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RUI BOAVENTURA (1971-2016)*

RESUMO

Recorda-se o percurso da arqueóloga Vera Leisner, com especial ênfase nos seus contributos para a investigação em Portugal, durante as décadas de 1940-1960, os quais, em parte, são indissociáveis do seu marido, Georg Leisner. Realçam-se ainda alguns episódios da sua vida, que ilustram as facilidades e os constrangimentos profissionais de uma mulher, estrangeira e alemã, em Portugal.

Palavras-chave: História da Arqueologia Portuguesa; *Megalithgräber*; *Leisnerianum*.

ABSTRACT

Vera Leisner's archaeological path is remembered, with special emphasis on her contributions to research in Portugal, during the decades of 1940-1960, which in great part accompanied and was accompanied by her husband, Georg Leisner. It also enhances some episodes of her life, illustrating the facilities and professional constraints of a woman, foreign and German, in Portugal.

Keywords: Portuguese Archaeology History; *Megalithgräber*; *Leisnerianum*.

1. INTRODUCTION

Amanda Vera de la Camp, later Vera Leisner, was born on the 4th of February 1885, in New York and died on the 31st of May 1972 in Hamburg, at the age of 87. She attended High School in Hamburg and then a boarding school at Eisenach (Thuringia). As an upper class girl, she was taught drawing, painting and music, namely piano. After marrying Georg Leisner, she lived with him in Munich and, during World War 1 she served as a nurse (1914-1917) (Sangmeister 1973: 247; Kunst 2013; Rambuschek 2013: 238).

When she married with Georg Leisner, in the 2nd of September, 1909 (Leisner - Leisner 1909; Boaventura - Langley 2011), archaeological research was certainly not in her horizon, nor in her husband's plans.

Georg Klaus Leisner was born on the 2nd of September, 1870 in Kiel and died on the 20th of September, 1957 in Stuttgart, at the age of 87. He pursued a military career in the German army in which he fought in the Chinese Boxer rebellion (1900-1901) and in the German South-West Africa campaign (1904-1905) against the Herero people. Later he also participated in World War 1 and retired in 1918 (at the age of 48) with the rank of Lieutenant colonel (Schubart 1985, 1990).

After Georg Leisner's retirement from the Army, the couple bought a farm in the village of Höhenbergand (Bavaria), where they lived and worked until their tour of several months to Italy (1924-1925). During their travel they developed a special interest for archaeology and abandoned their agriculture endeavor by selling the farm in 1926.

2. THE "LEISNERIANUM"

In 1926, at the age of 55, Georg Leisner, and, most likely, Vera Leisner (age 41) participated in an expedition led by Leo Frobenius from the *"Institut für Kulturmorphologie"* of the University of Frankfurt. During that year the Leisner couple was in Egypt dedicated to the study of Nubian rock art.

Upon their return to Munich, G. Leisner met Hugo Obermaier, professor at the University Complutense, in Madrid (Spain). The later suggested to G. Leisner the study of Iberian Peninsula Prehistoric rock art. This led G. Leisner to enroll as a student in 1927 at the University of Munich, although a year later he transferred to the University of Marburg, where the first degree in Prehistoric Archaeology in Germany was created. Here, under the supervision of Professor

Gero von Merhart, he finished his doctorate degree in 1932 (age 62) on the tombs of the Northwest Iberian Peninsula (Galicia and Northern Portugal). Although Georg's thesis was to be based on bibliographic information, in order to achieve his goal he traveled to the Iberian Peninsula, with V. Leisner, for seven months between 1929-1930, with funding from the *Römisch-Germanischen Kommission*, when he visited and drew plans of megalithic tombs, as well as reviewed famous sites, such as Alcalar in the Algarve (Schubart 1985; 1990: 7). The drawing and painting skills of V. Leisner were certainly useful for those tasks, as well as photography, which V. Leisner learned how to do. This academic joint venture was so successful that it was nicknamed *"Leisnerianum"* by Gero von Merhart, which the couple took as their motto (Fig. 1) (Sangmeister 1973: 247; San Clemente 1998: 58).

