

*'The Road Is the Destination':
Translation as Culture*

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Saint Jerome and the Lion: Predella Panel

Fra Filippo Lippi and workshop, 15th century

[The National Gallery](#)

Translation it is that openeth the window, to let in the light; that breaketh the shell, that we may eat the kernel; that putteth aside the curtain, that we may look into the most holy place; that removeth the cover of the well, that we may come by the water.

“The Translators to the Reader” (the Authorised Version, 1611),
reproduced in Burke (2009: 224)

What is translation?

What does it do?

A few words about translators

And about Translation Studies

Concepts

literalism gloss word-for-word translation

adaptation rewriting formal equivalence

dynamic equivalence foreignisation domestication

source-orientedness target-orientedness

function purpose audience design

ideology retranslation

Detail and non-repeatability

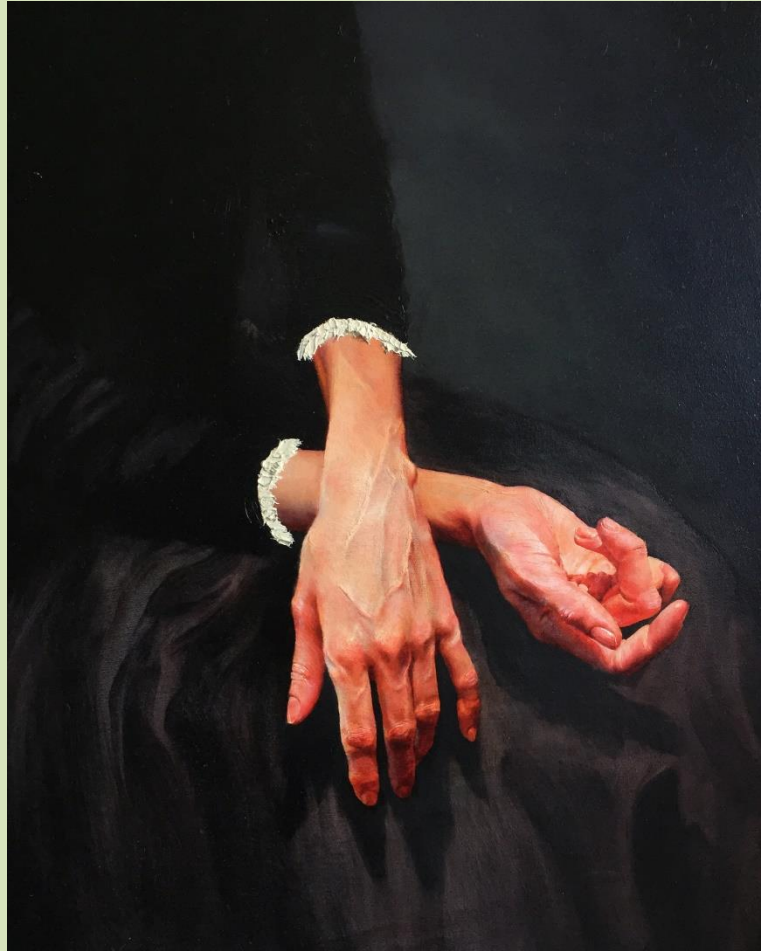
[...] real life mostly consists in minuscule details, in uncommunicated and perhaps non-communicable experiences, which go unrecorded.

Chastel (1978, p. 15, my translation)

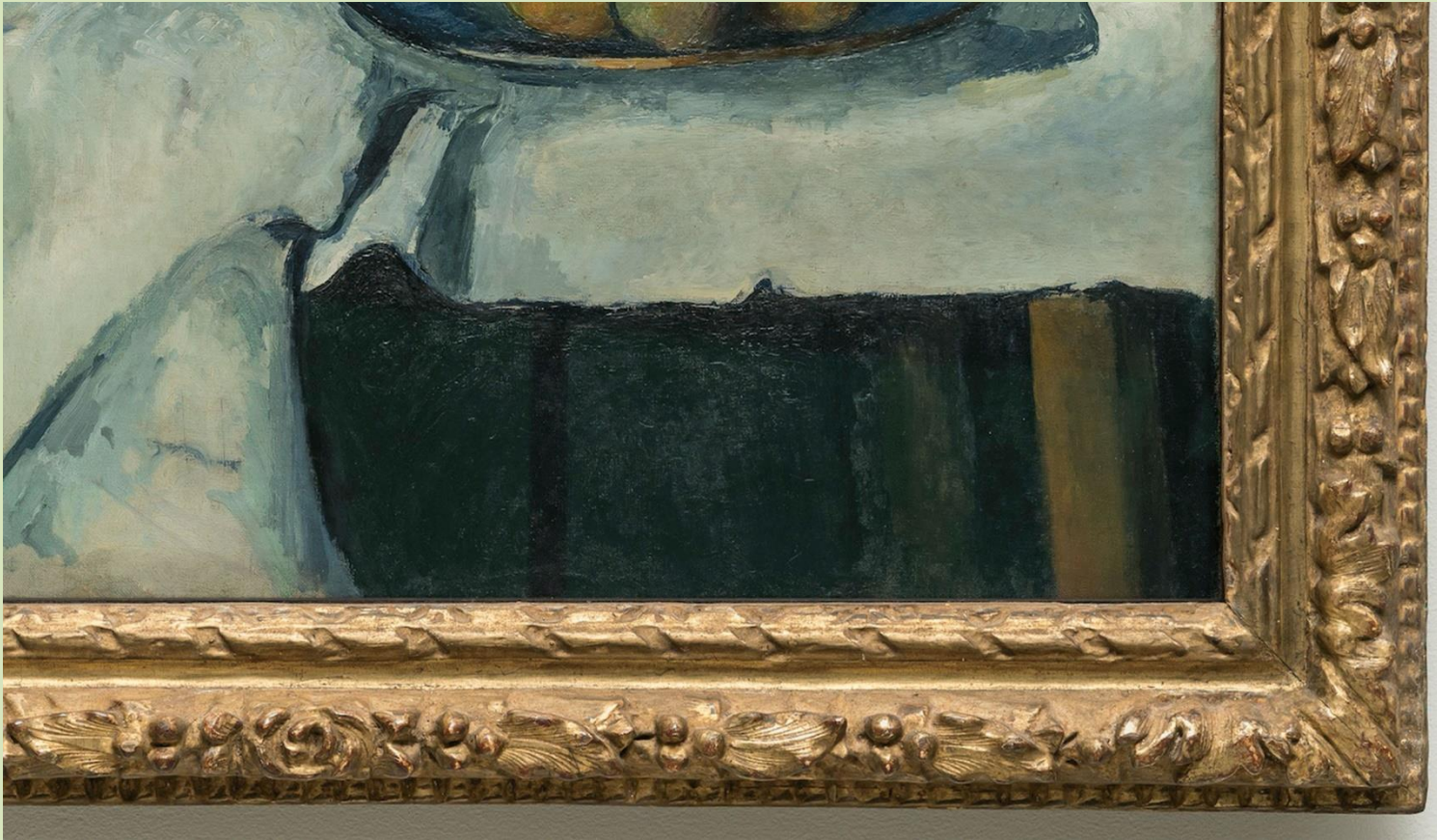
I grew possessed by an intuition of the particular, of diversities so numerous that no labour of classification and enumeration could exhaust them.

