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PORTUGAL ON THE EVE OF THE METHUEN TREATIES
Richard Creed's Journal of 1700,
edited with an introduction

By Dr. Jeremy Black, University of Durham,
Department of History

Travel accounts of Portugal in the eighteenth century are rare¹. So also are travel accounts in private hands that have not been noticed previously. The Creed papers, currently in the possession of Mrs. Margaret Partridge, by whose gracious position the following account can be published, are of great value because they fall into both categories. The travel journal of **Richard Creed** is of considerable interest for three reasons. First, he travelled in a period tourism when was poorly developed and when few travelled due to the fear of war. His tour is therefore of greater intrinsic importance than those of travellers later in the century. Secondly, his journal has been hitherto unknown. There is no reference to it in the existing literature. It is not listed in the National Registry of Archives. Thirdly, Creed did not simply visit Lisbon.

Relatively little is known about Creed. The eldest son of John Creed of Oundle Esq., he was appointed captain in the Earl of Denbigh's Regiment of Dragoons in 1694 and served in the War of the League of Augsburg. Put onto half pay, when the regiment was disbanded in November 1697, Creed was recalled from half pay to be a captain in the Duke of Schomberg's Regiment of Horse, later numbered as the 7th Dragoon Guards, on 1 March 1702. He was serving as a major when he was killed at Blenheim in 1704². Bar the journal of

his tour, and the accompanying will, there is little that is known about Creed. No correspondence survives throwing additional light on the material in the journal.

Creed's journal is an unpaginated manuscript work in two volumes. Creed wrote on the verso side of each page leaving the recto blank. The first volume, entitled in a later hand, *Mr. Creed's Tour of Italy*, starts with the beginning of Creed's journey in London and consists of entries made regularly, though not daily, for his journey to Rome where he arrived on 23 December 1699³. The second and larger volume is devoted to Creed's stay in Rome, which lasted until May 1700, his subsequent return to Paris after visiting much of northern Italy and his visit to Iberia. The volume ends with Creed in Oporto in November 1700. There is no indication that this marked the end of his journal, and it is likely that a volume has been lost, though if he returned to Britain directly by sea from Oporto he may not have thought it necessary to begin another volume. Creed's hand is initially reasonably clear, though it deteriorates in the second volume. His spelling was however extremely poor and his grammar weak. With regard to these I have altered them insofar as is necessary for the sake of comprehension.

Creed went abroad as part of the party of John Cecil, fifth Earl of Exeter (c. 1648-1700) who went on the Grand Tour in 1699. It is not clear why he accompanied the Earl, nor in what capacity he went, and his dependence, if any, was clearly limited as he eventually left the party. The party left London on 26 September (old style) 1699 and travelled via Paris, Fontainebleau, Cosne, Nevers, Moulins, Roanne, Tarare, Lyons, Chambéry, the Cenis pass and Turin to Milan where they arrived on 28 November. From Milan the party travelled via Piacenza, Parma and Ancona to Rome. For reasons that are unclear Creed left Rome without the Earl or his party on 1 May 1700. Travelling via Livorno, Florence, Bologna, Ferrara, Venice, Vicenza, Mantua, Turin, Lyons and Orleans Creed reached Paris in July. From Paris he began a journey that was very unusual for tourists, one to Iberia. It is not clear why he went, but he left Paris on 27 September 1700, and went to Nantes via Orleans and Angers. On 10 October Creed went to 'Pain Beuff' (Paimboeuf) in the Loire estuary and boarded a French ship bound for Lisbon. Though delayed by winds the ship rounded Cape Finisterre on 19 October. The account is printed from then on.

«22 October. We being about 10 leagues to the North West of Lisbon saw a galley ahead of us; who got to the windward of us; and made towards us; but we hoisted all the sails and went to the northward before the wind; and so lost him; we being a good sailor and having good weather.

23. We light of Le Lyon a French ship of about 150 tons bound for Cadiz and we embarked on her; the wind a hard norwest wind but fine weather.

24. We had a mighty mountainous sea with a very strong north west wind; and a very dark day; and a most violent storm for about 12 hours. We made the Cape St. Vincent. Just at the point of the Cape is a vast rock just the shape of a hay cock.

25. We sailed by Villanova and Faro and here of a sudden were becalmed. 1 November. 1500: We discovered and landed at Cadiz. Cadiz is from St. Lazer about 500 leagues. I lay at an English house».

From here the journal changes. Material appears on both recto and verso and until 21 November, when Creed set off from Lisbon for Oporto, no dates were entered.

«Cadiz. Here the women that go about are all in black; and veiled all over with a black veil; at church they sit all on the ground; here the ladies are very nice in visiting; they send in the morning for leave to wait on them in the afternoon; and if the lady to be visited be in mourning the visitor must be in mourning, their visits are six or seven hours long; the visiting room is all the floor covered with Turkish carpets. The ladies sit on cushions and no chairs.

Lisbon. Here Mr. Methuen⁴ is our envoy and Mr. Earle⁵ is consul. They were both very civil and kind to me; Mr. Earle make all the rest of the consuls in Portugal; here are about 14 English houses of merchants; who were all mighty civil to me; but especially Mr. Stepney, and Mr. Painter his partner. The envoy carried me to wait on the Queen Dowager⁶ who received me very graciously, she lives at a little country house on the river about a league from Lisbon⁷. She has parted with all her English women and has a parcel of sad hags about her, all the sisters of priests and Jesuits; and she is wholly governed by Jesuits⁸.

