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O Património Cultural
dos Oceanos
Portugal



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OCEANICA

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This issue of *OCEANICA* (number 7, II Series), organised by the Institute of Contemporary History (IHC, NOVA FCSH), takes an interdisciplinary approach, benefitting from the contributions of researchers with a diversified background and the support of multidisciplinary projects and studies, crossing several fields of the Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities. It is within this setting that we will meet the young IN2PAST, the Associate Laboratory for Research and Innovation in Heritage, Arts, Sustainability and Territory, a consortium of seven Portuguese research centres that aims to cross-cut the study of heritages, arts and sciences related to public policies in these fields.

The contents of this issue will allow us to look at the ocean as a space of mobility, sociability and memories, with an important power imagery associated. It gives us the possibility to further explore the dichotomy between convergence and divergence, by simultaneously showcasing a close-range and global dialogue displayed, for example, in the scientific collections of national and municipal museums or in the transformations inherent to major migratory movements. On the other hand, it introduces a few disruptive elements, shown in the activities of *frontier* human communities, as is the case of the struggle against the expansion of dunes.

Ângela Salgueiro (ROSSIO Infrastructure and IHC, NOVA FCSH)
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A RESEARCHER AND HER WORK

Yvette Santos is a researcher at the Institute of Contemporary History and has developed her career studying emigration policies, the industry of emigration and the returns.

Her latest research project analyses the the Portuguese maritime lobby and the exploration of the transport of Portuguese emigrants to Brazil from 1945 to 1974. Yvette Santos is also a member of the project *The Integration of Refugees in Portugal* (PTDC/FER-ETC/30378/2017), funded by the Foundation for Science and Technology and coordinated by Gabriele de Angelis.

She has recently published about the industry of emigration and the return of children from Brazil: *The Political Police and the Emigration Industry in Portugal During the 1930s*. *Journal of Migration History*, 2019; *The Portuguese State and its emigrants: policy and practices in the repatriation of the minors*. *Child Migration and biopolitics. Old and New Experiences in Europe*, 2021.

[Yvette Santos](#) (IHC, NOVA FCSH)



ONE EDITION, ONE PHOTO



Procession in honor of St. Peter at the Portuguese Settlement, located in Ujong Pasir, on the edge of the Strait of Malacca. Author: ©Ema Pires. This procession is part of the annual San Juang (St. John) and San Pedro (St. Peter) celebrations, evoking the memory of the Portuguese presence in Southeast Asia and enabling the different Portuguese-Asian communities on the continent to gather together.



THE CHAIR SUPPORTS

The paper “Cabazes de nostalgia e retóricas do mar entre Malaca e Portugal” [Baskets of nostalgia and sea rhetoric between Malacca and Portugal], published by Ema Pires in *Trabalhos de Antropologia e Etnologia* (v. 60, 2020), resulted from field work and research developed for eleven months in Malacca. In the text, the author identifies some of the nostalgia rethorics about the diffuse image of Portugal in the Asian context, which use the sea as a spatial and imagery reference.

Image and text: *Desenho do Mar, cheio de peixe* por Abigail Madonna Lopez. ©Ema Pires (University of Évora and IHC, NOVA FCSH)

4 SMALL MOMENTS OF KNOWLEDGE IN... *History of the Selvagens Islands: sovereignty, science and conservation*



The scientific ringing of birds is a method that comprises the individual marking of a specimen, allowing us to follow the paths taken by the animal. At the beginning of the 20th century, many ornithologists and institutions were already articulated in a common effort dedicated to understanding displacements and migrations. However, it was not until 1953, with Joaquim Santos Júnior, from the Museum of Zoology of the University of Porto, that this practice was developed on a large scale, using rings handcrafted from aluminum strips. [Photo: Set of objects related to the manual manufacture of aluminum rings, (undated). [Archive of the Memory Centre of Torre de Moncorvo.](#)]



Selvagem Grande is an Atlantic island, the biggest of the Selvagens sub-archipelago, located 280 Km from Madeira and 165 Km from the Canary Islands. It has embodied a long sovereignty dispute between Portugal and Spain. During the 20th century, when interest in the islands as natural sanctuaries grew, the first scientific expedition to Selvagem Grande was carried out (1963). It was organised by the Director of the Funchal Museum, G. Maul, with the participation of ornithologists F. Roux and C. Jouanin. [Photo: Aerial photography of Selvagem Grande, (2009). NASA Expedition 21 crew, 22 Oct 2009.]



