, given the sudden cut in subsidy. Evidence from the British embassy archives suggests that the British authorities believed that it would just die a natural death.²² In response, Luiz Marques sought help from the British Community Council, a body that had initially been set up to coordinate the British community's support for the war effort. The Council responded by writing to one hundred companies, urging them to place advertisements in the paper, and to all British residents, encouraging them to take out an annual subscription.²³

Articles in Portuguese disappeared from November 1945, apart from one page called *Notas Correntes*. This, in turn, was replaced in July 1949 with a similar page in English, called *Notes and Notices*. From that time the paper was almost entirely in English, apart from occasional short articles in Portuguese. Existing at the time of the Salazar-led *Estado Novo*, the editorial policy was clearly one of not rocking the boat. The APN was subject to the same censorship arrangements as other papers and it was not in its interest to be overly critical, even if the editors had wanted it to be.

While recognising the constraints imposed by the *Estado Novo*, some may feel that the paper was less apolitical than pro-Government. It consistently supported the official Government view, including on the thorny issue of Portuguese colonies, at a time when Britain was divesting itself of its own colonies. A lengthy article by Luiz Marques, published in October 1968 after Salazar had fallen ill, together with a one-page article on Marcello Caetano, Salazar's replacement, was titled "Lest we Forget". It extolled what the author saw as Salazar's virtues, particularly regarding his determination to retain Portugal's colonies in Africa, noting that the "fashionable policy of driving Europe from Africa thus plays straight into the hands of the Kremlin, weakening the whole purpose of the North Atlantic Treaty, of which Portugal is one of the founder members". It is interesting to note that the couple's only son, Paulo Lowndes Marques, had been sent to Africa, as had many Portuguese men, serving a 26-month posting on the Zaire River in Angola from 1966.²⁴

While the article was made up mainly of quotes from Salazar's speeches, Marques concluded with the following: *During his long term of office, he did not court popularity at home or abroad, refusing to be 'with it' where that extraordinary abstraction 'world opinion' is concerned. In his private life he is different: his friends - and they come from all social levels - know him to be affable and unpretentious, a real man of the people, faithful to his country origins. A very proud man, a great patriot and indefatigable worker for his country's good, he has nonetheless always shown a profound knowledge of the world and a willingness to cooperate in all legitimate international tasks in the interests of human solidarity.* The obituaries printed by the paper after the death of Salazar were similarly sycophantic, even allowing for the fact that the *Estado Novo* was still in power, and they made no real attempt to make an objective assessment of his contribution to Portugal.²⁵

²² Vicente, *op cit*

²³ D.C. d'Arcy Orders. 2014. *The British Community Council*. In *British Institutions in Portugal*. BHSP

²⁴ Cann, John P. 2011. *Paulo Lowndes Marques on the Zaire River*. BHSP Annual Report 38.

<https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/paulo-lowndes-marques-on-the-zaire-river>

²⁵ The obituaries are reproduced in the BHSP Newsletter No. 7. 2020. *Fifty Years On*.

<https://www.bhsportugal.org/newsletters/news.asp?id=d3d9446802a44259755d38e6d163e820>

The Carnation Revolution

Paulo Lowndes Marques has been quoted as saying that the APN barely acknowledged the Carnation Revolution in 1974.²⁶ This was not quite correct. The issues immediately after 25 April did mention the event but in a very formal way. For example, the second issue after the Revolution, dated 11 May, had an article entitled “For a new Political Structure”, accompanied by a picture of General Spínola. The half-page article, which began: “As our readers well know, a rising by the Armed Forces on 25 April deposed the government...”, was largely based on formal statements and press releases by the *Junta*. Otherwise, there was little recognition of the changes that were taking place or of political events going on in Lisbon and elsewhere. Subsequent issues also mainly reproduced government press releases. Where disturbances were reported it was not the result of original journalism but of quoting others, such as Adelino da Palma Carlos when he resigned as prime minister on 18 July. As Susan Lowndes Marques acknowledged in the 50th Anniversary edition, the paper generally kept a low profile, contenting itself with just publishing any new regulations that could affect its readers. There was, however, a well-informed column called “Letter from Angola”, which discussed the movements of the rebel leaders and the comings and goings of representatives of the new Portuguese government.²⁷

An academic study of the linguistic aspects of the coverage of the Carnation Revolution by the APN, written by Merja de Mattos-Perreira, concluded that in 1973 and 1974 before the revolution, there was slight criticism of the government combined with conservatism presented in a prudent form. However, the writer argues that after 25 April, the paper took on an even more cautiously distant voice than before. Only from September 1975, at the end of the *Verão Quente*, did the APN conduct a more straightforward discussion on democracy.²⁸

The Revolution was to lead to seizure by workers’ cooperatives of companies, factories, and farms, several of which were British owned. This had an inevitable impact on the advertising revenue of the APN, and advertisers did not really start to support the paper again until 1977. As a result of the lack of funds, the number of pages was reduced.

