



Fiscal Year 2017 NEA Literature Translation Fellowship Recipients

Some details of the projects listed are subject to change, contingent upon prior NEA approval. For the most up to date project information, please use the NEA's [online grant search system](#).

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- **Ned Balbo**, Baltimore, MD
- **Steven Bradbury**, Fort White, FL
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- **Dan Golembeski**, Petoskey, MI
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- **David Keplinger**, Washington, DC
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- **Victor Pambuccian**, Tempe, AZ
- **Emma Ramadan**, Providence, RI
- **Amy Baram Reid**, Sarasota, FL
- **Philip Roughton**, Akureyri, Iceland
- **Robert S. Rudder**, Claremont, CA
- **Thom Satterlee**, Marion, IN
- **Damion Searls**, Brooklyn, NY
- **David Shook**, Los Angeles, CA
- **Barbara Sjöholm**, Port Townsend, WA
- **Sarah Thomas**, Providence, RI
- **Russell Valentino**, Bloomington, IN
- **Katherine E. Young**, Arlington, VA

Andrés Alfaro, Iowa City, IA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Spanish of the novel *The Most Violent Paradise* by Costa Rican author Alexánder Obando. Published in 2001 as the first book of a trilogy, Obando's influential, post-modern novel marks a departure in Costa Rican literature from traditional form and content to more mythical, philosophical, chaotic, and confrontational storytelling reminiscent of William S. Burroughs, Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortazar, and Virginia Woolf. The 550-page tale jumps through space and time, following an array of characters from the back alleys of modern Costa Rica to ancient Greece to some unknown point in the future on a lunar base. A novelist and poet, Obando (b. 1958) has received the Aquileo J. Echeverría National Award — his country's highest literary honor. He has edited several anthologies, including a collection of LGBT texts written by Costa Ricans.

Andrés Alfaro is a translator and musician with dual U.S./Costa Rican citizenship. He graduated in 2012 with an M.F.A. in literary translation from the University of Iowa. His translations include Manel Loureiro's *The Last Passenger*, a thriller from Spain published in 2015 by AmazonCrossing. He has also translated both poetry and prose for *Prism International*, *Buenos Aires Review*, and *eXchanges*.

Ned Balbo, Baltimore, MD (\$12,500)

To support the retranslation from the French of the 512-line poem "The Young Fate" by French poet Paul Valéry. T.S. Eliot was convinced that, more than Rilke or Yeats, Valéry (1871-1945) would remain "for posterity the representative poet ... of the first half of the 20th century." His influence on other poets is well-documented, among them John Ashbery, Wallace Stevens, and J.D. McClatchy. Yet, "The Young Fate," widely considered one of the more important poems in the last 100 years, is little known in the U.S., in part because the best existing English translation is difficult to obtain, and the best American versions are outdated. Originally published in 1917, it presents a young woman standing outside on a starry night, overlooking the ocean, contemplating her connection to time, death, and the natural world. This retranslation will come in time to celebrate the poem's centennial, and will include an introduction, notes, and a brief biography of Valéry.

Ned Balbo is a poet whose collections include: *Galileo's Banquet* (Washington Writers Publishing House, 1998); *Lives of the Sleepers* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2005); *The Trials of Edgar Poe and Other Poems* (Story Line Press, 2010); and *Upcycling Paumanok* (Measure Press, 2016). His translations of Paul Valéry, Georg Trakl, Guillaume Apollinaire, and Charles Baudelaire have appeared in numerous journals. Currently, he is an adjunct associate professor in the MFA program in Creative Writing and Environment of Iowa State University.

Steven Bradbury, Fort White, FL (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Chinese of *Poems, Sixty of Them* by Taiwanese writer Hsia Yü. A noted poet, songwriter, book designer, and magazine editor, Hsia Yü (b. 1956) is one of the most innovative and popular poets of the Chinese-speaking world and the first Chinese-language poet of the postwar era to write candidly about sex and gender politics. She is the author of seven volumes of poetry, most recently, *First Person* (Taipei, 2016), a book-length bilingual poem designed as a photo album. Many of the poems in this collection, which were bound in silver scratch-off latex, reflect her fascination with the discourse and composition of social media and its impact on love, language, and intimacy. Published in 2011 with poems written over a ten-year period, *Poems, Sixty of Them* covers subjects as varied as translation and transformation, terrorism and texting. Throughout the collection

and reflective of the internet age, words, phrases and even whole passages are reused and repurposed, giving the book a fugue-like feel.

