

The Voyage of the *S. Gabriel*, Portuguese Naval Vessel, to Hawai'i in 1910

Introduction by Maria Azevedo Coutinho de Vasconcellos e Sousa
Postscript by Edgar C. Knowlton Jr.

António Jervis de Atouguia Pinto Basto (fig. 1) was born in Lisbon, Portugal, in February 1862, to a family on his father's side who were in trade and had ships of their own. His father had been a midshipman in the Navy. On his mother's side he was connected to politics—her father was the Viscount of Athouguia, Minister of Marine Affairs.

Since childhood Basto had a love for the sea. At the age of 18 he was a pupil in the Portuguese Naval School and a member of the Royal Naval Association, a club dedicated to sea sports. In December of 1881, he graduated first in his class and embarked on a distinguished naval career. In April of 1893, he became an aide to King Carlos I of Portugal. They had been childhood friends and had studied painting with the same master, Henrique Casanova, and had similar styles as water colorists. At the beginning of the 20th century, Commander Pinto Basto was appointed Captain of the royal yacht, and the friendship between himself and the royal family became closer.

The Minister of the Navy, in 1909, decided that the *S. Gabriel* should make a voyage around the world, visiting the Portuguese colonies on the way. Pinto Basto was appointed Captain of the 1,850-ton cruiser *S. Gabriel*, an important command because during the forthcoming midshipmen cruise, the *S. Gabriel* was to visit all the Portuguese overseas colonies. It was designated as the first modern Portuguese warship to pass through the Strait of Magellan and to call on Central and South American, North American, and Hawaiian Island ports.

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The ship left Lisbon December 11, 1909. It called first at Madeira, Cape Verde Islands, and Baia. It then visited Rio de Janeiro and Santos, Brazil, Montevideo in Uruguay, and Buenos Aires and Punta Arenas, Argentina. The ship passed through the Strait of Magellan and the Patagonian Channels to Valparaíso, Chile, then called at Callao, Peru, Panama, and Salina Cruz on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico. The Portuguese cruiser next visited San Francisco and Honolulu, arriving in the Islands May 10, 1910.

After the four-week visit to the Hawaiian Islands, the *S. Gabriel* continued her round-the-world cruise, visiting Asian and African ports in Japan, China, Macao, Hong Kong, Manila, Portuguese Timor, the Dutch East Indies, Singapore, Ceylon, Portuguese India (Goa), Mozambique, South Africa, Angola, S. Tomé e Príncipe, Freetown in Sierra Leone, and Portuguese Guinea. It then stopped at the Cape Verde Islands before finally returning to Lisbon April 19, 1911.

In the meantime, in October of 1910, the Monarchy had been overthrown. Captain Pinto Basto, a good professional, had to fly the Republican flag on his ship. After returning to Portugal, and loyal to his royalist principles and friendship to the royal family, he requested retirement from the Navy. He then was appointed General Manager of the Portuguese steamship line Companhia Nacional de Navegação, an appointment he retained for the rest of his active life.

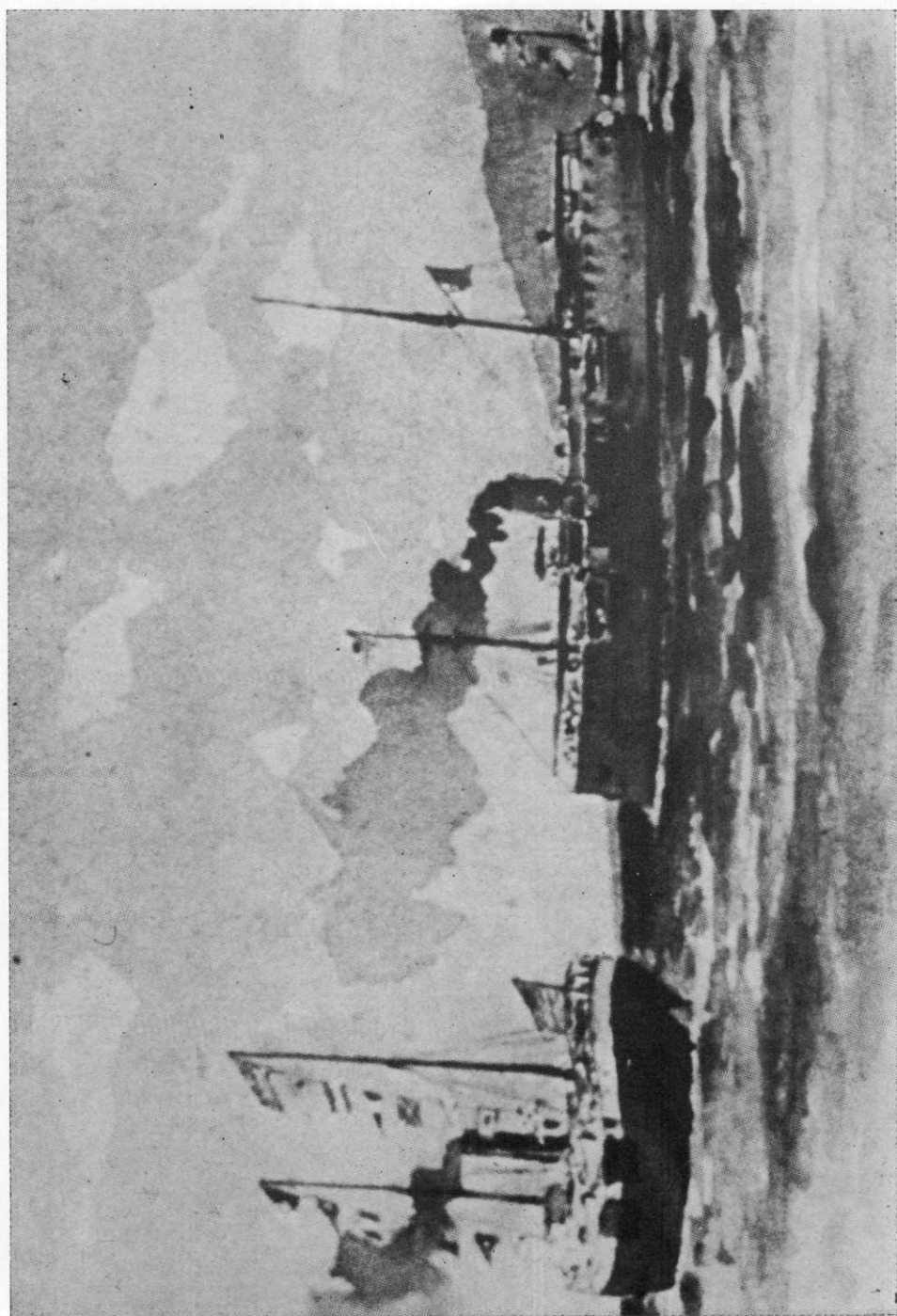
Of great interest are his published logs, illustrated with drawings and water colors, of his many travels throughout the world, particularly to the Far East as a junior officer, and of his last voyage on the *S. Gabriel*. His collection of water color seascapes is well known and of historical as well as artistic interest.

