

MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

Corpo Cronológico - Chronological Corpus (Collection of Manuscripts on the Portuguese Discoveries)

Ref N° 2006-17

PART A – ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

1. SUMMARY

Size: 83,212 documents;

Date: a fairly significant majority of the documents pertain to the fifteenth century and the first half of the sixteenth century.

Truly unique set of public manuscript documents, the significance of which is that they offer information about and throw light on European, and more particularly Portuguese, relations with the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America, during the period mentioned above.

These documents represent a heritage of archives of considerable importance for acquiring knowledge of the political, diplomatic, military, economic and religious history of numerous countries at the time of the Portuguese Discoveries.

2. DETAILS OF THE NOMINATOR

2.1 Name: Instituto dos Arquivos Nacionais/Torre do Tombo – Institute of National Archives/Torre do Tombo

2.2 Relationship to the documentary heritage nominated: Conservation body and owner of the document.

2.3 Contact person(s): Silvestre de Almeida Lacerda, director of the Institute.

2.4 Contact details (include address, phone, fax, email): Instituto dos Arquivos Nacionais/Torre do Tombo, Alameda da Universidade, 1649-010, Lisbon. Portugal. Tel. 00351 21 7811500; Fax 00351 217937230, email: lacerda@iantt.pt

3. IDENTITY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

Corpo Cronológico – Chronological Corpus (1161-1699). However, the Collection comprises mostly documents from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Reference: PT- IAN/TT/CC - Corpo Cronológico, 525 bundles, 83,212 manuscript documents

3.2 Description

With regard to the history of this Collection, the first major comment to be made is that it was mostly made up of documents relating to affairs of the Kingdom of Portugal, entrusted in 1569 to Damião de Góis, at the

time Guarda-Mor da Torre do Tombo,¹ by Secretary of State and diplomat, Pedro de Alcáçova Carneiro, when he renounced office.

Having arrived in Lisbon after the 1755 earthquake, Manuel da Maia, then Guarda-Mor da Torre do Tombo, was obliged to take emergency measures to save this archive heritage. At his initiative, therefore, from 1756 to 1764, the *Corpo Cronológico* was divided into three parts and arranged according to chronological criteria, to which it owes its name. The Collection, composed of original documents, mostly signed manuscripts, on parchment and paper, generally written in cursive script, was also described for the first time.

When the subjects covered by this Collection became known, its exceptional and universal nature was revealed. The thousands of 15th- and 16th-century documents in the Collection, going beyond frontiers and cultures, cannot but be part of humanity's common memory. This claim can be justified since the Collection gives accounts of numerous affairs relating to the history of different continents.

Navigating through the sources of the *Corpo Cronológico* takes us on a varied journey: along the route taken by the Portuguese ships.

We are guided by documents retracing the voyages across the Atlantic in search of the Orient, or the visits to and discovery of the coasts and kingdoms of Africa. Thus, our memory is stimulated thanks to:

- information on shipwrecks along the coast of Africa, including the Costa da Mina, discoveries of islands, such as Saint Lawrence Island, raids by French pirates at Cape Verde, provisions for ships heading for Africa, ships' voyages towards Mozambique, or stops in African ports by ships bound for India;
- the description of contacts between peoples and civilizations, accounts of the arrival of the Portuguese in Ethiopia, information on African kingdoms such as those of the Congo, Benin and Manicongo and the legendary Prester John, along with the offering of gifts to the king of Camano and various political leaders in and around the Gold Coast;
- reports of military affairs, regarding the construction of fortresses and the conquest of forts;
- information on the administration of the empire supported by the captaincies, and on the agencies of Crown control and their clerks, including information on the functioning of the Portuguese trading posts along the coasts of Africa;
- information on trading connected with the movement of ships carrying African goods between the Coast of Benin, the islands of São Tomé and Príncipe and São Jorge da Mina, trafficking in slaves and ivory, the revenues of the island of Ano Bom, English trade along the Costa da Mina, trade in precious metals such as gold, or simply malaguetta, sugar, cotton or even clothing and textiles;
- information on the settlement and integration of people in the kingdom, such as the pardons granted by the kings of Portugal to the inhabitants of the Monomotapa and pardons granted to deportees and prisoners;
- information on certain religious questions, such as missions, the role of the Jesuits in Africa and the evangelization of the Congo.

Continuing on the journey among these documents produced in all four corners of the world, we come to Asia. There the sources become even more numerous. In any case, we discover significant affairs concerning:

¹ Old name by which the Director-General of the National Archives at the Torre do Tombo was known. The closest translation of the term might be Guardian of the Royal Archives.

