# Henrique Carlos Midosi's 1863 European trip\*

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Personal diaries can be important sources of biographical information since they are unconstrained by social conventions and may reveal a person's true self. A personal diary also opens a window to private / mundane spaces usually out of reach of other more traditional historical sources.

In May 2012, a manuscript diary of an 1863 European trip was bought from a Lisbon second-hand bookseller. With 12.0 cm per 19.0 cm dimensions the unsigned diary was written in Portuguese (**fig. 1**). In its 135 unnumbered pages there are daily entries for the entire trip duration.



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1 Diary title page (on the left) and page with the first entry dated July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863 (on the right). Personal collection.

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This allows one to recreate the path travelled, transports used, resting places and events attended. Unfortunately, social interactions are less well defined since family, friends and acquaintances are identified either by a single initial, first name, surname or in the anarchic 19<sup>th</sup>-century Portuguese custom even by a middle name. Travellers met on route are usually left nameless. The diarist also took great care to fully annotate daily expenses. For example, on August 21<sup>st</sup> he registered the small figure of 0.75 FF that he had forgotten to include three days earlier. This "expenses ledger" allows one to analyse the money spent on meals, accommodation, transports, shopping, etc. and calculate the total trip cost.

Although each individual trip is no more than a particular case adding this information to that already available namely in published narratives helps to improve not only our knowledge of the traveller but also our understanding of 19<sup>th</sup>-century travel dynamics.

## Journey overview

The diary relates a continuous 98-day "circular" trip that started in Lisbon on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1863 and ended on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Leaving by steamship the author arrived on July 6<sup>th</sup> at Southampton, in the United Kingdom, before proceeding, on the same day, to London. There he stayed until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August when he left for Paris, France. On August 18<sup>th</sup>, he goes by train to Belgium. Visits Brussels and Antwerp before proceeding on August 22<sup>nd</sup> to Cologne in Germany. He then travels down the Rhine River entering Switzerland on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. A week later, on September 10<sup>th</sup>, he crossed the border to today's Italy where he visited Milan, Venice and Turin. On September 20<sup>th</sup>, he is once more in France, in Nice. In fact, after Venice towns are quickly passed by and the mean stay length is shorter than before. He arrived in Barcelona on the 26<sup>th</sup> and on October 6<sup>th</sup> crossed the Portuguese border near Elvas reaching home on the next day at 20:30. A detailed trip overview is presented in the annex.

The author departed from Lisbon unaccompanied. In London and Paris, one cannot claim he was truly alone since he encountered several Portuguese friends and acquaintances, some likely fellow travellers. In the French capital he visited and spent time with relatives. He travelled to Brussels with Martins, that he met in Paris. He travelled alone only between August 21st (Antwerp) and

Henrique Midosi. 1863. Diary. Personal collection.

September 1<sup>st</sup> (Freiburg). From then on until arriving in Portugal on October 6<sup>th</sup> he was apparently accompanied by a friend simply identified as Freitas.

One may divide the diary journey roughly into five phases: the sea trip from Lisbon to Southampton (~5 days, 5.1%), two initial long city stays in London (~28 days, 28.6%) and Paris (~15 days, 15.3%), a leisure trip from Brussels to Venice (~30 days, 30.6%), and finally a fast-paced return home (~20 days, 20.4%). The last two phases are characterised by shorter stays specially the last one where one- or two-nights stays were, with the exception of Madrid, the norm. The increased travel pace naturally implied different routines. In longer stays besides visiting the expected tourist sites the traveller is able to plan and take advantage of local amenities on offer like music spectacles, theatre shows and shops. On shorter stays, he is limited to what he encounters, for example, in Zurich: "We were looking for fun [...] we found the Casino, but it was closed. We went to a *Caffé Concerto* [...] it was difficult to climb in the dark because the path was steep and not lit up. When we entered the orchestra played the last piece" (6.09).<sup>2</sup>

#### In London and Paris

While in the British capital there was enough time to visit the city (St. Pauls cathedral, Westminster and the London docks, for example), its parks (St. James, Hyde Park, Regents Park) and surroundings (Kew Gardens, Hampton Court, Windsor). In three separate occasions, he went to the British Museum (13.07, 24.07, 1.08). What nevertheless stands out is his attendance at numerous music spectacles. In 12 nights, that is in 42,9% of all the nights he stayed in London, he went to the:

