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Franz Römer: Von Rom nach Custozza. Ausgewählte Schriften zur antiken und neuzeitlichen Panegyrik. Johannes AMANN-BUBENIK – Elisabeth KLECKER (eds.). Wien: Praesens Verlag 2018, 320 pp. ISBN 978-3-7069-0970-9

In 2018, a collection of studies *Von Rom nach Custozza* was published as the 7th volume of the *Singularia Vindobonensia* series. These are selected texts by Franz Römer, Professor of Classical Philology at the University of Vienna, published on the occasion of his being awarded the Golden doctoral diploma (*Goldenes Doktorsdiplom*). The diploma was awarded to him in the year in which 50 years had passed since he had graduated *sub auspiciis praesidentis rei publicae*.

The symbolic name *Von Rom nach Custozza* was not chosen at random by the editors. However, it is not a geographical distance, but rather a temporal distance to underline the scope of selected texts in the publication, which cover the period of almost 2000 years – from Emperor Augustus to Emperor Franz Joseph I., and within it several centuries of Austrian history, in which the reference to Rome was part of the self-image of the Habsburg rulers and was omnipresent in the writings dedicated to them. As reflected in the subtitle of the book, *Ausgewählte Schriften zur antiken und neuzeitlichen Panegyrik*, the connecting theme of the texts is a panegyric.

The publication opens with an excerpt from the laudation (pp. 5–7) of Römer's colleague and friend Alfred Kohler, a former dean of the University of Vienna. It is followed by a list of all previously published works by Römer (pp. 9–18) containing 6 monographs, 5 edited proceedings, 72 articles and studies, 5 research reports, 3 annotated editions of texts and 9 other texts.

Sixteen studies have been selected for this volume, which are arranged chronologically based on their content. First few texts, namely *Mode und Methode in der Deutung panegyrischer Dichtung der nachaugusteischen Zeit* (pp. 19–43),

Vitruvs Vorreden im Spiegel der literarischen Tradition (pp. 45–56), and *Zum Vorwort des Scribonius Largus Literarischer Schmuck einer Rezeptsammlung* (pp. 57–67), focus on the panegyrics from the period of Antiquity. Römer's work also covers the period of the Middle Ages with *Lateinische Panegyrik für Philipp den Schönen* (pp. 91–107), and Italian humanism – *Kenntnis und Imitation des plinianischen Panegyricus bei italienischen Humanisten* (pp. 69–89).

A substantial part of the selected contributions consists of texts analyzing the panegyrics from the period of the reign of the Habsburg dynasty. These are: *Zur Panegyrik in der Epoche Karls V.* (pp. 109–129), *Connubio stabili. Ein Extremfall habsburgischer Heiratspolitik – ein Extremfall der Habsburgerpanegyrik* (pp. 131–146), *Alexandri Magni epistula ad inclytum archiducem Austriae Carolum divi imperatoris Ferdinandi filium. Literarische Fiktion im Dienste der Habsburgerpanegyrik* (pp. 147–169), *Aeneas Habsburgus. Rudolf I. in einer epischen Darstellung des 16. Jahrhunderts* (pp. 171–192), *Das Schweigen des Herrschers* (pp. 193–210), *Lateinische Huldigungsdichtung für Habsburger des 19. Jahrhunderts* (pp. 263–279), *Semperque memento / parcere subiectis. Das Radetzky-Epos des Wilhelm Menis. Klassische Bildung im Dienst habsburgischer Propaganda* (pp. 281–291), *Im Bann der Unterwelt. Das Revolutionsjahr 1848 im Radetzky des Wilhelm Menis* (pp. 293–308). A special group of contributions consists of *Kara Mustafa in der neulateinischen Literatur. Ein Kurzdrama aus Wien und ein Emblem aus Salzburg* (pp. 211–227), *Neuplatonische Sphärenmusik in panegyrischem Kontext* (pp. 229–240), and *Geographie und Panegyrik. Beobachtungen zu Franz Christoph von Scheybs Praefatio seiner Edition der Tabula Peutingeriana* (pp. 241–261).

