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Pray Mr. *Lintott* (said I) now you talk of Translators, what is your method of managing them? "Sir (reply'd he) those are the saddest pack of rogues in the world: In a hungry fit, they'll swear they understand all the languages in the universe: I have known one of them take down a *Greek* book upon my counter and cry, Ay this is *Hebrew*, I must read it from the latter end. By G—d I can never be sure in these fellows, for I neither understand *Greek*, *Latin*, *French*, nor *Italian* my self. But this is my way: I agree with them for ten shillings per sheet, with a proviso, that I will have their doings corrected by whom I please; so by one or other they are led at last to the true sense of an author; my judgment giving the negative to all my Translators." But how are you secure that those correctors may not impose upon you? "Why I get any civil gentleman, (especially any *Scotchman*) that comes into my shop, to read the original to me in *English*; by this I know whether my first Translator be deficient, and whether my Corrector merits his money or no?"

Alexander Pope to the Earl of Burlington,
November 1716

ON TRANSLATION

