

RICHARD DIXON was born in Coventry, attended King Henry VIII School, and graduated in Business Law at Lanchester Polytechnic, Coventry. He became a Middle Temple barrister in 1978.

He practised for nine years at no. 2 Dr Johnson's Buildings, Temple, London, in mainly criminal cases, including appearances in the Court of Appeal and House of Lords (now the Supreme Court).

He left the law in 1989 and moved to Italy's Marche region with his partner, now husband, Peter Greene. During the early 1990s, they wrote guidebooks including *Italy on Backroads* (Duncan Petersen, 1993); *3-D City Guide: Rome* (Duncan Petersen, 1995); *Charming Small Hotels: Tuscany and Umbria* (Duncan Petersen, 1995); *Central Italy: The Versatile Guide* (Duncan Petersen, 1996) and *Le Marche: The Gateway to Central Italy* (Aerdorica, 2000).

His radio play *Just Another Case* was broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and BBC World Service in 1992. *Daniel's Complaint*, written for theatre, received professional readings.

He became a full-time translator in 1996. He has been a member of the **Associazione Italiana Traduttori e Interpreti** since 2009, an honorary member since 2021, and a member of the **Society of Authors** since 2012.

Published translations:

One of seven translators in the Zibaldone Project working between 2006 and 2009 on the first English translation of the *Zibaldone di Pensieri* by **Giacomo Leopardi**, edited by Michael Caesar and Franco D'Intino, and published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux (New York) and Penguin Books (London), July 2013 (ISBN: 978-0-374-29682-7; 978-0-141-19440-0).

The Prague Cemetery, novel by **Umberto Eco**; published by Harvill Secker (London) and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (New York), November 2011 (ISBN: 978-1-846-5549-1; 978-0-547-57753-1).

Shortlisted for the **Independent Foreign Fiction Prize, 2012**: Jon Cook (one of the judges): "With terse wit and engaging erudition, Eco's best novel since *The Name of the Rose* shows that the Holocaust was a catastrophe a long time in the making."

Robert Gordon in **Times Literary Supplement**, 3 February 2012: "Dixon does an extremely able job in containing the sheer flow of stuff, and managed to hold on to the vigour and narrative thrust which are there in large parts of the original."

"A Convinced Bewilderment", preface by **Umberto Eco** to *Fabio Mauri: Ideology and Memory*, published by Bollati Boringhieri (Milan), May 2012, pp.ix-xvi (ISBN: 978-88-339-2379-6).

Inventing the Enemy, essays by **Umberto Eco**; published by Harvill Secker (London) and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (New York), September 2012 (ISBN: 978-1-846-55503-9; 978-0-547-64097-6).

"One Language, Many Cultures", essay by **Claudio Magris**, published in *Almost Island* (2012).

"Those Studio Days", essay by **Umberto Eco**, published in *Musikblätter*, November 2012.

Semantic Polarities and Psychopathologies in the Family: Permitted and Forbidden Stories by **Valeria Ugazio**; published by Routledge in April 2013 (ISBN: 978-0-415-82307-4).

Poems by **Eugenio De Signoribus**, published in *Nuovi argomenti*, August 2013.

Poems by **Eugenio De Signoribus**, published in the *Journal of Italian Translation*, Volume VIII, no. 2, Fall 2013, pp.11-21.

The Combover by **Adrián N. Bravi**, published by Frisch & Co, November 2013 (ISBN: 978-0-9891267-4-8).

Poems by **Franco Buffoni** in *Canone Inverso: Anthology of Contemporary Italian Poetry*, edited by Pietro Montorfani, Gradiva Publications, January 2014, pp.189-203 (ISBN 1-892021-53-6).

Translation of author's revisions to *The Name of the Rose* by **Umberto Eco**, published by Mariner Books (New York) and Vintage Books (London) in April 2014 (ISBN: 978-0-099-46603-1)

Ardor, book-length essay by **Roberto Calasso**, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux (New York) and Penguin Books (London) in November 2014 (ISBN 978-0-374-18231-1; 978-0-241-01176-8).

Pankaj Mishra in *The New York Times*, 19 December 2014: "Calasso's prose is scrupulously lucid and elegant in Richard Dixon's translation."

Poems by **Eugenio De Signoribus** in *Almost Island*, Issue no. 11, December 2014.

Translation of an online interview with **Roberto Saviano** by English PEN on the publication of *Zero Zero Zero*, July 2015.

