

THE FIRST WORLD WAR IN THE CITY OF PORTO

Contributions to the knowledge of daily lives and sociability's during the war (1917)



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INTRODUCTION

First World War began in 1914 and ended in 1918 [1, 2]. Portugal went to war through the CEP – Expeditionary Portuguese Body – in Flanders between November 1917 and April 1918 [3]. This intervention have direct impacts on population daily lives, resulting in profound changes in multiple dimensions of Portuguese society, mobilizing a male contingent in an active age. This demographic change results in a restructuring of the women role in society. Porto, as a coastal and maritime municipality, sees the war closely [4]. This research intends to share, supported in bibliographical and documentary evidences, the reality of the city in 1917 and in what way its participation in the war affected their dynamics.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this work were:

- Analyze and explore the documentary heritage of the Great War period in Porto;
- Establish connections between the state of art and the quotidian's during the war presents in the documentary heritage;
- To know the quotidian's and sociability's of Porto in the year 1917.

METHODS

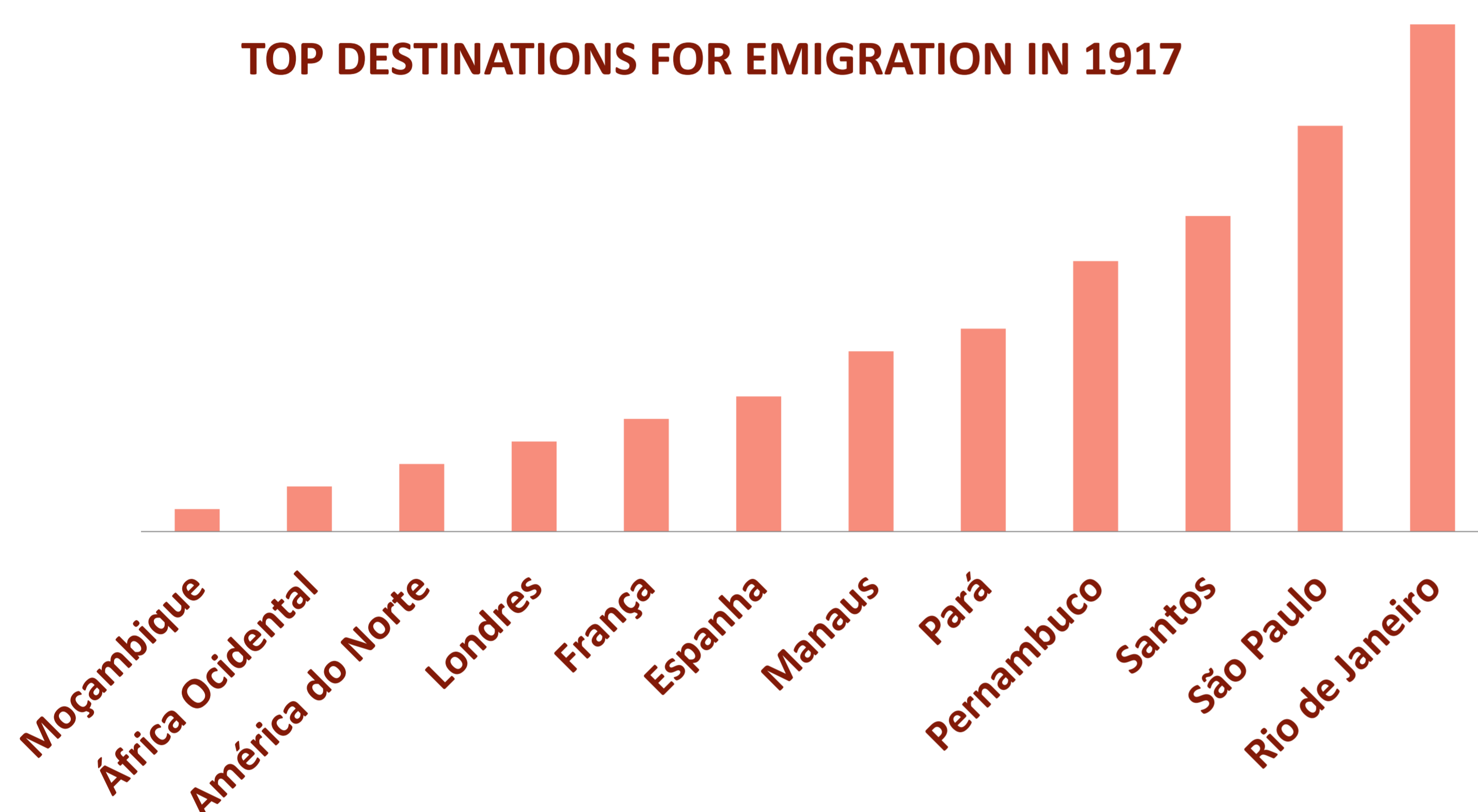
Document analyze – historiographic research