Steven Bradbury has published over 250 translations in journals and anthologies as well three book-length translations, most recently Hsia Yü's *Salsa* (Zephyr Press, 2014), which was short-listed for the Lucien Stryk Prize. He taught poetry, translation, and American literature for 18 years at the National Central University in Taiwan before returning to the U.S. Bradbury is founding editor of *Full Tilt: a journal of East-Asia poetry, translation and the arts*.

Kaiama L. Glover, New York, NY (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the French of the novel *Hadriana in All My Dreams* by Haitian writer René Depestre. A peer of some of the most seminal political and intellectual figures of the 20th century, Depestre (b. 1926) was the founder of an anti-establishment newspaper in Haiti that landed him in prison and led to the overthrow of the Haitian government in 1946. Exiled from Haiti, he moved to other countries throughout his life where he was similarly driven out due to his politics, including the Czech Republic, Italy, Cuba, and France, where he was allowed to return and currently resides. Published in 1988, *All My Dreams* is about a young French girl who collapses at the altar in the middle of her wedding to a local Haitian boy during Carnival in 1938. Her wedding day becomes her funeral. She is buried by the town but revived by an evil sorcerer. The book was immediately translated into Spanish, Italian, German, Dutch, Danish, and Polish, but has never been translated into English.

Kaiama L. Glover has been a student, scholar, and professor of French and francophone literature for 20 years, and has spent many of those years in both France and Haiti. Her translations include *Dance on the Volcano* by Marie Vieux Chauvet (Archipelago Books, 2016) and *Ready to Burst* by Frankétienne (Archipelago Books, 2014). Currently, she is an associate professor of French at Barnard College.

Dan Golembeski, Petoskey, MI (\$25,000)

To support the translation from the French of the 1049-page, three-volume travelogue *The Long Walk* by French writer Bernard Ollivier. A modern-day Marco Polo, Ollivier (b. 1938) is a journalist and screenwriter who, in his retirement, has walked some of the world's most famous paths. *The Long Walk*, published in 2001, is an adventure narrative of his hike along the legendary 7,500-mile Silk Road from Turkey to China, which he embarked on in the 1990s knowing he might not return. Combining both history and personal encounters with individuals along the way, and reflecting on regions throughout Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and China, *The Long Walk* received a glowing review in the *New York Times* in 2002, which was significant because it was (and remains) only available in French. This will mark the first time the work will appear in English.

Dan Golembeski is an associate professor of French at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, as well as a freelance literary and business translator. His translations have appeared in several publications. His book-length translations include *Terror Over the Vatican*, a thriller by Jean-Louis Baroux (co-translated with John Marston, Archipel/Hachette, 2014) and *The Customer's Victory*, a treatise on business management by François Dupuy (1998, Indiana University Press).

Anne Janusch, Chicago, IL (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the German of the novel *Palace of Flies* by Austrian writer Walter Kappacher. A self-taught fiction writer who left school at the age of fifteen, Kappacher (b. 1937) has published eighteen books, for which he has received numerous awards, most notably the Georg Büchner Prize, the most prestigious accolade for German-language writers. Set in 1924, *Palace of Flies* tells the story of an aging writer who retreats to an old resort town in the mountains outside Salzburg—a place evocative of his youth and of better days from before the War. Once there, however, he struggles to reconcile that past with the present, in which both his work and his health are in decline. A meditation on aging and on art, *Palace of Flies* marks the introduction of Kappacher's work to an American audience.

