

DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

<http://dichp.bnportugal.pt/>



Albuquerque, Luís de (Lisbon, 1917- Lisbon, 1992)

Luis Guilherme Furtado Mendonça Castilho de Albuquerque (who often used the shortened form Luís Guilherme Mendonça de Albuquerque) was born in Lisbon on 6 March, 1917, the firstborn son of Eduardo Castilho de Albuquerque, an Army officer of the Cavalry, and Emília Sá Mendonça Furtado de Albuquerque. His paternal grandparents were Luís de Albuquerque and Virgínia Júlia de Castilho de Albuquerque. In 1943, he married Maria Benedita Lares de Moraes. In Coimbra, he attended the two high schools Liceu José Falcão and Liceu Júlio Henriques and later entered the Colégio Militar [Military College] (student number 89) and completed the general high school course in 1934. He studied Mathematics at the Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Coimbra [Faculty of Science of the University of Coimbra], finishing his degree at the Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa [Faculty of Science of the University of Lisbon] in 1939, and then in 1940 his degree in Geographical Engineering.

He began his university career in 1941 as an assistant of the 1st group (Analysis and Geometry) at the Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Coimbra, where he was chair of many subjects in Geometry, Algebra, Calculus and Design. In 1946, he was elected President of the Associação Académica de Coimbra [Academic Association of Coimbra] but was not allowed to take office officially for political reasons.

Two years later he was unanimously approved in the open tender for Professor of Design subjects and associated courses at the Faculdade de Ciências, and took up his post on 11 January, 1949. Ten years later, he obtained his doctorate in Mathematics with a final classification of 19 marks out of 20 at the University of Coimbra. He submitted the thesis *Sobre a Teoria da Aproximação Funcional* [On the Theory of Functional Approximation]. His PhD viva, which was essential to the full accomplishment of his academic career, was subject to various types of obstacles and delays for many years (his thesis had long been completed), as his political ideas were not in line with the official ideology of the regime. This situation was finally unblocked by the intervention of Manuel Lopes de Almeida, director of the Biblioteca Geral da Universidade de Coimbra [General Library of the University of Coimbra] at the time, and a senior figure in the regime (he became Minister of Education in 1961-2). He was a lifelong friend of Luís de Albuquerque and vouched for him before the



political police. The adverse conditions created for him at the University involved a teaching timetable of over thirty hours per week.

He then went on to study Stochastic Methods at the University of Göttingen (Federal Germany) with a scholarship from the Instituto de Alta Cultura [Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture], where he attended the seminars of Professor Konrad Jacobs. Upon his return to the Faculty, he was barred from resuming his position as chair of Calculus and Probability, to which he had previously brought innovation and in which he had specialised. He was given the chair of Algebra; he would become one of the driving forces behind the later so-called Portuguese School of Linear Algebra, which achieved considerable international prestige.

In the mid-1950s, Armando Cortesão began preparing for the monumental work *Portugaliae Monumenta Cartographica* (Lisbon, 1960): While it is known that Luís de Albuquerque collaborated in this project, the precise terms and extent of his involvement are not, as is also the case with other collaborators of the team assembled by Cortesão, with the exception of Avelino Teixeira da Mota, whose prominence was such that he assumed co-authorship and went on to become responsible for the last volumes. The work itself is still regarded as a milestone in the discipline to the extent that David Woodward considers it unparalleled, despite his co-responsible role (with John Brian Harley) in an epistemological revolution in the History of Cartography that rendered the matrix that had shaped the PMC outdated. It is, indeed, a monument in itself, like the cartographic monuments it studies.

One of the most lasting effects of the efforts of this team was the institutionalisation of scientific work in the field of History of Cartography –a novelty at the time in Portugal - with the creation of the Agrupamento de Estudos de Cartografia Antiga da Junta de Investigações do Ultramar [Cluster of Ancient Cartography Studies of the Overseas Research Council] (divided into two branches). The Separata Series of the Agrupamento de Estudos de Cartografia Antiga da Junta de Investigações do Ultramar emerged in 1961, which was inaugurated by the Lisbon branch with a work by Teixeira da Mota (A. T. Mota, *Cinco Séculos de Cartografia das Ilhas de Cabo Verde* [Five Centuries of Cartography of the Cape Verde Islands], 1960) and by the Coimbra branch with a study by Luís Albuquerque entitled *Os Almanques Portugueses de Madrid* [The Portuguese Almanacs of Madrid] (1961).

