



Georges Simenon en anglais : périphéries et visibilités

Delphine Coppin
25/06/2026

De l'écrivain liégeois à l'auteur mondial : la circulation de l'œuvre de Georges Simenon en traductions

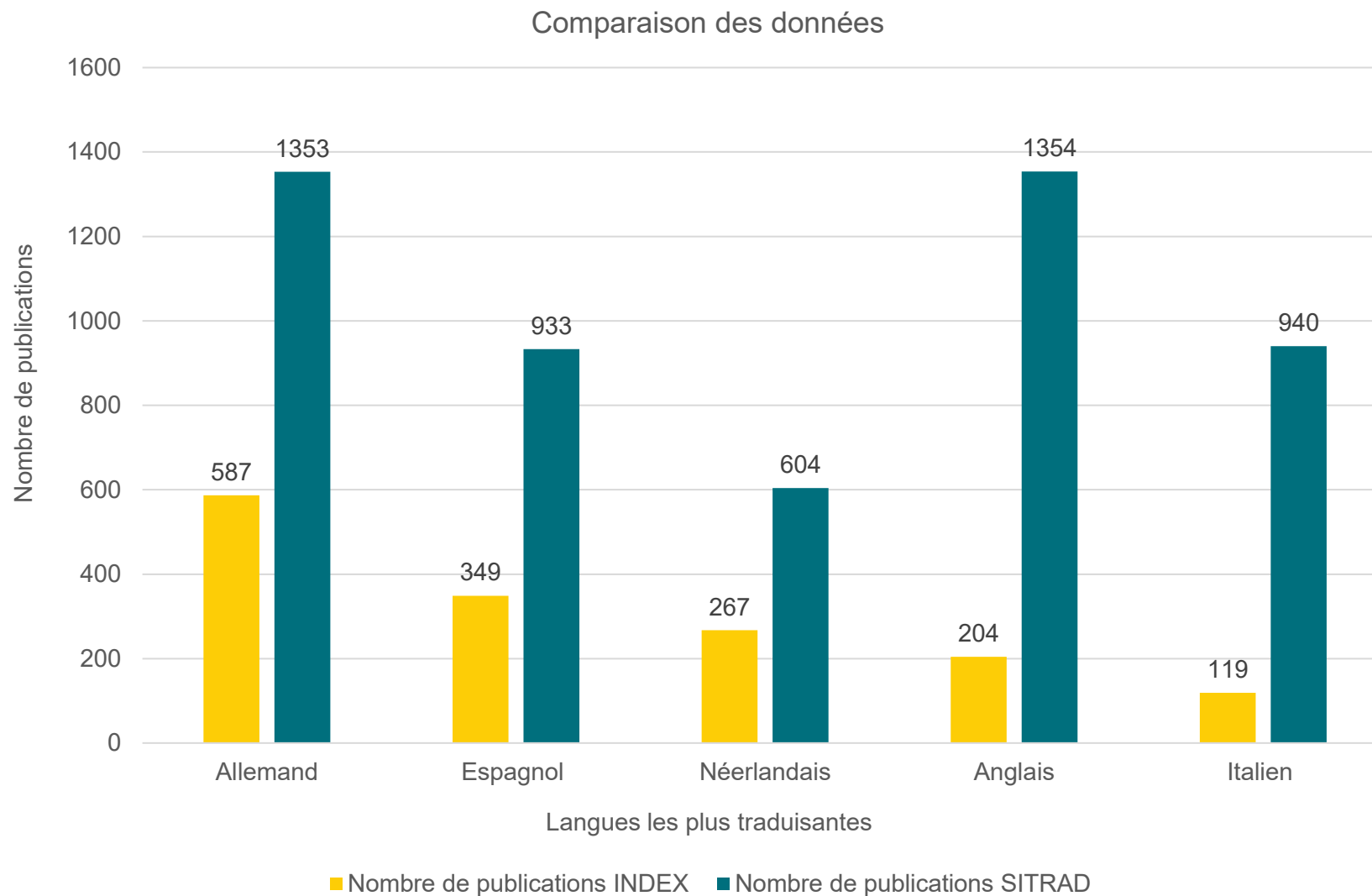


Les (ré)éditions des (re)traductions anglaises des 217 **romans** publiés **sous patronyme** de 1932 à nos jours :