Poems by **Silvia Bre** and **Franco Buffoni** for *Prix Italia 2015*, broadcast on Radio Tre, 23 September 2015; *Testo a Fronte*, Issue no. 53, published by Marcos y Marcos (Milan) 2015, pp.44-51 (ISBN 978-8-871687-3-08).

"The Last Superstition" by **Roberto Calasso**, in *Res: Anthropology and Aesthetics* (Book 65) (ed. Francesco Pellizzi), published by Peabody Museum Press, New York, August 2015, pp.403-407 (ISBN: 978-0-87365-866-9).

Numero Zero by **Umberto Eco**, published by Harvill Secker (London) and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (New York), November 2015 (ISBN: 978-0-544-63508-1; 978-1-910-70108-9);

John Florio Prize, 2017: commended translation: "Richard Dixon captures brilliantly the intricacies and surprises of Umberto Eco's unpredictable narrative, the richness and playfulness of its language [...] giving us a lively, thoroughly enjoyable reading experience."

Alberto Manguel in *The Guardian*, 26 November 2015: "*Numero Zero* has been brilliantly translated into English by Richard Dixon, who has been able to catch the changes of voice and tone of the characters, and find English equivalents for the Italian jokes and wordplay."

The Art of the Publisher, by **Roberto Calasso**, published by Farrar Straus & Giroux (New York) and Penguin Books (London), November 2015 (ISBN: 978-0-374-18823-8; 978-0-141-97848-2).

Italian Contemporary Poets: an anthology – ed. Franco Buffoni, published by the Federazione Unitaria Italiana Scrittori, February 2016 (ISBN 978-88-99773-09-0).

Translations of poems by: **Nanni Balestrini, Silvia Bre, Franco Buffoni, Giuseppe Conti, Roberto Deidier, Eugenio De Signoribus, Gianni D’Elia, Biancamaria Frabotta, Bruno Galluccio, Vivian Lamarque, Francesca Matteoni, Aldo Nove, Elio Pecora, Andrea Raos, Antonio Riccardi, Mario Santagostini, Gian Mario Villalta, Cesare Viviani, Valentino Zeichen**

Reflections on Pain by **Umberto Eco**, published by ASMEPA (Bologna), February 2016 (ISBN 978-88-97620-31-0).

The First German Philosopher: The Mysticism of Jakob Böhme as Interpreted by Hegel by **Cecilia Muratori** (translated with Raphaëlle Burns), published by Springer, March 2016 (ISBN 978-94-017-7338-6).

Distant Light by **Antonio Moresco**, published by Archipelago Books (New York), March 2016 (ISBN 978-0-914671-42-8).

Shortlisted for the **American Literary Translators Association Italian Prose in Translation Award 2017**: “Dixon’s translation captures the cadences of Moresco’s prose and his lush, vivid imagery, while also successfully navigating between the narrative’s tangible world and its challenging, metaphysical reflections.”

Shortlisted for the **International Dublin Literary Award 2018**

Stiliana Milkova in **Reading in Translation**, 10 April 2018: “Dixon’s translation works wonders in English, while preserving the text’s own magic. [...] Life and death, rapture and agony, sky and earth, screeching and silence [are] all experienced and delivered through the narrator’s sharp eye and environmental sensibility, in Dixon’s morbidly evocative language.”

Dante: The Story of His Life by **Marco Santagata**, published by Harvard University Press, April 2016 (ISBN 978-0-674-50486-8).

Tim Parks in the **London Review of Books**, July 2016: “Elegantly translated...”

Peter Hainsworth in the **Times Literary Supplement**, October 2016: “Marco Santagata has been well served by his translator, Richard Dixon.”

Poems by **Franco Buffoni**, published in the *Journal of Italian Translation*, Volume XI, no. 2, Fall 2016, pp. 171-195

Paper Bugs by **Alcide Pierantozzi**, published in *The Florentine Literary Review*, Issue 002, May 2017, pp. 38-47.

“Why Philosophy?” by **Umberto Eco**, in *The Philosophy of Umberto Eco*, The Library of Living Philosophers Vol. XXXV, ed. Sara Beardsworth & Randall Auxier, published by Open Court (Chicago) in May 2017 (ISBN 978-0812699623).

“The Stones of Kardamyli” by **Roberto Calasso**, in *Patrick Leigh Fermor: The Journey Continues*, Mouseio Benaki 9th supplement, published by Benaki Museum (Athens) in October 2017, pp. 239-244 (ISBN 978-960-476-222-4).

