



FOLIO 2017

Mathematics and Literature II

An International Workshop and an Exhibition held in Óbidos, Portugal, the 21st October 2017

by **Carlota Simões***

The *Centro Internacional de Matemática* (<http://www.cim.pt/>) in partnership with the *Science Museum of the University of Coimbra* (<http://www.museudaciencia.org>), and the *Portuguese Mathematical Society* (<https://www.spm.pt/>), with the support of the *Center for Mathematics, Fundamental Applications and Operational Research of the University of Lisbon* (<http://cmafciocampus.ciencias.ulisboa.pt>) and the *FCT Doctoral Program in Materialities of Literature of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Coimbra* (<https://apps.uc.pt/courses/en/course/2341>), organized MATHEMATICS AND LITERATURE II, a one day international

workshop (October 21) and the exhibition ET SIC IN INFINITUM (October 21–29), taking part of the program of *FOLIO–International Festival of Literature of Óbidos*, organized by the Municipality of Óbidos (<http://www.obidos.pt/>) from 19 to 29 of October of 2017.

The workshop consisted of presentations by F. J. Craveiro de Carvalho (Universidade de Coimbra), Samuel Lopes (Universidade do Porto), Carlos Santos (Universidade de Lisboa), José Francisco Rodrigues (Universidade de Lisboa), Michèle Audin (Université de Strasbourg), António Cordoba (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid) and

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Figure 1.—A glimpse on the participants of the international workshop.



Figure 2.—F.J. Craveiro de Carvalho presenting several authors such as Adam Zagajewski, Katharine O'Brien or Miroslav Holub.

Manuel Portela (Universidade de Coimbra).

The talks covered literature with mathematical influence, like the concept of dimension in Edwin Abbott's *Flatland* by Samuel Lopes, works of literature by authors who are also mathematicians, as in the talk by José Francisco Rodrigues on *literary mathematicians, from Galileo to Hausdorff*, or in the presentation by Michèle Audin, a math-

ematician and member of the OuLiPo (Ouvroir de Littérature Potentielle), who talked about her own works, as well as computational literature, created by computer programs, as in the talk by Manuel Portela.

On poetry and mathematics, Carlos Santos recovered a study on *The Lusíadas*, proving that the main astronomical source of Camões was the *Tratado da Esfera* from the great



Figure 3.—Carlos Santos talked about the astronomy contained in the Portuguese epic poem *Os Lusíadas*, from Luís de Camões.



Figure 4.—Samuel Lopes’s talk was on the 1884 novel *Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions*, from Edwin Abbott Abbott.



Figure 5.—José Francisco Rodrigues talked about literary mathematicians, from Galileo to Hausdorff.



Figure 6.—Michèle Audin, a member of the OuLiPo (*Ouvroir de Littérature Potentielle*).



Figure 7.—António Cordoba, presenting *Poetry among Theorems*.



Figure 8.—Manuel Portela, presenting *Permutation and Generation in Computational Literature*.



Figure 9.—The exhibition *ET SIC IN INFINITUM: an intermedial and transliterary installation*.

mathematician Pedro Nunes. In his talk *Poetry among theorems*, António Cordoba presented poetry with mathematical influence by several authors, referring in particular, the Spanish José Echegaray, professor of mathematics and Nobel Prize of Literature in 1904. Craveiro de Carvalho presently dedicates himself to the translation into Portuguese of poems related to mathematics, originally written in English language. In this talk he presented several authors such as Adam Zagajewski, Katharine O'Brien or Miroslav Holub.

The exhibition *ET SIC IN INFINITUM: an intermedial and transliterary installation*, from Carolina Martins and Diogo

Marques, is the result of a partnership between the artists association *wreading-digits* (wreading-digits.com), and the Doctoral Program in Literature Materialities of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Coimbra and completed the program of *FOLIO 2017—Mathematics and Literature II* (<http://www.cim.pt/agenda/event/182>).

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