

# ANNOTATED BOOKS RECEIVED

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## ANTHOLOGIES

(Vietnamese) *An Anthology of Vietnamese Poems: From the Eleventh through the Twentieth Centuries*. Ed. and Tr. Hu\_nh Sanh Thông. Yale University Press. 1996. 429 pp. Cloth: \$25.00; ISBN 0-300-06410-1. This anthology brings together a thousand years of Vietnamese poems—more than 300 by 150 poets. Many of the poems are not otherwise available in English. Sanh Thông's historical and critical Introduction and his abundant explanatory notes throughout the collection assist readers in understanding and appreciating each work. He has organized the poems around nine main themes that include Vietnamese views of society, responses to foreign influences, and feelings about such universal themes as relationships between men and women, the role of art in life, and conflicts among social classes. Sanh Thông's professional translations include the long narrative poem *The Tale of Kiêu*, also published by Yale University Press. For his efforts to keep alive the literary and poetic traditions of the Vietnamese people, he won a MacArthur Fellowship in 1987.

*Christmas in Scandinavia*. Eds. Sven H. Rossel and Bo Elbrønd-Bek. Tr. David W. Colbert. University of Nebraska Press. 1996. 182 pp. Cloth: \$25.00; ISBN 0-8032-3907-6. Anyone aware of the magic in Christmas will recognize the inspiration in these stories: a homeless stranger seeking kindness, excited children, and a talking Christmas tree, all under the spell of the season. Here and there appear Nissen, the capped and bearded imps of mischief familiar throughout Scandinavia. *Christmas in Scandinavia* includes writers from Denmark, the Faroese Islands, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. Among the stories are Hans Christian Andersen's "The Fir Tree" and stories by Nobel laureates Selma Lagerlöf and Johannes Jensen. Most of the 17 pieces collected here have never before been available in English.

(Greek and Latin) *Classical Women Poets*. Tr. Josephine Balmer. Bloodaxe Books/Dufour Editions. 1996. 160 pp. Paper: \$16.95; ISBN 1-85224-342-2. Today only a fraction of the works of women poets of ancient Greece and Rome survives. Balmer's translations breathe new life into long-lost works by over a dozen poets from early Greece to the late Roman empire, including Sappho, Corinna, Erinna, and Sulpicia, as well as inscriptions, folk-songs, and even graffiti. Each poet is introduced by a brief bibliographical note, and where necessary poems are annotated to guide readers through unfamiliar mythological or historical references.

(German) *Contemporary German Fiction*. Ed. A. Leslie

Willson. Continuum Books. 1996. 241 pp. Cloth: \$29.50; ISBN 0-8264-0740-4. Paper: \$16.95; ISBN 0-8264-0741-2. The German Library, Volume 99. Some of the works included are: "The Bound Man" (Aichinger), "End of the Line" (Becker), "There Is No Such Place as America" (Bichsel), "Rats Do Sleep at Night" (Borchert), "The Liar" (Grzimek), "The Bottles of Venice" (Köpf), "Manig" (Lettau), and "The Man Who Got Stuck" (Nadolny).

(French) *The Cubist Poets in Paris: An Anthology*. Ed. L. C. Breunig. University of Nebraska Press. 1995. 326 pp. Cloth: 0-8032-1224-0. Bilingual. At the height of the Cubist movement in Paris, no fewer than 15 significant poets kept company with the painters. "Every writer had his painter," said Blaise Cendrars. "I myself had Delaunay and Léger, Max Jacob had Picasso, Reverdy Braque, and Apollinaire had everybody." The painters illustrated the poets' poems and painted their portraits; the poets wrote the painters' praise and defended them in journalistic wars. This collection includes poems by Apollinaire, Albert-Birot, Cendrars, Cocteau, Delaunay, Dermée, la Rochelle, Gardelle, Huidobro, Jacob, Laurencin, Hélène Baronne d'Oettingen, Radiguet, Reverdy, and Salmon. Fifteen illustrations suggest the painters' close ties with the poets, including works by Gris and Chirico. Breunig has edited Apollinaire's *Chroniques d'art* and *Apollinaire on Art*.

(Bulgarian) *Daydreams and Nightmares: Bulgaria, Balkan Goddess*. Tr. Don D. Wilson with Stella Kostova. Singular Speech Press. 1995. 54 pp. Paper: \$9.00; ISBN 1-880286-33-5. Includes works by Georgi Borisov, Vasil Dragonov, Boris Hristov, Ivailo Kozuharov, Alexander Shurbanov, and Pavlina Stamenova. These poems "show a surprising diversity and remarkable power, coming as they do from a small country..." (Wilson). Works include "The Limping Dog," "A Letter from the Ditch," "Unquenchable Thirst," "In the Round Eye of the Fish," and "Externalizing," divided into two sections of "Daydreams" and one of "Nightmares."

(German) *German Epic Poetry*. Eds. Francis G. Gentry and James K. Walter. Continuum Books. 1995. 338 pp. Cloth: \$29.50; ISBN 0-8264-0742-0. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-8264-0743-9. The German Library, Volume 1. This volume includes a comprehensive foreword to the entire series by the general editor Volkmar Sander. It also features the following works: *The Older Lay of Hildebrand*, *The Nibelungenlied*, *The Younger Lay of Hildebrand*, *The Battle of Ravenna*, *Bitteroff and Dietleib*, and *The Rose Garden*.

(German) *German Essays on Religion*. Ed. Edward T. Oakes. Continuum Books. 1994. 258 pp. Cloth: \$29.50; ISBN 0-8264-0734-X. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-8264-0735-8. The German Library, Volume 54. This volume includes the essential writings on religion by German theologians, philosophers, and authors, from the Enlightenment to the present. Authors include Barth, Rahner, Schleiermacher, Kant, Lessing, Goethe, Fichte,

Hegel, Schopenhauer, Feuerbach, Marx, Nietzsche, Freud, Troeltsch, Scheler, Schweitzer, Jaspers, Bultmann, F. Rosenzweig, Wittgenstein, and Balthasar.

(German) *German Essays on Science in the 19th Century*. Ed. Wolfgang Schirmacher. Continuum Books. 1996. 309 pp. Cloth: \$29.50; ISBN 0-8264-0744-7. Paper: \$19.95; ISBN 0-8264-0745-5. The German Library, Volume 36. A shared belief among German scientists in the 19th century, as Alexander von Humboldt phrased it, was that science in all its forms has to serve the betterment of the human condition. This companion to volume 82 (*German Essays on Science in the 20th Century*) represents the sciences in a comprehensive way: Natural History, Humanities, Social Sciences, Law, Economy, and Technology. Writers and scientists represented include: Jacob Burckhardt, Carl von Claisewitz, Paul Ehrlich, Karl Friedrich Gauss, Alexander von Humboldt, Lorenz Oben, Carl Ritter, Werner von Siemens, and others.

(German) *German Essays on Science in the 20th Century*. Ed. Wolfgang Schirmacher. Continuum Books. 1996. 310 pp. Cloth: \$29.50; ISBN 0-8264-0746-3. Paper: \$19.95; ISBN 0-8264-0747-1. The German Library, Volume 82. The 20th century has brought us to the high point of the scientific-technological age but paradoxically marks the beginning of a critical loss of confidence in the very powers of science. This collection represents the sciences in a comprehensive way: Physics, Biochemistry, Ecology, Ethnology, Social Sciences, Law, and Culture. Writers and scientists represented include: Robert Bosch, Albert Einstein, Otto Hahn, Werner Heisenberg, Konrad Lorenz, Lise Meitner, Max Planck, Georg Simmel, Max Weber, and others.

(French) *Histories: French Constructions of the Past*. Eds. Jacques Revel and Lynn Hunt. Tr. Arthur Goldhammer and others. The New Press. 1995. 654 pp. Cloth: \$40.00; ISBN 1-56584-195-6. First volume of The New Press Postwar French Thought Series. This collection traces developments in French historiography from questions of social history and global history, structuralism, the territory of the historian, to criticisms and reformulation. Featuring work by François Furet, Michel de Certeau, Michelle Perrot, Pierre Nora, Roger Chartier, Ernest Labrousse, Fernand Braudel, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Michel Foucault, Jacques Le Goff, Pierre Bourdieu, and others, this volume illuminates the most important controversies about historical method in the 20th century. Concentrating on the areas in which French thinkers have led the international intellectual community, the four-volume series includes volumes on historiography, the study of antiquity, literary criticism, and philosophy. The series' aim is to chart the evolution and development of each discipline in which French thought has played a major role, and to present a comprehensive study of the major debates and controversies in each field.

(Hungarian) *Hungarian Folktales: The Art of Zsuzsanna Palkó*. Ed. Linda Dégh. Tr. Vera Kalm. Garland Publishing, Inc. 1995. 408 pp. Cloth: \$45.00; ISBN 0-8153-1337-3. The collection of 35 representative tales from the rich repertoire of Palkó, illiterate Hungarian peasant and community storyteller. Her unique artistry was brought to the world's attention by Dégh's *Folktales and Society* (1969), but this is the first annotated translation of the tales themselves. Tales such as "Józsi the Fisherman," "The Psalm-Singing Bird," "Fairy Ilona," "The Serpent Prince," and "The Uncouth Girl" are included. Contains a Glossary and "Index of Tale Types and Motifs."

(Hebrew and Arabic) *Keys to the Garden: New Israeli Writing*. Ed. Ammiel Alcalay. City Lights Books. 1996. 392 pp. Paper: \$18.95; ISBN 0-87286-308-5. *Keys to the Garden* offers a comprehensive survey of the vibrant literature that is being produced by *mizrahim* (Oriental Jews) in Israel. From the 1970s on, there has been a burst of creativity emerging from *mizrahi* consciousness—in writing, music, theatre, art, and popular culture. This collection features the work of 24 Israeli writers who were either born in or whose families originate from the Levant, Turkey, Iran, India, and the Arab world. Texts include short fiction and self-contained novel excerpts by Shoshanah Shababo, Jacqueline Shohet Kahanoff, Shimon Ballas, Samir Naqqash, Yitzhak Gormezano Goren, and Ronit Matalon; poems by Erez Bitton, Moshe Sartel, Amira Hess, Ronny Someck, and Shelly Elkayam; in-depth interviews with Yehezkel Kedmi, Tikva Levi, and others. Translators include Marsha Weinstein, Ammiel Alcalay, Susan Einbinder, and others.

(Thai) *The Lioness in Bloom: Modern Thai Fiction about Women*. Ed. and Tr. Susan Fulop Kepner. University of California Press. 1996. 310 pp. Cloth: \$48.00; ISBN 0-520-08902-2. Paper: \$16.95; ISBN 0-520-08903-0. Thailand's foremost writers about women are brought together in this rich and wide-ranging collection of eleven short stories and excerpts from five novels. Accompanied by an extensive introduction, biographical essays on the writers, and a list of further readings, this anthology provides a thorough introduction to Thai literary tradition. The spectrum is broad, encompassing the young and the old, the rural and the cosmopolitan, the privileged and the poor. Some writers address previously unacceptable themes: female sexuality, spousal abuse, gender oppression. Others display a scintillating sense of humor. Includes such works as "Grandmother the Progressive" by Junlada Phakdiphumin; "Snakes Weep, Flowers Smile" by Suwanee Sukhontha; "A Pot That Scouring Will Not Save" by Anchan; and "A Mote of Dust on the Face of the Earth" by Preechapoul Boonchuay. Kepner teaches in the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of California Berkeley. She has translated *Letters from Thailand* by Botan (1977) and *A Child of the Northeast* by Kampon Boontawee (1987).

(Japanese) *Modern Japanese Tanka: An Anthology*. Ed. and Tr. Makoto Ueda. Columbia University Press. 1996. 288 pp.

Cloth: \$49.50; ISBN 0-231-10432-4. Paper: \$16.50; ISBN 0-231-10433-2. Like haiku, tanka is a short, classical Japanese verse form. This is the first collection of modern tanka available in English. Arguably the central genre of Japanese literature, the 31-syllable lyric made up the great majority of Japanese poetry from the 9th to the 19th century and was the inspiration for such poetry as haiku and renga. The collection contains 400 poems by 20 of Japan's most renowned poets, including Yosano Akiko, Okamoto, Kanoko, Miyazawa Kenji, Tsukamoto Kunio, Sasaki Yukitsuna, and Tawara Machi. Ueda is Professor of Japanese at Stanford.

(Danish) *New Danish Plays*. Ed. H. C. Andersen. Norvik Press/Dufour Editions. 1996. 264 pp. Paper: \$22.95; ISBN 1-870041-32-1. This companion volume to *New Norwegian* and *New Swedish Plays* is the third in the Norvik Press series of contemporary Nordic plays. It provides translations of plays by four of the best-known living Danish dramatists. Kaj Nissen's *Fair Kirsten* is a radio play, an historical monologue spoken by a country girl who becomes the mistress of the king of Denmark. The other three are stage plays. Set in late 17th-century Denmark, Sven Holm's *Leonora* shows one of the most colorful women of Danish history, Leonora Christina, daughter of a Danish king and devoted wife of a traitor during her last years, coming to terms with her faith and her fate. *Morning and Evening*, by Astrid Saalbach, follows a group of characters through the course of a day from morning to evening, observing their attempts to communicate with each other in a fragmented world where not even personality is fixed, and actors can take on new roles, which are yet vaguely reminiscent of the old. Jess Ørnsbo's *Odysseus from Vraa* is based on the story of the Odyssey, but set in a modern environment with characters shorn of any heroic and mythical qualities. Odysseus returns to his wife Penelope who runs a boarding house for parasitic lodgers and has not missed him at all, and his son Telle, a petty criminal who turns out to have been fathered by someone else.

(French) *The New French Poetry*. Eds. David Kelley and Jean Khalifa. Bloodaxe Books/Dufour Editions. 1996. 320 pp. Paper: ISBN 1-85224-260-4. Bilingual. This anthology captures the excitement of the new metaphysical poetry which has become an influential strand in recent French literature. Works include, among others: "Harassment" (Yves de Bayser); "Cave Songs" (Jacques Dupin); "Absolute Ground" (Lorand Gaspar); "Immobile flames" (Joyce Mansour); "Where is poetry bound?" (Bernard Noël); "Passing Moments" (Gisèle Prassinis); "Elegiac calendar" (Jacques Réda); "Fresco painted on the void" (André Velter).

(Spanish) *Treasury of Spanish Love Poems, Quotations & Proverbs*. Eds. and Trs. Juan and Susan Serrano. Hippocrene Books. 1995. 128 pp. Cloth: \$11.95; ISBN 0-7818-0358-6. A bilingual collection of popular Spanish love poems spanning eight centuries. Works from de la Vega, Lorca, Calderón, and

Cervantes offer insight into the Spanish perspective on romance. *Spanish Love* is the ninth volume in a series dedicated to international love poetry and prose.

(Spanish and Portuguese) *Twentieth-Century Latin American Poetry: A Bilingual Anthology*. Ed. Stephen Tapscott. University of Texas Press. 1996. 448 pp. Cloth: \$55.00; ISBN 0-292-78138-5. Paper: \$24.95; ISBN 0-292-78140-7. Bilingual. Gathered together in this single bilingual volume are the major poets of 20th-century Latin America and their major works—over 400 poems. Tapscott's selections cover the full range, from the Modernist generation through the Mexican Revolutionary post-Moderns and the Vanguardist poets to very contemporary younger writers of political and experimental commitments. In all, eighty-five poets are represented, including Pablo Neruda, Octavio Paz, Gabriela Mistral, Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortazar, Carlos Drummond de Andrade and César Vallejo.

(Vietnamese) *Vietnam*. Eds. John Balaban and Nguyen Qui Duc. Whereabouts Press. 1996. 239 pp. Paper: \$12.95; ISBN 1-883513-02-2. "The literary traveler to Vietnam is in for pleasant surprises. Reading these stories will be like seeing Vietnam for the first time, hearing Vietnamese speaking to themselves of their deepest concerns and pleasures, beyond the disfigurements of the last war, beyond its snapshots and captions and journalistic interpreters. All stories come from the best Vietnamese writers, at home and abroad. Their stories are set within the microcosms of peasant society, in the floating world of Saigon's commercialism, within the hierarchies of Marxist privilege, and in the bittersweet memories of an old man stalled at a traffic light in southern California." (Preface) Balaban is the author of *Coming Down Again*, *The Hawk's Tale*, and *Remembering Heaven's Face*. He is the director of the Master of Fine Arts program at the University of Miami. Nguyen Qui Duc is the author of *Where the Ashes Are: The Odyssey of a Vietnamese Family*.

(Chinese) Xiao Tong. *Wen xuan or Selections of Refined Literature, Vol. 3*. Tr. David R. Knechtges. Princeton University Press. 1996. 449 pp. Cloth: \$75.00; ISBN 0-691-02126-0; 0-691-05346-4 (set). The *Wen xuan* is the oldest surviving anthology of Chinese literature arranged by genre. It contains a total of 761 pieces of prose and verse by 130 writers from the late Zhou dynasty to the Liang dynasty. The selection includes most of the best examples of rhapsodies and lyric poems from the Han, Wei, Jin, and North-South Dynasties periods, as well as representative examples of other early genres such as letters, memorials, prefaces, imperial edicts, inscriptions, epitaphs, laments, elegies, and eulogies. Knechtges is Professor of Chinese literature at the University of Washington. He is the editor and translator of *Wen xuan*, Volumes 1 & 2, and the author of *The Han Rhapsody: A Study of the "Fu" of Yang Hsiung* (53 B.C.—A.D. 18).

## REFERENCE

Samuel Amell. *The Contemporary Spanish Novel: An Annotated, Critical Bibliography, 1936-1994*. Greenwood Press. 1996. 288 pp. Cloth: \$75.00; ISBN 0-313-24784-6. Bibliographies and Indexes in World Literature, Number 50. In the last decades, there has been an explosion of critical works on the post civil war Spanish novel. This proliferation of material causes serious problems for scholars conducting research on the subject. While there are bibliographies of particular novelists, this book deals with general studies of trends, topics, and comparative approaches. The volume primarily cites works published in English or Spanish, but it also includes some in Catalan, French, Galician, and Italian. The volume is divided into two sections—books and articles, arranged alphabetically. Each citation is accompanied by a descriptive and evaluative annotation. The annotations provide information about the topic, content, and methodology of the works cited and express an opinion of the works' value.

Larry E. Syndergaard. *English Translations of the Scandinavian Medieval Ballads: An Analytical Guide and Bibliography*. Medieval Institute Publications: Western Michigan University. 1995. 242 pp. Paper: ISBN 952-9724-11-X. *English Translations of the Scandinavian Medieval Ballads* is the first nearly complete record of the translations into English of any major folk genre. The English-speaking world has made these ballads a major Scandinavian literature in translation, in part finding there its own "primitive" past. For every translation this work indicates: 1) Number and pan-Scandinavian ballad type number; 2) Version translated, century, and sociocultural tradition; 3) Source translated and its fidelity to tradition; 4) Presence of a melody and of a text in the original language; 5) Relative "freedom" of the translation strategy.

## REPRINTS

(Hebrew) Yehuda Amichai. *The Selected Poetry of Yehuda Amichai*. Trs. Chana Bloch and Stephen Mitchell. University of California Press. 1996 [Harper Collins, 1986]. 209 pp. Paper: \$14.95; 0-520-20538-3. More than 20% of the material in the new edition has never before been published. Some of the many poems included here are: "God Has Pity on Kindergarten Children," "Of Three or Four in a Room," "Ballad of the Washed Hair," "In the Full Severity of Mercy," "To Bake the Bread of Yearning," "My Father in a White Space Suit," "You Carry the Weight of Heavy Buttocks," and "The Shore of Ashkelon." Bloch's translations include *The Song of Songs: A New Translation* and *The Windows: New and Selected Poetry of Dahlia Ravikovitch*. Mitchell's translations include *The Book of Job*, *A Book of Psalms*, *Genesis*, and *The Selected Poetry of Dan Pagis*.

(French) Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari. *What Is Philosophy? [Qu'est-ce que la philosophie?]*. Trs. Hugh Tomlinson and Graham Burchell. Columbia University Press [Les Editions de Minuit, 1991]. 1996 [1994]. 256 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-231-07988-5. Paper: \$17.00; ISBN 0-231-07989-3. Deleuze and Guattari discuss composers, painters, writers and architects as they explore the relationship between philosophy, science, and the arts. They see each of these three pursuits as an attempt to confront the chaos of life. Though specific, these pursuits are not always independent, as one might think, but can create a network of responses: Giacometti's sculpture provokes philosophical reflection on the state of modern life; Seurat's paintings cannot be fully appreciated without an understanding of the science of vision; philosophy cannot be abstracted from the work of Einstein or Dostoyevsky. They color their philosophical arguments with anecdotes and discussions of figures such as Nietzsche and Freud, Artaud and Henry Miller, Einstein, Gödel, and Rameau.

