

PORTO WATER CITY

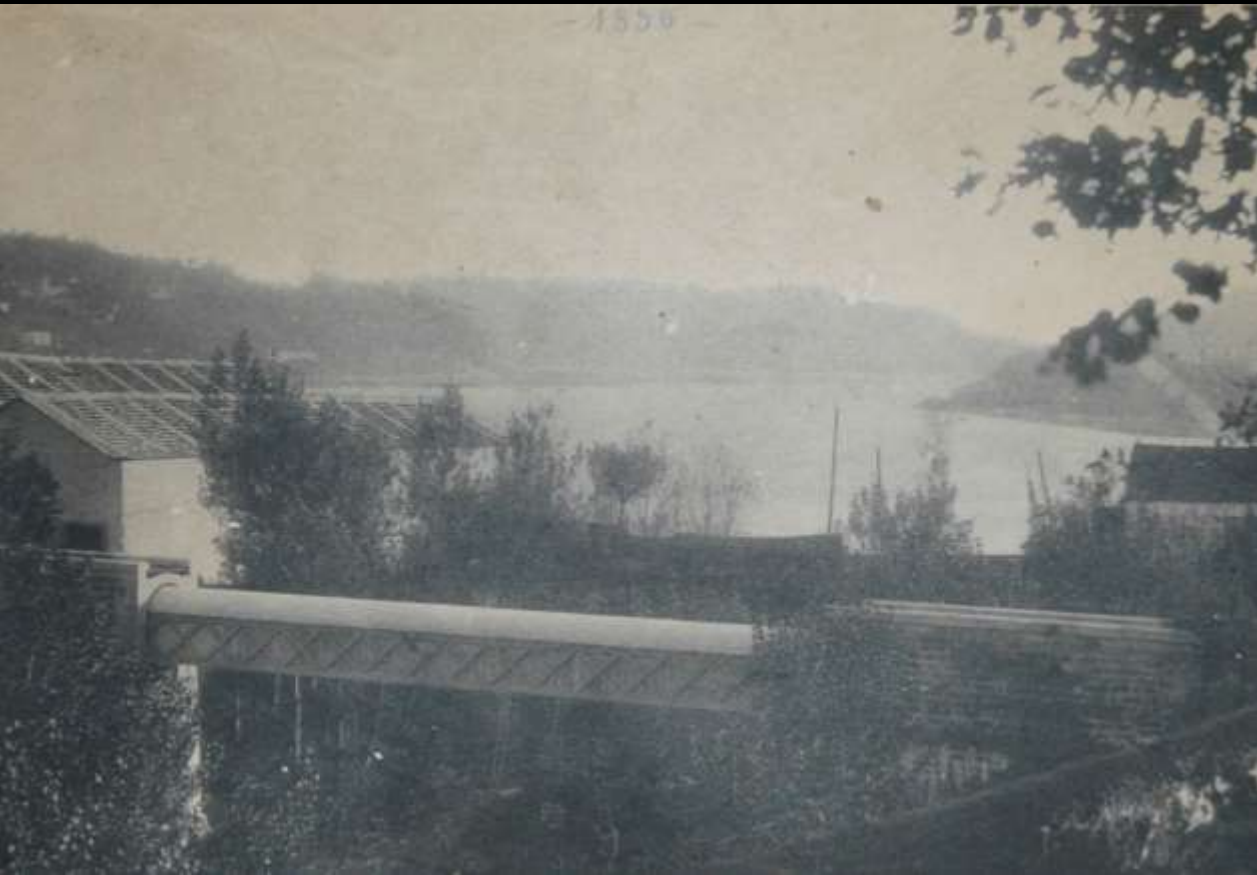
heritage water park
parque patrimonial das águas

Águas e Energia do Porto

“Parque Patrimonial das Águas” is a Museum/Historical Archive of the Territory that is distributed throughout the city of Porto, conglomerating the facilities and networks of heritage value related to the sector and the water cycle. As a showcase of built and unbuilt, built, and green space, it has as an informational rear the extensive archival and museological collection in the custody of Águas e Energia do Porto.



In fact, one of the idiosyncrasies of this heritage, museological, archival and built system is the articulation between memory, object, space, and territory. Being something that translates into the history that the objects and documents tell us, it also incorporates the revitalization of old industrial and service centres, as well as urban equipment such as fountains, washbasins, power plants and reservoirs, of which we offer a small sample throughout this presentation.



