

Printers Without Borders:

Translation and Textual Transmission in Earlier Tudor Literature

The proposed conference paper is part of a new book-project, *Printers Without Borders*, which studies printing (transmediation) and translation (linguistic and cultural mediations) as parallel, mutually catalytic textual processes that fostered an early Renaissance transnationalism. (None of this material has been published.) Beginning with Caxton's press, both kinds of textual transformation --- translation & printing --- developed English literary nationhood, as is well known; but this project shows that early printers and translators, working together, helped members of a rapidly expanding English readership see themselves as part of a wider world. Beginning with one of the first books printed in England, a much-translated Arabic wisdom text (the *Dictes and Sayengis of the Philosophres* [Westminster: Caxton, 1477]), this project reveals how, together, translation and the new technology forged a crucially, foundationally foreign English literary culture. The larger idea of this paper thus expands current thinking on the links between nationhood and literature; in the paper, images and passages from specific texts illustrate that larger idea with material examples. Texts to be treated will be selected from such under-assessed multilingual productions as the *Dictes*, the seven language versions of the *Quadrins historiques de la Bible* (Lyon: Jean de Tournes, 1554 *et seq*), the trilingual Elizabethan *Il Cortegiano*, with its noteworthy *mise-en-page*; and the octo-lingual broadside celebrating England's defeat of the Armada (Bishop and Newberie, 1588), one extant copy of which is on vellum. (The material and linguistic manipulations visible on this page are extraordinary.) This paper highlights the 16th-century printers' and translators' close, synergistic collaborations (often very close indeed, since many early printers were themselves translators). Their texts move not only between languages, cultures, and media, but also between whole systems of literary production, distribution, and reception. (285 words)

A. E. B. Coldiron

acoldiron@fsu.edu

<http://english.fsu.edu/faculty/acoldiron.htm>