Contributors in the Marques era

Being a fortnightly newspaper for much of its life, the APN, when edited by Marques and Lowndes, did not attempt in any way to compete with national Portuguese dailies. Its aim, instead, was to “*enlighten Portuguese readers on British affairs... and British readers concerning Portuguese subjects*”. One of its strengths was the ability to persuade many well-known people to write for it, a result, no doubt, of Susan Lowndes’ contacts in the British literary scene. These included the historian, Elaine Sanceau; Rose Macaulay, author of *They Went to Portugal*; Harold Nicolson, British politician and husband of Vita Sackville-West; Edgar Prestage, considered to be Britain’s leading authority on Portugal; Marcus Cheke, who was attached to the British embassy; Ann Livermore, the first director of the British Institute in Lisbon; Ann Bridge, a co-author with Susan Lowndes of *The Selective Traveller in Portugal* and wife of the British Ambassador, Lord O’Malley; and the South African poet, Roy Campbell. Susan’s article in APN’s Golden Jubilee Commemorative Special discusses some of these, together with local residents who also made a

²⁶ Booker, 2008. *op cit*

²⁷ Lowndes Marques, Susan, 1987. *op cit*

²⁸ Mattos-Perreira, Merja de. *Readers’ Identity Construction of the Portuguese “Carnation Revolution” in the Anglo-Portuguese News*. University of Algarve. Date unknown.

<https://sapientia.ualg.pt/bitstream/10400.1/2883/1/Reader%27s%20Identity%20Construction.pdf>

major contribution, such as Ethel Rosenthal, who wrote travel articles in addition to giving piano recitals in Estoril; and the journalist and travel writer, Aubrey Bell; and his wife, Barbara, who provided gardening advice. Payment arrangements for contributors were often informal, sometimes being in-kind through hospitality at the couple's home.^{29,30}

With such a range of contributors a broad range of topics was covered over time, including poetry, short stories, the visual arts, sciences, literature, industry and commerce, the economy, communications, sports, history, theatre, cinema, ballet, opera, and music. With so many contributors it is also not surprising that there was occasional controversy, despite Steegman's comments, above, that the paper was rather boring. It appears that political discussions were not expected by the readership. When the APN decided to publish an article by Harold Laski, a Marxist professor at the London School of Economics, one reader wrote to express "surprise and regret [that the paper had become a] tilting ground for politicians" (Issue 319, page 9).³¹ Much later, in August 2000, there were heated exchanges after a review written by Prof. Harold Johnson of the University of Virginia of Peter Russell's book, *Prince Henry 'the navigator'. A Life*, prompted critical comments from both Dom Duarte, Duke of Braganza and F.P. Leite Monteiro. Johnson had described Prince Henry as the "father-creator of the Afro-Atlantic slave trade".

When pages had been produced in Portuguese, Luiz had also been able to call on the services of a wide range of distinguished Portuguese contributors, including: the novelist and activist, Maria Archer; the writer and translator, João Gaspar Simões; the writer and journalist, Adolfo Simões Müller; the novelist, poet, and playwright, Joaquim Paço d'Arcos; the architect, Porfírio Pardal Monteiro; the historian, Virginia Rau; the composer and musicologist, Luís de Freitas Branco; the actress, translator and women's rights campaigner, Manuela Porto; the novelist, Aquilino Ribeiro; and the novelist, poet and intellectual, Vitorino Nemésio. The brother of Luiz, H. de Oliveira Marques, also became a regular contributor in English.³²

Despite the many regular contributors and the guest writers that they were able to persuade to write for them, the couple still found themselves writing many of the articles themselves, often using pseudonyms or publishing anonymously so that their involvement would not be so apparent to the readership. Luiz Marques was described by Riccio and McCune as writing a "truly astonishing number of essays" on topics ranging "from travel to literary criticism, from politics to linguistics, from history to social commentary" as well as "a steady stream of excellent book reviews".³³

