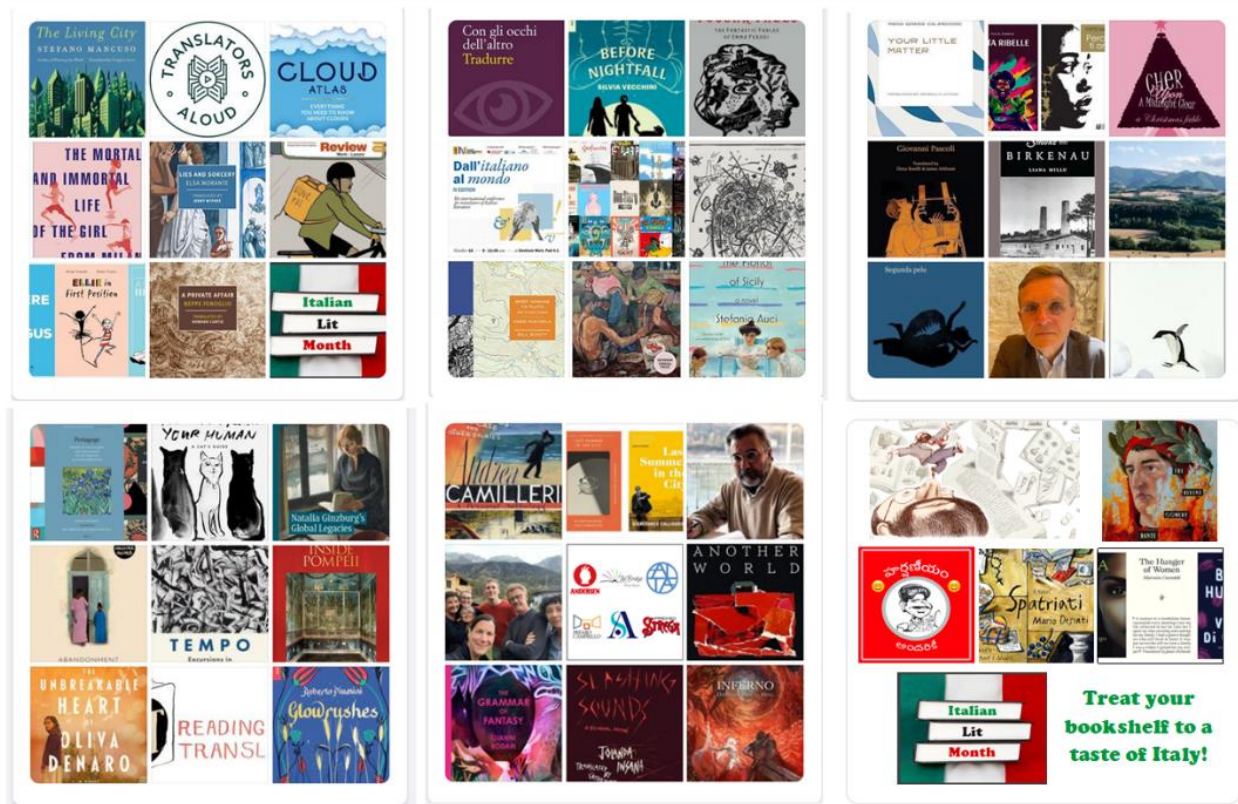


Italian Lit Month 2024

Treat your bookshelf to a taste of Italy!



In October 2024, the [Global Literature in Libraries Initiative](#) hosted its first celebration of Italian literature in English translation: **Italian Lit Month**. This blog proposed one hundred books, journals and websites in its fifty articles, which were written by over thirty literary translators:

Leah Janeczko (curator)
 Scott Belluz
 Johanna Bishop
 Jeanne Bonner
 Elena Borelli
 Clarissa Botsford
 Geoffrey Brock
 Ruth Chester
 Ruth Clarke
 Gregory Conti
 Howard Curtis

Richard Dixon
 Katia Gregor
 Lori Hetherington
 Chenxin Jiang
 Antonella Lettieri
 Emma Mandley
 Nanette McGuinness
 Jenny McPhee
 Anne Milano Appel
 Stiliana Milkova Rousseva
 Michael F. Moore

Lisa Mullenneaux
 Michael Palma
 Jamie Richards
 Wendell Ricketts
 Stephen Sartarelli
 Will Schutt
 Oonagh Stransky
 Catherine Theis
 Alex Valente
 Karen Whittle
 Jack Zipes

Special thanks to Paolo Grossi, Editorial Director of [NewItalianBooks.it](#), for contributing a piece about his website's great resources in the promotion of Italian literature around the world.

