



MUSEUM OF PORTUGUESE DERMATOLOGY DR. LUÍS SÁ PENELLA



Imagem: Rosa Reis



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UNIVERSITÁRIO DE LISBOA
CENTRAL

Cultural Heritage Department

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In the 40's of the 20th century 3 hospitals specialized in Dermatology were created in the cities of Porto, Coimbra and Lisbon.

In 1947, Caeiro Carrasco, director of Dermatology in Hospital dos Capuchos proposed that these hospitals include a Museum of Dermatology.

In 1955, in one of the Dermatology Department's rooms was inaugurated the Museum of Portuguese Dermatology Dr. Luís Sá Penella. Besides honouring the figure of the dermatologist doctor Luís Alberto de Sá Penella it also intended to safeguard the dermatological pathology wax figure collection.

In 2007, with the closure of Hospital do Desterro, the dermatologist João Carlos Rodrigues protector and scholar of the museum's estate, promoted its transfer to the Hospital dos Capuchos, where the Dermatology Service now functioned.

In 2009, by initiative of Célia Pilão, hospital administrator for the Cultural Heritage Area and with the cooperation of the dermatologist Margarida Apetato (the then director of Dermatology) all of the collection is gathered in the Hospital's Main Hall, the chapter room of the former Franciscan convent.

THE WAX FIGURES COLLECTION

This collection includes 254 masks. Of these, around 90 came from the Dermatology Department at Hospital dos Capuchos and were



commissioned by Caeiro Carrasco.

The remaining ones belonged to the Dermatology Department at Hospital do Desterro, commissioned by Sá Penella. All were executed between the mid-thirties and forties of the 20th century.

These wax figures are three-dimensional and document many of the pathologies that, due to advances in therapeutic techniques, have disappeared or are rare, such as syphilitic gums, advanced stages of Nicholas Favre disease, some forms of cutaneous tuberculosis, and dermatological alterations caused by the use of inorganic arsenic.

To many of this models it is possible to associate their respective clinical records.

The technique of performing these masks was simple. The moulds were obtained directly on the patient.

The part of the body of the patient to be reproduced would be covered by a non-adherent substance and plaster. This, once dry, would become the negative of the lesion, into which a mixture of melting waxes would be introduced, which upon solidification constituted the intended model. With the positive in wax obtained, the painting would take place and, to increase the realism, the application of natural hair and artificial eyes. The Model once finished was wrapped in a pleated cloth, fixed on wooden supports and labelled with the name of the pathology.



Image: Rosa Reis

PERSONALITIES



THOMAZ DE MELLO BREYNER (1866-1933)

Born in Lisbon, graduated in Medicine in 1892. In the following two years he works in Paris with Fournier and Brissaud. In 1894 he is appointed doctor of the Chamber to King Carlos I.

In 1897 he founded the Consultation on Syphilitic and Venereal Diseases at Hospital do Desterro. In 1906, on the occasion of the XV International Congress of Medicine, that takes place in Lisbon, his department is visited by the elite of Dermatology at the time, namely Hansen, Unna, Hallopeau, Radcliffe-Crocker, Shaudinn e Neisser. It is at this time that the latter proposes the creation in Lisbon of an international centre for research on syphilis, that never happened.

Thanks to the supply of several vials of Salvarsan provided by Ehrlich, in 1910, Mello Breyner began the trial treatments on syphilitic patients.

In 1921 is named Professor of Syphiligraphy at the Medical School in Lisbon.



LUÍS ALBERTO DE SÁ PENELLA (1889—1955)

Born in Lisbon, he graduated in Medicine from the Faculdade de Medicina de Lisboa in 1912. In 1914, as a fellow of the Portuguese Government, he works with Zinsser, Hoffmann, Herxheimer e Neisser. In 1932, he does an internship in Paris with Sabourand, Belot and Civatte. The acquired knowledge allows him to create, at Hospital do Desterro, a department dedicated to

the treatment of tinea of the scalp by Roentgenterapia and he dedicates himself to cutaneous histopathology.

From 1919 to 1932 he exercises his activity at Hospital de Santa Marta in the Dermatology and Venereal Diseases consultations. In 1933, he is appointed Director of the Department, after the death of Mello Breyner.

In 1936 he promotes the creation of the Portuguese Society of Dermatology and Venereology of which he will become the 1st president.

He is considered, unanimously, as the founder of modern Portuguese Dermatology.

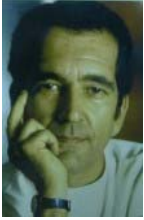


MANUEL CAEIRO CARRASCO (1899-1968)

In 1922 he graduates in Medicine from the Faculdade de Medicina de Lisboa, having been Sá Penella's student in the Hospital Escolar de Santa Marta. In 1926 he works in France with Janselme.

In 1932 he obtains the degree of assistant of Dermatology at Hospitais Civis de Lisboa.

In 1941, he is appointed Director of the Dermatology Department in Hospital dos Capuchos, appointment he maintained until his death.



JOÃO CARLOS FERNANDES RODRIGUES (1951-2009)

Born in Abrantes, he graduated in Medicine from the Faculdade de Medicina de Lisboa in 1974. He completes his medical internship and does all of his medical career in Hospitais Cívicos de Lisboa (Hospital do Desterro), having achieved the degree of Head of Service in

Dermato-Venereology in 1992. An admirer of Thomaz de Mello Breyner's humanism and cosmopolitanism, he followed his example in how he related to patients, families and hospital staff. He devoted much of his time to studying, enriching, treating and safeguarding the collection of the Museum of Portuguese Dermatology.

In 2007, facing the announcement of Hospital do Desterro's closure, he promoted the transfer of the museum's estate to the Hospital dos Capuchos, effectively saving the entire collection.

ASSETS FROM THE MUSEUM DR. SÁ PENELLA

*"...a repository of a set of documents and objects that can be enticing to those who have an interest in the beginnings of Portuguese Dermatology and the history of the HCL. Among other items, we emphasise the existence of numerous ancient books on Dermatology and Venereology belonging to the Sá Penella Collection, a brass microscope in use since the beginning of the specialty (Hospital do Desterro), old china from HCL, photographs and autographs from scientists like Herxheimer, Unna e Neisser..."**

* In "A coleção de figuras de cera do Museu Sá Penella"

João Carlos Rodrigues

António Pinto Soares

Boletim Clínico HCL, 1985, n.º 42 (I-2)

THE MUSEUM IS OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY: 10H-12H30/ 14H-17H

DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

The documents of the collection are mainly books and periodical publications about Syphiligraphy, Dermatology and akin specialties, since the 19th century to mid 20th century. Among these are 600 final thesis from the students of Dermatology of the same period.

In the collection are also 8 books of records from doctor Thomaz Mello Breyner's appointments of venereal and syphilitic diseases consultation, in Hospital do Desterro, with the clinical records of 1013 patients observed between 1902 and 1909.



Image: CHULC

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