

ANNOTATED BOOKS RECEIVED

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ANTHOLOGIES

(German) Gottfried Benn, Georg Kaiser, Ernst Toller, and Others. *German Expressionist Plays--The German Library, Vol. 66*. Ed. Ernst Schürer. Trs. Michael Hamburger, Henry Marx, J.M. Ritchie, M.A. McHaffie, Vera Mandel, Herman Scheffauer, and Winifred Katzin. The Continuum Publishing Co. 1997. 316 pp. Cloth: \$39.95; ISBN 0-8264-0951-2. Paper: \$19.95; ISBN 0-8264-0950-4. Expressionism was the Sturm und Drang period of the 20th century, carried by young artists born between 1880 and 1890. They were searching for new values in art and life, and they saw as their primary mission the creation of a new individual. Once this "new man" came into being, he would transform society. Aesthetically, the Expressionist playwrights rejected the conventions and principles of naturalism. Although Expressionism as an avant-garde movement, was short-lived, its drama still exerts a powerful influence on the modern stage.

(Various). *"Black Clouds over the Isle of Gods" and Other Modern Indonesian Short Stories*. Ed. and Tr. David M. E. Roskies. M.E. Sharpe, Inc. 1997. 288 pp. Cloth: \$62.95; ISBN 0-7656-0032-3. Paper: \$19.95; ISBN 0-7656-0033-1. Neither an encyclopedic survey nor an academic reference, this book serves a different and altogether more modest purpose: to introduce the general reader, the student of Asian and comparative literature, and the Indonesian enthusiast to a range of stories from a vast, complex, and intoxicatingly interesting country. The selections differ in matter and manner, but each in its own way evokes something of Indonesia's distinctive and manifold life. By opening a door onto this complex society, these stories take issue with worn stereotypes and reflect both everyday life and the great upheavals that have marked modern Indonesian national life. Some of the 18 stories are "The Helmet" (A.A. Navis), "The Encounter" (Nasjah Djamin), "Dearly Departed" (S.N. Ratmana), "Matias Akankari" (Gerson Poyk), "The Kid" (Budi Darma), and "The Shutterbug" (Prasetyohadi).

(Persian) *Borrowed Ware: Medieval Persian Epigrams*. Tr. Dick Davis. Anvil Press Poetry/Dufour Editions, Inc. 1997. 120 pp. Paper: \$15.95; ISBN 0-85646-270-5. In *Borrowed Ware*, Davis brings together a wide range of shorter poems by poets from the "classic" period of Persian literature. It makes a fascinating introduction to a literature that is little known in the West, and incidentally provides insight into a vanished and extraordinary way of life. The book contains a lucid and entertaining introduction, and informative headnotes on each of the 68 poets whose work is included. "Some of the best known

Persian poets--Rudaki, Sa'di, Rumi, Hafez--are included in this book, but its virtue is that it has cast its net widely over a fascinating variety of writers from the tenth century to the seventeenth.... The epigrams are erotic, religious and political (sometimes all three together!), and their tone sweeps from the tender to the scabrous, from the bitchy to the mystical" [Edwin Morgan].

(Persian) *Borrowed Ware: Medieval Persian Epigrams*. Tr. Dick David. Mage Publishers. 1997. 208 pp. Cloth: \$24.95; ISBN 0-934211-52-3. Bilingual. A collection of 148 epigrams, *Borrowed Ware* is an introduction to some of Persia's best known and least known classical poets. The book also contains a lucid introduction, and notes on each of the 68 poets whose work is included. Each poem is faced by the text in delicate Persian *nast'aliq* calligraphy by Amir Hossein Tabnak. Davis's other translations from Persian include *The Lion and the Throne: Stories from the Shahnameh of Ferdowsi, Volume I* (Mage, 1997), *My Uncle Napoleon* (Mage, 1996), *The Legend of Seyavash* (Penguin Classics, 1992), and with Afkham Darbandi, *The Conference of the Birds* (Penguin Classics, 1984).

(Spanish) Fernán Caballero, Antonio de Trueba, Pedro Antonio de Alarcón. *Death and the Doctor: Three Nineteenth-Century Spanish Tales [La Muerte y el Médico]*. Tr. Robert M. Fedorchek. Bucknell University Press. 1997. 198 pp. Cloth: \$35.00; ISBN 0-8387-5369-8. Bilingual. This book presents three versions of the Godfather/Death motif. A desperate man makes a pact with Death in order to alleviate pain or sorrow or poverty. Death then makes him a doctor and endows him with the ability to predict life or death, and thus he feathers his nest, and his fortune turns. In the end, however, Death demands its pound of flesh, and the day of reckoning arrives. The three authors of these Death-and-the-Doctor tales are three of 19th-century Spain's most well-known short-story writers. Fernán Caballero (Cecilia Böhl de Faber) (1796-1877) first published "Juan Holgado y la muerte (Juan Holgado and Death)" in 1850. It stands out for its humor. Antonio de Trueba (1819-89) first published "Tragal dabas (Glutton)" in 1867. The main characteristic of Trueba's piece is its satire and scathing portrayal of the medical profession. Pedro Antonio de Alarcón first published "El amigo de la muerte (Death's Friend)" in 1852 and revised it in 1858-59 and in 1882. Taken together, these three tales fill a void in the Godfather/Death motif of Western European literature and highlight the universality of Spain's folk tradition. Fedorchek has also translated "*Alone*" and *Other Stories* by Armando Palacio Valdés; "*Moral Divorce*" and *Other Stories* by Jacinto Octavio Picón; *Legends and Letters* by Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer; and "*The Nail*" and *Other Stories* by Pedro Antonio de Alarcón.

(Chinese) *Chinese Poetry: An Anthology of Major Modes and Genres*. Tr. Wai-lim Yip. Duke University Press. 1997. 352 pp. Cloth: \$54.95; ISBN 0-8223-1951-9. Paper: \$18.95; ISBN 0-8223-1946-2. Bilingual. This anthology of classic Chinese

poetry spans 2000 years--from the "Book of Songs" (circa 600 B.C.) to the *chii* form of the Yuan Dynasty (1260-1368)--with 150 poems covering all major genres that students of Chinese poetry must learn. Each poem is printed with the original Chinese characters in calligraphic form, coordinated with word-for-word annotations, followed by an English translation. Each section of the volume is introduced by a short essay on the genre of the poem about to be presented; a comprehensive bibliography follows the text. Wai-lim Yip has been honored as one of the main figures of modern Chinese literary and cultural theory in Beijing and Taiwan and was awarded recognition as one of the "Ten Major Modern Chinese Poets."

(Spanish) *Cruel Fictions, Cruel Realities: Short Stories by Latin American Women Writers*. Ed. and Tr. Kathy S. Leonard. Latin American Literary Review Press/Consortium Books Sales. 1997. 118 pp. Paper: \$15.95; ISBN 0-935480-87-0. While compiling these stories, Leonard realized that they all shared the common theme of cruelty. Contrary to what might be expected from an anthology of women's writings, these stories are not only about the cruelty inflicted upon women. They also portray the cruelty that all individuals inflict upon each other, regardless of sex. Covering a wide range of styles and moods, this collection opens with the scene of an adolescent girl sinking into insanity caused by parental neglect in the subtle story entitled "Corners of Smoke" by Gloria Artigas, and then gives the reader a good dose of black humor in "A Profession Like Any Other," by Ana María Shua. Shua's story tells of a dentist who takes revenge on the relative of one of his patients who has not paid his bill: he proceeds to remove several anatomical parts from his unsuspecting new patient, including his eyeballs, claiming they are getting in the way of the surgical procedure. Through her work with living authors, Leonard has been able to provide us with uncompromised clarity in her translations, as well as relevant biographical information about each author, placing the stories in a culturally relevant context. Other authors include, among many, Velia Calvimontes, Silvia Diez Fierro, Inés Fernández Moreno, Gilda Holst Molestina, Andrea Maturana, and Mirta Toledo.

(French). *Dead French Poets Speak Plain English: An Anthology of Poems*. Tr. Kendall Lappin. Asylum Arts--A Pont Neuf Book. 1997. 289 pp. Paper: \$16.00; ISBN 1-878580-78-7. Bilingual. This eclectic anthology of classic French poems brings together in one volume the complete poetry translations of Kendall Lappin. Included are works by Villon, Voltaire, Musset, Nerval, Hugo, Ronsard, and many others, as well as the complete text of Lappin's earlier collection *Echoes of Baudelaire*.

Eastern VISIONS. Ed. Michael Szporer. Black Buzzard Press. 1996. 42 pp. Paper: \$5.50; ISBN 0-938872-22-2. This special volume of poetry includes works by some of the best poets from the modern nations that were part of the Medieval

Polish-Lithuanian kingdom, which was at one time the most powerful nation in eastern Europe and included the modern States of Belarus, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine. Also added are works from neighboring nations: the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovakia.

(English and Spanish) *El Coro: A Chorus of Latino and Latina Poetry*. Ed. Martín Espada. University of Massachusetts Press. 1997. 166 pp. Cloth: \$30.00; ISBN 1-55849-110-4. Paper: \$13.95; ISBN 1-55849-111-2. This is an anthology of compelling new works by more than 40 Latino and Latina poets, including Marjorie Agosín, Sandra Cisneros, Julia Alvarez, Luis Rodríguez, Victor Hernández Cruz, and Clemente Soto Vélez. Here we find the open expression of anger and grief, self-mocking humor, the music of protest, the quiet assertion of dignity, and the raucous celebration of survival. Of the almost 100 poems, fewer than a dozen are translations; these are presented in bilingual format. Translators include Celeste Kostopulos-Cooperman, Joseph M. Rodeiro, Steven F. White, Cola Franzen, Rosario Ferré, Beth Wellington, Victor Montejo, Camilo Pérez-Bustillo, James Hoggard, and Espada.

(Estonian) *Estonian Short Stories*. Ed. Kajar Pruul. Tr. Ritva Poom. Northwestern University Press. 1996. 274 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8101-1240-X. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-8101-1241-8. This anthology of contemporary Estonian short fiction charts the return of modernism to Estonian prose fiction at the end of the '60s and the beginning of the '70s and its subsequent evolution during the following two decades. Linked by a number of common themes, the stories vary stylistically from colloquial to markedly "literary" and even somewhat experimental, but are always closer to mainstream realism than to avant-garde language games. The contributors include Maimu Berg, Jüri Ehvest, Jaan Kross, Ülo Mattheus, Toomas Raudam, Mari Saat, Mati Unt, Arvo Valton, and Toomas Vint. Poom is the editor and translator of Juha Pentikäinen's *Kalevala Mythology* and the translator of Jaija Siekkinen's *Foreign Land*, for which she was awarded the 1993 American-Scandinavian Foundation Translation Prize.

(German) *German Idealist Philosophy [Deutscher Idealismus]*. Ed. Rüdiger Bubner. Penguin Books [Philipp Reclam, 1978]. 1997. 339 pp. Paper: \$13.95; ISBN 0-14-044660-5. Kant set the agenda for the age by trying to establish philosophical reasoning on foundations as firm as science and mathematics. Fichte considered the nature of the self, the value of education and man's role in society, while Schelling adopted a similar approach to the natural world. Hegel produced an immensely ambitious synthesis, and an inspiring vision of world history as the progressive consciousness of freedom. The anthology includes key texts and lesser known extracts, along with helpful overviews of each philosopher and an account of the movement as a whole.

(Greek) *Greece: A Traveler's Literary Companion*. Ed. Artemis

Leontis. Whereabouts Press. 1997. 267 pp. Paper: \$13.95; ISBN 1-883513-04-9. Discover Greece--a country that inspired centuries of travel--through its best modern writers. Against a superb landscape of mountains, beaches, villages, cities, and ruins, all bathed in the rich light of the Mediterranean, these 24 stories draw from the long oral and written evolution of the Greek literary tradition. Join Seferis and Elytic (both Nobel Laureates), Kazantzakis, Venezis, Vassilikos, and Karapanou, along with those whose writing appears in English here for the first time--Papadopoulou, Axioti, Zenakos, and Fais--in this collection of modern Greek fiction. Incorporating myths, the meditative tranquility of the region, and a past full of struggle and civil war, these stories are arranged by geographical region for the traveler and provide an enriching odyssey through the Greek landscape and mind.

(Various) *Leading Contemporary Poets: An International Anthology*. Dasha _uli_ Nisula. Poetry International. 1997. 376 pp. Paper: \$20.00 (+ \$5.00 shipping); ISBN 0-9657851-0-6. Bilingual. An international collection of leading contemporary poets is a project begun in 1984 by Elizabeth Bartlett for the purpose of recognizing their achievements in the ancient Greek context of the Olympics, when poets and athletes received awards for excellence of Mind and Body. This fourth volume consists of 136 poems by 63 poets representing four continents. Well known poets such as Margaret Atwood, Jean-Claude Renard, Stanley Kunitz, Sunny Jung, Eugenio de Andrade, Mircea C_r_t_rescu, Marin Sorescu, and others from such places as Bosnia, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe are included. Many translators, including, Nisula, Diana Der-Hovanessian, D. G. Jones, Eric Sellin, Sunny Jung, Ivana Rangel-Carsen, Alexis Levitin, and Adam J. Sorkin contributed to the volume.

(Portuguese) *Nothing the Sun Could Not Explain: 20 Contemporary Brazilian Poets*. Eds. Michael Palmer, Régis Bonvicino and Nelson Ascher. Trs. Dana Stevens, Regina Alfarano, Charles Perrone, John Milton and Martha Black Jordan. Sun & Moon Press. 1997. 295 pp. Paper: \$15.95; ISBN 1-55713-366-2. This volume of international poetry presents the exciting works of younger Brazilian poets. Containing the works of Torquato Neto, Ana Cristina César, Paulo Leminski, Francisco Alvim, Duda Machado, Waly Salomão, Júlio Castañon Guimaraes, Lenora De Barros, Horácio Costa, Carlos Ávila, Régis Bonvicino, Josely Vianna Baptista, Nelson Ascher, Age De Carvalho, Angela De Campos, Arnaldo Antunes, Carlito Azevedo, Frederico Tavares Bastos Barbosa, Ruy Vasconcelos De Carvalho, and Claudia Roquette-Pinto. This anthology reveals the influence of and reaction to the Modernist and experimental traditions from Brazilian literature, and demonstrates a marvelous complexity of thought and commitment to the landscape.

(Various) *Oral Epics from Africa: Vibrant Voices from a Vast*

Continent. Eds. John William Johnson, Thomas A. Hale and Stephen Belcher. Indiana University Press. 1997. 360 pp. Cloth: \$35.00; ISBN 0-253-33257-5. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-253-21110-7. It is only recently that scholars have turned their attention toward capturing the rich oral tradition that is still alive in Africa. The 25 excerpts in this volume have been selected as to offer English-speaking readers a broad sample of the extensive epic traditions in Africa. The general introduction and the background on each epic will enable readers to understand the context of that piece and will also provide leads for further inquiry. Epics from West, North, and Central Africa are included. From the West come Mande, Songhay and Zarma, and Wolof Epics; from the North, Egyptian epics; from Central Africa, general Central African epics and baNyanga epics of Zaire.

(Spanish) *Rainy Days: Short Stories by Contemporary Spanish Women Writers [Días de lluvia]*. Ed. Monserrat Lunati. Tr. Marilyn Myerscough. Aris & Phillips. 1997. 253 pp. Cloth: \$49.95; ISBN 0-85668-636-0. Paper: \$22.00; ISBN 0-85668-635-2. The rich and diversified women's writing in the post-Franco period is amply illustrated in this engaging collection of short stories dating from 1983-1993. *Rainy Days* gathers together, for the first time in a bilingual edition, stories by women authors working in Spain at the present: Pilar Cibreiro (Rainy Days/Días de lluvia), Cristina Fernández Cubas (The Clock from Baghdad/El reloj de Bagdad), Paloma Díaz-Mas (The Masterpiece/La obra maestra), Adelaida García Morales (A Chance Encounter/El encuentro), Lourdes Ortiz (Penelope/Penélope), Laura Freixas (Memories for Sale/Memoria en venta), Marina Mayoral (Nine Months and a Day/Nueve meses y un día), Mercedes Abad (Uncontrolled Passion/Pasión defenestrante), Rosa Montero (The Grandfather/El abuelo), Maruja Torres (The Woman Who Disappeared/Desaparecida), Soledad Puértolas (Tales from the Past/Viejas historias), and María Eugenia Salaverri (Plastic Surgery/Cirugía plástica).

