

THE CHEST GAZETTE

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Igreja de São Domingos (Lisbon)

The Church of São Domingos was built in the 13th century, and throughout the years it has been the target of numerous works that completely changed its medieval design. It was here that began the Lisbon Massacre of 1506, also known as the Pogrom de Lisboa or Easter Kill of 1506, where the crowd persecuted and killed thousands of Jews (more than 4000), accused of being the cause of drought, famine and plague that plagued the country. Only the intervention of the king put an end to the mutiny, sending his royal troops and punishing the guilty with heavy penalties.

This happened before the beginning of the portuguese inquisition and nine years after the forced conversion of the Jews in Portugal, during the same kingdom (1497). The slaughter began on April 19, 1506, a Sunday, when the people prayed for an end to the drought and plague that raged in Portugal, and someone swore to have seen the illuminated face of Christ on the church - a phenomenon that, for the people there, could only be interpreted as a message of mercy from the messiah - a miracle.

From then on, the city's Jews, who were previously viewed with suspicion, became the scapegoat for drought, hunger and plague: three days of massacre ensued, incited by Dominican friars who promised to absolve themselves of the sins of the past 100 days for those who killed the "heretics" and who gathered a mob of more than five hundred people including many sailors from Holland, Zealand and other lands with their promises.

Although destroyed, it is a church that stands out for the polychrome of its marbles. It is currently part of the parish of Santa Justa and Santa Rufina, in the heart of Lisbon and has been classified as a National Monument. With a predominantly Baroque design, with a Latin cross plan, it has a very simple facade and the interior, even after the earthquake and fire, still shows great beauty and eclecticism. It is a majestic, single-nave church. The sacristy and the concierge still show a little Mannerist flavor, denoting the various construction campaigns that have been targeted in its history. The same style can be seen in the tombs and diamond-tipped tile paneling in the sacristy.



Also known as the Pogrom de Lisboa or Easter Kill of 1506, the Lisbon Massacre of 1506 began here, where the crowd persecuted and killed thousands of Jews



The Church was destroyed by the earthquake of 1531, which forced a new rebuilding, and on August 13, 1959, a violent fire completely destroyed its decoration, which contained altars in gilded wood, valuable images and paintings.

The church received works and reopened to the public in 1994, without hiding the marks of the fire, such as the cracked columns.