



**MATERIALIDADES  
TRANSNACIONAIS**

Elisabete Pereira & Liliana Caldeira  
Provenance Report regarding  
**'Cocron' pot**



Photo MatrizNet:/MNA



Photo: Elisabete Pereira; 2023, 8th feb.-.

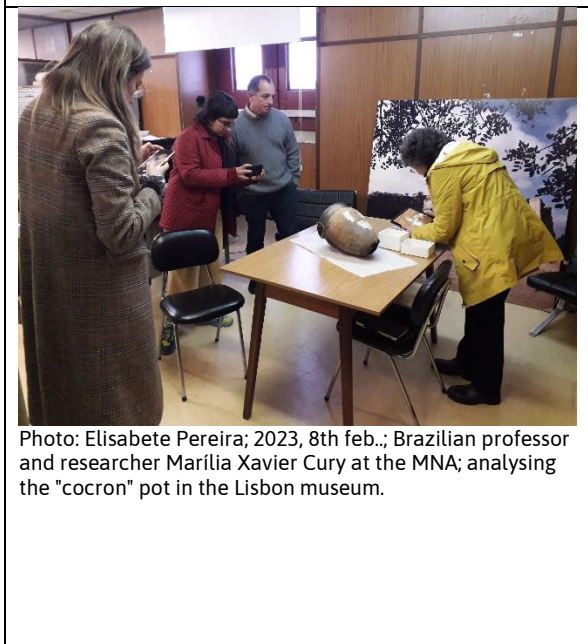


Photo: Elisabete Pereira; 2023, 8th feb.; Brazilian professor and researcher Marília Xavier Cury at the MNA; analysing the "cocron" pot in the Lisbon museum.



Photo: Elisabete Pereira; 2023, 8th feb..

<b>Designation</b>	«cocron» pot
<b>Custodian</b>	Museu Nacional de Arqueologia (MNA)
<b>Current possessor</b>	Portuguese state
<b>Inventory number</b>	E 4662/ ETNO 2022.9.1
<b>Material/technique</b>	Ceramic
<b>Measurements</b>	30.5 cm high, 22.7 cm in diameter
<b>Conservation status</b>	Several cracks on the bottom

### **Summary of findings**

This ceramic vessel is originally from Brazil. It was made and used by the Brazilian "Caingangues de Goio-Chê or Água Preta" tribe, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was registered by the Ethnological Museum in Lisbon as a "Cocron" pot, given by Silvio de Almeida, a Brazilian citizen, in 1912. The gift was brokered by Ana de Castro Osório, a relative of the director of the Ethnological Museum, José Leite de Vasconcelos. The object was in the MNA's storage when the TRANSMAT project began studying its ethnographic collection in 2021. No record of its exhibition in the same museum has been identified.

### **Reconstruction provenance**

**1912** - The newspaper *Estado de São Paulo*, December 22<sup>th</sup>, 1912, published a letter sent by José Leite de Vasconcelos to his cousin, Ana de Castro Osório, requesting the sending of "stone tools, still in use by the indigenous peoples". Ana de Castro was the wife of the Portuguese consul in São Paulo. She published Leite de Vasconcelos' letter in the *Estado de São Paulo* newspaper and received several objects at the consulate address<sup>1</sup>, including the "cocron" pot, given to her by the Brazilian intellectual Sílvio Tiribicá de Almeida.

**January 1913:** The «cocron» pot was incorporated into the Portuguese Ethnological Museum in January 1913; (number E 4662): «A pot ("cocron") of the Caingangues of Goio-Chê or Agoa-Preta, the last warrior tribe that existed in Brazil, now entirely pacified" "offered by Prof. Silvio de Almeida». <sup>2</sup>

[ ? ] - The object was inventoried in the MatrizNet System on an unknown date:  
<http://www.matriznet.dgpc.pt/MatrizNet/Objetos/ObjetosConsultar.aspx?IdReg=1144426&EntSep=5#gotoPosition>

**2022** - The object was identified as part of the MNA's comparison collection and its itinerary was reconstructed by TRANSMAT team project.

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<sup>1</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Inventory book of the Portuguese Ethnological Museum.

