

Press Release – 17-12-08

Museum reopens tomorrow with new spaces and services

Portucel Soporcel group sponsors the renovation project of Aveiro Museum

Aveiro Museum reopens tomorrow, the 18th of December, after renovation and extension work, in which the Portucel Soporcel group participated by sponsoring the restoration of the “Tomb of D. João de Albuquerque and of his wife D. Helena Pereira”. This late Medieval sculpture perpetuates the memory of an historic personality linked to the region of Angeja, a parish bordering on the area of the Cacia Mill, one of the three Group mills.

With this collaboration with Aveiro Museum, one of the most prestigious cultural institutions in the Region, the Portucel Soporcel group wants to emphasise its commitment in one of the areas of its social responsibility policy which aims, precisely, to provide committed support to preserve and enhance the cultural heritage of the regions in which its Mills are located, thereby strengthening its ties with the local communities.

Lord of Cacia and Angeja

The item restored with the support of the Portucel Soporcel group, which occupies a prominent place in the ground floor gallery of the Museum, is a parallelepiped rectangular arch and tomb, in white limestone, of D. João de Albuquerque (nobleman – knight of D. Afonso V, Lord of Cacia and Angeja) and of his wife D. Helena Pereira (Counts of Feira), with a lying statue of the former on the cover to the arch and tomb.

The tomb is decorated with six heraldic shields of D. João de Albuquerque and D. Helena Pereira, while the four larger sides (rectangular) and smaller sides (square) of the tomb and arch are decorated with plant motifs filling the background, intertwining with the heraldic shields, the one on the rear of the tomb being of a style close to the “Renaissance”. The tomb is set on four feet, three of which are in the form of a sitting lion, with the head looking out and the front paws extended.

With the renovation and extension works which began in 2006 under the responsibility of the Architect Alcino Soutinho, Aveiro Museum now has new spaces for its collection and services, significantly improving its operating conditions.

Technical Sheet:

Denomination: Tomb of D. João de Albuquerque

Made from: limestone from Ançã / Portunhos / sculpted

Dimensions: H 157 x L 230 x W 172 cm

Author: Portuguese work / Central Region / "Coimbra School"

Date / Period: 15th century XV - 1478

Style: Late Gothic, called "peninsular"

Origin: "Church Chapel of the Convent of Nossa Senhora da Misericórdia, (Male Dominican Order), now Aveiro Cathedral.

International Expositions: Universal Exposition of Seville – Seville – 1992

About the Portucel Soporcel Group

The Portucel Soporcel group is one of Portugal's major representatives in the world, with a leading position in the international pulp and paper market, exporting more than 92% of its total sales to more than 80 countries in five continents. In 2007 the value of its exports, over €950 million, represented around 3% of total Portuguese goods exports.

With a turnover of more than €1100 million, which represents 0.7% of Portugal's GDP and around 2% of the industrial GDP, the Group is amongst the largest producers of Uncoated Woodfree Papers (UWF) in Europe and is the largest producer in Europe – and one of the largest in the world – of Bleached Eucalyptus Kraft Pulp (BEKP).

The main markets for the Group's top quality products are Europe and the USA, where its paper brands are highly popular, especially its Navigator brand, the world leader in sales in the premium office paper segment, and also its Soporset, Pioneer, Inacopia, Discovery, Explorer and Inaset brands, for example.

In Europe, the Group is also an outstanding supplier of BEKP for the special papers segments, fundamentally based on the production of the Cacia Mill, which represent around 50% of its pulp sales.

The forest, the source of its raw materials, is a strategic area for the Portucel Soporcel group which, through responsible forestry management, helps to increase the competitiveness of a decisive sector for the Portuguese economy. The Group has forestry certification from the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) for around 102 thousand hectares of forest and promotes the active management of biodiversity. It has established partnerships in this area with the WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature - which means that close to 50% of its certified land is classed as areas of high conservation value in terms of the landscape. We would also point out the Group's activity in the prevention of and support to fight forest fires which have badly affected the countries forests.

The Portucel Soporcel group is preparing to install a new paper machine in its industrial complex at Setúbal through an investment of around €550 million, the start-up of which is planned for the Summer of 2009. The new mill will have a very high degree of technological sophistication and will focus on the production of high quality office papers, which today is a sector where the Group is a major world player.

The new unit will enable all of the pulp produced in the Setúbal industrial complex to be used in paper, increasing the Group's total paper production capacity to around 1.5 million tonnes/year and will significantly boost the Group's competitiveness in the paper market, assuming a leading position in Europe in the UWF market and expanding the outstanding position it has already achieved in the North American market.