

PORTUGUESE TELEGRAMS

1855-1925

On April, 26th of 1855, the Minister Fontes Pereira de Melo and Alfred Bréget, from Paris, signed a contract to the installation of the telegraph in Portugal.

The Portuguese Telegraph was inaugurated in the year of 1856.

In the beginning were only delivered official telegrams. The service of telegrams was not open to the public, which only could use this service with a special permission of the authorities.

In the end of the first year we had 6 station and 32 km of lines.

EVOLUTION OF THE TELEGRAMS SERVICE

1855/1869 – General Direction of Telegraphs.

1869/1880 – General Direction of Telegraphs and Lighthouses

1880/1892 – General Direction of the Posts, Telegraphs and Lighthouses

1892/1898 – Direction of the Telegraph and Postal Services

1898/1911 – General Direction of the Posts and Telegraphs

1911 - General Administration of Posts and Telegraphs

Between 1880 and 1898 the Post Offices were classified in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th class, according the number of correspondence, in each one.

In this study I start by the General Direction of Telegraphs. In this period all telegrams were sent without any signal or classification of their types.

However, after this period I took the option to do the study not by periods, but by class of telegram. The classes were the same in the different periods.

They are the following:

- Official Telegram
- Official Telegram in Cypher
- Service Telegram
- Urgent Service Telegram
- Particular Telegram
- Urgent Particular Telegram
- Transit Telegram
- Answer Paid Telegram
- Telegram With Certificate of Reception
- Telegram by Cable
- Internal Railway Telegram.
- Telegram, by Cable.

The dates of delivery will be indicated showing the period where the telegram was sent. All different print matters knew are presented in this study.
