

From the editors

To say that things have changed since the previous publication of our e-zine in December 2019 would be a serious understatement of the seismic shifts which have taken place in all our lives, the world over.

Readers may know that one of the myriad of consequences of this surreal pandemic is that CEATL's physical AGM, due to be held in Brussels in May, has been cancelled. This is a source of much disappointment for all of us delegates, as this annual physical gathering allows us to connect with our colleagues, get up-to-date information on happenings throughout our member country associations and make plans for the future, a word which nowadays conjures up much uncertainty.

We hope that *Counterpoint* can at least continue CEATL's task of informing both our own members and the wider literary translation world about news and views and bring some small solace to you all.

This issue continues with our regular features, *Out And About*, this time

from the Balkans, with an exchange between Albania and Bulgaria, and *Notes From Around Europe*, also from the Balkans where one of CEATL's most recent members, UKPS from Serbia, recount their battle for protecting translators' rights.

A look at our inner workings comes from CEATL's Training and Education Working Group, bringing us up to date on their work over recent years. We are very appreciative of our colleagues' contribution to *Counterpoint* and hope their labours will bear some fruit.

In a new regular feature, *Me And My Dictionary*, Tuncay Birkan enlightens readers as to the political intricacies of translation into Turkish.

We wish to especially express our solidarity with our Italian and Spanish colleagues who have suffered so much in the last number of months. CEATL delegate Eva Valvo has written a very poignant piece about the harsh realities of life as a translator in Italy during the last number of weeks and months.

The realities, and the hardships, of working as a freelance translator are very apparent in an interview with Valeria Pulignano about her research into the precariousness of our profession. The initial findings show that CEATL's constant fight for decent working conditions is certainly much needed and even more so in recent times with the ever-changing labour market.

The fascinating love story of mestizo cultures, written and oral languages and translators in the middle of it all feature large in Malika Embarek Lopez's piece.

As translators, we are very aware of the wealth of words and expressions to describe hopeful outcomes in our different languages and cultures. For this occasion, and to conclude on a vaguely positive note, it is worth relaying the words of Julian of Norwich, who lived through and survived the Black Death as well a number of wars in the 14th century and then spent much her life in self-isolation as an anchoress. Her book, *Revelations of Divine Love*, is the earliest surviving book in the English language by a woman, and, after all she went through, she still was able to say, "All shall be well, all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well".

*Hanneke van der Heijden,
Anne Larchet and Juliane Wammen*



Hanneke van der Heijden is a literary translator and interpreter from Turkish into Dutch, and writes about *literature from Turkey*.

Photo: Private Archive



Anne Larchet is a freelance interpreter and translator from Spanish to English.

Photo: Martin de Haan



Juliane Wammen is an award-winning literary translator from English, Norwegian and Swedish into Danish.

Photo: Tim Flohr Sørensen