

ANNOTATED BOOKS RECEIVED

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ANTHOLOGIES

Ancient Egyptian

Foster, John L., translator. *Ancient Egyptian Literature: An Anthology*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2001. 304 pp. Cloth: \$45.00; ISBN 0-292-72526-4. Paper: \$19.95; ISBN 0-292-72527-2.

This anthology offers an extensive sampling of the major genres of ancient Egyptian literature, including poetry, stories, hymns, prayers, and wisdom texts. Also included in the volume are the texts from John Foster's previous book *Echoes of Egyptian Voices*, along with selections from his *Love Songs of the New Kingdom* and *Hymns, Prayers, and Songs: An Anthology of Ancient Egyptian Lyric Poetry*. In addition, the book contains previously unpublished translations of four longer and two short poems, as well as an introduction to ancient Egyptian literature and its translation. Foster also provides information about the authorship and date of each selection. Foster is a Research Associate at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, where he has studied, translated, and written about ancient Egyptian literature and art.

Haitian Creole

Laraque, Paul and Jack Hirschman, eds. *Open Gate: An Anthology of Haitian Creole Poetry*. Translated by Jack Hirschman and Boadiba. Bilingual. Willimantic, CT: Curbstone Press, 2001. 240 pp. Paper: \$15.95; ISBN 1-880684-75-6.

The lyrics in this collection of modern Creole Haitian poetry provide an insight into Haitian culture, addressing such subjects as love, hardship, nature, and political repression. The editors focus on contemporary Creole poetry that reflects the struggle for human rights in Haiti. The book is divided into three sections: "The Pioneers," including works by the founder of modern Haitian Creole literature, Felix Morisseu-Leroy; "The Society of Fireflies," after the name of the only Haitian literary movement still in existence, the Sosyete Koukouy; and "The New Generation," featuring primarily poets in the Diaspora whose work has been published in the last fifteen years.

Mesoamerican

León-Portilla, Miguel and Earl Shorris, eds. *In the Language of Kings: An Anthology of Mesoamerican Literature – Pre-Columbian to the*

Present. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2001. 718 pp. Cloth: \$39.95.
ISBN 0-393-02010-X.

A literary history of Mexico and Central America from the Indian point of view, this volume includes Aztec poetry, battles of conquest, the philosophy of the Mayan "bible," the *Popol Vuh*, as well as interpretations of Mayan glyphic writings and poetic responses to events in modern Chiapas. The work includes many new translations, in addition to full introductions to the different genres.

ART

German

Albus, Anita. *The Art of Arts: Rediscovering Painting*. Translated by Michael Robertson. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000. 386 pp. Cloth: \$35.00. ISBN0-375-40099-0. [*Die Kunst der Künste*. Frankfurt: Vito von Eichborn GmbH & Co. Verlag KG].

In the *Art of Arts*, Anita Albus describes the birth and evolution of trompe l'oeil painting in oils in the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries, focusing her attention on works by northern European artists. The first part of the book examines the art of Jan van Eyck. The second and third parts describe the genres of "forest landscape," "still life," and "forest floor." In the final section of the book, Albus discusses the colored grains of the hand-ground pigments that were lost when artists' materials began to be commercially manufactured in the nineteenth century.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY, LETTERS, MEMOIRS

Chinese

Bei Dao. *Blue House*. Translated by Ted Hutters and Feng-ying Ming. Brookline, MA: Zephyr Press, 2000. 262 pp. Paper: \$13.95. ISBN 0-939010-58-5.

Blue House is an elliptical travelogue of one poet's movement through continents and encounters with Allen Ginsberg, Gary Snyder, Octavio Paz, Susan Sontag, Tomas Tranströmer, and others, while also touching on the everyday life of an exile who has lived in seven different countries since 1989. Beyond this basic framework, *Blue House* reads as a series of poetic sketches that subtly redefine concepts of nation, family, and literary genre.

French

Djebar, Assia. *Algerian White*. Translated by David Kelley and Marjolijn de Jager. New York: Seven Stories Press, 2001. 256 pp. Cloth: \$24.95. ISBN 1-58322-050-X. [*Le Blanc de l'Algérie*. Albin Michel, 1995].

In *Algerian White*, Assia Djebar describes coming to terms with the deaths of many of her friends in the ongoing war between fundamentalists and secular authorities in Algeria. She records the horrors of her country's civil war and reveals the complex political and social issues that helped to create the conflict. Assia Djebar won Germany's premier literary prize, Le Prix de la Paix in 2000, the Neustadt Prize for Contributions to World Literature in 1996, and the Yourcenar Prize in 1997. Translator Marjolijn de Jager won the ALTA Outstanding Literary Translation Award for her translation of Assia Djebar's *Women of Algiers in Their Apartment* (1992). David Kelley was working on *Algerian White* when he died in 1999. He was among the world's most respected specialists of late 19th and 20th century French literature.

Ernaux, Annie. *Happening*. Translated by Tanya Leslie. New York: Seven Stories Press, 2001. 96 pp. Cloth: \$28.95. ISBN 1-58322-256-1. [*Événement*, Gallimard, 2000].

In *Happening* Annie Ernaux details the events before and after the "lonely, back-alley abortion" that almost took her life nearly forty years earlier. The abortion itself is not the focus of the book. Instead, it is in the aftermath of the event, in the emergency hospitalization, that some of the most disturbing truths are revealed. The narrative moves between past and present through recollections, dreams, and writing. The book is both an account of the traumatic experience and a meditation on the workings of memory and the process of writing. Tanya Leslie has also translated Ernaux's *A Woman's Story, A Man's Place, Simple Passion, Exteriors, Shame, and "I Remain in Darkness."*

Mogador, Céleste. *Memoirs of a Courtesan in Nineteenth-Century Paris*. Translated with an introduction by Monique Fleury Nagem. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2001. 330 pp. Cloth: \$55.00; ISBN 0-8032-3208-X. Paper: \$24.95; ISBN 0-8032-8273-7. European Women Writers Series. [*Mémoires de Céleste Mogador*. Les Amis de l'Histoire, 1968].

Céleste Mogador's memoirs were first published in 1854 and again in 1858. At the time, they were condemned as immoral and unsuitable for public consumption. Writing to conciliate judges and creditors, Mogador explains how she escaped a difficult childhood and a life of prostitution to become a circus

rider and an actress, eventually marrying a count. Her name became synonymous with the bohemian life of the 1840's and 1850's in Paris. Her memoirs depict a self-educated woman who eventually became a prolific novelist and playwright. Translator Monique Fleury Nagem has also translated Chantal Chawaf's *Mother Love, Mother Earth* and *Redemption*, as well as Dominique Rolin's *The Garden of Delights*.

Swedish

Södergran, Edith. *The Poet Who Created Herself: Selected Letters of Edith Sodergran*. Edited and translated by Silvester Mazzarella. Chester Springs, PA: Dufour Editions and Norvik Press, 2001. 240 pp. Paper: \$24.95. ISBN 1-870041-46-1. Norvik Press Series A: No 18.

Edith Södergran's letters were written primarily between 1919 and 1923 to two young Finland-Swedish writers, Hagar Olsson and Elmer Diktonius. The letters reveal different aspects of Södergran's personality—intransigent, desperate for human contact, passionate and caring, and tormented by religious doubts that threaten to stifle her poetry, written for the most part when she was dying of tuberculosis in a remote Finnish village. This collection is accompanied by an introduction and notes that contextualize the letters and therefore enhance our understanding of both Södergran's life and her poetry.

Biography

French

Carrère d'Encausse, Hélène. *Lenin*. Translated by George Holoch. New York: Holmes & Meier, 2001. 512 pp. Cloth: \$45.00. ISBN 0-8419-1412-5. [*Lénine*. Libraire Arthème Fayard, 1998].

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin spent twenty years in exile building the Communist Party and planning the revolution that eventually took place in his absence. Eight months later, he gained total power, and within four years, he reshaped an empire and established a regime that would last seventy years. Carrère d'Encausse's biography explains the conquest and preservation of power by a party that originated with only a few members, as well as the longevity and global influence of Leninism. Hélène Carrère d'Encausse has been a member of *l'Académie française* since 1991 and was only the second woman to be admitted in its 350 years of existence. She is the author of several books, including *Nicholas II*, *The Russian Syndrome*, *Big Brother*, and *The Great Challenge*.

Kristeva, Julia. *Hannah Arendt*. Translated by Ross Guberman. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001. 291 pp. Cloth: \$27.95. ISBN 0-2312102-4. *European Perspectives: A Series in Social Thought and Cultural Criticism* [*Le Génie féminin, Hannah Arendt, Librairie Arthème Fayard, 1999*].

Kristeva's biography of Hannah Arendt centers around the theme of female genius. Kristeva focuses on three main aspects of the philosopher's work: she first explores Arendt's early biographical writings on Saint Augustine and Rahel Varnhagen, emphasizing Arendt's belief in the significance of recounting lives and the necessity of narration; next, the book reflects on Arendt's viewpoints on Judaism, anti-Semitism, and the "banality of evil;" the final section brings together Arendt's intellectual itinerary, examining her enthusiasm for observing both social phenomena and political events through her own personal experience.

Lyotard, Jean-François. *Signed, Malraux*. Translated by Robert Harvey. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2001. 272 pp. Cloth: \$29.95. ISBN 0-8166-3106-9. Paper: ISBN 0-8166-3107-7. [*Signé Malraux. Paris: Société des Éditions Grasset & Fasquelle, 1996*].

French philosopher Lyotard's last book before his death in 1998 is an unconventional biography that reveals his deep affinity with and admiration for the famous French existentialist Andre Malraux. Lyotard provides both an insightful analysis of Malraux's life and a thoughtful reading of his work, going beyond facts and legends to analyze the factors that led to his emergence as a cultural icon. The book was a 1999 *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title. Translator Robert Harvey is associate professor of French and comparative literature at SUNY Stony Brook.

German

Pfeiffer, Engelbert. *The Writer's Place: Heimito von Doderer and the Alsergrund District of Vienna*. Translated with an afterword by Vincent Kling. Riverside, California: Ariadne Press, 2001. 229 pp. Paper. ISBN 1-57241-094-9. *Studies in Austrian literature, culture, and thought. Translation series.* [*Heimito Doderers Alsergrund-Erlebnis*].

Engelbert Pfeiffer has served for twenty-five years as curator of the Doderer memorial rooms at the Alsergrund District Museum in Vienna. His biography of Doderer is an interpretive study of Doderer's life that attempts to bring Doderer's achievements closer to the English-speaking reader. Doderer is

one of the most acclaimed and important Austrian novelists since World War II, a traditionalist who championed the avant-garde emerging after his time. Translator Vincent Kling is Associate Professor of English at La Salle University in Philadelphia. He was recently a Fulbright guest professor at the University of Vienna, where he taught a seminar on literary translation.

CLASSICS

Cicero. *Letters to Friends, Volumes I, II, and III*. Edited and translated by D.R. Shackelton Bailey. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001. Volume I: Cloth, \$19.95. ISBN 0-674-99588-0. Volume II: Cloth, \$19.95. ISBN 0-674-99589-9. Volume III: Cloth, \$19.95. ISBN 0-674-99590-2. Loeb Classical Library.

A new Loeb Classical Library Edition in three volumes translated and edited by D.R. Shackelton Bailey, the letters here represent Cicero's correspondence with friends and acquaintances over a period of twenty year, from 62 BC to 43, the year he was put to death by the forces of Octavian and Mark Antony. This new Loeb Classical Library edition in three volumes brings together D.R. Schackelton Bailey's standard Latin text, now updated, and a revised version of his much admired translation. D.R. Shackelton Bailey is Pope Professor of Latin Language and Literature, Emeritus, Harvard University.

