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Natural History Museum makes historic find

A sheaf of papers containing drawings and unpublished manuscripts written by the 19th century Portuguese naturalist Francisco Arruda Furtado were found in a drawer at Lisbon's Natural History Museum, Marta Lourenço, research team leader, told Lusa News Agency this week.

The scientist, famous for having maintained correspondence with Charles Darwin, worked at the museum for three years through to June 1887 when he died at the age of 33.

Lourenço described the discovery as "without precedent and including a fabulous set of drawings and manuscripts" spanning the fields of history, biological studies of molluscs as well as anthropologic works.

Several years ago, the same museum turned up the correspondence between Arruda and Darwin with a multidisciplinary team now set up to analyse the importance of this latest, mostly never before published, works and sketches.

TPN/Lusa

Área: 57cm²/ 5%

Tiragem: 22.375

Cores: P/B

ID: 4824919