

Intercultural Library Bibliothek der Kulturen in Frauenfeld

Sprachcafé Portugiesisch – Portuguese Language Café

The “*Bibliothek der Kulturen*” in Frauenfeld has been offering language cafés in German and other languages for several years. People who are interested in a specific language can discuss, expand their vocabularies and exchange views on cultural topics in that language.

Since 2017 there has also been a language café offered in Portuguese. Two presenters - both originally from Brazil - organize a monthly meeting on Monday evenings for Portuguese speakers and students. Like all moderators of Frauenfeld language cafés, they are volunteers. The *Portuguese Café* is unique in the Swiss library landscape! At present, no other intercultural library offers a language meeting in Portuguese.

What does the *Portuguese Café* offer?

As an example, the following was a Monday evening event at the beginning of June. The presenters Maria Janotta and Herly Grutschnig arrived in the library 45 minutes before the beginning of the *Portuguese Café*. They prepared everything, adjusted the tables and chairs, provided their own snacks, checked whether the iPad worked. Their friend - a teacher of Portuguese working for the HSK and at the Migros Club School - kept them company and is looked forward to helping out.

The visitors started to arrive: today there are four participants. Three of them have lived in Brazil for some time and are excited about being able to practice their language in this group. The fourth participant is attending a Portuguese language course. In a detailed introductory round, everyone has the opportunity to talk about their experience of the Portuguese or Brazilian languages and culture.

Today's topic is music. First, the presenters introduced two songs, one Brazilian – the well-known *Garota de Ipanema* [Girl from Ipanema] by Vinicius de Moraes, and one Portuguese – *Lisboa Menina e Moça* from the tradition of *Fado*. First, the songs were played on the iPad. Beautiful pictures from Brazil and Portugal's capital Lisbon accompany the singing. A highly emotional experience! The lyrics for the songs were copied for the participants and the presenters encouraged them to take a closer look at the texts. The text about Lisbon, for example, is full of pictorial comparisons, the one from Brazil is characterized by the tonal beauty of the language. An exciting discussion began, instigated by the presenters: what are the differences between Brazilian and Portuguese? Which words are pronounced differently? Which speech sounds are striking?

Herly and Maria had also prepared information about *Fado*, which is a Portuguese style of music that originated in Lisbon and Coimbra. The songs in the tradition of *Fado* are sad and full of longing. They are about unhappy love and always include a political message decrying social ills. During the discussion *Fado* is also compared to the Brazilian song tradition, which is much happier.

The fine sweet snacks have also come from both countries: *Pastéis de Nata* from Portugal and *Paçoca de amendoim* from Brazil.

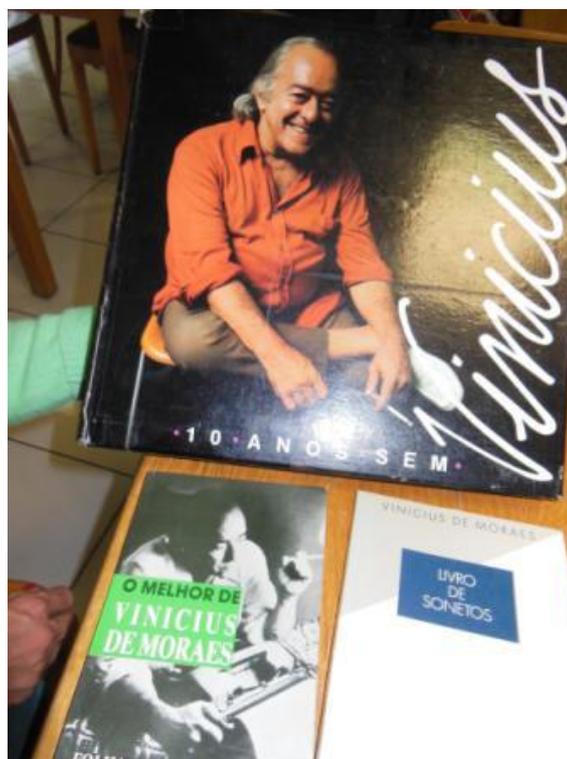
The *Portuguese Café* offers an evening full of interesting information, with the opportunity not only to speak Portuguese / Brazilian, but also to get to know, reflect and discuss, and of course to enjoy, the cultural areas that belong to this language.

September 2017, Therese Salzmann, Interbiblio

More informations: www.bibliothekderkulturen.ch

The presenters in the foreground
Portuguese Pastéis de Nata

Books about the singer Vinicius de Moraes
(Garota de Ipanema)



Brazilian Paçoca de amendoim

