

DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

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CRUZ, António Augusto Ferreira da (Trofa, 1911 - Porto, 1989)

Historian, librarian, archivist, and university professor. Born in S. Tiago de Bougado—then a parish in the municipality of Santo Tirso, now part of the municipality of Trofa—in the 1930s, he studied law and historical-philosophical sciences at the University of Coimbra. He graduated in 1938 with a degree in Historical-Philosophical Sciences, presenting a thesis on the manuscripts of João Pedro Ribeiro. Meanwhile, he began his professional career at the university's library, working closely with its director at the time, Manuel Lopes de Almeida (1900–1980). In the late 1930s, he relocated to Porto, where he briefly worked in private education before dedicating over three decades to libraries and archives. He directed the Municipal Archives (1939–1948) and subsequently the Municipal Public Library (1948–1975).

In 1947, he was among the founders of the *Centro de Estudos Humanísticos* [Centre for Humanistic Studies], an institution established through a collaboration between the University of Porto, Porto Municipal Council, and the *Instituto de Alta Cultura* [Institute of High Culture]. This centre aimed to provide free higher education and promote historical and archaeological research. It published a journal, *Studium Generale*, with an archaeological supplement, *Lvcerna*, as well as a series of monographs titled *Amphiteatrum*. The initiative was conceived as a stepping stone towards reinstating the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, which had existed at the University of Porto between 1919 and 1931.

When the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto (FL/UP) was reopened in 1961, he applied for one of the four positions in the History department. Successfully approved, he joined the faculty in September 1962. In the inaugural academic year (1962/1963), he taught Palaeography and Diplomats, then a first-year subject in the History programme. In subsequent years, he also taught History of Mediaeval Culture, History of Portugal I (Mediaeval History of Portugal, introduced in 1968/1969), History of Portugal II (Modern History of Portugal, introduced in 1968/1969), Portuguese Culture, and the Seminar on the History of the Middle Ages.

At the end of 1964, he completed his doctoral examinations in Historical Sciences at FL/UP, earning a mark of 18 out of 20. His dissertation, *Santa Cruz de Coimbra na Cultura Portuguesa da Idade Média...* [Santa Cruz de Coimbra in the Portuguese Culture of the Middle Ages...] (1963–1964), contributed to this achievement. Four years later, in 1968, he passed the competitive examinations for the rank of extraordinary



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professor with the thesis *Algumas observações sobre a vida económica e social da cidade do Porto nas vésperas de Alcácer Quibir* [Some Observations on the Economic and Social Life of the City of Porto on the Eve of Alcácer Quibir] (1967). The following year, after another public examination, he was awarded the chair. He became the first doctorate holder and the first full professor at his faculty. After obtaining his doctorate, he was appointed Rector's Delegate and Interim Director, effectively acting as the faculty's leader. In July 1970, he was officially named the first permanent Director of FL/UP, a position he held until April 1974.

During the political upheavals of April 1974, he was removed from both his directorship and professorship. During this "interregnum," he managed a family business and taught at the *Universidade Livre* [Free University] in Porto (1977–1986). From March 1979, he resumed his participation in academic examination panels at FL/UP, and by October of that year, he returned to full academic duties. He once again taught the Palaeography and Diplomatics course until his retirement in 1981, with the assistance of Armindo de Sousa (1942–1998), who later became his last doctoral student (completing his exams in 1988). In the final years of his career, he taught at *Universidade Portucalense* [Portucalense University] (1986–1989), where he served as the first Director of the *Revista de Ciências Históricas*.

He was also a member of the *Academia Portuguesa de História* [Portuguese Academy of History]. A graduate of Coimbra, profoundly influenced by the teachings of Damião Peres (1889–1976) and Manuel Lopes de Almeida, António Cruz's intellectual focus was shaped primarily by the latter's interest in the Restoration period. This was evident in his work editing historical sources (e.g., *Catálogo dos manuscritos da Restauração da Biblioteca da Universidade de Coimbra* [Catalogue of Restoration Manuscripts from the Coimbra University Library], edited by António Cruz with a preface by Manuel Lopes de Almeida, 1936; *Papéis da Restauração* [Papers of the Restoration], vols. I–II, 1967–1969, among others). From Damião Peres, he inherited a polygraphic approach to chronology, tied to an encyclopaedic education rooted in the traditions of the *Curso Superior de Letras* [Higher Education Course of Arts and Humanities] and the early years of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Lisbon. This intellectual lineage, seen in figures such as Manuel Maria de Oliveira Ramos (1862–1931), José Maria Queirós Veloso (1860–1952), and Agostinho José Fortes (1869–1940), inspired a generation of Portuguese historians, including Manuel Heleno (1894–1970), Salvador Dias Arnaut (1913–1995), Joaquim Veríssimo Serrão (b. 1925), and António Cruz himself. Indeed, Cruz's work spans a wide historical range, from the dawn of the Portuguese kingdom to the early Liberal period.

However, two key aspects set him apart as a historian:

Regional Focus: Cruz devoted dozens of works, from monographs to articles and edited sources, to the history of Porto and the northwest of Portugal. This included studies on the Reguengo of Bougado, where he was born, to which he dedicated several notable works (*Casas de lavoura do reguengo de Bougado...*, 1978 and *O Reguengo de Bougado*, 1982). His deep connection to this region led Carlos Alberto Ferreira de Almeida (1934–1996) to describe him as a "telluric historian" in 1981, when he was honoured at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto.



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Passion for Diplomatic Palaeography: Among the many disciplines he taught at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto, Diplomatic Palaeography was always his cherished field. He produced two provisional editions of an album of documents (*Álbum de Paleografia (edição provisória)*, 1968) during a period when such albums were flourishing, including the final edition by Torquato de Sousa Soares (1903–1988) in 1961 and the first editions by Avelino de Jesus da Costa (1908–2000) in 1966 and Eduardo Borges Nunes (1924–2008) in 1969. Additionally, he wrote a detailed theoretical and conceptual introduction to the field (*Observações sobre o Estudo da Paleografia em Portugal*, 1966–1967). The interruption of his academic duties in the 1970s prevented him from completing the sequential volume of his doctoral thesis, which dealt with a subject that would later draw attention from historians such as Maria Helena da Cruz Coelho, Maria José Azevedo Santos, Saul António Gomes, and Armando Alberto Martins, as well as philologists and historians of philosophy like Aires Augusto Nascimento and José Francisco Meirinhos. Likewise, the definitive edition of his *Álbum* and the palaeography manual he had planned remained unrealised until 1987, when the manual was published late in his life. Nevertheless, his enthusiasm for historical sciences never waned, as seen in works such as *A Reforma pombalina e as ciências auxiliares da História* [The Pombaline Reform and the Auxiliary Sciences of History] (*Revista de História das Ideias*, 4/2, pp. 101–112, 1982), among others.

Today, António Cruz is a forgotten and, in some circles, silenced figure, particularly at the university where he devoted the best of himself, training and inspiring many to pursue their academic careers. The provisional nature of his pedagogical contributions in palaeodiplomacy has rendered him almost invisible in a contemporary academic landscape dominated by scholars like Avelino de Jesus da Costa, Eduardo Borges Nunes, A. H. de Oliveira Marques (1933–2007), and João José Alves Dias. However, for those who encountered him at the Escola do Porto or took their first steps in academia under his guidance, his values as a mentor—dedication to public service and encouragement of others to excel—remain vivid. For them, António Cruz is an imperishable memory.

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