Annie Janusch is the translator of four novels by Wolf Haas, the Heinrich von Kleist novella *The Duel*, as well as work by Jürgen Goldstein, Anja Kampmann, and Uwe Tellkamp. She has been an editor and reviewer for *The Quarterly Conversation*, *Translation Review*, *Two Lines*, and most recently, *Chicago Review*. A former Robert Bosch Fellow at the University of Leipzig, Germany, Janusch holds an MFA from the University of Iowa and currently works at the University of Chicago.

J. Kates, Fitzwilliam, NH (\$25,000)

To support the translation from the Russian of *An Astounded World: Selected Poems* by Kazakhstani poet Aigerim Tazhi. Until recently, female poets writing in Russian did not receive attention commensurate with their male counterparts, and female poets living outside Moscow and St. Petersburg even less so. Tazhi (b. 1981) is helping to change that. This new bilingual edition of *An Astounded World* will have particular significance both in the U.S. and in the poet's native Kazakhstan because, as the poet herself states (as translated by Kates), "In Kazakhstan, not even one independent publishing house remains. Most publishers work ... as typesetters, living on government subsidies, and publish mainly Kazakh classics or textbooks." The press that published her book, she adds, closed years ago. The author of numerous award-winning poems, Tazhi was a finalist for the prestigious Russian Debut Prize in Poetry.

J. Kates is a poet, literary translator, past president of the American Literary Translators Association, and current president and co-director of Zephyr Press, a nonprofit publisher of works in translation from Russia, Eastern Europe, and Asia. He is a recipient of NEA fellowships in both poetry and translation, as well as the Cliff Becker Book Prize in Translation for his *Selected Poems of Mikhail Yeryomin* (White Pine Press, 2014). His most recent translation, *Muddy River: Selected Poems of Sergey Stratanovsky*, was published by the Carcanet Press in 2016.

David Keplinger (in collaboration with Jan Wagner), Washington, DC (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the German of *The Art of Topiary*, selected poems by German poet Jan Wagner. Wagner (b. 1971) is the award-winning author of six poetry collections, as well as a translator of Anglo-American poetry, an essayist, editor, and literary critic. His poetry has been translated into 30 languages. Not readily categorized, Wagner writes both formal and free verse poems. This collection includes a sonnet about a rhino, a long haiku series about rain barrels, and a sestina with the book's title poem, in which the repeated words describe a garden that eats its creator.

David Keplinger is the author of four collections of original poetry; two books in translation from the Danish by Carsten René Nielsen, which received a ten-thousand-dollar prize from the Lannan foundation, and one book in translation from the German by Jan Wagner; and numerous translations in

journals and anthologies. He is the recipient of the T.S. Elliot Prize, and fellowships from the NEA, and the Soros Foundation. He currently teaches in the M.F.A. Creative Writing Program at American University in Washington, D.C. Jan Wagner is a collaborator for this project.

Roman Kostovski (in collaboration with Rachel Miranda Feingold), Washington, DC (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Czech of the novel *Heaven Has No Ground* by Hana Andronikova. This is the final novel of Andronikova (1967-2011), who died of cancer less than a year after it was published in 2011 and just weeks before receiving, for the second time, the Czech Republic's highest literary prize, the Magnesia Litera Award. The bestselling, autobiographical novel depicts the author's early decision to forego conventional medical treatments in search of a more holistic solution, and describes her subsequent journeys to consult a shaman in the Amazon jungle, travel through the Nevada desert, and climb Israel's Mount Masada in pursuit of some spiritual insight that would allow her to cope with her fate and, ultimately, return to Prague to fight for her life. The story is told in large part from diary entries, email correspondence, and Skype transcriptions of conversations with her family and friends, interspersed with stream of consciousness, dreams, and hallucinations or visions.

Roman Kostovski translates poetry and prose from Bosnian, Croatian, Czech, Bulgarian, Macedonian, Russian, Serbian, and Slovak. His translations have appeared in numerous journals; his book-length translations from the Czech include Arnost Lustig's *Porgess* (Northwestern University Press, 2006) and Viktor Dyk's classic *The Ratcatcher* (Plamen Press, 2014). He is the founder of Plamen Press, a print-on-demand publishing house promoting literature from Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe.

