

The Lisbon Branch of the Historical Association

This article traces the history of the Historical Association of Lisbon, which was the forerunner of the British Historical Society of Portugal (BHSP). Established in 1937 as a branch of the Historical Association of Great Britain, the branch was active until around 1954, compiling historical documentation relating to Anglo-Portuguese relations and publishing annual reports with thoughtful articles. Most of these articles are available on the BHSP's web site and much of the documentation is in its library.

The annual reports ceased to be published after 1954 and little information is available about the Association's activities after that. In 1968 a meeting was held to discuss its future and, while that meeting agreed that every effort should be made to reconstitute the body, there appears to have been little follow up. A report in the *Anglo-Portuguese News* (APN) at the time noted that the Association had been "dormant" for six years.

By Andrew Shepherd

The Historical Association of Great Britain

The Historical Association was established in London in 1906. Its main purpose was to assist history teachers, who at that time had little or no support, to develop a syllabus, choose textbooks, plan lessons, and identify appropriate teaching methods. However, within a decade or so membership had expanded to include laymen, and the Association broadened its activities to include research into local history and publication of books on the topics researched. The first issue of its journal "History" appeared in 1912, published independently by Mr. Harold Wheeler. In 1916 this became an organ of the Association. Maintaining its original purpose, the Association also became a pressure group advocating for the teaching of history to be compulsory in all secondary schools.¹

Branches of the Association were initially established mainly in university towns. By 1918-19 there were 19 branches. Four years later there were 70 and in 1926-27 there were 92. Clergymen were prominent as the presidents of many of the branches: in 1921-22 two were headed by bishops, seven by deans, three by canons, and two by rectors. University vice-chancellors also played an important role. Among the notable branch presidents was the writer Hillaire Belloc, in Horsham.

The first overseas branch was started in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in 1920-21, which in time became a separate affiliated society. This was followed by several branches in India and the affiliation of the Scottish Historical Association, the Montreal Historical Association, and the New Zealand Historical Association. Three branches were formed in South Africa in the early 1930s, to be followed by Lisbon in January 1937, which became the only branch or affiliate not to be in the British Empire, although the first report of the new branch did talk about its formation by "isolated members of the colony".²

¹ *The Historical Association, 1906-1956.*

https://www.history.org.uk/files/download/3142/1237914999/First_50_years.pdf

² Chris Wrigley, *The Branches of the Historical Association 1906-2006*. The Historian / Centenary Edition / Autumn 2006 page 45.

https://www.history.org.uk/files/download/1022/1207144659/Centenary_Historian.pdf?srsId=AfmBOoqm-TAuM2eH56PgJzK3oYP0RxtqDAPSNZytJSZqH8CqR03ws9MI

The Historical Association – Lisbon Branch

The Foreword to the first Annual Report of the Lisbon branch, covering 1937, set out its main intentions:

The achievements of the great...acquire by the pre-eminence of their profession a certain notoriety. It is in the quieter walks of life that much of great accomplishment so often remains unrecorded. For the few who attain rank and wealth there is the volubility of renown: for the rest (of the many others) there is – silence, or at most, in certain instances, no more remembrances than that evoked by those faint echos [sic] which an epitaph, or a much-faded letter in a long-hidden place, recalls.

The Foreword went on to note that a few “birds of the same feather” who had been studying Anglo-Portuguese history had begun to flock together in an informal way. This led to a realisation that a more formal structure would be beneficial and consequently *it was with no little satisfaction the welcome news was received that the Headquarters of the Historical Association of Great Britain had resolved to admit the Lisbon nucleus group as an Overseas branch in affiliation with its own organisation.*

