

10.2/6229



PONT BLAU

LITERATURA - ART - INFORMACIÓ

Apartado 7324 - México 1, D. F.

PORTE PAGADO

No Tar para una  
Conf. de Traducción

M. CARLOS ESPILA  
4 E. 23th. St. Hotel Latham  
NEW YORK 16, N.Y. U.S.A.



25 Mars 1910 (à la requête de André fidèle)  
Valéry Harbaud, j'écris  
à Paul Claudel au sujet de la traduction  
faute par celui-ci de orthodoxie qui doit  
être publiée par la Nouvelle Revue Française  
et sur laquelle a été chargé Valéry de faire  
une courte notice préliminaire.

- un dit Valéry  
"J'ai lu votre traduction en la comparant  
au texte, que je connais déjà bien. (J'ai  
publié déjà trois articles, dans La Phalange,  
sur Chesterton, le premier le 2 décembre 1908.) A  
la page 149 de mon édition (John Lane, 1909)  
à la ligne 8, j'ai le mot Mercia, je crois que  
vous avez traduit par Merica. Est-ce une  
faute d'impression de votre texte, ou bien  
avez-vous voulu seulement simplifier le  
texte? Le mot à mot est: "Si un hom.  
me trouve le christianisme vrai à  
Birmingham, il a certainement de plus  
claire raisons de croire que s'il l'avait  
trouvé vrai dans la Mercia (l'ancienne  
province où est Birmingham - comme  
on opposerait Paris à Lutèce). Ainsi  
la traduction serait tout à fait conforme  
au texte et à l'intention de G. K.  
Chesterton. Il faudrait alors modifier  
ainsi le fin de votre phrase: "Si un  
homme trouve le christianisme vrai  
à Birmingham, il a de la foi de







## P R O V E R B S

Every now and then, and particularly at General Assembly time, we get an interesting flurry of these pithy, pungent little sayings. Secretariat members must, between them, have a rich stock of them in many languages. Some of us have spent years collecting and comparing them, and we have even formed a Paroemio-logical Society to discuss them.

They have been current from the earliest times, having been passed from mouth to mouth and handed down from generation to generation long before men learned to write. In the most ancient literature of many peoples we find them quoted as long-established and obvious truths. The taunt which often seems so apt today -- "Liars need good memories" -- was described as an "old" saying by St. Jerome in the fourth century, and had been used three hundred years earlier by Quintilian; Seneca quoted the warning that "he who lies down with dogs rises with fleas;" Homer, Hesiod, Aesop, Pindar and Plutarch -- to mention only a few early writers of the western world -- drew heavily upon an age-old treasury of unwritten adages.

Their origins are many, and largely unknown. Some achieved proverbial status as truths propounded by sages, others as rules prescribed by legislators, others again as oracles pronounced by priests, and yet others as memorable phrases from fables, myths, ballads, chronicles and literature generally. Most were coined by the common people of the world's cities and countrysides, to be bandied about by tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor, and men and women of the many other callings whose stamps they so clearly bear. But whatever their origin, they gained currency because they were valued as nut-shell comments upon observed phenomena and practical phrases of warning, reproof or encouragement. They crystallised men's thoughts about their fellow-men and about ever-present material and moral questions. And thus they served among the stones used in the building of social and political systems.

The constant circulation of proverbs, horizontally among the common people and vertically between them and the learned classes, entailed processes of elimination, polishing and improvement. The seed-phrase might contain only one or two of the properties of a genuine proverb, or might possess features rendering it unfit for long or wide acceptance. It might be true, but laboured and clumsy, or true and

neatly formed but trite and trivial in its content. In passing from hand to hand, if it was not dropped for want of appreciation, it would gradually be remoulded for rhyme, rhythm or alliteration, shorn of unwanted excrescences, sharpened by the addition of hyperbole or antithesis, spiced with humour or beautified with poetry, and generally rendered more memorable.

