

DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

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SANTOS, Manuel Luís de Macedo Farinha dos (Lisbon, 1923-Lisbon, 2001)

Manuel Farinha dos Santos, an archaeologist, prehistorian, university professor, museologist, and heritage expert, was born on 24 August 1923 in the Penha de França parish, Lisbon, and passed away there on 29 September 2001. The son of a militiaman engineering lieutenant and mechanical engineer who graduated from the Instituto Superior Técnico, and a former student of the Piano Course at the *Conservatório Nacional de Lisboa* [National Conservatory in Lisbon], M. Farinha dos Santos lost his father at the age of 10 and his mother at 15. Raised by his maternal grandparents until his late teens, he was immersed in the literary world inherited from his paternal grandfather, a republican hero, which instilled in him a love for literature and history. His family's financial struggles, however, compelled him to work as a tutor, and by the age of 16, he was employed as a typist in a downtown office, followed by various other jobs and military service (Elogio do Prof. Dr. [Eulogy of Prof. Dr.], 2013, 16-17).

M. Farinha dos Santos completed his seventh year at *Liceu Camões* [Camões High School], where he excelled in Literature. At 19, he enrolled as a voluntary student in the Historical-Philosophical Sciences degree at the *Faculdade de Letras de Lisboa* [School of Arts & Humanities] (FLUL). Four years later, he married Esmeralda Farinha dos Santos, with whom he had two children. He studied Arabic and Sanskrit at the *Instituto de Línguas Orientais da Escola Superior Colonial* [Institute of Oriental Languages of the Colonial College], fraternised with poets, joined the *Grupo Coral do Clube da Estefânia* [Choir of the Estefânia Club], and dedicated himself to the study of religions.

This additional training proved essential for fulfilling his mission when he headed the maritime services at the Port of Lisbon from 1953 to 1954. He then departed on a commission to Portuguese India, where he stayed for two years, volunteering for the mission to establish a brigade of the *Polícia Internacional e de Defesa do Estado* [International and State Defence Police] (PIDE), which he had joined in 1947 after completing his military service as an ensign (A História da PIDE [The History of PIDE], 2007) and was hired in 1949 as the brigade chief. It was there in the Orient, as a PIDE sub-inspector, that he deepened his interest in archaeology. He spent time consulting the library of the archaeological section at the *Biblioteca do Instituto Vasco da Gama de Goa* [Vasco da Gama Institute Library in Goa] (established in 1871) and reading specialised books lent to him by his friend Panduronga Pissurlencar (1894-1969), the director of the Historical

Archives of the State of India (Elogio do Prof. Dr., 2013, 18-19).

Upon returning to Lisbon at the age of 34, M. Farinha dos Santos enrolled in the remaining courses needed to complete his degree and attended a free archaeology course taught by Manuel Afonso do Paço (1895-1968). Under the guidance of Manuel Heleno (1894-1970), his professor at FLUL and director of the *Museu Etnológico Português Dr. Leite de Vasconcelos* [Dr. Leite de Vasconcelos Portuguese Ethnological Museum] (MEPLV), M. Farinha dos Santos studied the terra sigillata specimens in the museum's collections as part of his work on his final dissertation, titled "Contribuição para um melhor conhecimento de terra sigillata encontrada em Portugal. A terra sigillata do Museu Etnológico do Dr. Leite de Vasconcelos" [Contribution to a better knowledge of terra sigillata found in Portugal. Dr. Leite de Vasconcelos Portuguese Ethnological Museum's terra sigillata].

Between 1957 and 1963, M. Farinha dos Santos participated in the Troia excavations alongside M. Heleno, taking on the role of director in 1960. In 1958, he became an "occasional contributor" of the MEPLV and joined the executive committee of the First National Archaeological Congress. Graduating with Lower Second-Class Honours (2.2), M. Farinha dos Santos was invited by M. Heleno in 1959 to become a "second assistant" in the History Section at FLUL. Consequently, he requested to be discharged from PIDE the following year. He subsequently taught annual courses in Prehistory, History of Roman Civilisation, and History of Art in Portugal, as well as semester courses in Oriental Antiquity and Numismatics, while also leading practical classes at the MEPLV, affiliated with FLUL.

