## ANNOTATED BOOKS RECEIVED

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### ANTHOLOGIES

7 Greeks. Tr. Guy Davenport. New Directions. 1995. 241 pp. Paper: $16.95; ISBN 0-8112-1288-2. This volume is a colorful variety of works by seven Greek poets and philosophers who lived from the 8th to the 3rd centuries B.C. Salvaged from shattered pottery vases and tattered scrolls of papyrus, everything decipherable from the remains of these ancient authors is assembled here. From early to late, the collection contains: Archilochos, Sappho, Alkmán, Anakreón, the philosophers Heraclíteos and Diógenes, and Herodas.


African Women's Poetry. Eds. Stella Chipasula and Frank...
Chipasula. Heinemann Educational Publishers/Reed Publishing. 1995. 230 pp. Paper: $10.95; ISBN 0-435-90680-1. Over the centuries, African women have composed songs of praise for mythic heroes, memorized epic poems that tell the history of their people, and expressed their concerns, both personal and political, in poetry. However, compilers of anthologies have shown a surprising disregard for their talents. This anthology offers an extensive selection of poetry by women all over the African continent. The poems address wide-ranging human concerns such as love, motherhood, death, colonial domination, and human dignity. They employ a variety of styles from the conversational to the didactic. Contributors include Ama Ata Aidoo, Noémia de Sousa, Queen Hatshepsut, Micere Githae Mugo, and Zindi Mandela. Translators include, among others, Harriet Zimnes, Eric Sellin, Willis Barnstone, Julia Kris, Kathleen Weaver, and Jack Cope.

(Various) *The Alphabet Garden: European Short Stories.* Ed. Pete Ayrton. Serpent's Tail/Consortium. 1995. 214 pp. Paper: $14.99; ISBN 1-85242-318-8. This collection of short stories brings together a new generation of writers who have grown up with the political concept of Europe. Their writing is both universal in the themes they tackle and deeply rooted in their specific countries. Stories include such works as "The Tree Saint" (Atte Jonstra, tr. Eric Dickens); "The Journey" (Nuno Júdice, tr. Margaret Jull Costa); "The Babbling of the Gods" (Henning Boëtius, tr. Martin Chalmers); and "The Invisible Ones" (Kjell Askildsen, tr. Anne Born).

(Greek) *Ancient Greek Novels: The Fragments.* Eds. Susan A. Stephens and John J. Winkler. Princeton University Press. 1995. 541 pp. Cloth: $59.50; ISBN 0-691-06941-7. Bilingual. The recent discovery of fragments from such novels as *Iolaos, Phoinikika, Sesonochois,* and *Metiochos* and *Parthenope* has dramatically increased the library catalogues of ancient novels. In this volume, the editors have reedited all of the identifiable fragments, including the epitomes of Iamblichos' *Babylonika* and Antonius Diogenes' *Incredible Things Beyond Thule.* Intended for scholars as well as nonspecialists, this work provides new editions of the texts, full translations whenever possible, and introductions that situate each text within the field of ancient fiction.

(Romanian) *An Anthology of Romanian Women Poets.* Eds. Adam J. Sorkin and Kurt W. Preptow. East European Monographs/Columbia University Press. 1994. 156 pp. Cloth: $22.00; ISBN 0-88033-294-8. "Poetry has always been an essential aspect of cultural expression in Romania.... To be culturally literate one must be acquainted with poetry, in addition to novels and stories; thus the idea of bringing forth in English translation the verse of some of the most significant Romanian women poets of the 19th and 20th centuries takes on added significance." [Preface] Poets include, among others, Magda Isanos, Greete Tartler, Marta Petreu, Carmen Firan, and Veronica Micle. Translators include, among others, Treptow and Sorkin, Laura Chiristruga, Dan Du_escu, Andrei Banta_; Rodica Albu, Liviu Bleoca, and Ioana Ieronim.

(Chinese) *Beyond Spring: T'zu Poems of the Sung Dynasty.* Tr. Julie Landau. Columbia University Press. 1994. 275 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-231-09678-X. The first anthology of Sung dynasty t'zu poems in English, *Beyond Spring* includes 150 translations from the golden age of t'zu in the 10th, 11th, and 12th centuries. T'zu poetry is one of the two most important lyric forms in the Chinese literary tradition. First composed and performed by prostitutes in the singing house, it is a mixture of confession and elegy. Keeping true to the original music, Landau's translations capture the phrasing and rhythms crucial to t'zu. Brief biographies of the poets, a glossary, and a historical chart of Chinese poetic genres place the poems in historical perspective.

(Korean) *Contemporary Korean Poetry.* Ed. and Tr. Kim Jaihuin. Mosaic Press. 1994. 139 pp. Paper: $14.95; ISBN 0-88962-561-1. "I have arranged the poets roughly in chronological order for convenience, though poets may have preceded others in establishing their literary names...On the whole, with the exception of a handful of poems unavailable for inclusion, the poets represented here can be regarded as major figures standing for the significant trends in shaping modern Korean poetry." [Preface] Includes poets Sanghwa Yi, Yongch'ol Park, Tongju Jan, Ha'un Han, and Pyong-hwa Cho, among others.

(Russian) *Contemporary Russian Poetry: A Bilingual Anthology.* Ed. and Tr. Gerald S. Smith. Indiana University Press [Bloomington and Indianapolis]. 1993. 355 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-253-35333-5. Paper: ISBN 0-253-20769-X. Bilingual. In general the poems included in this anthology were written in the 1970s and 1980s. Many are about the nature and function of poetry itself; recent developments in Russian and Soviet history and the relationship of those developments to the country's past; reactions to their new environment on the part of émigré poets, continuing the old debate on Russia versus the West; men defining women and women defining men—the former category still far outweighing the latter in persistence and self-confidence; and the characteristic Russian genre of the "confessional" philosophical lyric, in which a poet defines his or her place as a member of a particular generation. Includes works by Slutsky, Kornilov, Rein, Bobyshhev, Kushner, Loseff, Chukhontsev, and Prigorov, among others.

(Greek) *Daughters of Sappho: Contemporary Greek Women Poets.* Ed. and Tr. Rae Dalven. Farleigh Dickinson University Press. 1994. 261 pp. Cloth: $32.50; ISBN 0-8386-3470-2. This is an anthology of 25 contemporary Greek women poets. Presenting the poets in chronological order and providing full biographical and bibliographical accounts of them, this collection shows the gradual development of Greek women's
verse from sentimental romanticism to various forms of modernism and post-modernism. Includes works by Maria Polydhouri, Heleni Vakalo, Kiki Dhimoulia, Pitsa Ghalazi, and Rea Ghalanaki, among others.

(Chinese) Death in a Cornfield: And Other Stories from Contemporary Taiwan. Eds. Ching-Hsi Peng and Chiu-Kuei Wang. Oxford University Press. 1994. 236 pp. Paper: ISBN 0-19-586178-7. The past decade has seen unprecedented changes in Taiwanese society: economic prosperity, ever more sophisticated industry, a more open political system, upheavals in social and family life. Old habits and values have faded away, with new ones only slowly taking their place. Lyrical, provocative, and often humorous, the 13 stories in this collection have been gathered from the work of some of the country's best-known writers. Selected and translated by the staff of Taipei's National Institute of Translation and Compilation, under the guidance of the island's top literary scholars, these stories bear witness to those eventful years, the works propose differing visions of the island's future. A few of the works included are "Life" (Lu Fei-yi), "Night-time Frolics" (Huang Fan), "The Policy Maker" (Chang Hsi-kuo), and "Rustic Quandary" (Shu Kuo-chi).

(French) Demons of the Night: Tales of the Fantastic, Madness, and the Supernatural from Nineteenth-Century France. Ed. Joan C. Kessler. University of Chicago Press. 1995. 398 pp. Cloth: $45.00; ISBN 0-226-43207-6. Paper: $14.95; ISBN 0-226-43208-4. Featuring such authors as Balzac, Mérimée, Dumas, Verne, and Maupassant, this book is a gathering, for the first time in English, of the best 19th-century French fantastic tales. The anthology opens with Smarra, or The Demons of the Night, Nodier's 1821 tale of nightmare, vampirism, and compulsion, acclaimed as the first work in French literature to explore in depth the realm of dream and the unconscious. Other stories include Balzac's "The Red Inn," in which a crime is committed by one person in thought and another in deed, and Mérimée's superbly crafted mystery, "The Venus of Ille," which dramatizes the demonic power of a vengeful goddess of love emerging out of the pagan past. The Introduction sets the background for these tales—the impact of the French Revolution and the Terror, the Romantics' fascination with the subconscious, and the influence of contemporary psychological and spiritual currents.

(Gay and Lesbian Poetry: An Anthology from Sappho to Michelangelo. Ed. James J. Wilhelm. Garland Publishing Inc. 1995. 330 pp. Cloth: $50.00; ISBN 0-8153-1887-1. Paper: $19.95; ISBN 0-8153-1886-3. This is the most comprehensive and authoritative anthology of homoerotic literature from the Greeks to the Italian Renaissance, featuring 730 poems by 114 known and many unknown authors from seven languages and literatures. Although its main focus is on European languages, the Anthology also includes Arabic and Hebrew poetry of medieval Spain. Most of the poems celebrate homoeroticism, but a few homophobic works are included. The poems range from the ethereal, sensitive work of Sappho and Michelangelo to vulgar and obscene samples from Martial and Antonio Panormita. Translators include Dennis Kratz, Wilhelm, Thomas Stehling, Arthur Wormhoudt, and Norman Roth.

(French) The Honeysuckle and the Hazel Tree: Medieval Stories of Men and Women. Tr. Patricia Terry. University of California Press. 1995. 218 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-520-08378-4. Paper: ISBN 0-520-08379-2. Patricia Terry here presents translations of four major practitioners of the octosyllabic narrative verse from 12th- and 13th-century France. From Chrétien de Troyes, who introduced the magical realm of King Arthur to literature, Terry includes an early work, Philomena, here translated into verse for the first time. The other great writer of this period was Marie de France, the first woman in the European narrative tradition. Terry has newly translated Lanval for this edition, which also features four of Marie's other lais. The collection further includes The Reflection by Jean Renart, known for his realistic settings and mordant tone; and the anonymous Chatelaine de Vergi, a fatalistic, somber, and perhaps more modern depiction of love. Terry's translation of Renard the Fox is also available from California.

(Italian) I Novissimi: Poetry for the Sixties [I Novissimi: Poesie per gli anni '60]. Ed. Alfredo Giuliani. Sun & Moon Press [Rusconi e Paolazzi Editore, 1961]. 1995. 413 pp. Paper: ISBN 1-55713-137-6. No postwar literature has been as fundamentally and relentlessly experimental as Italian poetry since the mid-1950s. In the forefront of this renewed interest in experimentation were five neo-avant-garde poets called the Novissimi, from the 1961 publication of their anthology of the same name. Their work exploded the aesthetic conventions and tolerances of their contemporaries, fostering wave after wave of innovative poets and fiction writers. The five poets—Nanni Balestrini, Alfredo Giuliani, Elio Pagliarani, Antonio Porta, and Edoardo Sanguineti—shared a definite sense of linguistic crisis, demanding of poetry a life within the critical moment. This first English language publication of I Novissimi provides, in bilingual format, the original poetry and notes with translations, and features a new foreword by Giuliani.

(Latin and Gaelic) Iona: The Earliest Poetry of a Celtic
(Romanian) Magda Isanos. *When Angels Sing* [Când îngerii cânta]. Eds. and Trs. Laura Treptow and Kurt W. Treptow. The Romanian Cultural Foundation. 1994. 144 pp. Paper: $10.00. This volume represents the first bilingual edition of poems and prose of the Romanian writer to commemorate 50 years since the poet's death at age 28. The most notable theme in her poetry is an ever-present feeling of being destined to a premature death as illustrated in "Dear God, I've not finished yet!" or "I Have to Leave this Night." Her theme of hatred caused by war's destruction is seen in "He Made Me See the Country Folk," while a longing for peace and an optimistic view of the future of humankind can be found in "For Peace I Pray" and "Over Future Fields." A shadow of melancholy is constantly present as well as a mystical aspect. Primarily known as a poet, Isanos also wrote prose; the idea at the basis of "The Town of Miracles" is the relativity of good and evil, and the lesson that individuals cannot distinguish clearly between them.

(German) *Jewish Voices, German Words: Growing Up Jewish in Postwar Germany and Austria.* Ed. Elena Lappin. Tr. Krishna Winston. Catbird Press. 1994. 301 pp. Cloth: $23.95; ISBN 0-945774-23-0. What was it like to grow up Jewish in postwar Germany and Austria, in the nearly invisible shadow of the Holocaust? And what is it like to live there now? In this collection of stories, memoirs, and essays, 14 German Jewish writers and journalists answer these questions in a variety of ways. Topics include anger with one's parents for staying or returning, assimilation and Jewish identity, anti-Semitism and neo-Nazism, and longing for a home and language that feel right.


(German) *Menschheitsdämmerung: Dawn of Humanity—A Document of Expressionism.* Ed. Kurt Pinthus. Trs. Joanna M. Ratych, Ralph Ley, Robert C. Conard. Camden House [Rowohlt Taschenbuchverlag GmbH Reinbek]. 1994. 411 pp. Cloth: ISBN 1-879751-48-8. By far the most significant and influential anthology of German Expressionist poetry ever published. The present translation, the first into any language, commemorates the 75th anniversary of its existence. An immediate bestseller in 1919, it has not lost its capacity to captivate and sometimes to shock the reader by its uncommonly prescient visions of future horrors of war and of the cold impersonality of the modern metropolis. This collection contains 278 poems by 23 authors, most of whom died in the First World War or in exile. It also contains some 40 pages of bio-bibliographical information on these authors. Includes works by, among others, Gottfried Benn, Theodor Däubler, Georg Heym, Jakob Van Hoddis, Else Lasker-Schüler, Karl Otten, Ludwig Rubiner, August Stramm, Georg Trakl, and Paul Zech.


(French) *The Muse Spoke French.* Tr. Kendall Lappin. Asylum Arts. 1995. 128 pp. Paper: $9.95; ISBN 878580-59-0. In this selection of 48 classic French poems—which includes works by Villon, Voltaire, Baudelaire, Musset, Nerval, and Hugo, as well as lesser-known poets such as d'Orléans, DuBellay, Prudhomme, Heredia, Coppée, and Rollinat—translator Kendall Lappin puts theory to the test: dispensing with rhyme in favor of strict adherence to metrics and diction, Lappin's translations strive for and achieve remarkable semantic faithfulness without sacrificing the musicality of the verse. Readers with a knowledge of French will find particular delight in comparing the translator's versions to the originals, printed here on facing pages.

this work contains free-verse compositions by 36 modern Japanese women poets. Remarkable for their diversity and passion, the poems here provide a vivid contrast in style to the more traditional verse forms featured in volume 1, A Long Rainy Season: Haiku and Tanka (1994). Poets included, among others, are Masayo Koike, Sachiko, Yoshihara, Saho Asada, Harumi Makino Smith, Hiromi Ito, Rumiko Kora, and Yuhko Isaka. It includes a critical introduction and a selection of poems in the original Japanese with romanized transcription.

(Various) Prague: A Traveler's Literary Companion. Ed. Paul Wilson. Whereabouts Press. 1995. 256 pp. Paper: $12.95; ISBN 1-883513-01-4. Gathered here are 24 stories by Czech writers arranged with the traveler in mind; that is, by the areas of the city that they illuminate. Written over the course of the century, the stories suggest the historical layering of the city. Cross the Charles Bridge with Jaroslav Hašek, race through Communist Prague with Ota Pavel, dine at the Hotel Paš i with Bohumil Hrabal, and wander through nighttime streets in a drunken haze with Franz Kafka. Translators include Wilson, Michael Henry Heim, Norma Comrada, Mike Mitchell, A.G. Brain, Madge Pemberton, Marie K. Hole ek, Tania and James Stern, Alex Zucker, Guy Endore, and Peter Kussi.


(Russian) Russian Gypsy Tales. Eds. Yefim Druts and Alexei Gessler. Tr. James Riordan. Interlink Books. 1992. 144 pp. Cloth: ISBN 1-56656-100-0. Paper: $11.95; ISBN 0-940793-97-0. These stories were narrated by gypsies from Leningrad, Novgorod, Moscow, Tula, Smolensk and Gorky regions, and from Karelia and Siberia. Their tales are passionate, colorful and distinctive, and have little in common with the folk tales of other nations. The gypsy folk and fairy tale are so little known that this collection is unique. Included are tales such as "The Enchanted Hinny," "Thunder Clap," "The Dead Encampment," "Three Nincompoops," "Choosing a Bride," and "How the Devil Played Hell with a Gypsy." Translator Riordan has published some 20 collections of folk tales, including The Sun Maiden and the Crescent Moon.

