



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

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THE ART OF TRANSLATIONS



By Seppo Kanerva, Trustee Emeritus, Former Manager of Translations, Finland

Current Situation

The Declaration of Trust Creating Urantia Foundation obligates the Foundation to translate *The Urantia Book* into many languages. Even if it were not an obligation, it would be a dictate of common sense that the best and greatest book, the latest revelation, must be translated into many languages. Hence, translations are a high priority on the Foundation's to-do list. With the recent publication of four more translations, *Urantia raamat* (Estonian), *Urantiaboken* (Swedish), *Az Urantia könyv* (Hungarian), and *Księga Urantii* (Polish), the number of languages in

which *The Urantia Book* has been printed rose to fifteen. These languages, in order of their publication, are: English, French, Finnish, Spanish, Dutch, Russian, Korean, Lithuanian, Italian, Portuguese, German, Estonian, Swedish, Hungarian, and Polish. Moreover, a Romanian translation is available in electronic format on CD. Many other translations are in progress including Arabic, Chinese, Farsi (Iranian), Greek, Indonesian, Japanese, and Urdu (Pakistani).

Over the years, the Foundation has worked with more than a hundred translators and assistant translators to help them accomplish their difficult, exacting, and years-long undertaking. Urantia Foundation has rarely recruited translators: we have learned that readers who love the book, who are qualified translators, and who volunteer to translate it, make better translators.

Translating – What Is It?

Every translation project has its unique characteristics. A common feature is that translations are the efforts of one lone toiler assisted by other people. Amazingly, three translations resulted from the effort of one individual working without the knowledge of the Foundation. The pivotal role of one individual is a reality and a fact,

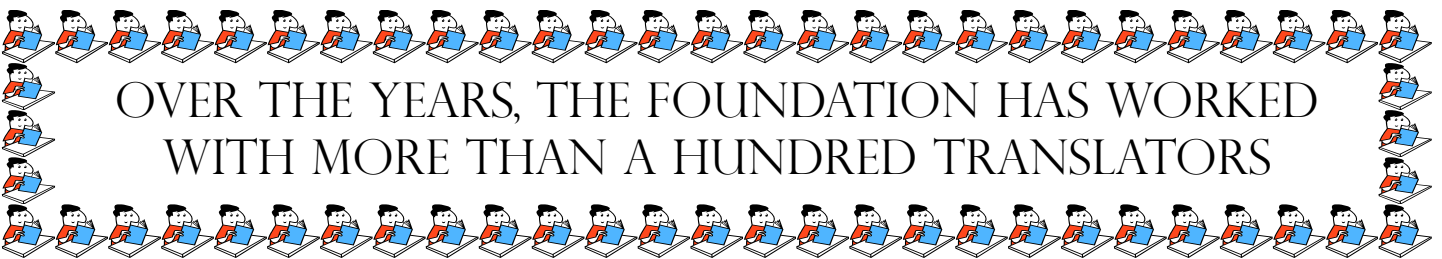
even if we are instructed that teamwork is an important lesson to learn, and that, “few are the duties in the universe for the lone servant.” (312.1) 28:5.14. Translating *The Urantia Book* seems to be one of the few universe duties for a lone servant. Why? I think it is because translations are works of art, masterpieces of art, and true artists are few.

Every translator must meet the following criteria:

1. A translator must comprehend the English language even better than the average native English speaker.
2. A translator must have read the English edition of *The Urantia Book* at least once, preferably more than once.
3. Every translator must translate the English text: a translation of a translation is not acceptable.
4. A translator must have a superior and exceptional mastery of his native language. A good translator makes extensive use of the linguistic resources of the target language much as the English text makes use of the linguistic



OVER THE YEARS, THE FOUNDATION HAS WORKED
WITH MORE THAN A HUNDRED TRANSLATORS



resources of the English language. The English of *The Urantia Book* is true, good and beautiful. The text is often concise and difficult to grasp. It contains many previously unknown concepts, ideas, and words. A translation has to reflect all of this, making use of the linguistic devices of the target language and coming up with new words for the new concepts. Only an artist can accomplish this.

A translation must reach the fluency and beauty of the original text; a translation must not have the feel of being a translation. The reader must be under the impression that the translation he is reading is the original text. Moreover, translators must master the grammar, conventions, syntax, and rules of punctuation of the target language. Few native speakers of a given language master the grammar of their language. But some do, and if a translation comes with less than impeccable grammar, and if it is infested with incorrect punctuation, the work will be regarded as inferior and may cause potential readers to reject the greatest book on the planet. These are hard and exacting conditions!

A translator usually completes the first draft of a translation in four to five years. Subsequent revisions, corrections, and

refinements easily take an equally long time. *Urantia-kirja*, the Finnish translation, took 25 years to complete. The book was translated three times: the last version, the one which was published, took eight years to complete. The Swedish *Urantiaboken* was an effort of 17 years, the Estonian *Urantia raamat* 16 years, and the Polish *Księga Urantii* 13 years. Even so, no translation is ever flawless; all translations are revised and corrected between printings.

The Trustees do not themselves judge whether a translation is ready for publication. They rely on the opinions of qualified people, experts in the target language.

