

Borges translation

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 21 Apr 1998

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Dan Parmenter — 21 Apr 1998, 13:06

From: m.driussi at genie.geis.com

FWIW & IMHO, all of THE BOOK OF IMAGINARY BEINGS is essential reading for those more than superficially interested in TBOTNS. Period, end of report.

I can't recall offhand which stuff is in which anthology, but I started off with FICCIONES and that alone contains a number of works that I think are pretty essential to understanding BOTNS. Especially "Funes the Memorious".

My current one-sentence description of BOTNS for people who haven't read it is "It's like Borges on the scale of Tolien". Normally I avoid such pat comparisons, but I think it's apt in this case.

I have read TBOIB in Spanish but the Spanish translator of TBOTNS, that I read in English and then checked in Spanish, obviously didn't because he got a few things wrong.

There was a rather amazing article in LINGUA FRANCA magazine recently about a Borges translator who took liberties in translation, but only after having consulted with Borges. One example given was of a character described in the original Spanish as "strumming a guitar" which was retranslated as "tuning" after Borges explained that that's what he really meant to say in the original Spanish! I don't have the magazine with me, but perhaps I'll post the details in a few days when I can get ahold of it.

BTW, on a totally unrelated topic: how hard is it to draw fuligin? You'd think that a dark black would do, but Don Maitz seems to treat it as a rather ordinary black cloak with a floral lining (never described as such) on the original editions. Despite this, I do rather like his covers, though of course the paperback editions that I have crop them rather mercilessly. Another note on illustrations: I always imagine Sidero as looking a bit like the black robot on the cover of Wolfe's PLAN(E)T ENGINEERING anthology from NESFA press as drawn by the great Vincent DiFate.

D