V. Leisner had plans to pursue her own university degree as well. However she had to complete her Bachelor's degree in order to be able to apply for a higher university degree, which would have meant that she could not accompany her husband to the Iberian Peninsula. She then opted and decided to help G. Leisner in the field and with museum work (Fig. 2). This decision might explain why in 1941 and again in 1951, G. Leisner (age 71 and 81, respectively) was so concerned about his wife's future scientific rights on the *"Megalithgräber"* project, a life project on its own. In 1941 in a letter to Gero von Merhart, G. Leisner indicated that he considered Vera his physical and spiritual collaborator and wondered if the German Archaeological Institute (through the *Römisch-Germanische Kommission - RGK*) would accept a co-authored publication (Cited in San Clemente 1998: 58). Later, in 1951 in a letter to a notary, Dr. Vierold from Bonn, with a carbon copy to Ernst Sprockhoff from the University of Kiel and a researcher of megaliths as well, G. Leisner described all the work conducted by him and his wife, from 1932 until then, as a justification for his wife's work (Leisner 1951). After all, although V. Leisner was then an experienced researcher, she was a woman without a doctoral degree and worked in a male-dominated academic world. An example of this discrimination, probably unconsciously, can be found in a letter of Abel Viana to Octávio Veiga Ferreira:

"Recebi ontem (só ontem), o último trabalho do Leisner. O nosso Dr. parece virar tudo do avesso! Creio bem que vai ter fortes contraditores. Noto ali Neolítico a mais. O livro, porém, é muito bom." (Viana 1952).

A. Viana was referring to the excellent volume dedicated to the megaliths of Reguengos

de Monsaraz (Leisner - Leisner 1951). Despite the respect that both archaeologists had for V. Leisner, with whom O.V. Ferreira will be working years later, the emphasis was on "Dr. Georg's book", when it was, in fact, a "*Leisnerianum*" production. About this situation Ulrik Rambuscheck reminds us that V. Leisner was often seen and referred to as "irhes Mannes beste Mitarbeiterin" (man's [G. Leisner's] best assistant) (Rambuscheck 2013, quoting Jessen 1967: 311).

Despite Georg's concerns, V. Leisner did co-author the "*Megalithgräber*" publication of 1943, (which was, in fact, the first co-authored work) and the following volumes of 1956 and 1959. She enjoyed the highest consideration from her peers in Spain and Portugal, and later received the support of the German Archaeological Institute, in Madrid, after its reopening in 1954. Nevertheless, she only achieved her formal academic recognition in 1960 (age 75), when she was granted an Honoris Causa Doctorate Degree from the University of Freiburg-Albert-Ludwigs for her work with and after G. Leisner's death. Thus, if V. Leisner might have been in a first phase the best man's assistant, she soon became by her own right a colleague and a researcher among peers.

3. THE "*MEGALITHGRÄBER*" PROJECT: BIRTH AND FIRST STAGES

The idea of a Corpus on Megalithic Tombs of the Iberian Peninsula was not initially planned by the "*Leisnerianum*". However, after the conclusion of Georg's doctorate degree this endeavor was developed and pursued with the encouragement and moral support of H. Obermaier and G. v. Merhart, although initially without any institutional sponsorship. It is indicative that some of the first articles regarding rock art on megaliths were published in the journal "*Investigación y Progreso*", directed by H. Obermaier (Leisner 1934, 1935).

Between 1932 and 1934, the Leisner couple proceeded with a set of trips to Spain and Portugal, receiving the support of the German Research Foundation / *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (Schubart 1990: 6). During those trips Georg and Vera Leisner conducted the recording of tombs (Fig. 2) and the artifacts recovered from those tombs which had been deposited in museums and private collections.

