

Literary relations between Portugal and Luxembourg are still young and the establishment of Portuguese-speaking literature in the multilingual literary landscape of the Grand Duchy dates back only 20 years. Between the Portuguese authors living in Luxembourg and the evocation of Portugal in Luxembourg literature, let us take a brief look at the links which have been established between the literatures of the two countries.

Portuguese authors

Having written nearly 30 novels since 2001 in which he evokes the relationships between people of different cultures, the love of his neighbour and faith in God, Antero Fernandes Monteiro (*1951, Chaves) is certainly the most productive Portuguese author in Luxembourg. He successfully sells thousands of copies of his novels through a network of Portuguese shops and associations and through a system of door-to-door sales. To date, Portuguese literature production has not benefited from any organised or structured distribution system as may be the case for other foreign literature present in the country: the Grand Duchy does not have any Portuguese bookshop, whereas it has an Italian and an English one; there is no specialist journal, such as the Italian journal *Nuova Europa* (1972-2000) or the Spanish-Catalan literary journal *abril* (since 1991) for instance; there is no publisher or association of Portuguese-speaking writers. However, Portuguese-speaking authors and their books are available in bookshops and libraries, integrated into the calendars of the journal *Contacto* (since 1970) and present on Radio Latina's frequencies, listed in the *Dictionnaire des auteurs luxembourgeois* and among the other documentary resources of the *Centre national de littérature* in Mersch, but they are no less visible and accessible.

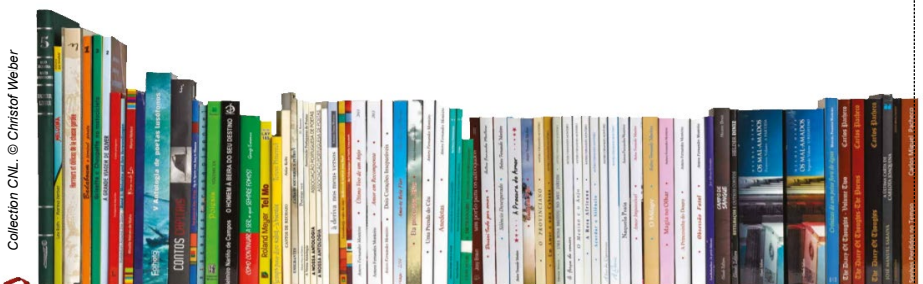
To give some names of Portuguese authors publishing in Luxembourg, let us mention in particular Belmiro Narino Figueira (*1930, Fundão), António Sousa Moreira (*1934, Arganil), Dulce Rodrigues (*1941, Lisboa), Helder Dourdil Diniz (*1946, Quelimane, Mozambique), José Manuel Saraiva (*1946, Coimbra), Victória Valente (*1949, Recife, Brazil), Carlos Miguel



Pacheco (*1951, Agualva-Cacém), Teresa Pimentel (*1959, Luandan, Angola), Paula Telo Alves (*1973, Viana do Castelo) and Alda Batista (Coimbra).

While some of them, such as Fernandes Monteiro and Belmiro Figueira, settled in Luxembourg in the late 1960s and 1970s, most did not settle in the Grand Duchy until the 1980s or even 2000s, in order to work as journalists, teachers, translators or European officials. Regardless of their age, they only started publishing in the 2000s with Portuguese publishers. They prefer poetic form, fiction and autobiographical prose, while writing columns and editorials, especially for *Contacto*. Depending on the generation to which they belong, they express nostalgia for the country, make a social criticism of their country of origin, discuss the subjects of Europe, love or life in Luxembourg.

However, Portuguese-speaking readers' encounters with Portuguese literature are established less through Portuguese authors living in Luxembourg than through readings by poets and translators such as Pedro Tamen, Casimiro de Brito, Mario de Carvalho or Fernando Pinto Do Amaral invited to the Grand Duchy, particularly during the Mondorf Literary Days (1995- 2001) organised by Anise Koltz and Jean Portante. The readings offered by different associations linked to the CLAE (Amis du 25 avril, CCPL – *Confédération de la Communauté Portugaise au Luxembourg*, *Centre culturel portugais – Institut Camões*) as part of the Salon du livre et des cultures (since 2000) and by the Printemps des poètes-Luxembourg (since 2008), which welcomed Isabel Barreno, Mário de Carvalho, António Carlos Cortez, David Mourão-Ferreira, António Vasco Graça Moura, Ana Luísa Amaral, José Luís Peixoto and Margarida Vale de Gato, are another highlight of the Portuguese-Luxembourg meetings.