M. Farinha dos Santos also studied speleology at the Portuguese Speleological Society (1948) under the guidance of Carl Harpsoe, then the Danish consul in Portugal, and geologist Jaime Martins Ferreira (1927-2011). He assisted José Camarate França (1923-1963) and others in discovering prehistoric sites in the municipalities of Sintra and Loures. He also completed the course for Conservators of Museums, Palaces, and National Monuments, graduating in first place with First-Class Honours. As a result, he was appointed professor of that course and director of the National Pantheon in 1968. However, he was removed from this position in 1975 (and later reinstated in 1982) under Decree-Law 123/75 of 11 March, which mandated the dismissal of all former PIDE officials from civil service (A História da PIDE, 2007).

Unable to perform public duties, Mr. Farinha dos Santos was invited in the late '70s to co-found the History degree programme at *Universidade Livre*, where he taught Archaeology, Epigraphy, and Greco-Roman Numismatics. In 1986, he contributed to the founding of the *Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa* [Autonomous University of Lisbon], where he is responsible for teaching Prehistory and the Archaeology Seminar. In the early '90s, he established the Centre for Archaeological Studies and a specialised course in Archaeology, which enabled students to pursue a doctorate at the University of Salamanca (Spain) through his personal scientific network. M. Farinha dos Santos consistently encourages his students and collaborators to stay up to date in their fields and pursue interdisciplinary, institutional, and international scientific collaborations, as he believes these are essential for a thorough understanding of the past. He also encouraged them to use multiple technological resources, such as aerial photography, and to seek support from specialists at



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institutions such as the *Serviços Geológicos de Portugal* [Geological Services of Portugal] (founded in 1918), the *Laboratório Nacional de Engenharia Civil* [National Civil Engineering Laboratory] (1946), the *Centro Português de Atividades submarinas* [Portuguese Centre for Underwater Activities] (1953), and the *Instituto de Antropologia Professor Mendes Correia* [Professor Mendes Correia Institute of Anthropology] at the University of Porto.

From 1964 to 1974, he was appointed as a member of the archaeology sub-section of the 6th section of the *Junta Nacional da Educação* [National Board of Education] as part of an advisory body to the Ministry of National Education. M. Farinha dos Santos issued numerous opinions on archaeological work across the country. Focusing on safeguarding issues, he advocated for stronger legislation and the establishment of a well-resourced body to decentralise archaeological work, working in collaboration with university research centres and museums. In 1972, he played a significant role in the creation of the Archaeology Work Group of the *Gabinete da Área de Sines* [Sines Area Office], a pioneering initiative in Portugal focused on the study, valorisation, and dissemination of the archaeological heritage of a large region, leading to numerous published works.

Encompassing studies on the Mesolithic, Megalithic, and Roman periods, M. Farinha dos Santos' archaeological work is primarily focused on prehistoric studies, particularly artistic ones. However, he also gives significant attention to other periods and themes, including Megalithic culture, Roman history, and heritage protection. His scientific work is distinguished by the rigour of his fieldwork, meticulous recording of excavated artefacts, and the integration of methods from other sciences, such as geophysics — tested in the Escoural Cave, which he investigated over four campaigns (1963-1966) funded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (established in 1956) and with support from the MEPLV.

M. Farinha dos Santos shares his work with his peers through oral presentations at national and international gatherings, including the National Archaeology Congresses in Portugal and Spain, the Portuguese Archaeology Congresses, the Archaeological Days of the Association of Portuguese Archaeologists, the congresses of the International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, and the Luso-Spanish Congresses for the Advancement of Sciences. His studies were also published in over 150 papers between 1958 and 1999, namely in specialised journals: *Antiquity*, *Zephyrus*, *Les Dossiers de l'Archéologie*, *O Arqueólogo Português*, *Ethnos*, *Boletim de História e Arqueologia* [Bulletin of History and Archaeology], *Anais da Academia Portuguesa da História e Filatelia e Numismática* [Annals of the Portuguese Academy of History, Philately and Numismatics].

