

Franklin Roosevelt's maritime heritage

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Why does a person go to sea? Why?

This is a great question. It is also one that is probably best handed to the poets for an answer. And what could yours truly possibly tell a Portuguese audience about poetry?

An answer in the form of prose, one that has always moved me, is formed by the combination of two journal entries made by Franklin Roosevelt's uncle Edward Delano in December 1840, upon his arrival at Macau on the South China coast.

The first entry, penned the very day he arrived, states that "Macao Houses look like prisons to me."¹

The second, written just one day later, on 9 December 1840, states: "am pleased with Macao — it exceeds my anticipations on my first arrival, the exterior of the dwelling houses struck me unfavorably — so much like those at home."²

Our maritime wanderer, Edward Delano, was twenty-two years old and this was his first overseas trip. His home was Fairhaven, Massachusetts.³

The combination of the two entries is at once delightful and profound. Having traveled halfway around the world, our wanderer connects the idea of being in prison with the memory of home — Fairhaven. That memory was triggered not by nibbling a madeleine, after Proust, but rather by the simple plain white architecture, and the sights and sounds of the Portuguese colony of Macau. Some prison, indeed!

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1 Edward Delano 1840 copybook entitled "Excerpts, Definitions, & Copys of Letters and Memoranda," unpaginated entry dated 8 December 1840. Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Delano Family Papers.

2 Edward Delano Diary, entry dated 9 December 1840. Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Delano Family Papers.

3 Frederic D. Grant, Jr., "Edward Delano and Warren Delano II: Case Studies in American China Trader Attitudes Toward the Chinese, 1834-1844" (Honors Thesis, Bates College, 1976), pp. 10 and 12.

So it is that one heads out to sea for adventure, for fortune, for a change of pace, dare one say — for release from confinement. This may be Edward Delano's message.

White Houses

FDR's Uncle Ned was not alone in being reminded of home by Macau.

Catherine Delano, FDR's grandmother, had much the same reaction when she arrived at Macau as a new wife four years later. She wrote her mother in 1844 that the harbor and its hillside covered with white houses with white shutters reminded her of Nahant, on the Massachusetts coast north of Boston. She settled in at "Arrowdale," their residence on the Ridge at Macau, and declared herself "the happiest person living."⁴

Seventy-four years later, Franklin Delano Roosevelt used similar words to describe the sight of Fayal from the sea. "The island of Fayal looks lovely from here; lots of little pure white houses dotting the slopes and well cultivated small fields, and above towers the big old volcano 3500 feet high."⁵ The perspective FDR shares in this famous passage is not the same as that of his uncle or grandmother. He does not say that Fayal reminded him of home, but of course for him home had never been in Fairhaven, or at Macau, or in close proximity to a volcano. Franklin Roosevelt certainly did like what he saw.

To place these three remarks in context, it is necessary to consider where these wandering Delanos came from, where they went by sea, and the process by which they kept these memories alive. Franklin Roosevelt's immediate Delano forbears were a remarkably cohesive group. The continual writing and record keeping through which they kept in close touch, which are somewhat typical of their time and place,⁶ pro-

4 Geoffrey C. Ward, *Before the Trumpet: Young Franklin Roosevelt 1882-1905* (New York: Harper & Row, 1985), pp. 79-80; Rachel Tamar Van, "Free Trade & Family Values: Kinship Networks and the Culture of Early American Capitalism" (Ph.D. diss., Columbia University, 2011) p. 332; Susan I. Lesley, *Memoir of the Life of Mrs. Anne Jean Lyman* (Cambridge, Mass.: Press of John Wilson & Son, 1875), p. 443.

5 Elliott Roosevelt (ed.), *F.D.R.: His Personal Letters 1905-1928* (New York, N.Y.: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1948), pp. 379-80; Mário Mesquita, "A Escala de Roosevelt nos Açores durante a Primeira Guerra Mundial," *Boletim do Instituto Histórico da Ilha Terceira*, Vol. 44, pp. 37-67 (1986), p. 54.