Similarly, Susan Lowndes, who wrote several books on travel and cookery, also published hundreds of articles, many being about the Cascais municipality in which they lived.³⁴ Those that she signed with her own name tended to concentrate on places to visit, which included the Estrela Church, the Ajuda Palace and the castle in Lisbon; Setúbal, Sesimbra, Arrábida, and Alcácer do Sal; Elvas, Evoramonte and the "Border Country"; and further afield to the Algarve, although an article titled "Over the Water" turns out to refer not to a visit to Madeira or the Azores but to a trip across the Tagus in the days before the bridge was built, when the papers were full of indignant complaints about having to wait three hours for a ferry on a Sunday in summer. Some of Lowndes' travel articles gave some justification for Steegman's comments

²⁹ Lowndes Marques, 1987. *op cit*

³⁰ Cascais Cultura, 2007. *op cit*

³¹ Riccio, Guy J. and Lloyd McCune, 1985. *op cit*

³² Lowndes Marques, 1987. *op cit*

³³ Riccio, Guy J. and Lloyd McCune, 1985. *op cit*

³⁴ Cascais Cultura, 2007. *op cit*

that it was not clear who the intended audience for the APN was. For example, two published in 1968 seemed more targeted at British tourists than at residents.

The paper had regular articles on cooking, gardening, and shopping. The shopping article was written by “Sabina”, the name of one of the Marques family’s Siamese cats. Advertisements were primarily inserted by British-owned or international companies. Looking at them now, some seem very dated. Avis, for example, proudly boasted of “A Fleet of recent cars with seat-belts fitted”. Also very dated are the “Personal” columns, sometimes extending to almost a whole page, with news of births, marriages, arrivals and departures, and the names of some of those who had checked in to leading hotels. Perhaps the best use of the paper was made by the various British and international societies operating in the Lisbon area. Without web sites and email, the British Historical Society, the Royal British Club, golf clubs and other sporting associations, the Lisbon Players, St Julian’s School and other organisations would use the APN to inform their members of forthcoming events. A common feature in most newspapers, “Letters to the Editor” only appeared regularly in the APN from 1975.

Sale of the paper

Following the death of Marques on 1 October 1976, Lowndes took over direction of the APN. She could have been forgiven if she had shut up shop there and then but she decided, in the words of her daughter, Ana Vicente, that the “*show must go on*”. Just about her first act was to write an obituary of her husband. Initially, she did much of the writing, all the editing, the lay out of the paper and the proof reading. The only full-time staff member was the indispensable Luisa Maria Ferreira, who had joined the paper in October 1939.³⁵ However, it all became a bit too much for Lowndes who, in 1979 at the age of 72, decided to sell the paper because the demands of the paper meant that she could not do all the other things she wanted to do.³⁶

Nigel Batley became aware of the APN as the result of an advertisement placed in the British trade press in late 1979. He was living in Leamington Spa, working for a group of newspapers, and had never set foot in Portugal. After expressing an interest, he was invited by Susan to visit and stayed with her in Monte Estoril. In the Golden Jubilee issue, he wrote that he had the feeling that “while I was examining everything carefully to come to a decision, I was also being quietly ‘examined’ myself to find out if my credentials made me a suitable future owner of the APN”. Ownership was transferred on 1 November 1980. Batley arrived two days later and was again invited to stay with Susan. The APN office was still in her house! Eight months after Batley had taken over, he found suitable premises of his own, very close to Susan’s home.³⁷

³⁵ Vicente, 2006. *op cit*

³⁶ Batley, Nigel, 1997. APN Diamond Jubilee Year Commemorative Souvenir. 20 November 1997. Page 4

<https://www.angloportuguesenews.pt/?a=d&d=APN19971120-02.1.3&e=-----en-20--1--txt-txIN-November+1981----->

³⁷ Batley, Nigel. *A gamble – perhaps – but it’s been six years of reward and fun*. Anglo-Portuguese News, Golden Jubilee Commemorative Souvenir, 20 February 1987. p. 12



Nigel Batley

Lowndes welcomed Batley in the penultimate issue she published, on 24 October 1980. *“Mr Batley has been a professional journalist for about 30 years and has worked for a considerable number of magazines and newspaper in Britain including national newspapers in London. This year he was named Provincial Drama Critic of the Year for the UK. His wife, Sylvia, shares his interests. For some years she worked for BBC Television, on news programmes and drama productions. We hope that readers will continue to support Mr and Mrs Batley as they have so splendidly supported the Marques family over the years, sending in, not only news, but also views and articles of interest. And that the advertisers, without whom a newspaper cannot exist, will also go on with their publicity.”*



