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Regional and Local History

Regarding the issue of regional and local history studies, there are more general and introductory approaches to the methodological problems, such as those of Luís Reis Torgal (1987), J. Amado Mendes (1990, expanded in 2000), Jorge Borges de Macedo (1993), António Oliveira (1995 and 2000), and José Viriato Capela (1995). However, there are few works that aim to create a historiography of history and they are generally of a regional scope or covering a more limited chronological period than what a dictionary might require. This is understandable: the survey of sources and their analysis is an enormous task and requires the formation of a team that uses digital resources to conduct a comprehensive study, enabling the establishment of: (i) a typology and a diachronic framework of the transformations and changes observed during the period under study; (ii) the conditions of production and publication of texts (whether articles or larger works); (iii) the sociological characterisation of the producers of regional and local histories; and (iv) the relationships between these smaller-scale spatial approaches and national or even transnational history. Thus, the goal here is merely to outline a succinct general framework of the aspects considered significant for understanding how history has developed its own dimension within the context of regional and local studies. To such end, the recourse to primary sources and critical methods was essential, as well as a diachronic approach to the facts, accompanied by greater rigour and objectivity in the narratives, while also engaging in dialogue with other social sciences, particularly human geography and ethnography/anthropology, in the effort to reconstruct the past of human groups on a subnational scale.

First and foremost, it is important to define the concepts and spatial scales with which regional and local history operates. Historiography is broadly understood as the art of narrating the past and constructing the memory of the human groups who are its subjects. It is concerned with the history and memory of human groups rooted in subnational spaces. The largest space is the region (from the Latin *regio*), referring to an area delimited by highly variable criteria. There are innumerable debates on regional division involving experts, mainly geographers and economists, but above all, they mobilise strong political interests both at the centre of power and in the peripheries. As far as regional history is concerned, the old provincial division generally proves to be most consistent with this type of study. In *Subsídios para a bibliografia da história Local portuguesa*



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[Contributions for the bibliography of Portuguese local history] (1933), A. Mesquita de Figueiredo, the National Library archivist, organises the presentation of publications into six provinces: Entre-Douro-e-Minho, Trás-os-Montes, Beiras, Estremadura, Alentejo, and Algarve. The archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira were excluded from project. Within each province, he presents the “local monographs” in alphabetical order of the towns. It is no coincidence that this work is organised in such a manner. The previous counterpart, written by Brito Aranha for the Paris exhibition in 1900, offers a more descriptive presentation, referencing cities, towns, and places, as well as monuments, institutions, customs, and traditions, etc. In this context, some publications referring to particular provinces are mentioned, and those of the Algarve and Alentejo immediately stand out. The provinces are not forgotten, but they do not structure the work’s presentation. A change occurred in the meantime with the emergence of regionalism in the political and cultural debate, especially in the 1920s and 1930s. However, the province did not have great political and administrative influence and, from the point of view of historiographical production, the bulk of what scholars produced was more local than regional. As noted by L. Fernández Prieto, “o espaço de análise histórica é sempre um território para a lexitimación: local, comarcal, rexional, nacional, estatal, europeo...” (“Historia local, nacional e transnacional” In Maia. *História Regional e local*, 1999, p. 102). As entities without an established political-administrative expression across Portugal, the provinces failed to capture the attention that was instead directed to municipalities and municipalism. This tradition dates back to A. Herculano himself, as is well known. In the archipelagos, it was the island that garnered the interest of most scholars, although the municipalities and other administrative divisions were not ignored. Meanwhile, the district, an administrative division created in 1835, did not excite much enthusiasm from researchers either, being generally considered an artificial administrative unit—more an extension of central power in the regions than a reality with meaning for the identification of the populations. Finally, at the base of the spatial scale are the smallest territories: parishes (later referred to as *freguesias*), cities, towns, and places. The local refers to a delimited part of a larger territory that must be constructed as an object of study. The same may be said of other scales of spatial analysis, whose historical-cultural significance naturally depends on emotional factors and affective ties woven through relationships with that territory and its people. For obvious reasons, most studies refer to lived spaces, spaces of sociability and proximity between populations who have their roots and experiences in them. This explains why, in this historiographical genre, curiosity seekers, amateurs and members of the local cultural elites who distinguished themselves in the public life of their regions and localities played a very important role.

