A REPORT ON
TRANSLATIONS OF
THE URANTIA BOOK

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A Report on Translations of The Urantia Book
Noteworthy Decisions from the July 2016 Board of Trustees Meeting

By Georges Michelson-Dupont, Trustee, Manager of Translations, Recloses, France

Translators and revisers work diligently, and everyone at Urantia Foundation is grateful for the efforts and service of these remarkable individuals!

Translation Software: Déjà Vu

In 2013, Urantia Foundation established policies and procedures to achieve its goal of producing the highest quality translations. To implement these policies and procedures, translation software was necessary. In 2015, Jay Peregrine, retired executive director now working with the Translation Committee, investigated a dozen software programs. He concluded that Déjà Vu was the software program best suited for translations and revisions of The Urantia Book. Déjà Vu provides 1) superior project management, 2) helpful translation tools, and 3) effective ways to ensure a consistent use of terms. In addition, the program can confirm if a translation is complete when compared to the English text.

The first step with Déjà Vu was creating exhaustive lists of English terms found in The Urantia Book requiring translation into all target languages. As you can imagine, this is quite a job. Thank you, Jay!

The Term Lists

1. Compound Nouns. There are 477 terms with definitions specific to The Urantia Book. Example: Adamic Sons of the Systems—one of the orders of permanent citizenship, the Material Sons and Daughters known on the planets as Adam and Eve.

In addition, the first reference in the book is included.
2. **Neologisms.** There are 164 new terms with definitions specific to *The Urantia Book.*

Example: Abandonters—a dual-origin being of the stationary order resident on Uversa headquarters spheres.

In addition, the part of speech (male, female, adjective, substantive, etc.), the pronunciation, and the etymology (when possible) are included.

3. **Words in the Dictionary.**

There are 57 terms that may pose difficulties for translators. Example: Absolute—complete and total; not limited in any way; having unlimited power.

In addition, the part of speech, a definition from *The Urantia Book,* and a contextual reference are included.

4. **Ancient Egyptian and Acadian Names.**

There are 39 such terms found in *The Urantia Book.* Example: Amenemope—an ancient Egyptian pharaoh of the Twenty-First Dynasty.

In addition, the meaning is given (when possible) and a reference for other sources: [wikipedia.org/wiki/Amenemope(pharaoh)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amenemope_(pharaoh)).

5. **Ancient Roman Names and Places.**

There are 39 terms found in *The Urantia Book.* Example: Herod Antipas—the son of Herod the Great.

In addition, the meaning (when possible), the Greek name, and a reference from the Bible and *The Urantia Book* are included.

6. **Biblical Greek Names and Places.**

There are 168 terms found in *The Urantia Book.* Example: Abimelech—the man who appropriated Abraham’s wife Sarah after the disappearance of Melchizedek.

In addition, the meaning (when possible), the Greek spelling, and references from
the Bible and *The Urantia Book* are included.

7. **Biblical Hebrew Names and Places.** There are 288 terms found in *The Urantia Book.* Example: Abila—a city in the Decapolis. In addition, the meaning (when possible), the Hebrew spelling, and references from the Bible and *The Urantia Book* are included.

8. **Other Historical Names and Places.** There are 89 terms found in *The Urantia Book.* Example: Agni—the Rig Vedic three-headed fire god.

In addition, the meaning (when possible), the Greek name (when necessary), references from the Bible and *The Urantia Book,* and a reference to another source are included: [wikipedia.org/wiki/Agni](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Agni).

These term lists are necessary for translators and excellent study tools for scholars and students of *The Urantia Book.* These lists total 1,351 terms. When the translation of these lists are complete and uploaded to Déjà Vu, translators and revisers will no longer have to worry about these terms because they will automatically “pop up” when the translator is working in the software system. This assures the consistent use of terms throughout the entire text.

To date, the term lists have been completed and uploaded to Déjà Vu for the French translation and for the Chinese translation in simplified format.

**Translations in Progress**

- **Chinese Translation—Simplified Format**

The translation has been completed through Paper 95. The revision of the Chinese term lists and the uploading of the translated papers to Déjà Vu required the majority of the translator’s time over the past few months.

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**Déjà Vu Translation Software Program Screenshot**
Jean has a library consisting of his translation and about two hundred secondary works and other printed materials related to The Urantia Book. Under agreement with the Danish Royal Library, this collection will be saved and made available for future generations.

The translator has written the following: “My name is Hamid Mazdeh. I was born in Iran, and I come from a Muslim background. In the early nineties, an Iranian doctor introduced The Urantia Book to me. She spoke about the book with such love, respect, and enthusiasm that I became fascinated with it. Soon the book became the centerpiece of my life, and, as the result, my philosophical views became dramatically influenced and transformed by its teachings.

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The Greek translation is being uploaded to Déjà Vu and is being checked against the English text to make sure it is complete. Two readers of the book who speak Greek have expressed interest in reading the translation to help with this verification process.

The Hebrew translation has entered its fifth year. Currently, I am working on the first draft of Paper 147, and my editor is revising Paper 90. Progress is proceeding according to schedule.

“We are looking forward to uploading the translation to Déjà Vu! It will make our lives as translators much easier.

“Please keep us in your prayer!”

For a variety of reasons, the Japanese translation has been the sole work of Hagiko Wattles. Her husband, Jeff, has served as the consultant on the meaning of the English text; Rob Reno has provided technical assistance; there has been some financial
The Foreword and Papers 1 through 72 have been officially signed off on.

To read more on the details of how this revision team works, please see http://www.urantia.org/news/2016-06/revision-portuguese-translation-urantia-book.

• Russian Revision
This revision team consists of Michael Hanian, the chief translator, and Andrey Reznikov, the chief editor. An immense contribution to the revision project was made by Ludmila Pavlova, who supplied hundreds of pages of comments, suggestions, and in-depth analysis of the text. The revision is currently approaching the proofreading stage. The Foundation will do its best in helping Michael and his team create the highest quality translation possible.

• Spanish Revision
This revision team continues to function harmoniously and to generate papers of excellent quality. The copyeditor and the chief reviser sustain their work pace and continue to improve significantly the linguistic aspects of the revised text. To date, the team has revised the Foreword and Papers 1 through 138. The copyeditor has completed editing the Foreword through Paper 35.

Upcoming Translations

• Ukrainian Translation
The project of translating The Urantia Book into Ukrainian began in 2010 with a young lady, Oksana Andrushchyshyn, who lives in Toronto, Canada, and her brother Andrey. She has already translated 45 papers.

In September of 2015, Anton Miroshnichenko of Ukraine approached Urantia Foundation requesting to be a member of the translation team. More details concerning the establishment of this team are being worked out, and the next step will be the completion of the list of terms.

• Proposals
Recently some individuals have proposed to translate The Urantia Book into Tagalog (the language of the Philippines). In addition, conversations have commenced concerning a translation into Urdu (the language of Pakistan). More conversations are required, and we hope to have more information for you in the future.
NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JULY 2016 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

By Judy Van Cleave, Trustee, Secretary, Urantia Foundation, Idaho, United States

1. Recent Activities

The second quarter of 2016 was another productive quarter for Urantia Foundation. The Foundation hosted a booth at BookExpo America, the Chinese translation was evaluated, the basement was partially remodeled to accommodate a library pertinent to The Urantia Book, the Science Symposium was held at 533 with live video streaming, a financial book analysis was completed, the annual report was published, the French translation and the Polish translation were reformatted, the revision of the Korean translation was formatted electronically, distribution of the Lithuanian translation recommenced, continued progress was made on the index, and normal day-to-day duties were conducted. Special thanks go to Joanne, Tamara, and Ashley for outstanding performances during this last quarter. As always, we thank trustees, associate trustees, volunteers, committee members, and special project teams for doing so much work.

2. Community Relations

The Summer conference in San Antonio was a new high water mark in community building since the difficulties of the late 1980s. Urantia Association International (UAI), Urantia Association United States (UAUS), The Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Foundation came together in a joint conference for the first time in decades. The overall quality of the presentations was excellent, but what is more important, the social interactions were friendly and cooperative.