Translators Translate Ideas, Not Words

If you do not speak a foreign language, and if you have never done any translating, you may think that translating is easy: A translator just mechanically transmutes the words of the source language to the words of the target language, and a translation is regarded as correct only if it is true to this pattern and principle. One may criticize a translation of *The Urantia Book* because it does not slavishly follow the English wording. A translator, however, translates ideas, not words. And the ways to translate an idea or concept are several. That is why it is difficult

to accurately quote *The Urantia Book*; you remember the idea, but you cannot recall the exact words of its expression. For example, take the first sentence of the Foreword:

In the minds of the mortals of Urantia—that being the name of your world—there exists great confusion respecting. . .

This idea could be translated in several different ways:

The minds of the mortals of your world, called Urantia, are highly confused when it comes to. . .

Urantia is the name of your world; great confusion prevails in the minds of planetary mortals with regard to. . .

Great confusion prevails in the mortal minds of your world, Urantia, concerning. . .

It would not be difficult to rephrase and translate the sentence in a dozen alternative ways, none of which is the exclusively correct way.

Another reason why literal, word-by-word translations are unacceptable is the fact that languages differ greatly in grammar, syntax, rules, and conventions. The English language is not inflectional; modifiers of nouns and verbs

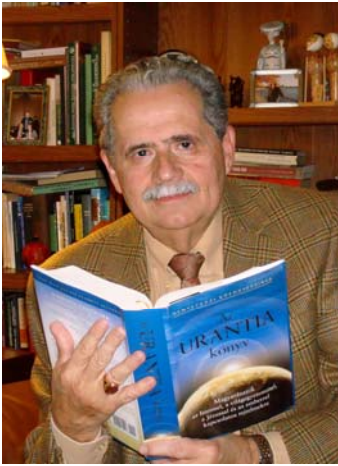
are (except in rare occasions) separate words, like prepositions, articles, adverbs, etc. In inflectional languages, the modifiers are imbedded in the nouns and verbs as prefixes or suffixes.

Using the words of the target language, a translator translates the ideas and concepts of the original text into the same ideas and concepts of the target language; he never mechanically transmutes words. Only a translator/artist can figure this out and find the words and phrases that most fittingly express the ideas and concepts of the original, and only a translator/artist can do so in such a fluent and natural way that the reader does not know he is reading a translation.

Through their exacting work, translators render a great service to fellow speakers of their native languages. They perform their service humbly and anonymously. It is their way of disseminating the Urantia Revelation and its supernal teachings.



RECEIVING *AZ URANTIA KÖNYV*, THE MAGYAR (HUNGARIAN) TRANSLATION OF *THE URANTIA BOOK*



By István Hargitai, Ohio, USA

On October 21st of this year, I arrived home from work and was told by my wife that a parcel was waiting for me. To my surprise I found three copies of *Az Urantia könyv*, the Magyar (Hungarian) translation of *The Urantia Book*, which I ordered some time ago from Urantia Foundation. Examining and touching each copy swiftly turned my surprise to a feeling of overwhelming joy as if I were witnessing a miracle.

Examining and touching each copy swiftly turned my surprise to a feeling of overwhelming joy as if I were witnessing a miracle.

As I was paging through the book with an undisguisable excitement, all of a sudden my thoughts flashed back to the spring of 2001 when I first found an extraordinary rendition of translated parts of the text of *The Urantia Book*

into Magyar on the internet. Having attempted to translate the Foreword myself about 10 years prior, and having realized that my translation was a gross distortion and a complete injustice to the original English, I was glad to see the high quality work which I had found.

I immediately sent an email to the author, and the message, which I sent in Hungarian, went something like this: "I am glad to see a partial text of the Urantia Revelation for the first time in Hungarian. I have been a student of this book for twenty years, and it would be great to be able to discuss it in Hungarian. If you can find the time, please write to me." In his reply, Gábor Cseh, the young translator, expressed his special excitement in receiving a letter from a far-off land written in Hungarian. He mentioned, parenthetically, that as a general rule, we Hungarians feel at home in the grand universe.

In his initial letter, Gábor explained his motivation in undertaking the translation of sections of the Urantia Papers. At that time, he felt he could not undertake the enormous task of translating the entire

text. Therefore, he created an internet "home page" with the hopes of enticing other translators with better language skills and deeper insights to finish the task. This page also welcomed constructive criticism and cooperation from others.

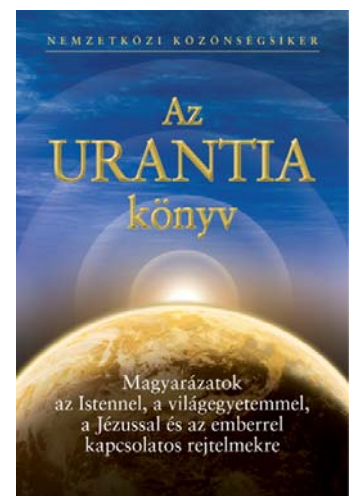
In the absence of an overview or a methodical analysis of the translated sections, Gábor considered it paramount to focus on two major topics: 1) the portrayal of the teachings of Jesus with the effort to place the interpretation of the text in its proper context, and 2) the coordination of certain sections dealing with the Thought Adjuster.

