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Quantal Aspects  
in Chemistry and Physics

*A tribute to the memory of  
Professor Couceiro da Costa*

## **1. HONOURING PROFESSOR RUY COUCEIRO DA COSTA**

E. R. de Arantes e Oliveira

Academia das Ciências de Lisboa, Portugal

Eminent Academicians

Ladies and Gentlemen

The idea of organizing a Symposium to pay tribute to Professor Ruy Couceiro da Costa, now long deceased, started with a group of members of our Academy from the University of Coimbra.

Prof. Couceiro da Costa, carried out his professional life in Coimbra, where he had the great merit of introducing very early the teaching in the University of subjects, such as classical and quantum statistical mechanics, nowadays quantum mechanics, and the theory of the chemical bond, which at that time were very recent topics.

He did this very early, both in terms of his brilliant university career, and in the actual evolution of the noble sciences which he cultivated. Quantal Aspects of Chemistry and Physics were, in fact, still little known within the international scientific community when he introduced them into those courses for which he was responsible.

Perhaps because he died young, Ruy Couceiro da Costa never came to be elected as a member of the Academy of Sciences. He left, however, a galaxy of former pupils who decided, in recognition of how much they owe to him, to propose this homage as a contribution to the programme of academic activities

of the Class of Sciences of the ACL in the current year of 2009.

The Symposium held today does not follow, either in the formal or real sense, the traditional practice in the Academies of recently elected full academicians praising their predecessors in the chairs which they will occupy. Nor should it be considered as an activity of the University of Coimbra carried out outside that institution.

Instead, this should be considered as a tribute to an unforgettable professor whose memory the prestige of the Coimbra nucleus in the heart of the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon has made it possible to honor at the national level.

This is all I intend to say and explain.

With that, I will now give the floor to the eminent Academician Professor Simões Redinha, in whom I wish to greet all those involved in the organization of this event, and with the certainty that this homage by remarkable pupils of such a distinguished master will merely go into more depth than my own feelings.

Prof. E. R. de Arantes e Oliveira

President of the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon

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