6 LH Butterfield, "Bostonians and their Neighbors as Pack Rats," *The American Archivist*, Vol. 24, pp. 141-59 (1961).

vide a remarkable and to date underutilized paper record of their activities.⁷ They got up, got going and took risks. This is the tradition behind Sara Delano Roosevelt's declaration to the young FDR that "it is the Roosevelt in you that got you into this predicament, and it is the Delano in you that will find a way out." This is also the maritime heritage that had an enormous influence on Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Where they came from

Fairhaven had long been home to this group of Delanos. It is a small town, situated at the mouth of the Acushnet River on the southern coast of Massachusetts. As with New Bedford, across the river, Fairhaven owed its prosperity to the sea. This was an important whaling center, and Fairhaven played a key and underappreciated role in the constant activities on both sides of the river.⁸ The community tended toward simplicity, in keeping with the Quaker origins of many of its early leaders. The modest houses of the area, in the white or light colors evoked by Edward Delano, can be seen in paintings such as Joseph Shoemaker Russell's 1812 view down Union Street in New Bedford and across the river to Fairhaven,⁹ and in William Alan Wall's locally well-known "New Bedford in 1807," and his painting of Purchase Street in about 1810.¹⁰ The early and active connections between this major whaling center and the Azores are well known.

7 Significant work has been done with the Delano records. Geoffrey C. Ward, who is now the dean of the small group of Delano scholars, has made important contributions, some of which are cited in this paper. Professor RJC Butow has done valuable work, cited herein, tending to focus on the Delano relationship with the sea. Christine Totten has produced a remarkable and useful work, the product of staggering numbers of hours of research into Delano records, which focuses on Sara Delano Roosevelt and others of that generation. The Totten opus yet awaits publication, and a publisher.

8 Clifford W. Ashley, *The Yankee Whaler* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1926), pp. 40-41 ("Little has been said of the part Fairhaven played in the whale fishery, but this is because her history is indissolubly bound with New Bedford's. They used the same harbor, and the ships of the two towns docked indiscriminately on either side of the river wherever there happened to be a vacant berth. They hauled out more frequently in Fairhaven than in New Bedford. In 1852 fifty whalers were registered from Fairhaven, but this by no means indicates the extent of her interests; for her merchants owned shares in many New Bedford ships.")

9 *New Bedford and Old Dartmouth: A Portrait of a Region's Past: A Bicentennial Exhibition of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society at the Whaling Museum in New Bedford* (Dartmouth, Mass.: Old Dartmouth Historical Society, 1975), pp. 30-31.

10 *Ibidem*, pp. 26-27 and 29.

Fairhaven had Portuguese residents and New Bedford a significant Portuguese community from an early day.¹¹ A local weekly, *O Luso-Americano*, was briefly published in New Bedford starting in about the year Franklin Roosevelt was born.¹²

Where they went by sea

Many Delanos went to sea and had farflung adventures. Captain Amasa Delano of Duxbury (1763-1823), for example, brought the news of the Pitcairn colony of *Bounty* mutineers to the world in 1817.¹³ Captain Paul Delano of Fairhaven (1775-1842) and his son were heroes of the Chilean naval war for independence from Spain.¹⁴ The China trade voyages of Warren Delano II (1809-1898) are well known, and I shall not neglect the subject, but the sea life of other members of FDR's immediate family have received less attention. Ephraim Delano (1733-1815), FDR's great-great grandfather, was a sea captain.¹⁵ Warren Delano I (1779-1866), FDR's great-grandfather, is usually remembered as a whaler,¹⁶ but he had been extensively involved in commercial voyages before turning to whaling. In an autobiographical record he tells of twenty-four transatlantic voyages between 1800 and 1815, and specifically mentions calls at the Cape Verde and Canary Islands. He had a difficult time at sea. Much of his accumulated earnings went into the ship *Arab*, launched at Fairhaven in 1810, but he and that ship were captured by the British sloop of war *Avenger* on 20 July 1812, shortly after the outbreak of the war of 1812. Captain Warren Delano was held through September, when he was released as part of a prisoner exchange, but he lost the underinsured *Arab*, a se-

11 Henry Roseman Lang, "The Portuguese Element in New England," *Journal of American Folk-Lore*, Vol. 5, pp. 9-18 (1892), p. 10 ("The Portuguese colony in New Bedford being the oldest as well as the largest and most prosperous in the State [...]. There are also Portuguese residents in the adjacent towns of Dartmouth, Acushnet, and Fairhaven.")

12 *Ibidem*, pp. 9-18 (1892), p. 11 ("It is in New Bedford, again that some ten years ago a Portuguese weekly, *O Luso-Americano*, was published, which unfortunately, enjoyed only a very short existence.")

13 Amasa Delano, *A Narrative of Voyages and Travels in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres* (Boston: E.G. House, 1817), pp. 111-51.