As he was translating the story about the young man who was afraid, Gábor felt energized and empowered by the passage. The following words also rang as a personal challenge directed at him: "...learn to feast upon uncertainty, to fatten upon disappointment, to enthuse over apparent defeat, to invigorate in the presence of difficulties, to exhibit indomitable courage in the face of immensity, and to exercise unconquerable faith when confronted with the challenge of the inexplicable." (291.3)26:5.3.

By January 2002, Gábor posted that he had completed Papers 6, 12, 42, 56, 57, 104-111, 116, 119, and 130. He was working on Paper 112 and would follow with the remainder of Part III, the Foreword, and finally, all the remaining Papers. Such an undertaking, according to his own estimate, would take at least ten years.

Toward the second half of this same year, the translation project came to a halt. Gábor discontinued the web page due to lack of public interest and his own personal commitments. Yet he continued translating sections that he found extremely relevant and important, all the while feeling that he was not the most qualified person for this undertaking. He would have to wait for the time when an individual with a special "calling" and proper skills would step forward and officially commence working on an authorized Hungarian Translation Project.

I wrote to Gábor and encouraged him to continue on with the project despite the lack of enthusiasm for a Hungarian translation. This was the time when he felt he was not the one called to undertake such a monumental task. I called his attention to a poem by the great Hungarian poet Endre Ady, who in his "Seed Underneath the Snow" suggested that there is often a dormant period for idealational thought before new values are embraced by a spirit-hungry readership. And then I lost contact with Gábor.



As time marched on, I saw Hungarian translations posted by others and visited web pages dealing with the Urantia Revelation. I did not like any of them! Most were marred by immature and inaccurate comprehension of the original English text; they lacked spiritual insight. Others were tainted by what I call the exalted ego effect. I would revisit our correspondence and realize how fortunate I was to have been privy to Gábor's train of thought; deep and probing, yet graced with humility. I could not escape the

feeling that as Gábor grew in spirit and wisdom, with perseverance, his process of translating *The Urantia Book* would be aided with encouragement, illumination, and insight from our ministers of the spirit realm.

In December 2006, to my great astonishment, I received an e-mail from Gábor via Steve Caruso of the Ohio Association of Urantia Association International (UAI), informing me that he had completed the Hungarian

translation of *The Urantia Book*. The email also had the text of the encouragement letter that I had sent to him years prior.

In 2008, upon the invitation of Gábor, I was privileged to join the translation review team that was originally formed in 2006. The review was completed in May of 2009. Now that the book was ready, we needed to find money for the printing. Another miracle happened and a South American reader

donated the required funds. To be honest, back in 2001, I never thought I'd see the Fifth Epochal Revelation printed in my native language. With the book in hand, it proves once again the truth of the battle cry of ascendant pilgrims: "In liaison with God, nothing—absolutely nothing—is impossible" (291.3) 26:5.3.

EL LIBRO DE URANTIA EDICIÓN EUROPEA - THE SPANISH EUROPEAN EDITION



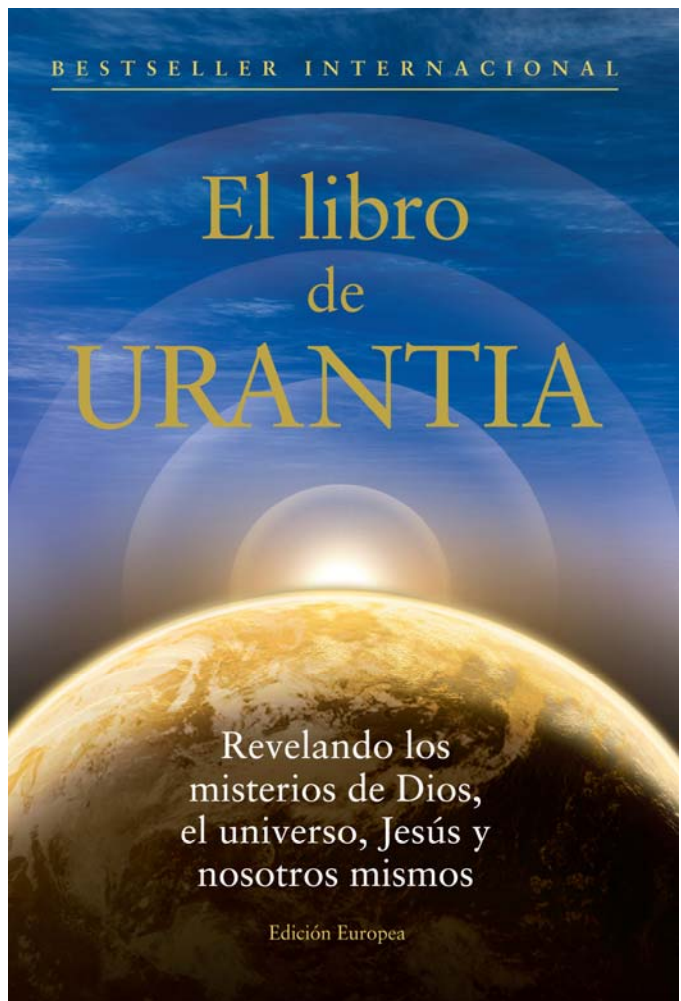
By Antonio Moya, Spain

Antonio Moya was born in 1948 in Seville, Spain. When he was 26 years old, he started investigating phenomena such as UFOs, Ouija Boards, extraterrestrial contacts, spiritualism, mediumship, revealed books, and so on. He found the French translation of *The Urantia Book* at the age of 30, and since then, his life has never been the same.