This Series, of which 249 titles were published, known as "separatas verdes" ["green separatas"] (in allusion to the colour of the cover), consisted of a separate issue of articles published in national and international journals, mainly on Nautical Cartography and Nautical History; it would become one of the Portuguese publication collections with the greatest international projection. The cluster would come to be called Centro [Centre], and then Centro de Estudos de História e Cartografia Antiga [Centre for the Study of Ancient History and Cartography], until its incorporation into the Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical [Tropical Scientific Research Institute] at the Universidade de Lisboa [University of Lisbon] in 2015.

While Avelino Teixeira da Mota directed the Lisbon branch, Armando Cortesão and Luís de Albuquerque were in charge of its Coimbra counterpart. They had a common interest in the History of the Art of Navigation,



DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

<http://dichp.bnportugal.pt/>

although one was more inclined towards Nautical Cartography and the other towards Nautical Science itself. Their collaboration was close but critical, as they were separated by profoundly divergent views on key aspects of the History of Portuguese Expansion: the issue of the policy of secrecy is an example, of which Cortesão was a staunch defender, as was his brother Jaime, while Albuquerque was more critical, not one to trifle with fantasies, no matter how creative, which was more in line with the intervention of Duarte Leite on the matter. However, in the very early days of the Cluster's activity, he gave a speech in praise of the Presenter, Professor João Carrington Simões da Costa, at Armando Cortesão's Doctorate Honoris Causa ceremony.

It was against this backdrop that Luís de Albuquerque took three of the most important steps in his career: the publication of the books on seamanship, which will be addressed further ahead, his collaboration in the publication of the *Obras Completas* [Complete Works] of D. João de Castro, and the organisation of the [I] *Reunião Internacional de História da Náutica* International [First International Meeting on the History of Nautical Science].

The work of D. João de Castro and his studies on the Earth's magnetism were continuously the object of his attention and of several works, thereby following that the idealisation of the edition of the *Obras* was naturally his, despite being co-signed by Armando Cortesão, who is likely to have had some degree of participation in the first two volumes. However, the third, with the correspondence, and the fourth with the collection of several studies, are the sole responsibility of Luís Albuquerque. The book, of excellent editorial quality, was sponsored by the newly founded *Academia Internacional da Cultura Portuguesa* [International Academy of Portuguese Culture].

Meanwhile Michel Mollat du Jourdin had been organising the *Colloques Internationaux d'Histoire Maritime* since the mid-1950s. It was a known fact that the *Colloques* did not cover the technical aspects of navigation: the colloquium held in Lisbon in 1960, within the scope of the Prince Henry the Navigator celebrations, was an exception in which technical themes were dominant, revealing the influence of Portuguese historiography through the attention given to this branch of navigation. But from the point of view of the scientific programme, these congresses continued to focus essentially on ports, maritime trade, and other chapters related to maritime economic history, a dominant trend internationally to date, as evidenced by the fact that this Committee was replaced de facto in the 1990s by the International Maritime Economic History Association.

Nevertheless, cartography and nautical science continued to attract the attention of the *Agrupamento de Cartografia Antiga*, but were not a central theme in contemporary historiography since they lacked their own space of affirmation: this is what led Luís de Albuquerque to promote the *Reunião Internacional de História da Náutica* [International Meeting on the History of Nautical Science] in 1968.

Naturally, Armando Cortesão was given precedence due to his age and position as head of the Coimbra branch, but in his inaugural speech, he gave all the credit to his younger colleague: "I must say, however, in all fairness, that although the convenience and possibility of staging this meeting has arisen in my many conversations with Professor Luís de Albuquerque on these matters, the original idea came from him, far more



DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

<http://dichp.bnportugal.pt/>

than from me. In fact, some of the good that has perhaps been done in this branch is largely due to the astonishing intellectual activity of this exceptional man" (Rev. da Universidade de Coimbra [Journal of the University of Coimbra], xxiv, p.4).

The Actas [Proceedings] were edited in a volume of the Revista da Universidade de Coimbra and included collaborations by leading names among the scholars dedicated to the history of the art of navigation at that time: among others, Guy Beaujouan, Emmanuel Poule, Ursula Lamb, Francis Maddison, Ernst Crone, Marcel Destombes, Wilcomb Washburn, G. R. Tibbetts, David Waters, R. A. Skelton, Max Justo Guedes, Reyer Hooykaas, and Rolando Laguarda Trías.

Initially thought of as a one-off event, the success of this scientific meeting led to its repetition, although it was deemed that the staging of similar events would be adapted to the specific circumstances that made their funding feasible, such as commemorative cycles. This explains why the subsequent meetings organised by Max Guedes and Luís de Albuquerque were organised according to an irregular schedule: 1976, 1979, 1983, 1984, 1987.