The 19th Century and Its Precursors

The origins of regional studies and the interest in local history can be traced back to the 16th century. Noteworthy examples include *Saudades da Terra* [Longing for Home] by Gaspar Frutuoso, *Descrição da cidade de Lisboa* [Description of the City of Lisbon] by Damião de Góis, and *História da Antiguidade da cidade de Évora* [History of the Antiquity of the City of Évora] by André de Resende. However, it was during the 18th century, under the influence of the development of academies, that the study of regions and localities began



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to gain momentum. This burgeoning interest was driven by both political and cultural factors. Politically, the need to understand the territory and its people was essential for the modern state to establish itself and operate across the entire country, which led to the development of chorographies, topographies, "statecraft", descriptions, and memoirs that facilitated an understanding of the kingdom. Culturally, the humanist and Enlightenment contexts sparked a renewed interest in advancing knowledge across various fields, particularly those concerning the life of nations and their diverse parts, their past, and their origins. Thus, the Royal Academy of History (1720) sponsored several topographies and at least one work, *História de Santarém* [History of Santarém] by Ignacio da Piedade e Vasconcelos (1740, 2 volumes). The Royal Academy of Sciences (1779) also included the different regions and lands of Portugal in its published economic, agricultural, and historical memoirs.

In the early 19th century, despite the particularly challenging context marked by the French invasions and civil wars, chorographic, statistical, and topographic approaches had a significant role in the framework of regional studies, a trend that continued throughout the century. Examples of such studies include Joaquim Baptista's *Memoria estadística sobre o concelho de Lafões* [Statecraft Report on the Municipality of Lafões] (1823) and João Baptista da Silva Lopes' *Corografia ou memoria economica, estatística, e topografica do reino do Algarve* [Chorography, or Economic, Statistical, and Topographical Memoir of the Kingdom of the Algarve] (1841). Over time, history and geography began to permeate these studies, enriching them with new elements. A notable example is the work of Henriques Seco, a professor at the University of Coimbra, titled *Memoria historico-chorographica dos diversos concelhos do districto administrativo de Coimbra* [Historical and Chorographical Memoir of the Various Municipalities of the Administrative District of Coimbra] (1853).

Some of these descriptive works took the form of dictionaries, following the example of Father Luís Cardoso's *Diccionario geografico, ou noticia historica de todas as cidades, villas (...) dos Reynos de Portugal, e Algarve* [Geographical Dictionary, or Historical Account of All the Cities, Towns (...) of the Kingdoms of Portugal and the Algarve] (1747-1751). Among them, the *Portugal antigo e moderno: diccionario geografico, estatístico, chorographico (...) de Portugal e de grande numero de aldeias* [Ancient and Modern Portugal: A Geographical, Statistical, and Chorographic Dictionary (...) of Portugal and a Great Number of Villages] by Augusto Soares d'Azevedo Barbosa de Pinho Leal (1873-1890) may be highlighted. This monumental work is presented in twelve volumes, organised alphabetically by the names of the cities, towns, and parishes of Portugal, offering varied information on heritage, significant events, notable figures, as well as elements of genealogy and heraldry. In the Azores, Gabriel de Almeida published the *Diccionario historico-geografico dos Açores* [Historical and Geographical Dictionary of the Azores] (1893) towards the end of the century. In addition to the more or less detailed chorographical and geographical descriptions of the territory with historical notes, a genre of a literary nature dominated the publication panorama concerning regions and localities. This genre found inspiration in Almeida Garrett's *Viagens na minha terra* [Journeys in My Homeland] (1846). An observation of the diversity of the landscapes and people, the picturesque and the buildings and monuments punctuate these



