

## *First Attempts and First Principles*

### O.I A Greek *Aeneid* in the First Century CE

There are two competing starting points for the translation history of Virgil's poems. One is Rome in the first century CE, the other in Ireland, at the far western edge of Europe some ten centuries later. Both translations are in prose. Seneca the Younger's words in his *Consolatio ad Polybium* indicate that Polybius, the eminent freedman who served the emperor Claudius as secretary and researcher, produced a prose translation of the *Aeneid* in Greek, as well as a Latin translation of Homer.<sup>1</sup> Seneca refers to Homer and Virgil reaching a wider audience thanks to Polybius' initiative (*Ad Polybium* 8.2); the significance of this becomes clear when Seneca praises

those poems of both authors [Homer and Virgil] [*illa . . . utriusque auctoris carmina*] which have been made famous by the industry of your genius [*ingenii tui labore*] . . . which you rendered in prose, keeping their attractiveness, even though their form disappeared [*quae tu ita resolvisti ut, quamvis structura illorum recesserit, permaneat tamen gratia*], because you achieved that hardest goal of transferring them from one language into another [*illa ex alia lingua in aliam transtulisti*] in such a way that all their fine qualities have followed you into foreign speech [*omnes uirtutes in alienam te orationem secutae sint*]. (*Ad Polybium* 11.5)

There is no other record of this early translation, but it accords with Pliny the Younger's explicit recommendation of translation from Latin into Greek in *Epistles* 7.9, a practice which persisted through the centuries well into the Renaissance, as manifested in three sixteenth-century Greek

<sup>1</sup> I thank Marcus Wilson for first alerting me to this passage. For possible other early translations, see Paschalis 2018: 136–7. On translations of Virgil (excerpts from *Aeneid* 1, 2, 3 and 5 and from *Georgics* 1) into Greek preserved in papyri dating from the fourth to sixth centuries where the texts are presented in columns as teaching aids, see Dickey 2015.

translations of Virgil by English Catholics, for example.<sup>2</sup> It is noteworthy that in this brief mention Seneca raises many of the theoretical questions about translation that persist throughout the translation history of Virgil and indeed in the theorization of translation in general. These include the translator's effort and talent, the choice of prose or verse to translate poetry, the distinction between form and appeal, and the question of what is lost in translation and what qualities of the original can still be conveyed through compensation. These issues will recur often in my discussion.

## 0.2 The Translation History of Virgil in the Western Tradition: How to Organize Such a Huge Topic

Before I discuss the second possible starting point of the translation history of Virgil, the eleventh-century Irish *Imtheachta Aeniassa* ('Wanderings of Aeneas'), I set out the aims of this introductory chapter. My first aim is to give a sense of the geographical, linguistic and chronological ranges of my study. The translation history of Virgil is, obviously, an enormous topic extending to several thousand existing translations. Witness the number of items in Craig Kallendorf's catalogue, *A Bibliography of the Early Printed Editions of Virgil 1469–1850*: he records about 2,500 translations down to the year 1850.<sup>3</sup> The seventeen decades since then have not seen any slacking in the rate of production, and indeed an ever-wider range of world languages is represented in more recent years. The linguistic scope of my project includes translations in Afrikaans, Argentinian and Colombian Spanish, Basque,

<sup>2</sup> See Chapter 4, pp. 275–6 on the *Aeneid* translations in Greek by John Harpsfield and George Etheridge and Chapter 10, pp. 786–7 for the Greek *Eclogues* by Daniel Halsworth; cf. the competitive versions of *Eclogue* 10 by Scaliger and Heinsius in 1603 and 1604 (Chapter 4, p. 272). The only translation of Virgil into Greek that survives from antiquity is the version of *Eclogue* 4 that is incorporated into the *Oratio Constantini ad sanctorum coetum*, chapters 19–21 and preserved by Eusebius as an appendix to his *Vita Constantini*.

<sup>3</sup> I abbreviate Kallendorf's (2012) study to *BEPEV*; the *BEPEV* number is listed in the Bibliography for every translation I discuss. Updates to *BEPEV* are at <https://bibsite.org/Detail/objects/30>. Kallendorf includes, first, Latin editions of the *Eclogues*, *Georgics*, *Aeneid* and *Appendix Vergiliana*, then translations (organized largely alphabetically by language; within those sections the complete works are followed by the *Eclogues*, then the *Georgics*, then the *Aeneid*), centos, commonplace books, dictionaries and travesties; thus the earliest complete works in Dutch is catalogued as DW1646.1 [= Dutch Works] and William Wordsworth's *Aeneid* 1 as EA1822.1 [= English *Aeneid*]. As Kallendorf explains in his introduction, his work supersedes Giuliano Mambelli's *Gli annali delle edizioni virgiliane* (1954) and draws upon computerized databases such as EEBO (Early English Books Online) and similar catalogues in France, Spain, Germany and elsewhere. I have also used other efforts at cataloguing Virgil translations within individual traditions such as, for French, Alice Hulubei's (1931) 'Virgile en France au XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle', pp. 74–7 and Raymond Cormier's (2012) list from 1160–1897 in *The Methods of Medieval Translators*, pp. 257–74. Kallendorf's catalogue is a classic 'list' of which translation theorist Anthony Pym approves (1998: 38–54). Another important resource is David Wilson-Okamura's website, *virgil.org* (2010a); see especially Bibliography: Renaissance: Translations.

Bulgarian, Castilian, Catalan, Croatian, Czech (Bohemian), Danish, Dutch, English, Esperanto, Finnish, French, German, Greek (Homeric, Doric and Katharevousa), Hebrew, Hungarian, Icelandic, Irish, Italian, Maltese, Middle Scots, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese (including that of Brazil), Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian and Welsh; I also mention dialect versions in Agénois, Burgundian, Corsican, Friulian, Narbonnais, Neapolitan, Occitan, Sicilian and Tuscan. While I am aware of translations in Arabic,<sup>4</sup> Armenian,<sup>5</sup> Bengali,<sup>6</sup> Chinese,<sup>7</sup> Farsi<sup>8</sup> and Japanese,<sup>9</sup> these are beyond my range in this study, which deals with the Western tradition of translation produced in European languages in Europe and the Americas.<sup>10</sup> Likewise, I exclude the fascinating question of engagement with non-European languages of the Americas, because this does not constitute translation as such; nonetheless, it is important to acknowledge that Virgil is a critical tool of colonialism, as explored, for example, by Andrew Laird.<sup>11</sup> And not every language tradition of Europe exhibits translations of Virgil: I have searched in vain for a Yiddish Virgil.<sup>12</sup>

It is important to recognize the limitations of even such a big book as this. In his introduction to *Vertere: Un'antropologia della traduzione nella cultura antica* (2012: vii–xvii), Maurizio Bettini does excellent service in unpacking

<sup>4</sup> There are at least three translations of the *Aeneid* into Arabic. The earliest is the 1973 prize-winning translation by the Lebanese feminist Anbara Salam Khalidi (1985), mentioned briefly in Chapter 2, note 200. The translation by Abdelmoty Sharawy and others (Books 1–6, 1971; Books 7–12, 1977) was published by the Egyptian General Organization for Composing and Publishing in Cairo (Egypt). That of the Palestinian translator Mahmoud A. Alghoul was published in 2015 in the series Kalima Translations out of Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), which is an ambitious initiative launched in 2007 by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, with the aim of reviving the translation movement in the Arab world; see [kalima.ae/en/default.aspx](http://kalima.ae/en/default.aspx). Some details are provided on Usama Gad's blog 'Classics in Arabic': [classicsinarabic.blogspot.com](http://classicsinarabic.blogspot.com).

<sup>5</sup> These are 1845 and 1847, listed by Kallendorf. <sup>6</sup> This is 1810, listed by Kallendorf.

<sup>7</sup> For an exemplary analysis of Chinese translations of Virgil, see Liu 2018.

<sup>8</sup> There is a Farsi translation of the *Aeneid* by Jaleleddin Kazzazi (1990), which won a 'Book of the Year' prize that year; he also translated Fenelon's *Les aventures de Télémaque* (1989), the *Iliad* (1998), *Odyssey* (2000) and Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (2010), and many other French and Italian works. My thanks to Evina Steinova. See [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mir\\_Jaleleddin\\_Kazzazi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mir_Jaleleddin_Kazzazi) and [www.kazzazi.com](http://www.kazzazi.com).

<sup>9</sup> Takada (*VE*, 'Japanese Literature') mentions several translations, beginning with those of the *Eclogues* and *Georgics* in 1926–7 by Masatoshi Kuroda; of the Japanese *Aeneids*, only that of Hisanosuke Izui (1965) attempts a metrical version. The most recent *Aeneid* (Michio Oka and Hiroyuki Takahashi, 2001) focusses on content, not form.

<sup>10</sup> Thus I include Hebrew here, since the earliest Virgil translation was made in Lithuania.

<sup>11</sup> Laird 2010b; see, too, Quint 1993: 157–85; Lupher 2003; Laird 2006.

<sup>12</sup> I am informed by Faith Jones (email communication, 2 October 2018) that such a translation would not have meshed with the literary projects of Yiddish modernism, which, besides Shakespeare, focussed mainly on poets and novelists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Thanks to Richard Menkis and Darrel Janzen.

the significance of the words for ‘translation’ in non-Western traditions, including those in India (ix–xi), in Arabic (xi–xii), in Nigeria (xi–xii) and in China (xii). He argues that the Western preoccupation with the ‘fidelity’ of translation(s) is not at all replicated in these four traditions, where ‘translation’ is metaphorized as ‘renewal’, ‘definition’, ‘narration’ or ‘disintegration’, and ‘turning’ or ‘change’, respectively; the Chinese imagery of the source text as the right side of the embroidery and the translation as the reverse is particularly striking. In other words, Bettini offers a salutary reminder of paths not travelled in the Western translation tradition. Moreover, he argues that the Western tradition conceptualized the practice of translation in an economic framework of minting and exchange (xv), which generated a concern with fidelity as the transference of value, a concern which is not an invariable parameter in world translation traditions.

Kallendorf’s scholarship is central to my project.<sup>13</sup> His careful recording of reprints and later editions allows the researcher to see patterns in the translation history of Virgil. For example, in the cases of landmark translations such as those of Joachim **Du Bellay** (French, 1552–60), Annibal **Caro** (Italian, 1581) and John **Dryden** (English, 1697), it is easy to discern which translations were repeatedly reissued by publishers over periods of years, decades or even centuries (names in bold have biographical entries in Appendix 1, pp. 827–45). This is doubtless an index of popularity, although without details of print run, format and price, one must be careful not to leap to conclusions. Once we have this added information, we are in a position to measure the relative success of different translations. We can be confident that printers did not go to the trouble and expense of reissuing books that were unlikely to bring them a good return. Kallendorf’s material also highlights peculiarities such as the different national tastes, for example, among the poems of the *Appendix Vergiliana*: virtually all the Italian translations from the *Appendix* are of the *Moretum*, while the French prefer the *Culex*, and the English and German traditions effectively ignore this material.<sup>14</sup>

A brief overview will give a sense of the immense potential range of this project. Virgil’s poems, especially the *Aeneid*, had been translated many times long before the advent of printing, and they continue to be translated

<sup>13</sup> I am immensely grateful to Craig for all his help in numerous ways as my project has progressed; he was a wonderful interlocutor and generous with materials, advice and support.

<sup>14</sup> Italian ‘Moreto’ (*Moretum*) translations start as early as 1548 and include Leopardi’s 1817 version *La Torta*; in France there is a period of intense translation of *Culex* (‘Le moucheron’) during the years 1816–35. Du Bellay’s 1558 translation of the *Moretum* reflects the influence of Italian literature. The English tradition presents only two versions of the *Culex* and one of the *Ciris*.

to the present day. A word on my definitions is in order here: I use 'translation' in the humanistic sense to denote a version that follows the Latin without significant additions or omissions, and I reserve 'adaptation' for medieval versions that show no such scruples and for later versions that take remarkable liberties with the Latin, including the travesties I discuss briefly in Chapter 4. I generally use the word 'version' as a larger, neutral category that can include translations and adaptations; I sometimes use it interchangeably with 'translation' for variety, and sometimes to indicate my scepticism about whether a particular translation deserves that label.<sup>15</sup> I trust that context will make clear my intentions.

Medieval adaptations of the *Aeneid* include the Middle Irish *Imtheachta Aeniasa* from the eleventh or twelfth century (Section 0.3), the mid-twelfth-century *Roman d'Enéas* in Old French (Section 0.4) and *Eneit* by Heinrich von Veldeke in Middle High German (Section 0.5), and Icelandic versions from the early thirteenth century. Italy produced fourteenth-century prose versions of the *Aeneid*, including one attributed to the Siennese Ciampolo di Meo degli Ugurgieri, written during 1316–21, and a compendium ascribed to the Florentine notary Andrea Lancia, but probably composed by several people during the years 1310–50, which derived not directly from Virgil's text, but from a Latin prose reduction attributed to a monk named as Anastasio (or Nastagio).<sup>16</sup> The first verse translation is that of Tommaso Cambiatare (1430), although we can glimpse earlier versions of the Aeneas story in *ottava rima* in chronicles and narratives of human history starting with that of Armannino, a Florentine judge, written in 1325.<sup>17</sup> At the

<sup>15</sup> In this last sense I see the sense of 'turning' or 'rotating' as active in the word 'version'; cf. Hollander 1959: 220.

<sup>16</sup> See Parodi 1887: 311–22; Parodi mentions a third prose translation from the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century, transcribing parts alongside Lancia's (323–8), which appears to reflect the Latin text more closely. See Armstrong 2018: 38–41 on the complicated story of the early Italian manuscript versions and the interconnections with Spain, and, in more depth, Armstrong 2017: 6; he suggests that Ugurgieri's might be considered the first full prose translation of the *Aeneid*.

<sup>17</sup> Parodi's 270-page article 'Rifacimenti' gives us a glimpse of the complex underbelly of medieval Italian adaptations of the story of Aeneas as he surveys versions in prose and verse, Latin and the vernaculars, in manuscript and some of them later printed. He analyses the likely sources – Virgil, Dictys, Dares and one another – and shows how important was the factor of local pride in the focus on particular warriors – hence Turnus' ally Aventinus, claimed by the Italian family Savelli, gets an *aristeia* (i.e. the warrior is in the spotlight) in one of these works (1887: 224–9) – especially as founders of different towns and cities, for example Aeneas as the founder of Arezzo and Silvius Aeneas as the founder of Naples (named for him! – 'Enea polis', 338). The variations in these early versions offer fascinating alternatives to Virgil's narrative: they have Creusa committing suicide (258) or being killed by Aeneas to save her from falling into the hands of the Greeks (244, 288). They have Aeneas staying with Dido for four years and producing a son (302). They have the first casualty of the war in Italy being the son of Turnus (258; evidently a mistake for the son of Tyrrhus, Silvia's father; see *Aen.* 7.484–5 and 531–3). They have Aeneas killed in a conflict with Mezentius, king of Sicily, who

same moment in Spain, Enrique de **Villena** wrote his version in Castilian prose, divided into 366 chapters, while the ‘Lancia’ version generated a Sicilian *Istoria di Eneas truyanu* by Angilu di Capua di Messina. The earliest printed *Aeneid*, a loose adaptation in the medieval mode, was the printing in 1476 of the ‘Lancia’ Italian version, which was turned into French in 1483, which in turn was put into English by William **Caxton** in 1490 as *The Eneydos of Vyrgil*. These versions followed on the heels of the *editio princeps* of the Latin text, which appeared in 1469.<sup>18</sup> These three *remaniements* (‘rehandlings’) all take striking liberties with the Latin text. For example, in the French *Livre des Eneydes*, printed by Guillaume Le Roy (who is sometimes cited as the translator), the author reorders the episodes into chronological sequence, relocates the journey of Aeneas to have him arrive in Lombardy, includes material not covered in Virgil, such as Aeneas’ wedding and Ascanius’ succession, organizes the material into chapters, thus obliterating the twelve-book construction, and amplifies the material devoted to Dido.<sup>19</sup>

More rigorous translations of the *Aeneid* – versions recognizable as translations thanks to their hewing more or less closely to the Latin – soon appeared as Renaissance humanism took off: into French in 1500 (Octovien de **Saint-Gelais**, published 1509), into mid-Scots in 1513 (Gavin **Douglas**, published 1553), into German in 1515 (Thomas **Murner**), into Italian in 1534 (Book 4 by Niccolò Liburnio), into English in the 1540s (Books 2 and 4 by Henry Howard, the Earl of Surrey, published 1554 and 1557), into Spanish in 1555 (Gregorio Hernández de **Velasco**), into Dutch in 1556 (Cornelis van Ghistele) and into Polish in 1590 (Andrzej Kochanowski).<sup>20</sup> The first complete *Aeneid* in English is that of Thomas **Phaer** and Thomas **Twyne** (1573). The production of *Aeneid* translations

is himself killed by Ascanius in the ensuing vendetta (321 and 295; in Romanesque dialect: ‘Po la morte de Enea Ascanius et Mexentius fecero granne vattalie, et Ascanius occise Mexentius’, ‘After Aeneas’ death Ascanius and Mezentius fought great battles, and Ascanius killed Mezentius’).

<sup>18</sup> It is salutary to remind ourselves of the relative popularity of Greek and Latin editions by considering the numbers of incunabula printed: Aristotle 552, Aelius Donatus 457, Cicero 389, Virgil 202, Ovid 181, Homer 25, Plato 18 (Young 2003: 96).

