



View of Ponta do Sol village. Photo by Vicentes, before 1964, film, MFM-AV, in deposit at ABM, VIC/777.



Pier of Ponta do Sol village; one can see the path connecting to the village and, on the beach, a sailing vessel and several canoes. Photo by Perestrellos, unknown date, glass plate negative, MFM-AV, in deposit at ABM, PER/127.



Main facade of the chapel of Espírito Santo; one can see several people by the staircase and, in the tower, a royal flag and two men. Photo by Joaquim Augusto de Sousa, before 1905, glass plate negative, MFM-AV, in deposit at ABM, JAS/177.

Project Credits

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Acronyms

ABM: Madeira Archives and Library; BPI-ARM: Illustrated Postcard Collection – Madeira Regional Archives; CCS: Charles Courtney Shaw; COLFOT: Photographic Collection; DRABM: Madeira Archives and Library Department; ENP: Eduardo Nunes Pereira; JAS: Joaquim Augusto de Sousa; MFM-AV: Museu de Fotografia da Madeira – Atelier Vicente's; PER: Perestrellos Photographos; PHF: Foto Figueiras; VIC: Photographia Vicente

PICTURES AND MEMORY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PONTA DO SOL

17 December 2021

18 February 2022

Centro Cultural John Dos Passos



Regional road between Canhas parish and Arco da Calheta parish, across the stream of Madalena. Photo by Perestrellos, before 1940, photographic print, ABM, ENP, folder 24, no. 123.



Sheep for shearing, at Paul da Serra; one can see several people, among whom shepherds stand out with their staffs. Photo by Figueiras, after 1930, glass plate negative, MFM-AV, in deposit at ABM, PHF/73.

Gaspar Frutuoso, in *Livro Segundo das Saudades da Terra*, explains the name given to Ponta do Sol: during the recognition of part of the coast of Madeira, João Gonçalves Zarco reached «to a cape, which goes down a mile, which goes far into the sea, and, because in the rock, which is on the cape, one can see from afar and clearly a round vein in the same rock with rays that look like the Sun, the captain named it Ponta do Sol [Sun Cape], where he also pictured a village, which was afterwards founded» (ed. 1968, Ponta Delgada).

Ponta do Sol's elevation from locality to village, by King Manuel I, took place on December 2nd, 1501, and came to consecrate the fertility of this territory – in regard to the production of sugarcane and its by-products –, and acknowledge the population increase and distance from Funchal. The jurisdictional space of the municipality of Ponta do Sol, as it stands today, was definitively established in 1914, thus comprising the parishes of Ponta do Sol, Canhas and Madalena do Mar.

This exhibition, the sixth under the project *Pictures and Memory* of the municipalities of Madeira – and this time about Ponta do Sol –, aims to show various aspects of this portion of the “Costas de Baixo” [Downward Coast] or “Partes do Fundo” [Deeper Lands] (that is, the southwest of Madeira Island).

The disclosed images – photographs and two postcards – belong to the Photographic Collection and the Illustrated Postcard Collection of the Madeira Archives and Library, and to the collection of the Museu de Fotografia da Madeira – Atelier Vicente's, in deposit at the same institution. They date back to a period of about a century – from the second half of the 1800s to the year 1975. Parish by parish, they show: panoramic views; coastal and rural landscapes, urban centers views; churches and chapels; the pier of Ponta do Sol (an emblematic construction, from the mid-19th century); beaches and vessels; tunnels, roads, streets, automobiles, bullock carts; manor houses, thatched houses, huts, mills and other buildings; ruins; chimneys and bell towers; manifestations of popular culture – traditional festivities, sheep shearing. At the end, we have visual records of the visit of the Image of Nossa Senhora de Fátima in 1948, a relevant event in the religious and social sphere.



Panoramic view of Madalena do Mar parish. Photo by Figueiras, after 1930, glass plate negative, MFM-AV, in deposit at ABM, PHF/63.