

ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION ON LITERARY TRANSLATION

HENRY CHRISTOFFERS

The NOTIS Literary Special Interest Group (SIG) explored the challenges and pitfalls of translating belles-lettres at its June meeting at the University of Washington. Jean Leblon, a NOTIS founding member and past president, moderated the panel composed of Professor James West, Russian specialist; Sonia Wichmann, Swedish/Finnish translator; Beate Peter, German children's fiction; Willard Wood, French historical biography. Sheila Farr, who was unable to attend, contributed to the Spanish literature section in the well-detailed handout.

The general characteristics of belles-lettres: the author's vision, nonexplicit messages embedded in multilevel structures, originality of forms, the non-uniqueness of interpretations, timelessness and transcultural receptivity were presented by Jean Leblon as starters for the audience.

The panel focused on the factors that enable some literature to "travel" well, and what distinguishes the literary approach. The responses to this issue included the following:

Whether a work travels well depends both on the original and on its translation. The target language and culture need to have cognates (in the broad sense of this concept) at all the many important levels of structure. In some instances some of the

structures available in the target language are shaped too differently for adequate translation. Sometimes a translator, like a writer, must be innovative. If there is no equivalent word in the target language, the translator explains the term of the original language and uses it untranslated. Sometimes translation takes place within the culture of a single people; e.g. updating an old work to take into account changes in usage or artistic conventions.

Parallel cultural dialogues occur within various language communities. Some stories might not get published and read much in another country because what they contribute to the dialogue has already essentially been done in that other country's culture.

The degree of curiosity or fascination of one people with the literature and life of another determines the market for translated books. In recent years far more new American literature has been published in German translations than vice versa. In the 1930's Faulkner was read more in France than in the U.S. In some instances popularity may be due to stories being set in a historical context which is close geographically or culturally to people of the target language; e.g. medieval Europe.

Some translations cry out to be updated for style, as well as to have their errors corrected. Some become classics in their own (target) languages' cultures. Constance Garnett's translations may leave something

to be desired, but they served their purpose of introducing Russian literature to English readers. Attempts to improve on the style of an original tend to be frowned on.

Nobel prize-winning literature, children's literature and the 1970's feminism, "travel". Scandinavia generally is not exotic to Americans now, but the Saami people of Lapland are. Heavy cultural loading of the very language of a book can make it untranslatable into some languages, but the cultures of the Finns and the Swedes in Finland have so much in common that almost every important book of either of them gets translated into the language of the other.

Huckleberry Finn has been rendered into Russian quite skillfully, though translators have to beware of attempting too much authenticity. Walter Arndt's paraphrase of

Continued on page 7

NEXT NOTIS MEETING!
SUMMER PICNIC
 IN
MAGNOLIA PARK

 SUNDAY, JULY 28, 1996
 2:00 - 5:00 PM

 MAGNOLIA PARK, SEATTLE

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NOTIS NOTES

**WELCOME TO
NEW MEMBERS**

Jesenska Arslanagic, Monika Becker-Tracy, Gerald Blomgren, Diane Brass, James R. Delaney, Shoko Fujita-Ehrlich, Elena Kovacs, Steven Pak, Marinez Shields, Kurt Thompson and Veronica Todd.

**WELCOME TO NEW
CORPORATE MEMBER**

Pacific Interpreters

CONGRATULATIONS

Karina Watkins has agreed to accept the leadership of the Slavic Special Interest Group, which was organized and formerly headed by Ann G. Macfarlane, NOTIS President. We know the Slavic SIG will grow well under Karina's care.