Euripides. *The Bacchae*. Translated with an introduction by Herbert Golder. New York: Applause Books, 2001. 101pp. Paper: \$7.95. ISBN 1-55783-445-8.

Euripides' *Bacchae* is the first entry in the new Applause series of Classic dramas. The *Bacchae* was the last of Euripides' great tragedies and very close of the last of all the great Greek tragedies. The play examines the consequences, both to the individual and to society as a whole, of rejecting the new god Dionysus. In his new translation, Herbert Golder recreates the ancient play in contemporary language. Golder is a professor of classics at Boston University as well as editor-in-chief of *Arion: A Journal of Humanities and the Classics*.

O'Bryhim, Shawn, ed. *Greek and Roman Comedy: Translations and Interpretations of Four Representative Plays*. Edited by Shawn O'Bryhim. Translated by Douglas Olson, Shawn O'Bryhim, George Fredric Franko, and Timothy J. Moore. Austin: University of

Texas Press, 2001. 330 pp. Cloth: \$55.00; ISBN 0-292-76054-X. Paper: \$24.95; ISBN 0-292-76055-8.

Much of what we know of Greco-Roman comedy comes from the surviving works of four playwrights: the Greeks, Aristophanes and Menander, and the Romans, Plautus and Terence. This book offers a new, accessible translation of a representative play by each playwright, accompanied by a general introduction to the author's life and times, a scholarly article on a prominent theme in the play, and a bibliography of selected readings about the play and playwright. This range of material provides several reading and teaching options, from the study of a single author to an overview of the entire Classical comedic tradition. Shawn O'Bryhim is Associate Professor of Classics and head of the Classics program at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

Petronius. *Satyricon*. Translated with notes by Sarah Ruden. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2000. 193 pp. Paper. ISBN 0-87220-510-X.

This new *Satyricon* features not only a vivid new annotated translation of the text, but fresh commentaries that discuss Petronius' masterpiece in terms of such topics as the identity of the author, the transmission of his manuscript, his literary influences, and the distinctive form of this work. The commentaries also encompass discussions of ancient Roman life, such as oratory, sexual practices, households, dinner parties, religion, and philosophy. Translator Sarah Ruden is a poet and essayist who received her Ph.D. in Classics from Harvard University.

Worthington, Ian, Craig R. Cooper, and Edward M. Harris, translators.
Dinarchus, Hyperides, and Lycurgus. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2001. 252 pp. Cloth: \$45.00; ISBN 0-292-79142-9. Paper: \$21.95; ISBN 0-292-79143-7. The Oratory of Classical Greece, Michael Gagarin, Series Editor.

This volume combines the surviving speeches of three orators at the end of the classical period. Dinarchus, though not an Athenian, was called on to write speeches in connection with a corruption scandal that ended the career of Demosthenes. Lycurgus was a deeply religious man who was one of the leading politicians in Athens during the reign of Alexander the Great. Hyperides was an important public figure who was involved in many of the events described by both Dinarchus and Lycurgus. Classical oratory offers an insight into Greek moral views, social and economic conditions, as well as political and social ideology. This is the fifth volume in the Oratory of Classical Greece series.

Xenophon. *The Education of Cyrus*. Translated and annotated by Wayne Ambler. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2001. 301 pp. Cloth: \$45.00; ISBN 0-8014-3818-7. Paper: \$19.95; ISBN 0-8014-8750-1. A volume in the series Agora Editions, Thomas L. Pangle, General Editor.

The Education of Cyrus is a major work of classical political philosophy that provides a portrait of extraordinary political ambition. In Xenophon's work, Cyrus is a worthy rival to Socrates, Xenophon's ideal philosopher. Ambler's precise translation makes it possible to engage in a close textual reading that establishes Xenophon as an important political thinker. Wayne Ambler is Associate Professor of Politics and Dean of the Rome Program at the University of Dallas.

CULTURAL STUDIES

Arabic

Kilito, Abdelfattah. *The Author and His Doubles: Essays on Classical Arabic Culture*. Translated by Michael Cooperson. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2001. 208 pp. Cloth: \$34.95; ISBN 0-8156-0699-0. Paper: \$17.95; ISBN 0-8156-2931-1. Middle East Literature in Translation. [*L'Auteur et ses doubles*, Éditions du Seuil, 1985]

In this volume, Kilito argues that genre – not authorship – is at the heart of classic Arabic literature. He examines love poetry and panegyric, the Prophet's Hadith, and recurring themes such as memorization, plagiarism and forgery, and dream visions of the dead, evoking these as an allegory for post-colonial Arab North Africa. Kilito's most recent works translated into English include *Speaking to Princes: Al-Yusi and Mawlay Ismail* and *In the Shadow of the Sultan*. Michael Cooperson teaches at the University of California at Los Angeles and is the author of *Classic Arabic Biography: The Heirs of the Prophets*.

French

Agacinski, Sylviane. *Parity of the Sexes*. Translated by Lisa Walsh. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001. 208 pp. Cloth: \$49.50; ISBN 0-231-115660-0. Paper: \$18.50; ISBN 0-231-11567-9. [*Politique des sexes*. Éditions du Seuil, 1998].

Agacinski's articulation of the theory of "parity" helped inspire a law

that requires the country's political parties to fill fifty percent of the candidacies with women in every political race. According to Agacinski, sex is not a social, cultural, or ethnic characteristic. Instead, it is a universal human trait. Thus, sexual difference should be emphasized rather than downplayed. Agacinski's demand for an equal number of female and male candidates in every political race has sparked debate across France and brings the work of French feminists into the realm of political power.

Corbin, Alain. *The Life of an Unknown: The Rediscovered World of a Clog Maker in Nineteenth-Century France*. Translated by Arthur Goldhammer. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001. 272 pp. Cloth: \$27.50. ISBN 0-231-11840-6. [*Le monde retrouvé de Louis-François Pinagot, sur les traces d'un inconnu 1798-1876*. Paris: Flammarion, 1998].

"My task is piecing together a puzzle...I hope to reconstitute the existence of a person whose memory has been abolished...I want to re-create him, to give him a second chance." Alain Corbin. Corbin recreates the life of Louis-François Pinagot, a forester and clog maker who lived during the heart of the nineteenth century. Through the use of civil registries and a general historical knowledge of the period, Corbin compares village life and forest life and examines how the church and various governments of France affected the lives of ordinary people.

Laszlo, Pierre. *Salt: Grain of Life*. Translated by Mary Beth Mader. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001. 256 pp. Cloth: \$22.95. ISBN 0-231-12198-9. [*Chemins et savoir du sel*. Hachette Littératures, 1998].

In this book, Pierre Laszlo examines the contributions that salt has made to human history, culture, and society. Laszlo mixes literary analysis, history, anthropology, biology, physics, economics, art history, political science, chemistry, ethnology, and linguistics to create a comprehensive body of knowledge about salt. From proverbs to technical arguments, and anecdotes to folk tales, Laszlo takes his reader through the world of "white gold."

Pastoureau, Michel. *The Devil's Cloth: A History of Stripes and Striped Fabric*. Translated by Jody Gladding. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001. 160 pp. Cloth: \$22.95. ISBN 0-231-12366-3. European Perspectives: A Series in Social Thought and Cultural Criticism. Lawrence D. Kritzman, Editor. [*Etoffe du Diable*, Éditions du Seuil, 1991].

Striped fabric was controversial in the medieval world and was

often relegated to those on the margins or outside the social order – jugglers or prostitutes for example. The West long continued to dress its slaves, servants, and convicts in stripes. However, in the last two centuries, stripes have also taken on a new, positive meaning, demonstrated, for example, in the stripes on the French and United States flags. Pastoureau’s book about stripes and striped fabric offers a unique perspective on the evolution of fashion, taste, and visual codes in Western culture.

Italian

Calasso, Roberto. *The Forty-nine Steps*. Translated by John Shepley. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2001. 280 pp. Cloth: \$29.95. ISBN 0-8166-3098-4. [*I quarantanove gradini*. Milan: Adelphi Edizioni, 1991].

“Forty-nine steps” refers to the Talmudic doctrine that there are forty-nine steps to meaning in every passage of the Torah. Calasso employs this interpretive approach to offer a “secret history” of European literature and philosophy in the wake of Nietzsche, Marx, and Freud. Calasso analyzes how figures such as Gustav Flaubert, Gottfried Benn, Karl Kraus, Martin Heidegger, Walter Benjamin, Franz Kafka, Bertolt Brecht, and Theodor Adorno have contributed to the current state of Western thought. The book’s theme is the power of fable and its persistence in art and literature despite its exclusion from orthodox philosophy. Translator John Shepley is a freelance writer and translator who lives in New York City. His translation of Pasolini’s *Roman Nights and Other Stories* won the first Italo Calvino Translation Award in 1987.

Portuguese

Gomes, Mercio P. *The Indians and Brazil*. Translated by John W. Moon. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2000. 301 pp. Cloth: \$49.95. ISBN 0-8130-1720-3. [*Os Indios e o Brasil*. Editoria Vozes, 1988].

First published in Portuguese in 1992, this work is an “insider’s view” of Indian-Portuguese relations in Brazil. The author, a respected Brazilian anthropologist who spent years doing field research on his country’s indigenous populations, emphasizes the perspective of the surviving Indians, provoking debate about the role of the anthropologist today and the need for the discipline of anthropology to take into account the survival of those who once were known as primitive people.

Spanish

Falla, Ricardo. *Quiché Rebelde: Religious Conversion, Politics, and Ethnic Identity in Guatemala*. Translated by Phillip Berryman. With a new foreword by Richard N. Adams and a new epilogue by the author. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2001. 279 pp. Paper: ISBN 0-292-72532-9. Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies. [*Quiché Rebelde: Estudio de un movimiento de conversión religiosa, rebelde a las creencias tradicionales, en San Antonio Ilotenango, Quiché (1948-1970)*. Editorial Universitaria de Guatemala, 1978].

Among the major changes faced by the Maya since the arrival of the Spanish in the sixteenth century is the imposition of outside religions on the Mayan culture. *Quiché Rebelde* examines what happened when Acción Católica came into the Guatemalan *municipio* of San Antonio Ilotenango, Quiché, to convert its inhabitants. Falla, a Guatemalan Jesuit priest and anthropologist, analyzes the movement's origins and why some people became part of it while others resisted. He shows how religion was used as another tool to readapt to the changing environment and how the process of conversion is related to the more general processes of cultural change that actually strengthen ethnic identity.

DRAMA

Chinese

Meng, Chengshun. *Mistress and Maid*. Translated by Cyril Birch. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001. 288 pp. Cloth: \$49.50; ISBN 0-231-12168-7. Paper: \$18.50; ISBN 0-231-12169-5. Translations from the Asian Classics.

Mistress and Maid, one of the greatest tragedies in Chinese drama, is here available for the first time in English. The story of Bella, her maid Petal, and the young scholar Shen Chun subverts both conventional morality and arranged marriage through vivid drama and witty comic scenes. Chinese critics have hailed the play as essentially revolutionary for its depiction of youthful resistance to latter-day Confucian values, but translator Cyril Birch notes that, "The glory of *Mistress and Maid* is the tender delicacy of the lovers' interactions." Cyril Birch is Agassiz Professor Emeritus in the Department of East Asian Languages at the University of California, Berkeley.