The presidents of the Fellowship, UAI, and Foundation continue their quarterly meetings. They are committed to building bridges of cooperation and trust between all Urantia Book organizations and individuals working to foster these teachings in the world.

3. BookExpo America

Urantia Foundation had a booth at BookExpo America, the largest book show in North America. It was a wonderful experience because Urantia Press debuted The Parables of Jesus—Complete Teachings from The Urantia Book. Its reception was of whole-hearted support because it allows our distributors to reintroduce The Urantia Book to bookstores. It is extremely difficult to keep a book published in 1955 on the bookstore shelf in 2016. We are hopeful that this book will bring renewed interest in The Urantia Book this fall and winter.

4. Financial Book Analysis

Over the last several months we have conducted a detailed cost analysis of every book the Foundation sells. These costs include formatting, printing, shipping, storage, distributor discounts, and returns. We ran the math on hardcover books, paperbacks, leather books, audio books, and eBooks. Simply put, virtually all printed books lose money worldwide, including in the United States. There is simply not enough volume or margins to make money selling Urantia Books. The Foundation is engaged in a truly non-profit venture!

Here are some specifics the analysis highlighted: 1) The English text of The Urantia Book books makes money only because of the profit on eBooks and audio books. All printed copies of the English text lose a small amount of money, and we cannot raise prices because of competitive pricing from another publisher. It is difficult to justify the selling of the English text of The Urantia Book to wealthy North Americans on Amazon.com for $13 while hearing stories of people in...
Ecuador paying $50 per book. It would be better to price the book higher in North America and make the book more affordable in poorer countries. 2) The translations that sell fewer books lose more money than the translations that sell more books. Storage costs significantly reduce the profitability of the book. 3) Except in North America, there is no opportunity to raise prices. In developing countries, people simply cannot afford to buy expensive books. 4) When you compare the costs of printing and storing very slow selling Urantia Books, it seems wiser to build up a reader community via the Internet before printing physical books. Since downloads in all languages significantly surpass physical book sales, starting on the Internet may be the way to launch new translations in the future.

5. Financial Results Through June

The good news: At the end of the first half of the year, year-to-date expenses were $49,165 below budget and $539.57 less than the prior year. The bad news: Donations are below last year. In the first half of 2015 we received two large, one-time gifts totaling $200,000. In 2016 no such gifts have been given. Taking those two gifts out of the calculation, we are still $45,000 less than last year. We have a lot of work to do in order to break even in 2016! After a splendid 2015, it is sobering to have such a tough start this year. The office team is searching for cost savings and committees are saving money wherever possible. Your donations are needed and greatly appreciated!

6. The Chinese Translation

After the April visit of the Chinese translation team, Urantia Foundation is more committed than ever to producing a beautiful, accurate, and affordable Chinese translation of The Urantia Book. A second draft of a high-quality, “simplified” Chinese translation should be completed in 2019.

Reports and Decisions Made at the July 2016 Meeting

1. Associate Trustee News

The board elected Lucretia (Lu) Schanfarber from British Columbia, Canada, as an associate trustee. We welcome this gifted reader of The Urantia Book to our team.

2. Board Reports

The board received the following reports: 1) a report from the president, 2) a financial report from the accountant, 3) a report on investments from the treasurer, and 4) reports from the following committees: Book, Education, Finance, Fundraising, Public Relations, and Translations. A few highlights of what we learned:

- With students from around the world, the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) continues to grow. Classes are taught in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French.

- Book sales are up 18% in the first half of 2016.

- All translations and revisions of translations are proceeding according to our expectations. Growing emphasis is being placed on the Spanish revision and the Chinese translation.

- Education—specifically the Urantia Book Internet School—is becoming a stronger component of Urantia Foundation services.

- Our outside investment team is prudently managing donor funds during these rather uncertain economic times.

- The Parables of Jesus—Complete Teachings from The Urantia Book from Urantia Press became available in mid-September.

- The new “secondary source” education library in the basement has been built, and thanks to a generous donation, hundreds of books relevant to the development of The Urantia Book are in the collection.