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sometimes rather simple narratives, which also refer to local antiquities and historical records. The development of this genre was facilitated by progress in communication and transport, particularly the railway, and the rise of tourism, leading to guides and itineraries for Portugal and its various regions. Some notable examples include *Cintra pinturesca, ou memoria descriptiva da Villa de Cintra, Colares, e seus arredores...* [Picturesque Sintra, or Descriptive Memory of the Town of Sintra, Colares, and its Surroundings] by the Viscount of Juromenha (1838), *O Minho pittoresco* [Picturesque Minho] by José Augusto Vieira (1886), the *Portugal Pittoresco e Illustrado* [Picturesque and Illustrated Portugal] collection by Alfredo Mesquita, particularly *Lisboa, com quatrocentas gravuras* [Lisbon, with four hundred prints] (1903), and several works by Alberto Pimentel, such as the *Guia do viajante na cidade do Porto e seus arrabaldes* [Guide for the Traveller in the City of Porto and Its Outskirts] (1877) and *O Porto por fora e por dentro* [Porto inside and out] (1878). In 1924, the National Library published the *Guia de Portugal* [Guide to Portugal], edited by Raul Proença and later continued by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, which became a monumental historical-geographical and descriptive work on the country.

Another type of study took on a more historical character, compiling a range of information relevant to local memories, including significant events, figures, heritage, especially artistic and religious monuments, along with legends and various narratives. In the early stages, these writings were based on rudimentary documentary foundations, relying heavily on observations and testimonies, as well as records preserved by the memories of local notables and the population over generations. Public archives were scarce, poorly equipped, and badly organised. Moreover, the methodological and critical tools available to scholars were limited, and the ideas that emphasised the importance of sources and meticulous archival work, vehemently advocated by A. Herculano and other erudite authors before him, did not find conducive conditions to expand among local history enthusiasts. To some extent, the works of the writer on Lisbon, Júlio de Castilho (1840-1919), namely *Lisboa Antiga* [Old Lisbon] (Bairro Alto – 1879; Bairros Orientais – 1884-1890) may be considered representative of this type of history. However, the way was being paved towards a more objective history, and the publication of *Portugaliae Monumenta Historica* (1st vol., 1856) not only presented documents of interest for local history but also provided a good example of this shift. Directed by A. Herculano, the work was in line with that of scholarly academics who fought for the preservation and dissemination of documents, such as Bernardino J. de Sena Freitas, who had published a *Collecção de memorias e documentos para a historia do Algarve* [Collection of memories and documents for the history of the Algarve] (1846) and was later tasked by the Royal Academy of Sciences with organising the archives on the islands of São Miguel and Terceira. As a result of this work, the *Memoria Historica sobre o Intentado Descobrimto de uma Suposta Ilha ao Norte da Terceira nos anos de 1649 e 1770* [Historical Memoir on the Attempted Discovery of a Supposed Island North of Terceira in the Years 1649 and 1770] (1845). The emphasis on documents deepened further with the dissemination of the historiographical currents of the so-called "methodical" or "positive" school in Portugal, and in the last quarter of the 19th century, valuable documentary collections and



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local histories with a critical and objective approach emerged. The documentary publications included works such as *Arquivo dos Açores* [Azores Archive] (12 volumes, 1878-1892), directed by Ernesto do Canto and published in fascicles, *Documentos históricos da cidade de Évora* [Historical Documents of the City of Évora] (1885-1891), organised by archivist Gabriel Pereira, and *Elementos para a história do município de Lisboa* [Elements for the History of the Municipality of Lisbon] (15 volumes, 1882-1911), compiled by Eduardo Freire de Oliveira, who also served as an archivist in the Municipal Council of Lisbon. As regards studies, the following may be highlighted: *Viana do Castelo: Esboço histórico* [Viana do Castelo: Historical Outline] (1878) by Luís de Figueiredo da Guerra, which combines knowledge from classical authors with chronicles and medieval and modern treaties, as well as epigraphic, archaeological, and documentary evidence from public and private archives. The previous year, Alberto Pimentel published *Memoria sobre a historia e administração do Município de Setúbal* [Memoir on the History and Administration of the Municipality of Setúbal] (1877), which holds a wealth of information on the city and the municipality, supported by valuable documentation. Another exemplary work of this more scholarly type, grounded in historical sources, is Gabriel Pereira's *Estudos Eborenses* [Studies from Évora], published in thematic fascicles between 1884 and 1894.

