

SIGILLUM: PORTUGALIAE

®



SIGILLVM

Corpus of Portuguese Seals



SIGILLVM is a project aimed at the inventorying, cataloguing, organising and processing of Portuguese medieval secular clergy seals that exist in various institutions holding archives, collections of separate seals, and seal matrices. The project also aims at the repackaging and assessment of seal condition through the preparation of reports that recommend conservation and restoration measures.

This scattered and unknown world of seals will be presented on a database with descriptions and images, consisting of the first step towards the creation of a national online sigillographic catalogue.

www.portugal-sigillvm.net

OBJECTIVES

Inventorying, cataloguing and digitalisation of Portuguese medieval ecclesiastic sigillography, which consists of the first stage towards the preparation and presentation of a national online sigillographic catalogue.

Treatment, organisation, and preventive re-packaging of seals and the documents they are attached to.

Evaluation of the numerical composition and condition of the sigillographic *corpus* that has been inventoried and catalogued.

Provision to each custodial institution of a rigorous categorisation of their seal collections, including recommendations on preservation and restoration interventions needed.

Digital availability and online dissemination of the catalogue with open access.

Promotion and dissemination of the project to a specialised public and to civil society, in particular the school community, promoting knowledge about a valuable heritage of undeniable interest, and historical, documental and cultural importance, to this day almost ignored.



Geraldo Domingues, bishop of Évora - 1315
© ANTT (Gaveta 12, m. 5, n° 1)

PROJECT

Although seals have been used since ancient times with the triple and important function of identifying, validating and keeping something inviolable, a function still at play nowadays, care for their inventorying, preservation and study have not corresponded to what is desirable.

In Portugal there is no systematic survey which gives an account of the number of seals or their condition, or a survey that allows counting the losses incurred. A recent analysis of the seals prior to 1319 from the archives of the Cathedral Chapter of Coimbra stored at the National Archive of Torre do Tombo (ANTT) points to almost 50% of missing seals and only 25% of the remaining considered to be in good condition (MORUJÃO, 2010). Given that this is one of the largest Portuguese seal collections, such numbers are an alarming indicator of the urgent need to safeguard the sigillographic heritage still existing in our country.

Adding to this unfortunate situation is the fact that in Portugal, unlike what happened in other European countries, no systematic casts of seals have been carried out, nor any sigillographic catalogues have been made. The only large cataloguing attempt in existence is the known work of Luís Gonzaga de Lancastre e Távora, Marquês de Abrantes, *O estudo da sigilografia medieval portuguesa* (Lisbon, 1983). This study concerns only a part of the existing medieval seals of the National Archive of Torre do Tombo and a restricted number of seal impressions and matrices from other sources. The study also presents a varied number of errors and inaccuracies, and does not comply with the international inventorying and cataloguing criteria defined since 1990 by the *Vocabulaire International de la Sigillographie* (Rome, 1990).

The rebirth and renewal of the sigillographic science that occurred a few

decades ago by the hand of Michel Pastoureau gave a new boost to the study of these “small monuments”. In recent years and in various countries, seals have been the theme of major exhibitions, of multidisciplinary scientific meetings and research projects. In Portugal, the interest in the subject has been growing over the past two decades. One cannot study or disseminate, however, what one does not know exists or where to be found. Contact with seals has led researchers to verifying the urgency that needs to be put on preserving the national sigillographic heritage, its inventorying, cataloguing and dissemination.

It is within this framework that the project “SIGILLVM: Corpus of Portuguese Seals. Inventorying, cataloguing and digitalisation of Portuguese medieval ecclesiastic sigillography” appears, first stage of a larger work plan - SIGILLVM PORTVGALIAE® – which aims, in the medium term, to broaden the inventoried sigillographic world to the entire Portuguese seals up to the end of the Ancien Régime.



Nicolau, bishop of Silves - 1190
© ANTT (Most. S. Vicente de Fora, m. 1, nº 5)



Estêvão Eanes Brochardo, bishop of Coimbra - 1304
© ANTT (Sé de Coimbra, 2ª inc., m. 12, nº 576)



Egas Viegas, bishop of Viseu - 1289-1313
© AMGV (Selos Avulsos, 1)



Fr. Estêvão, bishop of Lisbon - 1315
© ANTT (Gaveta 2, m. 5, nº 1)



Martinho Afonso de Miranda, bishop of Coimbra - 1393
© ANTT (Sé de Coimbra, 2ª inc., m. 65, nº 2384)



João Galvão, bishop of Coimbra - 1467
© ANTT (Sé de Coimbra, 2ª inc., m. 62, nº 2287)