Contacts with the main researchers of the Iberian Peninsula were important for their endeavor, and the Leisners certainly understood that. Through H. Obermaier and, in other cases, through their own



Fig. 1 - The Georg and Vera Leisner involved with archaeological recording in Gorafe, at the dolmen Gabiarra 6, in 1933. Leisner Archive. Available at DGPC, Lisbon.

initiative, the Leisners contacted Louis Siret and George Bonsor in Andalucia, publishing most of the results and artifacts obtained by those authors. Their role as safe keepers of information on so many tombs and artifacts from Los Millares and from the Seville region (Leisner - Leisner 1943) is reflected in the work of later researchers. One example is Robert Chapman, who recognized the importance of the Leisner's notes, location and plans of tombs, as well as drawings of artifacts for his own doctoral work on Los Millares, which allowed for the development of a new theoretical approach and interpretation for social ranking of those societies (Chapman 1990, 1999). A similar comment can be made for later work on the megaliths of Huelva (Cerdán - Leisner - Leisner 1952) and other studies on the subject by Fernando Piñón Varela (1987) and José Linares Catela (2011). In Portugal their work and records have been crucial for my own research (Boaventura 2009), as well as for others (Gonçalves 1992; Kalb - Höck 1996; Oliveira 1997; Parreira 1996; Rocha 1998; Oliveira 2001; Cruz 2001; Lillios 2004, 2008; Andrade 2009).

José Leite de Vasconcelos and Manuel Heleno, the first and second directors of the National Museum of Archaeology, were certainly important connections for other researchers in Portugal, as well as for the Museum itself, that housed several of the main collections of artifacts from Portuguese dolmens, which were otherwise poorly known. That was the case of material collected from one of the first systematic regional surveys of megaliths in Portugal, conducted by Vergílio Correia in about 80

dolmens at Pavia, Alentejo (Correia 1921). Despite the publication of the results from this work, most of it was based on the memory of the author, as he was not given access to part of the materials deposited in the National Museum when he was the curator there (Correia 1921: 10; Rocha 2005: 11). On the other hand and following the work of the latter, the excavation of almost 300 dolmens through 1931-1939, by order of the then-director M. Heleno, raised the interest for this contact, as news regarding its discoveries seemed to point out data about the origins of megaliths. In fact, in 1934, G. and V. Leisner together with H. Obermaier visited Portugal and excavated with M. Heleno the dolmen of Azinhal 3 (Leisner - Leisner 1959: 274), also known as Vale de Covas (CP) (Heleno 1934: 2-10).

These contacts were also expanded later to other researchers and collectors, such as António Luís Agostinho (Fig. 3) and António Dias de Deus, in Elvas (Boaventura, Ferreira and Silva, 2013), and with A. Viana, O.V. Ferreira, Afonso do Paço, Eugénio Jalhay or Amorim Girão, among others. In other occasions those contacts served to establish a network of local connections and logistical support for the countless journeys of G. and V. Leisner through the countryside by train, bus, car, horse wagon, donkey, mule, and bicycle or on foot.

In addition to the excavation of Azinhal 3 in 1933-1934, the Leisners visited and recorded many dolmens from the Alentejo and Estremadura, most of which had been previously published by other authors, as well as visited several museums and drew artifacts deposited there, as ascertained from the notes and drafts in the Leisner Archive (Available at DGPC, Lisbon; Boaventura 2009: *passim*).

Political instability and the beginning of the Spanish Civil War led the Leisners back to Germany where they organized the information they had gathered about known sites from the provinces of Valencia, Alicante, Murcia and Andalucia (Spain) and the Algarve (Portugal). This resulted in their first "*Megalithgräber*" work, dedicated to "*Der Süden*", which was sponsored by the German Archaeological Institute and published as a two volume monograph in the collection "*Römisch-Germanische Forschungen*" (Leisner - Leisner 1943). Published during World War 2, the impact of this first monograph was initially limited due to circulation constraints as well as to the loss of many copies by the end of the war. In fact that was a frequent explanation by the Leisner couple to several inquiries about the volume's whereabouts. Nevertheless, in Iberian Peninsula the review of Martín Almagro Basch in the journal "*Ampurias*"

highlighted the importance of the work (Almagro Basch 1944: *passim*). Moreover, just 5 years after that review, although in several parts the translation of the final chapter of the text's volume might have helped to disseminate the Leisners' main ideas on megaliths (Leisner - Leisner 1949).

Despite the limited circulation of that first volume of "*Megalithgräber*", other articles published in German, Spanish and Portuguese facilitated the dissemination of the Leisners' work. In fact, besides publishing in their native language they always tried to publish or re-publish papers in Spanish and Portuguese.