The building of the churches here in Portugal is but ordinary; but the insides are all gilt carved and painted although not by great masters⁹ yet they make a great show.

The Loretto Church. This is the finest church in town. It was built by the Venetian merchants; Here on the Popes death¹⁰ they built a fine mausoleum; the nuncio with a great deal of ceremony said the office for the dead.

The present King of Portugal is Peter the 2nd. His father was the first king after the revolt from the Spaniards, and his elder brother succeeded his father; but this Peter the 2nd made good interest with the people and pretended the king his brother was mad so on a sudden clapped him in prison; and was himself made king and married his brothers wife by whom he has 2 sons and one daughter. He is a very black big strong man; has many mistresses and amongst them has a black and by her a black son. By chance I saw the king going in a sad old coach drawn with six mules; tied with ropes; to see queen Catherine. He had no guards with him; nor any servants only his Master of the Horse in the coach with him.

Here is an English College for students. My uncle Francis' son is at it. The President is Mr. Wat. Kingson who has been president 35 years. There I was much obliged to the Procurator Mr. Waldegrave and Mr. Bix.

Here is a nunnery of English nuns of the order of St. Bridget. Mrs.¹¹ Mary Carr is Lady Abbess. She has been there above 50 years. Mrs. Liddalls and Mrs. Waldegrave were very civil to me and have promised to keep a correspondence with me. Their confessor is Father Browne.

21 November I set out from Lisbon for Oporto. I went on a mule for which I gave about three louis d'ors¹². I was in company with three Portugese gentlemen who could speak no other language than Portugese. Lay at Zambourg. In our way we dined at Santarine¹³ a large town full of convents and very few other poor houses.

22. Lay at Gollgon.

23. Lay at Paruchia.

24. Coimbra. Here I lay with an English merchant Mr. Doctrans, who was mighty civil to me. This town is much cleaner and better built than Lisbon. This is a university and here are above 1500 students in town and a great many good churches and very good buildings and good streets. Stands near the sea on the river Mondego.

26. Lay at Alluiregrea¹⁴. The roads all the way from Lisbon to Oporto are mountainous and very rough and the country and people miserably poor. All

the way I saw very little corn, a great many olives and here and there mighty fine little woods of firs. Nature seems to favour this country very much; but their being no manner of art, nor industry to assist nature, 'tis a most miserable poor barren country. The worst dog kennel in England is a palace in comparison to the best inn I saw on this road. No bed in any inn. The inns generally have two rooms; one for the passengers and the other for the mules. The first night I lay on the road we were about 26 men and 10 women lay all together in one room, servants and masters, rich and poor without ceremony; everybody carry all their provisions with them.

27. Oporto I came to Oporto where my uncle Francis Pickering received me very kindly. From Lisbon to Oporto is 182 long miles. This town stands on the river Douro. It is about a league from the sea and has a very nice bar. Ships can never come neither in nor out but with an easterly wind. This is a healthy pleasant town. This is a large well built town all paved with broad [illegible word that could be Hull] stone. The women all when they go out wear the black veil as the Spanish women but in their houses they all wear a mans coat. This is a great place for trade. Here is very good English factory; who are here and do trade on the peace and articles of trade made by Oliver Cromwell and are now in his name¹⁵. The factors live very generously here and have most of them cintos¹⁶ out of town about a league off.

Mr. Pickering has a very pretty one called Aqua Sancta».

Here on the last line of the last page Creed's account ends and Creed disappears from view until 1702. His valuable journal offers an interesting personal response to a country about which England was soon to know more as a result of the Methuen treaties and the War of the Spanish Succession.

Notes

1. J. M. Black, 'Portugal in 1730', *The British Historical Society of Portugal. Annual Report and Review*, 13 (1986) 65.
2. C. M. Dalton, *English Army Lists and Commission Registers 1661-1714* (5 vols, London, 1892-96), III, 360, IV, 168, 267, V pt. 1, 33, V pt. 2, 33; Public Record Office, War Office 26/11, Treasury 62/19, pp. 472-4.
I would like to thank Professor George Hilton Jones for his invaluable assistance in tracing Creed's career.
3. All dates are given in new style.
4. Paul Methuen, Envoy Extraordinary in Lisbon, a post filled earlier by his father John, 1697-1706.
5. John Earle, a long-established merchant in Lisbon, appointed Consul General in Lisbon at the beginning of the 1690s and replaced in 1704.
6. Catherine of Braganza 1638-1705, wife of Charles II had returned to Portugal in 1693. She was to be Regent in 1704-5.
7. Catherine lived first at the royal quinta of Alcântara and after that at Santa Marta and Belém. She eventually settled in the new palace of Bemposta, which she had built near Lisbon.
8. A. D. Francis, *The Methuens and Portugal* (Cambridge, 1966) 30-1.
9. This word is unclear.
10. Innocent XII, Pope 1691-1700.
11. It was usual to refer to women of more than a certain age as Mrs.
12. Roughly equivalent to (L)3.
13. Santarém.
14. I suspect this is Albergaria, which is just over half way on the main road from Coimbra to Oporto.
15. The 1654 treaty.
16. Villas.