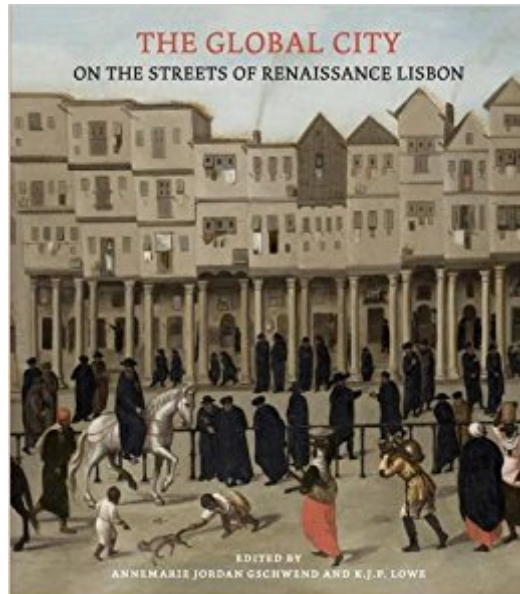


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# The Global City: On The Streets Of Renaissance Lisbon



## Synopsis

Awarded an Honorable Mention by The Eleanor Tufts Award. The Award Committee called the book a "transformative scholarly contribution." Awarded the 2016 "Admiral Teixeira da Mota" Prize from the Academia de Marinha (Navel Academy), Lisbon Recently identified by the editors as the Rua Nova dos Mercadores, the principal commercial and financial street in Renaissance Lisbon, two sixteenth-century paintings, acquired by Dante Gabriel Rossetti in 1866, form the starting point for this portrait of a global city in the early modern period. Focusing on unpublished objects, and incorporating newly discovered documents and inventories that allow novel interpretations of the Rua Nova and the goods for sale on it, these essays offer a compelling and original study of a metropolis whose reach once spanned four continents. The Rua Nova views painted by an anonymous Flemish artist portray an everyday scene on a recognizable street, with a diverse global population. This thoroughfare was the meeting point of all kinds of people, from rich to poor, slave to knight, indigenous Portuguese to Jews and diasporic black Africans. The volume highlights the unique status of Lisbon as an entrepôt for curiosities, luxury goods and wild animals. As the Portuguese trading empire of the fifteenth and sixteenth century expanded sea-routes and networks from West Africa to India and the Far East, non-European cargoes were brought back to Renaissance Lisbon. Many rarities were earmarked for the Portuguese court, but simultaneously exclusive items were readily available for sale on the Rua Nova, the Lisbon equivalent of Bond Street or Fifth Avenue. Specialized shops offered West African and Ceylonese ivories, raffia and Asian textiles, rock crystals, Ming porcelain, Chinese and Ryukyuan lacquerware, jewelry, precious stones, naturalia and exotic animal byproducts. Lisbon was also a hub of distribution for overseas goods to other courts and cities in Europe. The cross-cultural and artistic influences between Lisbon and Portuguese Africa and Asia at this date will be reassessed. Lisbon was imagined as the head of empire or caput mundi, while the River Tagus became the aquatic gateway to a globally connected world. Lisbon evolved into a dynamic Atlantic port city, excelling in shipbuilding, cartography and the manufacture of naval instruments. The historian Damião de Góis is bragged of the "Tagus reigning over the world". Lisbon's fame depended on its river, an aquatic avenue that competed with the Rua Nova, providing a means of interaction, trade and communication along Lisbon's coastline. Even for the cosmopolitan Góis, who traveled extensively for the Portuguese crown, Lisbon's chaotic docks were worth describing. Of all the European cities he experienced, only Lisbon and her rival Seville could be "rightfully called Ladies and Queens of the Sea". Góis is contended that they had opened up the early modern world through circumnavigation. Lisbon was destroyed in a devastating earthquake

and tsunami in November 1755. These paintings are the only large-scale vistas of Rua Nova dos Mercadores to have survived, and together with the new objects and archival sources offer a fresh and original insight into Renaissance Lisbon and its material culture.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 296 pages

Publisher: Paul Holberton Publishing (December 19, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1907372881

ISBN-13: 978-1907372889

Product Dimensions: 9.8 x 1.3 x 11.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,072,131 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 in [Books > Travel >](#)