He participated in reading and correcting the first few Papers

of the 1993 Spanish translation, but he ceased participating in this effort when he had such divergent opinions from the other reviewers. In 1995, Urantia Foundation asked Antonio to revise and correct the Spanish translation. He was assisted by members of his study group (consisting of 10 to 12 people) and by Seppo Kanerva, who was Urantia Foundation's Manager of Translations. This revision-retranslation took about seven years.

Antonio believes that *The Urantia Book* is very important to the world. If all people begin to live its teachings, human society will advance in a very short time. He hopes that *The Urantia Book* will be read and studied by the vast majority of people so that our world soon realizes The Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.



URANTIABOKEN - THE SWEDISH TRANSLATION



By Joel Rehnström, Finland

Joel, why did you translate *The Urantia Book* into Swedish?

With a background in UFOs, I discovered *The Urantia Book* in 1966. My reason for starting the translation was the crucial importance of the book's "super message" for people who were looking for truth, and who were accepting of truth from unconventional sources.

In 1993, when the Finnish translation was published, Seppo Kanerva encouraged me to translate the book into Swedish, which is my mother tongue. I had always thought that somebody in Sweden (I am a Finnish citizen) would do the job. But I had recently retired from my working

career and had some time to spare, so Seppo, Hannu Stenroos, and I formed a team and commenced with the translation.

From the beginning to the end, the translation was truly a team effort, first with Seppo, Hannu, and me, and later on, after Hannu became ill and graduated, Eva Edwards joined us. Eva is a Swedish-American lady living in Seattle, Washington.

Hannu and Eva are experts on the Swedish language spoken in Sweden. It sometimes differs from the Swedish language spoken by the Swedish-speaking minority in Finland.

Eva's contribution was invaluable. Her thorough job of editing enhanced the overall quality of the translation. Seppo rendered the Swedish translation into digital format and worked with Urantia Foundation to make it available on the internet.

Why do you believe that the translation is important for the Swedish-speaking people?

Even if English is rapidly becoming the lingua franca all over the world, understanding the text of *The Urantia Book* requires a very good knowledge of English, which is not

possessed by everyone. For most people the size of a 2097 page book can be intimidating but less so in one's own language.

What are your hopes for *The Urantia Book* in Swedish-speaking areas?

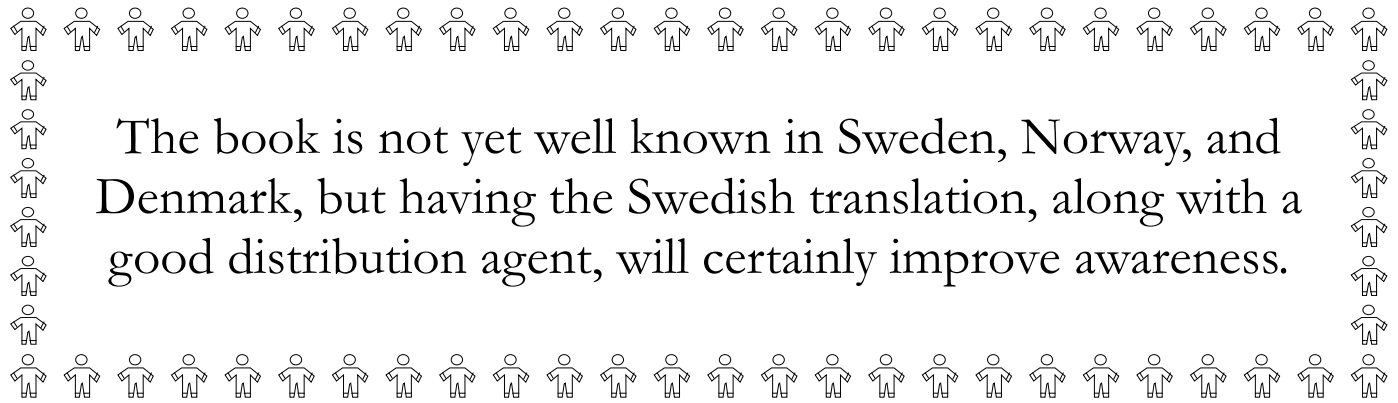
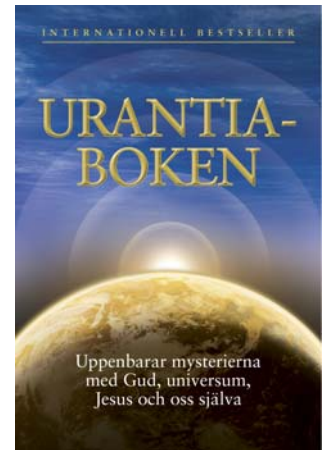
That people will find it! The main market for the Swedish translation will naturally be in Sweden. But there is also a Swedish-speaking minority living mostly along the southern and western coastlines of Finland. In addition, the Norwegian and Danish people will be able to read the Swedish translation, although they will certainly want their own translations.

How has *The Urantia Book* been received in Nordic countries?