- the administration of the Portuguese empire in the Orient, including information on the Alcaidaria-Mor of Goa – name given to the government of a province – and on settlements and relations with local peoples;
- political and diplomatic matters, such as the exchange of correspondence between the kings of Portugal and the governors – such as Afonso de Albuquerque – and peace, friendship and trade treaties;
- military affairs relating to the occupation of territory, in particular the conquest of the fort of Aden, the sieges of Bassein, Ormuz and Diu, and the fortresses of Cananor, Ceylon, Chaul, Cochin, Damao, Diu, Goa, Malaca and Sunda;
- economic matters, bearing witness to trade in pepper, cinnamon and other spices, trade rivalry with the English and Dutch, commercial contracts, revenue of the Customs of Ormuz and the activity of the Casa da Índia – the institution administering the royal monopoly of trade and shipping towards the Orient;
- the navigators, led by Vasco da Gama, granted decrees, edicts and other privileges by the king of Portugal;
- religious affairs referring to the dissemination in the Orient of Christianity, such as conversions, the construction of churches, the establishment of convents, brotherhoods and the Misericórdias do Estado da Índia – pious institutions established in Portugal by Queen Leonor, wife of King João II, in 1498 – also founded in the Orient along the same lines as the original institutions in Portugal;
- information on conflicts with the Turks in many different places; and
- information on China.

Further examination and analysis of the Collection also reveals documents relating to the New World, in particular Latin America, dominated by affairs concerning Brazil.

First, witness accounts of matters leading to the construction of a country and more specific events. These include matters relating to:

- Portuguese administration of settlement, the division of the empire into captaincies and their donors, and demographic growth;
- trade, above all matters pertaining to the slave trade;
- military affairs generally referring to attacks by the French and Dutch, and the construction of fortresses;
- religious matters, above all the role of the Catholic Church, in particular the Jesuits, vis-à-vis the native people;
- the administration of local villages;
- information on unrest in S. Salvador da Bahía.

Back in Europe, further research uncovers more documents relating to Old World affairs.

Information on certain political and diplomatic matters: the expansion of the Ottoman empire and the siege of Vienna are just two of the subjects from the second half of the 16th century about which documents in the collection offer information, while offering further insights into a European context of a clash of civilizations, in particular.

We could continue to raise other interesting matters relating to European affairs documented in the Collection, an endless source of information; but the voyage must come to an end!

Research tools and bibliographical details

Guia de Fontes Portuguesas para a História da África/Instituto Português de Arquivos Nacionais. – Lisbon: Comissão Nacional para as Comemorações dos Descobrimentos: Fundação Oriente: Imprensa Nacional-Casa da Moeda, 1993.- ISBN 972-27-0402-8.- 2º v.:106 p. (Published under the aegis of UNESCO and the International Council on Archives - ICA)

Guia de Fontes Portuguesas para a História da Ásia/Instituto dos Arquivos Nacionais/Torre do Tombo. – Lisbon: Comissão Nacional para as Comemorações dos Descobrimentos: Fundação Oriente: Imprensa Nacional-Casa da Moeda, 1997.- ISBN 972-27-0871-6.- 1º v.: 140 p. (Published under the aegis of UNESCO and the ICA)

Guia de Fontes Portuguesas para a História da América/Instituto dos Arquivos Nacionais/Torre do Tombo. – Lisbon: Comissão Nacional para as Comemorações dos Descobrimentos: Fundação Oriente: Imprensa Nacional-Casa da Moeda, 1998.- ISBN 972-27-0903-8.- 1º v.: 144 p. (Published under the aegis of UNESCO and the ICA)

Guia dos Fundos da Torre do Tombo: Antigo Regime, Administração Central/Instituto dos Arquivos Nacionais/Torre do Tombo. - Lisbon: Instituto dos Arquivos Nacionais/Torre do Tombo, 1998 .- ISBN972-8107-42-0 .- 1º vol.- 435 p.

Inventário do Corpo Cronológico. - L. 299 and 299A . – 1776. - manuscript

Catálogo do Corpo Cronológico - C 79 to 169 A1-4 . – 1st half of the 20th century, manuscript

Catalogue, in digital format, available at <http://ttonline.iannt.pt/cc.htm>, since July 2005

Índices cronológico e onomástico: (Próprios e Comuns)/supervised by Manuel da Maia. – 1756-1764. - L 223 to 234, manuscripts

Índice geral dos documentos contidos no Corpo Chronologico existente no Real Archivo da Torre do Tombo.- Lisbon: [s.n], 1845 .- 185 p.

Summary of provenance

The *Corpo Cronológico* Collection was formed, at the initiative of the Guarda-Mor da Torre do Tombo, Manuel da Maia, between 1756 and 1764, from original documents issued by the Secretariat of State for the Affairs of the Kingdom and the Courts of Justice, and deposited in the Royal Archives of the Torre do Tombo from 1569 to 1699.

