The Lisbon Academy of Sciences and the development of mathematics in Portugal in the 19th century

THE LISBON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, founded in 1779, seven years after the very important reform of the Portuguese University, which created for the first time in Portugal a Faculty of Mathematics, had a very important role in the development of Portuguese mathematics in the 19th century. In the first half of that century, the only journal in Portugal where mathematicians could publish their papers was the Memoirs of the Academy. After realizing that the aims the Academy concerning science in general, and mathematics in particular, were far from being reached, and following the Academy’s important reform of 1851, it decided to found new journals that would complement the work done by the Memoirs. After the short-lived Annaes de Sciencias e Lettras (1857–58), it founded in 1866 the Jornal de Sciencias Mathematicas, Physicas e Naturaes (“Journal of Mathematical, Physical, and Natural Sciences”). This journal was regularly published by the Academy until 1927. The Academy also published a Bulletin, which included the proceedings of its public sessions, which lasted until 1923.

From 1877 onwards, the mathematics panorama in Portugal changed in a qualitative and quantitative way with the founding of Francisco Gomes Teixeira (1851–1933) Jornal de Sciencias Mathematicas e Astronomicas.

In this talk we will analyze the journals of the Academy in the 19th century. In particular we will give an overview of its mathematics papers and its authors. We also analyze the quantitative and qualitative changes brought to Portugal with the publication of Teixeira’s journal.

* University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal; email: mmff5@ptmat.fc.ul.pt.