

On the photoelectric effect and its contribution to a successful divorce of a prominent marriage

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“Let there be light, and there was light.” Some millennia later, Newton and colleagues referred to both particles and waves for the description of light. Then the cognitive model became that of a wave only. In the year 1905 a young man at the patent office in Bern submitted an article to the “Annalen der Physik”, delivering an interpretation of the experimentally known photoelectrical effect, suggesting again that light could be a particle. The young man probably didn’t anticipate that this article would become an initiator for the development of quantum mechanics, a Nobel Prize, a vast number of applications and a rather secular help in his personal life. In this little talk we reflect on the science of light, the photoelectric effect, Albert Einstein and some of his more profane aspects.

[1] S. Name1, Z. Name2, N. Name3, *Chimia*, **2015**, 69, 500-510.

[2] ...