Small Ports of the Atlantic Coast (16th -19th centuries)

Research on coastal shipping, coastal fishing and coastal communities have pointed out the important role that small ports have played along the maritime coast. This article highlights two different aspects, their functions and the specificities of port communities. They were first and foremost created to serve local and regional economies in the Middle Ages. Some were then integrated into the influential centres of command ports which controlled the Atlantic system from the 17th century, before being downgraded in the 19th century. In port villages and towns, the relationship with the sea did not necessarily bring about a division between the seafarers and the rest of the population. Regional footholds could be seen onboard boats with crews from the parish and in the joint-ownership system which activated local capital.

Gérard Le Bouedec

Significance of "unimportant seaports" in the European seaport system in the Early Modern Age. A Portuguese case study

The paper presents a double perspective of analysis: a theoretical one, through which is intended to discuss patterns of seaport classification and ranking; and an empirical one, presented through a case study: Vila do Conde, a small seaport on north-western Portugal. One of the main issues of the paper is the discussion centred on the significance or insignificance of the so called "unimportant seaports". Some concepts such as seaport system; seaport hierarchies and seaport complementarities are proposed as key approaches of the study.

Amélia Polónia

Caminha in the Sixteenth Century: seaport dynamics

The study of small and medium-sized ports is crucial for the understanding of the seaport's economical dynamics in the Portuguese Early Modern Age. Our master thesis is centred in a case study, the maritime community of Caminha, in the 16th century. Here we intend to analyze the role that this small port played on the complementary interactions of the Portuguese Northwest seaports system.

Sara Maria Costa Pinto

The Struggle for the Bay. The Life and Times of Sandwip, an almost unknown Portuguese Port in the Bay of Bengal in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries

This article places Sandwip, a lesser known salt trading island and port in the Bay of Bengal, then within the medieval kingdom of Bengal but now in Bangladesh, within the nexus of global trade and politics in the seventeenth century. It argues that we need to see the 'minor' settlements of the Portuguese in Southasia as neither 'formal' nor' 'informal', instead we need to refocus and study Portuguese expansion as a multi pronged enterprise in which local exigencies and imperial vision were braided.

Rila Mukherjee

Merchants, ports and hinterlands. The building of sea-port structures in the Early Modern Porto

Emerging in the Middle Ages, Porto became one of the most important ports of the Iberian Peninsula. The city's affirmation over the nearby territory was accompanied by the expansion of business towards the northern markets of Flanders, Brabant, Great Britain and northern France (Brittany and Normandy), stimulating the emergence of a merchant navy, and inspiring a set of engineering works meant to organize the harbour. With this paper, I'll pay attention to the role performed by small ports and apparently modest business centres in the building and organization of the first global age.

The history of such port like Porto will contribute to enlighten fields of interaction that existed between the port-cities and their umlands and hinterlands, which supported its economy, mould a significant part of its society, and influenced its cultural standards. In this study I'll present the most important facts of the process of territorial domination, and the way things were conducted in order to get effective its mercantile economy. Charts will be presented and comment, once they are very informative to this evolution, and I'll also emphasize the international context in which it occurred.

Amândio Jorge Morais Barros

In between strategic imperatives and civilian subsistence: island supplies, coastal navigation and small ports in Eighteenth-Century Southern Brittany

Over the past few years researchers in maritime history have shown a marked interest in port microsites and the modes of local coastal navigation. The present article is a contribution to this field: it illustrates the dynamics of Eighteenth-Century small ports in Southern Brittany which had to supply a strategic fortress of major importance for the kingdom of France. This computer-assisted case study bears on relatively neglected sources (the archives of the service of

military supplies). It sheds some light on the living conditions of a garrison in the early modern age, assesses island-supplying problems and tackles the procedures used to remedy them.

Christophe Cérino

The small harbours, essential actors in the Baltic area

Northern Europe is a very active economic area in the 18th century. Many small harbours are involved in all kinds of exchanges but the network is more or less developed according to the different countries. The geographical conditions but also the economic policies run by states are the reasons for this. The more active harbours also show much dynamism by seizing opportunities and by taking advantage of the circumstances to increase their activities.

Pierrick Pourchasse

Seaport resources and infrastructures – management and functionality of a seaport. Aveiro 1756-1857

Seaports are fundamental infrastructures for the development of commercial relations between the hinterland and the foreland, within the context of maritime economy. A possible way to establish this importance is to evaluate how the seaport policies (local, regional or central management and investments) were responsible for the trade of merchandise between land and sea routes and vice-versa.

This issue may be all the more significant if we consider the case of the seaport of Aveiro, located on the Northwest coast of Portugal, subject to diverse localization proposals and finally built far from urban areas (town with a port, which is different from a town within a port). This leads us to reflect on the port management policies from the late 18th century to the early 19th century that could be considered suitable for its construction and consolidation.