I had learned as a child that the first Portuguese warship to visit the Hawaiian Islands was commanded by my grandmother's cousin, António Pinto Basto. Then, in 1984, when I visited Hawai'i in connection with the exhibit entitled *Portugal and Porcelain*, shown at the Honolulu Academy of Arts, it seemed to me to be indispensable to describe the earlier contact between Hawai'i and Portugal.

Two people have assisted me in the translations of the specific chapters on the 1910 visit to Hawai'i. They are the grandson and greatniece of António Pinto Basto: Captain Azevedo Coutinho, my brother, and Conceição Pinto Basto Villas-Boas, my cousin. I wish

FIG. 1. Anónio Pinto Basto as a lieutenant in the Portuguese Navy. (Author's photo.)





to thank them and all the members of the Pinto Basto family who so kindly helped me. I also wish to thank Sanna Deutsch, Assistant Registrar of the Honolulu Academy of Arts, for her interest and assistance, and John Henry Felix, Honorary Portuguese Consul of Hawai'i.

António Pinto Basto died in August of 1946, at the age of 84.

Viagem de Circumnavegação (Voyage of Circumnavigation)

António Pinto Basto

Captain, Royal Portuguese Navy¹

Chapter XVI

At 7 o'clock we telegraphed the consul that we would arrive at 11 o'clock a.m. Off Honolulu port we were met by the steamers *Kinau* and *Intrepid*, full of Portuguese; several other motor-driven and sail boats came as well.

Off of the buoy of the entrance channel we took on board the pilots and health inspector. We fired our salutes for Admiral [Corwin P.] Rees, and soon afterwards we anchored at the United States Naval wharf at 3 o'clock.²

The Hawaiian Islands have been since 1900 a United States territory. It is not probable, in spite of their great importance, that they will soon become one of the United States because of being inhabited by a large variety of races. The central government wants to nominate the Governor and have the right to revoke the laws voted by the Legislature . . . in the territories.

They were given the name of "Sandwich" by the famous English sailor [Captain James] Cook when he first landed on them in 1778. Nevertheless, it seems, these islands were already known by the Spanish because the famous English sailor [Commodore George] Anson found, on board a captured galleon, a map with these islands situated approximately where they lie.³

The Hawaiian Islands are: Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, Lanai, Molokai, Niihau, Kahoolawe, Midway, Kaula, Bird, Frost Shoal, Neckar, French Frigate Shoal, Two Brothers Reef, Gardner Mary Reef, Dowsett Reef, Laysan, Johnston, Lisianski, Pearl and Hermes Reef, and Ocean Bank. Only the first nine are inhabited. They are all situated between 154° and 178° of longitude West and the parallels 19° and 29° of latitude North.

FIG. 2. Watercolor by António Pinto Basto of the *S. Gabriel* (right) as it appeared in its round-the-world voyage in 1910. (Photo from Basto, *Viagem de Circumnavegação*.)

The area of the largest islands is:

Hawaii	4,215 square miles
Oahu	598 " "
Maui	700 " "
Lanai	590 " "
Molokai	270 " "

The population in 1908 was:

Oahu	81,807 inhabitants
Hawaii	60,392 "
Maui, Molokai, and Kahoolawe	39,960 "
Kauai and Niihau	27,773 "
Midway	20 "
Total	209,952 "

The number of electors is 14,143.

According to information given to us by the [Portuguese] Consul, in these islands there are 20 to 25 thousand Portuguese, many of whom have become American. The percentage of the different nationalities in the population is:

Hawaiians	37 per cent
Japanese	21 " "
Chinese	14 " "
Portuguese	13 " "
American, English, and German	8 " "
Koreans	2 " "
Porto-Ricans	2 " "
Others	3 " "
Total	100

The fertility of these islands, its varied vegetation, the constant and mild temperature, and the fact that its inhabitants are, so they say, on average, the richest in the world, determined that they are justly called the "Paradise of the Pacific."

The population of Portuguese origin has the just fame of being honorable, of working hard, and being sober, and to them is partly owed the prosperity of these islands.

The Hawaii territory is today equal to the most advanced. As means of transport they have railways, electric tramways, in Honolulu alone more than 600 cars, carriages, motorcycles, and bicycles in abundance. The roads are good and they have started

the application of oil to avoid dust. Telephones exist in most houses, and the central exchange is automatic, not needing employees as they do in Europe. All the islands are linked by wireless telegraph, as are the steamers which land there, so they are in permanent communication.

Fishing is done in motor boats that carry living fish in special tanks and use ice for dead fish. They are all crewed by Japanese. The city of Honolulu has very good buildings, and the large Young Hotel cost two million *escudos*.⁴ It is considered the largest in the United States.

In the port the vessels load and unload with almost automatic machines not known in Europe. The loading and unloading of coal is very interesting and well executed by elevators and automatic trains.

