



## TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION AGM

14 November 2017

### Co-Chairs' Report

#### Welcome & Introduction

TA membership currently totals 674, an increase from 644 at this time last year. Overall we have lost 46 members and gained 76. TA membership represents just under 7% of the current SoA membership.

#### Committee

Kareem Abdulrahman and Sasha Dugdale accepted nominations to join the Committee and Ruth Martin accepted a nomination to join the Committee for a second term. No other nominations were received and Kareem Abdulrahman and Sasha Dugdale were welcomed on to the Committee with immediate effect.

Thanks to the retiring members of the committee for their valued contribution to the running of our association. On behalf of the Committee, the TA Secretary would like to record warm thanks to outgoing co-Chairs Nicky Harman and Antonia Lloyd-Jones for their support, commitment and enthusiasm during the last three years.

We welcome new co-Chairs Charlotte Collins and Ruth Martin and are grateful to Nicky Harman for staying on the Committee for an additional year as Vice-Chair to assist the co-Chairs with their new role.

**The TA Committee for 2017-18 will be** Charlotte Collins (co-Chair), Ruth Martin (co-Chair), Kareem Abdulrahman, Simon Bruni, Sasha Dugdale, Paul Garrett, Daniel Hahn, Nicky Harman (Vice-Chair), Louise Rogers Lalaurie and Deborah Smith.

Roland Glasser and Shaun Whiteside continue to represent CEATL *ex-officio* on the committee. Writers' Centre Norwich and BCLT share *ex-officio* representation at committee meetings reporting on *In Other Words* and other relevant activities.

#### Communication

Regular e-newsletters are sent to TA members; if you have any news or events that you would like to share with TA members please let Catherine Fuller know. A paper copy of the TA newsletter can be sent on request if you do not have email access.

Unfortunately the new discussion forum does not offer the functionality which was hoped for. TA members are therefore encouraged to continue to use the existing TA Yahoo Discussion group as a forum for members' discussion. The committee would like to record its thanks to the group moderators, Trista Selous and Christine Shuttleworth for their hard work and patience. The TA Yahoo Discussion Group is a free discussion group for TA members only and provides a

safe and friendly environment to exchange news, view and ideas. To sign up please send an email confirming that you are a TA member to: [members-ta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:members-ta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

You are also recommended, if you have not already done so, to create a professional profile on the searchable database on the website. If you are unsure about setting your profile up, please call or email. If you already have one, please remember to update your listing with the details of any new publications.

## Activities

“LBF Minus One”. This is our annual all-day event held on the Monday before the London Book Fair. Once again the event was extremely well-attended with over 80 people taking part. The 2018 event will take place on Monday 9 April at Europe House. Further details will be available in the New Year but please note the date and change of venue for your diary. Planning is also already underway for the Literary Translation Centre 2018.

This year the TA also hosted a ‘Getting Started in Translation’ event as part of the London Book Fair’s public-facing programme London Book and Screen Week. The event took place the day after the London Book Fair and numbers were low. However, the event directly led to several new members joining the TA.

Our annual summer social was held on 5 June and provided a welcome opportunity for members to meet each other.

The TA also contributed to the programme for International Translation Day, held at the British Library.

## International Links

### *ALTA*

In October, a small number of TA members attended the American Literary Translators Association 40th annual conference, this time held in Minneapolis. Past and present TA committee members Samantha Schnee and Daniel Hahn took part as panellists

### *CEATL*

CEATL continues to make its mark in the field of copyright and authors’ rights. Along with the Federation of European Publishers and The European Writers’ Council (EWC), of which the Society of Authors is a member, CEATL has issued a joint statement against Estonian proposals to expand Article 12 of the upcoming European Copyright Directive with a clause that would enable member states to allow publishers a share of Public Lending Right payments. A deletion of the provision, the groups argue, will allow the diversity of PLR to continue.

Internally, CEATL voted to amend its long-standing membership subscription payment system to reflect the discrepancy between large and long-established associations and smaller, emerging associations in the former Eastern Bloc.

Discussions are under way with WCN and BCLT to hold the 2019 CEATL AGM at Writers’ Centre Norwich, the first time the United Kingdom will have hosted the annual meeting. We plan an exciting programme for members, and a public event which, we hope, will give UK translators a chance to gain a greater understanding of CEATL’s activities.