In 1967, the Spanish archaeologist Martín Almagro Basch (1911-1984) invited M. Farinha dos Santos to travel to Madrid to deliver two lectures at the Complutense University's Faculty of Philosophy and Letters and another at the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (1939).

By raising local awareness of the value of archaeological heritage and deterring unscrupulous collectors and dealers, as the cornerstones of heritage preservation, M. Farinha dos Santos contributes to the dissemination of knowledge across diverse audiences. To this end, he delivered lecture series on the



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Emissora Nacional de Radiodifusão [National Radiobroadcasting Corporation], gave television interviews, held conferences across the country, and published articles in national and regional periodicals, including *Diário de Notícias*, *O Século*, *A Capital*, *Diário de Lisboa*, *Jornal de Notícias*, *Jornal do Comércio*, *A Voz*, *Diário da Manhã*, and *O Comércio do Porto*. He also directed the "Verbo" collections "Historia Mundi – as Grandes Civilizações" [Historia Mundi – the Great Civilisations] (40 volumes) and "Biblioteca das Civilizações Primitivas" [Library of Primitive Civilisations] (14 volumes), contributed entries to the *Enciclopédia Luso-Brasileira de Cultura* [Luso-Brazilian Encyclopaedia of Culture], and published "Pré-História de Portugal" [Prehistory of Portugal], with three editions (1972, 1974 and 1985). He taught free introductory courses in archaeology from 1966 to 1972 at the *Centro Piloto de Arqueologia do Secretariado para a Juventude do Ministério da Educação Nacional* [Pilot Archaeology Centre of the Youth Secretariat of the Ministry of National Education], at the Saturday Free Courses organised by Joaquim Veríssimo Serrão (1925-2020) in Santarém in the early '80s, and at the Free Courses held at the Autonomous University in the late '90s.

A member of the *Instituto Português de Arqueologia, História e Etnografia* [Portuguese Institute of Archaeology, History, and Ethnography] (1933), the Prehistory Section of the *Sociedade de Geografia de Lisboa* [Lisbon Geographical Society], since 1962, and a Corresponding and Numbered Scholar of the *Academia Portuguesa da História* [Portuguese Academy of History] (1970, 1980), M. Farinha dos Santos joined the *Associação dos Arqueólogos Portugueses* [Association of Portuguese Archaeologists], since 1967, and, in 1969, he became its director and chair of the prehistoric section, while co-organising a colloquium on archaeological terminology, editing its journal, running the museum and acting as secretary of the II Archaeology Days (1972). On 28 May 1998, he was honoured by the Autonomous University of Lisbon, with Rector Justino Mendes de Almeida (1924-2012) delivering a tribute titled "Manuel Farinha dos Santos: uma vida consagrada à Arqueologia (40 anos de atividade cultural)" [Manuel Farinha dos Santos: A Life Devoted to Archaeology (40 Years of Cultural Activity)] (Elogio do Prof. Dr., 2013, 24). Later, on 23 April 2002, his Eulogy was formally presented at the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Portuguese Academy of History. This tribute acknowledges a significant figure in Portuguese archaeology whose legacy, entwined with the production of knowledge and archaeological heritage, must be critically examined within the context of political ideology and institutional collaboration with the Estado Novo. Such scrutiny is essential to understand one of the most obscure chapters in Portugal's intellectual history — one that navigates between research grounded in the description of excavated artefacts and a historical perspective shaped to align with the nationalist narrative of the Estado Novo.

Torre do Tombo Archive — Directorate-General for Books, Archives, and Libraries (minutes of meetings from the 2nd Subsection of the 6th Section of the Directorate-General for Higher Education and Fine Arts); Archive of the Institute of High Culture (held by the Camões Institute) (individual file of Manuel Farinha dos Santos); Historical Archive of the Association of Portuguese Archaeologists (minutes of meetings of the Management, the General Assembly, and the Prehistory Section); Historical Archive of the Lisbon Geographical Society (minutes of the Prehistory Section); Historical Archive of the Ministry of Education

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(minutes of meetings from the 2nd Subsection of the 6th Section of the Directorate-General for Higher Education and Fine Arts); Historical Archive of the National Archaeological Museum (correspondence from Manuel Heleno).

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Ana Cristina Martins

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