14 Daniel W. Delano, Jr., *Franklin Roosevelt and the Delano Influence* (Pittsburgh: James S. Nudi Publications, 1946), pp. 87-91.

15 *Ibidem*, pp. 42 and 46; Charles A. Harris, *Old-Time Fairhaven* (New Bedford: Reynolds Printing, 1947), pp. 47 and 228.

16 *Ibidem*.

were setback for him. In January 1815, Captain Warren Delano was captured again, the brig *Mary Ann* of which he was part owner being taken by the 50 gun British frigate *Severn* near Georgetown, South Carolina. The British refused to release him upon news of peace, but instead carried him off to Bermuda where he was held on a prison ship and finally sent ashore to find his way home. Warren Delano I returned home "sick enough" of his hard luck, and found that all his maritime interests had dwindled to a part interest in the brig *Pin-dus*, which he took on a commercial voyage between New York and Teneriffe from which he returned in November 1815. Thereafter, Warren Delano I confined his interests primarily to whaling ships.¹⁷

The China coast activities of Warren Delano II, his son, are considerable, and of historical importance, but were not especially maritime. He had lengthy residences on the China coast, residing variously at Canton, at the magnificent residence Arrowdale at Macao, and at the Rose Hill property in Hong Kong. He seems to have liked the confined or dare one say "prison-like" Canton of pre-Treaty days, writing in 1842:

that place after all that is said about it is a quiet Comfortable place for a moderate man and as for its climate there is none better in the World and its residents are usually in the enjoyment of health as good as that of the residents of Macao — Still Ned has the bad taste to prefer Macao where he can smell the Sea breeze — as if he had not got enough of that on his voyage of 160 days out from New York.¹⁸

Warren Delano II did business on the China coast during the dramatic and important years of 1834 through 1846 — yes, he and his firm were substantially engaged in the opium trade —, a period punctuated by the 1843 trip home during which he was married. He returned to the China coast in 1860 and remained there through 1866

17 "A Brief Account of the Sea-Life of Warren Delano of Fairhaven, as Detailed by Him to His Son Edward Delano, December 3rd, 1849" (typescript). Franklin Roosevelt Library, Roosevelt Family Papers, Series VI: Papers of the Delano Family, Box 113, Folder "1840 — 1860"; R.J.C. Butow, "Thar She Spaouts and Blows!," *Naval History* (US Naval Institute), Vol. 3, pp. 22-27 (1989) (information from six Delano family whaling ships' log-books donated by Frederic A. Delano to the Business Historical Society in 1934 and now at the Baker Library, Harvard Business School).

18 Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Delano Family Papers, Warren Delano II Correspondence, letter per "Huntress," to "My dear Brothers & Sisters" dated Macao June 20th 1842."

recouping a fortune which had been battered by the Depression of 1857. Rebuilding took longer than expected, and in 1866 Catherine Delano and her seven children, including the eight year old Sara Delano [Roosevelt] (1854-1941) (FDR's mother), sailed out to join him on the clipper ship *Surprise*, Captain Ranlett, a voyage that stands out in family memory. FDR's uncle Frederic A. Delano (1863-1953), the great-grandfather for whom I was named, was born in Hong Kong in 1863. Many other Delanos lived or did business in China, only a few of whom I will mention here. Dora Delano Forbes, FDR's aunt, married two partners in Russell & Co. in sequence, resided in Shanghai, and then moved to Paris where she lived elegantly until the German invasion in World War II.¹⁹ Louise Delano (Mrs. Sherwood Cheney), one of Frederic A. Delano's daughters, died in Beijing in 1923. Captain Joseph C. Delano (1796-1886), cousin of Warren Delano II, had a wide ranging career at sea which included several China voyages.²⁰ FDR delighted in these memories and associations, and the papers associated with them, but sometimes confused his facts. He was fond of telling how the family party on the *Surprise* had narrowly escaped being captured by the Confederate raider *Alabama*. Yet the Delanos had set sail in late June 1862. The *Alabama* — launched at the end of July — did not reach the Azores to be armed and have her crew brought on board until the end of August. At that time the *Surprise* had already made it past the Cape of Good Hope and was sailing across the Indian Ocean to a happy ending.²¹

The Opium War was not an easy time for any human on the China coast. Being confused with the British was a serious problem for United States citizens, who were warned not to wear short trousers, because Chinese soldiers believed that it was the British who wore shorts and therefore shot at those so attired. In March 1841,

19 Geoffrey C. Ward, *Before the Trumpet*, pp. 66-78 and 87-95; Geoffrey C. Ward and Frederic D. Grant, Jr., "A Fair, Honorable, and Legitimate Trade," *American Heritage*, Vol. 37, pp. 49-65 (1986); Charles A. Harris, *Old-Time Fairhaven*, p. 229; RJC Butow, "A Notable Passage to China: Myth and Memory in FDR's Family History, Part III," Prologue [US National Archives and Records Administration], Vol. 31, pp. 159-72 (1999), pp. 160 and 170, available at: <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1999/fall/roosevelt-family-history-3.html>.

