
TRANSMISSION

ASSOCIATION DES TRADUCTEURS ET TRADUCTRICES LITTÉRAIRES DU CANADA / LITERARY TRANSLATORS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

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BULLETIN D'INFORMATION / NEWSLETTER

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Message from the President

La Señora Presidenta has been a little distracted of late, but is, thankfully, now able to focus on the upcoming Annual General Meeting and the preceding day's events. You will see from the accompanying reports that many projects are coming to fruition, projects in which the LTAC/ATTLC has played an important role.

The most exciting development in our Association since I became president has been the unprecedented increase in membership: twenty-six people have joined since the spring of 2001. This growth is a sign of renewal and signals the possibility of incorporating new ideas and influences into the way we work as a group. In recognition of this fact, the June 1 events will include readings of literature in translation by new members only. Try to attend the "mini conference," especially if you live in the Montreal area, and join your executive in welcoming our new colleagues. A heartfelt thank-you is due to our Membership Secretary, whose tenacity and hard work are largely responsible for the phenomenal growth in our ranks.

The most pressing (and depressing) news for literary translators is the collapse of General Distribution, distributors of most of English Canada's medium-size and small publishers. The consequences of this could mean the demise of many publishers who publish literary works in translation in Canada. Momentum is gathering to bring about a solution to this problem; this would probably take the form of a government bailout. If you can and wish to support publishers affected by this problem, please contact the office for details as to who to direct your concerns to.

I am very much looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM weekend. I welcome your input and thank you for your support this past year.

Beatriz Zeller

Mot de la présidente

La Señora Presidenta a été un peu distraite ces jours-ci, mais heureusement elle peut maintenant se pencher sur l'Assemblée générale annuelle et sur les activités qui auront lieu la veille. En jetant un coup d'œil sur les rapports ci-joints, vous pourrez constater que plusieurs projets sont déjà en cours de réalisation, des projets pour lesquels l'ATTLC a joué un rôle important.

Depuis le printemps 2001, moment où je suis devenue présidente, l'Association a connu un essor remarquable en ce qui a trait au nombre de membres; au total, vingt-six nouveaux membres se sont joints à nous au cours de cette période. Cette croissance démontre un renouveau au sein de notre Association et signale la possibilité d'incorporer de nouvelles idées dans notre façon de travailler ensemble en tant que groupe. À titre d'exemple, dans le cadre des activités du 1^{er} juin, il y aura une lecture de textes littéraires en traduction, à laquelle ne participeront que les nouveaux membres. Tentez d'assister au « mini congrès », surtout si vous vivez dans la région montréalaise, et joignez-vous aux membres de l'exécutif pour souhaiter la bienvenue à nos nouveaux collègues. Nous remercions chaleureusement et sincèrement notre secrétaire des adhésions, dont la ténacité et les efforts soutenus sont grandement responsables de la croissance phénoménale de l'Association.

La nouvelle la plus urgente (et la plus déplorable) pour les traducteurs littéraires est le naufrage de General Distribution, le distributeur pour la plupart des petites et moyennes maisons d'édition au Canada anglais. Cette situation pourrait entraîner rien de moins que la fermeture de plusieurs maisons d'édition qui publient des œuvres littéraires en traduction au Canada. Le processus de résolution de ce problème suit son cours favorablement, et si tout va bien, il est fort probable que le gouvernement se porte garant pour l'entreprise. Si vous pouvez et souhaitez appuyer les éditeurs touchés par ce problème, veuillez téléphoner au bureau de l'Association pour obtenir des renseignements à cet effet.

J'ai très hâte de vous voir, tous et toutes, pendant la fin de semaine de l'AGA. J'accueille vos suggestions et vos idées, et je vous remercie de votre appui au cours de la dernière année.

Beatriz Zeller

Formation of the Creators' Rights Alliance

Everyone has a right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

UN Declaration of Human Rights, Article 27 (2)

On April 29 and 30 in Montreal, representatives of some thirty organizations of Canadian artists—writers, visual artists, directors, musicians, composers, performers, and interdisciplinary and multimedia artists—met to form the Creators' Rights Alliance / Alliance pour les droits des créateurs. The objective of the new organization is to advance and protect the economic rights and the moral rights of Canadian artists.