- opera either at the Covent Garden Theatre (6.07, 17.07, 21.07) or at the Her Majesty's Theatre in Haymarket (14.07, 22.07, 23.07, 30.07, 31.07);
- · recently opened music-halls Alhambra Palace (7.07) and London Pavilion (15.07, 27.07) (Jackson 2019, 65):
- · Cremorne pleasure gardens (10.07), "essentially a hybrid of public park, funfair and, after dark, al fresco night-club" (*Ibidem*, 103).

<sup>2</sup> Diary date entries are, from now on, referenced in a (day.month) format and since they are clearly identified in the text in order to save space we abstained to fully reference them. Portuguese texts were translated by the author.

In several days there is also reference to other music events ranging from a highbrow concert in St. James Hall (15.07) to popular park concerts (28.09). All this points to a genuine interest in music. The diary entries show a connoisseur that is able to compare and evaluate different opera singers' performances and careers. For example, on July 31<sup>st</sup>, he attended Verdi's *Un ballo di Maschera* and wrote, "[Enrico] Delle Sedie was a good singer, but today he almost doesn't have a voice".

Interestingly during his Parisian stay the London erudite music spectacles are mainly replaced by theatrical shows. Midosi went to the theatre on 40% of the nights he spent in the French capital. Music was still present but was now enjoyed in the context of dancing gardens like the *Closérie des Lilas*, *Château Rouge* and *Château des Fleurs* (fig. 2), coffee houses like the Eldorado and street events.



**2** *Château des Fleurs*. New York Public Library Digital Collections. https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/f0be65a0-0254-0133-4e60-58d385a7b928. Public domain.

Is this change a consequence of the shows on offer? Does it show a cultural bias? A bigger proficiency of the French language the *lingua franca* of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Portuguese elite? Or is he simply following the fashions of the time? This seems to be the case if one compares our diary with the travel book published by the journalist and writer Julio Cesar Machado (1835-1890)

in 1863. Machado visited Paris and London approximately a year earlier in the summer of 1862. According to Machado "[in Paris] we are in the land of the theatres" (Machado 1863, 69) while "London's declamation theatres' live almost entirely on translations and imitations of French plays; only in second-rate theatres' are Shakespeare's admirable tragedies constantly enacted" (*Ibidem*, 155). In his short London stay, Machado opted to go instead to a pantomime, a quintessentially British theatrical entertainment, twice to the Opera at the Covent Garden Theatre and once to the Cremorne Gardens (*Ibidem*). What may be ascertained is that the diary author spoke English, French and as he himself reveals a little bit of German (24.08). His domain of the English language allowed him to attend a mass in London—"[the priests] spoke so calmly that I understood perfectly" (19.07)—and three plays one of which Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* (25.07).

Time was also spent watching street entertainments like the *mat de cocagne* (greasy pole) (15.08) or just simply strolling down the streets and/or boulevards—"I entertained myself in the streets" (16.07); "We continued on foot through the Champs-Élysées, the trees lit by balloons and the *Place de la Concorde* reminded us of the One Thousand and One Nights descriptions" (15.08)—an activity that allowed to see the world go by as well as to meet/see friends and acquaintances—"On the way back, we passed by the Boulevards where we saw Veiga, Mattos, Plantier, Gatai, Count of Carvalhal, Santos and Tasso" (10.08). In Paris, a couple of evenings were enjoyed with his relatives. He visited museums (Louvre and Cluny), gardens (Luxembourg, Tuilleries, Bois de Boulogne), the *Jardin des Plantes* and the recently opened *Jardin d'Acclimatation*. He also ventured into Paris surroundings. On August 6<sup>th</sup>, to Neuilly-sur-Seine, and three days later to the spa resort of Enghien-les-Bains, where a new thermal building was recently opened (Anonymous 1864, 2).

