New Library of Equestrian Art at the Palace of Queluz

- Library of Diogo de Bragança, 8th Marquis of Marialva
- Unique Equestrian Art Library and open to the public
- 1,400 printed titles and manuscripts and 165 original engravings and prints
- Collection includes rare examples
- On temporary exhibition: 2 oil portraits, 1 mounted bull fighter's jacket and saddling accessories
- Total investment: approximately €500,000

Sintra, April 21 2015 – Parques de Sintra (PSML) inaugurates the only national library exclusively dedicated to Equestrian Art and open to the public: the “Equestrian Art Library of Diogo de Bragança, 8th Marquis of Marialva” at the National Palace of Queluz on 22nd April. There, in addition to consulting the publications, there is also the opportunity to view 165 engravings, two paintings (one a portrait of the family of the 3rd Dukes of Lafões and the other of Pedro Vito de Meneses Coutinho, 6th Marquis of Marialva), a mounted bull fighter's jacket and replicas of saddling accessories such as a blanket and a cover typical of the late 18th century.

With the acquisition and opening of this library, representing a total Parques de Sintra investment of €468,750, the public in general and academics and researchers in particular may access some 1,400 titles (around 2,000 publications), some substantially rare and all interrelated with Equestrian Art. The collection was subject to inventory by the Cabral Moncada auction house and includes 800 European titles (including among which 16 manuscripts), dating from the 16th to the 20th centuries; 294 books and pamphlets from the 19th and 20th centuries; 322 illustrated books from the second half of the 20th century and around 165 engravings.

Among these, highlights include a rare surviving example of a work by Johannes Stradanus, from ca. 1578; two works by Portuguese authors (by António Galvão de Andrade, Arte da cavallaria de gineta, e estardiota, bom primor de ferrar, & alueitaria, 1678; and by Manuel Carlos de Andrade, Luz da Liberal e Nobre Arte de Cavalaria, Lisbon, 1790); and one of the 23 monumental publications generally known as part of the Cabinet du Roi celebrating the feats of the reign of Louis 14th.

Diogo de Bragança (1930-2012) was a highly esteemed rider, a specialist in Equestrian Art and who acquired documents on this theme throughout his life and was himself a scholar writing a diverse range of publications. His heirs proposed the sale of the collection to Parques de Sintra
in wishing to maintain its association both with EPAE – the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art and the study of Equestrian Art.

The company, responsible for the management of the Palace and Gardens of Queluz and of EPAE – the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art, seeks to foster research on the foundations and the evolution of national equestrian traditions as well as about the qualities and characteristics of the equine heritage that we protect and promote. Examining the documents making up this library swiftly led to the conclusion that preserving it as a whole and making it available for Equestrian Art amounted to a practical national duty. Within this perspective, with the agreement of its shareholders and support from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and Banco Português de Investimento, Parques de Sintra acquired the library, hitherto unknown to the general public, for the sum of €380,000 in February 2014.

Subsequently, three rooms in the National Palace of Queluz underwent restoration to suitably host the collection and involving investment of €57,250 Euros (including both work on the rooms and the acquisition of the respective furniture). Hence, the Library is located in close proximity to the EPAE installations and represents yet another means of attracting visitors to the Palace. This also represents another facet to the awareness raising dimension of the mission of the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art and also extending to the Lusitanian horse and the regular provision of training to performance riders.

There are already ongoing actions of conservation and restoration work covering many works and engravings as well as document processing with a view to drafting a digital catalogue that shall shortly be made available online via the Parques de Sintra website (the restoration of engravings/frames and software procurement saw investment of €31,500). Afterwards, the collection catalogue shall be integrated into the largest collective catalogue covering all Portuguese libraries and coordinated by the national library.

In parallel to making the Equestrian Art library publicly available, the National Palace of Queluz library collection will also be made available for consultation along with an approximate 20 works loaned by Companhia das Lezírias.

The library is now fully open to the general public from Monday to Friday. For specific consultation and reading, prior reservation is required.
The Equestrian Art Library of Diogo de Bragança, 8th Marquis of Marialva
National Palace of Queluz
Opening times: Monday – Friday, 9.30am - 1pm and 2pm – 5.30pm
Entrance fees: researchers and academics: free (subject to prior reservation at sandra.oliveira@parquesdesintra.pt) / General public: National Palace of Queluz entrance ticket

About Diogo de Bragança, 8th Marquis of Marialva (1930-2012)
Born in Lisbon, in the Palace of Grilo, the fourth male heir of the eight children of the 5th Dukes of Lações and the 6th Marquises of Marialva. He was educated in a very austere and cosmopolitan and highly culturally demanding environment. A jurist and musician by training – he graduated in law from the University of Lisbon in addition to completing the general composers program at the National Conservatory – he was an estate manager and livestock breeder, activities in which he demonstrated an ability to combine both theory and practice and the past with the present. Those he socialised with described him as a cheerful and expansive personality, excellent in conversation, endowed with grand erudition and a fine sense of humour. Single, bon vivant and an especially renowned gourmet, he was a great appreciator of both fado and Portuguese literature, quoting the poetry of Fernando Pessoa by heart, an author he particularly admired. An excellent rider, Diogo de Bragança was a worthy successor to the 4th Marquis of Marialva, Lead Chamberlain to King José and his predecessor known for his decisive role in perfecting the Royal Stables and Equestrian Art in Portugal in the second half of the 18th century. Highly eclectic in the friendships he built up over his life, he nevertheless always cultivated a certain reserve and discretion as regards his private library and in particular to the Equestrian Art collection now available to the public.

About the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art
The Portuguese School of Equestrian Art, located in the gardens of the National Palace of Queluz, was founded in 1979 with the objective of nurturing the teaching, the performance and the promotion of the traditions of Portuguese Equestrian Art. This draws upon the Royal Stables, the court equestrian academy and the Portuguese court of the 18th century that would ride in the Royal Stables of Belém, today the National Coach Museum, and exclusively riding Coudelaria de Alter Lusitanian horses. The management of the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art was handed over by the government to Parques de Sintra in September 2012 in conjunction with the management of the National Palaces of Sintra and Queluz.

About Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua
Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua, S.A. (PSML) is a state-owned limited company with exclusively public capital that was created in 2000 following the recognition by UNESCO of the Cultural Landscape of Sintra as a World Heritage Site. The company was created to assemble the public institutions responsible for preserving and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage in Sintra. PSML has been entrusted with the management of the State’s main properties in the area. Because it does not resort to the State Budget, PSML depends entirely on proceeds from the tickets sale, shops, cafeterias and hiring of venues for events, in order to restore, maintain and promote the heritage it manages. In 2013, the natural and cultural heritage managed by PSML (the Park and Palace of Pena, the National Palaces of Sintra and Queluz, the Chalet of the Countess of Edla, the Moorish Castle, the Palace and Gardens of Monserrate, the Convent of the Capuchos and the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art) welcomed approximately 1,700,000 visitors, over 90% of whom were from outside of Portugal.
The shareholders of PSML are the Directorate General of Treasury and Finance (Direção Geral do Tesouro e Finanças - representing the State), the Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity (Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e Biodiversidade - ICNB), the Portuguese Tourism Board (Turismo de Portugal) and the Municipality of Sintra (Câmara Municipal de Sintra - CMS).

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