DATA | Jascha Hoffman

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Us and them …

Approximate number of new books published worldwide last year ……… 1.5 million
Approximate percentage that were in English ………………….. 30%
Percentage of the world’s population that speaks English as a first language ……… 6%
Approximate number of languages spoken on Earth ………………….. 6,912
Number of original languages of books in translation reviewed by Publishers Weekly last year ………………….. 28
Percentage of books published in various countries in 2004 that were translations:
Czech Republic 29
South Korea 29
Spain 25
Italy 22
Germany 6
China 4
United States 2.62
Works of modern literary fiction newly translated in the United States between 2000 and 2005 (by country):
Works of modern literary fiction newly translated in the United States between 2000 and 2005 (by country):
France 52
Italy 39
Poland 13
Spain 12
Albania 3
Iceland 1
Percentage of new adult fiction titles published in the United States in 2005 that were translations ………………….. 3.54
Number of French novels bought by American publishers in 2005 ……….. 42
Number of American novels bought by French publishers in 2005 ……….. 153
Number of American books bought by Chinese publishers in 2005 ……….. 3,932
Number of Chinese books bought by American publishers in 2005 ……….. 16

Meanwhile, in the Middle East …

Books published in Iran in 2002 ………………….. 35,854
Percentage that were translations ………………….. 23
New books published in Turkey in 2004 ………………….. 15,298
Percentage that were translations ………………….. 17
Books banned by Turkey, 2000-5 ………………….. 284
Books for which the ban was lifted ………………….. 47
Persian titles published in English translation in the United States last year ……….. 23
Turkish titles published in English translation in the United States last year ……….. 20
Arabic titles published in English translation in the United States last year ……….. 49

Import-export business …

Membership of American Literary Translators Association ………………….. 701
National Endowment for the Arts funding for literary translation into English, 2006 ………………….. $200,000
French Ministry of Culture funding for translation of French literature abroad in 2006 ………………….. $13,300,000

Still waiting for a full English translation …


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