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## Introduction

### Ever-Abounding Camões

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It is with great pleasure that we present this second special issue of *Convergência Lusíada*, which brings to completion the series of sessions “Quinhentos Camões, o poeta reverberado” (“Five Hundred Camões, A Much Echoed Poet”) sponsored by the Real Gabinete Português de Leitura (Royal Portuguese Reading Room) celebrating, with distinction, the 500th anniversary of the birth of the author of *Os Lusíadas* (*The Lusiads*).

Bringing together essays by eminent scholars of Luís de Camões from leading Brazilian and foreign universities, this issue offers original and authoritative insights into the enduring oeuvre of this 16<sup>th</sup> century poet whose writings have been instrumental in shaping the Portuguese language.

This issue follows the same structure as its companion volume. The section “Arts and Manners” brings together essays offering close readings of Camões’s works; “Scattered Rays” explores the countless developments, dialogues, and reverberations of his oeuvre across centuries and disciplines; and “Ingenuity, art; the quill, the sword; study, experience” features the text of the concluding lecture from

our year-long celebration, providing a broad panorama on various aspects related to Camões and his work.

To mark this milestone, we have recorded and made available on our YouTube channel videos with the round-table discussions held in the the “Sala dos Brasões” (Coat of Arms Hall) of the Real Gabinete. In addition, we have produced a special program for our now well-established online series “Luso-Brasilidades, práticas e trânsitos” (“Luso-Brazilian practices and exchanges”), broadcast on June 5, 2025, entitled “Camões em mosaico” (“Camões in mosaic”). The discussion includes contributions from foreign scholars who were unable to travel to Rio de Janeiro for the in-person events; their papers are also published in this issue.

In previous “Camões years” throughout the 20th century, such as 1924 (the 400th anniversary of his birth), 1972 (the 400th anniversary of the publication of *Os Lusíadas*), and 1980 (the 400th anniversary of his death), both Portugal and Brazil witnessed a wealth of activity celebrating his life and legacy, from numerous publications and events to extensive press coverage. By contrast, Brazil’s commemoration of this 21st century milestone was marked by relative silence, with few initiatives taking place. Defying this trend, the Real Gabinete Português de Leitura stood apart: its neo-Manueline space, long devoted to Camões, once again became a site of homage. (Lest we forget, the cornerstone of its current building was officially laid on June 10, 1880). In rising to the occasion, the Real Gabinete reaffirmed its vocation to preserve and renew the cultural ties that unite Brazil and Portugal.

Having completed the mission we set for ourselves, we hope that your reading of this issue proves as enlightening and pleasurable as ours in revisiting the wide and varied reworkings of the ever-abounding Luís de Camões.

Gilda Santos

Real Gabinete Português de Leitura /  
Federal University of Rio de Janeiro



Medalha comemorativa dos 500 anos de nascimento de Luís de Camões, patrocinada pelo Real Gabinete Português de Leitura. Oferecida aos participantes do projeto “Quinhentos Camões, o poeta reverberado”, a autoridades portuguesas e brasileiras e a especiais amigos da casa.

Medal to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the birth of Luís de Camões, commissioned by the Real Gabinete Português de Leitura. Presented to participants of the project “Quinhentos Camões, o poeta reverberado,” Portuguese and Brazilian dignitaries, and special friends of the institution.