

D'Maus Ketti

Outline:

D'Maus Ketti written by Auguste Liesch is the other classic of children's literature in Luxembourg. It is often placed in a child's room next to Michel Rodange's *Renert*.

Text :

D'Maus Ketti is a fable in verse written by Auguste Liesch and first published in 1936. Accompanied by illustrations by Pierre Blanc, this tale marks the history of Luxembourg literature alongside Michel Rodange's *Renert*. Just like *Renert*, it features animals who behave like humans. *Ketti* the mouse and *Renert* the wolf have their place in the pantheon of Luxembourg emojis, the emoXies!

Unlike *La Fontaine*, Liesch chooses to remain faithful to the original version of *Aesop*. He begins by inviting the city mouse, the very snobbish Mim, to her cousin's house, the sweet Ketti, who lives in the country in the south of the country, in Burmerange to be exact. The social divide is immediately obvious. It takes a completely different turn when Mim, mocking Ketti's frugality, invites Ketti to share her house in the very chic Clausen district of the capital. Then they are met by two cats who almost bite and gobble them up! At what price should one indulge in the pleasures of fine food and fancy living? The price of one's life? Ketti rushes back to her modest but happy life in the country. There she marries Metti, and they live in cheerful simplicity, envying nothing of the pomp and circumstance of the city: less cultured perhaps, but more serene.

Born in Mondorf in 1874, Auguste Liesch was a political, legal and literary figure in Luxembourg. His *Maus Ketti* became a star, sculpted by the famous Wil Lofy: first in Burmerange, of course, where you can find a large bronze Ketti sitting comfortably on a cheese wheel along Rue Auguste Liesch. Then in Mondorf, where a moving sculpture on the *Maus Ketti* fountain shows how the two cats come out in the middle of a mouse feast. The *Maus Ketti* brewery is located in Mondorf, rue des Bains!