Although some of the first papers published in Portugal were written in German (Leisner 1940b, 1942), already in 1940 G. Leisner presented in Portuguese an article about the findings recovered at the dolmen of Vale de Rodrigo 1 (Leisner 1940a). And this strategy continued with Georg's conference at the Associação dos Arqueólogos Portugueses - AAP (Portuguese Archaeological Association) on the 7th of February 1945, which was soon after published in Portuguese (Leisner 1945) as well as with other works conducted after the Leisners made their home in Portugal.

4. THE PORTUGUESE "*MEGALITHGRÄBER*" AFFAIR

Following the first volume of "*Megalithgräber*" in 1943, a set of new volumes was planned, aiming to cover the Western Atlantic facade of the Iberian Peninsula. With that purpose the Leisners returned to Portugal on the 17th of November 1943, and soon after started to visit and review the tombs located in the surroundings of Lisbon (Boaventura 2009: *passim*), followed by other regions, namely the Alentejo and Beiras. This visit resulted from an invitation of the Instituto de Alta Cultura - IAA (Portuguese Institute for High Culture), for which the Leisner couple was granted a two-month visa. However, shortly before leaving Germany their house in Munich was destroyed by an air raid, and they lost everything (Schubart 1985, 1990: 5-6). This event led them to live in Portugal for most of the rest of their lives (Fig. 4).

What was expected to be a two-month visit was extended, but not without some problems with the Portuguese security authorities (PVDE 1944), which were solved thanks to the esteem and help of E. Jalhay (1944a, 1944b) and A. Paço (1944a, 1944b) as well as the support from the IAA.

The high consideration for the Leisners' work

is also reflected in the immediate proposal and acceptance of both Georg and Vera as correspondent members of the AAP in December of 1943 (Paço 1943a, 1943b), as well as an invitation a year later from that institution for a conference on the 7th of February 1945 (Paço 1944a; Jalhay 1945b). However, some constraints emerged: E. Jalhay had to inform G. Leisner that, according to Portuguese authorities, he could not invite any German government officials to his presentation (Jalhay 1945a). And due to the same international policies imposed by Portuguese authorities, such limitations blocked G. Leisner from being hired by the University of Coimbra, despite a formal invitation from his peers (Dias 1945a, 1945b, 1945c; Leisner 1945b, 1945c; Boaventura - Langley 2011). After all the German government was about to lose the War.

Nevertheless, despite the international context and subsequent ordeals and hardships the Leisners succeeded in obtaining funding and continued with their "*Megalithgräber*" project: first, with German institutional support (Boaventura - Langley 2007); and later, mostly after the German defeat, with Portuguese institutional support, namely from IAA, the National Museum of Archaeology, and the Casa de Bragança Foundation (Leisner 1949; Leisner - Leisner 1951a, 1951b, 1953a, 1953b, 1955). A letter from G. Leisner to Hugh Hencken, Director of the American School of Prehistoric Research, seems to summarize their situation and goals in 1949, trying to get funding from the USA institutions (Leisner 1949; Boaventura - Langley 2007).

In a very unusual collaboration with M. Heleno (mostly as a supporter of the work), in 1945 the Leisners excavated the dolmen of Cabeças, Arraiolos, as it was a rare example of a gallery dolmen type in southern Portugal (Leisner - Leisner 1951a).

Between 1946-1951, several other tombs were studied in Reguengos de Monsaraz (Leisner - Leisner 1951b, 1956, 1959), and in the following years 1952-1953 more tombs were explored, first on the northern side of Serra d'Ossa, mainly on the land of the Casa de Bragança Foundation (Leisner - Leisner 1955), and later in the area of Montargil, Ponte de Sôr (Leisner - Leisner 1953a).

The reopening in 1954 of the German Archaeological Institute in Madrid brought a new cycle of funding, which allowed the publication in the following decade of three of the planned new set of 4 volumes dedicated to the western part of the Iberian Peninsula. The impact of these volumes, together with the fourth in 1998 (concluded by Philine Kalb),



Fig. 2 - Vera Leisner with António Luís Agostinho and his wife at Vila Fernando, Elvas, in April 16th 1944. IAA-3886. Leisner Archive. Available at DGPC, Lisbon.

has lasted to this day as a reference for the study of megaliths and Megalithism in Iberian Peninsula and Europe.

