

# AN APPROXIMATE TIME LINE OF TWISTED TRANSLATIONS

“The history of translation, like the history of the novel, and like the history of the world, is the history of mistakes,” Adam Thirlwell writes on page seventeen of this issue. Even when things go well, however, any translation requires

a long series of compromises. This may explain why some novelists refuse every translator but themselves, and why they become anxious when their work must travel through a chain of languages to reach its public. But not every

error is for the worse. Here, inspired by Thirlwell’s new book, *The Delighted States*, are some of the most vexing moments in the history of literary translation.

—Jascha Hoffman

