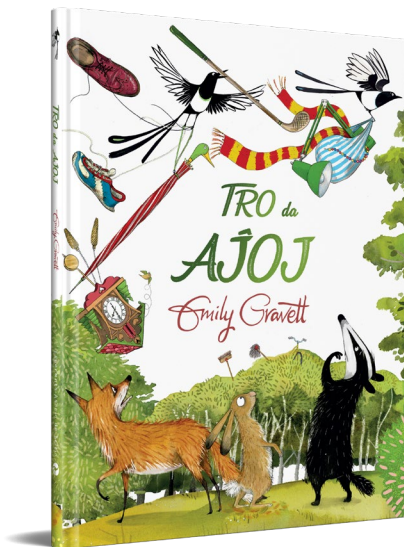


The 80 Esperantists who participated at our annual conference in Cambridge all know what the hit of the summer is: they were there for the launch of EAB's first foray into the world of Hercule Poirot, Dame Agatha Christie's famous Belgian detective.

La murdo de Roger Ackroyd – renowned for its shocking reveal – has been translated by Hans Becklin, an American Esperantist who was the main invited guest speaker at the event.

This wasn't the only book he'd translated which was launched that weekend: one of his contributions to the programme was a presentation of the difficulties of translating rhyme and metre in poetry, and he very ably used a new children's book, *Tro da aĵoj*, to illustrate the challenges and his solutions.



Fortunately for us, Edmund Grimley Evans salvaged it when dealing with Marjorie's *postlasaĵo*, and Humphrey Tonkin, with excellent translations of *La Vivo de Henriko Kvina* and *Hamleto, reĝido de Danujo* to his name, has completed and edited it, as well as adding an enlightening introduction about the original play and the translation.

So that's a bit of everything: a legendary murder mystery that certainly belongs in everybody's collection in at least one language; a bright and exuberant children's title in the form of a rhyme; and a classic play by this country's greatest writer. Exciting times for the publisher and readers!

You can buy *La murdo de Roger Ackroyd* and *Koriolano* from sites such as Amazon for £10. *Tro da aĵoj* is available from us for the customary low price of only £5. ■

MURDER, MAGPIES, MORE-JORIE

The story centres around a pair of magpies, Mego and Aŝo, who are busy creating a nest fully stocked with everything their soon-to-be chicks could possibly want. The pair go somewhat overboard in their fervour, and calamity ensues, unfortunately.

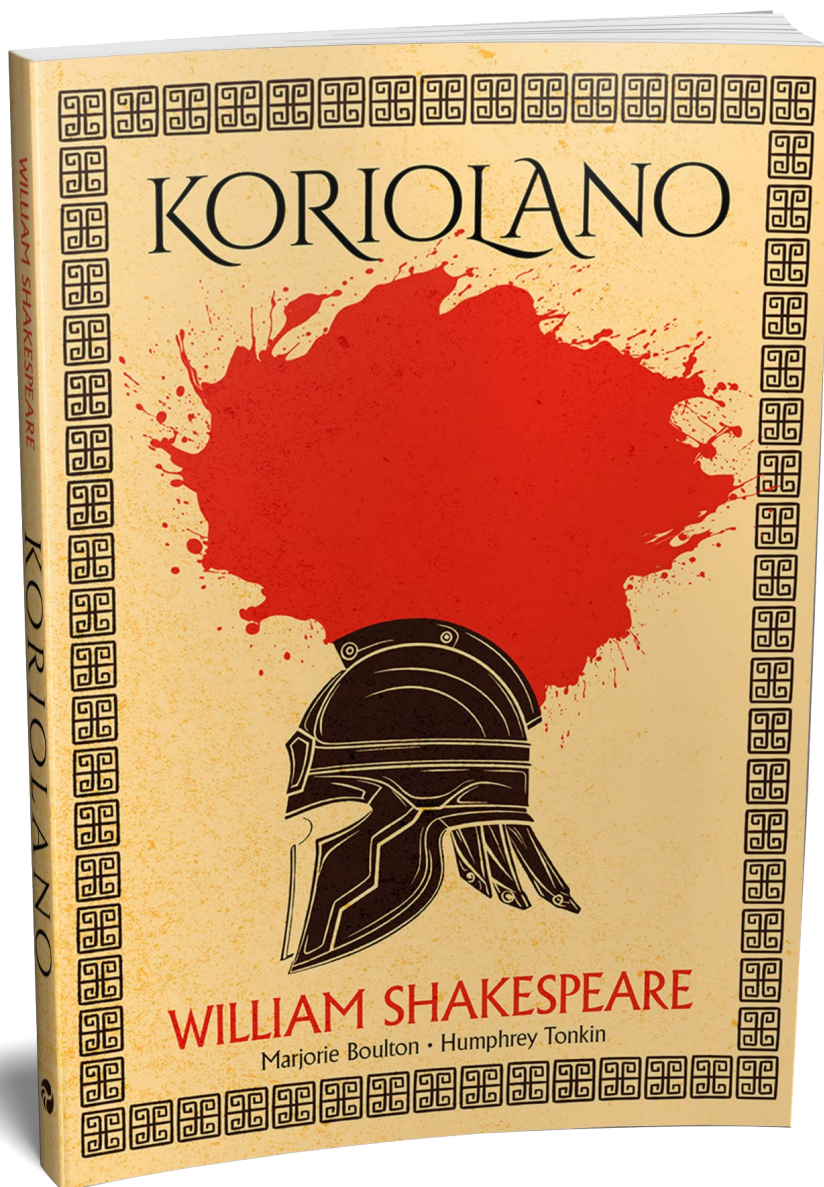
Don't worry: it wouldn't be a proper children's story without a happy ending, and disaster is averted, with the birds learning an important lesson.