<sup>19</sup> See Singerman 1986 on medieval reworkings of the *Aeneid*, especially Chapter 4 on the *Livre des Eneydes* and Caxton’s *Eneydos*. Specifically on medieval French handlings of Virgil and the Aeneas story, see Monfrin 1985; he argues that the *Livre des Eneydes* combines material from the thirteenth-century *Histoire ancienne jusqu’à César* and material on Dido from Boccaccio. The classic study of Virgil in the Middle Ages is Comparetti’s *Vergil in the Middle Ages* (1895); Baswell 1995 is also valuable.

<sup>20</sup> On the collapsed timeframe whereby Spanish, perhaps surprisingly, achieves a complete *Aeneid* sooner than Italian, see Armstrong 2017: 18, where he remarks upon ‘the synthetic advantage of cultural belatedness: a greater efficiency leading to cultural acceleration’.

remained prodigious, even while Virgil was eclipsed by Homer during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and it continues apace.

Similar, though not identical, narratives apply to the *Eclogues* and the *Georgics* too, which, because of their subject matter, move in and out of favour more dramatically. The earliest versions of the *Eclogues* offer a snapshot of the range of possibilities.<sup>21</sup> The Italian translation by Bernardo Pulci, dedicated to Lorenzo de' Medici, begun around 1470 and published in Florence in 1481/2, shows precision and concision in its *terzine* – for example, Pulci renders eleven Latin lines in six *terzine* – and is a competent attempt to render the Latin faithfully. This contrasts with the earliest Spanish attempt, that of Juan de Encina in 1496. His *Imitación de las Églogas de Virgilio*, included in his collection of poems called *Cancionero* ('Songbook'), which was dedicated to the Catholic monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella, expands considerably, for example using three strophes of twelve lines for the first seven lines of *Eclogue* 2.<sup>22</sup> His domestications include what he calls 'estilo rústico' ('rustic style'), with his shepherds sometimes using the dialect of Salamanca.<sup>23</sup> In the *argumentos* to the individual poems he applies the content to his own world; for example, in *Eclogue* 1 he interprets Meliboeus as representing rebel landowners displaced for conspiring with the king of Portugal; in *Eclogue* 2 he proposes that Corydon is the poet and Alexis the king, and in *Eclogue* 9 that Menalcas is the dethroned king of Grenada. Encina is typical of his moment: his version shows humanist and Italian elements blending with national Spanish characteristics, but in definitely Hispanized form.<sup>24</sup> The first Italian version of the *Eclogues*, then, looks ahead to Renaissance humanist principles, while the first Spanish version makes Virgil a fifteenth-century *Cancionero*. The first complete French *Eclogues*, published in 1516, mixes these characteristics. The author is Guillaume Michel de Tours, like Octovien de Saint-Gelais, one of the Grands Rhétoriciens who are precursors of the Pléiade literary movement.<sup>25</sup> But Michel's book

<sup>21</sup> Gerhardt 1949 explores the Italian, Spanish and French versions.

<sup>22</sup> See discussion by Kallendorf 2020: 106–9; he describes the book as 'an avant garde representative of printing in Salamanca' (122).

<sup>23</sup> The exception is his deployment of *arte mayor* for *Eclogue* 4, reflecting the more elevated material; see Armstrong 2017: 10 on Encina's epicization of bucolic poetry.

<sup>24</sup> Gerhardt 1949: 55: 'Encina nationalise Virgile, avec un aplomb qui a quelque chose de désarmant' ('Encina nativizes Virgil with a somewhat disarming self-confidence'). Cf. the title of Lawrence's 1999 article on Encina, 'imitación clásica e hibridación romancista'.

<sup>25</sup> Clément Marot's translation of *Eclogue* 1 may be earlier: see Chapter 1. The 'Grands Rhétoriciens' were a group of poets in northern France, Flanders and the Duchy of Burgundy, who used rich ornamentation including rhyme schemes and assonance.



has a medieval look, with its Gothic characters and woodcuts, as well as a medieval mindset: each poem is followed by commentary offering exposition of its hidden sense. The translation itself, in bumpy decasyllables, is almost incomprehensible, bristling with Latinisms and padding – an example from *Eclogue* 5 shows two Latin lines expanded into seven in the French; without the Latin, which is printed as side notes, one would be lost. The first complete *Eclogues* in German offers yet another model. Johann Adelphus Muling's translation, dating from 1508/9, is explicitly aimed at schoolchildren and adopts the same layout as Latin schoolbooks, presenting a literal prose translation with interlinear paraphrase and marginal commentary in smaller type and supplemented with Sebastian Brant's woodcuts. This translation has no literary pretensions, but aims to be didactically functional within the institutional framework of contemporary schools, making the teaching and learning methods transparent for users.<sup>26</sup>

The earliest *Georgics* are Foresi's Italian version (1482) and Guillaume Michel's French version (1519). The second half of the sixteenth century offers translations of the *Eclogues* in Spanish (1574), English (1575), Polish (1588) and Dutch (1597), and of the *Georgics* in German (1571), Spanish (1586) and English (1589). The earliest collected *Works* that I can identify is the French from 1529, consisting of Guillaume Michel's *Eclogues* and *Georgics* with Octovien de Saint-Gelais' *Aeneid*. The earliest single-authored collected works appear to be by Diego López (Spanish, 1600–1), Joost van den Vondel (Dutch, 1646) and John Ogilby (English, 1649). Even this selection of data hints at the dizzying possibilities for research on this topic. So it is proper that I indicate the parameters of my study.

My geographical scope extends from Russia and Ukraine in the east to the Americas in the west, including Brazil, formerly part of the Portuguese Empire, Argentina, formerly part of the Spanish Empire, and America during the era when it was a British colony; and in the north from Iceland, Norway and Finland southwards to North Africa, where a French translation of the *Georgics* was penned by a Parisian farmer in Tunisia. Another *Georgics* translation was undertaken in Changi Gaol and Sime Road Camp in Singapore during World War II. The presence of translations of Virgil in languages and dialects including Basque, Catalan, Neapolitan and Sicilian speaks to the cultural capital residing in Virgil's poetry. Because of the wide geographical spread of my project, I have preferred to refer to individuals often known by Latinized names in their native forms because this reminds

<sup>26</sup> On Muling, see Chapter 7, pp. 538–40.



us of their location and nationality. For example, I refer to the Flemish scholar-printer Ascensius (Jodocus Badius Ascensius) as Bade (his name in French was Josse Bade), and to the Italian Aldus Manutius as Manuzio. Complexities have included the changing geopolitical denomination of territories, for example the interrelationships of the courts of Castile and Aragon with Catalonia, Naples and Sicily in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; the fact that the countries we know as 'Germany' and 'Italy' did not exist until the nineteenth century; the encroachments by neighbouring powers that resulted in Poland and Lithuania being removed from the map for 123 years until 1918; the emergence of South Slavic states from 'the former Yugoslavia' in recent years, and so on.

My chronological range embraces the earliest extant adaptations, from the eleventh and twelfth centuries, down to translations of the present day, an era of continuing productivity: since the year 2000 at least eleven new English translations of the *Aeneid* have been published, including three by women, a phenomenon which raises questions of gender that I tackle later.<sup>27</sup> I use this chapter to register and reflect on the earliest adaptations of the *Aeneid*, dating from before printing in the West, but in the body of the book my main concern will be translations produced during the print era down to the present day, because the print era coincides with versions we can recognize as translations rather than adaptations. This will not preclude attention to a few translations that survive only in manuscript; these represent an important but as yet understudied area in which Stuart Gillespie and Sheldon Brammall are pioneers.<sup>28</sup>

My second aim in this chapter is to indicate my framework and methodology (Section 0.6). Essentially, I use a model of reception theory as a development of reader-response theory which values translators as

<sup>27</sup> In addition to A. S. Kline's 2002 translation, available on the website [poetryintranslation.com](http://poetryintranslation.com), we have translations by Stanley Lombardo (2005), Robert Fagles (2006), Frederick Ahl (2007), Sarah Ruden (2008), Patricia Johnston (2012), Howard Felperin (2014), Barry Powell (2015), David Ferry (2017) and Shadi Bartsch (2021), along with Ruden's revised translation (2021), on which I collaborated. Jane Wilson Joyce is reported to be working on a translation too (according to [www.atrium-media.com/rogueclassicism/Posts/00008683.html](http://www.atrium-media.com/rogueclassicism/Posts/00008683.html), posted 15 October 2008, accessed 13 April 2021).

<sup>28</sup> Gillespie has published articles on translations of ancient texts, including *Anacreontea*, Juvenal, Persius, Horace, Hesiod, Martial, Seneca and Virgil, that survive only in manuscript, including what he calls an 'outstanding' anonymous version of *Georgics* 3 (BL Add. MS 38488A, around 1800: Gillespie 2015). He discusses manuscript translations in *English Translation and Classical Reception* (2011: 104–22); his *Newly Recovered English Classical Translations, 1600–1800* (2018) is accompanied by an online-only annexe available at [www.oup.com/nrect](http://www.oup.com/nrect), as well as a free-to-view project website at <https://nrect.gla.ac.uk>. Brammall (2014, 2015) has analysed several Virgil translations that survive only in manuscript and is currently preparing an edition of Heath's complete *Aeneid* for the online appendix to Gillespie's book.

especially close and careful readers. I have learned much from the work of Lorna Hardwick in particular, whose *Translating Words, Translating Cultures* (2000) remains essential reading for anyone concerned with the translation of classical texts.<sup>29</sup> I am convinced of the bidirectionality of the process of classical reception theory, as articulated influentially by Charles Martindale in his seminal 1993 study *Redeeming the Text: Latin Poetry and the Hermeneutics of Reception*. We can ask questions about the influence of classical texts on later eras, but we must not underestimate the extent to which later remakings of classical texts affect our view and appreciation of those texts. This applies especially to translation.<sup>30</sup> To put it another way, the original text and its reworking in the form of translation operate ‘in a fruitful relationship of reciprocal enlightenment’.<sup>31</sup> The case for viewing translation as a crucial element within reception studies is made by Stuart Gillespie and developed by Craig Kallendorf when he argues for the value of ‘transformation methodology’, which views translation as a transposition from a ‘reference culture’ into a ‘reception culture’ that invariably involves fundamental change.<sup>32</sup> Both of these scholars have exercised a fundamental influence on my thinking about translation and both have also offered me enormous help and support. I devote a later part of this chapter to situating my approach theoretically, especially in relation to contemporary translation studies, a field which exhibits a particular concern with issues of ethnicity, gender, colonialism and empire, but also in relation to book history and intellectual history more widely. I shall indicate to what extent these issues are useful in the study of the translation-as-reception of Virgil.

My third aim is to account for the organization of the book by considering what it might have been (and is not), as well as what it is (Section 0.7). This section will indicate the principles of organization I settled upon and will include summaries of the ten following chapters, along with indications of the major and minor translations tackled in each. Already the reader will have gleaned that this book comprises

<sup>29</sup> Especially chapter 1, ‘The Battles of Translation’ (2000: 9–22), which provides a quick orientation to issues debated in translation studies up to 2000.

<sup>30</sup> See chapter 4 in Martindale 1993: 75–100. Armstrong 2005, an excellent overview of the issues involved in translating classical epic poetry, has some pertinent remarks on bidirectionality.

<sup>31</sup> I owe this phrase to Romani Mistretta 2018: 304. On the term ‘original’, see Coldiron 2016: 315; she prefers to refer to ‘translations and their prior texts’ rather than ‘translations and originals’, which ‘may reify a hierarchy of writerly value’. Although I have some sympathy for the motivations that underlie this choice, I have no such qualms.

<sup>32</sup> Gillespie 2011: 1 (‘translation should move towards the forefront of the study of reception’); Kallendorf 2020: III–13.

numerous case studies. The biggest hermeneutic challenge of all is how to rise above the case study (Section 0.8). My interdisciplinary investigation attempts to generate a larger picture that contributes to Western intellectual history as well as challenging classicists and other scholars of literature to reassess the features of Virgil's poems to which the translators respond. I therefore close this chapter by indicating the interpretative gains of this study and ways in which it opens up further avenues for exploration by other scholars.

But first I return to what can be regarded as the earliest extant translations of Virgil's *Aeneid*, in Middle Irish, Old French and Middle High German, from the eleventh and twelfth centuries, if the term 'translation' is granted considerable latitude; as noted earlier, I regard these versions as adaptations. And here I should alert the reader that in this study I shall make several claims of 'firstness' for different translations with different qualifications. I discuss these three early versions here as a way of foregrounding some of the choices available to the translator and some of the issues that will be developed later in the book. Will the translation be in prose or poetry? If in verse, in what metre? Does the translator seek to domesticate the original to his/her own culture or does s/he prefer to make the translation sound foreign? While the metre-or-not decision is a simple binary, the domesticating-foreignizing decision evokes a spectrum or axes that might be plotted on a graph. Other axes include archaizing versus modernizing; expansion for clarity versus concision and precision; grandeur and elevation versus economy and naturalization; deferential literalism versus confident appropriation of the original. Some translators supplement the original with explanatory materials, while others operate with a notion of compensation in translation. It is always crucial to interrogate these terms and to trace the implications of any particular set of choices. With those issues in mind, I will now indicate the ways in which my three opening cases sample some of the central issues of the book as a whole.

### 0.3 Translation as Domestication: Aeneas in Ireland

It is a long way from Polybius' translation in first-century Rome to eleventh-century Ireland, yet, as is well known, in those intervening years the island of Ireland played a major role in the preservation of classical learning in western Europe, thanks to its energetic missionary activity in founding monasteries in Britain and continental Europe, including Iona

in Scotland, Luxeuil in Burgundy, Bobbio in Italy and St Gall in Switzerland.<sup>33</sup> Given that Virgil had long been a subject of monastic study in Ireland, it should be no surprise to discover that the earliest extant European version of the *Aeneid* is the Irish *Imtheachta Aeniasa* ('Wanderings of Aeneas'), which dates from the eleventh or twelfth century.<sup>34</sup> Like most translations of the *Aeneid*, the *Imtheachta Aeniasa* heavily domesticates the *Aeneid* to the receiving culture, adopting the native prose form. Because Irish culture suffered less than most European cultures from the anxiety of influence of pagan literature, it was able to settle Greco-Roman material into the familiar native modes.<sup>35</sup> The *Imtheachta Aeniasa* was not alone: there were also Middle Irish versions of the *De Excidio Troiae* (*Togail Troi*), the *Odyssey* (*Merugud Uilix*), Statius' *Thebaid* (*Togail na Tebe*) and Lucan's *Civil War* (*Cath Catharda*), all of which are assimilated into the Irish narrative tradition. But the domestication of the *Aeneid* in *Imtheachta Aeniasa* goes a lot deeper than turning the 'tawny jasper' on Aeneas' sword (*fulua iaspide*, *Aen.* 4.261) into red Irish 'carbuncles' ('carrmogail', *IA* 770) or having the Latins engage in the characteristic Irish sport of hurling ('lia-throití', *IA* 1553).<sup>36</sup> In this chapter I now devote attention to manifestations of the domestication performed in the *Imtheachta Aeniasa* because the phenomenon anticipates many of the domestications I discuss later.<sup>37</sup> Once I have outlined some of the features of the earliest appropriations of the *Aeneid*, I shall broaden my discussion to indicate the scope of my book and the methods deployed.

<sup>33</sup> Bolgar 1954: 91–5; Reynolds and Wilson 1991: 86–9 and 259–60; on 'the first thousand years', see Stanford 1976: 1–18.

<sup>34</sup> McElduff, 'Irish literature' in *VE*; Hofman 1988 argues that Virgil was known directly in early medieval Ireland. On the dating of the *Imtheachta Aeniasa*, see Poppe 2004; Hofman 1988: 197 proposes the eleventh century because of the Irish forms of the Latin names and makes a connection with the political context. My understanding of the *Imtheachta Aeniasa* owes much to Richard Martin and Siobhán McElduff.

<sup>35</sup> Meyer 1966: 97 observes that 'the Irishman . . . had no axe to grind' and 'was not interested in proving that he was descended from deities of Latium or Troy', unlike many other cultures, as I discuss in Chapter 1.

<sup>36</sup> References, quotations and translations are from Calder's 1907 edition of *Imtheachta Aeniasa* (Anonymous 1995). See Meyer 1966: 103 on the assimilation to Irish details in terms of place and activities.

<sup>37</sup> The most unusual feature of this Irish version of the *Aeneid* is that it was not only the first but also the last, presumably because the central place of Virgil in Latin in elite Irish education removed the need for further translations; Virgil and Homer were also studied in the illegal hedge schools for poor children, set up after Catholic education was suppressed in the seventeenth century onwards, as vividly represented by playwright Brian Friel in *Translations* (1981), which starts and ends with quotations from Homer and Virgil; for discussion, see Hardwick 2000: 81–4. Several English translations by Irish translators, including Stanyhurst, Leadbeater, Fallon and Heaney, will be discussed later.