In Luxembourg literature

Luxembourg writers only took up the subject of Portuguese emigration at a late stage and in a rather ad hoc manner. Josy Braun (*Porto fir d'Affekoten, E Graf op Madeira*), Guy Rewenig (*Eisefrësser*), Georges Hausemer and Nico Helminger (*de schantchen*) are among those who discuss the living and working conditions of immigrants or approach subjects such as racism, the question of difference and the fears expressed by Portuguese protagonists. Josy Braun, who repeatedly comments on the Carnation Revolution and observes the evolution of democracy in Portugal in his political communications published in the *Tageblatt*, explores the conflicting relations which can arise between Luxembourg citizens and Portuguese immigrants. Since the 2000s, Portuguese or Luxembourg characters with Portuguese origins have appeared more systematically in literary works. Joao Da Costa, a Luxembourg police officer of Portuguese origin, is responsible for investigations in the detective novels of Pierre Decock, for example. Maria Ferreira, a police officer of the same origins, directs operations in Jeff Herr's books, while in the detective novel *2129 – Chasse à l'homme de l'art* by Enrico Lunghi, a Portuguese millionaire jeopardizes the Museum of Modern Art. Claude Schmit and Claude Frisoni, for their part, question the notion of national identity in the novel *Reynaert au pays des merveilles* and in the dystopia *Lettre d'amour au peuple qui ne connaissait pas le verbe aimer*.

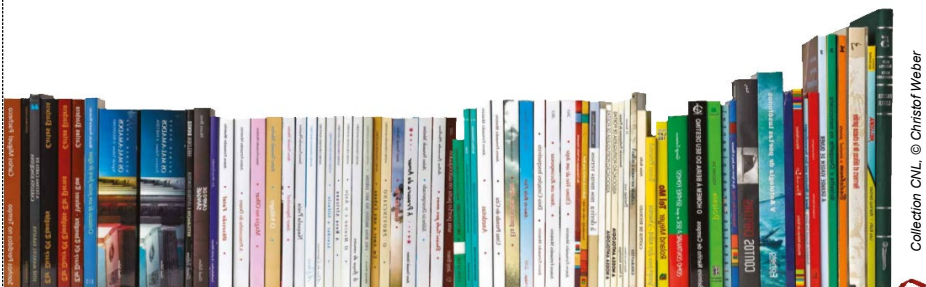
Intercultural encounters are also essential in children's literature. In her novel *Bleiwen, wat mir ginn* (2011), Cathy Clement tells the story of Catherine, a seventeen-year-old girl who falls in love with Jasiri, a young man who was born in Cape Verde and raised in Luxembourg. The author Christiane Grün, for her part, inserts in her book *Les Yeux noirs* (2014) the story of a rivalry between a Portuguese boy who recently arrived in the Grand Duchy and the narrator, a Luxembourg classmate. The latter then discovered Portugal with his parents, a country he and his friends knew only through the context of Portuguese immigration to Luxembourg. The novel *TelMo* (2017), awarded the *Lëtzebuurger Buchpräis* in the children's



book category, portrays a boy who, torn between two languages and two cultures following his parents' divorce, tries to overcome hatred, desire for aggression and violence through love and recognition.

In the field of children's literature, it should also be noted that there are Portuguese translations of several books by Luxembourg authors, such as those by Anne-Marie Theis, Corinne Kohl-Crouzet, Mireille Weiten-de Waha, Viviane Daman and Renée Estgen-Mertens. Born in Portugal, Liliana Miranda translates various stories from Portuguese into the official languages of Luxembourg (Luxembourg, German and French). Some literary texts by Anise Koltz, Jean Portante, Josy Braun (*Um porto para os advogados*, 2007), Guy Rewenig (*Horreurs et délices de la chasse gardée*, 2007), Roger Manderscheid (*folha solta de papel comum*, 1998), Georges Erasme Muller and Lex Roth exist in Portuguese translation. Sonia Da Silva is the author of the French translation of Marc André Meyers' novel *A dama e o Luxemburguês*. Mili Tasch-Fernandes has been working for many years in the fields of Portuguese-Luxembourg translation and mediation.

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