The book is written and beautifully illustrated by Emily Gravett, and serves as a learning device about how less can be more. And it all rhymes!



At the World Esperanto Congress in Turin we'll be launching another book: a translation of one of Shakespeare's tragedies, *Coriolanus*.

This book marks yet another posthumous contribution to Esperanto literature from Marjorie Boulton, who worked on it in spurts starting in the 1990s, and left an unfinished manuscript at her death in 2017.



I spoke too soon about conference numbers in the previous issue: they more than doubled after the issue had gone to press, and put an end to a long series of declining attendance. Everybody enjoyed the event, and Clare Hunter sold 270 books whilst on duty: over three per person, then!

Encouraged by the success of Cambridge I started looking for 2024 and have a particular venue in mind, for reasons which will become clear if we're able to make the numbers add up. The Cambridge attendance has helped greatly in this regard because I can budget for a higher prospective number of participants, so thank you for your assistance so far!

• • •

All four candidates for trusteeship were re-elected at the AGM:

Please mark FOR, AGAINST or ABSTAIN next to each candidate by placing one X in each row.

Name of candidate	For	Against	Abstain
Simone Davis	59	3	1
Edmund Grimley Evans (candidate for president)	61	2	
Clare Hunter	61	2	
Anna Langley	59	2	2

That's about turn-out of a fifth, which is up from previous years. I couldn't help but notice when taking receipt of the voting slips after the results had been declared that one person had sent in a postal vote against all four candidates, and another against the three women. Am I the only one who would just not renew my membership if I felt like that?

• • •

Our translation competitions were won by Malcolm Jones (*Rebecca*) and Tobiasz Kubisiowski (*Matilda*). Lots of hard work lies ahead for them: they've now moved on to translating not just sample chapters but the whole book, which we'll be publishing in due course.

The competitions turned up a few other people who have potential, and we've reached provisional agreement with an

Esperanto translator from overseas to run online sessions to help them make progress with some projects which they might do for us. He's currently very busy with other work but when some free time appears on the horizon, we'll set that up.

I hope you enjoyed Simon Davies's breakdown of the *Matilda* submissions in *La Brita Esperantisto*. I'm not sure that William Auld himself, who ran the original *Traduku!* column from 1991 to 1999, could've exceeded that: it was informative, enlightening, and very easy to read. Simon, one of the three judges for the competitions, has already written a similar article for *Rebecca*, which we'll publish in the next issue of *LBE*.

You should also expect an interesting report about the World Esperanto Congress, about to take place in Italy. We've awarded Maurizio Giacometto a grant to participate in his first one, and in exchange he's going to do a write-up about the event.

• • •

Renato Corsetti informs us that the *Internacia Ligo de Esperantistaj Instruistoj* is looking to relaunch its British branch, and he'd be very happy to hear from Esperanto teachers or professional teachers who are based in the UK. Drop him a line at: renato@esperanto.org.