20 Francis Beacham Whitlock, *Two New-Yorkers: Editor and Sea Captain* (New York: The Newcomen Society of England, 1945).

21 RJC Butow, "A Notable Passage to China," Vol. 31, pp. 159-72 (1999), pp. 159, 171-72 and 177, available at: <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1999/fall/roosevelt-family-history-3.html>.

Warren Delano II was captured by Chinese soldiers who thought he was a British citizen. The experience angered him, not only because he was already disgusted by British atrocities and did not appreciate being associated with the war party. By contrast with his father, who was held twice and at length by the British and lost heavily on both occasions, the son's Chinese captivity was brief and involved no financial loss. Warren Delano II described the episode in a letter to his brother Edward:

Well, in the city, I was brought before His Excellency, the Commissioner Yong [Military Assistant Governor Yang Fang], a decrepit looking man of the age of 74 years, with bleared eyes, and deaf as a haddock, who asked me some foolish questions, examined my clothing, hat, shoes and cane, expressed his surprise that my head was not shaved. He took my hands, examining them carefully, and smelling them, asked me to unbutton my shirt-bosom and show my hide, which I did, and he then pronounced me a good man, an excellent man, one of the best men he had ever known, and seizing a lousy, ragged dirty soldier, who stood within three inches of His Excellency, said I was "all the same as he." My friend the Qwang Chow Foo, was present, and provided me a chair, and also accompanied me to the Consoo House, where in the presence of Howqua and Mowqua I explained the atrocious nature of their firing at the flag of truce [...] and urged them by all means to effect a settlement, while it is yet possible.²²

Warren Delano II and Edward Delano were sympathetic to the Chinese side and horrified by the British conduct of the Opium War. Their papers include numerous illustrations of such sentiments. Their occasional irritation with the Chinese side arose from frustration that the Chinese could not administer at least one good solid defeat to the foreign aggressor. One example, a letter Warren Delano II wrote from Macau in March 1842, nicely combines his sympathies for the Chinese with a lampoon of the pretensions of the British in China:

22 Letter from Warren Delano II to Edward Delano, dated Canton 18 March 1841. Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Frederic A. Delano Papers, "Transcripts of Letters from Warren Delano (II) to Members of Russell & Co. during the Sino-British Opium War, 1840-1841."

Well — what has [Sir Henry] Pottinger done? He proceeded first to Amoy where an attack was made upon the forts; the Chinese would not and could not fight, but ran away as the English landed, leaving a hundred or more slain — while the assailants lost not a man. Pottinger issued a proclamation giving the details of the glorious feats performed by the Br[itish] Forces and complimented the Chinese upon the gallant and determined defense they made — adding “but had their resistance been a hundred times greater than it was, the result would have been the same — as *nothing* could withstand the impetuous valour of H.M.’s forces of all arms” — “God save the Queen.” This piece of gasconade delighted the British hereabouts most mightily and said they “What a splendid fellow is Sir Henry.”²³

The process of keeping memory alive

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born on January 30, 1882. His uncle Ned had died the year before he was born, at sea, yachting off Mount Desert Island in Maine. The Opium War was then forty years over, and the magnificent family house in Macau, Arrowdale, was also forty years gone, having burned in April 1845.²⁴ Warren Delano’s Newburgh estate house Algonac burned in 1916, destroying more records of the past.²⁵ Troves of memorabilia and family papers yet remained in various locations. The most important records were stored in and about the Homestead property in Fairhaven, which Franklin Roosevelt regularly visited in the summer when he was young.²⁶ He delighted in these records throughout his life, perhaps first drawn into them by his stamp collecting, and then actively caught by the live connection between these papers and the stories he had heard. His memory — his associations with these places and events — started with vivid stories told him by his grandparents, who lived close by at Algonac in New-

23 Letter from Warren Delano II to Franklin H. Delano dated Macao 29 March 1842. Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Delano Family Papers, Warren Delano II Correspondence, Folder 1840-1842.

