

EDITORIAL

The present issue of *REAP/JAPS* includes four articles which are clearly encompassed within the defining perspectives of Anglo-Portuguese Studies: comparativism, influence and reception. In his reflections upon the essence of Comparative Literature, George Steiner (1978) considered comparative practice to be an intrinsic feature of every hermeneutical process. In effect, comparative literary and cultural studies play essential roles in evaluating how different texts, literary sensibilities and cultural traditions are inter-related and mutually influential, contributing with their analysis towards a deeper understanding of interculturality. Márcia Lemos' article "**On How Imagination Can Bring Sustainability to Facts: *Finnegans Wake* and *História do Cerco de Lisboa* Revisited**" is paradigmatic in this context. Notwithstanding the fact that the two narratives are set in distant eras, its comparative approach contributes not just towards a deeper understanding of the two works and of the historical and cultural contexts of Ireland and Portugal but, above all, to the sustainability and preservation of their respective cultural heritages, by identifying the range of different registers and the wide range of interpretative possibilities suggested by the rich complexity of the History of the two countries.

The comparativist approach is also crucial to the study of the influence and reception (translational, critical and creative) of literary works written in different eras and in different lands. Such is the case of "**Notas sobre os Sonetos Ingleses de um Poeta Português: 35 *Sonnets* de Fernando Pessoa**", in which Gonçalo Santos Dias analyses the influence of English literature (and the language itself) on Pessoa's poetry. Against the backdrop of the commemorations of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Camões, Rogério Miguel Puga revisits the poet's reception in England and discusses the possible influence of Camões' lyric poems on *Sonnets from the Portuguese* in his article "**What's in a title?: *Sonnets from the Portuguese* (1850), de Elizabeth Barrett Browning enquanto Pseudotradução (Camoniana) e Pseudo-antologia de Cariz Anglo-Português**", defending the thesis that it is a pseudotranslation. And finally, in "**Recepção da Obra de Milton em Portugal – Algumas Achegas (II)**",

Jorge Bastos da Silva examines the reception of the work of John Milton, emphasising not just the allusions to the poet in Portuguese literary and critical writings but also the part played by indirect translations, particularly from French and Italian. Mediation and the role of the (pseudo-)mediator is of the utmost importance in intercultural studies, and Anglo-Portuguese Studies is no exception. Interlingual transfer is known to be a vital factor in the evolution of cultures, and hence (pseudo-)translations perform a decisive role not just in intercultural relations, but also in the representation and re-interpretation of the Other culture. And so, textual mediation and mediators (or intermediaries) inevitably influence the reception of a certain image. Indeed, the act of reception is, in itself, comparative, as there is no reception which is totally neutral or devoid of previous influence, as these articles clearly show.

Anglo-Portuguese Studies go still further, as they are transdisciplinary by definition, crossing disciplinary frontiers in order to gain a broader and more profound understanding of the texts under study. Consequently, an Anglo-Portuguese perspective enables quite complex issues to be dealt with, which demand pluri- and transdisciplinary approaches, bringing together different areas of knowledge. This is the case of the two articles by **Gabriela Gândara Terenas** – “**Visual Perceptions and Written Impressions of the First World War at the Time of Portuguese Modernism: Anglo-Portuguese Military Intervention**” – and by **Ana Rita Pereira Brettes** – “**Unveiling Identity and Otherness in War Exile: An Anglo-Portuguese Perspective**”. In these texts on the two world wars, the respective analyses are based on numerous cross-references, between, for example, personal accounts, historiographical narratives, meta-history, visual discourses, journalistic reports, and the (de)construction processes of identities and alterities. Also, taking the traumatic impact of the Lisbon earthquake in English literature as its point of departure, **Maria Zulmira Castanheira’s** article, “**O Terramoto de Lisboa de 1755 no Imaginário Gótico Britânico: uma Leitura de *The Nun of Miserecordia* (1807), de Sophia Frances**”, examines the way a fictional narrative exploits the backdrop of a historical event to create a female gothic novel. In

total consonance with the tastes of the readers of the day, particular those of women, the genre became a space for British attitudes and values to express themselves, all the more so when the plot unfolds in a Catholic country in the South of Europe. **Maria de Conceição Emiliano Castel-Branco's** review "**Sophie Shorland. *The Lost Queen: The Surprising Life of Catherine of Braganza, Britain's Forgotten Monarch*. London: Atlantic Books, 2024. 332 pp.**" also underlines the importance of writing by (and about) women, in this case within the scope of Queenship Studies. The Anglo-Portuguese vision of this historical figure is enriched by the cross-referencing of literary, political, social and diplomatic sources with the aim of reappraising the role of women in institutions long dominated by men.

In her article "**Particular Ways of Seeing: British Women in Portugal at the Beginning of the 19th Century**", **Isabel Oliveira** returns to the analysis of the (de)construction processes of identity and alterity and to women's writing, focussing on the parallels between women's travel accounts and colonial discourse. The article examines the way the Other (the Portuguese) is perceived as an exotic being, who rather than belonging to a European country is from a far-off land where the natives needed civilising or colonising; or is alternatively seen as a child whose behaviour can only be understood by the fact that he or she has not yet reached adulthood, recalling not just the thinking of Edward Said, but also, albeit implicitly, the advocates of the so-called "peculiar institution". In effect, in *Orientalism* (1978) and in *Culture and Imperialism* (1994) Said placed particular emphasis on the political and ideological dimension of discursive representation, underlining the importance of historical, social and political circumstances in a particular portrayal, which can only be understood in the context of broader realities such as, for example, the possession and exercise of power. To put it in a different way, the inequality between peoples, the link between power and knowledge and above all, the relationship between culture and political and economic hegemony all exert an overwhelming influence on representations of the Other.

The vision of the Other as an inferior (“a dago”) is revisited in **David Evans’** article **“Madeira, the ‘dagos’ and the Other Winston Churchill”**. On the pretext of a voyage to Madeira, which provides the backdrop to one of his short stories, the article introduces another Winston Churchill, the once extremely-popular American novelist who was often confused with his namesake, the celebrated British statesman who also visited Madeira and whose stay is commemorated in the town of Câmara de Lobos by a statue and the hotel which bears his name. The island provides a picturesque and exotic scenario for a story in which the local inhabitants are clearly portrayed as inferior beings.

Miguel Alarcão returns to the theme of the subalternisation of the Portuguese people in an account of a journey to Madeira in **“Britannia Rules the Waves, From China to Peru: Thoughts Concerning Lord Anson’s *A Voyage Round the World... (1748)*”** in the Projects section of the *Journal*. The author proposes a closer, comparative and critical look at the History of the Portuguese and British Empires (amongst others) from their origins to the end of the last century. By coincidence this challenge finds somehow a response in the recently-published work of Malyn Newitt which is the subject of a review by **Paulo Jorge de Sousa Pinto** in **“Malyn Newitt, *Navigations – The Portuguese Discoveries and the Renaissance*. London: Reaktion Books, 2023, 352 pp. ISBN 9781789147025”**.

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