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

Corso di Traduzione in Lingua inglese John Gilbert

from *Cristo si è fermato ad Eboli* (1945) *(Christ Stopped at/in Eboli)* by Carlo Levi (1902-75)

(…)

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 There was an extraordinary surprise/novelty awaiting us in town.

 An incredible surprise/Something quite out of the ordinary awaited us in town.

 In the village a great surprise was waiting for us. A company/troupe of actors

 (At that time) A theater/theatrical company

 now/then

had just arrived in a wagon/waggon pulled/drawn by a lean/lank/skinny/thin/scrawny horse.

 would stop several/some give performances.

They were staying/going to stay (for) a few days(,) and (would) perform. There was going to be

 planned/intended to stay/on staying

 an oilskin/oilcloth tent/waxed canvas

(some) theatre! The/Their wagon, covered by/with a water-proof tarp/canvas/tarpaulin, was there in the

a show. with a water-proof cover (pulled) over it, stood/was standing

piazza its rolled up scenery and curtain.

square with the/its scenery and (the) curtain rolled up. The actors were busying themselves

 bustling about

(around the place/there), (and) (going around/about) looking for/in search of/seeking lodgings

(nearby) accommodations

a place to stay/hospitality in the homes of the peasants, so (that) they would not have to spend

 peasants’ homes, in order to avoid spending (villagers’ houses), in order not to spend

 so as not to have to pay for rooms in/at

(any) money/anything in/at Prisco’s hotel/inn. The company was made up of/was composed of/

consisted of a/one family: the father, lead/leading actor/leader of the company, the mother, lead/

leading/(first) actress, two daughters not yet twenty, with their husbands, and some other relatives.

 under

They were Sicilian. The lead(ing) actor at once/immediately/straight away went (straight) into/

/entered Prisco’s, to get/ask for something hot for his wife, who had a fever/temperature. She would

not be able to perform/(act)//could not perform that evening, (and) perhaps not even the following

/next day//day after, but they would stay/be staying//planned/intended to stay/on staying//were

staying//going to stop (there) for a few days. He was a middle-aged man, already a bit/little fat

/stout/portly, with drooping/sagging/flabby cheeks, (…) When he learned/found out/heard/discovered (that)

I was a painter, he told me/said to me (that) he would consider himself very/quite lucky/fortunate if I

 it would be a great stroke of luck/fortune for him

 some great luck

could paint (for) him some scenery/scenes/sets (that) he needed/ he was in need of/had need of. His

equipment was/stage sets were/had been reduced to almost/practically nothing by then/by now

 was in quite/very bad/poor shape/condition

/at that point from/because of/due to/by dint of being/having been carried (around/about) on the

wagon through//exposed to/under (the) sun and rain/(the) rain and sun.

 He told me that he had once belonged (even?) to/been in/with good companies/troupes also

as well/too, and (that) then(,) (in order) to make a living/get by, (he) had taken up//turned to

 to scrape a living//to scrape by/along

//adopted/given himself up to/over//dedicated himself to that wandering/itinerant life/existence with his

wife and daughters, all (of whom were/of them) fine/excellent/very good actresses.

quite/very talented wife and daughters. They would go//went/wandered from town to town in Sicily,

 one city to another

 They toured the Sicilian towns,

and had never been to/in Lucania. (…)

I told him (that) I would gladly paint/be glad/happy to paint the/those scenes, but we looked in vain for

 paint the scenes with pleasure, but we searched to no purpose/vainly for

(the) paper or canvas and the necessary/right kind of paint(s) in town/ in the village,

and I could not, to my great regret, do anything about it.

and sadly/with great regret I was not able to do anything. Nevertheless(,) he and quite unfortunately/regretfully there was nothing (that) I could do (about it). He invited me to the

 He still invited me

show/performance anyway (which was/would be) in two days (time), and I hurried/rushed/hastened

 in any case, which was (to be) two days later,

(off) to the *Carabinieri/*(Carabineers?) to get/obtain/receive/have (the) permission to go out that

evening and/to see/watch/attend the performance/show.

(…)