

TRACES OF THE LEGACY OF THE CRYPTO-JEWS

MANTEIGAS

TOUR ITINERARY



THE PRESENCE OF JEWS, CRYPTO-JEWS AND NEW CHRISTIANS IN MANTEIGAS



In a region of multicultural traditions as our Beira Interior, Manteigas shows some particularities at several levels and distinguishes itself by its natural patrimony and cultural wealth but also by a historical patrimony and heritage still awaiting to be fully explored.

The Jews presence belongs to this precious heritage and patrimony that Manteigas municipality intends to disseminate and share.

Through this Itinerary, it is intended to reveal the denouncing traces left by a group of people that resist to the assimilation policy, the miscegenation and the dilution of their Jewish identity despite the fact of being minoritarian, as Antonieta Garcia would assume.

Our main goal is in fact to reveal to our visitors the crucial legacy and patrimony and withal bring some new perspectives and awareness for their protection.



TRACES OF RELIGIOUS SYMBOLISM SHOWN IN THE BUILT PATRIMONY



Besides ways and customs, the Portuguese Jewish patrimony is also evident in the material evidences. There are several examples craved in the buildings occupied or edified by the people of this particular group.

Alongside to the effort and constant try of the secret transmission of the Jewish faith they also felt the need to use more evident outdoor signs of their recent conversion to the new Christian Creed.

From the traces usually associated to the Jewish Community, Crypto-Jews and New Christians, traces in the Mezuzot and longitudinal engravings have been detected in this area in cruciform studies. Another architectural detail has been considered and related to these communities, namely portals with chamfers.

A total of forty-four buildings have been identified up to this time where one of these traces typologies has been observed. Nonetheless, some prudence must be taken into account since several of these buildings have suffered different changes and recent interventions such as plaster application on the buildings fronts have occurred.

CRUCIFORMS



They can be mostly seen engraved in door and window thresholds and present different sizes, features and shapes. They are found engraved on both the right side and the left side, as much on the inside and the outside of the thresholds.

From the simplest crosses to the decorated ones, its analysis must be carefully made, avoiding generic interpretations that relate the existence of a simple cross to the Jewish presence or the New Christian one. In precision, the use

of the cross as a religious symbol is prior to the Jesus Christ figure itself, even if Christianity has adapted it and, therefore, has a meaning that goes beyond the Christian religion.

Among several meanings, these signs could be demonstrations of fear. The engraving of cruciforms could be related to the marking of an ancient Jewry, as well as it could indicate the public reaffirmation of the acceptance of Christian faith and religious practices in behalf of the individuals that felt pursued and insecure due to their previous condition as Jews.

It could also be the result of a simple act of belief that the Old Christians would use with the intent of gathering divine protection for the space itself.

The cruciforms registered in the village of Manteigas have, in its majority, a simple form. However, from the 26 examples registered, some of them have their own features: two of them are carefully engraved in bas-relief, with finely worked ends and a semicircular base; another one with a lower arm extension to the interior of the base; and also, an inverted cross.

ENGRAVINGS IN THE MEZUZOT



Registered in door thresholds, its presence is related to the ancient Jewish tradition that is connected to the Jewish monotheistic cult affirmation.

As a very important Jewish symbol, these concavities were meant to save in its interior a small case that contained a parchment roll in which there were listed the words of Shema and V'ahavta, a vital praying of the Jewish cult from the Deuteronomy verses (Dt. 6, 4-9; 11, 13-21). The Jewish usually kiss the Mezuzah every time they passed by the door, as a way of remembering the prayers contained in it along with the Jewish principles it carries.

LONGITUDINAL ENGRAVINGS



This type of trace is characterized by open longitudinal slits in the stone that can be interpreted in two different ways: it might have been a different way for New Christians or Crypto-Jews to keep marking their loyalty to the Old Law, albeit in a discreet way.

The other explanation is based on oral tradition that says it would have been the result of craftsmen sharpening their tools. Considering the shoemakers' case, they would

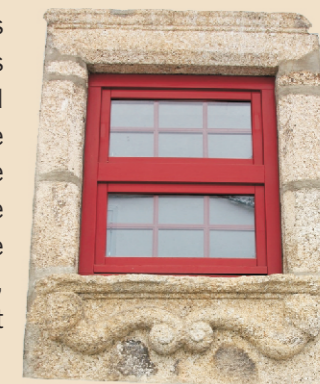
have used the door's threshold to sharpen their awls (tool the shoemakers used to pierce the leather to sew it); as for the blacksmiths, they would have used the threshold to sharpen some of the tools they made.

