Memoirs of Mademoiselle de Montpensier (La Grande Mademoiselle).  
P. J. Yarrow with the collaboration of William Brooks

Anne-Marie-Louise d’Orléans (1627–1693), the Grande Mademoiselle, began her memoirs when she was exiled from Paris following her involvement in the Fronde, the civil war that threatened to dislodge the young Louis XIV from his throne. Best remembered for her colourful life, Mademoiselle was the daughter of Gaston d’Orléans, Louis XIII’s troublesome brother. Her mother having died, Gaston married again, and her scheming stepmother and three half-sisters became an irritant to someone whose consciousness of her self-worth dominated almost her every waking thought.

“This remarkable volume will appeal to a range of readers—amateurs d’histoire, undergraduates, or anglophone researchers seeking a vivid aperçu of courtly life in seventeenth-century France. It bodes well for the MHRA New Translations series, of which this is the first and as such sets a high standard indeed.” Juliette Cherbuliez, MLR, 107 (2012), 1253-4.

JSTOR: http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt2jc838  
December 2010. NT1

Flesh by Júlio Ribeiro.  
William Barne

Journalist, pamphleteer and novelist, republican, anticlerical and abolitionist, Júlio Ribeiro (1845–1890) is one of Brazil’s most vigorous writers.  

Flesh (1888), his principal work of fiction, was written in the context of the Brazilian Naturalist movement and inspired very closely by the great French writer Émile Zola, to whom it is dedicated. It tells the story of Lenita, an exceptional young woman in contemporary Brazil, who embarks on a passionate affair with the middle-aged Manuel, son of fazenda (plantation) owner Colonel Barbosa.

Although the most revolutionary social criticism in the novel has to do with the position of woman in society, all the controversial aspects of the work were subsumed in the scandal aroused by its presentation of female sexuality, still startling today. The ensuing scandal was not resolved until the loosening of conventional standards in the 1960s and 70s.

Pbk ISBN 978-1-907322-28-0  
August 2011. NT2

Wilhelm Raabe: German Moonlight / Höxter and Corvey / At the Sign of the Wild Man.  
Trans. by Alison E. Martin, Erich Lehmann, and Michael Ritterson. Ed. by Florian Krobb

This volume assembles English translations of three of Wilhelm Raabe’s most intriguing narratives. Raabe (1831–1910) was one of the most complex and multilayered German writers of the second half of the nineteenth century.

All three narratives, written during the first half of the 1870s, contain stinging criticism of the mentality of complacency so prevalent in the newly-founded German Empire; but they also offer moving stories of personal crisis, quiet heroism and noble resignation.

JSTOR: http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt24hztg  
April 2012. NT3
Wilhelm Raabe: The Birdsong Papers
Trans. by Michael Ritterson.
Introd. by Ritchie Robertson.

Since the beginning of the 'Raabe revival' in the 1960s, a few of Wilhelm Raabe's major works have been translated into English, but the one most clearly missing from the list of 'the essential Raabe' is his next-to-last completed novel, Die Akten des Vogelsangs (1896). What we might call an anti-Bildungsroman, it is perhaps the best example we have of this author as a precursor of German modernist fiction writers.

One finds in the novel a criticism of late-nineteenth-century German (and American) society with its industrial expansion, urbanization, pursuit of wealth, and erosion of conventional values, though a criticism tempered by the narrator's position as a high-ranking bureaucrat with a stake in the stability of that society. More importantly, the narrative records a coming to terms with a subject – the narrator's longtime friend Velten Andres – whose life fascinates and profoundly unsettles him.

Pbk ISBN 978-1-78188-036-4
September 2013. NT4

The guiding principle of this series is to publish new translations into English of important works that have been hitherto imperfectly translated or that are entirely untranslated.

The work to be translated or re-translated should be aesthetically or intellectually important. The proposal should cover such issues as copyright and, where relevant, an account of the faults of the previous translation/s; it should be accompanied by independent statements from two experts in the field attesting to the significance of the original work (in cases where this is not obvious) and to the desirability of a new or renewed translation.

Translations should be accompanied by a fairly substantial introduction and other, briefer, apparatus: a note on the translation; a select bibliography; a chronology of the author's life and works; and notes to the text. (The Oxford University Press World's Classics could serve as a model.) The MHRA would especially encourage submissions for translations from 'smaller' languages.

Titles will be selected by members of the distinguished Editorial Board and edited by leading academics.

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