(Japanese) Sh\_saku End\_. *Deep River [D\_pu rib\_]*. Tr. Van C. Gessel. New Directions. 1996 [1995]. 224 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8112-1289-0. Paper: \$10.95; ISBN 0-8112-1320-X. The river is the Ganges, where a group of Japanese tourists converge: Isobe, grieving the death of the wife he ignored in life; Kiguchi, haunted by war-time memories of the Highway of Death in Burma; Numanda, recovering from a critical illness; Mitsuko, a cynical woman struggling with inner emptiness; and, the butt of her cruel interest, Otsu, a failed seminarian for whom the figure on the cross is a god of many faces.

(Norwegian) Knut Hamsun. *The Women at the Pump [Konerne ved Vanposten]*. Trs. Oliver and Gunnvor Stallybrass. Sun & Moon Press/Consortium Book Sales. 1996 [Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1978]. 364 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 1-55713-244-5. The women at the pump in Hamsun's small Norwegian coastal town are seldom short of something to talk about: scandals of adultery and illegitimate children, class tensions and hostility, religious disputes, and a mail robbery involving some of the town's significant figures. All serve as backdrop to the activities of Oliver Andersen and the large family he and his wife contrive to raise despite the growing suspicions that a mysterious accident at sea deprived him of more than a leg. Hamsun's other novels published by Sun & Moon are *Victoria* and *Wayfarers*.

(Greek) Herodotus. *The Histories*. Tr. Aubrey de Sélincourt. Penguin Books. 1996 [1954, 1972]. 622 pp. Paper: \$10.95; ISBN 0-14-044638-9. Revised with introductory matter and notes by John Marincola. During the early fifth century BC, a small and quarrelsome band of Greek city-states united to repel a mighty Persian army. While the story of this heroic drama forms the main theme of Herodotus' narrative, the author's curiosity fleshes out the text with dozens of digressions. He describes the monuments, crocodile-hunters, and natural wonders of Egypt, the warriors of the Sudan, the northern nomads and lake-dwellers of

Europe. Endlessly entertaining, he recounts many superb stories and folk tales about amazing escapes, ambiguous prophecies, gold-digging ants and dog-headed men. And he conveys vividly the fragility of wealth and happiness, and the unexpected moral patterns in our lives.

(Hungarian) Dezs\_ Kosztolányi. *Skylark [Pacsirta]*. Tr. Richard Aczel. Central European University Press/Oxford University Press. 1996. [Chatto & Windus Limited, 1993]. 224 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 1-85866-059-9. Introduction by Péter Esterházt, *Skylark* is a classic portrait of provincial life in the Austro-Hungarian monarchy at the turn of the century. Set in the autumn of 1899, it focuses on one extraordinary week in the otherwise uneventful lives of an elderly couple. Their ugly spinster daughter—nicknamed Skylark—has left them for an unprecedented holiday with relatives in the country. At first the couple, whose entire existence revolves around their daughter, are devastated by her absence. Slowly, however, they rediscover the delights and diversions of small-town society life. Accustomed to a dull, reclusive existence with Skylark, of whom, they are secretly ashamed, their awakening is described against the background of the bustling *fin-de-siècle* town and its memorable characters. Finally they are forced to confront the disturbing truth: their daughter is a burden and has deprived them of all the pleasures of life. Their outward affection conceals a smoldering resentment. When Skylark's train home is delayed, her father even hopes for the worst. Kosztolányi's novels *Nero, the Bloody Poet* (1922) and *Anna Edes* (1926) are also available in English. Aczel teaches at the University of Cologne. His translations include *The Euphrates at Babylon*, a collection of short stories by Adám Bodor.

(Chinese) Li Yu. *The Carnal Prayer Mat [Jou p'u t'uan]*. Tr. Patrick Hanan. University of Hawaii Press. 1996 [Ballantine Books, 1990]. 317 pp. Paper: \$12.95; ISBN 0-8248-1798-2. In the 300 years since its initial publication, Li Yu's *The Carnal Prayer Mat* has been widely read in China, where it is recognized as a benchmark of erotic literature and currently enjoys the distinction of being a banned-in-Beijing classic. The story centers on Scholar Vesperus, a handsome orphan and student of Zen. Before taking his monastic vows, Vesperus embarks on a career of licentiousness. His adventures as "hero of the boudoir, a champion of sex" take both comic and calamitous turns, until eventually he attains "enlightenment on the carnal prayer mat." Hanan is the Victor S. Thomas Professor of Chinese Literature at Harvard. He is the author of *The Chinese Vernacular Story* and the translator of *The Sea of Regret*.

(French) Émile Nelligan. *Selected Poems*. Tr. P. F. Widdows. Guernica [Ryerson Press]. 1995 [1960]. 85 pp. Paper: \$8.00; ISBN 0-55071-034-6. Bilingual. At an early age, Nelligan became one of the most poignant voices of romanticism in Quebec. Although he lived for 62 years, all his 168 poems

were produced during a period of three years. His first works were published in 1896 in *Le Samedi* under the pseudonym of Émile Kovar. In his work, he constantly explored the subtleties of two major themes: regret and the ideal. "Le Vaisseau d'or" and "La Romance du vin" are considered his finest poems. Widdows is a professor and translator in Montreal.

(Czech) Jan Neruda. *Prague Tales [Povídky malostranské]*. Tr. Michael Henry Heim. Oxford University Press. 1996 [Chatto & Windus Limited, 1993]. 346 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 1-85866-058-0. *Prague Tales* is a collection of Neruda's intimate, wry, and bitter-sweet stories of life among the inhabitants of the Little Quarter of 19th-century Prague. These finely tuned and varied vignettes established Neruda as *the* Czech realist. The tales range from the moving autobiographical "Week in a Quiet House" and the sharp social observation of "A Beggar Brought to Ruin," to a richly comic sketch of Czech pub life and the story—worthy of Mark Twain—of four boys trying to bring down Austria. "The Three Lillies," an account of a brief, passionate encounter on a stormy night, inspired the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda to adopt that pen name. Neruda's other works include the novella *Trhání (Scum)* and several books of verse and short prose. Heim's numerous translations include books by Milan Kundera, Karel Čapek, Bohumil Hrabal, Péter Esterházy, and Danilo Kiš.

(French) Ambroise Paré. *On Monsters and Marvels [Des Monstres et prodiges]*. Tr. Janis L. Pallister. The University of Chicago Press. 1996 [1982]. 280 pp. Paper: \$15.95; ISBN 0-226-64563-0. Paré, born in France around 1510, was chief surgeon to both Charles IX and Henri III. His *On Monsters* is an illustrated encyclopedia of curiosities, of bizarre beasts, monstrous human and animal births, and natural phenomena. It offers a glimpse of the natural world as seen by an extraordinary Renaissance natural philosopher. Pallister is Professor Emeritus at Bowling Green State University.

(Latin) Propertius. *The Poems*. Tr. Guy Lee. Oxford University Press-World's Classics. 1996 [Clarendon Press, 1994]. 205 pp. Paper: \$8.95; ISBN 0-19-283198-4. Of all the classical love poets, Propertius is surely one of those with most immediate appeal for readers today. His helpless infatuation for the sinister figure of his mistress Cynthia forms the main subject of his poetry and is analyzed with a tormented but witty grandeur in all its changing moods, from ecstasy to suicidal despair. Guy Lee is a Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, and is the translator of *The Poems of Catullus*.

(Spanish) Manuel Puig. *Heartbreak Tango [Boquitas pintadas]*. Tr. Suzanne Jill Levine. Penguin Books. 1996 [1991]. 224 pp. Paper: \$11.95; ISBN 0-14-018997-1. Juan Carlos, a self-styled ladies' man, is dying of tuberculosis. The four women in his life keep watch over him: his doting mother; his vigilant, protective sister; and the two current loves of his life—one a portrait of purity, the other as wicked as she is seductive. They all bemoan

Juan's cruel destiny, and their devotion to him is so encompassing that their own lives are forgotten in the shadow of his decline.

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### **AUTOBIOGRAPHY/BIOGRAPHY/ MEMOIRS/DIARY/LETTERS**

(German) Lucie Adelsberger. *Auschwitz: A Doctor's Story [Auschwitz: ein Tatsachenbericht]*. Tr. Susan Ray. Northwestern University Press. 1995. 150 pp. Cloth: ISBN 1-55553-233-0. Paper: ISBN 1-55553-250-0. Fifty years after the liberation of the concentration camps, this memoir by Adelsberger, a Jewish female physician shipped to Auschwitz and put to work in the infirmary of the camp's Gypsy section, serves as a haunting reminder of the horrors of the camps. Adelsberger describes the Hell that was Auschwitz, uniquely capturing the ordeals suffered by women, who were especially vulnerable once they reached the camps. She relates how mothers, or even women who happened to be next to a child when they stood in line before Dr. Joseph Mengele, were immediately sent to the gas chambers with the young ones. Adelsberger also recollects the surrogate families created in the camps. She tells of women nurturing and supporting each other in a network of friendship and love that helped "ease the horrors of their miserable end."

(Quechua) *Andean Lives: Gregorio Condori Mamani and Asunta Quispe Huamán*. Eds. Ricardo Valderrama Fernandez and Carmen Escalante Guterrez. Trs. Paul H. Gelles and Gabriela Martínez Escobar. University of Texas Press. 1996. 199 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-292-72491-8. Paper: ISBN 0-292-72492-6. *Andean Lives* is the first English translation of this important book and includes a new introduction, annotations, and revised glossary. It brings to life the words, worldview, and historical consciousness of Gregorio and Asunta, who impart their accounts with stoicism, humor, and anger. Their descriptions of life in rural villages, isolated mines, semifeudal haciendas, and the houses of their powerful *Misti* masters in Cuzco are eloquent testimonies to the beauty and brutality of everyday life in the Andean highlands.

(French) Jean-Bertrand Aristide. *Dignity [Dignité]*. Tr. Carrol F. Coates. University Press of Virginia [Editions du Seuil, 1994]. 1996. 210 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8139-1674-7. *Dignity* is Haitian President Aristide's compelling story of his three years in exile, from the coup that deposed him (1991) to the U.N. Security Council vote in favor of military intervention (1994). He offers an intensely personal journal of events, one that records his doubts as well as his determination in the face of criticism and uncertainty. Introductory materials familiarize the reader with events from the fall of Jean-Claude Duvalier (1986) through the first months of Aristide's presidency. The Afterword provides information on the period since his return. Coates is Professor of French at SUNY Binghamton and the

translator of *The Festival of the Greasy Pole*, by Haitian writer René Depestre.

(Russian) *Beyond the Stars: The Memoirs of Sergei Eisenstein, Vol. 4*. Ed. Richard Taylor. Tr. William Powell. Indiana University Press. 1996. 992 pp. Cloth: \$75.00; ISBN 0-85170-460-3. Eisenstein was one of the world's greatest filmmakers, theorists, and teachers of cinema. His classics include *Battleship Potemkin*, *Ivan the Terrible*, and *October*. *Beyond the Stars* is the first-ever complete, unabridged edition in English of Eisenstein's memoirs, freshly translated from the newly established, definitive Russian text. This volume is crammed with memorabilia, with anecdotes and images and gems of insight. Luminaries like George Bernard Shaw, Charlie Chaplin, King Vidor, Theodore Dreiser, Dos Passos, Jean Cocteau, and Paul Eluard are only some of the personalities who stroll in and out of these pages. Powell's published translations include the third volume of *Eisenstein's Selected Works* and Bulgakov's *The Last Days of Pushkin*.

(Italian) Carlamaria Casanova. *Tebaldi: The Voice of an Angel*. Tr. Connie Mandracchia De Caro. Baskerville Publishers, Inc. 1995. 360 pp. Cloth: \$35.00; ISBN 1-880909-40-5. Great Voices 2. Includes Collector's CD. Tebaldi unswervingly dedicated her life to the singer's art, never compromising her voice nor her personal and artistic sensibilities for an easier path. Along with tender, yet telling recollections of her stage fellows, including Del Monaco and Di Stefano, *The Voice of an Angel* contains 111 photos, definitive discography, and a compact disc featuring 14 of Tebaldi's world-renowned floating pianissimi and indelible coloratura abilities. Tracks include the Willow Song-Ave Maria (Otello), "Porgi amor" (The Marriage of Figaro), "Un bel di" (Madama Butterfly), the Suicidio of La Gioconda, and her famous "Vissi d'arte" from Tosca.

(French) Claire Chevrillon. *Code Name Christiane Clouet: A Woman in the French Resistance*. Tr. Jane Kielty Stott. Texas A&M University Press. 1995. 221 pp. Paper: 0-89096-629-X. Cloth: ISBN ISBN 0-89096-628-1. In 1943 Claire Chevrillon (code named Christiane Clouet) became head of the Code Service in Paris for General de Gaulle's Delegation and served as the main link in the lines of communication flowing between the Free French Government in London and the Delegation (Provisional Government) in France. Her story portrays the wartime experience of private lives and public events, including the tedious backroom work of the Resistance and four months she spent captive in Paris's dreaded Fresnes prison. After the war, Chevrillon taught school both in Paris and abroad and later served as director of the French Cultural Center in Fez and the French Library in Tunis. Stott is a writer in Austin, Texas.

(French) Charlotte Delbo. *Auschwitz and After [Auschwitz et après]*. Tr. Rosette C. Lamont. Yale University Press [Editions de Minuit]. 1995. 355 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-300-06208-7. In

March 1942, French police arrested Charlotte Delbo and her husband, the resistance leader Georges Dudach, on a charge of distributing anti-German leaflets in Paris. The French turned them over to the Gestapo, who imprisoned them. Dudach was executed by firing squad in May; Delbo remained in prison until January 1943, when she was deported to Auschwitz and then to Ravensbrück, where she remained until the end of the war. This book—Delbo's profoundly moving vignettes, poems, and prose poems of life in the concentration camps and afterward—is a memoir of great value. Translated from French and now available in English in its entirety for the first time, it began as three separate books published as *None of Us Will Return*, *Useless Knowledge*, and *The Measure of Our Days*. Lamont, professor at Queens College and City University of New York, has translated Delbo's book *Days and Memories*.

(Japanese) *The Diary of Lady Murasaki*. Tr. Richard Bowring. Penguin Books. 1996. 92 pp. Paper: \$9.95; ISBN 0-14-043576-X. This *Diary* offers an intimate and compelling picture of Murasaki's life as tutor and companion to the Empress Shoshi. Although it opens with a lyrical description of the Tsuchimikado mansion in autumn and gives vivid accounts of court events and ceremonies, the work is in no sense an official chronicle. Spiced with anecdote, searching self-analysis, and sharp sketches of a timid Empress, spineless courtiers, and quarrelsome ladies-in-waiting, it reveals the underside of imperial splendor from an unexpected, utterly female point of view.

(German) *Escape through the Balkans: The Autobiography of Irene Grünbaum*. Ed. and Tr. Katherine Morris. University of Nebraska Press. 1996. 191 pp. Cloth: \$26.00; ISBN 0-8032-2161-4. Grünbaum was a German Jew married to a Serbian Jew and living in Belgrade when World War II and the German army overwhelmed Yugoslavia. This work is the account—written shortly after the war from a new home in Brazil—of her escape from the Germans and their collaborators through the Balkans to a temporary haven in Italian-occupied Albania. Grünbaum's husband did not escape. With most of the Balkan Jews, he perished in a concentration camp. After the war, Grünbaum made her way to Italy and eventually to Brazil. Morris is a visiting scholar in the Department of Germanic Language at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is the editor of *Odyssey of Exile: Jewish Women Flee the Nazis for Brazil*.

(German) (Author and Tr.) John Felstiner. *Paul Celan: Poet, Survivor, Jew*. Yale University Press. 1995. 344 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-300-06068-8. Paper: ISBN 0-300-06387-3. Drawing on interviews with Celan's family and friends and his personal library in Normandy and Paris, as well as voluminous German commentary, Felstiner tells the poet's gripping story: his birth in 1920 in present-day Romania, the overnight loss of his parents in a Nazi deportation, his experience of forced labor and Soviet occupation during the war, and then his difficult

exile in Paris. This is the first critical biography of Celan in any language. It offers new translations of well-known and little-known poems, with a chapter on "Death fugue," plus his speeches, prose fiction, and letters. The book also presents hitherto unpublished photos of Celan and his circle. Felstiner teaches at Stanford University and is the author of *Translating Neruda: The Way to Machhu Picchu* and *The Lies of Art: Max Beerbohm's Parody and Caricature*.

(Dutch) Aletta Jacobs. *Memories: My Life as an International Leader in Health, Suffrage, and Peace [Herinneringen]*. Ed. Harriet Feinberg. Tr. Annie Wright. The Feminist Press at the City University of New York [Van Holkema and Warendorf, Amsterdam, 1924]. 1996. 272 pp. Cloth: \$45.00; ISBN 1-55861-137-1. Paper: \$18.95; ISBN 1-55861-138-X. At 25, Aletta Jacobs became the first woman in the Netherlands to earn a medical degree. She had battled a sex-segregated education system and won access to higher education by obtaining the personal authorization of the prime minister. Her medical practice led Jacobs to pioneering health care reforms for prostitutes and saleswomen and to making reliable birth control available. Jacob's medical work continued throughout her life and led directly to her achievements in the international women's suffrage and peace movements.

Donald Keene. *The Blue-Eyed Tar\_kaja*. Ed. J. Thomas Rimer. Columbia University Press. 1996. 290 pp. Cloth: \$24.50; ISBN 0-231-10340-9. Keene here presents a personal collection of his essays and vignettes based on a lifetime of observations on things Japanese. Including many short works available for the first time in English, the collection covers a range of subjects from Keene's career as writer, translator, and scholar. Keene writes on Japanese food, music, language, and literature; on people and places in Japan; and on Americans who study the country. An interview with acclaimed Japanese playwright and novelist K\_b\_Abe, compassionate elegies to two of his favorite novelists Yukio Mishima and Yaswnari Kawabata, and several previously unpublished translations round out the collection.

(French) Alexandra Lapierre. *Fanny Stevenson: A Romance of Destiny*. Tr. Carol Cosman. Carroll & Graf Publishers, Inc. [Editions Robert Laffont, Paris]. 1995. 556 pp. Cloth: \$26.00; ISBN 0-7867-0127-7. First published in France where it was a bestseller, this work tells the story of Robert Louis Stevenson's wife, the American woman eleven years his senior who influenced every facet of his life and work, and who remains in her own right one of the most independent and free-spirited women of her generation. Stevenson was to devote his life to this woman: he crossed continents for her; scandalized his family to marry her; built a life in the Pacific with her; survived tuberculosis because of her; and was encouraged and inspired in his writing by her. Cosman has translated Jean-Paul Sartre's *The Family Idiot*.

(Dutch) *The Letters of Van Gogh*. Ed. Ronald de Leeuw. Tr.

Arnold Pomerans. The Penguin Press. 1996. 560 pp. Cloth: \$32.95; ISBN 0-713-99135-6. Van Gogh, unlike any other major painter, was also an accomplished writer. His letters provide both a unique self-portrait and a vivid picture of the contemporary cultural scene. Despite the familiar image of Van Gogh as an antisocial madman who died a martyr to his art, his troubled life was rich in friendships and passions. In his letters we discover the humanitarian and religious causes he embraced; his fascination with the French Revolution; his striving for God and for ethical ideals; his desperate courtship of his cousin, Kee Vos; and his largely unsuccessful search for love. Perhaps even more moving, these letters illuminate his constant conflicts as a painter torn between realism, symbolism, and abstraction; between landscape and portraiture; between his desire to depict peasant life and exciting diversions of the city; between his uncanny versatility as a sketcher and his ideal of the full-scale finished tableau. De Leeuw has been the director of the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam since 1986. Pomerans has translated the works of Anne Frank, Sigmund Freud, and Jean Piaget.

(French) Guy de Maupassant. *Afloat: A Journal of His Days at Sea*. Tr. Marlo Johnston. Peter Owen/Dufour Editions, Inc. 1996. 144 pp. Cloth: \$32.00; ISBN 0-7206-0966-6. There are few great books about sailing on pleasure boats, but this is one. *Afloat* is the story of Maupassant's voyage around the Mediterranean coast aboard his yacht, the *Bel-Ami*. It is not only the record of a voyage, but a portrait of life at sea and of French provincial life on the land. It is also a confession: Maupassant reflects on the literary life, society, women, and politics, and his intimate thoughts are accompanied by the rhythms of the sea and the wind.

(Korean) *The Memoirs of Lady Hyegyong: The Autobiographical Writings of a Crown Princess of Eighteenth-Century Korea [Hanjungnok]*. Tr. JaHyun Kim Haboush. University of California Press. 1996. 384 pp. Cloth: \$50.00; ISBN 0-520-20054-3. Paper: \$17.95; ISBN 0-520-20055-1. These memoirs offer a compelling account of one of the most tragic tales in the history of the Korean court. Lady Hyegyong married Crown Prince Sado when both were just nine years old. As the Prince grew into a young man, he withdrew from his father, the King, and began a harrowing descent into violence and insanity. One hot summer day in 1762, when Sado was 27 years old, King Yongjo ordered him to enter a rice chest. The chest was sealed, and Prince Sado died eight days later. Many years later, over a ten-year period, Lady Hyegyong wrote these four memoirs, collectively known as "records written in silence," in an attempt to weather the storms of political intrigue around her.