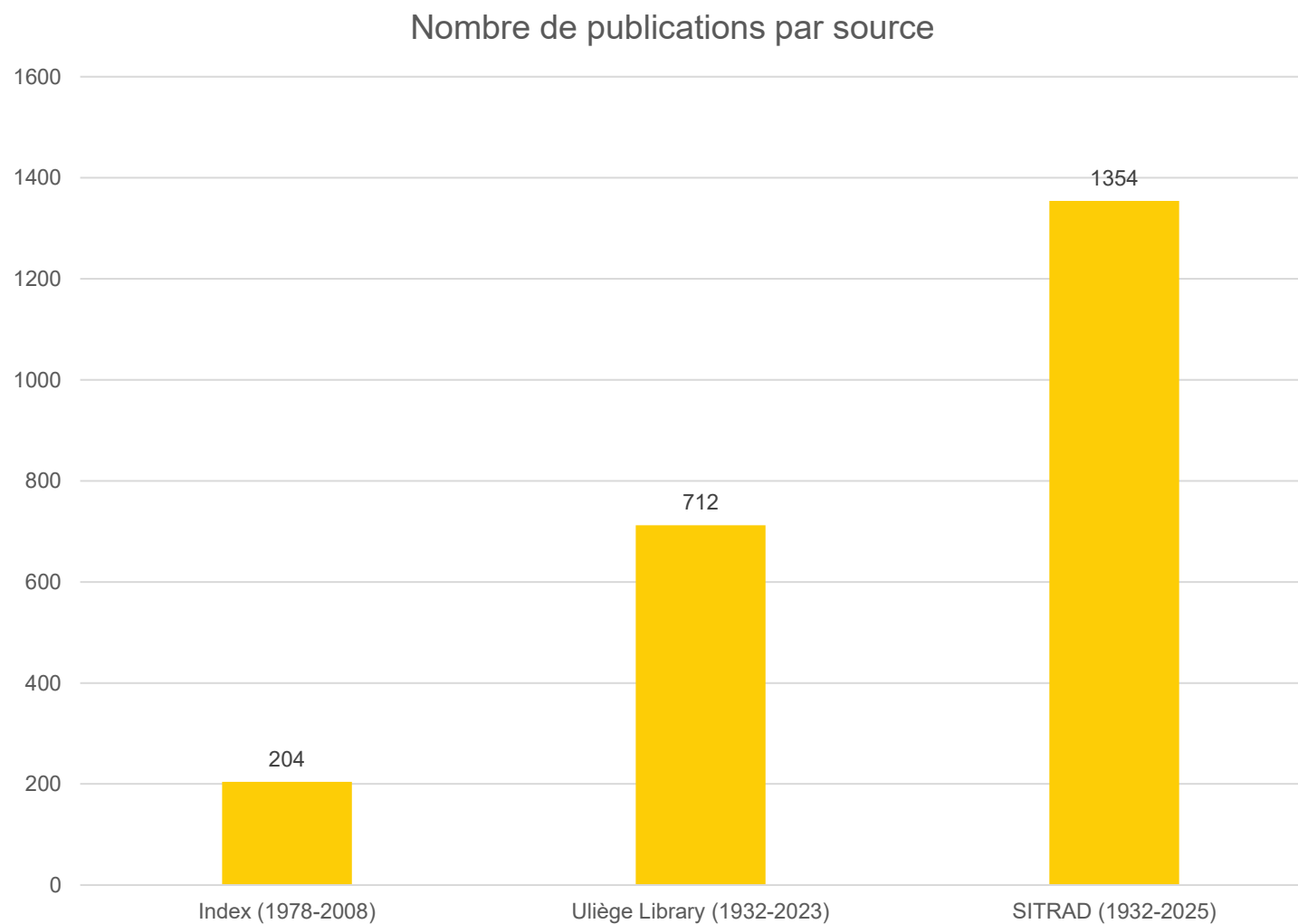
- 75 « Maigret »
- 117 « romans durs »
- 25 « littératures personnelles »

 Nouvelles

Index Translationum >< SITRAD (1932-2025)