The first year

The new Association was announced in the *Anglo-Portuguese News* of 20 February 1937, which indicated that there would be two categories of member: full members who were able to devote time to carrying out research and writing, and associate members who were interested in the Association’s work but could not give of their time. The Council members rapidly set to work. On 4 November 1937, at the home of the president, Mary Salkeld Jayne, a meeting was held that demonstrated how much useful work had already been undertaken. Several exhibits were displayed, including a card index of British residents in Lisbon since early times, which already had over two thousand names, and documents dealing with the English Crusaders in Portugal. Other documents related to Inquisition cases in which Englishmen were involved, and old registers of the British Church and cemetery and were also displayed.³

To have a woman in charge in that period seems rather advanced for the time: the British Historical Society has yet to have a woman chair after 52 years! Mrs Jayne most certainly was not a beneficiary of “positive discrimination”. The wife of a member of the Garland family, she would go on to publish many articles. With the pseudonym of Mary Brearley, she also penned historical novels, including *Monte Felis* (1923) and *Hugo Gurgeny: Prisoner of the Lisbon Inquisition* (1948).

In fact, women were the majority on the Council, among the others being Ethel Rosenthal who, as diligent readers of the Society’s annual reports and newsletters will know, went on to become a major contributor to the *Anglo-Portuguese News*. She was a concert pianist who moved to Portugal from India, where her husband had worked for Indian Railways. While in India she wrote *The Story of Indian Music and Its Instruments*. The presence of Mrs Ferreira Pinto Basto on the Council must have been advantageous in giving the branch good connections with the Portuguese elite. As with the Historical Association UK branches, the church was well represented, with two of the nine Council members being clergymen. An important role in establishing the Association in Lisbon was played by F. E. Etherington-Smith, who had suggested the need for such a body to Mrs Jayne, and became known as the “father” of the Association’s archives.

³ *Anglo-Portuguese News*, 13 November 1937

The first Annual Report indicated that the objects of the Lisbon branch were to “*recover as much as possible of the history of the British in Portugal; and to record current events of importance to the community as they occur.*” It noted the many members had made “useful gifts” to the new archives and that activities were already underway. It listed the aims of the Association as tracing crusaders who had settled in Portugal; compiling a list of British residents of Portugal from 1149 to the present day;⁴ identifying British prisoners of the Inquisition; studying British clergy in the Catholic church as well as in British Protestant churches; examining the records of the Lisbon cemetery; learning about the role of British consuls and the operations of the Factory; studying British charitable institutions and English education; and, clearly as an afterthought, “American connections with Portugal”. It was not until the 11th Annual Report, covering the period 1951-53, that this list disappeared, by which time many articles on these topics had been published.⁵ Discussion of the American role in Portugal had, however, been absent.

The 1937 Annual Report contained brief notes on Catherine of Braganza, on Robert French Duff, who translated Camões into English and married into the Champalimaud family, and on Francis Frederick Shore, a successful English businessman who moved to Portugal with similar success, building a large villa in Sintra. Several other British families were also briefly mentioned, largely in the context of their having converted to Catholicism. They included Edward Brandon, who had a monopoly of the cork trade in the late 15th-century, and Matthew Cross and Richard Merrick, who both went to Portugal in the 1600s to teach cloth making. It was noted that the poet, Felicia Hemans,⁶ had visited Portugal and had stayed with the O’Neill family near Setúbal.⁷ Most notable of those mentioned was a cousin of the Lord Chamberlain, Allen Hutchinson, who in 1676 murdered William Colston, a British Factory member, and only avoided the death penalty by convincing the Portuguese authorities that he was a member of the British nobility.

Mrs Jayne contributed a lengthy article on British prisoners in the Lisbon Inquisition. Mrs Pinto Basto translated a story about the twelve Portuguese knights who sought to redress the wrongs experienced by twelve English ladies in 1396. Another Council member, Miss E. Moore, wrote about the origins of the name Lancaster, Lancastre or Lencastre in Portugal,⁸ while A.R. Walford wrote about St George’s Church in Lisbon. Two lectures had been given in 1937: one by Mrs Jayne entitled “Some aspects of 18th-century Portugal” and the other by another Council member, Canon Pentin, on early British Anglican chaplaincies. Both lectures were attended by the British ambassador.

