

WORD OF A WELCOME

Ladies and gentlemen:

In this opening session, on behalf of Porto University, I would like to welcome all the specialists, all the members of the International Commission of Diplomatics.

The field of knowledge and research that you cultivate is a very specialised one; it is non only important; it is truly basic in the historic science.

We all know the names and the role of Jean Mabillon, of Van Papenbroeck in the 17th century, and those of the benedictine monks D. Tassin and D. Toustain, a century later.

They are the forefathers, they are the forunners. We are their disciples, their followers. Because they have reached the utmost in the field.

It is understandable, therefore, to remember their names in this moment.

I would like to evoke another name —this time a countryman — the great figure called Jodo Pedro Ribeiro. This churchman, the canon Jodo Pedro Ribeiro was born, here in Porto, in a street quite near of the Cathedral.

He was the first Professor of Portuguese Diplomatics: primarily, in Coimbra University; after in the National Archives of Torre do Tombo, in the later 18th century and in the early 19th.

There were several scholars before him. But he was the real founder of Portuguese Diplomats. May the shadow of fodo Pedro Ribeiro be present at your meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen:

Welcome to Porto. Your presence is a pleasure and a honour for us.

I hope that your stay in our country will be a pleasure for you.

I hope so, very heartly. Thank you very much indeed.

CANDIDO DOS SANTOS

Vice-Rector