

became institutionalized with the arrival of the first teacher from Portugal in 1934. Nearly seventy-five years have passed since then and what is now called the Sub-Faculty of Portuguese has around forty students and four permanent members of staff. In 2001 the Instituto Camões established a Centre, housed in Littlegate House, St Ebbe's, primarily for the study of Portuguese history. It has sponsored this guide.



The first Japanese dictionary
Arch. B e.41 fol. [1r]

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An account of Ethiopian christianity
40 D 15 Art. Seld.,
fol. L [ivr]

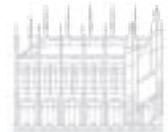


An exhibition in the **BODLEIAN LIBRARY** University of Oxford
in conjunction with **INSTITUTO CAMÕES CENTRE FOR
PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE**

PORTUGAL *in Oxford*

31 May to 18 June 2005

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PORTUGAL *in Oxford*

This display exhibits material illustrating the long tradition of intellectual contact between Portugal and Oxford. That contact has been much more extensive than most modern members of the University might imagine. There were Portuguese students at the University during the Middle Ages. After the advent of printing, many books written by Portuguese, nearly always in Latin and often published outside Portugal, were acquired by the Bodleian and the college libraries. At a time when English scholars were preoccupied by the religious upheavals which followed the Reformation the Portuguese were admired for their work in theology, medicine and the study of the African and Asian countries which they were the first Europeans to visit.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries British travellers to Portugal recorded, sometimes with illustrations, their impressions of the country. This was a time too when books in Portuguese, as opposed to Latin, began to reach Oxford libraries in some numbers. Not all the contacts were friendly. Imperial rivalry, especially in Africa, led to diplomatic confrontation and one of Cecil Rhodes's letters, held on deposit in the Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies, relating to

conflict between Britain and Portugal in south central Africa is displayed here.

The nineteenth century was indeed a difficult period for the ancient alliance between England and Portugal. It was reinforced by English intervention on the Portuguese side during the Napoleonic war. Later the two countries came into conflict over Africa. Since the sixteenth century the Portuguese had maintained trading posts on the coasts of

what are now the modern countries of Angola and Mozambique. In the 1880s the desire to unite their holdings and form a colony embracing the whole of south central Africa came into conflict with aggressive British expansion, led by Rhodes, from the Cape Colony northwards.

In the twentieth century these quarrels were forgotten and the alliance survived both world wars. In Oxford the study of the Portuguese language



Napier's sketch of the Berlengas Islands, 1810 MS.Eng.misc.603, fol. 3r

M.S. Beckford f. 3