(Russian) *Meyerhold at Work*. Ed. Paul Schmidt. Trs. Paul Schmidt, Ilya Levin, and Vern McGee. Applause Books. 1996. 241 pp. Paper: \$19.95; ISBN 1-55783-246-3. Letters from Meyerhold, essays concerning his acting methods,

memories of his actors, and Meyerhold's theater directions bring this revolutionary figure of the history of theater to life.

(Latin) *A Monk's Confession: The Memoirs of Guibert of Nogent [De vita sua]*. Tr. Paul J. Archambault. The Pennsylvania State University Press. 1995. 225 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-271-01481-4. Paper: 0-271-01482-2. *A Monk's Confession* is the first completely new English translation of Guibert of Nogent's remarkable memoirs in over 70 years. Written around the year 1115, they offer an unparalleled look at the life of a monk in the Middle Ages. Guibert, who lived his entire life in northern France, called these memoirs his book of *monodiae*, or solitary songs. Readers will be surprised by Guibert's intense preoccupation with the sinfulness of his soul, his visions of demons and necromancy, and his frank struggle to come to terms with his sexuality. But Guibert is also a valuable witness to his age. In addition to his personal history, his memoirs give a brief chronicle of the abbey of Nogent and a vivid account of the bloody uprising of Laon Commune in 1112. His observations give precious insight into education, monastic life, and the beginnings of the great medieval towns. Archambault is Professor of French at Syracuse University. He is the author, with Marianna Mustacchi, of *A Renaissance Woman: Helisenne's Personal and Invective Letters*.

(Italian) *Ruffo: My Parabola [La Mia Parabola]*. Tr. Connie Mandracchia De Caro. Baskerville Publishers, Inc. [Fratelli Treves, Milan, 1937]. 1995. 490 pp. Cloth: \$38.00; ISBN 1-880909-39-1. Great Voices 1. Includes a Collector's CD. Ruffo, Caruso, Chaliapin: names that suggest the generosity of Nature in endowing certain performers with talents greater than those of their colleagues, so that their performances are uncommonly lustrous. Yet in spite of their elegance of dress, regal bearing, and fees which made them the highest paid *workers* in the world, all three came from desperate poverty and were self-taught. Ruffo helped to support his family by working in a smithy from age eight, while his older brother, thought more clever, went to school. If there is a haunting melancholy in his voice, a sadness or unusual swagger in his Figaro, menace in his Iago, vengefulness in his Rigoletto, we need only consider his need to escape the living hell where his dreams were formed. *My Parabola* contains 68 photos, definitive discography, and a compact disc that features 19 of the best recorded examples of Tita Ruffo's voice and artistry, including "Sì, pel ciel" (Otello) with Enrico Caruso, "Tremin gl'insani" (Nabucco), the Demon's aria (Demon) in Russian, and his famous *Prologo* from Pagliacci. De Caro is the author of *SICILY: The Trampled Paradise*.

(German) Claudia Schoppmann. *Days of Masquerade: Life Stories of Lesbians During the Third Reich [Zeit der Maskierung: Lebensgeschichten lesbischer Frauen im "Dritten Reich"]*. Tr. Allison Brown. Columbia University Press [Orlanda Frauenverlag GmbH, 1993]. 1996. 158 pp. Cloth: \$24.95; ISBN 0-231-10220-8. Through a series of interviews, Schoppmann recounts the lives of lesbians living in Germany

during the Third Reich: perpetrators, bystanders, and victims—women who fought against Hitler's regime, others who married gay men to ward off suspicion, and one who remained active despite fairly clear pronouncements of her sexuality. Schoppmann enriches these oral histories with the findings of her archival research, including a fascinating look at Nazi policy papers. She explores the drive toward sexual emancipation in Imperial and Weimar Germany and presents a comprehensive overview of Nazi attitudes and policies toward homosexual men and women. Brown has translated Dan Diner's *America in the Eyes of the Germans: Anti-Americanism in Germany*, Horst Bredekamp's *The Lure of Antiquity and the Cult of the Machine*, and, with Belinda Cooper, Werner Bergmann and Rainer Erb's *Anti-Semitism in the Federal Republic of Germany*.

(French) Marguerite Yourcenar. *How Many Years: A Memoir [Archives du Nord]*. Tr. Maria Louise Ascher. Farrar, Straus and Giroux [Editions Gallimard, 1977]. 1995. 382 pp. Cloth: \$27.50; ISBN 0-374-17319-2. Yourcenar takes us back in time, to relive the tumultuous history of northeastern France through the eyes of a remarkable gallery of ancestors: canonesses and matriarchs, statesmen and scoundrels, merchants and artists. But the central character in the narrative is the individual who had the greatest formative influence on Yourcenar: her father, Michel de Crayencour, who educated her, encouraged her literary ambitions, and fostered in her the intellectual breadth, originality, and subtlety that are so characteristic of her work. Along with the portrait of a man, Yourcenar gives us the portrait of an era, of the all-important social and familial network in which the individual life is embedded. Yourcenar was the first woman elected to the Académie Française and is the author of *The Abyss*, *Memoirs of Hadrian*, and *Dear Departed*. Ascher also translated *Dear Departed* and is a senior editor at Harvard University Press.

(Polish) Adam Zagajewski. *Two Cities: On Exile, History, and the Imagination [Dwa miasta]*. Tr. Lillian Vallee. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 1995. 265 pp. Cloth: \$24.00; ISBN 0-374-28016-9. In October 1945, when Zagajewski was four months old, his family was forced to move from their beloved native city of Lvov to the ugly, industrial city of Gliwice, Poland. In the title essay to this new collection, he describes his efforts to reconcile his contradictory loyalties to his family—and their idealized past—with his own place and time. In "Open Archives," Zagajewski gives the detested officials of postwar Poland their moment to explain. And finally, in the "New Little Larousse," he adds to his treasure of short, philosophical essays, mimicking encyclopedia entries, including pieces entitled "The Untold Cynicism of Poetry," "I Killed Hitler," and "The Inspired Dermatologist." Zagajewski is the author of two books of poetry, *Tremor* and *Canvas*, and a collection of essays, *Solidarity, Solitude*.

(German) Frederick Zeh. *An Immigrant Soldier in the*

*Mexican War*. Eds. William J. Orr and Robert Ryal Miller. Tr. William J. Orr. Texas A&M University Press. 1995. 117 pp. Cloth: \$35.00; ISBN 0-89096-667-2. Paper: ISBN 0-89096-668-0. Zeh, a young German immigrant, had hardly arrived in the U.S. when he was caught up in the war fever that swept his new homeland. He joined the Mountain Howitzer and Rocket Company of the U.S. Army. His impressions of the siege of Veracruz, the long march to Mexico City, the bloody battles that occurred along the route, and the occupation of the capital provide a vivid and unusual account of the Mexican War from an enlisted man's point of view. Besides the horror of battles, he tells about relations between officers and enlisted men, military punishment, and the day-to-day life of the soldiers. Numerous anecdotes and personal stories enliven his narrative. He is unusually candid about abuses that occurred in the American army and toward Mexican civilians.

### INTERVIEWS

(French) Gilbert Erouart. *Riopelle in Conversation [Entretiens avec Jean-Paul Riopelle]*. Tr. Donald Winkler. House of Anansi Press [Éditions Liber, 1993]. 1995. 87 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-88784-563-0. With an interview by Fernand Seguin. Riopelle is one of the noted painters of our time. This volume ranges from the *Refus global*, to which he affixed his name, to his most recent works, taking stock of a life steeped in works produced during the last 50 years. These two interviews offer a glimpse into Riopelle's mind. The Seguin interview is from a 1968 Radio-Canada broadcast on *Sel de la semaine*.

### TRAVEL

(French) Bernard Binlin Dadié. *An African in Paris [Un Nègre à Paris]*. Tr. Karen C. Hatch. University of Illinois Press [Présence Africaine, 1959]. 1994. 153 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-252-02040-5. Paper: ISBN 0-252-06407-0. Writing in an informal, episodic style, Dadié recounts a young African man's first journey to France, from the exhilarating moment when he obtains his ticket through a humorous and fascinating tour across the City of Light. In 1959, when *Un Nègre à Paris* first appeared, the French still held West Africa under colonial rule. Dadié's subtle parodies depend on a detailed knowledge of his subjects' culture and lifestyles, knowledge obtained over decades spent observing the colonizers abroad and now, suddenly, on their own home terrain. His remarks on Parisian living conditions, wordplay, and manners and morals are entertaining and poignant, charming yet profound. Dadié is a former minister of culture for the Ivory Coast. Hatch, a professor of English at California State University, Chico, has also translated Dadié's novel, *Climbié*, and a collection of his folktales, *La Pagne Noir*.

(French) Bernard Binlin Dadié. *One Way: Bernard Dadié Observes America [Patron de New York]*. Tr. Jo Patterson.

University of Illinois Press [Présence Africaine, 1964]. 1994. 165 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-252-02039-1. Paper: ISBN 0-252-06408-9. Dadié follows in the tradition of Tocqueville and Céline, offering his impressions of America for a French-speaking audience—but in the style of an African griot. Here he displays breezy humor while touching upon weighty issues, including racism, efficiency and the profit motive, and international politics. Dadié, a poet, novelist, and playwright, portrays a series of American vanities that remain provocative. Patterson teaches at Northwest Community College in Terrace, British Columbia.

### LITERARY THEORY/CRITICISM

(French) Claude Calame. *The Craft of Poetic Speech in Ancient Greece [Le récit en Grèce ancienne]*. Tr. Janice Orion. Cornell University Press [Méridiens Klincksieck, 1986]. 1995. 220 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8014-2743-6. Paper: \$15.95; ISBN 0-8014-8022-1. In this learned book, Calame challenges his readers to rethink the very principles of mythmaking in the poetry and art of the ancient Greeks. The first of Calame's books to appear in English translation, it subverts common assumptions about the relationships between poet and audience, poet and Muse, and poet and mask. Taking as his point of departure the linguistic writings of Emile Benveniste, Calame utilizes the methodology of semiotics in formulating new ways of looking at the poetics of Homer, Hesiod, lyric, tragedy, and even history. He confronts such questions as the relationship between authorship and authority, the role of the first person in choral lyric poetry, the dichotomy between lyric and epic genres, the literariness of history, the tragic mask as a projection of identity, and the poetics of the gaze in iconographic traditions. Calame's previous books include *Thésée et l'imaginaire athénien: Légende et culte en Grèce antique*.

(French) Gérard Genette. *Mimologics [Mimologiques]*. Tr. Thaïs E. Morgan. University of Nebraska Press [Éditions du Seuil, 1976]. 1995. 446 pp. Cloth: 0-8032-2129-0. Paper: 0-8032-7044-5. Do words—their sounds and shapes, their lengths and patterns—imitate the world? Mimology says they do. First argued in Plato's *Cratylus* more than 2000 years ago, mimology has left an important mark on virtually every major art and artistic theory thereafter. Morgan is associate professor of English at Arizona State.

(French) Edmond Jabès. *The Book of Margins [Livre des marges]*. Tr. Rosmarie Waldrop. University of Chicago Press [Editions a Fata Morgana, 1975, 1984]. 1993. 203 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-226-38888-3. Paper: ISBN 0-226-38889-1. In *The Book of Margins*, Jabès is concerned with the questions that inform all of his work: the nature of writing, of silence, of God and the Book. He considers the work of several of his contemporaries, among them Georges Bataille, Maurice

Blanchot, Roger Caillois, Paul Celan, Jacques Derrida, Michel Leiris, Emmanuel Lévinas, Pier Paolo Pasolini, and his translator, Rosmarie Waldrop. Among Jabès' publications available in English are *Selected Poems, From the Desert to the Book, The Book of Resemblances, The Book of Questions, and The Book of Shares*. Waldrop, a poet and the editor/publisher of Burning Deck Press, translated Jabès' *The Book of Questions* and *The Book of Shares*.

(French) Julia Kristeva. *Time and Sense: Proust and the Experience of Literature*. Tr. Ross Guberman. Columbia University Press. 1996. 404 pp. Cloth: \$32.50; ISBN 0-231-10250-X. *Time and Sense* is a major reassessment of Marcel Proust and *Remembrance of Things Past*. Kristeva demonstrates her mastery of biography, linguistics, history, philosophy, psychoanalysis, and literary criticism to create an in-depth study. It is more than an illuminating mediation of Proust's work; it is also a commentary on how the experience of literature is manifested in time and sensation. Kristeva positions *Remembrance of Things Past* within a richly developed cultural and historical milieu, connecting its characters to the significant events and themes of the day. But she also shows that Proust's work can be viewed as a suspension of time—as a way of delaying death and meaning and prolonging childhood and sensation. Kristeva is Professor at the Université de Paris VII. Her books include *Black Sun, Strangers to Ourselves, and New Maladies of the Soul* (also translated by Guberman).

(German) *Literary Intellectuals and the Dissolution of the State: Professionalism and Conformity in the GDR*. Ed. Robert von Hallberg. Tr. Kenneth J. Northcott. The University of Chicago Press. 1996. 377 pp. Cloth: \$56.00; ISBN 0-226-86497-9. Paper: \$18.95; ISBN 0-226-86498-7. In conversations with von Hallberg, writers such as best-selling novelist Hermann Kant, playwright Christoph Hein, and avant-garde poet-publisher Sascha Anderson talk about their lives and work before the fall of the wall in 1989—about the constraints and privileges of Communist Party membership, their experiences of government censorship and self-censorship, and how they might have found ways to resist more aggressively. Turning to the controversies that have emerged since reunification, including the Stasi scandals involving Anderson and Christa Wolf, they discuss their feelings of complicity and the need for further self-examination.

(French) Janet M. Paterson. *Postmodernism and the Quebec Novel [Moments postmodernes dans le roman québécois]*. Trs. David Homel and Charles Phillips. University of Toronto Press Incorporated [les Presses de l'Université d'Ottawa, 1990]. 1995. 167 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8020-0530-6. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-8020-6968-1. "To read a novel in the light of the postmodern phenomenon is implicitly to situate it within international art. It is also to see the novel as a temporal phenomenon subject to the culture around it. We could call this phenomenon, which speaks to us of the spirit of our time, the postmodern moment" (Introduction). This work examines: "Discourse in Question:

*Blackout*"; "History on Trial: *La Maison Trestler*"; "Intertextuality in *Le Semestre*"; "A Poetics of Transformation: *La Vie en prose*"; "Writing and Bliss: *D'Amour, P.Q.*"; and "Apocalypse or Renewal? *Mauve Desert*."

(French) Sabine Prokhoris. *The Witch's Kitchen: Freud, Faust, and the Transference [La cuisine de la sorcière]*. Tr. G. M. Goshgarian. Cornell University Press [Aubier, Paris, 1988]. 1995. 195 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8014-3043-7. Paper: ISBN 0-8014-8315-8. Citations from Goethe occur in many of Freud's texts, introduced suddenly to provoke or to underscore a point. Prokhoris asks a fascinating question: does the repetition of certain citations at critical junctures in many of Freud's texts provide important clues to the unconscious processes behind his analytic theory? The title evokes the "Witch's Kitchen" scene in *Faust* and the allusion to it in "Analysis Terminable and Interminable," in which Freud writes, "We had better call on the Witch for help, the Witch of metapsychology." Prokhoris, a psychoanalyst in Paris, is an editor of *Les Temps Modernes*. Goshgarian is Maître de Conférences in American Studies at the University of Burgundy.

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## SOCIAL/POLITICAL THEORY

(Spanish) Guillermo Bonfil Batalla. *México Profundo: Reclaiming a Civilization*. Tr. Philip A. Dennis. University of Texas Press. 1996. 264 pp. Cloth: \$30.00; ISBN 0-292-70844-0. Paper: \$12.95; ISBN 0-292-70843-2. This work argues that Mesoamerican civilization is an ongoing and undeniable force in contemporary Mexican life. For Bonfil, the remaining Indian communities, the "de-Indianized" rural mestizo communities and vast sectors of the urban poor population constitute the *México profundo*. Their lives and ways of understanding the world continue to be rooted in Mesoamerican civilization. Within the *México profundo* there exists an enormous body of accumulated knowledge, as well as successful patterns for living together and adapting to the natural world.

(French) Michel Maffesoli. *The Contemplation of the World: Figures of Community Style [La contemplation du monde: Figures du style communautaire]*. Tr. Susan Emanuel. University of Minnesota Press [Éditions Grasset & Fasquelle, Paris, 1993]. 1996. 151 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8166-2688-X. Paper: \$19.95; ISBN 0-8166-2689-8. Maffesoli pursues and extends his project of decoding contemporary societies. He questions afresh the mundane stuff of contemporary sociability, seeking to discern its primary mode of expression—its forms, styles, rules, and principles—its *aesthetics*. He seeks to explore those unobtrusive links that regulate and organize the ensemble

of our representations—the raw material refashioned in our imaginary and our fantasies—exploring what it is that is recognizably "postmodern" about them. Maffesoli proposes a map of "the vast domain of the collective imaginary," allowing us to better understand where today's culture stands and helping us to perceive within its clamorous confines the outlines, still frail, of a "community ideal." Maffesoli is professor of sociology at the University of Paris (I) Sorbonne. Emanuel has translated works by Pierre Bourdieu and Armand Mattelart.

(German) Carl Schmitt. *The Concept of the Political [Der Begriff des Politischen]*. Tr. George Schwab. The University of Chicago Press [Duncker & Humblot, 1932]. 1996. 144 pp. Paper: \$10.95; ISBN 0-226-73886-8. Legal theorist and political philosopher Carl Schmitt presents a scathing critique of modern liberalism—a critique as cogent today as when it first appeared. Schwab's introduction to his translation of the 1932 edition highlights Schmitt's intellectual journey through the turbulent period of German history leading to the Hitlerian one-party state. Also included here is Leo Strauss' analysis of Schmitt's thesis and a foreword by Tracy B. Strong placing Schmitt's work into contemporary context. Among his many works, *The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy*, *Political Romanticism*, and *Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty* have appeared in English.

(German) Max Weber. *Sociological Writings*. Ed. Wolf Heydebrand. Continuum Books. 1994. 321 pp. Cloth: \$27.50; ISBN 0-8264-0718-8. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-8264-0719-6. The German Library, Volume 60. Weber wrote on politics and bureaucracy, law and economics, science and religion. The scope of his work is wide. This volume is a compact collection of his most trenchant sociological writings, including such works as "The Types of Social Action," "Open and Closed Relationships," "Charismatic Authority," "The Chinese Literati," "Rationality and Formalism in Law," and "Ideal-Type Constructs."

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## ***TRANSLATION THEORY***

Omar Sheikh Al-Shabab. *Interpretation and the Language of Translation: Creativity and Convention in Translation*. Janus Publishing/Paul & Company. 1996. 118 pp. Paper: \$18.95; ISBN 1-85756-231-3. Al-Shabab's book provides a unique view of the nature and scope of translation as interpretation and the approach to be used in dealing with pre-dictionary texts—that is, those which have never been previously translated. He provides a model for the study of what he calls "the language of translation." The opening chapters deal with six elements of translation, five stages in the process, three differing types and the nature of the translation language, together with methodological aspects of its study. The final chapters deal with some observations regarding the language of translation and the application of computer analysis.

*Cultural Functions of Translation*. Eds. Christina Schäffner and Helen Kelly-Holmes. Multilingual Matters Ltd./Taylor & Francis. 1995. 86 pp. Cloth: \$49.00; ISBN 1-85359-333-8. Collection of four essays and two debates. Three of the essays are "Translation and the Formation of Cultural Identities" and "Preliminary Remarks to the Debate" by Lawrence Venuti and "Translation and Advertising: Going Global" by Candace Séguinot.

Christoph Gutknecht and Lutz J. Rolle. *Translating by Factors*. SUNY Press. 1996. 346 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-7914-2957-1. Paper: \$23.95; ISBN 0-7914-2958-X. By emphasizing, using English-German examples, and the notion of factor set, this book fosters the awareness that successful and adequate translation requires properly accounting for the pertinent translation factors in each individual case. The factor approach gives translation criticism an objective yardstick for assessing the quality of translations. The authors explore the linguistic factors, including treatment of illocution and its indeterminacy, and prelocution, as well as nonlinguistic factors such as factuality, situation, and culture. The book also includes aspects more genuinely linked to the notion of translation itself, such as translation units and word class and the nature and status of factors in translation theory.

Sándor Hervej, Ian Higgins, and Louise M. Haywood. *Thinking Spanish Translation: A Course in Translation Method: Spanish to English*. Routledge. 1996. 232 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-415-11658-9. Paper: \$19.95; ISBN 0-415-11659-7. A comprehensive 20-week course in translation method offering a challenging and entertaining approach to the acquisition of translation skills. It has been fully piloted at the University of St. Andrews. Translation is presented as a problem-solving discipline. Discussion, examples, and a full range of exercise work enable students to acquire the skills necessary for tackling a broad range of translation problems. Examples are drawn from a wide variety of material, from technical and commercial texts to poetry and song. A Teachers' Handbook and accompanying cassette containing material essential to the course are also available.