The main richness of these islands is sugar, and its manufacture is very well understood, and many outsiders go there to learn. They produce all the machinery for the sugar industry. Many manufactures have been exported to the Formosan islands.

Exports in 1908 in dollars are as follows:

Raw sugar	\$38,603,184
Refined sugar	1,212,962
Fruits	803,376
Rice	140,773
Coffee	174,773
Hides	87,599
Wool	58,133
Honey	38,022
Other goods	1,064,944
Total	\$42,183,223

This is more or less 42 million *escudos* in Portuguese money. The sugar is exported to the United States, to the East Coast, through the port of Salina Cruz and by train from Tehuantepec. Of the 521,123 tons exported in 1908, 180,159 came from Hawaii, 122,619 came from Maui, 137,013 from Oahu, and 81,322 from Kauai. The capital employed in the sugar industry is estimated at \$150,000,000 and gives a big income. On the plantations 45,000 men are employed.

Education is very looked after, schools are numerous, and professors are very respected in society. In 1908 there were 4,537 pupils of Portuguese origin.

The roads in Honolulu are bordered by acacias, mangos, mimosas, and palm trees, and the domestic gardens make an excellent effect. The water supply is in the charge of the government. It comes from numerous artesian wells, and the water is circulated by powerful steam engines. The sewerage system is also circulated by steam engines and is ejected into the sea by long pipes that take it far away from the port.

In Honolulu we came alongside the quay and received on board the Portuguese Consul António de Sousa Canavarro,⁵ an officer representing Admiral Rees, the festivity committee of *S. Gabriel*, and many Portuguese. We heard the news of the death of Edward VII of England, and for three days we had mournful formalities, flags were at half mast, and every quarter of an hour guns were fired. The people by the quay, not used to these ceremonies, thought the guns were fired to amuse them. At 8 o'clock at night we were visited by the ladies of the Portuguese community.

Accompanied by the Portuguese Consul, I visited the Territorial Governor Walter F. Frear, the English Consul Ralph G. E. Forster, to whom I gave my condolences for King Edward's death, the Japanese Consul S[enichi] Uyeno, the Chinese Consul Liang Kwo Ying, the Bishop of Zeugma, and the City Mayor [Joseph James] Fern. In the Governor's palace, an ancient royal palace, we were received by a band playing the Portuguese national hymn and by Colonel J. W. Jones, Chief of Staff.⁶ In the afternoon we went in three cars for a ride to Waikiki Beach. We visited the very interesting aquarium where one can see the most varied and extraordinary fish, caught in these seas by Japanese fishermen. From there we went to Diamond [Head] Point lighthouse, and from there to the two beautiful view points, Punchbowl over the city, and Pali over the northeast of the island. I was taken to dinner at the Young Hotel by the Portuguese Consul.

On the 12th we were visited by Major [S.W.] Dunning, in command of an infantry regiment, Antonio Perry, a judge of Portuguese origins, and [T.] Clyde Davies, the English Vice-Consul.⁷ Accompanied by the Consul, I visited Mr. S. M. Damon, a bank director who has been of great service to the Portuguese colony, the Italian Consul, and Lieutenant Commander Victor S. Houston, Lighthouse Director who gave us some American maps of the islands and some interesting nautical information.⁸ The three Honolulu clubs, Commercial, Pacific, and University, made available to us their public rooms and made us honorary members. The air temperature between

21 and 26° centigrade and the temperature of the water are almost the same, so swimming is one of the great sports of these islands. The officers and other ranks of the *S. Gabriel* profited by their stay in Honolulu to great advantage in this so necessary exercise.

On the morning of the 13th we had on board the gunnery officers Harry P. Wilbur and [Edward] Timberlake, the German Consul W[illiam] Pfotenhauer, and the Swedish Consul George Rodiek.⁹ We went in three cars, with the members of the commission, to visit the Kamehameha School, maintained by the bequest of a princess, with an annual income of 70 or 80 thousand *escudos*. It is a school of arts and sciences where the pupils study six hours a day. Those who have lessons in practical work in the afternoon have theory in the morning, and vice-versa. On our visit there were three companies of pupils doing excellent exercises under the direction of an American army officer.

After leaving this school we went to the magnificent infantry barracks of Fort Shafter, out of town. What a situation and what a lay-out! The officers' quarters, all of them built with the climate in mind, were detached and surrounded by flowers. They would make any General in our army envious. The splendid barracks have bathrooms with bathtubs, showers, lavatories, swimming pool, billiards, a ballpark, and reading room, and apart from this a piece of land that the soldiers can use for growing produce or breeding animals for themselves to eat or to sell. In this way they manage to have the soldiers entertained in the barracks and they do not need to go into the town for distraction.

From the barracks we went to S. Luiz school [St. Louis College]; in a sort of large auditorium hundreds of pupils of all races were expecting us. The band played, and the orchestra too, and then I had to go onto the stage, invited by the directors, to talk to them in English and Portuguese and to proclaim a holiday that was, I think, what they most appreciated. We went then to the Royal School, which supported a large Portuguese flag. We were present for a fire practice; in a few seconds the school's thousand pupils were out of the building, accompanied by their teachers. We went then to a Normal School for children and teachers. There we saw a Portuguese girl, who was learning to be a teacher, describe and at the same time draw on a slate an old legend of Hawaii. We visited the High School for girls and the classes in tachygraphy and dactilography [shorthand or stenography and typing]. Pupils (girls) who leave with good marks are easily found situations, earning 75,000 *reis* [\$75.00] a month.

In the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum we saw the various rooms, where there are important collections of fishes, birds, and things connected with the Hawaiian civilization which has much in common with the other Pacific islands of Tahiti and Samoa.

We also visited two more schools on that day: the Central Grammar School and the Portuguese School of Santo Antonio, the only one where our language is taught.¹⁰ In this school we had a very pleasant reception. Pupils sang the Portuguese national hymn, and some of the chorus were holding small flags and leis or necklaces of flowers to hang around the *S. Gabriel* officers' necks, as is a custom there. I gave to the School one of the flags I had received from the Liga Naval [Naval League] in Lisbon and some books.