Longer stays also allowed more time for shopping. Items bought ranged from practical articles for the trip—padlock (13.07), travel box and writing case (9.07)—, man's apparels—gloves (9.07; 30.07), socks (9.07), boots (16.07), sweaters (1.08), etc. —, and acquisitions for others—Thornhill's razor blades for his friend, Freitas, that he will later meet in Paris and fabrics; moiré (7.07), silk (24.07) and lace shawls (17.08) for his female acquaintances. Curiously, he bought umbrellas in three straight London nights (21 to 23 July).

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, he visited University College London founded in 1826 and from 1836 part of the University of London (Harte and North 2004, 32, 80). On the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>th</sup>, he went to the Lancaster school of Borough Road, Southwark. A school opened in 1798 by Joseph Lancaster where the system

of mutual instruction was used. The school was moved to Borough Road in 1801 (Turner 2015, 34). On the 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, he went to Westminster College likely Westminster School. To all of these visits, he had introduction letters from the Portuguese ambassador in London, Francisco de Almeida Portugal (1796-1870), Count of Lavradio. In Paris, on August 10<sup>th</sup>, with a ticket given by Francisco José de Paiva (1819-1968), the Portuguese ambassador, he went to the Sorbonne to watch a prize distribution event.

## Travelling in the 19th century

As is well known, new transport facilities helped ease the travel burden and were crucial for the expansion of tourism as rail tracks crisscrossed Europe and steamships were more reliable than wind powered ones (Porter 2001).

The diary clearly shows the manuscript author took advantage of the full panoply of transport vehicles available: steamships, riverboats, trains (he was particularly impressed with the first-class carriages from Mainz to Baden-Baden (28.08)), stagecoaches, omnibus, cabs, *char-à-bancs*. He also was curious about new transport developments. In London, he visited Farrington's station from the recently opened Metropolitan or Underground railway, the first metro line in the world (23.07) (London Transport Museum w.d.).

One should nevertheless point out that towns were also seen on foot. Walks of a few kilometres do not deserve any special mention other than the initial and final locations. For example, on August 11<sup>th</sup>, he went from his Hotel in Rue de Trévise to Menilmontant, then a village in the Paris outskirts. While visiting Salamanca, in 1888, Midosi wrote:

Wishing to get to know the city and its monuments well, I searched, as soon as I arrived, for a plan and a guide to Salamanca, and found neither. Bradshaw, Joanne and Bedecker [sic] are very succinct. So, I had to get my bearings in the city, walking from north to south and from east to west, which is not very difficult as its area is limited. (Serrão 1992, 335)

Despite the developments mentioned more mishaps seem to afflict the 19th-century traveller than his 21<sup>st</sup>-century counterpart. In particular train services were not as reliable.

At Heidelberg station (28.08): "our train, which was coming to a stop, was going on the same track as one that was coming, everyone shouted halt, luckily the shock was small, the first carriages still suffered, there was a great scare".

In Portugal (7.10): "The train was delayed because it had derailed on the way to Badajoz near Ponte do Caia. The train stopped twice, once because a dead veal was on the rail track, the other because there was fear concerning Ponte de Sor bridge, which we crossed on foot".

At Cervera train station (28.09): "having a 2-minute stop, we got off, and the train left, leaving us at the station. Everything that was ours was left in the carriages; the telegraph was notified for them to come on the 1st train".

Fortunately, the Portuguese travellers' belongings were recovered contrary to a gold monocle stolen in London.

The possibility to contact the next train station by telegraph exemplifies the advantages of another crucial 19<sup>th</sup>-technological improvement. The electric telegraphic network allowed an almost instant connection between faraway places. In 1863, one could only hope for a future transatlantic submarine telegraphic connection, but the land-based network was booming (Beauchamp 2001). More reliable transport and communication infrastructures allowed our traveller to stay in touch with friends and loved ones throughout the trip. Arriving in London, he telegraphed and wrote to Lisbon (6.07). Mail distribution was fast enough to allow the exchange of letters during his London and Paris stays. A letter from his cousin Paulo sent on July 5<sup>th</sup> arrived in London nine days later. A reply was posted in the next day. He received letters from his uncle Luiz on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July. And wrote back on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. After that the fast trip pace implying an understandably unidirectional communication. Letters to Portugal were posted on August 19<sup>th</sup> and September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Travel inconveniences like homesickness (21.07) and dull and annoying encounters were unavoidable. "We took a carriage to see the Park [Windsor], which is beautiful. Dulac asked countless questions, boring company!" one reads on the July 17<sup>th</sup> diary entry.