Corruption, too, played its part. A word or phrase might be lost, or mistranslated from one tongue to another, or deliberately discarded and replaced by something entirely different. This sort of thing appears to have happened, for instance, in the case of the Spanish proverb "Un buen callar llaman Sancho" (A good silence is called Sancho), in which the word Sancho has been substituted for the original adjective -- either santo (saintly) or sabio (wise) -- together with an elaborate exegesis intended to explain why it was that the silence of a certain Sancho was considered a good silence. Another apparent example of the same process is offered by the English proverb "He that labours and strives spins gold," which seems to be a mistranslation, or perhaps a misprint of a correct translation, of the Spanish "Quien trabaja y medra, oro hila;" for medrar is not to strive, but to thrive.

The rationalism of the eighteenth century left the proverb in the doldrums for a while, in western Europe. Lord Chesterfield represented the attitude of his generation when he laid it down that "a man of fashion never has recourse to proverbs and vulgar aphorisms;" and in other countries, particularly in France, the same delicacy, almost prudery, came into vogue. Educated Europeans preferred elegant, precise, abstract terms to the concreteness of the proverb. They preferred Don Quixote's language to Sancho's. They would be inclined, as we should be nowadays, to say not that "a hungry belly has no ears" but that "human beings are so constituted that precedence of the nutritional over the cultural or political aspects of rehabilitation is a necessity."

It is true, of course, that a proverb usually lacks precision, and often oversimplifies the issue that it purports to settle. Apart, moreover, from the many proverbs that conflict (because they faithfully reflect the seeming inconsistencies of human experience) there are some that are in fact partly or wholly false, being based upon imperfect observation or faulty inductive reasoning, or upon prejudice or superstition



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than another).

"Thoughts are free from toll" is to the French "Les pensées ne paient pas d'impôt", to the Russians "Ума городьбой не огородишь" (You cannot fence the mind about), or "Голова приросла, а уму воля дана" (The head is attached, but the mind is free), and to the Spanish "El pensar no tiene alcabala" (Thoughts are not taxed), or "Debajo de mi manto, al rey mato" (Beneath my cloak, I kill the king).

"Charity bread has hard crusts" is to the French "Oui prend, se vend" (Who accepts, sells himself), to the Russians "Не пей, кума, дарового вина; придет дороже купленного" (Drink not given wine, my friend; it will cost you more than if you had bought it), to the Spanish "Pan ajeno caro cuesta" (Another's bread costs dear), and to the Chinese 籬下做人難 (Under another's shelter, it is hard to be a man).

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" is to the Russians "Делу время, потехе час" (Business at fixed times, and amusements now and then), and to the Spanish "Cada semana tiene su disanto" (Every week has its Sunday).

All of which may perhaps confirm one's lingering belief that despite all indications to the contrary, men do agree about quite a number of things.

R. D. H.



Major-General P. S. Gyani, of India, newly appointed Commander of the United Nations Emergency Force. He succeeds Lt. General E. L. M. Burns of Canada.



Miss Carola S. Collier to Mr. Zaid al-Rifai, on 27 November, in Amman, Jordan. Mrs. Rifai was with the Office of the Controller. Mr. Rifai is with the Jordan Delegation. (See above)

Mr. Gordon Menzies to Miss Birgitte Westh, in Copenhagen, on 19 November 1959. Mr. Menzies is Chief of the European Office of Technical Assistance Recruitment Services in Paris.

## BIRTHS

To Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Desrochers, a son, Michael, on 20 December 1959, in New York. Mr. Desrochers is with Staff Records Service.

To Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Kessler, a daughter, Barbara, on 5 December 1959, at North Shore Hospital. Mr. Kessler is with the Registry and Mrs. Lillian A. Kessler is a former staff member.

To Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Oppenheim, a daughter, Deborah Ruth, on 9 December 1959, at New York Hospital. Mr. Oppenheim is with the Statistical Office.

To Mr. and Mrs. Kreitzman, a daughter, Beatrice Anne, on 9 December, in St. Catherine's Hospital, Brooklyn. Mr. Kreitzman is with UNICEF.