French

Feydeau, Georges. *Feydeau, First to Last*. Translated with an introduction by Norman R. Shapiro. New York: Applause, 2001. Copyright 1962, 1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 2001 by Norman Shapiro. Paper: \$15.95. ISBN 1-55783-463-6.

Feydeau was the greatest of the great age of French farceurs and the first to enter the modern repertory. Of the more than forty plays Feydeau wrote, over a third were one-acts. In this volume, Shapiro has selected and translated eight of these one-act plays, including Feydeau's first and last works.

Russian

Pushkin, Alexander. *The Little Tragedies*. Translated with critical essays by Nancy K. Anderson. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000. 226 pp. Cloth. ISBN 0-300-08025-5. Russian Literature and Thought. Gary Saul Morson, Series Editor.

The four "little tragedies" — *Mozart and Salieri*, *The Miserly Knight*, *The Stone Guest*, and *A Feast During the Plague* — are extremely compressed dialogues, each dealing with a dominant protagonist whose central internal conflict determines both the plot and structure of the play. Pushkin focuses on human passions and the interplay between free will and fate: though each protagonist could avoid self-ruin, instead he freely chooses it. Translator Nancy K. Anderson is an independent scholar in New Haven, Connecticut.

Spanish

Méndez, José María Rodríguez. *Autumn Flower*. Translated by Marion Peter Holt. New Brunswick: ESTRENO Plays, 2001. 63 pp. Paper: \$8.00. ISBN 1-888463-12-0. ESTRENO Contemporary Plays 20, Phyllis Zatlin, General Editor. [*Flor de Otoño*].

Méndez was the winner of the National Theatre Prize in 1994 and has figured among major Spanish playwrights for forty years. His plays present moments of Spain's social history, seen from the perspective of the oppressed who are its victims. *Autumn Flower* was inspired by a real transvestite singer and anarchist gunman, who confidently exploited his culture's assumptions about gender to subvert the culture from within.

HISTORY

French

Nora, Pierre, ed. *Rethinking France, Vol. 1: The State*. Translated by Mary Trouille. Translation directed by David P. Jordan. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001. 475 pp. Cloth: \$40.00. ISBN 0-226-59132-8. [*Les Lieux de mémoire*. Éditions Gallimard, 1984, 1986, and 1992].

The first volume in the Chicago translation of *The State* brings together essays that address the omnipresent role of the state in French life. Contributors include Alain Guéry, Maurice Agulhon, Bernard Guenée, Daniel Nordman, Robert Morrissey, Alain Boureau, Anne-Marie Lecoq, Hélène Himelfarb, Jean Carbonnier, Hervé Le Bras, and Pierre Nora. The forthcoming Chicago volumes will complete the English translation of this historical document.

German

Scheibert, Justus. *A Prussian Observes the American Civil War: The Military Studies of Justus Scheibert*. Translated and edited by Frederic Trautmann. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2001. 250 pp. Cloth \$34.95. ISBN 0-8262-1348-0. Shades of Blue and Gray Series, Herman Hattaway and Jon L. Wakelyn, eds. [Originally published in German under the titles *Der Bürgerkrieg in den Nordamerikanischen Staaten*; and *Das Zusammenwirken der Armee und Marine*.]

Justus Scheibert, an officer in the Royal Prussian Engineers, was sent to the United States for seven months to observe the Civil War and report the effects of artillery on fortifications. His interests, however, surpassed his limited assignment, and his observations went on to include tactics, logistics, intelligence, strategy, and medical service. Scheibert was sympathetic to the South, but he attempted to write unbiased, informed commentary for his fellow Prussian officers. The result is a firsthand account of the Civil War, including soldiers, weaponry, and battle, that makes a significant contribution to Civil War studies. Translator Frederic Trautmann is Professor Emeritus of Rhetoric and Communication at Temple University.

Italian

Ginzburg, Carlo. *Wooden Eyes: Nine Reflections On Distance*. Translated by Martin Ryle and Kate Soper. New York: Columbia University Press,

261pp. Cloth: \$24.95. ISBN 0-231-11960-7. European Perspectives, Lawrence D. Kritzman, Editor. [*Occhiacci di Legno*. Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Editore Milano, 1998].

In nine interconnected essays, Carlo Ginzburg, a leading figure in the “microhistory” movement, asks the question, “What is the exact distance that permits us to see things as they are?” He suggests that to understand our world, it is necessary to find a balance between nearness and distance, between the myopia that comes with familiarity and the distortions that result from our attachment. Touching on philosophy, history, philology, and ethics, and including examples from present-day popular culture, the book offers a new perspective on the universally relevant theme of distance.

HOLOCAUST LITERATURE

Czech

Lustig, Arnošt. *The House of Returned Echoes*. Translated by Josef Lustig. Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University Press, 2001. 311 pp. Cloth: \$69.95; ISBN 0-8101-1858-0. Paper: \$19.95; ISBN [*Dům vrácené ozvěny*].

Emil Ludvig has always relied on the simple traditions of his family and the basic laws of civilization to counteract his misfortunes. During the hard times in Prague between the wars, he is willing to struggle to keep his family and his business alive, despite anti-Semitism and economic hardship. But as a decent man himself, he refuses to believe the Nazi threats will be carried out. In this novel, Lustig pays tribute to his father, who died in Auschwitz in 1944. Translator Josef Lustig has been the academic director of the Prague Semester at American University in Washington, D.C. He is an occasional documentary filmmaker, journalist, and translator.

Dutch

Ruebsamen, Helga. *The Song and the Truth*. Translated by Paul Vincent. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000. 356 pp. Cloth: \$26.00. ISBN 0-375-40261-6. [*Het lied en de waarheid*. Amsterdam: Uitgeverij Contact, 1997].

The Song and the Truth tells the story of five year old Lulu, who leaves her tropical home in Java to return with her family to Holland in 1939. Lulu’s family is Jewish, and they are soon forced into hiding by the German invasion. Lulu leaves childhood and enters a hostile world, sustained only by her father’s love (her mother has left for London) and her own fierce, increasingly tested courage.

German

Canetti, Veza. *The Tortoises*. Translated by Ian Mitchell. New York: New Directions Books, 2001. 224 pp. Cloth: \$24.95. ISBN 0-8112-1468-0. [*Schildkröten*].

Written within three months of fleeing Vienna, ten days after Kristallnacht in November 1938, Veza Canetti's dark novel depicts the destruction of the Austrian Jews. Never before published in English, the novel describes a Jewish couple who live in a quiet, secluded villa outside Vienna. Their lives are gradually destroyed by rising Nazism, as more and more people from the Third Reich appropriate rooms in their home, eventually driving the couple from Vienna altogether. Translator Ian Mitchell lived in Germany for years as an English teacher. He is presently retired and living in Glasgow. He is also the translator of Canetti's *Yellow Street* (ND '91).

Italian

Debenedetti, Giacomo. *October 16, 1943* and *Eight Jews*. Translated by Estelle Gilson with a preface by Alberto Moravia. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2001. 112 pp. Cloth: \$18.95. ISBN 0-268-03713-2. [*16 ottobre 1943*. Sellerio, Palermo, 1993].

Giacomo Debenedetti wrote *October 16, 1943* more than fifty years ago. The book tells the story of the shockingly brief and efficient roundup of more than one thousand Roman Jews for the gas chambers of Auschwitz. Completed a year after the event, Debenedetti's intimate details are especially poignant, because Debenedetti himself was a witness to the tragedy, which forced him into hiding with his family. *Eight Jews* is the companion piece to the earlier work, written in response to testimony about the Ardeatine Cave massacres. These works appear together for the first time in an American translation.

LITERARY CRITICISM

Chinese

Gong, Shifen. *A Fine Pen: The Chinese View of Katherine Mansfield*. Dunedin, New Zealand: University of Otago Press, 2001. ISBN 1-877276-04-9.

For almost eighty years, Katherine Mansfield's stories and poems have been popular with Chinese readers, and she has had a significant influence on a

number of short story writers. In this book Shifen Gong selects and introduces twenty texts about Mansfield and her work, translated into English for the first time. Together they bring fresh insights to the largely Eurocentric criticism of Mansfield's work.

Yu, Anthony C. *Rereading the Stone: Desire and the Making of Fiction in Dream of the Red Chamber*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997; first paperback printing, 2001. 344 pp. Cloth: \$67.50; ISBN 691-1561-9. Paper: \$25.00; ISBN 0-691-09013-0.

The eighteenth-century *Honglougong*, known in English as *Dream of the Red Chamber* or *The Story of the Stone*, is generally thought to be one of the greatest of Chinese novels. In this book, Anthony Yu examines the novel as a story about fictive representation, challenging the authority of history as well as referential biases in reading. Yu argues that the heart of *Honglougong* is the narration of desire. According to Yu, this focalizing treatment of desire may be *Honglougong's* most distinctive accomplishment. Yu analyzes principal motifs of the narrative such as dream, mirror, literature, and religious enlightenment through close readings of selected episodes. Yu's work creates a new conceptual framework in which to reevaluate this masterpiece.

French

Brassaï. *Proust: In the Power of Photography*. Translated by Richard Howard. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001. 152 pp. Cloth: \$35.00. ISBN 0-226-07144-8. [*Marcel Proust sous l'emprise de la photographie*. Éditions Gallimard, 1997].

When Brassai arrived in Paris as a young man in 1924, he immersed himself in the works of Marcel Proust in order to improve his French. Brassai came to think of Proust as a kindred spirit, and this interest continued throughout his life. In his book, Brassai reveals what he called an "unsuspected" aspect of both the author and his work. Brassai describes how Proust avidly collected portraits of friends and acquaintances and then used photography in his innovative narrative technique. Illustrated with photographs from Brassai's High Society series, this book recaptures the important role photography played in early twentieth-century culture from an entirely unique vantage point.

Japanese

Poulton, M. Cody. *Spirits of Another Sort: The Plays of Izumi Kyoka*. Ann Arbor: Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan, 2001.

346 pp. ISBN 0-939512-01-7. Michigan Monograph Series in Japanese Studies, Number 29.

Spirits of Another Sort is a literary-critical study that traces the development of Kyoka's work from the melodramatic formulas of his early ideological fiction to the increasingly grotesque and fantastic permutations of the original pattern in his plays of the Taisho era. Poulton argues that the dramas reveal, in an often unmitigated fashion, the writer's romanticism, his belief in the occult, his aversion to contemporary society, and his idiosyncratic but powerful ethical and aesthetic ideals. M. Cody Poulton is an Associate professor in the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Portuguese

Schwarz, Roberto. *A Master on the Periphery of Capitalism: Machado de Assis*. Translated by John Gledson. Durham: Duke University Press, 2001. 194 pp. Cloth: \$54.95; ISBN 0-8223-2210-2. Paper: \$18.95; ISBN 0-8223-2239-0. Latin America in Translation Series. Post-Contemporary Interventions Series, Stanley Fish and Fredric James, Series Editors.

This book is a translation from the original Portuguese of Schwarz's study of the work of Brazilian novelist Machado de Assis (1839-1908). Schwarz focuses his literary and cultural analysis on Machado's *The Posthumous Memoirs of Bras Cubas*, which was published in 1880. Writing in the Marxist tradition, Schwarz investigates in particular how social structure is internalized as literary form, arguing that Machado's style replicates and reveals the deeply embedded class divisions of nineteenth-century Brazil. Roberto Schwarz is the author of *Misplaced Ideas: Essays on Brazilian Culture* and *Duas Meninas*. Translator John Gledson is Professor of Brazilian Studies Emeritus at the University of Liverpool. He is also the translator of *Misplaced Ideas*, the only other English translation of a work by Schwarz.

