

Some Portrush/Brazil Connections ...

Few Brazilians knew much about Dom Pedro ii's "private journey" until The Irish Times gave "Folha de Sao Paulo," Brazil's largest selling newspaper, permission to access its digital archive and publish accounts of various aspects of the Royal Visit in 1877.



Emperor Dom Pedro II and Empress Teresa Cristina (photos 1876).

This little known journey of Dom Pedro ii to the island of Ireland in 1877 was originally registered by "The Irish Times" and some of the information which follows is from that newspaper. Other titles, including the Belfast Newsletter, the Coleraine Chronicle, the Cork Constitution and the Cork Examiner also covered local aspects of the visit

"The reason for the absence (of details about the visit to Ireland) was probably because Dom Pedro was accompanied to Ireland not only by his wife, Empress Teresa Cristina, but also by his lover, Countess de Barral. When she travelled with him he dispensed with the updating of his journal."



Luísa Margarida de Barros Portugal (1816-1891), condessa de Barral, amante de D. Pedro II (photo c 1850).

Dom Pedro ii, "A man of average height, white beard and not so dark skin - taking into account the climate of his native country, Brazil," Dom Pedro ii was a super-tourist of his time.

He and the Empress Teresa Cristina arrived on the island of Ireland with an entourage, which included the Countess of Barral, a former private tutor to his children and with whom the monarch had a long intellectual and loving relationship”.

While a number of titles categorise the Countess de Barral as the “lover” of Dom Pedro, others refer to the relationship as having been “platonic” in nature.



At sea, en route to Europe (1877)

Called by some "Pedro da Mala" (Pedro of the suitcase) Dom Pedro ii was a frequent traveller, paying for his "private" trips with money out of his own pocket - or borrowing it. He insisted upon the circumvention of ceremonies and receptions. The Emperor was something of an academic with keen interests in history, science in general and in geology in particular, this perhaps accounting for his strong desire to visit the Giant's Causeway basaltic columns.



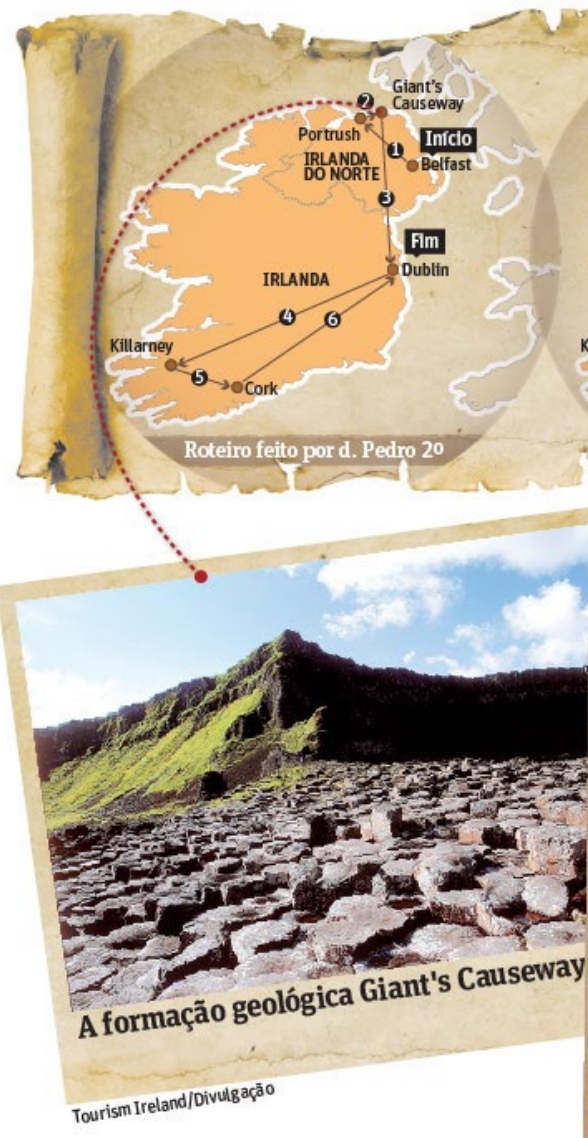
“Pedro de Mala” by a contemporary Brazilian satirical caricaturist.

