

Report from the Committee on Literary Translation (FITLit)

FITLit 2006-2007, chaired by Ellinor Kolstad (Norwegian Association of Literary Translators) and co-chaired by Lynn Hoggard (American Literary Translators Association), decided during a planning meeting in Paris in 2006 to present two sessions at the Frankfurt Book Fair (the world's largest), October 10-14, 2007, that focus on literary translation, along with several satellite activities during the Fair (the latter including a reception/press conference to alert major newspaper representatives to the two sessions as well as to briefly inform them of major issues concerning literary translation, a translation "performance," a translators' table, and a "Guess the Translation" quiz).

The featured "country" of the 2007 Frankfurt Book Fair being Catalonia, the FITLit planning committee in Paris (with Kolstad, Hoggard, Miriam Lee, Kathrin Razum, Peter Bush, Luise Von Flotow, Lotta Toivanen, and Beki Haleva), chose to focus on the challenges in literary translation facing translators working with Catalan literature. The reason for such a focus is primarily budgetary, since a number of Catalan writers and their translators (particularly those translating into German) may already be in attendance at Frankfurt. Peter Bush is in charge of planning the program for the two one-hour sessions, one of which will focus on Catalan women writers and translators, and the other focusing on the "Translating in Barcelona" (with focus on both classic and contemporary literature).

With financial assistance from various sources, Ellinor Kolstad, Kathrin Razum, and Miriam Lee traveled in fall 2006 first to Barcelona, to consult with Catalan writers and discuss possible funding assistance from the Catalan association LLULL, and then to Frankfurt, to discuss with Kathrin Razum and Bookfair organizers details of time, equipment, expenses, and location. Naturally, many of these and other items remain in a state of creative ferment.

The FITLit steering committee has already held three conference calls across five countries (Norway, Ireland, Spain, Germany, USA) to discuss developing events. During the period of the FIT Council meeting in Oslo, FITLit members Lee, Kolstad, and Hoggard met with Bente Christensen at her home to discuss budgetary and other considerations.

Along with these projects, FITLit members have actively discussed activities for the XVIIIth FIT Congress in Shanghai, including a possible session on translation difficulties associated with the work of Henrik Ibsen (particularly his plays that focus on women), in recognition of cultural diversity.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Hoggard, Co-Chair, Committee on Literary Translation,
International Federation of Translators