(Korean) *The Rainy Spell and Other Korean Stories*. Ed. and Tr. Suh Ji-moon. M.E.Sharpe/UNESCO. 1997. 290 pp. Cloth: \$62.95; ISBN 0-7656-0138-9. Paper: \$21.95; ISBN 0-7656-0139-7. This anthology of short stories by some of Korea's best-known writers reflects a rich variety of style and content. Manifest in these pages is a shared core experience of Korea's trajectory from inward-looking feudal Confucian state, to Japanese colony culminating in the Pacific War, to battleground of the Korean War, to a modernizing society struggling with economic success and democratization. Among the 14 stories are "The Seaman's Chant" (Kim Dong-in), "The Underground Village" (Kang Kyong-ae), "Pierrot" (Hwang Sun-won), "That Winter of My Youth" (Yi Mun-yol), and "His Father's Keeper" (Ch'oe Yun).

(Spanish) *The Silver Candelabra & Other Stories: A Century of Jewish Argentine Literature*. Ed. and Tr. Rita Gardiol. Latin

American Literary Review Press/Consortium Book Sales. 1997. 192 pp. Paper: \$16.95; ISBN 0-935480-889. This collection traces out the history of Jewish Argentine literature as it has evolved throughout successive generations of writers: Beginning with Alberto Gerchunoff, the cornerstone of Jewish Latin American literature, and ending with stories by contemporary writers. The earlier, lyrical stories of struggle are characterized by their specifically Jewish concerns: immigration, assimilation, Zionism, anti-semitism, Jewish culture, and the Holocaust. The later stories written by second and third generation immigrants reflect how the authors have integrated into the mainstream of Argentinian life. Authors include Gerchunoff, Samuel Glusberg, Samuel Eichelbaum, Bernardo Verbitsky, Bernardo Kordon, Eugenia Calny, Isidoro Blaisten, Alicia Steimberg, German Rosenmacher, Silvia Plager, Ricardo Feierstein, and Cecilia Absatz.

(Romanian/Hungarian/German) *Transylvanian Voices: An Anthology of Contemporary Poets of Cluj-Napoca*. Eds. and Trs. Adam J. Sorkin and Liviu Bleoca. The Center for Romanian Studies. 1997. 207 pp. Paper: ISBN 973-98091-9-6. This collection contains works by poets such as Mariana Bojan, Vasile Igna, Virgil Mihaiu, Dora Pavel, Ion Pop, Emese Egyed, Lázló Király, András Visky, and Franz Hodjak, among others.

REFERENCE

Lyle Campbell. *American Indian Languages: The Historical Linguistics of Native America*. Oxford University Press. 1997. 512 pp. Cloth: \$75.00; ISBN 0-19-509427-1. "The aim of this book is to...attempt to take stock of what is known currently about the history of Native American languages. In particular, it has often been lamented of late that there is no recent overview of the field or general assessment of the state of American Indian historical linguistics.... This book is an attempt to fill that gap." [Introduction]. Includes phonetic symbols chart; maps; an index of languages, language families, and proposed genetic relationships; an author index; a subject index, along with nine chapters ranging from "The History of American Indian Linguistics" to "Distant Genetic Relationships: The Methods" to "Linguistics Areas of the Americas."

Charles M. Carlton, Thomas Amherst Perry, and Stefan Stoenescu. *Romanian Poetry in English Translation: An Annotated Bibliography & Census (1740-1996)*. The center for Romanian Studies. 1997. 176 pp. Paper: ISBN 973-98091-6-2. This bibliography covers 1) Books devoted substantially or in their entirety to Romanian poetry in English translation, 2) Special issues of journals treated as anthologies, partial or full, 3) Journals exclusively or substantially devoted to Romanian poetry in a given issue, 4) Journals with

occasional entries and reviews, 5) Other books with occasional entries, and 6) Catalogs for library exhibits, broadsides, folders, greeting cards, performances.

(German) Susanne Fischer-Rizzi. *Medicine of the Earth--Legends, Recipes, Remedies, and Cultivation of Healing Plants [Medizin der Erde: Legenden, Mythen, Heilanwendung und Betrachtung unserer Heilpflanzen]*. Eds. Julie Zinkus, Cheryl Rosen and Ellen Hynson. Tr. Meret Liebenstein Bainbridge. Rudra Press [Heinrich Hugendubel Verlag, 1984]. 1996. 312 pp. Paper: \$16.95; ISBN 0-915801-59-0. Plant lovers, herbalists, and wildlifers alike will relish the author's expert and loving descriptions of 33 common herbal plants. We meet each plant in its natural habitat and cultivated setting as we learn its unique mythological and historical lore. A wide range of the plants' offerings are explored through tasty and unusual culinary recipes, healing medicinal preparations, cosmetic uses, and aromatherapies. Even your pets and barnyard animals will benefit from the many veterinary remedies. The book's numerous illustrations capture the very special beauty and character of each herb.

Ray Keenoy, David Treece, and Paul Hyland. *The Babel Guide to the Fiction of Portugal, Brazil & Africa in Translation*. Boulevard/Babel/Paul & Company Publishers Consortium, Inc. 1997. 161 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 1-899460-055. Writers from Brazil and Portugal, Mozambique and Angola all use the same language, Portuguese, for stories from a thousand locales in a hundred styles. Brazil, almost a continent by itself, has a tremendous set of talented writers turning over its rich tropical, urban, and racial mix. Portugal, like England, is a tiny country that has contributed far beyond its size to the world's cultural and literary wealth. Drawing from both these traditions and their own African heritage, writers from Angola and Mozambique have recently begun to chronicle their own strange story. *The Babel Guide* includes details on all the novels and short stories from these countries available in English with 70 "trailers" to the best books of 35 major writers to aid reading choices.

(Hindi-English) *The Oxford Hindi-English Dictionary*. Ed. R.S. McGregor. Oxford University Press. 1997. 1083 pp. Paper: \$25.00; ISBN 0-19-864339-X. The *Dictionary* reflects the dramatic development of Hindi in the 20th century, giving extensive coverage of the modern standardized language, both spoken and literary. Its entries include modern regional variants and coverage of the Urdu vocabulary.

(French) *The Pocket Oxford Hachette French Dictionary*. Ed. Marie-Hélène Corréard. Oxford University Press. 1996/1997. 784 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-19-864533-3. Paper: \$11.95; ISBN 0-19-864534-1. Bilingual. The words, phrases, and idioms of modern colloquial French, plus the language of business, computing, and current affairs are compiled in this dictionary. It is uniquely designed to meet the needs of the English learner of French, with all explanatory information in English.

REPRINTS

(Japanese) Chikamatsu Monzaemon. *Four Major Plays of Chikamatsu*. Tr. Donald Keene. Columbia University Press. 1998 [1961]. 220 pp. Paper: \$17.50; ISBN 0-231-11101-0. Chikamatsu (1653-1725) wrote some 130 plays, chiefly for the puppet theater, many of which are still performed by puppet operators and Kabuki actors. His domestic dramas are accurate reflections of Japanese society at the time: his characters are samurai, farmers, merchants, and prostitutes who speak colloquially, and who people the shops, streets, teahouses, and brothels that constituted their daily environment. The four works included here are "The Love Suicides at Sonezaki," "The Battles of Coxinga," "The Uprooted Pine," and "The Love Suicides at Amijima." Keene's many translations include his recent *Three Plays by K_b Abe*.

(Anthology) (German) *Fairy Tales and Fables from Weimar Days*. Ed. and Tr. Jack Zipes. The University of Wisconsin Press. 1997 [1989, University Press of New England]. 211 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-299-15744-X. Deliberately transforming traditional German fairy tales and fables into utopian narratives and social commentary, political activists in the Weimar Republic (1919 to 1933) wrote the stories in this collection for use by progressive youth groups. Noted folklore scholar Zipes has edited and translated these 32 tales by 16 Weimar authors, who include such notable writers as Kurt Schwitters, Oskar Maria Graf, and Hermynia Zur Mühlen. Zipes has also provided an introduction, notes and bibliography, period illustrations, and concise biographies of the authors.

(Sumerian) Auth. and Tr. Thorkild Jacobsen. *The Harps That Once... Sumerian Poetry in Translation*. Yale University Press. 1997 [1987]. 498 pp. Cloth: \$55.00; ISBN 0-300-03906-9. Paper: \$20.00; ISBN 0-300-07278-3. Sumerian, the oldest language known, is represented by hundreds of thousands of clay tablets inscribed in the cuneiform writing system. Most of the tablets are devoted to mundane matters--ration lists, annual accounts, deeds, contracts--but a substantial number contain examples of perhaps the earliest poetry extant. In this volume, the eminent Assyriologist Thorkild Jacobsen presents translations of some of these ancient poems, including a number of compositions that have never been published in translation.

(Sanskrit) Jayadeva, son of Bhojadeva. *Love Song of the Dark Lord, Jayadeva's G_tagovinda, 20th Anniversary Edition*. Ed. & Tr. Barbara Stoler Miller. Columbia University Press. 1997 [1977]. 125 pp. Paper: \$16.50; ISBN 0-231-11097-9. "Jayadeva's dramatic lyrical poem *G_tagovinda* is a unique work in Indian literature and a source of religious inspiration in both medieval and contemporary Vaishnavism. The poem is

dedicated in devotion to the god Krishna. It concentrates on Krishna's love with the cowherdess R_dh_ in a rite of spring. Intense earthly passion is the example Jayadeva uses to express the complexities of divine and human love. Miller translated many works, including *The Bhagavad-Gita: Krishna's Counsel in Time of War*, *The Hermit and the Love-Thief: Sanskrit Poems of Bharitrihari and Bilhana* and *Theater of Memory: The Plays of Kalidasa*, all published by Columbia.

(Sanskrit) *The Mah_bh_rata*. Tr. Chakravarthi V. Narasimhan. Columbia University Press. 1997 [1965]. 254 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-231-02624-2. Paper: \$17.50; ISBN 0-231-11055-3. Originally published as Number LXXI of the Records of Civilization: Sources and Studies. Revised, with a new Preface and two new verses. Intended to be a treatise on life itself, this work embraces religion and ethics, polity and government, philosophy and the pursuit of salvation. With its central theme of universal destruction and the evils of war, the epic poem reveals not the exploits of heroes but the lives of ordinary people in search of the most fundamental of human desires: peace and reconciliation. This collection of more than 4,000 verses is supplemented by a glossary, genealogical tables, and an index correlating the verses with the Sanskrit text.

(French) Henri Michaux. *Darkness Moves: An Henri Michaux Anthology: 1927-1984*. Tr. David Ball. University of California Press. 1997 [1994]. 342 pp. Paper: \$19.95; ISBN 0-520-21229-0. Awarded the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Outstanding Translation by the Modern Language Association, 1996. Michaux defies common critical definition. Critics have compared his work to such diverse artists as Kafka, Goya, Swift, Klee, and Beckett. Among the works included are "Who I Was," "The Night Moves," "Trying to Wake Up," "Facing the Locks," "Knowledge through the Abyss," and "Ways of Sleepers, Ways of Wakers."

(Italian) Cesare Pavese. *Among Women Only [Tra Donne Sole]*. Tr. D.D. Paige. Peter Owen Ltd./Dufour Editions. 1997 (Peter Owen, Ltd., 1953). 198 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-7206-1030-3. Clelia, a successful courturier, arrives in Turin after the end of the Second World War to supervise the opening of a salon in the city where she spent her youth in poverty. Drawn into a circle of young people who try to escape the futility and boredom of their lives in a mindless search for pleasure, she encounters Rosetta, whose suicide tragically foreshadows that of the author just a few months after completing this highly acclaimed contemporary classic. *Among Women Only* was awarded the prestigious Strega Prize.

(French) Marcel Proust. *Swann's Way [Du côté de chez Swann]*. Tr. C. K. Scott Moncrieff. Penguin Books. 1997 [1957, 1922]. 496 pp. Paper: \$12.95; ISBN 0-14-118058-7. This edition of *Swann's Way* reprints Moncrieff's original translation, first published in 1922. This first book of Proust's masterpiece, *A la recherche du temps perdu*, recalls the early

youth of Charles Swann in the small, provincial backwater of Combray as seen through the eyes of the narrator. It then shifts to Swann himself, now a man of fashion caught up in the glittering world of belle-époque Paris and a tortured love affair. A scathing, often comic dissection of French society, *Swann's Way* is also a story of past moments tantalizingly lost, recaptured and finally, triumphantly rediscovered.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY/BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIRS

(Spanish) Marjorie Agosín. *A Cross and a Star: Memoirs of a Jewish Girl in Chile*. Tr. Celeste Kostopulos-Cooperman. The Feminist Press at the City University of New York. 1997. 224 pp. Paper: \$13.95; ISBN 1-55861-176-2. Agosín's memoirs explore the wartime experiences of a displaced Jewish family, and in particular, its female members. The author's family, caught between the external Christian world and their secret, hidden world of Jewish traditions, come vividly to life in this luminous memoir. It is written in the voice of Agosín's mother, who grew up as a daughter of European Jewish immigrants in Chile in the years before, during, and after World War II. Reaching into her own family and cultural heritage, Agosín gives voice to her mother. Drawing upon this uniquely remembered experience, the author records the rich oral tradition of her family to form a poetically inspired memoir that is not quite a novel, and not quite a traditional memoir.

(French) Michel Chion. *The Films of Jacques Tati [Jacques Tati]*. Trs. Monique Viñas, Patrick Williamson, and Antonio D'Alfonso. Guernica Editions Inc. [Les Cahiers du Cinéma, 1987]. 1997. 167 pp. Paper: \$12.00; ISBN 0-920717-70-5. Life is full of homages to Jacques Tati. Tati is a great film comic who deserves to be placed on the same level as Keaton or Chaplin. His Monsieur Hulot has now entered the world of screen legends. Above everything else, Tati was an artist who did not fear to take risks not to put his entire being in each one of his films. From *Jour de fête* to *Parade*, there is a Tati-world which this remarkable study by Michel Chion invites us to discover. Besides being an important writer of film books in France, Chion is also a composer and filmmaker whose film *Eponine* was awarded the Prix Vigo in 1985.

(Japanese) Minoru Kiyota. *Beyond Loyalty: The Story of a Kibei [Nekkei hangyakuji]*. Tr. Linda Klepinger Keenan. University of Hawaii Press. 1997. 252 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8248-1886-5. Paper: \$24.95; ISBN 0-8248-1939-X. *Beyond Loyalty* is the powerful story of a young man whose life and education were rudely disrupted by the government's imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II. A high school student when interned in 1942, Kiyota was so infuriated by his treatment during an FBI interrogation and by the denial of his request to leave the camp to pursue his education that he refused to affirm his loyalty as required by all

internees. For this he was sent to Tule Lake Segregation Center in northern California. While imprisoned there, Kiyota renounced his U.S. citizenship. His story shares the fury and frustration aroused by gross violations of his rights and shows how the painful years of internment determined the course of his life.

