



H.C. & CULTURE

What about a “bica”?

Portugal

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The arrival of coffee in Europe, certainly changed our lives, our habits and of course enriched our vocabulary with new expressions and words.

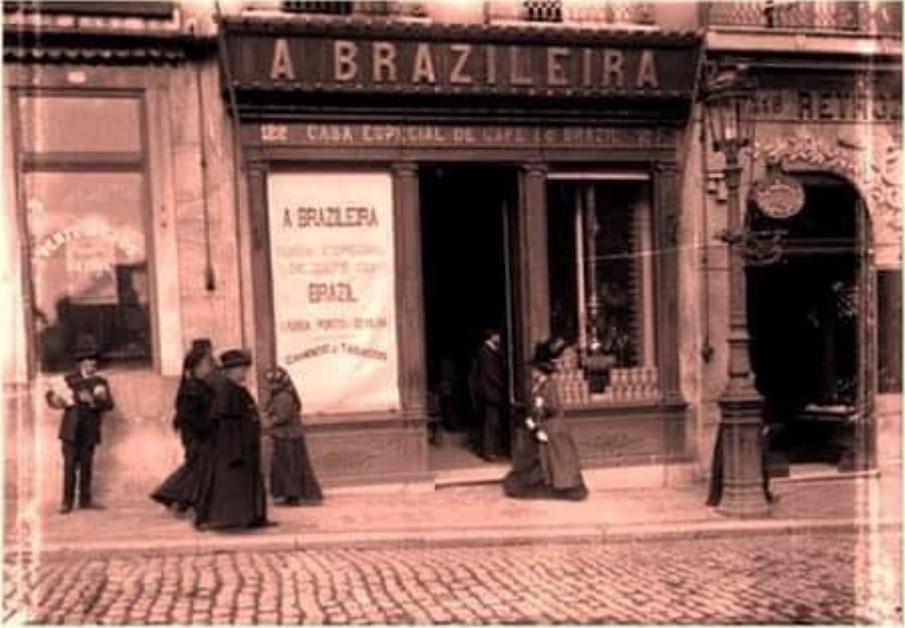
“**Bica**” for example is the term commonly used in certain areas of Portugal for a café (‘coffee’ in Portuguese) that is similar to espresso, but extracted to a greater volume than its Italian counterpart (akin to a “lungo” in Italy) and a little bit smoother in taste, due to the Portuguese roasting process being slightly lighter than the Italian one.

In almost all regions in Portugal, it is simply called um café (‘a coffee’ in Portuguese) and always served in a demitasse cup.

The name bica originates from the way the coffee flows, falling from the espresso machine to the cup on the tray, an analogy with a water spring or fountain, both can also be called bica in Portuguese.

But there is a history behind this “new” word!

Porque se diz: – BICA?



Na primeira Pastelaria que abriu em Lisboa “**A Brasileira**”, as pessoas não estavam habituadas a beber café, e pensavam que este era para beber tal e qual como era servido, (ou seja sem açúcar). Como era de imaginar, as pessoas não gostavam do sabor. O responsável do para avisar as pessoas escreveu um cartaz que dizia:

Beba Isto Com Açúcar.

*As pessoas habituaram-se e começaram a chamar o café de **BICA** pois era as iniciais do cartaz.*

Source: Facebook

The **Café A Brasileira** coffeehouse was opened in Lisbon by Adriano Telles on 19 November 1905 at No.122 (an old shirt shop), to sell “*genuine Brazilian coffee*” from the

Brazilian state of Minas Gerais, a product generally unappreciated in homes of Lisboetas of that period. In order to promote his product, Telles offered each shopper who bought a kilogram of ground coffee (for 720 réis) a free cup of coffee. It was the first shop to sell the “bica”, a small cup of strong coffee, similar to espresso, with fresh goat milk from nearby farms.

There’s a widespread belief among many (Lisbon) locals which makes out “bica” to be an acronym for *“Beba isso com açúcar”*, literally meaning *“Drink it with sugar”*.



Sources: Facebook & [Wikipedia](#)