

The creative act is itself a form of translation: the impressions and expressions of the artist's imagination and experience translated into shapes, lines, figures, melodies, and words. In the process of composition a poet might exchange the word 'dog' for 'spaniel', or for 'animal', or for 'creature', or for 'brown-eyed thing'; each possibility is a translation, and the business of choosing between them, of first intuiting the spirit and purpose of the poem-- the poem's best self-- and then deciding how to make that spirit manifest, is a translator's work. It is often said that translation is an art, a very great and difficult art; I would say equally that all art is in the first instance a form of translation. All of the entries I read impressed me in different ways, but it was 'The Calligrapher', in its dignity and delicacy, that to me felt most alive to the spirit of the original. The language here is very spare, but the sparseness feels compressed and deliberate rather than hasty or plain, as in the lines 'People paid him to write / Valued his black on red' and 'Script covered by leaves, / Dusted with rain'. I don't ever forget that I'm reading a translation-- the change of tense in the first two lines, 'Peaches blossom this year / Again the calligrapher came' signals something foreign to me, something not natively English-- but those small strangenesses are not themselves strange; their strangeness is familiar. My congratulations to all those who entered the competition this year.

This is a wonderful initiative!

*Eleanor Catton, Judge
MOving WORDs 2014*



TE WHARE WĀNANGAU O TE KŌHĀRIKI O TE ŌKA A MĀUI
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

NEW ZEALAND CENTRE
FOR LITERARY TRANSLATION
Te Taha Whakamāori Takapeke o Aotearoa

NEW ZEALAND BOOK COUNCIL
Te Kaitiaki Pukapuka o Aotearoa

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MOving WORDs

Literary Translation Prize
for NZ Secondary Schools

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Te Tahuhu o te Mātauranga

AWARDS CEREMONY 2014

Thursday 4 December

**Wai-te-ata Press : : Te Whare Tā O Wai-te-ata
Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand**

MOVing WORDS

Awards Ceremony 2014

Greetings from Wai-te-ata Press : : Te Whare Tā O Wai-te-ata:

Dr Sydney Shep, Reader in Book History & Director

Pōwhiri:

Professor Piri Sciascia, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Māori

Welcome:

Professor Peter Whiteford, Director, Faculty of Graduate Research

Translation Awards Ceremony:

Dr Marco Sonzogni (MC), Director, NZ Centre for Literary Translation

Special Prize for *Latin* – Hon Christopher Finlayson

Special Prize for *Afrikaans* – High Commission of South Africa

Special Prize for *Chinese* – Confucius Institute

Special Prize for *French* – Alliance Française

Special Prize for *NZ Sign Language* – Deaf Studies Unit VUW

Special Prize for *Spanish* – Embassy of Spain

Special Prize for *te reo Māori* – Māori Language Commission

Special Prize for *Vietnamese* – Embassy of Vietnam

Interlude:

Tim Smith, BA (Hons) student, School of Languages & Cultures, VUW

Special Prize for *Creative Translation* – NZ Centre for Literary Translation

Top Three Prizes *ex aequo*, presented by:

David McKee (NZSL)

Lynette Hartgill (English)

Hon Christopher Finlayson & Māori Language Commission (te reo Māori)

Final Translations:

Hinemoana Baker, VUW WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE 2014

MOVing WORDS

Prize Winners 2014

Latin into English

Special Prize from Hon Christopher Finlayson

My dear comrade – Michael O'Brien

Wellington College, Wellington

Afrikaans to English

Special Prize from the High Commission of South Africa

Môre teen dagbreek – Deborah Kazadi

James Hargest College, Invercargill

Chinese into English

Special Prize from the Confucius Institute

Him – Jerry Zheng

ACG Senior College, Auckland

French into English

Special Prize from the Alliance Française

The Oath of Autumn – Mikaela Ellwood

Massey High School, Auckland

English to NZ Sign Language

Special Prize from the Deaf Studies Unit

School of Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, VUW

If – Karan Patel

Ormiston Senior College, Auckland

Spanish into English

Special Prize from the Embassy of Spain

The First Dream – Sarah Tastard

Wanganui High School, Wanganui

English to te reo Māori

Special Prize from the Māori Language Commission

The Death Bed –

Chelsea Hepi, Tainui Tauroa, Ranui Isaacs, Eden Nuku, Chareef-Ileen Reti

Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Ara Hou, Napier

Vietnamese to English

Special Prize from the Embassy of Vietnam

The Calligrapher – Gordon Tran

ACG Senior College, Auckland