“Two hundred years after the signing of the Convention of Sintra (Aug 30th, 1808), which officially ended the first French invasion and military occupation of Portugal (1807-8), led by General Junot (1771-1813), one should hardly expect this Journal to turn a blind eye to such a momentous (and notorious) event, right at the outset of the Peninsular War … all the more so as the existence (or indeed persistence) of some long-standing doubts and controversy still seem to leave room for future international and multidisciplinary research projects. This being the case, our essay shall seek to highlight a few --- admittedly very different --- pieces of evidence which may hopefully inspire new and alternative readings of the Convention itself.

As far as the British social, political, military and communicative contexts are concerned, one might perhaps ask: besides the well-known assessments put forward by William Wordsworth (1770-1850) and George Gordon, Lord Byron (1788-1824, what does the Anglo-Portuguese scholar and/or researcher really know, say, of the romantic periodical press? In fact, apart from the already somewhat ‘beaten track’ of letters, memoirs, (auto)biographies, travel and military accounts, the rise and dramatic expansion of British periodicals from the late 18th century onwards would certainly justify the analysis of how the (in)famous Convention of Sintra was reported and commented upon in the newspapers, journals, magazines or reviews of early-19th century Britain, not to mention other contemporary media, means and modes, such as essays, ballads, political cartoons, satire, etc. Through their very diversity, all this evidence would certainly help the analyst of Anglo-Portuguese culture rebuild long-lost or dust-covered “structures of feeling” generated by the Convention on British soil and of the utmost importance to such fields as the ones this Journal has been trying to dig up and cultivate for almost two decades”.