

ABSTRACT

Traditionally, pictures are studied in separate historical specialities, so that we have a history of the cinema, of photography, of etching and printed pictures, of optical shows, etc. Using as its point of departure the early days of cinematography in Spain from 1896, the paper relates this new medium with other graphic media and with the new picture-taking technologies – such as X-rays – which were emerging around the same dates, in order to study the influences upon and interrelations with each other and the social visibility they facilitated.

In the background of these relationships were to be found the initial building-blocks of a new form of society, the so-called mass society, which was to change ways of communicating and would start to lay down the guidelines in the visual media which we now know as usual.

Bernardo Riego is Director of the Photography Workshop at the University of Cantabria, where he also lectures in the Faculties of Education and History. Author of countless articles published in Spain and abroad on the history of photography and of contemporary pictures, he has just published the book *La Introducción de la Fotografía en España. Un reto científico y cultural* (The Introduction of Photography in Spain. A Scientific and Cultural Challenge), published by CCG Ediciones and Girona's CDRI.