Although G. Leisner died in 1957, V. Leisner directed the project for another 15 years, establishing new collaborations that made the study of more collections possible, as well as the excavation of several tombs in the area of Lisbon with A. Paço and Leonel Ribeiro (Leisner - Paço - Ribeiro 1964), and with Georges Zbyszewski and O. V. Ferreira (Fig. 5) (Leisner - Ferreira 1959, 1961, 1963; Leisner *et al.* 1961, 1969; Boaventura 2009). In collaboration with L. Ribeiro and sponsored by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the region of Beira Alta continued to be studied and the dolmens of Carapito and Orca das Castenairas were explored (Leisner - Ribeiro 1966, 1968; Ribeiro 1968; Cruz 2001; Senna-Martinez 1989).

Another important achievement by V. Leisner was her role in the decision to install in Lisbon a delegation of the German Archaeological Institute, which brought new German researchers and new insights to Portuguese archaeology (Paço *et al.* 1964; Leisner - Schubart 1964, 1966; Kalb - Höck 1982, 1996; Leisner - Kalb 1998). It also established one of the most important libraries specialized in archaeology in Portugal, which, after the closing of the German Archaeological Institute, remains open under an agreement between the German and Portuguese governments.

5. ON MEGALITHS

A discussion of the Leisners' contribution to the study of megaliths and Megalithism in Portugal throughout their almost forty years of work should also take into account the fact that some of their



Fig. 3 - G. Leisner and helpers at dolmen of Cabeças, Arraiolos, in 1945. Note the piles of dirt identified and recovered from excavation, and awaiting to be sifted. Leisner Archive. Available at DGPC, Lisbon.

initial ideas evolved. They did so because along their journeys G. and V. Leisner gathered old data as well as discovered new contexts, which gave rise to more insights. In that sense, in their conclusion of the 1943 volume they were aware that only after the revision of data from the Portuguese tombs would it be possible to ascertain several questions regarding the relationship between Southeast and Southwest regions of Iberian Peninsula (Leisner - Leisner 1949: 75).

But one first contribution that needs to be highlighted is the systematic way the Leisners compiled and published information from their own work as well as from prior publications, museums and personal communications, which made it possible to understand their reasoning (See for example Boaventura 2009, 2012). Also, besides photographs their illustration of tombs (mostly dolmen) with plans and facades are, in general, reliable and can still be used today, and are especially useful since some of those structures have since then been destroyed. The same can be said about artifact photos and drawings by types and grouped by each tomb.

The regional approach conducted at Reguengos de Monsaraz (Leisner - Leisner 1951b), although limited to dolmens, was also an example followed by later researchers, not only because of their extensive fieldwork, but also because of their publication and data illustration. In fact, A. Viana's favorable impression of the Leisners' book on the dolmens of Reguengos de Monsaraz seems to be due more to its quality and content than to its interpretation from data gathering; contrary to A.

Viana's opinion, the Leisners attributed most of those tombs to the Neolithic, an idea that has been verified and sustained by later researchers (Gonçalves 1992; Boaventura 2009).

For the megalithic tombs of the Iberian Peninsula, the tripartite unilineal sequence of Oscar Montelius, from simple and small megalithic tombs, to passage tombs and finally cists (Montelius 1905), was followed - with nuances - by other researchers, such as Emile Cartailhac (1886), Nils Åberg (1921), and Bosch-Gimpera (1932). The latter author also proposed the origins of megalithic tombs in Northwest of Iberia, first with simple dolmens followed by passage dolmens, and then *tholoi* and rock cut tombs. H. Obermaier accepted this model, with the exception of *tholoi*, which he thought to be a Mediterranean influence (Obermaier 1920, 1925). Within this context it is understandable that the initial work of G. Leisner focused on Northern Portugal and the Galician megaliths (Leisner 1934a, 1938b). In later work with V. Leisner, they looked into possible parallels and influences from the Middle East and Egypt regarding the origins of certain megalithic tombs and artifacts of the Southern Iberian Peninsula (Leisner 1942; Leisner - Leisner 1943, 1949).