Russian

Turgenev, Ivan. *Literary Reminiscences and Autobiographical Fragments*. Translated with an introduction by David Magarshack and an essay on Turgenev by Edmund Wilson. Originally published: New York: Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, 1958; Reprinted by Ivan R. Dee, Chicago, by arrangement with Farrar, Straus and Giroux; First Ivan R. Dee paperback edition, 2001. 309pp. Paper: \$16.95. ISBN 1-56663-405-9. [Literaturney I zhiteiskie vospominaniia].

Toward the end of his career as a novelist, Turgenev wrote the essays that comprise *Literary Reminiscences*. In these essays, Turgenev discusses the character of creative writing, the attitude of the artist to his environment, and the transmutation of the artist's experience into a work of art. He offers, as well, studies of Pushkin, Gogol, Belinsky, Lermontov, and Krylov, and an account of his own difficulties in writing *Fathers and Sons*. The book also includes descriptions of Turgenev's travels through Italy and a firsthand account of the 1848 political riots in Paris.

MUSIC

German

Georg Muffat. *Georg Muffat on Performance Practice. The Texts from Florilegium Primum, Florilegium Secundum, and Auserlesene Instrumentalmusik*. Translation and commentary by David K. Wilson. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001. 139 pp. Paper: \$24.95. ISBN 0-253-21397-6.

Georg Muffat was one of the most cosmopolitan composers of the seventeenth century. Born of Scottish and French ancestry in Alsace, he studied in France and Germany, traveled to Vienna, Prague, and Augsburg, and worked in Salzburg, Passau, and Rome. Muffat believed that the combination of elements from various national styles could produce music more profound and delightful than music from a single national style. The book is especially enlightening on differences between French and German practice. Muffat discusses pitch, ornamentation, bowing, and more. Translator David K. Wilson is a Baroque violinist based in the San Francisco area. He has performed extensively with period instrument chamber ensembles and orchestras in the United States and in Germany.

MYTH/LEGEND

Mayan

Montejo, Víctor D. *El Q'anil: Man of Lightning*. Trilingual Edition: English, Spanish, and Popb'al Ti' (Jakalte Maya). Translated by Wallace Kaufman and Susan G. Rascon. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2001. 104 pp. Paper: \$24.95. ISBN 0-8165-2082-8. Sun Tracks: An American Indian Literary Series, Ofelia Zepeda, Series Editor.

The story of El Q'anil, a young man who volunteers as a porter for a war party and ultimately saves his people from destruction, is the central legend of Guatemala's Jakalteq Maya, until now preserved only through oral tradition and fragmented recordings by outsiders. In a new trilingual edition, Victor Montejo recounts the complete legend in Popb'al Ti' and Spanish versions with an English translation by Wallace Kaufman and Susan G. Rascon. His reconstruction preserves this legend and reflects concern for the survival of Mayan culture in the face of oppression. Montejo worked with Maya elders, transcribing the story and capturing the flow and dignity of their storytelling.

NOVELS

Chinese

Roy, David Tod, translator. *The Plum in the Golden Vase or Chin P'ing Mei*. Volume Two: *The Rivals*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001. 712 pp. Cloth: \$39.50. ISBN 0-691-07077-6. Princeton Library of Asian Translations.

Chin P'ing Mei is an anonymous sixteenth-century Chinese novel that focuses on the domestic life of Hsi-men Ch'ing, a corrupt, upwardly mobile merchant in a provincial town, who maintains a harem of six wives and concubines. This work, known primarily for its erotic realism, is also a landmark in the development of narrative art – not only from a specifically Chinese perspective but also in a world-historical context. The book is the second of five planned volumes. The translation and annotation seek to faithfully represent and elucidate all the rhetorical features of the original in its most authentic form, thus enabling the Western reader to appreciate this Chinese masterpiece at its true worth. Translator David Tod Roy is Professor Emeritus of Chinese Literature at the University of Chicago, where he has studied the *Chin P'ing Mei* and taught it in his classes for the last three decades.

Dutch

Japin, Arthur. *The Two Hearts of Kwasi Boachi*. Translated by Ina Rilke. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000. 384 pp. Cloth: \$26.95. ISBN 0-375-40675-1. [*De zwarte met het witte hart*. Amsterdam: Uitgeverij De Arbeiderspers, 1997].

At the invitation of Dutch emissaries to West Africa, the king of the Ashanti sends his son and nephew to Holland in 1837 to receive the benefits of a European education. Instead, the two boys become pawns in the brutal game of

the illicit slave trade. Arthur Japin's first novel, based on a true story, is an exploration of the meaning of friendship, belonging, and honor.

French

Bénabou, Marcel. *Dump This Book While You Still Can!* Translated by Steven Rendall with an introduction by Warren Motte. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2001. 182 pp. Cloth: \$50.00; ISBN 0-8032-1319-0. Paper: \$19.95; ISBN 0-8032-6186-1. [*Jette ce livre avant qu'il soit trop tard*. Paris: Editions Seghers, 1992].

Opening a book that has mysteriously appeared amid the clutter of his desk, the narrator finds himself exhorted not to read further, but to throw the book away. Instead, he tries different strategies for approaching the book, none of which work. The narrator's tempestuous, increasingly obsessive relationship with the book he is determined to read, interwoven with the story of a real love affair, is, in its own challenging way, a charmed and charming, deeply provocative meditation upon reading and writing, and their inevitable discontents. Translator Steven Rendall is the author of *Distinguo: Reading Montaigne Differently* and has translated numerous books.

Bernanos, Georges. *Under Satan's Sun*. Translated by J.C. Whitehouse. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2001. 257 pp. Cloth: \$50.00; ISBN 0-8032-1306-9. Paper: \$20.00; ISBN 0-8032-6180-2. [*Sous le soleil de Satan*. Librairie-Plon: 1926, 1987, 1994].

This novel follows the fortunes of a young, gauche, and fervent Catholic priest who is a misfit in the world and in his church, creating scandal and disharmony wherever he turns. His insight into the inner lives of others and his perception of the workings of Satan in the everyday are gifts that fatefully come into play in the priest's chance encounter with a young murderess, whose life and emotions he can see with dreadful clarity, and whose destiny inexorably becomes entangled with his own. This translation marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of Georges Bernanos's novel, a work that reflects the author's deeply-felt religion and belief in the existence of evil as a spiritual force. Translator J.C. Whitehouse is Reader in Comparative Literature at the University of Bradford. He has translated many books, including Bernanos's *The Imposter* (Nebraska 1999).

Constant, Paule. *Trading Secrets*. Translated by Betsy Wing with an introduction by Margot Miller. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2001. 170. Cloth: \$45.00; ISBN 0-8032-1510-X. Paper: \$20.00; ISBN 0-8032-6404-6. European Women Writers Series.

[*Confidence pour Confidence*. Editions Gallimard, 1998].

Winner of the Prix Goncourt in 1998, this novel leads readers through fascinating chambers of life where autobiography is constantly reimagined. A darkly comic novel about four women aging less-than-gracefully, *Trading Secrets* takes us to an academic conference in Kansas where, in an encounter between a French woman and her American counterpart, the differences between their two cultures become sharply apparent. The novel offers an incisive picture of a French posture toward things American, from race relations to feminism to academia. The book is a mirror, both in how its characters reflect one another and in what it shows us of ourselves and our world. Translator Margot Miller teaches French at the University of Maryland.

Gide, André. *The Immoralist*. Translated by David Watson with an introduction by Alan Sheridan. New York: Penguin Books, 2001. 124 pp. Paper: \$10.00. ISBN 0-14-218002-5. Penguin Twentieth-Century Classics. [*Immoraliste*].

In *The Immoralist*, André Gide presents the confessional account of a man seeking the truth of his own nature. The story's protagonist, Michel, knows nothing about love when he marries the gentle Marceline, out of duty to his father. On the couple's honeymoon to Tunisia, Michel becomes very ill, and during his recovery, he meets a young Arab boy whose radiant health and beauty captivate him. An awakening for him both sexually and morally, Michel discovers a new freedom in seeking to live according to his own desires. However, he also comes to find that freedom can be a burden.

Lapierre, Alexandra. *Artemisia*. Translated by Liz Heron. New York: Grove Press, 2000. 427 pp. Cloth: \$27.00. ISBN 0-8021-1672-8. [*Artemisia*. Éditions Robert Laffont, S.A., 1998].

Lapierre's novel tells the story of Artemisia, born to the artist Orazio Gentileschi at the beginning of the 1600's. Apprenticed to her father at an early age, Artemisia showed such a remarkable talent that her father came to view her as the most precious thing he owned. This is the story of the love-hate relationship between master and pupil, father and daughter, at a time when daughters belonged to their fathers and had no legal rights. Artemisia's talent was such that she overturned the prejudices of her time, winning the admiration of wealthy patrons, kings, and queens.

Liking, Werewere. *It Shall Be of Jasper and Coral and Love-across-a-Hundred-Lives: Two Novels*. Translated by Marjolijn de Jager. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2000. 252 pp. Paper. ISBN 0-8139-1943-6.

CARAF Books. Caribbean and African Literature translated from French. Carrol F. Coates, Editor. [*Elle sera de jaspe et de corail*. Editions L'Harmattan, 1983. *L'amour-cent-vies*. Editions Publisud, 1988].

These two novels are the first of Werewere Liking's work to be translated into English. The stories spare nothing in their satirical portraits of the patriarchal view of African society as they experiment radically with the novel form. Werewere Liking was born in Cameroon and now lives in the Ivory Coast, where she founded the world-renowned Ki-Yi Village for artists in Abidjan. Marjolijn de Jager won the ALTA Outstanding Literary Translation Award for her translation of Assia Djebar's *Women of Algiers in Their Apartment*.

Simon, Claude. *The Jardin Des Plantes*. Translated with an introduction by Jordan Stump. Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University Press, 2001. 284 pp. ISBN 0-8101-1723-1. [*Le Jardin des Plantes*. Editions de Minuit, 1997].

Since his international breakthrough with 1960's *La Route des Flandres*, Claude Simon has captivated readers worldwide with his relentless examination of interior life – in particular his own. Breaking from realistic narrative, obsessed with the power (and betrayals) of memory, *The Jardin des Plantes* is nothing less than an inquiry into what creates each of us. It is a complex novel that demands much, a novel that challenges the reader to question the construction of the self and the life experiences that create us. Claude Simon was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1985. Translator Jordan Stump is an associate professor in the department of modern languages and literatures at the University of Nebraska.

Quignard, Pascal. *On Wooden Tablets: Apronemia Avitia*. Translated by Bruce X. Providence: Burning Deck, 2001. 112 pp. Paper: \$10.00. ISBN 1-886224-45-5. Serie d' Ecriture, 15. [*Les tablettes de buis d'Apronemia Avitia*. Editions Gallimard, 1984].

At the end of the 4th century, a Roman Patrician matron writes notes on wooden tablets, somewhat in the manner of Sei Shonagon's *Pillow Book*. She notes erotic souvenirs, jokes, scenes that have touched her, in addition to accounts and lists of things to do. For twenty years Apronemia Avitia keeps her journal without mentioning the ruinous events she witnesses: The Roman Empire is crumbling, invaded by the "Barbarians" from the North, as well as being infiltrated from within by the Christian "party." She does not see or perhaps does not want to see. Quignard's novel redefines historical fiction as both hoax and enigma. Translator Bruce X has, under the name Bruce Boone,

written fiction, in addition to translating *Albucius*, another of Quignard's novels, as well as other works.