• • •

Fancy trying your hand at writing a short story? The *Bjalistoka Esperanto-Societo* is holding its 13th literature competition, *Esperanto ligas homojn*. To compete you have to send in an original, unpublished short story under the heading «Vivmotivoj, aŭ kial mi faras ĉion ĉi?» before 30 September. The results will be announced at the 24th Bjalistokaj Zamenhof-Tagoj in December. You'll find details and a contact address at: espero.bialystok.pl/eo/konkurso-2023.

• • •

Unfortunately, I seem to have jinxed Book Depository by writing about it in the last issue, pointing out that it allowed people overseas to buy our books online without having to pay for shipping: it was closed in April. I gather Wordery makes the same offer but, sadly, it doesn't appear to carry many of our titles.

You can track down the entire range of our books which are available from Amazon via: esperanto.org.uk/amazon. I'm afraid I can't think of an alternative to Amazon for those of you who prefer to shop with entities which pay their taxes. (Even Book Depository was owned by the monolith.) It might be possible that your local bookshop is able to buy in our books for you if you're happier to pay a bit more. That link will come in useful if you do want to try getting the books ordered from another bookseller: it will provide the ISBN, which is a lot more straightforward for them than trying to type *Ĉapelo de sorĉisto!*

• • •

Here are the answers to Jack Warren's anagram on the subject *Homoj kiuj servas* from *Update 100*:

1. ŜOFORO
2. KOKTELISTO
3. PORDISTO
4. ĈAMBRISTO
5. STEVARDO
6. ĈEFKUIRISTO
7. VARTISTINO
8. PORTISTO
9. LAVISTINO
10. KELNERINO

• • •

I've been guest-editing because Rico has been on holiday, and can't produce an early *Update* if I haven't actually produced the news for him well in advance! He'll be back for the next issue. ■

Tim Owen

CALLING ALL LEARNERS: STUDA SEMAJNFINO!

We've just announced a whole weekend of Esperanto study and interaction for learners, from those at the beginning stages of their Esperanto adventure all the way up to those who have more exposure and are approaching fluency.

Our *Studa Semajnfino* will take place from Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, in a wing which holds three 30-person classrooms. Plenty of space!

NEW PEOPLE WELCOME

Three rooms means three levels of learners can be catered for at any one point, with several sessions being suitable for mixing up people with different abilities.

There will be discussion groups, games, translation activities, and more. Elizabeth Stanley, who enthusiastically looked

after the new learners in Cambridge, will reprise her role as the friendly face of Esperanto for newcomers. Joining her will be Drew Morgan, who knows exactly what it feels like to be a new person taking first steps into Esperanto because he was one himself fairly recently. You can be sure of being well looked after with this team.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY

We have several specially invited experienced Esperanto-speakers who will be leading sessions for more developed learners, too. Those names include Maurizio "Rico" Giacometto, Tim Morley, Martin Rue, and Tim Owen.

Details about what's on offer will be announced on esperanto.org.uk/studa-semajnfino as the programme

takes shape, which is where you'll be able to sign up. This inaugural event will be free to attend: you get yourselves there, and we'll provide the tutors and, with your help, the friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

GRANTS AVAILABLE

The *Studa Semajnfino* will be held on the 28–29 October in Cambridge. Newmarket Road is about a ten-minute walk away and has a Travelodge and a PremierInn. If a bit of financial support would help you to participate, please contact: tim.owen@esperanto.org.uk. That's the email address to use, too, if you have any questions or are not sure whether the *Studa Semajnfino* may be right for you. We hope to see plenty of you learners there! ■

NOTES FROM THE TRUSTEES' MEETING IN MAY

It was a case of “You haven’t changed a bit!” when the four trustees got together in the middle of May: they’d seen each other only four weeks beforehand, all enjoying our successful conference in Cambridge.

Having a whole set of trustees present at the annual event is something of a rarity: I can’t think of a time when it’s happened before in all my years of involvement with EAB. So there wasn’t really much to talk about.

I kid, I kid: *of course* there was plenty to discuss!

THE WEEKEND HAS SHRUNK

When I came on board as a trustee in late 2010, the trustees held a “working weekend” every year. The ideal was to hold it at Esperanto House within a couple of weekends of the AGM. That way new trustees could get their feet under the table quickly, and the charity’s aims for the next year could be discussed and prioritised promptly. In practice that didn’t necessarily work: trustee boards could be quite large at times, and it wouldn’t necessarily be easy to find mutually convenient times, particular on occasions when there were trustees who didn’t live full time in the UK.