Thus, the 19th century is noteworthy for the expansion of historical studies, and in the case at hand, for the enhancement of regional and local history. Various authors, including two prominent figures of 19th-century Portuguese culture, A. Herculano and Oliveira Martins, argued at different times that the development of local history was fundamental to writing national history. Oliveira Martins wrote in the preface to a work on Oliveira do Hospital (1893): "I have always considered that one of the main aids to the general history of the country consists of local monographs, where archaeology and history, biographies and traditions are studied, and with documents held in municipal and private archives being freely available." He referred to the ordinance of 8 November 1847, which called on municipal councils to maintain an annual record of the main events in the life of the municipality "whose memory is worthy of preservation," for which they were to appoint a committee composed of councillors or the most apt members of the Municipal Council. In times of high illiteracy rates, the results were modest, and the abbot of Tagilde mentions that he only knew of eleven municipalities where some work was done as a result of this governmental provision. In the Azores, the *Anais do Município das Lajes das Flores* [Annals of the Municipality of Lajes das Flores], initiated by João Augusto da Silveira and continued by his grandson of the same name, is an example of such work. Oliveira Martins himself, in the aforementioned preface, referenced the work of Father António de Macedo e Silva, *Annaes do Município de Sanct-Yago de Cassem desde remotas eras até ao anno de 1853* [Annals of the Municipality of Santiago do Cacém from the earliest times to 1853] (1866), as an example of a publication produced as a result of this government measure. A circular dated 1854, during the height of the Regeneration period, signed by Rodrigo da Fonseca Magalhães, ordered the Civil Governor of Lisbon to report on the extent to which the 1847 ordinance had been implemented. This clearly indicates that the directive had not been enforced in the capital. It is true that other coastal municipalities saw their local monographs published in the mid-19th century, such as Óbidos and



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Cadaval, both in editions dated 1856. Sintra was a precursor with its 1838 publication, as previously mentioned. Further south, Beja (1847) and Sines (1850) should be noted. In the central region, Coimbra and Castelo Branco (1853) published their own monographs. In the north, Caldas de Vizela and das Taipas (1853 and 1854), both within the municipality of Guimarães, and Póvoa de Varzim (1851) also produced monographs. However, the vast majority of local monographs published in Portugal in the 19th century date from after the 1860s (cf. bibliography by A. Santos Silva, 1995). The authors of these works were passionate about their homeland and its values, and did not hide their pride in belonging to it. In a romantic fashion, they viewed the local as the most genuine expression of the popular roots of national identity. It is therefore not surprising that many of these narratives are often apologetic towards their local homeland, or, not infrequently, express a dual patriotism—both local and national. This phenomenon occurred on a different scale and in different political contexts in Spanish regions such as Catalonia (J. Fradera, cited by J. Alvarez Junco, “Las historias de España”, in *Historia de España*, eds. J. Fontana and R. Villares, 2013, p. 308).

At the University of Coimbra, Professor José Frederico Laranjo encouraged his students to write the history of municipalities according to a scheme that included chapters on origins and development, population, industries, the *Misericórdia*, confraternities and charitable institutions, associations, and credit institutions (cf. *Vantagens do estudo das monografias locais para o conhecimento da história geral portuguesa*, [Advantages of the study of local monographs for the knowledge of general Portuguese history] 1926, p. 15). This resulted in at least two published monographs: one on the municipality of Serpa (José Maria da Graça Afreixo, 1884) and another on Mesão-Frio (Álvaro Maria de Fornelos, 1886). These efforts contributed to a concept of local monography that typically encompassed various topographical, geographical, historical, archaeological, economic, artistic, and cultural aspects, allowing for a comprehensive overview of the territory and the life of its inhabitants. Armando Malheiro da Silva refers to this as a “contemporary-type monography,” characterised by the diversity of approaches in focus, but also by the “love for the land and the praise of its virtues” (*O Minho nas monografias (sécs. XIX-XX) [(Minho in monographs (19th-20th centuries))]*, 1991-92, p. 30). The most successful works naturally involved consulting archives and gathering documents to support their narratives, especially regarding history. Within the context of 19th-century regional studies and their progress in the final decades of the century, the ethnographic works that significantly expanded during this period and became closely intertwined with history cannot be overlooked. This interest may be traced back to the romantic fascination with studying the traditions and customs of peoples, which were later developed within positivist sociological frameworks, particularly highlighted by Teófilo Braga’s (1843-1924) work on *O povo português nos seus costumes, crenças e tradições* [The Portuguese people in their customs, beliefs and traditions] (2 vols., 1885). In the field of literary history, collections and studies on popular songbooks and traditional Portuguese tales were published, resulting from research conducted in various regions of the country. In Lisbon, this line of ethnographic research saw considerable development with Adolfo Coelho (1847-1919) and, especially, J. Leite de Vasconcelos (1858-1941), while in the north, it was carried forward by a group centred