Melanie A. Magidow, South Kingstown, RI (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Arabic of the 12th century folk epic *The Tale of Lady Dhat al-Himma*. This 7,000-page work is the longest extant Arabic epic poem and the only one named for a woman. While the author is unknown, the epics were known to be recited and performed by storytellers, especially during the holiday month of Ramadan and during leisure times. Complete with fight scenes, love scenes, and warrior women, this epic follows a woman and her son and their posse of friends as they move back and forth primarily in the Arab-Byzantine borderlands, with visits to Constantinople and to the caliph's court in Baghdad.

Melanie A. Magidow works as a freelance Arabic-English translator, specializing in literary translation. She recently received a PhD in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures from The University of Texas at Austin, where she taught classes in Arabic. She has also taught at the University of Rhode Island, Middlebury College, Hunter College, and the City University of New York. Prior to teaching, she was an Arabic newspaper collator for the Library of Congress.

Jamie Olson, Olympia, WA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Russian of *When Lenin Was a Little Boy: Selected Poems* by Timur Kibirov. Kibirov (b.1955) is an award-winning conceptual poet of more than 20 poetry collections, yet despite his reputation in Russia, his poetry is virtually unknown in English. This collection will gather poems from across 30 years of his career. His poems often blend irony and sincerity, with reinterpretations of classic texts, including ancient myths, canonical literary works, Soviet ideology, and scripture. He is known as a gadfly who seeks to tear down Russian secular traditions, such as Marxism, nationalism, and the literary canon.

Jamie Olson is a former U.S. Marine and current chair of the English Department at Saint Martin's University near Olympia, Washington, where he teaches courses in composition, poetry, and Russian literature in translation. His translations have appeared in numerous journals, including *Two Lines*, *Drunken Boat*, and *Asymptote*. He writes a blog called *The Flaxen Wave: On Poetry, Translation, and Russian Culture*.

Victor Pambuccian, Tempe, AZ (\$12,500)

To support the assembly and translation from the Romanian of an anthology of avant-garde poetry. This original anthology will feature translations of Romanian poetry of the avant-garde or poetry that in some way has been influenced by it. It will include work by Gellu Naum; Nichita Stanescu; Max Blecher; Paul Celan; Tristan Tzara, a co-founder and main theoretician of Dadaism; and Barbu Fundoianu, best known as a critic and essayist under the pen name Benjamin Fondane.

Victor Pambuccian was born in Romania into an Armenian family. Currently a mathematics professor at Arizona State University, he has published numerous translations in such journals as *Words Without Borders*, *Two Lines*, and *International Poetry Review*, where he was guest editor on a special issue on contemporary voices from Romania.

Emma Ramadan, Providence, RI (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the French of the poetry collection *The Shutters* by Moroccan writer Ahmed Bouanani. Bouanani (1938-2011) was a novelist, poet, film director, and documenter of traditional arts in different regions of the country. *The Shutters* is a powerful and surreal mapping of Morocco's cultural history and collective memory. The book is divided into several sections, all of which revolve around a house where the narrator lives with his grandmother, and through which a series of ancestors and mythical beings pass. Bouanani weaves together references to the Second World War, the Rif War, the Spanish and French protectorates, and the dead soldiers, prisoners, and poets who give voice to the violence inflicted on them. Bouanani believed that tradition held the key to a country's heart and identity. He dedicated his life to tracking Morocco's heritage that has been forgotten but not annihilated.

Emma Ramadan translates from Providence, Rhode Island, where she is the co-owner of Riffraff, a bookstore and bar opening this fall. Her translations include *Sphinx* by Anne Garréta, *Monospace* by Anne Parian, *33 Flat Sonnets* by Frédéric Forte, and *The Curious Case of Dassoukine's Trousers* by Fouad Laroui. She recently spent a year in Morocco on a Fulbright grant to catalog and translate the archives of Ahmed Bouanani, with the help of his daughter, Touda Bouanani, and the Dar al-Ma'mûn artist residency. Upon her return she edited a special issue on Moroccan writing for the online journal *Words Without Borders*.