Sándor Hervej, Ian Higgins and Michael Loughridge. *Thinking German Translation: A Course in Translation Method: German to English*. Routledge. 1995. 242 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-415-11637-6. Paper: \$19.95; ISBN 0-415-11638-4. A comprehensive 20-week course in translation method. For advanced undergraduates and postgraduate students of German. Hervej is a Reader and Higgins and Loughridge are Lecturers at the University of St. Andrews.

Allison Beeby Lonsdale. *Teaching Translation from Spanish to English: Worlds Beyond Words*. University of Ottawa Press/Paul & Company Publishers Consortium Inc. 1996. 256 pp. Paper: \$30.00; ISBN 0-7766-0399-X. Didactics of

Translation Series, 3. Lonsdale demonstrates how teachers can guide their students by showing them how insights from communication theory, discourse analysis, pragmatics, and semiotics illuminate the translation process. She establishes a framework on which to base the structure of a professional prose-translation class. Her original contributions to the question of directionality and to the specific strategies of translating are applicable to not only the teaching of translation from Spanish to English, but to other teaching situations and to other pairs of languages as well. She also reviews the latest attempts in translation theory to define and contextualize ideal translator competence, student translator competence, and general translation competence. Lonsdale is a professor at the Faculty of Translators and Interpreters (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona).

Douglas Robinson. *Translation and Taboo*. Northern Illinois University Press. 1996. 251 pp. Cloth: \$35.00; ISBN 0-87580-209-5. Paper: \$18.50; ISBN 0-87580-571-X. From the time of the first written sacred texts in the West, taboo has proscribed the act and art of translation. So argues Robinson, who with candor verging on iconoclasm explores the age-old prohibition of translation of sacred texts and shows how similar taboos influence intercultural exchange even today. Probing concepts about language, culture, and geopolitical boundaries—both archaic and contemporary—he investigates the origins of translation and traces the implications for the transference of ideas. In the process, he challenges presuppositions about what cultures hold sacred. Grounding his analysis in the methodologies of cultural and post-colonial studies, he addresses such diverse topics as magic, obsession, addiction, the rise of the mystery religions, reason, and asceticism, and the schizoid slide into madness. Robinson is Associate Professor of English at the University of Mississippi and author of *The Translator's Turn*.

*Translation Horizons Beyond the Boundaries of Translation Spectrum*. Ed. Marilyn Gaddis Rose. Center for Research in Translation—SUNY-Binghamton. 1996. 347 pp. Paper: \$20.00; ISSN 0890-4758. "A Collection of Essays Situating and Proposing New Directions and Major Issues in Translation Studies." Essays by translators such as Rose, André Lefevre, Gregory Shreve, Douglas Robinson, Stephen Straight, Gregory Rabassa, Lawrence Venuti, Carrol Coates, Carol Maier, and others.

*Translators through History*. Eds. Jean Delisle and Judith Woodsworth. John Benjamins Publishing Company. 1995. 346 pp. Cloth: \$85.00; ISBN 1-55619-694-6. Paper: \$31.95; ISBN 1-55619-697-0. Translators have invented alphabets, helped build languages, and written dictionaries. They have contributed to the emergence of national literatures, the dissemination of knowledge, and the spread of religions. Importers of foreign cultural values and key players at some of the great moments of history, translators and interpreters have played a determining role in the development of their societies and have been

fundamental to the unfolding of intellectual history itself. Published under the auspices of the International Federation of Translators (FIT), it is organized around nine themes that illustrate the main areas in which translators have distinguished themselves through the ages. The work includes 24 illustrations, numerous suggestions for further reading at the end of each chapter, and a substantial bibliography consisting of over 600 titles.

*Words, Words, Words: The Translator and the Language Learner*. Eds. Gunilla M. Anderman and Margaret A. Rogers. Multilingual Matters Ltd/Taylor & Francis. 1996. 101 pp. Cloth: ISBN 1-85359-332-X. Paper: \$22.95; ISBN 1-85359-331-1. This book presents an interesting new perspective on the study of the lexicon, examining ways in which insights from translation and language learning can be viewed as complementary. The contributors bring together a range of expertise including research on the mental lexicon, second language acquisition research, translation studies and practices, terminology, language teaching and lexicography. Anderman is Director of the Programme in Translation Studies at the University of Surrey. Rogers is Deputy Director of the Program.

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### **ART/MUSIC/PHOTOGRAPHY THEORY**

(Italian) F. Alberto Gallo. *Music in the Castle: Troubadours, Books, and Orators in Italian Courts of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Centuries [Musica nel castello: Trovatori, libri, oratori nelle corti italiane dal XIII al XV secolo]*. Tr. Anna Herklotz. The University of Chicago Press [Società editrice Il Mulino, Bologna, 1992]. 1996. 147 pp. Cloth: \$45.00; ISBN 0-226-27968-5. Paper: \$19.95; ISBN 0-226-27969-3. Writing for general readers and specialists alike, Gallo illuminates the artistic, cultural, social, and political dimensions of secular music, vocal and instrumental. The book consists of three chapters. The first deals with the Provençal troubadours who journeyed across the Alps to create and perform in the courts of Monferrato, of the Malaspina family of Tuscany, the Este of Ferrara and Treviso, and the Scala of Verona. Presenting a wide range of music and texts, Gallo develops a detailed picture of the place of music in the life of each court. Chapter two focuses on the now-dispersed library of the ruling Milanese family, the Visconti, at Pavia. Chapter three is a virtuoso's appreciation of the improvisatory style of solo singing to instrumental accompaniment that flourished in 15th-century courts, particularly those of Ferrara and Naples.

(French) Hervé Guibert. *Ghost Image [L'Image fantôme]*. Tr. Robert Bononno. Sun & Moon Press/Consortium Book Sales [Les Éditions de Minuit, 1982]. 1996. 176 pp. Paper: \$13.95; ISBN 1-55713-267-4. To Guibert photo-graphs were objects of wonder and mystery, even possessing a touch of the

supernatural. *Ghost Image* is a collection of critical and autobiographical writings on photography translated for the first time into English. Guibert, photography critic of *Le Monde* for many years, himself weaves a spell with his many topics and moods, delineated in a continually unpredictable mixture of precise descriptions and poetic musings. Guibert recalls family members through the frozen reality of pictures taken at different times. He offers a compact history of the Polaroid and informative remarks on the noted travel journals resembling great photography. A flurry of incidents and thoughts crowd Guibert's pages as he struggles to fathom the essence of that which captures life.

(German) Gerhart B. Ladner. *God, Cosmos, and Humankind: The World of Early Christian Symbolism [Handbuch der frühchristlichen Symbolik: Gott, Kosmos, Mensch]*. Tr. Thomas Dunlap. University of California Press [Belser AG für Verlagsgeschäfte & Co., Stuttgart, 1992]. 1996. 334 pp. Cloth: \$45.00; ISBN 0-520-08549-3. The early Christians lived in a world where everything was seen to be both real and representative of something else—mainly of the divinity. Drawing on a wealth of primary materials, including the works of Pseudo-Dionysus the Areopagite, who was believed to be a disciple of the apostle Paul, and the mystical zoologist Physiologus, Ladner interprets for a modern audience the myriad symbols used in late antiquity and the early Middle Ages. In doing so, he provides an essential key not only to the art but to the entire thought-world of the period. In three broad categories—the symbolism of theology, of the cosmos, and of human-kind—the author maps the complete system of symbols by which the early Christians conceived of and gave order to their existence. Throughout, Ladner illustrates his discussion with references to late antique and early medieval art, a representation of which is interspersed with the text. Ladner was given the American Historical Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in 1992. Dunlap has translated Joachim Bumke's *Courtly Culture: Literature and Society in the High Middle Ages* (California, 1991) and *History of the Goths* by Herwig Wolfram (California, 1988).

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## HISTORY

(Spanish) Claribel Alegría and Darwin J. Flakoll. *Death of Somoza*. Tr. Darwin J. Flakoll. Curbstone Press/Consortium Book Sales. 1996. 160 pp. Paper: \$12.95; ISBN 1-880684-26-8. *Death of Somoza* reveals the true and "inside" story of the assassination of Somoza in Asunción, Paraguay in 1980. Alegría and Flakoll, on the recommendation of Julio Cortázar, met "Ramón," a leader in the Argentinian Revolutionary Workers' Party (PRI) and with his help were able to interview all the survivors of the commando team that assassinated Somoza. Their narrative reads like a thriller, as well as giving a vivid picture of the political and social climate of the time. Alegría and Flakoll authored *The Sandinista Revolution* and *They'll*

*Never Take Me Alive*.

(Spanish) Claribel Alegría and Darwin J. Flakoll. *Tunnel to Canto Grande [Fuga de Canto Grande]*. Tr. Darwin J. Flakoll. Curbstone Press/Consortium Book Sales. 1996. 200 pp. Paper: \$12.95; ISBN 1-880684-34-9. *Tunnel* tells the dramatic story of how the Peruvian Tupac Amuru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) tunneled *into* an "escape-proof" penitentiary, Canto Grande, to free 48 political prisoners in 1990. The prisoners escaped through the tunnel without a single casualty and eluded the authorities. At no small risk to their own safety, Alegría and Flakoll spent a week in the most hunted-for house in Lima, Peru, interviewing the participants in the action and the escapees. The resulting narrative is filled with suspense, engaging personalities, and humor.

(Italian) *Baroque Personae [L'uomo barocco]*. Ed. Rosario Villari. Tr. Lydia G. Cochrane. University of Chicago Press [Editori Laterza, 1991]. 1995. 357 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-226-85636-4. Paper: ISBN 0-226-85637-2. The Baroque, which stretched from the end of the 16th to the second half of the 17th centuries, is one of the most enigmatic eras in history. In this book, 13 distinguished scholars develop a portrait of institutions, ideologies, intellectual themes, and social structures as they are reflected in Baroque personae, or characteristic social roles. Studying the statesman, soldier, financier, secretary, rebel, preacher, missionary, nun, witch, scientist, artist, and bourgeois, the essays depart dramatically from traditional accounts of this era. The contributors are Rosario Villari, Henry Kamen, Geoffrey Parker, Daniel Dessert, Salvatore Nigro, Manuel Morán, José Andrés-Gallego, Adriano Prospero, Mario Rosa, Briand Levack, Paolo Rossi, Giovanni Careri, and James Amelang.

(Spanish) *The Book of Privileges Issued to Christopher Columbus by King Fernando and Queen Isabel, 1492-1502, Volume II*. Ed. and Tr. Helen Nader. UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies—University of California Press. 1996. 441 pp. Cloth: \$50.00; ISBN 0-520-08897-2. *Repertorium Columbianum*, 2. "The *Repertorium Columbianum* is a collection of contemporary sources relating to Columbus' four voyages, and the interpenetration of the hitherto separate worlds that resulted from them. This multivolume series will provide in readily accessible form the basic documents that are the starting point for research into this pivotal moment in history..." (Introduction)

(Romanian) E. M. Cioran. *Tears and Saints [Lacrimi și sfinți]*. Tr. Ilinca Zarifopol-Johnston. The University of Chicago Press. 1995. 128 pp. Cloth: \$18.95; ISBN 0-226-10672-1. *Tears and Saints* focuses not on martyrs or heroes but on the mystics—primarily female—famous for their keen spirituality and intimate knowledge of God. Their Christianity was anti-theological, anti-institutional, and based on intuition and sentiment. Many, such as Catherine of Siena, Teresa of

Avila, and Saint John of the Cross, have produced classic works of mystical literature. Following Nietzsche, Cioran brings to light the political element hidden in saints' lives. In his hands, their charitable deeds are much less interesting than their thirst for pain and their equally powerful capacity to endure it. Behind this suffering and their uncanny ability to renounce everything through ascetic practices, Cioran detects a fanatical will to power. Cioran was the author of *On the Heights of Despair*.

(Swedish) Sven Lindqvist. *"Exterminate All the Brutes" [Utrotta varenda jävel]*. Tr. Joan Tate. The New Press [Albert Bonniers Förlag AB, Stockholm, 1992]. 1996. 179 pp. Cloth: \$20.00; ISBN 1-56584-002-X. This is a unique study of Europe's dark history in Africa, written in the form of a travel diary, and a historical examination of European racism over the past two centuries. It traces the legacy of the writings of European explorers and theologians, politicians and historians, from the late 18th century on, in an effort to help us understand that most terrifying of Conrad's lines, "Exterminate all the brutes." Lindqvist argues that the harrowing racism that led to the Holocaust in the 20th century had its roots in European colonial policy of the preceding century. This is an argument that was made in Hannah Arendt's celebrated *Origins of Totalitarianism*, but Lindqvist approaches it differently, with the insights of an artist and biographer.

(French) Gérard Noiriel. *The French Melting Pot: Immigration, Citizenship, and National Identity [Le creuset français: Histoire de l'immigration xix<sup>e</sup>-xx<sup>e</sup> siècles]*. Tr. Geoffroy de Laforcade. University of Minnesota Press [Editions du Seuil, Paris, 1988]. 1996. 256 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8166-2419-4. Paper: \$22.95; ISBN 0-8166-2420-8. Like the U.S. France is a nation of immigrants. During the past 30 years, a large influx of immigrants from southern Europe and Africa has transformed French society to the point that one-third of the people currently living there have foreign-born parents or grandparents. As incisive comparison with the U.S. and other countries, *The French Melting Pot* looks at the issues behind France's denial of its immigrant past. Since the mid-1980s, immigration has surged to the forefront of public consciousness, leading in France to a growth of the nativist far right. Through a thematic exploration of the immigrant experience in France, Noiriel interweaves a discussion of past events with current issues. Among the topics discussed are why French historians and descendants of immigrants have traditionally sidestepped the immigration question; the importance and diversity of various waves of migration to France; the roles played by immigrants in the economic, social, and cultural development of the country; and the causes of periodic outbursts of xenophobia. Noiriel also analyzes patterns of settlement, comparing the processes through which generations assimilate in France and the U.S.

(French) Pierre Nora, Director. *Realms of Memory: The Construction of the French Past. Volume One: Conflicts and Divisions [Les Lieux de mémoire]*. Ed. Lawrence D. Kritzman.

Tr. Arthur Goldhammer. Columbia University Press. 1996. 642 pp. Cloth: \$37.50; ISBN 0-231-08404-8. Under the direction of Pierre Nora, Editorial Director of Editions Gallimard, France's leading intellectuals survey how the French have reinvented their past across the centuries and reflect on how myths become fused with history in the creation of a collective national heritage. Exploring the cathedrals and palaces, the rituals, legends, and episodes that form the landscape of French consciousness, this major collective endeavor lays the groundwork for a new kind of critical practice, a "history of symbolism" that describes the past not in terms of its events, but in terms of the ways in which it is remembered and forgotten across the centuries. The first of three volumes, *Conflicts and Divisions*, explores the political, religious, geographical, and generational clashes that structure France's self-definition. Goldhammer was recently named Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

(French) Elizabeth Picard. *Lebanon: A Shattered Country [Liban, Etat de discorde]*. Tr. Franklin Philip. Holmes & Meier [Flammarion, 1988]. 1996. 202 pp. Cloth: \$29.50; ISBN 0-8419-1233-5. Long a bridge between the Middle East and the West, a meeting ground of Islam and Christianity, Lebanon was a prosperous symbol of the harmonious coexistence of different ethnic and religious communities. After 1975, however, the "Switzerland of the Middle East" seemed to be transformed into a combat zone where the flames of violence fanned every ethnic, religious, and political rivalry in the region. With impartiality and precision, Picard traces the evolution of Lebanon from its founding to the present. She analyzes the causes and effects of the civil war—what and who have been destroyed, which powers have predominated and to whose benefit—and she explores realistic solutions to the conflict.

(German) Armin Schmid and Renate Schmid. *Lost in a Labyrinth of Red Tape: The Story of an Immigration that Failed [Im Labyrinth der Paragraphen: Die Geschichte einer gescheiterten Emigration]*. Tr. Margot Bettauer Dembo. Northwestern University Press [Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag, Frankfurt, 1993]. 1996. 173 pp. Cloth: \$39.95; ISBN 0-8101-1185-3. Paper: \$15.95; ISBN 0-8101-1170-5. Fewer than half of all the German Jews, who were discriminated against, persecuted, and eventually murdered by the Nationalist Socialist regime, were able to save themselves by fleeing abroad. *Lost in a Labyrinth* is the story of one family's desperate attempts to emigrate. The Frühaufs experienced endless bureaucratic chicanery and faced enormous difficulties with the German and foreign authorities in an attempt to take advantage of matriarch Hilde Frühauf's U.S. citizenship. At the mercy of various agencies and shippers, they became more and more entangled in the labyrinth. The Frühaufs' daughter was forced into hiding in 1943, fleeing to Belgium, where she was given protection by the Resistance. She survived, but the remaining members of her immediate family were unable to

secure permission to emigrate and were killed. Dembo is an editor with the American Museum of Natural History who has translated works by Robert Gernhardt, Herta Müller, and Hans-Joachim Maaz.

(German) Benjamin W. Segel. *A Lie and a Libel: The History of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion [Welt-Krieg, Welt-Revolution, Welt-Verschwörung, Welt-Oberregierung]*. Tr. Richard S. Levy. University of Nebraska Press [1926]. 1995. 148 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8032-4243-3. A mystery of the 20th century is the durability of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, a forgery purporting to be evidence of the supposed Jewish plot to rule the world. Though it has been exposed as a forgery, someone is always rediscovering it. Recently it has been translated into Japanese and circulates once again with renewed virulence in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. In 1924 in Germany the Jewish author and journalist Segel wrote a major historical exposé of the fraud and later edited his work into a shorter form. Translator Levy, a specialist on the history of antisemitism, provides an extensive introduction on the circumstances of Segel's work and the story of the *Protocols* up to the 1990s. Levy is an associate professor of history at the University of Illinois-Chicago. He is the author of *The Downfall of the Anti-Semitic Political Parties in Imperial Germany* and *Antisemitism in the Modern World: An Anthology of Texts*.

(German) *To Set Before the King: Katharina Schratt's Festive Recipes*. Ed. Gertrud Graubart Champe. Tr. Paula von Haimberger Arno. University of Iowa Press. 1996. 225 pp. Cloth: \$24.95; ISBN 0-87745-535-X. In the 1970s, renowned chef and cookbook collector Louis Szathmáry purchased a notebook written in German and dated 1905, containing more than 200 recipes for soups, appetizers, main dishes, and a wealth of desserts, ices, and punches. This kitchen notebook, a concrete remnant from the paradoxical world of turn-of-the-century Vienna, belonged to a woman who played an extraordinary role in her society: actress Katharina Schratt, lavishly admired by crowned heads, industrialists, artists, composers—and Franze Joseph I, emperor of Austria and king of Hungary. Schratt was his friend, companion, and confidante for 32 years, and these are foods served in her home. The volume includes an entertaining biography of Schratt and her glittering world. The carefully translated recipes themselves are either comfortable and homey or elegant and sophisticated. Working from Schratt's tantalizing aide-mémoire, Chef Louis Szathmáry has created almost a hundred updated recipes.

(French) Enzo Traverso. *The Jews & Germany: From the "Judeo-German Symbiosis" to the Memory of Auschwitz* [*Les Juifs et l'Allemagne: de la 'symbiose judéo-allemande' à la mémoire d'Auschwitz*]. Tr. Daniel Weissbort. University of Nebraska Press [Éditions La Découverte, Paris, 1992]. 1995. 215 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8032-4426-6. This work debunks a modern myth: that once upon a time there was a Judeo-German symbiosis, in which two cultures met and brought out the best in

each other. Traverso argues that the attainments of Jews in the German-speaking world were due to the Jews aspiring to be German, with little help from and often against the open hostility of Germans. As the Holocaust proved, German Jews could never be German enough. Traverso is the author of *The Marxists and the Jewish Question: History of a Debate, 1843-1943*. Weissbort is professor of English at the University of Iowa. His translations include Claude Simon's *The World About Us*.

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## PHILOSOPHY/RELIGION

(French) Jacques Derrida. *The Gift of Death* [*Donner la mort in L'éthique du don, Jacques Derrida et la pensée du don*]. Tr. David Wills. The University of Chicago Press. 1995. 115 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-226-14305-8. Derrida divides the book into four parts, which deal respectively with the development of the notion of responsibility in the Platonic and Christian traditions; the relation between sacrifice and mortality; the contemporary meaning of the story of Abraham and Isaac; and the relation between religious ideology and economic rationality, explicitly linking this book with *Given Time*. The texts under discussion include the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, as well as writings from Pato\_ka, Heidegger, Levinas, and Kierkegaard (whom he addresses here for the first time in print). Derrida's main concern is with the meaning of moral and ethical responsibility in Western religion and philosophy. He questions the limits of the rational and the responsible that one reaches in granting or accepting death, whether by sacrifice, murder, execution, or suicide. Derrida's most recent books include *Given Time* and *Memoirs of the Blind*. Wills is chair of the Department of French and Italian at Louisiana State University.