In 1967, P. A. Zino paid for the rights of “fishing, hunting and seafood” of Selvagens in order to protect its species and, mainly, to protect a threatened colony of shearwaters. In 1968, with the dual mission of drawing attention to the national sovereignty of the territory and beginning the study of the population dynamics of these breeding birds, a group of ornithologists travelled to the island intending to ring the shearwater nestlings. [Photo: Paul Alexander Zino putting a ring on a shearwater nestling, Selvagem Grande (Sept. 1968). [Archive of the Memory Centre of Torre de Moncorvo.](#)]



Alguns dos componentes da expedição científica, fotografados com o comandante do «Pedro Nunes», e o capitão do Porto de Funchal, a bordo daquele navio. Da esquerda para a direita vêem-se os sr. Gunther Maul, Cte. Bustoiff Guerra, Christian Jouanin, Prof. Santos Júnior, Francis Roux e Cte. Cristiano de Sousa.

Journal de Notícias do Funchal 27-Set-1968
A BORDO DO «PEDRO NUNES»

EXPEDIÇÃO CIENTÍFICA LUSO-FRANCESA ÀS ILHAS SELVAGENS

O navio oceanográfico português «Pedro Nunes», chegou ontem à tarde ao Funchal, traz por missão transportar PARA ESTUDO DA DINÂMICA DE POPULAÇÃO DAS CAGARRAS

The ornithological mission was accompanied by Santos Júnior and supported by the Portuguese Navy. In just a few days, 2500 shearwater nestlings were ringed. Other missions followed. But the Canary fishermen continued to fish in the vicinity and landing on the site, hunting thousands of birds. In 1971, Portugal bought the Selvagens and classified them as a natural reserve. Together with Peneda-Gerês, this was the first protected area designated for conservation, both in the continental and island territories. [Paper clipping – *Diário de Notícias do Funchal*, (27/09/1968).]

Research projects:

- ◆ **(UN)DESIRABLE: the Portuguese emigrants and repatriation from New Bedford during the between-wars** – Fulbright Fellowship / Camões Institute for Professors and Researchers

As an outgoing country, Portugal participated intensively in the great international migratory flows of the 20th century. In these currents, the forced return dynamics also need to be analysed. Portugal is an excellent object of study to understand how a country of departure has positioned itself in the face of the return of its repatriated emigrants. This project, funded by the Fulbright Foundation, will analyse the repatriation process from the city of New Bedford (USA) from 1919 to 1939, at a time of great national and international instability and more restrictive immigration policies. Given the socio-economic precariousness of emigrants, it is necessary to question the mechanisms adopted by the Portuguese authorities to determine who deserved to be repatriated, and to determine the governmental intentionality in repatriation.



WHALING VESSELS AT NEW BEDFORD, MASS., IN OCTOBER, 1901.

Port of New Bedford (1901), [NOAA archive](#)

The project's approach will be *mezzo*, analysing private and public entities directly involved in the repatriation process. In addition to the role of consulates, it is also important to look at the influence of shipping lines in negotiating and forwarding returnees to Portugal.

[Yvette Santos](#) (IHC, NOVA FCSH)

TRANSMAT: Transnational materialities (1850-1930): reconstituting collections and connecting histories (PTDC/FER-HFC/2793/2020) ◆

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MATERIALIDADES TRANSNACIONAIS

In Portuguese historical museums, namely archaeological, there are several foreign collections with objects from Italy and Egypt, but also from various points in Africa, Asia, America and Oceania. How did they get to Portugal and when? Who collected them? For what purpose were they displaced from their places of origin? How were they inserted in the various stages of the museums' existence? What values and meanings have they taken on over time? The history of science has highlighted the importance of knowing the different trajectories of these objects, the history of their collections, the processes of construction of scientific knowledge, the invisible actors, as well as the programmatic contents of museums and the intellectual, social and, often, transnational projects of their founders or leaders.

In this framework, the TRANSMAT project will compile and systematize information on the circulation of cultural goods and their cultural, social, and political implications. The focus is on the important, and partially unknown, transnational collections of the [National Museum of Archaeology](#) and the [Santos Rocha Municipal Museum](#) (Figueira da Foz), which include, among others, sets about salt and the sea. Although differing in scope, these institutions share the fact that they preserve in their collections archaeological, ethnographic/anthropological collections from different sources, with the aim of educating about other historical times or different human and geographic settings.