The Urantia Book is rather well known in Finland, especially among people seeking truth from alternative sources. The book has been available in English since the early 1970s and in Finnish since 1993. Christian fundamentalists do not tolerate the book, but the Lutheran Church, to which over 80% of the population belong, is not actively discrediting it. The book is not yet well known in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, but having the Swedish translation, along with a good distribution agent, will certainly improve awareness.

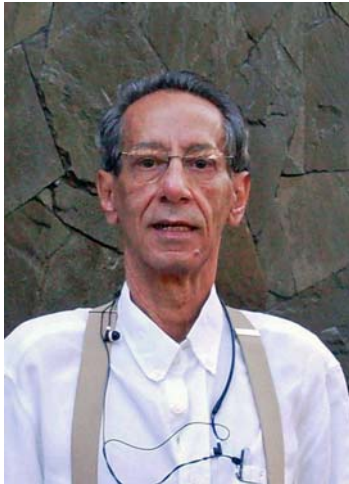
Would you tell us something about yourself, Joel?

I was born in 1931 and grew up in southern Finland as part of the Swedish-speaking minority. In 1954 I received an MBA from the Swedish School of Economics in Helsinki. I am married to Eeva, who also has an MBA, and we live on the southern coast of Finland west of Helsinki. Three of our four children live abroad, and we have seven grandchildren. In my working career I cultivated some small business enterprises of my own, worked as a teacher of business administration, and served as a principal of a commercial college in Helsinki.



The book is not yet well known in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, but having the Swedish translation, along with a good distribution agent, will certainly improve awareness.

O LIVRO DE URÂNIA - THE PORTUGUESE TRANSLATION



By Luiz Carlos Dolabella Chagas, Brazil

In December 1994, I wrote a letter of introduction to Urantia Foundation. The following April, Richard Keeler invited me to attend a conference of Urantia Book readers in Nashville, Tennessee, and to meet the Trustees. In 1996, Richard and Georges Michelson-Dupont came to São Paulo and met a group of 50 people that gathered at my home. It was then that I was invited to translate *The Urantia Book* into Portuguese.

Susana Hutner helped me with the revision of my work, and in 2007 the fruit of our labor resulted in the publication of *O Livro de Urântia*.

Luiz, why did you translate *The Urantia Book* into Portuguese?

In 1993, I, Luiz Carlos Dolabella Chagas, found *The Urantia Book*. The copy I had was in English. I was immediately impressed with its level of profound depth and fell in love with its teachings. I began to translate the papers that I considered most interesting and useful. Among them were the Thought Adjuster papers.

Why do you believe that the translation is important for the Portuguese-speaking people?

I am familiar with the versatility and open-mindedness of the Portuguese-speaking people, and I knew they would see the truths in the Urantia Revelation. And indeed, this has been so.

What are your hopes for *The Urantia Book* in Portuguese-speaking areas?

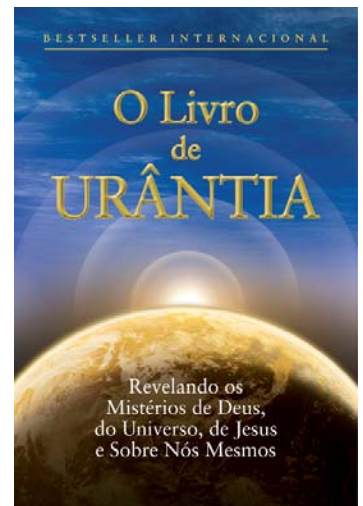
Our hopes are that *The Urantia Book* is adopted by individuals all over the world. The teachings of this book will help bring us closer to God. "...when an ascending mortal personality finally attunes to the divine leading of the indwelling Adjuster, then has the actuality of the Supreme become real by one more degree in the universes, then has the divinity of Supremacy advanced one more step toward cosmic realization. (1278.3) 117:0.3.

How has the *The Urantia Book* been received in Brazil and Portugal?

O Livro de Urântia was very popular even before its printing. Great demand for the book in both countries continues, and we are all pleased that it is the third most popular translation next to English and Spanish.

Would you tell us something about yourself, Luiz?

My career has been in engineering. I have written four novels, three of which were published. In addition to translating *The Urantia Book* into Portuguese, I have written three secondary works about *The Urantia Book*. Currently I am entirely dedicated to the spiritual work related to *The Urantia Book*.



The Evolving Soul



(551.4) 487.24

The evolving soul is not made divine by what it does, but by what it strives to do.

Children's Faith



Children are naturally trustful, and parents should see to it that they do not lose that simple faith.

(1574.7) 140.514

KSIĘGA URANTII: THE POLISH TRANSLATION HAS REACHED THE READERS



Compiled by Paul and Gosia Jaworski, Australia

The long anticipated Polish translation of *The Urantia Book* reached bookstores this September. We are observing the impact this is having on the thinking of Polish readers. People have been posting their opinions on forums and online bookstores. We thought you would find them of interest and have compiled some below.