The organization's press release states: "It is the CRA/ADC's belief that creators' rights are fundamental to Canadian society. This is based on the recognition that creators are the primary producers of Canadian content, and the root source of cultural diversity. Thus when it comes to international trade agreements and culture, the CRA/ADC believes that Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) are of central and critical importance. A major reason for forming the new organization is the necessity for creators' organizations to cooperate in researching and preparing analyses that can lead to informed representations to the federal government on matters relating to IPRs and international trade and the rights of our country's creators."

The LTAC's Ontario vice-president, Amela Simic, who attended the meeting as representative of the Playwrights' Union, informed the Alliance of our association's desire to be involved in this initiative.

Création de l'Alliance pour les droits des créateurs

Chacun a droit à la protection des intérêts moraux et matériels découlant de toute production scientifique, littéraire ou artistique dont il est l'auteur.

Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme, art. 27, al. 2

Les 29 et 30 avril à Montréal, des délégués d'une trentaine d'associations d'artistes canadiens – écrivains, auteurs dramatiques, artistes visuels, metteurs en scène, musiciens, compositeurs, artistes interprètes et exécutants, artistes multidisciplinaires, artistes multimedia, etc. – se sont réunis pour fonder la Creators' Rights Alliance / Alliance pour les droits des créateurs (CRA/ADC). L'Alliance a pour mandat la défense et la promotion des droits moraux et patrimoniaux des artistes canadiens.

Selon son communiqué de presse, « L'Alliance croit fermement que les droits des créateurs sont d'une importance vitale pour la société canadienne. Car les créateurs sont sans conteste les principaux producteurs de contenu canadien et la source première de diversité culturelle. Aussi l'Alliance est-elle persuadée que les droits de propriété intellectuelle (DPI) constituent un élément crucial des accords de commerce internationaux et un ingrédient essentiel de la culture. Sa raison d'être, dans l'optique de ses fondateurs, réside dans la nécessité d'effectuer en commun les recherches et les analyses qui leur permettront de faire des représentations communes, solidement documentées, auprès des gouvernements canadien et provinciaux quant au sort réservé aux DPI dans les accords internationaux et, partant, aux droits des créateurs de notre pays. »

La vice-présidente de l'ATTLC pour la région d'Ontario, Amela Simic, qui a assisté à la réunion comme déléguée de la Playwrights' Union of Canada, a fait part à l'Alliance de l'intérêt de notre association à s'y associer.

Colloque et AGA / 1 et 2 juin / Conference and AGM / June 1-2

1590 Docteur-Penfield (corner Côte-des-Neiges; métro Guy-Concordia, bus 165 or 535), Samuel Bronfman Building (formerly the Canadian Jewish Congress)

Saturday, June 1, all activities open to the public

10:30 AM -12 noon: Panel, "Transgressions: Poetry and Translation," with Susanne de Lotbinière-Harwood, special guest Joan Lindgren, from San Diego, and others

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM: Panel, "Reaching the Beyond: Science Fiction and Translation," with Jane Brierley, Jean-Louis Trudel, Howard Scott

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM: Coffee break

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Readings of translations by new members

7:00 PM: Party at Phyllis Aronoff and Howard Scott's, 5922 Jeanne-Mance (corner Bernard, tel. 276-7429), catered dinner \$20, BYOB

Sunday, June 2, members only

9:30 AM to 3:30 PM: Annual General Meeting / Assemblée générale annuelle, 1590 Docteur-Penfield

N.B.: Associate and student members are welcome to participate in discussions, but only full members have voting rights.