Below are descriptions of and links to all fifty articles posted during Italian Lit Month 2024.



Italian Lit Month 2024

All 50 Articles

1. **Leah Janeczko**, guest curator, introduces you to the GLLI's first-ever celebration of Italian literature in English translation and invites you to listen to the song of [Italian Lit Month: A Chorus of Voices](#), as its contributors, Italian-to-English literary translators, sing the praises of the books they so love.
2. **Howard Curtis**, who has translated hundreds of books, mostly fiction, presents his English version of [Beppe Fenoglio's *A Private Affair*](#). This 1963 novel about a personal conflict unfolding as World War II and the partisan struggle rage in the background is such an important classic of modern Italian literature that it has been filmed three times.
3. **Nanette McGuinness** shares with us not one or two but [Three Fun, Fascinating Italian Books for Children and Young Adults](#): a picture book introducing youngsters to the world of fungi; a middle-school graphic novel about a girl who dreams of learning ballet; and a YA biographical graphic novel about Audrey Hepburn, with a preface written by the actress's son.
4. **Johanna Bishop** introduces us to [The Florence Review, Italy's First Bilingual Literary Mag](#) showcasing Italian prose and poetry. The parallel texts by expert authors and translators are a precious resource, particularly for students studying Italian who want to get a feel for the varied landscape of the country's contemporary literature.
5. **Lisa Mullenneaux** conducts an [Interview with Jenny McPhee, Translator of Elsa Morante's *Lies and Sorcery*](#). It took Jenny over five long years to complete this 800-page masterpiece, which parodies a mix of styles, including popular romantic fiction, epic poetry, tragic myth, the epistolary novel, the picaresque, and the heroic adventure novel. Her hard work was rewarded with the 2024 Italian Prose in Translation Award.
6. **Oonagh Stransky**, who was longlisted for this year's International Booker Prize for Domenico Starnone's *The House on Via Gemito*, celebrates her forthcoming translation of another work by Starnone by sharing with us an excerpt of her [Reader's Guide to *The Mortal and Immortal Life of the Girl from Milan*](#). In it she explores elements of the symbolism, humor and language encountered in this 2021 novel.
7. **Emma Mandley** turns readers young and old into lifelong sky-gazers with her translation [Cloud Atlas: Everything You Need to Know About Clouds](#), a delightfully illustrated picture book written by Sarah Zambello and illustrated by Susy Zanella.

8. **Leah Janeczko**, Tina Kover and Charlotte Coombe offer a look at (and a listen to) the YouTube channel [Translators Aloud and Its Italian Playlist](#), on which literary translators read excerpts of their works. Italian Lit Month could fit only 33 contributors into its lineup of articles, but happily the channel's Italian videos add many other voices to our chorus of translators!
9. **Gregory Conti** previews an important non-fiction title in his piece [Plants Are Us: Stefano Mancuso's *Phytopolis*](#), a book that discusses not only the problem of urban warming but also its potential solutions. As readers await the book's April 2025 release, he invites them to look into his three previous translations of Mancuso, who is Italy's best known botanist.
10. and 11. **Katherine Gregor** delves into [The Sorrows and Joys of Translating Italian Dialects](#). In [part one](#) she introduces us to its challenges and potential solutions, and in [part two](#) hears from fellow translators Emma Mandley, Oonagh Stransky, Richard Dixon and Clarissa Botsford about their personal approaches.
12. **Will Schutt** brings the blog its first Swiss Italian author with his piece [On Fabio Pusterla's *Brief Homage to Pluto and Other Poems*](#), and lets us enjoy a sample of the author's work with his translation of "Up and Down the Steps of Albogasio".
13. **Jamie Richards**, winner of the 2024 National Translation Award in Prose, writes about [Italian Graphic Narrative in Translation](#) and gives comics lovers an exciting (and generous!) reading list.
14. **Richard Dixon** celebrates the centenary of Paolo Volponi's birth with his piece on [The Nature of Reality and the Human Condition in 1950s Rural Italy in Paolo Volponi's *The World Machine*](#), a novel that won Volponi the prestigious Strega Prize.
15. **Leah Janeczko** explains how [From Italian to the World: Literary Translators Help Italian Books Travel the Globe](#) thanks to Ilide Carmignani's Dall'Italiano al Mondo conference at the 2024 Frankfurt Book Fair, at which speakers discussed scouting activities and presented exciting books that have yet to be translated from the Italian. [This year's edition will be held online on 21 November 2025. Program and registration here: <https://tinyurl.com/59tk7w2c>]
16. **Lori Hetherington** treats readers young and old to a taste of 1800s Italian storytelling with her self-published translation of [Tuscan Tales: The Fantastic Fables of Emma Perodi](#).
17. **Chenxin Jiang** [Interviews Geoffrey Brock on His Translation of Silvia Vecchini's *Young Adult Novel Before Nightfall*](#), a YA graphic novel told in verse, prose and sign language.
18. **Ruth Chester** describes [Encounters Through Translation](#) and her truly "meta" experience of both translating this book about translation and encountering its author, Stefano Arduini, to probe the concepts behind his concepts.
19. **Anne Milano Appel** shares with us an obsession she calls [My White Whale: Translating Daniele Del Giudice](#) and her quest to find a publisher for this award-winning author's award-winning novel *Orizzonte mobile*.