In 1968, Armando Cortesão also published the two volumes of his História da Cartografia Portuguesa [History of Portuguese Cartography] (Cortesão, 1969), thus closing the exceptional inaugural period of activities of the Coimbra branch of the Agrupamento de Estudos de Cartografia Antiga.

In the meantime, Luís de Albuquerque's university career advanced: he was approved in 1963 in the tender for Professor Extraordinário [Extraordinary Professor] at the Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Coimbra, he became Professor Agregado [Associate Professor with habilitation] in the same year, and in 1966 was approved in the tender for Professor Catedrático [Full Tenured Professor].

Luís de Albuquerque's activity was always characterised by multiple responsibilities at different levels: the mathematics professor who was also a history professor, the academic who served the University in several important positions, the citizen who served the city in which he lived almost all his life with the same intensity. This commitment to the service of the institutions to which he was connected and the plurality of his university contributions are a reflection not only of his character but also of his dedicated approach to his commitments. Shortly before completing a decade of intense service to the University, he became Governador Civil do Distrito de Coimbra [Civil Governor of the District of Coimbra] (1974-76), the only political post he ever held, and through which his role in the city was meritorious.

In addition to various positions at the Faculdade de Ciências, he was vice-chancellor of the University from 1978 to 1982 and also Director da Biblioteca Geral da Universidade [Director of the General Library of the University] (BGUC) from 1978 until his retirement. He was particularly fond of this position, and during his term of office he promoted an important series of publications on his themes of reference, namely Nautical Science and Cartography. As an example, the three volumes with which the Revista da Universidade de Coimbra (edited by the Biblioteca Geral) paid tribute to Armando Cortesão (vols. XXVI-XXVIII) may be mentioned, perhaps the most important joint repository of articles published in Portugal on this subject; with a more diverse



range of themes, his successor at BGUC also prepared three volumes in his honour in the same publication, while he was still alive (vols. XXXV-XXXVII).

His refined sense of ethics in the performance of public positions is not surprising, given his personal profile. In 1974, Luís de Albuquerque began publishing his *Estudos de História* [History Studies] in the series *Acta Universitatis Conimbrigensis* published by BGUC (6 vols., 1974-78), a compilation of sparse articles, whose volumes III and IV included Armando Cortesão's contributions to the *História da Cartografia Portuguesa*. Once volume VI had been published, he suspended the publication of the series to avoid using his position for the publication of his own books.

The 1980s were a period of significant activity: collaboration with institutions outside the University intensified, and he taught at several universities: In the last years of his active academic life immediately after his retirement, he taught at the *Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas da Universidade Nova de Lisboa* [Faculty of Social and Human Sciences of the New University of Lisbon], where he participated in the launch of postgraduate studies in the History of the Discoveries, at the *Faculdades de Letras das Universidades de Lisboa e Coimbra* [Faculty of Arts of the Universities of Lisbon and Coimbra], and also at the *Universidade Autónoma* [Autonomous University], besides the numerous seminars and short courses he directed in Portuguese and foreign universities; in short, this was a period of public recognition and great projection of his work during which publications abounded. From a scientific point of view, this was also a period marked by the clear assumption of a pedagogical role in the dissemination of the History of the Discoveries and Navigation above the History of Nautical Science and Cartography, targeting a wider audience than the reader of scientific writings. Thus, collections of studies and the publication of books and articles followed in appreciable numbers, triggered by the combination of several factors.

First and foremost, the work of the *Comissão Nacional para as Comemorações dos Descobrimentos Portugueses* [National Committee for the Commemorations of the Portuguese Discoveries] (which lasted from 1987 to 2002) should be noted for its vigorous projection of the image of this historical period on both a domestic and international scale; this included staging exhibitions, promoting conferences, funding research projects (this aspect was less visible to the public eye) and editing or supporting a large number of publications, both scientific and for the general public, with special attention to the younger generation, which was the focus of the *Grupo de Trabalho do Ministério da Educação para as Comemorações dos Descobrimentos Portugueses* [Ministry of Education's Working Group for the Commemorations of the Portuguese Discoveries], for which he was co-responsible. One of the most important features of these commemorations was the creation of *Mare Liberum. Revista de História dos Mares* [Mare Liberum. Journal of the History of the Seas], a journal published in an unusual format (A4) with the aim of enabling the publication of articles that required illustration that was not compatible with the normal size of scientific journals, i.e., mainly Cartographic and



DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

<http://dichp.bnportugal.pt/>

Nautical Studies; until the disbandment of the CNCDP, *Mare Liberum* was the body of this organisation's Scientific Committee, directed since its inception by Luís de Albuquerque (it was further supplemented by the journal *Oceanos* [Oceans], of a dissemination nature). The journal was also committed to internationalisation, as may be seen by the panoply of authors from its very first issue, and the acceptance of texts in six languages (including German and Italian), which had been unheard of in Portuguese history journals until then.

