

TRANSLATION NEWS

France

A trial edition of 10,000 copies of the revised Second New Testament came off the press at the beginning of May 1962. The final edition is expected to be published in about two years time.

The Testament also contains explanatory notes, including variations on the text taken from different manuscripts, and a glossary giving the meaning of certain words which occur frequently in the text. The committee which has been working for four years on the revision will be taking note of all competent observations and criticisms on this new text, which in the near future is to be included in Bibles in place of the 1910 revision. The French Bible Society is now hoping to undertake the revision of the Old Testament.

Germany

The Berlin Bible Society has issued St. John's Gospel in a new translation by Ernst Gess under the title *Das Geheimnis ist gross* ("Great is the mystery"). This is the second Gospel to be published by the Society in the new translation in which the whole New Testament is being prepared. Full page photographs of modern everyday life help emphasize the up-to-date character of this 64 page publication. The booklet measures 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 7" and is printed in 10 point type.

The Roman Catholic Bible work in Stuttgart has sought over 100 opinions regarding the production of a standard R.C. translation of the Bible for practical use in the churches. Views were requested not only from translators and exegetes but also from bodies engaged in Bible work and from study groups at home and abroad—R.C. and non-R.C.—regarding their experience in Bible translation and work on standard versions. The aim is both to provide on the broadest basis access to sound knowledge of the Scriptures and to initiate long term study.

Japan

A Roman Catholic translation of the Bible into Japanese is being carried forward by Franciscan scholars and a group headed by Fr. Barbaro of the Don Bosco Publication Centre. The works completed to date by the Franciscans are: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Book of Wisdom, Tobias, Judith and Esther. Work is in progress on the four Gospels, the Maccabees, and the books of the Twelve Prophets. Fr. Don Bosco and his colleagues have completed Psalms and the Apocrypha.

Thailand

Revision of the Thai version of the Bible is nearly completed, but there are at least three very important regional languages in Thailand which are mutually unintelligible. People of modest education in the north or east cannot understand a Buddhist sermon in the language of Bangkok, much less the Christian Scriptures. This situation calls for an experimental programme in simplified translations of selected portions slanted to regional audiences on the pattern of the Simple English translation done by Miss Annie Cressman for Liberia, or the Popular Spanish in Mexico, or the Popular Version in French in Haiti.

Middle East

At an ecumenical conference in Jerusalem, May 14-17, 1962, attended by 75 delegates fairly evenly balanced between Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant, the place and use of the Bible in the churches of the Middle East was discussed.

Among other things a number of suggestions and recommendations were made. One proposal was that a single translation of the Bible into Arabic should be the goal of the churches in the area. This was thought necessary, if only for the sake of witness in the Islamic world.

Translation of the Jewish Bible into modern English

The Jewish Publication Society in America has undertaken a new rendering of the Bible into modern English. The Five Books of Moses are due to be published in January 1963, and it is hoped that the other books of the Bible may appear in the new form in the course of a few years.

CONTRIBUTORS

Nico Adriani (1865-1926) was a missionary-linguist in the service of the Netherlands Bible Society. He worked from 1894-1926 in Indonesia, mainly among the Bare'e-speaking Toradja people of Celebes.

Norman Deck was during thirty four years (1914-1948) a missionary in the Solomons Islands. He translated the New Testament into Kwara'ae.

Marion Doble is a missionary of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Western New Guinea and has recently completed the Kapauku New Testament.

Margaret T. Hills is Associate of the Translations Department and Librarian of the American Bible Society.

Paul Lewis is a missionary of the American Baptist Foreign Mission in Kentung State, Eastern Burma.

Robert P. Markham is Research Associate in the Translations Department of the American Bible Society.

J. Noorduyt has served as a missionary-linguist of the Netherlands Bible Society in Indonesia and is now on the staff of the Koninklijk Instituut voor Land-, Taal- en Volkenkunde in the Hague.

B. F. Price is Old Testament adviser in the Translations Department of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

William D. Reyburn is Translations Consultant of the American Bible Society serving in the Cameroun Republic.

William J. Samarin is assistant professor of linguistics at the Hartford Seminary Foundation, U.S.A. He formerly served as a missionary in the Central African Republic where he was a member of the Inter-Missions Language Committee which is translating the Bible into Sango.

P. P. Saydon is the translator of the R.C. version of the Bible in Maltese, published in 1959.

E. J. Vardaman is assistant professor of Biblical Archaeology at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

David B. Woodford is a missionary of the Worldwide Evangelization Crusade doing pioneer work among the Birifor tribe, Upper Volta, W. Africa.