This museum, archive and heritage park

is a vehicle for protecting material and intangible heritage and cultural and natural diversity and plays a major role in promoting a creative and proactive local and regional culture economy. It is a platform for reflection, discussion and debate in the technical, social and cultural fields, addressing in its daily functioning complex water heritage issues.



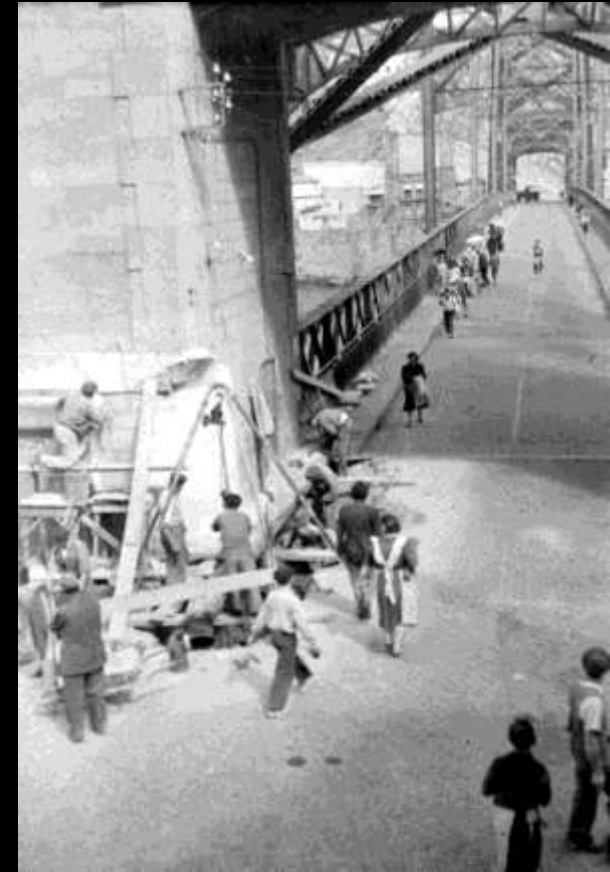
The recognition, attributed in January 2021, to Parque Patrimonial das Águas
by GLOBAL NETWORK OF WATER MUSEUMS – WAMU-NET/ UNESCO,
is a certification of quality and value that enhances the sustainability and international affirmation
of a water heritage platform already recognized by the portuguese section of UNESCO
and the Portuguese Environment Agency and shared with other water museums in several initiatives or scientific events.