# Identifying the diary's author

As previously mentioned, the diary is unsigned and a first read showed the lack of any information that could easily identify its author. Queried the bookseller confirmed the manuscript provenance was unknown.

The author vaguely describes himself as a teacher educated by an uncle (6.07). That he is a gentleman and a music lover is already established. His trip accommodation seems to indicate that he does not belong to the upper class. Still, he had enough social standing to be invited to dinner (29.09) by Count of Lavradio, the Portuguese ambassador in London.

The diary references to Count of Lavradio led us into the first unfruitful attempt to identify its writer. Lavradio's memoirs, commented by his grandnephew, were published in several volumes, in the 1930s. Unfortunately, no entries exist for the days mentioned in our diary (Portugal 1937). Next, we tried to obtain the passenger departure or arrival lists for the Lisbon-Southampton journey since the dates and the steamship name—Tartar—are known. None existed in the archives consulted. The ship's July 1st departure is confirmed by the official Portuguese journal, Diario de Lisboa, but no passenger names are mentioned (Anonymous 1863a, 2048). Without any other research avenues to pursue the manuscript was left undisturbed. Later while rereading the diary, we noticed the entry of July 23rd: "At 10 am I went to look for Cau, he and Vianna and I went to Pentonville prison with the ticket that Lavradio got me". Could it be possible that the prison visitor logbooks still existed? A search in the British National Archives catalogue confirmed that they did and a few days later two images containing the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1863 Pentonville Prison visitors arrived by e-mail. Three Portuguese nationals were named (fig. 3).

| Date | Name                       | Residence          | Country  |  |
|------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------|--|
| 23   | Henrique Midosi            | 90 Portland Street | Portugal |  |
| 23   | Augusto Cezar Cau da Costa | 22 Hanover Square  | Portugal |  |
| 23   | Antonio Teixeira Vianna    | 22 Hanover Square  | Portugal |  |

**3** Information about the Portuguese visitors of Pentonville prison on 23 July 1863 (transcript). Source: Pentonville Visitors Book 1862-1885.

This allowed us to unequivocally identify the manuscript author as Henrique Carlos Midosi (**fig. 4**). A fact supported by his London address, 90 Portland Street, also mentioned in the diary (06.09). Later a partial list of passengers was found in the *A Revolução de Setembro* newspaper and as expected amongst them one finds Henrique Midosi (Anonymous 1863b, 4).



4 Image of the portrait of Henrique Midosi, unveiled in 1902 at the headquarters of the Lisbon Bar Association (Associação dos Advogados de Lisboa). The portrait is currently located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the premises of the Portuguese Bar Association. Image kindly provided by *Ordem dos Advogados Portugueses*.

# A short biography

Having identified without a doubt the diary author we have turn to the famously sketchy Portuguese biographical sources to find more about him.

Henrique Carlos Midosi was born in Lisbon on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 1824. Henrique's grandfather, Filippo Nicolà Bartolo Midosi, was an Italian merchant that settled in Lisbon and married a local. His parents were Henrique Midosi and Felisarda Joaquina Barbosa. Orphaned at age of 7, he was educated by his third cousin Luiz Francisco Midosi (1796-1877), brother of the famous Luiza Cândida Midosi (1808-1892), Almeida Garret's<sup>3</sup> first wife. Both appear in the diary as aunt Luiza, who he visited in Paris, and uncle Luiz. There are also references to Luiza's second husband Alexandre Désiré Létrillard and his first cousin, the lawyer and playwriter Paulo Midosi (1821-1888). It was not possible to uniquely identify other family members. No information at all was obtained about a woman named Paulina. Midosi married only later in life, in 1889, with the widower Emilia Sophia Lima (Figueiredo 1902, 34).

<sup>3</sup> João Baptista da Silva Leitão de Almeida Garrett (1799-1854).