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around the publication *Portugalia: materiaes para o estudo do povo portuguez* [Portugalia: materials for the study of the Portuguese people], including figures such as Ricardo Severo (1869-1940), Rocha Peixoto (1866-1909), and Artur da Fonseca Cardoso (1865-1912), among others. The focus on ethnographic aspects gained renewed interest and depth at the end of the 19th century. The combined effect of developments in the human and social sciences and the cultural trends of the time, such as neo-romanticism and nationalism, contributed to the late-century generations enriching studies in fields such as ethnography, anthropology, philology, archaeology, and history. The fruits of this endeavour became evident in the 20th century. These developments were also influenced by the country's sociocultural evolution, with the slow growth of the middle classes, advances in education, the expansion of the regional and local press, and the availability of resources that made it possible to produce and publish these works. Local scholars were often priests, some bachelor graduates, and local autodidacts, teachers, lawyers, doctors, and civil servants, who were part of the small circle of notable figures in their towns. In some cities, it was possible to establish associations and cultural societies with periodical publications where studies were published (Instituto de Coimbra, 1852; Sociedade Martins Sarmiento, Guimarães, 1881). Their motivations are evident: a deep love for their homeland, that is, a deep-seated local patriotism that challenges them to write its history and memories; the claim for the importance and value of the region or locality in the national context, emphasising, for instance, how they participated in major national events—the Restoration, the fight against the French invasions, the Liberal Revolution, etc.; lamenting the neglect by governments and public services in general and demanding essential improvements for their towns, which often appears in introductions and prefaces or in the press when presenting the works. Thus, regional and local studies contribute to the construction of imaginations and identities, but also to legitimising claims, political proposals, and subnational powers.

The 20th century

The expansion of regional and local studies in the 19th century led to the development of bibliographies dedicated to this subject. In 1900, for the Paris Universal Exposition, Brito Aranha published the first bibliography of Portuguese works that could be used for the study of the cities, towns, monuments, institutions, traditions, and customs of mainland Portugal, the Azores and Madeira Islands, and the overseas possessions. Eduardo da Rocha Dias continued this work in subsequent years (1903-06, 1908), while António Mesquita de Figueiredo, working at the National Library, produced a more comprehensive bibliography in 1933. However, both works were limited to mainland Portugal. At a local level, the *Bibliotheca Açoriana*, published by the tireless Ernesto do Canto in 1890, included both national and foreign works concerning the Azores islands. Furthermore, the first reflections on methodologies and a more systematic organisation of regional and local studies emerged during this period. In 1913, Manuel da Silva presented his *Schema d'história local* [Outline of local History] in the *Revista de História* [History Journal], outlining a comprehensive approach that covered various aspects: geology, physical anthropology and population studies, archaeology, ethnography, local legislation and administration, statistics, philology, traditional literature, local memories and news, documents



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and archives, and finally, monuments and art. The ideal was to pursue studies that were broad in scope, which could be classified as global studies, if not for the fact that they were, in reality, fragmentary studies, collating materials of diverse natures without a theoretical framework to integrate them comprehensively. More than a decade later, in 1925, P. M. Laranjo Coelho presented an analysis at a Luso-Spanish congress on the *Vantagens do estudo das monografias locais para o conhecimento da história geral portuguesa*, encouraging scholars to develop this type of research. He outlined a brief history of the development of this genre of work in Portugal and proposed his own plan, which should cover "the essential facts for the study of a locality in its geo-physical, historical, economic, and social aspects." (*Ob. Cit.*, p. 17- 20). This plan displayed the same global ambition, but now with a more elaborated systematisation and development. Geography, demography, ethnography, archaeology, and history, in their various economic, political-administrative, artistic, and cultural dimensions, combined to create a general overview of regions and localities. In 1934, in lectures delivered at the Academy of Sciences, he revisited this topic, showing an awareness of similar work being conducted in France (*Monografias Locais na Literatura Histórica Portuguesa* [Local Monographs in Portuguese Literary History], 1935).