At 8 o'clock at night there was a reception at the Lusitania Society,¹¹ where were present several American personages, including the Governor, and thousands of Portuguese; all of them were introduced to me.

The Hawaiian people are very musical, and during the dances the musicians accompany the waltzes with Hawaiian songs, which makes a lovely effect. The reception rooms and the gardens were well lighted with electric lamps of different colors.

On the morning of the 14th some 40 mariners went to the railway station to go to Pearl City. When they came ashore some Portuguese ladies hung on them some flower necklaces; in front of them marched a music band. At 15 past 9 o'clock the officers, accompanied by the Consul, embarked on the steamer *Kukui*, of the Lighthouse Service, and went to Pearl Harbor, where Lieutenant Commander Victor Houston went on board. That port, that is being transformed into the most important Naval base of the Pacific, is very large and has a narrow entrance easy to defend.

They are building dry docks and fortifications, and they are dredging the entrance channel to enlarge the navigable areas. There we saw suction dredge, submarine dredgers similar to those in the Panama Canal, and pile drivers to drill into underwater rock for dynamiting. It will most certainly become one of the best and most sheltered ports in the world.

Around 11 o'clock we arrived at Pearl City, where we were awaited by hundreds of people who had gone there by train or car. The afternoon was spent with athletic games in the country by the sea and dancing in a large pavilion that is there. This monstrous picnic was recorded in a group picture, and this photograph which is 1.83m long was the largest ever taken until then in the Pacific. Organizers provided a lunch for the officers and mariners. There

were almost a thousand people there. I went back to Honolulu in the Mayor's car.

On the morning of the 15th we went ashore, and in seven cars, I myself in the Mayor's car, made a 160 km tour round the island. Forty mariners and the altar guard went to mass, at the request of the Bishop of Zeugma, and some officers attended the feast of the Holy Ghost.

We drove along lovely roads, stopping at some of the plantation residences, and at 1 o'clock we were greeted at Waialua by hundreds of Portuguese who work there in sugarcane plantations. In the plaza of that place there were flagstuffs, a bandstand where music was being played, and a marquee where a lunch was provided for more than a hundred people. We were back on board by plantations of sugar cane and pineapple.

The roads are well kept, and steamrollers and stonebreakers can be seen everywhere. On the sugar plantation all the workmen have their own independent small houses, are paid 16 to 20 thousand *reis* [\$16 to \$20] a month and have a small amount of land to cultivate for their own benefit.

On the 16th we received on board, with due ceremony, Admiral Rees, the Governor, the Bishop of Zeugma, and the British, Japanese, and Chinese Consuls. Twenty-one pupils from the Portuguese school were invited by the officers to lunch, and they were served by the officers and midshipmen. That night, like many others, we went skating at the skating rink.¹²

On the 17th we loaded American New River coal, provided by the America Navy. We were invited by Mr. Ralph G. E. Forster, British Consul, and his wife, to a dinner, also attended by the Portuguese Consul. That same night there was a recital by the Lusitanian Society in which the *S. Gabriel's* garrison took part.

The passage of Halley's Comet in front of the sun, which occurred at 5 hours, 15 minutes, 18 seconds, did not produce any interesting phenomenon. Professors [Ferdinand] Ellerman of the Mount Wilson observatory and [John S.] Donaghho of the Hawaii College, as well as the astronomer Mr. [Henry C.] Lord, did not note any abnormal phenomenon in observations they made from Diamond Head and Kaimuki with telescopes of 6 and 6.4 inches.¹³ The comet showed that it had no solid nucleus, and it passed in front of the sun without the sun losing its luminous intensity. All the radiotelegraphic stations on board and on land had staff on duty, but no magnetic or electric perturbation was noted.

On some islands of the archipelago the land workers were let off work, and in town people gathered together near the churches. There was no sign of any meteorological disturbance. The comet was a fiasco for those who expected something interesting or useful for sciences. I confess that I never believed in the comet, and at the time of its passage in front of the sun I was in a bathing party at Waikiki Beach.

A group of Portuguese people came on board, composed of Mr. A. D. Castro, M. A. Silva, Dr. L. R. Gaspar, T. [*sic*: José] P. Rodrigues, J. G. Faria, J. S. Azevedo, J. M. Camara, and M. A. Gonçalves,¹⁴ to present to the ship a model of a "calabash" of polished wood with a silver rim, which was embossed in enamel and silver with the Hawaiian and Portuguese flags, coats of arms, and a dedication.

On May 20th around 11 a.m., the burial day of King Edward VII of England, there were services at St. Andrews Cathedral, to which we were invited by the British Consul. The Governor, the Consular Corps, and all the official representatives were present. The *S. Gabriel* officers were given the front seats, next to Admiral Rees; Chopin's Funeral March was very well played on the organ.

The morning of May 21st, I visited with the Consul, the commanders of Fort Shafter, Major Dunning, and for the new mortar battery J. Timberlake. This battery, behind Diamond Head, completely modern, has two groups of four mortars. Another one is being built in Waikiki, apart from the direct shot and mortar batteries already started at the entrance to Pearl Harbor.

I took leave of Admiral Rees and offered to take the mail to the other islands, which was accepted. From 1 to 3 o'clock in the afternoon the Hawaiian band played on board. As there were no available cabins for the ladies, they were accommodated in the sick bay, as fortunately nobody was sick.

Chapter XVII

We left Honolulu's port at 6:30 in the afternoon in good weather. Steaming always in view of land and lighthouses of the different islands, we finally saw at 3:30 a.m. of the 22nd the lights of Kahului, to where we headed, anchoring at dawn near the breakwater and mooring from the stern to a buoy so to stay ahead onto the swell.

