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### **Enclaves of Liberty'? Translation in Stalinist-Era Poland**

Translation during the highly ideologically charged Stalinist era had a particular capacity to offer an intellectual and literary safe haven, and enabled writers to disengage from the state-sponsored socialist realist project which required them to produce a clearly committed, tendentious literature demonstrating the social and economic advances made under state socialism. Within the spectrum of translation from Russian, although the state prized the rendering of contemporary works of Soviet socialist realism, promoting them as a models for Polish writers, translators could chose to undertake translations of Russian classic literature, thereby doubly evading their responsibility to conform to the obligatory aesthetic. This paper proposes on the basis of archival materials to examine the competences and respective cultural capital of the two bodies that dominate translation production in the early 1950s: the Polish PEN-Club and the Translation Section of the Writers' Union (ZLP). It was under their joint sponsorship that the single major Stalin-era publication in the field, *O sztuce tłumaczeniu* (The Art of Translation), appeared in 1955. While, from the cultural authorities' perspective, the Translation Section was designed to serve primarily as a policing agency, it is clear that its discussions usually focused on issues and problems arising from the practical business of translation. Hence a strong sense of dissociation from current political matters is evident. Conversely, to what extent did the PEN-Club offered a different, and potentially subversive approach to translation?