

in the Western Mediterranean in the second half of the fifteenth century, and the links intertwining the markets of Iberia, the Italian Peninsula, Ireland and northern Africa. Fiscal records and private account books provide detailed information about the commercial transactions that will bring insight on the complementarities between these cities.

João Paulo Oliveira e Costa, CHAM (Center for the Humanities) / NOVA FCSH, Portuguese Crown and the Mediterranean (1453-1535)”

During the 15th century the Portuguese started the exploration of the Atlantic Ocean opening the Age of Discoveries. They colonized the archipelagos, they opened trading routes with different points of the western coast of Africa and they looked for new intercontinental routes.

However, at the same time Portugal kept its lasting connection with the Mediterranean, and king Manuel I (r. 1495-1521) wished to lead a Crusade against Jerusalem. In my paper I shall examine the consecutive fleets that Portugal sent to Mediterranean to fight the muslims from the middle of the 15th century to the middle of the 16th, and its articulation with the building of an overseas empire that took place at the same time.

Vitor Luís Gaspar Rodrigues, University of Lisbon, History Center, “João de Castro: Warrior and the Mariner in the Service of Peninsular Christianity”

The paper to be presented will address the action developed by D. João de Castro as the commander of one of the caravels that comprised the fleet commanded by Captain-General António de Saldanha, sent to Tunis in 1535 with the aim of dislodging the corsair Khaïr-ed -Dîn, the famous Hayreddin Barbarossa, who had settled his forces there, after dethroning the previous sovereign Muley-Hasan.

The action being part of the conflict between the peninsular Christian forces and the Turkish power recently allied with Hayreddin Barbarossa, which threatened to transform the whole region into an area of Turkish influence, the fleet organized by Charles V and D. João III has eventually conquered the port of La Goulette and Tunis, and D. João de Castro was distinguished by the higher command of his caravel "in the fields of the great and miserable Carthage", a matter to which we will pay particular attention.

Our study will also focus on the action he has developed in the Mediterranean area, particularly on the North African cities in the possession of the Portuguese Crown and emphasize the importance of this training in his action as Governor of India, which allowed it to carry out significant reforms within the fleets in the Indian Ocean. Deeply acquainted with the art of war of his time, as a result of the experience acquired there, he considered the caravels to be the most suitable vessels for the warfare practiced by the Portuguese, thus determining that the oriental Portuguese fleets were to integrate a large number of this type of ships, having ordered their construction in the Indian shipyards, an