Found in Translation: Franco-Irish translation relationships in nineteenth-century Ireland

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ABSTRACT
Various studies of the long-standing relationship between French and Irish cultures have provided multiple evidence of mutual exchange. Yet, the role played by translation and translators has been largely neglected. Reflecting my PhD research on Franco-Irish translation relationships in nineteenth-century Ireland, this article aims at redressing this omission. First, this essay will present an overview of research methods, issues and findings, outlining what an investigation of Ireland’s translation holdings can reveal concerning the Franco-Irish relationship. Without such a research, the view we have today of past literary relations between Ireland and France may otherwise come as distorted. This article will then introduce one key moment of Franco-Irish translation contact in the nineteenth century. This case study is drawn from the field of religious translation. It outlines the importance of agency in the process and provides us with an opportunity to discuss some gender issues in translation. The present study is situated at an interdisciplinary crossroads between the fields of Translation Studies, History and Franco-Irish Studies, highlighting the contribution which Translation History can make to each of these disciplines.

KEYWORDS: agents of translation, Catholicism, Franco-Irish relationships, Irish translators, Mary Anne Sadlier, Mary Hackett, Nineteenth Century, non-biblical religious translation, translation from French, translation history, women translators.