To some degree, the drive to enhance and promote Portuguese History and Culture in the time of the Discoveries continued. This had already been the theme of the XVII Exposição Europeia de Arte, Ciência e Cultura [XVII European Exhibition of Art, Science and Culture] (1983), developed around five nuclei, and Luís de Albuquerque had been in charge of the Jerónimos [Hieronymites Monastery] exhibition. This time, for the intrinsic quality of his writings, but also for his choice of more obscure topics, even within the professional history field. Additionally for the expository capacity of his elegant, straightforward writing, within the reach of an educated non-specialist audience, however complex the subject (a good example is precisely the *História da Náutica* [History of Nautical Science], an elaborate subject even for the professional reader), and which in no way sacrificed scientific rigour.

The 1980s marked the culmination of his work (having begun in the 1950s) which saw considerable scientific projection, in addition to an important dissemination component. At both levels, justifying the critical appraisal of W. G. L. Randles: "For future scholars of the Renaissance period, he has raised nautical astronomy from the status of an arcane subject to become an 'incontornável' [unavoidable] core feature of the History of the Discoveries" (W G L Randles, "Luís de Albuquerque and the History of Nautical Science in Portugal", 1998, p. 135).

It was also around this time and as a consequence that Luís de Albuquerque directed several highly impactful collective projects, such as the six-volume work entitled *Portugal no Mundo* [Portugal in the World], which was accompanied by the edition (with the same graphic design) of a work entitled *Os Descobrimentos Portugueses* [The Portuguese Discoveries], which was to be his great review of the navigations period. This decade also saw the resuscitation of an old issue, as old as it was erroneous and fanciful: "a torrent of speculation and fantasy", as rightly stated by Luís Filipe Thomaz on the 1986 publication of a book which, displaying an extensive copy of the work of writer and librarian Patrocínio Ribeiro (without ever quoting him), sought to revive the "Portuguese Columbus" myth.

It should be acknowledged that this issue transcends the historiographical dimension of the supposed problem, given the political connotation a specific sector sought to assign to it. However, Luís de Albuquerque stuck, as expected, to that aspect exclusively, and somehow the "controversy" became the pretext that triggered the most direct intervention in one of the most invariable components of his work: criticism of the many fanciful features that contaminate the History of the Discoveries, laden with imaginary glories which were



DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

<http://dichp.bnportugal.pt/>

indeed, as someone wrote, imagined. On a strictly scientific level Luís de Albuquerque, following the example of Duarte Leite, was critical of Armando Cortesão, and closer to his brother Jaime's formulations in the different conceptions that clashed with those of the Coimbra professors. The two-volume book *Dúvidas e Certezas na História dos Descobrimentos Portugueses* [Doubts and Certainties in the History of the Portuguese Discoveries] (2 vols., 1990-91) bears a two-fold dimension: the Doubts (volume I), in criticism of the hypothetical and fanciful issues of the Discoveries; the Certainties of the realities that denote their effective importance for Portuguese and world history.

In this same sense of widespread dissemination, of note is the publication in 1989 of the *Biblioteca da Expansão Portuguesa* [Library of Portuguese Expansion], along with *Portugal no Mundo*, in no less than 50 volumes of highly diverse historical texts, published in modern Portuguese and including explanatory studies, facilitating when not fostering easy access to an enormous wealth of documents, even for professionals in the field.

This was tireless labour, even if its fruits were delayed, as was the case of the posthumous publication of the *Dicionário de História dos Descobrimentos Portugueses* [Dictionary of the History of the Portuguese Discoveries] (2 vols, 1994), the first work of its kind, with 1010 articles written by 92 collaborators.

Finally, in this highlight of the hard work of a decade, the initiative with the greatest international impact should be noted: the *Exposição Portugal-Brasil* [Portugal-Brazil Exhibition] 2 June, 1990. The *Era dos Descobrimentos Atlânticos* [Era of the Atlantic Discoveries] was inaugurated at The New York Public Library. He was one of the curators of this high-profile exhibition, and actively collaborated in the catalogue by writing the Introduction in partnership with Max Justo Guedes, an essay, an appendix, and most of the captions. The exhibition was enthusiastically received by the local press throughout the three months of its display.

