



ITIA BULLETIN

February 2004

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Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association
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■ Editorial

Welcome to the February edition of the *ITIA Bulletin*. This month I've tried to catch up with notifications of a lot of the conferences and events that are coming up in the next few months. I've attempted to include as many as I can, but please forgive me if I omit anything. In a field as vibrant and exciting as translation is at the moment, it can be difficult to keep apace of all the events happening in Europe alone, much less the rest of the world. However, if you have an event which you'd like publicised, do send me an e-mail with details and I'll do my best to include it.

While providing information for all those interested in professional aspects of translation, the Bulletin is also concerned with the broader field of Translation Studies and this month we feature an article about two major new research projects undertaken at the *Centre for Translation and Textual Studies* at Dublin City University: *TRASNA* and *TRASNABIO*. Aside from the obvious contribution which such a project can make to our understanding of the representation of Irish literature abroad, the project is also important in raising the status of translation and translators in general. We at the ITIA wish Caoimhghin, Michelle, and Rita all the best with the project and look forward to seeing how it develops.

One last point – the secretary of the ITIA now has a new e-mail address: [secretary-itia\(a\)ntlworld.com](mailto:secretary-itia(a)ntlworld.com). Do make a note of it in your address books.

Best wishes,

John Kearns
Editor
[kearns\(a\)pro.onet.pl](mailto:kearns(a)pro.onet.pl)

The prominent Irish writer, translator and honorary member of the ITIA, Gabriel Rosenstock, has written the following appreciation:

“When I first went to work as an Assistant Editor with *An Gúm*, Séamus Ó Dúgáin - or Jimmy Duggan as most of his friends knew him - was my immediate boss. An Gúm was then the Publications Branch of the Department of Education and there was a lot of bureaucracy attached to it which was puzzling and unfamiliar to me at the time. Jimmy steered me through it as best as he could, with avuncular kindness and a gentle, self-mocking humour which was endearing. He was never one for pomp and ceremony and had no time for ostentatious behaviour. Indeed, he was something of a learner all his life, always keen to add to his store of knowledge. It was interesting to learn that Jimmy was reading *The Book of Wisdom* shortly before he died - always learning, to the very end. Above all, he was a gentle soul, fondly remembered. Beannacht Dé leis.”

Gabriel Rosenstock
[GRosenstock\(a\)forasnagaeilge.ie](mailto:GRosenstock(a)forasnagaeilge.ie)

■ ITIA Chairman's Book Prize

The winner of the ITIA Chairman's Book Prize this month is **Simon Beswetherick** of London, who has won - and has now been sent - a copy of the international best-seller “*A Man Named Dave*” by Dave Pelzer. Congratulations Simon!

■ Séamus Ó Dúgáin (Jimmy Duggan) – An Appreciation

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Séamus Ó Dúgáin (Jimmy Duggan) last month, a man who for many years had played a central role in translation issues relating to the Irish language. He was married to Máire Níc Mhaoláin, committee member of the ITIA, and is survived also by his two daughters.

■ The TRASNA Projects

What happens to Irish literature when it gets translated? We are all now used to the enthusiastic reception abroad of most things Irish, yet there has been little research to date on the modalities of this reception – which Irish writers enter the consciousness of other cultures and why, and who translated them and why? To what extent has Irish literature aided the construction of other cultures' perceptions of Ireland? What role have the translators in mediating this on a cultural level?

In 2002, the Centre for Translation and Textual Studies received an IRCHSS Major Projects Grant to set up two databases: the TRASNA and the TRASNABIO databases. The first is a database with the publishing details of over 10,000 translations of Irish literature into a variety of world languages. This database is growing all the time as more information is gathered from OPACs (Online Public Access Catalogues) around the world as well as from translators and university departments. It is hoped that TRASNA, one of the

largest projects of its kind in the world, will inspire and aid research into these translations and their cultural effect, as well as providing an invaluable overview on what has been translated and where.

