

TIMOR STUDY TOUR TO PORTUGAL

I visited Lisbon from February 13th to December 16th 1980. Having in mind a supplement to my compilation entitled A Bibliography of Timor (Canberra, The Australian National University, 1980), the purpose of the visit was to inspect personally as many as possible of the works included in the current bibliography but not previously seen, to search for further old and new material; to establish contact with other people with an interest in Timor, and to purchase published material to add to "The Timor Collection" which I am forming in Darwin. I did not intend to work to any depth in historical archives.

My original plan was to spend at least 4 or 5 months in Portugal, 2 to 4 weeks in The Netherlands, and 1 to 2 weeks in the United States of America to visit Cornell and Yale Universities. However, the amount of material to be covered in Portugal and my limited financial resources led to the extension of my visit to Portugal and the abandonment of the other stages of the tour.

I would have been able to see most of the Portuguese-language Timor material at either the Sociedade de Geografia de Lisboa (SGL) or the Biblioteca Nacional de Lisboa (BNL), but I opted for the SGL, for it is only a block from the hub of the city, post office, shops, metro, tram, bus, and has no less than 25 cafes and restaurants within 200 metres. Prof. António da Silva Rego and Dr. António de Almeida, the Library Director and Perpetual Secretary, respectively, of the SGL, gave permission for me to use the library, and most of my research in the first 6 months was done there. The librarians, Mr. Alexandre Marques Pereira and Miss Nélida Maria Bernardino, were very patient with my hundreds of requests and brought Timor references in new acquisitions to my attention. I had already bought copies of the SGL's now-defunct Geographica on my first visit to the Imprensa Nacional, and, most of the very old items I wanted from the Boletim of the SGL being out-of-print, I only bought 7 items from the Society.

I then shifted to the Biblioteca Nacional de Lisboa which had staged its first-ever Exposition of Timor during May 1980. The first copies of my bibliography arrived in Lisbon a week or so before the opening of the Exposition, and Mr. Pedro da Silveira, a member of the then Management and Restructuration Commission of the BNL, generously offered to include it as an "extra catalogue" item in the Exposition. The Exposition included a number of works previously quite unknown to me, and September and October were spent mainly on these and other works not available at the SGL, though, unfortunately, many of the latter were at the bindery for the duration. Several days were spent on the author and subject card catalogues of the BNL, not only to check on the holdings of works known to me, but also to discover other works which might be relevant to Timor by the same authors. Apart from the BNL's catalogue of its own publications and works in deposit for sale and the Timor Exposition catalogue, the only work that I purchased was the series Repertório das Publicações Periódicas Portuguesas which commenced with 1961. This is a very useful work, but it does not include serials of which copies had not been received in the previous five years, and I was unable to locate any publication with an exhaustive listing of long-defunct serials.

My last few weeks were spent in the library of the Missão de Estudos Agronómicos do Ultramar (MEAU). The MEAU, created in 1960, was intended to be a specialized, well-equipped organization, able to carry out both basic and applied scientific research, and programs for the development of agriculture, and of food and agricultural industries in the Overseas Provinces, mainly in Cape Verde, Guinea, São Tome e Príncipe, Macau and Timor. After the initial years, the MEAU found itself constantly starved of funds sufficient to recruit, hold and replace the necessary personnel to maintain all of the specialized units, to replace and update equipment to the extent desirable, and to carry on and follow through with every field test or improvement. A visit to the MEAU library was a compulsory item on my agenda, for it was the main repository of the type of documentation that could still be of great use to the Timorese people in the development of their land, no matter what the political future. And I was not disappointed with the material in the collection of this too-little appreciated organization covering studies on soils, rice, coffee, other crops, pests, agroclimatology, hydrology, etc., albeit many of the papers are necessarily of an internal progress-report nature.

The Chefe da Missão, F. de Almeida Ribeiro, arranged for me to have access to published and unpublished material, as well as supplying me with photocopies of catalogue cards of papers prepared by the MEAU relating to Timor. Mr. J. Vicente de Barros was most patient with my requests for items and questions. Agronomical Engineer M. Mayer Gonçalves and his wife, Maud Lewes Barros, both with considerable experience of Timor, were very informative and gave me copies of some of their papers. Including these and others from the MEAU itself, I received a total of 30 papers.

Parts of the last two published reports of the MEAU, those of 1974 and 1975, clearly demonstrate the frustration and outrage felt when, after years of field tests on many varieties of rice with various fertilizer formulas had yielded positive proof of one of the very few ways in which the food supply of the Timorese people could be greatly increased, the government declared, late in 1974, that the project was purely scientific speculation of no use to the Timorese people. A major work on the soils of East Timor has been prepared, but, as it will require something better than a mimeographed production, it is unlikely that sufficient money will be available for its publication.

A day was spent in the library of the Instituto de Higiene e Medicina Tropical, and I was given copies of 13 offprints dealing mainly with endemic diseases of Timor.