The concern with gathering information to deepen the understanding of the country's reality led António Alfredo Barjona de Freitas, the Minister of Public Works, Commerce, and Industry, to launch an annual competition for monographs on rural parishes in 1909. The report in which it was presented was explicit about its objectives: to initiate the much-needed inquiry into the economic and social life of the Portuguese nation, starting from the smallest and most homogeneous administrative unit with a long historical tradition, namely the rural parish. That same year, the University of Coimbra invited sociologist Léon Poinard to give lectures on the methods of studying small communities, as used in social science in France. This led to the publication of a work on the so-called "monographic method" and Poinard's *Le Portugal Inconnu*, published in the bulletin of the International Society for Social Science in 1910 (a Portuguese translation was published in 1912). Economic description and demographic statistics had already been important in regional and local studies since the second half of the 19th century, but the sociological approach and, through it, the first steps towards social history only began to be seriously considered at the beginning of the new century. From the perspective of enhancing regional and local studies in the early 20th century, Fidelino de Figueiredo, one of the founders of the Portuguese Society for Historical Studies (1914) is also worthy of mention. A professor, historian, literary critic, and essayist, Figueiredo emphasised the importance of local historical studies, noting the need to publish "volumes of documents from public and private archives, all developed according to a previously established plan regarding how to extract, group, and classify, to create indexes, etc." (quoted in *O Minho nas Monografias (sécs. XIX-XX)*, 1991-92, p. 34). He was also of the opinion that when there were sufficient local studies, it would be possible to include the history of the region or the city or town where the majority of the population end up spending their lives in primary school curricula. This perspective led to the inclusion of local history in the secondary education curriculum approved by a Sidónio Pais government in 1918. Fidelino de Figueiredo



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belonged to a generation in which nationalism was in keeping with regionalist and municipalist values. These were not seen as opposing or conflicting but as part of the process of constructing an idea of the nation that naturally could not exclude its various components. Also in the field of theory and methodology, it is important to highlight the proposal made by Professor Marcello Caetano to his students in the Administrative Law subject to undertake *Monografias sobre os Concelhos Portugueses* [Monographs on the Portuguese Municipalities] (1935). Clearly driven by didactic concerns, he provided precise instructions on how to prepare the work to have academic value, emphasising "the *method and clarity* of exposition; the *integrity* of statements; *scrupulousness* in the documentation" (the italics are the author's; p. 3). The detailed plan he proposed was broken down into various questions that, through careful consultation of documentation and archives, would allow for the creation of a general history of the municipality and an overview of its administrative life. He did not omit the bibliography at the end, indicating the studies and collections of documents published by the municipal councils. The bibliographies and methodological proposals regarding local studies highlight the perceived need to increase both the quantity and quality of this type of research. Although progress was made in this direction, it was hesitant and considerably delayed compared to developments in other European countries. Various factors may explain this, including the underdevelopment of the higher education system in Portugal and the political-ideological context of the dictatorship and the *Estado Novo*. Therefore, it may be said that there was greater continuity with the type of studies conducted in the 19th century than there was innovation during the first half of the 20th century.

Historical and chorographical publications continued to attract the interest of scholars, and more useful information was compiled. At the beginning of the century, the *Novo Dicionario Chorographico de Portugal Continental e Insular* [New Chorographic Dictionary of Mainland and Insular Portugal] (1902) by Francisco Cardoso de Azevedo was published, which was later refined and republished. A more extensive work was the publication by Esteves Pereira and Guilherme Rodrigues, *Portugal: dicionario historico, chorographico, heraldico, biographico, bibliographico, numismatico e artistico* [Portugal: Historical, Chorographic, Heraldic, Biographical, Bibliographical, Numismatic, and Artistic Dictionary] (1904-1915, 7 vols.), which provided a wealth of information useful for local history. Several years later, the *Diccionario chorographico de Portugal Continental e Insular* [Chorographic Dictionary of Mainland and Insular Portugal] (1929-1949, 10 vols.) by Américo Costa was also published. In the field of scholarly memoirs, which made abundant use of archives and documentary sources, the work of Francisco Manuel Alves, better known as the Abbot of Baçal, is noteworthy: *Memórias arqueológico-históricas do distrito de Bragança* [Archaeological and Historical Memoirs of the District of Bragança] (11 vols., 1909-1932). The slow but gradual organisation of archives, the refinement of research methods under the auspices of the afore-mentioned "methodical" or "positive" school, which dominated Portuguese academic circles for several decades, fostered the development of more erudite studies. However, the systematic publication of primary sources for the entire country's regions and municipalities was still lacking. In this regard, the *Gabinete de História da Cidade do Porto* [History Office of