The first annual meeting was held in December 1937 and, fortunately, coincided with the presence in Lisbon of the noted historian Edgard Prestage, the leading British expert on Portuguese history.⁹ He provided advice on the research activities planned by the branch, with the extent of the task ahead of members being well illustrated by the numerous old documents on display. Documents obtained in the first year included a full index of all those buried in the British cemetery, presented by Mrs W. Pope (Eileen Hickie), daughter-in-law of the former chaplain, Thomas Pope.

⁴ This may be the list now available at <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/research>

⁵ A complete list of articles published by the Association can be found at <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/index-of-historical-association-articles>

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felicia_Hemans

⁷ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/the-oneills-of-portugal>

⁸ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/origin-of-the-name-equotlancasterequot>

⁹ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/news/edgar-prestage>

1938 and 1939

The Lisbon branch had decided that Council members should be re-elected every year. Mr Hallam Hipwell joined in 1938 to raise the number of members to ten. The Annual Report was pleased to note that the branch had been given a room for its archives in the new British Institute. The same report recorded that the branch had 72 members. The annual fee of the “associate members” was intended to be enough to cover the cost of printing and postage of the report. However, then, as now with the BHSP, donations were encouraged.

The British Institute was housed in the *Palácio de Menino de Ouro* at Rua Luiz Fernandes, 3, a building with an interesting history. It took its name from Luiz Fernandes, its original owner, a Brazilian businessman who was known as the *Menino de Ouro*.¹⁰ In 1925 it was bought by Alves dos Reis, the man responsible for the Portuguese banknote scandal of that year.¹¹ It was purchased by the British government in 1942, and an extra floor was added in 1945. For its first seven annual reports the Historical Association gave its address as being at the Palácio: in the eighth report the address appeared as “~~Palácio de Menino de Ouro~~” [sic] and by the ninth annual report the name of the palace had disappeared altogether.



The British Institute, c. 1945

The 1938 Annual Report was close to one hundred pages, a laudable effort so soon after the branch’s foundation. It even included a very welcome index at the end, something that is sadly lacking from many modern books. Mrs Rosenthal gave further information on Catherine of Braganza, including a brief note about her doctor, Dr. Street. Mrs Jayne contributed the first part of an article on British Consuls in Lisbon,¹² together with an article on Prince Rupert in Lisbon, which was reprinted by the BHSP in 2016.¹³ The Rev. Crowley provided a rather esoteric article on *Forma Sive Ordinatio: The*

¹⁰ <https://lisboadeantigamente.blogspot.com/2015/11/palacete-do-menino-de-ouro.html>

¹¹ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/alves-reis-and-the-portuguese-bank-note-scandal-of-1925>

¹² <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/british-consuls-in-lisbon-from-1583>

¹³ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/prince-rupert-in-lisbon>

Evora Coronation Codex,¹⁴ and the editor also included a lengthy letter from the British chaplain in 1696, the Rev. J. Colbatch, to the Bishop of Salisbury, together with the bishop's reply.

Mrs Pope and Mr H. Harby had been elected in 1938 and the Rev. Fulford Williams of St. George's Church had been co-opted, resulting in twelve members on the Council. The Annual Report by the Council for 1939 was keen to highlight the branch's latest acquisitions, stressing a volume containing monumental inscriptions in the British Cemetery, which had been prepared in 1824, and old minute books of the British Factory and British Hospital from 1809. However, as more documents were being acquired, space was becoming limited. The Council expressed the hope that it would be able to obtain "a little more accommodation ... to extend greater facilities to local members and associates, and also to visitors from abroad". In the report it was noted that planned lectures had had to be postponed because of the "disturbed European situation".