Henrique Midosi completed a Coimbra University Law degree in 1848. In the following years, he would practice law and teach. In 1852, he entered Lisbon secondary school as substitute teacher of the disciplines of History, Chronology and Geography (História, Geografia e Cronologia) and Oratory, Poetics and Classical Literature (Oratória, Poética e Literatura clássica). Approximately three years later, he would become full professor of the latter. Briefly, in 1862, he served as the school rector. In 1864, he taught a free course in Portuguese commercial law at the Lisbon Commercial Association (Associação Commercial de Lisboa 1864, 3236). In 1870, he applied and was hired to teach the same subject at the Lisbon Industrial and Commercial Institute (Instituto Industrial e Commercial de Lisboa) until his retirement in 1885 (Figueiredo 1902, 30). Henrique Midosi also published a highly successful compilation of Portuguese poetry that was part of the secondary schools recommended bibliography list. The book had at least 18 editions and was on print from 1860 to, at least, 1894 (Midosi 1894). He was a Lisbon Geographical Society founding member. Throughout his life, he represented Portugal, or Portuguese institutions in several international forums. He attended the International Congress on Commercial Law held in Antwerp in 1885; the 1886 Bordeaux International Congress of Commercial and Industrial Technical Education and the 1888 Brussels Congress on Commercial Law. He was honoured by foreign associations and governments and collaborated in both newspapers and journals like the Annuaire de legislation étrangère published in Paris (Grande Enciclopédia Portuguesa e Brasileira e Brasileira s.d.; Figueiredo 1902). He passed away on July 18th, 1904, aged eighty, from, as stated a contemporaneous newspaper, senile cachexia (Anonymous 1904a, 1).

## The public narrative

No rationale for the trip is provided within the diary. The earlier published primary source we were able to find justifying the trip appeared in 1883, in the 10<sup>th</sup> volume of the Portuguese Bibliographic Dictionary: "On May 21, 1863, he [Midosi] was appointed by the government, without gratuity or allowance for travel expenses, to visit schools in Great Britain, France and Belgium" (Aranha 1883, 17). Alfredo Ansur de Figueiredo<sup>4</sup> (1849-1927) provides more details in Midosi's apologia booklet:

<sup>4</sup> Alfredo Ansur de Figueiredo was/is usually known as Alfredo Ansur.

By ordinances of May 21<sup>st</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1863, signed by [the Prime Minister] Anselmo José Braamcamp, he obtained a leave of absence from the kingdom, as soon as classes were closed, in order to visit the schools in France, Belgium and England. He was considered in commission to enjoy the benefits of the 17 August [18]53 law, effectively leaving with a diplomatic passport signed by the Duke of Loulé [Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs] on June 20<sup>th</sup>. (Figueiredo 1902, 28)

One should note that Pedro Brito Aranha, the Bibliographic Dictionary volume author attended, in 1904, Midosi's funeral (Anonymous 1904b, 167). And that Ansur's booklet transcribes a speech given at the Lisbon Lawyers Association (Associação dos Advogados de Lisboa) on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 1902, to simultaneously commemorate Midosi's portrait unveiling (**fig. 4**) and his anniversary. An event Midosi attended. Part of Ansur's text was reproduced almost verbatim in a 1909 dictionary (Pereira and Rodrigues 1909). A later reference succinctly says, "he has conducted visits to schools of France, Belgium and England" (*Grande Enciclopédia Portuguesa e Brasileira e Brasileira* s.d., 188). While the 2003 *Dicionário de Educadores Portugueses* (Dictionary of Portuguese Educators) states,

Following this visit [to Setúbal's school district], and due to the detailed report presented, he was entrusted by the government to visit schools in Great Britain, France and Belgium. Dedicatedly performed these functions, without receiving any allowances or gratuities. (Santa-Clara 2003)

We should point out that this unexpected connection between the Setúbal and European visits is not supported by any other reference we are aware of.

As we have already mentioned the diary reveals that Midosi briefly visited three education establishments in London — Lancaster School (20.07; 21.07); Westminster College (20.07; 24.07) and University College (13.07). In France he went once to the Sorbonne (10.08). If one takes into account a trip to the office that dealt with teachers' placement (8.07) there was little effort put into fulfilling his mission. Midosi himself stated that Count of Lavradio, a "perfect gentleman, very educated and knowledgeable about England", had given him "ample news about public education" (8.07). What prevented the government to use our diplomatic corps to acquire the information needed and send an appointee instead?

