
SPECTROSCOPIC PORTRAITURE: A CASE STUDY IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LISBON

I. M. Peres ^a, *F. M. Costa* ^a, *M.E. Jardim* ^b

^a Center for Molecular Sciences and Materials, University of Lisbon, Portugal

^b Center of Philosophy of Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal

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Spectroscopy thrived in 1860s as it linked chemistry, physics and astronomy. However the great evolution of spectral analysis in chemistry occurs in the beginning of the 20th century with the Constant Deviation Spectrograph from the instrument maker Adam Hilger.

At that time, the Sciences Faculty of the University of Lisbon, officially founded in 19th April 1911, established new curricula and the Chemistry section implemented the use of photographic recording of spectra, "spectroscopic portraiture", for both teaching and research.

New equipment was acquired for teaching purposes; we can find this process mentioned in the teaching manual written by Professor Achilles Machado for the Chemical Analysis Syllabus. In research, this area was also relevant: the first doctorate degree of the University of Lisbon was obtained by Professor António Pereira Forjaz, with a thesis on this subject.

For this research, in addition to printed sources, we had the privilege of using less conventional sources: the scientific instruments integrating the collection of the Museu de Ciência da Universidade de Lisboa, testimonies of the History of Teaching and Research that has taken place at the Escola Politécnica and the Faculdade de Ciências de Lisboa.