

TO BEGIN...

This issue of *Cuadernos de la Facultad de Humanidades* is intended to serve a double purpose: to set out some issues in the work of translation, and to give examples of translations in a way that can be easily compared critically. There is some risk in both these undertakings, but perhaps more in the latter than in the former. Readers who are readers-of-translations, and there are many among us, will find themselves happily disagreeing with much that is here. We are all so inclined, having within us something of what Gregory Rabassa and Alastair Reid have called the "translation police," who can pick out an infelicity at a mile. As literary translators, Rabassa and Reid, know that a translation that is too faithful to the literal form of the original is almost sure to be unfaithful to its spirit.¹ In this issue of *Cuadernos*, however, as in the general work of the Translation Program, we are interested not only in the right answers but also in the not-quite-so-right answers which we must know, somehow, to set aside in our work. We have not intentionally left any of these in the present text, but there will be much to disagree with --and fruitfully-- which is the reason for taking the risk of placing original and translation side by side in the first place. It is, after all, a puzzler's art.

¹ For two fine, clear discussions of literary translation by craftsmen who know what they are talking about, see Gregory Rabassa, "If This Be Treason. Translations and Its Possibilities," *The American Scholar*, Vol. 44, No. 1 (Winter 1974-75), and Alastair Reid, "Basilisks's Eggs," *The New Yorker*, November 8, 1976.

The risks in talking about translation at all are both more familiar and easier to deal with. But a word of caution is due here: there is no rock-solid body of theory in a formal discipline called Translation. No, instead there are, as will be clear enough from an examination of the approaches here, new beginnings in every text by every translator --each with such skills, insights and disciplines as he possesses. That does not mean, necessarily, that all translation or talk about translation is improvisation, but that finding a language for talking about the problems is harder than it looks. You are invited to try.

This is the third publication of the Translation Program. The first, *Three Lectures on Translation*,² was published in 1971; the second, *Problems in Translation*,³ is due to be issued this year, 1980, after a long gestation. In all three, an attempt has been made to attend to the essential openness of the problem, and the relative paucity of useful materials with which to study it.

Marshall Morris

Encarar los riesgos de hablar sobre traducción en absoluto es tarea más familiar y más fácil. No obstante, cabe aquí una palabra de advertencia: no existe un cuerpo de teoría sólido como una roca en una disciplina formal llamada Traducción. No; en su lugar hay, como resultará evidente de un examen de los enfoques hechos aquí, nuevos comienzos en cada texto, y por cada traductor --cada uno con la destreza, penetración y disciplina que posea--. Esto no significa necesariamente que toda traducción o todo comentario sobre ella sea improvisación, sino que encontrar un lenguaje para hablar sobre los problemas es más difícil de lo que parece. Los invitamos a probar.

Esta es la tercera publicación del Programa de Traducción. La primera, *Tres conferencias sobre la traducción*,² apareció en 1971; la segunda, *Problemas de la traducción*,³ debe salir este año, 1980, después de una larga gestación. En las tres, se ha intentado atender a la esencial ilimitación del problema, y a la relativa escasez de materiales útiles con que estudiarlo.*

Marshall Morris

² Jorge Enjuto, Michael Reck, Georges Delacre, *Three Lectures on Translation* (Río Piedras: Escuela Profesional de Traductores, Publicaciones de la Facultad de Humanidades, Universidad de Puerto Rico, 1971).

³ Programa Graduado en Traducción, Universidad de Puerto Rico, *Problems in Translation* (Río Piedras: University of Puerto Rico Press, 1980, in press).

² Jorge Enjuto, Michael Reck, (Georges Delacre, *Tres conferencias sobre la traducción* (Río Piedras: Escuela Profesional de Traductores, Publicaciones de la Facultad de Humanidades, Universidad de Puerto Rico, 1971).

³ Programa Graduado en Traducción, Universidad de Puerto Rico, *Problemas de la traducción* (Río Piedras: Editorial Universitaria, 1980, en prensa).

* *Traducción por María Eugenia Hidalgo.*