

Another Napoleonic victory for Dr Patricia Clancy

We take this opportunity of quoting from the *Times Literary Supplement* of 29 September 2000 p.27: The Scott Moncrieff Prize for translation from the French, sponsored by the French Ministry of Culture, the French Embassy and the Arts Council of England, has this year been awarded to Patricia Clancy for her translation of *The Dark Room at Longwood* by Jean-Paul Kauffmann (250pp. Harvill. Paperback, £6.99 [RRP \$A 19.95] ISBN 1 86046 774 1). Kauffmann's account of his nine-day visit to the island of St Helena to explore the circumstances of Napoleon's exile and death was received with critical acclaim when first published in 1997. In the *TLS* "International Books of the Year" (December 5, 1997), Julian Barnes described it as "an engaging hybrid, part colourful evocation of what remains, part traced meditation on the finality of what has vanished". Patricia Clancy is a former lecturer in the French Department of Melbourne University; her translations include Simon Leys's *The Death of Napoleon* (1991) and Pierre Magnan's *The Murdered House* (1999). Gillian Tindall, in her review of *The Dark Room at Longwood* (*TLS*, September 24, 1999) described the translation as "scrupulous". Clancy certainly succeeds in conveying the strange atmosphere of the island and house where its most famous prisoner spent his last years (increasingly in the bathtub, still in situ). The prize is worth £1,000, and the judges were Sally Sampson, Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson and John Weightman. [After retirement from her Senior Lectureship, Dr Clancy has been made a Senior Fellow with the Department of French and Italian Studies, where she continues her research and translating and the edition of *Explorations*.]

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