Centre international de traduction littéraire de Banff / Banff International Literary Translation Centre

Suite au colloque tenu en décembre dernier portant sur la création du Centre international de traduction littéraire de Banff, la direction du Banff Centre m'a demandé de rédiger une lettre d'intention que les trois associations signeraient, soit l'ATTLC (au nom des traducteurs littéraires canadiens), l'ALTA (au nom des traducteurs littéraires américains) et la FONCA (au nom des traducteurs littéraires mexicains). L'ébauche de lettre a été expédiée en mars et on a reçu des suggestions de la part de l'ATTLC et de l'ALTA en ce qui a trait à des modifications à y porter. La FONCA attend le retour au Mexique de la personne qui a représenté l'association au colloque, avant de nous faire part de leurs suggestions en ce qui a trait à des modifications possibles. On incorporera ces modifications dans la version finale de la lettre, avant de la faire suivre au Banff Centre et aux trois associations pour fins de signature. Une première réunion du comité consultatif aura lieu cette année, et le printemps prochain, nous espérons pouvoir offrir le premier programme de résidence, qui inclura un séminaire destiné à tous les traducteurs, qui aura lieu une longue fin de semaine.

Susan Ouriou

Further to the colloquium held last December regarding the creation of the Banff International Literary Translation Centre, I was asked by the Banff Centre to draft a letter of intent to be signed by LTAC (representing Canadian literary translators), ALTA (representing American literary translators) and FONCA (on behalf of Mexican literary translators). The draft letter was sent out in March and suggested changes have been received from LTAC and ALTA. FONCA is waiting for the representative they sent to the colloquium to return to Mexico before sending in any suggested changes. The final letter will incorporate these changes and be forwarded to the Banff Centre and the three associations for signing. A first advisory committee meeting is scheduled for this year, and it is hoped that the first residency program (including a long weekend seminar open to all translators) will be offered next spring.

Susan Ouriou

Members' News / Nouvelles des membres

Marc Israël-Le Pelletier's one-act play *Civilization*, which deals with capital punishment and racism in the U.S., will be performed by the Curan Repertory Company in New York from May 9 to 12. The play was translated by **Rachelle Renaud**. Rachelle's translation of a short story by Jean Pierre Girard will appear in the upcoming issue of *Exile*.

Ted Baxter writes: Within the past few months, I have had two translations published, *A.M. Klein, Poet and Prophet*, by Naim Kattan, published by XYZ Publishing, and *Invasion of the Sea*, by Jules Verne, published by Wesleyan University Press (this is the first English edition of this novel).

Liedewij Hawke writes: I have just translated two novels, *La vie comme une image*, by Jocelyne Saucier (*House of Sighs*, Mercury Press) and *La Voie lactée*, by Louise Dupré (*The Milky Way*, Dundurn). And to make my happiness complete, *Matrix* included "Travelling Back," my translation of Louise Dupré's short story "Le retour," in issue number 60.

Le 17 mars 2002, **Sylvie Chaput** était à Toronto pour le lancement de *Isabelle's Notebooks* (Guernica Editions), traduction de *Les cahiers d'Isabelle Forest*. Ce roman se passe principalement à Québec, dans les années 1820–1850, et mêle la fiction avec l'histoire littéraire, artistique et politique du Québec. Daniel Sloate et Peter Vranckx ont réalisé la traduction. Sylvie vient de faire paraître, en collaboration avec Marc Chabot, un essai consacré à la correspondance de plusieurs auteurs célèbres : *Manuscrits pour une seule personne* (Éd. de L'instant même).

Jonathan Kaplansky is currently translating Georges Leblanc's *Au-delà des limites* (*Pushing the Limits*, Faye Editions). Leblanc is the skipper from Lévis, Quebec, who in 1998 sailed solo across the Atlantic from Sydney, Nova Scotia, to St. Malo in order to qualify for the Rum Route from St. Malo to Guadeloupe (which he will undertake this fall). Jonathan's translation of a short story by Sylvie Massicotte, "Le Tablier" ("The Apron"), will appear in the upcoming issue of *Beacons*, the journal of the American Literary Translators Association.

Jo-Anne Elder is now the editor of *ellipse*, which has moved from Sherbrooke to Fredericton. In addition, Jo-Anne continues to be an active community worker and busy mother (of six still at home), and manages to find a couple of hours, or minutes, every day for her own translation and writing. She is currently working on the translation of a novel by Françoise Enguehard as well as a play by Herménégilde Chiasson (on the LTAC model contract!), while two translations for publication with Guernica await 2003. A novella of her own is almost finished. The translation of Herménégilde Chiasson's Governor General's Award-winning *Conversations*, by Fred Cogswell and Jo-Anne, was nominated for the Atlantic Poetry Prize (as was their previous translation, *Climates*).