"I became the owner of a printed copy of *Księga Urantii*. It is published as a hardcover

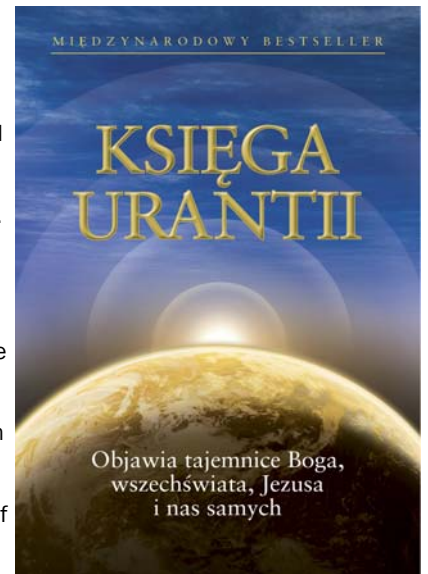
on thin paper with small font. It also has a bookmark. This book is impressive, and its contents are even more magnificent." -*Paterson*

"In my opinion, this is the most valuable book ever to appear on our planet. If everybody studied and understood it, we would see paradise on Earth in a few years. If someone is not happy because of the many inconsistencies and misunderstandings in various world religions, this work is for him. Greetings to all searchers of truth!" -*Kamil*

"This is the most important book I have ever read. I've studied philosophy and read many books about various religions and philosophical ideas, but this is something different. It placed order in my mind, gave answers, and removed uncertainties for the future. I can guarantee that after reading this book, anybody can become a different person. Two thousand pages can be a bit scary at first, but later it becomes most absorbing." -*Marcin*

not about following his doings in our human lives, but rather to act according to his teachings and to the will of God. It's very calming." -*anonymous*

Księga Urantii has been slowly embedding itself in the hearts and minds of genuine truth seekers in Poland. The book is in the largest Polish distribution channels and is available in hundreds of Polish bookstores, stationery stores, and online. It can be ordered from practically any bookstore.



"I have browsed through *Księga Urantii*, and what appeals the most to me is the story of the life and teachings of Jesus. As a Catholic girl, I've been educated on this subject. It's pleasant to read about the teachings of Jesus in the evening, which is described in a very vivid manner. For me it's similar to a movie. The idea that most impressed me, which can be found in many places of the book, is to completely subject myself to the will of God. And as Jesus recommends, it is

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DAS URANTIA BUCH - THE GERMAN TRANSLATION



By Urs Ruchti, France

Urs Ruchti is a concert pianist and former dentist who lives near Paris.

Born in 1934 in the German part of Switzerland, at the

age of twenty, I began my spiritual quest, which intensified when I met my future wife, Nicole, in Paris. Together we found *The Urantia Book* and frequently visited its French translator, Jacques Weiss. Nicole suggested that I follow Jacques Weiss's example by translating the book into German. Without translation experience, but having always been a great admirer of beauty in literature art and music, I accepted the challenge.

Discouraged by a first attempt in 1973, I finally began the work in earnest in 1984, at first alone, and several years later in collaboration with Urantia Foundation. I was guided by the idea my German-speaking brothers and sisters deserved the most harmonious text possible so as to allow them to more easily assimilate the

demanding content. I was inspired by the book itself which exalts the marriage of truth, beauty and goodness. This marriage meant being rigorously faithful to the ideas and concepts of the original text with flowing sentences and love for the unknown future reader. Did I succeed? Now I say Godspeed to my "baby" as I rededicate myself to my piano music.

Until recent times, Germans were known as thinkers and philosophers. Should not the next generation remember that tradition and add to it a true spiritual dimension? Many signs invite me to entertain such a hope. In *The Urantia Book* are present all the elements for the building of an entirely new civilization. Each nation will participate in this gigantic task in accordance with its proper genius. What contributions will

be made by the Germans, the Austrians, and the Swiss?

Das Urantia Buch is selling rather well. Readers meet in Frankfurt, Freiburg, Zurich, Karlsruhe, and several smaller communities.



THE STORY OF URANTIA RAAMAT - THE ESTONIAN TRANSLATION



By Peep Sõber, Estonia

I have met many astonished Urantia Book readers in the US who ask, "How can you have long time readers in Estonia which was not long ago part of the Soviet Union?" They don't know that we started the translation in 1985 with a group of translators. In two years the whole draft was ready. We made 50 to 100 copies of this draft for people to read.

In the early 1970s, thanks to Finnish readers, the first copy of *The Urantia Book* arrived in Estonia, which at that time was still part of the Soviet Union. After several years of reading

the book in English, a few of us formed a team to translate the book into Estonian. Urmas Lipand agreed to be the chief translator, although he was not experienced.

Photocopies of Urmas's translation circulated among a few Estonians, but nothing more happened with it until the Soviet Union collapsed and the Republic of Estonia was reestablished in 1991. At that time, I had the idea to start a second Estonian translation with a professional translator. I knew that a French translation existed, and that Finnish, Spanish, and Russian

translations were nearing completion. I had a strong conviction that our small nation of a million inhabitants needed a translation.

After giving a few introductory lectures and writing a few articles for magazines, I received a tremendous response: More than 500 people sent me letters expressing interest in reading *The Urantia Book*. At that time I had a regular radio program on which I introduced books published by my publishing company. Sometimes I would talk about the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

On August 21, 1994, I spoke of Jesus' birth 2000 years ago. We had a birthday celebration and invited Seppo Kanerva to our meeting in Tallinn where we introduced our new translation team. We had a great event in a high school auditorium with music and speeches. Three hundred people who were curious about the book attended.