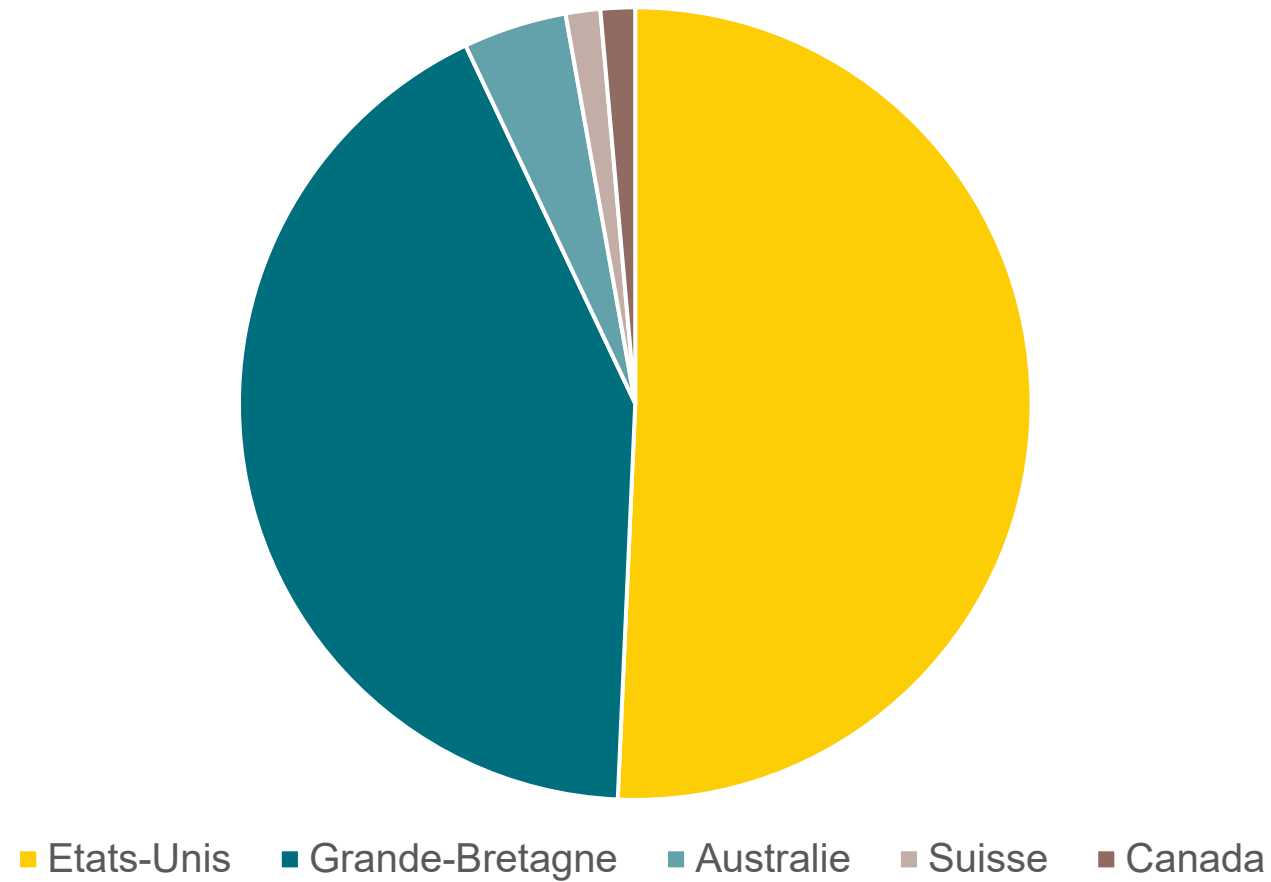
Comparaison des sources



Maisons d'édition (71)