## Object information

In 1912, the director of the Portuguese Ethnological Museum asked Ana de Castro Osório to send him objects still in use by Brazilian indigenous people, namely "stone tools" and any others she could find. In order to fulfill the request, Ana de Castro Osório decided to publish the letter from her cousin in the newspaper *Estado de São Paulo*<sup>3</sup>. As a result of this request, she received donations from several Brazilians, including Silvio Tibiriçá de Almeida, a lawyer, chronicler, and poet who was a friend of Luís Bueno Horta Barbosa, director of the Indian Protection Service (SPI). It is therefore possible that it was through Horta Barbosa that Silvio Tibiriçá de Almeida obtained the "cocron" pot, now in storage at the National Archaeological Museum, in Lisbon.

The Brazilian Kaingang or Caingungues tribe is descendants of the Guayanás, living between Angra dos Reis and Cananéia, near the city of São Paulo (Brazil). The Kaingang belong to the *Jê* linguistic family, of the *macro-Jê* trunk, with dialects subdivided according to the geographical area in question. The first contact with European settlers, in this case, the Portuguese, took place in the 16th century, mainly with villages that were located close to the Atlantic coast. The first attempts to effectively conquer and occupy the fields and forests belonging to the Kaingang began in the province of Paraná (which included most of the state of Santa Catarina) in the second half of the 18th century, with the planned conquest expeditions. Eleven expeditions were organized between 1768 and 1774. Attempts to subjugate the indigenous populations continued until the 19th century when the last Kaingungues were subjugated. The Kaingang attacks on railway construction workers led to the creation of the SPI - Indian Protection Service - and the organization of «pacification expeditions». Several Kaingang, from the Tibagi basin and other 'linguarás' (interpreters who took part in the expedition), were hired to help when the conquest began, in 1912. Horta Barbosa recorded that half of the Kaingang from São Paulo died of a flu epidemic soon after the first contact between 1912 and 1913<sup>4</sup>. This was precisely the period when the Kaingungue pot was collected.

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<sup>3</sup> Estado de São Paulo, 22 de Dezembro de 1912, p. 7'.

<sup>4</sup> <https://pib.socioambiental.org/pt/Povo:Kaingang>

## Provenance report

The "concron" pot " has "T/MNA:617" reference in the TRANSMAT project database. The starting point for identifying this object was an analysis of the journal *O Archeologo Português*, where we identified it in volume XVIII, published in 1913 (p. 165-169): "pot ("cocron") of the Caingagues of Gôio-bhê, or of Alagoa Preta, the last warrior tribe that existed in Brazil but is now entirely pacified - a gift from Prof Silvio de Almeida" (p. 167)<sup>5</sup>. In this text, "Acquisitions by the Portuguese Ethnological Museum", the aim of obtaining stone objects still in use by the indigenous populations of Brazil is recorded, to "increase the Ethnography comparative section" and understand through "inspection of the artifacts used by modern savages [...] those used by prehistoric savages". The Inventory book of the National Archaeological Museum, at the time the Portuguese Ethnological Museum, also refers to the object, but with slight differences in the wording: "panela ("cocron") of the Caingagues of Goio-hê, or of Água-Preta, the last warrior tribe that existed in Brazil, now entirely pacified". These data, corresponding to primary sources on Portuguese Ethnological Museum collections, were the starting point for identifying the object's itinerary and context of acquisition. Among the historical sources and bibliography accessed the article by Marília Xavier Cury, "The Kaingang, Guarani Nhandewa and Terena collections - Documentary journey, requalification, and collaboration", was consulted. The team project contacted it's author.

## Suggestions for further research

Collaborative research with the descendants of the Kaingages is being prepared with Marília Xavier Cury's collaboration.

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[https://www.patrimoniocultural.gov.pt/static/data/publicacoes/o\\_arqueologo\\_portugues/serie\\_1/volume\\_18/131\\_aquisicoes\\_museus.pdf](https://www.patrimoniocultural.gov.pt/static/data/publicacoes/o_arqueologo_portugues/serie_1/volume_18/131_aquisicoes_museus.pdf)