



# Minnesota Interpreter NEWSLETTER

## HAPPY BELATED INTERPRETER AND TRANSLATOR DAY!

ADAPTED FROM WIKIPEDIA & TRANSLATIONMUSINGS

Interpreters and translators celebrate September 30th as their day, since it is the Feast Day of the patron saint of librarians, scripture scholars, students, and of course, translators and interpreters. Eusebius Hieronymus Sophronius, better known today as Saint Jerome, was born sometime between 340 and 347 AD in Stridon, which is located on the Italian side of the modern Italian-Croatian border. He studied theology in Trier.

St. Jerome is one of the few people awarded sainthood in recognition of services rendered to the Church rather than for eminent sanctity or miracles. St. Jerome earned his place in history mainly for his translations and revisions of the Bible. He revised translations of the Gospels and the Psalms and translated the Old and New Testaments into Latin. This translation was recognized eleven centuries later by the Council of Trent as the official version of the Bible: the Vulgate.

Jerome's humility regarding his own work set a good example for translators who followed him. He freely admitted ignorance, even embarrassment, when warranted, and revisited some of his translations, making corrections and additions. On the other hand, he also pointed out that a translation's accuracy

depended greatly on the reliability of the source text: copyists often inadvertently introduced errors, which would be compounded and passed down through the centuries. This appears to be a phenomenon that still occurs in moderne times and despite high-tech during the globalization of commerce.

The following is something we have seen in modern times too. Perhaps Eusebius' most famous mistranslation put horns on Moses's head. The original Hebrew scripture (Exodus 34) stated that when Moses descended from Mt. Sinai, he had "rays of light" coming from his head. The Hebrew word can also mean "horns," and Jerome chose the latter meaning. This error has been perpetuated to the present in many ways. When Michelangelo sculpted a marble Moses in 1515, he relied on Jerome's description in the Latin Vulgate translation. The resulting 235-cm-high horned statue can be seen in Rome (S. Pietro in Vincoli) today.

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### Is There an Event Sponsored by ISG Soon?

**You bet!** ISG is presenting in Mankato, MN, on Saturday October 8, 2011, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. This event will take place at the Blue Earth County Library in Mankato, MN: 100 East Main Street, Mankato, MN 56001.

### Who should attend this presentation?

All interpreters from Blue Earth County and surrounding counties are welcome!

This information can be found at [www.isgmidwest.org](http://www.isgmidwest.org)