

The Treaty of Windsor (1386) and 620 Years of Anglo-Portuguese Relations

Introduction

The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance is the oldest in the world. Having started as a commercial alliance, it developed into a complex political and diplomatic one which has raised eyebrows in many quarters, especially in the late nineteenth century at a time when both the British and the Portuguese coveted territories in Central and Eastern Africa.

Commemorating the 620th Anniversary of the Treaty of Windsor this Conference shows how the (not always *cordiale*) *entente* between the British and the Portuguese has gone beyond political and commercial relations. Common (and somewhat worn-out) topics such as Oporto Wine, the Peninsular War or British travellers in Portugal generally to be found in conferences like this one, have been avoided, as only suggested by the list of papers (see Index). These were replaced by reflections on musical and book exchanges between the two countries, for instance, as well as on Anglo-Portuguese relations in the twentieth century.

The Conference opens with a paper on the Treaty of Windsor itself seen in its broader European context (and not only on within the traditional frame of Portuguese, Castilian and English ambitions) and closes with Macau's and Hong's Kong return to China in 1997 and 1999, respectively, a topic which has not been often dealt with.

Two of the papers deal with Anglo-Portuguese relations after the 1974 revolution showing how a six hundred year old alliance has adapted to a new world order. They also show how the "imperial connection" played a capital role in the last quarter of the twentieth century, as it did in the 1880s and the 1890s.

Given the time span covered by the papers (600 years), the unusual range of topics and the fruitful discussion that followed, it is to be hoped that other gatherings like this may follow in the near future.

I would like to thank all the participants who enthusiastically joined the plan of the Instituto Camões Centre of organizing this event.

My thanks to my colleagues, namely Professor Tom Earle, for participating and having provided a beautiful room at St. Peter's and especially for the support he has been giving the Centre and its Director.

My thanks also to His Excellency the Portuguese Ambassador, Dr Fernando Andresen Guimarães, who promptly accepted the invitation to close the conference, and who from the very first moment has participated in and supported the activities of the Centre.

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