



TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION AGM

13 November 2018

Co-Chairs' Report

Welcome & Introduction

TA membership currently totals 701, an increase from 674 at this time last year. TA membership represents just under 7% of the current SoA membership.

Committee

Ruth Ahmedzai Kemp, Kari Dickson, Marta Dziurosz, and William Gregory accepted nominations to join the committee. They replace retiring members Paul Garrett, Nicky Harman, Louise Rogers Lalaurie and Deborah Smith with effect from this AGM. Warm thanks to our retiring members for their valued contribution to the running of our association.

The Committee is always keen to hear from potential new members. If you are interested in serving on the committee from November 2019 please do contact one of the Co-Chairs or the TA Secretary, Catherine Fuller, who will be happy to give you more information about what is involved.

The TA Committee for 2018-19 will be Charlotte Collins (co-Chair), Ruth Martin (co-Chair), Kareem Abdulrahman, Ruth Ahmedzai Kemp, Kari Dickson, Marta Dziurosz, Sasha Dugdale, William Gregory, Daniel Hahn and Shaun Whiteside.

Roland Glasser represents CEATL *ex-officio* on the committee. The National Centre for Writing 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.

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

The SoA also maintains a TA Twitter list which you can describe to for a tailored translation-focused Twitter feed. You can find the latest tweets from list members either on Twitter itself or on the TA home page on the SoA website. Contact Catherine Fuller with your twitter handle if you want to subscribe. Don't forget to follow @soc_of_authors.

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. 120 people attended this year’s sold-out event at Europe House. The 2019 event will take place on Monday 11 March (venue tbc). Please note this date for your diary now. Planning is also underway for the Literary Translation Centre 2019.

Our annual summer social was held on 7 June and provided a welcome opportunity for members to meet each other.

As part of the celebrations for the TA’s 60th anniversary, Charlotte Collins is tweeting classic books in translation every week for each year since 1958. Please follow the hashtag #TA60 and retweet (@cctranslates). You can also follow the blog: 60yearsoftranslation.wordpress.com

An evening event was held for International Translation Day on 28 September at the Free Word Centre, organised by English PEN with support from the TA. It featured a lively panel discussion, a chance for attendees to pitch a translation project to editors, and a networking session. The ITD steering group is looking at options for what form next year’s event might take.

The TA committee’s “Translating for the Theatre” group is working with SoA staff to produce a new guide to contracts for theatre translation. In July, Catherine Fuller spoke at the Out of the Wings conference at Kings College London; the event highlighted the wide variety of work undertaken by theatre translators, and provided a good starting point for the guide.

Looking forward, you are warmly invited to “Translating the Baltics” at Europe House on 5 December. This free event will explore modern literature from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, as well as the key role translators have played in bringing these texts into English. It will be hosted by Antonia Lloyd Jones and Roland Glasser. On 7 February, there will be a free networking event for members of the TA and the Emerging Translators Network at University of London’s Senate House. Look out for more details in the TA newsletter.

International Links

ALTA

At the start of November a small number of TA members attended the American Literary Translators Association 41st annual conference, this time held in Bloomington, IN. Antonia Lloyd-Jones, Peter Bush and Deborah Smith took part as panellists. The programme themes were “Performance, Props and Platforms”.

CEATL

A successful AGM was held in Copenhagen in May, at which the go-ahead was given to develop the *Small is Great* project designed to bring together translators to and from ‘small’ languages. The project was also endorsed at the PETRA-E Network meeting on training in literary translation in Budapest in October.

Work has resumed on the CEATL Working Conditions Survey, and data are now being processed with a view to producing a thorough report next year, following on from the original report published in 2008.

The Authors' Rights Working Group met in Warsaw to discuss the European Parliament's Digital Single Market Directive on Copyright, and general issues concerning copyright for translators.

The Best Practices Working Group met to develop a blog page giving advice to new or emerging literary translators' associations on such issues as lobbying, fundraising and visibility. The project will be further developed in the coming years. The Visibility Working Group plans to launch an e-zine featuring translation-related news items, features and interviews.

The Board met with TA delegates and representatives of NCW and BCLT to plan the 2019 CEATL AGM in Norwich. This will give the TA the opportunity to engage in dialogue with members of 35 associations from 29 countries at a professional event on the first full day of the meeting, and give UK-based translators the opportunity to meet CEATL members at a public event to be held at BCLT. We look forward to seeing you there!

NCW and BCLT

The National Centre for Writing launched in June 2018, with the reopening of Dragon Hall. In our new south wing we have an education space and new offices. The Great Hall has been refurbished and the cottage is now open for writers and translators in residence. We have welcomed writers from Korea, Iran and Bulgaria, and are planning translation residencies for 2019. The new NCW podcast includes a strand focusing on translation.

The 2018-2019 Emerging Translators Mentoring scheme covers Indonesian, Korean, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish and Swedish. Through its Young Translators Prize, Harvill Secker is supporting a mentorship for a translator working from Bengali to English. We also launched the new Tilted Axis Mentorship, for a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic literary translator based in the UK.

NCW and BCLT took part in the RECIT meeting in Bulgaria in May 2018, and will host the next CEATL conference in Norwich in May 2019. This year's International Literary Translation and Creative Writing Summer School featured a new 'Training the Trainer' strand which we are keen to retain and develop in future years.

BCLT's new Research Seminar Series culminated in a highly successful day-conference on the work of Lawrence Venuti in May, and the 2018 Sebald Lecture was given by Arundhati Roy in June. A second European School for Literary Translation, co-organised by BCLT with three other European partners, was held in Rome in September.

Translation Prizes

The annual Translation prizes, administered by the SoA, were presented in March at a ceremony at the British Library. The TA were delighted with the success of the inaugural *TA First Translation Prize* which was won by Bela Shayevich (translator) and Jacques Testard (Editor) for *Second-Hand Time* by Svetlana Alexievich published by Fitzcarraldo.

Save the date now for the 2019 event which will be held at the British Library on Wednesday 13 February

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.

The Society of Authors AGM will be held on Thursday 29 November in Manchester. Tickets can be booked via the SoA website.