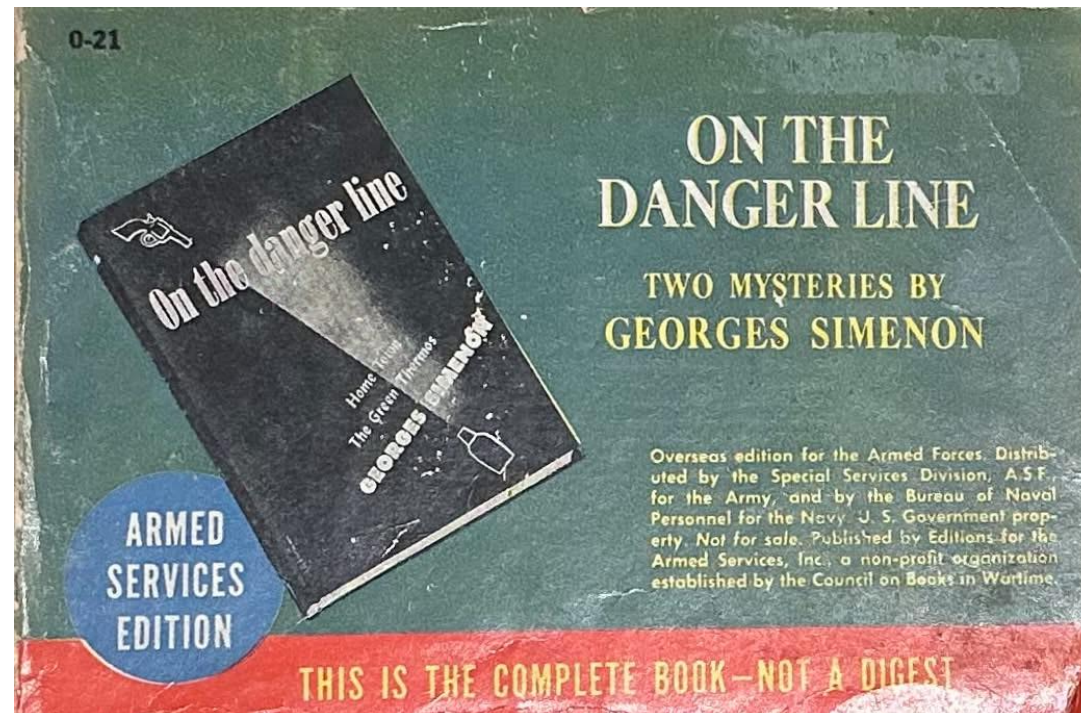
Maisons d'édition par pays



I. L'implantation éditoriale (1932–1944)



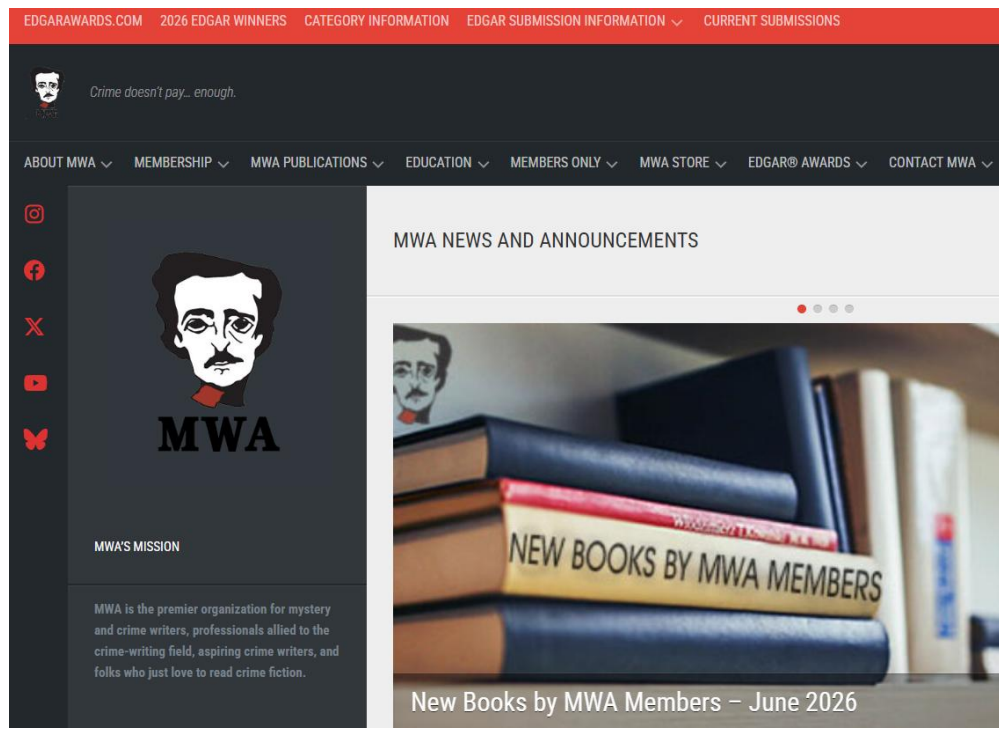
- 1932 : Première traduction vers l'anglais publiée chez Covici-Friede
- 1940 : Début de la collaboration avec Harcourt
- 1944 : Traductions publiées par les Éditions des forces armées américaines



II. L'après-guerre et la diversification (1945–1969)



- 1945 : Penguin Books
- 1954 : Hamish Hamilton
- 1955 : Président des Mystery Writers of America
- 1966 : Grand Master Award



MWA PRESIDENTS

1960: Frances & Richard Lockridge
1959: Raymond Chandler
1958: Rex Stout
1957: Margaret Millar
1956: Dorothy Salisbury Davis
1955: Georges Simenon
1954: Stuart Palmer
1953: Helen Reilly
1952: George Harmon Coxe
1951: Anthony Boucher

