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CONTENTS

1. Festival de Mastros
2. three bags full
3. queijo de ovelha
4. molinology
5. Fernando Pessoa

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1. FESTIVAL DE MASTROS

We do our day-to-day shopping in São Teotónio. This village clearly performs a regional function and offers a wide variety: 7 hairdressers, 3 banks, an impressive amount of small cafés, 4 pastelarias, a covered market, 2 filling stations, 2 car washes, 6 grocers, 1 big supermarket, 2 garden centres, an old people's home, a kindergarten, a primary and a secondary school, a health food shop, a tea-room... and I still haven't named everything. São Teotónio also boasts the Festival de Mastros: the Festival takes up the greater part of the month June (this year it's from June 12 till 30, to be precise). All streets will be decorated with flowers and bunting, which takes the inhabitants weeks and weeks to make. It's all on a strictly hush-hush basis, as the one street must not find out what the other street is up to. Bales, live music, demonstrations and tastings: the Festival will be a resounding success.



2. THREE BAGS FULL

Last week or so, our neighbour António had his sheep shorn. He owns a flock of 200, so it's quite a job. The hind leg of each consecutive sheep is clasped, to roll it on its back, and then the shears do their work. The first sheep to surrender its wool is put back among the flock, so that the last one to be shorn will keep quiet.



António loves his sheep. It's fascinating to see him and his (black and fuzzy) dog at work. However, even without his dog António is an experienced crowd manager. Briefly whistling or clacking his tongue will tell them to keep away from our olive trees.

3. QUEIJO DE OVELHA

Obviously, sheep do not only produce wool, but milk as well. In Saboia, you'll find a cheese factory that produces sheep's and goat's cheese. The owner's mother makes her own cheeses at her home farm in the traditional way. Just for friends and acquaintances. The way she presses the fluid from the rennet shows the experience of years and years. The art of cheese making is passed from one generation to another and every region has its



specific cheeses. Our guests cannot leave the farm before they've tasted all cheeses, accompanied by a bit of bread, some honey and a glass of wine. Really tasty!

4. MOLINOLOGY

Although it may sound like a typically Dutch event, Portugal has its own Open Mill Day. Quite understandable, of course, as we have a huge amount of mills. In the municipality of Odemira alone (picture left) there are 113 windmills, 97 watermills and 9 tide mills. However,



only a few of them are operational. These can be visited on the Dia Nacional dos Moinhos. The miller is happy to demonstrate how everything works. Whistles have been at-

tached to the sails, and the melody they produce tells the miller the force and directions of the wind.

Molinology (mill studies) is practised worldwide. Symposiums are organised and magazines are published, there are mill museums and associations. There even is a mill dictionary. The term 'Molinology' was coined in 1965 by - what coincidence - João Miguel dos Santos Simões, a Portuguese industrial historian.

5. FERNANDO PESSOA

The Instituto de Estudos sobre o Modernismo that occupies itself with modernistic Portuguese literature is domiciled in Lisbon. As Bas graduated on Fernando Pessoa, one of Portugal's most famous and intriguing poets, he has been invited to become a member. Fernando Pessoa leads an inconspicuous life (1888-1935) and has only one book of poetry published. After his death, thousands of densely filled pages were found in crates. It takes till 1950 before Pessoa's work is published and he becomes world-famous. In the Netherlands and Britain Pessoa has many admirers, among whom Jonathan Griffin, who translated a selection of his poems into English. Recently, the Dutch city of Utrecht even organised a Pessoa festival. Pessoa had so many thoughts that he needed heteronyms to be able to express them all. Or, as he put it himself: 'Thought is the only thing I'm capable of.'



Five of them!

Nel