

Famous Migrants and exiled in Portugal



Joseph James Forrester was a businessman born on May 27th of 1809 in England and he died on May 12th of 1861 in Viseu, Portugal.

He came to Porto in 1831 to join his uncle but soon he became interested in the country. This lead to the publication of a map of Douro from the Spanish frontier to its mouth in 1848. The map was universally recognized, being adopted as national work by the Portuguese government. It was supplemented by a geological survey, showing the prominent wine farms, which was originally published in England in 1843 and reprinted in 1852 by order of a selected committee of the House of Commons.

In 1844, he anonymously published a pamphlet on the wine trade. This was the first step to obtain a reform of the abuses practiced in Portugal in the making and treatment of port wine, and the remodeling of the peculiar legislation by which the trade was regulated,

Andrew James Symington arrived in Portugal in 1882 to work in Graham's when he was only 19. His father was a Glasgow merchant and writer and his mother hailed from Unst in the Shetland Islands.

Andrew left Graham's a few years later to pursue an independent career as a Port wine producer and in 1891 he married Porto-born Beatrice Leitão de Carvalhosa Atkinson.

In 1894, he made a name for himself, when the portuguese government entrusted him with the resolution of the Speculative mismanagement made by the Burnay banking Family. After this, his peers and the Douro farmers had a lot of respect for him.

Also in 1905 he became partners with Warre&Co and Silva&Cowens in 1912.



Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian (1869-1955) was a business man, art collector and philanthropist of Armenian origin, born in the Ottoman Empire.

Gulbenkian was above all a "business architect". Due to his vision, his contacts and persuasive skills, Gulbenkian played a decisive role in the first half of the twentieth century mediating international negotiations that led to the exploitation of the exceptionally rich oil fields in Iraq. Throughout his life, he assembled an eclectic and unique collection that was influenced by his travels and his personal taste.

Gulbenkian took British citizenship in 1902 and died in 1955, in Lisbon. In April of 1942, he arrived to Portugal and ended up staying more time than what he had predicted, falling in love with the country.

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Scholarships were attributed, along with a reading incitement through the moving libraries which reached thousands of people.