TRASNABIO is a database of biographical information about translators who have been involved in the translation of Irish literature into other languages. Each biography is presented as an individual web page, providing information about the translator's nationality, target language, education and professional background. The author, title and publishing details of all the Irish works they have translated, and references to any reviews of these translations, are also presented. In some cases, the translators themselves have provided details of the contextual influences behind their translations, which we also make available. Other information provided includes details about the individual's other translation work, other publications, awards and general activities. It is hoped that each biography will provide an insight into each translator's work and life.

The principal aim of the TRASNABIO is to redress the usual invisibility of the translator as cultural agent. With the overwhelming dominance accorded to the original in our society, and the concurrent view of the translation as derivative and secondary, the importance of the translator in creating not only national identities but also trans-national literary dialogues is very often overlooked. We hope that by raising the profile of both translators and their work, the TRASNABIO database will go some way towards combating the sadly frequent view of the translator as an unimportant and uncreative agent in the process of bringing a work of literature to foreign language audiences.

One of the most interesting ways in which TRASNABIO may help us to do this lies in the fact that it gives us unprecedented access to information about what works a translator has chosen to translate and the reasons for this, as well as the details of their other literary or creative activities. There are, for example, often ideological motives for choosing to translate Irish literature. One particular instance of this is the Breton-Irish connection. We have come across a number of Breton translators whose interest in the Celtic past and traditions of their own region has led them to study and translate various Irish folktales and myths. Georges Dottin (1863-1928) is particularly noteworthy here, having translated Douglas Hyde's '*Leabhar sgeulaigheachta*' directly from the Irish, as well as personally bringing together a collection of translated folktales entitled '*L'épopée irlandaise.*' Dottin was a

professor of Celtic Studies at the University of Rennes, where his area of expertise was Celtic legends. His own writing also reveals a strong interest in Celtic languages and historical linguistics. These include papers on Gaelic literature in both Ireland and Scotland, a glossary of the Pléchéâtel patois, and various books and papers about Celtic civilisation, religion, and language.

The concern with Celtic studies in Brittany relates directly to the concern of various Breton scholars and citizens to keep their Celtic heritage alive through the study and publication of information about the cultural heritage of the region as well as through the promotion and support of the Breton language. Dottin would have been one of the forerunners of such efforts, and his translations of Celtic legends from the Irish would have been an integral part of his work in this respect.

The use of regional languages had been declining in France since the 1790s, a time when measures were increasingly being put in place to promote and expand the French language at the expense of other dialects and languages, and as a result, regional customs and traditions. The similarities with the Irish and English languages in Ireland, in addition to the Celtic connections, made the movement to promote the Irish language and traditions an attractive model to Breton speakers. Dottin's translations, and the widespread interest in them in Celtic Studies and Breton circles, attest to this quite clearly. His work shows that translation need not be simply about bringing foreign works to another audience, but can also be ideologically motivated. The role of the translator as cultural agent is in a way, then, even more pronounced in this case.

The scope and breadth of the TRASNA and TRASNABIO will provide a unique basis for re-assessing the role of translators in both cultural and trans-cultural discourses as well as providing a basis to re-assess the role of Irish literature within other cultures. This latter aspect will hopefully also create a platform for the study of other literatures in Ireland and the trans-culturalism of literary discourse in general.

We are keen to contact anyone who has translated any Irish literature (whether from Irish or English) and if you have details of any translations, please contact either:

Caoimhghin Ó Croidheain at [Caoimhghin.OCroidheain\(a\)dcu.ie](mailto:Caoimhghin.OCroidheain(a)dcu.ie), or Rita McCann at [rita.mccann\(a\)dcu.ie](mailto:rita.mccann(a)dcu.ie).

Rita McCann & Michelle Woods

■ ITIA at FIT

A recent edition of *Translatio* (2003 no. 4) - the on-line bulletin of the international translators' association FIT - features an interesting article on FIT's UNESCO round-table meeting last year devoted to the translation of the Harry Potter series. The article, written by one of the most famous advocates of literary translation Peter Bush, makes fascinating reading, emphasising as it does the integral role which literary translators have played in the development of the international media and corporate phenomenon which Harry Potter has become. Of particular local interest is the mention of our own Máire Nic Mhaoláin and her attempts to find Irish equivalents for the very English personal names used in the book.

