

In the *Mystery of Sintra Route*, the island of Malta is the setting of a story of love and crime which mixes humour, romanticism and one of the most unforgettable portraits of a female character.

It can be said without a shadow of exaggeration that Eça de Queiroz contributed, since 1870, in an extraordinary manner, to create in the minds of millions of contemporary readers a fascinating picture of Malta - simultaneously unsettling, seductive and unpredictable as the very novelistic image of romantic women.

**11:15am-1:15pm**

### **5A. Embrancing the Great Sea: Cultural Exchanges Within the Ancient World**

**Chair:** Helena Trindade Lopes, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

**André Patrício, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa. “The Great Sea Used as a Military Strategic Advantage: The Wars of Tuthmoses III and the Mediterranean”**

On the twenty-ninth year of Tuthmoses III reign, a new rebellion against the central power of Egypt started on the distant lands of Lebanon.

In a swift strategic move, the pharaoh sent his army through the Mediterranean, bypassing Canaan and appearing in what might have felt as a blink of an eye in the Lebanon coast, conquering Ullaza and Ardata. This move was not a novelty for the ancient Egyptians of the New Kingdom, it had been used before, although more as a strategy to circumvent the mighty Mitanni, however never as a persistent military offensive tactic. What one proposes to present in this paper is exactly what could have changed on the Egyptian mind to generate such a different set of tactical responses? Is the answer in the view the pharaoh had of the world and the way Egypt should act on it to protect itself? What about the use of new military strategies, where did they come from? Was it a legacy from a country that had to forge its unity once again a century before, survival at all cost? Whatever the answers to the questions this paper will propose are, one fact is clearly true and unavoidable, the changes made by the brilliant military mind of Tuthmoses III profoundly altered the world panorama for half a millennium to come and placed Egypt in the center of history for many centuries after that.

**Manuel Patrocínio, University of Évora, “Heraklés-Hercules and the Literary Descriptions of the Western Lands in Ancient Sources from Stesichorus to Strabo”**

The myth and legend cycle surrounding the deeds of the Greek hero Heraklés- Hercules provided an exemplary way to present civilisational values since the moment when writing early appeared in Ancient Greece. Such became clearly recognisable in textual achievement of 7th-6th Centuries as Hesiod’s *Works and Days* or particularly Stesichorus’ *Gerionid*, in which the fight between Heraklés and King Geryon was dramatically told. Having been initially set in an imaginary scenery, the story acquired through its transmission a defined territorial connotation, when the hero’s travels to the West became dominant in his epic and King Geryon was presented as a ruler of Spain. A cultural discourse was henceforward established and even other Classical writers as Strabo in his *Geography* had no doubt to put the hero on Iberian ground, providing a