(Various languages from India) The Slate of Life: More Contemporary Stories by Women Writers of India. Ed. Kali for Women. The Feminist Press/Consortium. 1995. 342 pp. Cloth: $40.00; ISBN 0-295-97293-9. Paper: $19.95; ISBN 0-295-97348-X. The 54 tales included here represent all 25 of Yunnan Province's officially designated minorities. They include creation myths, romances, historical legends, tales explaining natural phenomena, ghost stories, and festival tales. The tales are peopled by memorable characters, such as the Tibetan mother who, reborn as a cow, comforts and helps her daughter in her harsh life as a slave girl; the two Kucong sisters who marry snakes; and the bodiless Lahu "head-baby" who grows up to win one of the earth-god Poyana's daughters in marriage. Introductions and an appendix describe the places and people of Yunnan, analyze the literary and psychological characteristics of their stories, give the sources of the tales, and explain the methodology of collecting folk literature in China.

(Romanian, Hungarian, German) Transylvanian Voices: An Anthology of Contemporary Poets from Cluj-Napoca. Eds. and Trs. Liviu Bleoaca and Adam J. Sorkin. The Romanian Cultural Foundation Ia a. 1994. 112 pp. Paper: $10.00; ISSN 1223-1908. Cluj, capital of Transylvania, has long been an important center for Romanian literature. Poets represented include, among others, Mariana Bojan, Vasile I gna, Ion Pop, Dan Damaschin, Egyed Emese, Visky András, and Franz Hodjak.

(Italian) Twentieth-Century Italian Drama: An Anthology—the First Fifty Years. Eds. Jane House and
Antonio Attisani. Columbia University Press. 1995. 622 pp. Cloth: $39.50; ISBN 0-231-07118-3. Italian theater ranks as one of the most important and influential in the western world, yet many works have been inaccessible to English-language readers. Guided by theater critic Antonio Attisani's introduction, readers will encounter the rich movements in Italian drama including: futurism, teatro grotesco, magical realism, Catholic strain, cabaret variety, psychological realism, the aesthetic-mystical movement, and post-World War II strain of existentialism. Authors include Gabriele d'Annunzio, Filippo Tomasso Marinetti, Ettore Petrolini, Raffael Viviani, Pier Maria Rosso di San Secondo, Federigo Tozzi, Massimo Bontempelli, Achille Campanile, Italo Svevo, Luigi Pirandello, Eduardo De Filippo, Ugo Betti, and Alberto Savinio.

(American) White Flash/Black Rain: Women of Japan Relive the Bomb. Eds. and Trs. Lequita Vance-Watkins and Aratani Mariko. Milkweed Editions. 1995. 104 pp. Paper: $12.95; ISBN 1-57131-402-4. The voices in this collection refute the idea that the devastation unleashed on Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended with the war. Their words echo the refrain that the ravages of war live on in body and soul, in victim and victor. In potent prose and poetry, these women bear witness to the shared responsibility for bringing about war, any war. They retell the unspeakable mass destruction inflicted by the United States when it dropped the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; they recall the disastrous path Japan followed with its policy of conquest and Emperorism in Korea and China; they recount the abuse of the "comfort women" used by Japanese soldiers.

REFERENCE

Clarice Lispector: A Bio-Bibliography. Ed. Diane E. Marting. Greenwood Press. 1993. 368 pp. Cloth: $85.00; ISBN 0-313-27803-2. Lispector was one of the most important Brazilian writers of the 20th century. This reference provides a detailed record of her life and career. The book begins with introductory material on the difficulties of documenting her work, and on her life as a writer. The first part of the book contains chapters on each of Lispector's major works. Each chapter begins with a brief critical essay, followed by lists of editions and translations, as well as criticism. The second part contains chapters on general works about Lispector's writing, such as biographical accounts, bibliographies and other reference works, and general criticism. Appendices provide translations of her Portuguese titles.

(German) The Continuum Encyclopedia of Symbols [Lexikon der Symbols]. Ed. Udo Becker. Tr. Lance W. Garmer. Continuum Publishing Co. [Verlag Herder, Freiburg im Breisgau, 1992]. 1994. 345 pp. Cloth: $39.50; ISBN 0-8264-0644-0. This is a definitive compendium of symbols and their deeper meanings in individual human psychology and civilization. With over 1,500 entries and more than 800 illustrations (a number in full color), this encyclopedia is an indispensable reference tool for all those who search for the deeper significance lying within everyday things. Tracing symbols to their cultural, religious, or mythological origins, it explores a wealth of objects and concepts, and the hidden or encoded meaning that lies concealed beneath their outward appearance. Entries range from examples of metaphor and allegory to the symbolic meanings of numbers, letters, astrological and alchemical character, as well as a rich array of abstract concepts that find their tangible expression in the universal language of symbols.

Nicholas J. Goetzfridt. Indigenous Literature of Oceania: A Survey of Criticism and Interpretation. Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc. 1995. 368 pp. Cloth: $75.00; ISBN 0-313-29173-X. Oceania has a rich and growing literary tradition. The imaginative literature that emerged in the 1960s often reflected the forms and structures of European literature, though the ideas expressed were typically anticolonial. After three decades, the literature of Oceania has become much more complex, in terms of styles and voices. While the written literature of Oceania is continuously gaining more critical attention, questions about the imposition of European literary standards and values as a further extension of colonialism in the Pacific have become a central issue.


REPRINTS


(Italian) Leonard Benevold. The European City. Tr. Carl
The author begins by discussing the survival of urban culture following the collapse of the Roman and Byzantine Empires and then examines the great period of urban expansion between the 11th and 14th centuries. The years following the formation of the first European states brought concentrated power and influence to their capitals, where new ideas of national identity were reflected in the organization of traditional urban space. The conflict between city and country had emerged by the 16th century and the author shows how this influenced the colonial towns of the two Americas. He concludes with chapters on the effects of industrialization and modern transportation, in particular the devastating impact of the automobile. The unique synthesis of urban, social, cultural, and political history will be welcomed by all those interested in European, intellectual, and urban history.


an early supporter of the Bolsheviks. He became disillusioned with the turn of events after the 1917 revolution, however, and wrote a series of critical articles for the magazine New Life that eventually caused the new Communist government to close down the publication. Untimely Thoughts is a collection of these articles. It is at once a brilliant analysis of the Russian national character, a condemnation of the Bolshevik methods of government, and a vision of a future in which respect for individual accomplishment replaces the tyranny of the tsars and the brutality of Russian peasant experience. A controversial book, it was not translated into English until 1968 and was not published in the Soviet Union until 1989. The English edition is now back in print with a new introduction and chronology by Mark D. Steinberg. Gorky's The Lower Depths and Other Plays is also published by Yale University Press.


(German) Immanuel Kant. The One Possible Basis for a Demonstration of the Existence of God [Einzig möglicher Beweisgrund zu einer Demonstration des Daseins Gottes]. Tr. Gordon Treash. University of Nebraska Press. 1994 [Abaris Books, 1979]. 247 pp. Paper: $12.95; ISBN 0-8032-7776-7. Bilingual. The 1763 essay is important in understanding the development of Kant's thought. It exposed the flaw in the Cartesian argument that the existence of a perfect being could be deduced from an idea or concept of such. Similarly, Kant saw the problem inherent in the Leibnizian view of a philosophical system modeled on mathematics: a philosopher who, like a mathematician, began with an arbitrary definition remained trapped in a circle of words. This is the first paperback edition of Treash's English translation, the only modern one.


(French) Gabrielle Roy. The Road Past Altamont [Route d'Altamont]. Tr. Joyce Marshall. University of Nebraska Press. 1993 [McClelland and Stewart, Limited, Toronto, 1966]. 146 pp. Paper: $7.95; ISBN 0-8032-8948-0. This work takes a sensitive French-Canadian girl, Christine, from childhood innocence to maturity. Four connected stories reveal profound moments during her early years in the vastness of Manitoba. Christine's testament to Grandmother's creative power, her great adventure with an old gentleman at Lake Winnipeg and her clandestine one with a crude family of movers, her journey through time and space with aging Maman—all these characters and events convey Roy's preoccupation with childhood and old age, the passage of time and mystery of change, and the artist's relation to the world. Roy's other works in English translation include The Tin Flute, Where Nests the Water Hen, The Cashier; and Street of Riches.


(Russian) Abram Tertz (Andrei Sinyavsky). A Voice from the Chorus. Trs. Kryil Fitzlyon and Max Hayward. Yale University Press. 1995 [1976]. 328 pp. Paper: $14.00; ISBN 0-300-06119-6. A noted Russian dissident, Tertz was incarcerated from 1966 to 1971 in Soviet forced labor camps for allowing some of his most satirical writings to be smuggled out of Russia and published in the West. This work is his prison memoir. Based on letters to his wife, the diary includes
mediations on religion, sex, art, literature, and myths—the inner world to which he removed himself to escape the degradation of prison. Interjected into the thoughts are random snatches of prisoners' conversations—a "chorus" of their tales, legends, songs, and curses that evoke the horror and spiritual desolation of their existence. Sinyavsky's *Strolls with Pushkin* has been translated and published by Yale.

(Japanese) *This Kind of Woman: Ten Stories by Japanese Women Writers, 1960-1976*. Eds. Yukiko Tanaka and Elizabeth Hanson. Trs. Mona Nagai, Susan Downing Videen, Akiko Willing, Elizabeth Hanson, Yukiko Tanaka. University of Michigan. 1994. 287 pp. Paper: ISBN 0-939512-66-1. "The social changes that Japan has experienced in the last hundred years...have increased the opportunities for women to express themselves, and the number of women writers has increased greatly since the Second World War. Many important and successful women writers have now emerged, particularly since the 1960's, indicating the start of a new phase in the history of literature by women." Includes stories by Yumiko, Harumi, Taeko, Fumiko, Minako, Setsuko, Taeko, Michiko, Takako, Yuko.


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**AESTHETICS**

(Russian) S.M. Eisenstein Selected Works: Vol. 2: *Towards a Theory of Montage*. Eds. Michael Glenny and Richard Taylor. Tr. Michael Glenny. British Film Institute/Indiana University Press. 1994. 450 pp. Cloth: $70.00. Paper: $29.95; ISBN 0-85170-461-1. The name of Sergei Eisenstein (1898-1948) has long been synonymous with the idea of montage, as exemplified in his silent film classics *The Battleship Potemkin* (1925) and *October* (1928). But in the 1930s his style changed and so did his ideas. Between 1937 and 1940 he elaborated his ideas on montage in a series of essays, most of which remained unpublished until after his death and are now published in English for the first time. Collectively these essays present the essence of Eisenstein's thinking on the cinema and aesthetics in general.

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY/BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIRS**

(German) Heinrich Böll. *Missing Persons & Other Essays*. Tr. Leila Vennewitz. Northwestern University Press. 1994. 281 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8101-1177-2. Paper: $13.95; ISBN 0-8101-1162-4. The only collection of Böll's nonfiction prose to be published in English spans over two decades of social, political, literary, and cultural commentary. These 29 essays, reviews, and speeches reflect the same moral passion and deep wisdom that resonate through his fiction. Here is Böll the Nobel laureate and Böll the private man: his compassion for ordinary people, his unblinking view of the tragedies of war, his satiric portrait of modern urban life, and his deeply personal reflections on life and literature. The title essay is an inward search for his mother and father as the children they once were. There are several pieces on the artistic process and works by his contemporaries, and a number of speeches, including his Nobel Lecture of 1972. Also included are an essay on the conflict in Northern Ireland and his eyewitness account of the 1968 Russian invasion of Prague.

(French) Lena Constante. *The Silent Escape: Three Thousand Days in Romanian Prisons* [L'évasion silencieuse: Trois mille jours seule dans les prisons roumaines]. Tr. Franklin Philip. University of California Press [Éditions La Découverte, Paris, 1990]. 1995. 275 pp. Cloth: $22.00; ISBN 0-520-08209-5. *The Silent Escape* is the extraordinary account of Constante's years of solitary confinement, during which she was kept in small, cold cells without even a book for company. Unlike other prison diaries, which focus on political events, this book draws the reader into the practical and emotional experiences of day-to-day life in a Romanian jail. With candor and eloquence, she describes the continuous forced walks, beatings, exposure to cold, and long periods of sleep deprivation that were the common lot of the communist-state political prisoner. Constante survived by silently escaping into her
mind—translating favorite poems and creating entire artistic compositions. Finally, she discovered the "language of the walls," which enabled her to communicate with prisoners outside of solitary confinement. By this means she established a remarkable solidarity with the other female inmates and learned about their world, a world she would enter during the last four years of her prison terms. Constante won the 1992 Prix Européen of the Association des Écrivains de Langue Française for the French edition of the book.


(Italian) Antonio Gramsci. Letters from Prison: Volume 2 [Lettere del carcere]. Ed. Frank Rosengarten. Tr. Raymond Rosenthal. Columbia University Press [Giulio Einaudi, 1965; L'Unita, 1988]. 1994. 352 pp. Cloth: $35.00; ISBN 0-231-07554-5. One of the great European philosophers of the 20th century, Gramsci was imprisoned in 1926 by the Italian Fascists for his outspoken opposition, in order, said the public prosecutor, "To stop that brain from working for 20 years." Instead, while in prison, Gramsci produced his best work. One of the results was his wide-ranging intellectual insights presented in the numerous volumes of his prison notebooks. The other was his Letters from Prison, which bring to life another, more personal side of this seminal thinker: his thoughts and feelings as a son, a husband, a friend, and a father.

Bosch founded and led one of Germany's most important and successful manufacturing firms, best known for the invention of the spark plug. This official biography delves into his relations with such esteemed inventors as Thomas Alva Edison and examines issues ranging from Bosch's involvement in industrial policy to his encouragement of German-French relations in economic and political spheres. One of the first corporate heads to be directly concerned with and involved in employee relations and well-being, he instituted the eight-hour workday, was instrumental in providing for the health care of his factory workers, and was known as a great philanthropist.

(Spanish) Guillermo Cabrera Infante. Mea Cuba. Tr. Kenneth Hall with the author. Farrar, Straus and Giroux [Plaza & Janés Editores, 1992]. 1994. 503 pp. Cloth: $23.00; ISBN 0-374-20497-7. Mea Cuba is the passionate but often hilarious political autobiography of one of the greatest Cuban writers of the century. Sharply opinionated and brutally honest, it explores the nature of the Cuban revolution and the lives of those it has involved or affected, from political leaders such as Fulgencio Batista, Che Guevara, and Fidel Castro to writers like Alejo Carpentier, Reinaldo Arenas, and Heberto Padilla. Infante's other works include Twentieth Century Job, Infante's Inferno, Holy Smoke, and Three Trapped Tigers.


(Russian) Maria Razumovsky. Marina Tsvetayeva: A Critical Biography. Tr. Aleksey Gibson. Bloodaxe Books/Dufour Editions. 1995. 363 pp. Cloth: $65.00; ISBN 1-85224-045-8. The most comprehensive biography available in any language of the Russian poet Marina Tsvetayeva (1892-1941). Drawing on a variety of sources, including the memoirs and letters of Tsvetayeva's family, friends, and literary contemporaries, as well as her poetry and autobiographical writings, Razumovsky reconstructs the major episodes in Tsvetayeva's life, and relates them to the literary and historical events of her time. After covering Tsvetayeva's early years in Moscow, Razumovsky takes us from her marriage in 1912, through World War I and the Russian Revolution, to her departure from Russia in 1922—the years of her first success and fame. Then Razumovsky describes the years of European exile, discussing both the development of her mature work and her relations with her contemporaries. The book ends with Tsvetayeva's last two years in Russia, from her return at the outbreak of war and her evacuation from Moscow, to her suicide in 1941.
Razumovsky was for 40 years a librarian in the National Library of Austria in Vienna specializing in Russian literature. Gibson's work on Russian émigré literature, Russian Poetry and Criticism in Paris from 1920 to 1940, was published in 1990 by Leuvenhoff Publishing, The Hague.

