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2020270070

IMT 4113 - History of Translation
DEU, Translation and Interpreting



Anna Swanwick (22 June 1813 – 2 November 1899)

Biography

Anna Swanwick, an English writer, translator, and philanthropist, born in Liverpool. She early studied German, Greek, and Hebrew, and her translations of Aeschylus and of Goethe's "Faust" rank as standard works. She also wrote several original books, though chiefly known by her translations.

Early Translations

Her first publication, "Selections" from the "Dramas of Goethe" and "Schiller" appeared in 1843. The selections included Goethe's "Torquato Tasso" and "Iphigenia" in Tauris, and Schiller's "Maid of Orleans". In 1850, she released a volume of translations from Goethe containing the first part of "Faust," "Egmont," and the two plays of the former volume. The translations are in blank verse.

Middle Life Works

In 1865 she published a blank-verse translation of the "Trilogy of Aeschylus," and in 1873 of the whole of his dramas. The choruses are in rhymed metres. Her translation has passed through many editions and ranks high among English versions. It keeps fairly close to the original.



Her Approach to Translation

Swanwick was focused on maintaining the literary quality of the original work, often emphasizing the importance of capturing the style, tone, and cultural nuances of the original text in her translations. Swanwick was an advocate for women's rights and education. She believed in the power of literature and language to influence society positively. Her translations were not just about conveying the words but also about communicating the ideas, values, and cultural significance inherent in the texts she translated.

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