

**The reasons behind the request of the mathematician Gomes Teixeira to be
transferred to the Polytechnic Academy of Porto
– a peculiar event in the Portuguese context**

Abstract

In this talk we will present a comprehensive analysis of the possible reasons that led the important Portuguese mathematician Gomes Teixeira to move from the University of Coimbra (1290-today) to the Polytechnic Academy of Porto (PAP; 1837-1911) in 1884. Besides the family reasons that appear in the traditional historiography, other significant facts which may have contributed to this transition will be presented, such as: the existence of some conflicts within the Faculty of Mathematics of the University of Coimbra at that time and his friendship with Wenceslau de Lima (also lecturer of the PAP), who was responsible for the approval of the important reform of 1885 in the Parliament, soon after Gomes Teixeira became a professor in PAP. Note that this change was meaningful for a mathematician like Gomes Teixeira that wanted to precede his mathematical studies. Gomes Teixeira left the only pure theoretical superior school in Portugal to a technical school with many problems like, for instance, financial problems. In the other hand, the PAP didn't have a tradition in mathematics and there was no relevant mathematician in Porto before Teixeira (the only courses of mathematics taught in Porto were destined to sailors, merchants and engineers, *i.e.*, a very practical mathematics).