After the lengthy 1938 report, that of 1939 was much shorter. Mr Harby contributed an article on Thomas Parr, a member of the Factory between 1734 and 1783,¹⁵ and the report reproduced the personal account of John Wilby, another Factory member, on his experiences and those of his wife and their maidservant on the Steam Packet *Lusitano*, when it ran aground off Ericeira in 1823.¹⁶ Mr Hipwell provided an article based on the letters of Edmund Power, an Irish merchant banker living in Lisbon, covering in particular the period of the first French invasion by the forces of Junot in 1807 and the departure of the Royal Family to Brazil in November of that year.¹⁷ Finally, Mrs Rosenthal contributed an article on Isaac Abravanel, who was Finance Minister to King Afonso V and his successor King João II until 1484 when he was accused of being part of a plot against the king and had to escape to Spain. The article drew attention to Abravanel's knowledge of the wool industry and the wool trade with Britain in particular.¹⁸

1940-1942

The 1940 Annual Report began by noting that the "stress of War conditions has naturally affected our activities", pointing out that several Council members had found that they could render useful assistance to the war effort, reducing their availability to work on historical research. Steps had been taken to make copies of some of the most important documents in the branch's possession, with the implication that the Council feared that Lisbon could be bombed. Despite the difficulties, it proved possible to produce several articles for the report, with Mrs Jayne contributing Part 1 of an article on Thomas Maynard, the British consul between 1656 and 1689.¹⁹ Mr Hipwell followed on from his article on Edmund Power in the previous issue with extracts from the letters of another Irishman, Michael Gallwey, during his commercial travels through Europe. Other than the fact that Gallwey had at once lived in Lisbon and often wrote to a company called "Sampayo" in London, this article did not mention Portugal. A Miss Meta Williams contributed an article on Gerard De Visme, the son of Huguenots, who was a member of the Factory and first established Monserrate Palace in Sintra.²⁰ As well as several shorter pieces, there were also reproduced letters from Lt. David Fitzgerald who served in Portugal in 1826 and 1827.

¹⁴ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/forma-sive-ordinatio-the-evora-coronation-codex>

¹⁵ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/thomas-parr-british-merchant-e-member-of-the-quotfactoryequot-lisbon-1734-1783>

¹⁶ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/john-wilby-a-member-of-the-british-factory-lisbon>

¹⁷ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/lisbon-on-the-eve-of-invasion>

¹⁸ [https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/don-isaac-abravanel-\(or-abarbabel\)-and-his-interest-in-england](https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/don-isaac-abravanel-(or-abarbabel)-and-his-interest-in-england)

¹⁹ [https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/british-consuls-in-lisbon-thomas-maynard-part-i-\(1656-1689\)](https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/british-consuls-in-lisbon-thomas-maynard-part-i-(1656-1689))

²⁰ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/note-concerning-gerard-de-visme-member-of-the-british-factory-in-lisbon>

Several members of the Council had honorary titles, in addition to Mrs Jayne. There was a secretary, assistant secretary, librarian, and treasurer. Strangely, no one was identified as editor of the annual report. Perhaps this fell to Mrs Jayne as president or perhaps it was a team effort? Whoever was responsible did an excellent job, probably assisted by diligent printers. The lack of typographical errors suggests considerable proofreading was undertaken, at a time when every correction required the printer to manually change a line or more of type.

The 1941 Annual Report further emphasised the difficulties caused by the war. The Council's report noted that some had suggested that the activities of the branch should be suspended but it defiantly thought otherwise, arguing that:

If History teaches us anything it is that the people who, secure in the justice of their cause and firm in their determination to see it through, put into practice the doctrine of "carrying on", are in the long run justified of their apparent phlegmatism.

The report noted that the membership of the branch and the financial position were satisfactory: while membership had declined it was by less than the Council had expected. Council members were continuing to carry out research and were able to provide sufficient articles to justify issuing the report, which contained an article by the Rev. Joseph Crowley on Gilbert of Hastings, the British Bishop of Lisbon between 1147 and 1166;²¹ part 2 of Jayne's article on Thomas Maynard;²² and an article by Hipwell on the *Cia. Portuguesa da India*, based on a seaman's diaries.²³ These were followed by a "List of Ships of the Royal Navy in the Registers of St George's Church, 1751-1939". No explanation was given as to why this list was provided.

