

Focus on Translation

Editors' note

It is axiomatic to insist on the importance of translation in the study of comparative literature and world literature. Regardless of one's particular conception of world literature, translation is at the heart of its textual formations. On the other hand, any strand of comparative literary study, if it does stand up to its name, must consider the inherent connotation of comparison in translation. The worlding of world literature is inconceivable without the force of translation that brings cultures together and yet maintains their separate identities.

CL&WL has been promoting translation studies since its founding. With the current issue, we once again bring translation into focus. The four articles cover translation activities that occurred in different times and spaces, from the English translation of Chinese Mahayana Buddhist scriptures to the relay translation of Mark Twain's short story "The Californian's Tale" into Japanese and Chinese, from the adaptive translation of William Somerset Maugham's play *Sacred Flame* in Hong Kong in the 1950s to Ba Jin's translation of Alexander Herzen's *My Past and Thoughts* in China in the 1980s. While linguistical variation in translation informs their historical summary and textual analysis, those authors have presented a common theme on the creative power of translation that bears upon the target culture and the intended audience. How translation generates innovative energy that can be harbored for cultural and social change is laid bare for readers to appreciate. In this connection, translation studies may well be called "translational studies," a term rich in interdisciplinary meanings that also reflects the expansive cultural contextualization in current translation studies. This is the value of proper translation-themed comparative literary studies in our time.

With this in mind, I would like to renew our open call for quality manuscripts on translation studies and other subjects from scholars and researchers in comparative literature and world literature. *CL&WL* has been and will continue to be the forum for the discourse of literature and its divergent manifestations in our globalized world.

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