



"The suspicious one", Cartoon of the portuguese artist Celso Hermínio (1871-1904)
In A Paródia, 152 (3), 1902-december-10

A Paródia

A humorous illustrated newspaper published in Lisbon by Rafael Bordallo Pinheiro (1846-1905), a Portuguese visual artist and the first Portuguese cartoonist, celebrated for his popular character Zé Povinho.

A Paródia (1900-1907) was a pioneering weekly publication that employed a humorous approach in its unvarnished coverage of political and social issues that 'is all of us', as stated by Bordallo, thus acquiring him a renowned agency on the European press. It published 192 issue numbers. Lisbon has several holders of accessible collections on the Benguela Railway: the Arquivo Histórico Ultramarino, the Torre do Tombo and the Mário Soares Foundation.

Keywords: Benguela railway, cartoon, contract

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The Williams Contract

The history of Benguela in Angola dates back to 1617 with the construction of the fortress of S. Miguel. During the 1940s, the natural and built heritage of Angola benefitted from the contributions of the architect Fernando Batalha, who was employed by the National Monuments Service. As head of the Benguela Urbanization Office, he was responsible for projects in the city (Batalha, 1950: 15-16). Benguela was connected to Lobito by first-class asphalted roads, and to Nova Lisboa and Silva Porto by second-class ones. The vessel communicated with Benguela and Cuio harbors. Its most notable route was the Benguela Railway (Galvão, Selvagem 1951: 390-1). On this matter the concession granted to Sir Robert Williams (1903) was met with suspicion due to the perceived "surrender" of 1,400 km of valuable territory under an agreement - the Williams Contract. That's why during the Luso-British conflict over Africa's inland, cartoonists exercised significant influence over the press. Bordallo's artistic oeuvre has been instrumental in shaping media and diplomatic public perceptions, drawing attention to the intricacies of political and technological conflicts. This railway comprised 8 primary stations: Lobito - central station on the line and port (OP18311), Benguela and Cubal as intermediate stations (OP18969-71), Caála, situated between Cubal and Huambo - a pivotal inland station that facilitates connectivity between the coastal and Angolan interior regions - Cuito, Luena and Luau on the border with Congo.