

W. G. Posthumus
G. J. Abols
S. M. Jusyp

May 23, 1984

Mr. Martin W. Myers
URANTIA Foundation
533 Diversey Parkway
Chicago, Illinois
U.S.A. 60614

Dear Sir:

Re: URANTIA Book Translations

I am a URANTIA book reader. I have also been involved in two of the groups which meet regularly in the Toronto area.

I am writing specifically to voice an opinion, and to ask some questions about the direction the URANTIA Foundation has taken with translations of the book.

I understand that there is a French translation of the book, and that a Spanish one is under way.

I am concerned (together with others) that the URANTIA movement is leaving out those upon whom the book can have the greatest impact--the Russians and the Chinese.

I am both surprised and perplexed that since publication in 1955, the book has not been translated into either Russian or Chinese, or both. How long are those two populous cultures, which arguably need the book most, going to be left out?

The West is and has been in confrontation with both Russia or China since the second world war. We know the impact the URANTIA book can have, and also how slowly it must be allowed to permeate any culture.

All URANTIA readers whom I have met are very concerned about superpower confrontation, the threat of global war, and war in general.

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The threat of war exists in large part because of the political systems in force in Russia and China, and the mentality that results.

I would like to suggest that the URANTIA book, if translated into Russian and Chinese, and delivered into those societies, would eventually help to change those societies for the better, and facilitate the easing of tension. Released into those societies, the URANTIA book might ultimately be the difference between several more generations of confrontation, war or both, and succeeding generations of peace.

Most URANTIA readers have had to disabuse their minds to greater or lesser degrees of their particular conventional religious system. Can you imagine the effect that the URANTIA book would have in cultures in which religion has been banned or forced underground to the extent it exists at all?

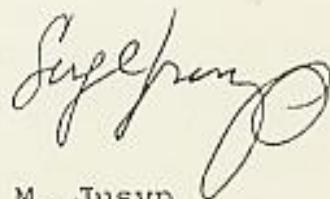
I would like to suggest as well that both Russian and Chinese translations be priority projects. I certainly would be prepared to devote both time and resources to assist, and I am certain that there are many others out there who would do the same.

This is obviously something that would involve the commitment of substantial resources, but I am convinced that it will be money well utilized.

For my own part, I would welcome the opportunity to visit Chicago and persuade you further in person, should you feel that would be appropriate.

I look forward to hearing from you, and thank you for your attention.

Yours very truly,



Serge M. Jusyp

SMJ:lz

P.S. Copies of this letter are and will be circulated among readers.

u.B.

X File ← Translations
S.M. Jusyp



URANTIA FOUNDATION
533 DIVERSEY PARKWAY CHICAGO ILLINOIS 60614

June 11, 1984

Mr. S. M. Jusyp
Posthumus & Abols
Suite 1900/700 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1Z6
CANADA

Dear Mr. Jusyp:

We are always pleased to hear from readers of The URANTIA Book, but we are especially delighted to hear from those interested in the matter of translating The URANTIA Book into other languages.

Your interest in realizing translations of The URANTIA Book into Russian and Chinese is encouraging.

The reasons why The URANTIA Book has not been translated into other languages are chiefly due to the nature of the extensive work involved, and especially the cost. Currently as you are aware, we are engaged in the production of a Spanish translation. The cost for this alone is estimated to be \$350,000.00. Spanish is a relatively easy language in which to realize translations from English. Russian, and especially Chinese, are much more difficult and would require a greater expenditure of funds. This in itself is of course not an insurmountable problem, and in due course URANTIA Brotherhood may well take this matter under serious consideration.

For the time being, we have focused our attention on those languages spoken by people who are spread over a wide geographical area, are a part of twentieth century cultures and who live in political and ideological environments where the book would have a more or less free and unimpeded distribution. With the completion of the Spanish translation, we will have the teachings of The URANTIA Book in two other major languages (French and Spanish) besides English, which more or less has itself become the lingua franca of our planet.

An ongoing discussion over the years has been carried on among various readers of The URANTIA Book concerning translations. This discussion is currently focused among the deliberations of the International Fellowship Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood, to whom you will note we are sending a copy of your letter and this response for their further consideration and deliberation.

Mr. S. M. Jusyp

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As you can imagine, other language groups have been suggested besides Russian and Chinese, particularly Japanese and some of the other Indo-European languages.

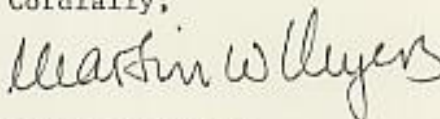
You will be happy to know that the Trustees have, with the help of a very interested reader, done considerable investigation into the production of The URANTIA Book into Chinese. This is a major task just because of cultural differences and even then one must face the difficulties of the Chinese language, and then finally the cultural and political impediments to the spread of the book in Chinese within China. There are of course additional considerations which I won't go into here, but please be assured that this is a matter that we are continuing to look into.

For the time being we are aware that both French and English editions of The URANTIA Book have found their way into the Soviet Union. This of course is hardly but a token beginning, but, nevertheless, it is a beginning and indicative of things to come in the future.

It would be a delight to spend time with you personally and I invite you to come to Chicago, perhaps over a week-end, when it will be possible to spend some time with you in exploring these and other matters in greater detail should you so desire.

Please accept our sincere best wishes and know that we are grateful for your expression of interest and support for realizing further translations of The URANTIA Book.

Cordially,



Martin W. Myers
President

MWM:kfm

cc: URANTIA Brotherhood
International Fellowship Committee