To Mr. and Mrs. K. W. Taylor, a son, Stephen William, on 11 December 1959, at St. Luke's Woman's Hospital, New York. Mr. Taylor is with the Office of the Under-Secretary, ESA.



## UN TABLE TENNIS CLUB

At the half-way point in the N. Y. Bankers' Athletic League Table Tennis Tournament, the UN team is solidly established in first place. The UN team has gained impressive victories during this first half, as the following scores show:

UN - 11; Mutual Life - 0  
UN - 11; Esso - 0  
UN - 11; Western Electric - 0  
UN - 9; NYC Civil Service - 2  
UN - 11; Excelsior Savings - 0  
UN - 11; Chemical Corn - 0  
UN - 11; Seamen's House - 0  
UN - 10; General Motors - 1  
UN - 11; Federal Reserve - 0

Marcel Monasterial, the team captain, extended his winning streak by another 17 matches. The record of individual team members is the following:

|                    | <u>Won</u> | <u>Lost</u> |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|
| Marcel Monasterial | 17         | 0           |
| Mauro Monasterial  | 19         | 1           |
| David Miron        | 14         | 1           |
| Max Fiszer         | 10         | 0           |
| José Machado       | 8          | 0           |
| Bernard H. Solomon | 10         | 1           |

In addition, the UN doubles team gained another 18 victories, with no losses, for a half-year grand total of 96 victories and 3 losses.

The second half matches will begin next week, and will continue weekly through the month of March. Staff members are invited to watch the matches, which take place at 6 p.m. in the Club Room on the 41st floor.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass. (near Boston), will once more in 1960 reserve two scholarships of the Wien International Fellowship Programme for sons and daughters of United Nations personnel. Candidates must have outstanding school records and must be ready to enter college in September 1960.

These scholarships have a value of about \$3,000 per year; they cover tuition and other college fees, room, board, seminars and field trips. Brandeis University is a coeducational non-sectarian liberal arts college and has about 1,000 students.

For information and application forms, see Mrs. D. Kowarski, Chairman, U.N. Scholarship Committee, room 594, Ext. 3278. Applications must be completed by 1 February 1960.

## COOPERATIVE CHARTER FLIGHTS TO EUROPE

The Cooperative's summer charter flight program for 1960 offers the following schedule, for which reservations are now being accepted:

| <u>Depart New York</u> | <u>Return Depart Europe</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| June 11                | July 22                     |
| July 8                 | Sept. 1                     |
| August 6               | Sept. 9                     |

The aircraft used on all three flights is a B.O.A.C., British Overseas Airways Corporation, DC-7C, with standard tourist accommodations in seating arrangements, first class meals and service, and 66 lbs. luggage allowance per passenger. All flights are New York-London-Paris, and return Paris-London-New York, round trip price \$305. This price is maximum, and if the planes are filled, a 10% rebate will be given passengers at the end of the flying season. In addition, the price of \$305 is also subject to the usual Co-op patronage rebate at the end of the fiscal year 1960/61.

All passengers must be members of the Cooperative for at least six months prior to the departure of the flight on which they are booked.

For information on booking arrangements, applications, firm reservations and other details, come to the Cooperative, Room 901, or phone Mrs. Taska, Extension 2012.

## FENCING LESSONS

Are you interested in fencing? You can get fencing lessons and take advantage of many other sport activities for 15 dollars a year.

Contact Michel Tombelaine, Extension 3128.

## UN BALLET CLUB

The classes of the UN Ballet Club during the week of 18 January will be devoted to character dancing. This is dance done in the character of national folk themes and used in many ballets.

Students may attend either or both classes. The following dances -- or parts of them -- will be taught:

| <u>Monday, 18 January</u> | <u>Wednesday, 20 January</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Tarantella                | Mexican Hat Dance            |
| Czardas                   | Trepak                       |
| Mazurka                   | Spanish                      |
| Tightrope Walker          | Warrior Dance                |
|                           | (from Prince Igor)           |

Costume for women is full skirts over leotards and Cuban-type heeled shoes. For men, trousers and hard-soled shoes.

Phyllis Greene will teach both classes.