**CONGRATULATIONS
ATA ACCREDITEES**

Janine Coates (French>English)
 Mary Elizabeth Eady (French>English)
 Daniela Garaiz (English>Spanish)
 Melissa Meier Tarkki (French>English)
 Eugene Y. Weissman (French>English)

**OREGON AREA
CODE ALERT**

Please be alerted to the change in Oregon area telephone codes. Outside Portland the new code is 541. Portland remains 503.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTIS
SUMMER PICNIC -
(NETWORKING IN SHIRTSLEEVES)

On Sunday, July 28, NOTIS will host a pot-luck picnic from 2 - 5 pm at Magnolia Park, West Eaton and Magnolia Boulevard, for all NOTIS members and their families. Bring something to eat and to share with others. We have reserved the shelter, which has picnic tables, a barbecue grill and a terrific view of Elliott Bay. Bicyclists may want to explore Magnolia Boulevard. There will be volleyball.

CASCADIA -
4TH BIENNIAL
CONFERENCE

Friday-Saturday, September 27- 28, Joint NOTIS, STIBC, WITS, SOMI conference. Downtown Library, Vancouver, BC

SLAVIC SIG

The Slavic Special Interest Group will meet for lunch on Friday, September 13, at noon at Ivar's Salmon House, 401 NE Northlake Way, Seattle (206) 632-0767. No reservations are needed. All are welcome.

NOTIS
ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, October 12, 2 - 5 pm. The Annual General Meeting will be held at the University of Washington Campus, Gowan Hall Room 201. Important changes in the structure of NOTIS will be presented. Join the effort to improve your organization and meet your colleagues.

ATA
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

The American Translators Association will hold its 37th Annual Conference Wednesday - Sunday, October 30 - November 3, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The theme is Translation and Cultures: A Global Vision. Information is available from Walter Bacak, ATA Headquarters, (703) 683-6100; fax (703) 683-6122. This is the major event of the year for members of the national organization.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

ANN G. MACFARLANE

Last month I had the honor of representing NOTIS at the gala opening of the Bell Harbor Conference Center. This sleekly designed and efficient facility is located on the Seattle waterfront at Pier 66, just south of the Edgewater Inn. In addition to its meeting room, pier, and balconies with stunning views, it includes a 290-seat auditorium wired for simultaneous interpreting in five languages. This facility broadens our range for international conferences in Seattle, will certainly draw more foreign visitors here, and may help Seattle become, as Port Commissioner Paul Schell described his vision, the "Geneva of the Pacific." It was a privilege to represent NOTIS and our members at this grand event.

Your NOTIS board is continuing its review of our by-laws and the administrative arrangements in place. We plan to distribute the text of our suggested by-laws revisions to the membership in the next issue of NOTIS News, and to propose the changes for adoption at our Annual Meeting in October. The board members look forward to seeing many of you at our annual picnic, "Networking in Shirtsleeves" (Sunday, July 28 at Magnolia Park), and at the two exciting fall conferences, Cascadia '96 in Vancouver, B.C. (Saturday, September 28, with an optional Friday event as well) and the ATA Annual Conference in Colorado Springs (Wednesday - Saturday, October 30 - November 3).

MEETING REVIEW

WHAT YOU NEED TO CONNECT TO THE INTERNET

MICHELE ANCIAUX

Internet was the front-page topic of Nos. 1 and 2 of NOTIS News this year: "Internet Options for the Small Business" (Brenden West) and "On-ramp to the Internet: Getting onto the Superhighway" (Michael Broschat), respectively. Small surprise then that the April 17 NOTIS Meeting at Smith Hall on the University of Washington campus on "Getting Hooked into the Internet" drew a capacity crowd.

We all watched in amazement as Michael Broschat, Melissa Meier Tarkki, and Alfred Hellstern provided live evidence that it is indeed possible to connect up your home computer to the Internet. They even provided a detailed step-by-step set of instructions to help guide us novices through the procedure.

The step-by-step is needed because what you do depends on which service provider you select. Michael and Melissa demon-

strated three: Microsoft Network and Compuserve (examples of national companies), and Northwest Nexus (a local company). Compuserve and Northwest Nexus can be accessed by both PC and Mac, while Microsoft Network (MSN) is only available under Windows 95 on a PC right now.