Steiner (1997, p. 3)



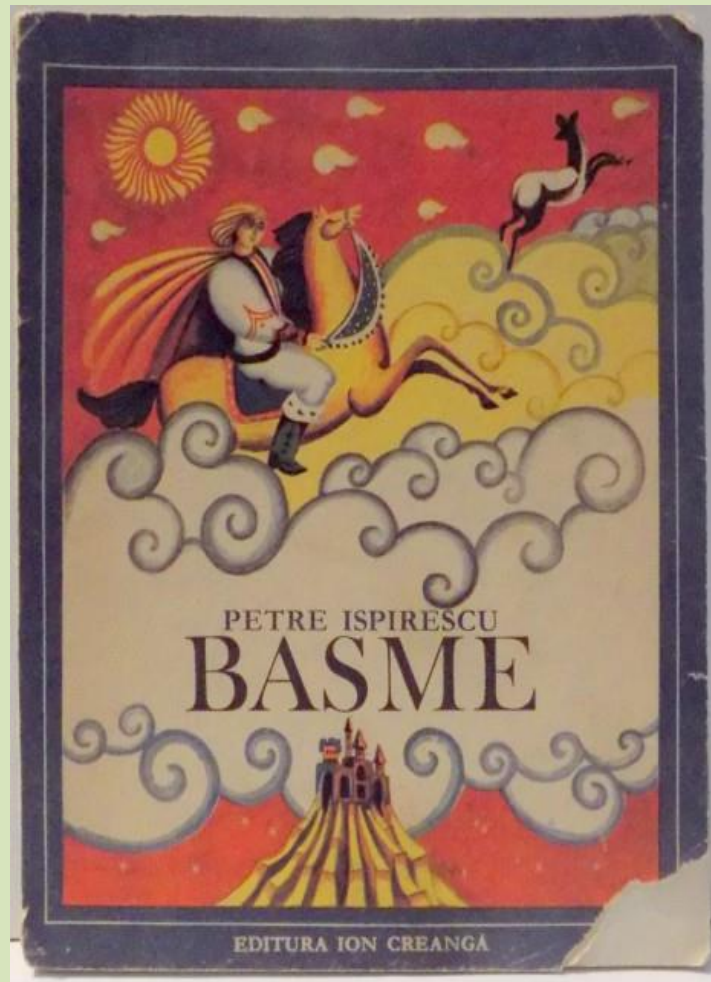


small detail, **interesting** detail, **useful** detail, **essential** detail, **amusing** detail, **superfluous** detail, **key** detail, **obscure** detail, **poignant** detail, **salient** detail, **tiny** detail, **relevant** detail, **minute** detail, **irrelevant** detail, **shocking** detail, **accurate** detail, **recurring** detail, **trivial** detail, **precise** detail, **familiar** detail, **realistic** detail, **profuse** detail, **wonderful** detail, **vibrant** detail, **gory** detail, **colourful** detail, **exquisite** detail, **boring** detail, **misleading** detail, **unimportant** detail, **contentious** detail, **infinite** detail



A few themes

- translation and multilingualism
- poetry / film / translation
- translation and the body, the body in translation
- translation of sacred and liturgical texts
- film subtitling
- opera translation
- translation as interpersonal communication



Choice

If a text — any text — is “a document of decision, selection and combination,” then even small details may be “significant by virtue of other *alternatives* which could have occurred instead.”

de Beaugrande and Dressler (1981, p. 35,
emphasis mine)

But what about road(s) and destination(s)?

And culture?