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the City of Porto], established in 1936, with its regular publication of *Documentos e memórias para a história do Porto* [Documents and Memoirs for the History of Porto] and the *Gabinete de Estudos Olissiponenses* [Office for Lisbon Studies], founded in 1954, which played a similar role in Lisbon, were noteworthy. Among the researchers who published primary sources for local history, notable examples include Artur de Magalhães Basto for Porto; Maria Teresa Campos Rodrigues for Lisbon; António Baião for sources on the history of the Algarve; António Gomes da Rocha Madaíl for 18th-century parish information on Coimbra and documentation related to the city and municipality of Aveiro; and Manuel Monteiro Velho Arruda for documents concerning the discovery of the Azores. Essentially, this was all indispensable work for the writing of history, although the historian's work does not end there, as noted by V. Magalhães Godinho (*Ensaio II. Sobre a História de Portugal* [Essays II. On the History of Portugal] 1978, p. 92).

Traditional 19th-century-style monographs continued to be common, such as the *Anais do município da Horta* [Annals of the Municipality of Horta] (1943) by Marcelino Lima (1868?-1961). A public servant and self-taught scholar with secondary education and part of a group of intellectuals who enriched the cultural landscape of Faial Island in the late 19th century, Lima developed an interest in local and genealogical history. In his *Anais*, he presents a comprehensive history of the Horta municipality in the context of Faial Island. Naturally, he begins with the island's discovery and settlement, followed by a discussion of "governance" in the modern period, including references to donatories, captains-major, judges, and magistrates. He then details the establishment of the municipality and all the relevant aspects of municipal life, from finances, administration, regulations and municipal orders to the buildings and the multiple facets of municipal organisation. The city of Horta also warrants an extensive chapter, along with discussions of military and political matters, highlighting the most prominent local figures. It does not overlook the economic and social life, providing a truly comprehensive perspective that touches on a multitude of topics. The work ends with an account of the "tragic hours," which includes military incursions, natural disasters, and a popular uprising in 1862. In this extensive study, the author uses chronicles, academic studies, press reports, and printed sources, particularly the *Arquivo dos Açores* [Azores Archive] as well as unpublished sources from the *Tombo da Câmara da Horta* [Archive of the Municipality of Horta]. Significantly, another area in which the author excels is genealogy, with the work on *Famílias Faialenses: subsídios para a história da ilha do Faial* [Faial Families: contributions for the history of Faial island] (1922). Another paradigmatic example of a local scholar is Urbano de Mendonça Dias (1878-1951), an Azorean from the island of São Miguel. He graduated in Law from Coimbra and held various public offices on his island. With a monarchist and regionalist inclination, his love for his homeland and literary activity led him to history, fiction, and theatre. In the field under study, his extensive work has a historical-ethnological bent, clearly evident in *A Vida de Nossos Avós* [The Life of Our Grandparents] (1944-49, 9 vols.), but he does not neglect the consultation of archives and primary sources to construct his narratives. The diversity of topics addressed in his works and the valuable information gathered make him truly important for the history of the Azores and the island of São Miguel. Marcelino Lima and Mendonça Dias are,



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ultimately, representative of a type of local historian who follows the traditional historiographical line inherited from the 19th century: the selected themes, the methods of collating the collected material, the interest in genealogies and figures, the ethnographic bent of some of his texts, the concern with the use of documents, and the narrative style all reflect this connection to liberal and romantic history, tempered by a more scholarly concern with archival research.

