

CABINET OF CURIOSITIES

THE MEMORY

Trowel / Chisel / Spatula

1845, Portugal, Terceira Island

Wood and iron

A. 4,5 x C. 27,5 x L. 8 / A. 28 x C. 19,7 x L. 3,8 / C. 34.5 x L. 15.5 cm

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This builder set, consisting in three tools, is part of this Museum Memorabilia, Collecting and Miniatures Management Unit and was used in the ceremony of the first stone laid for the monument to the memory of King Pedro IV, located in the top of the garden Duque da Terceira (1882), locally known just as “Memory”.

Between 1832 and 1834, Portugal went through an episode of civil war, labelled by History as “Liberal Wars”. The cause was the succession in the Portuguese throne and the fights happened between the constitutional Liberals, leaded by Queen Maria II and his father, Pedro I, Emperor of Brazil, later King Pedro IV of Portugal, and the Absolutists, leaded by D. Miguel; both were sons of King João VI, who escaped to Brazil in 1807, together with the family and the whole court, prior to the third French Invasion, in 1810. Therefore, this was, literally, a fratricide war. In 1831, King Pedro renounced to the Brazilian crown, in favour of his son, Emperor Pedro II of Brazil and travelled to Portugal, with the aim of forming an army, as the Liberal leader. However, at the beginning, he landed and stayed for some time at Azores, in Terceira Island, that became a kind of headquarters for the Liberal forces. At the end, King Pedro IV won the war and was acclaimed as hero, setting a liberal monarchy in the country. Nevertheless, weakened by tuberculosis, he died soon after, in 1834.

The circumstances of this period in the Portuguese History dictated that Terceira Island became a nerve centre for the “Liberal Wars” and a stage for relevant episodes and battles. After the decease of King Pedro IV, the idea of building a monument in the island for the perpetuation of his memory and achievements aroused immediately. The suggestion was to build it in the area of Castelo dos Moinhos [Mills Castle] that belonged to the City Hall. The ceremony for the laid of the first stone happened in the third of March 1845, the anniversary of King Pedro's arrival to the island. The particular stone used, symbolically, was the first that the King stepped on when he first landed in the island. The instruments that we present here are those that were used in the event and have been conserved since then as pieces that evoke this remarkable moment of the national history and the distinct role played by Terceira Island.

Teotónio de Ornelas, first Count of Praia da Vitória, made the liberal ideology flourish in the Azores, and contributed decisively to engage the process that would lead to the liberalism victory in the Portuguese civil war. Through this Curiosity Showcase edition, the Angra do Heroísmo Museum remembers, on October 25th, the 150 years of his death, he, who was considered to be the “soul” and the “pillar” of the liberal movement.