(Spanish) Severo Sarduy. Christ on the Rue Jacob [El Cristo de la rue Jacob]. Trs. Suzanne Jill Levine and Carol Maier. Mercury House [Editions del Mall, 1987]. 1995. 176 pp. Paper: $12.95; ISBN 1-56279-075-7. In this, his last major work of nonfiction, Sarduy traces a series of incidents or "epiphanies" that marked him—his body or his memory. In a style at once daring, honest, erudite, and rich in imagination, Sarduy reveals his abiding concerns. He touches on literature, visual imagery, displacements of gender and genre, Buddhism, the flamboyant gesture, and the withdrawal into meditation. He also shares personal reflections: his first encounter with Saint Germain des Près, Café de Flore, his friendship with Roland Barthes, why he paints, and his excesses with alcohol. Sarduy's books in English include From Cuba with a Song, Cobra, Maitraya, and Written on a Body. Levine's translations include works by Guillermo Cabrera Infante, Julio Cortázar, José Donoso, Manuel Puig, and Adolfo Bioy Casares. Maier has translated the works of Rosa Chacel, Octavio Armand, Carlota Caufield, and Carmen Martín Gaite.

(Spanish) Mario Vargas Llosa. A Fish in the Water [El pez en el agua]. Tr. Helen Lane. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 1994. 532 pp. Cloth: $25.00; ISBN 0-374-15509-7. In 1990, Vargas Llosa decided to run for the Presidency of his native Peru, campaigning on a platform of economic reform and stringent counterterrorism against the Sendero Luminoso, or Shining Path. His campaign against (and ultimate defeat by) Alberto Fujimori was the stuff of international headlines, transforming an eminent writer into a politician of world stature. Fish is his disarming and deeply absorbing response to that profoundly heady—and troubling—experience. Vargas Llosa evokes the experiences that gave rise to his fiction, including his stay at the Leoncio Prado Military Academy, which was the basis of his first book, The Time of the Hero, and his desperate attempts to marry while still a minor, as recounted in hilarious detail in Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter.

BELLES LETTRES

(Serbo-Croatian-Bosnian) Dzevad Karahasan. Sarajevo, Exodus of a City [Dnevnik selide]. Tr. Slobodan Drakulić. Kodansha International [Durieux Publishers, Zagreb, 1993]. 1994. 123 pp. Paper: $10.00; ISBN 1-56836-057-6. Karahasan, a prominent Bosnian Muslim writer, sketches a cultural portrait of Sarajevo, describing the city plan, its domestic architecture, even its culinary styles—all intertwined with searing descriptions of the siege and anecdotes about how his life and those of his neighbors were ravaged by war. A contribution to the literature of war and loss, it asks readers to examine ethical questions in a new way, questions that have been visited with futility again and again throughout this century.

LITERARY THEORY/CRITICISM


(Basque) Gorka Aulestia. Improvisational Poetry from the Basque Country [Bertsolarismo]. Trs. Lisa Corcostegui and Linda White. University of Nevada Press, Reno [Bizkaiko Foru Aldundia (Bilbao), 1990]. 1995. 272 pp. Cloth: $34.95; ISBN 0-87417-201-2. Aulestia takes a scholarly look at the art of the bertsolari, a tradition that is truly unique and completely Basque. A performance consists of a bertsolari, a live audience, and a challenge to put a specific into song. Within seconds the bertsolari is expected to create beautiful verse, set to music. The bertsolari’s impromptu verses demonstrate his knowledge of the Basque language and history, as well as his ability to captivate an audience with fresh verse. Aulestia introduces and analyzes the performing styles of great bertsolariak, including Zabier Amuriza and Jon Azpillaga. Aulestia is author of the Basque-English Dictionary.

He reflects on literary figures from Kafka to Karl Kraus, the "Jewish Question," Marxism, and Zionism.


(German) Karl Erich Grözinger. *Kafka and Kabbalah* [*Kafka und die Kabbala*]. Tr. Susan Hecker Ray. Continuum [Vito von Eichborn GmbH & Co. Verlag]. 1994. 231 pp. Cloth: $24.95; ISBN 0-8264-0659-9. Is a study of Kafka's thinking and writing from strictly a religious point of view justified? He is, after all, considered one of the pillars of modernism. As such, Kafka's well-established deploring of the inadequacy of his own Jewish upbringing only fuels the generally held belief that he was not much influenced by his religion. Or does it? This compelling work considers the writer from a very different point of view. In jargon-free language, Grözinger reveals that Kafka actually had an extraordinarily detailed and sophisticated knowledge of Judaism—particularly of the Kabbalah and kabbalistic tradition. Working from the earlier critical writings of Gershom Scholem, Grözinger shows that these influences can be found in all of Kafka's texts.

(French) Vincent Kaufmann. *Post Scripts: The Writer's Workshop* [*L'équivoque épistolaire*]. Tr. Deborah Treisman. Harvard University Press [Les Editions de Minuit, 1990]. 1994. 199 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-674-69330-2. We assume that words are posted to communicate with others, to bridge distance and "wish you were here." Kaufmann discovers in his chosen letter writers (Kafka, Proust, Flaubert, Baudelaire, Mallarmé, and Artaud) an urgency to keep their correspondents away. The writer avoids real-life dialogue by way of letters, which then become proving grounds for the work to come. Kaufman says that what characterizes the literary text is the ability to get beyond a particular other and to address the Other, which must be no one in particular.

(French) Maria Paganini. *Reading Proust: In Search of the Wolf-Fish.* Trs. Caren Literland and Kathryn Milun. University of Minnesota Press. 1994. 265 pp. Paper: $19.95; ISBN 0-8166-2040-7. What readers of Proust in English translation miss, along with most of his critics, is how precisely his subtle craftsmanship weaves its spell. *Reading Proust* focuses on the specificity of Proustian writing, revealing the patterns of thought and play of words peculiar to Proust's language, and showing how these metamorphose throughout *La recherche du temps perdu*. Her work offers a new model for reading fictional prose, one that replaces the critical "why?" with the more practical and productive "how?"

(French) Jacques Rancière. *The Names of History: On the Poetics of Knowledge* [*Les Noms de l'histoire (Mots de l'histoire)*]. Tr. Melehy Hassan. University of Minnesota Press [Éditions de Minuit, Paris, 1990]. 1994. 114 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8166-2401-1. Paper: ISBN 0-8166-2403-8. History in our day is still a story, and yet one that we expect to tell the truth—not just the people and the events of the past, but the invisible order and forces behind them. How can the language of history balance these seemingly contrary tasks, the narrative, the scientific, and the political? This is the question Rancière explores in his meditation on the poetics of historical knowledge. In the works of writers from Jules Michelet to Fernand Braudel, Rancière traces an ongoing revolution in historical study, a movement that has challenged, in the practice of language, the opposition of science and literature. By way of a commentary on Erich Auerbach, he further shows how fictional narrative intertwines with historical narrative to produce a "truth" that retains mythical elements. In closing, he insists on the interdisciplinary character of historical study, in connection with recent developments in philosophy and critical theory. Rancière's *The Nights of Labor: The Workers Dream..."
in Nineteenth-Century France (1989) and The Ignorant Schoolmaster: Five Lessons in Intellectual Emancipation (1991) have also been translated into English.


SOCIAL/POLITICAL THEORY

(Slovenian) Aleš Debeljak. Twilight of the Idols: Recollections of a Lost Yugoslav. Tr. Michael Biggins. White Pine Press [Wieser Verlag]. 1994. 85 pp. Paper: $10.00; ISBN 1-877727-51-2. This long, two-part essay raises disturbing questions about our intellectual commitment to the concept of multiculturalism and paints a haunting portrait of a place that no longer exists. The striking photographs by Elizabeth Rappaport show us what remains of a culturally-rich and diverse place where, as Debeljak states, the people "until yesterday had lived in a single state, but who today have different countries. The guns of the Balkans have silenced those good vibrations. The stars have set. And of all seasons, the lands south of my own country know but a single one—the deep, dark winter of death."

(French) Guy Debord. The Society of the Spectacle [La société du spectacle]. Tr. Donald Nicholson-Smith. Zone Books. 1994. 154 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-942299-80-9. From its publication amid the social upheavals of the 1960s up to the present, the theses of this book have decisively transformed debates on the shape of modernity, capitalism and everyday life in the late 20th century. Now finally available in English translation, the text remains as crucial as ever for understanding the contemporary effects of power, which are increasingly inseparable from the new virtual worlds of our rapidly changing image-information culture. Debord is also the author of Comments on the Society of the Spectacle and Panegyric.

(French) Alain Finkielkraut. The Imaginary Jew [Le Juif imaginaire]. Trs. Kevin O'Neill and David Suhoff. University of Nebraska Press. 1994. 201 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8032-1987-3. Finkielkraut decodes the shifts in anti-Semitism occurring at the end of the Cold War, chronicles the impact of Israel's policies on Jews in Europe, opposes arguments both for and against cultural assimilation, reopens questions about Marx and Judaism, and marks the extent of the loss of European Jewish culture through catastrophe, ignorance, and cliché. He notes that the generation that grew up encouraged to identify with Israel continued the erasure of European Judaism, forgetting the pangs and glories of Yiddish culture and the astounding accomplishments of the Diaspora. As a result of the Holocaust, he argues, the image of the eternal victim eclipses every positive tie between Jews and their tradition; worse, it contracts oppression into an image which, all too conveniently, has been treated as a picture of the past.

(French) Alain Finkielkraut. The Defeat of the Mind [La Défaite de la pensée]. Tr. Judith Friedlander. Columbia University Press [Editions Gallimard, 1987]. 1995. 165 pp. Cloth: $22.95; ISBN 0-231-08022-0. In a determinedly unfashionable indictment of contemporary culture and intellectual fashion, Finkielkraut links today's debates on culture to the surprisingly similar war between Enlightenment thinkers and German Romanticists that raged in the 18th and 19th centuries. In keeping with their belief in the abstract individual, Enlightenment thinkers conceived of culture as an expression of the life of the mind, while the Romanticists viewed culture as an expression of the Volkgeist, or the national spirit. He urges us to beware of the Volkgeist, which he argues has been manipulated again and again this century by ethnic nationalists. Equally worrying, he claims, are the infusions of the Volkgeist into campaigns for ethnic diversity by social scientists and third world intellectuals. Ridiculing postmodernism's misuse of the Volkgeist in equating Bob Marly with Beethoven, Finkielkraut calls for a return to the Enlightenment ideal of earning the right to be an individual. His works in English translation include The Imaginary Jew and Remembering in Vain: The Klaus Barbie Trial and Crimes Against Humanity.
Translation Review - Annotated Books Received Supplement

(Spanish) Enrique Florescano. Memory, Myth, and Time in Mexico [Memoria mexicana]. Tr. Albert G. Bork (with assistance of Kathryn R. Bork). University of Texas Press. 1994. 280 pp. Cloth: $32.50; ISBN 0-292-72485-3. Available for the first time in English, this collection of essays traces the many memories of the past created by different individuals and groups in Mexico, and addresses the problem of memory and changing ideas of times in the way Mexicans conceive of their history. Original in perspective and broad in scope, ranging from the Aztec concept of the world and history to the ideas of independence, this book appeals to a wide readership. Translator Bork has translated works by Brazilian modernist Oswald de Andrade.


(English) Shulamith Hareven. The Vocabulary of Peace: Life, Politics, and Culture in the Middle East. Tr. Masha Weinstein. Mercury House. 1995. 248 pp. Paper: $14.95; ISBN 1-56279-072-2. Hareven (City of Many Days), the first woman admitted to the Academy of the Hebrew Language, here refocuses the language used to describe Middle Eastern culture and politics. In six thematic subdivisions such a "Knowledge" and "People" and "Peace," she uses an intriguing mesh of biographical sketches, poetic descriptions of place and meditations on language and philosophy to give real life to abstractions. One important theme is the danger of myth in history and daily existence, myth that leads to hyperbole, false gods and misplaced passion. It's an idea Hareven ponders in her literary musings on "What Should We Do About Myth?" in her charged political essay "Against Charisma" (as possessed by political leaders); and in her clear-eyed descriptions of Palestinian life in the territories.

(Chinese) Huang Tsung-hsi. Waiting for the Dawn: A Plan for the Prince [Ming-I Tai-Fang Lu]. Tr. William Theodore de Bary. 1995. 340 pp. This work stands alone in the history of Chinese political literature. Since the time of Confucius and Mencius, no other work in the long Confucian tradition has stood out so clearly as a major critique of Chinese dynastic institutions. Reformers and revolutionary leaders such as Liang Ch'i-ch'ao and Sun Yat-sen used Huang's essays to promote their own political aims. Modern scholars have confirmed Huang's stature as the most enduring and influential critic of Chinese despotism and have recognized his Plan as the most powerful affirmation of a liberal Confucian political vision in premodern times.

(French) François Ricard. The Lyric Generation: The Life and Times of the Baby Boomers [La Génération Lyrique]. Tr. Donald Winkler. Stoddart Publishing Co. Limited [Les Editions du Boréa]. 1994. 266 pp. Paper: $19.95; ISBN 0-7737-5684-1. The Beatles, the Kennedys, Martin Luther King and Richard Nixon, Carnaby Street and Haight-Ashbury, Woodstock and Vietnam, all have shaped the consciousness of an age. At the center of this whirlwind of history, of this time of peace, war, and universal love-in, stands the lyric generation. To belong to this generation is to come to the world in joy. These children of the war and immediate post-war period signalled the ushering in of a vast movement to be known as the baby boom. Just being born at that precise moment constituted an incalculable blessing whose benefits, their influence and impact are greater than ever. So powerful is their reach that the destinies of all those who have come before or after them have had to be played out against and in

Loraux is the author of The Children of Athena: Athenian Ideas about Citizenship and the Division between the Sexes.
relation to this privileged group.

(Spanish) Silo [Mario Luis Rodriguez]. *Letters to My Friends: On Social and Personal Crisis in Today's World [Cartas a mis amigos]*. Tr. Paul Tooby. Latitude Press. 1994. 160 pp. Paper: $8.95; ISBN 1-878977-23-7. Where are today's accelerating economic and technological changes taking us—is everything falling apart or coalescing into a heartless world empire? Are we entering a better time for all or on the brink of the end of times? How can we act coherently amid such swiftly changing values and behavior? In ten letters Silo articulates the approach of New Humanism to the central questions and paradoxes of our time. With keen irony the author strips away the conventional wisdom of such establishment writers as Toffler and Fukuyama, in the process revealing that the "emperor's new clothes" of today's unprincipled pragmatism are indeed no more than that, a hollow process revealing that the "emperor's new clothes" of today's unprincipled pragmatism are indeed no more than that, a hollow shell of decaying myths that can no longer conceal the horrendous workings of an inhuman social and economic system.


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**TRANSLATION THEORY**

Donald C. Kiraly. *Pathways to Translation: Pedagogy and Process*. Kent State University Press. 1995. 192 pp. Cloth: $29.00; ISBN 0-87338-516-0. European universities have struggled for nearly 40 years to meet the demand for professional translators to act as linguistic and cultural mediators by establishing professional translator training programs. However, the curricula of these programs are not always founded on a clear understanding of the process of translation. Here Kiraly examines state-of-the-art translator training in Germany and Europe, noting problem areas and possible solutions. Kiraly proposes a program, based on his own experience as a translation teacher, which emphasizes the social and cognitive realities of the translation process.

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**CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

(Swedish) Stig Claesson. *Sophie the Circus Princess [Jag möter en cirkusprinsessa]*. Tr. Susanna Stevens. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 1995. n.p. Cloth: $15.00; ISBN 0-671-87008-4. At the heart of this tender tale is a friendship between a young boy and his eccentric elderly neighbor, Sophie. In her youth, Sophie had dazzled circus crowds around the world with her daring performances on horseback. When she married the man of her dreams, the charming prince of Pomerania, she thought her life was complete—until she discovered he was merely a charming imposter. Upon retiring to a cozy cottage at the end of the world, Sophie chopped wood, fed her hens, and only occasionally entertained her young neighbor by balancing on the back of her scrawny cow.


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**HISTORY**

(Latin) Barbarosa in Italy [Carmen de gestis Frederici I imperatoris in Lombardia]. Ed. and Tr. Thomas Carson. Italica Press. 1994. 232 pp. Paper: $14.50; ISBN 0-934977-30-5. This poem describes the conflict leading up to April 1162 when Frederick I Hohenstaufen, the German emperor, destroyed Milan in an attempt to impose his rule on the emerging urban republics of northern Italy. The issues, personalities, and events that produced this catastrophe are the subjects of this unfinished verse epic written by an anonymous citizen of Bergamo shortly after the events. The "Bergamo Master" casts a vivid eye on the horrors of battle and siege. His knowing portrayal of Frederick's conflicted emotions and his use of classical figures and dream vision show a respect for his classical antecedents while staying faithful to the modes and personalities of his age.

life of Russia in the time of Ivan the Terrible. This melange of admonitions covered the proper Christian life, orders on day-to-day secular life, and practical details on domestic organization. How to arrange hay, visit monasteries, treat servants, entertain clergy, instruct a son or wife, cut out a robe—specific instructions dictated the rules for innumerable aspects of proper behavior.

(Serbo-Croatian/French) Zlatko Dizdarević, Portraits of Sarajevo [Portraits de Sarajevo]. Ed. Ammiel Alcalay. Tr. Midhat Ridjanović. Fromm International Publishing Corp. [Spengler Editeur, Paris]. 1995. 132 pp. Cloth; $19.95; ISBN 0-88064-167-3. Never published in its original language. This is the second work by the now internationally renowned Bosnian journalist dedicated to the atrocities that have been occurring in the war torn Sarajevo. His first, Sarajevo: A War Journal, won the International Prize from Reporters without Borders in 1993. Portraits focuses on his sisters and brothers, the women, men, and children who have, for various reasons, remained in their city and watched it fall around them. It is composed of vignettes, accounts of the everyday lives of real people living in an unreal situation. Told in their own words, they reveal the courage of a people and the brotherhood that this war has taught them.

(Hebrew) Menachem Elon. Jewish Law: History, Sources, Principles. Vols. I-IV [Ha-Mishpat Ha-IVri]. Trs. Bernard Auerbach and Melvin J. Sykes. The Jewish Publication Society [Magnes Press, The Hebrew University, 1988]. 1994. Cloth: 4-Volume Set, 0-8276-0389-4. "Jewish Law...is more than a law book. It is intended for a wider readership than scholars of Jewish law or even jurists generally; it should be of value to anyone interested in religion and religious philosophy, and particularly to anyone who seeks insightful understanding of Judaism itself. Jewish law is a window on Jewish history, religion, and philosophy. Jewish life and Jewish law are two sides of one coin, and the literature of Jewish law is a treasure-trove of information about all aspects of Jewish daily life throughout the ages in every kind of circumstance—tranquility and persecution, prosperity and calamity, ascent and decline. Volume I covers "The History and Elements of Jewish Law" and "The Legal Sources of Jewish Law"; Volume II, "The Legal Sources of Jewish Law"; Volume III, "The Literary Sources of Jewish Law"; and Volume IV, "Jewish Law in the State of Israel." Justice Elon was first appointed to the Supreme Court of Israel in 1977; he was awarded the Israel Prize in 1979 for Ha-Mishpat Ha-IVri.


(Russian) Aaron Gurevich. The Origins of European Individualism. Tr. Katharine Judelson. Blackwell Publishers. 1995. 280 pp. Cloth: $24.95; ISBN 0-631-17963-1. Traditional interpretations locate the rise of the self-aware, autonomous, European citizen in the Italian Renaissance of the late 14th and 15th centuries. As Gurevich argues, however, the origins of the movement can be traced to the early Middle Ages. Drawing from a wide range of cultural sources, from Scandinavian sagas to the poetry of Dante and Petrarch, and from sermons and religious painting to the autobiographical works of writers such as Pierre Abélard and Bernard of Clairvaux, the author charts the transition from earlier forms of community life, characterized by local kinship groups and collective identity, towards a changed, universal society dominated by the cognitive, motivational individual. Throughout the book intellectual and cultural trends are linked to economic realities, where social mobility, labor markets, and developing economies are explained and understood in their broadest context.

Americas, Gutiérrez seeks in the figure of Las Casas the roots of a different history and a gospel uncontaminated by force and exploitation. Through the poor of his time, Las Casas was moved to rediscover the radical challenge of the gospel.


(French) Nicole Loraux. The Children of Athena: Ideas About Citizenship & The Division Between the Sexes [Les enfants d'Athéna: Idées athéniennes sur la citoyenneté et la division des sexes]. Tr. Caroline Levine. Princeton University Press [Editions La Découverte, Paris, 1984]. 1993. 271 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-691-03272-6. Paper: $16.95; ISBN 0-691-03762-0. According to one myth, the first Athenian citizen was born from the earth after the sperm of a rejected lover, the god Hephaistos, dripped off the virgin goddess Athena's leg and onto fertile soil. Henceforth Athenian citizens could claim to be truly indigenous to their city and to have divine origins that by-passed maternity. In these essays, Loraux examines the implication of this and other Greek origin myths as she explores how Athenians in the 5th century forged and maintained a collective identity. In particular, she reveals the peculiar status of women in Athens, whose "citizenship" or even maternity meant very little in political contexts but was crucial in religious cults and in Attic tragedy and comedy.


Ovid: Fasti: Roman Holidays. Ed. and Tr. Betty Rose Nagle. Indiana University Press. 1995. 224 pp. Cloth: $25.00; ISBN 0-253-33967-7. Paper: $8.95; ISBN 0-253-20933-1. Written at the end of the first century B.C., the Fasti includes religious festivals, historical anniversaries, and astronomical lore from January through June. A valuable source of information about the Roman calendar, it complements Ovid's masterwork, the Metamorphoses. Here we see interwoven strands of Roman and Greek legends—the rape of Proserpina; Romulus and Remus; Arion's rescue by a dolphin. Ovid poses as both researcher and director of ritual, describing festivals such as the Lupercalia; recounting famous battles won and lost, temple dedications, titles conferred; and relating stories that explain the origins of stars and constellations. Nagle's introduction places the Fasti in the context of Ovid's life and work, Roman literature, and the reign of the first Roman emperor, Augustus.

Amos Oz. Israel, Palestine and Peace. Trs. Amos Oz and others. Harvest/Harcourt Brace. 1994. 144 pp. Paper: $11.00; ISBN 0-15-600192-6. Amos Oz was one of the first voices of conscience to advocate a two-state solution, Israel at peace with Palestine. The essays and speeches were variously composed before and after the Israel-PLO peace initiatives in Oslo and Washington. Whether he is discoursing on the role of writers in society; recalling his grandmother's death in the context of language's veracity; examining the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as tragicomedy; or questioning the Zionist dream, Oz is always trenchant and unflinching.

(French) Olivier Roy. The Failure of Political Islam [L'échec de l'Islam politique]. Tr. Carol Volk. Harvard University Press [Editions du Seuil, 1992]. 1994. 238 pp. Cloth: $22.95; ISBN 0-674-29140-9. Contrary to the popular opinion of Westerners that we are living in an era of "Islamic threat," French political philosopher Olivier Roy presents the opposite verdict that political Islam is a failure. He demonstrates that the Islamism of today is still the Third Worldism of the 1960s: populist politics and mixed economies of laissez-faire for the rich and subsidies for the poor. Roy has much to say about the sociology of radical Islam, and he explains why Iran has been unable to launch "sister republics" beyond its borders and why the dream of establishing Islam as a "third force" in international relations is a futile one.

(Polish) Jaroslaw M. Rymkiewicz. The Final Station: Umschlagplatz [Umschlagplatz]. Tr. Nina Taylor. Farrar, Straus and Giroux [Instytut Literacki, 1988; Éditions Robert Laffont, S.A., 1989]. 1994. 327 pp. Cloth: $27.50; ISBN 0-374-15495-3. The Final Station records Rymkiewicz's obsession, as a Christian Pole, with the extermination of the Jews during World War II before the eyes of the Poles and, often, with their collaboration. He places the Umschlagplatz—the area of the Warsaw ghetto where Jews were gathered for deportation as part of the final solution—at the center of his narrative, because "it happened right here, in the midst of our lives." Juxtaposing the past and the present, the personal and the historical, The Final Station includes a reconstruction of the minutest details of genocide and a fictional account of an I.B. Singer-like summer at a resort near Warsaw where a group of Jewish and Christian friends meet shortly before the war for a last season of tennis, debating, and romance.

MUSIC HISTORY

before the German language gained acceptance. Once established, German opera, from Mozart to Schönberg, reached the highest peak— as seen in the libretti of this volume: Mozart The Magic Flute (trs. Michael Geliot [lyrics], Anthony Besch [dialogue]); Beethoven Fidelio (trs. Paul Csonka and Ariane Theslöf [lyrics] James Steakley [dialogue]); Wagner Parsifal (tr. Andrew Porter); Strauss The Rose Cavalier (tr. Alfred Kalisch); and Schönberg Moses and Aron (tr. Allen Forte, revisions by Michael Hamburger).

More than 120 musical examples support the text, the majority contemporary exigencies of the performances themselves. The Magic Flute, for instance, provides a detailed account of the libretto's evolution, including the themes of popular arias along with captions. Numerous illustrations and tables, an exhaustive topical bibliography, and a select, current CD discography round out this informative introduction to opera's golden age.

**PHILOSOPHY**


(French) Elisabeth Badinter. *XY: On Masculine Identity [XY, De l'identité masculine].* Tr. Lydia Davis. Columbia University Press [Editions Odile Jacob, 1992]. 1995. 274 pp. Cloth: $24.95; ISBN 0-231-08434-X. Drawing on the latest biological research, some of the world's best known and best selling novels, and historical and sociological analyses of manhood in all corners of the globe, Badinter points to the inherent fragility of masculine identity. Woman, Badinter asserts, simply exists, while man must be constructed. Steeped in femininity in the womb and as a child in his mother's care, a man can only define his masculinity in a struggle against his feminine origins. Badinter demonstrates in the literature of such authors as Norman Mailer, David Leavitt, and Pat Conroy that man suffers from a painful anxiety and self-hatred as a result of his inability to reconcile his maternal and paternal heritage: X and Y.
and its role in society. Clément is cultural editor of Le Matin, the
syncope, as she explores beliefs about the importance of the self
have tended to rationalize a system that regulates and forbids
philosophies. Clément reveals how philosophers in the West
self through its history in Western European and Indian
philosophies. (Danish) Claus Emmeche. The Garden in the Machine: The
infinitely complex set of patterns that a computer could simulate?
What role does intelligence play in separating the organic from
the inorganic, the living from the inert? Does life evolve along a
predestined path, or does it suddenly emerge from what appeared
lifeless and programmatic? In this easily accessible and wide-
ranging survey, Emmeche outlines many of the challenges and
controversies involved in the dynamic and curious science of
artificial life. Emmeche describes the work being done by an
international network of biologists, computer scientists, and
physicists who are using computers to study life as it could be, or
as it might evolve under conditions different from those on earth.

(French) Catherine Clément. Syncope: The Philosophy of Rapture [La Syncope: Philosophie du ravissement]. Trs. Sally
fluid and jargon-free style, Syncope traces the concept of loss of
self through its history in Western European and Indian
philosophies. Clément reveals how philosophers in the West
have tended to rationalize a system that regulates and forbids
syncope, as she explores beliefs about the importance of the self
and its role in society. Clément is cultural editor of Le Matin, the
author of Opera, or the Undoing of Women (Minnesota, 1988),
and co-author with Hélène Cixous, of The Newly Born Woman
(Minnesota, 1986).

(Danish) Claus Emmeche. The Garden in the Machine: The
infinitely complex set of patterns that a computer could simulate?
What role does intelligence play in separating the organic from
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international network of biologists, computer scientists, and
physicists who are using computers to study life as it could be, or
as it might evolve under conditions different from those on earth.

(French) Emmanuel Levinas. In the Time of the Nations [A
whole of humanity surrounding Israel. In this collection of
essays, Levinas considers Judaism's uncertain relationship to
European culture since the Enlightenment, problems of
distance and integration. It also includes five Talmudic
readings from between 1981 and 1986, essays on Franz
Rosenzweig and Moses Mendelssohn, and a discussion with
Françoise Armengaud which raises questions of central
importance to Jewish philosophy in the context of general
philosophy.

(Latin) Lucretius. On the Nature of Things [De rerum natura].
days of the Roman Republic, Lucretius sets forth a rational and
materialistic view of the world which offers a retreat into a
quiet community of wisdom and friendship. A careful observer
of nature, he writes of how things are put together—from the
oceans, lands, and stars to a mound of poppy seeds, from the
"applause" of a rooster's wings to the human mind and soul.
Nature is what it is—fascinating, purposeless, beautiful, deadly.
Once we understand this, we free ourselves of superstitious
fears, becoming as human and as godlike as we can be. The
poem, then, is about the universe and how human beings ought
to live in it.

France have seen a remarkable flourishing of new work in
political philosophy. This anthology brings into English for the
first time essays by some of the best young French political
thinkers writing today. Such works as "Rights and Natural
Law" (Blandine Kriegel), "Rights and Modern Law" (Stéphane Rials), "The Contest for Command" (Pierre
Manent), and "The Rebirth of Voluntary Servitude" (Anne
Godignon and Jean-Louis Thiriét) are included. Translators
include Catherine Porter, Ann Gardiner, Franklin Philip,
Kenneth Weinstein, Eric Ward, Rebecca Balinski, Marc A.
LePain, Elly Stein, James Mansbridge, and Lisa Maguire.

(French) Jean-Jacques Rousseau. The Confessions and
Correspondences Including the Letters to Malesherbes. Vol. 5.
The fifth volume of the Collected Writings of Rousseau represents a significant milestone both for the series and for Rousseau scholarship: an entirely new translation of the Confessions, the first to be based on the definitive French edition. The new translation includes a substantial introduction and extensive notes. This edition is also the first to include the letters to and from Rousseau which are referred to in the body of the Confessions; they are available here for the first time in English. Of special interest are the four letters to Malesherbes, which represent Rousseau's first autobiographical efforts.

(Spanish) Fernando Savater. Amador [Etica para Amador]. Tr. Alastair Reid. Henry Holt and Company [Editorial Ariel, S.A., 1991]. 1994. 190 pp. Cloth: $16.95; ISBN 0-8050-3271-1. A good life does not come as a gift. Instead, we must use our nerve and energy to make right choices for ourselves and invent the forms our lives take. Our freedom makes life all the more difficult, because it allows us to make mistakes and follow the wrong path from time to time. Amador, written by a father to his adolescent son whose name provides the book's title, is a journal that addresses the issue of choice and examines our ability to live well by facing our decisions with intelligence and humanity.


the dramatic change in family and sexual values has brought a new type of patient to the couch. Kristeva finds that the psychoanalytic models of Freud and Lacan need to be reread in light of this new patient, a product of the contemporary moral crisis of values resulting from a loss of ideology and a deterioration of belief. Each patient, she contends, suffers from a unique malady which must be targeted. Drawing on the work of psychologist Helene Deutsch and the writer Germaine de Staël, Kristeva also examines women's contributions to "psychic life" in contemporary history.

**RELIGION**

(French) Roger Arnaldez. *Three Messengers for One God [Trois Messagers Pour Un Seul Dieu]*. Tr. Gerald W. Schlabach with Mary Louise Gude and David B. Burrell. University of Notre Dame Press [Editions Albin Michel, S.A., Paris, 1983]. 1994. 219 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-268-01885-5. This book, which contains Arnaldez's unique reflections on a comparative reading of the three Abrahamic faith traditions, approaches Islam, Jewish, and Christian monotheisms from the vantage point of the believer and the necessary specificity of faith. Arnaldez demonstrates the point of convergence to be that each tradition mandates, in its own way and according to its own history, that believers interiorize their faith. They thereby proclaim that the faith of the authentic believer is rooted in the "heart." He suggests that together the three traditions coincided with and influenced the development of Western civilization.

(Pali) *The Dhammapada: Sayings of Buddha*. Tr. Thomas Cleary. Bantam Books. 1994. 135 pp. Paper: $6.95; ISBN 0-553-37376-5. The quest for inner peace and individual liberation is one of the most ancient endeavors of mankind. Five hundred years before Christ, Gautama Buddha became one of the great leaders in that spiritual journey. The *Dhammapada* is a collection of Buddha's sayings as passed down by his followers and drawn from the seminal Pali Canon. It is perhaps the best primer of Buddhism. Its teachings on the *dhamma*, the moral path of life, encourage the development of self-mastery and strength of character. Punctuated with Cleary's insightful notes and comments, the *Dhammapada* brings to life the freedom of spirit of Buddha. Cleary has also translated *The Art of War and No Barrier: Unlocking the Zen Koan*.


(Tibetan) *The Tibetan Book of the Dead [Bardo thos grol]*. Tr. Robert A. F. Thurman. Bantam Books. 1994. 278 pp. Paper: ISBN 0-553-37090-1. Composed in the 8th century C.E., this work is intended to prepare the soul for the trials and transformations of the afterworld. Its profound message is that the art of dying is as important as the art of living. Drawing on Tibetan spiritual traditions, it shows us the workings of the mind in its various manifestations—terrifying and comforting, wrathful and beautiful—which appear more clearly after death in the consciousness of the deceased. The work's introduction to Buddhist beliefs, instruction in meditation, and guidance in the practical use of the Tibetan prayers are prepared especially for Western readers.