The procedures are slightly different, too, because of the difference between the Windows and Macintosh interface, but basically it is a matter of clicking on icons and making menu selections. Michael and Melissa demonstrated the procedures on both a PC running Windows 95 and a Macintosh.

One impression I was left with is that it is fairly easy to make the hook-up (especially if you are hooking up to a national company), ONCE you know how. The sad thing is that it is not a skill you need to practice every day, so it is easy to avoid mastering it. It is more like an initiation rite

—do it once, and get it over with!

However, speaking as a World Wide Web and Internet junkie, I can say it is worth the effort. Aside from the obvious business connections, I have used Internet to follow one cousin's sailing trip around the world, to meet another cousin for the first time, to reestablish contact with colleagues from my Fulbright days in Romania (one is in Romania, one in Saudi Arabia, and one in Prague), and to "chat" on a more regular basis (usually at 11 pm and 6 am) with a girl friend who has three small children at home.

If you would like to receive a copy of the instructions for connecting to the Internet, contact Michael Broschat c/o NOTIS, P.O. Box 25301, Seattle WA 98125-2001. Be sure to indicate whether you use Macintosh or Windows 95.

SUMMER COURSES

OFFERED BY THE TRANSLATION & INTERPRETATION INSTITUTE

TRANSLATION & INTERPRETATION
INSTITUTE
WASHINGTON ACADEMY
OF LANGUAGES
98 Yesler Way,
Seattle, WA 98104-2245
Tel (206) 682-4463
Fax (206) 224-7927
Internet: 73512.375@Compuserve.com

SUMMER INTENSIVE PROGRAMS
French, Japanese, Spanish (Session II)
July 29 - August 16
Mondays - Fridays, 9 am - 1 pm

ADVANCED TRANSLATION SKILLS
FRENCH, PART II

(Prerequisite:
Advanced Translation Skills - Part I)

August 27 - September 26
Tuesdays, 6 pm - 8:50 pm

Instructor: Willard Wood

REGULAR EVENING CLASSES

Arabic, Chinese, French,
German, Italian, Japanese,
Korean, Russian, Spanish, Thai

August 19 - September 19
6 pm - 8:50 pm

Internet Resources for Translators

Originally intended for the
Department of
Translation Studies of the
University of Amsterdam.

<http://www.xs4all.nl/~mderaaij/english.html>

<http://www.ffinterpreters.com>

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/tom_feise

<http://www.travlang.com>

STIBC TO HOST 4TH BIENNIAL CASCADIA CONFERENCE

YOLANDA HOBROUGH, PRESIDENT STIBC

The Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia will host, for the first time in Vancouver B.C., the Cascadia Conference, jointly sponsored by NOTIS, WITS, SOMI and STIBC. This will be a unique opportunity for the association to welcome colleagues to the beautiful Library Square in Downtown Vancouver, located by the new Ford Centre for the Performing Arts and the Queen Elizabeth Theatre and Playhouse complex.

Vancouver has been praised by several U.S. magazines as the city where cultural and linguistic diversity has been able to flourish in a modern and vibrant city free from the tensions that exist elsewhere in North America. The Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia reflects this diversity in its members who have been certified as translators and interpreters in over thirty language combinations.

Our meeting conference will start on

Friday, September 27 with a visit to the Vancouver Law Courts, followed by an informal dinner at the Law Courts Inn. Our American colleagues will be able to view a court room, without mallets, where all lawyers, (counsel in Canada), as well as the Court Clerk, are gowned, and the judge is addressed as "My Lord."

The Saturday morning session will include updates on the Internet and new software solutions for translators as well as Ethics for Court Interpreters and a translation panel about bioethics and translation opportunities in the Pacific Rim. After lunch, keynoter Sidney Rittenberg, former translator and interpreter for Chairman Mao, will share his extraordinary experiences in China.

