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Lefevere, André. 1992. *Translation/History/Culture: a sourcebook*. London: Routledge.

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Lefevere's *Translation/History/Culture: a sourcebook* is a valuable and instigating reading from beginning to end. As the book's title aptly announces, it is a collection of texts concerning literary translation, tracing its historical and cultural genealogy from about 106 BC to 1931 AD. These texts are presented as quotations extracted from the works of eminent translators of Greek, Latin, French, German, and English, offering the reader an unprecedented look at original material which has often been merely referred to or paraphrased in other books.

The introduction provides a clear and insightful summary of the book's content, while also preparing the reader with a helpful bit of background information in the field of Translation Studies. The editor further aids his reader by arranging the diverse writings thematically, each part reflecting on a particular aspect involved in translation. Thus, some chapters deal with the "constraints" that bear on translation, such as ideology, power of patronage, poetics, Universe of Discourse, and lan-

guage structure and development. Others focus on its role in education or in a culture specifically, while others discuss the technique of translating, or give lists of rules. Throughout the book, Lefevere emphasizes the interaction of all these aspects, linking each chapter to the next by means of brief, yet effective introductory paragraphs.

Of special interest to translation students is chapter 6, on the technique of translating. The editor has carefully chosen texts that range from a recommendation of "word-for-word" equivalence to a defense of "sense-for-sense" creative license, encouraging students to think for themselves and reach personal conclusions on the matter. As Matthew Arnold puts it, most people 'would agree that the translator's first duty is to be faithful; but the question is, in what faithfulness consists' (p. 68). Lefevere wisely leaves this specification up to his readers only, suggesting that they consider a broader, more complex sociological perspective before settling on an opinion.

As a whole, this anthology should prove extremely useful as a reference for students, since it is detailed and thorough. However, its scope is beyond that of an introductory coursebook on transla-

tion, so newcomers to the field may find themselves lacking the appropriate theoretical underpinnings to orient their reading comprehension. The Old English wording and excessively formal style used in some of the texts may also cause difficulties for inexperienced readers.

Despite these minor limitations, the book remains an excel-

lent account of the tradition of thinking on translation in Western Europe, rendered in the words of the thinkers proper. It successfully addresses the many difficulties faced by those engaged in the treacherous, yet rewarding task that is translating literature.

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