(WOMEN'S STUDIES)

(French) Marie Cardinal. *In Other Words [Autrement dit]*. Tr. Amy Cooper. Indiana University Press. 1995. 216 pp. Cloth: $24.95; ISBN 0-253-32929-9. Paper: $12.95; ISBN 0-253-20992-7. This English translation of *Autrement dit* presents conversations between writers Marie Cardinal and Annie Leclerc, interspersed with Cardinal's richly descriptive musings on her psychoanalysis; her relationship with her mother and with colonial Algeria; the lives of women and the feelings and experiences they share. Their conversation is a vivid example of gender-marked writing; it takes up the issues of *écriture féminine*, rifts within French feminism, rape, and marriage. Cardinal also makes comparisons between French and American women. Cardinal has had two novels translated into English— *The Words to Say It and Devotion and Disorder*. Amy Cooper has translated excerpts from Baudelaire's *La Fanfarlo*.

**ARABIC**

young male attendant in the palace of a city governor. There he is lured into providing covert sexual gratification for members of the female household, notably the governor's beautiful sister, before finally winning his freedom. This is Dammaj's first novel to be translated. May Jayyusi has translated Ghassan Kanafani's *All That's Left to You and Other Stories* (1990), Ibrahim Nasrallah's *Prairies of Fever* (1993), and Muhammad al-Maghut's *The Fan of Swords*. Tingley has collaborated on translations of S. K. Jayyusi's *Trends and Movements in Modern Arabic Poetry*, Yusuf al Qa'id's *War in the Land of Egypt*, and Liyana Badr's *A Balcony over the Fakiham*.

Lenin El-Ramly. *In Plain Arabic: a play in two acts* [bi-l-'Arabi al-fāsiḥ]. Tr. Esmat Allouba. The American University in Cairo Press/Columbia University Press. 1995. 102 pp. Cloth: $25.00; ISBN 977-424-342-0. A Palestinian student in London disappears. His colleagues, 14 Arab students each representing a different nationality, meet to decide what to do. The portrayal of their stereotypical national characteristics and attitudes throws a sharp light on the way Arabs see themselves and each other, and their posturing, squabbling, double standards, and inability to act together in the face of a common dilemma call into question the whole idea of "Arab unity." In Egypt, the play was voted Best Play of the Year, and it won the Kuwait-based Soad Sabbah Award for Youth Creativity.

Fathy Ghanem. *The Man Who Lost His Shadow* [al-Rajul alladhi faqada zillub]. Tr. Desmond Stewart. The American University in Cairo Press. 1995. 352 pp. Cloth: $40.00; ISBN 977-424-347-1. This novel tells the story of Yusif Abdul Hamid, a young and ambitious Cairo journalist, through the eyes of four people in turn: Mabruka, the young peasant girl who marries Yusif's aging father while strongly attracted to Yusif; Samia, a minor actress, whom Yusif lives with and almost marries but in the end rejects; Muhammad Nagi, the newspaper editor who then marries Samia and who is pushed out of his job by Yusif; and finally Yusif himself, editor-in-chief of al-Ayyam, a stranger to himself. Ghanem has been editor of Sabah al-Khair and editor-in-chief of al-Gumhuriya.


Ibrahim Nasr All_h. *Prairies of Fever* [Bar ri 'l-Hummà]. Trs. May Jayyusi and Jeremy Reed. Interlink Books [Mu'assasat al-th_'Arabiyya, and D_r al-Shur_q, Beirut, 1985]. 1993. 155 pp. Cloth: ISBN 1-56656-103-5. Paper: $9.95; ISBN 1-56656-106-X. This work's central character, Muhammad Hammad, is a young teacher hired, like hundreds of others from all over the Arab world, to teach in a remote part of the Arabian peninsula. The novel recounts his harrowing struggle to retain any sense of identity at all in the bleak and alienating place he finds himself in, caught between the infinite expanse of desert and the intolerable narrowness of village life. His psychic and physical anguish, beset as he is by hallucinations, fantasies and the indifference of the villagers, is mirrored in the writing of the novel: time appears unfixed as the story jumps from past to future and back to the present; there is an eerie fusion of the animal and human worlds; and reality and fantasy become hard to distinguish.


**BENGALI**

Taslima Nasrin. *The Game in Reverse*. Tr. Carolyne Wright. George Braziller. 1995. 64 pp. Cloth: $25.00; ISBN 0-8076-1391-6. Paper: $14.95; ISBN 0-8076-1392-4. *The Game in Reverse* is the first volume of Nasrin's poetry in English translation. Presented here are more than 40 of the poems that have generated both an international following and considerable controversy for the author. These poems illuminate such contentious subjects as the daily indignities and far-reaching repression suffered by women in Bangladeshi Muslim society. Nasrin decries the physical and mental abuse inflicted on Bangladeshi women and enjoins society to reconsider its attitudes toward all victims of persecution, especially women. Nasrin gained widespread recognition in 1993 when her best-selling novel, *Shame*, was banned by the Bangladeshi government. Since 1994, she has been in hiding following death threats from Islamic fundamentalist groups. She won the 1994 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. Included are poems from *I Couldn't Care Less, Banished Without and Within, Captive in the Abyss, Behula Floated the..."
Raft Alone, and Pain Come Pouring Down, I'll Measure Out My Life for You. Wright won a 1993 ALTA Outstanding Translation Award for Jorge Teillier's In Order to Talk With the Dead.

BULGARIAN


CATALAN

Manuel de Pedrol. Touched by Fire: A Bilingual Edition of Manuel de Pedro's Tocats pel foc. Tr. Peter Griffin. Peter Lang. 1993. 199 pp. Paper: ISBN 0-8204-2133-2. Tocats pel foc intertwines a love story with a series of conversations in which a young man, a stranger to whom a family has granted a few nights' lodging at the request of a friend, presents his beliefs with regard to moral aspects of conflicting socio-economic models. The discussions are conducted in clear, simple language and, in fact, leave the reader feeling somewhat enlightened as to why certain social doctrines, based on wisdom contaminated by foolishness and failing to reject the notion that one must sometimes do wrong for the sake of what is right, have gained popular acceptance with catastrophic consequences.


CHINESE

Chuang-tzu. Wandering on the Way: Early Taoist Tales and Parables of Chuang Tzu [Nan-hua ch'en ching]. Tr. Victor H. Mair. Bantam Books. 1994. 402 pp. Paper: $11.95; ISBN 0-553-37406-0. Populated with a colorful and eccentric cast of sages, the 33 chapters of stories that make up this unparalleled collection are entertaining and enlightening. Above all, Chuang Tzu was a philosopher who dealt with timeless issues of human concern: ambition, greed, grief, politics, love, stress, good and evil, and the beauty and peace to be found in the thoughtful contemplation of nature. Complete with an authoritative introduction on Chuang Tzu and his place in Chinese thought and history, as well as a glossary of key terms and concepts.


Shi Nai'an and Luo Guanzhong. The Broken Seals: Part One of The Marshes of Mount Liang [Shuibu Zhuan or Water Margin]. Trs. John and Alex Dent-Young. The Chinese University Press. 1994. 434 pp. Paper: $23.00; ISBN 962-201-602-2. When Marshall Hong breaks the seals which generations of Taoist Masters have placed on the temple doors to hold back 108 incarcerated Demon Princes, powerful forces of disorder are released. One after another, brave men fall out with officialdom and are obliged to join the brotherhood of the rivers and lakes—the mixed company of heroes and vagabonds who live by their wits and their fighting skills. The story follows first one hero, then another, as their paths converge and part, until finally 108 brave—but not entirely admirable—men are united at the outlaws' stronghold in the Marshes of Mount Liang. This volume consists of the first 22 chapters of the full 120-chapter version. It is the first English translation based on this version and including much of the verse.
Shu Ting began to experiment with the modernist and postmodernist styles in the mid 1980s, when her poetry was first published. Her voice became associated with the Misty group when her poems appeared in the underground literary magazine Today. Her poetry remains, however, recognizable and distinctly feminine.

The Collected Songs of Cold Mountain and The Zen Teachings of Budhidharma.

**CZECH**

Pavel Kohout. *I Am Snowing: The Confessions of a Woman of Prague [Sním]*. Tr. Neil Bermel. Farrar, Straus and Giroux [Albrecht Knaus Verlag, 1992]. 1994. 308 pp. Cloth: $27.50; ISBN 0-374-17400-8. Set in today's Prague, *I Am Snowing* offers a vivid portrait of a nation in transition. When Professor Victor Král—who had left Czechoslovakia during the Communist years and has returned to lead an economic reform program—is accused of collaborating with the secret police, he turns to his lover, Petra Márová, for help. Petra, who never left the country and has tried to shut out its realities with a long series of lovers, happens to have had an affair with Josel Beneš, the man who supposedly recruited Victor into the secret police. Petra is easily able to make Josel disavow the connection. But he makes her doubt Victor's innocence and sets her off on a complex and ill-fated investigation—aimed half at vindicating Victor, half at unmasking him.

Iva Pekárková. *The World Is Round [Kulatý svět]*. Tr. David Powelstock. Farrar,Straus and Giroux. 1994. 229 pp. Cloth: $22.00; ISBN 0-374-29287-6. After years of dreaming of the countries beyond Czechoslovakia, Jitka crawls under a barbed-wire fence to freedom in Italy. She then finds herself in another kind of limbo, waiting for a visa in a refugee camp set incongruously among picturesque Austrian grape fields. Jitka is soon initiated into the mysteries of camp life—from the dangerous but seductive Hilton, home of the camp's single men, who outnumber the single women by almost 1,800 to 17, to the art of making up a story good enough to get you asylum in Canada. Eventually, Jitka loses herself in the swirl of refugees from across the world who arrive and, mostly, never seem to leave. It is only when she is attacked by a group of dagger-carrying fake Albanians that she finally takes action. Pekárková is the author of *Truck Stop Rainbows*.

Karel Poláček. *What Ownership's All About [D_m na paměti]*. Tr. Peter Russi. Catbird Press. 1993. 238 pp. Cloth: $21.95; ISBN 0-945774-19-2. A darkly humorous novel about power, even a tiny amount of it, does to a person, and to the people under his thumb. Jan Faktor, a policeman, has just built a three-family house on the outskirts of pre-Communist Prague. Three tenants move in with the greatest of expectations, based on the wonderful picture the policeman has painted of life in his building. When the policeman ends up landlording it over his tenants, they respond by fearfully conceding to his increasingly absurd demands, and by huffing and puffing for all they're worth. The result is a small-scale study of the attitudes that formed the basis for fascism and appeasement. Poláček's unerring and humorous use of colloquial language enlivens his dark view of people's
motives, values, and dreams. Talking to others or talking to
themselves, his characters are stripped right down to their
language. Peter Kussi has translated three of Milan Kundera's
novels, including *Immortality*. He has also translated works by
such Czech authors as Josef Škvorecký, Jaroslav Hašek, and Jiří
Gruša.

**DANISH**

Peter Høeg. *Borderliners [De måske egnede]*. Tr. Barbara
*Borderliners* is set in the sealed-off world of an elite private
school in Copenhagen in the 1970s. Peter, the narrator, has
grown up in institutions and is given a last chance to join
"normal" society when he is accepted at Biehl's Academy. Of
course, he is drawn to the school's outsiders: Katarina, a recently
orphaned young woman with whom he falls in love; and August,
a psychotic boy who has murdered his parents after years of
abuse. Together they discover that the school is using them in an
experiment in controlling children, an experiment that, almost
inevitably, has tragic consequences.

940242-57-5. "In Jacobsen we have the earliest and noblest
example of an author who combines a powerful imagination and
a wistfully tender nature with all the finesse of the most highly
developed realism." (Hermann Hesse) This collection includes

Svend Åge Madsen. *Days with Diam: or Life at Night*. Eds.
James McFarlane and Janet Garton. Tr. W. Glyn Jones. Norvik
870041-26-7. In this novel, the author has written several stories
in one, providing different narratives that fit together in various
ways. The story takes readers on a journey through shifting
identities and psychological probabilities. The manifold and
complex nature of human personality results in the creation of a
world in which the doppelganger motif is related to Hendel's
laws of segregation: the narrator meets himself in various guises,
even sees himself writing an account that, when he gains access
to it, turns out to be in his own handwriting. Who is this
narrator? What is this Diam who appears in an array of guises?
A figment of the imagination, perhaps—but of whose
imagination? And what is the implication of the character
without a story? In one chapter, Madsen, the experimental
novelist, explains the system behind the book—but is this the
whole key to its understanding?

**DUTCH**

wife Bonnie left him years ago with the task of raising their
daughter, Mary Emma. Now Zwier is bringing the eleven-
year-old back to Holland from Africa. Their arrival brings
long-hidden tensions and secrets into view—and forces changes
in the life of Zwier, Bonnie and her relatives, and most
importantly, Mary Emma herself.

**FINNISH**

Cloth: $29.00; ISBN 0-7206-0949-6. A journalist and a
photographer set out on an assignment on a lonely sunny
evening. As they drive through the country they hit a young
hare. Vatanen, the journalist, leaves the car and goes in search
of the injured creature. This event is the catalyst for a series of
bizarre adventures, which take Vatanen beyond the Arctic
Circle and into Soviet Russia. Vatanen, middle-aged,
dissatisfied, a "deceived and deceiving" husband in a childless
marriage, sells his yacht for ready cash and escapes his
confining life in Helsinki. Accompanied by his friend the hare,
he lives on his wits and by doing various manual jobs in the
wild, thus gaining a total sense of the freedom he has always
craved.

**FRENCH**

consciousness. Champion of "cubism," Apollinaire fashions in
verse the sonic equivalent of what Picasso accomplishes in his
cubist works: simultaneity. This new bilingual translation is
the only version of this seminal work of French Modernism
currently available in the U.S. Revell is the author of *Beautiful
Shirt* (1994).

8139-1518-X. *Leonora* has been likened to the *testimonio*
genre. In the course of her life, the real-life Leonora has
witnessed, from her perspective as the mother of a large family,
the passage of Guadeloupe from colony to département of
France; from the hard-scrabble subsistence agriculture of the
rural poor to the subsidized consumer economy of France's
overseas départements today. Along the way she offers witty and pungent observations on language, politics, sex, and religion.

Rabah Belamri. Shattered Vision [Regard blesse]. Tr. Hugh A. Harter. Holmes & Meier [Editions Gallimard, 1987]. 1995. 163 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8419-1258-0. Set in 1962, the novel depicts Algeria struggling for independence from France; competing ideologies shatter families and ordinary people are caught between hope and despair, triumph and disillusionment. Fifteen-year-old Hassan has grown up in a Muslim world in conflict with the French culture controlling but not conquering it. Hassan leaves his village for the city, seeking a cure for his failing eyesight. Torn between the hospital's doctors and those who prescribe traditional treatments at home, he feels increasingly estranged from both worlds. Eventually, the failures of Western medicine are eclipsed by the disastrous attempts of the village experts. Yet, as his physical powers disintegrate, his powers of observation increase as he comes to understand the greed, pettiness, and cruelty of his fellow countrymen as well as of the occupying colonials. Shattered Vision won the Prix France Culture.

Héctor Biancotti. What the Night Tells the Day [Ce que la nuit raconte au jour]. Tr. Linda Coverdale. The New Press [Editions Grasset & Fasquelle, 1992]. 1995. 272 pp. Cloth: $22.00; ISBN 1-56584-240-5. Foreword by Octavio Paz. This work chronicles Biancotti's youth among the poor Italian immigrant peasants of the most distant Pampas of rural Argentina, a culture as far from today's urban gay life as possible. Sent away from home to a Catholic school, he suddenly and painfully unravels the secret of his own life and those around him. Set in the late years of the Perón regime, Biancotti's narrative is delicate and discreet. The book ends with his departure for France, where he will become the distinguished writer and critic he is today. Biancotti is also the author of Sans la Miséricorde du Christ.


