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

Corso di Traduzione in Lingua inglese John Gilbert

from “La seggiolina del Florian” (“The Florian’s Chair”//“The Chair at the Florian/Cafe/Café”//

“The Chair at Caffè Florian”//“The Chair from the Florian”) (1981) by Mario Soldati

(…)

the Florian’s chairs.

So she would steal one of the chairs from/at the Florian. It would not be the same (one)

as twenty-nine years before/(ago?), naturally/of course. But (it would be) identical to/

exactly alike(1).

exactly like/just like that one.

through, planned/(pre)arranged

She had thought out/about/of, calculated(,) (and) prepared everything. She had come

considered, considered/evaluated//taken into consideration/account

with an enormous/a huge/a very big/large half-empty suitcase. She would break/split the

suitcase which/that was half empty/(semi-empty?).

in order to be able to put it

chair in two, so as to separate the seat from the back (of the chair), and get/permit it to fit

in that way separating backrest make it fit

fit/get it

in/into the suitcase. Then in London, (…) she would have/get it fixed/repaired/mended (BrE)

for a few shillings.

exactly/precisely half past two,

At two-thirty/two thirty exactly/on the dot/sharp, she got up/(rose). She washed her

which/that could/would wake Frazer up.

face, careful/paying attention not to make (any) noise and (not to) wake (up) Frazer (up).

being careful

shoes. She put on an ugly old pair which/that however was)/(were?) very comfortable:

She changed (her) shoes, and put on an ugly pair which was(2) very old but extremely comfortable:

putting on an old, ugly, but very comfortable pair.

tiring herself.

(They were) special (“)walking shoes(”) (which/that) she could even run with/in, without getting

(with/in which) would also(?) be able to run with/in,

In order to be able to move more freely,

tired. So as to be freer(3)/(more free?) in her movements, she did not take her handbag (BrE/NAmE)

to have greater freedom/to be more unrestrained in her movements/in moving,

/purse (NamE). She only/just took a handkerchief and (some/her) money, putting them in

her suit pocket. And her passport, in case she was/got arrested/of arrest/of (her) being arrested.

the pocket of her suit(4), and they arrested her.

Yes, it was also necessary to foresee/envisage that possibility. She had also/even thought

Yes, she had to consider/take into account all possible outcomes as well.

Yes, that possibility had to be taken into account/consideration, too.

of/about what she would say/to say:/, “I’m an eccentric/quirky old Englishwoman/(English

lady) without much money, and (I’m) in love with/enamored of/with your antiquities.”/”.

(*not* antiques)

But she was certain (that) she could do it/would make it. Who could see her, stop her?

sure to be able to manage it/to succeed (in doing it).

to get away with it/of success//of carrying/pulling it off.

the rather/somewhat late hour,

(…) Who would dare(5) (to) stop her? (…) Except/But for the hour which/that was a bit/little

Apart from/Besides the fact (that) it was

late, there was absolutely/really nothing strange/unusual/out of the ordinary.

Everything went well. (Up) until/till/to the moment (when/in which/that) she took the

fine/OK.

yet again,

chair. (…) She looked all around/round her, once more/again//another time, very carefully.

She had the mathematical certainty of not being seen. At that moment, in St. Mark’s

was absolutely certain not to be seen: at that moment

no one/nobody could see her.

Square, there was not a living soul/a soul to be seen/a soul about/a soul in sight.

(…)

(1) “alike” is a predicative adjective; “like” is a preposition.

(2) “pair” is a singular noun and takes the 3rd person singular in formal English.

(3) “freer” 230 examples in British National Corpus; “more free” 38 examples.

(4) “tailleur” not found in monolingual dictionaries.

(5) “dare” can be considered either a semi-modal (e.g. I dare not do it. Dare you?) or a lexical verb (I do not dare to do it. Do you dare (to)?).