Nora Alleyn writes: Guernica Editions has sent me Carole David's collection of short stories, *Histoires saintes*, for translation into English.

Bienvenue aux nouveaux membres / Welcome to Our New Members

Full members

Andrée Christensen
Ottawa, Ontario
anglais-français

Jacques Flamand
Ottawa, Ontario
anglais-français

Ethel Groffier
Montréal, Québec
anglais-français

Maureen Ranson
Calgary, Alberta
French-English

Associate members

Emmy Bos
Montréal, Québec
anglais-français
néerlandais-français

Kathryn Gabinet-Kroo
Montreal, Quebec
French-English

Makram Mekhail
Markham, Ontario
Arabic-English

Student members

Florence Buathier
Baie d'Urfé, Québec
anglais-français

Nicola Danby
Toronto, Ontario
French-English

Hasnaa Kadiri
Montréal, Québec
anglais-français

Geneviève Lortie
Ottawa, Ontario
anglais-français

News from the West

We have a new member in the West: Maureen Ranson in Calgary. Maureen has been active in the field of literary translation for a number of years. She has been part of the *TransLit* collective since the very first *TransLit* and was the editor of the most recent volume. As editor, she organized readings in Calgary, Ottawa, and Montreal (the Edmonton reading was organized by Anne Malena) and is now busy organizing a reading for the FIT congress in Vancouver this summer. Readers at the *TransLit* reading there will include Patricia Claxton, Agnes Whitfield, and Maureen Ranson. Welcome, Maureen!

Speaking of the FIT congress, in addition to the reading, the conference will include an LTAC panel. This is a great opportunity for members to discover the West.

I will not be able to attend the AGM in Montreal; however, Nésida Loyer will be there, and I'm sure she will have many stories to tell about the month-long Winnipeg-Calgary cycling trip she and Alain left for on April 31.

Susan Ouriou, Vice-President

... and the East

Jo-Anne Elder is now the editor of *ellipse*, which has moved from Sherbrooke to Fredericton. Jo-Anne's interest in *ellipse* and in literary translation grew out of her graduate studies in the Comparative Canadian Literature program in Sherbrooke. It seemed fitting to move the journal to Canada's only officially bilingual province (and the effort seems to please people, including some with funds, at the provincial and local levels here). Subscriptions remain \$14. a year (two issues, one a special issue on Fred Cogswell) for 2002. Copies and subscription forms will be available at the LTAC meeting in June.

The *ellipse* project is, as a matter of fact, catching fire in New Brunswick. Several bilingual readings, workshops, a fall launching and a summer celebration are being planned in Fredericton. The Northrop Frye International Literary Festival, which features approximately 25 writers of both languages each year, added both an international element (Frye's Italian connections, and beautiful poetry and translations in Italian) and a round table on literary translation that was well attended. (Jo-Anne notes, "I feel as though I was spoiled, so I must have been well received... although maybe it was the prosciutto and opera...")

With a new editorial team, Jo-Anne is hoping to update her files of interested translators. If you have not yet communicated your interest to her directly, it would be helpful for her to hear from you, with an indication of what you would like to translate (471 Smythe Street, no. 27009, Fredericton, NB E3B 3E3, or elder@nb.sympatico.ca).

Jo-Anne Elder

Liste de discussion Internet pour les membres / Internet Discussion List for Members

Tout récemment, j'ai lancé une liste de discussion Internet pour les membres de l'ATTLC. Cette liste a comme but d'offrir aux participants un forum de discussion et un moyen d'échanger de l'information sur des sujets liés à la traduction littéraire. Jusqu'ici, plus de cinquante membres se sont inscrits. Nous avons échangé des informations fort utiles sur les ressources disponibles sur le Web, ainsi que sur des ouvrages de référence plus traditionnels, et j'ai moi-même reçu de l'aide avec quelques problèmes de traduction. Si vous ne vous êtes pas encore inscrit à la liste, je vous encourage d'en faire un essai. Pour des renseignements sur le moyen de s'abonner, veuillez m'envoyer un message par courriel au <alterego@rocler.qc.ca>.