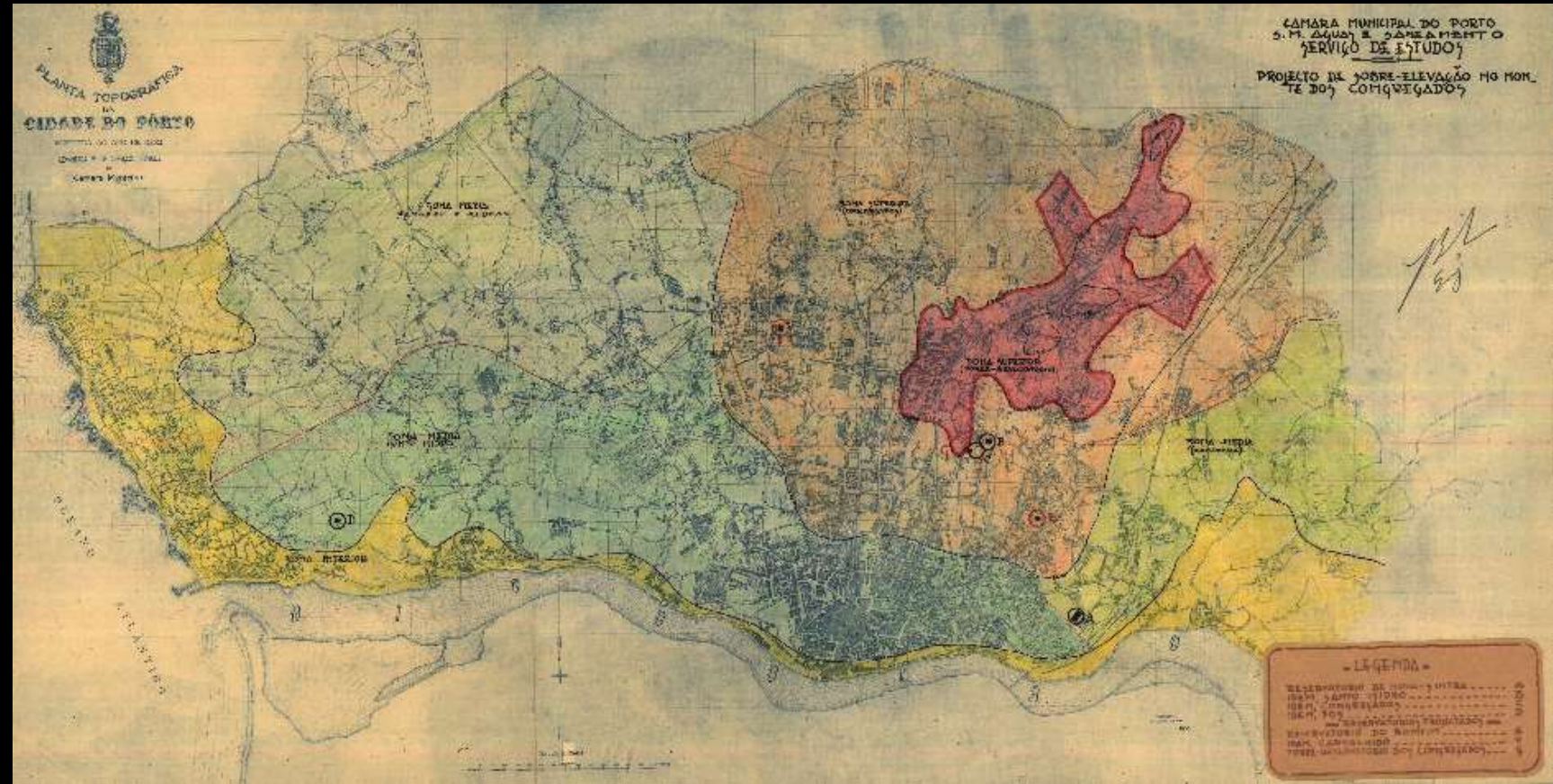
It is expected that the preservation of a unique heritage associated with the history of four centuries of urban infrastructure in water supply, the use of mine water and spring water and the flow of waste and rainwater, contribute to the claim of the city of Porto as "City of Water". considering the fields of Heritage, Environment, Territory, Infrastructure and Sustainability.



It is intended that this recognition, is also a rear for the creation of new audiences and for the training of human resources, researchers and technicians, specialists in the inventory, documentation and conservation of collections, funds and collections that contain material and immaterially objects, documents, testimonies and archaeological sites deemed relevant to the understanding of the general process of creation of urbanity regarding health networks and equipment.



With the mission of internationalization, according to dissemination strategies and considering access as a main goal, we can affirm that, in its guidelines, concept, strategy, plan, program and actions, in addition to safeguarding, dissemination and preservation, aims to provide information and scientific and technical interpretation.