The next year, in 1995, I was invited to Helsinki by the Finnish Urantia Association, and after speaking about our preparations for an Estonian translation, the Finns decided to financially support our project. Urantia Foundation agreed with our plan, and the work began.

We had a professional translator and several assistants. After the first 21 papers, the chief translator tired and bowed out of the project. We then found a new translator, Meeli Kuura, who was even more skilled with the English language than the first one. We also had on our team an Estonian language teacher, a long time editor, and several readers.

In 1997 we organized the first conference for readers of *The Urantia Book* in Tallinn, Estonia. Richard Keeler, Seppo Kanerva and several Finnish

readers were our guests. The following year we created the Estonian Urantia Association and have had annual conferences since then.

In autumn of 2000, the translation team was convinced that the translation was ready for printing. It just so happened at this time that I met a professional editor who took a keen interest in the Jesus Papers. I told her to make a few corrections here and there if needed. She soon called and asked, "Do you know how many corrections I have made in the first ten pages?" I was astonished! How could she have corrected our "almost perfect" work? But she was right, and we soon found out that her skillful editing would make the translation significantly better.

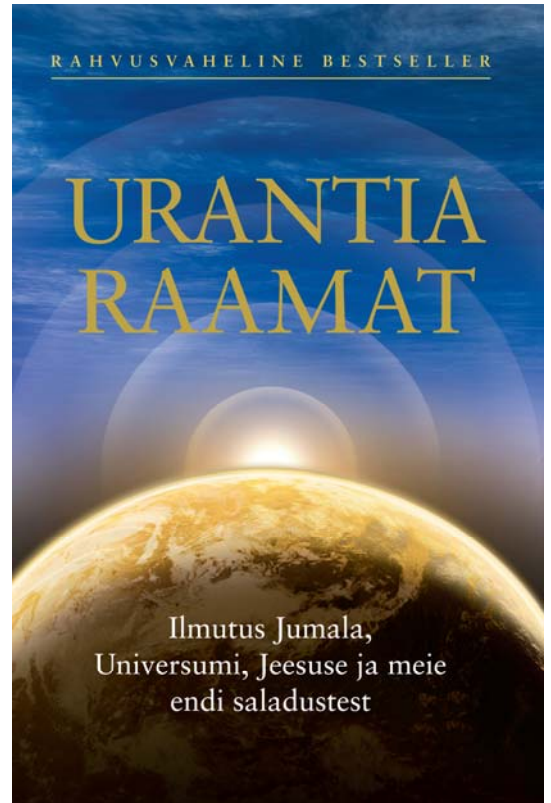
What a disappointment to our readers! They knew that Urantia Foundation was ready to publish our book. Now we calculated that three to four more years of editing were needed to "perfect" the translation. Our professional editor spent eight years correcting Parts III and IV. She then retired from the project. Luckily we found another

professional to complete the editing of Parts I and II.

Impatient readers criticized us for taking so long with our work. But my response was always the same: The Estonian translation is not only for you but also for all Estonians and for many generations of Estonian readers.

Estonia is the smallest nation in the world which has *The Urantia Book* in its own language. The great saga, which began 25 years ago, finally came to an end this year on October 1. *Urantia raamat* appeared in bookstores throughout Estonia. We readers enjoy this new reality of having a printed book. We no longer rely on photocopies of the first or second translation drafts which were so difficult to read.

The Estonian translation resulted from the fruits of teamwork,



which affords us pleasure, not only because the Estonian translation is now a reality, but also because we know teamwork is one of the most important lessons to learn during our mortal careers.



From left to right:

Karmo Kalda (President of the Estonian Urantia Association), Margit, Anne-Ly Kadastik, Ruth Kask, Inge Pärk, Ülle Kruuse-Kingo, Pilvi Einasto, Helje Heinoja (Editor), Harri Kingo, Meeli Kuura (Translator), Peep Sõber (Head of the Project), Jüri Henno (Editor), Kalevi Eklöf, Seppo Kanerva, Valdek Põld, Pertti Leinonen, Tapio Pulli, Helena Juola, Tapio Talvitie (President of the Finnish Urantia Association), Leena Kari, Joel Rehnström, Kaire Puumets-Sõber (Editor), Reijo Hamari, and Ave Voolaid.

КНИГА УРАНТИИ – THE RUSSIAN TRANSLATION



Center: Vitaly Kondratjev - the manager of the Russian office - with the St. Petersburg's study group.

*By Michael Hanian, France,
edited by Andrei Reznikov,
Russia*

The first Russian translation of *The Urantia Book* was published in France in 1997. The trust and efforts of Trustees Tom Burns, Seppo Kanerva, Richard Keeler, Georges Michelson-Dupont, and Pat Mundelius helped materialize this printing. Tom and Georges took copies in suitcases to St. Petersburg, and they donated the books to a study group.

Since then the Russian translation has undergone four printings in two different formats. Georges Michelson-Dupont has supervised the formatting of the last three printings.

One might wonder about the owners of the 15,000 Russian books sold to date? Where do these readers live?"

The geography of the Russian translation is as wide as Russia itself. The text of the

Urantia Revelation is perused in almost every region of the former Soviet Union, from the Baltics in the West to Siberia in the Russian Far East. And since the Russian Diaspora has spread over all continents, the Russian translation of *The Urantia Book* has settled virtually all over the globe.