## *FIT*

As reported last year the annual membership for FIT is now prohibitively expensive. As the TA already works closely with a number of other international organisations including ALTA and CEATL it has decided not to renew FIT membership at present.

## **In Other Words**

For Issue 49 our theme was “Translation and Empire/s”, contributors to which included Kenyan writer Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o on his decision to stop writing in English and begin writing in Kikuyu; translator James Kelly on the challenges of translating the unique cosmovision of a Chilean tribe; and Preti Taneja on “translating” King Lear to modern India in her acclaimed debut novel *We that are young*. We continue with our regular “Translators at Work” section, which concerns craft and the state of the profession, and “News and Views,” which includes reviews of books that discuss translation (ie. not translated books), reports on public goings-on and obituaries of eminent translators (in this issue Peter Bush wrote for us on the loss of Patricia Crampton, and Roland Glasser on Eric Dickens).

49 was also the first issue to feature a redesign, which we co-editors approved in concert with the team at Writers’ Centre Norwich, taking into account input from the TA committee and the IOW editorial board. The Scottish design agency Andrew Forteach Designs won an open tender to carry out this redesign. In general we have had good feedback on the overall look (and welcome any further comments), though we are currently tweaking one or two things in terms of the placement of text on the cover, the header sections (in which text was placed too close together at times), and the deployment of pull quotes throughout the articles.

The actual production of IOW now happens in-house at WCN (formerly it was with a freelance designer in Norfolk), so Samantha Schnee and I aren’t in direct control of the production side of things. However we are in frequent contact with WCN, who have a new Programme Director incoming imminently (Peggy Hughes, replacing the outgone Jon Morley), and expect to work quite closely with Peggy Hughes, the incoming Programme Director replacing Jon Morley. There is now £500 to pay contributors to the theme section only. Our aim is to be able to pay all contributors.

Issue 50, due out in January, is currently in production—the theme is “Modern Classics” and we have some special 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary material. And Issue 51 is in pre-production; in concert with the editorial board, we have gone with the theme of “Women in Translation,” and have already slated some fascinating pieces, including an essay from Lydia Davis on the pleasures of translation. (A recent-ish development to mention is that, as of a few issues ago, we have £500 total to pay contributors to our theme section only—we hope one day to be able to pay all contributors.) We are also in the process of gathering a group of contributing editors from around the globe, asking them to contribute an essay every two or three issues on the challenges facing > English translators in their country/continent.

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(Thomas Bunstead, Co-Editor)

## **BCLT/WCN**

The partnership continues between **Writers' Centre Norwich** and the **British Centre for Literary Translation**. They have jointly run three international summer schools, introducing multilingual workshops for poetry and prose, editing and creative writing sessions alongside the language-specific workshops. A new venture for BCLT this year was the inaugural European School for Literary Translation, organised with three other European partners and held in Rome in September. The successful candidates for the 2018 Emerging Translator Mentorships were announced in October 2017. BCLT is developing its research programme and launched a new research seminar series in November. WCN is developing a residency programme for writers and translators, including the first Translation Week at Cove Park. WCN will welcome new Programme Director Peggy Hughes in November. WCN's 2018-2022 National Portfolio Organisation application to Arts Council England was successful, so WCN and BCLT look forward to continuing their collaboration to support literary translation.

## **Translation Prizes**

The annual Translation prizes, administered by the SoA, were presented in February at Europe House. Booking is now open for the 2018 event which will take place at the British Library on 1 March. The TA is delighted that a new prize *The TA First Translation Prize* will be presented for the first time in 2018. Warm thanks to Daniel Hahn for his generosity in endowing this prize and to the British Council for their support.

Other initiatives promoting translation this year include translation, promotion and samples grants from English PEN, and the Man Booker International, the BCLT summer school and the Translate in the City summer school.

## **Contracts and Rates**

Members are encouraged to send in their contracts for vetting by the SoA.

The observed minimum rates for prose translation was increased earlier this year to £95 per 1,000 words. The suggested rate for poetry is £1.10 per line, with a minimum of £35 per poem, though members are advised to take a case-by-case approach as rates for poetry vary.

## **Grants and funds**

A reminder that translators can apply to the SoA for grants for work in progress from the Authors Foundation and the K Blundell Trust. Translators may also be interested in the grants offered in association with the Francis W Reckitt Arts Trust which support residential stays for writers.

**The Society of Authors AGM will be held on Thursday 29 November.**