The 1980s were also, and naturally, the decade of academic recognition: in 1985, the Universidade de Lisboa awarded him the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa in History. By then, the idea of dedicating a *Livro de Homenagem* [A Tribute] book to him that would mirror the tribute of colleagues, followers and friends was already blossoming. It was published in 1986 and 1987, compiling the contributions of names of the greatest international prestige on matters relating to the History of Science and Geographical Exploration in the modern era.

1987 was the year of his retirement from university, and several ceremonies were dedicated to him in Lisbon and Coimbra. On 10 June of that year, he was decorated by the President of the Republic with the Grande Oficialato da Ordem do Infante D. Henrique [Grand Officer of the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator]. In October 1991 he was hospitalised as the result of a stroke, from which he did not recover. He died at the Hospital de Marinha [Navy Hospital] in Lisbon, on 22 January, 1992.



DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

<http://dichp.bnportugal.pt/>

A group of collaborators and followers began the preparation of a tribute book entitled *Luís de Albuquerque Historiador e Matemático* [*Luís de Albuquerque Historian and Mathematician*] (1998). The book contains seven studies on various features of his work, four unpublished works and his complete bibliography. Within the scope of the commemorations of the 25th of April of 1993, the *Serviços Culturais da Câmara Municipal da Figueira da Foz* [Cultural Services of the City Hall of Figueira da Foz] promoted the exhibition "*Luís de Albuquerque. O Homem e a Obra*" ["*Luís de Albuquerque. The Man and His Work*"], and in the following year the *Departamento de Matemática da Universidade de Coimbra* [Department of Mathematics of the University of Coimbra] published the volume *Estudos de Matemática em Homenagem ao Professor Doutor Luís de Albuquerque* [*Studies in Mathematics in Homage to Professor Luís de Albuquerque*] (Coimbra, 1994). He was also honoured by the Navy Academy, and also in 1992 and 2017, on the occasion of the centenary of his birth.

Of all the tributes and manifestations in memoriam, there is perhaps one that is most prominent, a rare distinction in the life course of a historian: in 1991, at its 101st annual meeting, the American Historical Association, the world's largest association of professionals in the field, elected Luís de Albuquerque as its 76th honorary member, a distinction first bestowed upon Leopold von Rank. Its proposers were Ursula Lamb and Wilcomb Washburn.

Luís de Albuquerque's scientific and literary work is broader and more diversified than it might seem: it is as if everything had grasped his interest, as if he had studied everything and been attracted by everything, and his bibliography includes more than a thousand titles (Domingues, 1998), reflecting an activity that manifested itself on four major levels.

The mathematician's work is well known thanks to the studies of J. J. Dionísio, and Graciliano de Oliveira, José Vitória, Natália Bebiano and Nazaré Mendes Lopes (all professors at the Department of Mathematics of the Universidade de Coimbra) attest to the path and innovation of Luís de Albuquerque in the discipline, namely by the role he played in the advent of the Portuguese School of Linear Algebra.

From the very first scientific publications, Luís de Albuquerque also wrote on the most diverse subjects, from Angola's economy to the potential of nuclear energy, from literary criticism (especially poetry) to notes and comments on the most diverse topics: a newly released book or an engineers' congress, sports and Olympism, cinema, or the problems of primary education. One senses an immense and insatiable curiosity for all aspects of the reality that surrounded him, and an irresistible desire to intervene through writing: it is not by chance that he defined himself as a graphomaniac.

The vast majority of these texts appeared in the *Vértice* journal, a quasi-unofficial body of the Portuguese neo-realism movement, which brought together a significant number of Coimbra intellectuals who opposed the ruling regime, among whom were some of his friends, such as Egídio Namorado. He was also close to other important literary figures, such as Vitorino Nemésio, a frequent visitor to the house, and Vergílio Ferreira, who left him the (unpublished) manuscript of his first novel. *Vértice* experienced difficulties due to its political



DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

<http://dichp.bnportugal.pt/>

alignment, with several authors banned from signing their names on their articles, as was the case of Luís de Albuquerque, who used five pseudonyms in addition to unsigned articles to write entire issues of the journal between the late 1940s and early 1950s.