Four funds consulted at ADP – Porto District Archive:

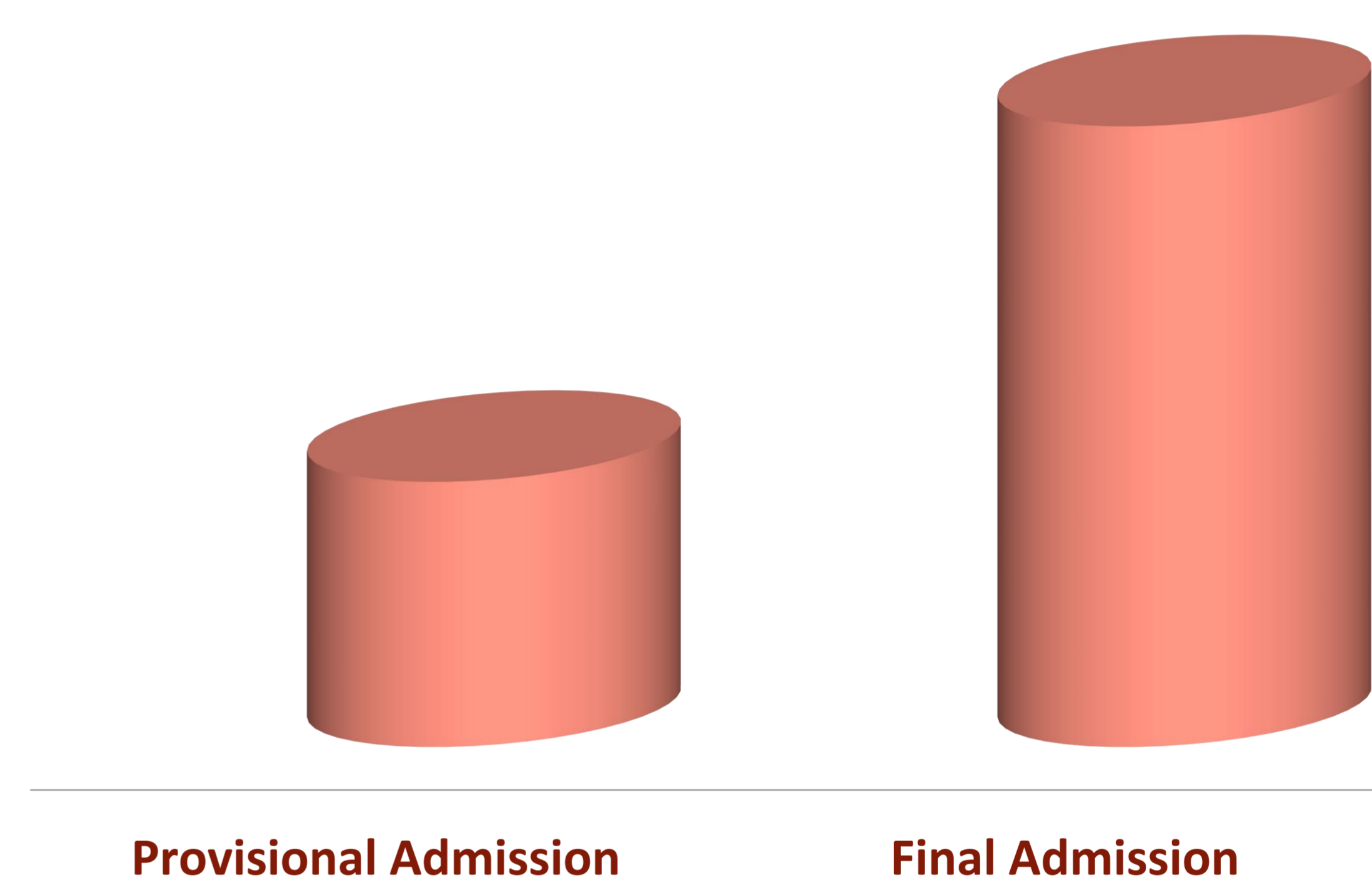
- Immigrant Passport Processes and letters of call;
- Entrance Records at Exposed Hospices;
- Notary Registration;
- Porto railways company.