20. **Paolo Grossi**, editorial director and founder of [Newitalianbooks.it: Your Portal to the World of Italian Publishing](https://www.newitalianbooks.it/), describes his website's incredible trove of information about Italian books, authors, translators, funding programs, publishing news and more. This is a website to bookmark!
21. **Karen Whittle** writes about [Exorcising the Fear of What Is Different: The Art Book *Segunda Pele* by Zoè Gruni](#), an Italian artist whose "second skin" is expressed through photography, drawing, sculpture, video and installation.
22. **Scott Belluz** takes us off the beaten track so we can explore Italy's literary landscape through the eyes of his essay [Translation as Travel Escapism: A Cautionary Tale](#), which encourages us to consider books that defy genre categorization.
23. **Jeanne Bonner** devotes special attention to Liana Millu, Edith Bruck and Giuliana Tedeschi in [Women and the Holocaust: Overlooked Stories](#), as female survivors are less likely than their male counterparts to be published, be cited in scholarly studies, and remain in print.
24. **Elena Borelli** and her co-translator James Ackhurst bring us something special: a translation of [Convivial Poems by Giovanni Pascoli and the Podcast "An Ancient Language for a Modern Soul"](#), featuring readings, interviews, and harp music.
25. **Wendell Ricketts** contrasts [The Two Lucas](#): one the subject of an ex-gay anthem sung at the Sanremo music festival, and one, in a fable by Matteo B. Bianchi, a boy who asks for Christmas presents that grown-ups always deem too "girlish" to give him.
26. **Lisa Mullenneaux** interviews Yvette Samnick in [Born a Rebel Is a Cry for Gender Justice](#), the Cameroonian author's two books in Italian (as of yet unpublished in English) aiming to empower women in their battle for self-determination.
27. **Antonella Lettieri** tells us about [Maria Grazia Calandrone's Your Little Matter](#) (the "little matter" being the author's mother being driven to suicide by Italian society in the mid 1900s), with its blend of archival research, investigative journalism and exquisite prose.
28. **Leah Janeczko** shines a light on the 1987 classic [Glowruses by Roberto Piumini: A Timeless Italian Masterpiece](#) written for children and adults by an author nominated three times for the Hans Christian Andersen Award.
29. **Stiliana Milkova Rousseva** introduces us to her online journal, a precious source of expert literary reviews, particularly of works from Italy, in her piece [Reading in Translation: Shaping a Culture of Reviewing Italian Literature in Translation](#).
30. **Johanna Bishop** serves us a veritable feast of Italian verse collected in the *Tempo* anthology edited by Luca Paci and presented in her piece [An Enticing Introduction to Contemporary Italian Poetry](#).

31. **Clarissa Botsford** not only introduces us to her translation of Viola Ardone's novel *The Unbreakable Heart of Oliva Denaro*, but also provides us with inspiring discussion questions in [No Means No, or Does It? A Moving Testament to a Young Woman's Courage](#).