The building that housed Batley’s offices and first printing shop at Rua Melo e Sousa, Monte Estoril (photo: Mark Crathorne)

The Nigel Batley era

In his first issue as editor and owner Batley filled the front page with his initial impressions of Portugal. These were generally very positive, apart from his views of Portuguese driving habits. He concluded: *Some half a million Britons have come to Portugal this year and had to return to the UK. I'm one of the luckier ones who has stayed...*³⁸

Under Marques and Lowndes, the APN had been printed by an outside printer. For a time, this arrangement continued with, in August 1981, the printing system being changed to offset printing, replacing the traditional typesetting and flat-bed letterpress printing method that had been employed previously. This change was deliberately timed to coincide with the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana in August 1981, providing a chance to surprise readers with higher-quality photos than they had become accustomed to from the APN. The arrangement with the external printers continued until July 1982, despite the printers having what Batley described as “a flexible attitude to delivery dates”. From that time the APN carried out its own printing, also doing contract printing for others, including in colour, and continually updating its composition and printing equipment.³⁹ The new print shop had initially been set up in Monte Estoril but complaints from residents about the noise led to it being moved to Trajouce, north of São Domingos de Rana, much to the annoyance of the staff.⁴⁰



The Royal Wedding issue

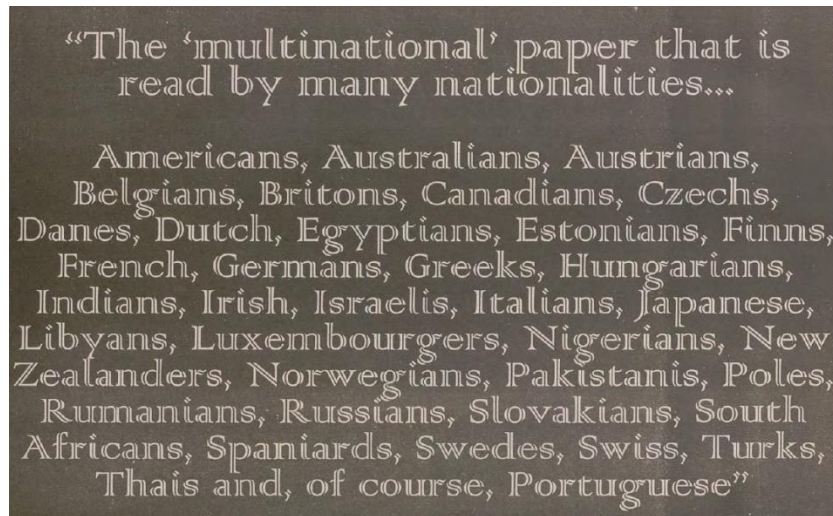
Batley quickly realised that while he had lots of plans to change the paper, introducing alterations all at once could well lead to resistance from readers. An initial change was to give the front page more of a focus on news: under Marques and Lowndes it had usually been used for the beginning of a long feature article. Regular features were also introduced, including special sections on the Algarve, Madeira and

³⁸ Batley, Nigel, 1980. *An innocent abroad in part of Portugal*. APN 28 November 1980, page 1-3.

³⁹ *ibid*

⁴⁰ Hatton, Barry, *pers. comm.*

Oporto and a four-page weekly guide to the Portuguese property market, which seemed to attract many advertisers. A front page “Contents” box was inserted and the masthead was changed in 1982, 1984 and, again, in 1987. The paper also gradually increased in size up to 16 or more pages, and on some occasions even exceeding 40, and, in November 1986, changed from coming out fortnightly to being a weekly publication.⁴¹



Readership in 1997

These changes necessitated the recruitment of additional staff. When Batley took over there were just four people employed by the APN. By 1987 there were 25, including the printers, as well as several freelancers. Clearly, they all had to be paid and this was achieved by returning to weekly publication and increasing the circulation and the advertising revenue. Sales grew from around 1,800 in 1981 to over 5,000 in 1986, partly by trying to appeal to non-British readers of English, such as Americans and other Europeans.⁴² The paper could be purchased in selected newspaper shops and kiosks in Cascais, Estoril, Lisbon and elsewhere, particularly those that sold foreign newspapers, but readers were encouraged to take out a subscription. Many copies were sent overseas, particularly to British people who had retired to the UK, but as the illustration above shows, the APN claimed readership by 38 nationalities.