24 Susan I. Lesley, *Memoir of the Life of Mrs. Anne Jean Lyman* (Cambridge, Mass.: Press of John Wilson & Son, 1875), p. 447; RJC Butow, “A Notable Passage to China,” Vol. 31, pp. 159-72 (1999), p. 170, available at: <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1999/fall/roosevelt-family-history-3.html>.

25 Geoffrey C. Ward, *Before the Trumpet*, p. 119 n. 2.

26 RJC Butow, “A Notable Passage to China,” Vol. 31, pp. 159-72 (1999), p. 159, available at: <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1999/fall/roosevelt-family-history-3.html>.

burgh, New York, across the Hudson River, and also by his mother and by various aunts and uncles. FDR was a favorite, and he had the opportunity to know his Delano grandparents well. His grandmother Catherine Lyman Delano died in 1896 when he was fourteen years old, and his grandfather Warren Delano II in 1898, days before FDR’s sixteenth birthday. His mother, who died in 1941, and his uncle Frederic A. Delano, who outlived the President, shared an active interest in family stories and records with Franklin Roosevelt.²⁷ Close community, and memory, were essential parts of their Delano heritage.

It is time to return to the positive view of modest white houses. FDR’s uncle and grandmother each associated their own memory of home with the modest white or light colored houses that were then common in Macau.²⁸ A similar modest architecture and white or light color characterized the common Fairhaven houses that Edward Delano knew, and which the young Franklin Roosevelt saw as well. FDR’s observation of houses of this type in Fayal is in accord with literature available to this writer.²⁹ His consistently positive view of the Azores is at odds with some grumpy American visitors who are quoted in books.³⁰ It is hard to know whether those complainers were out of the

27 *Ibidem*, pp. 159-72 (1999), p. 170 (“In November 1934 a woman in Massachusetts sent him [FDR] a photograph that her late father-in-law, Dr. Peter Parker, a well-known American medical missionary in China, had taken in the mid-1840s. FDR immediately wrote to his Uncle Fred, enclosing this “extremely interesting picture of the old house in Macao,” which struck him as “a most attractive place.” In December he sent reproductions of the photo to his mother, her surviving sisters Dora and Kassie, and to several other relatives, along with holiday greetings. He explained that “a lady in Ohio” (actually, Massachusetts) had sent him “a small, old photograph marked on the back ‘Arrowdale, former residence of Warren Delano [...] partially burned in April 1845.’” It reminded him, he said, of a pencil-drawing he had seen at the Homestead, depicting the Delano home in Macao.”).

28 Jonathan Porter, *Macau: The Imaginary City: Culture and Society, 1557 to the Present* (Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1996), p. 78 (as of the 16th and early 17th centuries in Macau, it had become “customary to paint the exteriors of private residences and many public buildings in bright shades of yellow, green, pink, and blue. In the humid, tropical climate, these colors soon became faded and stained by mildew and rain. Though the buildings were often freshened with new coat of paint, the constant weathering produced an endless variation of muted pastel shades that lent to the city a look of perpetual somnolence and decay yet — all the more so for these reasons — a gracious and relaxed ambience that perfectly reflected the lethargic condition of its commerce through the centuries after the collapse of prosperity in the 1640s.”). Francis M. Rogers speaks of how the Azores, like Macau, “survived in a state of isolation.” Francis M. Rogers, *Atlantic Islanders of the Azores and Madeiras* (North Quincy, Mass.: The Christopher Publishing House, 1979), p. 11.

29 José Manuel Fernandes, *História Ilustrada da Arquitectura dos Açores* (Instituto Açoriano de Cultura, 2008), pp. 9, 30 and 35.

30 Francis M. Rogers, *Atlantic Islanders of the Azores and Madeiras* (North Quincy, Mass.: The Christopher Publishing House, 1979), pp. 129 (George Crowninshield of Salem commented about Fayal in 1817 that “The streets are not so dirty as those of Lisbon, nor the

