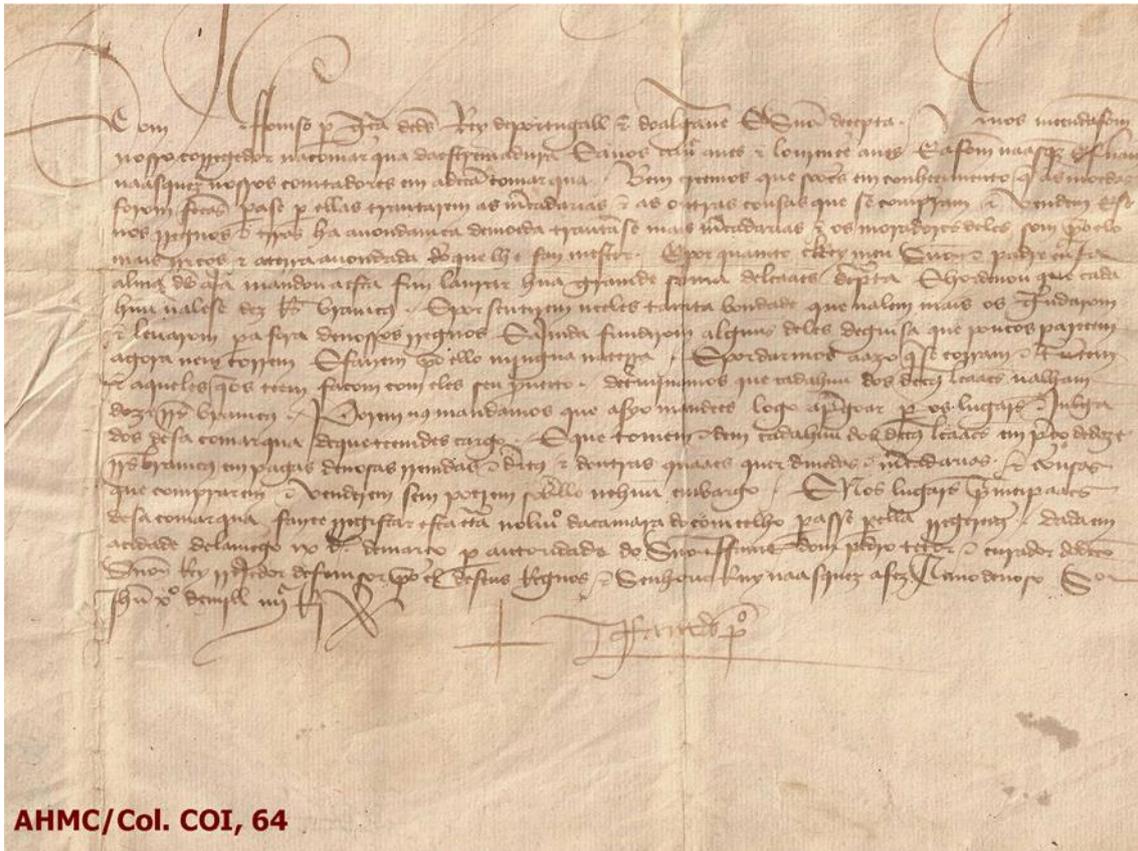




Royal charter of 8 March 1441 on the value of the *leais*



AHMC/Col. COI, 64

Charter of regent Pedro on the value of the *leais*

09-03-1441

Paper

Municipal Historical Archives of Coimbra, Cartas Originais dos Infantes, no. 64

Dom Afonso, by the grace of God, king of Portugal and Algarves, and Lord of Ceuta.

To you Mendo Afonso, our *corregedor* in the province of Estremadura, and to you Álvaro Eanes and Lourenço Eanes, and Afonso Vasques, and Fernão Vasques, our bookkeepers in the said province.

We know well that you are aware that coins were made to be used in the trade of commodities and other goods that one buys and sells; and that if there is plenty of coin in the kingdoms and country, people deal in a larger number of commodities

and their dwellers become therefore richer, and the land well provided of all it needs.

And since **the king, my lord and father — may God receive his soul —, commanded to this purpose that a large sum of silver *leais* be struck and ordered that each one be worth 10 *reais brancos*, and as people recognised such goodness in that coin that their value must be higher, they hoarded them and took them out of our kingdom, and even melted some of them down.** In such a manner that few come up now, and they do not circulate, causing dearth in the country because of that.

And in order to make them circulate and be used in trade, and that those who have them may take profit from them, **we decided that each one of the said *leais* shall be worth 12 *reais brancos*.**

Therefore, we command you to proclaim this immediately in every place and judicial district of that province in which you are commissioned; and that they take and give each of the said *leais* at the price of 12 *reais brancos* in the payment of our rents and rights, and of any other debts and commodities, and things they may buy and sell, without rising any objection to that. And in the main places of that province, you shall order this charter to be registered in the book of the town hall, so that they may govern themselves accordingly.

Given in the town of Lamego, 9th day of March, by the authority of the Lord Infante Dom Pedro, tutor and curator of the said Lord King, regent and defender in his name in his kingdoms and domains.

Rui Vasques wrote it. Year of Our Lord Jesus Christ 1441.

Infante Dom Pedro