

Important Portuguese of the Past

Saint Nun'Álvares Pereira, a biography.

Nuno Álvares Pereira, the son of D. Álvaro Gonçalves Pereira, was born on June 24th 1360. A devout man, he began his military life at the age of thirteen, which was considered the standard age at the time. It was in his youth that he became close to D. João, “Mestre de Avis”, who donated him his armor upon his dubbing as knight.



When the throne succession crisis began in 1383 after the death of D. Fernando, Nun'Álvares was one of the first to defend D. João's claim to the throne of Portugal, and he was the most important general, showing his talent and ability as a strategist at the battles of Atouros and, most importantly, at the Battle of Aljubarrota, in which his efforts allowed for the

Portuguese victory against overwhelming odds. Due to his prowess, he gained the titles of Constable of the Kingdom, Major-Majordomo, and the titles of Count for both Arroios and Barcelos, which combined with his previous title of Count of Ourém, reunited the 3 Counties of the Portuguese Kingdom.

Furthermore, the combined spoils of the battles he won and the payoff of his investments made him the richest man in Portugal. However, after his wife's death, he magnanimously decided to donate all his possessions to charity and join a Convent he founded due to a vow. This fact, combined with what was called a miracle during the Battle of Valverde, were combining factors towards his canonization on the 26th of April 2009, making him the patron Saint of the Catholic Portuguese Boy Scouts.

João Luís and Ana Laura´s work - 12ºI