The impact of the Russian translation is still mostly a personal matter to its readers. It is not so easy to socialize on a big scale in an immense country with modest

standards of living. With the exception of Moscow and St. Petersburg, where readers meet on a regular basis, friends of the Fifth Epochal Revelation try to make good use of the internet. Apart from forums and blogs, there is a Skype study group which "meets" every Saturday. This group consists of five readers who discuss the book in Russian and reside in three different countries – Russia, Finland, and France.

But who knows, perhaps in the near future new "space broadcasts" will connect us on a different scale? After all, everything is possible on this amazing realm – the rapidly changing Urantia.



“GO INTO ALL THE WORLD” – JESUS



*By Mo Siegel, President,
Urantia Foundation, USA*

On numerous occasions Jesus gave his followers detailed instructions to go into the world and share his teachings. Those mandates from two thousand years ago apply directly to the publication, translation, and book distribution work currently taking place at Urantia Foundation. Said the Master,

"Go into all the world and preach the glad tidings of the kingdom. Liberate spiritual captives, comfort the oppressed, and minister to the afflicted. Freely you have received, freely give." (1584.1) 140:9.2; "...go into all the world proclaiming this gospel to all nations, to every man, woman, and child." (1824.6) 165:6.3; "Go, then, into all the world proclaiming this gospel of the fatherhood of God and the

brotherhood of men to all nations and races and ever be wise in your choice of methods for presenting the good news to the different races and tribes of mankind." (2042.1) 191:4.4; "Go, then, into all the world telling this good news to all creatures of every race, tribe, and nation. My spirit shall go before you, and I will be with you always." (2053.4) 193:1.2.

And so it shall be with the Urantia Revelation. At Urantia Foundation we are committed to methodically, patiently, carefully, and persistently translating the book and disseminating it throughout the world. Today *The Urantia Book* is printed in 15 languages. You can read it in Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Korean, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Swedish. The Romanian translation is available in electronic format on CD. By 2025 we anticipate that 80% of the world's literate population will be able to read

The Urantia Book in their native language. The translators deserve our deepest appreciation for dedicating thousands of hours preparing these gifts for the world. Like the early leaders and followers of previous revelations, these men and women are the early heroes of the Fifth Epochal Revelation. Most of them have worked for free and with little recognition. They have taken complex ideas and concepts and artistically translated them into their native tongues. Over many years and even decades, the translators and their supporting teams have generously and patiently utilized their talents so that others might grow closer to God by reading and living these ennobling teachings.

To be specific we thank Antonio Moya for the Spanish European edition, EurAmerica for the Latin American translation, Luiz Carlos Dolabella Chagas for Portuguese, Urs Ruchti for the German, Jacques Weiss for the French, Michael Hanian for the Russian, Seppo Kanerva for the Finnish, Joel Rehnström for the Swedish, Paul and Gosia Jaworski for the Polish, Algimantas Jokubėnas for the Lithuanian, Gábor Cseh for the Hungarian, Peep Söber and Meeli Kuura for the Estonian, Guglielmo Zago for the Italian, Dan Sorin Chiaburu for the Romanian, Kwan Choi for the Korean, and Nienke Begemann-Brugman for the Dutch.

All efforts of this magnitude

have many people working behind the scenes to make things happen. Editors, revisers, proof readers, book formatters, fund raisers, donors, and supportive friends and families all deserve our gratitude. Thank you. In addition two people need to be singled out for their vision, management, and undaunted determination to fund and create translations. Almost every translation in the last 18 years was prepared under the supervision of the former Manager of Translations of Urantia Foundation, Trustee Emeritus Seppo Kanerva. It is hard to imagine how these translations would have occurred without Seppo finding, encouraging, and logistically supporting translators and their teams. Likewise, Trustee Richard Keeler, in good and lean times, kept the Board of Trustees focused on preparing and funding the translations. No matter how difficult the challenges facing Urantia Foundation, Richard kept translations at the top of the priority list. To both of these men we extend our deepest soul-felt thank you!

The publication of *The Urantia Book* in 15 languages represents a tremendous step forward in the long process of seeding the Urantia Revelation and its life-changing teachings throughout the world. We now enter a new exhilarating stage where building and maintaining book distribution will occupy a great deal of our time and money. Keeping the book in circulation at convenient locations, at affordable prices, and in a financially sustainable

way will challenge the best in all of us. It may sound easy but making the books available from China to Nigeria, from Germany to Ecuador, and from Russia to Mexico is no small task. Finding and managing book distributors, attending book fairs, warehousing and shipping books, placing and keeping the books on bookstore shelves, billing and getting paid for books shipped, reprinting books, revising translations, and providing the book for audio, internet, and digital distribution will take dedicated efforts for decades to come. We're up for the task and ask you to join in!

To all of you who, in one way or another, have furthered the cause of translations, thank you! To the donors who generously provide the money to make translations and distribution possible, thank you. To our office team at 533 Diversey Parkway, which handles the many day-to-day tasks so translations come out on time and on budget, thank you. To our planetary supervisors and other unseen friends who have the permanent responsibility for the success of this revelation, we hope you are pleased.

Upward and inward,
Mo Siegel, President

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