Those working weekends would start on a Friday evening, ending on the Sunday. That might be feasible when the board consists largely of retirees but that 7pm start on a workday makes life difficult for other people who might wish to come on board. We knocked that on the head pretty quickly after the AGM in 2011, when five out of six of us had day jobs. We still somehow managed to fill in the weekend, though, in a classic example of working expanding to fill time. “The timetable says that we’ll be discussing the library for two hours, does it? OK, that’s what we’ll be doing then.” And why was that? Because if you’ve got to fill a weekend, you’re going to have to give everything lengthier slots than they might need.

We’ve abandoned that traditional pattern over the past couple of years. The COVID lockdowns already pushed us in that direction; spending a weekend on Zoom didn’t sound attractive at all, and so we had meetings which were much shorter. But there are other elements in play now, too: the team is small but focussed, with all members of it fully informed, and capable of discussing issues before they even get to the meeting stage. That’s my long-winded way of saying that we need to come up with an alternative expression to “working weekend” because these meetings aren’t what they used to be: they take place on a single day.

And so it was that Edmund Grimley Evans, Clare Hunter, Simone Davis and Anna Langley, along with me, Tim Owen, found themselves in a surprisingly sunny Daventry, where one trustee lives and the others can comfortably commute to. We’ve all been colleagues for quite a while, so a good-natured, productive meeting was definitely part of the agenda.

CONSTITUTION

We recapped that the recent AGM had green-lighted the trustees’ recommendation that the quorum be dropped from 20 to five.

Given that this year’s AGM was much better attended than the previous year’s, I wasn’t sure that there was still the same sense of urgency to formalise the change, and that it might be worth holding off for the future to accompany some larger change. (The 1992 AGM agreed a change which was only put on the ballot in 1995, for example.) We probably won’t delay, though, and so discussed potential minor changes to include with it. One of those is to remove the requirement that the trustees must appoint a secretary from among their number: people get in touch via a generic email address, phone number and contact form, for instance, rather than writing with pen and paper to a trustee bearing a particular title, and we’ve named secretaries for formality’s sake since I stepped down as a trustee several years ago without them actually having anything to do related to the role.

ESPERANTO HOUSE & OFFICE

We recalled that between meetings we had appointed a professional surveyor to explore options regarding the lease to Esperanto House, and to speak with the landlord as required on our behalf. That shouldn’t really come as a surprise to anybody who has read *Update* over the past year and digested the article *Barlastono ... ĝis?* from issue 993 of *La Brita Esperantisto*.

Clare and I were able to report on our experience of running the office following the departure of its long-time manager, Viv O’Dunne. We’re still in the process of finding out what’s involved in EAB administration: it might be the case that some tasks are better in the hands of a third party but so far we’re handling everything, with Clare taking responsibility for the financial tasks and me fulfilment, correspondence, and so on. If you ring the office, you’ll get redirected to a mobile phone. So far I’ve taken more calls on weekends and bank holidays than on work days: isn’t that curious? I suppose I should learn to switch it off ...

Fulfilment is fairly well in hand. EAB has a storage facility located about 3 miles from me, so I can pick orders fairly easily, even if I don’t necessarily drop everything to rush there as soon as an order comes in. We also have a storage facility in Stafford: that became a necessity once we got into publishing and 50 cartons of the ginormous *La aventuroj de Alico en Mirlando* turned up and took over the entirety of the office space; 500 copies of our hardback *La domo ĉe Pu-Angulo* plus our other children’s books hadn’t left much of it. Closing down that original facility is now underway, with its contents being relocated to the nearby one.

PUBLISHING

We looked at sales figures: I was particularly pleased to note that several of our children’s books had sold more than half of the copies printed despite being a minority interest and the implications of Brexit strangling trade with our partners in the EU.

I updated the trustees on progress with various other projects. There’s plenty on the go but it’s a reality that translating full-length titles is a much more time-consuming task than bringing about an Esperanto version of a 32- or 40-page children’s book, so expect a lull compared to the recent breakneck pace. (A question in the opening-night quiz in Cambridge asked how many books EAB had launched between conferences? ELEVEN! The answer would have been even more if we’d also factored in books launched *during* the two conferences!)

