



Sidonio Bettencourt

Biography

Sidonio Bettencourt is an Azorean journalist and writer born in Sao Miguel but raised in Lajes do Pico. He is also the host of a radio show called *Inter-ilhas* on RDP Azores and has a weekly television show *Atlântida* on RTP Azores. The premise of the show is to familiarize viewers with the autonomous regions of the Azores and Madeira. He studied at Coimbra University and has been a professional journalist since 1976. Bettencourt was also a member of Assembleia Legislativa Regional dos Açores from 1966 to 2000.

Bibliography

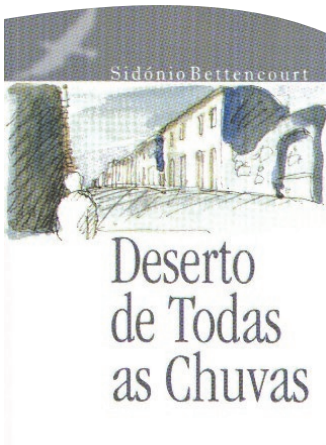
One of his Bettencourt's more recent books is a poetic work entitled *Já não vem ninguém* which is based on his childhood memories in Lajes do Pico. It is about the difficulties faced by those who leave their family, friends, and all that is familiar to them when they leave the islands. He also wrote *Balada das Baleias*, a photo album which includes his poetry, and *Deserto de Todas as Chuvas* for which a sample poem has been provided below. In addition to his own work, Bettencourt has contributed to the following publications: *Nós Palavras*, *Ilha Num Cartucho a Cinco Vozes*, *Café Com Letras*, *Nove Rumores do Mar*, *On a leaf of blue*, and *Voices from the Islands*.

Awards

Bettencourt's work as a journalist has earned him several awards including: Prémio Gazeta (1989), Prémios Açores Reportagem (1994/1995), Prémio Personalidade da Comunicação Social (2003), and many more.



"Resigned"



*The boredom of this morning, the Island
uncovered with the same bitter smell. The
atmosphere without colour. The ship. The
open sea. The flight of the seagull without
tenderness*

*There they go
A wagon, keg of milk,
The dog, the mass, the steam, all accepted*

*The volcano in a bath of clouds.
Love tightened on the sword
with you always I sang randomly by the blue*

*side of hope
There they go
A wagon, keg of milk,
The dog, the mass, the steam, all accepted*

*Roots in a closed envelope. Sacred,
emotional. This doesn't have an end, no... In
the middle of the ocean, the cry, the ballad.
The force of reason*

*There they go
A wagon, keg of milk,
The dog, the mass, the steam, all accepted*

Note: The original version of this poem was in Portuguese. This version is a student translation and interpretation.

Sources

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