Inês Amorim

The Wine-based Architectures of a monofunctional Port

This paper proposes a study of the Gaia trading centre, based on the importance of the Port Wine cellars in shaping the urban zone of the riverside area. The research focuses on the different types of cellars and their potential use for other activities, thus maintaining the identity of the area. Cellars could and should continue as structures dedicated to wine, but with different functions, since they are a part of an centuries-old port that is no longer monofunctional nor can it be so in the future.

Mariana Abrunhosa Pereira

"Mysteries of the Beyond in Ancient Egypt": questions about the museological exploration of a conceptual frame

This article aims to point out the possibilities offered by a theoretical frame to the development of an exhibition plan. The «Mysteries of the Beyond in Ancient Egypt», the subject of the exhibition that took place in the Casa-Museu Teixeira Lopes from 26th February to the 26th of March of 2008, are here discussed from a theoretical point of view, in order to identify the guidelines that should have been present in the museological treatment of the Egyptian collection of Museu de História Natural da Universidade do Porto. The problems raised by the lack of scientific criteria adopted in the museological work are thus the main topic of our discussion.

Rogério Ferreira de Sousa

Relations between Portugal and Galicia XIV-XV centuries

The close link between Galicia and the kingdom of Portugal is known prior to its independence and throughout the Middle age. There are many elements in which major connections existed: geographical closeness, a common past until the XIIth century, the same language, belonging to the same ecclesiastic jurisdiction, commercial relations, co-existence between its inhabitants and moments of clash and rivalry. A good sign of this close link are the lengthy documents that exist in Portuguese and Spanish files regarding these relations during this time.

Paz Romero Portilla

For the "socorro da Índia": the municipality of Porto and the Crown authority after the Restoration War

This paper aims to analyze the dialogue between the Crown and the local authority of Porto regarding fiscal administration, after the War of Restoration. In 1672, the Crown requests funding from Porto's Sobejos das Sisas in order to build a fleet in the shipyard of Ribeira do Ouro, which can assist the India campaign.

In this work, the behavior and the municipal reactions, as well as the Crown's justifications regarding the request of this extraordinary expense are evaluated in a microperspective way, based on the correspondence exchange between the Crown and the municipality of Porto.

Patrícia Costa

José Bonifácio revisited: the academic and the soldier

There is a profusion of studies on Brazil's Patriarch of Independence, particularly originated in the hemisphere where he was born. His political project and the diversified activities developed following the proclamation of autonomy of the former "Land of Santa Cruz" inspired, namely among his compatriots, numerous studies about his personality and work. However, his brilliant career, both as an academic and a mine technician, as well as senior official to the Prince Regent D. João, and as a patriot in the battle field, after 1808 following the French invasion, has been relegated to a less important place. This paper describes the life of the Coimbra academic, always observant and diligent, the soldier (lieutenant colonel of the General Staff) and, for a short period, the police superintendant of Porto.

Eugénio Francisco dos Santos

Heroes wounded in war Re-educate the soldier in the "Instituto de Mutilados de Santa Isabel (1917-1921)"

When the first war-wounded soldiers arrived to Lisbon, there was little if anything that could helped their new condition. It was due to this urging need that the "Instituto de Mutilados da Guerra" emerged, in "Casa Pia de Lisboa", which aimed to support, reeducate and readapt our war handicaped/invalids, preparing them to further return to an active life.

Cláudia Pinto Ribeiro

Democracy and Culture: from Political Culture to Democratic Cultural Practices

Based on post-positivist assumption, this paper aims to demonstrate that the contributions from sociological neo-institutionalism are those which best contribute to a normative and simultaneously useful definition of cultural studies, within the Theory of Democracy, given the input that they bring, particularly from areas such as social history, cultural anthropology, sociologies of culture and new social movements that are based on notions of culture as praxis. This study is an attempt to describe those contributions, demonstrating some of their advantages but also their limitations, as well as show that the post-Geertzian concept of culture as a semiotic practice, is the most appropriate to identify, describe and explain the symbolical variables of democratic political regimes as non-domination political systems.

António Rosas Ramón Máiz

Being an Historian and a Citizen nowadays

This study aims at questioning the Historians' civic and professional participation within the context of an activity that requires a particular set of professional duties and rules of procedure. Within this context, one will focus on the nature and validity of the knowledge of the past, built upon epistemological, methodological and ideological factors, whose philosophical debate is being conducted by post-modern theoreticians and philosophers. One also wants to stress some of the advantages, both of introducing and conquering "new" research fields, as well as, of the present day methodological perspectives of History as a serious and academic subject. Our goal is to follow the path of questioning, searching for an explanation of the ethical value of Clio's priests' work and, obviously, of its civic dimension. Actually, one wishes to think over the impact of the study of the human past on the 21th century's society, asking us what History Today is (and what it is for?) (using as a motto the title of a book recently published in Portugal).

Judite A. Gonçalves de Freitas