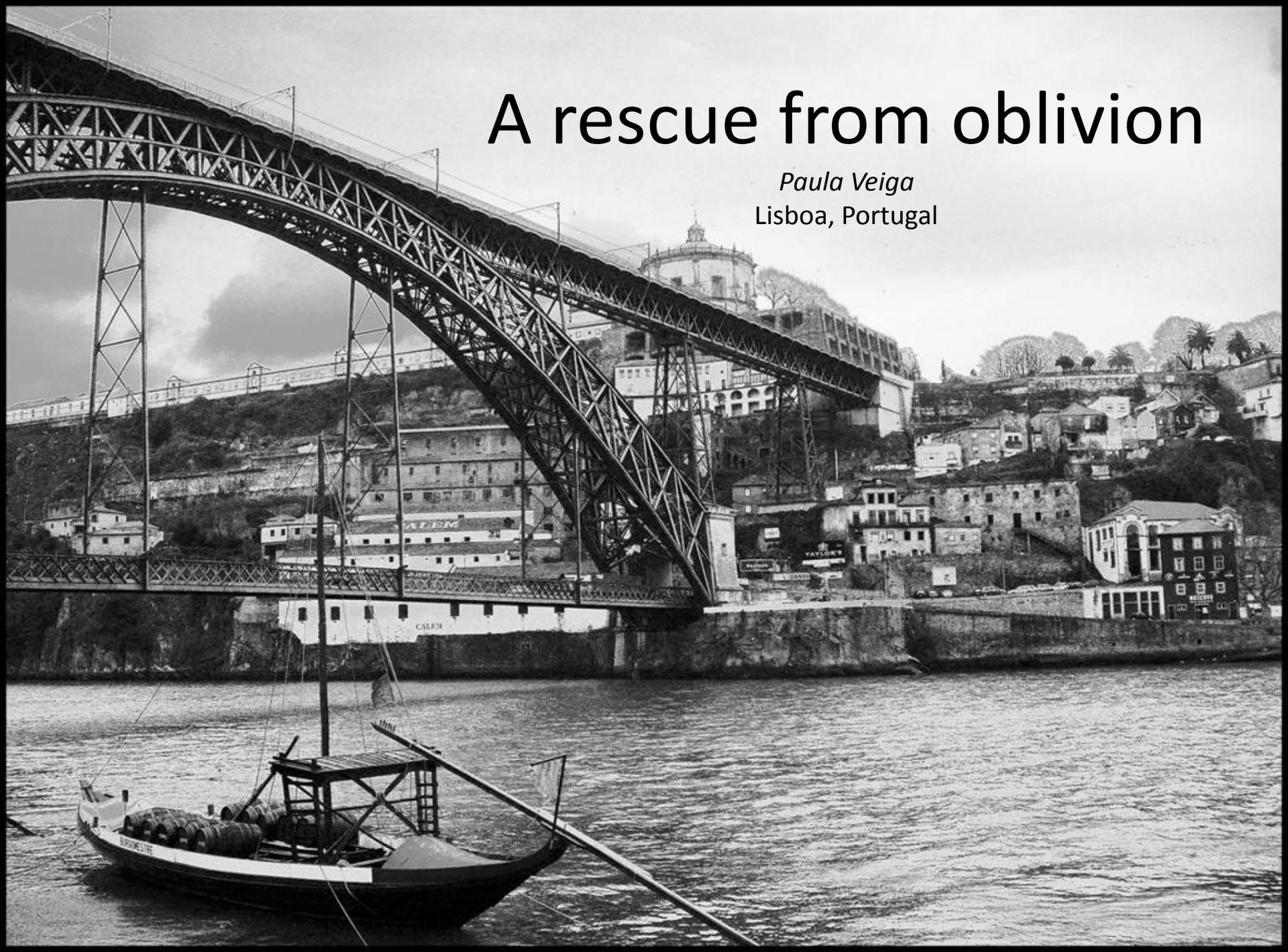


A rescue from oblivion

Paula Veiga
Lisboa, Portugal



A rescue from oblivion

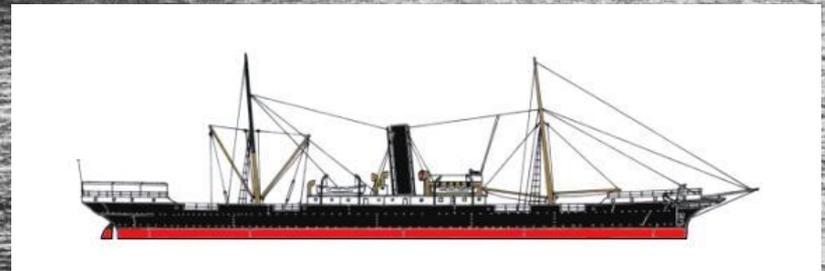
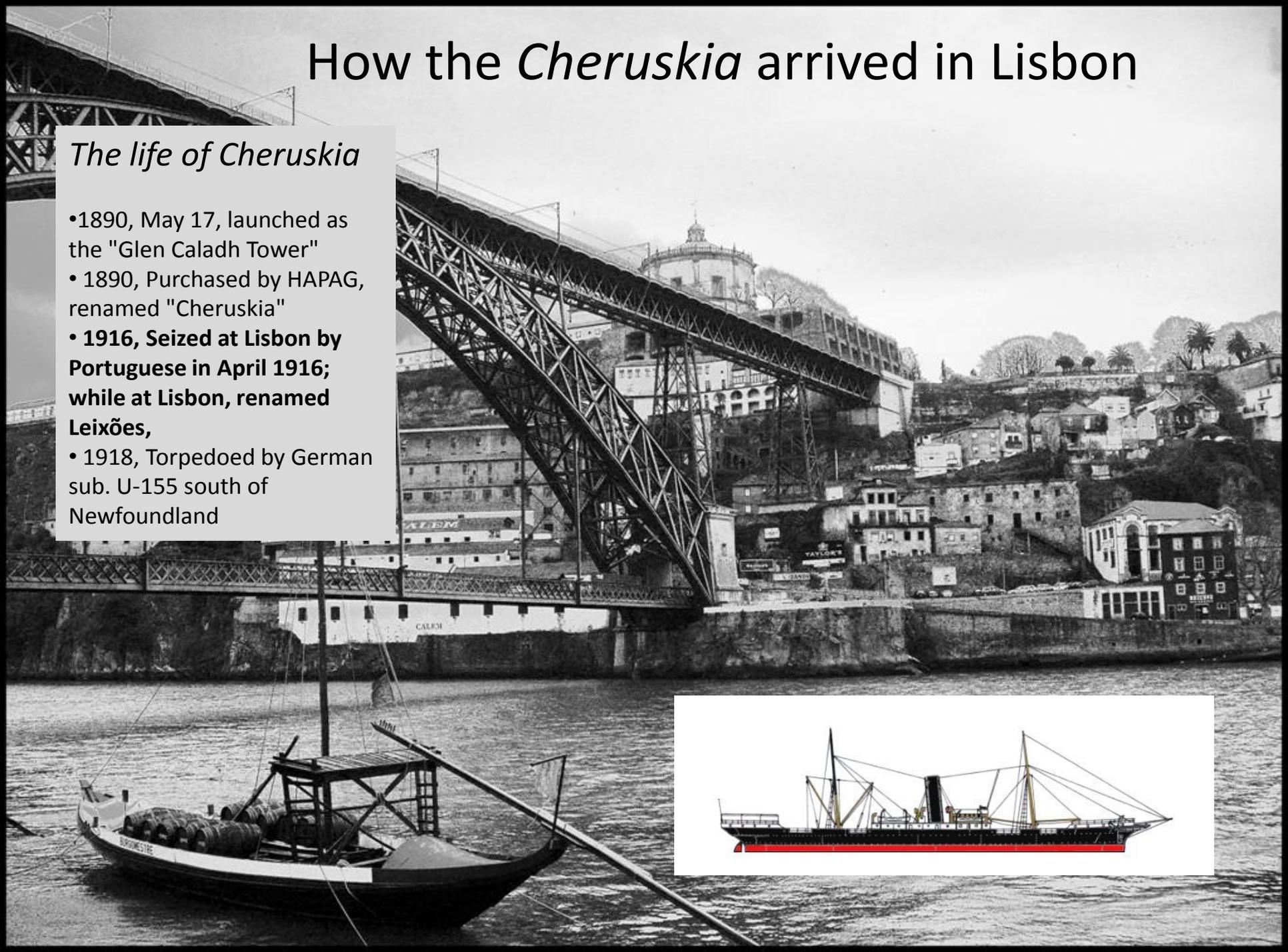


- The core of this collection - 103 Egyptian pieces; a gift from the German authorities; «*Nach Portugal im Austausch für die Assurfunde gegeben*» (total of artefacts-134-), which arrived in the Cheruskia), one of about 70 ships formerly imprisoned in Lisboa (both from now Germany and Austria) in 1916.
- In 1921 the content of one ship, all Assyrian antiquities, was taken to Porto Faculty of Letters following a law issued by Augusto Nobre, minister, scientist and Dean of this University.
- The spoil of the ship arrives in Porto in 1922.
- In 1925, Walter Andrae, director of the Assyrian excavations, comes to Portugal, and agrees on the exchange.
- Portugal returns the artefacts to Berlin (1926)
- The gift sent by the Germans came to Porto Faculty of Letters and, in 1940 it was taken to its present location, the Faculty of Sciences.