The 1942 Annual Report noted that the war continued to cause the Lisbon branch problems, with many members of the Council finding wartime tasks that they could undertake. The Annual General Meeting had had to be delayed and "attendance was very scanty and proceedings were merely perfunctory". It having proven impossible to hold elections for the Council, the AGM agreed to extend the existing Council for a further year. Despite these difficulties, there were several promising channels of research awaiting attention when circumstances permitted and the Council also renewed its annual request for members to seek out old minute books, diaries, and other documents of relevance.

It nevertheless proved possible to produce a reasonably interesting report. Mrs E. Watson based an article on an unpublished autobiography of John Norton who was sent to Portugal to help instal a steam-powered mint in Lisbon. His contract ended in 1838 but after returning home he was offered a contract to return to Lisbon to direct the coin production. He eventually became Inspector-General of Machinery in Portugal. Hallam Hipwell submitted two articles: both again based on the letters of Edmund Power. The first recounted Power's difficulties in collecting debts, and the second his attempts, ultimately successful, to have the husband of his niece appointed as Portuguese consul in Liverpool. Mrs Jayne, the president, again contributed an article, this time on the British Free School in Lisbon, which opened in 1837 for British children whose parents could not afford private education.²⁴

²¹ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/gilbert-of-hastings-bishop-of-lisbon-1147-1166>

²² <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/british-consuls-in-lisbon-thomas-maynard-1656-1689-part-ii>

²³ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/the-portuguese-east-india-company-1754-1756>

²⁴ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/the-british-free-school-in-lisbon>

1943-45

A very brief report from the Council just introduced the contents of the 1943 Annual Report and noted that as “everyone’s energies are at present directed ... towards the war effort, it has been considered inexpedient to so much as consider arrangements for lectures, etc.” No reference was made to the AGM or any elections, but the number of Council members listed had fallen from ten to eight. A new member of the Council was the University of Lisbon historian, Virginia Rau,²⁵ who rapidly started to contribute articles to annual reports.



Virginia Rau

The 1943 Annual Report was particularly notable as being the first to contain illustrations. These were on glossy paper and consisted of a painting of Gerard de Visme (see below) and the Coat of Arms painted on the ceiling of *Nossa Senhora dos Matos* near Abrantes. As Rau pointed out, the chapel is interesting for its mysterious altar panel containing the phrase “Holy Mother, intercede for England that she be converted”.²⁶ Rau also provided an article based on an English document found in the *Torre do Tombo* national archives, discussing a ship-chartering agreement, drawn up in 1566 between a ship’s captain and English merchants, for a vessel to trade in the regions of Guinea and *Nova Spania* (what are now the western states of the USA).²⁷ Mrs Jayne contributed the second part of her article on the British Free School.²⁸

The Rev. Fulford Williams provided a report on the last days of the British Factory in Lisbon. It came to an end in 1810 after the Treaty of Commerce between Britain and the Portuguese monarchy in exile in Rio de Janeiro ended the right of British traders to establish incorporated bodies in Portuguese lands. The Factory was replaced by the Society of Merchants and Factors of Lisbon, which lacked the previous powers given to the Factory. The report also included a list of British merchants in Lisbon in 1794, compiled by the Lisbon Almanac of that year. There were 59 on the list but there may have been others who did not allow their names to be published. Finally, a complete list of British consuls in Lisbon from 1583 was provided, compiled by A.R. Walford.

²⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virg%C3%ADnia_Rau

²⁶ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/a-british-hermitage-at-mouriscas>

²⁷ [https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/an-english-charter-party-in-the-torre-do-tombo-\(portuguese-archives\)-1566-1567](https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/an-english-charter-party-in-the-torre-do-tombo-(portuguese-archives)-1566-1567)

²⁸ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/the-british-free-school-in-lisbon-part-ii>



Painting of Gerard De Visme, reproduced in black and white in the 1943 report

The annual reports all included the branch's accounts. These were presented with a simplicity that would give the present treasurer of the BHSP apoplexy. The reports up to 1941 and in 1944 recorded a payment to the Historical Association (London) but no such payment had been recorded in 1942 or 1943, possibly due to the disruption caused by the war. In some but not all years, the payment to London had been largely offset by a donation from the Anglo-Portuguese Society. The 1940 report itemised the payment of a subscription to the *Anglo-Portuguese News* (est. 1937) but this did not appear in other years, presumably because it was regarded as petty cash. In all years, the dominant cost was the printing and postage of the report and, in some years, this was the only cost recorded.

George West took over as president in 1944 as Mrs Jayne decided that her health required her to retire to her country estate in Beira Alta. She was appointed as Vice President for life. The 1944 Council report was the first to express concern about the financial situation of the branch, noting the increased cost of printing the annual report. In addition to asking members to make sure that they renewed their subscriptions, the Council again requested members to search out documents that could be useful for historical research.

Perhaps because of the cost of printing, the 1944 report was relatively slender. The main item was the reproduction of a talk on William Beckford, given by Marcus Cheke, at the time First Secretary at the British embassy.²⁹ The use of photographs continued with the following image of Beckford, together with one of Fonthill Abbey (his home) and another of Beckford on his horse. Beckford, known as "England's richest commoner", was a writer who made three visits to Portugal in the late 1700s.

²⁹ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/william-beckford-of-fonthill>



William Beckford

The Council's report for 1945 indicated that the financial situation was dire, with the cost of printing the annual report being double the revenue from subscriptions. However, the solution proposed was not to raise the subscription fee but to encourage members to recruit new members. The total number of members at that time was not indicated but, comparing the revenue from subscriptions with the membership fees, it could not have been more than 50. With the Council having lost several members during the period of the Second World War, due to death or retirement, for the first time its report asked for volunteers, specifically to assist the librarian to classify documents in the archives. The death of Humphrey Hallam-Hipwell was announced. Apart from his work with the Historical Association, he had been the Lisbon correspondent for *The Economist* and contributed articles to several British newspapers.

A new introduction in the 1945 Annual Report was a table of contents. The general layout was not dissimilar from that still used by the BHSP for its annual reports: the objects of the branch were indicated, and these were followed by the constitution and bye-laws, the table of contents, the members of the Council, the report of the Council (now the Chairman's report), the statement of accounts, and a selection of articles. In this issue the president, George West, wrote about the poet, Robert Southey, and the introduction provided for him to the Bishop of Beja by his uncle, the Rev. Herbert Hill, chaplain to the Factory.³⁰ Virginia Rau contributed an article on letters from Catherine of Braganza to her brother, Dom Pedro II.³¹ Mrs Jayne continued to write for the Association, contributing an article on the Garland family, which was illustrated with photos of members of the family.³² A rather strange addition to the articles was a list of British-related events in Portugal in 1945. It is difficult to see what purpose it served at the time, although for a modern-day historian it may be of interest.

1946-50

The Lisbon branch of the Historical Association then fell upon hard times. The Tenth Annual Report covered the period from 1946 to 1950, with the Council admitting that "the task of maintaining the work of this branch has become more and more arduous". The departure of George West from Portugal was given as one reason for its difficulties, as was the loss of the previous president, Mrs Jayne, when she decided to move out of Lisbon. From 1937 until her resignation as president in 1944 she had played the

³⁰ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/robert-southey-the-rev-herbert-hill-and-the-bishop-of-beja>

³¹ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/letters-from-catherine-of-braganca-to-her-brother->

³² <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/the-garland-family>

dominant role in researching and writing. With the number of Council members now reduced to six, the report noted that “we urgently require new collaborators as well as the part-time help of anyone interested ... mainly in sorting out and preparing for the archives the mass of documents already accumulated”. Despite the inability to process what it already had, the Council continued to request members to identify historical documents to add to the archives.