[Elisabete Pereira](#) (University of Évora and IHC, NOVA FCSH)

For slow reading:

- ◆ Salgueiro, A. Oceans, science, and universities: scientific study of the sea during the First Portuguese Republic. *Hist. cienc. saude-Manguinhos*, v.28, n.2, Apr-Jun 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1590/S0104-59702021000200008>. This paper focuses on the institutionalisation process of marine biology in Portugal in the early 20th century, based on the case study of the Maritime Zoology Station of Foz and the activity of its research group, led by Augusto Nobre.
- ◆ Gouveia, A.C., Silva, G.M., Fontes, J.L. & Andrade, M.F. *Dossier* O mar no imaginário religioso: cultos, espaços e representações [The sea in the religious imagination: cults, spaces and representations]. *Lusitania Sacra*, n. 40, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.34632/lusitaniasacra.2019.n40>. Organized from an interdisciplinary perspective, this dossier analyses cross-cutting issues in the relationship between the sea and the religious imagination, namely its presence in genesis myths, in the dissemination of the religious messages or in the process of sacralization of the maritime space.

Quick readings:

- ◆ "The Ocean and the Meaning of Life". Available [here](#).
- ◆ "Liquid history". Available [here](#).

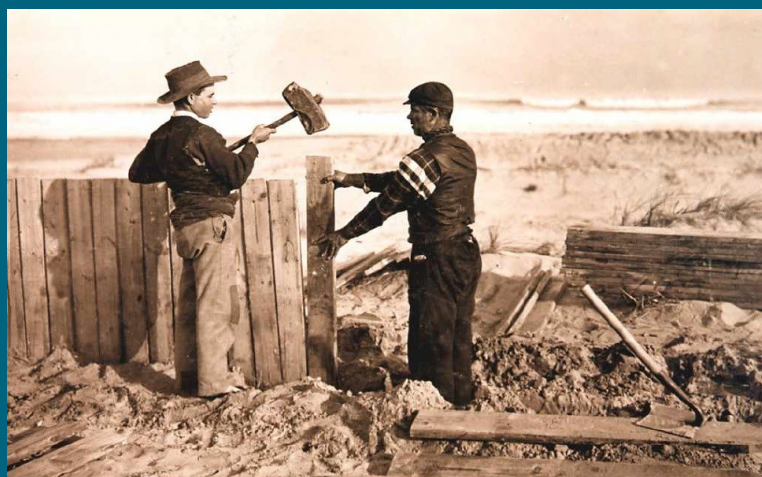
Digital exhibition: "Oceans in Three Paradoxes: Knowing the Blue through the Humanities", Available [here](#).

THE PORT OF THE CITY

The Guardamar del Segura Dunes

The history of dunes illustrates the relationship between human beings and a frontier territory, between land and sea. To fight against the movement of the sands, some experts realized that the solution was to fix them with vegetation, following ancient practices that had been known for a long time. One of these experts was Nicolas Brémontier (1738-1809) who developed a method for stabilizing sand using fences and plants. The method spread throughout Europe.

In the Iberian Peninsula there are examples of the application of this model in Catalonia (1870s), in the Algarve (1890s), and near Alicante, in Guardamar del Segura (1897-1929). This is an interesting example, both for the writings of the forestry engineer responsible for the project, Francisco Mira (1862-1944), as well as for the photo album of the work, kept in the municipal archives.



Using fences to create a coastal dune, Guardamar del Segura (1901). Picture by Francisco Mira, [General Archive of Murcia](#).

One of the images published shows the preparation of a defense line, built with a wooden palisade. By preventing the passage of sand, the barrier caused it to accumulate in layers. Once the barrier was buried, another dune was built over the previous one. The rotting boards were replaced and the rest were lifted using an elevator. The vegetation came later. The sowing of plants (Portuguese crowberry, pine...) ensured that the sands were trapped and did not move, thus protecting the village from the advancement of the sands on the beach.

Ignacio García Pereda, [DUNES project](#) (CH, FLUL and IHC, NOVA FCSH)

NOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM:

IHC brings to the readers of OCEANICA some of the dilemmas, questions and processes that have accompanied the transformations of maritime industries and policies since the 18th and 19th centuries. By passing the torch to IELT, whose researchers will be thinking about the next issue, we are immediately interested in understanding which language features, which forms of emotional and linguistic expression, reveal an awareness of these phenomena that constantly amaze us: the replacement of typified scenarios by elegant architectures of masts, and the filling of sails, by dismal hulls and smoke mats, which Victor Hugo figures in a deeply metaphorical writing that defies any reality through the struggle between the monstrous octopus living in the caves of the rock where the steamship was wrecked, and Gilliat, the symbol of traditional seamanship (*The Seafaring Workers*, 1866); or, in more subjectively charged statements, the idea of the sea as a "fallen sky" for "desiring to be light", and that García Lorca ("Sea", 1919), at the end of his poem, says is the mirror of the exiled condition of the human being, "fallen angel" and deprived of the "Paradise lost" on Earth. Literature has the floor.