Alison Anderson/Translation Count 2011-14.

THE COUNT: WHERE ARE THE WOMEN IN TRANSLATION? 2011-2014

N.B. The first number in a pair is the number of women authors or translators, the second is the total number of books/nominations. For the publishers' figures, number on left is books by women, on right books by men. When 2 translators collaborated on a book, each one was counted as 0.5.

Translation DataBase, Three Percent - Open Letter, Rochester

2011 362 titles (fiction & poetry + anthologies, distributed in the US): 88 by women = 24.3%
2012 382 titles (not including anthologies): 111 by women = 29%
2013 370 titles (not including anthologies): 138 by women = 37%

Prizes: (Sources: 3% website, Wikipedia)

Best Translated Book Award:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Longlist:</th>
<th>Shortlist:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>6/25</td>
<td>3/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>3/25</td>
<td>1/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1/23</td>
<td>2/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>6/25</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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</tbody>
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Independent Foreign Fiction Prize

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Longlist:</th>
<th>Shortlist:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>3/15</td>
<td>1/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1/15</td>
<td>1/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2/16</td>
<td>1/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>5/15</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall since prize has existed (1990): No woman has ever won

PEN Translation Prize:

Over last twenty years: Winners: 3/20 15% (Translators 6/20 30%)

Sample Publishers' Figures (from 2013 Three Percent DataBase or Publishers' Website)
(Numbers reflect books, i.e. 9/24 = 9 books by women out of a total of 24, and some may include series by a same author)

Amazon Crossing: 9/24
And Other Stories: (Catalogue w/ backlist: 1/14)
Arcadia: 6/19 (2014 Catalogue)
Archipelago: 0/10 (Catalogue w/ backlist: 9/115 or 8.5%)
Dalkey Archive: 10/41
Europa: 4/12 (Catalogue w/ backlist: 44/128 or 34%)
Gallic Books: (Catalogue w/ backlist: 18/54 or 33%)
MacLehose: (Catalogue w/ backlist: 24/112 or 27%)
Melville House: 0/6
New Directions: 1/8
Open Letter: 3/9 (Catalogue w/ backlist: 16/60 or 26%)
Other Press: 4/7
Peirene: (Catalogue with backlist: 7/15)
Pushkin Press: 2/10

Seagull: 4/16
Links and Resources

Edmund Gordon, “Where are the women writers in translation?” The Guardian, 5 March 2008:
http://www.theguardian.com/books/booksblog/2008/mar/05/wherearethewomenwritersin

“before we dismiss [the statistics] as too incomprehensible to be true, consider the following anomaly: Nobel laureates Gabriela Mistral, Grazia Deledda and Nelly Sachs didn’t have any of their works translated into English until after they’d been honoured by the Swedish Academy.”

VIDA: http://www.vidaweb.org

For Books’ Sake: http://forbookssake.net

Three Percent database:
http://www.rochester.edu/College/translation/threepercentsite/index.php?s=database

Alison Anderson, “Where Are the Women in Translation?,” Words Without Borders:
http://wordswithoutborders.org/dispatches/article/where-are-the-women-in-translation

Amy King in Conversation with Rob Spillman, VIDA:

M. Lynx Qualey, “Where Are the Women in (Arabic) Translation?” Arabic Literature in English:
http://arablit.wordpress.com/2013/05/17/where-are-the-women-in-arabic-translation/

Daniel Simon, “Women Writing, Editing and Translating” [in response to Alison Anderson, World Literature Today:
http://www.worldliteraturetoday.org/women-writing-editing-and-translating

“Sandra Bermann offers a compelling analysis of the role of translation in the creative writing of Adrienne Rich. Bermann writes, “compared to the productive, creative work associated with the writer and poet (usually gendered male), the work of the translator (usually gendered female) has traditionally been viewed as merely reproductive, affected by the overall dichotomy and hierarchy between productive and reproductive work” (“Revision and/as Translation: The Poetry of Adrienne Rich,” in Translating Women, 2011).”

Powells’ (US) “Women in Translation” Sale for Year of Reading Women:

SUNY Press Women Writers in Translation series:
http://www.sunypress.edu/Searchadv.aspx?IsSubmit=true&CategoryID=7076

Where are the women in translation?

For Books’ Sake (www.forbookssake.net) is the UK webzine, community and publishing imprint dedicated to promoting and celebrating writing by women. It was founded in 2010 in response to the institutionalised and systemic sexism in the media and publishing industries. Examples of which include...

The annual VIDA Count (http://www.vidaweb.org/the-count-2013) audits the bylines and books reviewed by major literary journals, repeatedly finding that books by women writers account for an average of only 25% of books reviewed by the mainstream media.

BBC’s 'Year of Books' (only 25% of shows about or presented by women) and 'Publishing Lives' series (first series featured no women at all).

Only 13 women have won the Nobel Prize for Literature since the prize was first awarded in 1901.

Women account for only 4 of the 22 laureates awarded the biennial Neustadt International Prize for Literature since its inception in 1970.

Arts Council England research showed an anecdotal belief that men are more likely to read books by men, while women will buy and read books by all genders.
Some anecdotal feedback from women working in translation:

"I've been lucky enough to collaborate with a progressively-minded editor who's making a visible effort to be all-inclusive, but there is among editors and publishers a shared (and often explicitly stated) understanding that "female writers don't sell." I do notice a slow change for the better, but there is ample room for improvement."

"I am passionate about getting female authors translated so I advocate for that generally, as well as by mostly translating women myself. I can't provide hard figures on this, but anecdotally, I know far more women interested in literary translation as a career across all languages into English than men. Unfortunately, having personally added up the numbers in the Japanese-English literary world, about 40% of authors translated are female and about 30% of published translators are female. Why is that?"

"My personal records show the following ratio of female-/male-written works in the last three years: novels 17/83% (1 out of 6), short stories 47/53% (9 out of 19), academic writing 25/75% (1 out of 4) so that's roughly 30/70% altogether (F/M)."

Further recommended reading:

• Deborah Uman, Women as Translators in Early Modern England (University of Delaware Press, 2012)
• Translating Women, ed. Luise von Flotow (University of Ottawa Press, 2011)