(Spanish) Matilde Mellibovsky. *Circle of Love Over Death: Testimonies of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo [Círculo de amor sobre la muerte]*. Trs. Maria and Matthew Proser. Curbstone Press. 1997. 268 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 1-880684-38-1. Mellibovsky's *Circle of Love Over Death* is a dramatic testimony to the courage of the Mothers of the Disappeared in Argentina recorded by one of the founding mothers. It is unique because the Mothers tell their own stories in their own words, giving the reader a deep understanding of their personal psychological torment and the rending of the national social fabric of Argentine society through deeply moving and intense narratives. Through her use of actual first-person narratives of the Mothers, including her own, Mellibovsky not only evokes the personal anguish of the families over the torture, deaths or "disappearance" of the children, but also demonstrates vividly how the women gave emotional support to each other as well as the way in which, since 1976, they slowly but surely organized and built an international movement to bring pressure to bear on the Argentine authorities. Maria Proser has also translated *De Repente/All of a Sudden* by Teresa de Jesus (with Arlene and James Scully), which won the Islands and Continents Award, and *Quechua Peoples Poetry* (with James Scully).

(French) Ana Novac. *The Beautiful Days of My Youth--My Six Months in Auschwitz and Plaszow [Les Beaux Jours de ma Jeunesse]*. Tr. George L. Newman. Henry Holt and Company [Editions Balland, 1992]. 1997. 297 pp. Cloth: \$15.95; ISBN 0-8050-5018-3. In 1940, at the age of eleven, a young girl in Transylvania began keeping a journal. Four years later when she was taken to Auschwitz and Plaszow, she used scraps of paper, bits of newspaper, and backs of posters to record what she felt and saw and thought. This is that diary, as Ana Novac wrote it down over a six-month period in the death camps. Each short section is a vision of hell. Prisoners are reduced to being "suffering things" scrambling for bread, yet Ana also recounts acts of grace, moments of absurd humor, and the vivid personalities of her friends. Ana survived the war and preserved her diary, the only such account to emerge from Auschwitz with its author. While it is a relentless indictment of the rule of evil, it is also a record of life triumphing over death. Riding in one of the boxcars, Ana wrote, "My heart beats with the rhythm of the wheels: 'I'm alive, I'm alive.'" In reading her heartbreaking words, we, too, affirm life.

(Original in English, to French). Kay Sage. *China Eggs [Les Oeufs de Porcelaine]*. Ed. Judith Suther. Tr. Elisabeth Manuel. Starbooks [Éditions de l'Etoile]. 1996. 304 pp. Paper: \$18.00;

ISBN 0-964-5677-2-5. Bilingual. For Kay Sage, the long journey from an aimless life to self-fulfillment as an artist began with a nomadic childhood spent traveling with her mother, a high-spirited young divorcée, on transatlantic liners, and migrating from one luxury hotel to the next on a circuit of international *déracinés*. This is the life she recounts in *China Eggs*, as a backdrop to her early adulthood in Roman high society, as the Principessa di San Faustino, the wife of a charming and indolent nobleman. With a Surrealist's eye for startling juxtaposition, Sage creates a Felliniesque panorama of decadence and stultifying ritual. Her wit spares no one, from the Pope to sleazy hangers-on. Her tale is sad, funny, worldly-wise.

(Spanish) Emilie Schindler with Erika Rosenberg. *Where Light and Shadow Meet: A Memoir [Memorias]*. Tr. Dolores M. Koch. W. W. Norton & Company. 1997. 162 pp. Cloth: \$22.00; ISBN 0-393-04123-9. Schindler tells her story of a difficult marriage to Oskar Schindler and their now famous rescue of over 1,000 Jewish workers from certain death at the hands of the Nazi party. In her straightforward, simple, and compassionate voice, she makes the case that her husband, while certainly sympathetic to the Jewish plight, was not the politically sophisticated and carefully calculating hero that we think him. Rather, he was a well-intentioned man who, "carried along by his circumstances," was haphazard in his goals and methods and seemed not to grasp the larger picture of the danger in which his actions placed himself and his wife. It was Emilie Schindler who entertained the SS officers' wives, traded on the black market to raise money for food and medicine, and nursed sick workers, hand-feeding many back from starvation.

INTERVIEWS

Jean Royer. *Interviews to Literature [Écrivains Contemporains, Entretiens Tomes 1-5]*. Ed. Antonio D'Alfonso. Tr. Daniel Sloate. Guernica Editions Inc. [L'Hexagone]. 1996. 192 pp. Paper: \$18.00; ISBN 1-55071-008-7. The author states that the relevance of the true literary interview resides in the fact that it becomes a portrait of the writer, an introduction to her or his work, and a page of living literary history. The interviewer stays in the background. The texts here allow us to see the artists not only in their guarded moments, when they make statements they hope the world will read and appreciate, but especially in their unguarded, relaxed moments when we get a glimpse of the private person, the inner being it is a privilege to discover.

LANGUAGE THEORY

Anna Wierzbicka. *Understanding Cultures through Their Key Words: English, Russian, Polish, German, and Japanese*. Oxford University Press. 1997. 317 pp. Cloth: \$75.00; ISBN 0-19-508835-2. Paper: \$29.95; ISBN 0-19-508836-0. This book develops the dual themes that languages can differ widely in their vocabularies, and are sensitive indices to the cultures to which they belong. Wierzbicka seeks to demonstrate that every language has "key concepts," expressed in "key words," which reflect the core values of a given culture. She shows that cultures can be revealingly studied, compared, and explained to outsiders through their key concepts, and that the analytical framework necessary for this purpose is provided by the "natural semantic metalanguage," based on lexical universals that she and colleagues have developed based on wide-ranging cross-linguistic investigations.

LITERARY THEORY/CRITICISM

Mary Paterson Cheadle. *Ezra Pound's Confucian Translations*. The University of Michigan Press. 1997. 323 pp. Cloth: \$49.50; ISBN 0-472-10754-2. Ezra Pound professed a belief in Confucianism from the early 1930s till the end of his life. His interpretation of Confucianism, however, changed over time, and those changes are reflected in the four translations of Confucian texts he produced between 1928 and 1954. Pound's Confucian translations are less correct philology than the "re-creation" of works that he hoped would have a potent influence on the 20th-century West. In addition to tracing the evolution of Pound's beliefs, this book elucidates the Confucian elements in *The Cantos* and suggests a reading of that epic from the point of view of Pound's Confucianism.

(French) Gérard Genette. *Palimpsests: Literature in the Second Degree*. Trs. Channa Newman and Claude Doubinsky. University of Nebraska Press [Editions de Seuil, 1982]. 1997. 490 pp. Cloth: \$75.00; ISBN 0-8032-2168-1. Paper: \$30.00; ISBN 0-8032-7029-1. *Palimpsests* examines the manifold relationships a text may have with prior texts. Genette describes the multiple ways a later text asks readers to read or remember an earlier one. In this regard, he treats the history and nature of parody, antinovels, pastiches, caricatures, commentary, allusion, imitations, and other textual relations. Genette's *Narrative Discourse* and *Mimologics* have established his international reputation as a literary theorist.

Frank Lestringant. *Cannibals: The Discovery and Representation of the Cannibal from Columbus to Jules Verne [Le Cannibale: Grandeur et Décadence]*. Tr. Rosemary Morris. University of California Press [Librairie Académique Perrin]. 1997 [1994]. 247 pp. Cloth: \$38.00; ISBN 0-520-20240-6. Lestringant, a leading French scholar and one of the foremost authorities on European encounters with the New World, here gives us a fascinating account of cannibalism and the images it conjured for Europeans from the Renaissance to the late 19th

century. Drawing on previously unavailable sources, Lestringant describes how European voyagers, intellectuals, divines, and missionaries responded to the unsettling figure of the cannibal and put it to powerful symbolic use. Lively, accessible, and provocative, this unique study will not only be welcomed by readers in early modern history, European literature, anthropology, and religious studies, but will fascinate anyone interested in the myths and realities of cannibalism.

SOCIAL/POLITICAL THEORY

(Portuguese) Sylvia Caiuby Novaes. *The Play of Mirrors: The Representation of Self as Mirrored in the Other [Jogos de Espelhos]*. Tr. Izabel Murat Burbridge. University of Texas Press, Institute of Latin American Studies [Editora de Universidade de São Paulo, 1993]. 1997. 192 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-292-71196-4. Focusing on the Bororo people of west-central Brazil, this book addresses the construction of self-identity through interethnic interaction. By presenting the images the Bororo have of themselves as well as the images of others who have interacted with them, Novaes argues that Bororo self-images are constructed with the aid of a peculiar looking-glass--it is in the images of others that they see themselves. Incorporating contributions from psychology, psychoanalysis, linguistics, and semiotics, *Play of Mirrors* focuses on symbols, images, discourse, and meanings rather than solely on the problem of acculturation. Novaes has conducted field research among Brazilian Indians for more than 20 years.

(French) *Realms of Memory: The Construction of the French Past, Vol. II: Traditions (Under the Direction of Pierre Nora) [Lieux de Mémoire]*. Ed. Lawrence D. Kritzman. Tr. Arthur Goldhammer. Columbia University Press [Editions Gallimard, 1992]. 1996. 591 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-231-10634-3. A monumental collective endeavor by France's most distinguished intellectuals, *Realms of Memory* explores how and why events and figures become part of a people's collective memory and how memory is "already history." *Traditions* emphasizes the three elements or models that underpin social structures: land, cathedral, and court. For example, the cathedral, initially a principal church of a specific region and a symbol of dogma, came to stand for the suffering nation and its desire for freedom after World War II. *Traditions* concludes with readings of exemplary texts in the French tradition: Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past*, Vidal de La Blache's classical school text *Geography of France*, Ernest Lavisse's *The Nation's Teacher*, and one of the most beloved children's books, *The Little Red Book of the Republic*. Goldhammer won the French-American Translation Award for Volume I of this work.

(Russian) Andrei Sinyavsky. *The Russian Intelligentsia*. Tr. Lynn Visson. Columbia University Press. 1997. 98 pp. Cloth: \$19.95; ISBN 0-231-10726-9. *The Russian Intelligentsia* is the record of an exile's return to a country overwhelmed by poverty, crime, and corruption as well as a passionate call for Russian intellectuals to re-arm in a new struggle for freedom and democracy. In three powerful essays, Sinyavsky creates a vivid picture of today's Russian intelligentsia and its role as conscience and critic since the fall of Communism in 1989, as well as a chilling portrait of economic and political stagnation under Yeltsin. Drawing striking parallels to the role of intellectuals under the czar, he finds that contemporary writers and artists have lost touch with popular interests. Sinyavsky accuses his fellow dissident intellectuals of selling out to power and material rewards in return for complicity. Russia today is a society where, in the eyes of the people, "democracy became synonymous with poverty, embezzlement of public funds, and theft." Opposition is seen by the intelligentsia as a threat to the republic--the "people" have become the enemy.

TRANSLATION THEORY

Rainer Nägele. *Echoes of Translation--Reading Between Texts*. The Johns Hopkins University Press. 1997. 137 pp. Cloth: \$29.95; ISBN 0-8018-5545-4. In a series of readings of Sophocles, Hölderlin, Baudelaire, Nietzsche, and Benjamin, Nägele investigates the extraordinary territory that lies not merely between texts but also between languages--in translations. This space between texts and languages is approached in the figure of the echo. It is the figure of a transmission through and with the help of resistance. It is a complex figure that cannot be reduced to the simple repetition of a stable entity or origin. And yet, Nägele argues, it is in this "echo chamber" of resonances that history in all its concreteness has its place and becomes readable.

Nonverbal Communication and Translation: New Perspectives and Challenges in Literature, Interpretation and the Media. Ed. Fernando Poyatos. John Benjamins Publishing Co. 1997. 345 pp. Cloth: \$79.00; ISBN 1-55619-699-7. This text on the translation of literature and media language and on live interpretation should not only open many new perspectives in the various areas it presents, but also incite others to further this kind of study in both scope and depth.

Christiane Nord. *Translating as a Purposeful Activity: Functionalist Approaches Explained*. Ed. Anthony Pym. St. Jerome Publishing. 1997. 141 pp. Paper: ISBN 1-900650-02-9. German-language approaches to translation have been revolutionized by the theory of actions and the related theory of a translation's goal or purpose. Both these approaches are functionalist: they seek to liberate translators from servitude to the source text, seeing translation as a new communicative act that must be purposeful with respect to the translator's client and

readership. In the first full survey of these approaches in English, Nord explains the complexities of the theories and their terms, using simple language with numerous examples. The book includes an overview of how the theories developed, illustrations of the main ideas, and specific applications to translator training, literary translation, interpreting and ethics, expounding Nord's concept of the translator's loyalty. The survey concludes with a concise review of the criticisms that have been made of the theories, together with perspectives for the future development of functionalist approaches.

Douglas Robinson. *What Is Translation? Centrifugal Theories, Critical Interventions*. The Kent State University Press. 1997. 235 pp. Cloth: \$32.00; ISBN 0-87338-573-x. Translation Studies Series #4. In *What Is Translation?*, Robinson investigates the present state of translation studies and looks ahead to the exciting new directions in which he sees the field moving. Reviewing the work of such theorists as Frederick Rener, Rita Copeland, Eric Cheyfitz, André Lefevere, Anthony Pym, Suzanne Jill Levine, Myriam Díaz-Diocaretz, Antoine Berman, Lawrence Venuti, and Philip E. Lewis, he both celebrates and critiques the last decade's work.

Translation as Intercultural Communication: Selected Papers From the EST Congress - Prague 1995. Eds. Mary Snell-Hornby, Zuzana Jettmarová, Klaus Kaindl. John Benjamins Publishing Company. 1995/1997. 354 pp. Cloth: \$79.00; ISBN 1-55619-702-0. Collection includes 30 papers, among them "The 'death' of the author and the limits of the translator's visibility" (Rosemary Arrojo); "Translation as a process of power: Aspects of cultural anthropology in translation" (Michaela Wolf); "Ethics of translation" (Andrew Chesterman); "Getting the message across--Simultaneous interpreting for the media" (Ingrid Kurz); "Comprehension processes and translation. A think-aloud protocol (TAP) study" (Paul Kussmaul); and "Translation as intercultural communication--Contact as conflict" (Christina Schäffner/Beverly Adab).

HISTORY

(Persian) Ata-Malik Juvaini. *Genghis Khan: The History of the World Conqueror [Ta' Riky-I-Jahan Gusha]*. Tr. J. A. Boyle. University of Washington Press. 1997. 832 pp. Paper: \$40.00; ISBN 0-295-97654-3. This book recounts the sudden rise and expansion of the Mongol power in the 13th century. It is republished from the 1958 translation in an updated edition, with a new introduction and updated bibliography (by David O. Morgan). This work, considered one of the masterpieces of Persian prose, is concerned with the career of Genghis Khan, who founded the Mongol Empire (1206-27), and also with the reigns of his three successors. Juvaini, the narrator was in the service of the Mongol governors of Northern Persia and knew

personally many of the chief actors in the dramatic story he told. In writing this, he was also able to draw on the recollections of his father and grandfather who had also been involved with the Mongol Empire. He was also intimately connected with one of the most interesting episodes in the story, the destruction of the headquarters of the Assassins at Alamut.

Sven Lindqvist. *The Skull Measurer's Mistake: And Other Portraits of Men and Women Who Spoke Out Against Racism*. Tr. Joan Tate. The New Press. 1997. 166 pp. Cloth: \$22.00; ISBN 1-56584-363-0. In *The Skull Measurer's Mistake*, Lindqvist tells the story of Freidrich Tiedemann, the 19th-century German doctor who dared to speak out against racist science when it was first practiced. Often the history of racism is reduced to the study of racists. Less well known are the stories of those who argued and fought against prejudice and persecution. He profiles more than 20 men and women who, while not themselves victims of racism, went against the temper of the time to expose the many faces of prejudice. Along with Tiedemann's story, Lindqvist recounts the antiracist efforts of Benjamin Franklin, Joseph Conrad, de Tocqueville, and others whose names have been forgotten. Well-documented and rich in anecdote, Lindqvist's book shows how racist arguments emerged--and re-emerged over time.