(Sanskrit) *Hindu Scriptures*. Ed. and Tr. Dominic Goodall. University of California Press. 1996. 411 pp. Cloth: \$45.00; ISBN 0-520-20782-3. Paper: \$16.95; ISBN 0-520-20778-5. Based on an anthology by R. C. Zaehner. The scriptures revered by Hindus are enormously varied, and Zaehner's anthology has long been considered for its breadth and diversity. Goodall expands Zaehner's work with three fresh translations, including one work that appears for the first time in English. Spanning more than 2,000 years, the range of selections in this book include arcane hymns of the ancient Aryans, prescriptions governing every aspect of the daily life of the orthodox, and sensual poetry.

(French) Luce Irigaray. *An Ethics of Sexual Difference* [*Ethique de la différence sexuelle*]. Trs. Carolyn Burke and Gillian C. Gill. Cornell University Press [Les Editions de Minuit, 1984]. 1993. 217 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8014-2225-6. Paper: 0-8014-8145-7. Irigaray approaches the question of sexual difference by looking at the ways in which thought and

language—whether in philosophy, science, or psychoanalysis—are gendered. She juxtaposes evocative readings of classic texts, including Plato's *Symposium*, Aristotle's *Physics*, Descartes's "On Wonder" in *The Passions of the Soul*, Spinoza's *Ethics*, Merleau-Ponty's *The Visible and the Invisible*, and Levinas' *Totality and Infinity*, with meditations on experiences of love: between fetus and mother, between heterosexual lovers, between women, and between women and their own bodies. She argues that only when women insist on the integrity of their own spaces of embodiment can love become the basis of a revolution in ethics.

(Danish) Søren Kierkegaard. *Papers and Journals: A Selection*. Tr. Alastair Hannay. Penguin Books. 1996. 683 pp. Paper: \$13.95; ISBN 0-14-044589-7. A combination of philosophical and theoretical argument, vivid natural description, and sharply honed wit, this book reveals Kierkegaard's private reflections and reactions to events. Here we see him living out the conflict which formed the basis of *Either/Or* and forging the idea of the "leap of faith."

(Greek) Plato. *The Dialogues of Plato: Volume III: Ion, Hippias Minor, Laches, Protagoras*. Tr. R. E. Allen. Yale University Press. 1996. 248 pp. Cloth: \$35.00; ISBN 0-300-06343-1. In his detailed commentary, Allen closely examines the major themes and central arguments of each dialogue, with particular emphasis on *Protagoras*. He clarifies each of Plato's arguments and its refutation; places the themes in historical perspective; ties each theme to interpretations of rival translations; and links the philosopher's thought to trends in late modern philosophy. Topics discussed include: whether virtue is an art, whether wisdom and courage are logically equivalent, whether virtue is knowledge, and whether to know the good is to do it. Allen connects his discussion of these issues to the Benthamite tradition of hedonism and utilitarianism and to the ethical theories of Mill, Sidgwick, Moore, and Freud.

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## PSYCHOLOGY

(German) Sigmund Freud. *Psychological Writings and Letters*. Ed. Sander L. Gilman. Continuum Books. 1995. 282 pp. Cloth: \$29.50; ISBN 0-8264-0722-6. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-8264-0723-4. The German Library, Volume 59. This volume includes essential writings by Freud: *Letters to Fliess*, *On Dreams*, *Infantile Sexuality*, *The Uncanny*, *Delusions and Dreams in Jensen's "Gradiva"*, and more.

## ARABIC

*The Adventures of Sayf Ben Dhi Yazan: An Arab Folk Epic*. Ed. and Tr. Lena Jayyusi. Indiana University Press. 1996. 400 pp. Cloth: \$39.95; ISBN 0-253-33034-3. One of the most

beautiful Arab-Islamic folk romances is here presented in English for the first time. Composed between the 13th and 16th centuries during the Mamluk age, it offers unusual perspectives on issues of gender, religion, race, and ethnicity, as woven into the art of an oral narrative. Sayf Ben Dhi Yazan was a historical figure, a sixth-century Arab king who ruled Yemen before the rise of Islam. In the tale he is presented as a Muslim warrior; his exploits range across Ethiopia, Egypt, and Sudan, where his Muslim followers do battle with pagan peoples. Colorful panoramas of heroic feats, magical escapades, bizarre landscapes and beings, brief or long-lasting love affairs, sincere friendships all propel this Arab romance. Jayyusi is Chair of the Department of Communications Studies at Cedar Crest College.

Abdel-Hakim Kassem. *The Seven Days of Man [Ayy\_m al-ins\_n al-sab'a]*. Tr. Joseph Norment Bell. Northwestern University Press [1969]. 1996. Cloth: \$25.95; ISBN 0-8101-1415-1. In a country village in Egypt's Nile Delta, a group of men prepare for their annual visit to the city of Tanta, site of the mosque-shrine of the great Sufi saint Ahmad al-Badawi, to whose brotherhood the men belong. The preparation and the journey take seven days—the same length of time as creation—and in those seven days we see how this village is a microcosm of the universe. The narrator of the novel, Abdel-Aziz, is the son of the revered leader of the Sufi brothers. In the first chapter, Abdel-Aziz, a young child, describes the assembly of the Sufis with all the love and worshipful affection of an innocent. The second chapter finds the narrator in his early teens, sleeping still in a common room with his parents and sisters, but becoming more interested in the girls in the village than in the men. When the brotherhood actually visits Tanta, Abdel-Aziz is in school there and is thoroughly embarrassed by the "backwardness" of his father and his men. Toward the end of the book, when the Sufi brothers take part in the great celebration of the pilgrimage to al-Badawi's shrine, Abdel-Aziz's various ages come together in a bitter father-son confrontation. Bell is professor of Arabic at the University of Bergen in Norway.

Bahaa' Taher. *Aunt Safiyya and the Monastery [Kh\_lat\_af\_yah wa-al-dayr]*. Tr. Barbara Romaine. University of California Press. 1996. 116 pp. Cloth: \$35.00; ISBN 0-520-20074-8. Paper: \$12.95; ISBN 0-520-20075-6. "Egypt in the years surrounding the 1967 Arab-Israeli war is a nation increasingly divided between Muslims and Coptic Christians, and between those who look to the past and those who look to the future. Championing the ancient practices of vendettas and blood feuds is Aunt Safiyya, who swears that she will not rest until her son kills the man who murdered her husband. Opposing her and the old traditions are the narrator's father, a Muslim, and Bishai, a Coptic monk" (*Publishers Weekly*). Taher has written three novels; this is the first to appear in English. Romaine teaches Arabic at the College of William and Mary.

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## BENGALI

Anuradha Mahapatra. *Another Spring, Darkness*. Tr. Carolyne Wright with Paramita Banerjee and Jyotirmoy Datta. Calyx Books/Consortium Book Sales. 1996. 112 pp. Cloth: \$23.95; ISBN 0-934971-52-8. Paper: \$12.95; ISBN 0-934971-51-X. Mahapatra's diction and vocabulary are drawn from village and tribal life, from Bengali peasants and the aboriginal Shantal people of her childhood, and from urban slum-dwellers, economic refugees displaced from their villages by rural unemployment and the vicissitudes of the crop cycle. Her poetic world is full of disturbing visions and surrealistic juxtapositions and presents few of the sentimental images from classical Bengali literature. The poetry in this collection depicts a harsh, unpredictable region—submerged in its own profound lore and history. Mahapatra's work is informed by sexuality, mythology, and day-to-day life in Bengal, revealing a voice that is uniquely working class, female, and Indian. Wright has also translated *The Game in Reverse* by Taslima Nasrin.

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## BULGARIAN

Vladimir Levchev. *Leaves From the Dry Tree*. Tr. Henry Taylor. Cross-Cultural Communications. 1996. 48 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-89304-138-6. Paper: \$5.00; ISBN 0-89304-137-8. Bulgarian Poets 1. Bilingual collection of works such as "Leaves From the Dry Tree," "Theology of Hopelessness," "Athens," "Blue Pond at Berkovitsa," and "Four Seekers of the Great Metaphor." Levchev, a poet and translator, founded the first Bulgarian independent magazine *Glas*. His poems in English have appeared in four anthologies but this is his first bilingual collection. Taylor is Professor of Literature at American University in Washington, D.C. His translations have appeared in many anthologies, including *Window on the Black Sea: Bulgarian Poetry in Translation*.

## CAJUN FRENCH

Jean Arceneaux. *Je Suis Cadien*. Tr. Sheryl St. Germain. Cross-Cultural Communications. 1994. 48 pp. Cloth: \$15.00; ISBN 0-89304-215-3. Paper: \$7.50; ISBN 0-89304-216-1. Chapbook 2—Cajun Writers. Bilingual. "Je Suis Cadien" "is so much about being French..." but speaks to all "including those of Cajun descent who have lost their mother language" (St. Germain) of what it is to live without expressing one's history, identity, fears, or anger except in another's language and world. Translator St. Germain is also a poet and author of *The Mask of Medusa*, *Going Home*, *Making Bread at Midnight*, and *How Heavy the Breath of God*.

Darrell Bourque. *Plainsongs*. Tr. Christine Yvette Balfa. Cross-Cultural Communications. 1995. 48 pp. Paper: \$7.50; ISBN 0-89304-209-9. Chapbook 1—Cajun Writers. Part bilingual. This collection of Bourque's poetry includes "Le courir de Mardi Gras," "Elmire," and "Haecceitas"; poems that reveal a love of the Cajun "holy plain" where masked men are fire and air, separateness and earth.

Beverly Matherne. *La Grande Pointe*. Tr. Beverly Matherne. Cross-Cultural Communications. 1995. 48 pp. Paper: \$15.00; ISBN 0-89304-231-5. Cajun Writers—Chapbook 3. Part bilingual. These poems celebrate the culture of Matherne's people, the Acadians and Alsatians who intermarried and settled along both sides of the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Includes such works as "Je me demande comment c'était/I Wonder What I Was Like"; "La fabrique de tabac/Tobacco Harvest"; "Les mains de papa/Daddy's hands"; and "Les fils/Sons." Matherne has published two other bilingual collections: *Je me souviens de la Louisiane* and *Images cadiennes*. She is on the faculty of Northern Michigan University.

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## CHINESE

Bei Dao. *Landscape Over Zero*. Trs. David Hinton and Yanbing Chen. New Directions. 1996. 96 pp. Paper: \$9.95; ISBN 0-8112-1334-X. Bilingual. Recently elected an honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Bei Dao is China's pre-eminent contemporary poet. Thoughts of futility, distance, and coldness wrestle with a resignation that home has been lost. But now there is the glimmer of possibility that a new home can be gained and love renewed. Among the 50 poems are "Blue Wall," "On the Wrong Road," "Seeing Double," "The Next Tree," "The Long View," "Winter Travels," "Purple," "Showing Up," and "As Far As I Know."

Yu Hua. *The Past and the Punishments*. Tr. Andrew F. Jones. University of Hawaii Press. 1996. 277 pp. Cloth: \$32.00; ISBN 0-8248-1782-6. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-8248-1817-2. This is the first collection of short fiction by Yu Hua to appear in English. It takes one on a haunting and harrowing journey from classical China through the Cultural Revolution and into the new era of economic reform. It includes eight stories: "On the Road at Eighteen," "Classical Love," "World Like Mist," "The Past and the Punishments," "1986," "Blood and Plum Blossoms," "The Death of a Landlord," and "Predestination."

## CZECH

Miroslav Holub. *Supposed to Fly: A Sequence from Pilsen, Czechoslovakia*. Tr. Ewald Osers. Bloodaxe Books/Dufour Editions. 1996. 160 pp. Paper: \$16.95; ISBN 1-85224-274-

4. *Supposed to Fly* is a highly original and entertaining gathering of poems—with some prose interruptions—drawn from his native city Plzen (Pilsen). The book also includes surrealist photographs accompanied by equally surrealist or absurdist captions. Poems include, among others, "Punch's dream," "On fencing," "Escalation," "Spinal cord," "Pocket Christmas," "Herbarium," "The searching tram," "Central cemetery," "Deukalion's people," "Half a hedgehog," and "What to ink out."

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## DUTCH

*The Diary of a Young Girl: Anne Frank: Definitive Edition.* Eds. Otto H. Frank and Mirjam Pressler. Tr. Susan Massotty. Doubleday. 1995. 340 pp. Cloth: \$25.00; ISBN 0-385-47378-8. Restored in this edition are diary entries that had been omitted from the original edition. These passages (30% more material) reinforce the fact that Anne was first and foremost a teenage girl, not a remote and flawless symbol. She fretted about, and tried to cope with, her own emerging sexuality. Like many young girls, she often found herself in disagreement with her mother. And like any teenager, she veered between the carefree nature of a child and the full-fledged sorrow of an adult. Anne emerges more human, more vulnerable, and more vital than ever.

Adriaan van Dis. *My Father's War [Indische Duinen]*. Tr. Claire Nicolas White. The New Press [J.M. Meulenhoff bv, 1994]. 1996. 261 pp. Cloth: \$23.00; ISBN 1-56584-033-X. Survivors of World War II Japanese prison camps in Indonesia "had kept strangely silent" upon repatriation to The Netherlands, according to White. *My Father's War* breaks that silence with a son's struggle to understand his family's wartime experiences and to come to terms with the war's effects on his work and his capacity to love. Born in Holland after the war, the boy grows up an outsider in the midst of his part-Indonesian family. Living in isolation among the dunes of coastal Holland, he looks on as his family are mocked for their "yellow skin," endures the bizarre and brutal military training his father puts him through, and wonders about the hardships his family suffered but never mentions. Years later, the middle-aged son begins a quest into his family's past in Indonesia, and the origins of his father's strange mix of charm and cruelty. Van Dis is the author of ten books, a noted translator, winner of seven major literary awards in Holland, and a journalist.

Dola de Jong. *The Tree and the Vine*. Tr. Ilona Kinzer. The Feminist Press. 1996. 152 pp. Cloth: \$27.50; ISBN 1-55861-140-1. Paper: \$9.95; ISBN 1-55861-141-X. This work tells of two women torn between desires and taboos in the years leading up to the Nazi occupation of Amsterdam. Erica, a journalist, is restless and reckless; her moods swing from joy to despair as she pursues passionate but abusive affairs with different women. Bea, a secretary, is efficient and reserved—and increasingly obsessed with Erica. Only Bea's discovery that Erica is half-

Jewish, a member of the Dutch resistance, and very much in danger brings her closer to accepting her own feelings—but by then, it may be too late.

Harry Mulisch. *The Discovery of Heaven [De ontdekking van de hemel]*. Tr. Paul Vincent. Viking [De Bezige Bij, Amsterdam, 1992]. 1996. 730 pp. Cloth: \$34.95; ISBN 0-670-85668-1. *Discovery* opens with a prologue set in heaven. An angel plots to bring about the birth of a human being gifted enough to find the original tablets of the ten commandments and return them to heaven, thus ending God's covenant with man (a covenant betrayed, in the eyes of God, by man's discovery of the genetic code, and thus the secrets of creation). He narrates the story to another, more senior angel who will report directly to God. Thus, is set in motion the coming of Quinten. Mulisch is author of the international best seller *The Assault*.

Toon Tellegen. *In N*. Tr. Claire Nicolas White. Cross-Cultural Communications. 1993. 48 pp. Cloth: \$15.00; ISBN 0-89304-191-2. Paper: \$5.00; ISBN 0-89304-192-0. Dutch Writers—Chapbook 3. Bilingual collection of poems, all about being "In N." where "despair is small," "life was being wasted," "a woman assaulted me," "a dry wind blew," and "the houses were crazy." Tellegen's latest poetry books in Dutch are: *Ik en ik* (1985), *Mijn winter* (1987), *In N. en andere gedichten* (1989), and *Een langzame val* (1991). *In N* is his first book to be published in translation. White has translated *Time of Your Life* by Martine Rouchaud (French), *What Poetry Is* and *The Assault* by Harry Mulisch (Dutch), and *The Vanishing* by Tim Krabbé (Dutch).

## FINNISH

Arto Paasilinna. *The Year of the Hare [Jäniksen vuosi]*. Tr. Herbert Lomas. Peter Owen/Dufour Editions. 1996. 136 pp. Paper: \$17.95; ISBN 0-7206-1017-6. A journalist and a photographer set out on an assignment on a lovely sunny evening. As they drive through the countryside 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 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

Christophe Bataille. *Annam*. Tr. Richard Howard. New Directions. 1996. 112 pp. Cloth: \$15.95; ISBN 0-8112-

1330-7. Winner of the 1993 Prix du Premier Roman. In 1788 a handful of French monks and nuns set sail for Vietnam, hopes high and faith intransigent. It takes them over a year to reach Saigon, where they preach the Gospel to the peasants of these unknown tropics, and only by chance learn from passing ships the terrors of the Revolution, the death of their King, the oppression of their Church. After Christmas of 1792 there is no further news, and the missionaries realize Europe has forgotten them. In their years of trial these valorous men and women abandon everything, reinvent everything: language, faith, the will of their own bodies; the jungle, by its ordeals and its beauties, transforms them; in it they will live and die, and in it, as the novel suggests, they have forgotten God. Howard's translations include Roland Barthes' *Michelet's*, Todorov's *The Conquest of America*, and Stendhal's *The Pink and the Green*.

Samuel Beckett. *Eleuthéria*. Tr. Michael Brodsky. Foxrock, Inc./Four Walls Eight Windows. 1995. 196 pp. Cloth: \$20.00; ISBN 0-9643740-0-5. Beckett wrote *Eleuthéria* two years before *Waiting for Godot*. The play has 17 characters and elaborate, and numerous, scene changes. Elements of *Eleuthéria* prefigure many of Beckett's subsequent characters and themes. It disappeared for some 40 years, until the day Beckett placed the manuscript into the hands of his old friend and original American publisher, Barney Rosset. Beckett's estate refused to allow its publication until 1995. Brodsky is the author of eight works of fiction and a number of plays.

Marcel Bénabou. *Why I Have Not Written Any of My Books [Pourquoi je n'ai écrit aucun de mes livres]*. Tr. David Kornacker. University of Nebraska Press. 1996. 111 pp. Cloth: \$25.00; ISBN 0-8032-1239-9. At once the budding of an author and the withering of the authoritative, *Why I Have Not Written Any of My Books* polishes the varnish of self-conscious writing until it peels away. It provides both a respectful litany of writers' fears and a dismissal of the alibis offered to excuse them. Kornacker has published translations of Liliane Atlan, Françoise de Graffigny, Michel Noir, and Jacques Roubaud.

Maurice Blanchot. *The Most High [Le Très-Haut]*. Tr. Allan Stoekl. University of Nebraska Press [Éditions Gallimard, 1948]. 1996. 254 pp. Cloth: \$35.00; ISBN 0-8032-1240-2. Blanchot describes a world where the Absolute has finally overcome all other rivals to its authority. The State is unified, universal, and homogeneous, promising perfect satisfaction. Why then does it find revolt everywhere? Could it be the omnipresent police? The plagues? The proliferating prisons and black markets? Written in part as a description of post-World War II Europe, Blanchot's dystopia charts with terrible clarity the endless death of god in an era of constantly metamorphosing but strangely definitive ideologies. Stoekl is the editor and translator of Georges Bataille's *Visions of Excess: Selected Writings, 1927-1939*.

Emanuel Bove. *Night Departure and No Place [Départ dans la*

*nuit suivi de non-lieu]*. Tr. Carol Volk. Four Walls Eight Windows. 1995. 480 pp. Cloth: \$25.00; ISBN 0-941423-91-3. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-941423-98-0. By turns bizarre and touching, *Night Departure and No Place* form a diptych of war. This is the first time either has been available in English. *Night Departure* relates the escape of a band of French soldiers following the killing of two German guards at a prisoner-of-war camp, and their ensuing journey, on foot and unarmed, to their native land. It is a powerfully antiheroic tale in which the escaped prisoners' loyalty to one another is offset by acts of petty betrayal and violence. Paranoia and hopelessness propel them forward as often as does the desire to be free. In *No Place*, the same selfless and comical narrator is beaten down by the bureaucratic stupor of occupied France—more than he had been by his earlier imprisonment. Little by little, Bove's hero is transformed into a vaguely odious parasite, his sense of grandeur overshadowed by a simple fear of dying.

André Breton. *Arcanum 17*. Tr. Zack Rogow. Sun & Moon Press [Société Nouvelle de Editions Pauvert, 1944, 1965]. 1994. 137+ pp. Paper: \$12.95; ISBN 1-55713-170-8. Breton wrote *Arcanum 17* during a trip to the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec in the months after D-Day in 1944, when the Allied troops were liberating Occupied Europe. Using the huge Percé Rock—its impermanence, its slow-motion crumbling, its singular beauty—as his central metaphor, Breton considers love and loss, aggression and war, pacifism, feminism and the occult, in a book that is part prose and part poetry, part reality and part dream. In the 17th card in the Major Arcana of the Tarot deck, a naked woman beneath a sky of stars pours water from two urns, into water and onto land. This card represents hope, renewal and resurrection—the themes that permeate *Arcanum 17*. Rogow co-translated *Earthlight* and *The Dice Cup*.