However, the continued gathering of archaeological data made the Leisners revisit and question some of their earlier ideas. This could be seen in G. Leisner's conference in 1945 at the AAP, when he questioned "(...) *a sequência evolutiva perfeita e ininterrupta de todas as formas arquitectónicas, a começar nos pequenos dólmenes, e que, passando pelas sepulturas megalíticas de corredor e pelas de cúpula, vai até às cistas de pedra?*" (...) "*Ou dever-se-ão distinguir nessa arquitectura correntes culturais diversas, que não se seguindo numa cronologia absoluta, decorrem de certo modo inter-relacionadas? E, neste caso não serão algumas das formas intermediárias, em vez de testemunhos de um desenvolvimento progressivo, comprovativas sim da influência recíproca de tipos fundamentais, existentes a priori e paralelos?*" (Leisner 1945a: 11).

Despite this refinement the general evolution from simple to complex structures and then Bronze Age cists was maintained by V. Leisner, especially when sets of artifacts were associated with those architectural types (Leisner 1967 - 1983). To this day, this is still an operative scheme, despite recent evidence for other types of interment (Gonçalves 1992; Oliveira 1997; Rocha 2005; Boaventura 2009; Boaventura - Mataloto 2013; Valera 2012).

Six main contributions, among others, resulted

from the work that Georg and Vera Leisner conducted together and in collaboration with other researchers, which helped to change some perspectives about archaeological record in Portugal. They also helped to situate Portuguese archaeology in broader European discussions about megalithic tombs and Megalithism (Childe 1958; Renfrew 1967; Savory 1974; Sherratt 1990).

1. Their excavation of Poço da Gateira 1 set an example for an earliest type of dolmen (Fig. 5), where deceased individuals covered with ochre were leaned against the slabs, and buried with specific sets of artifacts: geometrics, blades, ground stone tools (adzes, axes and gouges) and mainly plain spheroid vases (Leisner - Leisner 1951b: 212-220, 1959: 203-205). This site became mythic after the thermoluminescent dating of some of those ceramic vases, placing it in the 5th millennium BCE (Whittle - Arnaud 1975), which was used as proof for an older origin of megalithic tombs and Megalithism. However, recent research suggests that this date is not acceptable, and that the use of this dolmen occurred much later, in the second half of the 4th millennium BCE (Boaventura 2009; Boaventura - Mataloto 2013).

2. The excavation of the dolmens of Comenda 2 and Farisoa 1 revealed other tomb structures of the *tholos* type built into the mounds and annexed to its passages (Leisner - Leisner 1951b: 35-38, 255-232, 284-294). This archaeological evidence, generated before radiocarbon dating, established the precedence of dolmens to *tholoi* and put into question the Mediterranean origin of such structures (the *tholoi*) as models for megalithic structures. Although more elaborate, and already pinpointed and sensed by the Leisners, the recent excavation of Olival da Pega 2 also revealed a similar situation (Gonçalves 2003: *passim*, 1999: *passim*).

3. In the the region of Reguengos de Monsaraz, where Poço da Gateira 1 and Comenda 2 are located, the Leisner's demonstrated, through their systematic recording of tomb and passage orientations, that there was a general tendency for the tombs to be oriented towards the east-southeast and possibly the rising sun (Leisner - Leisner 1951b: *passim*). Although current researchers are not in agreement as to whether this orientation patterning is related to the Sun or the Moon (Hoskin 2001; Silva 2004; Silva - Calado 2003), this fact was first archaeologically demonstrated by the Leisners.



Fig. 4 - Vera Leisner at the dolmen of Casaínhos with O. V. Ferreira, Manuel Leitão and Camarate França in February 17th 1961. IAA-10016. Leisner Archive. Available at DGPC, Lisbon.