In an innovative vein, the study of Alberto Sampaio (1841-1908), *As "Villas" do Norte de Portugal* [The Towns of Northern Portugal] is worthy of mention, published across several fascicles in the journal *Portugalia: Materiais para o Estudo do Povo Português*, directed by Ricardo Severo in Porto. A profound connoisseur of the rural Minho region, Sampaio developed a socio-economic history study to understand the origins of the patterns of land occupation specific to that area, the organisation of society, and the way of life of rural populations. To this end, he traces back to the Roman period and the transformations of the early Middle Ages which, in his interpretation, shaped the fundamental characteristics of the region. Published in the early 20th century, this work would long remain an isolated example in the context of regional and local historiographical production due to its socio-historical approach and its way of integrating geography and ethnology into the explanatory framework for the settlement and organisation of rural space in northern Portugal. In two other scientific fields, regional studies were innovative and highly productive during this period: ethnography and human geography. In both, the best works and authors display a concern with the origin and historical transformations of the realities observed in the present. Historical references appear in the works of anthropologist Jorge Dias (1907-1973) on agrarian communalism and agricultural tools, but they are essential in the studies of geographer Orlando Ribeiro (1911-1997), whose example led to a research line on "Historical, Regional, and Local Geography" within the Centre for Geographical Studies at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Lisbon, which he founded in the early 1940s. Mention should also be made of the works of Raquel Soeiro de Brito, António de Brum Ferreira, and Carlos Alberto Medeiros, dedicated to various Azorean islands. Regarding the mainland, works such as Carminda Cavaco's study on the eastern Algarve and Maria Alfreda Cruz's on the southern bank of the Tagus estuary can be cited. In the same interdisciplinary and historical-geographical line, Jorge Gaspar continued, notably with his study on "Os portos fluviais do Tejo" ["The River Ports of the Tagus"] (1970). In the 1960s, signs of a renewal in regional and local historical studies began to emerge in Portugal, influenced by more specialised works conducted within academia. The best example came from abroad with Albert Silbert's innovative work on the agrarian history of the Beira Baixa and Alentejo regions, presented at the Sorbonne in 1963 for his doctoral thesis (*Le Portugal Méditerranéen à la fin de l'Ancien Régime*, 1966). Silbert closely follows the theoretical and methodological lessons of Marc Bloch for the study of rural regions and is concerned with comparing Portuguese agricultural landscapes and cultivation systems with others already studied in European, African, and American contexts. The French historian's research was supported by local scholars, notably José Ribeiro Cardoso, who had directed the work *Subsídios para a História Regional da Beira Baixa* [Contributions for the Regional History of Beira Baixa], sponsored by



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the *Provincial Junta de Beira Baixa* and integrated into the vast collection of publications of the Dual Centennial. At the end of the 1960s, Joaquim Romero Magalhães' undergraduate thesis, later published in 1970 as *Para o Estudo do Algarve Económico Durante o Século XVI* [Towards the Study of Economic Algarve in the 16th Century] under the supervision of V. M. Godinho and the influence of French historiography, was part of a renewal movement that would later bear fruit. Agrarian and rural history would see significant scientific and methodological advancements in the late 1970s and subsequent decades of the 20th century. Moreover, history in general, especially that which focused on subnational areas, expanded extraordinarily after 1974, driven by the political shift towards democracy and, above all, the development of higher education and the awarding of master's and doctoral degrees. This phenomenon was also influenced by the political evolution of local governments and autonomous regimes in the Atlantic islands, which made resources available to support research and publication on regional and local history.

In summary, national historiography progressed slowly towards renewal and the introduction of new methodologies and issues, particularly outside university circles, which remained resistant to change. However, regional and local history remained strongly attached to traditional formulas, and given the conditions of its production, mostly by amateurs and local scholars, it was only with the expansion of higher education and, especially, the academic work of postgraduates that it benefited from significant growth and modernisation. It is worth noting that in the 1960s, local history was already valued in final undergraduate theses presented at Faculties of Arts, which served as an incentive for graduates, many of whom were secondary school teachers and regional and local government officials, to continue their studies. Consequently, the significant renewal of regional and local history would take place in the last decades of the 20th century, in a more favourable political context and within the framework of the expansion of higher education, which enabled the pursuit of academic research with greater rigour and more modern methodological and conceptual tools.

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