Hélisienne de Crenne. *The Torments of Love [Angoisses douloureuses qui procedent d'amours]*. Ed. Lisa Neal. Trs. Lisa Neal and Steven Rendall. University of Minnesota Press. 1996. 240 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8166-2788-6. Paper: \$18.95; ISBN 0-8166-2789-4. This autobiographical novel of a married woman's passion for a younger man is the first translation into English of a landmark text. Originally published in 1538, it tells a colorful tale of adulterous love and romantic adventure from a woman's point of view. The novel tells the story of the ill-starred love affair of the heroine and her paramour. The first part relates the tale of Hélisienne's happy marriage and her sudden adulterous desire for Guenelic, a desire so overwhelming that her husband, in desperation, imprisons her in a tower. Hélisienne writes *Torments* as a missive to her lover, hoping it will fall into his hands and he will come to her rescue. Part two tells of Guenelic's adventures as he and his partner, Quezinstra, search across Europe for Hélisienne's prison. The novel concludes with Quezinstra's narration of the fate of Hélisienne and Guenelic. Hélisienne de Crenne is the pseudonym of Marguerite Briet, one of the

principal early woman writers of France. She wrote an epistolary novel, *Personal and Invective Letters*, and an allegorical fable, *Dream*. She also produced the first French translation of Virgil's *Aeneid* (Books I-IV). Neal is assistant professor of French at the University of Puget Sound. Rendall is professor of Romance languages at the University of Oregon and editor of *Comparative Literature*.

France Daigle. *Real Life [La vraie vie]*. Tr. Sally Ross. House of Anansi Press Limited [L'Hexagone (Montreal) and les Éditions d'Acadie (Moncton), 1993]. 1995. 83 pp. Paper: \$12.95; ISBN 0-88784-561-4. Real life is lived in fragments. In Daigle's novel the characters struggle to make sense out of this fragmented world. Denis becomes fed-up with his girlfriend, so he ends the relationship and decides to make a film in which meaning derives from his characters' movements instead of their words; Denise, a taxi driver, takes pleasure in her job because she leads people while they give the directions; and Claude, a massage therapist, finds his practice transformed by an epiphanic meeting with a mysterious woman from Berlin. Through these characters and several others, Daigle gives us the hyper-real by intertwining threads of highly charged moments, resulting in a story brimming with irony, wit, and depth. Daigle, who works for Radio Canada, has written several novels and won the 1991 Pascal Poirier Award. Ross also translated Georges Arsenault's *Island Acadians: 1720-1980*.

Henri Deluy. *Carnal Love [L'amour charnel]*. Tr. Guy Bennett. Sun & Moon Press [Flammarion, Paris, 1994]. 1996. 132 pp. Paper: \$11.95; ISBN 1-55713-272-0. Deluy explores the various aspects of love in this collection of poetry. The love of love, of gestures, of smells, of the activities of the body, of the taste of food and alcohol, of the sea, of the ebb and flow of politics, of voluptuousness itself—these and others serve as subjects for his greatest loves: the love of writing, of the order and disorders of poetry, of the flavor of words. Deluy is also the author of "*L" ou "T'aimer," Peinture pour Raquel, La Substitution, Premières suites*. This is the first translation of his works into English.

Paul Eluard. *Unbroken Poetry II/Poésie ininterrompue II*. Tr. Gilbert Bowen. Bloodaxe Books/Dufour Editions [Éditions Gallimard, 1953]. 1996. 160 pp. Paper: \$18.95; ISBN 1-85224-134-9. Bloodaxe Contemporary French Poets: 6. Bilingual. Eluard's poetry is concerned with sexual desire and the desire for social change. *Unbroken Poetry II*, published posthumously in 1953, pays tribute to Dominique Eluard, with whom he spent the last years of his life. It traces the internal dialogues of a passionate relationship as well as of his continuing re-evaluation of the poetic project itself. It centers on political commitment and places it at the heart of the lovers' desire. Includes such works as "Dada, Surrealism, communism: the Gala years," "Anti-fascist priorities," "Post-war agendas and net traumas," and "Cold War options." Bowen translated and published *Paul Eluard: Selected Poems* (1987), as well as work

by Jacques Prévert and writers from French-speaking Africa.

Gustave Flaubert. *A Simple Heart [Le coeur simple]*. Tr. Arthur McDowall. New Directions. 1996. 64 pp. Paper: \$6.00; ISBN 0-8112-1318-8. In 1875, to console himself from various personal misfortunes, Flaubert turned from his monumental survey of modern follies to a series of miniatures. *A Simple Heart*, "the legend of a modern saint," was the greatest of these. *A Simple Heart* was a sequel to *Madame Bovary*, more particularly to the episode at the agricultural show, where Cathérine Leroux, a single heroic figure in the crowd, was cited for half a century of servitude. Félicité, the most real of Flaubert's heroines and one of his few characters of good will, sprang from the same peasant stock, belonged to the same Norman countryside, and incarnated the same "animal-like devotion and religious veneration" as Ms. Leroux.

André Frénaud. *Rome the Sorceress/La Sorcière de Rome*. Tr. Keith Bosley. Bloodaxe Books/Dufour Editions [Éditions Gallimard, 1973]. 1996. 224 pp. Paper: \$18.95; ISBN 1-85224-318-X. Bloodaxe Contemporary French Poets: 7. Bilingual. *Rome the Sorceress* is Frénaud's richest and most disturbing confrontation with the hidden life of myths and the sacred, probing the themes of time, inheritance, revolt, illusions of divinity, father-figures, mother-figures, and the insatiable monuments of language which pretend to grapple with this weight of experience. Includes "Under the floorboards," "Cities," "Time and Motion," "Fires of the Sorceress," "Crossroads of the Voice," and "The Poem in the Mirror." Bosley's translations include *An Idiom of Night*, a selection from Pierre Jean Jouve (1968); *A Round O* by André Frénaud (1977); the last Penguin Mallarmé (1977); and *From the Theorems of Master Jean de La Ceppède* (1983).

Max Jacob. *The Story of King Kabul the First and Gawain the Kitchen-Boy [Histoire du roi Kaboul Ier et du narmiton Gauwain]*. Trs. Moishe Black and Marcia Green. University of Nebraska Press [Éditions Gallimard, 1971]. 1994. 78 pp. Cloth: \$20.00; ISBN 0-8032-2577-6. Also includes "Vulcan's Crown." The hero of "King Kabul" is Gawain the kitchen-boy, who dreams of marrying Julia, daughter of Kabul the First, King of the Balibridgians. To earn Julia's favor, Gawain becomes the best cook in the world. When Kabul refuses, Gawain sees that he must do something more heroic than cooking. "Vulcan's Crown" is a tale of fantastic adventure involving Toulic, a humpbacked tailor and blacksmith in small-town Brittany. One day as Toulic peels onions for his soup, Christ appears and tells him that he will soon be rich. But first he must earn his wealth. Toulic goes off to sea with a drunken admiral, flies through the air on a fish's back, listens to unlikely but evocative poetry, and is mockingly crowned King of Cheeses before returning home. Black and Green have translated and edited *Hesitant Fire: Selected Prose of Max Jacob*.

Claude Lévi-Strauss. *The Story of Lynx [Histoire de Lynx]*. Tr. Catherine Tihanyi. University of Chicago Press [Plon, 1991]. 1995. 276 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-226-47471-2. Lévi-Strauss focuses on the opposition between Wild Cat and Coyote to explore the meaning and uses of twinning in North American culture. The concept of dual organization that these tales exemplify is one of non-equivalence: everything has an opposite or other, with which it coexists in unstable tension. In contrast, Lévi-Strauss argues, European notions of twinning—as in the myth of Castor and Pollux—stress the essential sameness of the twins. This fundamental cultural difference lay behind the fatal clash of European and Native American peoples.

Shams Nadir. *The Astrolabe of the Sea [L'astrolabe de la mer]*. Tr. C. Dickson. City Lights Books [Editions Stock, 1975]. 1996. 128 pp. Paper: \$9.95; ISBN 0-87286-314-X. A mysterious astrolabe that unfolds "the fabric of dreams" to all who gaze upon it was once consigned to the depths of the sea by a Persian king who did not want men "to forget the weight of the concrete and the empire of the real." Centuries later, it is found by a castaway navigator, who is captivated by its stories that combine elements from the realm of myth and dreams, conjuring up a world where the imagination holds sway.

Marie Nimier. *The Giraffe [La girafe]*. Tr. Mary Feeney. Four Walls Eight Windows/Publishers Group West [Editions Gallimard, 1993]. 1995. 201 pp. Cloth: \$18.00; ISBN 1-566858-026-6. With a precise, almost clinical eye, Nimier lays the fantastic groundwork of this story: Joseph, a young man, himself an outsider to mainstream French society because of his African ancestry, gets a job in the zoo. There he is made caretaker of the zoo's giraffe, Solange. Solange both literally and metaphorically rises above the clumsy, grasping humans who are her captors, and Nimier makes plausible Joseph's tragi-comic love—both sexual and spiritual—for the creature. But while Joseph's love for Solange grows, his relationship with the rest of the world disintegrates.

Marie Nimier. *Hypnotism Made Easy [L'hypnotisme à la portée de tous]*. Tr. Sophie Hawkes. Four Walls Eight Windows [Editions Gallimard, 1992]. 1996. 268 pp. Cloth: \$18.00; ISBN 1-56858-036-3. This novel is narrated by Cora, who discovers a manual entitled *Hypnotism Made Easy* at the age of ten. Hypnotism becomes the device for the girl's adolescent rebellion; she reads a chapter a year until she reaches eighteen. Her initial attempts to apply her newfound skills flounder; she hypnotizes but fails to revive first a parakeet, then a young friend. But gradually she absorbs the book's lessons and is able to manipulate the world of adults surrounding her. Nimier, author of *The Giraffe*, has published five novels and has been honored by the French Academy and the French Literary Society. Hawkes has translated Diderot's *The Indiscreet Jewels* and Klossowski's *The Baphomet* and *The Women of Rome*.

Valère Novarina. *The Theater of the Ears*. Tr. Allen S. Weiss.

Sun & Moon Press/Consortium Book Sales. 1996. 160 pp. Paper: \$13.95; ISBN 1-55713-251-8. Novarina is here introduced to American audiences with an essay, "In Praise of Solecism" by the translator, and with essays by Novarina on his ideas for drama and performance. As Novarina makes clear in "Letter to the Actors," he advocates what he terms as "linguistic carnage." Everything that destroys or circumvents our linguistic habits is valorized: errors, slurs, babble, lapses, agrammaticisms, malapropisms, aphasia, and whatever other effects—psychopathological or quotidian—loosen the tongue, worsen speech, fracture the word."

Jan Potoki. *The Manuscript Found in Saragosa*. Tr. Ian Maclean. Penguin Books. 1995. 631 pp. Paper: \$13.95; ISBN 0-14-044580-3. 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, cabbalists, noblemen, and gypsies, whose stories he records as he hears them, day by day over a period of 66 days. A novel of stories-within-stories, it combines the picaresque with gothic horror and the supernatural, with with erotic lyricism and inventiveness on an epic scale.

Marie Redonnet. *Nevermore*. Tr. Jordan Stump. University of Nebraska Press. 1996. 123 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8032-3912-2. Paper: \$12.00; ISBN 0-8032-8959-6. When Deputy Willy Bost arrives in the mysterious border town of San Rosa, he does not know why he has been sent there or what he will find. What he encounters, gradually, is an obscure network of private and public relations tarnished by corruption, ambition, manipulation, and deceit. Nothing is clear in the workings of this sinister city; and no one is altogether innocent. Murder, bombings, deceptions, seductions—all come to the fore in this spellbinding portrait of a society that seems both absurd and real. Stump has also translated Redonnet's *Hôtel Splendid*, *Forever Valley*, and *Rose Mellie Rose*. He is assistant professor of French at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Jacqueline Risset. *The Translation Begins [La Traduction commence]*. Tr. Jennifer Moxley. Burning Deck [Christian Bourgois, 1978]. 1996. 96 pp. Paper: \$10.00; ISBN Works include "Corus (Story)," "Cor (Discourse)," "Timor (Red)," and "The Translation Begins."

Alain Robbe-Grillet and René Magritte. *La Belle Captive*. Tr. Ben Stoltzfus. University of California Press [La Bibliothèque des Arts, Lausanne & Paris, 1975]. 1995. 230 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-520-05916-6. This is the *nouveau roman*. Objects move through space without regard to laws of nature, characters move through the text engaging in a maddening complexity of events, plot has given over to achronology, contradiction, and indeterminacy. Robbe-Grillet's *La Belle Captive* was published in 1975 and illustrated with 77 paintings by René Magritte. Robbe-Grillet has not chosen Magritte's

paintings to mirror his text. Rather, he uses them as pretexts for the novel, letting them generate themes for an imaginary discourse that parallels their imagery, glosses them, contradicts them. Magritte's rejection of illusionistic perspective and his transgressions of the normal boundaries between animal, mineral, and vegetable worlds—rocks float like clouds, birds grow like leaves—is analogous to Robbe-Grillet's rejection of the conventions of fiction. In place of storyline, plot, and flesh-and-blood characters, Robbe-Grillet gives us a fragmented discourse, a plot that frustrates expectations, and a proliferation of characters whose identities remain problematic. Stoltzfus is Professor Emeritus at the University of California, Riverside. He is the author of *Red, White and Blue* (a novel, 1989) and *Postmodern Poetics: Nouveau Roman and Innovative Fiction* (1987).

Marquis de Sade. *Crimes of Love [Les Crimes de l'Amour]*. Tr. Margaret Crosland. Peter Owen/Dufour Editions, Inc. 1996. 126 pp. Cloth: \$28.95; ISBN 0-7206-0826-0. Paper: ISBN 0-7206-0986-0. In *Crimes of Love* Sade contends that love can often lead to crime, and thence to punishment. Unlike the villains of his major novels, those described in these pages—men and women—all come to a sticky end. Sade was fascinated by incest but claimed that he did "not want to make vice liked." Includes "Faxelange or The Wrongs of Ambition," "Dorgeville or The Criminal through Virtue," "Rodrigo or The Enchanted Tower," "Lorenza and Antonio: An Italian Story," and "The Comtesse de Sancerre or Her Daughter's Rival: Anecdote from the Court of Burgundy." Crosland's translations of Sade's stories include *The Mystified Magistrate*, *The Gothic Tales*, and *The Passionate Philosopher: A Marquis de Sade Reader*.

## GERMAN

Gino Chiellino. *Fremde: A Discourse*. Tr. Louise von Flotow. Guernica. 1995. 52 pp. Paper: \$8.00; ISBN 1-55071-020-6. Chiellino is a foreigner (a *Fremder*)—an Italian living in Germany and writing in German. The experience of being foreign defines his life and his work, and it is the issue he addresses in this selection of essays. Yet Chiellino is not just a foreigner; he is doubly estranged: in his texts there is no returning "home," nor is it possible to ever arrive in the new culture. The essence of foreignness seems rather to derive from a critical distance on those who base their identity on some national state as well as on those foreigners who disdain assimilation. He explores the impact of this debate on foreign artists and their (non)integration into the German cultural scene. Chiellino's 1992 collection of poetry, *Sich die Fremde nehmen*, won the Chamisso Prize awarded for writing by a foreigner in Germany.

Lutz van Dijk. *Damned Strong Love: The True Story of Willi G. and Stephan K.* Tr. Elizabeth D. Crawford. Henry Holt & Company. 1995. 138 pp. Cloth: \$15.95; ISBN 0-8050-3770-5. When the Nazis overran Poland in the fall of 1939, fifteen-year-

old Stefan K.'s father was sent off to a German labor camp. Now, in the tense days of occupation, Stefan scrambles to help take care of his family. Yet when his brother, Mikolai, takes him out after curfew to celebrate his 16th birthday, Stefan makes a life-changing discovery: he yearns for men the way his brother does for women. As he juggles his time between his day job at a bakery and his evening work in the theater, Stefan becomes more aware of his desires. And then he meets Willi, his one true love. Everything about Stefan's love affair with Willi is damned. They are both men. Willi is an Austrian airman, a Nazi soldier. Stefan's brother is actively fighting the Germans in the Polish Resistance. Yet Stefan and Willi's love sees no boundaries of nation, race, or gender. It is too strong to deny. And too passionate to survive. When the Gestapo discovers their affair, not only their love but their lives are in great danger. Crawford has translated Peter Harling's *Crutches*, for which she won the Mildred Batchelder Award.

Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach. *Their Pavel [Das Gemeindegeld]*. Tr. Lynne Tatlock. Camden House, Inc. 1996. 171 pp. Cloth: \$55.95; ISBN 1-57113-078-0. Based on a true incident, *Their Pavel* (first published in 1887) investigates the troubled social relations of a moravian village that is endowed with the right of local governance but steeped in the habits of its former feudal relationship to the local barony. The novel explores the parallel fates of the children of a hanged murderer and thief: Melada, the appealing and alert daughter, is adopted on a whim by the aging baroness while Pavel, the awkward and taciturn son, is thrown upon the uncertain mercy of the village. Both children suffer the stigma of their father's crime. Milada, who is educated in a convent school, pursues a radical asceticism to atone for her father's sins: Pavel, on the other hand, determines to fulfill every prejudice that the villagers harbor against him. Tatlock is Professor of German at Washington University in St. Louis. She has translated works by Leibniz, Abraham a Santa Clara, and Catharina Regina von Greiffenberg.

Theodor Fontane. *Effi Briest*. Trs. Hugh Rorrison and Helen Chambers. Angel Books/Dufour Editions, Inc. 1995. 245 pp. Paper: \$18.95; ISBN 0-946162-44-1. Effi Briest is set in the hey-day of Bismarck's Berlin. It is Germany's answer to *Madame Bovary*, *Middlemarch*, and *Anna Karenina*. Effi, its effervescent seventeen-year-old heroine, is a most unforgettable heroine. A marriage is arranged between Effi, daughter of a country gentleman, and the considerably older Geert von Innstetten, a civil servant and confidant of Bismarck. In the remote Baltic town where they first live, Effi has an adulterous affair; when the couple later move to Berlin, the social code exacts a drastic price. Fontane's depiction of a rigid, hypocritical, male-dominated society is full of subtle humor and irony.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. *Faust: Parts 1 and 2*. Ed. Victor Lange. Tr. Louis MacNiece. Continuum Books. 1994.

296 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8264-0724-2. Paper: ISBN 0-8264-0725-0. The German Library, Volume 18. In his retelling of the tale of the legendary 15th-century medical doctor, theologian, and magician, Goethe attains a mythological level of human greatness and failure, pride and humility, faith and deception. The translation is by the poet MacNiece, prepared originally for radio broadcast on the 200th anniversary of Goethe's birth.

Günter Grass. *Cat and Mouse: And Other Writings*. Ed. A. Leslie Willson. Continuum Books. 1994. 293 pp. Cloth: \$29.50; ISBN 0-8264-0732-3. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-8264-0733-1. The German Library, Volume 93. This volume features two important works: *Cat and Mouse* (Tr. Ralph Manheim) and *The Meeting at Telgte*, as well as a selection of poems and speeches.

Peter Handke. *Voyage to the Sonorous Land or The Art of Asking and The Hour We Knew Nothing of Each Other*. Tr. Gitta Honegger. Yale University Press. 1996. 160 pp. Cloth: \$25.00; ISBN 0-300-06273-7. Paper: \$12.00; ISBN 0-300-06274-5. In these two plays, here translated into English for the first time, Handke inquires into the boundaries and life-affirming qualities of language. At a time when language no longer seems to serve the purposes of a genuine human community, Handke asks, is such a community possible? In *Voyage*, a cockeyed optimist and a spoilsport lead a group of characters to the hinterland of their imaginations, where they search not for the right answers but for the right questions. *Hour* takes place in a city square where more than 400 characters pass by one another without speaking a single word. Honegger is chair of the Department of Drama at the Catholic University of America.

Gerhart Hauptman. *Plays: Before Dark, The Weavers, The Beaver Coat*. Eds. Reinhold Grimm and Caroline Molina y Vedia. Continuum Books. 1994. 227 pp. Cloth: ISBN 0-8264-0726-9. Paper: 0-8264-0727-7. The German Library, Volume 57. Three plays by one of the pioneers of modern drama.

Gert Hofmann. *The Film Explainer [Der Kinoerzähler]*. Tr. Michael Hofman. Northwestern University Press [Carl Hanser Verlag Munchen, 1990]. 1996. 250 pp. Cloth: \$26.95; ISBN 0-8101-1293-0. Winner of the 1995 *Independent Foreign Fiction Award*. The story begins in the early 1930s in Limbaugh, a small industrial village in Saxony suffering a severe depression; most people are out of work. A young boy lives with his mother and grandparents in a small apartment. The boy, grandfather, Karl Hofmann, narrates silent movies at the local Apollo cinema. The job pays poorly and is largely unnecessary, as the films have subtitles and the audiences are quite small, but Karl sees himself as an artist. Obsessed to the point of megalomania, he is convinced that only his explanation will make the movies accessible to the ever-shrinking audience. Soon the "talkies" arrive, and Karl is explaining only two films per week. He argues with the Jewish theater owner and loses his sense of purpose and joins the Nazi Party—the first step toward

his horrible end.

