RAILROADS IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT:
construction, costs and consequences

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(eds.)
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RAILROADS IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT: construction, costs and consequences
INDEX

PREFACE
Anne McCants

ABOUT FOZ TUA PROJECT AND THE 1st INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN FOZ TUA
Eduardo Beira

PART 1: TUA VALLEY AND THE PORTUGUESE CONTEXT
O VALE DO TUA E O CONTEXTO PORTUGUÊS

The Tua line and the portuguese railway (1856-1906)
A linha do Tua e os caminhos de ferro portugueses (1856-1906)
Maria Fernanda Alegria

The significance of the Tua Valley in the context of the Portuguese wolfram boom (1st half of the XX Century)
O papel do Vale do Tua na euforia do volfrânio português (primeira metade do século XX)
Maria Otília Lage

Railways in Portugal and Spain: corporate and public policies
Os caminhos de ferro em Portugal e Espanha: políticas públicas e empresariais
Luis Lopes dos Santos
PART 2: ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RAILROADS: METHODS AND INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS
O IMPACTO ECONÔMICO DO CAMINHO DE FERRO: METODOLOGIAS E COMPARAÇÕES INTERNACIONAIS

Landownership and the coming of railroad to the American Midwest, 1850-60
151
Propriedade da terra e o impacto da chegada do caminho de ferro ao Midwest Americano, 1850-1860
Jeremy Atack and Robert A. Margo

The evolution of the establishment of the railway network in Britain using GIS
179
A instalação da rede de caminhos de ferro no Reino Unido, com base em SIG
Marta Felis-Rota and Jori Hanneberg

PART 3: ENGINEERING, FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT
ENGENHARIA, FINANCIAMENTO E GESTÃO

More than a brass nameplate on the door: foreign ownership and control in the Companhia Real dos Caminhos de Ferro Portugueses (1860s-1890s)
253
Investimento estrangeiro e controlo de gestão na Companhia Real dos Caminhos de Ferro Portugueses (1860-1890)
Álvaro Ferreira da Silva

The man behind Tua railways: the chief engineer Dinis da Mota
279
O homem por trás da Linha do Tua: o engenheiro chefe Dinis da Mota
José M. Lopes Cordeiro

Becoming engineers in early industrial America
301
A formação de engenheiros nos primórdios industriais da América
M. Roe Smith

The building of the Bhor Ghat Railway Incline in western India in the mid-19th century
343
A construção do Grande inclínio do caminho de ferro em Bhor Ghat, na Índia Ocidental, em meados do século XIX
Ian Kerr
Financing public goods and social overhead capital: some historical lessons
O financiamento de bens públicos e do capital social: algumas lições históricas
Anne McCants

PART 4: THE FUTURE OF HISTORICAL RAILROADS
O FUTURO DAS LINHAS HISTÓRICAS

Railways: industrial and maritime archaeology, geographic information systems, history and culture
Caminhos de ferro: arqueologia industrial e marítima, sistemas de informação geográfica, história e cultura
Dominic Fontana

Dismantling an old railtrack: opportunities in Tua Valley
O desmonte de antigas linhas de caminhos de ferro: oportunidades no Vale do Tua
Paulo Lourenço

Two case studies in heritage and valorization of ancient mountain railways in France
Dois casos de valorização de património ferroviário de antigas linhas de montanha em França
Michel Cotte

A new role for old railways: tourism
Um novo uso para antigas linhas de caminho de ferro: turismo
Stefano Maggi

Railways heritage: an overview.
Património ferroviário: uma visão global.
Guenther Dinholb
NARRATIVE(S) ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LANDSCAPE: THE TUA VALLEY MEMORY CENTER
NARRATIVA(S) SOBRE A CONSTRUÇÃO DA PAISAGEM: O NÚCLEO DA MEMÓRIA DO VALE DO TUA

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Abstract Resumo
The images presented here summarize the research by Centro de Estudos da Escola de Arquitectura, University of Minho, that lead to the proposed location of the Tua Valley Memory Center: if the scale model expresses the sublime landscape condition of the territory, then the drawings register a context where a valuable natural and constructed heritage and a socioeconomic fabric intertwine with expressive vitality and an urban condition fit to gather new experiences. It is believed that the Nucleus of Memory of the Tua Valley can accomplish a central role in the activation of this – now latent – synergy.

As imagens que aqui se apresentam sintetizam a pesquisa feita pelo Centro de Estudos da Escola de Arquitectura da Universidade do Minho e que fundamentou a proposta de localização do Núcleo de Memória do Vale do Tua: se a maqueta exprime a sublime condição paisagística do território, os desenhos registam um contexto em que a um valioso património natural e edificado se associam um tecido socio-económico com expressiva vitalidade e uma condição urbana apta a acolher novos estímulos. O Núcleo de Memória do Vale do Tua poderá, acredita-se, cumprir um papel central na activação desta - agora latente - sinergia.
Narrative(s) on the construction of the landscape: the Tua Valley Memory Center

Maria Manuel Oliveira – CE.EAUM

The Tua Valley Memory Center will record the history of the Tua Valley—a stunning scenery, particularly in terms of its orographic condition—and its human settlement. It is a narrative aimed at the general public, in particular, the student population. It also aims to stimulate the local collective memory, raising their consciousness of an identity founded in the longue durée and already stated in the rock carvings near the mouth of the river. In the past few centuries, this territory has seen three major waves of human intervention that profoundly molded the landscape and determined its inhabitants’ way of life: the topographic transformation that accompanied, and still accompanies, the establishment of hillside vineyards since the eighteenth century, followed by the construction of railways at the end of the nineteenth century, and the completion of the dam in the twenty-first century.

As a pretext to investigate and systematize territorial and physical nature, ethno-anthropological, artistic, and technological themes, the Tua Valley Memory Center’s main purpose is to establish itself as a device that not only allows, but encourages synchronic or diachronic, more specified or general cross-readings, drawing the attention of a wide audience with various interests.

The Tua Valley Memory Center also hopes to fulfill a modern function in the history of the Tua Valley. It hopes to contribute to the articulation of a series of urban, heritage, and landscape references, that were until now separate, and to confer the critical mass necessary for the activation of the comprehension of the
territory that is latent by part of the population and the visitors. Furthermore, it is intended that the building itself become indelibly rooted in the biography of the area, constituting itself as a monument, (re)adapted to the present circumstance. The proposal to accommodate the exposition near the goods warehouse of the Foz Tua station, intrinsic to the history of the railway and a crucial part of the local urban area, is therefore reinforced and requalified. The Tua Valley Memory Center will hopefully be the heart of an extensive and open network of multiple endeavors in recognition of the local identity and incentive new interpretations of a territory in the making.