

Some unexpected interactions between Mathematics and Literature
António Machiavelo (Universidade do Porto) and José Francisco Rodrigues
(Universidade de Lisboa)

The interactions between Mathematics and Literature may be not very common, but have deep and very often unexpected links among great poets, writers and mathematicians. Luis de Camões (1524-1580), the great Portuguese poet of the epic and universal masterpiece *Os Lusíadas* had a strong humanistic culture, that is reflected in its poetry not only with respect with Astronomy, but also with the two classical definitions of the sphere. Some mathematicians, as the Englishman James Joseph Sylvester (1814-1897), who had a long life passion for poetry and attempted to codify it in his book *The Laws of Verse*, or the Portuguese António Monteiro (1907-1980), who wrote a few poems in its long exile in South America, did relevant literary incursions, deserving to be better known. Or, as in the case of the influent collective mathematician Nicolas Bourbaki that provoked cultural and paradoxical connections with the structuralism and the potential literature of Oulipo in the post-war France of the second half of the 20th century.