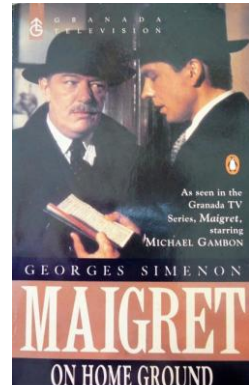
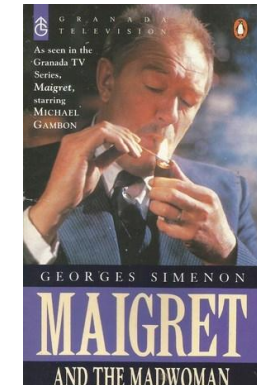
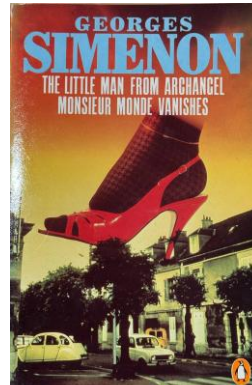
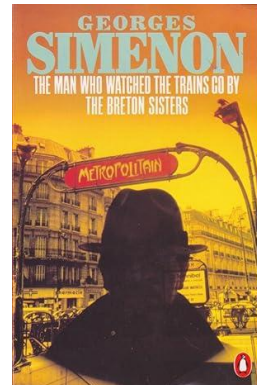
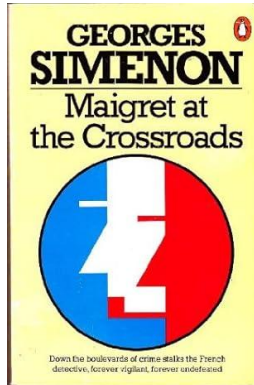
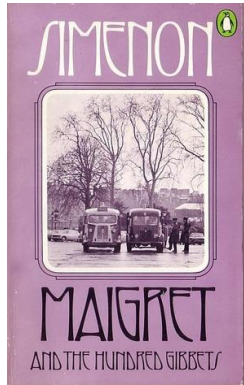
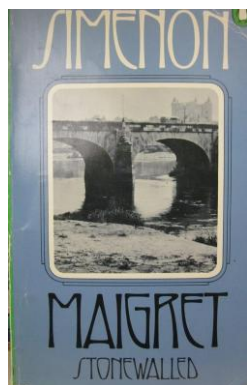
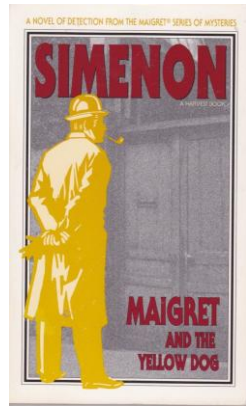
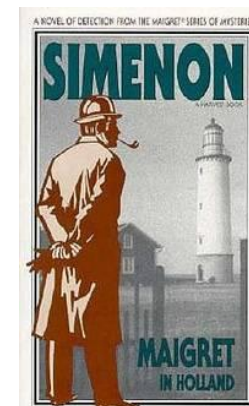
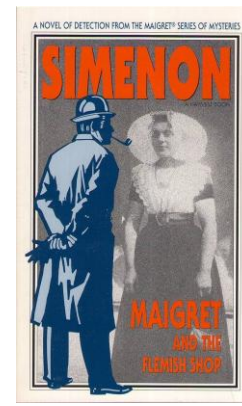
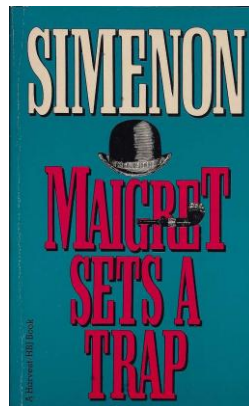
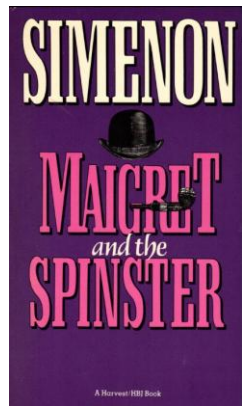
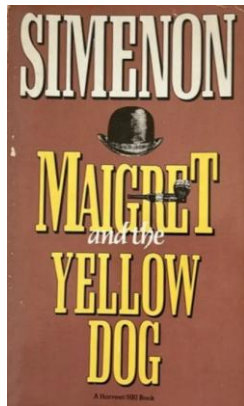
MWA GRAND MASTERS

1969	John Creasey
1967	Baynard Kendrick
1966	Georges Simenon
1964	George Harmon Coxe
1963	John Dickson Carr
1962	Erle Stanley Gardner
1961	Ellery Queen

III. Diffusion massive (1970–1999)



- Harcourt Brace Jovanovich // Penguin Books
- Augmentation des clubs de lecture et des éditions en grands caractères

