

## **A CIENCIA CIERTA FORMER BADAJOZ PROVINCIAL HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE (1845-1962)**

### **HISTORY OF A HISTORIC SCHOOL**

Bárbara de Braganza and Zurbarán High Schools are the heirs of Instituto Provincial de Badajoz (Badajoz Provincial High School) founded in 1845 by the Real Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País institution. The origin of this school, which was named “Instituto General y Técnico” later on, is common practice for most so-called “historic schools”, as a result of the innovative plan by Minister Pidal in 1845, which consisted of the establishment of at least one high school in every province capital city.

The importance of the provincial high school in Badajoz for social and economic development in Extremadura is outstanding: the most leading people in Extremadura in the second half of the 19th century and throughout the 20th century attended lessons at the school, so it was considered to be an exemplary and essential institution in the region, since it owned a rich scientific-educational heritage formed by appreciate scientific tools, stuffed animals, maps, mockups or minerals collections.

In 1962, the back then so called Instituto Mixto de Enseñanza Media de Badajoz (Badajoz Coeducational Secondary School) is divided into two schools: Bárbara de Braganza School for Girls, which stayed at the original location up to 1985 and Zurbarán School for Boys, which was placed in a new building, where it still stays. This division supposed, among other difficult circumstances, the sharing out of the scientific heritage from the former Physics and Chemistry and Natural History Offices and the Agriculture Department.

### **ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL-SCIENTIFIC HERITAGES IN THE REGION**

The educational-scientific heritage, former school's bequest, is one of the strongest evidence in Natural Sciences teaching history in our town and in our region, and plays an important role at the educational memory of people from Extremadura, with whom they got to know the world beyond distance and time. In the recent years, the condition of these materials presented a varied state of conservation, which allowed us to find on the one hand some pieces in very good condition displayed in showcases and on the other hand some pieces put away on store or together with current scientific materials. A great part of these materials are in condition to be restored for working again, so some years ago we started a systematic process of preservation, restoration and appreciation of the educational-scientific heritage. Both schools cooperation has allowed for the cataloguing, examination and exhibition of these pieces, and thanks to the regional administration, we have carried out the restoration of 100 selected and emblematic pieces from the former Natural History and Physics offices. Besides, we undertook the task to restore and catalogue the existing materials. With this purpose, once catalogued the materials, we created a virtual museum (website) which shows Bárbara de Braganza's heritage nowadays.

## **MAY, 2014. EXTREMADURA IS THE MEETING POINT FOR PRESERVATION, DISPLAY AND APPRECIATION OF SPANISH EDUCATIONAL HERITAGE.**

As a result of the wish to preserve this common heritage of many historical Spanish schools, it was founded the “Asociación Nacional para la Defensa del Patrimonio de los Institutos Históricos” (National Association for the Defense of the Heritage of Historical Schools), proclaimed by H.M. the King of Spain, by the Ministry of Education proposal, member of the Alfonso X “el Sabio” Civil Order. Among a variety of activities carried out by this Association we may outstand the annual celebration of the National Conference of Historical Schools since 2007, where we show progress on educational-scientific heritage during the school year by teachers members of the mentioned before association, as well as national and international investigations into the educational-scientific heritage.. In order to celebrate the 8th Conference, in the current year of 2014, Badajoz has been elected to be the venue of this conference, from May 2 to 6. Especially during those days, and during April and May, a broad activities schedule will be carried out under the headline “A Ciencia Cierta”, which consists of the 8th Historical Schools Conference, the Recreation of the Natural History Office and an Old Books and Documents Exhibition from historical batches of the former school.

### **ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS**

#### **IES BÁRBARA DE BRAGANZA IES ZURBARÁN**

IES ZURBARÁN AVD. DE HUELVA, 3  
IES BÁRBARA DE BRAGANZA C/ CIUDAD DE ÉVORA S/N  
Barbara de Braganza and Zurbarán High Schools, heirs of the former 'Instituto Provincial de Badajoz', are located at the downtown of Badajoz, and have broad educational academic programs in Compulsory Secondary Education, Bachillerato and Vocational Studies.

#### **8th NATIONAL HISTORICAL SCHOOLS CONFERENCE (May 2-4, 2014)**

BIBLIOTECA DE EXTREMADURA  
PLAZA DE IBN MARWAN S/N  
From May 2 to 4, Lectures, speeches, debates and technical visits will be carried out around the teaching, scientific and educational heritage of Spanish historical schools, with the participation of different scholars from beyond our borders: preservation and exposure, links to our educational past, are the present challenge of the conference.

#### **RECREATION OF THE NATURAL HISTORY OFFICE (april-may 2014)**

SALA DE EXPOSICIONES Y PATIO DE COLUMNAS DIPUTACIÓN PROV. DE BADAJOZ  
C/ OBISPO, JUAN DE RIVERA, 6

The Natural History Office, following the model recorded in former illustrations and writings, will be recreated together with an exhibition about the most interesting sampling from the scientific-educational heritage of the former “Instituto Provincial”: laboratory instrument, old projectors, minerals collections, mock-up and stuffed animals, many of which are so remarkable, such as the duck-billed platypus or some specimen from the ornithology collection.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHICAL EXHIBITION (april-may 2014)**

BIBLIOTECA DE EXTREMADURA  
PLAZA DE IBN MARWAN S/N

It's not only the legacy of science and investigation during one and a half century, trace of the intellectual curiosity in the south-west of Spain, but also sampling of the prolific activity of former teachers from the “Instituto Provincial”. Many of these bibliographical gems deserve public exposure, showing books and documents which are a combination of cultural and educational novelty and beautiful editions, binding and illustrations.

#### Patrocinan



#### Organizan



#### Colaboran