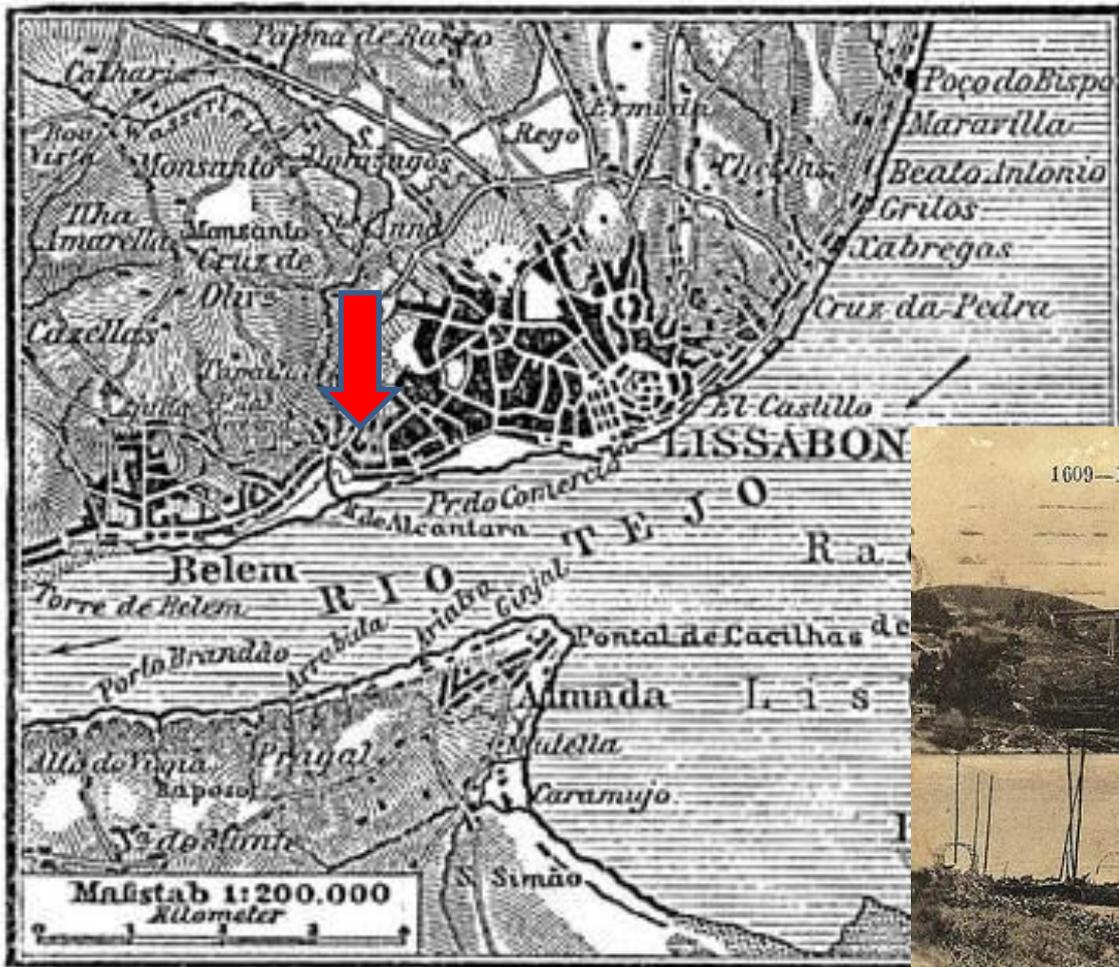
How the *Cheruskia* arrived in Lisbon

The life of Cheruskia

- 1890, May 17, launched as the "Glen Caladh Tower"
- 1890, Purchased by HAPAG, renamed "Cheruskia"
- **1916, Seized at Lisbon by Portuguese in April 1916; while at Lisbon, renamed Leixões,**
- 1918, Torpedoed by German sub. U-155 south of Newfoundland

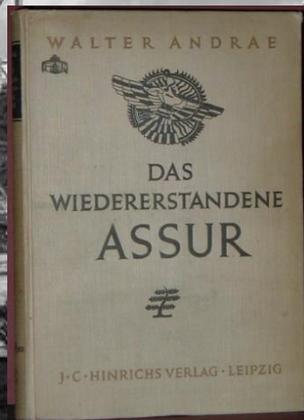


Lisbon docks left, the Tagus river, where the ship stayed for some years... and Porto docks right, the Douro river.



Plan von Lissabon.

Who brought the Assur merchandise



Albrecht Meydenbauer (1834–1921)
Der Bauforscher Walter Andrae (1875–1956)
vor einem Gebäckfragment in Baalbek, 1902

Silbergelantineabzug, 19,7 x 19,9 cm
TU UB Plansammlung Inv.-Nr. F 7862

Assur artefacts returned to Germany



Universidade do Porto.

L'Université de Porto accepte les services de Mr. le Professeur Walter Andrae pour choisir parmi les spécimens assyriens en possession de l'Université ceux qui pourraient constituer une collection d'étude, aussi complète que possible, l'Université se réserve, le droit de révision de cette collection choisie; Après qu'il aura été procédé à la révision et si l'Université de Porto la juge acceptable, les spécimens accedents pourront être cédés à un Musée Allemand en échange d'objets archéologiques que l'Université estimera utiles.