Amy Baram Reid, Sarasota, FL (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the French of the novel *When the Plums Are Ripe* (2013) by francophone Cameroonian novelist Patrice Nganang. Nganang (b.1970) is a prolific writer and a powerful voice for political engagement in Cameroon and across Francophone Africa. He has received considerable critical attention for his novels, short stories, and poetry, as well as for his theoretical and critical essays. *When the Plums Are Ripe* is the second volume of a trilogy about the sources of Cameroonian nationalism, focusing on the period from 1940-44 and interweaving history with fiction. The novel is ironic, insightful,

and idealistic, reflecting both Nganang's political engagement and his efforts to bring humanity into focus. This will be the first translation of the novel into English.

Amy Baram Reid is a professor of French Language and Literature at the New College of Florida. She offers courses and tutorials on a wide range of topics in French and francophone literature, from the Renaissance through the 19th century, as well as contemporary drama and francophone writing from Québec, the Caribbean, and Africa. She is the translator of Patrice Nganang's novels *Dog Days* (University of Virginia Press, 2006) and *Mount Pleasant* (FSG, 2016), as well as *Queen Pokou: Concerto for a Sacrifice* (Ayebia Clark, 2009) and *Far from My Father* (University of Virginia Press, 2014), by Véronique Tadjo.

Philip Roughton, Akureyri, Iceland (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Icelandic of the novel *Salka Valka* by Nobel Laureate Halldór Laxness. As Iceland's sole Nobel Laureate (awarded in 1955), Laxness (1902-1998) is the country's best-known novelist. His innovative, sometimes controversial writing – which also included short stories, memoirs, plays, poetry, essays, and translations – sometimes critiqued contemporary society and took liberties with the language and were, on occasion, banned in public schools, but they received wide critical acclaim and were translated into 43 languages. Published in 1932, *Salka Valka* follows a penniless woman and her daughter as they try to eke out a living in an isolated fishing village controlled by a wealthy merchant. The daughter grows into a fiercely independent-minded adult who fights for self-evident human rights. The novel was first translated into English in 1936, but from a Danish translation of the Icelandic. This translation will be done directly from the Icelandic.

Philip Roughton is an award-winning translator of Icelandic literature. His translations include works by many of Iceland's best-known writers, including the Nobel laureate Halldór Laxness, Jón Kalman Stefánsson, Oddný Eir Ævarsdóttir, Bergsveinn Birgisson, and Steinunn Sigurðardóttir. He was awarded the 2015 American-Scandinavian Foundation Translation Competition Prize for his translation of Laxness's novel *Gerpla* (Wayward Heroes, which also recently received a starred review in Kirkus Reviews). He was also awarded the Oxford-Weidenfeld Prize for 2016, for his translation of Jón Kalman Stefánsson's *The Heart of Man*.

Robert S. Rudder, Claremont, CA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Spanish of the novel *Three and a Dream* by Spain's Ana María Matute. Matute (1926–2014) is the author of 19 novels, 33 volumes of short stories, and a book of essays. In 1976, she was nominated for the Nobel Prize for literature. In 1996, she became the third woman to be elected a member of the Royal Spanish Academy during its 300-year existence. In 2010, she received the prestigious Cervantes Award, the Spanish-speaking world's highest literary honor, only the third woman to have ever received it. Her works have been translated into 23 languages. Told from the perspective of three children, *Three and a Dream* is a collection of three tales, all with similar themes of alienation, loss of innocence, and the devastation from Spain's Civil War. This will be the first time it appears in English.

Robert Rudder has translated books by several Spanish-speaking authors including Christina Peri Rossi, Benito Pérez Galdós, Francisco Rojas González, and Rosario Castellanos. He has taught classes at the University of Minnesota, UCLA, and Whittier College in California.

Thom Satterlee, Marion, IN (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Danish of *New and Selected Poetry* by Per Aage Brandt. Brandt (b.1944) is a poet, translator, professor, expert in cognitive science, and jazz pianist. His oeuvre includes well over 100 publications in Danish, French, Spanish, German, English, and Italian. Rarely do his poems have titles, and he seldom uses a period to end a poem, giving his work a sense of neither beginning nor end. His poetry has been called elegant, intelligent, nonchalant, pithy, edgy, and acerbic.