At 8 o'clock there came on board the *S. Gabriel's* reception committee to present the program, which was approved. At 9 o'clock we went by car to Iao Valley where we had lunch. Going uphill, on a curve, the car skidded off the road and turned over. A Portuguese lady, Mrs. [Frank F.] Baldwin, and myself suffered nothing; I think it was the greatest danger I was in during the whole of the trip. During lunch Hawaiian music was played, accompanied by a choir, and it had a charming effect. From Iao Valley we came back to town by the opposite side of the island as far as Makawao, along lovely roads, and we visited a vineyard and wine-cellar belonging to Mr. Fawcett.¹⁵ We also visited Mr. [Frank F.] Baldwin's sugar factory, the largest there is, where 700 wagons of cane are crushed each day. This plantation has 20 miles of railway and some 60 miles of water channels. Around 3 o'clock in the afternoon we had a large luau, where the most important people from Maui were present, in all about 500. In these meals cutlery is not used, and one of the favorite dishes is poi porridge, which is eaten with the fingers and is tasteless. During the day some 2,000 people visited *S. Gabriel*. On Maui there are about 4,000 Portuguese.

At 6 o'clock we left for Hilo town, on Hawaii island. At dawn on the 23rd we approached the beautiful and hilly coast, with large plantations and sugar factories, and numerous waterfalls. When we got to Hilo, the steamer *Claudine* came towards us with some 300 people and five motorboats. In this archipelago navigation by sail or oars is finished . . . all boats have motors. About 8 o'clock in the morning we anchored in Hilo bay, with the stern anchored to a buoy. Soon after came on board the *S. Gabriel's* reception committee to present the festivities program. Next came the directors of the Real Associação de Beneficencia Michaelense, of which King Manuel was honorary president. I drove through Hilo and visited the sugar factory Hilo Sugar Co., the breakwater works under construction, and the Rainbow Falls, 25m in height, which provides light and power for the town. The railway station and the Club are at about three kilometers distance.

I was invited to dinner at the Hilo Hotel, a small hotel but extremely clean and comfortable, and in the evening there was a big reception in the Armory followed by a ball, where were present more than a thousand people of all social backgrounds, from the judge who is the highest in authority to the most modest Portuguese worker.

Just to give an idea of the effect of the coming of our boat produced in these islands, I will mention something that happened the day of our arrival. While we sailed in the morning along the Hawaii coast, an old Portuguese woman on one of the plantations, upon catching sight of the *S. Gabriel*, raised the Portuguese flag after having obliged all her family to kiss it.

On the 24th and 25th all the ship's crew went to visit the famous Kilauea volcano. On the first day 16 officers and coastguards, 85 seamen officers and marines went there. The officers went from Hilo very close to the volcano (39 miles) in six cars. The marines went by train as far as Glenwood station and then in horse carts. The Kilauea volcano, at 1235m above sea level, is the largest in activity. It behaves itself very well for it does not project either lava or ashes, so it is possible for visitors to get close to the crater, without danger. The large crater, oval in form, measures 925m long and 615m wide. Some dozens of meters below we can find the fire crater of Halemau-mau, full of burning lava, 370m long and 305m wide, from which black smoke mixed with steam comes out. Lava and wind produced very thin strings of lava called "Pele's hair." This lake of burning lava, with various shades of color from yellow to red, is a fabulous spectacle, especially at nightfall. On the 25th the remaining officers and marines visited the volcano. That night there was a ball at the Armory.

The 26th, as it was Corpus Christi, 44 marines went to mass at the Catholic Church. I visited the school of the Catholic missions, and on the way back we had a banquet organized by the *S. Gabriel's* reception commission at the house of a Portuguese business man, Mr. [Joseph S.] Canario.¹⁶ We came back on board at 10 o'clock at night. A silver cup with an inscription about the first passage through Hilo of a Portuguese ship was presented to the cruiser.

We raised anchor around 10:30 at night. With a search light we kept illuminating the buoys surrounding the entrance bar, and then in lovely weather we sailed at the speed of 13 knots, sighting the different islands. We came into Honolulu at 1 p.m. in the afternoon of the 27th, anchoring at the same quay where we had been before.

On the 28th I was given dinner by Admiral Rees, at which were present the British and Portuguese Consuls and some of the most important gentlemen and ladies of the American society of Honolulu. Admiral Rees, a very nice and interesting man, read after dinner the following poems dedicated to the ladies and gentlemen at his table:

Limerick Sauce Piquante

By C. P. R.

There was a bright belle, Mrs. Forster,
Whose husband imagined he bossed her,
But quickly he found
Such fancy unsound
And that's all the trouble it cost her!

There was a fair dame, Mrs. Clive,
Who is one of the finest alive;
She has her own way
Almost every day
At any rate, four out of five!

There was a dear charmer, Miss Walker,¹⁷
Who shines as a magnetic talker;
So when she's a wife
you may wager your life
Her husband won't venture to balk her!

My permanent partner Anita¹⁸
Ineffably charming and sweet—ah!
She rules like a queen
With dominant mien,
And all of us fall at her feet—ah!

There was a divine Mrs. Gunn
Who knows how things ought to be run;
She has a big School
To round up and rule,
At which she is A number one.¹⁹

There was a superb Mrs. Rees
Whose mission was keeping the peace;
So she took many stitches
In amplified breeches
And her energy did not decrease.

Limerick Sauce

By C. P. R.

There was a great captain Pinto Basto
Who said "Suppose I begin to fast too"
But while he was thinking
He saw others drinking
And that he won't stop till he has to.

There was a good Count Canavarro
Who said he could live on canned taro
But tempted to try it
He gagged at such diet
As being too nauseous and narrow!

There was a fine consul named Forster
Who tried to repeat "Pater Noster"
But when he got to 'p . . . a'
T'was all he could say
So he turned on his madame and sauced her!

There was a great seignior named Clive
Who went to the water to dive
But when he got there
He did not dare
And so he is right here quite alive!