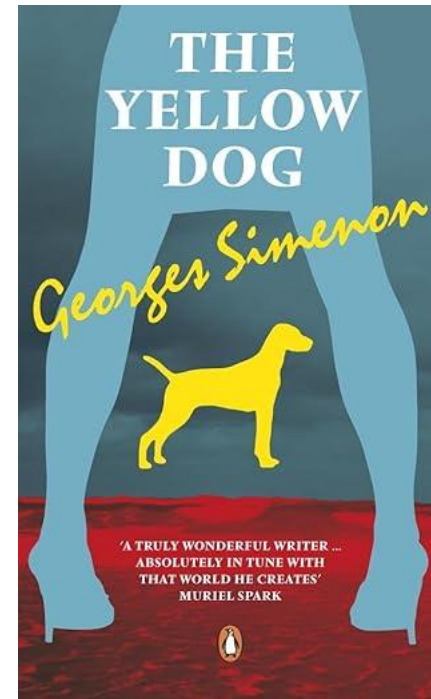


IV. Consécration (2000–2012)

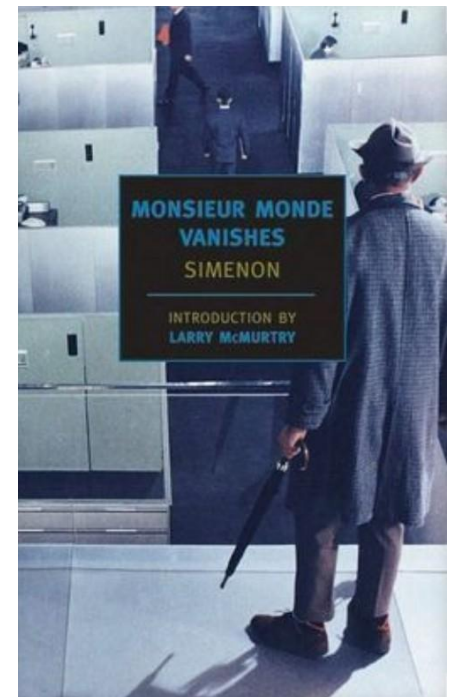


- 2000 : Maigret // Poirot // Holmes
- 2003 : Entrée dans des collections prestigieuses

Penguin Modern Classics



New York Review of Books

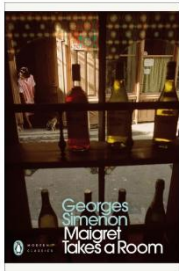


V. Retraductions et collections (2013–2026)



Inspector Maigret

by [Georges Simenon](#) · 75 books in this series

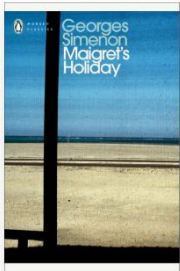


Maigret Takes a Room

Georges Simenon

What he thought he had discovered, in place of the joyful candour that she usually displayed, was an irony which was neither less cheerful nor less childish, but which troubled him . . . He wondered now if his exultation wasn't down to the fact that she was playing a part, not just to deceive him, not just to hide something from him, but for the pleasure of acting a part.

[Buy the book →](#)

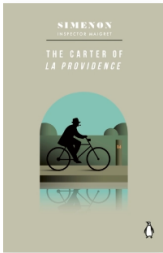


Maigret's Holiday

Georges Simenon

At what point in the day could the note have been slipped into his pocket, his left breast pocket? It was an ordinary sheet of glazed squared paper, probably torn out of an exercise book. The words were written in pencil, in a regular handwriting that looked to him like a woman's. For pity's sake, ask to see the patient in room 15. There was no signature. Only those words.

[Buy the book →](#)



The Carter of 'La Providence'

Georges Simenon

Inspector Maigret is standing in the pouring rain by a canal near the town of Épernay. A well-dressed woman, Mary Lampson, has been found strangled in a stable nearby. Why did her glamorous, hedonistic life come to such a brutal end here? Surely her taciturn husband Sir Walter knows – or maybe the answers lie with the crew of the barge *La Providence*.

[Read more](#)

[Buy the book →](#)



Maigret and the Lazy Burglar

Georges Simenon

Inspector Maigret is supposed to be working to stop the gangs of robbers terrorising Paris, but then a body is found, dumped in the Bois de Boulogne. It turns out to be a quiet, likeable burglar he has known for years, and for whom he cannot help feeling affection. Defying orders from his superiors, he determines to discover who killed his old acquaintance – even if it leads him into terrible danger....

[Read more](#)

[Buy the book →](#)



Maigret and the Old People

Georges Simenon

Inspector Maigret is called to the home of the Comte de Saint-Hilaire, a highly respected official who has been found shot dead in the study of his elegant Parisian home. The violent death of this distinguished former ambassador – an old man without political secrets or enemies – confounds the detective. Then a mysterious bundle of old letters leads him closer towards a tragic truth....