Porto, le 18 août 1925.

gez. Dr. W. Andrae.

gez. Auguste Pereira Nobre.

In exchange for the returned items from Assur, Germany offered Portugal a collection of artefacts from all around the world (600 objects), which included the Egyptian items (103 objects) that came from Berlin. This collection is now housed at the Museum.

In the collection, two mummies were to be found; a girl, already unwrapped when in Berlin, and a boy, completely wrapped.

The Museum where the collection is exhibited

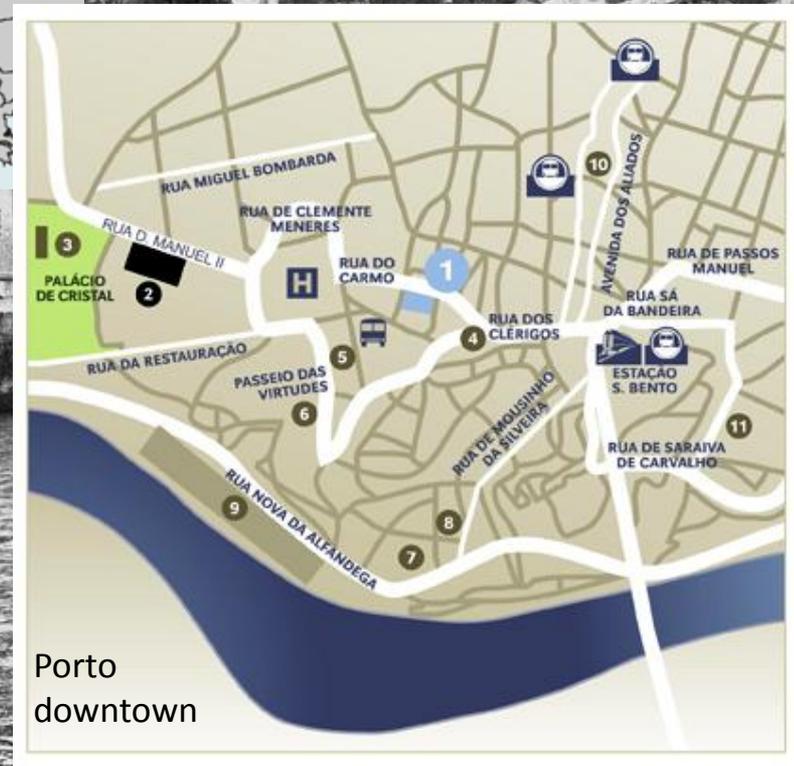


MHN-FCUP, Museum of
Natural History, Faculty of
Sciences, University of
Porto

Address: Praça Gomes Teixeira
4099-002 PORTO



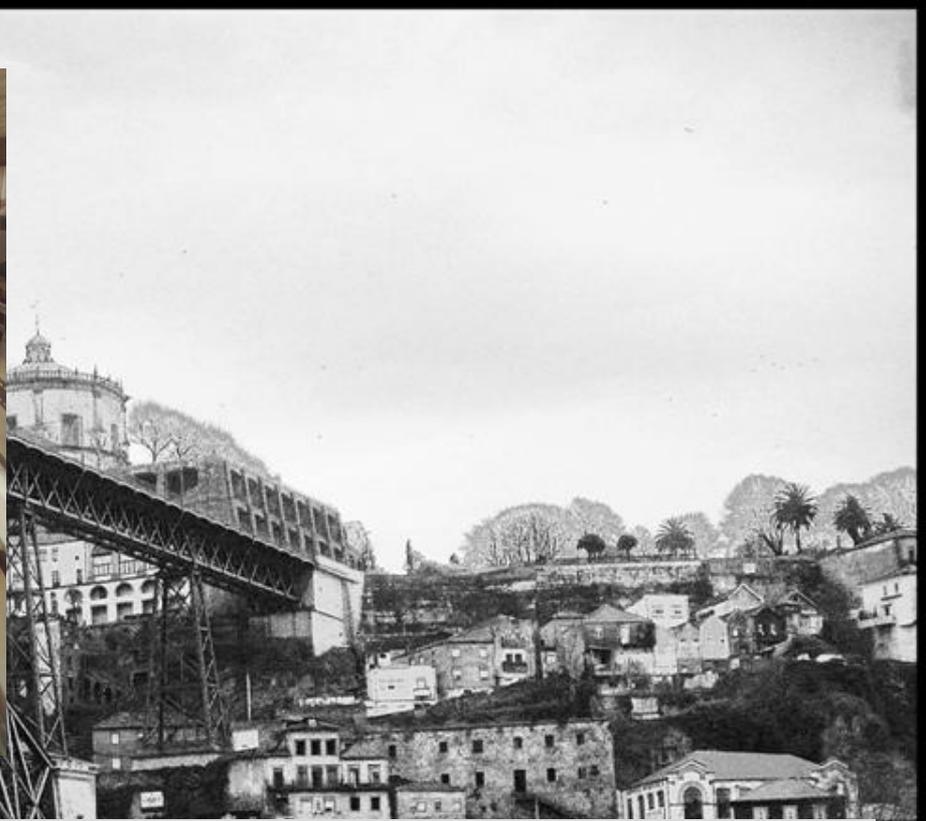
Museum, Porto



Porto
downtown

The old room...