(Spanish) Lucio V. Mansilla. *An Expedition to the Ranquel Indians [Una excursión a los indios ranqueles]*. Tr. Mark McCaffrey. University of Texas Press. 1997. 400 pp. Cloth: \$50.00; ISBN 0-292-75192-3. Paper: \$19.95; ISBN 0-292-75203-2. Mansilla alone among his contemporaries espoused an open dialogue as the best approach to the "Indian problem." Although the peace accord he sought to enact with the Ranquels was summarily disregarded by the Argentine government, which slowly gravitated towards a policy of ethnic cleansing and expropriation of Indian lands, the *Expedition* does narrate a rehearsal for a reconciliation that in the end never took place. This volume is the first English translation of Mansilla's classic work. Long noted for its humor, adventurousness, and narrative ingenuity, the book offers penetrating insights into fundamental issues of "civilization and barbarism," immigration, ethnic and racial diversity, and land ownership and tenancy.

PHILOSOPHY/RELIGION

(German) Annemarie Schimmel. *My Soul Is a Woman: The Feminine in Islam [Meine Seele ist eine Frau: Das Weibliche im Islam]*. Tr. Susan H. Ray. The Continuum Publishing Co. [Kösel Verlag GmbH & Co., 1995]. 1997. 181 pp. Cloth: \$22.95; ISBN 0-8264-1014-6. An internationally acclaimed scholar who has dedicated more than 50 years of her life to understanding the Islamic world, Schimmel examines a much-misunderstood feature of Islam: the role of women. Schimmel is critical of those--especially Western feminists--who take Islam to

task without taking the time to comprehend the cultures, languages, and traditions of the many societies in which Islam is the majority religion. Shattering stereotypes, Schimmel reconstructs an important but little-known chapter of Islamic spirituality. With copious examples, she shows the clear equality of women and men in the conception of the Prophet Muhammad, the Quran, the feminine language of the mystical tradition, and in the role of holy mothers and unmarried women as manifestations of God. The work is studded with luminous texts from Arabic, Turkish, Persian, and particularly Indo-Muslim cultures, which reveal how physical love can give expression to the highest forms of mysticism.

SPECIAL

Tiina Nunnally. *Runemaker: A Margit Andersson Mystery*. Fjord Press. 1996. 210 pp. Paper: \$12.00; ISBN 0-940242-77-X. Translator Margit Anderson returns home to Seattle from a vacation in New Mexico and discovers a brutal murder. On the very same day, she receives an anonymous letter containing a runic inscription and a sketch of three bizarre figures. To her astonishment, two of these figures match up with the images on the famous Golden Horns, ancient relics stolen from Denmark's Royal Art Chamber in 1802. Reluctantly, Margit finds herself drawn deeper into the mystery behind the murder. Two break-ins and a harrowing confrontation convince her that someone desperately wants those runes and sketches. But why? Offering insights into the arcane world of technical translation as it takes the reader on a suspenseful treasure hunt, *Runemaker* is a witty and intriguing story with a tenacious and engaging new sleuth.

CHINESE

He Dong. *Ask the Sun [Norwegian, Spør solen]*. Tr. from the Norwegian: Katherine Hanson. Women in Translation [Gyldendal Norsk Forlag, 1995]. 1997. 112 pp. Paper: \$12.95; ISBN 1-879679-10-8. Originally translated from Chinese to Norwegian by Hu Ying and Thor Sørheim. In these six tender and chilling tales, He Dong describes a generation that grew up during the Cultural Revolution, under the rule of their "Sun," Chairman Mao. "Nine" tells of a little girl and her grandmother who face hard times after the parents are sent away for reeducation. "Just a Game" centers on a neighborhood obsession with "Storm the Fortress," a children's game that reflects the mass hysteria of the adults around them and leads to a death. And in "We Love Chairman Mao," a girl forms an uneasy bond with a boy classmate who has been reeducated, but is not completely beyond suspicion. Hanson is the editor of *An Everyday Story* and the co-translator of two novels by Amalie Skram.

Lao Tzu. *Tao Te Ching--A Book about the Way and the Power of the Way*. Trs. Ursula K. Le Guin with J.P. Seaton. Shambhala Publications, Inc. 1997. 125 pp. Cloth: \$20.00; ISBN 1-57062-333-3. This is a completely fresh and poetic version of the 2500-year-old Chinese spiritual classic, by one of America's most thought-provoking writers. Moved by a lifelong love for the *Tao Te Ching*, the novelist and poet Ursula K. Le Guin has been working on this version of the text since the 1950s. Scholar J.P. Seaton has added expert linguistic guidance to her work, bringing to it an equally passionate commitment to scholarly accuracy. Together, they have created a translation that is unlike any seen before. Le Guin's version captures all the brilliance of Lao Tzu's poetry while conveying with immediacy and clarity the astonishing depth of his spiritual insights. It also corrects many of the distorted views of Lao Tzu's philosophy, freeing it from gender-bias and revealing its universal relevance.

Xi Xi. *Marvels of a Floating City and Other Stories*. Ed. Eva Hung. Trs. Eva Hung and John and Esther Dent-Young. Renditions Paperbacks/The Research Centre for Translation/The Chinese University of Hong Kong. 1997. 106 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 962-7255-18-1. Xi Xi, Hong Kong's foremost fiction writer, eloquently conveys the mood of the city during the 1980s in this collection of short stories. In the first half of the decade, the Chinese and British governments negotiated Hong Kong's fate, occasioning intense soul-searching and close scrutiny of their society among the general population. The old and the new, the real and the fantastic, Western culture and local perception are skillfully woven together here to create narratives of the hopes, anger and fears which gripped the people of Hong Kong in this crucial period of their history. The two stories other than the title story are "The Story of Fertile Town" and "The Fertile Town Chalk Circle."

Zhang Henshui. *Shanghai Express: A Thirties Novel [P'ing Hu tung ch'e]*. Gen. Ed. Howard Goldblatt. Tr. William A. Lyell. University of Hawaii Press. 1997. 258 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8248-1825-3. Paper: \$12.95; ISBN 0-8248-1830-X. In this suspenseful tale of seduction and deception, a wealthy banker is smitten by an alluring young woman while traveling aboard the express train from Beijing to Shanghai. A consummate storyteller and one of the most popular novelists of his day, Zhang Henshui sweeps us on board with them and takes us through train stations and back and forth between first-, second-, and third-class cars, evoking the sights, sounds and smells of this microcosm of the urban world. We see what the various travelers wear; we hear their conversations; we feel the chill or the warmth of each car; we detect a trace of perfume in one, pickled vegetables and greasy meats in another. In addition to a gripping, fast-paced story filled with vivid sensory detail, Zhang's novel offers brilliant characterization that is at once cynical and sympathetic, and always humane. Lyell has translated Lu Xun's *Diary of a Madman*.

CZECH

Karel Čapek. *Apocryphal Tales [Kniha Apokryf]*. Tr. Norma Comrada. Catbird Press. 1997. 189 pp. Paper: \$13.95; ISBN 0-945774-34-6. During his relatively short lifetime (1890-1938), Czech writer Karel Čapek became internationally known for his plays, novels, and stories, most notably for his 1920 drama R.U.R.: *Rossum's Universal Robots*, which introduced the word "robot" to the world. The *Apocryphal Tales* can be read in several ways: as parable, as allegory, and as Čapek's imaginative, innovative use of these literary devices to raise ethical questions and to address social and political concerns. There is more than a hint of Čapek as "myth-tamer," reworking the past to enlarge our understanding of our perceptions of the world around us and to help forge the young First Republic of Czechoslovakia into a sustainable, participatory democratic society. At the same time, Čapek often plays with our assumptions about familiar historical personalities and events, and turns them upside down.

DANISH

Suzanne Brøgger. *A Fighting Pig's Too Tough to Eat and Other Prose Texts [En gris som har været oppe at slås kan man ikke stege]*. Eds. James McFarlane and Janet Garton. Tr. Marina Allemanno. Norvik Press/Dufour Editions. 1997. 282 pp. Paper: \$19.95; ISBN 1-870041-35-6. This is the first major translation of Brøgger's work to be published in English since her sensational *Deliver Us From Love* (1976). It contains her autobiographical meditation, "A Fighting Pig's Too Tough to Eat," and a selection of essays from the past 20 years, showing her development from social rebel to iconoclast and visionary. Brøgger writes stories, poems, plays and essays and many of her writings transgress genre boundaries. Her pronouncements and her activities have excited much controversy in Denmark. Beginning as a polemicist, she has matured into a philosophical writer for whom the writing process is a continuous meditation on life, death, and eros. The 20 essays include "Happiness Is to Lose" (1976), "And She Unravelled Her Silk Stockings" (1986), "Killing the Horse" (1987), "Febrilcation" (1989), and "The Inner Bag Lady" (1989).

Klaus Rifbjerg. *War [Krigen]*. Trs. Steven T. Murray and Tiina Nunnally. Fjord Press [Gyldendal, 1992]. 1995. 69 pp. Cloth: \$20.00; ISBN 0-940242-67-2. Paper: \$10.00; ISBN 0-940242-66-4. With insight, irony, and lyricism, Rifbjerg delivers a powerful indictment of the marketing of war and its insidious effect on the daily lives of ordinary people. In a series of interconnected poems, the subject of war--an ever-

present menace that most people would rather not think about--starts showing up on TV and creeping into conversations. The buildup is skillful, cunning, and unstoppable. The promoters of war transform the specter of destruction into a catharsis that people long for, culminating in a crescendo of fireworks and media hype.

DUTCH

Hugo Claus. *Desire [Het Verlangen]*. Tr. Stacey Knecht. Viking [De Besige Bij]. 1997. 211 pp. Cloth: \$24.95; ISBN 0-670-86746-2. Set mainly in Los Angeles and Las Vegas during the 1970s, *Desire* tells the story of the misadventures that befall Jake, an overweight, slow-witted, yet sympathetic man, and Michel, his dark, brooding friend, as they impulsively set out from their usual stools at "The Unicorn" bar in Belgium to make their fortunes in America. Commenting on both the turmoil in the Old Country as well as their hellraising in the New World is the figure of the deceased Rikcabone, a card player, layabout, disreputable dealer and bar-room sage whose reminiscences and imaginings drive the novel at crucial stages. In a larger sense, *Desire* is the story of what happens when one's intense aspirations are ruined.

Cees Nooteboom. *The Captain of the Butterflies*. Trs. Leonard Nathan and Herlinde Spahr. Sun & Moon Classics/Consortium Book Sales. 1997. Paper: \$11.95; ISBN 1-55713-315-8. In this, his first collection of poetry published in English, Nooteboom reveals a wry mix of surrealist-like images in dialogue with precise, realistic language. Among the approximately 75 poems are "The House on the Island," "I Maschi," "Churchill's Black Dog or Mr. Nuszbaum Complains," "Rockplant," "Altiplano," "The Page on the Lily," "Silesius Dreams," "Finis Terrae," and "Last Act." Author of *Rituals, Philip and the Others, In the Dutch Mountains, The Knight Has Died, A Song of Truth and Semblance, Morkusei, and The Following Story*, Nooteboom won the 1982 Pegasus Prize for Literature, and *The Following Story* won the 1993 European Literary Prize for Best Novel.

FRENCH

Honoré de Balzac. *Colonel Chabert*. Tr. Carol Cosman. New Directions. 1997. 128 pp. Paper: \$9.95; ISBN 0-8112-1359-5. *Colonel Chabert* is a new translation of the best novella from Balzac's "Scenes of Private Life" in *La Comedia humaine*. An intense study of law and intrigue, it is the story about the Napoleonic War hero supposedly killed in the Battle of Eylau. He returns to Paris after a long convalescence to find his wife remarried, and his pension gone. His only recourse is to employ a young, well-known lawyer. It is a game of wits: first to

convince the lawyer that he is who he says he is; secondly to get his wife to admit to his identity and thereby give up some of her wealth.

Maurice Blanchot. *Awaiting Oblivion [L'Attente l'oubli]*. Series Eds. Mary Ann Caws, Richard Howard, Patricia Terry. Tr. John Gregg. University of Nebraska Press [Editions Gallimard, 1962]. 1997. 85 pp. Cloth: \$26.00; ISBN 0-8032-1257-7. *Awaiting Oblivion* is one of the crowning works by the French philosopher and novelist Maurice Blanchot. *Awaiting Oblivion* takes place in an anonymous hotel room, furnished with only a bed, an armchair, and a table. There we encounter a man and a woman who "are alternately waiting for something to happen to them that never does and vainly trying to remember something that may have already happened to them." Blanchot's portrayal of their relationship is a penetrating reflection upon human nature, language, and literature.

Chrétien de Troyes. *Lancelot: The Knight of the Cart [Chevalier de la charrette]*. Tr. Burton Raffel. Yale University Press. 1997. 208 pp. Cloth: \$30.00; ISBN 0-300-07120-5. Paper: \$15.00; ISBN 0-300-07121-3. Raffel here brings to English-language readers the fourth of Chrétien's five surviving romantic Arthurian poems. This poem was the first to introduce Lancelot as an important figure in the King Arthur legend. *Lancelot* tells of the adulterous relationship between the knight and his mistress, Guinevere, the wife of King Arthur. Raffel has created an original three-stress verse form that captures Chrétien's swift-paced narrative.

Maryse Condé. *The Last of the African Kings [Les derniers rois mages]*. Tr. Richard Philcox. University of Nebraska Press [Éditions Mercure de France, 1992]. 1997. 216 pp. Cloth: \$35.00; ISBN 0-8032-1489-8. Paper: \$12.00; ISBN 0-8032-6384-8. This work follows the wayward fortunes of a noble African family. It begins with the regal Béhanzin, an African king who opposed French colonialism and was exiled to distant Martinique. In the course of this novel, Condé tells of Béhanzin's scattered offspring and their lives in the Caribbean and the U.S. With many characters and countless stories, *Kings* skillfully intertwines the themes of exile, lost origins, memory, and hope. The book is set mainly in the Americas, from the Caribbean to modern-day South Carolina, yet Africa hovers always in the background. Philcox has published translations of six of Condé's novels, including *Crossing the Mangrove*.

Carole David. *Impala: A Novel [Impala]*. Ed. Antonio D'Alfonso. Tr. Daniel Sloate. Guernica Editions Inc. [Les Herbes Rouges, 1994]. 128 pp. Paper: \$12.00; ISBN 1-55071-065-6. Montreal in the 1960s. A popular singer abandons her five-year-old daughter, Louisa, and turns herself in to the police. Whom did she murder and why? Years later, from old newspaper clippings, tales her aunt told her and a

chance encounter with her father, Louisa decides to piece together the secrets of her family. But Louisa wonders if she will ever be able to find out the truth about her past. The author's style, spare and incisive, is the perfect vehicle for plunging us into the torments of a troubled life. *Impala* is a song about love and the loss of illusions. It draws us into the story of two lovers, their embraces, their pain, and their tragedy that are the somber background to the desperate search for the truth upon which their daughter has embarked. David's first collection of poems, *Terroristes d'amour*, won the Emile Nelligan Prize in 1986.

Erasmus. *Collected Works of Erasmus: Colloquies #39-40*. Tr. Craig R. Thompson. University of Toronto Press. 1997. 1227 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8020-5819-1. Revised translation, University of Chicago Press original publisher. Erasmus' *Colloquies* is one of the best introductions to European society of the Renaissance and Reformation periods, with lively descriptions of daily life and provocative discussion of political, religious, social, and literary topics, all presented with wit and verve. Each colloquy has its own introduction and full explanatory, historical, and biographical notes.

Suzanne Jacob. *Maude: A Novella [Maude]*. Ed. Antonio D'Alfonso. Tr. Luise von Flotow. Guernica Editions Inc. [NBJ, 1988]. 126 pp. Paper: \$12.00; ISBN 1-55071-049-4. Maude is an artist. Bruno looks after her. Or does he sponge off her? Is he her lover or her housekeeper? Is she an artist because he organizes her life or does her art defy his fussy interventions? What is he to her? And she to him? Are they simply insane? Suzanne Jacob's *Maude* develops two complex characters caught in a kind of prolonged, irresponsible adolescence. The book explores the dynamics of this odd couple--a dynamic apathy, depression and sense of powerlessness. Jacob won the Governor General Award, as well as Le Prix Québec-Paris, in 1984 for her novel, *Laura Laur*. Also available through Guernica, her *A Beach in Maine* (1993).