Thom Satterlee is a novelist, poet, and literary translator. He has published a collection of poems, a novel, two books of poetry in translation, and three co-edited works. His honors include an NEA Creative Writing Fellowship in Poetry, an American Library Association Notable Book Award, and the American-Scandinavian Foundation Translation Prize. In 2014, he received a PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant.

Damion Searls, Brooklyn, NY (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the German of a dystopian science fiction epic novel *Mountains Seas and Giants* by Alfred Döblin. Döblin (1878–1957) was a German-Jewish war-time doctor, psychiatrist, public intellectual, and giant of 20th-century literature along with his friends Bertolt Brecht and Thomas Mann. Despite his immensely prolific writing career with an oeuvre of 30 large volumes, he was known largely for a single book, *Berlin Alexanderplatz*, after which he was forced into exile by the Nazis. Published in 1924, his 630-page novel, *Mountains Seas and Giants*, is a history of war-torn civilization and the conflict between technology and nature, from the aftermath of World War I into the 27th century. It presciently describes ecological catastrophe, mass migrations, state surveillance, terrorism, genetic engineering, and biological warfare. Günter Grass described it as “Döblin’s great, exalted novel, forgotten and awaiting rediscovery, written as though in visionary overdrive.” This will be the first time it appears in English.

Damion Searls is a translator from German, Norwegian, French, and Dutch and a writer in English. He has translated many of Europe’s greatest writers, including Marcel Proust, Rainer Maria Rilke, Robert Walser, Hermann Hesse, Ingeborg Bachmann, and Jon Fosse. He is a recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship, PEN Center USA translation award, and NEA literary translation fellowship to translate Rilke’s *The Inner Sky: Poems, Notes, Dreams*.

David Shook, Los Angeles, CA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Portuguese of *No Gods Live Here: The Selected Poems* by São Tomé poet Conceição Lima. Of the nine nations that use Portuguese as their official language, São Tomé and Príncipe – off the coast of West Africa – is the smallest, with a population of just under 150,000. This project will be the first book-length translation of poetry from there to appear in English, and only the second book of Lusophone African poetry to be undertaken in the last decade. Lima (b. 1961) is a poet and journalist who has written for radio, television, and print. *No Gods Live Here* will include about 20 poems from each of her three collections, plus a handful of poems that have yet to appear in print. It will include both her short, lyrical poems, as well as her longer, more historical poems.

David Shook translates contemporary indigenous and Spanish-language poetry from Latin America, as well as contemporary African writers working in French, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Portuguese, Spanish, Bube, and Swahili. His translations from the Portuguese include work by the Mozambican Neustadt Laureate Mia Couto and the modernist manifestos of the Brazilian Oswald de Andrade.

Barbara Sjöholm, Port Townsend, WA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Norwegian of the novel *Clearing Out* by Helene Uri. Uri (b. 1964) is a well-known Norwegian author of fiction for children and adults. She has been translated into 16 languages, but not yet into English. Published in 2013, *Clearing Out* tells the double story of Helene, a novelist who discovers she has Sami ancestry, and Helene's character Ellinor, a linguist working on a project to document the use of the Sami language in northern Norway. Moving back and forth between Helene's investigations into why her grandfather put his coastal Sami background behind him and the fictional narrative of Ellinor's learning curve in the dark Arctic winter, *Clearing Out* is a novel of loss and discovery. What sets this novel apart from much contemporary Norwegian fiction is the inclusion of neglected indigenous history in Fennoscandia, and complex and vital Sami characters as an integral part of the narrative.

Barbara Sjöholm is a writer and translator of several books, including the adventurous travel narrative from Danish, *With the Lapps in the High Mountains* (University of Wisconsin, 2013) by Emilie Demant Hatt, an ethnographer and artist who lived among the Sami in 1907-8. Sjöholm was co-founder of Seal Press, where she was an editor and publisher for 18 years. She also founded the publishing house Women in Translation, which published fiction in translation by women from around the world.

