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B O O K S P A T H W A Y S I N T O T H E W O R L D

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PORTUGAL



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Books Pathways **into the** World

ANTÓNIO M E G A F E R R E I R A

In order to approach this year's edition of the **Frankfurt Book Fair**, in which it is the **Focal Theme**,

Portugal has prepared a vast programme, of which the exhibition in the Portugal Pavilion is an important part. It was up to us to illustrate the motto

we adopted for the Portuguese participation: **Portugal— Pathways into the world.**

With this we intend to state that, in a certain manner, Portugal found itself on the pathways which it drew out across the planet, ploughing the seas

towards **India** or **Brazil**, cutting across the lands of **Africa** and **Asia**. It was in others that this country, ancient in its history and

frontiers, drank from the influences which make our culture so unique, starting out owing much to the **Jewish** contribution and the **Arab**

inheritance, working upon the **Latin** base, then open to the best which the **African**, **American** and **Asian**

peoples were able to provide us.

In this long journey throughout the **oceans of the world**, Portugal developed a special relationship for the discovery and

encounter with other peoples, making its own culture permeable to the cultures with which it held a **dialogue**. And

a great part of this adventure has been registered in **books**, shaping the national identity based on its close living with the sea, a place of

transit and **destination**, a space of the privileged representation of a literature which was constructed "between winds

and tides", as we often say.

For this reason we are a particular nation, and we have made from this a different culture, extremely European in the attention with which we have

always listened to the cries and whispers of the **European** drama, yet attentive to the songs and scents which have come to us from the

Orient, and finally in step with the voices which are raised from Africa to redeem our ambivalent relationship with the

African continent.

The exhibition which we are presenting speaks of all this, showing the books which bring us here and the authors who gave them their soul. They

are areas of approach to Portuguese **literary culture**, and it is certain that, through the exhibition, a great deal of what we are

is revealed, and a great deal of what we dream of is foreshadowed.

Because books, our books, are also pathways into the world, into our world, which is largely our vision of the world of the others. That which we

propose for you on the exhibition floor is a **cartography** of desires and **affections**. And, once again, we invite

you to take a journey, in opening the book of our books and our journeys.

Journeys, Affections, Disquiet, Trajectories and Destinies

ANTÓNIO DE CAMPOS ROSADO

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