Although reflecting new research, the articles presented in the 1946-50 report covered familiar ground. Sir Godfrey Fisher wrote about the early days of the British Factory,³³ Mrs Jayne wrote about the murder of William Colston,³⁴ and further information was provided about early British merchants in Lisbon. The report also contained an article by A.R. Walford on the census conducted by the Marquis of Pombal of the British in Lisbon. This was believed to have been carried out shortly after the 1755 earthquake.³⁵

1951-53

The next annual report came out in 1953. It began by noting that the Lisbon branch had recently moved back to the British Institute on Rua Luís Fernandes. The spelling of Luís had been changed from Luiz since the previous report. No information was given as to why the Historical Association had left the Institute: possibly construction activities were being undertaken. The Council’s report noted that a successful exhibition organised by the Lisbon branch to mark the centenary of the death of the Duke of Wellington had been held in December 1952 and that the widespread interest in this was a stimulus for it to renew previous activities. For the first time, the report raised the possibility of members going on guided excursions, with the places mentioned all being within a day trip of Lisbon. With no annual reports in 1951 and 1952, the 1953 report noted that no subscriptions had been levied in those years. Members were now requested to renew, with subscription rates being doubled.

Despite the need for an increase in subscription rates, the financial position was reasonably healthy. However, this was because of donations received from Virginia Rau, Mrs Jayne and Dona Maria Mendes Leal. A significant loss was made on printing the catalogues for the Wellington Exhibition, with income from sales being only one-third of the cost of printing. The exhibition had been covered by the *Daily Telegraph*, which noted that many of the exhibits were from private collections that had not been shown in public before, particularly those from the collection assembled by Frederico Pinto Basto. The Annual Report was devoted to Peninsular War topics and included a speech to the Exhibition by L.A.C. Fry entitled “The Campaign of 1810”.³⁶

At some stage between 1951 and 1953, Martin Blake, who worked for the British Council in Lisbon, became the president. Blake has an interesting claim to fame. He was in Prague with the British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia (BCRC) in the winter of 1938/39 and became aware of the plight of Jewish refugees there. A very close friend of Sir Nicholas Winton, Blake summoned him to Prague instead of the skiing holiday they had been planning in Switzerland. This led to Winton, Blake, and others, setting up the children’s department of the BCRC, resulting in the Czech *Kindertransport*, which saved the lives of 669 mostly Jewish children who were evacuated from Nazi-

³³ [https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/early-days-of-the-british-factory-\(i\)](https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/early-days-of-the-british-factory-(i))

³⁴ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/the-murder-of-william-colston>

³⁵ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/the-british-community-in-lisbon-1755-the-earthquake-census>

³⁶ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/the-campaign-of-1810>

controlled Prague to Britain. Back in London, Blake and his wife helped Winton to find homes for the children (necessary for the British government to approve their immigration).³⁷

1954

The Council report for 1954 mourned the passing of A.R. Walford who had been an active researcher and writer for the Lisbon branch and had also written *The British factory in Lisbon: & its closing stages ensuing upon the treaty of 1810*, which was published by the British Institute in 1940. A new addition to the Council from 1953 was Dr. Carlos Estorninho, who had been born in Macau, had obtained a doctorate from Coimbra University and was the librarian at the British Institute. It was announced that, with the approval of the Historical Association in London, the name of the branch had been changed to the Portugal branch, with the idea of both broadening the scope of the branch's activities and attracting new members, particularly in Porto.