RESULTS

TOP DESTINATIONS FOR EMIGRATION IN 1917



ADMISSIONS TO EXPOSED HOSPICES IN 1917



Querida Justina saúde é o que de coração te desejo assim como ao nosso querido filho. Eu fico bem graças a providencia. De hoje em diante continuo empregado. Tenho esperado pela tua chegada. E ca vens ter se Deus te der boa viagem quando tu chegares em Santos eu bou dentro do vapor perguntar o teu comportamento durante a viagem. **Excerpt from the letter of call inserted in the Passport Process nº 1108, of December 10, 1917. PT / ADPRT / AC / GCPRT / J-E / 099/0441. Source: Porto District Archive.**
Description: A husband writes to his wife explaining his situation in Brazil. Tell him that he awaits her arrival on the steamboat where he will ask about her behaviour during the trip.

Foi a referida creança admitida definitivamente nesta Casa-Hospício na qualidade de desvalida e matriculada com o numero novecentos e noventa e três da quinta serie, em virtude de se declarar no officio, que a acompanhou, qua a mãe se acha presa na referida cadeia (Cadeia Civil do Porto) e não tem leite para amamentar a filha. **Excerpt from the admission process no. 993, at February 28, 1917. PT / ADPRT / ACD / CRPRT / AE / 002/0536. Source: Porto District Archive.**
Description: A child is admitted as a disabled because her mother is trapped in jail and does not have milk to breastfeed.

...que não pode haver duvida de que não existindo, como não existe contrato, ou acordo especial em contrario, o preço do metro quadrado de repartição de pavimento a pagar pela Companhia não pode ser outro senão o fixado na tabela (...) a redução feita nos termos da citada deliberação foi uma consessão voluntaria e um acto de equidade da Camara que a Companhia melhor deveria saber apreciar, tanto mais quanto é certo e ninguém pode por em duvida que desde o começo da guerra (julho de mil novecentos e catorze) havia motivo para aumento e não deminuição de taxa, em consequência do conhecido aumento dos preços não só da mão de obra mas também dos materiais de construção... **Excerpt from correspondence in file No. 412 of March 6, 1917. Source: Porto District Archive**

Description: An exchange of correspondence between the Porto Chamber and the collective transport company in which it denies the decrease of the payment of the rent due to the increases provoked by the entrance of Portugal in the war.

CONCLUSIONS

The historiographic analyse show a city marked by emigration and families hoping for a better future. Even in war, the city continue to create companies and public transports continue to be assumed as main tool to circulate in the city. Although this evidence, many of those live in poor conditions, with a high poverty level. The last hope of many children to survive was their admission to the Exposed Hospice (an institution with the mission to host abandoned children), but most died shortly after admission.

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