COORDINATOR

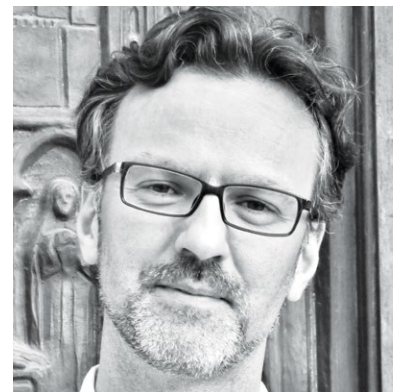
MARIA DO ROSÁRIO
BARBOSA MORUJÃO



Professora auxiliar [assistant professor] of the Faculty of Arts, University of Coimbra, where she obtained her PhD in History of the Middle Ages. She is a collaborator member of the Centre for Religious History Studies of the Portuguese Catholic University and an integrated member of the Centre for History of Society and Culture of the Faculty of Arts, University of Coimbra. Author of the first study on sigillography of the Portuguese secular clergy, focusing on the seals of the bishops, the chapter and the curia of the Cathedral of Coimbra, built into her doctoral dissertation *A Sé de Coimbra: instituição e chancelaria (1080-1318)* (Lisbon, 2010). Author of multiple works in religious history, editing of sources, diplomatics and sigillography, many of which made in co-operation of Anísio Miguel de Sousa Saraiva, with whom she created the current project.

RESEARCHER

ANÍSIO MIGUEL DE
SOUSA SARAIVA



Member of the Centre for Religious History Studies of the Portuguese Catholic University. Master in History of the Middle Ages, with the dissertation *A Sé de Lamego na primeira metade do século XIV: 1296 - 1349* (Leiria, 2003). PhD student at the University of Coimbra, where he is preparing his dissertation on the diocese of Viseu in the Middle Ages.

Co-ordinator of the project of inventory, critical analysis and research of the collection of the Grão Vasco Museum Archive (2007). Scientific and technical co-ordinator of the digital catalogue of that Archive, edited by the Institute of Museums and Conservation within the exhibition *Monumentos de Escrita: 400 anos de História da Sé e da Cidade de Viseu (1230-1639)* (Viseu, 2007-2008), of which he was the author and executive and scientific co-ordinator as well. Author of multiple works in religious history, editing of sources, and sigillography.

RE SEARCHER

SÉRGIO LIRA



Integrated member of the CLEPUL [Centre of Portuguese-Speaking Literature and Culture of the University of Lisbon]. Master in Medieval History with the dissertation *O Mosteiro de S. Simão da Junqueira, dos primórdios até 1300* (Vila do Conde, 2004). PhD in Museum Studies by the Leicester University (UK) in 2002, with the dissertation *Museums and Temporary Exhibitions as means of propaganda: the Portuguese case during the Estado Novo*. He has a vast experience in the area of cultural heritage inventory. He is co-author of the computer application *Index Rerum* – a system of inventory and heritage management developed by the company FCo and granted to the SIGILLVM project courtesy of FCo.

RE SEARCHER

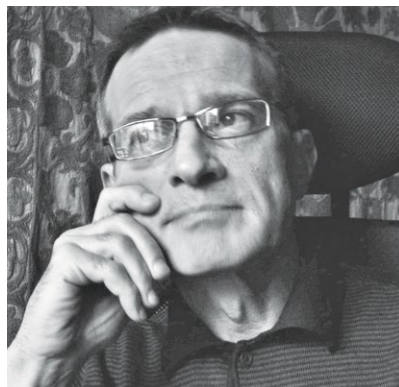
PEDRO MIGUEL
CORREIA PINTO



Member of the Centre for Historical Studies and the Portuguese Centre for Global History, NOVA University of Lisbon. He integrates a large number of national and international research projects linked to document sources editing, within which he has systematically researched hundreds of charters in many Portuguese and foreign archives. Author of several works, most of which related to the editing of sources and the development of research tools, such as indexes and inventories of archives.

CONSULTANT

JEAN-LUC
CHASSEL



Maître de conférences at Paris Ouest – Nanterre – La Défense University. Doctorat d'État in Law. Vice-president of the Société Française d'Héraldique et de Sigillographie. Laureate by the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres. Secretary General of the International Heraldry Academy. Author and editor of various works on sigillography, he is unanimously acknowledged as one of the main world specialists in this area.



Coimbra See's Chapter - 1252
© ANTT (Sé de Coimbra, 1^a inc., m. 15, n° 6)



João Vicente, archdeacon of Penela - 1288
© ANTT (Sé de Coimbra, 1^a inc., m. 18, n° 4)



Egas Lourenço Magro, dean of Lisbon - 1304
© ANTT (Sé de Coimbra, 2^a inc., m. 22, n° 960)



Mem Martins, *magister scholarum* of Coimbra - 1427
© ANTT (Sé de Coimbra, 2^a inc., m. 39, n° 1655)



João Peres das Leis, canon of Évora - 1315
© ANTT (Gaveta 12, m. 5, n° 1)



Martim Botelho, treasurer of Lamego - 1331
© BNP (Pergaminhos, 56P)

FUNDING

Project funded by the Programme of Support to the Recovery, Treatment and Organisation of Archive Collections.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is a Portuguese private institution of public utility whose statutory aims are in the fields of Arts, Charity, Education and Science. Created by a clause in Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian's will, the Foundation's statutes were approved by the Portuguese State in July 18, 1956.



SPONSORS



Free use of the collections' inventory and management system *Index Rerum* during the first year of the project.