German

Fontane, Theodor. *Effi Briest*. Translated by Hugh Rorrison and Helen Chambers with an introduction by Helen Chambers. New York: Penguin Books, 2001. This translation first published by Angel Books, 1995. 256 pp. Paper: \$13.00. ISBN 0-14-044766-0.

In *Effi Briest*, Fontane's taut, ironic narrative depicts a world where sexuality and the enjoyment of life are stifled by narrow-mindedness and circumstance. Effi is married at seventeen to an austere civil servant twice her age. Set in Bismarck, the story of a socially suitable but emotionally disastrous match shifts from childhood idyll in Brandenburg to a remote Baltic port and back to Imperial Berlin. The story demonstrates the truth of Fontane's remark that "women's stories are generally far more interesting." Translator Hugh Rorrison has published extensively on modern German theater and teaches German film at the University of Leeds. Helen Chambers organized the first conference on English translations of Fontane in 1992 and teaches German at the University of St. Andrew.

Musil, Robert. *The Confusions of Young Törless*. Translated by Shaun Whiteside with an introduction by J.M. Coetzee. New York: Penguin Books, 2001. 160 pp. Paper: \$10.00. ISBN 0-14-21.8000-9. [*Die Verwirrung des Zöglings Törleß*].

In this novel, Musil explores the dark, irrational undercurrents beneath the calm surface of bourgeois life. Published while Musil was still a student, the story reveals the bullying, snobbery, and vicious homoerotic violence at an elite boys' academy. The novel illustrates the crisis of a whole society, where the breakdown of traditional values and the cult of pitiless masculine strength were soon to lead to the cataclysm of the First World War and later to the rise of fascism.

Scheerbart, Paul. *The Gray Cloth*. Translated with an introduction by John A. Stuart. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2001. 143 pp. Cloth: \$24.95. ISBN: 0-262-19460-0. [*Graues Tuch und zehn Prozent weiss*].

In this novel, the first of Scheerbart's novels to be translated into English, Scheerbart (1863-1915) uses subtle irony and the structural simplicity of a fairy tale to present the theories of colored glass outlined in his well-known treatise *Glass Architecture*. The novel is set forward in time to the mid-twentieth century.

The protagonist, a Swiss architect, circumnavigates the globe by airship with his wife, constructing wildly varied, colored-glass buildings. In his introduction, John Stuart shows how Scheerbart strove to integrate his spiritual and romantic leanings with the modern world, often relying on glass architecture to do so. Stuart is Associate Professor and Director of the Graduate Program in Architecture at Florida International University.

Schmidt, Arno. *The School for Atheists: A Novella = Comedy in 6 Acts*.

Translated with an introduction by John E. Woods. Los Angeles: Green Integer, 2001. 301 pp. Original Paperback. Paper: \$16.95. ISBN 1-89-295-96-2. [*Die Schule der Atheisten: Novellen = Comodie in 6 Aufzugen*. Frankfurt am Main: S. Fischer Verlag, 1972].

Translated into English for the first time, *The School for Atheists* is a complex work of fiction by the German novelist Arno Schmidt, whose masterpiece is *Zettel's Traum*, often compared to Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake*. This later novel permits a more traditional reading than many of Schmidt's other works. The novel is a story within a story – a drama within a narrative – that tests the atheist stances of the book's characters. The novel includes complex references to culture – popular and classical – from Jules Verne to William Shakespeare. Green Integer has previously published Schmidt's DIALOGS I and will publish the second volume of DIALOGS early next year.

Sebald, W.G. *Vertigo*. Translated by Michael Hulse. New York: New Directions, 2001. 272 pp. Paper: \$13.95. ISBN 0-8112-1485-0.

[*Schwindel, Gefühle*. Frankfurt am Main: Vito von Eichborn GmbH & Verlag KG, 1990].

Vertigo, W.G. Sebald's first novel, tells a story of lost love, sickness and death, and the making of memories. The text employs the devices and modes of biographical and autobiographical writing, of travelogue, thriller fiction, case history, childhood reminiscences, legend, and horror story. The various genres are interlaced with recurring motifs, enigmatic sequences, and mirror images as the narrator journeys to Vienna, Venice, Verona, Riva, and the Alpine village of his childhood. Line by line, the reader is lured into an almost inescapable maze, as the narrator follows in the wake of Stendhal and Kafka.

Greek

Kalligas, Pavlos. *Thanos Vlekas*. Translated with an introduction by Thomas Doulis. Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University Press, 2001. 211 pp. Paper: \$17.95. ISBN 0-8101-1817-3. [*Thanos Vlekas*, 1855].

Pavlos Kalligas published *Thanos Vlekas* in 1855 and never wrote fiction again. When asked for permission to reprint the novel, he denied he had written it. The book is a portrayal of the problems facing the newly established Greek state after its War of Independence. The story of two opposing brothers, one who works the land while the other pursues political ambitions, the novel demonstrates how patriotic passions and the temptations of power can blur the line separating heroes from villains. Translator Thomas Doulis is a professor emeritus at Portland State University.

Hebrew

Shalev, Zeruya. *Love Life*. Translated by Dalya Bilu. New York: Grove Press, 2000. 286 pp. Cloth: \$24.00. ISBN 0-8021-1655-8. [*Haye ahavah*].

Zeruya Shalev's *Love Life* is a bold and visceral story of a young married woman's turbulent affair with an older man. When Yaara meets Aryeh, her father's boyhood friend, she is immediately drawn to his impassive and assured presence. Their affair soon spirals toward the destructive as Yaara finds that the things in Aryeh that attract her also repel her with equal intensity. Shalev lays bare Yaara's struggle to navigate the extreme terrain ranging from the sublime to the grotesque, the sacred to the profane, the liberating to the all-consuming.

Italian

Lucarelli, Carlo. *Almost Blue*. Translated by Oonagh Stransky. San Francisco: City Lights Books, 2001. Paper: \$11.95. ISBN 0-87286-389-1. City Lights Noir/*City Lights Italian Voices*. [Torino, Italy: Giulio Einaudi Editore, 1997].

In *Almost Blue*, a dynamic woman detective and a blind man pursue a bizarre killer of university students through Bologna's post-punk underground. From the multiple perspectives of the detective, the blind man, and the assassin, Lucarelli creates a gripping thriller, as he explores Bologna's urban sprawl, labyrinthine streets, and the haunts of those who live by night—students, revolutionaries, fugitives, and criminals. *Almost Blue* premiered as a film at the Cannes Film Festival in the Spring of 2001. Other Lucarelli tales are currently under contract for upcoming film and TV projects. This is Lucarelli's first book to be published in the United States.

Pirandello, Luigi. *Her Husband*. Translated with an afterword by Martha King and Mary Ann Frese Witt. Durham: Duke University Press, 2000. 242 pp. Cloth. ISBN 0-8223-2600-0. [*Suo marito*].

Luigi Pirandello wrote the novel *Her Husband* in 1911, before he produced any of the well-known plays with which his name is most often associated today. Translated for the first time into English, *Her Husband* is by turns funny, biting, satirical, and tinged with anguish. The novel portrays the complexities of male/female relations in the context of a newly emerging, small but vocal Italian feminist movement. Martha King is the translator of numerous books. Mary Ann Frese Witt is Professor of French and Italian at North Carolina State University.

Japanese

Yokomitsu, Riichi. *Shanghai*. Translated with a postscript by Dennis Washburn. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2001. 239 pp. Cloth: \$45.00; ISBN 1-929280-00-9. Paper: \$18.95; ISBN 1-929280-01-7. The Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan. [Shanghai].

The novel *Shanghai* tells the story of a group of Japanese expatriates living in the International Settlement at the time of the May 30 Incident of 1925. The personal lives and desires of the main characters play out against a historical backdrop of labor unrest, factional intrigue, colonialist ambitions, and racial politics. Yokomitsu Riichi (1898-1947) was a central figure in the generation of intellectuals and writers who rose to prominence in the 1920s.

Yoshimoto, Banana. *Asleep*. Translated by Michael Emmerich. New York: Grove Press, 2000. 177pp. Cloth: \$21.00. ISBN 0-8021-1669-8. [*Shirakawa Yofune*. Kadokawa Shoten, 1989].

In *Asleep*, Banana Yoshimoto spins the stories of three women, all bewitched into a spiritual sleep. One, mourning for a lost lover, finds herself sleepwalking at night. Another, who has embarked on a relationship with a man whose wife is in a coma, finds herself suddenly unable to stay awake. A third finds her sleep haunted by another woman whom she was once pitted against in a love triangle. Translator Michael Emmerich has also translated *First Snow on Fuji* by Kawabata Yasunari. He currently lives in Kyoto, Japan.

Portuguese

Albues, Tereza. *Pedra Canga*. Translated by Clifford E. Landers. Los Angeles: Green Integer, 2001. 153 pp. Paper: \$12.95. ISBN 1-82295-70-9. [*Pedra Canga*. Rio de Janeiro: Philobiblion Livros de Arte, 1987].

Translated for the first time into English, *Pedra Canga* tells the story of a small and isolated community in the Brazilian Pantanal, or wetlands. Dreaming and suffering, the townspeople exist in the mystical reality of their private universe. With insight and humor, the novel tells of the ultimate vindication of the community against a powerful family that has long oppressed them. Filled with magic events, diabolic storms, and visions, this work is in the tradition of the best South American magic realism.

Russian

Lermontov, Mikhail. *A Hero of Our Time*. Translated with an introduction by Paul Foote. New York: Penguin Books, 2001. Revised edition. Translation first published in 1966. 169 pp. Paper: \$12.00. ISBN 0-14-044795-4. [First published in Russian, 1840].

First published in 1840, *A Hero of Our Time* is the first example of the psychological novel in Russia. Pechorin, the hero who is bored by his stifling world, embarks on a series of adventures involving smugglers, brigands, soldiers, rivals, and lovers. The book is comprised of five linked episodes, using different narrators and Pechorin's own diaries, to create a series of snapshots that form a complex portrait of his character. Described as "a dangerous man" by one of his female victims, Pechorin outraged many critics with his immoral behavior when the book was first published. The book contains a new introduction, chronology, maps and explanatory notes.

Tsyppkin, Leonid. *Summer in Baden-Baden*. Translated by Roger and Angela Keys with an introduction by Susan Sontag. New York: New Directions, 2001. 160 pp. Cloth: \$23.95. ISBN 0-8112-1484-2. [Originally published in Russian as *Leto V Badene*. First published in English in 1987 by Quartet Books.]

Translated into English for the first time in the United States, *Summer in Baden-Baden* is a complex, highly personal, fictional biography of Dostoyevsky. In the story, Tsyppkin borrows from Dostoyevsky's wife's diaries to relate Dostoyevsky's passionate obsessions with gambling, his wife, and his traumatic relations with literary contemporaries. The book was smuggled out of the Soviet Union and serialized in Russian by the émigré New York weekly *Novyy Amerikanets*, beginning March 13, 1982. Tsyppkin died in Moscow on March 20, 1982, on his 56th birthday, never knowing that his work had been read, let alone published.

Volos, Andrei. *Hurramabad*. Translated by Arch Tait. Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2001. 240 pp. Paper: \$14.95. ISBN 1-56663-373-7. Glas 26. Glas New Russian Writing.