The author of *Imtheachta Aeniasa* is certainly capable of following the Latin very closely, as seen, for example, in the Polyphemus episode (*IA* 140–95, translating *Aen.* 3.588–683) or the games in Sicily (*IA* 970–1144, translating *Aen.* 5.104–544). But there are some significant omissions, abbreviations and additions, which reflect the Irish audience's expectations. Episodes which would attract special attention in the later translation history of the *Aeneid*, such as the death of Priam, the death of Dido and parts of Aeneas' visit to the Underworld, are abbreviated, with the first of these being mentioned only in passing (*IA* 589–91). The author is not interested in Virgil's teleological view of Roman history, as Erich Poppe shows in his analysis of how the content of Book 8 is rendered in the *Imtheachta Aeniasa*: the description of the future site of Rome and the Venus and Vulcan episode are omitted and the description of the shield cut to just a few lines (*IA* 1960–4).<sup>38</sup> Surprisingly, given the Irish predilection for narratives of cattle-raids, the Hercules and Cacus story is omitted; this may be attributed to its delaying the narrative progression.<sup>39</sup> The author mostly ignores Roman customs and omits Virgil's similes.<sup>40</sup>

On the other hand, the *Imtheachta Aeniasa* makes notable additions to Virgil's text.<sup>41</sup> Immediately striking are the alliterative phrases, often combined with doublets or triplets of adjectives in asyndeton, which are characteristic of older Irish narratives.<sup>42</sup> One example is the phrase 'lúirech trebraid tredúalach', denoting a breastplate, which occurs at least six times in the *Imtheachta Aeniasa*.<sup>43</sup> Extravagant strings of alliterative adjectives describing fierce fighting are typical: 'robai cathugudh feigh feochair faeburda fergach fuilech foindmethi guinech crechtach crolinteach andsin' (*IA* 2012–14; 'and there was fighting sharp, wild, keen, ireful, bloody, reckless, incisive, wounding, gory').<sup>44</sup> This powerful alliteration is found throughout, but especially in descriptions of warriors and their weapons, in compensation for the loss of Virgil's similes. Thus Nisus and Euryalus are described in terms often used of warriors in native Irish sagas as 'two points of contest and manslaying, two pillars of a battle, and two hammers for smiting and crushing foes' (*IA* 2063–4).<sup>45</sup> The description of Pallas setting off with his Arcadian cavalry to accompany Aeneas back to the battlefield is

<sup>38</sup> Poppe 2004: 87–8; likewise, Anchises' speech in Book 6 is shortened significantly.

<sup>39</sup> Poppe 2004: 89–90. <sup>40</sup> Poppe 2004: 79–83.

<sup>41</sup> For a brief overview, see Slotkin 1978: 444–7. <sup>42</sup> Meyer 1966: 105–6; Poppe 2004: 75.

<sup>43</sup> Calder translates 'triple-braided, triple-lopped hauberik'. Poppe 2004: 81 sees this as inspired by Virgil's *trilix lorica* ('triple-meshed breastplate', *Aen.* 5.259–60).

<sup>44</sup> Poppe 1995: 20–1. <sup>45</sup> Meyer 1966: 100.

a supreme example of expansive description replacing a simile.<sup>46</sup> The Latin is relatively brief (*Aen.* 8.587–91):<sup>47</sup>

*ipse agmine Pallas  
in medio, chlamyde et pictis conspectus in armis:  
qualis ubi Oceani perfusus Lucifer unda,  
quem Venus ante alios astrorum diligit ignis,  
extulit os sacrum caelo tenebrasque resoluit.*

Ruden's revised translation (2021), which I use often, reads:

in the middle  
Went Pallas, in a vivid cloak and armor;  
As, soaked in Ocean's waters, Lucifer,  
Whom Venus loves above all other stars,  
Raises his sacred face and melts the darkness.

In the *Imtheachta Aeniasa*, as scholars observe, the opening of this passage is taken directly from the old Irish romance, *Tochmarch Ferbe* (*Courtship of Ferbe*), which narrates how Mani, son of Queen Maev, courts his beloved, the fair Ferb (*IA* 1924–9):<sup>48</sup>

Comely was the youth that was in their midst. Golden hair upon him, slightly curling; a clear blue eye in his head; like the prime of the wood in May, or like the purple foxglove was each of his two cheeks. You would think that it was a shower of pearls that rained into his head. You would think his lips were a loop of coral. As white as the snow of one night, were his neck and the rest of his skin.

The passage continues (*IA* 1929–37):

There are fine [robes] long, almost white, to the extremities of his hands and his feet. A purple fringed mantle about him. A pin of precious stone set in gold upon his breast. A necklace of gold about his neck. A filmy silken smock close to his white skin. A girdle of gold with gems of precious stones about his loins. A gold-hilted sword on his body, its blade, having been bent back from point to hilt, straightens itself like a rapier. It would cut a hair on water; it would sever a hair upon a head, and would not cut skin; it would make two halves of a man, and he would not hear it till long afterwards.

The description of the sword here resembles the language used in Irish sagas to describe the sword of Socht, a noble youth in the court of Cormac whose sword, named 'The Hard-headed Steeling', was exceptionally sharp and had magical qualities.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>46</sup> Poppe 2004: 92 calls this 'ecphrasis' 'the polished centrepiece' of the episode.

<sup>47</sup> Here and throughout I use Conte's 2019 Teubner text of the *Aeneid*.

<sup>48</sup> Meyer 1966: 101 and Poppe 1995: 24–5 who presents synoptic passages.

<sup>49</sup> Meyer 1966: 101–2; Poppe 1995: 24–5.

Another feature familiar in medieval Irish texts was the incitement to battle. This inspires another addition: before the Trojans and Rutulians join battle in Book 10, the *Imtheachta Aeniasa* has Aeneas and Turnus addressing their troops where there are no such speeches in the Latin (*Aen.* 10.308–9).<sup>50</sup> Part of Aeneas' speech illustrates characteristic linguistic features of Irish narratives, including alliterative phrases, multiple adjectives and colour terminology in descriptions and, according to Edgar Slotkin, is 'composed entirely of formulas or formulaic expressions' (*IA* 2454–63).<sup>51</sup>

It is like you to show bravery. Royal, furiously-routing are your kings; mighty, unflinching are your heroes ['Ad rigda ruaigmhera ba[r] riga, trena talchara bar taisigh']; prudent and wise are your counsellors; heroic, eager, fiercely rough, your valiant warriors; sanguinary, brave, daring your battle-soldiers. Moreover, good is your collection of arms unto the battle; many are your beautiful, brazen hauberks. They are triple-braided, triple-linked with truly beautiful gilded helms ['at iat trebraidi tredualacha co cathbarraib firailli forordhaib'].

Another important feature of native Irish sagas which is manifest in the *Imtheachta Aeniasa* is a deep interest in genealogy. This sees Aeneas often called 'Ænias macc Ainichis' ('Aeneas son of Anchises') and Ascanius' genealogy stated in full (*IA* 2365–6) where Virgil just calls him *Dardanius* (10.133, 'Dardanian', i.e. Trojan). Most remarkable of all, Latinus' ancestry is traced all the way back to Noah (*IA* 1478–80):<sup>52</sup>

*Laitin mac Puin meic Picc meic Neptuin meic Saduirn meic Pal loir meic Pic meic Pel meic Tres meic Trois meic Mesraim meic Caimh meic Noe.*

Latinus, son of Faunus, son of Picus, son of Neptune, son of Saturn, son of Apollo[?], son of Picus, son of Pel, son of Tres, son of Tros, son of Mizraim, son of Ham, son of Noah.

I will return shortly to the possible significance of this.

So far the changes and additions mentioned are somewhat generic and apply to the Middle Irish versions of all the Greco-Roman epics listed earlier. More significant perhaps is the author's intervention which sees Aeneas 'transmuted into a traditional Irish hero' with 'the qualities of an Irish hero like Finn or Oisín', which render him 'more chivalrous and more faultless' than in the Latin.<sup>53</sup> Thus in the *Imtheachta Aeniasa* Aeneas' speech

<sup>50</sup> Poppe 1995: 27. <sup>51</sup> Slotkin 1978: 446–7, with examples.

<sup>52</sup> Meyer 1966: 102. Noah was regarded as the ur-ancestor of the Irish: Williams 2016: 130–5, 512.

<sup>53</sup> The first quotation is from Rowland 1970: 29, who provides evidence for this assertion on pp. 30–1; the second and third quotations are from Stanford 1976: 81.



of despair in Book 1 is eliminated; Iarbas' unflattering remarks in Book 4 are converted into praise; and in Book 10 Aeneas' berserk rampage after the death of Pallas is rendered ferocious but not beyond moral bounds, by the omission of his taking captives for human sacrifice. In addition, the epilogue has him return Turnus' body and weapons to the dead man's father, Daunus.

Domestication manifests in form as well as content. The prose form of the *Imtheachta Aeniasa* assimilates it to Irish sagas, a genre which includes narratives that can be classified as 'Destructions, Cattle-raids, Courtships, Battles, Cave-stories, Voyages' and more.<sup>54</sup> The context of the preservation helps us understand the alterations in the translation. The only complete version survives in the fourteenth-century *Book of Ballymote*, where it appears at the end of the collection along with other classical stories in chronological sequence:<sup>55</sup> first the *Togail Troí* (*Destruction of Troy*, adapted from the *De Excidio Troiae* attributed to Dares Phrygius), then the *Merugud Uilix* (a version of the *Odyssey*), then the *Imtheachta Aeniasa*, and finally the *Scéla Alaxandair* (a compilation of the deeds of Alexander the Great).<sup>56</sup> The *Book of Ballymote* starts with *Leabhair Gabhála* (*Book of Invasions*) and includes Irish genealogical, historical and legal texts. This context argues for a desire to integrate the *Imtheachta Aeniasa* into a chronological assemblage of narratives about antiquity which privileges the narration of events over their interpretation (by contrast, for example, with Virgil's teleological view of Roman history), and thoroughly adapts the work to the interests of the medieval Irish audience.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>54</sup> Meyer 1966: 97. The same applies to the medieval Icelandic versions of the story of Aeneas, dating from the early thirteenth century, which are written in prose and heavily assimilated and indeed incorporated into the Icelandic cycle of ancient sagas sometimes denoted as 'pseudo-history'; see note 56 below. One classic mark of domestication in the Icelandic material is that Jupiter becomes Thor.

<sup>55</sup> On the three versions of *Imtheachta Aeniasa*, the full version in the *Book of Ballymote* and the two incomplete versions, see Poppe 2004: 77–9.

<sup>56</sup> Similarly, the cycle of Icelandic sagas, dating from the late twelfth century to the mid-thirteenth, includes the *Trójumanna saga* (*Saga of the Troy-men*), the *Rómverja saga* (*Saga of the Romans*), the *Breta sögur* (*Sagas of the Britons*), the *Alexanders saga* (*Saga of Alexander*) and the *Gydinga saga* (*Saga of the Jews*), regarded as a group of related texts (Würth 2008: 163). I shall not discuss the medieval Icelandic stories of Aeneas, fascinating though they are, because they are dependent primarily on the *De Excidio Troiae*: they are merely supplemented with incidents from the *Ilias Latina* and Virgil's *Aeneid* and are so heavily abbreviated that they cannot be regarded as translations of Virgil. For outlines, see Eldevik, 'Icelandic Literature', in *VE* and *VT*: 616–22; Tómasson 2007: 93–8 and Würth 2008: 163–8 offer accessible introductions, the latter explaining how these sagas were used to integrate Iceland into world history by making an indirect connection with Trojan ancestry; genealogies that asserted descent from royalty had a reassuring role (156–7).

<sup>57</sup> Poppe 1995: 14–17, 29–30; cf. Poppe 2004: 77: 'The epilogue . . . places the account of Aeneas' travels into the context of subsequent Roman and world history and introduces a specific view of historical

This appropriation explains why the *Imtheachta Aeniasa* presents the narrative largely in chronological sequence, instead of leaping *in medias res*, as Virgil does. It has a brief prologue and a briefer epilogue which appear to provide context and closure, respectively. The prologue, which depicts a debate among the Greeks about what to do with the Trojan survivors, presents the oddity (to our eyes, anyway) of introducing Aeneas along with Antenor as betrayers of Troy, a theme which is at odds with the presentation of Aeneas in the body of the work.<sup>58</sup> The epilogue starts by having Aeneas take Turnus' body to his father Daunus for burial and concludes with genealogy and world history (*IA* 3213–17):

And from the seeds of Æneas, Ascanius and Lavinia have sprung Roman lords, and king-folk and rulers of the world from thenceforward till the judgment-day shall come. So that these are the wanderings of Æneas son of Anchises, as above. Finit [It is finished], Amen, finit. Solomon O'Droma nomine scripsit [by name wrote].

This framework manifests typical Irish concerns. Moreover, it explains why Latinus' ancestry is traced all the way back to Noah: the author wishes to accommodate and integrate the classical texts into a comprehensive worldview that comfortably sets biblical and pagan material side by side.

The first translation of the *Aeneid*, then, certainly 'naturalizes' the text into 'a thorough literary acculturation' of the original.<sup>59</sup> While mostly keeping close to the Latin text, in both form and content, the author of the *Imtheachta Aeniasa* 'has attempted to bring the Aeneid into the recognizable form and shape of an Irish saga'; the result is 'not so much a translation from one language to another but from one culture to another'.<sup>60</sup> This domesticating process is repeated over and over in later translations, but always with differing particulars of domestication. Thus the *Imtheachta Aeniasa* presents a classic case of a translation situated towards the domesticating end of the domesticating-foreignizing spectrum proposed by translation theorist Friedrich Schleiermacher in the early nineteenth century, according to which the translator either moves the reader towards the author or the author towards

linearity and dynastic continuity by asserting that not only the Romans but all rulers of the world until its end descend from the "seed of Aeneas, Ascanius, and Lavinia".

<sup>58</sup> For a useful overview of Aeneas and Antenor as traitors of Troy in Dares, Dictys, Guido delle Colonne and English works of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, see Stevenson 1990 and Mora-Lebrun 1994: 20–1.

<sup>59</sup> McElduff, 'Irish Literature', in *VE*; Poppe 2004: 79. Meyer's judgement (1966: 97) that the text is a mixture of translation and paraphrase is not accurate.

<sup>60</sup> Slotkin 1978: 445 and 447.

the reader.<sup>61</sup> My study confirms that most translators set out to ‘domesticate’ Virgil’s poems, appropriating them to their own national literary conventions for a mixture of aesthetic, moral, ideological and patriotic reasons and often obscuring the quintessentially Roman features of the original. A few translators, preferring the foreignizing approach, have been brave enough to make their translations difficult in order to remind readers that they are engaging with literature produced by an alien culture; but, for the majority, the cultural capital gained from appropriating Virgil outweighs any such considerations. I address foreignizing translations in Chapter 9. For now, I shall glance at two further early versions of the *Aeneid* to indicate some of the varying manifestations of domestication: the Old French *Roman d’Enéas* and Heinrich von Veldeke’s *Eneit* in Middle High German.

#### 0.4 Camille the Knight and Cerberus the Poison-Dripping Monster in the *Roman d’Enéas*

Like the *Imtheachta Aeniasa*, the Old French *Roman d’Enéas* domesticates the *Aeneid*, but in different ways, which reflect the concerns of its cultural milieu. And like the *Imtheachta Aeniasa*, the *Roman d’Enéas* was one of several classical reworkings, alongside the *Roman de Thèbes* (c.1150) and the *Roman de Troie* (1165). The *Roman d’Enéas* is an anonymous twelfth-century romance of about 10,000 octosyllabic rhyming couplets, written at or for the Plantagenet court of Anjou, probably between 1155 and 1160.<sup>62</sup> It follows the structure of the *Aeneid* but makes significant changes, including resequencing events into chronological order and adding 341 lines of epilogue. It is not a translation in the humanistic sense, but a typical medieval adaptation which eliminates much of the mythological schema, including dreams and visions, makes some Christianizing moves and is above all adapted for the medieval courtly context.<sup>63</sup> For example, it curtails Aeneas’ wanderings and omits the funeral games of Book 5, but

<sup>61</sup> See Venuti 2018: 15 and 83–98; I resume discussion of this concept later in this chapter.

<sup>62</sup> See Cormier 2015: 1 on the context of the court of Henry II Plantagenet and Eleanor of Aquitaine; Yunck’s edition (1974) has an excellent introduction (1–54) which covers dating, transmission, sensibility, success, method of composition including euhemeristic rationalizations, additional materials, feudalization and above all the Ovidian development of the love theme, as well as the German adaptation by Veldeke, which I discuss later. For rehabilitation of the *Enéas* as a translation meriting attention, see Cormier 1973; for detail on the nature of the adaptation, see Cormier 2012.

<sup>63</sup> See Cormier 2015: 2 on its adaptation of religious, political and dynastic aims to the Norman-Angevin Empire; cf. Yunck 1974: 7: the *Enéas* ‘permits us to view in detail the transformation of a major classical literary work into the spirit and idiom of another civilization’.

expands the Judgement of Paris episode; it renders the duel between Aeneas and Turnus as a joust, with Lavine watching from her tower window; and it continues the narrative beyond Turnus' death to the courtship and marriage of Eneas and Lavine. The poem is important for its focus on love, especially married love:<sup>64</sup> it inserts love dialogues between Eneas and Lavine, under heavy Ovidian influence, and thus turns Aeneas the warrior into Eneas the lover, reflecting the standard derivation of *hērōs* ('hero') from *eros* ('love') in this period.<sup>65</sup> In this way, the *Enéas* serves up material designed to be familiar and welcome to its audience.