There is no use seeking an enclosed logic in the use of these alter-egos, but one of them (J. Sousa Mendes) was clearly his favourite when writing on cultural topics in general and historical themes in particular. On multiple occasions, articles in newspapers or other widely circulated media anticipated the publication of longer texts, or disseminated results already presented in scientific articles and books. This was especially the case with the series of articles on various themes related to the Portuguese navigations, published in the newspaper *O Comércio do Porto*, later collected in a book (*Crónicas de História de Portugal [Chronicles of Portuguese History]*, 1987).

Luís de Albuquerque's interest in Nautical History stemmed both from an invitation by António José Saraiva to collaborate in his *História da Cultura em Portugal [History of Culture in Portugal]* with a chapter on "As navegações e as origens da mentalidade científica" "The Navigations and the Origins of Scientific Mentality" (in A. J. Saraiva, *História da Cultura em Portugal [History of Culture in Portugal]*, vol. II, 1955, pp. 369-507), and from having taken upon himself the organisation of Luciano Pereira da Silva's (1864-1926) library, acquired by Joaquim Bensaúde and donated to the Mathematics Department of the Universidade de Coimbra, where that illustrious professor also left his mark as a nautical historian. Certainly, Pereira da Silva's beneficial shadow influenced the then young member of the Department, who would also be reminded of the image of another notable professor and author of highly important historiographical work: Duarte Leite (1864-1950).

His path pointed in the direction of History of Nautical Science, but another chapter should also be recalled in which his work was relevant for the time: the History of Education. Once again, his works on Mathematics went hand in hand with critical intervention, studies on the Discoveries in general, and a series of articles on education in Portugal from the Pombaline reforms to the early days of liberalism. These articles would be republished in the author's own edition, and later, with additions, as volume VI of his *Estudos de História [Studies on History]*. Such texts were important for the relaunch of the discipline of History of Education in Portugal, as testified by Rui Grácio.

Luís de Albuquerque became known essentially as a nautical historian, but prior to the beginning of the series of publications that would establish him as the great expert in the field, the series of twelve articles from *Vértice* entitled "Introdução à História dos Descobrimentos Portugueses" ["Introduction to the History of the Portuguese Discoveries"] (1957-59) should be recalled, which resulted in the book with the same name published in 1959, and reissued in 1962. This *Introdução [Introduction]*, at the turn of the 1950s to the following decade, was one of the works that would change the History of Portuguese Expansion profoundly, along with titles by Duarte Leite, Vitorino Magalhães Godinho and José Sebastião da Silva Dias.



DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

<http://dichp.bnportugal.pt/>

Luís de Albuquerque left a very important oeuvre in the field referred to by Portuguese historiography as the History of the Discoveries and Expansion, which may also be called History of the Navigations. Sixty years after the book edition, the aforementioned Introdução is still indispensable, especially for its beginning, when it duly considers the imaginary geography as the motivation for some of the first navigations (which no other book on the early days of the Discoveries has done until today) , and for the explanation of the methods of navigation of the Mediterranean, and their consequent inadequacy for the navigation of the Atlantic, contrary to much that had been written in this regard.

Notwithstanding the great value of the studies on the Discoveries in general, with particular attention to the fourteenth-century navigations, and the extensive and consistent work on the Portuguese in the Orient in the sixteenth century, the set of studies devoted to the History of Nautical Astronomy are, undoubtedly, particularly noteworthy. William G. L. Randles was the author of a brilliant critical study that is both a reflection on the contribution of Luís de Albuquerque and an appraisal of the main steps taken in nautical astronomy in Portugal in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The study ends with a sentence that says it all: "For future scholars of the Renaissance period, he has raised nautical astronomy to the status of an arcane ancillary subject to become an "incontornável" [unavoidable] core feature of the history of the Discoveries" (Luís de Albuquerque Historiador e Matemático. [Luís de Albuquerque Historian and Mathematician], p. 142). In short, it can be said that his contribution to this matter resided in two fundamental aspects: the publication of sources and the theoretical-conceptual definition.

With the publication of O Livro de Marinharia de André Pires [The Book of Seamanship of André Pires] in 1963, the Série Memórias [Memoir Series] was launched, which would become one of the most important publications of the Junta de Investigações do Ultramar [Overseas Research Council]. It was the first edition of a seamanship book by Luís de Albuquerque which followed the criterion that would become common, that of naming the manuscript after a pilot mentioned therein, even though the pilot was not the author, or the institution in which it was kept. He also published the books of Manuel Álvares, João de Lisboa, Bernardo Fernandes, Pero Vaz Fragoso, Gaspar Moreira and Manuel Pimentel; in other words, he defined the documentary corpus of the subject, leaving out only the manuscript of Prague, published a few years earlier with a set of introductory studies , and another one kept at the Real Academia de la Historia de Madrid [Madrid Royal Academy of History], which was reviewed by Albuquerque in depth in an article published in the Boletim [Bulletin] of the Academia and then reprinted in Estudos de História.