The sighting of longitudinal engravings in a granite stone which once belonged to the threshold of a building in Quelha das Ferreiras has been registered in Manteigas.

PORTALS WITH CHAMFERS



Another example of these traces is the existence of portals or doorways with beveled edges and finely worked ashlar. Along the route we can see thirty-two real estates with these construction details which involve precise ashlar work that demonstrate some economic power and are, therefore, connected to a small part of the population.



○ Location Marks

TYPES OF MARKS

- Cruciforms
- Portals with chamfers
- Engravings in the Mezuzot
- Longitudinal engravings



TOUR ITINERARY - TRACES OF THE LEGACY OF THE CRYPTO-JEWS

- 1 - Cruciform, Correia Tanganho Street
- 2 - Portal with Chamfers, General Póvoas Street
- 3 - Portal with Chamfers, General Póvoas Street
- 4 - Portal with Chamfers, General Póvoas Street
- 5 - Portal with Chamfers, Vasco da Gama Street
- 6 - Portal with Chamfers, Ilha do Faial Street
- 7 - Cruciform, Ilha do Faial Street
- 8 - Portal with Chamfers, Teles de Vasconcelos Street
- 9 - Portal with Chamfers, Senadores Street
- 10 - Cruciforms and Portal with Chamfers, Teles de Vasconcelos Street
- 11 - Cruciform, Gomes de Abreu Street
- 12 - Cruciforms and Portal with Chamfers, Gomes de Abreu Street
- 13 - Engraving in the Mezuzot, Triunfo Street
- 14 - Cruciforms and Longitudinal Engraving, Quelha das Ferreiras Street
- 15 - Cruciforms, Quelha das Ferreiras Street
- 16 - Portal with Chamfers, Triunfo Street
- 17 - Cruciform e Portal with Chamfers, Triunfo Street
- 18 - Engraving in the Mezuzot, São Lourenço Street
- 19 - Cruciforms, São Lourenço Street
- 20 - Cruciform and Portal with Chamfers, São Lourenço Street
- 21 - Portal with Chamfers, São Lourenço Street
- 22 - Portal with Chamfers, São Lourenço Street
- 23 - Portal with Chamfers, D. João de Castro Street
- 24 - Portal with Chamfers, D. João de Castro Street
- 25 - Portal with Chamfers, D. João de Castro Street
- 26 - Portal with Chamfers, D. João de Castro Street
- 27 - Cruciform, D. João de Castro Street
- 28 - Portal with Chamfers, Luís de Camões Square
- 29 - Portal with Chamfers, Dr. Manuel Duarte Leitão Street
- 30 - Portal with Chamfers, Dr. Manuel Duarte Leitão Street
- 31 - Portal with Chamfers, Comandante Matos Preto Street
- 32 - Portal with Chamfers, Quintã
- 33 - Cruciforms and Portal with Chamfers, Santo António Street
- 34 - Portal with Chamfers, Santo António Street
- 35 - Cruciforms and Portal with Chamfers, Santo António Street
- 36 - Portal with Chamfers, Travessa de Santo António Street
- 37 - Cruciforms and Portal with Chamfers, Santo António Street
- 38 - Portal with Chamfers, Travessa do Bocage Street
- 39 - Engraving in the Mezuzot, Matufa
- 40 - Cruciforms and Portal with Chamfers, Dr. Pereira de Matos Street
- 41 - Portal with Chamfers, Dr. João Isabel Square
- 42 - Portal with Chamfers, Comandante Matos Preto Street
- 43 - Portal with Chamfers, Comandante Matos Preto Street
- 44 - Cruciform, Comandante Matos Preto Street

- A** Solar Casa das Obras (Séc. XVIII)
Manor House
- B** Igreja de Santa Maria
St Mary's Church
- C** CNE - Agrupamento 231
Scout Group 231
- D** Banda Boa União
Philarmonic Band Boa União
Centro Cultural e Recreativo de Santa Maria
Cultural Center
- E** Posto de Turismo
Tourism Office
- F** ICNF
ICNF
- G** Igreja da Misericórdia
Mercy Church
- H** Correios
Post Office
- I** Centro de Saúde
Medical Centre
- J** Igreja de São Pedro
St Peter's Church
- K** CNE - Agrupamento 232
Scout Group 232
- L** Espaço Internet
Hotspot
- M** Auditório Municipal
Local Hall
- N** Jardim de Infância
Kindergarten
- O** Câmara Municipal
City Hall
- P** Filarmónica Popular Manteiguense
Popular Philarmonic Band of Manteigas
- Q** Santa Casa da Misericórdia | UCCI
The Holy House of Mercy
- R** Escola Básica 1.º Ciclo
Primary School