Out el Kouloub. *Zanouba*. Ed. Cynthia Maude-Gembler. Tr. Nayra Atiya. Syracuse University Press [Éditions Gallimard, 1947]. 1996. 204 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8156-2718-1. Paper: ISBN 0-8156-0408-4. Out el Kouloub is an author whose voice is just becoming heard in the U.S. A member of the Muslim aristocracy in Egypt, she wrote unforgettable novels, mostly about Egyptian women of varying social classes and about family life in a traditional society. In *Zanouba*, the reader is treated to vivid scenes of Egyptian middle-class life, starting in the 1900s. Abundant in traditional poems, songs, sayings, and rituals, the story of Zanouba enhances our understanding of a number of deeply seated aspects of Egyptian life. Her lush documentation bridges past and present while telling a tale that is both believable and touching.

André Major. *A Provisional Life [La Vie provisoire]*. Tr. Sheila Fischman. Oberon Press [Éditions du Boréal, 1995]. 1997. 147 pp. Cloth: \$31.95; ISBN 0-7780-1065-1. Paper: \$15.95; ISBN

0-7780-1067-8. What does a man do when his life no longer makes sense? In this new work, André Major, a leading *québécois* novelist, follows the inner experience of such a man. His career as a journalist is without meaning for him. His marriage is dead. After a flight to the Dominican Republic, he returns to his roots in rural Quebec, where he discovers a life that is without expectation or regret, a life that is provisional to be sure, a life that is lived for the moment alone and yet is intensely real. Major has won the Governor General's Award for Fiction.

Henri Michaux. *Tent Posts [Poteaux d'angle]*. Tr. Lynn Hoggard. Green Integer/Sun & Moon Press [Editions Gallimard, 1981]. 1997. 169 pp. Paper: \$10.95; ISBN 1-55713-328-X. Bilingual. As if it were dictated from "the front lines," *Tent Posts* warns the reader (and himself as a reader) to prepare for combat, a bodiless, abstract combat learned by daydreaming. "Communicate? You too would like to communicate? Communicate what?... You're not yet intimate enough with *you*, poor fool, to have something to communicate." At the same time, Michaux challenges us to be filled with the adventure of life: "However weighed down, washed-up, bullied you may be, ask yourself regularly 'What can I risk today?'"

Régine Robin. *The Wanderer [La Québécoise]*. Tr. Phyllis Aronoff. Alter Ego Editions [Québec/Amérique, 1983]. 1997. 184 pp. Paper: \$17.95; ISBN 1-896743-00-5. An immigrant to Quebec wanders the streets of Montreal filled with memory and desire. Haunted by images of wartime France under German occupation, student life in Paris of the sixties, and the world of the 19th-century *Shtetl*, she absorbs the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of today's Montreal, yearning to embrace the future in her new home. Will Quebec, so intent on finding its own voice, allow hers to be heard? Robin won the Governor General's Award for Non-fiction in 1987.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau. *Julie, Or the New Heloise, The Collected Writings of Rousseau, Vol. 6*. Trs. Philip Stewart and Jean Vaché. University Press of New England. 1997. 728 pp. Paper: ISBN 0-87451-825-3. Rousseau's epistolary novel, *Julie or the New Heloise*, an immediate continental sensation when it first appeared in 1761, was one of the most popular novels of its time. The story follows the fates and smoldering passions of Julie d'Étange and St. Preux, a one-time love who re-enters Julie's life at the invitation of her unsuspecting husband, M. de Wolmar. Framed within the wider context of 18th-century French history and politics, their letters chronicle personal lives: meetings and partings, marriages, births, illnesses, accidents and deaths.

Paul Tana and Bruno Ramirez. *Sarrasine: A Screenplay [La Sarrasine]*. Ed. Antonio D'Alfonso. Tr. Robert Gray. Guernica Editions Inc. [Boréal, 1992]. 1996. 166 pp. Paper: \$13.00; ISBN 1-55071-041-9. Bilingual portion in Italian.

Screenplay. In Montreal, at the beginning of the century, an Italian accidentally shot and killed a French Canadian. For this, he was sentenced to death. The judge had intended to set an example; he wished to discipline those foreigners who had the regrettable habit of carrying weapons and taking justice into their own hands. By exploring this simple news item, the authors do more than simply tell a tale of injustice against the backdrop of the absurd logic of everyday racism and violence.

Paul Valéry. *La Jeune Parque*. Tr. Alistair Elliot. Dufour Editions [Éditions Gallimard]. 1997 [1917]. 64 pp. Paper: \$15.95; ISBN 1-85224-387-2. "A poem should not mean, but be," said Archibald MacLeish. *La Jeune Parque* (the goddess of Fate as a young woman) certainly exists: she's beautiful and makes great gestures. Elliot's translation with notes is aimed at making this rewarding but difficult, long poem accessible enough for bafflement to turn into admiration. He attempts to clarify its small puzzles and also trace the overall narrative line of Paul Valéry's poem: it does have a story (what should a young woman do?) and does struggle towards a resolution. He also provides an introduction which deals with the interesting circumstances of the poem's four-year composition (1913-17), which resulted in Valéry's instantly becoming famous at the age of 45. This is Elliot's fifth book of verse translation, including Verlaine's *Femmes/Hombres*, Heine's *The Lazarus Poems*, and *French Love Poems and Italian Landscape Poems*.

GERMAN

Therese von Bacheracht. *Heinrich Burkart*. Tr. Hugh Powell. Camden House. 1997. 126 pp. Cloth: \$54.95; ISBN 1-57113-085-3. This topical work, first published in German in 1846, was inspired by the problems causing social and political unrest in the 1840s. When banished from his domicile in Germany, Heinrich Burkart chooses to go to Switzerland, and here he establishes a flourishing commune where workers and their families are cared for from cradle to maturity. This novel is one of the first to point to the emergence of the technician toward the middle of the 19th century. The romance chronicled in the novel does not overshadow the political and social aspects of the work, but rather contributes to them by juxtaposing the submissive middle-class daughter and the cultured self-emancipated woman.

Hans Magnus Enzensberger. *Kiosk*. Tr. Michael Hamberger. Bloodaxe Books Ltd./Dufour Editions, Inc. [Suhrkamp Verlag, 1995]. 1997. 92 pp. \$16.95; ISBN 1-85224-385-6. In *Kiosk*, Enzensberger draws on his wide knowledge of the scientific and technical developments of the last half-century, yet comes out on the other side of extreme skepticism--on the side of poetry and poetry's "negative capability," a kind of unknowing. Though never a confessional poet, he also draws on intimate experience. However disillusioned now about public issues, he remains a

poet of defiance, as intelligent, compassionate and trenchant as ever. The almost 100 poems include "Asphodels," "Ode to Stupidity," "A Sort of Revelation," "New Man," "Norwegian Timber," and "Arterial Road."

Gustav Ernst. *Springtime on the Via Condotti [Frühling in der Via Condotti]*. Tr. Todd C. Hanlin. Ariadne Press [Gustav Ernst, Wien]. 1997. 131 pp. Paper: 0-57241-034-5. *Springtime* is a humorous treatise on modern love. On their Roman honeymoon Walter and Marianne Guschelbauer, in the flush of new beginnings (and a great deal of wine), vowed undying love at a particularly romantic moment overlooking the Eternal City. They also made specific promises which neither would forget--and which they would subsequently use to judge the success or failure of their marriage. Twenty years later they attempt to recapture their love with a return trip to Rome, the site of that honeymoon and the promises they made one special evening. Hanlin has translated novels by Anton Fuchs and Gerald Szyszkowitz as well as plays by Felix Mitterer and Szyszkowitz.

Marianne Gruber. *The Death of the Plover & Trace of the Buckskin [Tod des Regenpfeifers. Zwei Erzählungen]*. Tr. Margaret T. Peischl. Ariadne Press [S. Fischer Verlag GmbH, 1991]. 1994. 119 pp. Paper: ISBN 0-929497-91-0. Set in a remote Austrian village, both *The Death of the Plover* and *Trace of the Buckskin* depict strong-willed individuals who review their flawed lives honestly and courageously and confront their impending deaths with dignity. Both the blind midwife Theresa and the aging farmer Unger are distinguished from their lesser fellowmen by virtue of their integrity and strength of character.

Peter Handke. *Walk About the Villages: A Dramatic Poem [Über die Dörfer. Dramatisches Gedicht]*. Tr. Michael Roloff. Ariadne Press [Suhrkamp Verlag, 1981]. 1996. Paper: ISBN 1-57241-000-0. The fourth part of Handke's "homecoming cycle," whose other three parts can be found under the American title *A Slow Homecoming*. In *Walk About the Villages* the "prodigal" writer Gregor returns to his home village. He and his brother Hans, a construction worker, and his shopkeeper sister have a dispute over the disposition of the house which the parents had built and the land which they had cleared with their own hands many years before.

Martin Heidegger. *Plato's Sophist [Platon: Sophistes]*. Trs. Richard Rojewicz and André Schuwer. Indiana University Press [Vittorio Klostermann]. 1997 [1992]. 496 pp. Cloth: \$39.95; ISBN 0-253-33222-2. This volume reconstructs Heidegger's lecture course at the University of Marburg in the winter semester of 1924-25, which was devoted to an interpretation of Plato and Aristotle. Published originally as volume 19 of Heidegger's Collected Works, it is a major text not only because of its intrinsic importance as an interpretation of the Greek thinkers, but also because of its close,

complementary relationship to *Being and Time*, composed in the same period. In *Plato's Sophist*, Heidegger approaches Plato through Aristotle, devoting the first part of the lectures to an extended commentary on Book VI of the *Nicomachean Ethics*. In a line-by-line interpretation of Plato's later dialogue, the *Sophist*, Heidegger takes up the relation of Being and non-being, the ontological problematic that forms the essential link between Greek philosophy and Heidegger's thought.

Fritz von Herzmanovsky-Orlando. *The Tragic Demise of a Faithful Court Official [Der Gaulschreck im Rosennetz]*. Tr. David A. Veeder. Ariadne Press [Langen Müller in F.A. Herbig Verlagsbuchhandlung GmbH, 1957, 1958, 1960, 1963]. 1997. 144 pp. Paper: ISBN 1-57241-035-3. This 1928 novel tells of the romantic entanglements, inexorable decline, and subsequent tragicomic death of the rigid and proper Biedermeier bureaucrat Jaromir Edler von Eynhuf. In his unwavering efforts to gain the attention of his beloved Emperor Franz I and to further his career, Eynhuf loses sight of all propriety and embarks on an irreversible path of obsession leading into the netherworld of the diva Hoellteufel and to his eventual ruination.

Florian Kalbeck. *The House of the Linsky Sisters [Das Haus der Schwestern Linsky]*. Tr. Michael Mitchell. Ariadne Press [Atelier Verlag, Vienna, 1990]. 1996. 165 pp. Paper: ISBN 1-57241-026-4. The celebrated concert pianist, Clara Linné, is going through a period of artistic crisis when her twin sister Resl dies. Clara's decision to adopt the name and persona of her twin leads to involvements with four very different men. But the place is Vienna, the year is 1937, and Clara Linné, now Resl Linsky, is Jewish. Her search for fulfillment leads to involvement in the resistance and the discovery of the spiritual dimension of a Judaism she thought she had left behind. A further change of identity to protect her young pupil leads her to the extermination camps in Poland, a self-sacrifice which is the culmination of the life of a woman who, in her second existence, seeks and finds four different kinds of love. Mitchell's other translations include Gyögy Sebestyén's *The Works of Solitude* and *A Man Too White*, Gustav Meyrink's *The Angel of the West Window*, *The Green Face*, *The White Dominican*, and *Walpurgisnacht*, as well as Josef Winkler's *The Serf*.

Marie-Thérèse Kerschbaumer. *Woman's Face of Resistance: Seven Reports [Der weibliche Name des Widerstands]*. Tr. Lowell A. Bangerter. Ariadne Press. 1996. 260 pp. Paper: ISBN 0-57241-027-2. A poet, two scholars, a nun, an unidentified Gypsy woman, a tailor's apprentice, a teacher, and a laborer--all of them are Austrian women who perish as victims of Nazi oppression. Their respective stories provide deep insight into the impact of German fascism on the inner lives of individuals. Each "report" conveys an intimate contact with the atmosphere of the times and a sense of the relationship between the protagonists and people who face the same social and political problems in the contemporary world. Bangerter's translations include *I Want to Speak* (Margareta Glas-Larsson),

The Baron and the Fish (Peter Marginter), *The Bengal Tiger* and *Three Flute Notes* (Jeannie Ebner), *The Condemned Judge* (Janko Ferk), *Lerida, or; The Long Shadow* (Alexander Giese), *In Foreign Cities* (Anna Mitgutsch), and *The Register* (Norbert Gstrein).

Gerhard Köpf. *Innerfar and Bluff, or the Southern Cross*. Tr. A. Leslie Willson. Camden House. 1997. 239 pp. Paper: \$26.00; ISBN 1-57113-182-5. *Innerfar*, Köpf's first novel, celebrates by way of memory and storytelling the life and destiny of Karlina Piloti, an eccentric poet and friend of writers, who vanished into madness. Piloti is based on Ilse Schneider-Lengyel, the real-life hostess of the first meeting of the influential postwar German literary group, Gruppe 47. *Innerfar* thus supplies the reader with insight into the workings and nature of that enigmatic association of writers. But it is also a story of the ageless endurance of devotion beyond death. *Bluff, or the Southern Cross* is a simple story about liberation and the unshackling of the imagination, a story about friendship between the young and the old, about the importance of dreaming of far-away places, the exaggeration of reality, and how to rid oneself of torments. Among Willson's translations is Ulla Berkéwicz's novel *Angels are Black and White*.

Johann Kuhnau. *The Musical Charlatan [Der musikalische Quacksalber]*. Ed. James Hardin. Tr. John R. Russell. Camden House. 1997. 163 pp. Cloth: \$49.95; ISBN 1-57113-142-6. This first English translation of a late Baroque German novel makes available a book that Romain Rolland early in this century singled out as one of the most interesting and amusing of the Baroque era. The novel paints in an unusually realistic style the checkered career of a musical charlatan, Caraffa, who believes that in order to be successful in the musical world in Germany, one must pretend to be an Italian. His tricks and ruses, which his German colleagues see through with little difficulty, provide some of the most memorable comic scenes in German literature. At the same time, the book provides an immensely informative and interesting picture of everyday life toward the end of the 17th century.

Johann Michael von Loën. *The Honest Man at Court [Der redliche Mann am Hofe; oder die Begebenheiten des Grafens von Rivera]*. Tr. John R. Russell. Camden House, Inc. 1997. 214 pp. Cloth: \$44.95; ISBN 1-57113-108-6. This work is noteworthy as the last gasp in the Chaucer-Boccaccio tradition in which members of upper-class society narrate their life stories. Although this style of narrative tended to produce works intended to titillate the reader, with von Loën--a successful merchant and great-uncle of Goethe--they function to advance the education of a prince to produce a paragon of probity, much in the tradition of the 17th-century "politischer Roman." The work is a revealing mirror of the attitudes of the German Enlightenment.

Heinrich Mann. *The Loyal Subject [Der Untertan]*. Ed. Helmut Peitsch. Trs. Ernest Boyd and Daniel Theisen (new portions). Continuum [S. Fischer Verlag, GmbH]. 1998. 347 pp. Cloth: \$39.95; ISBN 0-8264-0954-7. Paper: \$24.95; ISBN 0-8264-0955-5. The German Library, #64. Published in 1918, *Der Untertan*--previously issued in the U.S. only in parts under the title "Man of Straw"--is a satirical novel that connects the tradition of 19th-century German literature with the larger problems faced on the eve of the Nazi era.