Hurramabad, the 1998 winner of the Anti-Booker Prize, describes the bloody national strife and the eviction of Russians from Tadjikistan following the collapse of the Soviet Union. The title is the name of a mythical city of joy and happiness. When civil war erupts in the country, many Russians are reluctant to leave their home. However, normal life gradually vanishes, replaced by atrocity and death. Volos creates vivid pictures from street scenes, snatches of conversation at the bazaar, comments by wise old men, and life stories of simple people, Russians and Tadjiks alike. Translator Arch Tait is the editor of *Glas* in England. Natasha Perova in the Moscow editor.

Spanish

Cela, Camilo José. *The Hive*. Translated by J.M. Cohen and Arturo Barea. Normal, Illinois: Dalkey Archive Press, 2001. Paperback reprint. 250 pp. Paper: \$12.95. ISBN 1-56478-268-9. [*Colmena*, 1953].

Cela's novel, banned for many years by the Franco regime, presents a panoramic view of the degradation and suffering of the lower-middle class in post-Civil War Spain. Readers are introduced to over a hundred characters through a series of interlocking vignettes, transforming this book from a social document into a work of innovative fiction. Filled with violence, hunger, and compassion, *The Hive* captures the ambitions and constraints of life under a dictatorship. Camilo Jose Cela was the recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1989.

Marcos, Juan Manuel. *Gunter's Winter*. Translated by Tracy Karl Lewis. New York: Peter Lang, 2001. 210 pp. Cloth: 54.95. ISBN 0-8204-4589-4. [*Invierno de Gunter*].

Translated for the first time into English, *Gunter's Winter* offers an intellectually challenging vision of Latin America in the turbulent 1980s. Murder, dictatorship, love, eroticism, torture, and the healing power of art are some of the elements that comprise this novel of political repression and personal redemption set in Corrientes, Argentina. Translator Tracy Carl Lewis is currently coordinator of the Spanish program at the State University of New York in Oswego. He has written and lectured extensively on Paraguayan and Peruvian literature.

Marías, Javier. *Tomorrow in the Battle Think on Me*. Translated by Margaret Jull Costa. New York: New Directions, 2001. First published in hardcover by HarcourtBrace in 1997. 320 pp. Paper: \$15.95. ISBN 0-8112-1482-6. [*Mañana en la batalla piensa en mí*, 1994].

Marías' novel is an intricate psychological thriller, detailing the actions taken by a man after his lover dies in his arms while her husband is away on business, and her baby is asleep in the room next door. After fleeing the scene, the man becomes obsessed with discovering exactly what happens to the woman's son, husband, and father. He ingratiates himself into the family circle, and in the end, discovers what lies reveal and the truth may conceal. Javier Marías' work has been translated into twenty-nine languages.

Mármol, José. *Amalia*. Translated by Helen Lane. Doris Sommer, editor. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. 664 pp. Paper: \$25.00. ISBN 0-19-51227-1. Library of Latin America, Jean Franco, General Editor.

Written by José Mármol while in exile, *Amalia* was conceived as a protest to the cut-throat dictatorship of Juan Manuel de Rosas during the tumultuous years of post-independence Argentina and as a way to provide a picture of the political events during his regime. A year after its publication in 1851, Rosa fell from power, and *Amalia* became Argentina's national novel. Marmol tells the story of Eduardo and Amalia, who fall in love while Eduardo convalesces from a death-squad attack in Amalia's home. It is both a detailed picture of life under a dictatorship and a tragic love story between a provincial girl and a young man from Buenos Aires. Helen Lane has translated the work of Mario Vargas Llosa and Octavio Paz and is the translator Fray Servando's *Memoirs* for the Library of Latin America series.

Picón, Jacinto Octavio. *Sweet and Delectable*. Translated by Robert M. Fedorchek. Cranbury, NJ: Associated University Presses, 2000. 310 pp. Cloth. ISBN 0-8387-5456-2. [*Dulce y sabrosa*].

In *Sweet and Delectable*, Picón takes the reader on a brief tour of the stage and stage life in Madrid during the second half of the nineteenth century. The reader sees, in particular, the struggles of the women, and the indignities to which they are exposed in order to retain a place in a chorus line or to land a decent role. The book explores in detail the relationship of the sexes and the archetypal traits of the Don Juan figure who meets his match. Translator Robert M. Fedorchek is a Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures at Fairfield University. He is the translator of eight other Bucknell University Press publications.

Prieto, José Manuel. *Nocturnal Butterflies of the Russian Empire*. Translated by Carol and Thomas Christensen. New York: Grove Press, 2000. 322 pp. Cloth: \$24.00. ISBN 0-8021-1665-5. [*Livadia*. Barcelona: Literatura Mondadori, 1999].

J. is a smuggler living on the fringes between Eastern and Western Europe, making his living fencing the flotsam of communism's collapse. He has taken a commission to illegally trap a rare Russian butterfly and decides to use it as an opportunity to smuggle V., his Russian lover, who has no papers, back into her homeland. Just over the border, she deserts him, so J. continues alone to their original destination, a small village on the Black Sea. Then she begins to send him letters, and he waits, searching for the answer that will lure the butterfly into his net and V. back into his life.

Steimberg, Alicia. *Call Me Magdalen*. Translated by Andrea G. Labinger. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2001. 137 pp. Paper: \$16.95. ISBN 0-8032-9282-1. Latin American Women Writers. [*Cuando digo Magdalena*. Editorial Planeta Argentina, 1992].

Set within the framework of a murder mystery, Steimberg weaves a tale that is more concerned with questions of gender, identity, and existence itself than with who might have committed the story's possible murder. The protagonist Magdalena conducts us through her tortuous childhood as an Argentine Jew and through her doubts about morality and mortality, the existence of God, and the amorphous nature of identity. In the novel, nothing is quite what it seems, including Magdalena herself, who, while recounting the story's events, changes her name as often as she changes her mind. Steimberg won the 1992 Planeta Prize for this novel. Translator Andrea G. Labinger is a professor of Spanish and the Honors director at the University of La Verne in Claremont, California.

Swedish

Söderberg, Hjalmar. *The Serious Game*. Translated by Eva Claeson. London: Marion Boyars, 2001. 160 pp. Paper: \$14.95. ISBN 0-7145-3061-1. [*Den Allvarsamma Leken*, 1912].

Set at the turn of the previous century, *The Serious Game* tells how Arvid, an ambitious and educated young man, meets Lydia, the daughter of a landscape painter, one summer and falls in love. Both marry other people, and years later, trapped inside loveless marriages of convenience, the two struggle to rekindle the promise of their romance with bitter and tragic results. The novel tells a compelling story of bright young bohemians in love, struggling to free

themselves from the snares of society. Born in Sweden in 1869, Söderberg became a literary sensation at the age of 28 when his first novel was accused of being pornographic. Söderberg was one of Scandinavia's most prominent modernist authors.

Vietnamese

Nguyen, Khai. *Past Continuous*. Translated and adapted by Phan Thanh Hao and Wayne Karlin. Willimantic, CT: Curbstone Press, 2001. 160 pp. Paper: \$15.95. ISBN 1-880684-78-0. Voices from Vietnam Series #4. [Thoi gian cua nguoi].

Nguyen's documentary novel, published in the early 1980s, gives a fascinating inside view of North Vietnamese views and strategies during the American War in Vietnam. As the three narrators exchange reminiscences, we not only learn about the inner workings of the liberation movement, but we also see the tensions that developed afterward in their post-war society. The novel is based on the lives and exploits of three actual individuals: Quan, a North Vietnamese secret agent; Ba Hue, a female commander of an elite Viet Cong guerilla in the Iron Triangle; and Vinh, a Catholic priest whose belief in social revolution and the justice of the war against the Americans is tested against his loyalty to the Church. These intertwined narratives unveil the secret history of the war and evoke past sacrifices as well as the triumphs and tensions of post-war Vietnam. Translator Wayne Karlin co-edits the Voices from Vietnam Series.

PHILOSOPHY

French

Deleuze, Gilles. *Pure Immanence: Essays on Life*. Translated by Anne Boyman with an introduction by John Rajchman. New York: Zone Books, 2001. 104 pp. Cloth: \$24.00. ISBN 1-890951-24-2.

Pure Immanence collects the essays of the French philosopher, Gilles Deleuze, on a complex theme at the heart of his philosophy. In his last piece of writing, included here, Deleuze gives a simple name to this problem: "a life," by which he means something impersonal we each possess at least potentially, quite different from the subject, the individual, the self, or the ego. Newly translated and gathered into one volume for the first time, the essays capture Deleuze's persistent search throughout his philosophical work for a new and superior form of empiricism that rethinks the relation of thought to life; an empiricism that would include the question of how we "experience" a life.

Deleuze, Gilles. *Empiricism and Subjectivity: An Essay on Hume's Theory of Human Nature*. Translated with an introduction by Constantin V. Boundas. New York: Columbia University Press, 1991; Paperback, 2001. 163 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-231-06812-3. Paper: \$17.50. ISBN 0-231-6813-1. European Perspectives: A Series in Social Thought and Cultural Criticism. Lawrence D. Kritzman, ed. [*Empirisme et Subjectivité. Essai sur la Nature Humaine selon Hume*. Presses Universitaires de France].

Now available in paperback, this book presages and explains the post-structuralist turn to empiricism. Presenting a challenging reading of David Hume's philosophy, *Empiricism and Subjectivity* is invaluable for understanding the progress of Deleuze's thought. Translator Constantin Boundas teaches philosophy at Trent University, Ontario. He has translated and edited Gilles Deleuze's *The Logic of Sense* and *The Deleuze Reader*.

Spanish

Ortega y Gasset, José. *What Is Knowledge?* Translated and edited by Jorge García-Gómez. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2001. 256 pp. Cloth: \$71.50. ISBN 0-7914-5171-2; Paper: \$23.95. ISBN 0-7914-5172-0. [*¿Qué es conocimiento?*]

Appearing in English for the first time, this book comprises two of Ortega's most important works, *¿Qué es conocimiento?* and the essay "Ideas y creencias." This is Ortega's attempt to present the foundations of his metaphysics of human life and, on that basis, to provide a radical philosophical account of knowledge. In so doing, he criticizes idealism and overcomes it. Translator Jorge García-Gómez is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Long Island University and has translated several books, including Ortega's *Psychological Investigation*.

POETRY

Chinese

Bei Dao. *At the Sky's Edge: Poems 1991-1996*. Translated by David Hinton with a Foreword by Michael Palmer. Bilingual. New York: New Directions, 2001. 224 pp. Paper: \$15.95. ISBN 0-8112-1495-8.

In his second retrospective volume of poetry translated into English, two of Bei Dao's previous books – *Forms of Distance* (1994) and *Landscape Over Zero* (1996) – are gathered together in one bilingual edition. *At the Sky's Edge* marks a pivotal point in the poet's development, presenting increasingly lyrical, meditative poems written in the years following his exile from China in 1989. Translator David Hinton was awarded the Harold Morton Landon Translation Award from the Academy of American Poets in 1997.

Hsieh Lung-yun. *The Mountain Poems of Hsieh Ling-yun*. Translated by David Hinton. New York: New Directions, 2001. 128 pp. Paper: \$14.95. ISBN 0-8112-1489-3.

The great ancient Chinese poet Hsieh Lung-yun (385-433 C.E.) initiated the traditions of "rivers-and-mountains" poetry which is in many ways a written version of China's grand landscape paintings. He was one of the most innovative and influential poets in the history of Chinese nature poetry as well as a founder of Zen Buddhism. His poetry about the wilderness retains its passion and freshness in these new translations by David Hinton. Hsieh Lung-yun was eventually executed because of his antagonism toward the government in power and his general insubordination. David Hinton won the Harold Morton Landon Translation Award from the Academy of American Poets in 1997.

