

PUBLIC LECTURE

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

@ Rush Rhees Library Hawkins – Carlson Reading Room

Wednesday, November 7, 5PM

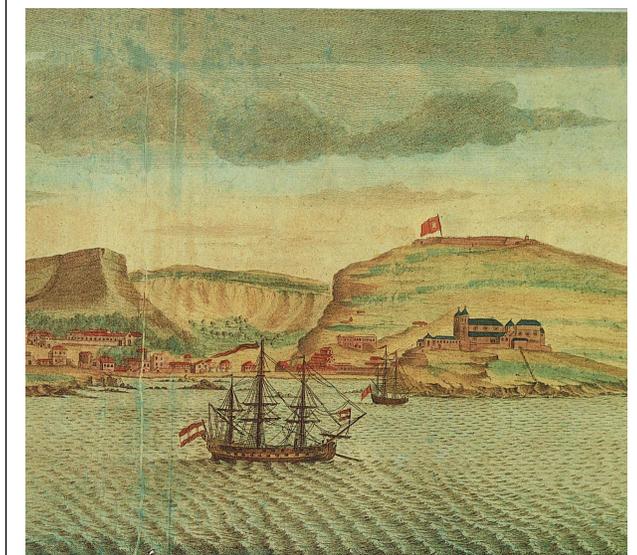
“History and archaeology in Cape Verde: the rise of a global world”

JORGE DE JUAN ARES

Institut de Recherche sur les Archéomatériaux

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique

Université de Orleans, France



Abstract

The Republic of Cape Verde comprises ten volcanic islands located 600 km west of Senegal coast discovered in 1460. Their geographical location made them the most suitable place for the Portuguese crown to establish a settlement from where to explore the African coast. Ribeira Grande, capital of the islands, was the first Portuguese city founded overseas playing a central role in the configuration of early Atlantic networks and the emergence of the slave trade to America. It was an almost obligatory supply scale for ships transiting towards America, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific Ocean as the expeditions carried out by Vasco de Gama, Cabral, Columbus or Elcano. This economic and strategic importance made it object of numerous armed assaults, especially after its incorporation into the Hispanic monarchy in 1581, when important fortification infrastructures were constructed. It was not almost until the 21st century that archaeological research began in Cape Verde. The archaeological excavations at the Royal Fortress of San Felipe and at the Convent of San Francisco and elsewhere have served to highlight the outstanding past of Ribeira Grande, currently Cidade Velha, showing its intense links with Europe, Asia, Africa and America during the 15th and 18th centuries. Recently the historical value of Cidade Velha has been recognized with its declaration as World Heritage.

Biography

Jorge De Juan Ares is a researcher at the *Institut de Recherche sur les Archéomatériaux* (UMR5060), *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique*, Université de Orleans, France, currently working on the project *Glass Routes: Mapping the First Millennium Glass Economy*, sponsored by the European Research Council. De Juan is an archaeologist, doctor in Geography and History at the Complutense University of Madrid specialized in Islamic fortifications of the Iberian Peninsula and glass archaeometry. He has directed or participated in numerous archaeological projects from prehistoric times to the present in collaboration with different institutions focusing on history, archaeology and material culture of al-Andalus, the West African (Morocco and Tunisia) and the Macaronesian archipelagos (Canary Islands and Cape Verde Republic) in modern and medieval times.

<http://www.irammat-ceb.cnrs-orleans.fr/spip/spip.php?article58&lang=fr>

<https://cnrs-gif.academia.edu/JorgedeJuanAres>

Co-Sponsored by the Central New York Humanities Corridor from an award by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the University of Rochester Humanities Center, and the Selwyns Fund of the Program of Archaeology, Technology, and Historical Structures

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED