Università di Firenze Dipartimento di Formazione, Lingue, Intercultura, Letterature e Psicologia

Corso di Traduzione in Lingua inglese John Gilbert

“Un passo alla volta” (“One/A Step at a Time”/“One Step After Another/the Other”/ “Step by Step”?

by Fabio Mongardi

 (Oxford: rolling shutters?)

 His eyelids closed/shut slowly and remained/kept still, closed like newly-installed/-fit/fitted shutters.

 dropped/fell stayed motionless, just-mounted/-assembled/newly put up shutters.

 came down closed like shutters that/which (had) just (been) put up.

 He did not try to reopen them, but merely/simply/just remained/stayed there motionless.

 open them again. He limited/confined himself to remaining/staying there without moving:/.

 More were to follow (it).

In front of them. It/That was the/his first step:/; others would follow it. He knew (that/it). How many other/more steps

 . There would be/come others after it,/; that he knew.

 (,) and he knew (that) it would be followed by others.

(he would) disturbed/upset/anguished him,

would he have to go down/take before/until/till... This thought made him (feel) nervous/anxious, (and) so he tried to

 (not "before *that"!)* (agitated him?) agitated/upset, sought to

 put him into a state of anxiety, (strove to)

 filled him with/gave him anxiety,

fix his mind/attention , lots of it,

concentrate on the light -- a lot of it, even though/although/though he had his eyes closed, too much,

focus : a great deal of it, his eyes were closed/shut,

 so much (of it),

 bursts of color/colorful flashes of light which went/came to and fro/back and forth his body’s pulsations

full of glaring colors that/which came and went following the pulsations of his body.

filled with colorful flashes, (which were) coming and going according to//together/along with

Even the noises were loud and of every kind/all kinds/sorts: voices, whispers, metallic sounds.

(The) noises were also clanging/clanking sounds.

 further/farther down.

 Then came the heat. He was going down again/still going down.

 the heat came. still (descending) (still more)(still).

 The light alone remained.

 With the heat, the noises seemed to dissolve/fade away/dissipate, and there remained only the light.

 to be fading away, . Only/Just the light remained/was left.

But now it was a strange light, without any glare or colorful flashes (*not* lightning). It seemed (like) the far-off /distant/remote

 the light was strange, with neither flashes nor bursts of color. as if it were the faraway

 He tried hard to swallow, but nothing went down his throat.

dawn/dawning of a morning without sun/with no sun. With difficulty he tried to swallow but without anything

 a sunless morning. Struggling, he attempted with nothing

going down his throat. Then from somewhere a rustling (noise/sound?) reached/came to him/his ears

 someplace he was reached by a rustling/(humming?)

 there came to him

and he abandoned himself to it/let himself go with it/gave himself up to it/gave in to it/surrendered to it/yielded to it.

 That/This was how

 And so it was that he…/And it was in this way that he took/went down/made the/his last step.

 (and she took out the needle from his arm.)

 The doctor went up to/closer to him and she took the needle out of his arm. What happened

 approached him and she removed the needle from his arm.

afterward(s) can/may be read in the report made out by the doctor at the end of the execution.

next/after that filed/compiled by the physician

 written (up)/drawn up

Fabio Mongardi was born 18 February 1951. He published this collection of stories, *Il guinzaglio (The Leash),* in 1993.