The ideological freightage of the *Enéas* has been studied in depth. It has been argued that the poem contributes 'to the myth of continuity that the Anglo-Norman ruling class promoted and to the privileging of lineage, and of primogeniture, that was so crucial to the Norman social and economic structure'.<sup>66</sup> On another, largely complementary, reading it is 'the maturation of the knight Eneas',<sup>67</sup> 'fundamentally a narrative of a knight's fulfillment of himself' in a secular pilgrimage which sees him achieve '*joi* [joy] through love and war'.<sup>68</sup>

To illustrate the kind of domesticating performed in the *Enéas*, I discuss two episodes, starting with the catalogue of the allies of Turnus (7.641–817) with which *Aeneid* 7 closes, which culminates in fifteen lines on the virago Camilla (7.803–17):<sup>69</sup>

*hos super aduenit Volsca de gente Camilla  
agmen agens equitum et florentis aere cateruas,  
bellatrix, non illa colo calathisque Mineruae  
femineas adsueta manus, sed proelia uirgo  
dura pati cursuque pedum praeuertere uentos.  
illa uel intactae segetis per summa uolaret  
gramina nec teneras cursu laessisset aristas,  
uel mare per medium fluctu suspensa tument*

<sup>64</sup> Wilson-Okamura 2010b: 233–6 suggests that this is the moment when married (as opposed to tragic) love blossomed as a major theme in the Western tradition.

<sup>65</sup> Wilson-Okamura 2010b: 229, 233. On the conflation of the etymologies of *hērōs* and *eros*, see Wells 2007: 22–3. The wordplay resembles that between *Roma*, *amor* and *mora* discussed by Reed 2016. See Yunk 1974: 210–11 n. 133 on the poet's turn to Ovid for inspiration, drawing on *Metamorphoses*, *Heroides*, *Amores*, *Ars amatoria* and *Remedia amoris*, and assembling the elements that 'quickly became the staples of romance'.

<sup>66</sup> Lee Patterson 1987: 179; thus Anchises reveals to Eneas not the future of Rome but his 'lignee'; that is, all his descendants. On the *Enéas* in its twelfth-century context more generally, see Lee Patterson 1987: 157–83.

<sup>67</sup> Singerman 1986: 114; for full discussion of the *Enéas* in relation to the *Aeneid*, see Singerman 1986: 26–98, especially 96–8 on allegorizing readings of the progress of Aeneas.

<sup>68</sup> Yunk 1974: 16.

<sup>69</sup> My discussion is substantially based on Gottlieb 1990; I use Yunk's 1974 translation.

*ferret iter, celeris nec tingeret aequare plantas.  
 illam omnis tectis agrisque effusa iuuentus  
 turbaque miratur matrum et prospectat euntem,  
 attonitis inbians animis, ut regius ostro  
 uelet honos leuis umeros, ut fibula crinem  
 auro internectat, Lyciam ut gerat ipsa pharetram  
 et pastorem praefixa cuspide myrtum.*

Here is Ruden's translation (2021):

Last came Camilla of the Volsci,  
 Leading a cavalry that bloomed with bronze.  
 A female warrior, stranger to Minerva's  
 Tasks and the distaff, though she was a girl,  
 She endured combat and outran the wind.  
 She could have skimmed the tips of standing grain  
 Over a field and spared the tender heads,  
 Or glided clear across the swelling ocean  
 And kept her swift feet dry above the surface.  
 Men poured from fields and matrons out of houses  
 To gaze on her in wonder as she rode.  
 They gaped, astonished at the royal splendor  
 Of purple on smooth shoulders, the gold hair clasp—  
 The Lycian quiver hanging at her back,  
 The shepherd's staff of myrtle, tipped with iron.

By contrast, in the *Enéas* (which is not divided into books) the poet devotes about 150 lines to a lavish description of Camille (*RdE* 3959–4106). In this tour de force he takes Virgil's *bellatrix* (*Aen.* 7.805, 'female warrior'), who receives the same attention as the other allies, and renders her instead a female knight who receives as much detail as all the other knights combined. Clearly, the *Enéas* poet notices that Virgil's Camilla processes on horseback, since she is *agmen agens equitum* (7.804, 'leading the cavalry'), and he takes this as a cue for a memorable and influential domesticating elaboration which includes lavish attention to her horse.<sup>70</sup>

Virgil's description falls into three parts: first, Camilla as virago who prefers warrior-like to womanly pursuits (7.803–7); second, her speed, conveyed with a double simile (7.807–11); third, the reaction of amazement at her regal and warlike appearance (7.812–17). The *Enéas* poet starts on roughly the same track as Virgil, but immediately makes her a knight (*RdE* 3971–6): 'She had no interest in any women's work, neither spinning nor sewing, but preferred the beauty of arms, tourneying, and jousting, striking with her sword and the

<sup>70</sup> See the notes of Yunck 1974: *ad loc.*

lance: there was no other woman of her bravery.<sup>71</sup> Likewise, the poet ends by describing the people's amazement as they seek vantage points to catch sight of her (*RdE* 4085–98). But most of the 150 lines are devoted to a long description of her beauty (*RdE* 3987–4084), a feature not even mentioned by Virgil. This is the most heavily domesticating section: it incorporates a highly conventional feature which would have been familiar to the twelfth-century audience, namely a detailed physical portrait starting from the top of the head and proceeding methodically down the body.<sup>72</sup> In the case of Camille, because she is represented as a female knight, this description extends to include her horse too, who receives thirty-eight lines. The description of Camille begins: 'No mortal woman was her equal in beauty. Her forehead was white and well formed, the part of her hair straight on her head, her eyebrows were black and very fine, her eyes laughing and full of joy.' It proceeds to detail her nose, mouth, teeth, hair, hair-braid, dress, belt, hose, shoes, shoelaces and cloak.<sup>73</sup> Then her palfrey receives a similar treatment, likewise from head to foot: 'its head was white as snow, the foretop black, its ears both all red. Its neck was bay and very large, its mane blue and gray in tufts, the right shoulder all gray and the left, wholly black' (*RdE* 4050–6) and so on, including its bridle, reins, saddle and stirrups.<sup>74</sup> This gorgeous description completely replaces the middle section in Virgil which depicts Camilla's speed in running (*Aen.*

<sup>71</sup> Onc d'ovre a feme ne ot cure,  
ne de filer ne de costure;  
mialz prisoit armes a porter,  
a tornoier et a joster,  
ferir d'espee et de lance :  
ne fu feme de sa vaillance.

<sup>72</sup> Colby-Hall 1965: 3–13 sets out to challenge overly rigid claims about the sequence of portrait descriptions, but the long list of examples she produces (14–19) illustrates, especially in the longer portraits, that the features are presented in descending order.

<sup>73</sup> Heller 2007: 61–94, in her study of distinctive clothing and changes of clothing in vernacular romances during the long French thirteenth century (c.1160–1330), provides a wider contextualization of this interest in Camille's clothing; she observes (88–90) that Camille's 3,000 knights each have unique emblems and colours.

<sup>74</sup> I follow the orthography of Salverda de Grave (Anonymous 1891):  
come neis ot blanche la teste,  
lo top ot neir, et les oreilles  
ot ambesdeus totes vermeilles,  
le col ot bai et fu bien gros,  
les crins indes et verz par flos;  
tote ot vaire l'espalle destre  
et bien fu grisle la senestre . . .

Another striking expansion by the poet is of Silvia's pet stag (*Aen.* 7.483–92); in the *Enéas* the stag is so well trained that it serves as a candelabrum at dinner, with candles affixed to the sixteen points of its antlers (*RdE* 3525–64; see Yunk's note for the intertexts).

7.807–11). This treatment of Camille by the *Enéas* poet, along with his lavish description of her tomb and casket (*RdE* 7531–724), which corresponds with nothing at all in Virgil, illustrates eloquently how the *Aeneid* is readily adapted to contemporary concerns by translators.<sup>75</sup>

My second episode from the *Enéas*, the description of Cerberus, not only reflects domesticating tendencies but also shows how the poet elaborates his text using accretions from other sources, in this case from Ovid, but elsewhere from commentators including Servius.<sup>76</sup> At *Aeneid* 6.417–25 Virgil offers the briefest description of Cerberus in his narrative of how the Sibyl drugs the dog with a honeyed cake:<sup>77</sup>

*Cerberus haec ingens latratu regna trifauci  
personat aduerso recubans immanis in antro.  
cui uates, horrere uidens iam colla colubris,  
melle soporatam et medicatis frugibus offam  
obicit. ille fame rabida tria guttura pandens  
corripit obiectam atque immania terga resoluit  
fusus humi totoque ingens extenditur antro.  
occupat Aeneas aditum custode sepulto  
euaditque celer ripam inremeabilis undae.*

But, as Raymond Cormier shows, the *Enéas* poet expands the description massively and vividly to make Cerberus revoltingly monstrous, before having the priestess charm him to sleep with a spell (*RdE* 2557–86):<sup>78</sup>

Caro steered and rowed until he set them on the other shore. They left the skiff and arrived at the gate where Cerberus was gatekeeper. His duty was to guard the gate. He was ugly beyond all measure, and of a very horrible shape. His legs and feet were all hairy, with hooked toes and talons like a griffon. He had a tail like a bulldog, a pointed and twisted back, and a fat,

<sup>75</sup> Yunck 1974: 203 n. 128 describes Camille's tomb as 'the *Eneas* poet's architectural triumph, an obvious delight to him and probably to his audience'.

<sup>76</sup> The phenomenon is discussed by Cormier 2012: 183–201.

<sup>77</sup> Ruden:

Cerberus sprawled immense there in his cave.  
The baying of his three throats filled that kingdom.  
The snakes rose on his neck, but then the seer  
Threw him a cake of drug-soaked grain and honey.  
With his three gaping mouths, in savage hunger,  
He seized it, and his monstrous arch of spine  
Melted, to stretch his huge form through the grotto.  
Aeneas passed the guard, now sunk in sleep,  
And hurried from the hopeless river's banks.

<sup>78</sup> Cormier 2012: 188–94. He describes this as a 'small but radioactive example [which] illustrates perfectly the transformation of classical mythology into vernacular romance' (194).



swollen belly. On his back was a hump, and his chest was sunken and withered. He had narrow shoulders, but great arms with hands like hooks, three large, serpentlike necks, hair of snakes, and three heads like those of a dog; there was no creature so ugly. His habit was to bark like a dog. From his mouth would fall a froth, from which grew a deadly and evil plant. No man drinks of that plant without being drawn to death: no man can taste it without death. I have heard it called *aconite*; it is the herb which stepmothers give their stepchildren to drink.

The amplification is achieved by working in material from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* 7.406–20, where Medea mixes poison for Theseus; Ovid explains the origin of the poison from the flecks of foam that flew from Cerberus as Hercules hauled him from the Underworld. Passages like this give a glimpse of the working methods of the poet: clearly, the strangeness of this description appealed to the medieval audience.<sup>79</sup>

Like the *Imtheachta Aeniasa*, the *Roman d'Enéas* naturalizes the *Aeneid* to meet the expectations of its own audience, but the alteration of the original is more profound. This is evident particularly in its dissatisfaction with the ending of the *Aeneid*, which leads to the addition of a much longer epilogue than in the Irish version. Most of the epilogue of the *Enéas* is devoted to the love agonies of Lavine and Eneas: after Turnus' death, the barons quickly submit to Eneas (9815–38); then comes Lavine's long monologue (9839–914), followed by Eneas' lovesick monologue (9915–10078) as they pine for one another (10079–90); finally, the joyful wedding and coronation take place (10091–130), and a brief coda glances towards the future foundation of Rome (10131–56). In other words, 250 of the additional 341 lines deal with the churned-up emotions of Lavine and Eneas. As I shall show in Chapter 7, dissatisfaction with the ending of the *Aeneid* leads to other kinds of supplement by later translators.

### 0.5 Veldeke's Middle High German *Eneit*: Achieving Closure

My third early version of the *Aeneid* is the *Eneit* or *Eneasroman*, the first courtly romance in a Germanic language. This was closely based on the *Roman d'Enéas* and written within a couple of decades, during the years 1170–85.<sup>80</sup> It thus introduces the important and complex phenomenon of translations of translations, sometimes referred to as retranslations or

<sup>79</sup> On wonder as well as wonders, miracles and marvels in the medieval world, see Bynum 1997: for example, 20, where she writes 'Strangeness appealed' to the medieval mind.

<sup>80</sup> See Classen 2006: 26–7, based on information in the final part of the epilogue (13529–44), which includes the intriguing tale of the theft of the nearly completed book.

secondary translations, a topic mentioned in Chapter 4.<sup>81</sup> The author was a knight from the hamlet of Veldeke, not far from Maastricht (modern Netherlands) and Hasselt (modern Belgium), both of which display statues celebrating the poet. He is claimed by both Dutch and German literary critics as Hendrik van Veldeke or Heinrich von Veldeke, respectively.<sup>82</sup> Veldeke (c.1145–c.1210), who also wrote a religious poem in Low German and love songs which idealize courtly love ('Minnesang'), is celebrated for his importance in Middle High German literature and praised as the founder of German courtly literature by the author of the *Tristan* romance, Gottfried von Strassburg (*Tristan* 4734–43):<sup>83</sup>

I hear him praised by the best poets, the masters of his time and of the present. They maintain that it was he who made the first graft on the tree of German verse and that the shoot put forth the branches and then the blossoms from which they took the art of fine composition.

The number of manuscripts of the *Eneit* that survive bear this out.<sup>84</sup> This claim for the foundational status of a version of the *Aeneid* in a national literature is the central topic of my first chapter.

The *Eneit* shows knowledge of Virgil and Ovid, Servius, Dares and Dictys, as well as earlier German poetry, but its dominant point of reference is the world of twelfth-century French romances, including the *Roman de Thèbes* and *Roman de Troie*.<sup>85</sup> The *Eneit* thus epitomizes the phenomenon of 'Germany [being] flooded by the influence of the fashionable courtly poetry of France' at the turn of the twelfth into the thirteenth centuries, which manifested in fashion, clothing and armour as well as literary forms.<sup>86</sup> To give one example, in the case of memorial architecture, Veldeke follows his model closely. His handling of the tomb of Camille (9385–574) resembles that in the *Enéas* (7531–724) in length and in many features, including the red lamp hanging from the gold chain and the mirror on top, but with different emphases. Veldeke adds the information

<sup>81</sup> On p. 273; but I use the term differently in this project: see pp. 315–29 (Chapter 4).

<sup>82</sup> Sinnema 1972: 5, 11; the extant manuscripts are in various linguistic manifestations of Middle High German (Sinnema 1972: 69–72); there is some debate about whether he composed directly in this language (see Thomas 1985: xii–xiii).

<sup>83</sup> Quoted by Thomas 1985: xi; Classen 2006: 26 notes that he is called 'Meister'. On his influence, see Thomas 1985: xxi–xxiii.

<sup>84</sup> Sinnema 1972: 83; Classen 2006: 26. <sup>85</sup> Classen 2006: 27.

<sup>86</sup> Gasparov 1996: 168; Bumke 1991: 61–101 discusses the adoption of French aristocratic culture in Germany at length, including the effect of the contextual differences between France and Germany during this period, especially the differing levels of literacy and education (100–1). For an in-depth discussion of the narratological significance of objects in Virgil, the *Enéas* and the *Eneit*, see Christ 2015.

that Camille had her tomb constructed by an architect called Geometras and he catalogues in loving detail the valuable gems and materials used, including jasper, marble, porphyry, rubies, sapphires, emeralds, chrysolites, sards, topazes, beryls, sardonyx, gold and copper,<sup>87</sup> whereas the *Enéas* poet is more interested in the stone carvings than in the materials used and includes a lavish description of Camille's clothing, coffin and epitaph. But the two medieval versions share a deep interest in wondrous architecture.

Veldeke's *Eneit* follows the *Roman d'Enéas* but is significantly longer (13,528 lines opposed to 10,156).<sup>88</sup> He abridges some episodes, in particular mythological passages; for example, the Judgement of Paris is reduced from ninety-nine to thirteen lines. In other places he expands, developing the knightling of Pallas from five lines in the *Enéas* (4810–14) to twenty-nine (*Eneit* 6265–93), for instance. He thus continues the *Enéas*' process 'of giving the story a medieval orientation in that he further suppressed classical material that was foreign to his audience and expanded scenes, such as those dealing with festivals and military operations, with which it was familiar'.<sup>89</sup> All this despite his claim in his epilogue that 'he undertook to tell it just as he found it. That is how he presented it, and he said nothing that he did not read in the book' (13519–23).<sup>90</sup> I will return to this locus of expansion in a moment.

Like the *Enéas*, the *Eneit* is in rhymed couplets, mostly of seven or eight syllables, in an adaptation of the French romance epic line.<sup>91</sup> It deploys the alliterating word-pairs which are characteristic of older German poetry, such as 'von siten und von sinnen' (3663, 'in manner and in thought'), 'habe unde bihalte' (5393, 'have and hold', of Latinus' land and daughter), 'als vmbe den lewen vnd vmbe daz lamp' (11330, 'between the lion and the lamb', of uneven pairing in battle) and 'slege grimme vnd groz' (12367, 'raging and intense blows', of the duel between Eneas and Turnus); it has been suggested that the alliterating pairs reflect the rhymes of the *Enéas*.<sup>92</sup> The style and syntax of the *Eneit* are more casual and conversational, with more filler rhymes than the *Enéas*, and with chatty suggestions to his readers to refer to the Latin for more details, for example:

<sup>87</sup> On Veldeke's knowledge of architecture and his invention of Geometras, see Sinnema 1972: 19–20.

<sup>88</sup> On his special interest in gems, see Sinnema 1972: 82.

<sup>89</sup> For a detailed comparison, see Dittrich 1966. <sup>89</sup> Thomas 1985: xxi.