4. The excavation of the dolmen of Casas do Canal 1 revealed a funerary deposition in the passage associated with a set of Bell Beaker artifacts (Leisner - Leisner 1955: 5-9). The fact that this action implicated a reorganization of the tomb, through the blocking of the entrance to the chamber, demonstrated a later Bell Beaker use of the tomb. Again, the archaeological evidence recovered by the Leisners helped to clarify, before the use of radiocarbon dating, the late chronological situation of Bell Beaker artifacts. This evidence was so important that even Vere Gordon Childe admitted to G. Leisner that those results made it "*absolutely necessary (...) to write a new version of the Dawn of European Civilisation*" (Childe 1955), which he did (Childe 1958, 1969).

5. After the death of G. Leisner in 1957, V. Leisner continued with their projected work and sought out new collaborations. In the area of Lisbon, her collaboration with G. Zbyszewski and O.V. Ferreira led to the excavation of Praia das Maças (Leisner *et al.* 1969). This site revealed a composite tomb where



Fig. 5 - Vera Leisner at her home, in Lisbon, possibly in the 1960s. IAA-9863.

a *tholos* was partially built into and attached to an earlier rock cut tomb. The artifacts collected inside the earlier tomb differed from the *tholos* objects, demonstrating an archaeological precedence of the first burial structure.

6. Although O.V. Ferreira was the first to introduce radiocarbon dating of archaeological contexts in Portugal (Soares 2007), megalithic tombs were first dated by V. Leisner and O.V. Ferreira's initiative, thanks to the support of the German Archaeological Institute (Leisner - Ferreira 1963; Leisner 1964). That was the case of the Praia das Maças rock cut tomb and *tholos* that, after the archaeological phasing previously mentioned, and despite the wide range of calibrated dates, demonstrated an absolute chronological difference between the different tomb types (Soares - Cabral 1984).

6. EPILOGUE

In spite of Georg Leisner might be considered the pioneer of the "*Megalithgräber*" project, this endeavor would not have been so successful or possible without the "*Leisnerianum*", that is with the collaboration of Vera Leisner, moreover when she continued by her own merit the project after Georg's death. The study of megalithic tombs and Megalithism still owes the German couple a debt of gratitude for the immense work they produced, and they are an example of dedication that we should follow. As we are reminded every day, we are a product of our times as much as of the accumulated knowledge of those that preceded us.

Alfragide, December 2015

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POLÍTICA EDITORIAL

A *Ophiussa* – Revista do Centro de Arqueologia da Universidade de Lisboa foi iniciada sob a direcção de Victor S. Gonçalves em 1996, tendo sido editado o volume 0. O volume 1 (2017) é uma edição impressa e digital da UNIARQ – Centro de Arqueologia da Universidade de Lisboa.

O principal objectivo desta revista é a publicação e divulgação de trabalhos com manifesto interesse, qualidade e rigor científico sobre temas de Pré-História e Arqueologia, sobretudo do território europeu e da bacia do Mediterrâneo.

A *Ophiussa* – Revista do Centro de Arqueologia da Universidade de Lisboa publicará um volume anual. A partir de 2018, os artigos submetidos serão sujeitos a um processo de avaliação por parte de revisores externos (*peer review*). O período de submissão de trabalhos decorrerá sempre no primeiro trimestre e a edição ocorrerá no último trimestre de cada ano.

A revista divide-se em duas secções: artigos científicos e recensões bibliográficas. Excepcionalmente poderão ser aceites textos de carácter introdutório, no âmbito de homenagens ou divulgações específicas, que não serão submetidos à avaliação por pares. Isentas desta avaliação estão também as recensões bibliográficas.

Todas as submissões serão avaliadas, em primeira instância, pela Coordenação Editorial, no que respeita ao seu conteúdo formal e à sua adequação face à política editorial e às normas de edição da revista. Os trabalhos que cumprirem estes requisitos serão posteriormente submetidos a um processo de avaliação por pares cega / *blind peer review* (mínimo de dois revisores). O Conselho Científico, constituído pela direcção da UNIARQ e por investigadores externos, seleccionará os revisores e acompanhará o processo de edição.

