

**Aida Fernanda Dias (†)**

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Aida Fernanda Dias died on January 3, 2014 in Viseu, Portugal, where she had lived since suffering a stroke in December, 2007. She was 88 years old. The following cluster of articles by her *PhiloBiblon* colleagues (members of the *BITAGAP*, *BITECA*, and *BETA* teams) pays homage to her role in our shared project.

Prof. Dias was an early member of *BITAGAP*, joining us in 1990 after she had retired from her position as *Professora catedrática* in the Faculdade de Letras of the University of Coimbra. We knew she would contribute expertise and deep research skills (combing catalogues and other sources of information concerning medieval texts, deciphering difficult hands, identifying a wide range of texts, preparing descriptions for the database) but we perhaps did not anticipate that she would also extend her friendship...to each of us in different ways.

I don't know how Aida envisioned her retirement years, but once she became part of *BITAGAP* she was game for everything involved: learning to use computers, the different versions of the database, e-mail systems; transitioning from diskettes to zip drives to CDs and flash drives; making hotel reservations and appointments for archival work; working comfortably in modern facilities and kneeling in a dusty maze of collapsing shelves to be sure we had checked every item; "working lunches" with directors of libraries and *al fresco* picnics on remote cobbled roads *en route* to the next archive, and most importantly, coping with the frustration of not finding what we were looking for and of not yet understanding what we had found.

Free from classroom obligations, she joined us on numerous journeys through her beloved Portugal and impressed us with her grace, erudition, stamina, good humor, persistence, and generosity. We spent many weeks together in small cars crammed with luggage, notebooks, laptops and maps, travelling to remote archives in the Portugal (and Spain) Aida loved and knew so intimately. She usually found the most efficient way both to arrive at a destination and, once there, to maneuver to see the documents we needed to see. On many occasions we entered an archive only to witness a reunion with a grateful former student who treated her with reverence. In fact, librarians, archivists and other specialists throughout Portugal knew her well...from their student days at Coimbra, because of personal contacts, or through her stellar reputation.

Travelling with Prof. Dias on research trips was an education for all of us. If we drove through a small rural town and found music or a procession in the *praça*, she knew which local festival was being celebrated and what the highlights would be. She would often identify, in the distance, the sites of medieval battles and report what different chroniclers said about them. She walked us through numerous villages and towns explaining who, in the Middle Ages, its key players were. She knew where to stop for refreshment or lunch, and which regional pastries or more substantial dishes to order.

In working visits to Coimbra, Prof. Dias was a gracious hostess. Days of research were punctuated by trips to the markets and the coffee shop in her Faculdade; excursions

to *alfarrabistas*, lunches at local restaurants, and visits to her home with its extraordinary personal library.

Readers who need information about Prof. Dias' full publication record can consult *PhiloBiblon*. The bibliography that follows is limited to the "*BITAGAP* phase" of Prof. Dias' scholarly activity, and gives evidence of both her wide ranging knowledge and the active enthusiasm with which she engaged our work.

Finally, the cluster of articles offered in homage to Prof. Dias celebrates a life and well lived, a fruitful career, and colleagues and students much enriched.



**Publications 1990 - .**

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- “Autor anónimo - *Boosco Deleitoso*”. *Antologia de Espirituais Portugueses*. Lisboa Imprensa Nacional - Casa da Moeda, 1994. 25-36.
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- “Uma bibliografia medieval em suporte electrónico”. *Actas do Sexto Congresso da Associação de Lusitanistas (Rio de Janeiro a 8-13 de Agosto de 2001)*. (Publicação originalmente electrónica.)
- “Historiografia.” *História da Literatura Portuguesa*. Dir. Carlos Reis. 7 vols. Vol. II – *O Renascimento e o Maneirismo*. Lisbon: Alfa, 2001. 557-89.
- Fragmentos de textos medievais portugueses da Torre do Tombo* (with Arthur L-F. Askins and Harvey L. Sharrer). Lisbon: Instituto dos Arquivos Nacionais / Torre do Tombo, 2002.
- “Um manuscrito quinhentista reencontrado.” *Santa Barbara Portuguese Studies* 6 (2002): 200-226.
- Diário da Jornada do Conde de Ourem ao Concílio de Basilea*. Ourém: Câmara Municipal de Ourém, 2003.
- “A Matéria da Bretanha em Portugal: relevância de um fragmento pergamináceo”. *Revista Portuguesa de Filologia (Miscelânea de Estudos In Memoriam José G. Herculano de Carvalho)*: 25.1 (2003-2006): 145-221.
- “O *Diário da jornada do Conde de Ourem ao Concílio de Basilea*.” *Actas do Congresso D. Afonso, 4.º Conde de Ourém e a sua época*. Coord. Carlos Ascenso André. Ourém: Câmara Municipal de Ourém, 2004. 269-278.

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- “A política de D. Afonso V, vista por um monge hieronimita” (with Arthur L-F. Askins). *Biblos* 2<sup>a</sup> série 5 (2007):155-185.