The publication concludes with an afterword (pp. 309–315) by editors Johann Amann-Bubenik and Elisabeth Klecker entitled *Et quanto plura adhuc estant!* (*Plinius, paneg.* 56), in which they present the volume and also explain the selection of individual texts, some of which are the result of a project on Habsburg panegyrics.

Judging by the selected articles, Franz Römer is undoubtedly one of the most important researchers and experts not only on the Habsburg panegyrics, but on the phenomenon of panegyrics in general.

Ivan Lábaj – Mária Šibalová

Erika BRODŇANSKÁ – Adriána KOŽELOVÁ: *Antická kultúra pre prekladateľov* [*Ancient culture for translators*]. Prešov: Prešovská univerzita v Prešove 2017, 289 pp. ISBN 978-80-555-1891-6

Due to the absence of Latin in secondary education, contemporary generations have a restricted cultural view and hindered perception of the rich cultural heritage

of antiquity. However, its minimal knowledge is still very important for some professions. One of these is the profession of a translator for whom it is of a great importance to have an overview of topics related to antiquity in order to be able to notice the hints referring to ancient culture. The translator should understand the broader context and detect references to antiquity, so he can preserve not only the main idea but the true essence and subtle nuances of the original text. The translator serves as a communication medium working at a level of multiple cultures, or, at least two cultures.

The new Slovak textbook *Antická kultúra pre prekladateľov* (*Ancient culture for translators*) by Erika Brodňanská and Adriána Koželová, which was published by the University of Prešov last year, is an essential help in getting acquainted with the basics of ancient culture. In their *Introduction* (p. 7), the authors state that the aim of the textbook is to provide an explanation of the basic questions concerning the Latin language, ancient civilization and culture from the perspective of translation studies. The textbook takes into account the needs of a student of translation studies who faces challenges of ancient civilization and culture in practice, but who is no expert in the field himself. As can be seen from the detailed *Contents* (pp. 3–6), the textbook covers four main areas: Ancient Greek and Latin languages – the Bearers of Cultural Tradition (pp. 9–63); Ancient Literature – the Foundations of European Culture (pp. 64–140); The Ancient World of Gods and Heroes (pp. 141–212); Everyday Life in antiquity (pp. 213–275). Each of these areas is divided into two parts: the first part explains the topic in question; the second part deals with the treated topic from the perspective of a translator.

Within the first area, the authors emphasize that the roots of contemporary European civilization date back to antiquity. They point to the influence that the ancient Greek language had through literature on later Indo-European languages in Europe. How, together with Latin, it became the bearer of religious texts and stood at the birth of Slavic (the Glagolitic script, the Cyrillic script, the Russian alphabet) and the Romance languages. Thanks to the Latin language we have our own, Latin script. Due to its rigidity, Latin had become the international language, and had served as *lingua franca* of the educated Europe until the 18th century. It also had a great influence on the vocabulary of the Slovak language, even to the point that we are no longer aware of their Latin origin (e.g. kláštor – monastery, kostol – church, skriňa – wardrobe, etc.). The significant and long-lasting issue mentioned by the authors is the correctness of writing proper nouns coming from classical languages in Slovak (pp. 46–52). They explain the differences between transcription and transliteration, and mention the impact of the cultural context. Although many proper nouns were incorporated into the Slovak language (e.g. Filip, Alexander, Homér, Ezop), most of them have not been adapted (e.g. Menandros, Theofrastos). The subsequent declension of names in

Slovak (e.g. Arés – genitive sg. Area / Aresa etc.) causes another problem. A comprehensive manual in Slovak focusing only on proper nouns (perhaps even on names of places/locations too) might solve this problem but we do not possess it yet. Therefore, the use of variant forms continues: forms for everyday communication, popularization works, fiction, television as opposed to the forms used in academic texts and scholarly articles (e.g. Anakreón, gen. Anakreóna : Anakreonta). The most valuable chapters within the first area are undoubtedly the Reflection of Classical Languages in the Phonetics of the Slovak Language (pp. 23–24); The Expressions of Ancient Origin in the Vocabulary of the Slovak Language (pp. 24–25) and the Relation of Latin to Morphology and Word Formation of the Slovak Language (pp. 28–29). Knowledge, that the translator should respect the target language and culture, and thus use an adapted form in the target text, is essential; it means that, for example, Caesar's statement *alea iacta est* should be translated to Slovak in plural despite the fact that it is in singular in Latin. Latin and Greek vocabulary is specific, so it is often problematic for the translator to find the appropriate equivalents and determine specific meaning in each instance in the target language.

