

IMPORTANT PERSONS

Let's find out who were **the important people** that marked some of the stages of the history of money in Portugal!

Maybe you've even heard about some of them...

D. MARIA I

D. Maria I was the first woman to rule in Portugal (1734-1816).

During D. Maria I's realm paper money appeared in Portugal. To this first kind of paper money was given the name of Apólices do Real Erário, we can't say they were bills because they yielded interests.

D. Maria I had to make a loan since the country had entered into the Roussillon War and the Portuguese finance were down. Therefore, to strengthen the economy, the queen, in 1796, signed a decree authorising the creation of paper money.

ALVES REIS

The name Artur Virgílio Alves Reis will forever be connected to the history of paper currency in Portugal. In 1924, he started to design a plan to forge bills known as "Angola e Metrópole".

Through forged documents, Alves Reis and his accomplices managed to convince the company that used to manufacture bills for the Bank of Portugal, Waterlow & Sons in England, to supply them bills printed with the same plate and the same number.

This was a 500\$00 bill, plate 2, with the picture of Vasco da Gama.

Alves Reis' luck ended in December 1925 when groups of two bills from that plate with the same number were discovered in Porto.

The appearance of two copies confirmed what the monetary authorities had suspected for a long time.

After this discovery it has only been possible to tell the true bills from the forged ones, through concealed signs that were only known by the mentioned English company.

Accused, among other things, of conspiracy and of forging bills, contracts and signatures, Alves Reis spent 20 years in prison (1925-1945).