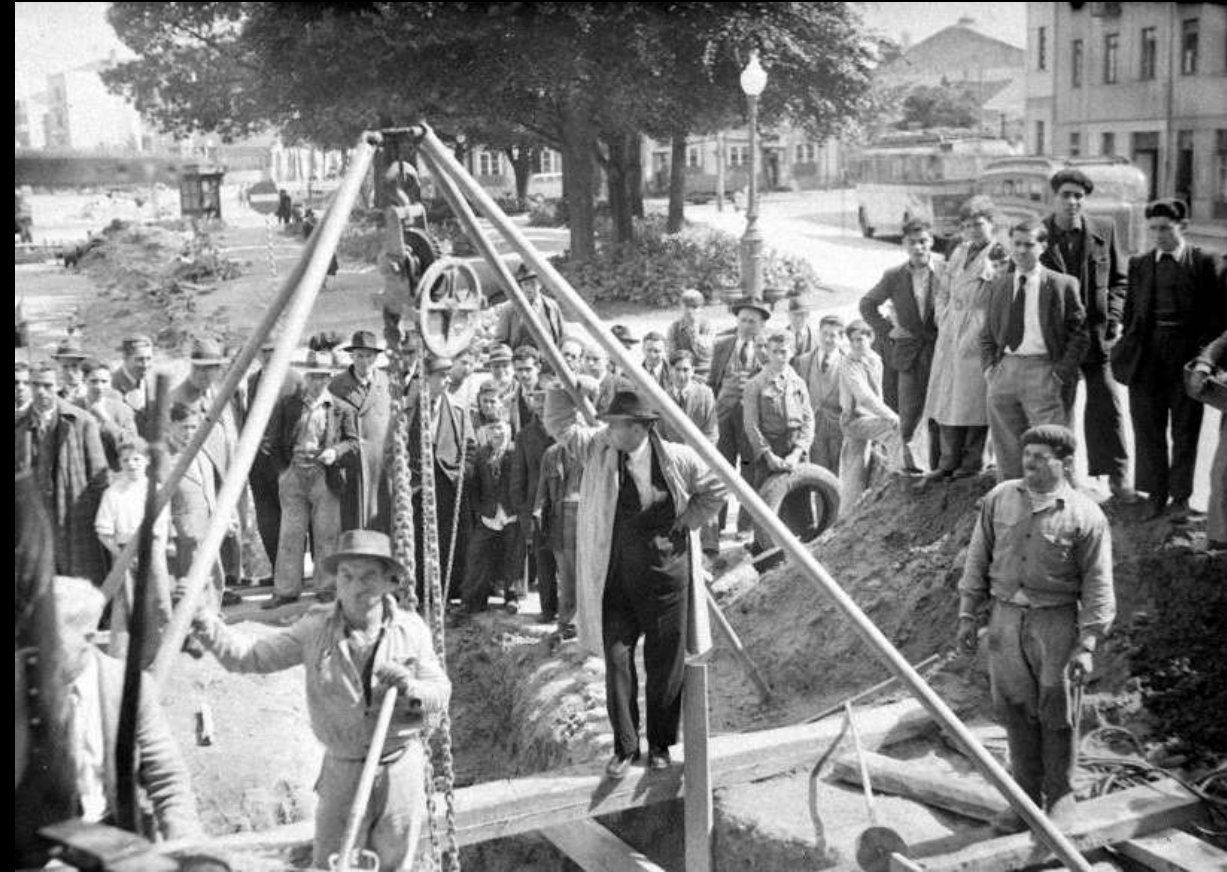


Something that is currently in the process of dynamizing the spheres of research, communication, dissemination and training and education of audiences, especially aimed at new generations, without omitting, as seems to us urgently, the daily needs of the municipal company's service through its technical work, nor internal and external scientific research, without forgetting academic requests, and, finally, the public it intends to involve.



Considering the intrinsic value of a heritage park with the characteristics of this

we can say that, as heritage caretakers, aware of their central role in stimulating creativity, in generating opportunities for the creative and cultural industries, and for entertainment, the object of application that we generally call the "Parque Patrimonial das Águas" and which is supported by a multipolar system distributed throughout the territory of Porto and the Great Porto (municipal and intermunicipal, therefore) and with its central nucleus in Quinta de Vilar das Oliveiras where the Enterprise's headquarters is located, it is now a space of science and leisure, with clear evidence that contributes to the material and immaterial well-being of its users, both at the level of leisure and the conquest of new sources of knowledge.



This is a space that is not limited to a museum or archive, collections or funds,

but to a heritage set that combines the documentary
with the objectual, the analog with the digital,

the "built" with the natural park,
the centenary archaeological site

with the contemporary technical and technological structure.



Cities are a reflection of humanity and its condition, and they have been transformed, creating heritage.

Also in water sector, it's evident the materialization of the eternal conflict between memory and forgetfulness and, in a long historical process, left "layer overlaps" in space and time (many invisible, but important in our condition as urban beings, builders of urbanity).

In the context of the eternal game between visibilities and invisibilities, Porto is a "city of water".



It's contemporary genesis – a "city" intermittent by the strong transformations in this sector –
is important to understand and overcome the contradictions of one of the most strategic public industrial services of today
and understand the relevance of water as an essential good.
So, in Portugal, Porto is definitely a unique example and, also for this reason, as a "territorial heritage park",
Parque Patrimonial das Águas will try to enhance the recognition by UNESCO,
the Cultural United Nations Agency.



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