At a time when academic jargon consecrated research "networks" and "programmes" as a privileged means of organising scientific work, it should be noted that throughout the 1960s and 1970s, the Agrupamento de Estudos de Cartografia Antiga in Coimbra boasted two significant research programmes (on historical Cartography and Nautical Science), which resulted among other outcomes in this systematic edition of the technical literature of the Portuguese Renaissance, unparalleled in Europe. All this in an environment of the highest level of scientific cosmopolitanism: the network of international contacts of the two leaders of the



DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

<http://dichp.bnportugal.pt/>

Agrupamento covered those of the highest authority in these fields, relying in particular on the close collaboration of top names such as Reyer Hooykaas and W. G. L. Randles.

Luís de Albuquerque was responsible for other editions that were crucial to the consolidation of the History of Nautical Science, and above all he wrote two major reviews of the Nautical Science of the Portuguese Renaissance: the first with two extensive chapters is part of the afore-mentioned volume II of the *História da Cartografia Portuguesa* [History of Portuguese Cartography] by Armando Cortesão; as wisely noted by Randles, the omission of his name on the cover of the work did not contribute to disseminating his work to those who might have been interested in him, but not necessarily in nautical cartography. This was offset by the accessibility provided to a wider range of readers through the publication of the work in English and, with it, those chapters. This was most likely the main channel through which his work became known in Anglo-Saxon historiographical circles, where it was widely recognised, since he left very little of his work written in English. On the other hand, the widespread international projection of this book by Cortesão is well-known, and is still today often quoted from the English version.

When asked by his closest friends why he did not write an extensive review of the Nautical Science of the Portuguese Renaissance, Luís de Albuquerque usually argued that he had nothing important to add to what he had written in those two chapters. But he would change his position: it was precisely a review with a global and systematic vision of Portuguese Nautical Science that he wrote to inaugurate the series of nineteen works on Portugal in the great collection on the Discoveries and the European Expansion. The Portuguese manuscript of the book *Historia de la Navegación Portuguesa* [History of Portuguese Navigation] (1992) was sent to Madrid very close to the end of the life of its author, who could not review it, and has remained lost to this day.

His shortest published book on seamanship was the *Livro de Marinharia de Pero Vaz Fragoso* [Book of Seamanship of Pero Vaz Fragoso], to the extent that it was not published in book form like the others, but as an article, and then in a *Separata*. Paradoxically, this is the article that contains the best introduction in terms of the clarity with which he explains the basic concepts that became a reference in the discipline: and it was essential to clarify the confusing terminology with which many authors referred to these concepts, as in the case of the erroneously entitled *Diário* [Diary] or *Jornal* [Logbook], which is actually a *Relação* [Report] of Vasco da Gama's voyage. Let us recall how he defined Nautical Texts: "all the known nautical writings of those two centuries [16th and 17th] contain three types of information: a) passages related exclusively to the rules of nautical astronomy and piloting; b) descriptions of an itinerary nature, including courses, landmarks, harbour entrances, etc. ; and (c) 'navigation diaries' which, as the name suggests, record the daily observations of pilots during a given voyage: If a text contains only information of the first type, it is customary to refer to it as a nautical guide.... If a text contains only information of the second or third type, it is naturally called a logbook or diary, according to each case. But as a rule, the oldest manuscripts [of the 16th century] include teachings of all three kinds (although diaries are very rare) and it is in this case that they are referred to as



DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

<http://dichp.bnportugal.pt/>

seamanship books. A seamanship book is always a work of compilation in which the pilot, a sailor or a simple amateur has gathered texts deemed important for the exercise of his profession or of purely informative and documental interest" (O livro de marinharia de Pero Vaz Fragoso, 1977, pp.5-6).

Hundreds of colleagues and friends contributed to the tribute studies with scientific papers or testimonials. The latter left a clear image of the mark Luís de Albuquerque had left on those who had had the privilege to cross paths with him. Adjectives abounded, but instead of reproducing them or wishing to add more, were that even possible, it seems more appropriate to reproduce the testimony - simple, in the highest sense of the word, as simple, in the same sense, as he who was worthy of it - of one of his colleagues at the University: "The image I hold of this outstanding professor of the Universidade de Coimbra is that of a simple man, who did great things with the naturalness of higher spirits who work as if limited to fulfilling the sole obligation of being great" (Manuel de Oliveira Pulquério).