There was a rich planter named Focke
Who said, "I will tell you a joke
About certain things
Which much laughter brings
To make you explode and choke!"

That same night there was a ball at the Lusitana Society and an animatographica representation for the seamen and marines of the *S. Gabriel*.

On the 29th I was given dinner by Mr. [Antone] Seabury and on the 30th, "Decoration Day," the day American families take flowers to cemeteries, there was great animation in the town. We were given a tea by Mme. Correa, and in the evening at the Bonine theater a recital was given for the benefit of the Portuguese school, in which the garrison marines took part.²⁰

While I visited that same day the "Society Belles," who had been at the Admiral's dinner party, I watched Mrs. Gunn rehearsing her school pupils in some very artistic Japanese dances.

On June 1st we loaded our bunkers with 27 tons of coal, as well as 20 more at the bilges and another 52 in bags in the poop deck, so we were supposed to have enough for the long voyage we were going to do.

I was invited by the British Consul to lunch and to spend the day at his mountain house at Tantalus, from which there is a beautiful view. At 7 o'clock at night the Portuguese Consul gave a banquet at the Young Hotel, attended by the authorities, including the Territorial Governor, land and sea officers, judges, distinguished Portuguese, etc. Following this, there was a ball at the headquarters of the "Sociedade de Beneficencia de Santo António." On the 2nd I invited for lunch Admiral Rees, Lieutenant Commander Houston, the British Consul, S. Damon, and the Portuguese Consul.

In the afternoon we went to a nice party given by Mrs. Focke at her Waikiki beach house. It started with the favorite sport—surf riding. American ladies, elegantly dressed in swimming costumes, and men go in native boats on top of the waves' crests at great speed. Each boat is directed by one or two natives who stand in the poop. It is an exciting and amusing sport. After two or three races on the waves, we bathed in the sea, we played bridge in the open air, the coastguards played the guitar and sang, followed by dinner in *petites tables*. Our Consul and main society ladies were present.

On June 3rd, at noon, the cruiser left Honolulu in the direction of Yokohama. That morning we had on board, saying goodbye, Admiral Rees, foreign Consuls, judges, members of the Portuguese colony, and many ladies who hung leis on the officers' and marines' necks, as is usual in Hawaii. We were given lovely flower bouquets by the Governor, Admiral Rees, the British Consul, Portuguese ladies and gentlemen, etc. A band played, an American guard of honor was formed, and we had the most affectionate farewell one could imagine.

Postscript

Edgar C. Knowlton Jr.

The above translation of the visit of the cruiser *São Gabriel* to Honolulu in May and June of 1910 is a valuable source of information on the impression made by Hawai'i and by the Portuguese community in the Islands at that time. Further, it is possible to determine from newspaper accounts of the visit, in both the English and Portuguese language newspapers, at least some details testifying to the impact.

In May 1908, excitement had been generated by the arrival in Honolulu of a Brazilian training ship, the *Benjamin Constant*. This was the occasion for a poem of welcome, in Portuguese, by the Honolulu poet, Manuel J. Coito. The newspaper *O Luso*, the most influential of the Portuguese language newspapers, reported the event.²¹ Here is part of that article in translation:

Recently, the Brazilian training ship Benjamin Constant having come to Hawaii, the Portuguese immigrants from the whole island chain came to visit it. Since their country never sends any ship to these islands, they

wished at least to greet and celebrate those people who spoke the same language.

Old immigrants, having lived for more than thirty years in the islands, wished to clasp in their arms the commandant from Vila do Conde.

Rich presents were made to him and many parties given in their honor. It is a mark [*sic*] of sincerity and of good and frank hospitality they received that, when the officers of the Benjamin Constant met later in Aden the officers of the Portuguese gun-boat Diu, they did not fail to express their gratitude to the Portuguese colony in Honolulu, since nowhere in their trip around the world had they received demonstrations of so much appreciation and of such sincere admiration.

In 1910, more than two months before the arrival of the cruiser *São Gabriel*, preparations were being made to welcome it. *O Luso* announced the following women's committees had been formed and their presidents named: Executive, Mrs. L. R. Gaspar, Financial, Mrs. Maria Avila Peixotto Cheatham; Dance, Mrs. Annie R. Rego; Chamarrita, Mrs. T. Hollinger; Drama, Miss Louise Melim; Entertainment, Miss Mary França; Music, Mrs. Joseph V. Fernandez; Refreshments, Mrs. Gaspar Silva.²² The committees in all included 40 local women, most of whom were of Portuguese descent. An editorial in *O Luso* paid tribute to them:

The women who so earnestly are associating themselves with the festivities that will take place in homage to the officers and crew of the cruiser Sao Gabriel in the trip which this vessel of the glorious war fleet is making . . . are helping the men in the greatest measure. This sincere demonstration on their part to crown the festivities with brilliant success, is an indication of the purest and most holy of sentiments that ennoble the human heart, love for one's land, for the flag of one's parents and for their glorious traditions.

The warm reception which the gallant officers and men will find in this city, a welcome of incomparable affection, will be motivated not only by the expansion of patriotic sentiment innate in every truly Portuguese heart, but principally because this Portuguese man of war is the first in the annals of the world which is crossing the Pacific's waters.

A news item on the same page states that the amount pledged for the celebration for the ship already had reached \$1,000. The editor reminded readers that the visit of the ship was the result of local Portuguese people's requests which had been made for years, that Portuguese prestige and social position should not be exposed to the criticism of others.²³

The men of the community also formed executive and reception committees and prepared to welcome the ship with many festivities.