I’d analysed the finances for our new paperback offerings prior to the meeting. We make very little from those titles because we keep the sale price so low, usually £10. We receive 60-65% of that sum for each sale but have to factor in relatively high print costs, translation rights, and so forth. The print costs have already risen twice during the last year, and there’s talk by people in the know that a jump is coming again soon. Expect £12 to be the new £10, then; our books *Malgranda frato* and *Malgranda sibo* were launched at that price because at £10 we’d have lost money on each sale!

BITS AND BOBS

We discussed a few other potential ideas. Some you’ll already be aware of: the *Studa Semajnfino* announced in this issue, for example. Others are in the planning stages so will be announced further down the line, and some are, inevitably, non-starters.

One thing we raised is the release cycle of the periodicals. Before Conwy the trustees instructed me to prioritise publishing over *La Brita Esperantisto*; that worked out pretty well because we had more books available for the event, and the conference was then recapped in print soon afterwards rather than six months later. We took the same approach this year, generating the same benefits.

Since *Update* largely comprises news which I’ve already published online or which I write directly for it, and I’m also the editor of *LBE*, we floated the idea of dropping *Update* to two issues a year (in spring and autumn), with *LBE* moving to summer and winter. That would recognise that publishing is likely to remain a pre-conference priority, which pushes *LBE* backwards from its long-time slot anyway, and help avoid the repetition which comes with writing editorial comment in two different periodicals. We didn’t come to a conclusion, so we’ll revisit that another time. ■

TRAIN TO BECOME AN ESPERANTO TEACHER

The Interlinguistics Studies programme at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland, is offering extremely high-level training to help Esperantists become better teachers of the language. EAB will help Esperantists from the UK participate by covering the tuition costs.

The main interlinguistics programme is already well known within Esperanto. The current three-year group is the eighth, and you will have read reports about the Studies in *La Brita Esperantisto*.

When the students reconvene in Poznań in September to begin their final year, there will be a difference: trainee teachers will also be on site for that week. Perhaps you'd like to be one of them. If your language abilities are at least B2, you have a basic knowledge of Esperanto culture, and you've completed A-levels or equivalents, then you've got the bases covered.

TRAINING

The *instruista trejnado* is organised in cooperation with [edukado.net](https://www.edukado.net) and ILEI, the *Internacia Ligo de Esperantistaj Instruistoj*, and is about to start its final one-year programme. The training will present participants with the essential knowledge and skills for effective teach-

ing of Esperanto, and give them a grounding in methodology.

The training is a specialist module for the third-year interlinguistics students, meaning that it will be of university-level standard, with classes delivered by experts in their fields. And it's open to you, too.

CLASSES

You will be taught "Lingvopedagogio" (with Katalin Kováts, Ilona Koutny, Zsófia Kóródy), which takes the form of:

- Bazaj faktoroj de lingvopedagogio (instrumetodoj, instruprocezo, evoluigo de kapabloj, taksado, lingva interfero, ktp).
- Esperanta metodiko (instruado de elparolo, gramatiko, vortoprovizo kaj kulturo, planado de lecionoj kaj kursoj, ktp).
- Instruhelpiloj (de instruista kofro tra eldonaĵoj, filmoj ĝis retkursoj).
- Taksado kaj ekzamenoj.

The programme is complemented by Esperanto-related topics, too, with Ilona Koutny, Suso Moinhos and Mark Fettes:

- Tiklaj punktoj de Esperanto-gramatiko.
- Ĉefaj periodoj kaj verkistoj de Esperanto-literaturo.
- Plej gravaj eventoj de la historio de Esperanto.

▪ Nuntempaj problemoj de la Esperanto-movado.

- Nuntempa Esperanta literaturo.

DATES AND DETAILS

The course launches with a mandatory intensive study week in Poland from 9-15 September. This will be followed by two online weekend sessions in 2023 and again in 2024, and a four-day online session, with an exam, in February. Between these meetings there will be tasks to complete, and students will be able to consult with course leaders and use resources from [edukado.net](https://www.edukado.net).

To complete the training you'll have to hand in a project on a methodology-related topic. You'll present it and undertake a theoretical and practical final exam in September 2024. Once that's done, you'll soon be in receipt of a diploma recognised within the world of Esperanto to confirm that you've undergone the training.

APPLY

EAB is ready to cover the tuition fees for candidates who live in the UK. Feel free to contact tim.owen@esperanto.org.uk if this offer to undergo exceptional training appeals to you. ■