Karl Philipp Moritz. *Anton Reiser: A Psychological Novel*. Tr. Ritchie Robertson. Penguin Classics. 1997. 351+ pp. Paper: \$13.95; ISBN 0-14-044609-5. A masterpiece of emotional extremism and unsparing self-analysis, *Anton Reiser* tells the story of a gifted outsider driven to near madness by exclusion from middle-class privilege and academic success. Brought up by members of a mystical Protestant sect, apprenticed to a pious but tyrannical tradesman, and humiliated as a charity-pupil at school, Reiser escapes into an obsession with literature and the theater, discovers a strange underworld of impoverished artisan intellectuals, and undertakes long wanderings in pursuit of a theatrical career.

Sten Nadolny. *The God of Impertinence [Ein Gott der Frechheit]*. Tr. Breon Mitchell. Viking Penguin [R. Piper GmbH & Co. KG, 1994]. 1997. 214 pp. Cloth: \$23.95; ISBN 0-670-87301-2. The naked, charcoal-colored man with red hair who steals the flag from the police station in Greece on a sunny spring day obviously isn't ordinary. Indeed, it could be said, and it would be true, that he is extraordinary. He is none other than Hermes, god of stolen kisses, insolence, erotic freedom, turmoil, sleep, thievery, and messenger to the gods. Hermes is looking for adventure and love, preferably the physical kind. He has been liberated to enchant, to save the world from the corruption of crass cynicism and to resurrect virtues of mischief, curiosity, imagination, and daring...and to fall in love. His travels lead Hermes from Europe to Athens (Georgia) and Sparta (Illinois) and, yes, above and beyond human boundaries. On his odyssey, Hermes realizes that he must supercharge those qualities of impertinence and roguery with godlike impetus. It is the only way he himself can survive.

Moritz von Thümmel/Friedrich Nicolai. *Wilhelmine and The Life and Opinions of Sebaldus Nothanker: Masterworks of the German Rococo and Enlightenment*. Tr. John R. Russell. Camden House. 1997. 170 pp. Cloth: \$55.00; ISBN 1-57113-145-0. Despite the fact that during the Enlightenment literature was still taught as a craft learned by studying examples from Antiquity and imitating them, masterworks did emerge. Thümmel's *Wilhelmine* was one, a mock epic written in the wake of Pope's "Rape of the Lock." Nicolai, a leading figure of the Berlin Enlightenment, acknowledged the popularity of *Wilhelmine* by taking its principal characters as the starting point for his novel *Sebaldus Nothanker*. Abandoning all Rococo

constraints and influenced by Sterne's *Tristram Shandy*, Nicolai's discursive novel gave him the freedom to attack many targets of the Enlightenment such as superstition, dogmatism, sectarianism, and sentimentalism.

Peter Turrini. *Shooting Rats, Other Plays, and Poems*. Tr. Richard Dixon. Ariadne Press. 1996. 211 pp. Paper: ISBN 0-929497-98-8. This volume contains some of the more controversial and personal works by Turrini. His first drama, *Shooting Rats*, with its theme of alienation from the consumer society, was written in 1967, when, fed up with life as an advertising copy editor, he fled into "exile" on an isolated Greek island. *Infanticide* (1972) continues the theme of alienation, intensified to the point of murder. Turrini explores the heart of an unfortunate young woman who paradoxically is driven to kill her infant child in order to feel like a human being. In *Death and the Devil* (1990) he confronts his audience with the most controversial of his plays. A disillusioned priest sets out on a journey, seeking to discover Sin. His self-crucifixion and death end the quest in a highly symbolic and for some, scandalous fashion. The final play, *The Siege of Vienna* (1995) treats contemporary social conditions in Austria. The poems of *A Few Steps Back* (1980) are much more personal. Dixon's other translations of Turrini include *The Slackers and Other Plays* (0-929497-48-1, 1992) and *Alpine Glow* (0-929497-95-3, 1994). He has also translated Ödön von Horváth and Wilhelm Pevny.

Renate Welsh. *Constanze Mozart: An Unimportant Woman [Constanze Mozart: Eine unbedeutende Frau]*. Tr. Beth Bjorklund. Ariadne Press [Esslinger Edition J&V Verlag J.F. Schreiber GmbH, Esslingen, Germany, 1990]. 1997. 134 pp. Paper: ISBN 0-57241-036-1. Instead of Mozart, the musical genius, it is his wife, Constanze, who is here the focus of attention. Maligned by outside observers, from Mozart's father to present-day biographers and playwrights, Constanze was thought to be "not the right girl" for the great man. Welsh takes a different perspective, narrating events from Constanze's point of view.

Josef Winkler. *The Serf [Der Leibeigene]*. Tr. Michael Mitchell. Ariadne Press [Suhrkamp Verlag, 1987]. 1997. 306 pp. Paper: ISBN 1-57241-024-8. *The Serf* belongs to the genre, the *Anti-Heimatroman*, novels which attach the conventional idyllic view of rural life and reveal the restrictions and repressions of an impoverished and authoritarian society. The hero is a writer who has returned to the hell from which he thought he had escaped. Writing is an addiction, and he needs the stimulus of his family and native village to feed his addiction. But he is an outsider in this conservative rural society, where attitudes from the Nazi past are often still there just below the surface. Mitchell has also translated György Sebestyén's *The Works of Solitude* and *A Man Too White*, as well as Gustav Meyrink's *The Angel of the West Window*, *The Green Face*, *The White Dominican*, *Walpurgisnacht*, and *The*

GREEK

Apollonios Rhodios. *The Argonautika: The Story of Jason and the Quest for the Golden Fleece*. Tr. Peter Green. University of California Press. 1997. 317 pp. Cloth: \$60.00; ISBN 0-520-07686-9. Paper: \$13.95; ISBN 0-520-07687-7. The *Argonautika*, the only surviving epic of the Hellenistic era, is a retelling of the tale of Jason and the Golden Fleece. Jason, a young prince, is sent on a perilous expedition but comes through various ordeals with the aid of the king's daughter, Medeia, wins the golden fleece, and carries off Medeia herself. He is a very modern figure, not at all Achillean: almost an anti-hero. The cloth edition includes Green's lively and incisive commentary, the first on all four books since Mooney's in 1912. This commentary does not appear in the paperback edition.

HUNGARIAN

Péter Esterházy. *She Loves Me [Egy Nő]*. Tr. Judith Sollosy. Northwestern University Press [Magvető, Budapest, 1996]. 1998. 195 pp. Cloth: \$26.95; ISBN 0-8101-1557-3. In 97 short chapters this seductive novel contemplates love and desire and sex and hate, all from the point of view of a manly narrator who considers himself a great and successful lover, a womanizer, a man who--may or may not--be in love with all of the women of the world. Sollosy is senior editor at Corvina Books in Budapest. Her translations include *The Book of Hrabal* and *A Little Hungarian Pornography*.

ICELANDIC

Ólafur Gunnarsson. *Trolls' Cathedral [Tröllakirkja]*. Trs. David McDuff and Jill Burrows. Dufour Editions [Forlagid, 1992]. 1997. 294 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 1-899197-30-3. The year is 1953. Sigurbjörn Helgason, the architect, yearns to create a cathedral echoing the shapes of the landscape, the arc of a seabird's wing, the hollows of a cliff-face cave. Yet his current project, plagued by doubt and debt, is for the first franchised department store in Reykjavik. His family can celebrate as the leases on the shop space are finally taken up, but a single seemingly random act, an assault on the young boy in the unfinished shell of the store, will destroy each of them. Obsessions, dreams, and memories lead, inevitably, to violence. McDuff has translated Gunnarsson's novel *Gaga* (Penumbra

Press, 1987).

Thor Vilhjálmsson. *Justice Undone [Grámosinn Glóir]*. Tr. Bernard Scudder. Mare's Nest Publishing/Dufour Editions, Inc. [Mál og menning, Reykjavík, 1986]. 1997. 232 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 1-899197-10-9. *Justice Undone*, winner of the 1988 Nordic Prize, brought Vilhjálmsson popular success in Iceland. A leading exponent of Icelandic modernism, he turns his attention to a historical event, the trial of half-siblings accused of incest and infanticide. Scudder has also translated Einar Már Gudmundsson's *Epilogue of the Raindrops* and Ólaf Ólafsson's *Absolution*.

ITALIAN

Eduardo de Filippo. *The Nativity Scene [Natale in Casa Cupiello]*. Ed. Antonio d'Alfonso. Trs. Anthony Molino with Paul N. Feinberg. Guernica Editions, Inc. 1997. 158 pp. Paper: \$13.00; ISBN 0-920717-80-2. *The Nativity Scene* imparts insights as to why millions of emigrants left Italy and established their *presepe* or Christmas cribs elsewhere, in the new Promised Land. Through the image of the *presepe*, *The Nativity Scene* presents a dramatic debate over the place and significance of Italy's rich and powerful iconic heritage, and the myths and rituals attendant upon it as shapers of social life. Finally, it is through his discerning practice of social imitation that Eduardo, this Italian Gorky, presents us with a clear, if painful, understanding of the lower depths of Neapolitan life.

Giacomo Leopardi. *Leopardi: Selected Poems*. Tr. Eamon Grennan. Princeton University Press. 1997. 104 pp. Cloth: \$27.50; ISBN 0-691-01643-7. Paper: \$9.95; ISBN 0-691-01644-5. Bilingual. These translations of the major poems of Leopardi (1798-1837) render into modern English verse the work of a writer who is widely regarded as the greatest lyric poet in the Italian literary tradition. By capturing Leopardi's cadences and tonality that still reads as modern idiomatic English (with an occasional Irish or American accent), *Selected Poems* should win the poet a wider appreciative audience. His themes are mutability, landscape, and love; his attitude, one of unflinching realism in the face of unavoidable human loss. Poems include "Sunday Evening," "Chorus of the Dead," "The Solitary Thrush," and "Night Song of a Nomadic Shepherd in Asia."

Leonardo Sinisgalli. *I Saw the Muses--Selected Poems: 1931-1942 [Vidi le muse]*. Ed. and Tr. Rina Ferrarelli. Guernica Editions, Inc. [Mondadori Editore, 1943]. 1997. 96 pp. Paper: \$10.00; ISBN 1-55071-025-7. Bilingual. Sinisgalli (1908-1981) was born in Lucania, Italy, and was a painter as well as a major poet. His images and metaphors are from nature. His muses perch on an ancient oak, eating, not ambrosia, but acorns and berries. The dominant landscapes of

his poetry are infinite, a world of affections, places and people, that transcend time and the particulars of culture and locality. This collection of almost 60 poems includes such works as "Il sole ti apre"/"The Sun Opens," "Lazzaretto"/"The Hospital," "Sera di San Lorenzo"/"Night of the Shooting Stars," and "I vecchi versi tornano a memoria"/"Old Verses Come to Mind."

JAPANESE

Hayashi Fumiko. *I Saw a Pale Horse and selected poems from Diary of a Vagabond [Aouma wo mitari and H_r_ki]*. Ed. Karen Smith. Tr. Janice Brown. Cornell East Asia Series - East Asia Program. 1997. 135 pp. Cloth: \$22.00; ISBN 1-885445-66-0. Paper: \$14.00; ISBN 1-885445-86-5. Hayashi Fumiko, one of the most popular prose writers of the Showa era, began writing as a down-and-out poet wandering the streets of 1920's Tokyo. In these translations of her first poetry collection, *I Saw a Pale Horse*, and selected poems from *Diary of a Vagabond*, Fumiko's literary origins are colorfully revealed. Little known in the west, these early poetic texts focus on Fumiko's unconventional early life, and her construction of a female subject that would challenge, with gusto and panache, accepted notions not only of class, family, and gender, but also of female poetic practice.

Furui Yoshikichi. *Child of Darkness: Y_ko and Other Stories*. Tr. Donna George Storey. Center for Japanese Studies, The University of Michigan. 1997. 205 pp. Cloth: \$38.95; ISBN 0-939512-78-5. Paper: \$16.95; ISBN 0-939512-79-3. Yoshikichi deals with the human dramas of growing up and growing old, but by probing further into the recesses of the mind and memory, he touches upon the deepest mysteries of human existence. As if to balance the somber themes of madness and death, Yoshikichi also shows a great sensitivity to the dark humor inherent in everyday life. "Y_ko" (winner of the Akutagawa Prize in 1971) is the story of a sensitive young man's relationship with the title character, a beautiful young woman who is suffering from an apparently hereditary mental illness that defies precise diagnosis but is clearly linked to the traumatic transition from carefree child to responsible adult. The other two short stories, "The Plain of Sorrows" and "The Doll," deal with the subject of coming to terms with aging and death, thus shifting the focus from the crises of young adulthood to those of approaching middle age.

KOREAN

Cho Chung-Rae. *Playing With Fire*. Tr. Chun Kyung-Ja.

Cornell East Asian Series - East Asia Program. 1997. 188 pp. Cloth: \$22.00; ISBN 1-885445-65-2. Paper: \$14.00; ISBN 1-885445-85-7. In *Playing With Fire*, the smoldering hatred of the Korean War period resurfaces decades later in the form of a ruthless quest for justice. The main character, a successful Seoul businessman, has a secret past: unknown to his wife and son, he once led another life under another name as a ruthless communist partisan. After a lifelong search, the son of one of his wartime victims discovers his true identity, then proceeds calmly and deliberately to exact a terrible revenge. *Playing With Fire* was awarded the prestigious Korean National Literature Prize upon its publication in 1982. Chun Kyung-ja has translated such novels as *Peace Under Heaven* by Ch'ae Man Sik (M.E. Sharpe, 1991) and *The Shadow of Arms* (Cornell University East Asia Program, 1994).

Park Je-chun. *Sending the Ship Out to the Stars: Poems of Park Je-chun*. Tr. Chang Soo Ko. East Asia Program/Cornell University. 1997. 100 pp. Cloth: \$22.00; ISBN 1-885445-58-X. Paper: \$14.00; ISBN 1-885445-88-1. Park Je-chun is a major poet in Korea today. His works are marked by a poetic imagination and a sensibility which draw largely on Korean Buddhist and Taoist traditions, as well as Korean classical literature. Among the over 70 poems included are "Autumn Water," "Dialogue in the Mountain," "Dragon Song," "Gosan," "Hearing a Wind-bell," "Lady Suro," "Moon Bright," and "The Famous Archer." Chang Soo Ko is currently the South Korean ambassador to Pakistan. He has won the Modern Korean Literature Translation Award and the Poetry Prize in Korea.

Hwang Sun-won. *The Descendants of Cain [K'ain _i Huye]*. Trs. Suh Ji-moon and Julie Pickering. M.E. Sharpe, Inc./UNESCO. 1997. 192 pp. Cloth: \$52.95; ISBN 0-7656-0136-2. Paper: \$19.95; ISBN 0-7656-0137-0. This novel is based on Sun-won's own experience in his North Korean village at a historic turning point for modern Korea between the end of World War II (and with it the end of the 35-year Japanese occupation of Korea) and the eve of the Korean War, just when Korea had been divided into North and South by its two "liberators"--the United States and the Soviet Union. Portrayed here is an entire community caught in a political and social firestorm that scathingly reveals the selfishness, cruelty, and ignorance of simple people, but also their loyalty and nobility. Suh Ji-moon's translations include *The Rainy Spell and Other Korean Stories* and stories by Sun-won in the 1989 collection *The Book of Masks*.

LATIN

Seneca. *Dialogues and Letters*. Ed. and Tr. C. D. N. Costa. Penguin Books. 1997. 132 pp. Paper: \$12.95; ISBN 0-14-044679-6. This selection includes the *Consolation to Helvia*, written to Seneca's mother from exile in Corsica, in which he tenderly tries to soothe the pain of separation, and the dialogues

On the Shortness of Life and *On Tranquillity of Mind*, which, like the letters about fortitude and self-reliance, are classic statements of Stoic ideals. Extracts from the *Natural Questions* reveal a passionate and informed interest in phenomena such as earthquakes.

