

A Note from the Editor-in-Chief “A Very Original Issue”

Fernando Pessoa as English Reader and Writer. The title of this issue of *Portuguese Literary & Cultural Studies* may intrigue the reader. Does it mean that Patricio Ferrari and Jerónimo Pizarro are concerned mainly with the reception of the Portuguese author in English-speaking countries? Does it convey the importance of literature written in English in Fernando Pessoa’s own works? Does the title stress the overlapping of reading and writing as a key element in understanding the fascination provoked by Pessoa’s (as well as Jorge Luis Borges’s) literature?

Indeed, Pessoa and Borges have become an authentic phenomenon as far as the contemporary breadth of their readership is concerned. The fact that they primarily wrote, respectively, in Portuguese and Spanish does not seem to hinder the ever-increasing impact of their unique writings, and above all the strength of their disquieting worldviews, which have bewildered readers throughout the world.

Primarily, I wrote—and that makes all the difference. From their early childhood, both authors were exposed to an English-speaking environment; therefore, they were fluent in at least two languages, and this bilingual predicament is the circumstance brought to the fore by Ferrari and Pizarro in the organization of this issue, which certainly will become an indispensable reference in the work of Fernando Pessoa in English.

The guest editors of this issue, in fact, are accomplished and well-known researchers on the work of Fernando Pessoa. In recent years, they have emphasized Pessoa’s production written directly in English as well as in French. In the course of their groundbreaking research, they have found unpublished manuscripts and also have broadened our understanding of the resonances of Pessoa’s formative years in the whole of his “verse and prose”—to recall the title of one of Octavio Paz’s insightful essays.

The novelty of Ferrari and Pizarro’s approach makes this a very original issue—as the reader will realize, the editors have included in their selection the disturbing short story written by the young Fernando Pessoa, that is, by Alexander Search, “A Very Original Dinner.”

There is, however, another reason that this issue is particularly relevant in the history of *Portuguese Literary & Cultural Studies*.

This will be the last issue published on paper. In other words, we will begin to publish the journal as an online, open-access publication from the next issue onward.

It is our hope that this decision will provide an unprecedented broadening of the community of readers of the journal.