■ The CCI Scheme

The Chambers of Commerce of Ireland (CCI) are promoting and sponsoring a pilot scheme - The Export Communications Review/Protocol II - with the aim of

- ◆ enhancing the competitiveness of Irish exporting companies (SMEs)
- ◆ enabling Irish companies to overcome language and cultural barriers, and
- ◆ training a group of specialist consultants to conduct export communications reviews.

The CCI wishes to recruit from among the members of the ITIA, linguists with experience of business who may be interested in working as consultants on this pilot scheme. The Scheme is supported by the European Commission within the framework of the Leonardo da Vinci programme.

If any ITIA member is interested in becoming a consultant for the above scheme (initially a pilot scheme), please contact:

Annette Schiller
Hon. Sec. ITIA
secretary-itia(a)ntlworld.com
for further details and an application form.

■ The Journal of Specialised Translation

The first issue of the online Journal of Specialised Translation is now available, for free, at:

<http://www.jostrans.org/>

A new multilingual e-zine specialising in non-literary translation issues, the journal was launched in January 2004. It is web-based, peer-reviewed and published bi-annually.

Articles should be between 4000 and 7000 words including end notes, reviews should be between 500-800 words.

Issues we would like to consider will explore:

- 1 Features of specialised language
- 2 General and practical issues in translation and interpreting
- 3 Subject field translation issues, i.e. medical, legal, financial, multi-media, localisation, etc.
- 4 Theoretical issues in specialised translation
- 5 Aspects of training and teaching specialised translation

For the July 2004 issue, contributions must be received by March 1st 2003.

For further details and copy of a style sheet, contact:

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■ Next Issue of the ITIA Bulletin

The next issue of the ITIA Bulletin will be out on March 15th 2004. So if you have any contributions, news, suggestions, or something you'd like to share, send them to me, John Kearns, at kearns(a)pro.onet.pl. The deadline for submissions is March 10th.

Subscribing to the ITIA Bulletin

To subscribe, simply send an Email to itia-ezine-subscribe(a)yahogroups.com

To unsubscribe, simply send an Email to itia-ezine-unsubscribe(a)yahogroups.com

■ Conferences & Courses

Training Seminar for Translation Teachers

Frank Austermühl, Daniel Gouadec, Don Kiraly, Anthony Pym

19 - 23 July 2004

Hotel Imperial Tàrraco, Tarragona

Organized by the Consortium for Training Translation Teachers (CTTT).

For more information, visit:

http://www.ice.urv.es/trans/future/2004_tarragona/

CETRA Training Seminar for Researchers in Translation & Intercultural Studies

6 - 18 September 2004

CETRA Professor 2004: Michael Cronin, Dublin City University

The 16th Summer Session of CETRA will take place at the Scuola Superiore Traduttori Interpreti 'San Pellegrino', Misano Adriatico, from 6-18 September 2004.

More information is available from:

<http://www.arts.kuleuven.ac.be/cetra/>

“Law, Language and Linguistic Diversity”, Beijing, China, 15th-18th September 2004

International Academy of Linguistic Law, Beijing and Montreal

We would like to remind all concerned persons that The Ninth International Conference of the International Academy of Linguistic Law - Law, Language and Linguistic Diversity - will take place from September 15 to September 18, 2004, (Wednesday-Saturday), in Beijing, China, in co-operation with the China University of Political Science and Law and the Institute of Applied Linguistics, Chinese Ministry of Education. The Conference will be held at the Beijing Friendship Hotel (No 1, Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian District; tel.: 86-010-68499267; fax: 86-010-68499168).

The working languages of the Conference are Chinese, English and French.

The Scientific Committee of the Conference is formed by Profs. Li Yuming, Xu Xianming, Wang Jie, Guo Chengwei, Su Jinzhi and Zhou Qingsheng (Beijing) and Profs. Denise Daoust, Angéline Martel, André Braen, Joseph-G. Turi and José Woehrling (Montréal and Ottawa).