The Experience of Pain by **Carlo Emilio Gadda**, published by Penguin Books (London) in October 2017 (ISBN 978-0-141-39539-5).

Chronicles of a Liquid Society by **Umberto Eco**, published by Harvill Secker (London) and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (New York) in November 2017 (ISBN 978-1-911-21531-8; 978-0-544-97448-7).

Anna Aslanyan in **Financial Times**: “Eco’s famously ironic voice, well preserved in Richard Dixon’s translation, is penetrating.”

The Ruin of Kasch by **Roberto Calasso**, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux (New York) and Penguin Books (London) in January 2018 (ISBN 978-0374252106; 978-0141397016).

Poems by **Eugenio De Signoribus**, published in the Journal of Italian Translation, Volume XIII no. 1, Spring 2018, pp. 126-133.

The Javelin Thrower by **Paolo Volponi**, published by University of Chicago Press and Seagull Books in January 2019 (ISBN 978-0857425393; 978-0857425393).

The Mother, a short story by **Carlo Emilio Gadda**, in *The Penguin Book of Italian Short Stories*, ed. Jhumpa Lahiri, published in March 2019 (pp. 261-272) (ISBN 978-0-241-29983-8).

The Unnamable Present by **Roberto Calasso**, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux and Allen Lane in April 2019 (ISBN 978-0374279479; 978-0241344637).

John Banville in **The New York Review of Books**: “Richard Dixon’s English translation is wonderfully supple and elegant.”

Crossing the Rubicon: Caesar’s Decision and the Fate of Rome by **Luca Fezzi**, published by Yale University Press in November 2019 (ISBN 9780300241457)

The Celestial Hunter by **Roberto Calasso**, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux and Allen Lane in April 2020 (ISBN 978-0374120061; 978-0241296745).

A. E. Stallings in **The New York Times**, 28 April 2020: “That these stylish sentences come through with such verve in English — one is almost never aware the book is a translation from the Italian — is due in no small part to the translator, Richard Dixon.”

Boyd Tonkin in the **Financial Times**, 11 May 2020: “At best, [Calasso] writes like a poet, not a professor, in glinting, enigmatic nuggets of narrative finely voiced by his translator Richard Dixon.”

Patrick Curry in the **Times Literary Supplement**, 6 November 2020: “well translated by Richard Dixon.”

The Lehman Trilogy by **Stefano Massini**, published by HarperVia in June 2020 (ISBN 978-0062940445).

Dwight Garner in **The New York Times**, June 29, 2020: “Massini’s original text, a novel in verse, has now been issued in English for the first time, in a translation by Richard Dixon. It’s a monster, a 700-page landslide of language with no obvious speaking parts. But it’s apparent right from the start that Massini is the real thing. His writing is smart, electric, light on its feet.”

How to Spot a Fascist by **Umberto Eco**, translated with Alastair McEwen, published by Vintage in August 2020 (ISBN 978-1787302662)

Poetics of the Oriental Rug by **Sergio Bettini**, published in “The Life of Things: The Rug”, MacGuffin Magazine, December 2020 (ISBN 977-2405820002)

The Review Years by **Roberto Calasso**, in *Liberties*, Issue 2 – Winter 2021 (ISBN 978-1735718712)

Valse Triste by **Marcello Fois**, published by Maclehorse Press in February 2021 (ISBN 978-0857058843).

Peter Wild in **Bookmunch**, 2 March 2021: “Richard Dixon should be commended for his excellent translation of the Italian original. The English text feels authentic and believable and reads without awkwardness.”

“The Central Role of the Concept of Rhythm” by **Franco Buffoni**, published in ***Specimen: The Babel Review of Translations***, August 2021.

The Book of Nonexistent Words by **Stefano Massini**, published by HarperVia, October 2021 (ISBN 978-0063004795).

South 1982 by **Adrián N. Bravi**, published by Jetstone, March 2022 (ISBN 978-1910858233)

Translated excerpt from ***Canto degli alberi*** by **Antonio Moresco** (Aboca, 2020) with introduction, in *The Italian Riveter*, April 2022, pp. 101-102.

Clandestinity by **Antonio Moresco**, published by Deep Vellum, May 2022 (ISBN 978-1-64605-172-4).

