SPP JERUSALEM CONFERENCE 2023

"THE FIRST SKETCH OF HISTORY: AUDIO-VISUAL COLLECTIONS IN PARLIAMENTARY AND POLITICAL ARCHIVES"

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THE PORTUGUESE PARLIAMENT PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS

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ARQUIVO HISTÓRICO PARLAMENTAR (PORTUGUESE PARLIAMENT ARCHIVES)
1. DEFINITION AND PRESENTATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE OF THE PORTUGUESE PARLIAMENT

• Since 2004 the Archive Service is responsible for: “Collecting, selecting, processing and preserving photographic documents related to MPs and acts and facts of the Parliament”.

• According to its internal regulation, the Photographic Archive (AF) is responsible for ensuring the physical conservation of photographic species in deposit, through the following measures:
  • Creation and control of suitable environmental and safety conditions
  • Cleaning, restoration and storage in adequate units
  • Control and guarantee of conditions for careful handling
  • Control of species in digital format, namely through a backup and migration policy that allows keeping information throughout time;
  • Promoting the reproduction of images in order to preserve and safeguard the originals.

• The AF consists of images from 1895 to the present day. It is organized by collections (a total of 23) some being the result of institutional production and others acquired by or donated to the Archive.
2. EXISTING COLLECTIONS

• Coleção Benoliel (1906-1923)

• Coleção do Estado Novo (1935-1966)

• Coleção Miranda Castela ([anos 50] -1986)

• Coleção do Gabinete de Relações Públicas e Internacionais (1978-)

• Coleção do Museu (1895-)

• Coleção da Divisão de Edições ([1973]-)

• Coleção do Arquivo Fotográfico (1974-)

• Coleção do Centro de Informação ao Cidadão / Relações Públicas (2006-2018)

• Coleção de Ofertas

• Coleção Germano Lopes Martins

• Coleção João Pereira Bastos

• Coleção Cunha Leal

• Coleção José Alberto dos Reis

• Coleção António Macieira

• Coleção Hélder Ribeiro

• Coleção José Manuel da Costa
2. EXISTING COLLECTIONS

- **Museum Collection (1895-)**: This collection has been formed by the Parliament Museum (created in the 1930s) and gathers the photographic material which was acquired by this service along the years. It is composed by images of the S. Bento Palace and of parliamentary personalities. Spaces, works of art on display in the Palace, murals, paintings, sculptures. Many of these photographs were specially made for the publication of the book *S. Bento Palace*, by Joaquim Leitão (c. 1940). It is composed by 1309 images in paper prints.
2. EXISTING COLLECTIONS

• The oldest photographic records belong to the Museum Collection and are from 1895. They relate to the fire that destroyed part of the Chamber of Deputies in the São Bento Palace. These photos were taken by Coronel Azevedo e Silva and were donated by him to the Museum collection in 1939.
2. EXISTING COLLECTIONS

• "Benoliel" Collection (1906-1924): Joshua Benoliel was born in 1873 and died in 1932. He was the pioneer of photojournalism in Portugal and the most important photojournalist of his time. This Collection is representative of the Portuguese parliamentary life at the beginning of the 20th century and was purchased from the photographer's son in 1946. In this collection there are portraits of King D. Manuel II and of some Presidents during the 1st Republican Regime (1910-1926). It includes images of MPs entering and leaving the Parliament, the interior of the session room and solemn sessions such as the presentation of the King, D. Manuel II to the Cortes (1908)* or the inaugural session of the Constituent Assembly of 1911* (after the implementation of the Republican regime).

• It is composed by 111 gelatine and silver glass negatives.
2. EXISTING COLLECTIONS

• “Estado Novo” Collection (1935-1966): The Estado Novo albums were acquired from photographers of the time and from several newspapers and reflect the diversity of acts that took place inside and outside the Parliament building. This photographic set was formed by the Secretary of Parliament, Joaquim Leitão. He asked the newspapers for the published images, solving a practical problem: the lack of an official parliamentary photographer. In certain cases, he also bought images. The photographic records show us the Parliament as a solemn and ceremonial space focused on official events and on the political, social and religious elites.

