

# The P G Wodehouse Society (UK)

Information Sheet Number 6

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## Foreign Translations of Books by P G Wodehouse

P G Wodehouse's books have been translated into many languages. The first book translation known is the German version of *A Gentleman of Leisure*, published in 1917, although a Dutch magazine published a translation of the school story *An Afternoon Dip* in 1904.

It would be tempting providence to try to define the number of titles which have been translated into a particular language, as new translations appear every year. Some titles have been translated by multiple different translators into the same language at different times – the greatest number of such titles known at the time of writing is five different translations into Italian of *A Damsel in Distress*, between 1931 and 1994.

At the time this information sheet was prepared, more than thirty titles have been published in each of:

Bulgarian	Finnish	Italian	Swedish
Czech	French	Norwegian	
Danish	German	Russian	
Dutch	Hungarian	Spanish	

A smaller number have appeared in:

Burmese	Hebrew	Portuguese	Turkish
Catalan	Icelandic	Romanian	Ukrainian
[Simplified] Chinese	Japanese	Serbian	
Esperanto	Latvian	Slovenian	
Estonian	Polish	Telugu	

In addition, one of the classic short stories, *The Great Sermon Handicap*, was the deserving subject of a linguistic experiment in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The late Jimmy Heineman commissioned translations in a total of 59 languages, ancient and modern, and the results were published in six volumes. English and Phonetic English versions appeared in each volume, and the allocation of the remainder was as follows:

<b><i>Volume 1</i></b>	<b><i>Volume 2</i></b>	<b><i>Volume 3</i></b>
Catalan	Afrikaans	Danish
French	Chaucerian English	Faroese
Italian	Dutch	Icelandic
Latin	Flemish	Norwegian
Portuguese	Frisian	Nynorsk
Rhaetoromansch	German	Old Norse
Rumanian	Luxemburgian	Swedish
Spanish	Mittelhochdeutsch	
	Plattdeutsch	
	Swiss German	
	Yiddish	

***Volume 4***

Basque  
Breton  
Esperanto  
Finnish  
French Creole  
Gaelic  
Hungarian  
Irish  
Papiamentu  
Pidgin English  
Romany  
Welsh

***Volume 5***

Amharic  
Ancient Hebrew  
Arabic  
Aramaic  
Armenian  
Coptic  
Maltese  
Modern Hebrew  
Sanskrit  
Somali

***Volume 6***

Bulgarian  
Czech  
Macedonian  
Polish  
Russian  
Servo-croatian  
Slovakian  
Slovenian  
Ukrainian  
White Russian