Walking alone, at night by **Antonio Moresco**, street performance, Milan, 18-21 October 2023

Forthcoming

Philosophy of the Home: Domestic Space and Happiness by **Emanuele Coccia**, published by Penguin Books, April 2024 (ISBN 978-1-802-06101-7)

The World Machine by **Paolo Volponi**, published by University of Chicago Press and Seagull Books, May 2023 (ISBN: 978-1-803-09376-5)

Essays & articles

Lo Zibaldone di Leopardi – Come è letta la poesia italiana all'estero, interview with Paolo Ercolani [in Italian and English], “Nuovi argomenti”, Issue 72, 20 June 2014.

Translating Il Cimitero di Praga, in *About Eco*, ed. Giuliana Adamo and Marco Sonzogni, Edizioni Joker, 2015, pp. 39-51.

The English Translation of Umberto Eco's Il Cimitero di Praga, *Lingue e Linguaggi*, Vol 14 (2015), pp. 85-93.

Playing on Words: Challenges in Translating Umberto Eco's Numero Zero, *Signata 7: Annals of Semiotics* (Presses Universitaires de Liège, 2016), pp. 378-390.

The Experience of Pain: una nuova traduzione de La cognizione del dolore in lingua inglese – Giacomo Agnoletti in conversazione con Richard Dixon – *Labirinti 190* (University of Trento, December 2021), pp. 175-188.

Events

09/07/2011 *Lo Zibaldone di Giacomo Leopardi tradotto in inglese* – Salone della Parola, Palazzo Gradari, Pesaro (PU), with Franco D'Intino and Antonio Prete.

25/02/2012 **Conversation with Umberto Eco** at the Italian Cultural Institute, London.

11/05/2012 *The English Translation of Umberto Eco's Il Cimitero di Praga*, *Literary Translation in Practice*, University of Salento.

07/02/2014 *Fortuna e attualità dello Zibaldone di Leopardi: il primo ipertesto dell'epoca moderna in traduzione inglese* – Polo Culturale di Eccellenza, Cagli (PU)

05/02/2014 *Lo Zibaldone di Leopardi: un blog ottocentesco*, interview with Paolo Ercolani, *Il Manifesto*

15/03/2014 *Lo Zibaldone in inglese: un progetto insolito* – Associazione Italiana Traduttori e Interpreti – Senigallia (AN).

- 08/05/2014 ***Lavorare nell'editoria oggi*** – XXVII Salone Internazionale del Libro, Turin – L'autore invisibile: Incontri professionali sulla traduzione editoriale – with Rossella Bernascone, Luisa Capelli and Marina Morpurgo.
- 24/08/2014 ***Premio La Ginestra 2014*** – Porto Recanati – awarded as representative of the seven translators of Leopardi's ***Zibaldone di pensieri***.
- 08/04/2015 ***Leopardi, lo Zibaldone e l'esperienza del traduttore*** – L'Accademia dei Catenati, Macerata.
- 14/08/2015 ***Shakespeare on Stage*** – Casa della Poesia, Urbino – presentation of ***Shakespeare on Stage*** by Julian Curry (Nick Hern Books: London, 2010) – in conversation with the author.
- 12/01/2016 ***Umberto Eco e i suoi traduttori*** – UNILIT, Cagli (PU).
- 05/05/2016 ***Carlo Emilio Gadda, La cognizione del dolore: structure, sound and language*** – translation workshop – University of Warwick.
- 23/01/2017 ***Shakespeare in Italia*** – UNILIT, Cagli (PU).
- 30/01/2017 ***Paolo Volponi, Il lanciatore di giavellotto: language and context*** – translation workshop – University of Warwick
- 22/03/2018 **Conversation with Antonio Moresco** at Otherwise Bookshop, Rome.
- 19/04/2018 **Gadda, Dixon e l'autore (quasi) invisibile** – Biblioteca San Giovanni, Pesaro.
- 05/09/2018 ***Oltre il confine*** – **BookMarchs 2018** – Antica Stamperia Fabiani, Petritoli (FM), with Adrián N. Bravi and Fabio Pedoni.
- 14/01/2019 ***Italiani a Londra nel '500*** – UNILIT, Cagli (PU).
- 15/03/2019 ***The Task of the Translator*** – King Henry VIII School, Coventry.
- 02-09/04/2019 ***Laboratorio ViceVersa italiano-inglese*** – Villa Garbald, Castasegna, Switzerland, workshop leader with Anna Rusconi
- 11/05/2019 ***Leopardi traduttore e tradotto*** – Salone Internazionale del Libro, Torino, with Franco D'Intino and Fabio Pedoni.
- 23/05/2019 ***The Invisible Translator*** – Ashbourne Public Library, Derbyshire.
- 30/05/2019 ***Tra le lingue: La traduzione letteraria di testi classici e contemporanei*** – Casa delle Letterature, Rome, with Jhumpa Lahiri, Michael Moore and Enrico Terrinoni.
- 31/08/2019 ***Una "strana" verità: Crivelli, Gadda e la scrittura come traduzione di un quadro*** – Polo Museale S. Francesco, Montefiore Dell'Aso (AP), with Fabio Pedone.