These committees, headed by Antonio D. Castro as President of the Executive Committee, included a cross section of members of the Portuguese community. Some of the participants were: Dr. Luiz Rodrigues (Gaspar), musician José Maria Gomes, Judge Frank Andrade, bank teller Joseph D. Marques, attorney José Coelho de Sousa, the Reverend Antonio V. Soares (pastor of the Portuguese Evangelical Church), the Reverend Estêvão de Alencastre (later Roman Catholic Bishop), deputy tax assessor Vincent Fernandez Jr., saloon owner Emmanuel S. Cunha, jeweler Joaquim Anselmo Rodrigues Vieira, and many others.²⁴

Shortly before the ship's arrival, a poem in Portuguese by Manuel J. Coito was published in *O Luso*. The closing lines of the six-stanza "The 'Saint Gabriel' Song" are:

And so you, oh men of the sea
Circumnavigating the globe,
Remember you are from the cradle
Of a land of giants;
Full of brilliant episodes is

The peerless Lusitanian history
We can all be proud
Of our ancestors;
Welcome, noble soldiers—
To the shores this side of the sea.

May 7, 1910

M. J. Coito²⁵

Similar joy and fervid patriotism are displayed in a remarkable speech given in Portuguese by a young immigrant from Madeira. After the death of his mother, he gave up seminary studies and made the voyage to Hawai'i with Dr. L. R. Gaspar. Manoel S. Henriques gave his speech when the officers of the cruiser visited Waialua Plantation on May 15th. The speech was perhaps indicative of the later political career of Henriques who served in the legislature as a representative from Kaua'i, becoming Vice-Speaker of the House in 1959, Hawai'i's statehood year.

This day is for all us Portuguese the greatest gala, of jubilation and of happiness . . . and will remain engraved in letters of gold forever and ever in the annals of the people of Hawaii as the greatest day of joy and triumph. . . . We are Portuguese and as such as wish to live always faithful to that land called Portugal.

We all have for a long time been longing for your arrival so as to greet you and also to show to the countless races of people living in Hawaii that we have a fatherland, that we have powerful soldiers and brilliant warships. . . .

Now, gentlemen, your departure will be the motive of *saudade* [nostalgia or yearning] for us, but inform that old Portugal, still full of glory, that her children have not lost the feelings or the faithfulness to the motherland.

Long live the Portuguese nation!
Long live the officers of the São Gabriel!
Long live King Manuel II!
Long live the Portuguese colony!
Long live the Portuguese people of Waialua!²⁶

Considerable interest in the ship's visit was also shown in the English language press. One editorial expressed these sentiments:

San Gabriel, Aloha, aloha heartfelt because to men and women of Portugal these islands owe so much. The Portuguese Hawaiians have proven their worth as citizens of this their adopted land, have made good. . . . The welcome extended to the San Gabriel is not extended by Portuguese to Portuguese but by the people of Hawaii to the representatives of a good people.²⁷

The same newspaper quoted figures presented in *O Luso* regarding the prosperity of the Islands' Portuguese:

Striking figures in the last issue of *O Luso* . . . Proof of the prosperous condition of the Portuguese colony in Hawaii. Portuguese have to their credit in Hawaiian banks amounts . . . totalling \$797,916.20.²⁸

The editorial pointed out that these savings did not include the value of real estate owned by Portuguese.

It seems, indeed, that the Portuguese recognized that they had achieved as a group considerable success in their new home. Another editorial, written in both English and Portuguese, presumably by the editor of *O Luso*, Manuel A. Silva, states:

The Portuguese in Hawaii are here to stay. We want it to be known abroad that we are satisfied to look on this Territory as our home . . . that we are contented and, on the whole, as well situated as any Portuguese in any portion of the world.²⁹

Still a third, in the English press, spoke of the "rejoicing of the Portuguese people" and concluded:

Consul General Canavarro and the whole Portuguese colony are to be congratulated both on the event and the splendid manner in which they did the honors of according to the visiting ship and her company the hospitality of Hawaii.³⁰

At the banquet given at the Alexander Young Hotel by Consul General Canavarro, he addressed the Captain and officers, paid tribute to their personal charm, and indicated the importance of the visit. This speech was reported in *O Luso* and in English language papers:

We have been waiting for you for the past 25 years. In the meantime, in Hawaii, children have been born to our Portuguese and, at last the children of these children have the pleasure of seeing the San Gabriel. We forgive you the delay.

Captain, you have seen with what effusion the officers and sailors have been greeted by thousands of our countrymen. . . . Undoubtedly the personality of the officers accounts in part for this; but other reasons contribute powerfully to the enthusiasm of this reception.

The Consul General then spoke of the glory of Portugal's past as a maritime power and made this interesting suggestion:

Captain, you are now acquainted with the picturesque custom of adorning departing friends with leis . . . the San Gabriel will be full of leis. Keep some . . . till you reach the Cape of Good Hope and then, in the name of the Portuguese of Hawaii, throw them overboard, to the memory of those heroic sailors who, there, lost their lives.³¹

The Portuguese Captain Basto replied in excellent English.

Plans for the Maui visit also involved executive and reception committees, made up mostly of Portuguese men—ranchers, lawyers, mechanics, store owners and store clerks, teachers, a principal, a bank cashier, a deputy tax assessor, a butcher—but also including prominent non Portuguese community leaders like Frank F., Henry P. and Harry A. Baldwin.³²

Some of the shorter news items lend human interest to the picture of enthusiastic hard work. The skill in skating of the ship's commandant was commented upon; he had been known as the first skater in Portugal 35 years previously.³³ Mr. J. P. Rodrigues, the tailor, made a Portuguese flag measuring 30 by 20 feet, the largest one in the Islands, for display at the San Antonio Society Building.³⁴

Businessmen took advantage of the opportunity to advertise; for example (translated): "For dresses for the great ball for the cruiser

Sao Gabriel, see the new announcement of N. S. Sachs Dry Goods Co.³⁵

At least two members of the Portuguese community prepared home displays. J. F. L. Silva and J. D. Mendonça had the entrances to their homes electrically illuminated to show a crown, a flag of Portugal, and a portrait of the King of Portugal in the center.³⁶

The chief event that had a negative effect on the mood of joy in Hawai'i during these weeks was the news of the death of King Edward VII of England. Portugal's long friendship with England, and the popularity of Great Britain in Hawai'i made necessary an adjustment to the plans in order to devote some time to mourning and the expression of condolences. The Hilo Portuguese were upset by the possibility of schedule changes—they had raised over \$2,000 and arranged an ambitious trip to the volcano area, but eventually difficulties were surmounted.³⁷ A matter of regret, too, was the failure of the *São Gabriel* to visit the island of Kaua'i, but at least one prominent member of the Portuguese community there, John I. Silva of 'Ele'ele, together with his wife, was able to come to Honolulu to meet with officers and crew.³⁸

These brief comments and selections from the newspapers of the time may help to fill out the picture of Honolulu and the Territory of Hawai'i in May of 1910 beyond that presented in the chapters on the voyage itself.

