Contributors

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Translators and Scholars . . .

The translator . . . must at least make some effort to please the scholars. These men, in many ways, know more than he does, and he must benefit by their superior wisdom. Yet they are not easy to please; some of them, one suspects, resent his intrusion. A vested interest of theirs, it seems, is somehow threatened; their proprietary rights include every variant reading, including the conflicting ones. They are peculiarly prone to resent liberties, to insist on literalness, even at the expense of literacy. The translator should not thumb his nose at them, but he may, occasionally, have to shrug his shoulders; their eyes and noses, poor chaps, are sometimes so much better than their ears.

Rolfe Humphries, in: On Translation (Cambridge, Mass. 1959) p. 65