For more information, for registration, for lodging and to send abstracts of proposed papers, please contact directly as soon as possible the Chinese Committee at the following address: The Scientific Committee of the Conference “Law, Language and Linguistic Diversity”; Prof. Guo Chengwei, China University of Political Science and Law, 25 Xitucheng Road, Haidian District, Beijing 100088, China. E-mail: zfkyc@263.net; tel.: 86-010-62229838 (or: 69745577, extension 4962); fax: 86-010-89718283 (or: 62228905).

A copy of each abstract must also be sent to the Canadian Committee at the following address: AIDL-IALL; suite J-4; 6000, chemin Deacon; Montréal (Québec); Canada H3S 2T9. E-mail: academy.all@attglobal.net; tel.: 1+ (514) 345-0718; fax: 1+ (514) 345-0860.

11th Annual ISAI Conference on Translation

ISAI, a Portuguese Higher Education Private Institution, is organizing its 11th Annual Conference on Translation. In the previous Conferences, some of the most outstanding names in translation studies worldwide have been invited - Hans Vermeer, Mona Baker, Susan Bassnett, Lawrence Venuti, Yves Gambier, Dirk Delabastita, and José Lambert - and have given their valuable contributions. In 2004 the 11th Conference will take place on May 14-15, 2004, and the scientific committee is posting a CALL FOR PAPERS on the subject:

A return to the old question: literal or free translation

The earliest debates known about translation and its problems revolved around the two concepts of literal and free translation. Some defended that all translation should be as literal as possible and as free as necessary. Others propounded that all attention should be given to the meaning/sense of the source text which should be transformed into the target language in such a way that equivalent effects might be achieved on the target readers as the original on the source readers.

For some time now this sort of discussion seems to have been forgotten and given way to other more philosophical and political discussions which have gained considerable ground after the strong movement of Cultural Studies. It seems to be the right time that the old question is revisited and some other questions attempted to be answered, such as the following:

- ☞ Can practical translators be divided into literal and free, or does any one translator decide to be literal or free according to particular circumstances within the very same text?
- ☞ Is the literal/free issue a problem of practical translators or of those who theorise about translation?
- ☞ Is the literal/free question common to literary and technical translation or does it concern one more than the other?
- ☞ To what extent should the translator make a choice of words as close as possible to those chosen by the source writer?
- ☞ Importance of the individual word v. importance of sense/meaning?

Abstracts of proposed papers of no more than 200 words are welcome. Final presentations should not last more than 20-25 minutes and can be given in English, French, Spanish, or Portuguese.

One of the guest speakers is Dr. Anne Malena from University of Alberta.

Deadline for the submission of abstracts is March 15th 2004. Acceptance or refusal will be notified by the end of March.

Deadline for registration: 15 April 2004.

Conference fee: 50 Euros

Conference dinner: 25 Euros.

Scientific Committee:

Alexandra Morais

Jorge Pinho

M. Gomes da Torre

For more details, see <http://www.isai.pt/>

TRAINING SEMINAR ON TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION IN HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CENTERS, UNIVERSIDAD DE ALCALÁ

(Arabic-Spanish, French-Spanish, English-Spanish, Russian-Spanish, Romanian-Spanish, Chinese-Spanish). 3rd Edition. March-April 2004

OBJECTIVES

To delve into the specific characteristics of translation and interpretation in healthcare settings in the pair of languages chosen; to become familiar with and to practice the primary techniques used in translation and interpretation through specific texts taken from hospitals and health centres; to give students the necessary instruction as a means of professionalising the field of Public Service Translation.

AIMED AT

- ◆ People with an extensive knowledge of Spanish and/or English, French, Arabic, Russian, Romanian, or Chinese.
- ◆ People who have served or are currently serving as liaisons for the foreign-born community, eliminating all types of barriers.
- ◆ People who have experience as linguistic and cultural mediators on either an oral or written level (interpreters and translators), but who have not been trained.