“The Irish Times unveiled the almost unprecedented trip of d. Pedro ii to the island of Ireland that took in “drink factories and natural beauty, like the Killarney lakes and the Giant's Causeway rock formation, and the cities of Dublin, Belfast and Cork”. For those interested in tracing the Emperor’s footsteps - good news: the places he visited are still there.

“With the digitization of the archives of the "Irish Times" it has been possible to gather details of this somewhat mysterious journey of the emperor. The diaries of Dom Pedro ii, according to the historian José Murilo de Carvalho, do not register the imperial tour of the island - today divided into the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, part of the United Kingdom.

Dom Pedro II's Irish Itinerary

A VIAGEM DO IMPERADOR
Roteiro de Pedro 2º em 1877



Date 1877	Particulars of Journey
July 9 th	Leave Belfast (York Road) 6.10am. ^{perhaps 5} Ordinary ^{Special} Train arrive Portrush 8.55am.
	By Road to Giant's Causeway & back to Portrush leave Portrush 11.30am arrive Belfast 2.30pm
	Leave Belfast (St. Victoria St) 3.5pm, arr. Dublin 6.10pm

No time to spare!

Dom Pedro's ship, SS Antrim, arrived in Belfast...

.... at 4am on Monday 9th July 1877.

The royal party had travelled overnight from Barrow and, despite encountering rough seas on the 10 hour crossing, the arrival had not been delayed. The same was true of the transfer to the railway station, the party having breakfasted on board the ship which, when moored, was also the scene of a semi-official welcome by the Brazilian Consul.

The public had been informed of the extremely private nature of the visit so their Majesties made the short journey to the Northern Counties Railway Station in the "most quiet and noiseless manner".

The train journey to Portrush

... began with the Emperor and party being shown into "luxuriously appointed carriages" by Mr Cotton, Chairman of the Railway Company, watched by many more spectators than had been at the quayside. The journey was accomplished in the creditable time of two hours, this including a three minute stop in Ballymena. The locomotive, driven by the Locomotive Superintendent of the railway company, was bedecked at the front with crossed Union and Brazilian flags.



c 1861

Carriages left immediately for the Giant's Causeway

..... which meant that the plan originally agreed by the Emperor had changed radically, the Causeway visit and a swift return to Belfast now taking precedence over even a short stay in Portrush. This meant that arrangements made by Mr Linden, Manager of the Antrim Arms Hotel, to host the Royal party became redundant. The offer of "special apartments" was declined both pre and post the Causeway visit. Mr Linden had expected that, when the party arrived first in Portrush, they would breakfast at the hotel and so he had prepared the most elaborate of breakfasts. The brevity of the visit, however, meant that the Royal party would have no stop in Portrush.

Nor would there be any sightseeing in the town or beyond until the Causeway was reached. The Emperor "intended only to see the Giant's Causeway and (*despite the fact that*) the scenery at Portrush is the commencement of the great panorama of natural beauty of which the Causeway is the climax" the carriages, accompanied by "intelligent guides", left the station shortly after 7am and drove directly to the Causeway.

The Causeway

.... was reached by 8am and the distinguished occupiers of the carriages found themselves at Mr Francis Kane's little hotel at the Causeway Head. The Emperor graciously accepted a nicely prepared cup of coffee presented by Mrs Kane after which the royal party alighted and, accompanied by guides, undertook the agreeable but somewhat difficult task of inspecting of the Giants Causeway.

Mrs. Kane had two boats ready, manned by able bodied seamen specially to show the Emperor and Empress the Causeway from the sea. Unfortunately the sea was too rough, the waves being in an angry mood.