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## Customer Reviews

This handsomely illustrated book offers a tantalizing view of a vanished city that in its day, according to do GÃfÂ is, 'reigned over the world." (Apollo)"A deeply important addition to its genre." (Arts of Asia)"This is modern historical inquiry at its best: clear, precise, forthcoming about problems of evidence, and relentlessly focused on its central questions...[The Global City] restores Lisbon to its rightful place as one of the most important centres in the history of the modern world" (Times Literary Supplement)Cultural history at its most original and sustaining." (Literary Review)The Global City, far more than a catalogue of beautiful things, expertly explores the contradictions between power and accumulation, commerce and art, that complicated the imperial project." (World of Interiors)"[The Global City] brings the forgotten importance and contribution of a great European city to fresh attention." (The Art Newspaper)"a superbly produced and illustrated volume of essays that examine different aspects of the other half of Crowley's story" "the impact, not of Portugal on the wider world, but of the wider world on Portugal, as seen on the streets and in the houses of Renaissance Lisbon" (New York Review of Books)"In this wonderful book, Annemarie Jordan Gschwend and Kate Lowe have successfully brought back to life the disappeared world of the bustling Atlantic port-city that was Lisbon during the sixteenth century "a real tour de force." (The Court Historian)"Very well produced "a firm step towards a new and integrated

understanding of the role of trade in the early Portuguese empire, the development and the perception of its urban centres, and the social uses of foreign objects." (European History Quarterly)"Excellent and splendidly illustrated book –Â| impressive –Â| enjoyable as well as enlightening." (History: The Magazine of the Historical Association)"Magnificent and innovative work" (Librosdelacorte , Spring/Summer 2017)

This is an absolutely amazing book lavished with beautiful photographs and blessed with well-written articles that reflect the latest in scholarship--a combination that is a rare treat in itself, much less when its topic is so fresh and little-known as Lisbon in the 16th century, when it was a global city bursting with exotica and luxury goods. The cover is a section of the Rua Nova paintings of Lisbon's main shopping street when at its height in the 1500s--a painting once lost and only found in the back room of a bookshop by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, the famous pre-Raphaelite artist, in the spring of 1866. Its streets show black-robed citizens, chamber-pot bearers, religious figures, police, nobles, dark-skinned slaves (one carrying a large jug on his back in chains, sign of an attempted escapee), half-breed children, and even a turkey, newly brought to Lisbon from the New World. It was a world of exploration and colonisation and the riches that came with such foreign conquests, that lasted only 100 years when Portugal's monopoly of the Pacific Ocean was curtailed with the emergence of the Dutch and English East India companies. Lisbon's glory days came to a final climactic end when the city was destroyed in a disastrous earthquake and tsunami in 1755. This is not a book about Portugal's maritime explorations and conquests, but rather a look into the financial and material rewards that came as a result. Begin with the epilogue, which tells the story of Rossetti's purchase, before dipping into the 14 articles, each on an aspect of Lisbon and its sensational exotic booty that turned it into a global city, its shops bursting with foreign wares that were sought by the elite and crowned heads of Europe. The details are amazing--Queen Catarina of Austria's Ming Chinese porcelain shopping list, examples of rock crystal carvings of the baby Jesus probably made for India's wealthiest new Christians, Japanese Namban screens with their detailed scenes of the unloading of Portuguese ships with Martaban jars, porcelains and textiles. The focus is on the cosmopolitan nature of the city, and the goods available in its shops--ivories, crystals, textiles, bezoar stones, gems, porcelain, jewellery, lacquerware, and even exotic birds and animals. The articles are all richly illustrated, often with artefacts shown for the first time. Kudos to the two editors of this handsome and intelligent volume (Annemarie Jordan Gschwend and Kate Lowe).

This is a fascinating book. I feel pretty certain that I previously wrote a review for you about it. It is

something of a "coffee table book" that does not have to be read all in sequence. The illustrations are excellent and we are getting a lot of fun out of it.

The scholarship under this effort really does illuminate the methodology and the mechanics of Portugal's leap into the age of exploration. The details could be considered overwhelming but should be thought of as enriching. A real achievement! Mike Foster

Fascinating and totally magnificent book about not only Lisbon at its height in the 16th Century, but about the fabulous art produced at that period! Beautiful photographs, great text. Very worth while!

Great

An excellent set of essays. I'm happy that I bought it as a hardback but I wish a future edition would be in paperback as well.

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