Red Pine, translator. *The Collected Songs of Cold Mountain*. Port Townsend, Washington: Copper Canyon Press, 2000. 309 pp. Paper: \$17.00. ISBN 1-55659-140-3.

Cold Mountain, or Han Shan, the possibly mythical Taoist Chinese recluse of the eighth or ninth century, left a legacy of just over 300 poems, or "songs," as identified by translator Red Pine, a writer and translator who has lived in Taiwan and China for nearly three decades. Accompanying Red Pine's translations of the mostly five-syllable, eight-line verses are the text of each poem in Chinese as well as glosses on terms and personages, many based on a classical exegesis of Cold Mountain's poems.

Sze, Arthur, translator. *The Silk Dragon*. Port Townsend, Washington: Copper Canyon Press, 2001. 89 pp. Paper: \$15.00. ISBN 1-55659-153-5. Translations from the Chinese.

The Silk Dragon gathers into one volume Arthur Sze's translations from such poets as Tu Fu, Li Po, Wang Wei, Su Tung-p'o and Li Ch'ing-chao as well as poems from poets relatively unknown in the West. Sze's informative introduction discusses both the ideogrammic and phonetic aspects of classical Chinese poetry and its translation into American English. Sze is the author of six

books of poetry and is a professor of Creative Writing at the Institute of American Indian Arts. He has received the Asian American Literary Award for his poetry and translations.

Danish

Christensen, Inger. *Butterfly Valley – A Requiem*. Translated by Susanna Nied. Ireland: Dedalus Press/Dufour Editions, distributor, 2001. 38 pp. Paper: \$12.95. ISBN 1-9012333-82-0. Poetry Europe Series, No. 9. [*Sommerfugledalen – Et Requiem*].

Butterful Valley explores the major themes of life, love, death, and art. The form is simple yet complex, a sonnet sequence building to a final sonnet of extraordinary power. Life, love, and art are transient, like the butterfly, yet beautiful, even in their ephemerality. Susanna Nied is a former instructor of English and comparative literature at San Diego State University in California. Her translation of Christensen's "alphabet" won the 1982 ASF/PEN Translation Prize.

French

Césaire, Aimé. *Notebook of a Return to the Native Land*. Translated by Clayton Eshleman and Annette Smith. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2001. 85 pp. Paper: \$15.95. ISBN 0-8195-6452-4.

This single, long poem was the beginning of Césaire's quest for *negritude*, a concept he created with Leopold Senghor. The poem became an anthem of Africans and people of African descent, celebrating the powerful and overlooked aspects of black culture. In the translation, Eshleman and Smith clarify double meaning, stretch syntax, and find equivalent English puns. Short notes and a context. The book is introduced by French surrealist André Breton. An earlier version of this translation appeared in *Aimé Césaire: The Collected Poetry* published by the University of California Press in 1984.

de Burine, Claude. *Words Have Frozen Over*. Translated by Martin Sorrell with an introduction by Susan Wicks. Bilingual. UK: Arc Publications, 2001. 124 pp. Paper. ISBN 1-900072-50-5. Visible Poets Series, Jean Boase-Beier, editor. [*Les Mots Ont Gelé*].

Claude de Burine was born in 1931 in the Nièvre region of central France. Her first collection of poetry appeared in 1957 since which time she has seen publication of eleven collections of her work. Her work was first brought to an English-language readership in 1995 through Martin Sorrell's *Elles*, a bilingual

anthology of recent French poetry by women. Martin Sorrell is Professor of French and Literary Translation at the University of Exeter.

Wouters, Liliane. *Rocking to the North Wind*. Translated by Anne-Marie Glasheen. Ireland: Dedalus Press/Dufour Editions, distributor, 2001. . 104 pp. Paper: \$12.95. ISBN 1-901233-57-X. Poetry Europe Series, No. 10. [*Bercée au vent du Nord*].

Liliane Wouters is a lyric poet who is probably one of the last proponents of a form of poetry that has been in existence for five centuries. In her rhymes, her rhythms, her phrasing, we find things that have disappeared, that are disappearing. Through her lyricism we are shown the emotions that precede reflection. In addition to writing poetry, Wouters is an author of anthologies, a translator, and a playwright. Her translations of poetry have been widely published and her adaptations for the stage have also appeared on television.

German

Pastior, Oskar. *Many Glove Compartments*. Translated by Harry Mathews, Christopher Middleton, and Rosmarie Waldrop, with a guest appearance by John Yau. Providence: Burning Deck, 2001. 120 pp. Paper: \$10.00. ISBN 1-886224-44-7. *Dichten*, Vol. 5.

For Pastior, language itself is the stuff of life, a metabolism where not only words, but even concepts are made flesh. He explores it through puns, lists, strings, heaps, fields, dictionaries, alphabets, collage, montage, potpourris in orgiastic expansion, "thought -music as a leaping perspective." He says, "Talking *about* things is not possible. Language, the text, speaks itself – this is the great dilemma to which theories of realism close their eyes." Critics have praised his "sublime lack of seriousness," his "paradisaic language," and his "revenge against logic."

Indonesian

Aveling, Harry, translator. *Secrets Need Words: Indonesian Poetry, 1966-1998*. Bilingual. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2001. xiv + 375 pp. Paper: \$26.00. ISBN 0-89680-216-7.

The period from 1966 to 1998 represents a distinct era in Indonesian history. President Suharto replaced the failing policies of the "Old Order" from Indonesia's first president with the carefully defined "New Order," marked by its firm policies of economic development and political stability. However, under Suharto's rule, personal expression was consistently under suspicion and

often severely punished. *Secrets Need Words: Indonesian Poetry, 1966-1998* is the first comprehensive, bilingual anthology of Indonesian poetry from the entire period of Suharto's presidency. Harry Aveling strives to show the great diversity and richness of Indonesian poetry during the New Order. He presents a broad selection of poetry in a bilingual format. The book is divided into two parts. Part One is the work of the "Generation of 1966," well-known outside of Indonesia through Aveling's earlier volume *Contemporary Indonesian Poetry*. Part Two demonstrates how a new generation of writers came into prominence after 1986 and that they now hold the stage in Indonesian poetry.

Macedonian

Gjuzel, Bogomil. *The Wolf at the Door*. Translated by P.H. Liotta with an introduction by Charles Simic. Riverside, CA: Xenos Books, 2001. 108 pp. Paper: \$15.00. [*Volk na vrata*].

This collection illustrates a search for roots, humanity, and survival in the gloom of recent Balkan history. The poems are in verse, but are also arranged as prose poems. The first section, "A Search for Roots," deals with the politics and cultural landscape of Macedonia, with beautiful portrayals of nature and religious monuments. The second section, "Staring at Infinity," refers to classical archetypes, the battle of Troy and the story of Jesus. The last section, "Naked Life," speaks of the family in the midst of violence, devastation, and confusion.

Norwegian

Vesaas, Tarjei. *Beyond the Moment: 101 Selected Poems*. New revised translation by Anthony Barnett. England: Allardyce Books, 2001. 118 pp. ISBN 0 907954 31 6.

Beyond the Moment is a completely new, revised edition of the translation first published by Anthony Barnett in 1988 under the title *Selected Poems*. As well as significant adjustments to the poetics of the earlier versions, this new volume includes a further poem "The Rock that Cried," which refers to the painting on the front cover of the book. Vesaas's poetry is explicit in its themes of isolation, anxiety, and responsibility, yet it is also suffused with a ruggedly benign landscape, human affection as well as frailty, and the warmth of hearth and home

Old English

Alexander, Michael, translator. *Beowulf*. New York: Penguin Books, 2001. This translation first published 1973. Revised edition, 2001. Paper:

\$10.00. ISBN 0-14-044788.

Beowulf is the most important Old English poem and perhaps the single most significant survival from the Anglo-Saxon period. This book is an expanded edition of Michael Alexander's 1973 translation with a revised text, a new introduction and notes, a map, index of proper names, and genealogical tables.

Romanian

Stanescu, Gabriel and Adam J. Sorkin, eds. *Day After Night: Twenty Romanian Poets for the Twenty-First Century*. Translated by Adam J. Sorkin. Criterion Publishing, 2001. 160 pp. ISBN 1-887304-14-2.

Editor Gabriel Stanescu says that "modern and contemporary Romanian poetry represents a relatively small, blank area on the map of the world's poetry. This is due to the scarcity of translations in the Western world, especially in English, itself a consequence of the fact that Romanian is not a widely-spoken language." With this volume, translator Adam J. Sorkin makes the poetry of twenty Romanian poets available to English-speaking readers. Sorkin has published seven books of translations of contemporary Romanian poetry, including the 1998 volume, *City of Dreams and Whispers*.

Russian

Rein, Evgeny. *Selected Poems*. Bilingual. Translated by Robert Reid, Daniel Weissbort, Carol Rumens/Yuri Drobyshchev, and Paul Partington. England: Bloodaxe Books/Dufour Editions, distributor, 2001. 176 pp. Paper: \$21.95. ISBN 1-85224-523-9.

Evgeny Rein is possibly Russia's greatest living poet. Born in 1935, he belongs to that generation of Russian poets who for decades went unpublished in the Soviet Union. His first book of poems was published when he was 49. Rein was Joseph Brodsky's mentor and lifetime friend. Brodsky figures in many of his poems, and Brodsky's essay on Rein introduces this selection.

Spanish

Aleixandre, Vicente. *Destruction or Love*. Translated, introduced, and illustrated by Robert G. Mowry. Cranbury, NJ: Associated University Presses, 2000. 274 pp. Cloth. ISBN 1-57591-051-9. [*Destrucción o el amor*].

Destruction or Love confronts the reader with descriptions of personalized natural forces in a variety of dynamic states, ranging in setting from the depths of the seas to the outer reaches of the heavens; disconnected references to components of human anatomy; dreamlike imagery; and an often fragmented syntax embedded within unorthodox metrical schemes. The subjects of the individual poems tend to be generic: "Jungle and Sea," "Life," "Youth," "Night," for example, while the poet presents himself as the mouthpiece of cosmic forces impinging on and incorporating the general human condition, with a minimum of explicit self-revelation.

Hernández, Miguel. *The Selected Poems of Miguel Hernández*. Bilingual.

Edited and translated by Ted Genoways with a foreword by Robert Bly. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001. 399 pp. Cloth. ISBN 0-226-32773-6.

In this volume, Ted Genoways makes Hernández's extraordinary oeuvre available in an authoritative bilingual edition. Featuring some of the most tender and vigorous poetry on war, death, and social injustice written in the past century, nearly half of the poems in this collection appear in English for the first time. Arranged chronologically, the poems present Hernández's remarkable emotional range as well as his stylistic evolution from the Romantic shepherd poet to poet of the prison cell. Annotations and introductory essays illuminate the biographical basis for many of Hernández's poems.

Swedish

Lagerkvist, Pär. *Evening Land*. Translated by Anthony Barnett. England: Allardyce Books, 2001. 56 pp. ISBN 0-907954-30-8. [Stockholm: Albert Bonniers förlag AB, 1953].

Evening Land is the first complete translation of Pär Lagerkvist's deceptively simple, ninth and final volume of poetry *Aftonland* (1953). The poems reflect on man's passing, and ambivalent relationship to things worldly and unworldly, known and unknown. Lagerkvist (1891-1974) was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1951 following the publication of *Barrabas*, filmed in Hollywood in 1952. This new complete translation of *Aftonland* sets straight an earlier unfinished and other wise compromised version by W.H. Auden with Leif Sjöberg published in the United States in 1975 and England in 1977. Translator Anthony Barnett has published many volumes of poetry and prose. His other translations include volumes by Giroux, Vesaas, and Zanzotto.