In the old guide to the archives of the Torre do Tombo, written in 1776, the entry referring to the *Corpo Cronológico* notes that it included references to all manner of State affairs, such as: “cartas de imperadores, reis, rainhas e de outros grandes da Europa para os nossos soberanos (...) sobre os sucessos das nossas armas na Ásia, Africa e América, cartas de embaixadores e enviados desta Corte”, bem como “notícias particulares dos movimentos das Cortes, das suas residências e de outras muitas evoluções e sucessos em toda a Europa”.²

² In English this would read: “letters from emperors, kings, queens and other grandees of Europe addressed to our sovereign (...) with regard to the success of our arms in Asia, Africa and America, letters of ambassadors and Court envoys”, together with “specific news of the movements of the Courts, their residences and all manner of other developments and successes all over Europe.”

Conservation diagnosis

This collection has undergone a comprehensive conservation operation, including occasional restoration.

In addition to these tasks, systematic microfilming and digitization have been carried out. To date 70% of the documents have been microfilmed, and 55% have been digitized under a project funded by a European Union Programme aimed at cultural institutions (Operational Programme “Culture”).

The originals are protected documents. The majority may only be communicated on microfilm or by computer. In the future it is estimated that all will be available in this way, but that will depend on progress made in completing the document microfilming and digitization process. In any case, all the documents are stored in the same way, namely each is placed horizontally in a neutral paper jacket, kept in alkaline cardboard boxes. The most important of all are kept in a safe while others are in a store-room. All are maintained in stabilized atmospheric conditions, with regard to relative temperature and humidity (19°C and 45%).

Visual documentation

For a more detailed idea of this heritage, we advise you to consult the following address: <http://ttonline.ianntt.pt/cc.htm>. There you can see images of documents as and when you wish and even improve them by means of virtual restoration. To discover the building where it is kept please consult our site at <http://www.ianntt.pt>.

Bibliography

There is a sizeable bibliography on this subject taking this Collection as its source. The choice of works presented below applies the following criteria: editions regarded as classics; works more likely to strengthen the universal nature of the Collection thanks to the geographical areas described or studied; Portuguese and foreign authors; works written in Portuguese and in foreign languages (French and English);

(a) concerning the Collection *Corpo Cronológico*

“Extractos da Primeira Parte do *Corpo Cronológico do Real Archivo*”, in *Obras Completas*/Cardinal Saraiva; Fr. Francisco de S. Luís.- Lisbon: Imprensa Nacional, 1875 .- 4º v.: pp. 183-407.

“Sumários do *Corpo Cronológico*”/José da Silva Pessanha, in *Anais das Bibliotecas e Arquivos de Portugal*. vol. I, nº 3 (April 1915), pp. 113-146, nº4 (July 1915), pp.180-190, nº 5 (October 1915), pp. 240-250, vol. II, nº6 (January 1916), pp. 52-56.

Documentos do corpo chronologico relativos a Marrocos (1488 a 1514)/published by Ordem da Academia das Sciencias de Lisboa; coord., António Baião .- Coimbra : Imprensa da Universidade, 1925 .- 141 p.

Les sources inédites de l’Histoire du Maroc/org. Pierre de Cenival ; [et al.] .- Paris : Paul Geuthner, 1934-1953.

Descobrimientos Portugueses: Documentos para a sua História/org. João Martins da Silva Marques.- Lisbon: Instituto de Alta Cultura, 1944-1971. 3 v.

Monumenta Missionaria Africana: África Ocidental/org. Padre António Brásio .- Lisboa: Agência Geral do Ultramar: Academia Portuguesa de História, 1952-1968 .- 20 v.

Monumenta Henricina/org. António Joaquim Dias Dinis .- Coimbra: Comissão Executiva do V Centenário da Morte do Infante D. Henrique, 1960-1974.

Materials for West African History in Portuguese Archives/A. F. C. Ryder. – London: The Athlone Press, 1965.

Documentos sobre a Madeira no século XVI existentes no corpo cronológico: análise documental/ Fernando Jasmins Pereira .- Lisbon: Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo, 1990.

(b) Studies taking their sources from the Corpo Cronológico

São Jorge da Mina: (1482-1637): La vie d'un comptoir portugais en Afrique Occidentale/by J. Bato'ora Ballong-Wen-Mewuda. – ed. Fondation Calouste Gulbenkian; Commission Nationale pour les Commémorations des Découvertes Portugaises. Lisbon: Barbosa & Xavier Limitada, 1993. – Collection du Centre d'Études Portugaises, 2 tomes.

Portugal y la construcción de Brasil/ Jorge Couto.- Madrid: Mapfre, 1996

Os portugueses e o mar de Ceilão: trato, diplomacia e guerra (1498-1543)/ Jorge Manuel Flores; pref. Geneviève Bouchon .- Lisbon: Edições Cosmos, 1998 .- 368 p.

