

Country Life

Rui Zink¹

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1. HETERONYM MAN

My country is now world-renowned not only for its wine and cork and sailing history (first Europeans to reach Japan), it is also the birthplace of the poet of the thousand masks, Fernando Pessoa. His surname means ‘Person’ and can easily be read as ‘Persona’, mask, both theatrical and social. The literary magazine edited by the Casa Pessoa is, indeed, named *Persona*. Casa Pessoa is the museum dedicated to Pessoa, now a must-see site, for Lisbon became the city of Pessoa, after being the city of Ulysses (well, one of them) and the city of Camões. Nowadays, you go downtown to Café Brasileira for a selfie at his table with his sculpture, and uptown to Casa Pessoa where you can grasp, in the very room where

¹ **Rui Zink** was born in Lisbon in 1961. He’s a professor of Editing and Writing at Universidade Nova de Lisboa, as well as a writer and translator, having published more than 30 books. His work is translated in a dozen languages (including French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Romanian, Serbo-Croatian and Japanese), ranging from fiction to plays, from cartoons to opera. He published his first book in 1986, *Hotel Lusitano*, hailed 25 years later as one of the best novels of his generation with a celebratory edition. In 1990, Rui Zink was a pioneer of writing courses in Portugal. In 1997, he co-authored, with artist António Jorge Gonçalves, the first graphic Portuguese novel: *A Arte Suprema*. In 2001, he wrote the first Portuguese online novel, *Os Surfistas*, with the input of e-readers. He wrote a tetralogy about the crisis, comprising *O Destino Turístico* (2008), *A Instalação do Medo* (2012), *A Metametamorfose e Outras Formosas Morfofos* (2014) and the short novel *OssO* (2015). Aside from being a novelist, he is a playwright, writes comic strips, and frequently creates librettos for operas. As a translator, he has brought into Portuguese, among others, Saul Bellow and Richard Zenith. He was visiting scholar at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, reader at the University of Michigan and resident writer at Middlebury College, Vermont, USA. Address correspondence to: Rui Zink; e-mail: zink.rui@gmail.com.