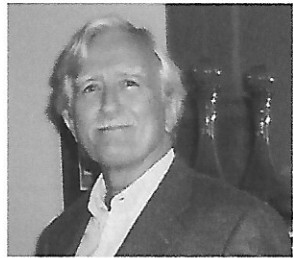




New Spanish Books Interview with Tony Beckwith.

You are here: [Home \(/\)](#) > [News \(/ars-news.html\)](#) > [New Spanish Books Interview with Tony Beckwith.](#)

New Spanish Books Interview with Tony Beckwith.



(/{readmorelink})

We interviewed Tony Beckwith, writer and literary translator, specializing in the fields of art, poetry, and literature.

Interview with Tony Beckwith: October 2015

1. How did you become a literary translator?

I grew up in a multicultural environment where I spoke English and Spanish, sometimes both at the same time. So I've always been a translator. But in the mid-1970s, when I was living in San Miguel Allende, Mexico, I joined a literary group that was translating Latin American poetry into English. I discovered how much I enjoyed that process and, technically, that is when I became a literary translator. But it was just the first step on a road I'm still traveling. Shortly after that I moved to the States and settled in Austin, Texas, where I still live. I joined the local and national translation associations, attended conferences, took workshops, read books about literary translation, and spent many pleasant hours meeting with fellow literary translators to share, compare, and critique our work. And all the time I was accepting assignments that challenged me and took me deeper into the field: film scripts, historical essays, short stories, and art catalogues. Lots of art catalogues. Now, after all these years, I consider myself a literary translator but, of course, I learn something from every translation. Antonio Machado said "se hace camino al andar." Applying his observation to your question, I could say that I became a literary translator by translating literary texts.

2. Is it necessary for a literary translator to also be a writer?

A literary translator is a writer. When you transfer meaning from one language to another, you first disengage that meaning from the words and syntax it inhabited in the source document. You then absorb that meaning and express it in the other language. At that point, the translator is a writer who is crafting an original work. The translator will also absorb the author's voice, tone, style, rhythm, and lexical predilections and decide how to convey those aspects of the text in such a way that they season the translation with a flavor of the original. As he or she does that, the translator is a writer. How could it be

Search...



Find Us On Facebook & Twitter



America Reads Spanish
5,804 likes

Like Page



America Reads Spanish
3 hrs

Una colegio público de Nueva York, ej
los planes para expandir la enseñanza
Estados Unidos
<http://americareadsspanish.org/.../692>
learnin...

1 Like

Like

Comment