

SCIENTIFIC OBJECTS IN THE EXHIBITION “CHIMICA” | THE ART OF TRANSFORMING MATTER

Fernando Rosado
(Escola Secundária André de Gouveia)

Teresa Ferreira; Ana Teresa Caldeira; António Candeias
(Laboratório HERCULES- Centro de Química/Depart de Química – Univ. de Évora)

Antónia Fialho Conde
(CIDEHUS e Laboratório HERCULES – Univ. de Évora)

Margarida Figueiredo; Cristina Galacho; Paulo Mendes
(Centro de Química/Depart de Química –Univ. de Évora)

Mariana Valente
(CEHFCi/Depart. de Física - Univ de Évora)

Secondary School André de Gouveia (ESAG) is frequently associated to Lyceu d’Évora from which it inherited the historical and cultural background. Lyceu d’Évora was established in 1841 after the educational reform of Passos Manuel and was set at Colégio do Espírito Santo, in Évora, until 1979. During that period, a physics and chemistry laboratory was created and developed at the Lyceu and it was enriched with brand new scientific objects and small equipment to be used in classes, especially in teaching demonstrations. Crosschecking the information from the records kept at the library of ESAG, sales catalogues and teaching books from that period and information from other sources, it was possible to find out, in several cases, who the seller or the manufacturer of the object was and its function in an experimental design at the laboratory. Analytical scales, Mohr-Westphal balance, gasometers, pneumatic machine or alembic are some of the objects that are analysed from a real and historical point of view. Part of this collection is currently in exhibition in Évora Museum under the name of CHIMICA | the art of transforming matter. Chemistry depends on working with material things and processes and a chemistry laboratory is, in fact, a prototype of a large-scale industry through the synthesis of chemical compounds and the interaction with technological processes.