

Introduction

THE EMLIT PROJECT for European Minority Literatures in Translation is published online here in its entirety, including this 130-page supplement of additional texts and translations not available in any other format. The project takes forward in a major way [redacted]'s established concern to publish work in translation, and to counter the tendency for English to become, often by default, the language of destination of a great majority of translation events. [redacted] 2.2 was devoted to the topic "Translation, Transcreation" and other issues, from number 1.2 onwards, have included creative work in translation, sometimes in multiple translation.

The main EMLIT PROJECT of over five hundred pages which forms the first part of this edition of [redacted] is also published in book form with accompanying CD, and may be ordered direct from Brunel University Press, Uxbridge UB8 3PH, UK, by emailing suzanne.wills@brunel.ac.uk or phoning Brunel's English department on +44 (0) 1895 816316 (price £9.99 plus postage and packing £3.50 UK / £5 elsewhere). The main project is divided into six sections: the original fifty-eight literary texts in nineteen different languages, followed by five separate sections in which they are all translated into English, French, German, Italian and Spanish, in that order. Links from the Contents list to the head of each of the main sections are intended to enable readers to move readily to a set of translations in the language of their choice. Its introduction explains how this collaborative project between six

Contents pages. Users are reminded that since some of these files are large, they may take a few minutes to download.

In addition to the main project, readers will find here a Supplement of additional work, only available online. This has its own Contents list, paginated to follow the main project. The material is arranged on a different principle from the main part of the project in that all the translations of a particular work are grouped below the original in one file. Links from the Contents pages open all the texts and translations related to a particular minority language. For reasons of scale some texts originally intended for inclusion had to be omitted from the main project—even so, the book is over five hundred pages long. However, we are pleased to publish the other works here in the Supplement with some translations. As well as including some further texts by some of the writers represented in the main project, one of them with a new recording, the Supplement also introduces a new writer and a new language.

The Ethiopian language Amharic brings the total of minority languages included in the project overall to twenty. The Amharic short story by Moulou Mek, who lives in Belgium, is translated into French and English. It tells a humorous moral fable which owes a good deal to the African oral tradition of story-telling, but its focus on the contrasts between urban and rural lifestyles, an urgent topic in a continent undergoing accelerating urban drift, will strike home to readers all over the

pressure to opt for the more international language at their disposal, for the international language usually comes with a greater likelihood of publication, funding, readers—in other words a livelihood, if not fame and fortune. There is also a natural tendency for younger generations to assimilate to the dominant culture, so that over two or three generations an ancestral language and all that it enshrined vanishes. In today's world of communication technology all kinds of contact are possible as never before, but we need to find a way of using the new technologies which does not result in the erasure of cultural diversity. At times it seems that what began as an insidious process of homogenisation is breaking into a gallop.

The problem of accessing readers is particularly acute for those who are poets, for while there is clearly an international readership for prose in translation (though much fine work does not get translated), relatively little poetry is translated—although it must be said that those working in the field are passionate advocates of its possibilities. It is not surprising, perhaps, that when looking for short literary works for a project such as this, a significant proportion of the works we have chosen have proved to be poetry. Poetry often seems the Cinderella of literature, so to give it a little international boost through this project seems appropriate. The task of translating poetry brings the task of literary translation in general into sharp focus, for obvious reasons. Each language has its own music, its own associative resonances, which