Our questionnaires registered the hunger that all our members have for specialized terminologies and resources in various languages. To that end, the afternoon sessions are dedicated to terminology in the Great Cascadia Terminology Fair. Experts in various fields will share their specialized terms.

David Reed, a terminologist, will conclude by showing us how to put terminology to work.

We extend a cordial welcome to all Pacific Northwest translators and interpreters. We know you will enjoy our

exciting city of Vancouver, B.C. and profit from the stimulating program of the Fourth Biennial Cascadia Conference. Watch your mailbox for registration information and please note the deadlines for the discounted conference rate. We will meet in September!

The afternoon sessions are dedicated to terminology in the Great Cascadia Terminology Fair

INTERNET CLASSES AT SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The following classes are being offered on an on-going basis by the Seattle Public Library. Classes are held at the new computer lab in the main library in downtown Seattle and at select branch locations.

Driver's Education on the Information Superhighway ---

An introduction to the Internet.

World Wide Web Basics ---

Point and click your way through the Internet. Learn to use browsers to navigate the WWW.

Getting the Most Out of E-mail ---

Explore the many uses of e-mail as a communications tool. Class is geared to Seattle Community Network users.

Business Information on the Internet ---

Learn to find company and industry information, consumer and product data, investment, government, small business, and technology information. Introductory Internet class is a prerequisite.

International Business and the Internet ---

Locate Web sites and other resources for international business connections. Introductory Internet class is a prerequisite.

Patent and Trademark, Transportation and Technology, Resources on the Internet ---

Explore gateways to WWW resources on patent, trademark, transportation and technology.

INTERNET SITES OF INTEREST

SITE	DESCRIPTION	ADDRESS
Tringa Press	publishes glossaries and dictionaries explaining jargon used in health care in the U.S. and Canada.	http://www.tringa.com
FOLDOC Free On-line Dictionary of Computing	is a searchable dictionary of acronyms, jargon, programming languages, tools, architecture, operating systems, networking, theory, conventions, standards, mathematics, telecomms, electronics, institutions, companies, projects, history; in fact, anything to do with computing.	http://wombat.doc.ic.ac.uk
ECHO EuroDictautom	translates words of abbreviations from one of the European languages into several target languages.	http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/~felix/eurodictautom.html
Index - List of Dictionaries	contains a list of links to dictionaries on the WWW.	http://math-www.uni-paderborn.de/HTML/Dictionaries.html
Center for Translation Studies	History of the Translation Center. Workshops. Publications. American Literary Translators Association.	http://www.utdallas.edu/research/cts/
Wellsweep	publishes literary translation from Chinese.	http://www.poptel.org.uk/password/wellswee.html
National Library of Canada	Literary Manuscript Collection	http://www.nlc.bnc.ca/services/elmc.html
Literary Links	Literary research tools on the Net	http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~ss26302/literary.html
The Literary Review	An International Journal of Contemporary Writing (in English and translated)	http://www.cais.net/aesir/fiction/tlr/
Canadian Literary Archive		http://130.179.92.25/canlitx/Archive_Services.html
Finding Translations of Vocal Music		http://www.music.indiana.edu/musicref/translat.html
EUROLIT	Conference examines a variety of literary studies issues.	http://www.cec.lu/en/comm/dg22/news/eurolen.html
Books from Finland	3/95. List of new translations of books from Finland.	http://www.kaapeli.fi/~f/0395/trans.html
Paris-Anglophone	View by Activity - Publishing (includes editors, publishers, literary agents)	http://www.paris-anglo.com/data/rubriques/publish.html

CYBER NEWS

NANCY THIELE

As Michael Broschat, Alfred Hellstern and Melissa Meier Tarkki described and demonstrated "On-ramp to the Internet" at the NOTIS general meeting in April, a whole host of Internet terminology came into play. Amidst the enthusiastic interest in connecting and navigating the Internet, there's also the desire to sort out the terminology. We came across a basic, clearly defined set of core terms in Broderbund Software's Family Tree Maker Online program documentation. Whether you're a newcomer to the Web or an experienced "surfer", we found this a nicely synthesized glossary. We thank Broderbund for granting permission to reprint their glossary below and invite you to visit Broderbund at <http://www.familytreemaker.com>.

