



# The Royal Philatelic Society London

## Reconstructing the Borja Freira Issues of Portugal 1853–63

Quantities, Production and Archival Discoveries

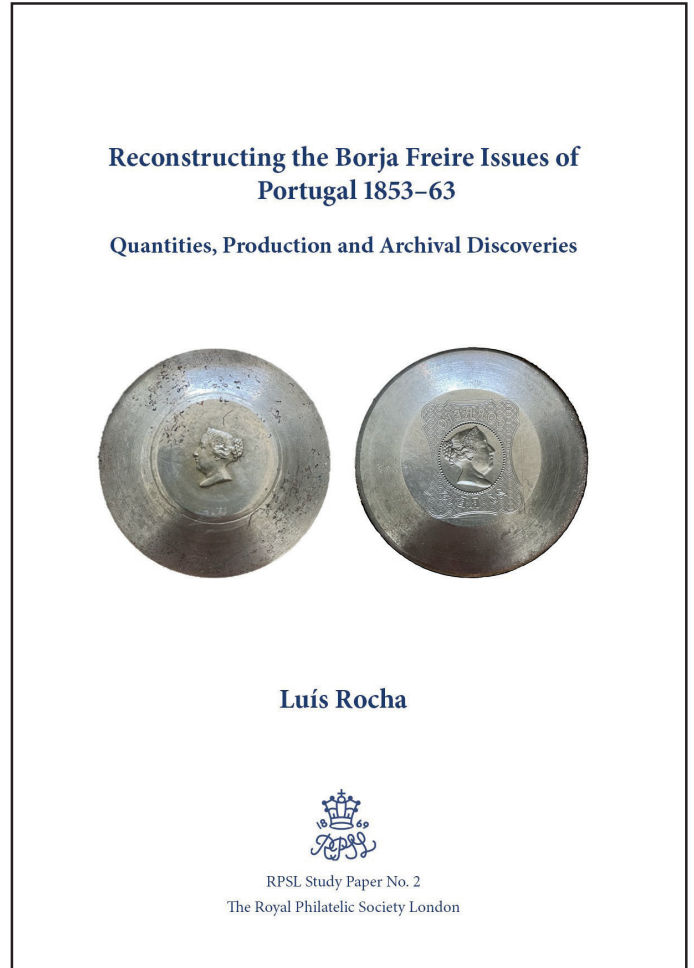
by Luís Rocha

### The Second Study Paper from the RPSL

This scholarly work represents a definitive advancement in Portuguese philately, born from the recent incorporation of the historical archives of the Imprensa Nacional-Casa da Moeda (INCM) into the National Archive Torre do Tombo. By scrutinising previously unexamined primary sources, including original ledger books, consignment notes, and annual balance terms, the author reconstructs the complete production cycle of the D. Maria II, D. Pedro V, and early D. Luís I issues with unprecedented precision.

The study's unique contribution lies in its empirical methodology. Moving beyond the "accepted" numbers issued for Portugal's first postage stamps, the author traces the path of paper reams from the warehouse to the finished stamps delivered to the Post Office. Crucially, it accounts for 'refugo' (waste) and incinerated stock, providing for the first time the true quantities that reached the public.

Richly documented and rigorously researched, the work is enriched by exclusive high-resolution colour photography of original reproduction punches, matrices, and service dies from the Mint House collection alongside rare philatelic items from the Borja Freire issues. By correcting long-standing data for the numbers of stamps issued, and redefining issue dates through primary evidence, this study provides a new, definitive foundation for the specialised collector.



### About the author

Luís Rocha is a Portuguese philatelist specialising in the philately and postal history of Portugal during the second half of the 19th century. A member of the Royal Philatelic Society London, the European Academy of Philately, the Clube Filatélico de Portugal, and the Portuguese Philatelic Society, he has published numerous articles in national and international journals and continues to research various themes in philately and postal history.

### Further information

This is the second in a new series of Study Papers from the RPSL. A 60-page softbound book, printed in full colour in A4 format, this Study Paper will be published in June 2026 and costs £9.50 for members of the RPSL and £10.50 for non-members (plus postage). It can be ordered through the RPSL website ([www.rpsl.org.uk](http://www.rpsl.org.uk)).

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