

The Lindoso Granaries

The Lindoso Granaries date back from the 18th and 19th centuries. Contrary to what was often written by some that present them as an expression of community life, they are private and adjusted in its structure and volume to the possessions of each family. By having a look at the type of granary, also called “canastro”, one could guess to which house they would belong. However, due to several divisions this became quite difficult. In the past they were a privileged place for thieves, especially at times of cereal crisis. Their location, in a high place, did not obey to a community programme of corn distribution, but to the need of cereals’ ventilation and surveillance.

This daily surveillance of the cereals, of the vineyards, of the flour in mills and eventually also of fruit trees was carried out by policemen in a rotation scheme and / or by owners of houses that had vineyards, under the local authorities orders: president of the parish council, the janitor, etc.

The existence of sanctions and the surveillance system – evidence the lack of trust and confidence and also the idea that poor would steal/ rob the wealthiest – and this also conveyed the idea that there was a certain interest among the inhabitants. Only when deprivation and starvation were eliminated, and all the houses had a vineyard, did this surveillance system disappeared as it had no reason to exist.

Manuel Carlos Silva

The Lindoso Castle

The Lindoso Castle, classified as National monument, dec. 20985, from 7-3-1932, is situated next to the Lindoso Village, head of the parish, Northeast of Ponte da Barca municipality.

Written documents seldom make reference to the Lindoso Castle in medieval times, and there is not any known written document about its foundation. However, based upon the typology of the inscriptions carved in many of its ashlar, in the ceramics hereby found, in the “afonsinas” coat of arms carved on the top of the exterior arch on the south gate and in the references made to the Alcaide of the castle in the Surveys of 1258, it may be accepted that the castle was built in the middle of the 13th century. With a sub-squared plant, a donjon on the north integrating the wall, and the gate on

the opposite side (south), surrounded by two cubic turrets, with thick walls with 2hourd2 type balconies, from which a few side whiskers are left, the building presents technical-construction and architectonic characteristics that may be integrated in the gothic fortifications' model. We find the water reservoir on the Northeast corner of the yard, a cubic model with a vaulted arch slightly sharpened, well equipped and with two vauissoirs with a sigla. With a strictly military function, the frontier defence, the Lindoso Castle has been discontinuously inhabited, evidencing its maximum usefulness in periods of regional and/ or national conflicts. This is evident in the Census ordered by King João II on 17th June 1527, that refers that at the time the castle was empty and the village had only 41 inhabitants. After the Restoration war and for its geo-strategic position, Lindoso Castle became a fortress of great importance, and the stage of several fights between Portugal and Castela, occupied by one after the other. At that time, middle of the 14th century, its defensive system underwent a deep re structuring, adapting to new demands of military artillery in the war tactics of that period.

Between 1656 and 15662 the Spanish that had conquered Lindoso built a new wall around the small medieval castle. This new wall was designed by the Italian Gasparo Squarciáfico, Marquees of Buscayolo, at the service of the Spanish Crown since 1656 – presenting a polygonal form type Vauban, fortified with bulwarks, with advanced angles protected by cannons and sentry-boxes, that may still be found. In 1663-1664, the Portuguese conquered again the Castle and finished the modern fortification, whose final project is the work of the French engineer Miguel Lescol, at the service of the Count of Prado – the medieval walls were elevated, a new entrance system was created, palisades, moats and countermures were reinforced. Permanent troops were stationed at the interior yard and barracks, a breath oven, storehouses, mills and a oratory were built, for an army of 100 men, sheltering 300 men at war periods.

With few significant alterations the fortification was inhabited by military armies all over the 18th century and until 1895, when it was dismantled.

Luis Fontes

SOAJO

Soajo, one of the mythical Portuguese places. Head of an ancient mountain municipality, received royal Charter in 1514, from King D. Manuel. It is the best place to start more than a thousand walks through the mountains of Soajo and Peneda, situated at one of the entrance gates of the Peneda Gerês National Park.

All over the village you will find several rural tourism houses. At one of its many restaurants, you should try a “cozido à Soajo”, though similar to “cozido à portuguesa”, is only prepared with local meat, potatoes and cabbage, and one portion is enough for two. This will be also a good reason for a long walk...

The Soajo church, contrary to many other places, is not worth a visit. But do not miss the Pillory in the main square, with three steps and a granite column, with a head sculpture on the top and a triangular granite stone that reminds a hat. Its origin is unknown and it cannot be compared to any other pillory.

In the village one also finds a group of 24 granaries, built probably between the 18th and the 19th centuries. The area in between, with small channels to drain the water functions as a community treshing floor, and it bears witness of one of the most complex systems of community life in our country.

Eduardo Pires de Oliveira