

FUNDAÇÃO
LUSO-AMERICANA



For much of the 19th century, one extraordinary family – the Dabneys – made the mid-Atlantic island of Fayal, Azores, their home. Boston Brahmins, they had elite social connections and a diplomatic role – three generations of Dabneys were United States Consuls. But it was their trade and humanitarian efforts that earned them admiration throughout Portugal and America, melding bonds of international friendship.

In 1899, Roxana Dabney assembled decades of family documents into three volumes known as *The Dabney Annals*. This annotated anthology sheds new light on world events and famous names of the era from the perspective of this unique family living on these tiny but critical islands – a crossroads between the Old World and the New.

THE DABNEYS A Bostonian Family in the Azores 1806-1871

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A Bostonian Family in the Azores

1806-1871

*An anthology based on the Annals of the Dabney Family
in Fayal compiled by Roxana Lewis Dabney*

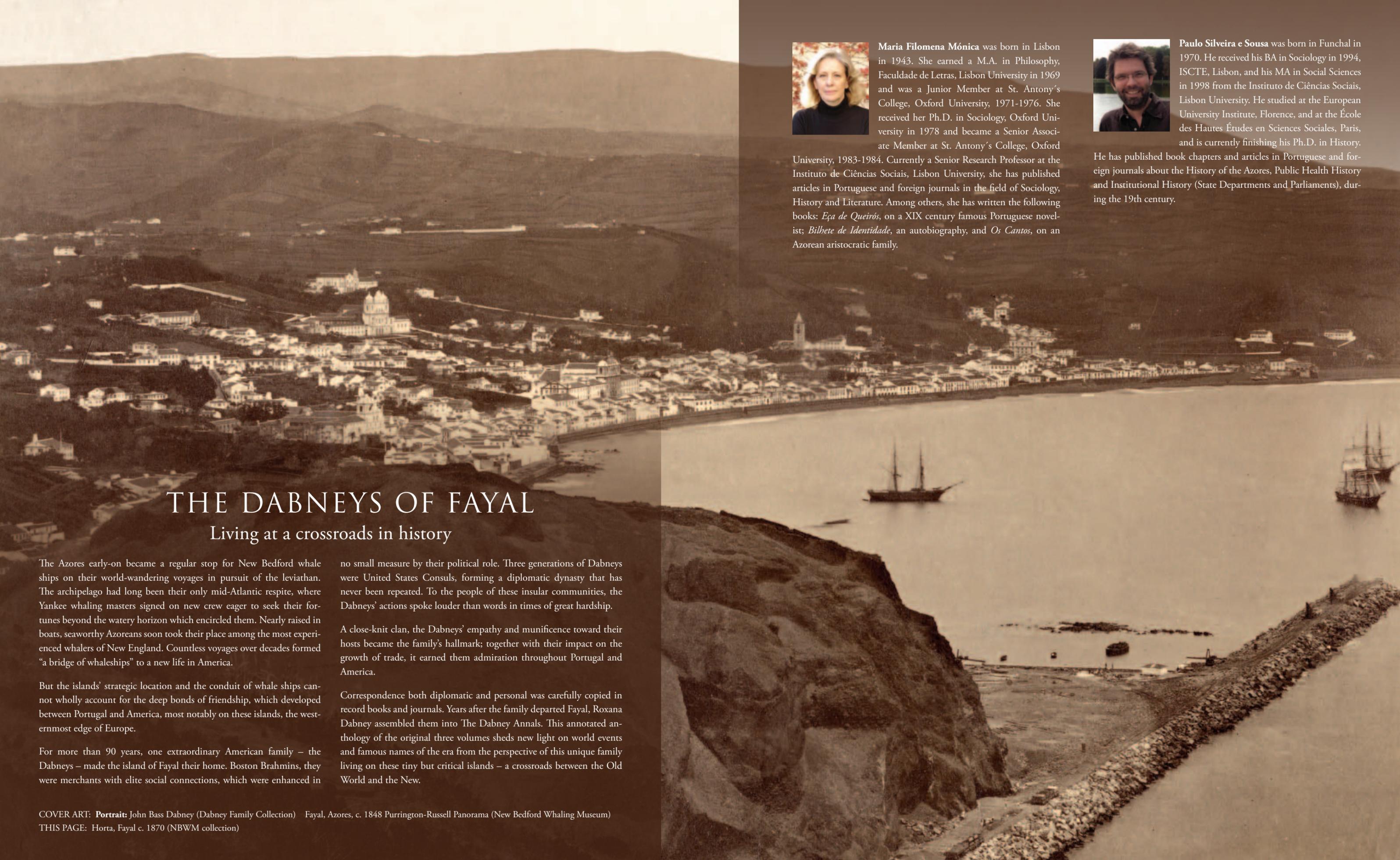


Edition and Preface by Maria Filomena Mónica
Selection and Notes by Paulo Silveira e Sousa

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THE DABNEYS OF FAYAL

Living at a crossroads in history

The Azores early-on became a regular stop for New Bedford whale ships on their world-wandering voyages in pursuit of the leviathan. The archipelago had long been their only mid-Atlantic respite, where Yankee whaling masters signed on new crew eager to seek their fortunes beyond the watery horizon which encircled them. Nearly raised in boats, seaworthy Azoreans soon took their place among the most experienced whalers of New England. Countless voyages over decades formed “a bridge of whaleships” to a new life in America.

But the islands’ strategic location and the conduit of whale ships cannot wholly account for the deep bonds of friendship, which developed between Portugal and America, most notably on these islands, the westernmost edge of Europe.

For more than 90 years, one extraordinary American family – the Dabneys – made the island of Fayal their home. Boston Brahmins, they were merchants with elite social connections, which were enhanced in

no small measure by their political role. Three generations of Dabneys were United States Consuls, forming a diplomatic dynasty that has never been repeated. To the people of these insular communities, the Dabneys’ actions spoke louder than words in times of great hardship.

A close-knit clan, the Dabneys’ empathy and munificence toward their hosts became the family’s hallmark; together with their impact on the growth of trade, it earned them admiration throughout Portugal and America.

Correspondence both diplomatic and personal was carefully copied in record books and journals. Years after the family departed Fayal, Roxana Dabney assembled them into *The Dabney Annals*. This annotated anthology of the original three volumes sheds new light on world events and famous names of the era from the perspective of this unique family living on these tiny but critical islands – a crossroads between the Old World and the New.



Maria Filomena Mónica was born in Lisbon in 1943. She earned a M.A. in Philosophy, Faculdade de Letras, Lisbon University in 1969 and was a Junior Member at St. Antony’s College, Oxford University, 1971-1976. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology, Oxford University in 1978 and became a Senior Associate Member at St. Antony’s College, Oxford University, 1983-1984. Currently a Senior Research Professor at the Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Lisbon University, she has published articles in Portuguese and foreign journals in the field of Sociology, History and Literature. Among others, she has written the following books: *Eça de Queirós*, on a XIX century famous Portuguese novelist; *Bilhete de Identidade*, an autobiography, and *Os Cantos*, on an Azorean aristocratic family.



Paulo Silveira e Sousa was born in Funchal in 1970. He received his BA in Sociology in 1994, ISCTE, Lisbon, and his MA in Social Sciences in 1998 from the Instituto de Ciências Sociais, Lisbon University. He studied at the European University Institute, Florence, and at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, and is currently finishing his Ph.D. in History.

He has published book chapters and articles in Portuguese and foreign journals about the History of the Azores, Public Health History and Institutional History (State Departments and Parliaments), during the 19th century.