

Preface

This volume 32 of *Delos*, the second of the revived annual issues after the thirteen-year hiatus 2003-2016, continues to improve.

First, the three rubrics of the contents, (a) analytical/critical essays, (b) actual translations, and (c) reviews of already published works on or of translations, are in a much better proportional balance. In the first category, we are delighted to feature the work of the dean of American Kafka translators, Stanley Corngold. Translations, however, particularly verse translations presented in bilingual format, predominate and are welcome to continue to dominate in years to come.

Secondly, we are continuing to draw on the larger national pool of translators and scholars in the field of translation for the new Editorial Board, including the distinguished scholar and translator Elizabeth Lowe, and, from Classics at the University of Florida, Gonda van Steen. On the executive side—involving the actual hard work—are two new positions, the Managing Editor, Dr. Judy Shoaf, and the Review Editor, Professor Alexander Burak. We are grateful to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences of the University of Florida in support of *Delos* by lending Judy to us, with her long experience as the Managing Editor of *Exemplaria: A Journal of Theory in Medieval and Renaissance Studies*.

Another aspect of improvements is the addition of contributions by talented young translators and advanced graduate students—although this inclusiveness means countermanding one of my own erstwhile professorial ironic transmogrification and adaptation for literary translation of a political slogan from the late 1960s: “Never trust anyone *under* the age of thirty.”

Finally, after a year of intermittent efforts, *Delos* is ready for launch on the Florida Online Journal System. Both the 2016 issue and the current issue will be available at <http://journals.fcla.edu/delos>. We will not, however, use this interface for editorial purposes; submissions should still be emailed to the editors.

One of the things that gives a note of distinctiveness to the new and revived issues of *Delos* is the addition of an annual theme. For volume 31 in 2016 it was "Literature and Music," and for volume 32 in 2017 it is "Literature and Image." We are pleased to have attracted such submissions as the translations of Augusto de Campos's concrete poetry and of Marina Colasanti's illustrated modern fairy tales, as well as more subtle evocations of images of smoke, light, and towery cities. We propose the theme of "Literature and History" for the 2018 issue, with a deadline for manuscript submissions of October 31, 2017. In the case of *Delos*, history begins, arguably, just prior to the birth of any living contemporary, in other words, in the years around World War I, and thus 2018 is a convenient point for a hundred-year commemoration. At the same time, we hope to find translations of works looking at history in other parts of the world. And although there is a significant and very welcome expansion of Russian and Brazilian-Portuguese contributions in the 2017 *Delos*, I call specifically for expansion of translations from the source languages, literatures and cultures of Africa, Asia, and India for possible publication in *Delos* 2018 ff.

2017 also happens to be an important anniversary year, the commemoration of the Reformation, five hundred years ago in 1517. Is it too much of a stretch to revisit and reflect on religious toleration and the role of religion today in literature in general and literary translation specifically? I do not think so. Limiting myself to my own narrow specialty in comparative literature and German Studies I nevertheless will give here and now the briefest of brief answers to that timely question. Who is the modern European poet who has given voice to religious toleration in the form of a god-seeker? Arguably, Rainer Maria Rilke. At the high point of interest in Rilke in the post-World War II era in 1962, reflected in countless translations into English, it was Walter Kaufmann who perceptively included the lyric celebrations of religious diversity by including the following poems by Rilke in his translations in the Modern Library Collection/Random House: "Rabbi Loew," "Buddha," "Buddha in his Glory," and "Archaic Torso of Apollo." The poem dedicated to the Greek god Apollo closes with the famous half-line, challenging the contemplative viewer or reader: "...you must change your life."

I'm concluding these comments on the aims and aspirations of *Delos* with a note of affection for Harold P. Hanson, editor of *Delos* from 1991 through 2003, who died last year, April 7, 2016, in Gainesville. One of his last public appearances also turned out to be a high point in this Physics professor's moonlighting occupation as an editor and literary translator. On April 21, 2010, the hundredth anniversary of the original publication of Norwegian Nobellist Sigrid Undset's poetry collection *Ungdom* (*Youth*), Harold Hanson and his son Steve were special guests at an event co-sponsored by the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the Writer's Center in Bethesda, Maryland. Harold was the first translator of *Ungdom* into English, and at this celebration he presented a published book of the original poems and his translations, with beautifully curated illustrations. This issue of *Delos* is dedicated to Harold P. Hanson.

H. H. R.

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