• It is composed by 620 images on paper prints.
On January 11, 1935, the President of the Republic, António Óscar de Fragoso Carmona, and the President of the Government, António de Oliveira Salazar, in the car heading to the São Bento Palace to attend the inaugural session of the National Assembly (EN 00021)

António de Oliveira Salazar reading a speech in the extraordinary session of the National Assembly, on May 25, 1940 (EN 00118)
2. EXISTING COLLECTIONS

• “Miranda Castela” Collection (1950s-1981): José Vicente Miranda Castela started his journalistic career in 1966 and he specialised as a photojournalist. This collection was acquired by the Parliament directly from the photographer in 1997. The images cover the period from the end of the Estado Novo to the beginning of democratic life in Portugal (c. 1971-1981). It contains portraits of individuals who contributed to the democratic regime and also of the April 25th Revolution (1974), its aftermath and several demonstrations, rallies and congresses. The photos illustrate the political instability of the time. People are photographed voting, attending sessions of the Parliament and at street demonstrations.

• It consists of 2588 gelatine and silver negatives on cellulose acetate.
2. EXISTING COLLECTIONS

MC-0768_W
1st of May 1974 protest

MC-1877_W
Debate on the Program of the First Constitutional Government (session lasted 2 days and 2 nights)
2. EXISTING COLLECTIONS

• “GAREPI” Collection (1978-): The Public Relations and Protocol Service of the Parliament hires photographers to do the reports which form this collection. It is mainly composed of reports, which portray visits, inaugurations and other official ceremonies. It also portraits initiatives such as the Youth Parliament, the Open Doors Parliament and events open to the public (exhibitions, concerts, ballet or theatre plays).

• This collection includes prints, chromogenic negatives on polyester and, also, digital photographs.
2. EXISTING COLLECTIONS

GAR07021_2022
The President of the Parliament, Augusto Santos Silva, received, in audience, the Israel Ambassador to Portugal, Dor Shapira, in the Presidency’s Visiting Room, at the São Bento Palace. 2nd December 2022.

GAR09300_2022
Youth Parliament 2022 sessions

Gar02208_2016
Theatre piece 2016
2. EXISTING COLLECTIONS

• “Zincogravuras” – “Zinc-engraved plates” are made of a metallic plate connected, through nails or adhesives, to a wooden or plywood cube. The Archive is in possession of 2,026 zinc-engraved pieces, which were recently restored, treated and cleaned. The engravings correspond to portraits of MPs, photos of the São Bento Palace and pictures of important documents of the Historical Archive (such as the 1\textsuperscript{st} Portuguese Constitution of 1822).
3. MANAGING THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE:
A. PRESERVATION OF THE ANALOGIC MATERIALS:

- All the photographic documentation which is in analogic formats is kept in a special deposit room with specific conditions;
- It is a cold and dark room, with an average temperature between 15°-18° degrees and humidity level below 50%;
- Among the analogic materials that exist in the AF, the most relevant are:
  - Gelatin and silver glass negatives (Gelatin Dry Plate);
  - Chromogenic negatives on cellulose acetate;
  - Chromogenic negatives and slides on polyester;
  - Black and white negatives on cellulose acetate;
  - Black and white prints (some of them on baryta paper);
  - Chromogenic prints;
  - Zinc-engraved plates.
4. MANAGING THE ACTIVE COLLECTIONS:
A. RULES APPLIED TO THE INPUT OF DIGITAL IMAGES;

• The constant growth of the active photographic collections, specially the “GAREPI” Collection, which, in recent years has had an annual production of around 15,000 digital images, created a storage problem;

• Therefore in 2020, the Archive regulated, not only the input of images sent by the Parliament services*, but also a selection process which would be carried out in the existing photo reports in order to reduce the global amount of digital images;
4. MANAGING THE ACTIVE COLLECTIONS:
A. RULES APPLIED TO THE INPUT OF DIGITAL IMAGES;

