

Broj 3 / Godina 2 / The Book and Beyond

About a year and a half ago, or perhaps it was more, no one seems to remember the exact day anymore, when we decided to start [sic] - a Journal of Literature, Culture and Literary Translation, in our minds we had a small journal that would nevertheless stimulate debates and challenge authors to participate with their contributions in the hope of offering a somewhat different view on various topics and themes that we think about in our professional life and work. We hoped for some hundred or perhaps two hundred pages of articles, essays and translations; we counted on contributions from our friends and colleagues from Croatia and secretly dreamed that someone from abroad will find our journal interesting enough to join in. And today, when we are releasing our third issue that counts well over five hundred pages of articles, essays and translations, with more than twenty authors from all over the world, we are safe to say that we more than exceeded our initial expectations and even our wildest hopes.

In this issue, which celebrates our first year of official existence, in its literature and culture rubric, we wanted, as the title of one of submissions suggests, to see what is this thing we call the book. We wanted to focus on the book as a social construct, as an instrument, an object or a subject of various ideologies, as a means of supporting or questioning existing social rhetoric. We wanted to explore the role of the book as an expression of an artist, a form of articulation of specific sensibilities and authorial voices, and as a voice marking and explaining social anxieties. And finally, we wanted to see what is happening with the very form of the book and the forms and shapes it has transformed into in the recent years and the position it now occupies as such. We feel most of these questions are answered in the articles we bring here, but, in case some of them still aren't, we hope that the writings published in this issue will inspire other authors to explore this extensive and challenging topic.

In the second part of our journal, in its rubric dedicated to literary translation, besides translations of literature into Croatian and English from different languages ranging from Rovignese and Greek to Kyrgyz, we bring articles and essays on theoretical and practical aspects of translation covering a wide range of issues from ethical problems and moral dilemmas translators face to politics of translation, the position and place translation occupies in the academy today as well as translation's and translators' role in discovering and re-discovering authors from different cultures that would otherwise go unnoticed in what we call world literature. We hope all of these articles, translations and their introductions are here to serve as a material for future research and future writings on the topic of translation as well as to offer the joy of reading some still undiscovered authors and their literature.

Finally, at the end of this short introduction, we wish to express our gratitude to all of those who contributed, to all of those who supported us in one way or another, to all of those who invested their time and energy and their knowledge, expertise and creativity to make [sic] what it is today - and we feel we need to mention this again - a journal whose current issue counts more than five hundred pages with contributions from more than twenty authors from all over the world.

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