Blaise Cendrars. Hollywood: Mecca of the Movies [Holly, La Mecque du Cinéma]. Tr. Garrett White. University of California Press [Editions Bernard Grasset, 1936]. 1995. 256 pp. Cloth: $30.00; ISBN 0-520-07807-1. Using the depression, which left millions of Americans living in poverty, as a backdrop, his insightful dispatches captivated Paris-Soir readers who were smitten by a fantasy world of glamour. Writing in a personal, conversational style, Cendrars skewers the Hollywood scene with great glee. What emerges is an amazingly astute understanding of Hollywood in its heyday, rendered all the more uncanny because his portrayal is in many ways as current today as it was then.


employ him, and soon the carousel is gleaming like new. With Omar-Jo's Charlie Chaplin-like clown act, the carousel is now popular and profitable, but it is the boy's courageous spirit and solemn wisdom that breathes new life into Maxime. Chedid won the 1994 Prix Paul Morand awarded by the Académie Française. Her works in English include From Sleep Unbound, The Sixth Day, The Prose and Poetry of Andrée Chedid, and Return to Beirut.


Maryse Condé. Crossing the Mangrove [Traversée de la mangrove]. Tr. Richard Philcox. Anchor Book/Doubleday [Mercure de France, 1989]. 1995. 208 pp. Paper: $10.95; ISBN 0-385-47633-7. Francis Sanchez—a handsome outsider, loved by some and reviled by others—is found dead, face down in the mud on a path outside Rivière au Sel, a small village in Guadeloupe. None of the villagers are particularly surprised, since Sanchez, a secretive and melancholy man, had often predicted an unnatural death for himself. As the villagers come to pay their respects they each—either in a speech to the mourners or in an internal monologue—reveal another piece of the mystery behind Sanchez's life and death. Like pieces of an elaborate puzzle, their memories interlock to create a rich and intriguing portrait of a man and a community. Condé is the author of Segu, Children of Segu, Tree of Life, and I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem and is the recipient of Le Grand Prix Littéraire de la Femme.


Robert Desnos. Liberty or Love! Tr. Terry Hale. Atlas Press. 1994. 133 pp. Paper: $12.99; ISBN 0-94775766X. "In those days, my door was open to mystery." So speaks the hero of Desnos' novel: Sanglot the Corsair. Mystery, the marvellous, a city transmuted by love, Sanglot's pursuit of the siren Louise Lame, such are the essential ingredients of this the last masterpiece of early Surrealism to remain untranslated into English.

Marguerite Duras. Two by Duras [La Pute de la Côte Normande and L'Homme Atlantique]. Tr. Alberto Mangual. Coach House Press. 1993. Paper: $7.95; ISBN 0-88910-441-7. Two intensely personal novellas, The Slut of the Normandy Coast and The Atlantic Man, treat the writer, writing, and human relationships in somewhat rambling narratives. The first puts Duras the writer at center stage and deals with the emotional pain she suffers and its effect on her writing. In The Atlantic Man Duras, although suffering anew, takes the initiative as creator to mold her destiny actively. An Interview with Marguerite Duras by Ana Maria Moix follows the two novellas and includes a discussion of the nature of writing, love, death and how all is interwoven with Duras' work.

Claire de Duras. Ourika. Tr. John Fowles. MLA Texts & Translations. 1995. 47 pp. Paper: $5.95; ISBN 0-87352-780-1. Based on a true story, de Duras' Ourika relates the experiences of a Senegalese girl who is rescued from slavery and raised by an aristocratic French family during the French Revolution. Brought up in a household of learning and privilege, she is unaware of her difference until she overhears a conversation that makes her conscious of her race—and of the prejudice it arouses. From this point on, Ourika lives her life not as a French woman but as a black woman. As the Reign of Terror threatens her and her adoptive family, Ourika struggles with her unusual position as an educated African woman in 18th-century Europe.

This translation of Delphine is based on the authoritative critical French edition prepared by Simone Balayé. Goldberger is the translator of de Staël's novel Corinne, or Italy and Emilie Carles's autobiography A Life of Her Own.


Paol Keineg. Boudica. Tr. Keith Waldrop. Burning Deck/Small Press Distributions. 1994. 64 pp. Paper: $6.00; ISBN 0-930901-94-0. Tacitus tells, in his Annales, how the Romans were defeated by "a simple woman." On a chariot with her two daughters, who had been raped by Roman legionnaires, Queen Boudica made the round of the Breton tribes, inciting them to follow her into battle and, in the first round, defeated the Roman invader. Keineg's sequence of 40 poems, with their hammered rhythm, their echoes of blows given and taken, raises a monument to Queen Boudica's courage and, by bold anachronisms, to the Bretons that have resisted assimilation through the centuries. Waldrop has also translated the Surrealist collaboration Raentir travaux (Exact Change).


Xavier de Maistre. Voyage Around My Room [Voyage Autour de Ma Chambre]. Tr. Stephen Sartarelli. New Directions Books. 1994. 210 pp. Paper: $14.00; ISBN 0-8112-1280-7. The first modern translation of Xavier de Maistre in English is a discursive, mischievous fictive dialog. When de Maistre was put under house arrest for 42 days for his participation in a duel, he spent his time writing a very literal "voyage" around his room—from chair to sofa, etc. Along the way, he told wonderful stories and made many philosophical ruminations. Included are its sequel, Expeditiari, a charming dialog, "The Leper of the City of Aosta" and his brother Joseph's "Preface" to the 1825 Oeuvres complètes.

background. Her father, a Jew who converted to Catholicism in 1940, is the dominant figure in her childhood. To her he is all-knowing and all-powerful, yet strangely vulnerable to the threat of mortality hovering over him. The love between father and daughter affords them a special status within the close-knit family who call them "the Siamese twins" and draw a magic circle around them. Manuel's narrator looks back from a vantage point of 50 years to reconstruct a childhood she remembers as long, silent, and fertile.


Marco Micone. *Beyond the Ruins [Déjà l'agonie].* Tr. Jill MacDougall. Guernica. 1995. 78 pp. Paper: $8.00; ISBN 0-920717-86-1. In this play "the dramatic content focused on three generations of Quebecois immigrants trying to reach each other over contextual and ideological chasms. Crossing spaces and times—Montreal during the 1970s surge of nationalism and an abandoned Italian village in the later 1980s—the work describes subjects who are themselves crossed by cultural and political contradictions. Caught in the rush of history and desperately seeking personal connections, the five characters evoke the immigrant's cleavage and postcolonial paradox: 'because of the symbolic anchors, one can never really leave home; because 'home' and the subject are continually shifting, one can never return." (MacDougall) Micone is the author of *Two Plays (Voiceless People and Addolorata).*


Jan Potocki. *The Manuscript Found in Saragossa.* Tr. Ian Maclean. Viking. 1995. 631 pp. Cloth: $27.95; ISBN 0-670-83428-9. Framed as a diary written by a traveler in Spain, sealed in a casket, and discovered 40 years later, *The Manuscript* ranges from gothic horror to *Bildungsroman,* from the erotic to the picareseque. The novel's narrator, Alphonse van Worden, a young Walloon officer journeying to join his regiment in Madrid in 1739, is diverted into the Sierra Morena and mysteriously detained in the company of thieves, gypsies, cabbalists, and noblemen, whose stories he records as he hears them, day by day over a period of 66 days. In his introduction, Maclean traces the leitmotifs running through the book. There are strange, mystical, erotic encounters and extravagant adventures. Authoritarian fathers imprint on their sons their own strange philosophies; characters are metamorphosed or transform themselves. Maclean has translated *Molière: Don Juan and Other Plays.*

Henri Raczymow. *Writing the Book of Esther [Un Cri Sans Voix].* Tr. Dori Katz. Holmes & Meier [Editions Gallimard, 1985]. 1995. 204 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8419-1335-8. Mathieu, the narrator of this novel, is of the younger generation of Jews who never experienced Nazi genocide first-hand but were raised amid its ashes. He is drawn by his sister's suicide to confront the effects of his family's tragic past. Esther, his gifted older sister, a teacher and aspiring writer, was born in France to Polish-Jewish refugees in 1943, narrowly escaping the deportations that claimed the aunt after whom she is named. She is haunted by the Holocaust, obsessively reliving the family trauma she has absorbed but not actually experienced.
Piecing together other people's memories, conjecture, conversations, and eyewitness accounts, Mathieu attempts to write the book, and tell the tale, that Esther and his family failed to transmit.

The Romance of Reynard the Fox.  Tr. D. D. R. Owen.  Oxford University Press.  1994.  269 pp.  Paper: $9.95; ISBN 0-19-282801-0.  The Romance includes a translation of the principal episodes of Roman de Renart—one of the most popular poems of late 12th- and early 13th-century France.  The Romance comprises the escapades of arch-trickster Reynard the fox who is endowed with human frailties and folly.  The other characters include animals who also represent human types, especially the gullible and the pompous.  However, the Romance was mainly written as a medium of instruction.  It can be read as a social comedy which strongly contributes towards setting a moral standard and which distinguishes right from wrong, virtue from vice.  Owen's previous translations include The Song of Roland, Chretien de Troyes' Arthurian Romances, and Guillaume le Clerc's Fergus of Galloway:  Knight of King Arthur.


Michel Tremblay.  The First Quarter of the Moon [Le premier quartier de la lune].  Tr. Sheila Fischman.  Talonbooks [Leméac Editeur, Montréal, 1989].  1994.  240 pp.  Cloth: ISBN 0-88922-352-1.  It is the day of final exams at the École Saint-Stanislas where the fat woman's son, a boy who lives inside the books he loves, is in the "gifted" class, and his cousin Marcel, the "mad" family terror, is in the class for "slow learners."  Racked by envy at what he sees as Marcel's genius—his ability to create and function in another dimension of reality—the gifted child blanks out during the French exam.  The first quarter of the moon—which rises over the final scenes of the novel in which the fat woman's son recognizes and acknowledges his cousin Marcel's genius—is an exquisitely crafted and resonant metaphor for the symbiotic relation between the imaginary and the real, the privileged "educated elite" and the "great unwashed," innocence and experience, sanity and madness.  Fischman is a two-time winner of both the Governor General's Award for Translation and the Félix-Antoine Savard (Columbia University).

GERMAN


Foreword by Charles Simic. Songs in Flight gathers together Bachmann's two celebrated books of poetry (Borrowed Time and Invocation of the Great Bear), as well as the early and late poems not collected in book form. Given that Bachmann and Paul Celan are considered to be the two most important poets to emerge in post-war German letters, this volume represents an introduction to a major voice in 20th-century poetry. Her poetic investigation into the nature and limits of language in the face of history remains unmatched in its ability to combine philosophical insight with haunting lyricism. Poems not previously collected in book form include "Estrangement," "Behind the Wall," "Destiny," "After This Flood," "Leave, Thought," "Mirjam," "Bohemia Lies by the Sea," and "No Delicacies," among others.

Johannes Bobrowski. Darkness and a Little Light. Tr. Leila Vennewitz. New Directions Books. 1994. 112 pp. Cloth: $19.95; ISBN 0-8112-1259-9. A P.O.W. in Russia after WWII, Bobrowski returned to his forever-changed native province, former East Prussia, in 1949. His lost homeland—which he called by its ancient name of Samartia—haunts all his work. Full of longing and poetic beauty, these twelve stories are visionary elegies to vanished ways of life. Some of the stories, set in the 19th century or in the darkness of WWII, are directly elegiak. But tales relating the dreary, oversynthesized reality of East German life in the '50s and '60s are shot through with piercing traces of an older, more richly atmospheric world of nature and memory. This is the first English translation of these stories. Translator Vennewitz has also translated novels by Alfred Andersch and Uwe Timm. She has won the Schlegel-Tieck Prize, the Goethe House-P.E.N. Prize, and the ATA German Literary Prize.

Johannes Bobrowski. Shadow Lands. Trs. Ruth and Matthews Mead. New Directions. 1994. 208 pp. Paper: $10.95; ISBN 0-8112-1276-9. In the four years between the appearance of his first collection of poems in 1961 and his death at the age of 48, Bobrowski gained international recognition as the outstanding East German poet of his time. He received major literary awards in Austria, Switzerland, East and West Germany. Shadow Lands demonstrates the range of Bobrowski's poetic achievement by bringing together all the poems that Ruth and Matthew Mead have translated. It revives and consolidates their earlier selections, adding some 50 new poems. In his introductory essay, Michael Hamburger discusses the background and special quality of Bobrowski's work.

Volkmar Braunbehrens. Maligned Master: The Real Story of Antonio Salieri [Salieri: Ein Musiker im Schatten Mozarts]. Tr. Eveline L. Kanes. Fromm International. 1992. 276 pp. Cloth: $25.00; ISBN 0-88064-140-1. Braunbehrens examines Salieri's life and work, and creates a vivid portrait of the music world that existed in the age of Mozart. In this first biography of Salieri in 160 years, we discover that he was one of the most important opera composers of his time. Author of over 40 operatic works—some of which achieved spectacular success—Salieri was celebrated throughout Europe. In Vienna, where Beethoven, Schubert, and Liszt were his pupils, he was one of the most influential personages in the music world. Braunbehrens carefully analyzes Salieri's relationship with Mozart; he also discusses the murder rumors, traces them to their sources, and sets the record straight. Braunbehrens is the author of Mozart in Vienna: 1781-1791.


Louise vön François. The Last von Reckenburg [Die letzte Reckenburgerin]. Tr. Mary Joanna Safford. Camden House, Inc. 1995. 370 pp. Cloth: ISBN 1-879751-96-8. This novel depicts the fate of two women, the aristocratic Eberhardine von Reckenburg and the middle-class woman Dorothee Müller, whose lives intertwine against the events of the Napoleonic Wars. Exemplified by the contrasting women, it focuses on the conflict between two opposing value systems: duty vs. inclination, reason vs. feeling, and conscience vs. frivolity. The strong, self-disciplined, "manly" Eberhardine becomes involved in a moral dilemma when she evades the truth to protect Dorothee, the frivolous, 19th-century child-woman. The book's feminist criticism of society lies in Dorothee's depiction as a victim of a patriarchal society that robs her of any chance of self-development. Von François was one of three major 19th-century female writers in Germany.

its youthful protagonist, we are systematically exposed to its many manifestations which characterize its development: from marionettes and child's play through acrobatics, vaudeville and circus down to court theater and, ultimately, modern theater reflecting middle-class, urban life. Goethe's work on the novel was interrupted in the late 1780s, and he later abandoned it. The *Calling* provides much material not found in the *Apprenticeship* and an entirely different view of the protagonist's family.


mir nachts unter den Lidern].  Tr. Tom Beck.  Forest Books/Dufour Editions, Inc. [Heiderhoff Verlag, 1990]. 1994. 90 pp.  Paper: $14.95; ISBN 1-85610-037-5.  "With their profound feminine inspiration.... Their fervent intensity combined with purity of form. Their glowing urgency, yet as tender as the merest touch on a taut spring.... Their fragility combined with an inner strength and tenacity determined to resist everything which threatens our life, everything which like a black ray of darkness might insidiously step between us and what we love and hold most precious" (Afterword). Olly Komenda-Soentgerath has been awarded various literary prizes, including the GEDOK Prize for Lyric Poetry. Translator Beck lives in Britain and since 1984 has been collaborating with the German poet-singer, Wolf Biermann, on translation of his poetry and prose. He also has translated plays by Wolfgang-Maria Bauer and Harald Kislinger for the Royal Court Theatre.


Else Lasker-Schüler.  Concert [Prosa und Schauspiele].  Tr. Jean M. Snook.  University of Nebraska Press [Kösel-Verlag GmbH & Co., Munchen, 1962]. 1994. 162 pp.  Cloth: $25.00; ISBN 0-8032-2900-3.  Concert was one of the last books published by a Jew in Germany before Hitler came to power. The work is autobiographical, a collection of essays and vignettes that both entertain and engage the reader at a deeper level. Lasker-Schüler was attuned to the world and in some ways prophetic. It contains a warning about the climatic dangers of interfering "with the merry green leaf people who give us ozone and the breath of life." "With her respect for the natural environment and her emphasis on spiritual development rather than the materialistic." This is the first English translation of any of her prose: a challenging task because she includes sections in dialect, poems, numerous neologisms, witty alterations of German sayings, and structural emulations with phonetic echoes of famous German art songs.


Rainer Maria Rilke.  Two Stories of Prague.  Tr. Angela Esterhammer.  University Press of New England. 1994. 109 pp.  Cloth: $18.95; ISBN 0-87451-661-7.  These two tales, here translated into English for the first time, depict the ethnic struggle between the Germans and the Czechs that riveted that city during the 1890s. "King Bohush," inspired by an actual murder, examines Czech intellectual life of the period. Bohush is a simple-minded hunchback who naively meets with a group of artists and writers at the local café to espouse a radical form of Czech nationalism. He confides an innocent secret to a brooding revolutionary named Rezek, who, when other members of the group are arrested, murders Bohush for supposedly betraying their cause. "The Siblings," a more disturbing but less cohesive tale, explores Rezek's subsequent malignant effects on an unsophisticated brother and sister, symbols of the two sides of Bohemian culture.


