

## MISCELLANEA

### ***Histoire de la traduction littéraire en Europe médiane – Book presentation : “Translators are the real Europeans.” (Konrád György, 2007)***

	<p>Kedves Hallgatók!</p> <p>Szeretettel hívjuk Önöket <b>A műfordítás története Kelet-Közép-Európában</b> (<i>Histoire de la traduction littéraire en Europe médiane</i>, Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2019) című kötetünk bemutatójára.</p> <p>A franciául megjelent munka az albán, bolgár, horvát, szerb, cseh, észt, finn, lengyel, lett, litván, macedón, magyar, román, szlovák, szlovén és ukrán nyelvekre történő műfordítás történetét dolgozza fel.</p> <p>A könyvbemutatót magyar nyelven tartjuk, <b>2019. november 27-én, szerdán 17 órakor az Egyetemközi Francia Központ Sauvageot-termében</b> (ELTE BTK F. épület, 1088 Budapest, Múzeum krt. 4/F., alagsor).</p> <p>A kötetet Jean-Léon Muller, szerkesztő (Párizs, INALCO), valamint a magyar fordítástörténeti rész két szerzője, Ádám Anikó (PPKE) és Józán Ildikó (ELTE) mutatja be.</p> <p>Üdvözlettel, Józán Ildikó</p> <p>Az egyes nyelvek fordítástörténetéről, a projektről és a kötetről további információk: <a href="http://www.histrad.info/">http://www.histrad.info/</a></p>
--	--

On 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2019 in Budapest it was held a presentation of the French book entitled *The History of Literary Translation in “Median Europe”*. This book was aimed to make a synthesis about the translation culture of this place, that can be interpreted as geopolitically, but also as a culturally determined area. Geographically it can be described as a collection of the countries situated between the German and the eastern Slavic countries. On the respective book there had been working 26 researchers speaking 16 languages: Albanian, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Bulgarian, Estonian, Finnish, Hungarian, Lettish, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Polish, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Sorbian, Czech and Ukrainian. The book appeared in this year in Paris, in French language, as a result of a ten-year long collaboration between researchers and editors.

The idea of this anthology-like book came from three members of INALCO, Antoine Chalvin, Jean-Léon Muller and Marie Vrinat-Nikolov. Muller

was representing the French part of the editorial staff at the book presentation, and he gave a brief summary about the main purpose of the creation of this book of approximately 500 pages. As long as about English, French, German and Spanish translation history there are already written books in their own languages, about the above-mentioned languages' translation history there was no summary text nor in internationally spoken, nor in their own languages. So this book was created to fill this void in the literary history.

Muller also reflected to some concepts based on which they could recognise the mutual vein of these countries/language-based cultural groups. In the introduction written by Antoine Chalvin he mentions the followings as common characteristics of these regions. In Europe they are considered as culturally peripheral areas; they had a relatively late moment of awakening to some kind of national consciousness; secular literature was introduced mostly by translations; and last but not least they were heavily influenced by the Soviet Union, including their control over translations. They also had a very similar evolution curve, with some smaller or greater time shifts, and this book is following this curve. The first period is of the translations of religious texts (*La traduction des textes religieux*), the second one is the period of formation of national literatures and the translations of secular literature (*La traduction et la formation de la littérature profane*), the third one is the period of literary modernity (*La traduction et la modernité littéraire*), and the fourth is the period of the totalitarian system (*Traduire sous le totalitarisme*).

After Jean-Léon Muller the two Hungarian co-workers, Anikó Ádám (PPKE, French Department) and Ildikó Józán (ELTE, Comparative Studies Department) were sharing their personal experiences of this long working process. First of all, they had to fill in a questionnaire of 80 pages, from which the editors left in the main information. They had debates about what can be considered "main information" four times every year, when they regularly held their meetings in Paris. Another topic of these debates was the problematics of questionable geographical names, for example Bratislava should appear as Bratislava, Pozsony, Pressburg etc? They found the solution of writing the current name of the problematic places and mentioning in parentheses their name from the respective time. All of the co-workers were handing in every needed information on time, their work was mainly smooth and without any great difficulties. Ildikó Józán pointed out some interesting facts that the book contains, for instance the fact that the first Estonian translation of Victor Hugo's *Notre Dame de Paris* was in total of approximately 70 pages. They also mentioned that based on the information collected, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Hungary had the most female translators.

The invitees (and based on what I heard, myself as well) can recommend this book not only for specialists, but also for simply interested people. Every chapter has got short geographical, historical and cultural

descriptions about the countries and languages, so even completely laic readers can understand the main ideas. As the book contains the synthesis of the questionnaires that the researchers filled in, the complete answers can be found on the website <http://www.histrad.info/> in French language.

To conclude, the invitees encourage all Median European countries to have their own summary books about the history of literary translations, as they believe that literature that we read on our language is an integral part of our own literature.

**BEATRIX WALCZ**  
walcz.beatrix22@gmail.com