- In the old room the Egyptian collection was housed together with the zoology collections, and also geology.
- But the room was well lit and spacious.
- This room exhibited the Egyptian artefacts until May 2008, when a fire damaged the ceiling/roof, and all the artefacts had to be moved.



The two mummies in the Egyptian Collection

female mummy



Male mummy



Pathological condition in left leg of the male mummy

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A

R

kVP:120
mA:350
msec:500
mAs:175
Thk:1 mm
Aquilion

P

- L
0.25 cm

R

kVP:120
mA:350
msec:500
mAs:175
Thk:1 mm
Aquilion

P

Vitrea®
W/L:1524/-105
#1287 at 1079.7 mm

A

- L

0.25 cm

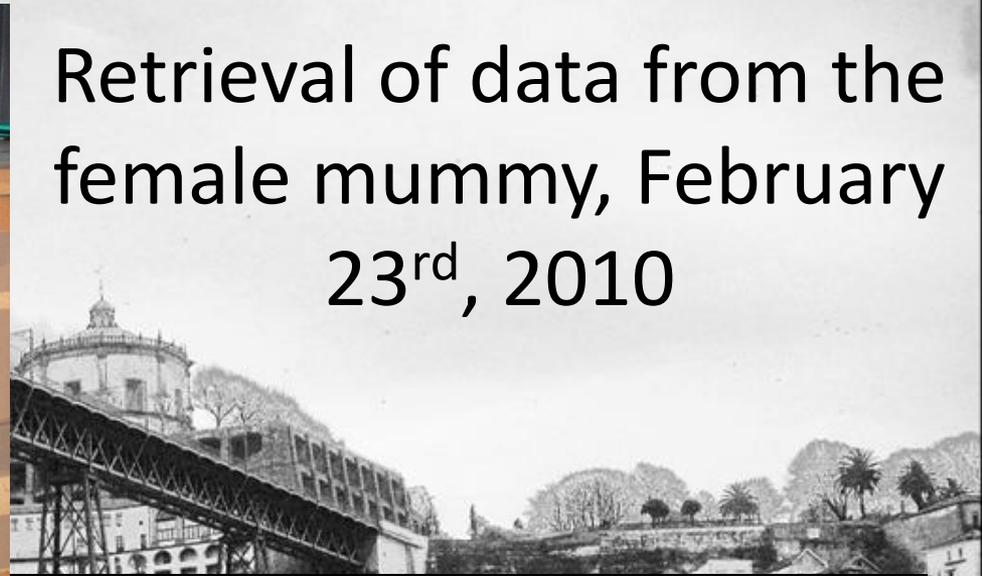
Vitrea®
W/L:1524/-105
#1337 at 1039.7 mm

A big hole showing in the left tibia next to the patella can either be a tumor or an infection, such as osteomyelitis. Dna sample will confirm it.

There is no trace of surgery or trauma, as the bones' edges are irregular; no fracture either, as there are no signs of detached pieces.

Patella's images show the difference: left patella is atrophied, right patella is normal.