Activities in the Lisbon area had certainly broadened in 1954. Five lectures had been given: on the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance; Anglo-Portuguese Military Cooperation; Admiral Charles Napier; Henry Fielding's death; and on Almeida Garrett. Excursions were also organised: to the Castle of St George and Lisbon Cathedral; to Moorish Lisbon; and to the Roman ruins of Tróia. While this abundance of activities appeared to augur well for the Portugal branch, the 1954 Annual Report was very brief. Estorninho contributed two of the three articles, both related to Almeida Garrett.^{38,39} The other article was by George West, returning to the topic of British Factory members, this time those in the late 17th century.⁴⁰

Post-1954

1954 appears to have been the last annual report of the Association and there is very little information about its activities after that. The *Anglo-Portuguese News (APN)* of 12 February 1955 reported that an outing was planned to the *Aqueduto das Águas Livres* in Lisbon, and the issue of 16 June 1956 reported that the branch's AGM had been held on 16 May, that committee members had been voted in and that it was decided that most of the next Annual Report should be devoted to the Lisbon Earthquake.

An Annual General Meeting was held on 28 January 1961. While the main aim was to seek wider membership, the report in the *APN* did not suggest that the Association was more or less defunct, as the outgoing treasurer was thanked for leaving the accounts in such good order. Members of the Council were confirmed and Mrs D.S. Bucknall and Dr. Jorge Macedo agreed to join. The meeting was chaired by Virginia Rau. The president, John Muir, discussed possible outings. It was agreed to start the year with a visit to the *Inglesinhos*, followed by one to the Fronteira Palace. Muir suggested that members could perhaps organise self-motorised outings, which would save unnecessary coach expenses. Car owners would accept the fact that "*richesse oblige*"!

There was, apparently, a celebration of its 25th anniversary in February/March 1962 but the page of the *APN* issue that reported on this has gone missing from the BHSP's library. In June 1963 there was one paragraph in the paper requesting readers to assist the Association with its work. On 7 March

³⁷ <https://lemonsoul.com/blogs/news/no-martin-blake-no-winton-kindertransport?srltid=AfmBOoptQzzNHLNhEW4acPRy99Sx20yrniPMdkUfGhUTiLmdniwBrIDH>

³⁸ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/garrett-and-england-english-reminiscences-in-the-life-and-work-of-almeida-garrett>

³⁹ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/letters-from-british-correspondents-to-almeida-garrett>

⁴⁰ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/members-of-the-lisbon-quotfactoryequot-in-the-late-seventeenth-century>

1968 a meeting, organised by the Director of the British Institute and chaired by the Ambassador, was held to decide whether to reconstitute the branch by electing a new Council or to wind up the Historical Association of Portugal. The *APN* reported then that the Association had been dormant for six years. At the meeting it was agreed by all present that “every effort should be made to revive and reactivate” the branch and that, while this was being done, “sorting, classifying and indexing the archives should begin with a view to making them more readily accessible to students, scholars, and others interested”. A small committee was formed for this purpose, headed by Richard Price.

Little progress was made with the reactivation of the Association, partly because of the difficulties in finding suitable accommodation for its numerous documents. However, in December 1973, Price wrote a letter to the *APN* suggesting the formation of a British Historical Society of Portugal. Following a lunch “with too much port”,⁴¹ attended by Price, “Bing” Norris, D’Arcy Orders, F.G.E. Walford (son of A.R. Walford), and others, the BHSP started operations in 1974, as described in our Annual Report No. 51.^{42,43}

In trying to clarify the fate of the Association, the author contacted the Historical Association in London. It was unable to assist because archives for the period had been transferred to the University of Nottingham Library. If any reader in the United Kingdom would like to pay a visit to that library to investigate, we should be most grateful.

—— ooOOoo ——

Andrew Shepherd is the BHSP’s webmaster and editor of the newsletter, as well as the author of several articles published by the Society, including one on its first 50 years.

⁴¹ D’Arcy Orders. 1994. *The British Historical Society of Portugal: A Look Back*. BHSP Annual Report 21. <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/the-british-historical-society-of-portugal-a-look-back>

⁴² Letter from Walford to the Rev. H. Chatfield-Jude, 14 May 1974

⁴³ <https://www.bhsportugal.org/library/articles/the-british-historical-society-of-portugal-the-first-50-years>