His Majesty, having walked as far as the well known Lord Antrim's Parlour, was met by the Causeway artist Mr Daniel McKinlay (photographer) who requested that the Emperor sit for a portrait. His Majesty at once consented and Mr McKinlay photographed him as he sat for his "carte de voyage". The seating location was the best that could have been selected, affording as it did a very wide view of the Causeway and one which included the most remarkable of its geological features.

The sitting was a success and Mr McKinlay received an order for 100 photographs to be sent to Dom Pedro's personal secretary. Shortly afterwards his Majesty returned in the direction in which he had come. In the meantime the Empress had taken the tour along the causeway by car and had taken tea in Mr Francis Kane's Hotel at the Causeway Head. The Countess Cabrall had preferred to walk accompanied by a guide. The Royal party expressed themselves pleased with their visit and highly satisfied with the scenery of the place. They purchased from the far-famed vendors of specimens, including those rare stones which are considered a variety special to the Causeway. From Miss McKinlay, a relative of the photographer, who had a little tent on the coast they bought seaweed ornaments and other little valuables kept

solely for tourists. Having taken in a general view of the Causeway, which occupied not a long time, the Royal party re-seated themselves in their carriages and drove back to Portrush.

The Royal Party returned to Portrush

.... where it had been expected that they would enjoy a short stay at the Antrim Arms Hotel which, greatly to the credit of the proprietor Mr Linden, in appearance and in the accommodation afforded to visitors, is well worthy of the presence of royalty. The hotel must be a very great source of attraction to all tourists who desire to find convenient and well appointed apartments at the sea coast. Mr Linden had expected that the party would lunch at the hotel but on their return to Portrush they once again rejected his invitation and took the opportunity of lunching in a room at the stationhouse. Their return journey commenced at 12 o'clock and, lunch having been finished, the Emperor and Empress perambulated up and down the platform. News of their arrival having spread, there were many wanting to get a glimpse of the Brazilian royals. The Portrush station house was soon crowded by ladies waiting to see their Majesties. When the train was brought forward the party were conducted to their seats by Mr Cotton. The crowd's lively cheering gave the royal party a warm send off.



Portrush Station c 1860

Return to Belfast and onward ...

.... meant a swift change of trains for by 2.15pm the royal party were already on the way to Dublin and beyond.

Their Majesties and their entourage left Ireland on 11th July ...

Other connections....

..... between Portrush and Brazil are more recent. The first of these involves support for the people of what was an impoverished community in the Brazilian

town of Itaperuçu situated some 250 miles south west of Sao Paulo. John and Phyllis Logan have been carrying out mission work there since 1994, involved mainly in education and in a “sponsored child” programme. They have been privileged to act as conduits for the practical support from which the town has benefitted.



“Muito obrigada!”



“Não conhecem o nome David Healy?!”

Typical of the Northern Ireland spirit of selflessness and generosity has been the regular and unstinting support provided by such as John and Dorothy Moore and by Holy Trinity Mothers’ Union. Through this support for individual children and their families, part of the Mission Statement of the Mount Horeb Training Centre (where the Logans work) , “helping people to help themselves” has been realised.

On a geological note, and regarding a fact probably unknown to Dom Pedro II, Itaperuçu , the name of the town to which the Logans are so attached, is Guarani Indian for “stony path”. Coincidentally, there happens to be another “stony path” not far from Portrush, one whose fame had entered the consciousness of a late Nineteenth Century Brazilian Emperor.



Cartão-postal com fotos trazido por d. Pedro 2º



Itaperuçu, Pr., Brazil

“Passeio de Gigante”

Information for this paper was located in:

“Links between Brazil and Ireland. Visit of the Emperor and Empress of Brazil to Ireland 1887” In <http://gogobrazil.co/dompedroirl.html> ed Peter O’Neill (2009)

The Irish Times, Folha de Sao Paul

