

Translations in libraries

The status of translations in book collections from the early modern period to the present

Workshop (online)
18 November 2021
Utrecht University / University of Jyväskylä



**Thursday 18
November**

15:00-17:00 CET

Online

Registration

Before 15 November
via e-mail to
a.denhaan@uu.nl

Chair

Jakub Kujawiński,
Adam Mickiewicz
University in
Poznań/Lamemoli

Organization

Annet den Haan,
Utrecht University

Contact

For registration and
further details,
contact
a.denhaan@uu.nl

While the practice of making and using translations is common to all textual cultures, the status of translations compared to original compositions differs from case to case. A translation can be instrumental to understanding the original, or be a literary work in its own right; it can function as a replacement of the source text, or as a supplement. In some cases, making a translation is an act of creative genius, whereas in others, it is a mechanical routine task. These differences in status do not only depend on the texts or the persons involved, but also on the literary and intellectual context.

This workshop approaches the status of translations as opposed to original compositions by exploring how they function in the context of a library. The word 'library' is understood here in a broad sense as 'an organized set of texts': it refers to a collection of books owned by an individual or an institution, as well as a series of titles selected by an editor, publisher or printer. The aim of the workshop is to bring together case studies of different libraries, in order to identify common themes, arguments, and practices, as well as to problematize how the status of translations within libraries differs across periods, regions, and cultures.

The workshop consists of three short presentations of case studies, followed by a general discussion open to all. All participants are invited to problematize the status of translations within the context of the library they study. Some topics for discussion could be:

- ◆ **Translation and original composition:** Are translations perceived as literary works in their own right? Are they presented in a format similar to original texts?
- ◆ **Translation and organization:** How are translations integrated in the library? Are they grouped with other translations, or with original compositions? Are translations within the collection presented in a uniform format? Within the book or manuscript of the translation, what is the status of the original author / the work in the original language?
- ◆ **Translation and construction:** What is the status of translations in the construction of the library? How are translations selected? If new translations are made, how is the work organized?
- ◆ **Translation and ideology:** What is the ideology (vision, purpose) behind the library? How does this affect the selection, production and dissemination of books, and specifically translations? Is the library supposed to be complete, or does it provide a selection of the 'best' titles?

Programme (CET)

Chair: Jakub Kujawiński, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań / Lamemoli

15:00	Welcome and opening remarks
15:05	A papal translation factory: The universal library of pope Nicholas V (r. 1448-1455) <i>Annet den Haan (Utrecht University)</i>
15:25	The Greek Fathers in translation: Tailoring <i>opera omnia</i> in sixteenth-century Basel <i>Paolo Sachet (IHR, University of Geneva)</i>
15:45	Text and translation 'side by side'? The case of the bilingual Loeb Classical Library (1911-) <i>Mirte Liebrechts (Radboud University, Nijmegen)</i>
16:05	Break
16:20	Discussion
17:00	Concluding remarks

Research Projects

NWO Veni *A new take on the Bible: the conditions that shaped biblical criticism in Renaissance Italy (1447-1484)*. Financed by the Netherlands Organisation of Scientific Research (NWO) and Utrecht University (no. 016.Veni.195.146), 1 January 2019-28 February 2022

Lamemoli *Late Medieval and Early Modern Libraries as Knowledge Repositories, Guardians of Tradition and Catalysts of Change*. Financed by the Academy of Finland and University of Jyväskylä (no. 307635), 1 September 2017-31 May 2022