Retrieval of data from the female mummy, February 23rd, 2010



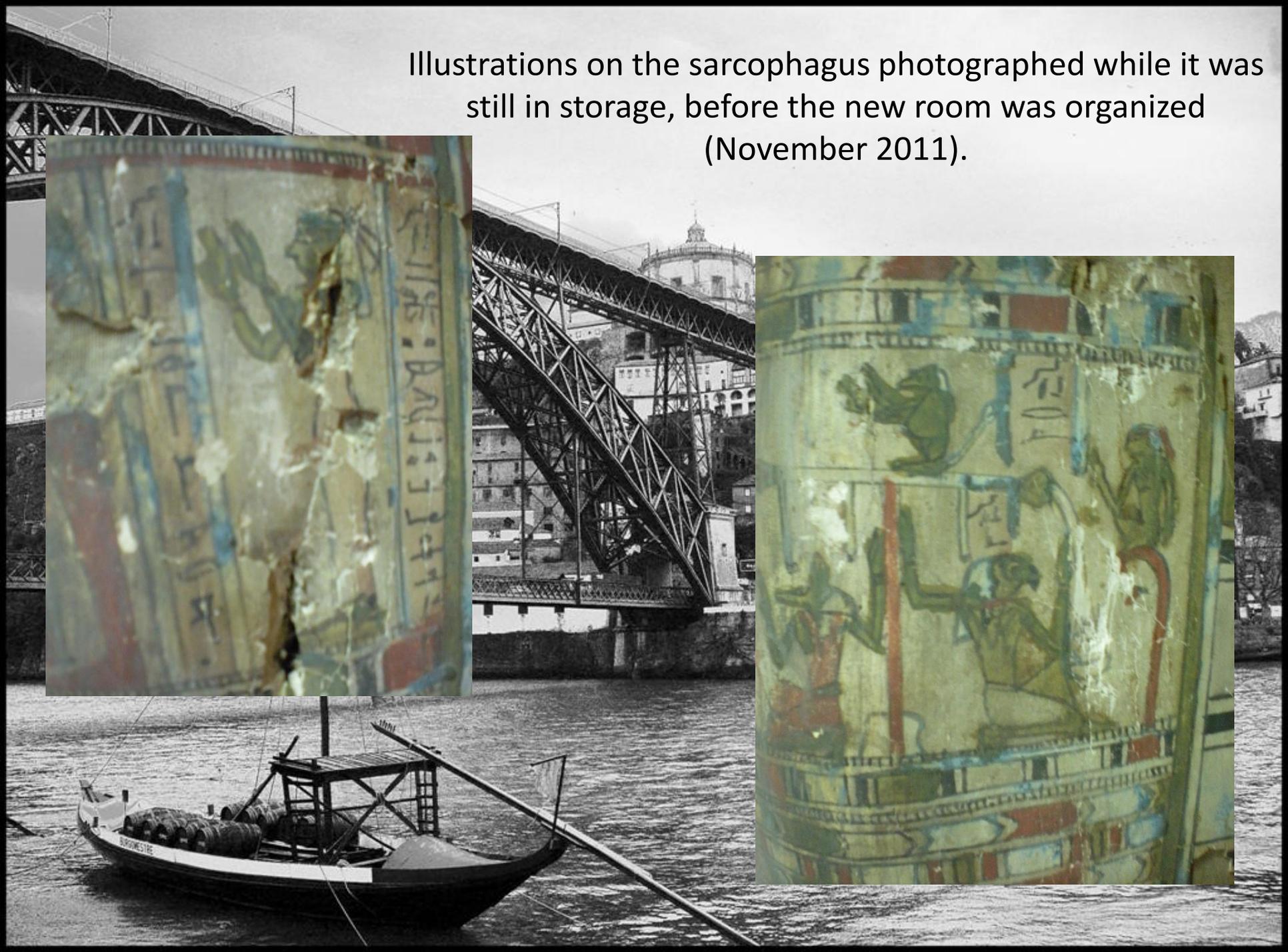
Conservation is not an issue here...



The fire

- Before the new room was organized (Sep 2011), and after the fire, the Egyptian collection was piled up in a room, next to the museum curator's office.
- The fire in the roof on May 5th, 2008 caused some damage , mainly because of water infiltration. I had the chance to observe the artefacts, just waiting to get out of there, and I was sad that most of those are still there, due to lack of space (new exhibition room is too small). Egyptian pieces right next to stuffed animals...
- Since a scrupulous choice was made in order to display only the 'good stuff', most of the collection is still wrapped up in plastic and piled up.
- The Conservation Institute (public institution), which did some work on the mummies some 20 years ago (and also on the mask and the *ptah-sokar-osiris*) had its Director in a recent Egyptology conference telling me they would conserve the objects for free again; it is just a matter of signing protocols between institutions.
- To my knowledge, no one from the museum (it is a University Museum) which means, no one from the University, showed any interest in contacting the Conservators yet.

Illustrations on the sarcophagus photographed while it was still in storage, before the new room was organized (November 2011).



The new room



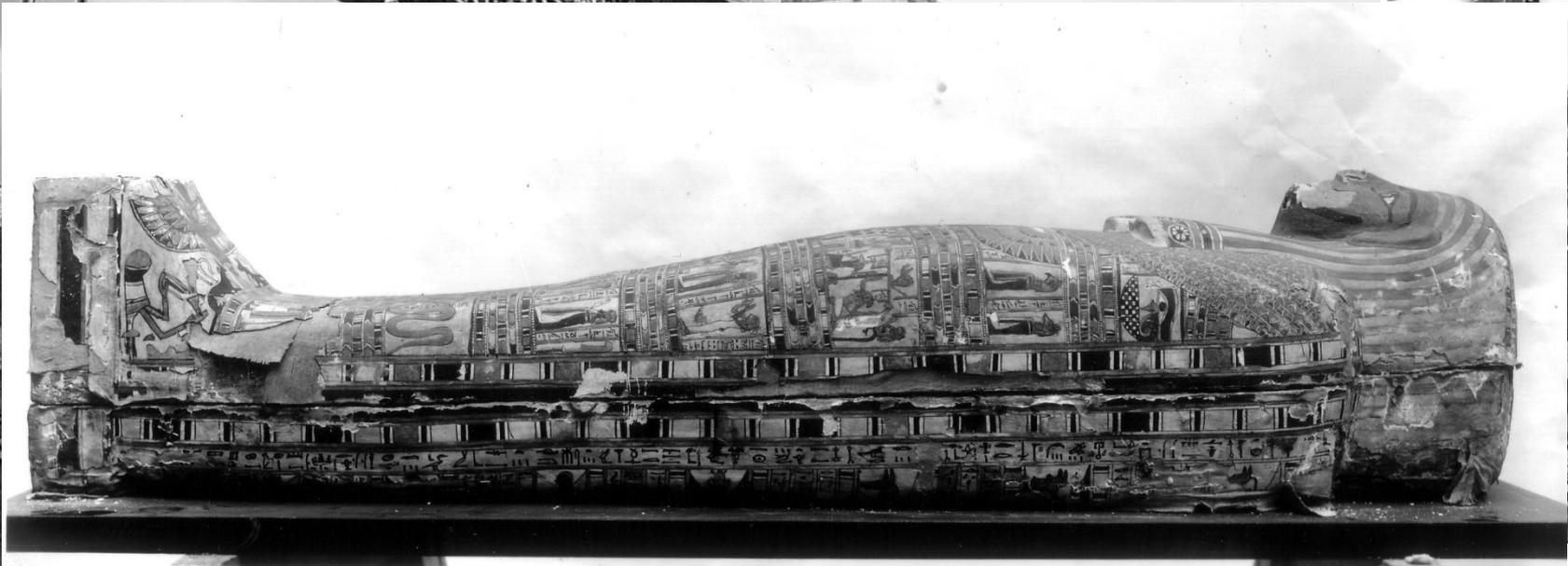
The new Egyptian room was opened last September 22nd, 2011 and most of the collection was left out of it, and it is still in storage.