That was the full extent of my use of libraries whilst in Portugal. There would have been many others which would have well repaid time spent in them, including other sectors of the former Junta de Investigações do Ultramar, universities, Academia das Ciências de Lisboa, etc., but I would require at least as much time again to effectively cover them. Many books and serials lack adequate indices, and one can spend hours going through decades of a particular serial before finding one article or a sudden flood of articles about Timor. At other times there will be articles in nearly every issue, e.g., I had previously seen but one reference to an article by Augusto Fernandes Panão who lived for some 8 years at Ossu near the eastern end of the island in the 1910s. However, that particular serial yielded a total

of 46 articles by the same author on the most varied aspects of the island, from manners and customs of the indigenes to growing apples, from the perils of expelling the missionaries to apiculture, from a description of the rather ornate water supply system on his property to a suggested route for a railroad to the south coast.

A brief look at some of the many serials which blossomed (and only too often died) in the second half of the 19th century in the Metropole, Goa and especially Macau shows letter-writing as a very popular occupation of officials and settlers in Timor, with much taking of sides, muck-raking and name-calling, giving overall an impression of as much feuding between the Europeans as there was between the indigenes, indeed, in some instances, naming particular individuals in the European community as being chiefly responsible for intertribal warfare. Apart from a few days spent making notes on some of these articles, I decided that it was a line of research that I would have to leave for another time or to another person.

Unfortunately neither the SGL nor the BNL had full sets of the Boletim Eclesiástico da Diocese de Macau or of Seara; Boletim Eclesiástico da Diocese de Dili (in later series known as Seara; Suplemento /of varying periodicity/ do Boletim Eclesiástico da Diocese de Dili). However, of the four series of Seara, the SGL has a complete set of the 1st series, 1(1), January 1949 to 14(1), January-February 1962, and only lacks one issue, 1(3-4), December 1963, of the 2nd series, 1(1), July 1963 to 2(3-4), May-August 1964. With the wealth of material on anthropology, oral literature, history, missions and general events in Timor contained in the 1st and 2nd series, I strongly recommend that they be transferred to microfiche as a worthwhile contribution to Timorese studies. I feel sure that Pe. Jorge Barros Duarte would allow the use of his personal copy of the issue missing from the SGL collection of the 2nd series to complete the processing. Of course, I should like to see the 3rd and 4th series processed as well, albeit they were of a different format, more akin to a normal parish paper, though the 4th series carried an increasing amount of social comment by individuals who became politically prominent following the 1974 revolution in Portugal. Seara ceased publication with the issue of March 24, 1973, following censorship problems. Neither the SGL nor the BNL collections of the 3rd and 4th series are near-complete.

Some long-established Portuguese journals fell by the wayside after the April 1974 revolution, though many new ones have appeared, and learned societies seem to be maintaining their serial publications, even if of lesser regularity.

Visits were made to many bookshops during my stay in Lisbon. My own book-buying budget was very limited, but I succeeded in adding over 200 items to the Timor Collection which I am forming in Darwin. Many of the monographs and series of the Centro de Estudos Históricos Ultramarinos, e.g., Boletim da Filmoteca Ultramarina Portuguesa, As Gavetas da Torre do Tombo, Studia, and publications of the former Junta de Investigações do Ultramar are still available as new at very reasonable prices, and it was a somewhat painful decision to have to pass them up in order to keep my money for purchases of material more directly related to Timor. For prospective book-buyers, either in person or by post, I would recommend the following 5 establishments:-

New books

Imprensa Nacional - Casa da Moeda,
Rua do Marques de Sá da Bandeira, 16-A,
1000 Lisbon, Portugal.
(government and some academic publications).

Livraria Sá da Costa,
Rua Garrett, 100-102,
1200 Lisbon, Portugal.
(especially good for CEHU and other JIU material).

Livraria Portugal,
Rua do Carmo, 70-74,
1200 Lisbon, Portugal.

Livraria Bertrand,
Rua Garrett, 73,
1200 Lisbon, Portugal.

Used books

Livraria Histórica e Ultramarina,
Travessa da Queimada, 22-1,
1200 Lisbon, Portugal.

Warehouse:-

Rua do Diário de Notícias, 142,
1200 Lisbon, Portugal.

All of these shops are within easy walking distance of each other and near the hub of Lisbon, except for that particular branch of the Imprensa Nacional which is only a short walk from the Metro and the Gulbenkian Museum. The Livraria Histórica e Ultramarina (LHU) was by far the most rewarding outlet. I rarely failed to visit it at least once a fortnight. Correspondence should be sent to the Travessa da Queimada address, but visitors seeking material on the colonies should go directly to the warehouse in the Rua do Diário de Notícias; there is no sign - find the street number, ring the bell and wait. Mr. J. C. Silva is the proprietor, and the warehouse is in the charge of Mr. Fritz Berkemeier. Prices are realistic and reasonable, and they are familiar with the stock. Serials are stocked, unlike most of the other sellers, and one may browse. There were a few other sellers with reasonable stocks, but prices were overall much higher and at a couple of them you could only select works by going through a card file. As an indication of its worth I can point out that, following the Second International Seminar on Indo-Portuguese History held in Lisbon in October, I saw many groups of books which had been selected by delegates for forwarding. I don't want to spoil Mr. Berkemeier's pleasure in introducing visitors to good cheap restaurants, so I shall not include such information here, but please don't call on him between 12.00 and 14.00 hours.