[Read more](#)



Maigret Defends Himself

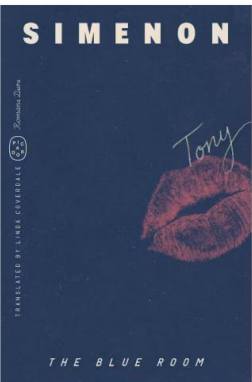
Georges Simenon

For the first time in his career Inspector Maigret receives written summons to the Prefect's office, where he is shocked to discover himself accused of a crime. With his career and reputation on the line, Maigret must fight to prove his innocence. Has he, for once, come up against a malicious evil he cannot defeat?

[Read more](#)

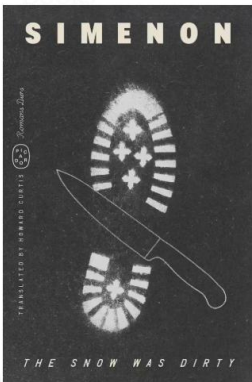


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The Blue Room (Romans Durs)
By Georges Simenon; Translated from the French by Linda Coverdale

Thriller



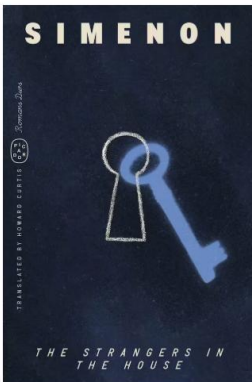
The Snow Was Dirty (Romans Durs)
By Georges Simenon; Translated from the French by Howard Curtis

Thriller



Mr. Hire's Engagement (Romans Durs)
By Georges Simenon; Translated from the French by Anna Moschovakis

Thriller

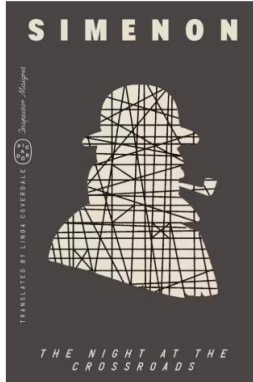


The Strangers in the House (Romans Durs)
By Georges Simenon; Translated from the French by Howard Curtis

Thriller



The Yellow Dog (Inspector Maigret)
By Georges Simenon; Translated from the French by Linda Asher



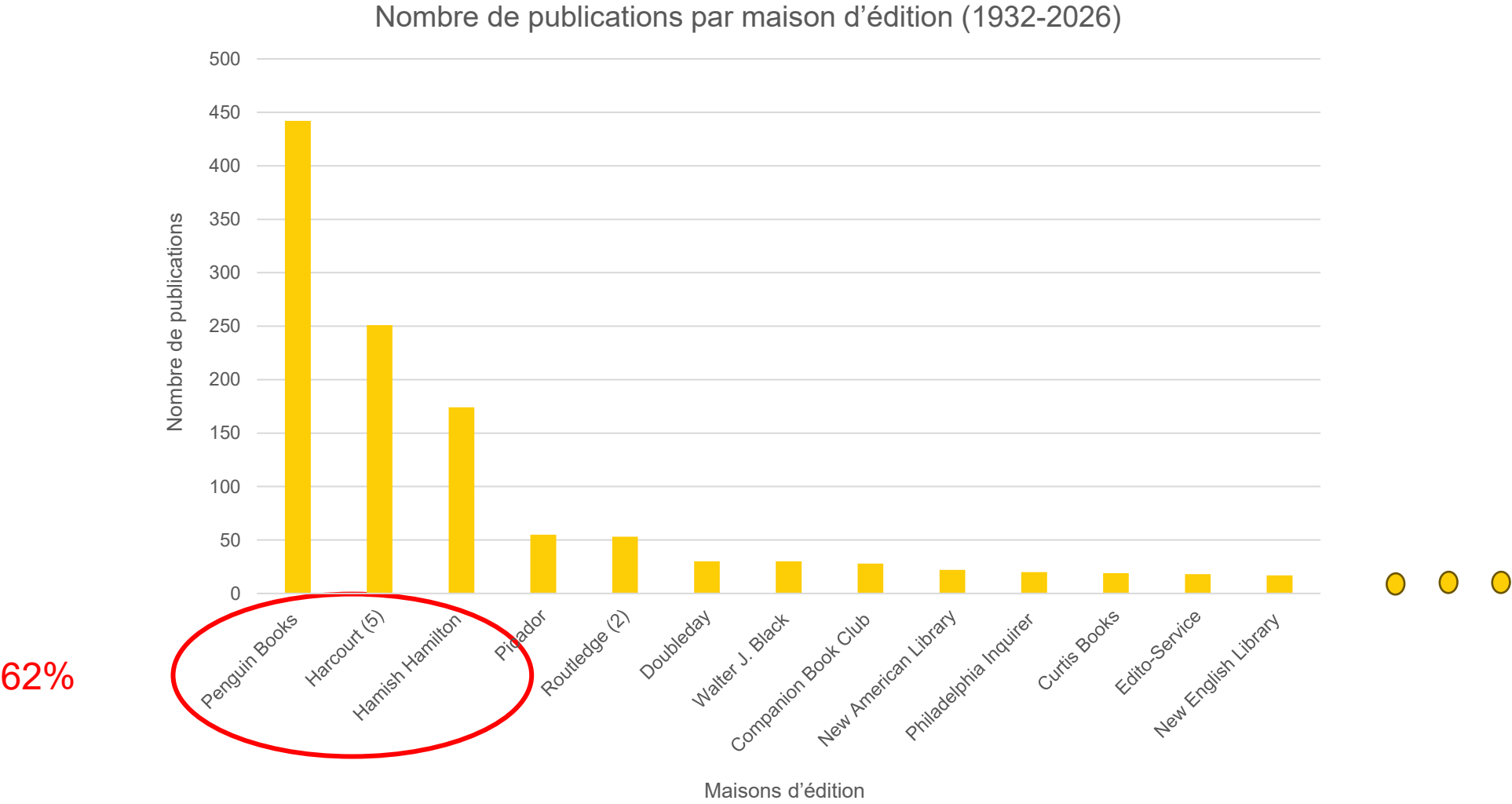
The Night at the Crossroads (Inspector Maigret)
By Georges Simenon; Translated from the French by Linda Coverdale