PROGRAM (6 credits, 60 hours)

- ▣ Characteristics of health-related Translation and Interpretation on subjects dealing with health matters.
- ▣ Applying Translation and Interpretation to hospitals and health centres:
 - ◆ Translation and Interpretation techniques using authentic documents in the chosen language pair: reading, comprehension, and adaptation of these texts;
 - ◆ Mastering the different levels of register in both languages;
 - ◆ Techniques to summarize and paraphrase texts;
 - ◆ Presentation of translation tools: specialist dictionaries, automatic translation programs, on-line resources, etc.
- ▣ Practice with: medical reports issued by general practitioners, medical reports issued by specialists: gynaecologists, orthopedic surgeons, dentists, etc.; treatments; informative brochures on disease prevention: hepatitis, AIDS, etc.

SCHEDULE

- ◆ Classes start on 1 March 2004 and end on 24 March 2004.
- ◆ Days and Times: Monday-Thursday 16:00-20:30.
- ◆ Place: Universidad de Alcalá. Colegio San José de Caracciolos; C/ Trinidad, 5; Alcalá de Henares.

REGISTRATION FEES AND FINANCIAL AID

- ◆ Seminar fee: 420 euros, which includes all registration fees.
- ◆ A limited number of scholarships are available. Applicants must submit a copy of their latest tax return or a certificate documenting their earnings and expenditures upon registration.
- ◆ Diplomas will be issued upon the students' request.
- ◆ A minimum of 5 students per language pair is needed in order for this seminar to be held.

INFORMATION and reception of pre-registration forms (Preferably by fax or e-mail): [traduccion.sspp\(a\)uah.es](mailto:traduccion.sspp(a)uah.es)

Carmen Valero Garcés: [mcarmen.valero\(a\)uah.es](mailto:mcarmen.valero(a)uah.es)

More information can be found at <http://www.uah.es/otrosweb/traduccion>

'Shelving Translation'

A one day conference on the role of contemporary literature in English translation

Venue: University of Oxford

Date: 17th April 2004

The idea that the act of translation should be visible in the finished work has come to dominate academic discussions of translated literature. This imperative arises from largely ethical considerations: the English language should not subsume the original, the reader should be made to confront the otherness of the foreign culture. Consequently, the translated text is set apart and expected to fulfil a role over and above that of literature in general. In order to investigate this distinction, we are concentrating on the afterlife of the translated text on the shelf.

The questions we are asking, therefore, pertain not to the process but to the product of translation: What is the role of the translated text in Britain today? How does it differ from that of the English language text?

We are inviting publishers, translators, reviewers and academics to come and help us explore these issues. We welcome papers that look at translated texts by contemporary writers from any language. Your approach could be comparative - for example, how the work has been received at home and abroad. You may want to examine the way in which a particular foreign literature is represented in Britain, or you might consider genre-specific reception: detective fiction, children's literature, autobiography etc. We want to know what is out there on the shelves and what this means for the British reading public. What is the true potential and purpose of contemporary literature available in English translation?

Confirmed speakers include: Anthea Bell (Translator), Christopher MacLehose (Publisher at Harvill Press / Random House)

For more information, visit:

www.shelvingtranslation.com

■ Jobs

Internships in Bangalore, India

Mayflower Language Services is offering internships at its office in Bangalore (India).

Duration: 6 months – 1 year

Profiles required:

Translators for English from the following languages: German, Italian, Dutch, Spanish, and Portuguese.

For further details please contact:

madhuri@mayflowerlanguages.com

or visit:

www.mayflowerlanguages.com

■ Contacting The ITIA

Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association
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ITIA COMMITTEE - 2002/2003

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■ ITIA Resources for Translators

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* has compiled a series of useful information leaflets for translators and interpreters - both members and non-members alike. These leaflets are available from the ITIA website at www.translatorsassociation.ie.

- ◆ *The Translation Profession*
- ◆ *Joining the ITIA*
- ◆ *Ordinary Membership Application*
- ◆ *Professional Membership Application*
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