

EAP753: Rescuing archives from Belém do Pará, Brazil**Dr Paula Gândara, Miami University****2014 award - Pilot project****£9,300 for 3 months****Archival partner: Laboratório de História, Universidade Federal do Pará**

Details about the project and the digitised documents can be found on the [EAP website](#).

The inventory of the archives held in Belém do Pará is listed below.

Further Information

You can contact the EAP team at endangeredarchives@bl.uk

EAP 753 Inventory
Inventory of Mojú, Bragança, S. Caetano de Odivelas, Vigia and
Barcarena.

From 1707, the parochial registries for baptisms, marriages and deaths in Brazil have been organized according to determinations from the so-called First Constitutions of Bahia's Archbishopric. D. Sebastião Monteiro da Vide, Archbishop of Bahia, endeavored with such documents, to adjust the realities of Portuguese America to the determinations of the Council of Trento. Even though inconsistencies may be found due to individual priests, with the end of slavery in 1888, the creation of civil registries in 1890 for marriages and in 1891 for baptisms and deaths, the document rules were followed until the beginning of the 20th century. Beyond supporting catholic liturgy it determined the following:

Parochial Baptism registries: date of baptism, name, social condition and social legitimacy of the child (whether or not it was conceived inside legal marriage), name and social condition of parents and godparents. In cases of very wealthy families it is sometimes possible to find the name of the grandparents. In cases of slave baptisms the names of its proprietors are also given.

Parochial Marriage registries: date of marriage and names, social condition and civil condition of bride and groom. The same information was required of their parents and the marriage witnesses. In cases of very wealthy families it was sometimes possible to find the name of the grandparents. In cases of slave marriages the names of its proprietors are also given.

Parochial Death registries: name, social condition, civil condition and whether or not the deceased received the Last Rites. In some cases one can find the age, profession and cause of death of the deceased.

- **Mojú**

Mojú was one of the most important municipalities in a micro-region called "Lower Tocantins", situated in present-day Brazilian Amazon. It was one of the oldest areas of Portuguese colonisation in the Amazon region, and, except for the regions of "Salgado" (on the Atlantic coast) and the "Lower Amazon" (near Santarém), it is one of the few areas that experienced higher levels of occupation until the beginning of the 19th century. The main economic activity of Lower Tocantins was agriculture. Crops, especially, of cocoa, sugar, rice and cassava were cultivated, which meant a significant presence of African slaves and indigenous labour. In 1754, the Plantation of Antônio Dornelles de Sousa achieved the status of Parish. This status was revoked and regained

several times across the years until 1935. The River of Snakes records – the indigenous meaning of the name Mojú - also include records from Cairary and Bujarú. Both communities were joined and separated from the parish of Mojú several times. In 1749, Cairary was separated from Mojú due to an epidemic, in 1856 however, due to lack of priests, the community was re-integrated in Mojú. The Private Chapel replaced, in some cases, the actual church. Bujarú was established as a Parish in the year of 1758 and it was not then or currently, part of the Parish of Mojú. However, according to Priest Nazareno de Carvalho of the Parish of Mojú, Bujarú lost its priesthood for a while due to an epidemic and the documents were transferred to Mojú. Even though it returned to its initial Parish boundaries the documents were not returned. Bujarú was predominantly rural and as such it housed a considerable number of people under captivity.

Church of the Parish of the Divino Espirito Santo

The Priest allowed us to see the documentation and allowed digitisation. Though the project required the digitisation of only two books the majority were digitised.

Baptism

Book n 4 - 1865-1873. 78 pp

Book of Slaves n 6 – 1871-1887. 75 pp

Book n 6 – 1915-1934 (Mojú and Cairary). (not digitised) 400 pp

Book n 7 – 1881-1896. (not digitised). 400 pp

Book n 8 – 1896-1908 (includes Bujarú). 165 pp

Book n 9 – 1902-1906. 103 pp

Book n 10 – 1906-1909. 104 pp

Book n 11 – 1909-1915. 197 pp

Book n 12 – 1915-1918. 198 pp

Book n 13 – 1918-1920. 103 pp

Book n 15 – 1923-1925. (not digitised). 176 pp

Book n 16 – 1923-1929. (not digitised). 408 pp

Book n 17 – 1929-1934. (not digitised). 392 pp

Marriage

Book n 1 – 1832-1855. (not digitised). 320 pp

Book n 5 – 1915-1943. 64 pp

Deaths

Book n 1 – 1878-1893. 200 pp

- **Cairary**

Baptism

Book n 1 – 1839-1856. 366 pp

Book n 2 – 1875-1882. 198 pp

Book n 3 – 1882-1893. 134 pp

Book n 4 – 1895-1901. 76 pp

Book n 5 – 1903-1915. 24 pp

Marriage

Book n 1 – 1859-1862. 188 pp

Book n 2 – 1875-1897. 154 pp

Book n 3 – 1897-1909 (Private Chapel). (no cover) 12 pp

Book n 6 – 1923-1954. (not digitised) 394 pp

- **Bragança**

The area was initially inhabited by the group of indigenous tupinambá when the French first arrived in 1613. By 1622 it was donated by Filipe II of Portugal to Gaspar de Souza, the general governor of Brazil. His son Alvaro de Souza built the first village by the right margin of the Caeté river. The town of Bragança was created by presidential decree in 1854.

Church of the Parish of Nossa Senhora do Rosário

All documents are being transferred to the Museum of Sacred Art situated side by side with the church. The Museum was closed. The documents left in the church were in good state unless stated otherwise and were the following:

Baptism

Book (w/o number) – 1875-1876, 59 pp.