Veuillez noter que cette liste est pour nos membres seulement. Il existe d'autres listes de traducteurs littéraires ouverts au grand public, telle LitTrans, liste internationale sur la traduction littéraire (pour s'y abonner, envoyez un message à <LitTrans-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>).

Howard Scott

I recently started an Internet discussion list for members of the LTAC. The purpose of the list is to provide a forum for discussion and exchange of information on matters related to literary translation. Over fifty members have already signed up. We have had very informative exchanges on reference sources on the Web and reference works of the more old-fashioned kind, and I have personally received help on a couple of translation problems. If you have not joined the list yet, I encourage you to give it a try. For information on how to subscribe, e-mail me at <alterego@rocler.qc.ca>.

Please note that this list is for our members only. There are other translators' lists that are open to anyone, such as the international literary translation list LitTrans (to subscribe to it, simply send a blank e-mail message to <LitTrans-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>).

Howard Scott

News from Montreal

Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival

Literary translation was featured once again at the fourth annual Blue Met, held in Montreal April 3-7. At the traditional translation slam, Hugh Hazelton and Phyllis Aronoff translated Quebec poet Hélène Dorion into English, and Robert Paquin and Nathalie Stephens translated Irish poet Matthew Sweeney into French. Local radio personality Winston McQuade was moderator.

The International Translation Panel, moderated by Jane Brierley, featuring Riccardo Held (Italy), John Ashbery (USA), and Pierre Anctil (Quebec), discussed the difficulties and pleasures of translation. The audience was particularly interested in Pierre Anctil's work translating Quebec Yiddish writers into French.

A third translation event was added this year, a Spanish-French translation slam. Jean-Antoin Billard and Émile Martel translated the work of Spanish poet Lucía Etxebarria, with Hugh Hazelton acting as moderator.

Philip Stratford dinner

On March 26, Montreal members and friends got together at Rumi Restaurant for one of our Philip Stratford dinners. In spite of a snowstorm, nearly twenty people attended. We heard samples of translations in progress, renewed contact with old friends, and met some new members of LTAC.

Howard Scott

Trials of a Translator

When Howard Scott and I won the Quebec Writers' Federation Award for translation, I was surprised—surprised that a work of non-fiction about an obscure event in early Canadian history should receive such an award. But another surprise awaited me... a letter from my employer, the Quebec Ministry of Education, informing me that I was in violation of the code of ethics of the Quebec public service. It seems I am under the obligation to provide my services as a translator *exclusively* to the government of Quebec.

Of course, I was aware of the existence of this rule, but it simply never occurred to me that it might apply to my activities as a literary translator. I thought its purpose was to protect the integrity of the public service by preventing public servants from exploiting their position for personal gain—not to make government employees indentured labourers.

Even after receiving the letter, I persisted in believing that the rule did not apply to my situation and that a mistake had been made—it just seemed preposterous that my employer could dictate how I spend my leisure time. On the advice of my union, I appealed to the deputy minister, asking him to review the matter and provide an authoritative interpretation of the rule as it applies to my situation.

I argued essentially that literary translation is a recognized form of artistic expression and as such is fundamentally different from the kind of translation I do in my job; thus there could be no danger of conflict with my duties as a government translator. In support of my position, I provided letters from the president of the LTAC and two professors of translation, Sherry Simon and Luise von Flotow. And, I admit, I even grovelled, pleading to be allowed to continue to pursue my innocuous little "hobby."

After two and a half months of deliberation, the deputy minister responded to my plea, stating on legal authority that my literary translation work—in fact, any translation I might do, even on a voluntary, non-remunerative, basis—does indeed constitute a violation of my obligation of exclusivity of service, and calling on me to give it up immediately on pain of disciplinary measures.

I haven't yet decided what I'm going to do. Perhaps I should take up a different hobby. I hear macramé is coming back.

Phyllis Aronoff

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