Oly Komenda-Soentgerath. *In the Shadow of Prague*. Tr. Tom Beck. Forest Books/Dufour Editions [Verlag Wissenschaft und Politik, 1990]. 1996. 110 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 1-85610-041-3. Winner of the Andreas-Gryphius Prize. This is a story of the days in Prague after World War II. Komenda as a young girl, born there, and a bilingual speaker with perfect Czech, is interned by the Revolutionary Guards just because she happens to be of German origin and by chance lives in an area once inhabited mainly by Nazis. Her long and perilous journey through various internment camps which lasts a year and a half, finally ends when she and her family arrive by cattle truck in the completely destroyed city of Cologne where she marries and tries to survive the hardships of setting up a new home with little money but plenty of ingenuity.

Karl Philipp Moritz. *Anton Reiser: A Psychological Novel*. Tr. John R. Russell. Camden House. 1996. 300 pp. Cloth: \$45.95; ISBN 1-57113-046-2. Well received in its own day and all but forgotten in the last century, *Anton Reiser* (1785) has regained popular attention. Subtitled a "psychological novel" by its author, who also called it a biography, the work is actually a highly accurate autobiography. It is also an unusual one in that it is not a self-satisfied summation of a successful career, but a depiction by a thirty-year-old of how his first 20 years became grievously misdirected. This is Moritz's spiritual journey, describing his struggle to move beyond the narrow Pietistic world of his youth in an attempt to grasp the whole of reality, a struggle that is constantly present in this work. Russell is professor emeritus of German at SUNY Stony Brook. Among his translations are Goethe's *Wilhelm Meister's Theatrical Calling* and the cotranslation of the comedies of Luise Gottsched.

Friedrich Nietzsche. *Philosophical Writings*. Eds. Reinhold Grimm and Caroline Molina y Vedia. Continuum Books. 1995. 270 pp. Cloth: \$29.50; ISBN 0-8264-0278-X. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-8264-0279-8. The German Library, Volume 48. This volume includes writings from *The Birth of Tragedy; Untimely Meditations; Schopenhauer as Educator; Human, All-Too-Human; The Gay Science; Beyond Good and Evil*, and more.

W. G. Sebald. *The Emigrants [Die Ausgewanderten]*. Tr. Michael Hulse. New Directions [Vito von Eichborn GmbH & Co. Verlag KG, Frankfurt am Main, 1993]. 1996. 276 pp. Cloth: \$22.95; ISBN 0-8112-1338-2. Part fiction, part historical fact, *The Emigrants* is composed of four long narratives which at first appear to be the straightforward accounts of the lives of several Jewish exiles in England, Austria, and America. The narrator literally follows their footsteps, studding each story with actual photographs and creating the impression that the reader is poring over a family album. But gradually, Sebald's prose, which combines

documentary description with almost hallucinatory fiction, exerts a new magic, and the four stories merge into one overwhelming evocation of exile and loss.

Frank Wedekind. *Spring's Awakening: Tragedy of Childhood*. Tr. Eric Bentley. Applause Books. 1996. 84 pp. Paper: \$9.95; ISBN 1-55783-245-5. English version and Ten Notes by Bentley. *Spring's Awakening* is a tragi-comedy of teenage sex. Its fourteen-year-old heroine, Wendla, is killed by abortion pills. The young Moritz, terrorized by the world around him, and especially by his teachers, shoots himself. The ending seems likely to be the suicide of Moritz's friend, Melchior, but in a confrontation with a mysterious stranger (the famous Masked Man) he finally manages to shed his illusions and face the consequences.

## GREEK

Euripides. *Alcestis and Other Plays*. Tr. John Davie. Penguin Books. 1996. 194 pp. Paper: \$9.95; ISBN 0-14-044643-5. Euripides' characters, all superbly eloquent, draw on fierce contemporary debates about the nature of justice, politics, and religion. His women are perhaps the most sympathetically and powerfully presented in ancient literature. Included are *Alcestis*, *Medea*, *The Children of Heracles*, and *Hippolytus*.

Rhea Galanaki. *The Life of Ismail Ferik Pasha: A Novel [O vios tou Ismail Ferik Passa]*. Tr. Kay Cicellis. Peter Owen/Dufour Editions [AGRA, 1989]. 1996. 166 pp. Cloth: \$29.95; ISBN 0-7206-0965-8. Captured as a prisoner of war during Greece's struggle for independence, Ismail Ferik Pasha is taken from Crete to Egypt. His name, his language, his religion and his identity are transformed, as he rises to become the Minister of War. But he remains haunted by the conflict between the land of his birth and his adoptive culture. Nearly 50 years after being taken captive, he returns to quell an uprising in Crete, and there he dies in battle. Based on historical events, this novel is a timely examination of nationalism and cultural identity, and an attempt to assimilate the Ottoman occupation into the Greek cultural heritage. Galanaki's other works include poetry, short stories, and the novel *I Shall Sign Louis* (1993). She received the Nikos Kazantzakis Prize.

*Homer in English*. Ed. George Steiner. Penguin Books. 1996. 357 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-14-044621-4. From Lydgate's *Troy Book*, Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde*, and Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida* to Pound's *Cantos*, Joyce's *Ulysses*, and Derek Walcott's *Omeros*, Homer has been the most translated author in our literature. Homer has elicited a fantastic wealth and quality of response, from Hobbes to Gladstone, from T. E. Lawrence to Robert Graves. Translations by Chapman, Dryden, Pope, Shelley, and Christopher Logue are masterpieces in their own right. This selection assembles highlights and representative movements from six centuries.

## HEBREW

Shmuel HaNagid. *Selected Poems of Shmuel HaNagid*. Tr. Peter Cole. Princeton University Press. 1996. 236 pp. Cloth: \$39.95; ISBN 0-691-01121-4. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-691-01120-6. The first major poet of the Hebrew literary renaissance of Moslem Spain, HaNagid was also the prime minister of the Moslem state of Granada, battlefield commander of the non-Jewish Granadan army, and one of the leading religious figures in a medieval Jewish world that stretched from Andalusia to Baghdad. Cole's translations capture the poet's combination of secular and religious passion, as well as his inspired linking of Hebrew and Arabic poetic practice. Includes such works as "In Fact I Love That Fawn," "The War with Yadir," "Stab Your Heart," "Could Kings Right a People Gone Bad," and "See the Fraud Flow By." Cole is the author of *Rift*, a book of poems.

Orna Rav-Hon. *Firebird*. Trs. Karen Alkalay-Gut, Stanley H. Barkan, and Riva Rubin. Cross-Cultural Communications. 1996. 48 pp. Paper: \$7.50; ISBN 0-89304-491-1. Bilingual collection including the haunting "A Poem to Nai'fa Rasol," to an Arab woman who had been tied to her bed for 16 years by her father in order to protect the family honor. Also "Pauper's Tithe," "Footprints on the Summits," "The Edge of Vanishing," "His Daughter," and "A Touch." Rav-Hon has published two books of poetry in Hebrew: *Keof Hachol*, which won the Tel Aviv Prize for Culture and Literature, and *N'giyot shel Kochavim*, which won the President's Prize. *Firebird* is her first book published in the U.S.

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## HOPÍ

Mumuspi'yyugza Tuutuwuksi. *The Bedbugs' Night Dance and Other Hopi Sexual Tales*. Ed. and Tr. Ekkehart Malotki. For Northern Arizona University by University of Nebraska Press. 1995. 399 pp. Cloth: 0-8032-3190-3. The mysteries and complexities of sex—the wonder of sexual initiation, the discomfort of sexual desire, the penalties of indulgence, and the power of erotic love—have all found expression in Hopi tales. Sometimes cast in animal fables, sometimes presented in monstrous exaggeration to emphasize the power of sexual appetite, the bawdy tales evoke the candor of Hopi imagination and the vitality of Hopi culture. This volume gives each tale in the Hopi and in English translation on facing pages. The tales include Bedbug Boy and his constantly interrupted dinner, how the Hehey'as tricked the Itsivus and took advantage of their wives, and how the Horned Lizard girls found a new use for chili powder. Malotki teaches at Northern Arizona University. He has compiled and translated *Hopi Coyote Tales* and *Hopi*

## HUNGARIAN

Zsigmond Móricz. *Be Faithful Unto Death [Légy jó mindhalálig]*. Tr. Stephen Vizinczey. Central European University Press/Oxford University Press. 1995. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-85866-060-2. *Be Faithful Unto Death* is the moving story of a bright and sensitive schoolboy growing up in an old-established boarding school in the city of Debrecen in eastern Hungary. Misi, a dreamer and would-be writer, is falsely accused of stealing a winning lottery ticket. First published in 1921, the novel brims with vivid detail from the provincial life that Móricz knew in Hungary. His ability to rediscover for us what it feels like to be a child makes this portrait a Hungarian and a European classic. Móricz's *The Torch* and a collection of his short stories, *Seven Pennies*, are available in English. Vizinczey is a writer, translator, and critic. His books include *In Praise of Older Women*, *An Innocent Millionaire* and *Truth and Lies in Literature*.

Janos Nyiri. *Battlefields and Playgrounds [Madarország]*. Trs. William Brandon and the author. Farrar, Straus and Giroux [Teka, Budapest, 1990]. 1995. 536 pp. Cloth: \$25.00; ISBN 0-374-10918-4. Named Book of the Year by *The Financial Times*, *Battlegrounds and Playgrounds* is the story of József Sodor, a tough, irreverently witty Jewish boy growing up in WWII Hungary. József carries the reader into the whirl of everyday life in war-torn Budapest, from the eve of the Holocaust in Hungary to the Russian liberation in 1945. Through his eyes, we witness history, or, as he sees it, the adult world gone mad. This adventure story reminds us of the wisdom of children and the power of humor in the face of tragedy. Nyiri is the author of the novel *Streets* and the play *If Winter Comes*.

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## ITALIAN

Dante Alighieri. *The Divine Comedy of Dante Alighieri, Volume I: Inferno*. Ed. and Tr. Robert M. Durling. Oxford University Press. 1996. 654 pp. Cloth: \$39.95; ISBN 0-19-508740-2. Bilingual. Introduction and Notes by Ronald L. Martinez and Robert M. Durling. This first volume of this new *Divine Comedy* presents the Italian text of the *Inferno* and, on facing pages, a new prose translation. Martinez and Durling's Introduction and Notes are designed with the first-time reader in mind but will be useful to others as well. The concise Introduction presents essential biographical and historical background and a discussion of the form of the poem. The Notes are more extensive than those in most translations currently available, and they contain much new material. In addition, 16 short essays explore the autobiographical dimensions of the poem, the problematic body analogy, the question of Christ's presence in Hell, and individual cantos that have been the subject

of controversy. Durling is Professor Emeritus of Italian at the University of California, Santa Cruz and is translator of *Petrarch's Lyric Poems* (1976).

Rosita Copioli. *The Blazing Lights of the Sun*. Tr. Renata Treitel. Sun & Moon Press/Consortium Book Sales. 1996. 132 pp. Paper: \$11.95; ISBN 1-55713-195-3. Bilingual. Working from the idea of the "beautiful" going back to Lucretius' *De rerum Natura*, Copioli explores the myths of origin and concepts of the infinite. For her the beginning of life was a female genesis, and her expression of cosmic order reflects, as Treitel expresses it, "female auto-erotic fantasies of generation without copulation." Poems include, among others, "Penteo/Pentheus," "Albero/Tree," "L'anima del vegetale/The Vegetative Soul," "Saggio fisico dell'itabilità/Physical Test of Instability," and "Il viola non è un colore/Violet Is Not a Color."

Alda Merini. *A Rage of Love [Delirio amoroso]*. Tr. Pasquale Verdicchio. Guernica [Melangolo editore, 1989]. 1996. 76 pp. Paper: \$10.00; ISBN 1-55071-013-3. "In these pages, everything that is touched, even the most painful theme, is transformed into poetry. Every word is a key that finds organ pipes ready to amplify and sublimate the desperation. It's like finding one's self in front of a phenomenon of unconscious lyric power" (Ambrogio Borsani, from the Afterword). Merini has published *The Presence of Orpheus*, *Fear of God*, *Roman Wedding*, *You Are Peter*, *The Other Truth: Diary of an Other*, *Testament*, and *The Torment of Figures*. Verdicchio has published various translations, and his most recent collection of poems, *Approaches to Absence*, appeared in 1994.

*Petrarch: The Canzoniere or Rerum Vulgarium fragmenta*. Tr. Mark Musa. Indiana University Press. 1996. 800 pp. Cloth: \$59.95; ISBN 0-253-33944-8. Bilingual. Petrarch's personification of the hapless lover has become one of our major models. Indeed, in many of his poems of the pain and the bitter pleasure of love, we recognize a vivid and timely picture of existential man. The 366 poems of Petrarch's *Canzoniere* form one of the most influential books of poetry in Western literature. In this bilingual edition, Musa provides verse translations, annotations, and an introduction co-authored with Barbara Manfredi. Musa, Distinguished Professor of Italian at Indiana University, has translated Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio, and Machiavelli. He is editor of *Dante's Inferno: The Indiana Critical Edition*.

Maria Luisa Spaziani. *Star of Free Will [La stella del libero arbitrio]*. Trs. Irene Marchegiani Jones and Carol Lettieri. Guernica [Arnoldo Mondadori Editore, 1986]. 1996. 136 pp. Paper: \$13.00; ISBN 1-55071-002-8. Amidst the many literary movements in Italian poetry since World War II, Spaziani has carved out her own lyrical voice, using striking imagery, complex metrics, and classical control to evoke the disorder of the postmodern world. This collection contains poems such as

"Barcelona," "The Palette Goes Wild," "Flashes from an Italian Journey," "Fall at Prima Porta," and "Histrionic light give me back his cloudy profile." In addition to her nine volumes of poetry, Spaziani has published critical essays, fiction and plays. Jones is an Associate Professor of Italian at Cal State, Long Beach. Lettieri is a San Francisco-based freelance writer and editor.

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## JAPANESE

K\_b\_Abe. *Kangaroo Notebook [Kangar\_ N\_to]*. Tr. Maryellen Toman Mori. Alfred A. Knopf [Shinch\_sha, 1991]. 1996. 183 pp. Cloth: \$22.00; ISBN 0-679-42412-1. At breakfast one morning, the narrator of *Kangaroo Notebook* discovers to his horror that what appear to be radish sprouts are growing out of his shins. Funny and terrifying by turns, this is the story of an ordinary man in the grip of bizarre and thoroughly extraordinary forces—a self-propelled hospital bed that takes him literally to the edge of hell, doctors eager to cure the wrong ailments, mysterious windstorms, a nurse devoted to taking blood (her monthly quota is about three quarts), infant ghosts, and an American known as Master Hammer Killer who is making a film called *Fatal Accidents*.

Mori\_gai. *The Wild Goose [Gan]*. Tr. Burton Watson. The Center for Japanese Studies at the University of Michigan. 1995. 166 pp. Cloth: 0-939512-70-X. Paper: 0-939512-71-8. \_gai, one of the giants of modern Japanese literature, wrote *The Wild Goose* at the turn of the century. Set in the 1880s, it was, for contemporary readers, a nostalgic return to a time when the nation was embarking on an era of dramatic change. \_gai's narrator is a middle-aged man reminiscing about an unconsummated affair, dating to his student days, between his classmate and a young woman kept by a moneylender. The author's sympathetic and penetrating portrayal of the dilemmas and frustrations faced by women in this early period of Japan's modernization makes the story of particular interest to readers today. Watson has published over 30 translations from Chinese and Japanese literature. He has won Columbia University Translation Center's Gold Medal Award and has twice won the PEN Translation Prize.

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## LATIN

Petronius. *Satyrica*. Eds. and Trs. R. Bracht Branham and Daniel Kinney. University of California Press. 1996. 184 pp. Cloth: \$28.00; ISBN 0-520-20599-5. Encolpius, a soldier of fortune, despiser of pedantry, lecherous and contrary, and the beautiful Giton, who lives off his charms, are invited to a gargantuan banquet hosted by the prodigal, pompous, newly rich Trimalchio. When the feast turns into a riot, the two, joined by the down-on-his-luck poet Eumolpus, leave town quickly to avoid trouble. So begins the *Satyrica*, a bizarre odyssey through

the carnivalesque landscape of Nero's empire. Petronius had been Nero's intimate and advisor on all matters of artistic taste and elegance, but a jealous rival turned Nero against him. Petronius eluded his former patron by ending his own life. Branham is the author of *Unruly Eloquence: Lucian and the Comedy of Traditions* (1989), which won Harvard's Wilson Prize.

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*Virgil in English*. Ed. K. W. Gransden. Penguin Books. 1996. 345 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 0-14-042386-9. From Chaucer to W. H. Auden and Robert Lowell, Virgil is a defining presence in English poetry. *Eclogues* and *Georgics* inspired the pastorals of Spenser, Milton, and Pope; the *Aeneid's* pathos, spiritual insights, and long-suffering hero—who struggles with doubt, despair, and the loss of everything he loves to found the Roman race—made it the model epic. Dryden's complete Virgil in heroic couplets sums up and supersedes his predecessors, yet later translators include Wordsworth, William Morris, Robert Bridges, and Cecil Day Lewis. This selection consists largely of extracts from straight translations, along with a number of pieces illustrating Virgil's influence; celebrated episodes like the death of Dido and Aeneas' descent into the underworld appear in several different versions.

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## MALTESE

Mario Azzopardi. *Naked As Water: An Unusual Collection of Poems from Malta*. Tr. Grazio Falzon. Xenos Books. 1996. 176 pp. Cloth: ISBN 1-879378-11-6. Paper: ISBN 1-879378-12-4. Maltese literature is a recent arrival on the European cultural scene, and Azzopardi is its most colorful practitioner. This book contains selections of his poetry arranged into five sections: 1) *Nocturnes and Visions*—poems of angst, nightmares, scenes from the village and city; 2) *Anima*—poems about women; 3) *The Seven-Headed Dragon*—poems of the quest; 4) *Equinox*—poems on religious themes; 5) *Tombstone With No Epitaph*—abstract poems, poems on geometric relationships, poems about poetry itself.

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## PERSIAN

Iraj Pezeshkzad. *My Uncle Napoleon [D\_'i-i Jan N\_puli'un]*. Tr. Dick Davis. Mage Publishers, Inc. 1996. 512 pp. Cloth: \$29.95; ISBN 0-934211-48-5. Set in a garden in Tehran in the early 1940s, where three families live under the tyranny of a paranoid patriarch, *My Uncle Napoleon* is a rich, comic, and on-target send-up of Iranian society. The novel is, at its core, a love story. But the young narrator's delicate and pure love for his cousin Layli is constantly jeopardized by an unforgettable cast of family members and the hilarious mayhem of their intrigues and machinations. It is also a social satire, a lampooning of the widespread Iranian belief that foreigners (particularly the British) are responsible for events that occur in

Iran. Davis is associate professor of Persian at Ohio State. He has translated Ferdowsi's *The Legend of Seyavash* and, with his wife, Attar's *Conference of the Birds*.

Moniru Ravanipur. *Satan's Stones [Sang'ha-yi Shaytan]*. Ed. M. R. Ghanoonparvar. Trs. Persis Karim, Atoosha Kourosh, Parichehr Moin, Dylan Oehler-Stricklin, Reza Shirazi, and Catherine Williamson. University of Texas Press. 1996. 77 pp. Cloth: \$25.00; ISBN 0-292-77075-8. Paper: \$9.95; ISBN 0-292-77076-6. Often set in remote regions of Iran, these nine stories explore many facets of contemporary Iranian life, particularly the ever-shifting relations between men and women. Their experimental style is akin to "magical realism." The stories include "Satan's Stones," "My Blue Bird Is Dead," "Love's Tragic Tale," "We Only Fear the Future," "Jeyran," "Haros," "Play," "Another Version," and "Three Pictures."

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### POLISH

Jan Kochanowski. *Laments*. Trs. Stanislaw Baranczak and Seamus Heaney. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 1995. 59 pp. Cloth: \$17.50; ISBN 0-374-18290-6. Bilingual. Kochanowski is one of the great Polish poets of the 16th century. *Laments*, beautifully rendered by contemporary poets Heaney and Baranczak, will show why he is regarded as a pioneer in his language. Because of its intimate and domestic nature, this poignant series of poems on the death of Kochanowski's young daughter was a radical and rebellious departure from the literary conventions of his day. But it is the same intimacy that now gives *Laments* a startling potency and realism for contemporary readers. The poems express a candid grief, a profound angst, and an undeniably modern sense of humiliation and religious doubt.

Anna Swir. *Talking to My Body*. Trs. Czeslaw Milosz and Leonard Nathan. Copper Canyon Press/Consortium Book Sales. 1996. 132 pp. Paper: \$14.00; ISBN 1-55659-108-X. Open in her feminism and eroticism, Swir's poetry explores the life of the female body from dread to delight, from the depths of agony during World War II to delirious sensual delights, and always with relentless honesty. Some of the more than 100 poems collected here are "A Cardboard Suitcase," "He Did Not Jump from the Third Floor," "What is a Pineal Gland," "Iron Currycomb," "I Say to My Body: You Carcass," and "I Look with My Eyes Flooded by Tears." Translator Milosz, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1980, is the author of dozens of books, including *Facing the River*, *A Year of a Hunter*, and *Beginning with My Streets*. Nathan is the author of nine volumes of poetry, including *Returning Your Call*.