The second area aimed at Ancient literature focuses only on the most important works that had become the cornerstone of Greek and Roman culture not because of their importance for a religious community (such as the Torah or the Quran), but because of their literary quality that has been verified over time. The authors, applying the principle *non multa sed multum*, do not want to overwhelm the reader by a lot of information about all ancient authors and their works. They offer detailed studies of three or four representatives of a given style understanding that a teacher only opens the door to knowledge, but students must enter by themselves. The authors provide guidance on the broad issue that readers can further study from other, topic-oriented publications (the list of recommended books is on pp. 139–140). In chapter on epic poetry only works that form the basis of the epic genre in Western literature are mentioned: Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, Hesiod's *Theogonia* and *Erga kai hēmerai*, Vergil's *Aeneid*, and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Lyric poetry is represented by Sappho, Catullus and Horace, drama by Sophocles, Euripides and Plautus. The authors also emphasize the influence that these works had on the writings of Christian, medieval, Renaissance and Baroque authors (pp. 88–89). The most valuable parts are sections with specific examples of how to handle translation (pp. 116–122).

Gods and heroes of the ancient world are subject of the third area. The importance of myths for the origin of a literary tradition is discussed in detail. Myth, preserving almost all of human knowledge, was for a long time the only subject of literary creation. The authors focus their attention on twelve Olympian gods; from the heroes they choose mainly those embedded in our culture, many functioning as the source of creative inspiration for poets, novelists, artists,

sculptors and painters, composers, filmmakers and even statesmen – Pelops and his family, Theseus, Jason and Argonauts, Oedipus, Orpheus, Heracles and Perseus. Moreover, the authors also highlight important Slovak and Czech publications and make an evaluation of their impact on this field of study (p. 197). The chapter Mythology in Relation to Translation Studies is particularly of great value (pp. 204–211).

The last area focuses on everyday life in antiquity. The chapter is devoted to Greek and Roman family, to the position of women in antiquity, to education, divination and famous oracles (Delphi, Dodona, Amphiareion of Oropos, Necromanteion of Ephyra), entertainment, sport, games, combats, music and theatre, clothing, banquets, calendars and time measurement, and the sequence of offices in the career of a Roman politician – *cursus honorum*. The authors clarify the life that is far removed from contemporary reality. The chapter about Ancient cultural studies and Translation (pp. 263–273) is particularly useful.

In addition to engaging narrative, the attractiveness of the textbook is enhanced by a number of marginal notes explaining the origin or meaning of words (e.g. the word legend [*legenda*] on p. 30, the word diploma [*diplom*] on p. 37, the word hypochondriac [*hypochonder*] on p. 39), and phrases (*deus ex machina* on p. 38, *summa cum laude* on p. 41).

The text is supplemented by numerous pictures and humorous illustrations (e.g. on p. 39, an image of a hypochondriac) that appropriately complement the information presented in the main text. Visual material plays an important role in the textbooks as it might help students to envision individual aspects of the curriculum and subsequently memorize them faster and easier.

Even though the textbook is primarily intended for students of translation studies, it can – thanks to its wide scope – be used as a teaching material for other subjects (e.g. mythology or cultural studies). The excerpts from several translations of classical ancient literature provide exceptional added value. As a result of this, students can better understand discussed material and solidify their knowledge.

The objective of the publication stated by the authors has been fully attained. They have managed to find an optimal way to present the ancient cultural realia to the recipient in the target culture while minimizing losses, eliminating shifts, and maintaining a tolerable degree of exoticism: simply to make the transmission of the original text in a way that the cultural realia are in the target culture understandable, and that their approximation to the target culture does not weaken the expression of the original.

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