Home page -

The main or introductory page of a Web site. You can think of it as a table of contents.

Internet -

A network of computers from all over the world. It allows individuals, companies, and universities to share information.

Internet service provider -

A company that has a connection to the Internet and sells connection time to individuals. Choosing an Internet

service provider to use with your modem and Web browser is similar to choosing a long-distance phone service for your telephone.

Link -

Text or graphics that you click to go to a different section of a Web site.

Modem -

A device that allows your computer to send and receive information over the telephone lines. It can either be a component inside your computer or a small box that sits outside of your computer.

URL -

This acronym stands for Universal Resource Locator. It is the unique address for each Web site on the Internet. The [NOTIS] web site has a unique URL, just like your home has a unique street address.

Web browser -

Software that allows you to view the information in the World Wide Web.

Web page -

One section of a Web site. It may contain text that you can read, links to other Web pages, pictures to look at, files to download, or other types of information.

Web site -

A section of the Internet organized by a specific individual or group. It

contains information related to a particular topic.

World Wide Web -

The part of the Internet that has a graphical interface. You use it mainly by clicking links, instead of typing commands.

A variety of additional Internet glossaries and terminology support are available on-line. You can find them by typing in the key words "Internet glossary" in the box provided by the search engine, like WebCrawler, Excite, Magellan or Yahoo.

One site of particular interest, since it offers Internet terminology in several languages, is called NetGlos - The Multilingual Glossary of Internet Terminology, prepared by the WorldWide Language Institute.

The address is:

<http://www.wvli.com/translation/netglos/netglos.html>

And don't forget to let us know about the interesting translation-related sites you discover on the Internet for publication in future issues of the NOTISNews.

Send the Web address and a brief description to the editor of the NOTIS News, PO Box 25301, Seattle, WA 98125-2201.

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"Round-Table Discussion on Literary..."

Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin* is "aware of its own limitations", but it tells Pushkin's story with Pushkin's poetic style, in contrast to a close translation of the words. Translations of non-Russian literature of the peoples of the former Soviet Union are now coming out less frequently.

Some Guidelines

A translator, like an author, needs to be very familiar with a book's background and set-

ting, and be prepared to recognize allusions. Besides knowing the original and target languages' styles and words and their connotations (necessary in any genre), the translator of belles-lettres should understand the particular author well enough to discern the author's nonexplicit conclusions, intentions and perspectives. Some possible renderings are simply wrong. If possible, the author should be consulted concerning ambiguities

(some of which may have been unintentional). Collaborate with those whose knowledge complements your own. Study synonyms in each of the two languages; monotony or particular patterns of sound can be significant. Know the target language even better than the original language.

We all left the discussion with a greater appreciation of the complexity and the rewards of translating belles-lettres.

CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	TIME & PLACE
July 28	General Meeting	Picnic - Potluck Networking in Shirtsleeves	2 - 5 pm Magnolia Park Magnolia Blvd. & West Eaton, Seattle
September 13	Slavic SIG Meeting	Share the latest news	12 noon Ivar's Salmon House Seattle
September 27 - 28	Cascadia '96 NOTIS, STIBC, WITS, SOMI	Fourth Biennial Joint Conference for Northwest Translators and Interpreters	September 27 - 28, 1996 Downtown Public Library Vancouver, B.C.
October 12	NOTIS Annual General Meeting	By-laws Revisions - New Directions for NOTIS	2 - 5 pm University of Washington Gowan Hall 201
October 30 - November 3	ATA Annual Meeting	Translation and Cultures: A global vision	Colorado Springs, CO

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