Stanislaw Ignacy Witkiewicz. *Insatiability [Nienasylenie]*. Tr. Louis Iribarne. Northwestern University Press. 1996. 530 pp. Cloth: \$40.00; ISBN 0-8101-1133-0. This novel expresses the tortured intersection of political and personal destinies in Eastern

Europe, tracing the adventures of a young Pole whose own fate parallels the collapse of Western civilization following a Chinese communist invasion from the East. Iribarne is professor of Slavic languages at the University of Toronto.

### PORTUGUESE

Carlos Drummond de Andrade. *Travelling in the Family*. Eds. and Trs. Thomas Colchie, Mark Strand, and Elizabeth Bishop. The Echo Press/W. W. Norton & Company. 1995. 134 pp. Paper: \$13.00; ISBN 0-88001-434-2. With additional translations by Elizabeth Bishop and Gregory Rabassa. Spanning his entire career as a poet—while concentrating on his most fruitful period, the 1930s and 1940s—*Travelling in the Family* offers such poems as "Seven-Sided Poem," "Don't Kill Yourself," "The Dead in Frock Coats," "Death in a Plane," "Morning Street," and "The Disappearance of Luisa Porto." Such works helped to define the tenor of modernism in Brazil and throughout Latin America. This edition also includes an Introduction by Colchie that evaluates Drummond's place in modern Brazilian literature.

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### PUNJABI

Fakhar Zaman. *The Prisoner [Bandi'wan]*. Tr. Khalid Hasan. Peter Owen/Dufour Editions. 1996. 118 pp. Cloth: \$28.95; ISBN 0-7206-1010-9. An unnamed prisoner—known to gaolers and inmates alike as "Z"—languishes in a tiny cell for an unspecified crime. His days are measured out in lashes, as he is repeatedly ordered to confess his crime, or face the highest penalty. "Z's" mistake is to have spoken out against the prevailing military government in Pakistan, and his eloquent poetry is the best defence for the prosecution. Gradually, however, "Z" assumes the status of a hero in a drama in which the roles are subtly reversed: the accused becomes the accuser, the cruel and oppressive regime, the criminal.

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### ROMANIAN

Norman Manea. *The Black Envelope [Plicul Negru]*. Tr. Patrick Camiller. Farrar, Straus and Giroux [Editura Cartea Románasc\_, 1986]. 1995. 329 pp. Cloth: \$25.00; ISBN 0-374-11397-1. A splendid, violent spring suddenly grips Bucharest in the 1980s after a brutal winter. Tolea, a defiant and eccentric middle-aged intellectual who has been dismissed from his job as a high-school teacher on "moral grounds," is attempting to clear up the mystery of his father's death 40 years after the fact. He is gradually and irresistibly drawn into a web of suspicion in which images of an underground world linger obsessively: the organization of deaf-mutes whose nightmarish presence recalls the Single Party itself; the polite and timid

informer, with his modest, homely reports; the black dog who has the same name as, and seems to be a metamorphosis of, the man pursued by Tolea—an elusive photographer who has left an astonishing photo archive of Communist society. The recipient of Guggenheim and MacArthur Foundation Awards, Manea is the author of *October, Eight O'Clock; On Clown*; and, most recently, *Compulsory Happiness*.

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## RUSSIAN

Nikolai Gogol. *Plays and Petersburg Tales*. Ed. and Tr. Christopher English. Oxford University Press. 1995. 358 pp. Paper: \$6.95; ISBN 0-19-282881-9. In these tales Gogol guides us through the elegant streets of St. Petersburg, said to be "built on bones" as so many perished in its construction. Something of the deception and fury of the city's creation seems to lurk beneath its harmonious facade, however, and it confounds its inhabitants with false dreams and absurd visions. St. Petersburg is also the setting for "Marriage," Gogol's satire on courtship and cowardice. Finally, for "The Government Inspector," a great comedy, we move to the provinces, although even here St. Petersburg's preoccupation with status and appearances makes itself felt.

Osip Mandelstam. *The Voronezh Notebooks—Poems: 1935-1937*. Trs. Richard and Elizabeth McKane. Bloodaxe Books/Dufour Editions. 1996. 128 pp. Paper: \$16.95; ISBN 1-85224-205-1. Written while Mandelstam was in exile, the 90 poems of the three *Voronezh Notebooks* include such works as "Black candle," "The day was five-headed," "I shall perform a smoky ceremony," "Sadko," "The master gunsmith," "Yeast of the world," "Human heads," "Eyes sharper than a honed scythe," "If our enemies captured me," "What can I do, lost as I am in the sky," and "I present the green promise."

Victor Pelevin. *The Yellow Arrow [Zhéltaia strela]*. Tr. Andrew Bromfield. New Directions. 1996. 96 pp. Cloth: \$17.95; ISBN 0-8112-1324-2. This novella begins in such a lulling, pleasant movement that it is some time before we realize that we are passengers on a train named The Yellow Arrow, which appears to encompass the whole of human life, that has no beginning, no end, and makes no stops. It is ultimately bound for a ruined bridge. Andrei, a mystic for whom the sound of the wheels drowns out life in the carriages, begins to look for a way to get off. The consequences of *perestroika* include a Western businessman on board whose profit-seeking schemes produce familiar patriotic protests and secret envy. Yet underpinning it all is the metaphysical sound of ever-turning wheels and the horrors that come from sudden leaps into existential metaphor. Pelevin won the 1993 Russian Booker Award for Short Stories.

Vasily Shukshin. *Stories from a Siberian Village*. Trs. Laura Michael and John Givens. Northern Illinois University Press.

1996. 304 pp. Cloth: \$35.00; ISBN 0-87580-211-7. Paper: \$16.00; ISBN 0-87580-572-8. This collection introduces Shukshin to English readers with 25 stories that reflect the Siberian origins of his artistic identity. These stories, most of which have never before appeared in English, are set in a remote Siberian village caught between rural traditions and modern Soviet life. There Shukshin's peasants—survivors of revolution, collectivization, and war—seek their identity in a "brave new world." Stories include "Country Folk," "Styopka," "A Roof Over Your Head," "Passing Through," "Gogol and Raika," "Uncle Yermolai," and "Siberian Pies." Michael is a freelance translator, and Givens is assistant professor of Russian at the University of Rochester.

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## SERBIAN

Meša Selimović. *Death and the Dervish [Derviš i smrt]*. Tr. Bogdan Rakić and Stephen M. Dickey. Northwestern University Press. 1996. 480 pp. Cloth: \$39.95; ISBN 0-8101-1296-5. Paper: \$15.95; ISBN 0-8101-1297-3. *Death and the Dervish* is a first-person narrative told from the point of view of Sheikh Nuruddin, a dervish at a Sarajevo monastery in the 18th century during the Turkish occupation. The spiritual leaders of a group of Moslems, Sheikh Nuruddin has deliberately removed himself from the day-to-day activities of society. This distance is shattered, though, by the arrest of his brother. As Sheikh Nuruddin attempts to find out what has happened to his brother and to intervene on his behalf, he is drawn into the Kafkaesque world of Turkish authorities. As he does so, he begins to question his relations with society as a whole and his life choices in general. Rakić is a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Indiana University.

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## SERBO-CROATIAN

David Albahari. *Words Are Something Else*. Tr. Ellen Elias-Bursa. Northwestern University Press. 1996. 200 pp. Cloth: \$49.95; ISBN 0-8101-1305-8. Paper: \$15.95; ISBN 0-8101-1306-6. Albahari's carefully chiseled stories explore the full range of human experience. The 27 pieces in this collection represent the trends in his development, moving from an early preoccupation with the family and the Central European cultural milieu to later metafictional searches for the roots of his identity. Stories include "Is This Age, Kid?" "The Great Rebellion at the Stuln Nazi Camp," "My Wife Has Light Eyes," "The Cloak," "What Does That Prove?" and "Plastic Combs." Elias-Bursa\_ has also translated works by Slavenka Drakuli\_. She teaches Croatian and Serbian at Harvard University.

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## SPANISH

Laureano Albán. *Encyclopedia of Wonders/Enciclopedia de Maravillas, Volume I*. Tr. Frederick H. Fornoff. International Poetry Forum. 1995. 544 pp. Cloth: 9977-12-150-8. Volume 1 of 3. Bilingual. Traditionally, encyclopedias have defined the world from the icy perspective of science and reason. This surprising encyclopedia redefines the world with the warmth, humanity, and beauty proper to art. In more than 1500 pages, the three volumes offer more than 300 works of art by known Latin American artists.

Claribel Alegría. *Thresholds/Umbrales*. Tr. Darwin Flakoll. Curbsone Press/Consortium Book Sales. 1996. 69 pp. Paper: \$10.95; ISBN 1-880684-36-5. Bilingual. *Thresholds/Umbrales*, Alegría's lyric meditation in nine parts, is a summing up of her life and her art. Richly symbolic, the poem celebrates the joy and poetry but also evokes the trauma of Latin American history. Much of her work has been translated into English, including *Ashes of Izalco*, *Death of Somoza*, *Family Album*, *Fugues*, *Luisa in Realityland*, and *Tunnel to Canto Grande*.

Inés Arredondo. *Underground River and Other Stories [Obras completas]*. Tr. Cynthia Steele. University of Nebraska Press. 1996. 128 pp. Cloth: \$30.00; ISBN 0-8032-1034-5. Paper: \$12.00; ISBN 0-8032-5927-1. Arredondo's stories dwell on obsessions: erotic love, evil, purity, perversion, prostitution, tragic separation, and death. Set at the beginning of the 20th century in the tropical northwestern Mexican state of Sinaloa, the 12 stories collected here focus on female subjectivity. Arredondo's adult male characters are often predators, depraved collectors of adolescent virgins, like the plantation owners in "The Nocturnal Butterflies" and "Shadow in the Shadows" and the dying uncle in "The Shunammite," who is kept alive by incestuous lust. Since the young female protagonists rarely have fathers to protect them, the only thing standing between them and these lechers are older women. Perversely, these older women act as accomplices—along with the extended family and the Roman Catholic Church—in the sordid age-old traffic in women. *Underground River* is the first appearance of Arredondo's stories in English. Steele is the author of *Politics, Gender, and the Mexican Novel, 1968-1988: Beyond the Pyramid*.

Jaime Collyer. *People on the Prowl [Gente al acecho]*. Tr. Lillian Lorca de Tagle. Latin American Literary Review Press/Consortium Book Sales. 1995. 144 pp. Paper: \$15.95; ISBN 0-935480-73-0. This collection of 16 imaginative and innovative short stories takes readers into a world unlimited by time and space. Cannibals and military dictators, Sigmund Freud and the world chess champion are some of the varied and surprising characters his narration brings to life. Stories include "pharaoh exposed," "a man eight years older," "a businessman

disappears," "gray danube," "an empty cage," and "the ancestry."

Fabián Dobles. *Years Like Brief Days [Los años pequeños días]*. Tr. Joan Henry. Peter Owen/Dufour Editions [Editorial Costa Rica, 1989]. 1996. 128 pp. Cloth: \$29.00; ISBN 0-7206-0987-9. An elderly man decides to revisit the village where he grew up. He drives there in his old van, and so begins a nostalgic journey in which memories of his boyhood and his earliest sexual experiences are vividly evoked by scents and sounds and sights. His memories become more intense when he dozes off and dreams of the family house, full of talk and music and colorful relatives. After driving home he begins to write the letter he had failed to write to his mother during her lifetime. He tells her sadly but sometimes humorously of the solitary and shameful life he led when his father, the village doctor, placed him in a seminary to study for the priesthood. In episodes both farcical and painful he describes how the mental and physical abuse he experiences there cause him to reject his training and question his faith. Dobles' short stories have been translated into English, and his best-known novel, the colorful agrarian saga *El sitio de las Abras*, has gone through ten editions.

Alicia Kozameh. *Steps Under Water [Pasos bajo el agua]*. Tr. David E. Davis. University of California Press [Editorial Contrapunto, 1987]. 1996. 164 pp. Cloth: \$35.00; ISBN 0-520-20387-9. Paper: \$12.95; ISBN 0-520-20388-7. *Steps Under Water* is drawn from Kozameh's experiences as a political prisoner in Argentina during the "Dirty War" of the 1970s. Kozameh creates a personal, often hallucinatory account of physical and psychological imprisonment—of memory, resistance, and survival.

Enrique Jaramillo Levi. *The Shadow: Thirteen Stories in Opposition*. Tr. Samuel A. Zimmerman. Latin American Literary Review Press/Consortium Book Sales. 1996. 119 pp. Paper: \$13.95; ISBN 0-935480-78-1. These 13 mysterious vignettes trace out the internal wanderings of narrators revealing minds full of longing and confusion. In "The Fountain" a man attempts to hold on to his role as husband and father, while never understanding exactly what that role is. The tortured character in "The Shadow" re-experiences his own birth trying to recreate his identity roaming through the landscape of the innermost regions of the human mind. Jaramillo Levi also wrote *Duplications and Other Stories*. Zimmerman, Director of Latin American Studies at Southern Methodist University, has translated works by Nela Rio, Antonio Porpetta, David Ojeda, and Luis Arturo Ramos. His most recent translation is *Intramuros* by Luis Arturo Ramos.

Carilda Oliver Labra. *Dust Disappears*. Trs. Daniela Gioseffi and Enildo A. García. Cross-Cultural Communications. 1995. 48 pp. Paper: ISBN 0-89304-151-3. Latin American Writers—Chapbook 1. Bilingual. Foreword by Gregory

Rabassa. This erotic collection includes "Discurso de Eva/Eve's Discourse"; "Desnudo y para siempre/Naked and for Always"; "Yo cocine tu corazon de fiera/I Cooked Your Fierce Heart"; "Te borrare/I Will Erase You"; and "Los encuentros/The Encounters." Gioseffi won the 1990 American Book Award for her anthology *Women on War: Essential Voices for the Nuclear Age....* García's latest book is *The Correspondence Between Domingo del Monte and Alexander Everett, 1840-45*.

Fabio Morábito. *Toolbox/Caja de Herramientas*. Tr. Geoff Hargreaves. Xenos Books. 1996. 113 pp. Cloth: \$25.00; ISBN 1-879378-20-5. Paper: \$13.00; ISBN 1-879378-19-1. Bilingual. When working with a hammer, we feel its special character and sense its curious connection with our lives. So too with a knife, a sponge, a can of oil. A piece of string, on the other hand, is "pure suffering, a total survivor." Oil is "water that has lost its get up and go." Such considerations extend the normal categories of thought—cause and effect, space and time—to include those of insistent aggression, external concession and labyrinthine involvement. So with all the stories of *Toolbox*, which perhaps are not stories, but essays, or metaphysical reflections, or outright fantasies.

Antonio Skármeta. *Love—Fifteen*. Tr. Jonathan Tittler. Latin American Literary Review Press/Consortium Book Sales. 1996. 128 pp. Paper: \$13.94; ISBN 0-935480-82-X. What would man be willing to sacrifice for love? Dr. Raymond Papst suddenly leaves his wife, profession and reputation behind to pursue Sophie Mass, a 15-year-old tennis star. Is it love, or is he blinded by her public image? In this Latin American version of *Lolita*, Skármeta reveals with a mischievous smile, another side of the rich and famous, depicting the human hunger for endless youth and perfect love. Skármeta has won the Casa de las Américas prize (1969) and the Giovanni Boccaccio (1996). His best known work is *The Postman*. Tittler is professor of Hispanic Literature at Cornell University.

*Small Hours of the Night: Selected Poems of Roque Dalton*. Ed. Hardie St. Martin. Tr. Jonathan Cohen, et al. Curbstone Press/Consortium Book Sales. 1996. 228 pp. Paper: \$14.95; ISBN 1-880684-35-7. *Small Hours of the Night* incorporates poems from ten of Dalton's books, two of which have not been published, providing a representative and vital sample of the variety of his work between 1961 and 1975. The subjects of Dalton's poetry extend from politics, which came out of his involvement in the El Salvadoran revolution, to love, nature, beauty, and death. Though often his subjects are dark, his poetry is enlightened by his wry, irreverent humor. Some of the more than 100 poems included here are "Time for Ashes," "Vernacular Elegy for Francisco Sorto," "Stillborn Parable," "César Vallejo," "Mariano the Musician Has Died," "Juan Cunjama, Sorcerer," "A Dead Girl in the Ocean," "Zdena," and "Saudade."

## SWEDISH

Carl Linnæus. *The Lapland Journey [Iter Lapponicum 1732]*. Ed. and Tr. Peter Graves. Lockhart Press. First published as *Lachesis Lapponica or A Tour in Lapland* (London, 1811). First published in Swedish in E. Ährling, *Carl von Linnés ungdomsskrifter I-II* (Stockholm, 1888-89). 1995. 207 pp. Paper: £10; ISBN 1-874665-01-X. In 1732, when the Swedish scientist Carl Linnæus set off on his trip to the North, the inland areas of Lapland were still explorers' country. This account of his journey gives us the first accurate description of the vast forests and mountains of northern Scandinavia, of their animal and plant life and, above all, of the lives of the nomadic reindeer-herding Lapps whom he came to admire. But it is also a very personal account: Linnæus was only 25 at the time and his journey, mostly alone, on foot, horseback, and by boat, was also a great adventure.

Edith Södergran. *Violet Twilights*. Trs. Daisy Aldan and Leif Sjöberg. Cross-Cultural Communications. 1993. 48 pp. Cloth: \$15.00; ISBN 0-89304-733-3. Paper: \$7.50; ISBN 0-89304-734-1. Scandinavian Writers—Chapbook 1. Bilingual collection of works such as "Violetta skymningar/Violet Twilights"; "Sången om de tre gravarna/The Song of the Three Graves"; "Verktygets klagan/The Tool's Lament"; "Vid soluppgång/At Sunrise"; and "Blixtens trängtan/The Lightning Is Yearning." Aldan's latest translations include *Barrabas* and *Climb Parnassus and Behold*, both by the Swiss poet Albert Steffen, and *To Purify the Words of the Tribe*, complete poems of Stéphane Mallarmé. Sjöberg has been a co-translator of: *Selected Poems of Gunnar Ekelöf* (with W. H. Auden); *A Mölna Elegy* by Gunnar Ekelöf (with Muriel Rukeyser); *Windows & Stones* by Tomas Tranströmer (with May Swenson); and *Markings* by Dag Hammarskjöld (with W. H. Auden).

## THAI

Phya Khankhaak, *The Toad King: A Translation of an Isan Fertility Myth into English Verse*. Tr. Wajuppa Tossa. Bucknell University Press. 1996. 164 pp. Cloth: \$29.50; ISBN 0-8387-5306-X. The myth of the toad king is an important one for the Thai/Lao people, who have been faced with drought year in and year out, and it celebrates the battle victory of a human king, Phya Khankhaak as a meritorious and just king by all creatures in the universe. Such an occurrence so humiliates Phya Thaen that he wields his power and lashes his great wrath on earth with drastic drought and hellish fire. Lucid and vivid descriptions of Phya Khankhaak's army and

battle against Phya Thaen form the major part of the story. After the triumph of the human king over the god, Phya Thaen is forced to send down the rain seasonally to earth until the final destruction of earth arrives. The text is illustrated with intricate line drawings of mythical creatures and characters as well as scenes alluded to in the narrative.

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### *YIDDISH*

Menke Katz. *This Little Land*. Trs. Rivke Katz and Aaron Kramer. Cross-Cultural Communications. 1992. 48 pp. Cloth: \$15.00; ISBN 0-89304-325-7. Paper: \$7.50; ISBN 0-89304-326-5. Jewish Writers Chapbook 1. Poems include "Rainy Days in Safad," "Princes of Pig Street," "On the Death of a Day-Old Child," "Isiah on Freedom," "Queens of Autumn," and "Against Lock or Rhyme."

Mindy Rinkewich (Author and Tr.) *The White Beyond the Forest*. Cross-Cultural Communications. 1992. 48 pp. Cloth: \$15.00; ISBN 0-89304-762-7. Paper: \$7.50; ISBN 0-89304-763-5. Cross-Cultural Review Chapbook 24. Part-bilingual. Poems include "The Grandchildren of the Immigrants," "Warsaw Interlude," "Yet Another Roots Poem," "Old World Idyll," and "Their Charming Speech."

Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman. *Lider*. Trs. Thomas E. Bird, Itzik Gottesman, Seymour Levitan, Gabriel Preil, Mindy Rinkewich, Elinor Robinson, Charne Schaechter, Jeffrey Shandler. Cross-Cultural Communications. 1995. 48 pp. Paper: \$7.50; ISBN 0-89304-170-X. Bilingual. Yiddish Writers 1. Among the 21 translations included are "Those Moments," "Houses in the Bronx," "Window of My Night," "Halftones," "In the Mists of an Empty Sunday," and "Yes Men."

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