Sarah Thomas, Providence, RI (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Spanish of the novel *The Earned Age* by Mar Gómez Glez. Glez (b. 1977) is a fiction writer and playwright. *The Earned Age* is her second novel. Published in 2015 and set between Madrid and New York, it is told in vignettes about an unnamed protagonist from the age of two to thirty. The story offers a glimpse of what it means to grow up, awaken intellectually, leave familiar surroundings, and interrogate relationships with family, romantic interests, antagonists, and one's own demons, fears, ambitions, and fantasies. In the months since it was published, the book received accolades from fellow writers and critics in Spain and abroad. The Spanish critic Mercedes Suero selected it as one of the five books not to miss at the close of Madrid's 2015 Book Fair.

Sarah Thomas has translated several of Mar Gómez Glez's short stories in literary journals, as well as her first novel, *Turnaround* (2010), for which she received a PEN American Center translation grant (to date, the translation is unpublished). Other translations include Chilean author Lina Meruane's play *Not a Leg to Stand On* (Díaz Grey, 2012), and Javier Moscoso's *Pain: A Cultural History* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, with Paul House). She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Hispanic Studies at Brown University.

Russell Valentino, Bloomington, IN (\$25,000)

To support the translation from the Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian of the 1000-page novel *Kin* by Miljenko Jergović. The author of 41 books of fiction and nonfiction that have been translated into 23 languages, Jergović (b. 1966) occupies a central place in post-Yugoslav literature and culture. He was born in Sarajevo and lived there until being evacuated on a U.S. transport during the siege of the city in 1993. He settled in Zagreb, Croatia, during that country's early struggles to define itself as a newly independent nation. Published in 2013, *Kin* is his fourth work to be translated into English – the others were published by Archipelago Books and Yale University Press to wide acclaim. In this semi-autobiographical novel, Jergović explores the fate of his own family across approximately a century of Central European and Balkan history. It is comprised of novellas, documents, narrative sketches, and

fragments. Fiction and nonfiction merge, mix and cross-pollinate, illuminating the complex history, rivalries, and hatreds of the region/life and politics of the former Yugoslavia.

Russell Valentino is the author of two books about Russian literature and the translator of seven book-length literary works from Italian, Russian, and Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian. He served as editor-in-chief at *The Iowa Review* from 2009 to 2013 and is currently president of the American Literary Translators Association, senior editor at Autumn Hill Books, and Professor of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures at Indiana University.

Katherine E. Young, Arlington, VA (\$12,500)

To support the translation from the Russian of the trilogy of novellas *A Colossal Mess* by Azerbaijani writer Akram Aylisli. Aylisli (b.1937) is an Azeri writer, playwright, novelist, and former magazine editor-in-chief, press director, and member of the Azeri National Assembly. His works have been translated into more than 20 languages. Following the 2012 publication of the second novella of this trilogy, *Stone Dreams* – the first was published in 1991, while the third has only been published in Latvian – the Azeri president stripped Aylisli of the title of “People’s Writer.” Aylisli’s books were burned, his son and wife were fired from their jobs, and he received death threats. *Stone Dreams* depicts the real-life pogroms carried out by Azeris against Armenians as the Soviet Union broke apart, as well as the Armenian genocide in the early 20th century. *A Colossal Mess* is apparently the first work by a writer in any Turkic language to recognize the suffering of Armenians. In 2014, supporters in Russia, the U.K, the U.S., and elsewhere nominated Aylisli for the Nobel Peace Prize. Aylisli, whose case has been championed by PEN and other international human rights organizations, currently lives under house arrest in Azerbaijan.

Katherine E. Young is a published poet, literary presenter, journalist, consultant, Russian expert, and translator of work from Russia and Ukraine. Her translations have appeared in such publications as the *Notre Dame Review*, *The White Review*, *Words Without Borders*, and *The Penguin Book of Russian Poetry*. She currently serves as the inaugural Poet Laureate of Arlington, Virginia.