#### A different narrative

In 1863, probably in May, Midosi wrote to the Kingdom Ministry saying he

has decided to go to England, France and Belgium in the next holidays with the main purpose of visiting schools in these countries, as in August and September the majority of literary establishments are closed and the interval of two months is quite limited for the Supplicant to satisfy his intentions, he pleads Your Majesty consider him in commission to enjoy the benefit of Art. 4 of the Law of August 17, 1853<sup>5</sup>.

In fact, Article 4th stated that professors,

who, by virtue of a temporary government leave, abandon the exercise of their functions, will lose half of their salary. If the license exceeds six months, no salary will be due. This will always be observed unless the absence is due to disease, or employment in some government commission (Portugal: Ministério dos Negócios do Reino 1853, 1).

Midosi's petition is then quite an interesting text. Firstly, it almost seems he is informing that he has decided to go on the trip instead of requesting permission to do so. Secondly, he asks to be away for an interval longer than the formal interruption of school activities. Thirdly, he asks to be on commission in order not to lose half of his salary.

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, the rector of the Lisbon Secondary School, Marianno Ghira (1827-1877), replied to a query by the General Director of Public Instruction:

I believe that in an establishment like this where a large number of individuals is examined not only in secondary education subjects but also in primary instruction, the absence of a teacher on such occasions is important.

I also think it is very convenient that the teacher who taught a certain subject during the academic year belongs to that subject final exam jury and does not leave his disciples to the evaluation of judges who have no particular knowledge of the students.

I believe, however, that in the queried matter there will be no inconvenience in granting the requested license after the primary instruction exams and the exams

<sup>5</sup> ANTT, *Ministério do Reino*, Mç. 3471, Lv. 22, Pr. 481, 1.º Requerimento de Henrique Midosi.

of the disciplines that the referred professor is in charge of, and which may be concluded at the beginning of July.<sup>6</sup>

On May  $21^{st}$ , a leave of three months beginning on July  $1^{st}$  was approved. Midosi nevertheless petitioned to leave earlier, on June  $20^{th}$ . A request approved on June  $2^{nd}$ . An opportunity that was not acted upon as we have seen.<sup>7</sup>

It is now clear that in reality Midosi managed to be nominated into a make-believe commission. One should point out that he took care to give to it an appearance of seriousness by involving the London and Paris Portuguese ambassadors in his endeavour.

#### Conclusions

Henrique Carlos Midosi diary content makes it useful for a variety of research purposes. The details it provides allow one to reconstruct the dynamics of a well to do upper middle-class male leisure trip in Europe in the 1860s. In conjunction with other travellers accounts the diary thus contributes to the reconstruction of 19<sup>th</sup>-century travelling habits and patterns: places visited, transports used, cultural events attended, and costs incurred. For instance, Midosi's travel expenses amounted to 590,631 *réis*, approximately 1.5 times his annual salary (Portugal: Governo 1863). Travelling in this manner was clearly a prerogative of a few. Naturally the diary also improves our understanding of a preeminent Lisbon 19<sup>th</sup>-century figure revealing particular personality traits and interests.

In a framework where vacations were not yet considered a right a Portuguese professor could only leave his/her workplace if allowed by the government. But in order to avoid a heavy salary cut he or she must be either in sick leave or in an official commission. In this context this diary is particularly informative since we have realised Midosi spent only a small percentage of the trip's time dealing with educational matters. Since the trip had no costs, a commission was nevertheless approved by the government and a fictional public narrative established. Midosi played the role well by simultaneously asking for the assistance of the Portuguese ambassadors in London and Paris.

<sup>6</sup> ANTT, Ministério do Reino, Mç. 3471, Lv. 22, Pr. 481, Letter from Marianno Ghira.

<sup>7</sup> ANTT, Ministério do Reino, Mç. 3471, Lv. 22, Pr. 481, 2.º Requerimento de Henrique Midosi.