• A first phase of pre-selection should be done by the photographer before sending the images to the Parliament, by selecting the best and most relevant photographs captured during the production of the report, according to an objective image quality criteria and excluding:
  • repeated photographs (choose only the best one);
  • photographs with technical errors (blurred, incorrect exposure, incorrect framing);
  • photographs in which someone was in an embarrassing position or expression;

• However, if there is no other better quality image representing an event or person, the existing photograph is preserved, regardless of its technical or aesthetic quality;

• This selection is essential for promoting the quality of the reports.
4. MANAGING THE ACTIVE COLLECTIONS:
A. RULES APPLIED TO THE INPUT OF DIGITAL IMAGES;

• In a second phase, after the report reaches the Archive, the remaining images are analysed, seeking to select the best photographs which include personalities and active participants in the event, giving priority to the following contexts:
  • General overview of the event
  • Audience
  • President's Table
  • Speakers included in the Ceremony / Event
  • Ceremony / Event graphic image
  • Speaker(s) with identification plate(s) with their name(s)
4. MANAGING THE ACTIVE COLLECTIONS:
B. FORMATS (PRESERVATION AND DISSEMINATION FORMATS), METADATA AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE DIGITAL IMAGES

• The reports must be delivered in uncompressed TIFF format or by converting the RAW file into TIFF. Production in JPEG, or another format with compression, and subsequent conversion to TIFF is not accepted.

• The delivered images must meet the following technical requirements:
  • Tiff format, RGB color mode, at 300 dpi’s;

• The following Metadata must be included in the images:
  • Description metadata:
    • Title: identification of the report/photograph
    • Author: photographer identification
    • Copyright: ©Photographic Archive of the Portuguese Parliament (according to the Archive Regulation)
  • Camera metadata: Automatically filled in by the camera and identify the technical part of the image, as seen in the following examples.
4. MANAGING THE ACTIVE COLLECTIONS:
B. FORMATS (PRESERVATION AND DISSEMINATION FORMATS), METADATA AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Dados da Câmera 1

| Criar:    | NIKON CORPORATION |
| Modelo:   | NIKON D70         |
| Data e Hora: | 2009-03-11T10:54:31Z |
| Velocidade do Obturador: |          |
| Programa de Exposição: | Manual    |
| Interrupção em F: | f/7.1      |
| Valor de abertura: |          |
| Valor Máx. da Abertura: | f/2.8     |
| Taxas de Velocidade ISO: |          |
| Comprimento Focal: | 70.0 mm    |
| Lente: |          |
| Flash: | Não acionado |
| Nenhuma detecção de retorno do estroboscópio (0) |
| Modo de flash desconhecido (0) |
| Função de flash presente |
| Sem redução de olhos vermelhos |
| Modo de Medida: | Padrão     |

Dados da Câmera 2

| Dimensão X em Pixels: | 1181 |
| Y: | 1772 |
| Orientação: | Normal     |
| Resolução X: | 300 |
| Y: | 300 |
| Unidade de Resolução: | Polegada |
| Bits Compactados por Pixel: |          |
| Espaço de Cor: | sRGB |
| Fonte de Luz: | Desconhecido |
| Origem do Arquivo: | DSC |
The photographic documents are fundamental in the communication and transmission of the parliament information:

- Used by the MPs and by the Political Groups in their activities.
- Used by all the parliament services (specially the Communication Office, the Museum, the Publishing Office) in the developing of their functions. Exhibitions, website and social media feeding, book publishing, creation of pieces for the Parliament store. All these activities are done using images which are kept by the AF.
- Allow the safeguarding and dissemination of the organizational memory.
- Are a part of the historical legacy of the parliamentary life
- Contribute to a plural and sustained historical memory.
História do parlamentarismo

A Monarquia Constitucional (1820-1910)

A 1.ª República (1910-1926)

O Estado Novo (1933-1974)

O Estado democrático
THANK YOU

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