<sup>90</sup> 'er sichs vnderwant, | wan als ers da geschriben vant, | also hat ers furgezogen, | daz er anders nicht hat gelogen | wan als ers an den büchen las'; I reproduce the translation of Thomas 1985, although it is not always exact, and the text of Fromm 1992.

<sup>91</sup> See Gasparov 1996: 171–3.

<sup>92</sup> Jeep 2010: 115; see the entire article for lists and discussion of the pairs.

It would take too long to tell how the fortress was built, so we shall leave out much that Vergil says of it in his books and shorten the account to a moderate length. . . . Whoever is surprised at this and wants to look it up should go to the books that are called *The Aeneid*: he can be sure of it after reading such testimony as is written there. (354–82)

The most significant difference between the two medieval poems is that Veldeke's translation becomes more independent as it proceeds, a point I will return to shortly.

Veldeke's central concern is to situate his knight Eneas, along with other 'heroic seekers' including Dido, Pallas, Camille and Turnus, within the new value system of courtly love and courtly ideals and generally to construct the idealized warrior-courtier in terms familiar to his audience.<sup>93</sup> Eneas has thus been seen as the prototype of the 'Ritter' ('knight') – even his horse is 'ritterliche' (7787) – and the *Eneit* as an apologia for the values associated with 'Geblütsadel' ('nobility by blood').<sup>94</sup> This is partly done by using familiar titles, such as 'Herr Eneas' (37), 'fröwe Dido' and 'herre Cupido' (863–4), and accessories, for example the Castilian and Arabian horses given as gifts (686–9), the tapestries and quilts in the ladies' quarters (12932–9), and the processions accompanied by fifes, trumpets and stringed instruments (e.g. 12847–9). The beautifully illustrated Berlin manuscript, which dates from the early thirteenth century, offers wonderful depictions of the central characters rendered in contemporary mode, including the image of Pallas facing Turnus<sup>95</sup> (Figure 0.1). Significantly, the eagle on Turnus' shield, which could be termed the *Reichsadler* ('Imperial Eagle'), was in the twelfth century associated with the Holy Roman Empire (Figure 0.2).<sup>96</sup>

Veldeke likewise embeds the story in the German legal context which would be familiar to his audience: he emphasizes that Latinus had promised his daughter to Turnus in a legal contract which he then breaks, thus

<sup>93</sup> On 'heroic seekers' and the emphasis on heroic individuals, a major shift from Virgil's celebration of Rome, see Thomas 1985: xiv.

<sup>94</sup> Kasten 1993 valuably exposes contradictions that arise in Veldeke's *Eneit* thanks to tensions between medieval ideas of 'Geblütsadel' and the pressure put upon those codes of conduct by the poem's love themes. She observes that Veldeke's focus is neither divine providence nor salvation but rather 'eine Apologie der mit dem Geblütsadel verbundenen Wertvorstellungen' (232, 'an apologia for the moral values associated with the nobility by blood', tr. Florian Gassner).

<sup>95</sup> For dating, see Sinnema 1972: 70 and in detail Fromm 1992: 927–32.

<sup>96</sup> See, for example, Volborth 1981: 36–40; his illustrations no. 280 ('eagle in the style of the Armorial Wijnbergen, 1265–88', p. 37) and no. 310 ('eagle of the Holy Roman Empire c.1300, *Codex Manesse*', p. 40) closely resemble that on Turnus' shield. This symbol continues to be associated with Germany and is now known as the *Bundesadler* or 'Federal Eagle'. Thanks to Darrel Janzen for investigating this iconography.

perjuring himself; Turnus refers repeatedly to the contract and persists in the conflict because he believes himself to be in the right.<sup>97</sup> For Veldeke, the male ideal is a noble man with self-control ('mâze'), discipline ('zuht') and refinement of manners ('höveschiet') in both wartime and peacetime.<sup>98</sup> As John Yunck remarks, in his concern for 'the external decorum of courtly life' Veldeke makes characters' conduct 'more correct or more gracious' than in the *Enéas*, so that he, for example, 'suppresses the grosser parts' of Amata's conversation with Lavine about Trojan homosexuality, 'curtails Tarc[h]on's insulting address to Camille' and 'repeatedly stresses Eneas' courtly ... qualities of graciousness, generosity, and *Festlichkeit* ('joy').<sup>99</sup>

That said, he uses a lighter touch in two episodes which are not central to Eneas attaining his kingdom, which is Veldeke's main narrative goal, namely the journey to 'hell' (the Underworld) and the Lavinia romance. In the latter, Veldeke's Amata is 'coarse and crude', Lavinia is 'unbelievably naïve' and 'the middle-aged warrior Aeneas fits the role of the passionate suitor so poorly that even his own men laugh at him'.<sup>100</sup> In the former, Veldeke entertains his audience 'with monsters and horrors that are so grotesque as to be comical, and with a hero who is sufficiently frightened to be downright amusing'.<sup>101</sup> His Cerberus fills Eneas with such dread that he dares not approach (3206–38):

You would not believe how horrible he appeared with his three large and terrible heads. ... His eyes glowed like coals; fire shot from his mouth and reeking smoke from his nose and ears: take note of that. How strong and hot was he? Enough so that Sibyl and Aeneas were scalded by the heat. His teeth gleamed in the fire like iron. This devil was monstrous. He was shaggy all over; not as the other beasts one sees, but as I shall tell you. His body was covered with snakes: long and short, large and small, even on the arms, legs, hands, and feet. We can tell you, because we have read it in books, that he had very sharp claws instead of fingernails. He spewed foam from his mouth that was hot, pungent, and bitter. He would have been a poor neighbor.

Comparison with the *Enéas* version (see earlier, pp. 22–3) reveals similarities and differences; for example, Veldeke excludes the aconite of the Old French poem.

Veldeke's handling of the end of the poem manifests well his domestications of the material along with important differences from his Old French model. First of all, consider the duel between Turnus and Eneas

<sup>97</sup> Thomas 1985: xv; Martin 2018: 21, 30.

<sup>98</sup> Martin 2018: 19. On *mâze* (which he spells *mate*) and its antithesis, see Sinnema 1972: 122 n. 34.

<sup>99</sup> Yunck 1974: 51. <sup>100</sup> Thomas 1985: xvii–xviii. <sup>101</sup> Thomas 1985: xvii.





Figure 0.1 Turnus' shield in Heinrich von Veldeke's German version of the *Aeneid*. Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin Preußischer Kulturbesitz. Reproduced with permission of Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – PK, Ms. germ. fol. 282, fol. 50<sup>r</sup>. <https://digital.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/werkansicht/?PPN=PPN833652451>.



Figure 0.2 Analogies from German heraldry for the eagle on Turnus' shield.  
 Volborth 1981, illustrations 280 and 310. With permission of Octopus  
 Publishing.

to decide who will wed Lavine and become the next king of Italy. For Veldeke, the duel is an ordeal consisting of trial by combat, in which God will reveal the law ('daz got daz rehte bescheine', 8614), and which reflects measures taken in twelfth-century Germany to limit feuding and codify conflict.<sup>102</sup> In both medieval versions, as in the *Aeneid*, Eneas is tempted to grant Turnus' request for mercy until he sees the spoils Turnus took from the corpse of Pallas. In the *Enéas* the earlier despoiling of Pallas' ring is represented as an act of folly ('Por fol le fait', *RdE* 5770), but in the *Eneit* it is portrayed as an evil act ('bosliche', *Eneit* 7617) and 'one of the worst crimes imaginable': it broke a German law that viewed theft from a corpse as heinous.<sup>103</sup> Thus Turnus is represented as morally culpable and lacking in self-control, while Eneas changes from a flawed to a flawless hero in the final pages.<sup>104</sup> In the Old French poem, when Eneas sees Pallas' ring he

<sup>102</sup> On the rules of trial by battle in medieval Germany, see Ziegler 2004: 8–10; on codifications of feuding law, including under Friedrich Barbarossa (reigned 1152–90), see Martin 2018: 19–20; see his discussion (22) of the role of the learned courtier Drances, who proposes single combat in order to end the prospect of potentially endless feuding.

<sup>103</sup> Martin 2018: 26. <sup>104</sup> For details, see Martin 2018: 27–8.



turns 'all flushed with anger' ('toz teinst d'ire', *RdE* 9800)<sup>105</sup> before he kills Turnus, whereas in the *Eneit* he behaves calmly, saying:

It won't do. There can be no peace between us here, for I see the ring I gave to Pallas, whom you sent to his grave. There was no need for you to wear the ring of one you killed while he was aiding me. It was evil greed, and I tell you truly that you must pay for it. I shall not berate you or speak with you any longer, but only avenge the brave Pallas. (*Eneit* 12590–605)

He then decapitates Turnus. Within Veldeke's German framework, Eneas exercises the right to punish Turnus for his crime in the manner of a judge enacting divine law and his victory confirms that he is a divinely elected king.<sup>106</sup>

The differences between the *Enéas* and the *Eneit* are still more evident in the epilogue. Veldeke appears much more dissatisfied with Virgil's ending than the *Enéas* poet is and his epilogue is nearly three times as long (921 lines instead of 341) as he sets out to tie the loose ends and bring the poem to a suitable close. After Turnus' death, he includes an encomiastic lament for Turnus (*Eneit* 12607–34). He drastically reduces Eneas' love agonies from 172 to 38 lines and instead has Eneas, escorted by 500 knights, call on Lavine and present gifts, an episode of pomp and largesse extending for more than 200 lines (*Eneit* 12781–13006). He shortens the conversation between Amata and her daughter (*Eneit* 13012–92), and then devotes 200 lines to a lavish description of the wedding, especially the feast, games, songs, dancing and gift-giving (13093–286), including a comment, piquant given that this is an addition to the original (13133–49): 'It was a great feast with a very large number of seats, and it began in splendor . . . If someone wanted to take the trouble to tell about all that was served there, it would be a long story. I shall say only that they got too much to eat and drink.' Veldeke reports Eneas' happiness as he becomes king and constructs his castle at Albane, then devotes 100 lines (13321–420) to cataloguing his descendants, including Romulus and Remus who 'together founded the city of Rome' (13370–1), Julius Caesar 'who conquered much of the world' (13389) and Augustus under whom 'peace and justice prevailed' (13406). The climax of this section is highly domesticating for his Christian readership in the way it links the story of Eneas with the birth and death of Christ:

<sup>105</sup> Literally Old French 'teint' means 'coloured', hence red or black or flushed according to context; thanks to Juliet O'Brien for confirming my (uninformed) instinct.

<sup>106</sup> Martin 2018: 29–30.

In those days the Son of God was born in Bethlehem and crucified at Jerusalem, which saved us all, for he freed us from terrible distress by overcoming through his own death the eternal death that Adam passed down to us. He thus redeemed us. This is a great support for us if we will hold fast to it. May his grace ordain this and strengthen us to such works as our souls need. Amen. In nomine domini. [In the name of the lord.] (13412–28)

Veldeke is the first of many translators to yoke his translation to his religious beliefs.

But this closural gesture is not yet the close of Veldeke's poem. He wraps up with a personal assertion, so strong as to betray defensiveness, of the reliability of his account of 'Herr Eneas' as derived from the French book (he calls it 'der . . . welschen büchen', 13507), which, he indicates, was itself based on the Latin text (13491–528); he appears to wish to share responsibility for any errors with his models.<sup>107</sup> At the end of this section he declares, 'hie sei der rede ein ende' ('Let this be the end of the story'). But we are still not at the end. There follows a final section (13529–44), which maintains the shift from first to third person in the previous section, which describes the circumstances of composition, including the theft of the book for nine years. We will later (in Chapter 7) encounter other versions that evince a similar concern with closure.

What is especially significant in Veldeke's closural moves is his linking the story of Aeneas with his own world. I have already noted his chronological alignment of Augustus and Christ, which reflects his Christian milieu. A little earlier, he compares the wedding of Eneas and Lavine to the feast of Emperor Friedrich Barbarossa at Mainz in 1184:

Indeed, I never knew of a celebration anywhere else that was as large as that held by Aeneas except the one at Mainz where Emperor Friedrich knighted his sons. We don't need to ask about it because we saw it for ourselves. It was matchless: goods worth many thousand marks were consumed or given away. I don't believe anyone alive has seen a festival more grand; of course, I can't tell you what may happen in the future. Truly, I never heard of a knighting ceremony that was attended by so many princes and people of all kinds. There are enough still who remember it well. It brought Emperor Friedrich such honor that one could indeed keep saying more wondrous things about it until doomsday, and without lying. Over a century from

<sup>107</sup> One of the meanings of 'welsch' in Middle High German was 'foreigner' and the word could be used to mean a Celt or Gaul or Italian; see *OED* 'Welsh' (Etymology). Unlike the *Enéas* poet, Veldeke refers to Virgil by name here (13511) and elsewhere (e.g. 165, 357 and often): Sinnema 1972: 67–8.

now they will still be telling and writing accounts of it, but we cannot know what they will report. (13222–52)

Earlier still, he permitted himself a similar reference to contemporary events in his extended description of the tomb of Pallas (8273–408), in a close imitation of the *Enéas* (6409–536). Both descriptions pay lavish attention to the materials used, although the gems and materials they name differ somewhat (the *Eneit* has crystal, jasper, coral, ivory, porphyry and sard; the *Enéas* has jacinth, beryl, silver, ebony and copper) in addition to the marble, gold and amethyst found in both texts, and both pay special attention to the red lamp hanging from a gold chain with an asbestos wick, which is claimed to burn forever. But Veldeke adds additional material from the source, William of Malmesbury, that the flame lasted until the day Pallas was found by Emperor Friedrich after his coronation in Rome (8392–408):<sup>108</sup>

It was a great wonder that this should keep burning as long as he [Pallas] lay there under the earth and still not burn out, for we know that more than two thousand years had passed before Pallas was found. However, as soon as they opened the tomb and lifted the casket lid, the wind rushed in, and they saw the light fade away as the wick turned at last to ashes and smoke.

In other words, Veldeke is clearly competing with, and correcting, his model and at the same time asserting Friedrich's era as the culmination of history.

These three early cases of Virgil adaptations illustrate vividly some of the manifestations of domestication, by which I mean that they move the original text closer to new readers rather than attempting to move the readers towards the ancient text. These early domestications contributed powerfully to the *Aeneid*'s survival and influence on European vernacular literature, a topic explored in Chapter 1. Translation as domestication is one of a number of fruitful frameworks offered by translation theory, to which I now move.

## 0.6 Theorizing Translation

It is tempting, when discussing translations within a theoretical framework, to construct binary oppositions, such as 'domesticating' and 'foreignizing', to name the important reformulation of Friedrich Schleiermacher's ideas

<sup>108</sup> William of Malmesbury, *De gestis regum anglorum* 2.206; William's text has the flame extinguished by a know-all who drills a hole.

offered by Lawrence Venuti.<sup>109</sup> In Table 0.1 I present a number of such binaries that have been proposed. Translations can be 'literal' or 'free', 'alien' or 'native', 'difficult' or 'accessible'; they can involve 'under-translation', when the individual elements of the text are privileged over the whole in a more or less literal rendering, or 'over-translation', which involves a focus upon the whole at the expense of its parts.<sup>110</sup> In essence these are reworkings of the antithesis proposed by Cicero when, in a discussion of his own translations from Greek into Latin, he says *nec conuerti ut interpretes sed ut orator* (*De optime genere oratorum* 14). By 'I did not translate them as an interpreter but as an orator', he distinguished literal translation from free translation, preferring the latter.<sup>111</sup> While these binaries may offer useful starting points, it is preferable to think in terms of a spectrum which allows for middle ground. This middle ground is, according to Australian theoretician Anthony Pym, neglected by some translation theorists, although it constitutes the 'intercultures' that translators typically inhabit.<sup>112</sup> As context for my study of Virgil there follows an overview of some influential theoretical frameworks for understanding European translation practices. There are many books that tackle this complex topic; here my purpose is to provide an orientation for readers not deeply familiar with this material.<sup>113</sup>

<sup>109</sup> See Venuti 1995: 17–39 and 100–18; I return to Schleiermacher later, on p. 37. See my earlier remarks in Braund 2010b on the theorization of translation strategies, including polarities between servility and freedom (Alexander Tytler in his 1791 *Essay on the Principles of Translation*) and between formal and dynamic equivalence (according to Eugene Nida).

<sup>110</sup> This less familiar binary comes from the Czech scholar Josef Čermák (1970: 34–8). I draw some of these binaries from Pym 1998: 181. Like Pym, I resist these simple binaries.

<sup>111</sup> On the ideological ramifications of Cicero's statement, which is so often taken out of context as more of a theoretical generalization than it is, see McElduff 2013: 5, 110–21, who rightly insists on setting Cicero in his social and cultural context. Cf. Copeland 1991: 2: 'This [Cicero's] opposition between ways of translating is really part of a much larger issue, the conflict over disciplinary hegemony.' She deplores the fact that this formulation 'has achieved the dubious status as the foremost commonplace in translation theory' (33). English reflects this distinction in the contrast between 'translator' and 'interpreter', and German in that between 'Übersetzer' and 'Dolmetscher'.

<sup>112</sup> See Pym 1998: 178–82; he mentions leading theorists André Lefevere, Lawrence Venuti and Gideon Toury as blind to what he calls 'intercultures' (177–92). He also observes that translators do not necessarily belong to (only) the target culture. It should be noted that Venuti offers a different approach in his latest book, which is a polemic against oversimplifications perpetrated by what he calls 'instrumentalism', a model which views translation as 'the reproduction or transfer of an invariant that is contained in or caused by the source text, an invariant form, meaning, or effect' and which he rejects in favour of the hermeneutic model, adapted from Charles Peirce and Umberto Eco, according to which translation consists in 'an interpretive act that inevitably varies source-text form, meaning, and effect according to intelligibilities and interests in the receiving culture' (Venuti 2019: 1–2).