The choice of artefacts was done according to their preservation state and, since most of the objects need restoration (such as the female mummy), those were not 'chosen' to be displayed.

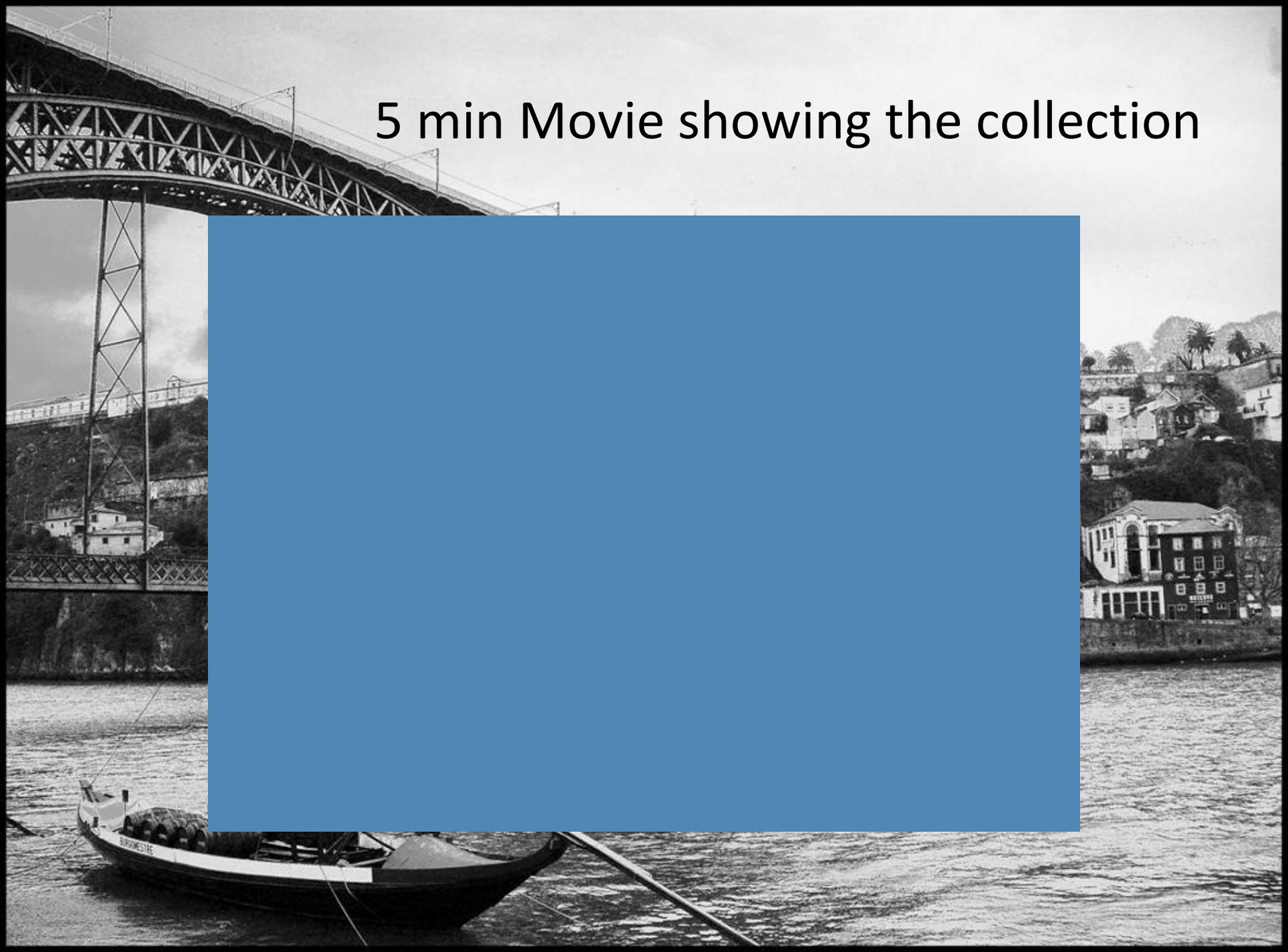
The room is, **in my opinion:**
too dark, and too small.

