

# Gil Vicente and Thomas More construction of a perfect community: “Frágua d’Amor” in the imagination of a new world

Maria Leonor García da CRUZ, <sup>1</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> Centro de História-FLUL, Faculdade de Letras, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal

---

## Abstract

Two contemporary 16<sup>th</sup> century authors, close to the ideas of Christian humanism, one Portuguese, Gil Vicente, the other English, Thomas More, write in the first quarter of the 16<sup>th</sup> century using the created image of a perfect principality (Castle/Kingdom and the Island of Utopia).

This supposedly real archetype is revealed following exploratory land and sea voyages, depending on the case.

In comparison with societies whose experience moves away from that model (European societies mainly of Portugal and England), they critically and sarcastically analyse social and mental flaws by way of the use of a carnivalesque narrative discourse.

At the same time, they reveal virtues desirable in political ethics and put forward practical civic solutions to correct the regime.

The comparative analysis of two testimonials from that era, *Utopia* by Thomas More (1516) and *Frágua d’Amor* (Love Forge) by Gil Vicente (c.1525), of their similarities in terms of objectives and discursive techniques but also of their own definitions of identity, enrich our knowledge of mentalities in the Modern Age.

**Keywords:** Gil Vicente, Principality, Public decency, Laughter, Utopia