NOTES

¹ A. J. Pinto Basto, *Cruzador S. Gabriel Viagem De Circumnavegação* (Lisbon: Livraria Ferreira, 1912). A copy is held by the Honolulu Academy of Arts Library.

² Rear Admiral Corwin Pottinger Rees (1848–1924), commandant of the U. S. Naval Station, Hawai'i.

³ George, Lord Anson (1697–1762) found the chart on the galleon *Nuestra Senora do Cobadonga*, which he captured 30 June 1743. See E. W. Dahlgren, *Were the Hawaiian Islands Visited by the Spaniards Before Their Discovery by Captain Cook in 1778?* (Stockholm, Almqvist and Wiksells, 1916), plate 3.

⁴ The *milreis* was the Portuguese unit of currency until 1911 when the *escudo* was adopted. The *escudo* was on a par with the U. S. dollar; the ratio for the *reis* was 1,000 to one.

⁵ Antonio de Souza Canavarro who served as an officer in the Portuguese Navy, arrived in Hawai'i in 1882. He was Consul General of Portugal and Acting Consul of Spain.

⁶ The Bishop of Zeugma (Hubert John Louis Boecynaems) was the Right Rev. Libert, pastor of the Roman Catholic mission. Col. J. W. Jones was John Walker Jones, Adj. Gen., Hawai'i National Guard.

⁷ Maj. S. W. Dunning, Commanding Officer, 20th Infantry, Fort Shafter, Hawai'i; Hon. Antonio Perry, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the Territory of Hawai'i; T. Clive Davies, director, Theo H. Davies and Co., Ltd.

- ⁸ Samuel Mills Damon, President of Bishop Trust Co., Ltd.; Frederick August Schaefer, Italian Consul and Acting Consul for Austria-Hungary; Victor S. Kaleoaloha Houston, a graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy and a Territorial Delegate to Congress.
- ⁹ Cpts. Harry P. Wilbur and Edward Timberlake, the latter Commandant at Fort Ruger, Hawai'i.
- ¹⁰ The Portuguese School was A Pátria, located in the St. Antonia Benevolent Society of Honolulu Building, S. Vineyard St.
- ¹¹ Lusitana Beneficent Society, at the Lusitana Hall, corner of Alapai and Lunalilo Sts.
- ¹² The Princess Skating Rink at Pauahi St. near Nu'uanu Ave.
- ¹³ For a different view of the importance and excitement of Halley's Comet, see M. Winslow Chapman, "When Halley's Comet Came: Letters of Anne Goodwin Winslow 1908-1911," *HJH* 19 (1985): 149-178.
- ¹⁴ Antonio Daniel Castro, merchant; Manuel A. Silva, editor of *O Luso*; Dr. Luiz Rodrigues Gaspar, a physician; Jose dos Passos Rodrigues, tailor; J. G. Faria, realtor; John S. Azevedo, farmer; Joaquim M. Camara, lawyer, notary, and court interpreter; Manuel A. Gonçalves, merchant.
- ¹⁵ Fawcett is probably William Fawcett Pogue who was on the reception committee for the ship's Maui visit.
- ¹⁶ Probably St. Mary's School for Girls and St. Joseph's School for Boys; Joseph Silveira Canario, Owner of Hilo Wine and Liquor Co. and a rancher.
- ¹⁷ Mrs. Clive is probably Mrs. Clyde Davies. Henry A. Walker, Amfac President, interview in February, 1986, said that "Miss Walker" might be any one of his aunts, Cordelia, Margaret, or Agnes, who were all active socially at the period of *S. Gabriel's* visit.
- ¹⁸ Anita A. Focke, wife of Herman Focke, President of Hoffschlager Company.
- ¹⁹ Mrs. Mary Wilder Gunn, Principal of Pohukaina School.
- ²⁰ Antone W. Seabury, Manager of O'ahu Ice and Electric Co.; Mme. Augusto P. C. (Johanna Haneberg) Correa; the Bonine Theater was on Hotel St. near Alakea.
- ²¹ *O Luso* 12 March 1910.
- ²² *O Luso* 5 March 1910.
- ²³ *O Luso* 30 April 1910.
- ²⁴ *PCA* 10 May 1910.
- ²⁵ *O Luso* 7 May 1910.
- ²⁶ The widow of Manoel S. Henriques, Mrs. Mary Teixeira Ota, kindly provided information on her husband's career. The speech appears in Portuguese in *O Luso* 28 May 1910. *PCA* 11 May 1910 carried the speech, made at the Waiialua *lū'au*, by a "young man named Henriques."
- ²⁷ *PCA* 11 May 1910.
- ²⁸ *PCA* 21 May 1910.
- ²⁹ *O Luso* 5 March 1910.
- ³⁰ *Hawaiian Star* 3 June 1910.
- ³¹ *PCA* 2 June 1910; an allusion to the dangerous passage around the Cape.
- ³² *O Luso* 9 April 1910; *PCA* 23 May 1910.
- ³³ *O Luso* 21 May 1910.
- ³⁴ *O Luso* 23 April 1910.
- ³⁵ *O Luso* 19 March 1910.
- ³⁶ *O Luso* 23 April 1910.
- ³⁷ *PCA* 15 May 1910.
- ³⁸ *PCA* 15 May 1910.