



THE BANDSTAND



Gathering of the official delegation for the inauguration of the União Agrícola Philharmonic Society Bandstand, in 1927. The bandstand was sponsored by the Sociedade União Setubalense. This image records one of the first experimentations with electric light, with the lamps hanging from the bandstand structure (electric light was officially unveiled in Pinhal Novo in 1938).

Photograph by Manuel Giraldes da Silva, 1927

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The União Agrícola Philharmonic Society (S.F.U.A) was founded on 6 December, 1896, but little is known of its early history due to lost documentation. The founders of the Society, who aimed to dedicate themselves to musical activity, are thought to have been Augusto Nogueira Faria, Luiz N. Faria, João Martins Mortal, José Martins Mortal, Manuel Domingos Margarido and João do Restaurante.

The Philharmonic Band's first conductor was Palmela musician Henrique Isidoro da Costa. The first stone of the bandstand, which was designed by Januário Melícias Corrêa, was laid on 10 October, 1926.

This octagonal bandstand rests on a limestone base, with panelled marble faces. It can be accessed via a double staircase, at the top of which the date of its inauguration is engraved: 19-6-1927. The staircase and bandstand itself are protected by a wrought iron railing, which features an iron lyre at its centre.

At each of the stand's 8 points is a cast iron column on which the roof sits. Shaped like an arched hat, it is topped by a cast iron grid with neo-Gothic motifs and culminates at its apex in wrought iron twirls.

Its inauguration took place during the Santos Populares festivities and involved various local organisations and personalities. The bandstand was sponsored by Sociedade União Setubalense (under the conductorship of Ariovisto José Valério) and it was in this setting that one of the first experiments with electric light took place in the municipality of Palmela, arousing great curiosity. Public electric lighting would only be officially unveiled in Pinhal Novo in 1938.

Bibliography

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