“A artilharia naval portuguesa no século XVI”/Fernando Pedrosa, in *Actas do Congresso Internacional de História Militar*. Lisbon, 24º, 1998. *A Guerra e o Encontro de Civilizações* .- Lisbon: Comissão Portuguesa de História Militar, 1998 .- pp.329-339.

*O domínio do norte de Samatra: a história dos sultanatos de Samudera-Pacém e de Achem e das suas relações com os portugueses (1500-1580)/*Jorge Manuel dos Santos Alves; pref. Luís Filipe Thomaz .- Lisbon: Sociedade Histórica da Independência de Portugal, 1999.-301p.

Afonso de Albuquerque: Leão dos Mares da Ásia/Geneviève Bouchon; trans. Isabel de Faria Albuquerque. – 2ª ed.- Lisbon: Quetzal Editores, 2000. – 323 p. Translation: Albuquerque: Le lion des mers d'Asie

*A construção do conhecimento europeu sobre a China: c. 1500-c. 1630: impressos e manuscritos que revelaram o mundo chinês à Europa culta/*Francisco Manuel de Paula Nogueira Roque de Oliveira . – Barcelona: Geography Department at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, 2003. – Doctorate thesis in human geography. - 1470 p.

Experts and organizations able to assess the importance and provenance of the documentary heritage

1. **António Dias Farinha**, Professor at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Lisbon and director of the Instituto Histórico Infante D. Henrique. Contact details: Instituto Histórico Infante D. Henrique, Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa, Alameda da Universidade 1600-214, Lisbon, Portugal. Tel. 00351 21 7920045, email: inst.domhenque@fl.ul.pt.; dep.historia@fl.ul.pt.;
2. **Luís Filipe Thomaz**, Professor at the Portuguese Catholic University and director of the Instituto de Estudos Orientais. Contact details: Instituto de Estudos Orientais da Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Campus de Palma de Cima, 1649-023 Lisbon, Portugal, Tel. 00351 217214000, ieo@fe.ucp.pt
- 3- **José Jorge da Costa Couto**, Professor at the Faculty of Letters at the University of Lisbon and member of the Instituto Histórico Infante D. Henrique. Since last year he has been the director of the National Library of Portugal. Contact details: Biblioteca Nacional, Campo Grande 83, 1749-081 Lisbon, Portugal, Tel. 00351 217982000, Fax. 217982138, email : <http://www.bn.pt>.

4 JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION/ASSESSMENT AGAINST CRITERIA

4.1 Authenticity

The authenticity of the *Corpo Cronológico* cannot be contested from the historical and diplomatic viewpoints, since these are public documents, signed and dated, issued by the Secretariat of State of Kingdom Affairs and the Courts of Justice of the Old Regime (Kingdom of Portugal).

4.2 world significance, uniqueness and irreplaceability

The Collection is of universal significance since it provides some of the earliest evidence of worldwide relations and influences between civilizations, systematically developed during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

It is also a unique and irreplaceable source for understanding and deepening knowledge of the role and contribution made by the Portuguese discoveries to changing the world.

4.3 criteria of (a) time (b) place (c) people (d) subject and theme (e) form and style

The most relevant criterion is primarily a thematic variety, since the collection includes important sources of knowledge in different fields of the political, diplomatic, economic, military, scientific, cultural and religious history of several countries and regions of the world at the time of the Portuguese Discoveries.

4.4 Issues of rarity, integrity, threat and management

The only situation applicable to this collection is its rarity: it bears witness to a specific context concerning the specific problems faced by the voyages of the Portuguese, the administration of such different territories and dialogue with other cultures.

5. LEGAL INFORMATION

5.1. Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Instituto dos Arquivos Nacionais (Institute of National Archives)/ Torre do Tombo, Alameda da Universidade, 1649-010, Lisbon, Portugal. Tel. 00351 217811500; Fax 00351 217937230, <http://iantt.pt>.

5.3 Legal status:

(a) Category of ownership

The Collection belongs to the public archive heritage of the Portuguese State, under the responsibility of the Portuguese Ministry of Culture – Instituto dos Arquivos Nacionais / Torre do Tombo.

(b) Accessibility

For the purposes of preservation, the documents may only be communicated in the form of microfilm or in electronic format, other than in cases where such alternative formats do not exist.

(c) Copyright status

Copyright does not apply to these documents but any reproduction is subject to payment.

(d) Responsible administration

Instituto dos Arquivos Nacionais / Torre do Tombo

(e) Other factors

No; the establishment housing this archive collection is also prepared to fulfil this function.

6. MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1 The Collection has been the subject of management decisions, such as the restoration, preservation, microfilming and digitization procedures already mentioned (see Conservation diagnosis).

PART C - LODGEMENT

This nomination is lodged by:

(Please print name).....

(Signature)..... (Date).....