- July 2020 Judging the **American Literary Translators Association 2020 Italian Prose in Translation Award**, with Jeanne Bonner and Tony Shugaar
 Winner:
I Am God by **Giacomo Sartori**, translated by **Frederika Randall** (Restless Books)
 Shortlisted titles:
At the Wolf's Table by Rosella Postorino, trans. Leah D. Janeczko (Flatiron Books)
Beyond Babylon by Igiaba Scego, trans. Aaron Robertson (Two Lines Press)
The Bishop's Bedroom, by Piero Chiara, trans. Jill Foulston (New Vessel Press)
Ithaca Forever by Luigi Malerba, trans. Douglas Grant Heise (University of California Press)
- 04/04/2021 **“Colpo Grosso” mi aiutò a tradurre Leopardi**, interview with Angelo Ferracuti, *La Lettura*, “Corriere della Sera”, pp.28-28; republished in “Retabloid”, April 2021, pp.10-13 (http://www.oblique.it/images/retabloid/2021/retabloid_apr21.pdf)
- 14/04/2021 Interview with **Maria Francesca Alfonsi** broadcast on **RAI TV** regional and national networks.
- 28/07/2021 Interview with Alexandra Alter of the “New York Times” for her article: **“Roberto Calasso, Renaissance Man of Letters, Dies at 80”**, published on 30 July 2021.
- 02/08/2021 **Conversazione a quattro: Four translators discussing the challenges and joys of translating Italian Literature**, with Howard Curtis, Katherine Gregor and Lori Hetherington, European Literature Network – <https://www.eurolitnetwork.com/the-italianist-riveting-italian-books-you-need-to-know-about-by-katherine-gregor-conversazione-a-quattro/>
- 16/10/2021 Interview with **Paolo Grossi** for “**New Italian Books**” – in English at <https://www.newitalianbooks.it/interview-with-richard-dixon-translator-of-classic-and-contemporary-italian-literature/> and in Italian at <https://www.newitalianbooks.it/it/intervista-a-richard-dixon-traduttore-di-letteratura-italiana-classica-e-contemporanea/>
- 12/03/2022 **Language and Voice: notes on the translation of La cognizione del dolore** – Final Lecture at **Editions, Translations, Transmissions: ‘That Awful Mess’ of Carlo Emilio Gadda** – Exeter College, Oxford, 12 March 2022.
- 12/05/2022 **Tradurre Gadda oggi** – in dialogo con Federica Pedriali – Italian Literature International Observatory, Aula Forti, Dipartimento FICLIT, Università di Bologna
- 28/05/2022 **Anatomia del linguaggio** – Interview with Silvia Veroli in **“Il Manifesto”**
- 18/06/2022 **Sound, rhythm, language. Workshop sulla traduzione in inglese di tre poeti contemporanei** – **Franco Buffoni, Eugenio De Signoribus, Alba Donati** – Festival Internazionale di Poesia “Parole Spalancate”, Sala Liguria, Palazzo Ducale, Genova

Tradurre poesia: mission (im)possibile? Tavola rotonda con **Bruno Berni, Massimo Bacigalupo, Massimo Morasso, Laura Salmon** – Cortile Maggiore, Palazzo Ducale, Genova.

08/07/2023 ***Letteratura marchigiana nel paesaggio di Paolo Volponi*** – *in conversation with Alessio Torino and Alberto Mazzacchera* – Isola di San Cristoforo, Cagli – organized by the Fondazione Ambiente Italiana.

29/09/2023 **Di Piede In Piede, Di Metro In Metro. Due Passi, Anzi Tre, Nella Traduzione Di Poesia** - Casa delle Letterature, Piazza dell'Orologio, Rome

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