Book 11B – 1891-1893, 65 pp.

Marriage

Book (w/o number) – 1849-1869 (fragile), 173 pp

Book n 2 – 1869-1881, 97 pp.

Book C – 1892-1902, 104 pp.

Book 3C – 1882-1892, 116 pp.

Book 4C – 1892-1897, 81 pp.

Registry Offices in Bragança

Registry Office Antonio Pereira

All documentation was transferred to the Fórum of Bragança.

Cartório Martins

We were not able to see the documentations because the owner was not there but we were told the Office only possesses registries from 1905 onwards, when it was created.

Fórum of Bragança

The Forum documentation is only available for research pending a Judge court's order.

- **São Caetano de Odivelas**

S Caetano was developed under the strong influence of Jesuit priests who arrived during the colonial period in 1757. The priests installed by river Mojuim in the area to be known as S Caetano. Almost 100 years later the village became a town, and in 1890 it was raised to the category of city.

Church of São Caetano de Odivelas

All books are in good state and the priest is interested in digitising them.

Baptism

Book n 1 – 1861-1863, 45 pp

Book n 2 – 1866-1867, 52 pp

Book n 3 – 1875, 50 pp

Book n 4 – 1876, 56 pp

Book n 5 – 1878, 61 pp

Book n 6 – 1892, 67 pp

Registry Office Gurjão, São Caetano de Odivelas

The owner of the office was not present and as such the documentation was not made available.

- **Vigia**

The city is located c 50 km away from São Caetano and we decided to go there seeing there was little documentation in São Caetano.

Church of Vigia

The priest allowed us to see the books but not to open them. Books prior to 1873 were moved to the Church of St. Alexandre and the Cúria of Belém.

Baptism

Book 1873-1878 (extremely fragile and in need of restauration)

Book 1875-1884 (extremely fragile and in need of restauration)

Book 1904-1906 (good state)

Book 1906-1910. (good state)

Registry Office Vilhena de Vigia

The documents dated 1905 onwards were stored underneath water barrels, bicycles and tools and we weren't allowed to move them. Documents prior to 1870 had been transferred to another building, the later was termite infested and all documents were thrown away. We were informed there might be a book of 1875 that can not be found.

Association 5 de Agosto/ Cartório Raiol em Vigia

The former Office Registry Cartório Raiol's documentation was moved to the Association 5 de Agosto. All documentation is in good state, it had been cleaned and stored and they would welcome proper digitisation.

Inventories: 1802-1899 in a total of 173 inventories.

Amiable Property Division: 1844-1896 in a total of 16.

Criminal Prosecution: 1839-1898; in a total of 20 documents .

Appeal: 1840, 1842, 1852, 1873; a total of 4 appeals.

Tutelage Registry Book: from 1883, in a total of 1 document.

Tutelage Appeal: 1847, in a total of 1 document.

Trustee Reports: 8 from 1849; 21 in-between 1850-1859, 1 from 1890, 1 from 1899; a total of 31.

Official Pawns: 1866, 1879, 1886; a total of 3.

Debt Collector Actions: 1853-1895, a total of 9 documents.

Evictions: 1852 and 1870; a total of 2 documents.

Injunctions: 1856, 1857, 1866, 1873; a total of 4 documents.

Debt Settlements: 1874, 1880; a total of 2 documents.

Disposal of Assets: 1 from 1859, 3 from 1888, in a total of 4 documents.

Protest: 1885, in a total of 1 document.

Enforcement Actions: 1848-1896; in a total of 23 documents.

Auctions: 1838-1866; a total of 7 documents.

Commercial Registration: 1870, a total of 1 document.

Insanity Declaration: 1872, a total of 1 document.

Deed of Property Annulment: 1875, a total of 1 document.

Temporary Slave Tutelage: 1854, a total of 1 document.

Decree: 1897, a total of 1 document.

Petition for Marriage Emancipation: 1895, a total of 1 document.

Army Expelled: 1875, a total of 1 document.

Power of Attorney: 1866, 1891, a total of 2 documents.

Valid Appeal Rule: 1879, 1858, a total of 2 documents.

Military Enlisting: 1875 e 1888, a total of 2 documents.

Complaint against Military Enlisting: 1875, a total of 1 document.

Real Estate buy and sale: 1839, 1894, in a total of 2 documents.

Marriage License: 1867, 1896, in a total of 2 documents.

Warrant for Minor Emancipation: 1846, in a total of 1 document.

Minor Education Requests: 1821-1859, in a total of 11 documents.

Manumission: 1836, a total of 1 document.

Inheritance Possession: 1866, a total of 1 document.

Mortgage: 1854, a total of 1 document.

Wills: 1859-1891; a total of 15 document.

Will Registries: 1875-1886, in a total of 23 documents.

Will Executor: 1849-1888, in a total of 5 documents.

Brotherhood Accounts: 1873-1887, in a total of 31 documents.

Brotherhood Employees List: 1872-1879, in a total of 9 documents.

Brotherhood's Wealth List: 1872-1879, in a total of 3 documents.

Expenditure Justifications and others: 1837-1889; in a total of 17 documents.

Fórum de Vigia

The Forum documentation is only available for research pending a Judge court's order.

Barcarena

The city is about 15 km distant from Belém, though the lack of bridges makes it about a 400km drive. It is known that the first inhabitants of the region were the indigenous Aruans, but there are no historical references of the city previous to 1709 when it was known as Mission Geribirié, property of the Jesuit priests. In 1758 the Mission was elevated to the category of Parish of S. Francisco Xavier.

Church of São Francisco Xavier de Barcarena

All but present date documents were destroyed the month prior to our arrival.