32. **Emma Mandley**, in [Translating Art Books: Inside Pompeii by Luigi Spina](#), takes us on an exploration of this fascinating, world-famous archeological site's mosaics, frescos and streetscapes, including many that are inaccessible to most visitors.

33. **Oonagh Stransky** recovered a gem from the Italian postcolonial literary canon – [Abandonment: An Italian-Eritrean Story](#) – and persevered in finding a good home for this novel by author Erminia Dell'Oro.

34. **Stiliana Milkova Rousseva** and co-editor Saskia Elizabeth Ziolkowski make important Italian research available in English and build on significant international discourses in [Natalia Ginzburg and Italian Women Writers in Translation](#).

35. [Katherine Gregor and Babas Discuss How to Train Your Human: A Cat's Guide](#) in a delightful video interview between this Italian artist and her English translator.

36. **Karen Whittle** describes the perils of [Walking the Philosophical Tightrope](#) as she meticulously translates books by Italian philosophers, with focus on five contemporary titles by Elena Pulcini, Francescomaria Tedesco, Guido Cusinato, Nicola Emery and Corrado Claverini.

37. **Alex Valente** has fun [Playing Pretend in Dante's Inferno \(and Other Italian Stories\)](#) as he integrates and emulates Longfellow's 1867 translation in a role-playing game, during an era that is proving to be a veritable renaissance of RPGs from Italy.

38. **Catherine Theis** probes how poets and their translators, through their written words, engage in [Conversations: A Look Inside Jolanda Insana's Slashing Sounds](#).

39. **Ruth Clarke** describes the experience of undergoing an emotional struggle as she was forced to research far-right thinking when [Translating Sensitive Content in From Another World by Evelina Santangelo](#).

40. **Jack Zipes**, an expert on folklore and children's literature, describes his [Encounters with Gianni Rodari and His Grammar of Fantasy](#), and how they influenced the very purpose of his life and work.

41. **Richard Dixon** talks about a special workshop in Switzerland at which Italian-to-English translators help English-to-Italian translators and [Vice Versa: Translators Across the Language Divide](#).

42. **Lori Hetherington** conducts [An Interview with Italian 'Authorpreneur' Filippo Iannarone](#), whose historical mysteries are set in dictatorial 1930s Italy and the country's often overlooked postwar revival era.

43. **Howard Curtis** shares a rediscovered classic set in the “tender beast” of Rome at the tail end of the *dolce vita*: [Gianfranco Calligarich’s *Last Summer in the City*](#).

44. **Stephen Sartarelli** takes us on a deep dive into rendering the unique dialect of the Inspector Montalbano series in his piece [On Translating Camilleri: Notes from the Purer Linguistic Sphere of Translation](#).

45. **Leah Janeczko** recommends that when browsing books you stay on the lookout for these [Six Italian Literary and Translation Awards You Should Know About](#): the IPTA, John Florio Prize, Bridge Book Award, Premio Strega, Premio Campiello and Premio Andersen.

46. **Jeanne Bonner** conducts a [Q&A with Jamie Richards](#), translator of works by some of Italy’s most celebrated contemporary writers, and winner of the 2024 National Translation Award in Prose for Marosia Castaldi’s *The Hunger of Women*.

47. **Michael F. Moore** prepares to translate a novel by visiting a small Apulian town with its Strega Prize-winning author, whose prose celebrates the dialect, poetry and history of the region, an act of [Reclaiming Puglia in Mario Desiati’s *Spatriati*](#).

48. **Leah Janeczko** celebrates [The Harshaneeyam Podcast and Its Italian Literature Playlist](#), five episodes featuring five great Italian books, part of a tour de force of interviews with English literary translators working from 56 different languages.

49. **Michael Palma** presents [A New Translation of Dante: The Music I Kept Hearing in My Head](#) while working on his forthcoming translation of *The Divine Comedy*, in which he achieved the rare feat of preserving Dante’s original rhyme scheme.

50. **Leah Janeczko**, Italian Lit Month guest curator, wishes you *arrivederci* and shares with you the hundredth of the [One Hundred Cantos](#) in our celebration of Italian literature in English translation: Davide Ferrario’s documentary film *Umberto Eco: A Library of the World*.