cultural mainstream (to use a modern American phrasing) or whether FDR found something here that connected with him as a person. It is my view that there was more in the Azores that FDR found familiar than just architecture. He commented on Yankee associations with the Dabney family on Fayal, and there is more than that. A daughter of the Hickling family of São Miguel married Thomas Nye, Jr. of New Bedford, a clan otherwise engaged in the China trade. Their daughter Emma married a son of John Murray Forbes (1847-1904), a remarkable trader and investor, also a friend of Warren Delano II and a partner with him in the China coast firm of Russell & Co.³¹ It is hard today to unravel the web of connections among FDR and other children of the families that did well in foreign trade in the 19th century, but one senses that Azores ties existed. It is also difficult to reconstruct Delano memories of Portuguese Macau, but they had spent many years in that community, and were nostalgic without question about the Arrowdale residence. That too must have touched Franklin Roosevelt. The Portuguese presence in Fairhaven and New Bedford must be mentioned as well. It is not just that the Portuguese were an important part of these communities and that FDR encountered Portuguese residents and their culture, but that there is a similarity between the Delano emphasis on family as community and Portuguese traditions which center on the family.³² The depth of this appreciation bears further study, but the unity of spirit is there.

The emphasis on Britain, in the preceding brief recounting of maritime heritage, was intentional. As President, Franklin Roosevelt showed himself to be wary of British imperial designs. The United States was firmly joined in a war partnership with Great Britain, but it was an alert friendship. Franklin Roosevelt was a keen student of history. Indeed, his view of the Azores was informed by the memory of "the famous fight of the privateer *General Armstrong* in the War of 1812 against two British men-of-war."³³

beggars so numerous.") and 130 (sharp comments about Horta by Samuel Langhorne Clemens ["Mark Twain"] on his visit in 1867).

31 *Ibidem*, pp. 149-50 and 154; Jacques M. Downs, *The Golden Ghetto: The American Commercial Community at Canton and the Shaping of American China Policy, 1784-1844* (Bethlehem: Lehigh University Press, 1997), p. 224; Duncan Yaggy, "John Forbes: Entrepreneur" (Ph.D. diss., Brandeis University, 1974); "Forbes, John Murray," *Dictionary of American Biography* (Allen Johnson and Dumas Malone, eds.; New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1931), Vol. 6, pp. 507-08.

32 Francis M. Rogers, *Atlantic Islanders*, pp. 310-16.

33 Elliott Roosevelt (ed.), *FDR: His Personal Letters 1905-1928* (New York, N.Y.: Duell,

It is my view that FDR's cautious view of Great Britain was ingrained, at least in part the product of the strong reactions of his great-grandfather and his grandfather to two instances of imprisonment and severe financial loss, in the first case, and of having been witness to British "atrocities" (Warren Delano's words) in China³⁴ in the second case. This too may involve echoes of Delano experience in Macau, as the British who had a poorly concealed interest in taking the territory seized it briefly in 1808, twenty-six years before Warren Delano II arrived in China. The Macanese bristled, but allowed the British armed forces to enter under mutually agreed conditions set by their wise Judge Miguel de Arriaga. As anticipated, the antics of British forces so infuriated the Chinese officials that they first cut off trade, and then marched an army, which accomplished an orderly evacuation of British forces from Macau in mid-December 1808.³⁵ The British, historic friends of Portugal,³⁶ then tried to occupy a part of the Azores just a few years later. When a tiny island grew out of the ocean between São Miguel and Terceira in 1811, it was taken in the name of Britain by the captain of a British warship who named the island Sabrina, after his ship. In this case, Portugal did not have to cut off trade or send an army. The earth itself resolved the matter by retracting the island and its Union Jack adornment back beneath the waves, drowning that British claim to Portuguese land.³⁷

Sloan and Pearce, 1948), pp. 379-80; Mário Mesquita, "A Escala de Roosevelt nos Açores durante a Primeira Guerra Mundial," *Boletim do Instituto Histórico da Ilha Terceira*, Vol. 44, pp. 37-67 (1986), p. 54.

34 Warren Delano II wrote in September 1841 that over the last four days "some half a dozen of HBM's vessels of war have been committing *atrocities* in the vicinity of Canton, which has made it necessary for most of the foreigners to restrict to Whampoa — and it looks a little as if we might have to stop a few months in Macao to do nothing." Letter from Warren Delano II to "dear Brothers and Sisters" dated Macao 15 September 1841. Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Delano Family Papers, Warren Delano II Correspondence, Folder 1840-1842. As a further example, Edward Delano described his visit to the Chuenpi and Taikoktow forts near Canton on 12 January 1841 — five days after the British attacked them — in a long and bitter diary entry. "Some — nearly all of the bodies I saw had received their death blows or shot in the head — many it appeared on the alarm rushed into the water, having no means of defense, and were there shot down by the sailors. What horrid butchery! It is evident enough that it should be considered butchery when there was but one of the assailants punished." Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Delano Family Papers, Edward Delano Diary, 12 January 1841.

