

FOREWORD

The year of 2016 was a year marked by two events, one happy and one particularly unfortunate. The former was twentieth birthday of the founding of the Departamento de Ciências e Técnicas do Património (Department of Sciences and Techniques of Heritage, DCTP), the first department created at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Porto, the establishment of which was first supported by Professor Carlos Alberto Ferreira de Almeida. The latter was, evidently, the twentieth anniversary of the Professor's passing in tragic circumstances. The lecturers of the DCTP agreed on honouring these two events by organising an international congress, one that would celebrate the milestone achieved by the DCTP and, simultaneously, honour the late Professor on the twentieth year of his passing. The lecturers also agreed that the most appropriate form of honouring the memory of Professor Carlos Alberto Ferreira de Almeida would be for the congress to centre itself on and promote the discussion of several themes that were very dear to the late Professor. Hence, the *Genius Loci – Lugares e Significados / Places and Meanings* congress was created, organised by both the DCTP and the CITCEM – Centro de Investigação Transdisciplinar «Cultura, Espaço e Memória» (Transdisciplinary Research Centre «Culture Space and Memory»), and took place between the 20th and 21st of April of 2016.

Those familiar with Professor Carlos Alberto Ferreira de Almeida's oeuvre surely know that there were several themes that were especially dear to him. One of which was, doubtlessly, that of Mediaeval Castelology and Military Architecture, a field to which the late Professor de Almeida contributed immensely in various and outstanding studies – the first of which was his second Doctoral Dissertation, titled *Castelologia Medieval de Entre-Douro-e-Minho. Das Origens a 1220*, presented in 1978, a seminal work for the landscape of Portuguese research in this very field. Indeed, we can affirm that in Portuguese studies on mediaeval military architecture there is “before” and a “after” that pivotal work. For this reason, and because we acknowledge the central place that the field of Castles and Military Architecture occupied in the late Professor's scientific interests, and, conversely, the place that his *opera* occupies in the evolution of the studies on this field, we decided to create a Section in the *Genius Loci* Congress dedicated to

these themes, prosaically titled «Arquitecturas Militares» («Military Architectures») – in the plural form, for we expected for it to contain a plurality of perspectives.

For the Opening Conference we invited Professor Manuel Retuerce Velasco, from the Universidade Complutense de Madrid, the author of a vast and important body of work concerning Muslim Architecture and, specifically, on Islamic Fortifications. Amongst the various archaeological excavations under his supervision, those at Calatrava La Vieja and Gormaz stand out; these were co-supervised with other important Researcher, Doctor Juan Zozava Stabel-Hansen – who unfortunately passed away in the beginning of 2017. Professor Carlos Alberto Ferreira de Almeida took part in the excavations at Gormaz, he would go on to frequently mention these excavations in conversation with his colleagues in unabashedly enthusiastic tones. For this reason, we felt doubly compelled to invite Professor Velasco to speak at the Congress.

The work that the Reader now has in his/her hands is the product of the communications presented at the aforementioned congress. The call for papers system dictated the selection process – which lead to a somewhat unbalanced group of presentations. Several of the authors scheduled to speak were not able to be present – due to various reasons –, and some presentations did reach their final written versions. The texts that the Reader has before him/her are the “fruits of the congress”, so to speak; a congress that was marred by several factors – amongst which, the repercussions that the Congress had amongst the scientific community and the researchers’ personal issues. The edition’s order did not attempt to follow the order in which the communications were presented during the Congress; it, however, tried to follow a somewhat chronological timeline – from the most ancient themes, from the Ancient World, to the most recent ones, to the Modern Era’s fortified bulwark systems. The only exception is, naturally, Professor Manuel Retuerce Velasco’s inaugural communication, presented together with the Architect Fernando Cobos – a presentation which heads this Section. From all submitted communications, only four are not included in this section, for the authors did not submit the final versions of their texts on time. We speak of António José de Oliveira’s “O Castelo de Guimarães nos séculos XVII e XVIII”, António Manuel de Carvalho Lima’s “Castelos, *villae* e territórios: a *terra de Bayam* no século XI”; José António Salazar Ribeiro’s “Filipe Tércio: fortificação de parte da costa desde o Cabo de S. Vicente até à Galiza (1577-1597)” and Rebeca Blanco-Rotea’s, “Entre tierra y piedra. Tipología de fortificaciones de época moderna en la Raia Húmida”.

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