Primary references: ALBUQUERQUE, Luís de, *As navegações e as origens da mentalidade científica*, in António José Saraiva, *História da Cultura em Portugal*, vol. II, Lisboa, Jornal do Fôro, 1955, pp. 369-507; *Introdução à História dos Descobrimentos*, Vértice offprint, nos.169-182, Coimbra, 1959. (reedited 1962 e reviewed reedition 1983; later reprinted); *Os almanaques portugueses de Madrid*, Coimbra, Junta de Investigações do Ultramar – Agrupamento de Estudos de Cartografia Antiga, Offprint II, 1961; *Estudos de História*, 6 vols., Coimbra, Acta Universitatis Conimbricensis, 1974-1978; *O livro de marinharia de Pero Vaz Fragoso*, Lisboa, Junta de Investigações Científicas do Ultramar – Centro de Estudos de Cartografia Antiga, Separata C, 1977; *Ciência e Experiência nos Descobrimentos Portugueses*, Lisboa, Instituto de Cultura e Língua Portuguesa, 1983; *Os Descobrimentos Portugueses*, Lisboa, Publicações Alfa, 1985; *Dúvidas e Certezas na História dos Descobrimentos Portugueses*, 2 vols., Lisboa, Veja, 1990-91. ALBUQUERQUE, Luís de, *Historia de la Navegación Portuguesa*, Madrid, Editorial MAPFRE, Colecciones MAPFRE 1492 IX/1, 1992; (directed by), *Dicionário de História dos Descobrimentos Portugueses*, 2 vols., Lisboa, Círculo de Leitores - Editorial Caminho, 1994.

Secondary references: *Academia de Marinha, Homenagem ao Prof. Dr. Luís de Albuquerque* [A tribute to Professor Luís de Albuquerque], Lisboa, 1987; *Academia de Marinha, Sessão de Homenagem ao Prof. Doutor Luís Mendonça de Albuquerque*. 29 de Abril de 1992 [A tribute to Professor Luís Mendonça de Albuquerque. 29th April 1992], Lisboa, 1992; CASTRO, Armando de, "Luís de Albuquerque e a História da Expansão Ultramarina Portuguesa e Espanhola" ["Luís de Albuquerque and the History of Portuguese and Spanish Overseas Expansion], *Ler História* [Reading History], no. 24, 1993, pp. 87-91; DOMINGUES, Francisco Contente, "Forty years of nautical science", in *Arte de Navegar | Nautical Science 1400-1800*, ed. by António Costa Canas, Coimbra, Departamento de Matemática da Universidade de Coimbra, 2014, pp. 9-13; DOMINGUES, Francisco Contente, BARRETO, Luís Filipe, *A Abertura do Mundo. Estudos de História dos Descobrimentos Europeus em Homenagem a Luís de Albuquerque* [The Opening of the World. Studies of the

DICIONÁRIO DE HISTORIADORES PORTUGUESES

DA ACADEMIA REAL DAS CIÊNCIAS AO FINAL DO ESTADO NOVO

<http://dichp.bnportugal.pt/>

History of European Discoveries, a Tribute to Luís de Albuquerque], 2 vols., Lisboa, Editorial Presença, 1986-87; GRÁCIO, Rui, “História da História da Educação em Portugal: 1945-1978” [“History of the History of Education in Portugal: 1945-1978”], *Cultura. História e Filosofia*, vol. II, 1983, pp. 135-184; LOPES, Maria Nazaré Mendes, “Luís de Albuquerque – Matemático e Professor” [“Luís de Albuquerque – Mathematician and Professor”], in *Memórias*, Vol. XLVII, Lisboa, Academia de Marinha, 2017, pp. 131-139; Luís de Albuquerque Historiador e Matemático. Homenagem de Amizade a um Homem de Ciência [Luís de Albuquerque Historian and Mathematician. A Friendly Tribute to a Man of Science], Lisboa, Chaves Ferreira Publicações, 1998; Luís de Albuquerque. O Homem e a Obra [Luís de Albuquerque. The Man and His Work] [Catálogo da Exposição-Exhibition Catalogue], coord. Isabel Pereira, Figueira da Foz, Câmara Municipal - Serviços Culturais, 1993; PROVIDÊNCIA, Natália Bebiano da, Luís de Albuquerque. Um cientista português [Luís de Albuquerque. A Portuguese scientist], Lisboa, Gradiva, 2017.

Francisco Contente Domingues