In 1987 we were told that a record number of pages, 1,228, had been produced that year, 400 additional people had taken out postal subscriptions; and the paper had carried more than 200 “Letters to the Editor”. About 330 different products and services had been promoted in advertisements, and the paper had carried well over 4,000 classified advertisements. By its 55th anniversary in 1992, the paper was printing 8,500 copies of every issue, with improved distribution arrangements making it available throughout the country.

⁴¹ Batley, 1997. *op cit*

⁴² Batley, 1987. *op cit*



Back row (l. to r.): Hilary Dyce (editorial), Moira Carvalho (typesetter), Carlos Neto (distribution), José Maria Neves (printing), Ingrid Hempseed (administration), Anabela dos Santos (receptionist and Classified Advertisements), Derek Walpole (General Manager), António Reis (printing), Richard Walpole (printing), Manuel Godinho (printing).

Middle row (l. to r.): Deborah Brammer (Assistant Editor), Christine Karim (Head of typesetting), Américo Ramos (Head of Printing), Fernanda Knapp (receptionist and Classified Advertisements), Joe Fernandes (typesetter).

Front row (l. to r.): Dulce Martins (editorial), Hedwig Heeren (editorial), Maria da Conceição Jacinto (Accounts), Maria de Lurdes Leal Costa (Head of Graphics), Nigel Batley (Editor), Ana Marques (graphics), Conceição Ramos (graphics), Maureen Walpole (administration), Carlos Ferreira (advertising). Photograph by John Halpin.

The APN team in 1987

Although the number of pages increased, this was achieved at the expense of a loss of the British flavour brought to the publication by Lowndes and Marques. It became more of a *newspaper* and less of a magazine. Some of the news and information printed in the later issues could have also been found in Portuguese daily newspapers and was largely out of date by the time of publication, such as news of the exploits of Benfica, Porto and Sporting in the sports pages. Several pages in each issue were devoted to listings of television programmes and the offerings of cinemas in the Lisbon area, which seemed to assume that many of the readers did not consult Portuguese papers. Perhaps the most useful listing for the British was of the programmes of the BBC World Service. In 1990, Batley was briefly interviewed by RTP as part of a programme on foreign investment in the country, called *Investimento Estrangeiro em Portugal*, in which he indicated that he saw potential investors as part of the readership he would like to attract.⁴³

A *Golden Jubilee Commemorative Souvenir* was published on 20 February 1987 and a dinner, attended by more than 170 guests, was held at the Hotel Palácio in Estoril on the actual anniversary day, with speakers including Susan Lowndes Marques. Nine months after the actual Diamond Anniversary, a party was held in November 1997 to celebrate both the anniversary and the paper's "full entry into the computer age". There were 200 guests, including staff, contributors, distributors and advertisers, and speeches were given by Batley, the British Ambassador, Roger Westbrook, and Paulo Lowndes Marques. A *Diamond Jubilee Year Commemorative Souvenir* issue was published at the same time.

⁴³ <https://arquivos.rtp.pt/conteudos/investimento-estrangeiro-em-portugal-parte-i/> (from 9'18'')



60th Anniversary party

As had his predecessors, Batley succeeded in attracting a talented and diverse team of staff and freelance writers. They included journalist and author, Len Port, who was the Algarve correspondent; Mark Dobbin, another Algarve correspondent; Hans van der Put, who compiled the “Lifestyle” page; Katharina Hahn, a regular contributor on musical matters, whose final article before her death at the age of 86, was on a British Historical Society visit to the Minho; Gerald Luckhurst, the gardening correspondent, who was responsible for restoring the gardens of Monserrate in Sintra; Nuno França, the motoring correspondent; Dr. Andrew French and Dr. H. Malta Macedo, who wrote on health issues; Bill Blevins, the financial correspondent; Peter Daughtrey, who contributed to the “Property” pages; Carlos Evaristo, who wrote on religion, particularly about Fátima; Lucette Bentley, “the APN’s Hollywood Correspondent”; Bruce Dawson, the opera correspondent, who was, however, more prominent in the paper for his sporting and business achievements; Richard Clive, who covered a range of topics, including financial matters; Michael Barker, who reported from Porto; and Barry Hatton, deputy editor from 1987-1992, who went on to become the Associated Press correspondent in Portugal and the author of two books on the country. Finally, Susan Lowndes Marques also continued to submit articles to the paper, which was much appreciated by Batley who saw her contributions as providing continuity and as being an endorsement of the changes he had been gradually making.⁴⁴