35 Austin M. Coates, *Macao and the British, 1637-1842: Prelude to Hong Kong* (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2009), pp. 94-99.

36 Like any proper friendship, it has experienced strains from time to time. Sandro Sid-eri, *Trade and Power: Informal Colonialism in Anglo-Portuguese Relations* (Rotterdam: Rotterdam University Press, 1970).

37 Francis M. Rogers, *Atlantic Islanders*, p. 53.

A common spirit

In 1850, Warren Delano II made a significant donation of land to found the Riverside Cemetery in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, a non-denominational cemetery. Riverside is holding its one hundred and sixty-second annual meeting today. It is a community organization in the best sense of the word, with a very few employees. It is managed by a few officers, several committees, and a board of trustees, all of whom devote their talents, their care, and sometimes real courage to making the cemetery thrive. I have had the pleasure of working with this little organization most of my life, keeping up a family tradition. There is not time to name all of the people who have helped Riverside thrive, but it is proper now to name just a few — Alfred Raphael, Tony Medeiros, Bob Medeiros, and John Medeiros. Each of these men bring true individual skill, and also a great sense of humor, to the Riverside Cemetery. They are all of Azorean heritage, of the de Rego family, São Miguel. They are my friends. I think that it is proper to close by saluting them and all of the Riverside trustees, who will meet in Fairhaven in just a few hours at 9:00 a.m. (local time). It is to me deeply fitting that Americans with Azorean roots are playing an important role — with their neighbors — in maintaining the cemetery where so many of FDR's Delano forbears now rest.

Yes, Franklin Roosevelt recognized something familiar in the Azores.

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A relevância estratégica dos Açores em documento de 1817: a visão do major-engenheiro Borges da Silva

RICARDO MANUEL MADRUGA DA COSTA*

De forma explícita ou implícita, a existência de um pensamento estratégico tendo por objecto o arquipélago dos Açores remontará aos primórdios do próprio achamento destas ilhas. O determinismo da geografia, associado às condicionantes técnicas da navegação e ao regime dos ventos e correntes, conferiu ao arquipélago um protagonismo bem precoce que o encadeado dos interesses foi tecendo e determinando ao longo dos séculos. Certamente que os desígnios nacionais traduzidos na aventura da expansão iniciada no século xv prevalecem quando procuramos aperceber a relevância estratégica das ilhas. Todavia, contra as pretensões do *Mare Clausum* e avessos aos ditames da partilha ibérica do mundo fixada no Tratado de Tordesilhas, o confronto movido pelas ambições de natureza hegemónica envolvendo a França, a Inglaterra e os Países Baixos acentuaria a valia do arquipélago no quadro de interesses estratégicos que o tempo e a variação dos factores que caracterizariam os diversos contextos foram modelando.

Não iremos fazer uma abordagem da evolução histórica da importância de que os Açores se revestiram no plano geoestratégico, cujo ponto de partida bem poderíamos atestar com recurso à sole-ne proclamação de Frutuoso ao referir-se à escala quinhentista de Angra como «universal escala do mar ponente [...] de todo o mundo celebrada»¹. E o eco da proclamação assim dita, de forma tão singela quanto expressiva, haveria de receber de outro cronista, já no século XVIII, o padre António Cordeiro, considerações menos contidas

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¹ Gaspar Frutuoso, *Saudades da Terra*, Livro VI, Instituto Cultural de Ponta Delgada, 1963, p. 13.

O MAR
NA HISTÓRIA, NA ESTRATÉGIA
E NA CIÊNCIA

III Fórum Açoriano
Franklin D. Roosevelt

Ilha do Faial, Açores
27, 28 e 29 de Abril de 2012

Coordenação
MÁRIO MESQUITA
PAULA VICENTE

LISBOA
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Nota: no caso dos autores de expressão portuguesa, respeita-se a versão ortográfica de sua escolha.