Esta etapa será concretizada por investigadores externos qualificados, sendo os respectivos pareceres entregues num período não superior a três meses. Os revisores procederão à avaliação de forma objectiva, tendo em vista a qualidade do conteúdo da revista; as suas críticas, sugestões e comentários serão, na medida do possível, construtivos, respeitando as capacidades intelectuais do(s) autor(es). Após a recepção dos pareceres, o(s) autor(es) tem um prazo máximo de um mês para proceder às alterações oportunas e reenviar o trabalho.

A aceitação ou recusa de artigos terá como únicos factores de ponderação a sua originalidade e qualidade científica. O processo de revisão é confidencial, estando assegurado o anonimato dos avaliadores e dos autores dos trabalhos, neste último caso até à data da sua publicação.

Os trabalhos só serão aceites para publicação a partir do momento em que se conclua o processo da revisão por pares. Os textos que não forem aceites serão devolvidos aos seus autores.

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Esta publicação dispõe de uma versão impressa, a preto e branco, com uma tiragem limitada, que será distribuída gratuitamente pelas bibliotecas e instituições mais relevantes internacionalmente, e intercambiada com publicações periódicas da mesma especialidade, que serão integradas na Biblioteca da Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa. Conta, paralelamente, com uma versão digital, a cores, disponibilizada no endereço www.ophiussa.letras.ulisboa.pt, onde se pode consultar a totalidade da edição.

Para mais informações contactar: uniarq@letras.ulisboa.pt

OPHIUSSA

EDITORIAL POLICY

Ophiussa – Revista do Centro de Arqueologia da Universidade de Lisboa started under the direction of Victor S. Gonçalves in 1996, with the edition of volume 0. Volume 1 (2017) is a printed and digital edition of UNIARQ – Centro de Arqueologia da Universidade de Lisboa.

The main objective of this journal is the publication and dissemination of papers of interest, quality and scientific rigor concerning Prehistory and Archeology, mostly from Europe and the Mediterranean basin.

Ophiussa – Revista do Centro de Arqueologia da Universidade de Lisboa will publish an annual volume. From 2018, submitted articles will be subject to a peer-review evaluation process. The submission period will always occur in the first quarter of each year and the edition will occur in the last quarter.

The journal is divided into two sections: scientific articles and bibliographic reviews. Exceptionally, texts of an introductory nature may be accepted, in the context of specific tributes or divulgations, which will not be submitted to peer-review evaluation. Exemptions from this evaluation are also the bibliographic reviews.

All submissions will be considered, in the first instance, by the Editorial Board, regarding its formal content and adequacy in face of the editorial policy and the journal's editing standards. Papers that meet these requirements will subsequently be submitted to a blind peer-review process (minimum of two reviewers). The Scientific Council, constituted by the directors of UNIARQ and external researchers, will select the peer-reviewers and follow the editing process.

This stage will be carried out by qualified external researchers, and their feedback will be delivered within a period of no more than two months. The reviewers will carry out the evaluation in an objective manner, in view of the quality and content of the journal; their criticisms, suggestions and comments will be, as far as possible, constructive, respecting the intellectual abilities of the author(s). After receiving the feedback, the author(s) has a maximum period of one month to make the necessary changes and resubmit the work.

Acceptance or refusal of articles will have as sole factors of consideration their originality and scientific quality. The review process is confidential, with the anonymity of the evaluators and authors of the works being ensured, in the latter case up to the date of its publication.

Papers will only be accepted for publication as soon as the peer review process is completed. Texts that are not accepted will be returned to their authors.

The content of the works is entirely the responsibility of the author(s) and does not express the position or opinion of the Scientific Council or Editorial Board.

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Texts proposed for publication must be unpublished and should not have been submitted to any other journal or electronic edition. Works written in Portuguese, English, Spanish, Italian and French are accepted.

This edition immediately and freely provides all of its content, in open access, in order to promote global circulation and exchange of scientific research and knowledge.

This publication has a limited printed edition in black and white, which will be distributed free of charge by the most relevant international libraries and institutions, and exchanged with periodicals of the same specialty, which will be integrated in the Library of Faculdade de Letras of Universidade de Lisboa. It also has a digital version, in color, available at address www.ophiussa.letras.ulisboa.pt, where one can consult the entire edition.

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