Arthur Schnitzler.  Paracelsus and Other One-Act Plays.  Tr. G. J. Weinberger.  Ariadne Press.  1995.  220 pp.  Paper:  ISBN 0-929497-96-1.  The works in this volume, several appearing for the first time in English translation, deal with some of Schnitzler's favorite themes.  "The Green Cockato" intermingles illusion and reality.  "Paracelsus" introduces an "All the world's a stage" flavor and combines it with an interest in hypnotism.  Other plays have as a motif the tendency of some humans to treat others as mere playthings, or puppets.  Weinberger's previous translations include Schnitzler's Frau Berta Garlan, as well as Three Late Plays (The Sisters or Casanova in Spa, Seduction Comedy, The Way to the Pond ) and Professor Bernhardt and Other Plays.

Verena Stefan.  Shedding & Literally Dreaming.  Trs. Johanna Steigleder Moore, Beth E. Weckmueller, Johanna Albert, and Tobe Levin.  The Feminist Press. 1994.  176 pp.  Paper: $14.50; ISBN 1-55861-084-7.  This volume brings together prose from three decades of writing by Stefan, one of the most influential contemporary feminists in the world.  The 1975 German publication of Shedding—a novella which narrates the transformation of a young woman against the backdrop of the early 1970s women's, civil rights, and health care movements—created such a stir that it was called the "feminist equivalent to Mao's little red book."  Also included here is the first English translation of Literally Dreaming, a collection of eight stories written in the 1980s, drawing a portrait of women living together in natural and rural settings, independent of men.  And Stefan has written for this volume a new essay, "Euphoria and Cacophony," which traces the extraordinary reception—and backlash—that greeted Shedding, and the effect on her both as a writer and as a symbol of the German women's movement.

Uwe Timm.  The Invention of Curried Sausage [Die Entdeckung der Currywurst].  Tr. Leila Vennewitz.  New Directions Books [Verlag Kiepenheuer & Witsch, Cologne, 1993].  1995.  217 pp.  Cloth: $19.95; ISBN 0-8112-1297-1.  The Invention of Curried Sausage is an ingenious, revealing, and delightful novel about the invention of a popular German sidewalk food.  Timm has heard claims that currywurst first appeared in Berlin in the 1950s, but he seems to recall having eaten it much earlier, as a boy in his native Hamburg, at a stand owned and operated by Lena Brücke.  He decides to check it out.  Although the discovery of curry sausage is eventually explained, it is its prehistory about how Lena Brücke met, seduced, and held captive a German deserter in Hamburg in April 1945—that is the tastiest part.  Timm is the 1989 winner of the Munich Literary Prize.

Joseph von Westphalen.  Diplomatic Pursuits [Im diplomatischen Dienst].  Tr. Melanie Richter-Bernburg.  Catbird Press.  1995.  300 pp.  Paper: $14.95; ISBN 0-945774-28-1.  This novel by one of Germany's leading satirists follows the thoughts and adventures of Harry von Duckwitz.  Duckwitz is an aristocratic, left-leaning lawyer who suddenly leaves his law firm, enters the foreign service, and gets posted to Cameroon and Ecuador.  He has outrageous opinions about almost everything under the sun, but he is thoughtful as well, and self-critical.  He pursues ideas and women with the same conflicted, contrary volatility he brings to his diplomatic career.

Whether insulting or trying to understand people, from left-wing intellectuals to right-wing colonels, he stumbles across a number of truths, half-truths, and perspectives.  This is Westphalen's first appearance in English.

**GREEK**

Odysseas Elytis.  Open Papers.  Trs. Olga Broumas and T. Begley.  Copper Canyon Press/Consortium.  1995.  188 pp.  Paper: $11.00; ISBN 1-55659-069-5.  Open Papers is the primary statement on his art by Odysseas Elytis, recipient of the 1979 Nobel Prize in Literature, a sweeping exploration of the mind and mystic imagination of one of the most original, visionary, and compelling poets of this century.  Elytis has been associated since publication of his first book, in 1940, with a poetry of deep moral awareness, passionate openness, and a distinctly personal mythology.  In part autobiographical, Open Papers also chronicles the life of poetry in modern Greece, and includes essays on influences as diverse as Rimbaud, Picasso, and Ungaretti.  Translator Broumas has previously translated Elytis' selected poems, What I Love, and his book-length poem, The Little Mariner, and is co-author with T. Begley of a volume of poems, Sappho's Gymnasium, all published by Copper Canyon.

**HEBREW**

child. While Israel inches toward the Six-Day War, and while the voices of his friends change and become strange to him, Aron lives in his child body as though in a nightmare. Like a spy in enemy territory, he learns to decipher the internal codes of sexuality and desire, to understand the unyielding bureaucracy of the human body. Buried between childhood and adulthood, between the pure and the profane, he is like a volcano of emotions and impulses. But like his hero Houdini, Aron still struggles to escape from the trap of growing up. Grossman is also the author of The Yellow Wind (1987) and Sleeping on a Wire (1993).

**HUNGARIAN**

George Konrád. *The Melancholy of Rebirth: Essays from Post-Communist Central Europe 1989-1994*. Tr. Michael Henry Heim. Harcourt Brace & Company. 1995. 196 pp. Paper: $12.00; 0-15-600252-3. These 26 essays offer a cogent commentary on the nascent democratic societies of Central Europe. From the opening essay to the last, we see how the initial euphoria at the end of Communist rule is tempered by the difficulties of reform. "When you live under a dictatorship, you imagine that even leaves will be a new color once the regime is overthrown," Konrád writes, and the social changes he depicts are by turns exhilarating and frightening. "New Year's Prediction for 1990" is a prayer for the future. He examines the fiction of collective identities in "Being Hungarian" and "What Makes a Hungarian"; in "Identity and Hysteria," a prescient early essay on the civil war in Yugoslavia, he writes of the consequences. "Eternally Waiting" posits the question "Can Jews survive in Central Europe?" "Hail and Farewell," written in 1994, is a wry look at Hungary's four-year-old electoral process. Konrád's novels include *The Case Worker, The City Builder, The Loser, Antipolitics, and A Feast in the Garden*.


**IRISH**


**ITALIAN**

Angelo Beolco [Ruzzante]. *La Moschetta*. Trs. Antonio Franceschetti and Kenneth R. Bartlett. Dovehouse Editions Inc. 1993. 123 pp. Paper: ISBN 1-895537-22-3. The action of this play centers on three men and a woman: a foolish, bragging husband who is not aware of what is happening in his own house; his licentious wife; a close friend of the couple who has been the wife's lover and wishes to regain her affections; and a bullying soldier who desires the wife but underestimates the difficulties involved in achieving his goal. Franceschetti is the editor of *Quaderni d'italianistica*. Bartlett has served as editor of the journal *Renaissance and Reformation/Renaissance et Réforme* and co-translated Giovanni della Casa's *Galateo*.

Achille Campanile. *The Inventor of the Horse and Two Other Short Plays [Il ciambellone, L'inventore del cavallo, Guerra]*. Tr. Francesco Loriggio. Guernica. 1995. 117 pp. Paper: $13.00; ISBN 0-920717-97-7. Campanile's short comedies are condensed, extravagant parables about modernity and its foibles. Located in emblematic sites—the drawing room, the halls of Science—the action targets with particular vigor the values, the institutions, the intellectual arrogance we have come to identify with the age's central figure, the middle class. The critique is devastating but, above all, never unmindful of the prime imperative of comic art: it must entertain.


Dacia Maraini. *Only Prostitutes Marry in May*. Ed. Antonio
D'Alfonso. Guernica. 1995. 378 pp. Paper: $18.00; ISBN 0-920717-81-0. This collection is the first publication in English of the plays by Maraini, the 1990 winner of the Premio Campiello. The four plays present her forthright views on the relations between women and power, men and men, women and their own sexuality. Mary Stuart is an evocation of the relationship between Mary Stuart and Elizabeth I which demonstrates the price women pay for holding power in a world dominated by men. Dialogue Between a Prostitute and Her Client is a blunt and revealing conversation between a man who seeks solace and fulfillment in the body of a woman he does not know, and the intelligent woman who confronts him with the meanings of his search. Crime at the Tennis Club is a retelling, from a woman's point of view, of Alberto Moravia's story about the murder of an older woman by four young men. Dreams of Clytemnestra translates the story of the mythic Greek heroine to modern Italy.


Shusaku Endo. Deep River. Tr. Van C. Gessel. New Directions. 1995. 224 pp. Cloth: $19.95; ISBN 0-81120-1289-0. Four modern Japanese tourists visit India as the birthplace of Buddhism. Each character is searching for something: Isobe—evidence of his wife's reincarnation; Kiguchi—repose for the souls of his comrades killed during the Burmese war; Numada—to honor the mynah bird which he believes, died in his place years before; Mitsuko—to confront the darkness in her heart. A fifth character not on tour is Otsu, the once rejected lover of Mitsuko. Otsu was a Catholic novice for years, wavering in his obedience, found unsatisfactory by his superiors, but firm in his search for "the true faith." He finds his painful way towards tending the sick and dying by the holy river in India. Endo has also written The Sea and Poison and Stained Glass Elegies.


sandlot baseball pinch runner, the novel centers around the exchange of identities of a father and a son who confront the leader of the political underworld. Also introduced is a third voice, that of the idiot son Mori who speaks to his "switched-over" father through the conduit of their clasped hands. This book won the 1994 Nobel Prize for Literature; he has also received most of the major literary prizes in Japan plus the Europalia literary award, and a nomination for the 1986 Neustadt International Prize for Literature.


**KOREAN**


**LATIN**


Horace. *Horace's Odes and Epodes*. Tr. David Mulroy. The University of Michigan Press. 1994. 242 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-472-10531-0. Mulroy presents the *Odes* and *Epodes* of Horace, who was one of the Augustan regime's best known and most talented poets. Intended for those with little knowledge of these works as well as for those with a more experienced ear, Mulroy's translations are accompanied by explanatory notes on the individual poems. Appendices are also provided that offer information on Suetonius' biography of Horace, on ambiguity in Horace's personal allusions, and on the theme of sadism in Horace's writings.


reproduced here, with a transcription of its text, contains the only known surviving portion of Samuel Johnson's translation of Sallust's *Bellum Catilinae* commonly entitled *Conspiracy of Catiline*.


**MALAGASY**

*Ibonia: Epic of Madagascar*. Tr. Lee Haring. Bucknell University Press/Associated University Presses. 1994. 169 pp. Cloth: $32.50; ISBN 0-8387-5284-5. *Ibonia* is a discovery: the first English translation of the major work of Malagasy oral literature, recorded in 1877 from an anonymous bard by a Norwegian missionary and translated by Haring. It is the epic tale of the birth and exploits of a royal hero. His mother, a queen of heroic caliber, is barren until she consults a diviner, who brings about the hero's conception. An unusual birth and precocious strength prepare the hero to go in quest of his betrothed, who has been abducted. Such tests of worth as combat with a crocodile, supernatural aid, and a victorious struggle with her abductor prove him a true epic hero worthy of ruling his people.

**OLD ENGLISH**

*Beowulf: A Student's Edition*. Tr. E. L. Risden. The Whitston Publishing Company. 1994. 99 pp. Paper: $6.50; ISBN 0-87875-455-5. This translation provides the materials most useful to the student or general reader picking up *Beowulf* for the first time. It includes an up-to-date introduction to the poem and a list of characters, a translation that aims especially at accuracy and readability, and a selected bibliography for those readers interested in pursuing further study of this great work of the Anglo-Saxon age.

**PERSIAN**

Simin Daneshvar. *Sutra and Other Stories*. Trs. Hanas Javadi and Amin Neshato. Mage Publishers, Inc. 1994. 189 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-934211-42-6. This collection of six short stories offers rare and intimate glimpses into the lives of ordinary Iranian men and women. Daneshvar's Iran is a landscape in which the medieval and the modern coexist uneasily. Against this backdrop, the author explores the persistent themes of sexual and racial identity, the social relations of wealth and poverty, the workings of memory and dreams. The lives of her characters are determined by conditions and norms over which they have little or no control; still, in the end, *Sutra* offers a vision of hope. Stories include "Potshards," "A City Like Paradise," "Anis," "Childbirth," "Bibi Shahrbanu," and "Sutra."


**POLISH**


superweapons invented by the invisible war robots. But what was Tichy doing on the moon in the first place, and in the vicinity of self-evolving, autonomous, intelligent weapons? He was sent on a mission by the Lunar Agency to save the world. He saved the world— but saved it too well. For what he did he might receive the Nobel Peace Prize, and then again he might be shot for treason.


**PORTUGUESE**

Jorge Amado. *The War of the Saints*. Tr. Gregory Rabassa. Bantam Books. 1993. 357 pp. Paper: $10.95; ISBN 0-553-37440-0. Jorge Amado has been hailed as Brazil's foremost novelist and one of the great writers of our time. In *War of the Saints*, he has created a sensual, exuberant tale set amid the flashing rhythms, intoxicating smells, and bewitching colors of Carnival. The holy icon of Saint Barbara of the Thunder is bound for the city of Bahia for an exhibition of holy art. As the boat that bears the image is docking, a miracle occurs, and Saint Barbara comes to life, disappearing into the milling crowd on the quay. Somewhere in the city a young woman has fallen in love, and her prudish guardian aunt has locked her away.

Eça de Queirós. *The Yellow Sofa & Three Portraits*. Trs. John Vetch, Richard Franko Goldman, Luis Marques. Carcanet Press. 1993. 181 pp. Cloth: $31.95; ISBN 1-85754-034-4. Alves comes home early to celebrate his wedding anniversary. There, on the yellow sofa, he surprises Lulu in the arms of his unnamed bride. The wedding is followed by the mass poisoning of hundreds of native Africans and the arrival of a rain of locusts. The story ends grimly with the groom's suicide. Evita Lopo, the unnamed bride from the first part, narrates the remainder of the story. Twenty years have gone by and she reviews the past and questions the unidentified narrator's rendering of events in the first section. It becomes apparent that betrayal and guilt have motivated all of the characters' actions. Sousa has translated Clarice Lispector's *The Passion according to G.H.*, and Manuel Rui's *Yes, Comrade!*


Lídia Jorge. *The Murmuring Coast*. Trs. Natália Costa and Richard W. Sousa. University of Minnesota Press [Publicações Dom Quixote, Lisbon, 1988]. 1995. 288 pp. Cloth: $24.95; ISBN 0-8166-2112-8. This work presents Lídia Jorge's version of a traditional story about a series of supposed incidents set in Beria, Mozambique. The events take place in the final years of Portugal's colonial African wars as an undisclosed narrator describes the military wedding of a young Portuguese ensign and an equally young bride. The wedding is followed by the mass poisoning of hundreds of native Africans and the arrival of a rain of locusts. The story ends grimly with the groom's suicide. Evita Lopo, the unnamed bride from the first part, narrates the remainder of the story. Twenty years have gone by and she reviews the past and questions the unidentified narrator's rendering of events in the first section. It becomes apparent that betrayal and guilt have motivated all of the characters' actions. Sousa has translated Clarice Lispector's *The Passion according to G.H.*, and Manuel Rui's *Yes, Comrade!*


sex—Santiago emphasizes the interaction of the seemingly contradictory impulses of liberation and Americanization that Brazil underwent in the late 1960s. Exploring the complexities of repression that affect all forms of identity, Santiago mingles tragedy and farce as international intrigues are played out in New York's Latino and black neighborhoods, and the genteel world of international diplomacy is thrust into the milieu of urban gay street life.

**ROMANIAN**


**RUSSIAN**

Isaac Babel. *1920 Diary*. Ed. Carol J. Avins. Tr. H. T. Willetts. Yale University Press. 1995. 126 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-300-05966-3. Babel is best known for his cycle of stories called Red Cavalry, which depicts the exploits of the Cossack cavalry during the Polish-Soviet war of 1919-1920 and is based on Babel's experiences as he rode with the Cossacks during the campaign. Throughout this period Babel kept a diary, in which he recorded the devastation of the war, the extreme cruelty of the campaign. Throughout this period Babel kept a diary, in which he recorded the devastation of the war, the extreme cruelty of the campaign. Babel is best known for his cycle of stories called Red Cavalry, which depicts the exploits of the Cossack cavalry during the Polish-Soviet war of 1919-1920 and is based on Babel's experiences as he rode with the Cossacks during the campaign. Throughout this period Babel kept a diary, in which he recorded the devastation of the war, the extreme cruelty of the campaign.