Tranströmer, Tomas. *The Half-Finished Heaven: The Best Poems of Tomas Tranströmer*. Translated by Robert Bly. Saint Paul: Graywolf Press, 2001. 122 pp. Paper: \$14.00. ISBN 1-55597-351-5.

Winner of the Neustadt Prize for Literature, Tomas Tranströmer has a prestigious worldwide reputation. His work has been translated into thirty languages, and he has been honored by many awards in Europe. Robert Bly, a longtime friend and confidant of Tranströmer, as well as one of his first translators, has carefully selected the very best of Tranströmer's poems to create this collection. Bly has received many prizes for his poetry, his literary essays, and his cultural criticism. His most recent books of poetry are *The Night Abraham Called to the Starts*; *Eating the Honey of Words: New and Selected Poems*; and *The Lightning Should Have Fallen on Ghalib*, translations of the Indian poet, translated with Sunil Dutta.

Turkish

Çapan, Cevat. *Where Are You, Susie Petschek?* Translated by Cevat Çapan and Michael Hulse with an introduction by A.S. Byatt. UK: Arc Publications, 2001. 115 pp. ISBN 1 900072 43 2. Visible Poets Series. [*Susie Petschek Nerdesin?*].

Çapan's poetry sounds ancient and traditional, yet it is recognizably related to modernism; it is rooted in Turkish life and at the same time is European, and beyond that, part of a greater world literature. Many of the poems are personal, concerned with Çapan's family, his father's story, the names of his children, and yet they have the impersonality of old stories and tales. They are permeated by a sense of history and legend, inhabiting the vast landscapes of Turkish life and also an extended world of modern politics. Michael Hulse has worked closely with the poet to produce a translation in which the paradoxical nature of Çapan's poetry comes to the fore. The result is a collection of great beauty and resonance.

Vietnamese

Hô, Xuân Huong. *Spring Essence: The Poetry of Ho Xuan Huong*. Bilingual. Edited and translated by John Balaban. Port Townsend, Washington: Copper Canyon Press, 2001. 134 pp. Paper: \$15.00. ISBN 1-55659-148-9.

Hô Xuân Huong was an eighteenth-century concubine who wrote subtly risqué poems that used double entendre and sexual innuendo as a vehicle for

social, religious, and political commentary. Her attacks on male authority were shocking and risky, but she and her work survived because of her exquisite cleverness and skill at poetry. *Nom* is the nearly extinct ideographic script in which she originally wrote her poetry. This book is the first in history to have *Nom* printed as type and features the 1000 year old script alongside both its modern Vietnamese equivalent and John Balaban's English translation.

Welsh

Elfyn, Menna. *Blind Man's Kiss*. Translated by Joseph Clancy, Gillian Clarke, Tony Conran, Elin AP Hywel, and Nigel Jenkins. Bilingual. England: Bloodaxe Books/Dufour Editions, distributor, 2001. 128 pp. Paper: \$16.95. ISBN 1-85224-544-1. [*Cusan Dyn Dall*].

Blind Man's Kiss is the third bilingual collection of Menna Elfyn's poetry. Elfyn's poetry takes daringly imaginative leaps, exploring both inner and outer landscapes, taking exuberant liberties with language, and presenting her translators with formidable challenges. Her questing eye, affectionately critical of many domestic presumptions, restlessly interrogates horizons that others have ignored or taken as read, from the mutating social landscapes of home to the concrete cliffs of Manhattan or the culinary byways of Vietnam. Elfyn is currently editing a major anthology of 20th century Welsh poetry in translation for Bloodaxe with John Rowlands.

RELIGION

Arabic

Ali, Ahmed, translator. *Al-Qur'an: A Contemporary Translation*. Bilingual. First published 1984 by Akrash Publishing, Karachi; Revised Edition 1994, Princeton University Press; Newly revised 2001. 576 pp. Paper: \$19.95. ISBN 0-691-07499-2.

This bilingual edition of the Qur'an, the Holy Book of Islam, was first published in the United States in 1988. Ahmed Ali, the distinguished Pakistani novelist, poet, critic, and diplomat, presents this elegant and poetic translation in a contemporary and living voice. On each page, the original Arabic and the translated English sit side by side, encouraging the reader to draw from both texts. Professor Ali also includes notes where necessary, providing the full meaning of each word and phrase. This accessible volume is essential for both scholars and followers of Islam. Ahmed Ali (1910-1994), a pioneer of the modern Urdu short story and cofounder of the All-India Progressive Writer's Movement

and Association, taught at leading Indian universities and was a visiting professor in China and the United States.

Chinese and Sanskrit

Red Pine, translator. *The Diamond Sutra: The Perfection of Wisdom*.
Washington, D.C.: Counterpoint, 2001. 480 pp. Cloth: \$25.00.
ISBN 1-58243-059-4.

Buddhism has inspired and accumulated some of the greatest philosophical texts of any religion. Two works lie at the center of Zen: *The Heart Sutra*, which monks recite all over the world, and *The Diamond Sutra*, said to contain answers to all questions of delusion and dualism. This is the Buddhist teaching on the “perfection of wisdom” and the diamond of its title is said to cut through everything on its way to enlightenment. Red Pine is a translator and Buddhist scholar who has worked with this text for many years. He has consulted dozens of commentaries, in Chinese and in Sanskrit, to offer this new translation that includes extensive commentary intended to present this important text in a new light.

Watson, Burton, translator. *The Essential Lotus: Selections from the Lotus Sutra*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2002. 195 pp. Paper: \$16.95. ISBN 0-231-12507-0. Translations from Asian Classics.

Since its first appearance in China in the third century C.E., the Lotus Sutra has been an object of intense veneration among Buddhists in China, Korea, Japan, and other parts of the world. It is often considered the fundamental Mahayana Buddhist sutra, has attracted more commentary than any other Buddhist scripture, and has had a profound impact on the great works of Japanese and Chinese literature. This abridged edition of Burton Watson’s translation contains this sutra’s essential chapters, derived from the most authoritative version of the sutra, translated from Sanskrit into Chinese in 406 by the Great Asian scholar-monk Kumarajiva. Burton Watson is one of the world’s best-known and most respected translators from Chinese and Japanese. He was the recipient of the 1981 PEN Translation Prize.

Hebrew

Slavitt, David R., translator. *The Book of Lamentations*. Baltimore:
The John Hopkins University Press, 2001. 88 pp. Paper. ISBN 0-8018-
6617-0.

Translator David R. Slavitt here provides a translation of and meditation upon the Book of Lamentations, the biblical account of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 587 B.C., on the ninth day of the Jewish month of Av – Tish'ab'Av. Most of the Jewish population was deported to Babylon and the Ensuing period came to be known as the Babylonian Captivity. According to tradition, the Book of Lamentations was written in response to this political, social, and religious crisis. The five poems composing the books express Israel's sorrow, brokenness, and bewilderment before God. Few translations attempt to reproduce in English as Slavitt does here, the Hebrew acrostics. In the original, each verse begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet in sequential order. Slavitt reproduces this effect using the first twenty-two letters of the English alphabet.

SHORT STORIES

German

Rottensteiner, Franz, editor. *The Best of Austrian Science Fiction*. Translated by Todd C. Hanlin. Bilingual. Riverside, CA: Ariadne Press, 2001. 318 pp. ISBN 1-57241-078-7. Studies in Austrian literature, culture, and thought, Translation Series.,

This anthology represents a wide spectrum of contemporary Austrian science fiction, primarily by younger writers. Contributors include Martin Auer, Alfred Bittner, Kurt Bracharz, Andreas Findig, H.W. Franke, Marianne Gruber, Peter Marginter, Barbara Neuwirth, Heinz Riedler, Peter Schattschneider, Michael Springer, and Oswald Wiener.

Indonesian

Anggraeni, Dewi. *Neighbourhood Tales: A Bilingual Collection*. Australia: Indra Publishing, 2001. 248 pp. Paper: \$21.95. ISBN 0 9585805 7 X. [*Kisah dari sana-sini, cerita dalam dua bahasa*].

Neighborhood Tales vary widely from the passionate, sensuous world of the composer in *Music for Libretto* through the dark haunting flashbacks to the shared past of Australia and Indonesia in *The Hut*; from the unexpected humor of marital instability in *Family Law*, to the touching discovery of a child's special gift in *Synesthesia*. Dewi Anggraeni paints word pictures which carry her readers inside the relationships between her characters, between her characters and their surroundings, and between her neighboring home countries – Australia and Indonesia.

Russian

Pelevin, Victor. *4 By Pelevin: Stories*. Translated by Andrew Bromfield. New York: New Directions, 2001. 128 pp. Paper: \$9.00. ISBN 0-8112-1491-5. A New Directions Bibelot.

This volume contains four short stories by one of the most popular, and critically controversial, young writers to emerge from post-Glasnost Russia. This work offers first-time Pelevin readers a compelling taste of his bleakly comic genius. Pelevin speaks with a deadpan and coolly ironic voice that tells of the phantasmagorical, the surreal, the grotesque, and the absurd just as affectingly as Gogol did in his day. Pelevin writes of the dark chaos of the New Russia.

Spanish

Lavín, Mónica, editor. *Points of Departure: New Stories from Mexico*. Translated by Gustavo V. Segade. San Francisco: City Lights, 2001. 180 pp. Paper: \$15.95. ISBN 0-87286-381-6.

Points of Departure brings together seventeen Mexican writers born in the 1950s and 1960s, most of whom have never before been published in English. Magical realism and exoticism are nowhere to be found in this collection of sophisticated, very contemporary stories. Rather, the surreal contradictions and juxtapositions of daily life in Mexico are a permeating presence. A sharp sense of irony, incongruity, and hilarity pervades many of the scenarios offered here, along with an acid-tongued fatalism in the face of a harsh reality where poverty, lawlessness, and urban decay coexist alongside innocent dreams of love.

TRANSLATION STUDIES

Ghanoonparvar, M.R. *Translating the Garden*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2002. 198 pp. Cloth: \$32.95. ISBN 0-292-72835-2.

M.R. Ghanoonparvar observes at the outset of this book that, “every translation is inevitably a failure, with occasional moments of success.” In *Translating the Garden*, Ghanoonparvar allows readers to watch him in the process of translating Shahrokh Meskub’s *Goftogu dar Bagh (Dialogue in the Garden)* from Persian into English. This short philosophical work uses a conversation between a writer and a painter to explore Persian perceptions of art, literature, nature, identity, and spirituality. Ghanoonparvar compares some of his translated passages with those of other translators to highlight the

uniqueness of each act of translation. The complete English translation of *Dialogue in the Garden* rounds out the volume. M.R. Ghanoonparvar is Professor of Persian and Comparative Literature at the University of Texas at Austin.

Munday, Jeremy. *Introducing Translation Studies: Theory and Application*.
London: Routledge, 2001. 222 pp. Paper: ISBN 0-415-22927-8.

Introducing Translation Studies is an introductory textbook that provides an accessible overview of the key contributions to translation studies. Munday explores each theory chapter by chapter and tests the different approaches by applying them to texts. The texts discussed are taken from a broad range of languages and English translations are provided. Including a general introduction, an extensive bibliography, and internet sites for further information, this is a practical, user-friendly textbook that gives a balanced and comprehensive insight into translation studies.

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