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

Corso di Traduzione in Lingua inglese John Gilbert

from “Persuasione” (“Persuasion”) in *Uccidere per amore: racconti 1948-1952*

*(Killing/(To) Kill for Love: (Short) Stories 1948-1952)* by Giorgio Scerbanenco (1911-1969)

 He had thought/believed (that) it was/would be (a matter/question of/about?) an honest job/honest work,

and for that reason/that was why he (had) accepted/taken it. Perhaps/Maybe it wasn’t a nice/(pleasant?

so/therefore/consequently he had said yes.

which was why he took it.

/(agreeable?) job but (for/in two months) he hadn’t earned anything/a dime/a buck/a penny/a cent

 he’d earned nothing/he hadn’t made any money,

 he couldn’t afford the luxury of refusing it/of saying no.

for two months), and he couldn’t allow/permit himself the luxury of refusing/to refuse it/to decline it.

 wasn’t in a/the position//was in no position to allow himself to turn it down/to say no.

Not even the two men (…) were…

Neither/Nor were the two men who/that (had) made him the offer very nice/pleasant/(agreeable), but one

The two men making him the offer were not very nice either,

 invited him

was the girl’s father/the father of the girl and the other (was) his lawyer. They had had him get/(had gotten(NAmE)

 (her?) They had beckoned him to get in/into the car,

/got(BE) him to get?) in/into the car, gesturing to him/beckoning (to) him//calling him/drawing his attention with

a hand/a gesture of the hand/a hand gesture//(by) waving at him from the (car) window, while he was sitting

on the sidewalk(NAmE)/pavement(BE) in front of the old government building, all/totally/completely white, (and)

 (palace??). It was all blinding/dazzling white,

 consisting of one floor only,

blinding /dazzling, (with/of) just/only one story(NAmE)/storey(BE)/floor, with (its/the) black wooden/wood beams

which/that protruded/stuck out//jutting out/protruding half a meter/a half (a) meter from the wall, etching

/streaking/marking/furrowing? it with the lines of/lines from their elongated/lengthened/extended/(long) shadows.

 “Mr. (NAmE)/Mr(BE) Querandez?”

 “That’s/(It’s?) me./Yes./Yes, that’s me./That’s right.”

 a few words a minute.

 “We would like to/We wish to speak with/to you/have a word with you (for) a moment. (Please,) Get in.”

 He had gotten/got in with the fear of dirtying/afraid of dirtying/to dirty that car, so shiny and imposing

/grandiose/stately/magnificent/majestic, and curious to know/(with the curiosity to find out/discover) why/how

/how come those two strangers knew his name. They (immediately) explained to him (at once/right away) that

they had heard (talk) of/about him//people speak of him at the Rodeo cafe/café//(the café of the Rodeo/the Rodeo’s

café). They had asked about/for/in(/en)quired about somebody (very/quite) familiar/well acquainted with the

area/surroundings//who/that knew the place very well, and the owner/boss had responded/replied/answered:/,

“Go (and) look for Querandez. You’ll find him sitting/seated on the sidewalk/pavement, under a tree, in front of

the government building/palace?.” (N.B. *to shadow* = *pedinare*)

 those he was (supposed) to follow

 After their/these/his first/initial words, Querandez had asked the older/elder one/man why he had to follow

the girl. He was a drinker, a man who/that was finished//a finished/done man, but he was honest. If he had wanted

 (a drinker?) done for/washed up, Had he wanted (to),

(to) he would have been able to live like a lord, (by) furnishing the tourists with young Indian women, those tourists

 he could have lived like a gentleman/very well, providing/supplying (young) Indian girls to the tourists, who

came to see the beauties of New Mexico and (who) in the evening(s) got/were bored to death/dead bored in their

hotels. But he (rather) preferred (rather) to live on/off credit at the Rodeo café, instead. (…) He would see/be

 He was going to see

seeing the girl the next/following day//the day after, in front of the hotel. The two men would/were going

 would be getting out

to get out of their car with her and he would be in the (hotel) lobby/(main) hall//lobby (of the hotel).

(…)