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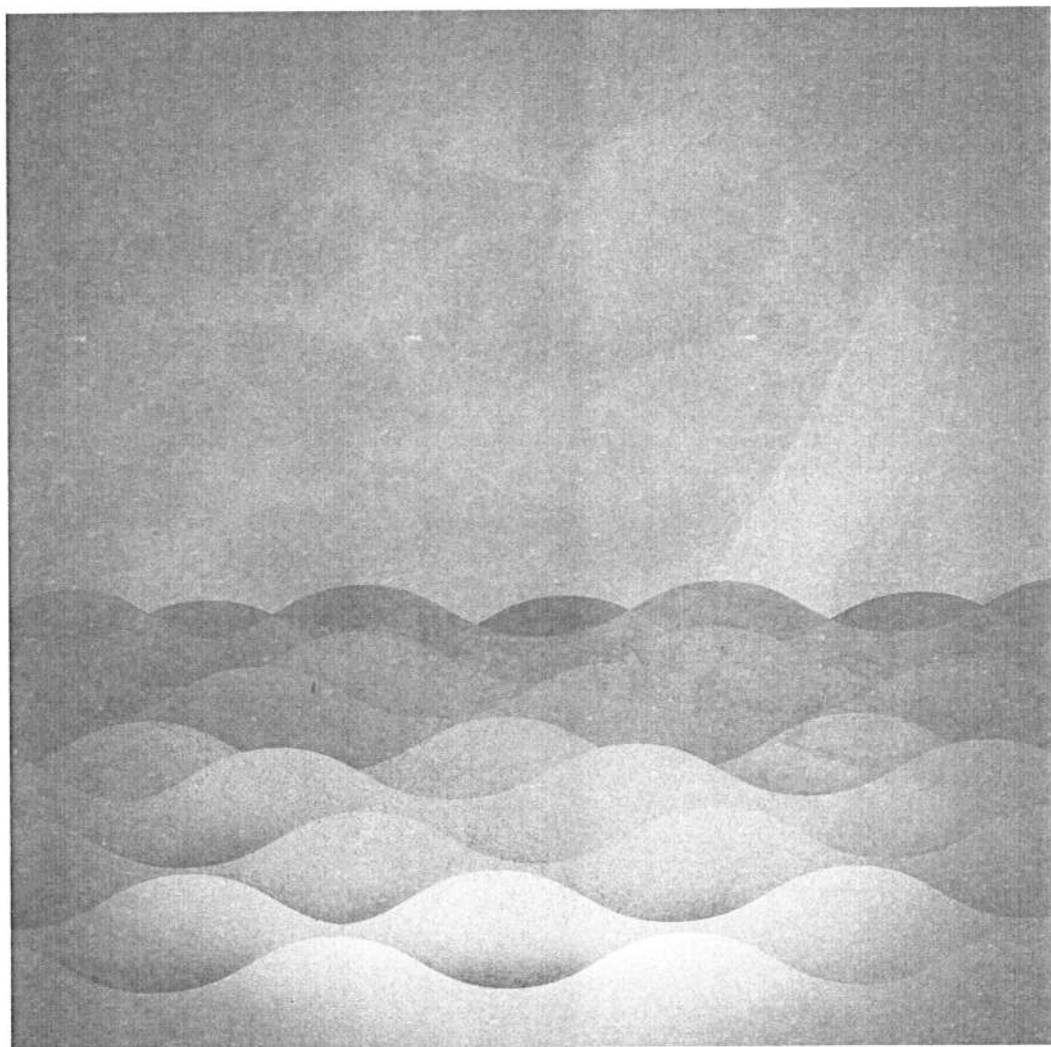
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O MAR NA HISTÓRIA, NA ESTRATÉGIA E NA CIÊNCIA



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Este livro baseia-se nas comunicações apresentadas ao III Fórum Açoriano Franklin D. Roosevelt, iniciativa do Governo Regional dos Açores e da Fundação Luso-Americana, assinalando a passagem de FDR pelas ilhas do Faial e de São Miguel, no ano de 1918, quando se encontrava instalada a Base Naval de Ponta Delgada. Nessa época como agora, o arquipélago dos Açores determina a singularidade das relações diplomáticas entre Portugal e os Estados Unidos.

Os Açores adquiriram o hábito de conviver com o resultado de transformações exógenas. Mas, como nos mostram os acontecimentos históricos, o seu desenvolvimento não pode depender desses factores exógenos e mutáveis, insusceptíveis de serem controlados no plano nacional ou regional. Tão-pouco podemos negar as evidências — positivas ou negativas — do desenvolvimento tecnológico.

Ao escolher como tema o mar na história, na estratégia e na ciência, o III Fórum, realizado na Horta, pretendeu contribuir para o reconhecimento de um recurso que muito tem para oferecer e salvaguardar. O mar é também um desafio tecnológico, «uma ponte para o futuro», a exigir o seu lugar no interesse e na política nacionais.

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