<sup>113</sup> In writing this section I found especially useful Maurice Friedberg's chapter 'Theoretical Controversies' (1997: 69–108). Anne Coldiron (2014: 4–5, 16) provides valuable bibliography in her review of developments in translation studies and book history, starting with George Steiner's *After Babel* (1975) and including the work of Susan Bassnett, Douglas Robinson and Mona Baker for the former, and for the latter Bonnie Mak's *How the Page Matters* (2012) and Helen Smith and

Table 0.1 *Binary typologies of translation*

literal	free
difficult	accessible
foreignizing	domesticating
author undisturbed	reader undisturbed
alien	native
exotic	familiar
slave	rival
under-translated	over-translated
parts at expense of whole	whole at expense of parts
formal	dynamic
semantic	communicative
authentic	artificial
anti-illusory	illusory
overt	covert
documental	instrumental
form privileged	content privileged
resistant	transparent

I start with the schemata offered by three major authors who themselves wrote translations, **Dryden**, Goethe and Nabokov, schemata which consist of different threefold divisions. I will come to theoreticians shortly, but given the tensions and contradictions between translation theory and translation practice, I privilege the views of authors with personal experience of translation.<sup>114</sup> First, I look at John Dryden (1631–1700), whose 1697 *Works* is one of the leading translations of Virgil. In his ‘Preface to *Ovid’s Epistles*’, published in 1680, Dryden identifies three main types of translation, with exemplars:<sup>115</sup>

All Translation I suppose may be reduced to these three heads. First, that of Metaphrase, or turning an Authour word by word, and Line by Line, from one Language into another. Thus, or near this manner, was *Horace* his Art of Poetry translated by *Ben. Johnson*. The second way is that of Paraphrase, or

Louise Wilson’s *Renaissance Paratexts* (2012). Other essential introductions include Bassnett’s *Translation Studies* (1980), Jeremy Munday’s *Introducing Translation Studies* (2016), both now in their fourth editions, and Anthony Pym’s *Method in Translation History*, which poses many compelling and awkward questions to anyone who would undertake translation history; see especially his ‘too-brief history of translation history’ (1998: 9–15).

<sup>114</sup> As Kelly 1979: 4 says in his analysis of the history of translation theory and practice in the West, practice usually precedes theory. Pym 1998: 112 is excellent on contradictions between the primary and secondary materials; that is, between translations and theories.

<sup>115</sup> Dryden 1995c: 384–5, lines 232–50.

Translation with Latitude, where the Authour is kept in view by the Translator, so as never to be lost, but his words are not so strictly follow'd as his sense, and that too is admitted to be amplyfied, but not alter'd. Such is Mr. Waller's Translation of *Virgil's Fourth Aeneid*. The Third way is that of Imitation, where the Translator (if now he has not lost that Name) assumes the liberty not only to vary from the words and sence, but to forsake them both as he sees occasion: and taking only some general hints from the Original, to run division on the ground-work, as he pleases. Such is Mr. Cowley's practice in turning two Odes of *Pindar*, and one of *Horace* into *English*.

Dryden's category of 'Metaphrase' can be identified with what I will call 'literal', 'literalist' or word-for-word translations, which I discuss in Chapter 9 (pp. 674–90 and 726–68). What he calls 'Imitation' amounts to versions that are too freely inventive to merit the label 'translation', which applies to the medieval texts surveyed in this chapter. He proceeds to expand upon these 'two Extreams'. He proposes that the 'servile, literal Translation' involves difficulties that make the experience 'much like dancing on Ropes with fetter'd Leggs', while 'Imitation', which he glosses as 'this libertine way of rendring Authors', entails 'the greatest wrong which can be done to the Memory and Reputation of the dead'.<sup>116</sup> Dryden's middle way, which he espouses in at least some of his translations, including *The Works of Virgil*, he calls 'Paraphrase'. While 'Paraphrase' is perhaps a misleading term in the twenty-first century, we can easily enough see what it denotes in practice. Dryden indicates that by 'Paraphrase' he means that he works 'with Latitude' but not with excessive 'liberty'.<sup>117</sup> Certainly in his Virgil translations he follows the Latin text closely enough to count as a translation, while at the same time taking certain liberties with the original that he felt were warranted.

Two other poet-translators add different categories, though each proposes a threefold division. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749–1832) in *Noten und Abhandlungen zum besseren Verständnis des West-östlichen Divans* (*Notes and Treatises for a Better Understanding of the West-Eastern Diwan*, 1819) ranked in a hierarchical sequence three different methods of translating poetic works: 'identische Übersetzung' ('identical translation'),

<sup>116</sup> Dryden 1995c: 386–8, lines 368, 307–8, 284–5, 322–3, 357–8 respectively. For discussion, see Hammond 1999: 144–50; on imagery of slavery in Dryden, see Davis 2008: for example, 133, 137.

<sup>117</sup> See Davis 2008: 134 on the political overtones of this terminology.

‘parodistische Übersetzung’ (‘transformative translation’) and ‘schlicht-prosaische Übersetzung’ (‘simple prose translation’).<sup>118</sup> The choice of ‘simple prose’ I discuss in Chapter 8; Goethe’s spectrum between ‘literal’ (‘identische’) translations and much freer ones (‘parodistische’) is reflected in my discussion in Chapter 9 (pp. 674–90) of the tension between the literalists and ‘les belles infidèles’. Vladimir Nabokov (1899–1977), in the introduction to his controversial English translation (1964) of Alexander Pushkin’s Russian verse novel *Eugene Onegin*, identifies three different types of poetic translation:<sup>119</sup> (1) paraphrastic, (2) lexical and (3) literal. Nabokov appears to use ‘paraphrastic’ in the same sense as Dryden, and his category of ‘literal’ translation matches Dryden’s category ‘Metaphrase’. What is new here is his middle category, which involves rendering the basic meaning of words and their order, which is work that a well-programmed machine can do. For Nabokov, only the third category, the ‘literal’ translation, is a true translation.

These three different frameworks by major author-translators between them produce five categories of translation: (1) Nabokov’s ‘lexical’ translation, such as a crib with the words put in sequence; (2) prose translation; (3) literal or ‘identische’ translation (Dryden’s ‘Metaphrase’); (4) paraphrase; and (5) imitation (Goethe’s ‘parodistische’). My study will pay only fleeting attention to (1), when I consider paratexts and readers’ aids in Chapter 7, and not a great deal to (2), which features in my discussion of metrical choices in Chapter 8. Translations in categories (3) and (4) are my central focus, while (5), which I consider beyond the scope of this study, features only in the specific form of travesties, discussed briefly in Chapter 4.<sup>120</sup>

<sup>118</sup> Goethe 1819: 526–9. For analysis of Goethe’s triadic scheme of translation, see Berman 1992: 53–68. See Eigler 2018a: 357 for further discussion of these categories as they relate to Johann Heinrich Voss, the influential eighteenth-century translator of Homer and Virgil, and Rudolph Schröder, the twentieth-century translator and poet who was awarded the Johann-Friedrich-Voss-Preis (Prize) for his translation of the *Aeneid* in 1963.

<sup>119</sup> Pushkin 1990: vii–viii. Friedberg 1997: 86 notes that Nabokov was a late convert to the literalist cause, having much earlier produced a cavalier version of *Alice in Wonderland* (1923).

<sup>120</sup> These categories, minus prose, are present in Joachim Du Bellay’s theoretical framework as articulated in his *La Deffence, et illustration de la langue francoyse* (1549) and his prefaces to his Virgil translations: as Griffin 1969: 85 shows, Du Bellay distinguishes between the ‘traducteur’, who translates verbatim; the ‘translateur’, who reproduces the ideas closely; the ‘paraphraste’, who reproduces the ideas freely; and the ‘imitateur’, who assimilates and internalizes the literary model. His own practice of translation sees him oscillating between the two middle positions. Studies by translation theorists cover similar ground. For example, Susan Bassnett 2013: 79 distinguishes five main currents of translation typology in the period of industrial capitalism and colonial expansion up to World War I: (1) translation as a scholar’s activity, which assumes the pre-eminence of the SL (source language) text over any TL (target language) version; (2) translation as a means of encouraging intelligent readers to return to the SL original; (3) translation as a means of helping



With these parameters in mind, and privileging the idea of a spectrum rather than a binary opposition, consider the frequently cited formulation offered by the German philosopher Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768–1834) in his 1823 lecture to the Berlin Royal Academy of Sciences entitled, ‘On the Different Methods of Translating’ (‘Ueber die verschiedenen Methoden des Uebersetzens’):<sup>121</sup>

Either the translator leaves the author undisturbed insofar as this is possible and moves the reader in his direction, or he leaves the reader undisturbed and moves the writer in his direction.

This formulation was actually inspired by Goethe, writing in 1813, who is rarely given the credit for it. Goethe wrote:<sup>122</sup>

There are two maxims in translation: one requires that the author of a foreign nation be brought across to us in such a way that we can look on him as ours. The other requires that we ourselves should cross over into what is foreign and adapt ourselves to its conditions, its peculiarities and its use of language.

Venuti took up Schleiermacher’s idea in his 1995 book *The Translator’s Invisibility*.<sup>123</sup> While Venuti’s focus is mainly on postcolonial translations, his framework is nonetheless useful for earlier material too: he directs us to

the TL reader become a better reader of the original through a deliberately contrived foreignness in the TL text; (4) translation as a means whereby the individual translator offers his/her own pragmatic choice to the TL reader; and (5) translation as a means through which the translator seeks to upgrade the status of the SL text. She observes that types (1) and (2) would likely produce literal, perhaps pedantic translations, accessible to a learned minority, while types (4) and (5) could generate much freer translations that might alter the SL text radically; the third category would tend to produce translations full of archaisms of form and language, in the method strongly attacked by Matthew Arnold (1861: 86) when he coined the verb to ‘Newmanize’, after F. W. Newman, a leading exponent of this type of translation.

<sup>121</sup> ‘Entweder der Übersetzer läßt den Schriftsteller möglichst in Ruhe, und bewegt den Leser ihm entgegen; oder er läßt den Leser möglichst in Ruhe und bewegt den Schriftsteller ihm entgegen’ (Schleiermacher 1838: 218). Berman 1992: 144–52 analyses the lecture, calling it ‘the only study of that period in Germany to constitute a systematic and methodical approach of translation’ (144).

<sup>122</sup> Translated by Lefevere 1992: 78, who wrongly dates this to 1824; Goethe 1870: 649–50: ‘Es giebt zwei Uebersetzungsmaximen: die eine verlangt, daß der Autor einer fremden Nation zu uns herüber gebracht werde dergestalt, daß wir ihn als den Unsrigen ansehen können; die andere hingegen macht an uns die Forderung, daß wir uns zu dem Fremden hinüber begeben und uns in seine Zustände, seine Sprachweise, seine Eigenheiten finden sollen.’

<sup>123</sup> Venuti 1995: 99–118 understands well Schleiermacher’s situatedness: his lecture was delivered during the Napoleonic Wars at a time when ‘Germany’ did not exist but when translation could be harnessed to the Prussian nationalist movement; his championing of ‘foreignization’ was an attack on the French privileging of ‘domesticating’ translation. Venuti pursues these issues further in *Scandals of Translation* (1998), for example 8–13 on domestication and foreignization. Hayes 2009: 17 considers Schleiermacher’s binary inadequate and suggests that the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were constantly reformulating the concept of otherness; she adduces ideas of compensation, negotiation, debt, gift, reciprocity, servility, authority, responsibility, love, struggle and mourning as relevant to conceptualizations of translation.

consider what degree of difficulty the translator imposes on her/his readership. This framework points to the comfort of the reader: is the translator more or less ‘invisible’ (to use Venuti’s term) or is the reader constantly reminded that s/he is engaging with a text produced in another language from another culture?<sup>124</sup>

The challenges of translation and the dangers of going too far in either direction are expressed vividly by the Prussian philosopher and linguist Wilhelm von Humboldt (1767–1835), founder of the Humboldt University of Berlin:<sup>125</sup>

To me, all translating seems simply to be an attempt to solve an impossible problem. Thus every translator must always run aground on one of two reefs: he either adheres too closely to the original, at the expense of the taste of his nation; or he adheres too closely to the characteristics of his nation at the expense of the original.

His terminology of national interest inevitably reflects his nineteenth-century context; in Chapter 1 I explore the intersection between Virgil translation and nationalism, a concept that predates the rise of the modern nation state, as I explain there. A more nuanced way of articulating this idea is Venuti’s:<sup>126</sup> ‘Translation can never simply be communication between equals because it is fundamentally ethnocentric.’

While the idea of a spectrum encompassing the various choices open to a translator makes the process of translation sound like a horizontal exercise, many and varied asymmetries often render translation inferior, marginal and peripheral.<sup>127</sup> So it should not be surprising that much of the imagery used to theorize translation activity involves a hierarchy in which the translation is inferior to the original and different kinds of translation can be ranked vertically. I should note here that current translation theory is averse to the hierarchical term ‘original’ and prefers to substitute a term such as ‘prior text’ to avoid ‘reify[ing] a hierarchy of writerly value’.<sup>128</sup> I choose to persist with the term ‘the original’ not because I believe that translations cannot be original works in their own right, but because in this very particular case the prestige and authority of Virgil *does* usually enact a hierarchy.<sup>129</sup>

<sup>124</sup> Cf. Bassnett 2013: 47: ‘Domestication conforms to the expectations, values and norms of the target culture, while foreignization challenges readers by making them aware that they are encountering texts from outside their known parameters.’

<sup>125</sup> Humboldt 2017: 275. Translation from Friedberg 1997: 80.

<sup>126</sup> Venuti 1998: 11. On Venuti’s latest contribution (2019), see note 112 in this chapter.

<sup>127</sup> Thus Venuti 1998: 1–7. <sup>128</sup> Coldiron 2016: 315.

<sup>129</sup> See, for example, Bassnett 2013: 6: ‘For just as the model of colonialism was based on the notion of a superior culture taking possession of an inferior one, so an original was always seen as superior to

In a brilliant article, 'Images of Translation', the Belgian translation theorist Theo Hermans analyses the metaphors used to describe literal and free translations in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, in treatises, translators' prefaces and laudatory poems attached to translations. Besides the language of subjection and servility, there are transformative metaphors, such as digestion and transplantation; dissimulative metaphors, such as clothing; eristic metaphors, including wrestling and treading on heels; metaphors of discovery (e.g. buried treasure); metaphors of outside–inside (e.g. husk and kernel); metaphors of filiation; and metaphors of identification, including metempsychosis. In another discussion, Hermans shows that many of the images evoked by translation theorists involve some degree of manipulation, coercion or violence. His explanation of polysystems, the approach of Gideon Toury and others, applies particularly well to Virgil's *Aeneid*.<sup>130</sup>

The theory of the polysystem sees literary translation as one element among many in the constant struggle for domination between the system's various layers and subdivisions. In a given literature, translations may at certain times constitute a separate subsystem, with its own characteristics and models, or be more or less fully integrated into the indigenous system; they may form part of the system's prestigious centre or remain a peripheral phenomenon; they may be used as 'primary' polemical weapons to challenge the dominant poetics, or they may shore up and reinforce the prevailing conventions. From the point of view of the target literature, all translation implies a degree of manipulation of the source text for a certain purpose.

In other words, the polysystems approach emphasizes the ideological dimensions of translation and translations by examining the cultural norms in which the target text circulates. What this approach neglects, though, is the presence of flesh-and-blood translators, as articulated eloquently by Pym's plea that we think about translators as real people.<sup>131</sup>

its "copy". Hence the translation was doomed to exist in a position of inferiority with regard to the source text from which it was seen to derive. In the new, post-colonial perception of the relationship between source and target texts, that inequality of status has been rethought. Both original and translation are now viewed as equal products of the creativity of writer and translator, though . . . the task of these two is different.' Indeed, many theorists insist on the creativity of translation, for example Venuti, who with his postcolonial focus wants to close the gap between translation and other kinds of writing: 'translation, like any cultural practice, entails the creative reproduction of values' (1998: 1). Another valuable metaphor likens the 'original' to a dramatic script or musical score and the translation to a 'performance', for example Armstrong 2005: 191.

<sup>130</sup> Hermans 1985a: 11. On polysystems theory and its limitations, see Bassnett 2013: 7–9, 85; Venuti 1998: 27–30; Pym 1998: 115–22. Pym 1998: 178, for example, sees the focus on the target culture as an overreaction to the earlier privileging of the source culture.

<sup>131</sup> Pym 1998: 160–76.

The potential roles of translations connect with the particular cultural contexts of the translator, a topic I explore in Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, with a focus on issues of centre and periphery, the offensive or defensive agendas of translations, and the materiality of translations. In this my approach aligns with that recommended by Pym in *Method in Translation History*. Pym argues that premodern and early modern translations should be seen primarily as a cultural rather than purely linguistic phenomenon, since they are intended to serve a variety of broadly defined utilitarian objectives. The physical form of the book itself presents a significant cultural indicator of purpose, an issue explored by Anne Coldiron, Marie-Alice Belle, Brenda Hosington and Craig Kallendorf, among others, in their studies of *mise-en-page* and typography.<sup>132</sup> In other words, translation participates alongside other types of communication in the idea popularized by Marshall McLuhan in the 1970s that ‘the medium is the message’.<sup>133</sup>

The French translation theorist Antoine Berman identifies the tensions and the resulting risk of violence in his model study of the German Romantics’ ideas on translation:<sup>134</sup>

Every culture resists translation, even if it has an essential need for it. The very aim of translation – to open up in writing a certain relation to the Other, to fertilize what is one’s Own through the mediation of what is Foreign – is diametrically opposed to the ethnocentric structure of every culture, that species of narcissism by which every society wants to be a pure and unadulterated Whole. There is a tinge of the violence of cross-breeding in translation.

