



Comprehending the scale and significance of the Lisbon natural disaster, the Marquis of Pombal realized that everything ought to be recorded accurately for posterity. He himself compiled a special questionnaire about the event and its consequences and ordered to send it to all the provinces of the country. It included questions such as: How long did the earthquake last? How many strong shocks were there? What is the degree of destruction of buildings? How did the animals behave? What happened to the water sources? The answers to these questions, still kept in the National Archives of Portugal, made it possible to accurately assess the magnitude of the earthquake. It was not until the second half of the 20th century that the distribution of such questionnaires after every major earthquake became a standard practice



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