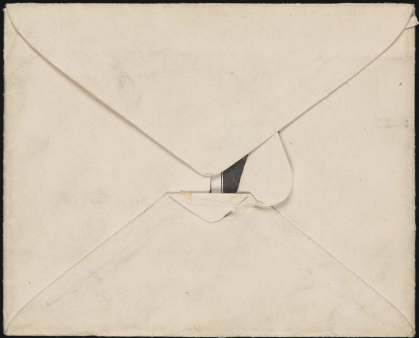


Relief - Duiqaan Treaty: Sir

George Coy declares signatures to
historical documents a forgery..

(E.V. African World. Sept. 15. 1993)

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PORTUGAL'S PRESIDENT-ELECT,

A FAMOUS AUTHOR, ART CONNOISSEUR AND POPULAR PATRIOT.

Special to "The African World."

Senhor Manuel Teixeira-Gomes, the newly-elected President of the Portuguese Republic, who will leave for Lisbon on the 27th inst., is well known in England, for since 1881 he has been Minister Plenipotentiary of that country to the Court of St. James.

Senhor Gomes, who comes of a very old and distinguished Portuguese family, was born 61 years ago, at Portimao, in the province of algarve, where he possesses extensive estates.

Long before he assumed the world of politics he was well known to his own countrymen, a friend who has long been connected, intimately with him, both socially and politically, told a "Star" reporter a few weeks ago, that he is one of the most widely read authors in Portugal. Drama, fiction, romance, history, are rapidly read from his pen, and he is well known throughout.

He was one of the stalwarts of the Republican party in the revolution of 1910, and his active part during that period marked him out for high office. In the month of the latter part of the year he was appointed the accredited representative of his country to England.

"The Presidency of the Portuguese Republic, it must be noticed, is not a political post in the same sense as the Presidency of the United States. The two constitutions are essentially different.

In Portugal the Minister is responsible to Parliament.

The President undoubtedly guides their deliberations and to a certain extent influences the policy, but that is only to a slight degree. In the business of foreign affairs, on the other hand, he does wield a large influence. In fact, he is practically responsible for the foreign policy of the country, and though he acts through his Cabinet, they, in foreign affairs, follow his lead.

Senhor Teixeira-Gomes is very popular with his people. His greatest merit today is that he has been for the last twelve years outside the intrigues and strife of domestic politics.

"He will, however, be faced with many difficulties, the climax of the war. But there differ from those of other countries.

In Portugal, it is the State that is, apparently, poor, and the individual who is made to live well off. The debt, really is the work of his people.

"Then there is the need of development of Colonial possessions. That is another point which will require attention."

For people who have known Senhor Teixeira-Gomes, the new President of the Portuguese Republic, during the 30 years which he has acted as Minister in London, will know how correct a basis of estimate we have in our mind.

In his study West-End house at Grosvenor Place there

are many rooms crowded with books, tapestries, bronzes, and objects mounted full of the most wonderful Chinese rarities and curios, one thought that have come by the work of a lifetime, and yet Senhor Gomes has picked all his treasures up in England in his spare time.

These precious little mounted bottles of amber or jade that the Chinese use for snuff are his especial care. He has over a thousand of these, all in little cabinets. Out of it a solid piece of amber, each is a work of art in itself. They vary like no snuff-bottle to be seen, every detail is so perfect.

The problem of how to take all the collections back to Portugal, now that, in everybody's opinion, he is leaving London, is exercising Senhor Gomes considerably. Some of his treasures are Rhodes and a Venetian snuff-bottle, and how inconveniently to pack some of the large pieces of Chinese glass is his chief preoccupation at the moment.

Senhor Gomes has no long political career behind him. From a French Algeria, near Cape de Vieux, went to the revolution, he has a quiet life, writing plays and novels and addressing public demonstrations. He has crossed Africa, and spent months in the Sahara, and he has written some hard books dealing with his wanderings in the desert.

Small, but well, white-haired, with a little pointed beard, he looks far more like a French man of letters than a statesman who is now called upon to tackle the affairs of a young Republic like Portugal. He will be greatly missed in a diplomatic and social

circle in London.

Such is the man who is entering the duties of a task which some and his countrymen would think him of accepting.

On his arrival, which, according, will follow in late the first week of a period, and besides an enormous literary responsibilities which may have to be met and handled inside for his country, Senhor Gomes stands in the respect and esteem of the English people, certainly perhaps more than any other President of Portugal has done so far, it may be his country and to the increased good knowledge of things and his useful desire to be in direct friendly relations with the African nations of his splendid country.

Teixeira-Gomes is essentially a strong man. He knows what he wants and he will get almost invariably.

How great a part he played in bringing Portugal into the war on the side of England, his traditional ally, will perhaps never be known till he writes his memoirs if ever he does.

Friendship with England, indeed, is one of his main objects in life, and in his own position he will have every opportunity of maintaining it.



H.E. SENHOR M. TEIXEIRA-GOMES