
From Belém to Marvila: the transfer of the gas plant and changes in the production process (1887-1957)*

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Introduction

In this article we analyse, for the period lasting from 1887 to 1957, the following aspects: the reasons for installing a gas plant in Belém; the opposition raised against that location; the decades-long negotiations for transferring the plant from Belém to the eastern part of Lisbon; the construction of the new gas plant in Matinha; the organization of its production process, and, finally, the evolution of gas distribution and consumption in the period covered by our analysis.

The time span chosen for this study is explained by the following motives: 1887 was the year when Lisbon promoted a public tender for the public lighting concession, allowing for the appearance of a new gas company and, therefore, creating the need to build a new gas plant. And 1958 was the year in which the exploitation of the *Fábrica de Gás da Matinha* (Matinha Gas Plant) was taken up by the *Sociedade Portuguesa da Petroquímica* (Portuguese Petrochemical Society), signalling the end of gas production from coal.

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