Aleksandr Duknovych. *Virtue Is More Important Than Riches*. Tr. Elaine Rusinko. Columbia University Press. 1995. 85 pp. Cloth: $32.00; ISBN 0-88033-290-5. Bilingual. Duknovych recognized that theater could transmit ideas, attitudes, and emotions not just to the Rusyn intelligentsia but even to illiterate and barely educated individuals (Introduction). This three-act play, written in popular dialect, voices ideas to the effect that the survival of a distinct national Rusyn people depended on Hapsburg/Russian unity. Through universal as well as local themes (the pampered child who turns to crime, the suffering of innocents, the problems associated with drinking), Duknovych creates characters readily identifiable to his audience.


changing social conditions that made Turgenev a portal to Russian intellectual life. Readers will find complete translations of Turgenev's finest novels, *Rudin, A Nest of Gentry,* and *Fathers and Sons,* along with eight selections from the historically important *Sportsman's Sketches.* Seven short stories include "Diary of a Superfluous Man" and "Enough." Among the non-fiction, Allen includes the influential essay "Hamlet and Don Quixote"—previously unavailable in English.

Vladimir Voinovich. *The Life and Extraordinary Adventures of Private Ivan Chonkin [Zhizni neobychainye prikluchenii soldata Ivan Chonkina].* Tr. Richard Lourie. Northwestern University Press [Possev Verlag, 1969]. 1995. 316 pp. Paper: $15.95; ISBN 0-8101-1243-4. Ivan Chonkin is a simple, bumbling peasant who has been drafted into the Red Army. Shortly before the outbreak of World War II, he is sent to an obscure village with one week's ration of canned meat and orders to guard a downed plane. Apparently forgotten by his unit, Chonkin resumes his life as a peasant and passes the war peacefully tending the village postmistress's garden. Just after the German invasion, the secret police discover this mysterious soldier lurking behind the front line. Their pursuit of Chonkin and his determined resistance leads to wild skirmishes and slapstick encounters. Vladimir Voinovich's hilarious satire and his determined resistence leads to wild skirmishes and slapstick encounters.


**SANSKRIT**

*Tales of Love & War from the Mahabharat.* Tr. Gopal Das Koshla. Oxford University Press. 1994. 148 pp. Paper: ISBN 0-19-563466-7. *Tales of Love & War* includes short tales from one of the greatest epic poems of India—the *Mahabharata.* The tales are woven around passion, bitter struggle for succession between two clans: the Pandavas and the Kauravas, as well as innumerable ethical issues such as the good and the evil, the moral and the immoral. Koshla has attempted to captivate his readers with these short tales from a 100,000-verse epic by capturing the spirit of the original in a manner that is easily accessible.

**SERBO-CROATIAN**


**SLOVENE**

Aleš Debeljak. *Anxious Moments.* Tr. Christopher Merrill. White Pine Press. 1994. 78 pp. Paper: $12.00; ISBN 1-877727-35-0. These prose poems, written just a year and a half before the ten-day war between Slovenia and Yugoslavia, foreshadow events that the world continues to watch in horror. These are the poems of a writer who knew that the new world order would be anything but orderly. Includes such works as "Late Evening Light," "Empty Rooms," "A River and a Young Woman," and "Ways of Saying Goodbye."

**SPANISH**


Julieta Campos. She Has Reddish Hair and Her Name Is Sabina [Tiene los cabellos rojizos y se llama Sabina]. Tr. Leland H. Chambers. University of Georgia Press [Editorial Joaquin Mortiz, S.A., 1974]. 1993. 135 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8203-1467-6. "I am not here, I am on another shore, twenty-two years ago." Sabina speaks this line as she sits on the balcony of an Acapulco hotel gazing at a spectacular promontory and the sunlit sea beyond. Or so the reader may think at first. Sabina, it turns out, is actually a character in the mind of a writer wrestling with ideas for a novel. Campos freezes Sabina at the moment of gazing—four o'clock in the afternoon, May 8, 1971—and opens the character to a potential that is as expansive as the ever-present sea. As the book progresses, Campos envisions a battle among several potential narrators for the character of Sabina: a female observer sitting on the balcony; another female persona near the balcony taking notes for a novel she might write; a third woman, distant in time and place, sitting at a desk looking at photographs of the sea; and a male writer who constitutes an ominous, oppressive presence in the novel. Chambers is the translator of Ezequiel Martinez Estrada's Holy Saturday and Other Stories.


Maria Luisa Bombal. House of Mist and The Shrouded Woman [La última niebla and La amortajada]. Tr. Maria Luisa Bombal. University of Texas Press. 1995. 259 pp. Cloth: $40.00; ISBN 0-292-70836-X. Paper: $19.95; ISBN 0-292-70830-0. The shrouded woman, a corpse reviewing her life as she views the mourners at her wake, perceives in the personal ties that made up her life a failure of all parties to benefit from the possibilities of true intimacy. Helga, the heroine of House of Mist, has a powerfully imaginative inner life entirely unappreciated by her husband until he finally learns to value her as more than a trophy. In these two evocative novels, a daring blend of magical elements, innovative style, and unsparing social criticism opens a window on the privileged yet artificially useless lives of upper-class Chilean women of the earlier 20th century.

Alicia Borinsky. Mean Woman [Mina Cruel]. Eds. Jean Franco, Francine Masiello, Tununa Mercado, and Mary Louise Pratt. Tr. Cola Franzen. University of Nebraska Press [Corregidor, Buenos Aires, 1989]. 1993. 179 pp. Paper: $10.95; ISBN 0-8032-6112-8. "The women in Mean Woman show more energy, imagination, and curiosity than the men in all areas, including sexual matters; the men are attempting to fulfill the expectations that society has set for them while the women are trying to elude their roles. Most are ringing changes on their identities and positions, bent on escaping from their traditional slots, finding a wider area of operation, and willing to use whatever means are at hand." (Introduction)


teacher—are the actors in this drama, which is rehearsed in a purely introspective way. The seduction resembles that in Dostoyevsky's *The Possessed*, but it does not result in Leticia's mental or physical destruction. Rather, it acts as a catalyst for a deep questioning and exploration of life. Maier's other translations include works by Carmen Martín Gaite, Ana Castillo, Octavio Armand, and Severo Sarduy.


Ana Maria Matute. *Soldiers Cry by Night [Los soldados lloran de noche].* Trs. Robert Nugent and María José de la Cámara. Latin American Literary Review Press. 1995. 158 pp. Paper: ISBN 0-935480-67-6. In *Soldiers Cry by Night*, the second volume of *The Merchants* (1959-1969), an award-winning trilogy about the Spanish Civil War, Matute uses a realistic setting and autobiographical detail to depict triumph and loss. Manuel and Marta are forced to accept the end of their innocent childhood happiness and must come to terms with the allegiances and betrayals of the harsh adult world. During the Fascist attack on Barcelona the two young people are forced to choose sides. Their decisions will forever change their lives. Matute has won the Premio Nacional de Literatura, Premio Nadal, Premio de la Crítica, and Premio Café de Gijón. Translator Nugent has published *Sonnets of Love and Death* (Jean de Sponde) and *Convivial Poems* (Giovanni Pascoli).

Gabriela Mistral. *A Gabriela Mistral Reader.* Ed. Marjorie Agosín. Tr. Maria Giachetti. White Pine Press. 1993. 224 pp. Paper: $13.00; ISBN 1-877727-18-0. Gabriela Mistral's name evokes contradictory images: a rural schoolteacher and recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature, a provincialist and a universal traveler. This collection, the first to translate the broad spectrum of her work into English, gathers selections from both her poetry and her prose and reflects all phases of her work. The selections demonstrate a unique way of communicating and of inhabiting a world that is Indian and genuinely American. Includes, among others, selections from *Pain, Tales of A Delirious Woman, Exasperating Games, Almost Scholastic*, and *In Praise of Earthly Things*. Maria Giachetti has translated Neruda's *Las piedras del cielo* (*Heaven Stones; Cross Cultural Communications, 1993*) and a selection of Neruda's botanical odes, *Garden Odes.*


Daniel Moyano. *The Flight of the Tiger [El vuelo del tigre].* Tr. Norman Thomas di Giovanni. Serpents' Tail/ Consortium [Editorial Legasa]. 1995. 224 pp. Paper: $13.99; ISBN 1-85242-174-6. A powerful tale of house arrest in the Argentina of the 60s, when the military juntas ruled, this work chronicles the peasants' struggle to overcome tyrants and the forces that have brought the tyrants into their homes. Moyano uses music as a metaphor for freedom: when the despot bans one musical key, the people change their pitch and thereby multiply their powers to resist.

poems vary from short, intense lyrics through characteristic Neruda odes and whimsical addresses to friends to magnificent meditations on the office of poet, and include "The People," the most celebrated of his later poems. Many of these poems explore contradiction and paradox, and the attendant theme of the poet as a cluster of different selves, often contradictory.


Juan José Saer. The Event [La Ocasión]. Tr. Helen Lane. Dalkey Archive Press. 1995. 224 pp. Paper: $14.99; ISBN 1-85242-249-1. The Event takes place in London 1855. Blanco, the magician, is at the height of his powers. His telepathic gifts have made him famous throughout Europe—the Prussian secret service wants to hire him to divine the secrets of their French counterparts. At a public meeting held to consecrate his fame, Blanco is undermined by a conspiracy of the Paris positivists. Exposed as a charlatan, he is forced to flee to the pampas of Argentina where he takes up with Gina, whose voluptuousness matches her promiscuity. An elegant reflection on the control of knowledge by the first world, The Event won for Saer Spain's prestigious Nadal Prize in 1988. Helen Lane, winner of the National Book Award, Gulbenkian and PEN Club Translation Prizes, is the translator of Octavio Paz, Luisa Valenzuela, Michel Butor, Mario Vargas-Llosa, Juan Goytisolo as well as Saer.


Cobra, star of the Lyrical Theater of Dolls, whose obsession is to transform his/her body. She is assisted in her metamorphosis by the Madam and Pup, Cobra's dwarfish double. They too change shape, through the violent ceremonies of a motorcycle gang, into a sect of Tibetan lamas seeking to revive Tantric Buddhism. Maîtreya continues the theme of metamorphosis, this time in the person of Luis Leng, a humble Cuban Chinese cook, who becomes a reincarnation of Buddha. Through Leng, Sarduy traces the metamorphosis of two hitherto incomparable societies, Tibet at the moment of Chinese invasion, and Cuba at the moment of revolution. Translator Levine is the author of The Subversive Scribe: Translating Latin American Fiction.

Héctor Tizón. Fire in Casabindo [Fuego en Casabindo]. Tr. Miriam Frank. Quartet Books [Galerna Editores, Buenos Aires, 1969]. 1993. 87 pp. Cloth: £11.95; ISBN 0-7043-7062-X. The puna is a vast, arid tableland in the Andes which stretches across northwest Argentina and Southern Bolivia. It is an area with a history of rebellion against the invader, dating from the domination of the Incas and then the Spanish conquistadores. The age-old struggles of the punefíos to regain control of their lands culminated in the Battle of Quera in 1875. Fire in Casabindo follows the wanderings of a one-eyed man, mortally wounded during this battle, who, according to local custom, goes in search of his killer in order to free his soul and find peace. The story is woven around his encounters with the local population, flashbacks to his earlier life, and the battlefield. Tizón has written five volumes of short stories and five novels, population, flashbacks to his earlier life, and the battlefield.


Josefina Vicens. The Empty Book [El libro vacío]. Tr. David Lauer. University of Texas Press. 1992. 123 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-292-72066-1. "It's a lot easier just not to write." So argues Vicens' alter ego, José García, in The Empty Book. Yet his need to write exists independently of his perception that an "ordinary" person has "nothing to say." In the very act of writing about "nothing," Garcia paradoxically tells a story of meaning and significance—the story of his own attempt to transcend the limits of mundane existence through creative work. Winner of the prestigious Xavier Villaurrutia prize, The Empty Book is a novel about the writing process and stands as a forerunner of the metafiction boom of the 1960s that included the works of Cortázar, Pacheco, and Elizondo.


1994 American Book Award for *Scene from the Movie GIANT*. His other books are *Hay Otra Voz Poems* and *Shaking Off the Dark*.

**SWEDISH**


Erland Josephson. *A Story about Mr. Silberstein [En berättelse om herr Silberstein]*. Tr. Roger Greenwald. Northwestern University Press [Albert Bonniers forlag, 1957]. 1995. 139 pp. Cloth: $24.95; ISBN 0-8101-1277-9. Through the central figure of Emanuel Silberstein, this novel draws the reader into an exploration of identity and the futile attempt to define a self "independent" of others. With a sharp eye on the Swedish milieu, Josephson probes the roots of anti-Semitism and thus of prejudice and self-deception in general. He creates his characters with the help of a keen ear for dialogue and interior voices, and deploys them with the skill of one who has long experience in the theater. Translator Greenwald has published three volumes of poetry translated from Norwegian and Swedish and has won the American Scandinavian Foundation Translation Prizes.

Ivar Lo-Johansson. *Peddling My Wares* [Gårdfarihandlaren]. Tr. Rochelle Wright. Camden House. 1995. 230 pp. Cloth: $44.95; ISBN 1-57113-015-2. Lo-Johansson was the last surviving member of the so-called "thirties generation" in Swedish literature: writers from impoverished, often rural backgrounds who were largely self-educated and who wrote extensively about their roots. *Peddling My Wares* draws on his experiences when, as a youth of 19, he spent a summer cycling through Sweden trying to peddle "small goods." Through a series of adventures, some comical, some unsettling, he gradually learns that any romantic dream of total freedom is both impossible and foolish. Wright has also translated Lo-Johansson's *Breaking Free*.

Ilank_Atikal. *The Cilappatikram of Ilank_Atikal: An Epic of South India*. Tr. R. Parthasarthy. Columbia University Press. 1995. 426 pp. Cloth: $17.50; ISBN 0-231-07848-X. *The Cilappatikram*—which means "the epic of an anklet"—is the compelling love story of Kannaki and Kvalan. The anklet is the emblem of the goddess Pattinji, and the poem depicts the transformation of Kannaki into the goddess. Parthasarthy's introduction examines the poem in a comparative perspective with reference to the Sanskrit and Greek epics, and proposes that Ilank rewrite the epic tradition by subverting its essentially androcentric bias. The postscript discusses the poetics of the Tamil epic in the light of the erotic and the heroic. To these, Ilank adds a third, the mythic.

**TURKISH**

Bilgé Karasu. *Night [Gece]*. Tr. Güneli Gün with the author. Louisiana State University Press [Ilet-im Yayinlari]. 1994. 142 pp. Cloth: $19.95; ISBN 0-8071-1849-4. *Night* begins as a writer's notebook. It appears as the narrative of a decent man, a writer of liberal sensibility who lives in a truly hellish place, where "nightworkers" prowl the streets, savagely murdering victims at random and leaving cryptic inscriptions about the advent of some apocalyptic "big night." It is a world of ritual mass-murder, of unrelenting paranoia and terror for its own sake, a world rife with rumor and deception. The writer tells of being blackmailed through a supremely cynical political maneuver into attending a foreign conference as a showpiece delegate. Set alongside the writer's story is the story of the creation of the book itself. In asides and footnotes, the writer decides on one narrative strategy, second-guesses it, then tries another, as he works his way toward an ending he cannot quite imagine. Winner of the Pegasus Prize for Literature. Karasu's other works include *Kiosk of Destiny* and *The Guide*.

Orhan Pamuk. *The Black Book [Kara Kitap]*. Tr. Güneli Gün. Farrar, Straus and Giroux [Can Yayinlavi Ltd. ti]. 1994. 400 pp. Cloth: $25.00; ISBN 0-374-11394-7. Galip is an Istanbul lawyer, and his wife (as well as first cousin) has vanished. Could she be hiding out with her half brother (who also happens to be Galip's first cousin), Helal, a newspaper columnist whose fame Galip envies? As Galip plays the part of private investigator, he assumes the identity of Jelal himself, wearing his clothes, answering his phone calls, even faking his wry columns, which he passes off as the work of the missing journalist. But the amateur sleuth bungles his undercover operation, and with dire consequences. Pamuk is the author of *The White Castle*. Gün has translated *Night* by Bilg é Karasu.

**URDU**

Isolated and ignored as she grows up in a large Muslim Indian household in the 1920s, Shamman's spirited nature rebells against her upbringing. Yet while her perception of her expected role in life deepens, she learns from bitter experiences to distrust anyone who offers intimacy. But her defense against love cannot last forever.

**YIDDISH**


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