Virgil. *Virgil's Aeneid*. Tr. John Dryden. Penguin Classics. 1997. 422 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-14-044627-3. In Aeneas, Virgil created the dutiful yet fallible Trojan prince who overcomes war, suffering and countless setbacks to lay the foundations of the Roman race. In his translation Dryden formed a style vigorous yet refined and drew on the deep understanding of political unrest he had acquired during the Civil Wars of 1642-51 and the revolution of 1688. This edition includes maps, a substantial glossary, and enough background to help readers overcome any unfamiliarity with style or substance.

NORWEGIAN

Roy Jacobsen. *The New Water*. Tr. William H. Halverson. Peer Gynt Press/Ohio State University Press. 1997. 189. Paper: \$14.00; ISBN 0-9645238-1-7. *The New Water* is both a mystery and love story. But most of all it is a psychological study, a frightening and fascinating journey into the tortured mind of a troubled young man. Jon didn't like change. He wanted things to stay just the way they were. He wanted to continue living with his sister Elizabeth in their little island community off the coast of northern Norway. And he wanted his childhood friend Lisa to be there with him. But Jon's island world was changing. Lisa had gone away to become a dancer, and then--was it when she came home for a visit?--she had disappeared, and there was speculation that she might have been the victim of foul play. Halverson's translation was awarded the Inger Sjöberg Prize by the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

Sigrid Undset. *Kristin Lavransdatter, I: The Wreath [Kransen]*. Tr. Tiina Nunnally. Penguin Books [H. Aschehoug & Company, Oslo, 1920]. 1997. 304 pp. Paper: \$11.95; ISBN 0-14-118041-2. Originally published in 1920 and set in 14th-century Norway, *The Wreath* chronicles the courtship of a headstrong and passionate young woman and a dangerously charming and impetuous man. The story mirrors post-World War I political and religious anxieties. Defying her parents and stubbornly pursuing her own happiness, Kristin emerges as a woman who not only loves with power and passion but intrepidly confronts her sexuality.

PORTUGUESE

Mário de Carvalho. *A God Strolling in the Cool of the Evening*

[*Um deus passeando pela brisa da tarde*]. Tr. Gregory Rabassa. Louisiana State University Press [Editorial Caminho, S.A., 1994]. 1997. 265 pp. Cloth: \$26.95; ISBN 0-8071-2235-1. Winner of the Pegasus Prize for Literature. Written as the memoir of Lucius Valerius Quintus, former prefect of a fictitious 2nd-century Roman city in what is now Portugal, it depicts a civilization threatened from without and within as its foundation begins to crumble. The Moors have invaded the Iberian peninsula, raiding and pillaging Roman towns, but the people of Tarcisus turn a blind eye to the danger. Made complacent by the prosperity of the Pax Romana, they focus instead on the sadistic Games, and on the persecution of Christians. Striving always to adhere to the principles of his hero Marcus Aurelius, Lucius musters all of his moral courage and sheer strength of will to protect the city. His devotion to civic duty undergoes a crucial test, however, when the charismatic and beautiful leader of the new sect, Iunia Cantaber, is brought before his court. Rabassa has been honored many times for his translations of works by authors such as García Marquez and Vargas Llosa. His translation of Julio Cortazar's *Hopscotch* won the National Book Award for Translation.

Ana Cristina César. *Intimate Diary*. Ed. David Treece. Trs. Patricia E. Paige, Celia McCullough and David Treece. Boulevard Books with the Centre for the Study of Brazilian Culture and Society/Paul & Company Publishers Consortium, Inc. 1997. 114 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 1-899460-50-0. Set in London and Paris, *Intimate Diary* is the journal of the tragic and brilliant Ana Cristina César. Ironic and erotic by turns, the sensuality of Anaïs Nin meets the sensitivity of Katherine Mansfield as she simultaneously sends up and revels in passion, femininity and consumerism. César was one of Brazil's "marginal writers" of the 1970s, working in both avant garde prose/poetry and TV soap opera until her death by suicide at age 31.

João Gilberto Noll. *Hotel Atlantico [Hotel Atlântico]*. Tr. David Treece. Paul & Company/Boulevard Books with the Centre for the Study of Brazilian Culture and Society [Companhia das letras, 1989]. 1997. 151 pp. Paper: \$16.95; ISBN 1-899460-65-9. A fantasy set in a wickedly realistic version of the Brazilian interior--dusty towns where everyone seems to be either terminally naive or gapingly on the make. Noll captures this world in a rolling narrative that's always ironic and often hilarious. In *Hotel Atlantico* a "resting" soap opera star takes off in an odyssey in search of personal meaning--but he has started from a point of such absolute washed-up meaninglessness that things can't improve much. His pointless adventures seem to make some very wise points about the contemporary Brazilian psyche and western man in general. In the companion piece, "Harmada," a man searching for the ultimate unobtainable consumer good--"serenity, something like serenity" has a series of (mis)adventures that are even more lyrical and shocking than in *Hotel Atlantico*.

Gil Vicente. *Vicente: Three Discovery Plays [Auto da Barca do Inferno, Exortação da Guerra, Auto da Índia]*. Ed. and Tr. Anthony Lappin. Aris & Phillips/The David Brown Book Co. 1997. 232 pp. Paper: \$22.00; ISBN 0-5668-666-2. Bilingual. The three plays edited and translated in this volume are strongly linked to what we now think of as the Portuguese Discoveries. All three are fundamentally concerned with the expansion of Portugal in Africa and India through either crusade or commerce. In the introduction to the plays, the playwright's social role as a court dramatist is emphasized, and his dramatic productions are set, firmly within the political concerns of his time. Careful consideration is given to the involvement of both Gil Vicente and the Inquisition in the later emendation of the play's text.

RUSSIAN

Victor Pelevin. *The Blue Lantern & Other Stories*. Tr. Andrew Bromfield. New Directions. 1997. 179 pp. Cloth: \$22.95; ISBN 0-8112-1370-6. Winner of the 1993 Russian Little Booker Prize, *The Blue Lantern* gathers eight of Pelevin's best stories. Pelevin here, as in *The Yellow Arrow* (New Directions, 1996) and *Omon Ra* (New Directions, 1997), pays great attention to the meaning of life, in earnest and as spoof. In the title story, kids in a Pioneer camp tell terrifying bedtime stories; in "Hermit and Six-Toes," two chickens are obsessed with the nature of the universe as viewed from their poultry plant; the young communist league activists of "Mid-Game" change their sex to become hard-currency prostitutes; and "The Life and Adventures of Shed #XII" is the story of a storage hut whose dream is to become a bicycle.

SANSKRIT

Samodeva. *Tales from the Kath_sarits_gara*. Tr. Arshia Sattar. Penguin Books. 1997. 264 pp. Paper: \$12.95; ISBN 0-14-044698-2. The *Kath_sarits_gara*, which literally means the "Ocean of the Sea of Story," is often described as the mother-lode of the world's stories. The *Kath_sarits_gara* is said to have been compiled by a Kashmiri Saivite Br_hmin called Somadeva around AD 1070 for Queen S_ryavat_, wife of King Anantadeva who ruled Kashmir. The stories of this book are retold from 10 of the 18 books of the original. The main narrative deals with the adventures of Narav_hanadatta and culminates in his eventual coronation as the king of the sky-dwellers with magical powers. The most remarkable feature of the *Kath_sarits_gara* is that, unlike other classics of the time, it offers no moral conclusions and is throughout a celebration of earthly life. Thus,

we have promiscuous married women and clever courtesans; imbecile Br_hmins and incompetent kings; and men and women who are cursed and granted boons and experience exciting adventures.

SERBIAN

(And Tr.) David Albahari. *Tsing*. Northwestern University Press. 1997. 99 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-8101-1569-9. *Tsing* is a multi-layered narrative that combines a wholly fictional novel-within-a-novel with an episodic chronicle of the narrator's present as a traveler to and visiting writer in the United States. It is a quiet and moving paean to the narrator's deceased father. Beginning with a series of imagined vignettes involving a father and a daughter, Albahari weaves simple stories about persons approaching each other, spending some time together, and eventually going their separate ways.

SERBO-CROAT

Vasko Popa. *Collected Poems*. Ed. Francis R. Jones. Trs. Anne Pennington and Francis R. Jones. Anvil Press Poetry/Dufour Editions. 1997. 464 pp. Cloth: \$39.95; ISBN 0-85646-237-3. Popa is one of a generation of East European poets who were caught in mid-adolescence by the war. Their reaction to the mainly surrealist principles that prevailed in Continental poetry in the inter-war years was a matter of personal temperament, but it has been reinforced by everything that has since happened, to their countries in particular and, in some measure, to human beings everywhere. Poems include "In Forgetting," "The Iron Apple Tree," "We raise our arms," "The houses have turned out," "Get out of my walled infinity," and "My son I see our land asleep." Pennington's translations include, with Andrew Harvey, Popa's folk poems, *The Golden Apple* (Anvil, 1980). Jones was awarded the Poetry Society's European Poetry Translation Prize for his translation of Ivan V. Lali_'s *The Passionate Measure* (Anvil, 1991).

SPANISH

Pedro Antonio de Alarcón. *"The Nail" and Other Stories [El Clavo y otros cuentos]*. Tr. Robert M. Fedorchek. Bucknell University Press/Associated University Presses. 1997. 128 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8387-5361-2. In this book, eight stories written by Alarcón have been brought together in English for the first time. The stories, which eventually earned Alarcón a reputation as a first-rate storyteller, are selected from the especially productive years of 1855 to 1859. The nail in the title story is found driven into a disinterred skull, and if some

of the events are implausible and others incredible, it is also true that there is considerable suspense and mystery. Other stories include "The Cornet," "The Orderly," "The Foreigner," "The French Sympathizer," "The Mayor of Lapeza," "The Guardian Angel," and "Long Live the Pope!"

Rafael Alberti. *to Painting: Poems by Rafael Alberti*. Tr. Carolyn Tipton. Northwestern University Press. 1997. 251 pp. Cloth: \$29.95; ISBN 0-8101-1351-1. Bilingual. Each of these poems is inspired by one of three different elements of painting: the painters, the colors, or the instruments used in creating the painting. The poems on colors take the form of numbered lists, each item of which names either a use to which a certain painter has put the particular color, a specific shade taken by the color in painting or in nature, or an association the poet has with the color. The poems dedicated to the various tools a painter uses take the form of a sonnet. Each sonnet begins with the words "To you" and is written as a sort of extended toast to instruments and concepts like the paintbrush, the palette, proportion, and perspective. The third group of poems, those dedicated to painters, is dramatically varied. Alberti imitates through his words the style of the painter he is addressing. "Giotto," for example, is written as a medieval *lauda*, while "Picasso" is freeform, with words spaced over the page in an unconventional manner.

José Luis Alonso de Santos. *Hostages in the Barrio [La estranquera de Vallecas]*. Tr. Phyllis Zatlin. Estreño. 44 pp. Paper: ISBN 1-888463-02-3. Estreño Contemporary Spanish Plays 12. *Hostages in the Barrio* works on a number of levels. The plot is simple: Two armed robbers decide to knock off a local tobacco store run by an old woman and her granddaughter, whom, along with a policeman disguised as a doctor, are taken hostage. Immediately the place is surrounded by outraged neighbors, police, rescue teams, and politicians. There is little hope for the criminals, and much to lose for the victims. "Thematically, *Hostages* is a biting indictment of the world we live in: the church, the government, the police, doctors, politicians, the economy, the very social structure itself, all come under scrutiny as the victims and the perpetrators find that they have more in common with each other than the world outside." [Steve Wise, Artistic Director, The Bridge Theater (Miami)]

Miguel Angel Asturias. *The Mirror of Lida Sal: Tales Based on Mayan Myths and Guatemalan Legends [El Espejo de Lida Sal]*. Tr. Gilbert Alter-Gilbert. Latin American Literary Review Press. 1997. 128 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-935480-83-8. In this never-before translated edition, Asturias adapts the folklore of Guatemalan and Mayan mythology to produce a record and tribute to the ancient civilization of his native land. "The reader can expect to travel thousands of years between stories and even within stories, through a sort of science fiction cast in reverse. Thus we pass through Asturias's stunning tropical portico into a land of 'green valleys, green volcanoes, green forests, green hills, and green, green lakes beneath the unblemished blue sky'; we

enter the world of Lida Sal, restlessly dissatisfied with her present condition, gliding through the mirror of the shimmering lagoon which 'absently dreams her'; and from there we plunge down into the depths of Guatemala's still largely unknown past on an hallucinatory journey..." [Gerald Martin]. Besides the title story, the collection includes "Juanantes Enchained," "Anteater Juan," "Juan the Whirler," "Kinkajou," "Legend of the Singing Tablets," "Legend of the Crystal Mask," "Legend of the Silent Bell," and "Legend of the Dancing Butchers."

Mario Bencastro. *The Tree of Life: Stories of Civil War [Arbol de la Vida]*. Tr. Susan Giersbach Rascón. Arte Público Press. 1997. 110 pp. Paper: \$11.95; ISBN 1-55885-186-0. A grand mystical tree festooned in brilliant red flowers becomes the life force of a village. When the tentacles of civil unrest tear the hamlet apart, the tree swallows the dead, and the fallen friends and enemies are born again to live in peace within the majestic and benevolent tree. The passion and politics of the civil war in El Salvador, the blight of political strife and social injustice color this richly textured short story collection. With poetic vision, Bencastro chronicles a chapter of hemispheric history that gripped El Salvador and polarized not only the United States but also every other country in Central and South America. The turmoil, intrigue, and suffering have been captured and universalized in these beautifully wrought tales told from the perspective of the common man caught up in a confusing maelstrom. Bencastro's novel, *A Shot in the Cathedral*, published in 1996 by Arte Público Press, was a finalist in the international "Novedades y Diana" award.

Mario Benedetti. *Blood Pact & Other Stories*. Eds. Claribel Alegría and Darwin Flakoll. Trs. Daniel Balderston, et al. Curbstone Press. 1997. 213 pp. Paper: \$13.95; ISBN 1-880684-39-X. In *Blood Pact*, Benedetti plumbs with deep psychological insight both the dreams and frustrations of the middle-class in a bureaucratic society, as well as the pain and disorientation of political exile. His stories often blend Chekhovian comedy of manners with an incisive criticism of the bureaucratic oppression of contemporary life, capped with dramatic endings. Benedetti has also published in English *The Truce* and *Juan Ángel's Birthday*.

Antonio di Benedetto. *Animal World [Mundo Animal]*. Tr. H. E. Francis. Xenos Books. 1997. 137 pp. Cloth: \$25.00; ISBN 1-879378-18-3. Paper: \$13.00; ISBN 1-879378-17-5. Bilingual. The animal theme is probably the oldest in literature. From cavemen and the Bible to Shakespeare, Cervantes and Kafka, writers throughout time have picked up on the theme. A little-known but fascinating contribution to this tradition is *Animal World*. Written in conversational and even intentionally awkward language, the work presents a confused and troubled narrator, who, tormented by mysterious gnawings of guilt, becomes involved in some obscure way with an animal or whole group of animals. They invade his soul,

drive him to rage or deliver him from his obsession. Often the story hinges on a pun, a distorted folktale, an illogical association, and each story adds to the preceding to create a growing sense of doom. Thus cumulatively, story by story, the reader becomes entrapped in a horrifying, hallucinatory realm of associations.

Juan Calderón de la Barca. *The Physician of His Honour [El Médico de su honra]*. Ed. and Tr. Dian Fox with Donald Hindley. Aris & Phillips, Ltd./The David Brown Book Co. 1997. 215 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-85668-639-5. Paper: \$22.00; ISBN 0-85668-640-9. Bilingual. This is one of the most intellectually and emotionally engaging of the Spanish Golden Age (17th century) plays, and among the most controversial. Taking place during the reign of King Pedro of Castile (1350-1369), it is one of the spectacular "honour dramas" in which the main characters confront compelling yet conflicting imperatives. In *The Physician of His Honour*, the husband's rival is a man who returns after a lengthy absence to find that his beloved has married. The rival sets his sights on the wife despite her resistance, his pursuit arousing the husband's suspicions. Once the husband's honour has been compromised by the pursuit, he becomes convinced that the dishonour can only be effaced with the deaths of the "guilty" parties--that is, his wife and her suitor. Because his rival happens to be a member of the royal family--Prince Enrique, bastard half-brother of King Pedro--the offended husband exempts the pursuer from revenge and "cures" his honour by turning solely on the wife. The astonishing finale of this play--the last 80 lines in the wake of the discovery to the King of the wife's corpse--has helped to bring this work and its author both fame and infamy in the centuries since the *comedia's* composition.