This framework underlies my Chapter 1, in which I show how translation of a classic author such as Virgil is used to appropriate foreign cultural capital to kick-start or boost vernacular literary culture. The inevitable cultural resistance, Berman continues, ‘produces a systematics of deformations that operates on the linguistic and literary levels, and that conditions the translator, whether he wants it or not, whether he knows it or not’. These observations take us into the ‘how’ of translation, a multifarious topic that I tackle in Chapters 6, 7, 8 and 9. There are different kinds of ‘deformations’ that translators can produce in their translations, deformations which complicate the labels ‘domesticating’ and ‘foreignizing’, as explored in the final part of

<sup>132</sup> Coldiron 2014; Belle and Hosington 2018; and Kallendorf 2020 on printers and translations in the Renaissance, especially chapter 3 on translations of Virgil within the prism of printers’ activities.

<sup>133</sup> See McLuhan 1994: 7–21.

<sup>134</sup> Berman 1992: 4–5. He sees ‘ethnocentric’ translation as bad translation, ‘a systematic negation of the strangeness of the foreign work’, while ‘the ethical aim of translating’ is to be ‘an opening, a dialogue, a cross-breeding, a decentering’.

Chapter 9. In my final chapter, Chapter 10, I pursue one of the metaphors mentioned earlier, according to which translators identify with their author, even to the degree of claiming metempsychosis. Before I indicate the contents of my ten chapters, I will explain how I came to choose these particular principles of organization.

## 0.7 The Organization of the Book: What It Is Not and What It Is

I rejected a chronological approach as boring and impossible, given the sheer number of translations. I do, however, include as Appendix 2 a chronological list of the translations mentioned or discussed in the book which will supply a degree of sequential overview. At the same time, I rejected the language-by-language approach because it would obscure important connections, influences and synchronicities between languages.<sup>135</sup> Instead of a comprehensive overview, I have undertaken a representative study of the cultural history of translations of Virgil, aiming to capture salient elements of the traffic between different languages and cultures, such as we see clearly in the way that travesties of the *Aeneid* spread from Italy to France and then to England, and later from Austria to Russia and thence to Ukraine and beyond (discussed briefly in Chapter 4). In this I adopt a similar approach to Anne Coldiron, whose important work on translation in the first century of printing in the West, *Printers without Borders*, is a model of how case studies can constitute more than the sum of their parts. She emphasizes that translations do not fit neatly into national literary histories:<sup>136</sup>

Even as national vernacular literatures in print gained their respective grounds – a story well told in our separate national literary histories – printers and translators were also creating transnational discourse communities by ‘naturalizing’ (another common term for translating) works.

Elsewhere she writes that ‘translators intervene both transculturally and transtemporally, challenging the usual national and period categories on which humanities scholarship has been based’.<sup>137</sup> My goal is similar to hers, but with a specific focus on the thousands of translations of Virgil, which generate the kind of dynamic patterns Coldiron seeks to identify:<sup>138</sup>

<sup>135</sup> Cf. Coldiron 2014: 283: ‘I’m not sure that we write our best, richest literary history inside the strict limits of nation and language, although most of our institutions and epistemological structures, from university departments to library catalogues, are set up for us to do just that.’

<sup>136</sup> Coldiron 2014: 7. <sup>137</sup> Coldiron 2016: 321. <sup>138</sup> Coldiron 2014: 29.

To look at patterns helps to aggregate and conceptualize the vast, seemingly chaotic field of early printed translations – hundreds of thousands of pages in every genre and on every topic imaginable – as clusters of dynamic events, indeed events dynamic in certain recognizable ways, rather than as static objects.

There are doubtless innumerable patterns within the corpus of Virgil translations. In this study I probe ten issues that emerged as key. But there is plenty of scope for further projects.

As I started reading and thinking, some topics leapt out: issues of fidelity, which subsequently split into fidelity of form and fidelity of content, represented here by my discussions of metre (Chapter 8) and of key concepts and register (Chapter 9); there remains much more to be done under the rubric of contested fidelity.<sup>139</sup> Early on I noticed the phenomenon of incomplete translations, attributable to interruption or to the translator's deliberate selection of a particular part of the work, especially in the case of the *Aeneid*; reasons for partial translations, published independently or in collections, are explored in Chapter 6. The complementary phenomenon of translators adding material, by including poems from the *Appendix Vergiliana*, by translating Maffeo Vegio's supplement to the *Aeneid*, by inserting glosses into the translation or by providing paratextual materials to guide readers, is the topic of Chapter 7. The importance of the *Aeneid* as formative in European national literatures made this topic a compelling choice for the opening chapter: I could make a strong claim that without Virgil, there would be no European literature, or a weaker claim that without Virgil, European literature would be very different.<sup>140</sup> The extraordinary range of backgrounds of the translators of Virgil was another obvious topic, which I tackle under the rubric of 'identity' in Chapter 2, where I discuss questions of politics, religion and gender. Within that huge field, I noticed three further topics: (1) that many Virgil translators also translate other canonical texts, secular and sacred, ancient, medieval and Renaissance;

<sup>139</sup> Pace current translation theory, I am no leazier of using the word 'fidelity' than of 'the original': see note 31 above. Recent translation theorists seem to prefer vocabulary of 'adequacy', 'equivalence' or 'acceptability', with a focus on the target culture (see, e.g., Venuti 1998: 27; Hardwick 2000: 21; and Venuti's 2019 polemic about fidelity, summarized in n. 112 above), complaining that 'the entire discourse on fidelity, which had a certain basis in the translation of sacred texts, was thus dragged across into the secular domain' (Pym 1998: 186, referring to Copeland 1991). Given that Virgil was the closest thing to sacred scripture for most of the period I discuss, I am content to take over the vocabulary of fidelity, which necessarily privileges the source text and which necessarily threatens to make the translator a traitor (thus Berman 1992: 3), as in the Italian adage 'traduttore traditore'.

<sup>140</sup> As T. S. Eliot proposed in *What Is a Classic?* (1945).

this generated the topic of career patterns (Chapter 5); (2) that some translators more or less explicitly position themselves vis-à-vis their predecessors; this generated the topic of competition (Chapter 4); and (3) that some translators imply or declare some level of identification with Virgil (Chapter 10). One of the last topics to emerge as requiring a separate chapter was the economic context of the publication of translations; the importance of this topic demanded that it take an early position (Chapter 3). I now indicate the ground I cover in each of my chapters, along with the major and minor translators discussed; the book as a whole is intended as a catalyst that provokes further studies. Doubtless, some readers will focus on individual translators and particular national translation traditions; they will use this book rather as an encyclopaedia. But those readers are not my target audience. I decided to prioritize the interests of readers who will engage with these larger topics at the level of the chapter or even the whole book.

In Chapter 1, 'Translation, Nationalism and Transnationalism', I substantiate Susan Bassnett's suggestion that the fastest and most efficacious way of establishing a national literature was through the translation of major, high-prestige, foreign texts, such as Greco-Roman epic poetry: translation of Virgil's poems has had a significant role in creating and honing literary language in European vernaculars and has sometimes served proto-nationalistic and nationalistic agendas.<sup>141</sup> After a discussion of 'nationalism', I examine examples of the appropriation of cultural authority through translation of the *Aeneid*, starting with a glance at Gavin Douglas' sixteenth-century Scottish translation and exploring in depth French translations from the sixteenth century, including those of Octovien de Saint-Gelais, Clément **Marot**, Jacques **Peletier du Mans** and Joachim Du Bellay. There follow studies of attempts in other languages to appropriate cultural prestige through translating the *Aeneid*: Vasilii **Petrov**'s Russian translation, written for Catherine the Great; Portuguese *Aeneids*, which manifest differently in Portugal and in Brazil (I discuss the translations by João Franco Barreto, António José de Lima Leitão and Manuel Odorico **Mendes**); and the twentieth-century *Aeneid* by Euros **Bowen** in Welsh. My discussion of translation-as-nationalism concludes with analysis of the peculiar situation where Ivan Kotlyarevsky's travesty of the *Aeneid* is regarded as a foundational text of Ukrainian literature. I then discuss two cases where translation can be regarded as a proto-nationalist phenomenon, the first Hebrew *Aeneid* and the first *Aeneid* in Argentinian Spanish (both nineteenth century), and the transnational phenomenon offered by the several

<sup>141</sup> See Chapter 1, note 3.



*Aeneids* in Esperanto, a language read in China, Brazil and Africa and which aims to be a pan-European, even a world, language (twentieth century). I conclude by relating translation and nation in both outward-looking and inward-looking modalities and in vertical and horizontal dimensions.

The subject of Chapter 2, 'The Translator's Identity', is potentially enormous: it includes issues of the location, nationality, gender, class, status, political affiliation, religion, education, profession and cultural milieu of translators of Virgil. I tackle this topic by asking if a particular translator is situated inside or outside the hegemonic culture of their particular society. Salient factors include his/her religious affiliation, level of education, class and gender. Many translators of Virgil were active in public and political life and based at the centre of power, for example at court. Others were sent into exile or marginalized and excluded in other ways. After some brief examples of the importance of location and a discussion of centre and periphery, I analyse in depth the first translations of the *Aeneid* into English, thus complementing my focus on early French translations in Chapter 1. I start with the Scot Gavin Douglas and move more briskly through the Earl of **Surrey**, Thomas Phaer and seventeenth-century translators down to John **Vicars** and John Dryden, paying particular attention to relations with royalty and nobility and corresponding religious affiliations. Two cases from continental Europe show how the religious affiliations of translators of Virgil offer a prism for assessing the fate of their translations: Clément Marot (writing in French) and Thomas Murner (in German) were sixteenth-century humanists on different sides of the religious divide. Two cases of translations of the *Georgics* literally written on the margins of empire – in Tunisia and Singapore – challenge notions of centre and periphery. In the final section of the chapter, I address the question of gender, noting that there have been remarkably few female translators of Virgil. I consider the contrasting situations of the French translators Hélienne **de Crenne**, who appears privileged, and Marie de **Gournay**, who is marginalized, then two early nineteenth-century translators, the Dutch publisher Naatje Brinkman, who breaks into the male establishment, and the Irishwoman Mary **Leadbeater**, whose translation of Maffeo Vegio's supplement to the *Aeneid* was lambasted by male reviewers. I then demonstrate the uneven-handed treatment of male and female translators with regard to religious beliefs (my cases are the Quaker Sarah Ruden and the Buddhist Stanley Lombardo), before turning to modern translations of the *Georgics*, where women are unusually well represented but often marginalized, as I argue in the cases of the Dutch poet Ida Gerhardt and the American writer Janet Lembke. I conclude the

chapter with a discussion of the only female translator of the *Eclogues* I have identified, the Italian translator and poet Giovanna Bemporad.

Chapter 3, 'The Economics of Translating Virgil', turns the spotlight on the role of patrons, printers, publishing houses and presses. Central questions include these: how expensive and exclusive are translations of Virgil? To what extent are translations designed for the cognoscenti or for 'everyman'? Is the translation of Virgil a contribution to democratization or a reinforcement of exclusivity? I first explore the relationships of translators with their patrons, publishers and printers, in France, Italy and Britain during the first two centuries of the print era. Two complementary and sometimes competing instincts are visible: a desire to satisfy the elite's need for exclusive badges of culture and an impulse to extend the vernacularization of this canonical author by producing accessible translations with more assistance for less educated readers. I can only mention the equally fascinating question of publication in manuscript form which continues alongside printed translations. My study of the first century of Virgil translations in French shows that expensive folio editions give way to smaller, more manageable quarto and octavo formats. Next, my investigation of the power relations involved in initiating or commissioning translations draws examples from Cinquecento Italy, including the multiple-authored Books 1–6 of the *Aeneid* published by the Sienese Accademia degli Intronati. Then I examine the ambitions and funding of expensive folio editions, with one French example, Hélienne de Crenne, published by Denys Janot, and two English examples, John Ogilby, published by himself, and John Dryden, published by Jacob Tonson. From there I move to Victorian England, where translations published in low-priced series of books flourish alongside the ambitious luxury productions of William **Morris**. My study of the place of Virgil in these series, including Everyman's Library, then takes me into the history of Virgil's works in the Penguin Classics series in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries to examine why Penguin has published four different *Aeneids*.

Chapter 4, 'Competition, Retranslation and Travesty', starts with translators' incorporation of others' versions into their own texts, as in the cases of Marie de Gournay in sixteenth-century France and Robert **Bridges** in twentieth-century England. More often, competition is manifested in translators' prefaces where they situate themselves in relation to particular predecessors, by conveying approbation and aligning themselves or by critiquing and denouncing and thus differentiating themselves. A typical example of Bloomian 'anxiety of influence' betrayed in such paratexts is that of Leopardi towards the classic Italian version of the *Aeneid*, Caro's

sixteenth-century *Eneide*. The paratexts in the English tradition of *Aeneid* translations, from Caxton in the fifteenth century down to **Wordsworth** in the early nineteenth, display multiple examples of self-positioning and self-fashioning in relation to predecessors, which I examine in depth. I then move to the texts themselves to consider the phenomenon of ‘retranslation’ in two manifestations: when translators lift or lightly paraphrase elements from preceding translations and when translators revisit their own earlier versions and modify them. Here I review materials relating to **Denham**, **Ogilby** and **Dryden** and I add a new discussion of **Dryden**’s changing attitude towards ‘Hemisticks’ (lit. ‘half-lines’). Staying with **Dryden**, I then examine the phenomena of competition and collaboration manifested in **Tonson**’s poetic miscellanies. Next I consider the phenomenon of competition with **Virgil** himself, starting with the challenge to **Paul Valéry** to translate the *Eclogues* which resulted in productive competition with **Virgil**. The chapter concludes with brief consideration of the rich phenomenon of parody and travesty of **Virgil** as special forms of retranslation. My examples are a seventeenth-century Dutch collaboration that produced two variations on the *Eclogues*, a seventeenth-century parody of *Eclogue* 1 by an Irishman and an eighteenth-century travesty of the *Aeneid* in German. The ubiquity of competition is reflected in the fact that it was **Aloys Blumauer**’s travesty of the *Aeneid* that inspired **Schiller** to attempt the rehabilitation and rescue of **Virgil** in his translation.

At least until the mid-twentieth century, **Virgil**’s *Aeneid* was often viewed as the central text of European literature: ‘the classic of all Europe’, according to **T. S. Eliot**.<sup>142</sup> One might therefore imagine that for translators who convey the *Aeneid* into their own vernaculars, that task would be the pinnacle of their career. Yet this is not necessarily so. The bulk of Chapter 5, ‘Poetic Careers of **Virgil** Translators’, considers the position of *Aeneid* translations in the career patterns of a spectrum of poets and scholars in a range of languages, with attention to those who tackle other high-prestige texts as well, such as the Homeric epics and **Dante**’s *Divine Comedy*. For poets and translators who tackled more than one epic poem, the questions arise whether the **Virgil** translation was the *chef-d’œuvre* or an apprenticeship, and whether it was intended or conceptualized as such, whether the sequence of translating had any impact on the translator’s other output, and what difference this makes to our reading of the *Aeneid* translations. An initial glance at the case of **Sir John Harington**, whose translation of **Ariosto**’s *Orlando Furioso* influenced his *Aeneid*

<sup>142</sup> **Eliot** 1945: 70.

translation, highlights some of the issues. My first in-depth study is of the synergy between Dante and Virgil in the Castilian translations by Enrique de Villena in fifteenth-century Spain. I then offer five examples of prolific translators where Virgil translation appears to be simply one element in larger projects of cultural dissemination: Ludovico Dolce in sixteenth-century Italy, Vasilii **Zhukovskii** in nineteenth-century Russia and, in the twentieth century, Kálmán Kalocsay in Esperanto, C. H. Sisson in English and Fr Victor Xuereb in Maltese. The bulk of the chapter is devoted to Virgil translators who also translated Homer. After brief attention to what I call ‘an American quartet’, namely Allen Mandelbaum, Robert Fitzgerald, Stanley Lombardo and Robert Fagles, I turn to an English trio, whom I discuss at length: John Ogilby, John Dryden and William Morris. I close the chapter with an examination of British poet laureate Cecil **Day-Lewis**, whose only translation activity involved Virgil’s three works, starting with the *Georgics*, then the *Aeneid* and finally the *Eclogues*. Day-Lewis’ translations had a lasting hold for a couple of generations, especially in schools and universities in England and in Commonwealth countries. I consider why Day-Lewis tackled the *Georgics* first.