Batley caused a bit of a stir among the British community when he divorced his English wife, who was apparently unhappy about living in Portugal, to marry a younger Portuguese employee of APN, who then became its manager. He continued to produce the APN until 2004, when it encountered financial

⁴⁴ Batley, 1997. *op cit*

difficulties and closed. The foreign staff had not been given contracts and there was a time when some of the staff were not being paid at the end of the month. Indeed, at least one contributor is still waiting for payment.^{45,46} The paper also ran into difficulties with the tax authorities. By that time there were several competing publications aimed at non-Portuguese in the country, including *The Portugal News*, founded in 1977, and the *Algarve Resident*, first published in 1989.

The final issue, published on 19 February 2004, proudly proclaimed on the front page that the APN was 67 years old. But it made no mention of the impending closure. The British Historical Society has, in its archive of copies of the APN, a one-page notice in English and Portuguese, dated 23 February 2004, stating that “[The APN] has temporarily suspended publication pending restructuring”, which appears to have been sent to subscribers and distributors. “APN - Publicações, Lda” was legally declared insolvent on 11 April 2005. The two shareholders were Batley and Maria de Lurdes Leal Costa, both listed as living in Parede, and the official company address was in Trajouce, where the printing facilities had been based.⁴⁷



The final issue, 19 February 2004

Using the APN for research on the British in Portugal

From an early stage, Luiz and Susan realised that they were not just producing a newspaper but a social history. This observation had been made several times in the Portuguese-language pages and in Issue 500 it was noted in English that the paper was becoming a “depository of valuable information of great interest.....to students of social history in later years.” After the death of Marques, a friend and collaborator on the APN, Lloyd McCune, a retired US Navy Lieutenant, gathered together several complete sets of the first 40 years of the paper from the basement of *Palmeiral*, the family home in Monte Estoril, and sent one set to the Library of Congress to be microfilmed. Several other institutions expressed an

⁴⁵ Hatton, Barry, *pers. comm.*

⁴⁶ Manaster, Jane, *pers. comm.*

⁴⁷ Diário da República. 28 April 2005. <https://files.diariodarepublica.pt/gratuitos/3s/2005/04/2005d082s000.pdf>

interest in receiving copies of the microfilms, including the British Library and the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, considering them a valuable resource for those wishing to understand the history of World War II and of British expatriate communities.⁴⁸ A complete, bound, set of the original papers is available in the British Historical Society of Portugal's library.

In 1985, an Index of the first 40 years (1937-77) of the APN was published by McCune and Guy J. Riccio, Professor Emeritus of the US Naval Academy. Their considerable efforts were funded by grants from the Tinker Foundation of New York and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon, with printing costs being met by the US Naval Academy. The Index is 530 pages long, in single-space type.⁴⁹ Although not particularly user-friendly, in that it is not presented alphabetically, this is a fascinating resource for those seeking to obtain a good understanding of the experiences of the British in Portugal during that period, particularly now that it can be used in conjunction with the online copies of the APN. Two copies are available in the Society's library.

In 2020, Filipe Lowndes Marques, grandson of Luiz and Susan, decided to convert all the copies held by the Society into pdf format and to make these available on the website. Progress on the first stage, to scan every copy, was relatively slow, because of the considerable amount of work involved and the intervention of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was finished in early 2024. The second stage, of transferring the scanned copied to a searchable web site was completed in June 2024.⁵⁰

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Andrew Shepherd has been interested in the written media all his life. As a young teen he sat in his bedroom writing and typing a paper about the village in which he lived. It was never published. At Leicester University he was deputy editor of "The Ripple", the student union paper. When living in Brighton he was part of a collective that published a monthly "alternative" paper, known as "Brighton Voice". Later, he was headhunted to become deputy editor of a trade magazine but declined the offer when told that the main task was to "be nice to the advertisers". He now edits the BHSP's newsletter.

⁴⁸ Worldcat. <https://www.worldcat.org/title/anglo-portuguese-news/oclc/145393467>

⁴⁹ Riccio, Guy J. and Lloyd McCune, 1985. *The Anglo-Portuguese News, Index 1937-1977*

⁵⁰ <https://www.angloportuguesenews.pt/>