FCo. – Fullservice company in multimedia is a company positioned in the cultural, tourism, education and business markets working and developing heritage, communication, and multimedia solutions, particularly content creation and production. The company was a pioneer in these areas and is currently market leader in Portugal in the production and implementation of audio visiting systems.



Technical support and advanced training in documents and seals scanning.

REDINTEG is a company that offers complete scanning and microfilm solutions for preservation, reproduction and dissemination of information, associated with legal or identity issues and cultural production. It also provides technical assistance, training and consultancy in software and equipment implementation.

WEL COMING



UNIVERSIDADE
CATÓLICA
PORTUGUESA | CENTRO DE ESTUDOS
DE HISTÓRIA RELIGIOSA

The CEHR - Centre for Religious History Studies is a research unit of the Portuguese Catholic University. The CEHR initiated its activity in 1988, in continuation of the Centre for Ecclesiastical History Studies founded in 1956. It is recognised and evaluated since 2002 by the Foundation for Science and Technology.

The Centre's mission is the study of the history of society from the religious phenomenon perspective. Focused on religion as a forum for analysis of society – both at the level of mentalities, institutions and practices, the Centre studies the interactions between social dynamics and religious dynamics, promoting scientific knowledge and its transmission to the community.

The CEHR is formed by a group of researchers assigned to research lines and integrating different work groups. These researchers are responsible for research projects, training courses and scientific meet-

ings. Their institutional affiliations include, among others, the International Council on Archives (category C) and the ICARUS – International Centre for Archival Research.

The CEHR hosts a research line on “Memory, Mediations and Materialisations of Religion”, with an interdisciplinary character combining historiographic research with distinct but complementary areas, such as art, iconography, heritage and archive systems. Our current project will be developed under this research line.

PARTNERS



DIRECÇÃO-GERAL DO LIVRO, DOS ARQUIVOS E DAS BIBLIOTECAS (DGLAB)

The General Directorate of the Book, Archives and Libraries oversees the Portuguese Network of Archives in which most archives with collections for intervention under this project are included. Among them, and because of its importance, is the National Archive of Torre do Tombo, where most of the Portuguese medieval documentation was incorporated in the 19th century and following the establishment of the Republic. At the National Archive one can find the archival bodies of most cathedrals, collegiate churches, and monastic institutions, collections with a large number of seals such as the *Gavetas*, as well as a wide range of separate seals largely unidentified. Regional archives located in district capital cities are also part of the Portuguese Network of Archives. Most of these regional archives also retain medieval collections that are relevant for the current project. Among

them one highlights the District Archives of Oporto and Viseu, which were built largely of documents from the cathedrals of these cities.

DIRECÇÃO-GERAL DO PATRIMÓNIO CULTURAL (DGPC)

Most of the inventorying and cataloguing of medieval seal collections and matrices, preserved in museums, palaces, and Portuguese monuments, is still to be made. Such institutions could not be left aside in a project of the nature of the current project. A partnership has therefore been established with the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage to carry out the research of seals and seal matrices in the collections and reserves of the museums, palaces, and monuments under its tutelage.

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE PORTUGAL (BNP)

The National Library of Portugal has an

important collection of separate documents that includes remarkable medieval sigillographic examples yet to inventory. Under its tutelage lies the Évora Public Library where there are practically unknown medieval documents from the Évora Cathedral.

ARQUIVO DA UNIVERSIDADE DE COIMBRA (AUC)

Apart from holding the custody of the University's documentation, the Archive of the University of Coimbra also operates as a district archive. It has medieval collections of great importance, for which the collections originally from the Coimbra Cathedral and from secular and monastic institutions located in the districts of Coimbra and Aveiro are of particular relevance to the current project.

ARQUIVO DISTRITAL DE BRAGA (ADB)

Subordinate to the University of Minho, the

Braga District Archive preserves almost intact archival collections from the Braga Cathedral, as well as collections of medieval documentation produced in other secular and regular institutions of the northern region of Portugal.

ARQUIVO MUNICIPAL ALFREDO PIMENTA (AMAP)

Besides being the repository of the municipality's documentation, the Alfredo Pimenta Municipal Archive operates as a district archive for the municipality of Guimarães. It preserves the collection from the Collegiate Church of Santa Maria da Oliveira of Guimarães, one of the most important Portuguese collegiate churches of the Middle Ages.

ARQUIVO HISTÓRICO MUNICIPAL DO PORTO (AHMP)

Abundant in medieval documentation, the Municipal Historical Archive of Oporto includes the rich collection of the municipality

of Oporto, a city of episcopal domain, which makes this archive especially important for the current project.

ARQUIVO DA SÉ DE ÉVORA (ASE)

Incorporated in the only Portuguese cathedral that retained custody of its medieval documentation, the Évora Cathedral Archive has collections that are almost unheard of when it comes to seals. These collections are essential for the current project.

ARQUIVO HISTÓRICO DO PATRIARCATO DE LISBOA (AHPL)

Recently organised, the Historical Archive of the Lisbon Patriarchate is receiving the incorporation of collections coming from parishes and churches of the city of Lisbon. These collections include sealed medieval charters thus far unknown that will allow filling many of the gaps caused by the disappearance of the Lisbon Cathedral archive following the 1755 earthquake.



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