Chapter 6, ‘Partial Translations of Virgil’, examines the phenomenon of partial as contrasted with complete translations: some translators publish complete translations of the *Aeneid* and the *Eclogues*, while others select individual books or poems. Some individual books and poems, for example *Eclogue* 4 and Books 2 and 4 of the *Aeneid*, are consistently popular, while others wax and wane. My chief focus is on partial translations of the *Aeneid*, where the ability to select and isolate individual books or passages gave translators great flexibility and the freedom to domesticate the material or to turn it to a particular aim. After a glance at the ‘Messianic Eclogue’ (*Eclogue* 4) and the ‘Aristaeus epyllion’ (from *Georgics* 4), I analyse some famous and less famous translations of Books 4, 2, 1 and 6, including those of the Earl of Surrey, Joachim Du Bellay, John Denham, Vasilii Zhukovskii (into Russian), Micah **Lebensohn** (into Hebrew), Friedrich Schiller, Giacomo **Leopardi**, George **Sandys**, William Wordsworth, Euros **Bowen** (into Welsh), Pier Paolo **Pasolini**, John **Boys**, Robert Bridges, C. S. **Lewis**, Seamus **Heaney** and Sir John Harington. I then mention less obvious choices made by some translators and consider the reasons for those choices, for example the selection of the Nisus and Euryalus material by John Dryden, Lord Byron and Friedrich Hölderlin. I conclude by suggesting that we can explain at least some selections in terms of the translator’s self-image, education and circumstances, their

aims and ambitions, and their motivations for writing as generated by patronage and the venue of publication.

Chapter 7, 'Supplements and Paratextual Material', follows on directly from Chapter 6 by considering ways in which Virgil's text is supplemented by translators. These supplements can take the form of translating additional material and of adding paratextual, explanatory material. Notable supplements to be considered include the *incipit* of the *Aeneid* now regarded as spurious (*ille ego qui* . . . , 'I am he who . . .'), the poems of the *Appendix Vergiliana* and the Latin supplement to the *Aeneid* written by Maffeo Vegio in 1428 (first published in 1471), which provides a happy conclusion to the poem. Vegio's thirteenth book is often included in translations of the *Aeneid*, starting in the sixteenth century, down to the eighteenth century, and after that hardly at all. I explore the translations by Gavin Douglas (1513) and Major Thomas Seymour Burt (1883), who also adds a Book 14. The paratextual material I consider largely corresponds to Genette's definition of the paratext; that is, translator's prefaces, notes and comments, along with issues raised by the cover, the title page, the dedication and endorsements, the *mise-en-page*, headings, and illustrations, whereby the translator and/or printer attempts to frame and direct the reader's experience. The constellation of examples in this chapter includes changes in the paratexts in the succeeding editions of the Phaer–Twyne translation of the *Aeneid*, the hyperbolic endorsements of Jacob Westerbaen's 1662 Dutch *Aeneid*, the allographic prologue in Gregorio Hernández de Velasco's 1555 *Aeneid*, the Latinless translations of the *Eclogues* and *Georgics* which mimic the layout of Latin texts (Adelphus Muling's early sixteenth-century German *Eclogues* and John Brinsley's 1620 *Georgics*) and the deployment of illustrations in Guillaume Michel de Tours' sixteenth-century *Georgics* and in artist Samuel Palmer's nineteenth-century *Eclogues*. Such issues as the presence or absence of the Latin text *en face* and the kind of annotation supplied raise the question of the intended uses of the translations: some are explicitly aimed at an educated elite, while others are for mundane use in the schoolroom or for less educated readers. Finally, because Gavin Douglas' *Eneados* instantiates so many of these topics, the chapter closes with a study of his assertion of authorial presence through his paratexts.

There follow two chapters on fidelity, arguably the central concept in any discussion of translation.<sup>143</sup> There is an abundance of material to discuss under this rubric, too much for this volume, so I have limited

<sup>143</sup> See p. 42 of this chapter for the debates about fidelity in translation studies.

myself to fidelity of form, chiefly metre, in Chapter 8, and fidelity of concepts and register in Chapter 9. Chapter 8, 'Fidelity of Form: Metre Matters', after a brief consideration of prose translations of Virgil, offers analysis of the choice of metre for the *Eclogues*, *Georgics* and *Aeneid*: a considerable range. One of the largest issues facing any translator is whether or not to attempt to find an equivalent of Virgil's dactylic hexameter. The wide range of metrical strategies deployed in translations of the *Aeneid* includes *terza rima*, heroic couplets, unrhymed blank verse, *coplas de arte mayor*, fourteeners, French and Russian alexandrines, ballad metre, octosyllables, *ottava rima/octava rima/ottava rima*, anapaests, and hexameters, including quantitative hexameters. After a brief discussion of prosody wars in French and English, I examine Italian *Aeneids* in depth and then metrical experimentation in English translations from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. The final portion of the chapter is devoted to the hexameter in the hands of translators into German, Slovenian, Russian, Czech, Slovak, Finnish and Hungarian, where it was very successful, with a glance at twenty-first-century hexameter translations in Italian and English. Throughout I explore the ideological significance attached to the chosen metre by analysing the familiar cultural paradigms invoked by each choice. There are two axes on which choice of metre can be located: past/present and home-grown/foreign. Is the chosen metre the current idiom for epic poetry, or does it have resonances of venerable ancientness? Does it belong to the translator's vernacular, or is it imported from a foreign culture that seems to be endowed with sophistication?

In Chapter 9, 'Fidelity of Concepts and Register', the focus moves from form to content. I start by indicating the terms of the *querelle* ('dispute') between those who favoured word-for-word translations, whereby the translator is the *fidus interpres*, and those who believed in updating or beautifying the ancient text for their contemporary audience, the seventeenth-century French idea captured in the phrase 'les belles infidèles' and which involves the notion of 'compensation'.<sup>144</sup> French material, including Klossowski, Du Bellay and Delille, allows exploration of these ideas. I limit myself to two central aspects of fidelity: concepts and register. I first ask how translators tackle key concepts in Virgil's œuvre, such as the untranslatable concept of *pietas* in the *Aeneid*, along with specific challenges that arise from Virgil's

<sup>144</sup> Venuti 2019: 8 styles compensation as an instrumentalist strategy in his advocacy of a hermeneutic model for translation studies.

Latin texts, such as puns and incomplete lines. I proceed to investigate how translators attempt to match the various registers of the *Eclogues*, *Georgics* and *Aeneid*. Then I consider the lens provided by the theoretical spectrum of domestication and foreignization, with extensive and brief examples including *Aeneid* translations in Italian (including Caro and Leopardi), English (including **Stanyhurst**, Wordsworth and Ahl), German (Voss), Brazilian Portuguese (Mendes) and Russian (**Briusov**), concluding with Kristina Chew's uncategorizable *Georgics*. While the vast majority are domesticating, these translations often exhibit awareness of the alienness of the original.

In my final chapter, 'Equivalences and Identifications', I explore the fascinating question of equivalences or identifications between Virgil's characters and events and the translators' own times. Do they see Virgil as having a special message for them? To what extent do translators themselves identify with Virgil? This chapter has three parts. I first consider how translators invite readers to make identifications with Virgilian figures such as Aeneas and Dido, including Petrov's alignment of Dido with Catherine the Great. Translators who appear to identify with aspects of Aeneas include the Earl of Surrey, Richard Stanyhurst and C. S. Lewis, while Meliboeus speaks to Joseph Brodsky and Seamus Heaney. In the second part, I address the phenomenon whereby particular translators and cultures respond to Virgil as if he were addressing them specifically, with examples drawn from Polish and Irish literature. In Poland, Virgil was seen as a source of comfort in sorrow and a prophet of hope for the Polish people: the fourth *Eclogue* is central to Polish Messianism. The Irish reception of Virgil privileges the poems that treat the relationship between the people and the land, *Eclogues* and *Georgics*, with recent translators Heaney and Peter Fallon using regional dialect and idioms. In the third part of the chapter, I discuss poets' self-identification with Virgil himself and the implication that they are writing for their equivalent of Augustus. Important cases here include Spenser in sixteenth-century England, Marot and Perrin in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century France, **Voulgaris** in eighteenth-century Russia, and Delille in eighteenth-century France. I then move to the phenomenon of 'transcreation' or metempsychosis, whereby the translator claims to channel Virgil, and I conclude with translators' claims to make Virgil speak their own vernacular, taking Dryden as my case study. Chapter 10 thus returns to the issue of national context raised in Chapter 1 and underscores the dominance of the domesticating model of translation established in this introductory chapter.



I conclude by indicating the ongoing potential of Virgil's poems to create resonances for readers accessing them through the medium of translation.

My book concludes with two Appendices. Appendix 1 comprises fifty-two brief biographies of important translators discussed in the volume, to save me repeating salient material at every juncture a particular translator is discussed. The names of translators included in this Appendix are presented in **bold** throughout the book to cue the reader to consult the Appendix. Appendix 2 consists of a catalogue of translations discussed, with the relevant chapters indicated.

## 0.8 Challenges of Scope and Range: Beyond the Case Study

This book presents multiple cases of the triangulation that we perform when we study translation-as-reception of a text created in antiquity, where the translation has originated at some intermediate point between antiquity and the present. This triangulation must be interdisciplinary in order to ensure that the cultural context of the translator is properly understood. It will be obvious that to write this book I have had to stray well beyond the bounds of my expertise and comfort into fields including medieval studies, Renaissance studies, book history, numismatics and prosopography, not to mention literature in languages in which I am not proficient. This has been both fun and terrifying. I have tried to do due diligence to ensure that the scholarship I have consulted in fields beyond my own is mainstream. And I have indicated some of the delights and curiosities in the Prelude, but there are many more, especially the irreverent treatment of Virgil in the travesties that spring up from the mid-seventeenth century onwards, which furnish material for a further book.<sup>145</sup>

I am also acutely aware of the problems of presenting case studies as if they represent a generalizable norm and of the need to rise above the individual case study, which Howard Weinbrot calls 'the New Historical fallacy of the lonely exemplar, in which the often peculiar is assumed to be typical'.<sup>146</sup> He continues: 'Here one event, episode, or detached snippet serves as the quicksand on which the great house of inference regarding power or discontinuity is built.' While a scholarly article is an ideal vehicle for a single case study, in a big book such as this, readers have the right to expect something more than a couple of hundred individual case studies. Have I achieved this?

<sup>145</sup> To be co-authored with Zara Martirosova Torlone in the near future.

<sup>146</sup> Weinbrot 2009: II.

Most modern scholarship, whether we are mathematicians, economists, medical researchers, sociologists or linguists, concerns the identification of patterns. The patterns emerge from seeing similarities between the smaller phenomena. Ideally, we work both from the bottom up and from the top down: on the one hand, from single, small-scale case studies that form into clusters and thus suggest or generate larger conclusions, and on the other, from larger hypotheses that can be tested against individual examples. These processes seem under-articulated and under-theorized in the fields of classical studies and reception studies compared with some other fields, such as the social sciences or business studies.<sup>147</sup> This emerged from the stimulating seminar at the Society of Classical Studies 2016 Annual Meeting, ‘Beyond the Case Study: Theorizing Classical Reception’, organized by Rosa Andújar and Konstantinos P. Nikoloutsos. Other cognate fields can sometimes offer models. For instance, Anne Coldiron, a leading expert in translation studies and book history, introduces her important book *Printers without Borders: Translation and Textuality in the Renaissance* by indicating that her ten cases aim to answer bigger questions about wider patterns of textual transmission and translation (2014: 6–7, 14); she invites other scholars to examine specifically by what means, in what patterns, with what techniques and with what effects translators and printers in England engaged with the foreign past (19).

In my own chosen topic, the translation history of Virgil in European languages, I first noticed the diachronic and synchronic, or vertical and horizontal, axes on which, I suggest, translations can be plotted. The vertical axis represents the genealogical approach to classical reception when it was called ‘the classical heritage’, an approach which involves tracing a line of heredity from antiquity to the present. This procedure has been reversed, fruitfully, by Charles Martindale and others who insist on a kind of reverse influence whereby a later reception of a classical work can affect our perception of the classical work. This approach makes it possible to talk of Dante’s or Dryden’s influence on Virgil, for example. But it remains a vertical approach and the lines traced, whether backwards or forwards chronologically, run the risk of arbitrarily skipping significant intermediaries in the translation history of Virgil. Another limitation to this chronological approach is the failure to consider translators’ deliberate choices to position themselves as conservative archaizers or innovative

<sup>147</sup> For example, from the social sciences, Yves-C. Gagnon’s *The Case Study as Research Method: A Practical Handbook*, and from business studies, Arch Woodside’s *Case Study Research: Theory, Methods and Practice*, both published in 2010.

iconoclasts. The importance of the horizontal axis is well recognized in reception studies: this requires attention to the contemporary context of the text or translation under study. In the scope of an article focussed upon a single work, it is probably not too hard to provide an adequate context for any particular translation; it is considerably harder in a book which tackles translations of a canonical author throughout the European sphere of influence during a period of ten centuries. Moreover, within the horizontal axis there are usually multiple frames that can be applied to any translation, including those relating to politics and economics, religion and education, centre and periphery, and more categories.

Bearing all this in mind, I tried to ensure adequate dialogue between the case studies and my principles of organization which furnished the focus of the ten chapters. As I proceeded, I often found additional case studies that bore out particular patterns and hypotheses, or at least offered parallels and pairings. But sometimes my examples seemed to create a jumble which indicated more complexity than I had initially allowed for, or which even undermined a provisional conclusion and forced me to rethink. The result is that sometimes I tackle a century-long sequence of Virgil translations in a particular language and sometimes I juxtapose strikingly similar or contrastive examples from widely different authors, eras or linguistic traditions.<sup>148</sup> My central question throughout – following Pym’s precept that anyone who would undertake translation history must produce a clear formulation of their key question<sup>149</sup> – is ‘why?’: why was Virgil translated as he was by so many translators in so many different cultural contexts? My greatest challenge was to study a large enough data set to suggest some conclusions without abandoning the close readings that ground those generalizations in palpable evidence.

Finally, I need to say something about my choices from the huge treasury of material – the 2,500 translations up to 1850 catalogued by Kallendorf, and hundreds more since then, which amount to an enormous data set.<sup>150</sup> The major translators in different languages stood out immediately as demanding inclusion: in English, Gavin Douglas, the Earl of Surrey and John Dryden; in French, Joachim Du Bellay and Jacques Delille; in Spanish, Gregorio Hernández de Velasco; in Italian, Annibal Caro; in German, Johann Heinrich Voss. A second group consisted of

<sup>148</sup> See Coldiron’s remarks (2014: 21) on the familiar Greek-Roman-Italian-French sequence; one of the innovative features of her study is her foregrounding of other models, including chains and loops, radiant and compressed patterns, both stretched over long periods of time and in simultaneity.

<sup>149</sup> Pym 1998: 5–6 and 143. <sup>150</sup> See Chapter 1, note 55.

major poets who turned their hands to Virgil translation, including Edmund Spenser, Wordsworth, Percy Shelley, Day-Lewis and Seamus Heaney; Paul Valéry; Giacomo Leopardi; Friedrich Schiller and Friedrich Hölderlin; and Vasilii Zhukovskii and Valerii Briusov. A third group was female translators (though surprisingly few were active from early in the print period, a persisting phenomenon), including Hélienne de Crenne, Marie de Gournay, Naatje Brinkman, Giovanna Bemporad, Ida Gerhardt, Kristina Chew, Janet Lembke and Sarah Ruden. A fourth group consists of translations that I consider unwarrantedly neglected, such as those of Thomas Murner, John Vickers and John Ogilby, and a fifth of bizarre curiosities, such as Eugenios Voulgaris' *Aeneid* and *Georgics* in Homeric Greek written in eighteenth-century Russia, the *Eclogues* translation by Urbain Domergue designed to support orthographic reform in Napoleonic France, Mary Leadbeater's stand-alone version of Book 13 from early nineteenth-century rural Ireland, Thomas Seymour Burt's Book 14 of the *Aeneid*, Pier Paolo Pasolini's Italian *Aeneid* 1 and Pierre Klossowski's 1964 French *Énéide*. Finally, I made every effort to include significant translations produced in what we might regard as less influential European-language traditions, including Polish, Portuguese, Hungarian, Hebrew, Norwegian, Welsh and Esperanto. In making this selection, I gladly acknowledge my 'subjective engagement in research'.<sup>151</sup> The danger of going down rabbit holes was ever present. I now know much more than I bargained for about Cossack history, theories of nationalism, sixteenth-century Sieneese prosopography and the Dutch Song Database.

I have made use of a huge range of scholarship, as my Bibliography shows, and have had assistance from many scholars, as my Acknowledgements show. One exemplary study is Chiara De Caprio's overview 'Volgarizzare e tradurre i grandi poemi dell'antichità (XIV–XXI secolo)', which uses a combination of narrative, illustrations, graphs and maps to pack a huge amount of valuable information into a relatively brief compass as she identifies the shifting trends in Italian translations of classical epic (chiefly Homer, Apollonius, Virgil, Ovid, Lucan and Statius) through the centuries, with glances at other linguistic traditions en route. She isolates phenomena which chime with my own arrangement of chapters in her attention to issues such as the publication of complete works or separate books of the epics, metrical choices, relative valuations of fidelity, canonization and the role of book series and publishing houses. In particular, her understanding of how translation can reflect politics emerges in her observations on the sense of Italy as a nation in the nineteenth

<sup>151</sup> I take the phrase from Pym 1998: 36.

century and on the fascist usurpation of the classics in the twentieth century, aided by the bimillennial celebrations for Virgil (1931), Horace (1935) and Augustus (1937), where she notes that new complete translations of the *Aeneid* rise to a peak in the 1920s.<sup>152</sup> The figures in her article are especially worthy of mention. I hope that my book-length study will in turn stimulate others to further analysis of Virgil's translations.

<sup>152</sup> De Caprio 2012: especially 65 and 67, including figure 14.