An effort to conserve more objects and a different approach to the public should have been considered.

The mummy project is holding for funds.. Nothing has been published yet.



5 min Movie showing the collection

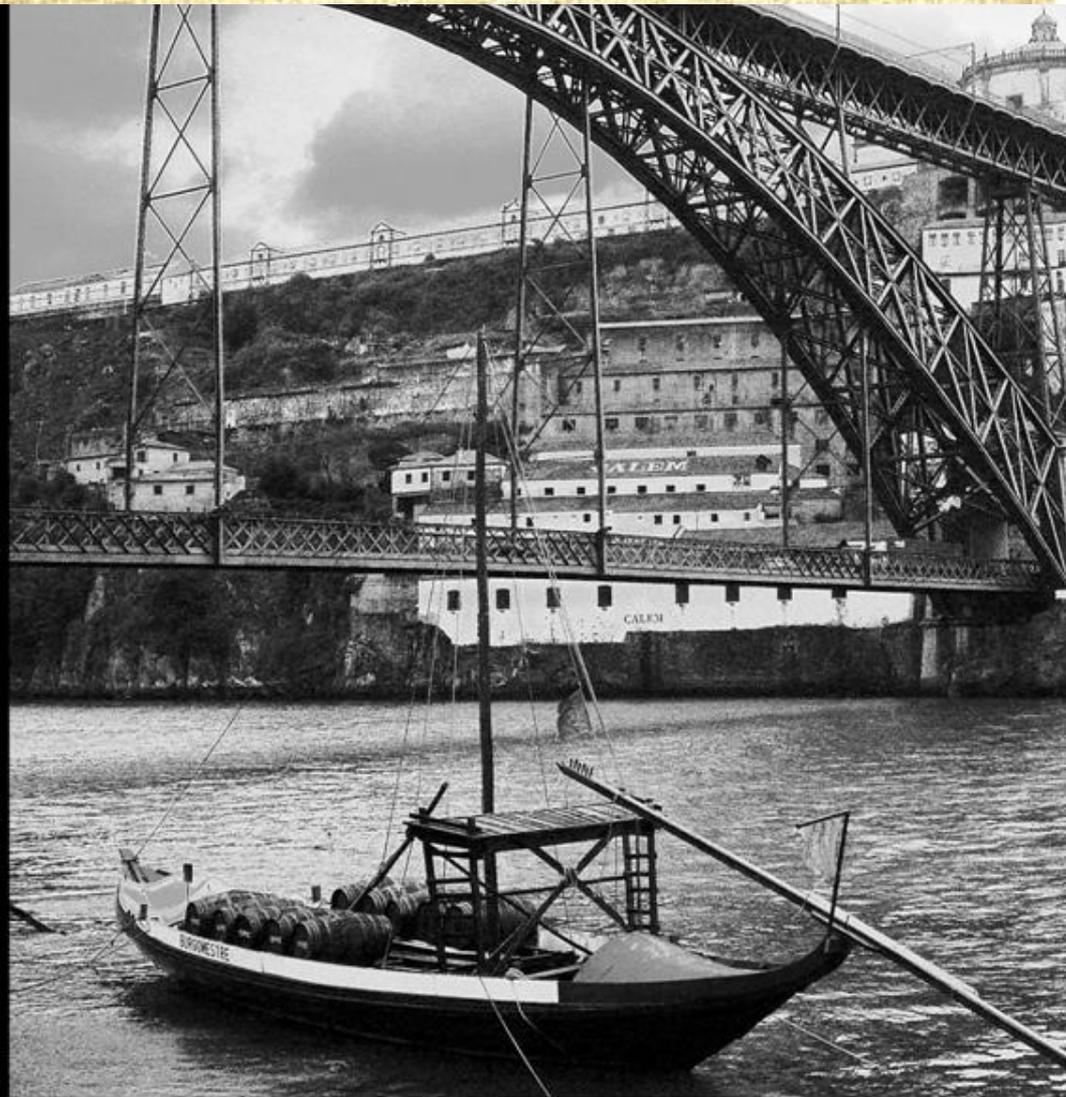




**COLEÇÃO EGÍPCIA
DA UNIVERSIDADE
DO PORTO**

EDÍFICIO DA REITORIA
PRAÇA GOMES TEIXEIRA
(PRAÇA DOS LEÕES) PORTO

U. PORTO 100



Thank you!