Luis Humberto Crosthwaite. *The Moon Will Forever Be a Distant Love [La luna siempre sera un difícil amor]*. Trs. Debbie Nathan and Willivaldo Delgadillo. Cinco Puntos Press [Ediciones Corunda, 1994]. 1997. 175 pp. Paper: \$12.95; ISBN 0-938317-31-8. The love story of Balboa and Florinda, his beloved Aztec maiden. The conquest of New Spain is over and Mexico is overrun with conquistadores-turned-bureaucrats. Balboa is downsized. He convinces Florinda to take the Three Stars bus from 16th-century Mexico City to Tijuana in the Northernish Empire where they begin to map out their love. Nathan and Delgadillo's translation carefully mimics the content, rhythms, and puns of Crosthwaite's quirky prose.

Diamela Eltit. *E. Luminata [Lumpérica]*. Tr. Ronald Christ (with the collaboration of Gene Bell-Villada, Helen Lane, and Catalina Parra). Lumen, Inc. 1997. 240 pp. Paper: \$15.00; ISBN 0-930829-40-9. Winner of the 1997 Kayden National Translation Award, "*E. Luminata's* series of scenes occur at night when, because of the curfew, the city is supposedly empty of all but the military. Set in a public square, it has a single protagonist--a woman--and a public of 'pale' people, the only illumination being the intermittent light of a neon sign. The

uncanniness of these nightmarish and night-time years when 'something more unnameable than terror' prevailed is woven subtly into this staging of an area that witnesses a baptism, a filming, an interrogation--abjection and surveillance." (Jean Franco)

Juan Gelman. *Unthinkable Tenderness: Selected Poems*. Ed. and Tr. Joan Lindgren. University of California Press. 1997. 188 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-520-20586-3. Paper: ISBN 0-520-20587-1. Here is the chancicleer of the city of Buenos Aires. Juan Gelman does not imitate the tango; he contains it. His are pure words, and never innocent: certainties that dwell in doubt, liberties that live imprisoned, and a celebration of life from the exact center of death.

Miguel Hernández. *I Have Lots of Heart: Selected Poems*. Tr. Don Share. Bloodaxe Books/Dufour Editions, Inc. 1997/1998. 160 pp. Paper: \$18.95; ISBN 1-85224-332-5. Bilingual. The poems of Miguel Hernández (1910-42) beam with a gentleness of heart. After fighting on the Republican side in the Spanish Civil War, he was imprisoned until his death at the age of 31. From his early formalism, paying homage to Góngora and Quevedo, to the final poems, which are passionate and bittersweet, Hernández's work is a dazzling reminder that force can never defeat spirit, and that courage is its own reward. Poems include "Like the bull," "Soldiers and the snow," "You were like the young fig tree," "Before hatred," and "Imagination's tomb." Share works as editor for *Partisan Review*.

Ana María Moix. *Dangerous Virtues [Las virtudes peligrosas]*. Tr. Margaret E. W. Jones. University of Nebraska Press (European Women Writers Series). 1997. 153 pp. Cloth: \$30.00; ISBN 0-8032-3189-x. Paper: \$10.00; ISBN 0-8032-8237-0. Moix is one of the most innovative and entertaining writers in Spain today. Her writings include children's literature, poetry, novels, and short stories. Her work has been praised throughout Europe and the Americas for its stylistic innovations, witty, satiric spirit, and feminist themes and fervor. The five stories collected here include "Dangerous Virtues," "Once upon a Time," "The Naive Man," "The Problem," and "The Dead."

Salvatore Puledda. *On Being Human: Interpretations of Humanism from The Renaissance to the Present [Interpretaciones del humanismo]*. Tr. Andrew Hurley. Latitude Press. 1997. 200 pp. Paper: 1-878977-18-0. Foreword by Mikhail Gorbachev (translated by Marian Schwartz). "Today, the word *humanism* is understood in the most vague and indeterminate ways, and not infrequently it is employed by people of differing viewpoints in contradictory senses. Thus, in this survey I believe it is important to reconstruct the various ways in which the word humanism has been interpreted throughout its history, and to review, at least with respect to their essential features, the historical and

philosophical contexts within which these interpretations arose." (Introduction)

Luis Arturo Ramos. *Within These Walls [Intramuros]*. Tr. Samuel A. Zimmerman. Latin American Literary Review Press/Consortium Book Sales. 1997. 222 pp. Paper: \$15.95; ISBN 0-935480-89-7. *Within These Walls*, the third of four novels published in Mexico by Ramos, follows two generations of immigrants from Spain to Mexico, their personal histories, their adjustment to a new culture, their struggles to survive, and their attempts to flourish in their newly adopted country. Gabriel Santibáñez arrives in Veracruz at the turn of the century "to conquer America." Several years later, his nephew, Esteban Niño, disembarks at the same port off of a ship filled with exiles fleeing the aftermath of the Spanish War. Two of Ramos's four published novels, *Violeta-Perú* and *Este era un gato*, have been honored by the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes y el Gobierno del Estado de Colima. *La casa del ahorcado* was a finalist for the International Planeta prize. Zimmerman has translated works by Enrique Jaramillo Levi, Nela Rio, David Ojeda, and Antonio Porpetta.

Luis Eduardo Reyes. *Modelo Antiguo: A Novel of Mexico City [Modelo Antiguo]*. Trs. Sharon Franco and Joe Hayes. Cinco Puntos Press [Ediciones Era S.A. de C.V., 1992]. 1997. 184 pp. Paper: \$11.95; ISBN 0-938317-32-6. In Mexico City, an old woman entices a young, street-smart taxi driver to be her chauffeur. Her vehicle is a cherry 1942 Ford, a classic ride. Together they circle the city of the old woman's youth--the '40s and '50s. She deliberately surrounds him in the past, which is for her the present. Reyes is a prize-winning playwright, a writer for film and television, and a novelist. This is his first book to be translated into English.

José Rizal. *Noli Me Tangere*. Ed. Raul L. Lacson. Tr. Soledad Lacson-Lochin. University of Hawaii Press. 1997. 426 pp. Cloth: \$47.00; ISBN 0-8248-1916-0. Paper: \$27.95; ISBN 0-8248-1917-9. In this modern classic of Filipino literature, Rizal exposes "matters...so delicate that they cannot be touched by anybody," unfolding an epic history of the Philippines that has made it the most influential political novel in that country in the 19th and 20th centuries. The popularity of this novel is grounded in its reflection of the turbulent times in which it was written. Its influence on Filipino political thinking, as well as on contemporary fiction, drama, opera, dance, and film, has been and continues to be enormous.

Octavio Paz. *A Tale of Two Gardens: Poems from India*. Ed. and Tr. (et al) Eliot Weinberger. Biblot/New Directions Books. 1997. 111 pp. Paper: \$8.00; ISBN 0-8112-1349-8. *A Tale of Two Gardens* collects the poetry from over 40 years of Nobel Prize winner Octavio Paz's many and various commitments to India--as Mexican ambassador, student of Indian philosophy, and above all, as poet. Despite having written many acclaimed non-fiction books on the region, he has always considered those

writings to be footnotes to the poems. From the long work "Mutra," written in 1952 and accompanied here by a new commentary by the author, to the celebrated poems of "East Slope," and his recent adaptations from the classical Sanskrit, Paz scripts his India with a mixture of deft sensualism and hands-on politics. Other works include "The religious fig," "The effects of baptism," "Concert in the garden," "Maithuna," "Sunday on the island of Elephants," and many others.

Benito Pérez Galdós. *Nazarín*. Trs. Robert S. Rudder and Gloria Arjona. Latin American Literary Review Press/Consortium Books Sales & Distribution. 1997. 200 pp. Paper: \$15.95; ISBN 0-935480-75-7. *Nazarín* is the humorously told adventure of a *pure* man--a defrocked priest with two penitent prostitutes as his only companions--journeying barefoot and poor through an *impure* world. On a spiritual quest to follow the difficult path of a good Christian life, *Nazarín* wanders amongst the man-made miracles of the technological age seeking spiritual enlightenment through a medieval understanding of mysticism.

Edgardo Rodríguez Juliá. *The Renunciation [La renuncia del héroe Baltasar]*. Tr. Andrew Hurley. Four Walls Eight Windows. 1997. 135 pp. Cloth: \$18.00; ISBN 1-56858-057-6. A self-serving bishop persuades Baltasar Montañez, the son of a famous black leader in 18th-century Puerto Rico, to marry under pretense the white daughter of a government leader and thereby avert racial bloodshed. Baltasar goes along with the plan for a while, then turns on the officials. Tagged a subversive, he is excommunicated and incarcerated. When the bishop later tries to convince him to denounce the church in order to stem the slave revolt that occurred anyway, Baltasar refuses to collaborate. Thus, the hero is confronted with not one but a series of renunciations: his race, his ideals, and his power. The narration of this apocryphal figure's life is encapsulated within three supposed academic lectures delivered by the narrator. Letters, chronicles, and other documents all help lend an air of veracity.

Ana María Shua. *Patient [Soy paciente]*. Tr. David William Foster. Latin American Literary Review Press/Consortium Book Sales. 1997. 128 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-935480-90-0. *Patient* is the humorous story of a man lost in the bureaucratic workings of a state hospital. Anticipating only a brief stay for minor testing, he soon realizes that leaving the hospital will not be such a simple task. In the most absurd situations, he patiently suffers his fate at the hands of absent-minded doctors, disgruntled nurses, eccentric family members, and complacent fellow patients. Winner of the first prize in the Concurso Internacional de Narrativa de Editorial Losada.

SWEDISH

Tomas Tranströmer. *The Sorrow Gondola [Sorgegondolen]*. Tr. Robin Fulton. Dedalus Press/Dufour Editions, Inc. [Albert Bonniers Förlag, 1996]. 1997. 52 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 1-873790-481. Bilingual. Named after one of Liszt's late piano pieces, "La lugubre gondola," *Sorgegondolen* was the winner of the Neustadt International Prize. Poems include "Nattboksblad/A Page from the Night-Book," "Göken/The Cuckoo," "Tystnad/Silence," and "Som att vara Barn/Like being a Child."

TURKISH

Adalet A_ao_lu. *Curfew [Üç Be_Ki_i]*. Ed. Annes McCann-Baker. Tr. John Goulden. Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas Press. 1997. 300 pp. Paper: \$12.95; ISBN 0-292-70479-8. *Curfew* is set in Turkey on a June evening in 1980, a time of revolutionary conflict, a military coup, martial law, and curfew. Seven people--lovers, friends, relatives--are gathered in different parts of Turkey. Throughout the evening, the characters play out their shared history, their disagreements, and their hopes. The reader comes to see the characters as whole people struggling with crucial issues in their lives and also gains fascinating psychological and political insights into 20th-century Turkey, caught between the old Ottoman past and an uncertain westward-oriented future.

VIETNAMESE

Le Luu. *A Time Far Past: A Novel of Viet Nam [Thò'i xa v'ang]*. Trs. Ngo Vinh Hai, Nguyen Ba Chung, Kevin Bowen, and David Hunt. The University of Massachusetts Press. 1997 [1986]. 272 pp. Cloth: \$24.95; ISBN 1-55849-085-X. This epic novel presents a sweeping portrait of war and peace in northern Viet Nam from the defeat of the French to the mid-1980's. The story follows the odyssey of Giang Minh Sai, the son of a Confucian scholar in his rural Red River delta, from his early childhood through his decorated service during the American War and his later efforts to adapt to the postwar world of urban Ha Noi. Through two failed marriages, Giang Minh Sai struggles to come to terms with his responsibilities, his past and his future. The novel's ending leaves its hero and Vietnamese socialism at a problematic and painful crossroads. In its intricate sketching of complicated alliances, personal debts, and human interactions. *A Time Far Past* explores the complex layering of family and village history and Party and feudal authority. It also paints a vivid picture of the vast dislocations in Vietnamese culture caused by the political and military turmoil of the Indochina wars. Enormously popular in Viet Nam, *A Time Far Past* won that country's national prize for fiction.

Nguyễn Quang Thiêu. *The Women Carry River Water: Poems*. Eds. and Trs. Martha Collins and Nguyễn Quang Thiêu.

University of Massachusetts with the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences. 1997. 125 pp. Cloth: \$27.50; ISBN 1-55849-086-8. Paper: \$13.95; ISBN 1-55849-087-6. Bilingual. This book is the first English translation of a collection of poems by a Vietnamese writer of the post-1975 generation. His book *The Insomnia of Fire* (1992) won the Writers' Association National Award for poetry, one of Viet Nam's most prestigious literary prizes. Whether recalling the village of his childhood or exploring the rural and urban complexities of his adult life, Thiêu roots his poems in a Vietnamese tradition that honors place. His respect for the passage of time conveyed throughout the collection is traditional, but he moves fluidly through landscapes of the past, present, and future with distinctly contemporary juxtapositions and metaphors. Among the 40 poems here are "A Song of My Native Village," "The Habit of Hunger," "The Sound of Sniper Fire," "Summoning Souls," and "The Last Will and Testament of the Future."

WELSH

Saunders Lewis. *Monica*. Tr. Meic Stephens. Seren Books/Dufour Editions. 1997. 120 pp. Paper: \$17.95; ISBN 1-85411-195-7. Opinion on *Monica* has been deeply divided since its publication in 1930. Lewis's first novel was fiercely attacked by Welsh-speaking critics for its portrayal of sexual obsession and manipulation. For the first time the psychology which was such a feature of the work of contemporary authors was brought into Welsh fiction. And for the first time, sex, prostitutes and venereal diseases were given prominence in a Welsh novel. Despite outraged accusations of immorality, *Monica* is a novel with deep moral foundations, describing as it does the short-comings of a relationship based on infatuation and physical passion.

YIDDISH

David Bergelson. *The Stories of David Bergelson: Yiddish Short Fiction from Russia*. Tr. Golda Werman. Syracuse University Press. 1996. 154 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8156-0402-5. Paper: ISBN 0-8156-2712-2. The writings of Bergelson--virtually unknown to readers in the U.S.--are now available in this exciting collection. Composed of two short stories and a novella, this volume brings to life his rich prose. "Remnants," "Impoverished," and "Departing" cast characters adrift in a society whose traditions are coming unhinged by powerful modernist forces. In her introduction, Werman offers readers an engaging and tragic portrait of Bergelson, who was arrested on orders from Stalin and died in prison camp in 1952.

Yehuda Elberg. *The Empire of Kalman the Cripple [Kalman*

Kalikes Imperye]. Tr. the Author. Syracuse University Press. 1997. 326 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8156-0448-3. A character study that reads with the suspense of a detective novel, this is the story of an individual living in a Jewish *shtetle* in Poland, just before World War II. True-to-life characters populate Kalman's *shtetl*. This unlikely hero is a cunning, ill-tempered man who maliciously seeks revenge on others. Yet, in his portrayal, Elberg paints Kalman as a tortured soul, one with whom the reader will ultimately sympathize.

Yehuda Elberg. *Ship of the Hunted [Oyfn Shpits fun a Mast]*. Tr. the Author. Syracuse University Press. 1997. 299 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8159-0449-1. This is the story of one family's struggle to survive in the squalor of the Warsaw ghetto during the onset of the Holocaust. Yossel Yurek is a 13-year-old Jew whose ingenuity in smuggling goods in and out of his community saved the lives of those dear to him--as well as his own. It is the story of his mother, Golda, who courageously escaped from Treblinka. It is the true story of a family forever torn asunder by war. With the power of description that only actual experience can endow, Elberg relates the birth, death and resurrection of a dynasty.

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