The diary also opens a few interesting questions. From a biographical point of view the title page states this was a second voyage. But no other explicit reference to an earlier trip exists in the manuscript although at least one entry makes us suspect Midosi had travelled in Europe before. On September 19<sup>th</sup>, he wrote, "I thought of Aranjuez". Was this trip prior to 1853 when the law was approved? More importantly how did Portuguese professors occupied their time during their school's summer break? These are difficult questions to answer.

For the historian of science and/or of education it is comprehensible why Coimbra University professors made reiterated requests in the second half of the 19th century to travel abroad. Intended to be serious scientific trips they aimed, for instance in the area of astronomy, to see *in loco* new instruments and discuss novel techniques. As a drawback they required a government grant. In the 1860s, if on paid commission one would typically receive 120,000 *réis* for the return trip and a daily allowance of 4,500 *réis* (Bonifácio 2009, 36). We conclude this to be a fair amount since a 98-day trip would entail a 561,000 *réis* subvention that is 95% of Midosi's total expense. Still, one suspects that scientific trips were within the reach of coeval university professors if they wished to go at their own expense. Apparently, they did not.

Finally, this particular case offers a cautionary tale regarding the reliability of primary sources. Midosi's diary clearly shows a striking difference between the private trip and the one reported in other publicly available primary sources.

ANNEX
Trip overview

| Country (today's borders) | Stayed at    | Entry<br>date | Leave<br>date | Nights stayed | Notes                                     |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---|
|                           | At sea       | 1.07          | 6.07          | 5             | Leaves his<br>Lisbon home<br>at 8 AM      |
| United<br>Kingdom         | Southampton  | 6.07          | 6.07          | 0             | Arrives at 1<br>AM on the 6 <sup>th</sup> |
|                           | London       | 6.07          | 3.08          | 28            |   |
| France                    | Paris        | 3.08          | 18.08         | 15            |   |
| Belgium                   | Brussels     | 18.08         | 22.08         | 4             | Visits Antwerp                            |
| Germany                   | Cologne      | 22.08         | 24.09         | 2             |   |
|                           | Coblenz      | 24.08         | 25.08         | 1             |   |
|                           | Mainz        | 25.08         | 28.08         | 3             |   |
|                           | Baden-Baden  | 28.08         | 31.08         | 3             |   |
|                           | Freiburg     | 31.08         | 2.09          | 2             |   |
|                           | Travelling   | 2.09          | 3.09          | 1             |   |
|                           | Bandorf (?)  | 3.09          | 3.09          | 0             |   |
| Switzerland               | Schaffhausen | 3.09          | 4.09          | 1             |   |
|                           | St. Gallen   | 4.09          | 5.09          | 1             | Via lake<br>Constance                     |
|                           | Zurich       | 5.09          | 7.09          | 2             |   |
|                           | Bad Ragaz    | 7.09          | 9.09          | 2             |   |
|                           | Splügen      | 9.09          | 10.09         | 1             |   |
| Italy                     | Chiavenna    | 10.09         | 11.09         | 1             |   |
|                           | Milan        | 11.09         | 14.09         | 3             | Via Colico and<br>lake Como               |
|                           | Venice       | 14.09         | 17.09         | 3             |   |
|                           |              |               |               |               |   |

|          | Turin                                 | 17.09 | 19.09 | 2 |
|----------|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|---|
|          | Travelling                            | 19.09 | 20.09 | 1 |
| France   | Nice                                  | 20.09 | 21.09 | 1 |
|          | Toulon                                | 21.09 | 22.09 | 1 |
|          | Marseille                             | 22.09 | 24.09 | 2 |
|          | Perpignan                             | 24.09 | 25.09 | 1 |
|          | Travelling                            | 25.09 | 26.09 | 1 |
| Spain    | Barcelona                             | 26.09 | 27.09 | 1 |
|          | Travelling                            | 27.09 | 28.09 | 1 |
|          | Cervera                               | 28.09 | 29.09 | 1 |
|          | Travelling                            | 29.09 | 30.09 | 1 |
|          | Madrid                                | 30.09 | 3.10  | 3 |
|          | Travelling                            | 3.10  | 5.10  | 2 |
|          | Badajoz                               | 5.07  | 6.10  | 1 |
| Portugal | Elvas                                 | 6.10  | 7.10  | 1 |
|          | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |       |       |   |

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