EUROPA, ATLÂNTICO E O MUNDO
MOBILIDADES, CRISES, DINÂMICAS CULTURAIS

PENSAR COM
MARIA MANUELA TAVARES RIBEIRO

EUROPE, THE ATLANTIC AND THE WORLD
MOBILITY, CRISES, CULTURAL DYNAMICS
THINKING WITH MARIA MANUELA TAVARES RIBEIRO

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Abstract

Our archival research dating from the time the doctoral thesis was written (2004-2010) have allowed us to outline, along with the Romanian-Portuguese diplomatic relationships of the interbellum era the controversial personality of the Portuguese diplomat Martinho Teixiera Homem de Brederode, count of Cunha. Investigating his diplomatic reports and correspondence has created the favorable setting for deducing important elements of his biography, which then helped us understand the complex personality of the career diplomat and his political thinking in an international, but also national, Romanian context. The present paper aims at putting together a short biography in order to know his character, personality, family, intellectual background and the social medium where he has developed to be a political man and a High secretary of the interbellum Portuguese state.

Keywords: Diplomat; Martinho de Brederode; Portugal; Biography; Interbellum period
No matter the angle, the personality and character of a public figure, constantly surveilled by the authorities plays and important, uncontestable role in the mechanisms that could have and indeed have influenced the social and political life of a society. For centuries, being involved in politics has been, often times, the exclusivist appanage of aristocratic families. By holding impressive wealth, they also held the means necessary to control the public opinion and not only.

Martinho Teixeria Homem de Brederode was born on the 15th of April 1866, in a family of the kind, in the Lisbon residence of the Brederode family, at Santos-o-Velho. Orphan of father before he turned two, with a seriously ill mother that made her incapable to take care of her two sons, Martinho and his brother Fernando were raised by the maternal grandmother, in the Mateus Palace from Vila Real. The one that was actually in charge of their education was their mother’s sister, D. Isabel, the future Countess of Paraty.

His birth, childhood and teenage years were marked by the monarchical crisis in Portugal. The *Regeneration movement* of the constitutional monarchy had begun since 1851, that was finalized when Martinho was two. In January 1st, 1868, the revolt known in history under the name *Janeirinha* brought the Reformist Party in a governing position. These

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1 The exact address is no 43, street Direita das Janelas Verdes, Lisbon. He was christened on the 23rd of the same month, in the Santos-o-Velho Parochial Church. See: Eduardo Fernandes de Oliveira, *op. cit.*., p.169

2 Countess of Paraty, Martinho de Brederode aunt, was part of the Honorific Ladies in queen’s court, Amelia and from here derives the interest the Portuguese diplomat had in queen’s health state. Her husband, count of Paraty, was class II secretary in 1907-1908 in Vienna. See: ADMAE, Lisbon, *fond Legação de Portugal em Pequim /Legação Portugaliei din Pechin*, Martinho de Brederode’s personal file , Cx 198, no.15, Pechin, Report, July 4th, 1908; *Ibidem*, Report, December 13th, 1907

3 *Janeirinha* – *(Mișcarea din ianuarie – n.n.)* was the climax of a series of political, economic and social movements, that disapproved govern’s policy, particularly its fiscal policy, tax laws and the administrative reform of the territory. This movement determined the govern to fall on January 4th. A new govern led by Antonio Jose de Avila was formed,