

**University of Guelph
Department of History**

Major Paper Presentation



Student: Joana Galante	Date: Fri., Aug. 21/15
Time: 1:00 pm	Place: Rm. 2020, MacKinnon Extension

Title:	The Anglo-Portuguese Alliance in the Aftermath of the 1755 Lisbon Earthquake
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Abstract:
<p>The Portuguese and English have been tied diplomatically for centuries; however, in 1703 the two nations ratified the Methuen Treaty, which had lasting effects on the Portuguese domestic economy throughout the eighteenth century. The treaty gave members of the British factory in Lisbon more control over the market and multiplied their profits, in turn forcing the Portuguese to rely heavily on the importation of English manufactured goods. The 1703 treaty put Portuguese merchants at a disadvantage, as the English incurred more benefits from the terms stipulated. However, in 1755, an earthquake destroyed the city of Lisbon and consequentially shifted the economic relationship between the British and the Portuguese. The Secretary of State, the Marquis of Pombal, took the lead in the aftermath of the disastrous event. Relying on his experience abroad in London and Vienna, Pombal took cues from the more “enlightened” governments and implemented them in Lisbon during the rebuilding process. Pombal recognized the shortcomings of the Methuen Treaty and attempted to rectify the massive economic discrepancies, by using the vague language from the treaty to establish new monopolies in order to initiate the growth of the domestic market. Through reading travel diaries and British newspapers, the study gauges the opinions and reactions of the British throughout the eighteenth century and lends a compelling perspective to the international relations between the English and Portuguese.</p>

Advisor: Susannah Ferreira	Chair: Matthew Hayday
Committee: Karen Racine	