News of two printed but never-released books about Timor reached me. One is Relatório dos Acontecimentos de Timor by Manuel de Abreu Ferreira de Carvalho. (Lisboa, Imprensa Nacional [for the Ministério das Colónias], 1947). Ferreira de Carvalho was the Governor of Portuguese Timor during WW2 and some controversy remains about his actions during that period. According to one commentator, the order for it to be printed was given by Marcello Caetano, but Salazar ordered the storage of the complete edition in the "hold" of the Ministry of the Colonies, and Salazar's displeasure may not have been at what the report said but rather with what it camouflaged. The BNL only succeeded in procuring a copy in mid-1980. This is the only copy that I have seen, and I have not had an opportunity to read it, but I can verify that it has 741pp., no index and no chapter headings. Extracts

from it are used in Volume XI of Dez Anos de Política Externa (1936-1947). A Nação Portuguesa e a Segunda Guerra Mundial (Lisboa, Ministério dos Negócios Estrangeiros, 1980), the first volume to be edited since the 1974 revolution and which covers events in Timor in WW2, refugees in Australia, establishment of a consulate in Sydney and so on. I have purchased the complete series of Dez Anos..., but none of my calls to government departments and their warehouses or editorial boards in an effort to procure a copy of the governor's report bore fruit. However, a well-placed person is working on it for me, and I would recommend that the National Library of Australia make an official approach to secure a copy, as well as purchasing at least volumes IX, X and XI of Dez Anos..., volume X covering diplomatic correspondence from shortly before the Dutch-Australian landings in East Timor until the Japanese landing.

The other never-released item is a 4th volume to Luna de Oliveira's Timor na História de Portugal, always listed as of 3 volumes (Lisboa, Agência Geral das Colónias, 1949-1952). I have no evidence for the existence of volume 4 except for the word of a reliable informant that it was printed, covers the events of WW2, and suffered the same fate as the governor's report (though the BNL has not yet succeeded in the acquisition of a copy), as well as a reference in a review of volume 3 (Revista Militar, 29 sec., 5(8-9):647-649, Aug.-Sep. 1953) that the 4th volume was shortly to be released. These and 3 or 4 other works published in the 1970s of personal WW2 experiences in Timor should be of interest to persons seeking documentation of Australia's role in those events.

The point was also made that (Sir) Bernard J. Callinan's Independent Company: the 2/2 and 2/4 Australian Independent Companies in Portuguese Timor, 1941-1943 (Melbourne, Wm Heinemann, 1953) is scattered through the military academies of the world as a classic of military instruction on the speciality of mountain guerrilla warfare. Perhaps Sir Bernard can be prevailed upon to authorize a reprint without its being considered a political act.

Various sectors of the former Junta de Investigações do Ultramar (now the Laboratório Nacional de Investigação Científica Tropical) are still in a state of limbo, awaiting definitive reorganization, staff reclassifications. The Centro de Estudos de Antropologia Cultural is operating from the modern Museu de Etnologia do Ultramar but the Museu itself is still not open to the public.

The Biblioteca Nacional de Lisboa has only been granted a long-sought autonomy in the last few months, and much extension and improvement of documentation and services is expected in coming years. Homage has recently been paid to the memory of officials of the BNL who were removed from office in the early years of the Salazar regime.

As my field of research is restricted to a small geographic area and I strayed little beyond that area, I cannot make remarks as to how fruitful Portugal would be for students of other regions of Asia beyond reporting the delight of visitors with material found in the libraries and bought in the bookshops.

This Timor research being a "spare-time" activity basically at my own expense, it is likely to be many months, possibly a year, before I am able to complete a supplement to the current bibliography, but I am

always ready to answer any requests for information. Though still not very fluent in Portuguese, my knowledge of the language has improved considerably during my visit to Portugal.

Having underestimated both the money and time necessary for these studies in Portugal, I was most fortunate in the amount of assistance given to me with accommodation, namely by Henri Campagnolo and Maria Olímpia Lameiras-Campagnolo, Jill Jolliffe, Jan Halkes and Patrick Reyna. I also wish to thank the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation which responded to my urgent appeal for assistance to extend my stay in Portugal with a maintenance subsidy of almost Esc.45,000\$00 through its Service for Cooperation with the New African States. As already mentioned, I had to abandon the later stages of my tour, but I wish to thank Mr. Henri L. de Mink and Gerard J. Telkamp for arranging accommodation and meetings with various people during a short visit to Holland on my way to Lisbon.

Note:- I have already prepared The Timor Collection - Acquisitions List - 4th February to 18th December 1980, which is a 34-page single list by author of works purchased for or donated to the collection in Portugal. Anyone requiring a photocopy of this list should write to me at 6 Lampe Street, Fannie Bay, Darwin N.T. 5790, Australia. *

Kevin SHERLOCK
Darwin
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There is no restriction on copies being made of this report.

** A copy of the Acquisitions List is enclosed with this report.*