

For Immediate Release: April 10, 2007

Yale University Press Receives Generous Gift To Fund Establishment of Important Translation Series

New Haven, CT—Yale University Press is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of a very significant gift from Cecile and Theodore Margellos for the establishment of an endowed fund to support a major new publishing series of foreign literatures in translation. The series, to be called The Cecile and Theodore Margellos World Republic of Letters, will be dedicated to making literary works from around the globe available in English through translation.

The first books signed in the series include: Five Flavor Grove by Can Xue, one of the distinctive voices of contemporary Chinese fiction; The Selected Poems of Umberto Saba, a new verse translation of the great Italian poet's work; The Selected Poems of Adonis, a generous roundup of poems by the great Syrian-born poet and essayist; and the selected poems of the Greek poet Kiki Dimoula.

John Donatich, Director, Yale University Press, formally announced the gift and the establishment of the series today and said, "the great ambition of this series will allow Yale University Press to help reverse the trend against literary translations, that virtual censorship that further insulates our culture. Personally, the program affords me and other editors in the Press the opportunity to fulfill a career dream as well as giving the Press at large another way to contribute to a world culture." Cecile and Ted Margellos also shared their vision for the series, saying, "our strongest belief is that Babel was a blessing, since each and every language reveals another vision of our world's infinite reality. Our dearest wish is, through great translation, to bring these visions together."

The Cecile and Theodore Margellos World Republic of Letter series will identify works of cultural and artistic significance previously overlooked by translators and publishers, canonical works of literature and philosophy needing new translations, as well as important contemporary authors whose work has not yet been translated into English. The series is designed to bring to the English-speaking world leading poets, novelists, essayists, philosophers, and playwrights from Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, to stimulate international discourse and creative exchange.

John Donatich, Director, and Jonathan Brent, Editorial Director and Publisher, Trade Books, Yale University Press, will serve as general editors of the series, and consulting editors will include Umberto Eco, Orhan Pamuk, Charles Simic, and Elie Wiesel, among others. Publication of the books will begin in Yale University Press' centenary year, 2008.

The Whitney Humanities Center at Yale will organize events that both promote individual volumes and showcase the series as a whole. Every year, the Whitney will host the author (when possible) and translator of a selected volume for a two-three day visit to Yale's campus, organize a bilingual reading from the new volume, a reception, encounters with the press, and a book signing.

Cecile and Theodore Margellos

Cecile Inglessis Margellos is a scholar, literary translator and critic. Theodore Margellos is managing director and co-founder of the Ilta Group, a private equity firm. They are the parents of Iliodora Margellos, a member of the Yale College Class of 2006.

Yale University Press

Founded in 1908, Yale University Press is one of the largest and most distinguished American university presses. It publishes over 320 books a year in a wide range of disciplines including history, American Studies, literature, art and architecture, languages, philosophy, politics, religion, reference, music and the sciences.

To learn more about The Cecile and Theodore Margellos World Republic of Letters series, please contact Heather D'Auria, Publicity Director, at 203/432-8193, or heather.dauria@yale.edu.