



Gardens & Landscapes of Portugal

Presentation

Gardens & Landscapes of Portugal is the first journal created in Portugal to share scientific research on Portuguese history of gardens and landscapes and theory, since Antiquity until now, not only in the territory that is Portugal but also including the landscapes of its Empire. The scientific journal *Gardens & Landscapes of Portugal* aims to attain an international scope and that is the reason why it only exists in the English language and online because we want to reach anyone all over the world who is interested in this subject.

At the same time that we aim to share the scientific research done in this area we also want to promote our heritage. Portugal is a small country but with a privileged location in the south-western part of Europe, between the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, with a temperate climate. These geographical conditions together with its history, of so many different influences, turn Portugal into one of the most interesting European countries in terms of gardens and landscapes. In such a small territory the biodiversity is one of the highest in Europe where a Mediterranean flora exists, but also many tropical species introduced during the time of the Great Discoveries and the Modern period, give Portuguese gardens and landscapes a very “exotic look” as all foreign travelers have noticed. From north to south, Portugal has so many different and interesting landscapes that ought to be seen and studied from a historical, geographical, sociological and anthropological point

of view. Furthermore, the huge number of historical gardens that exist in Portugal from the Early modern period; Modern period, Romanticism, Modernism and post-Modernism, most of them totally unknown to Portuguese people, because some are private property and even when some of them have recently been transformed into rural tourism they remain treasures yet to be discovered for most nationals. At an international level, this is an almost “virgin” heritage that needs and deserves to be studied, preserved and shared.

Portuguese gardens and landscapes are so full of unexpected surprises that we invite you all to discover and write about them. We expect national and international scientific community committed to this field of studies to become aware of the journal and to consider publishing in it.

Gardens & Landscapes of Portugal journal is a dream comes true. It was only possible due to the support of some people that believed in this project since the beginning, such as the research centers directors, the scholars who are members of the Scientific Committee and the team who has worked with me, day after day, night after night. Professor Paulo Rodrigues and Professor João Paulo Oliveira e Costa, heads of the research centers – Centro de História da Arte e Investigação Artística of the University of Évora and Centro de História de Além-Mar of New University of Lisbon and University of Açores need to be acknowledged as vital supports to making this journal a reality and we were also very privileged to have the total support of the Mediterranean Garden Society in the person of Mrs Rosie Peddle who is also the proof-reviewer of the journal and without her generosity this would not be possible.

The agreement, commitment and enthusiasm of the members of the Scientific Committee with whom I first spoke about this project were also far above my highest expectations. Professor Margarida Acciaioli and Professor Aurora Carapinha were the first to know about this project and to support it. Giving some positive pressure, Professor Margarida, from times to times, was asking: “So Ana, when is the journal coming up?”

I recognize also that the program I organized this year with Professor Aurora Carapinha on *Arts of Gardens Books: Dialogues on ideas of gardens*, and supported by CHAIA, is mostly responsible for the international scientific relationships that allowed us to have half of the members of the journal's Scientific Committee from outside Portugal. Among the Portuguese scholars that accepted becoming members of the Scientific Committee some are pioneers in the promotion of the study of Gardens and Landscapes by Humanities and Social Sciences such as Professor Luís Baptista and Professor Margarida Acciaiuoli to whom I will always be especially grateful. My deep scientific and personal consideration is dedicated to all the other members of the Scientific Committee.

We have also to thank the generosity of the National Museum of Theatre and its director who has supported in all different manners. Above all I sincerely want to express my gratitude, but also my respect and total admiration for Paulo Baptista and Francisco Baptista. The only reason that can explain a result such as this is because there is a group of persons that loved to work together and has very similar tastes and opinions on significant subjects.

The first journal's volume has articles by John Dixon Hunt, Teresa Leonor Vale, Gerald Luckhurst and I, and an essay on projects by Marilyn Kahan and two book reviews by Alexandra Gago da Câmara and Filomena Serra.

I wish the highest success and long life to this journal. In fact, I wish in a hundred years to be remembered as the first editor of a journal that still exists and is recognized by the relevant academics all around the world.



(Ana Duarte Rodrigues, *Gardens & Landscapes of Portugal* editor)