A Crime in Holland (Inspector Maigret)
By Georges Simenon; Translated from the French by Siân Reynolds



Maisons d'édition (71)



Traducteurs (49) et retraducteurs (13)



Traducteurs		Romans traduits	Retraducteurs	Romans traduits	49% retraductions
52% traductions					
Geoffrey Sainsbury	29	Howard Curtis	19		
Eileen Ellenbogen	17	Ros Schwartz	18		
Stuart Gilbert	16	Siân Reynolds	11		
Jean Stewart	13				
Daphne Woodward	11				
Louise Varèse	8				

Portraits de retraducteurs



David Bellos



Linda Asher



Anthea Bell



Linda Coverdale



Ros Schwartz

Analyse des titres



Titre	Titre trad. 1	Titre trad. 2	Titre trad. 3	Titre trad. 4	Titre trad. 5	Titre trad. 6
M. Gallet, décédé	The Death of Monsieur Gallet	Maigret Stonewalled	The Late Monsieur Gallet			
Le Pendu de Saint-Pholien	The Crime of Inspector Maigret	Maigret and the Hundred Gibbets	The Hanged Man of Saint-Pholien			
Le Charretier de la "Providence"	The Crime at Lock 14	Maigret Meets a Milord	Lock 14	The Carter of 'La Providence'		
Le Chien jaune	A Face for a Clue	Maigret and the Concarnou Murders	Maigret and the Yellow Dog	The Yellow Dog		
Pietr-le-Letton	Suite at the Majestic	The Strange Case of Peter the Lett	The Case of Peter the Lett	Maigret and the Enigmatic Lett	Pietr the Latvian	
La Nuit du carrefour	The Crossroad Murders	Maigret at the Crossroads	Night at the Crossroads	The Night at the Crossroads		
Un Crime en Hollande	A Crime in Holland	Maigret in Holland	A Crime in Holland			
Au Rendez-vous-des-Terre-Noires	The Sailors' Rendezvous	Maigret Answers a Plea	The Grand Banks Café			
La Tête d'un homme	A Battle of Nerves	A Man's Head	The Patience of Maigret	Maigret's War of Nerves	A Man's Head	
Le Relais d'Alsace	The Man from Everywhere					
La Danseuse du Gai-Moulin	At the "Gai-Moulin"	Maigret at the "Gai-Moulin"	The Dancer at the Gai-Moulin			
La Guinguette à deux sous	The Guinguette by the Seine	A Spot by the Seine	Maigret and the Tavern by the Seine	The Bar on the Seine	The Two-Penny Bar	
L'Ombre chinoise	The Shadow in the Courtyard	Maigret Mystified	The Shadow Puppet			
L'Affaire Saint-Fiacre	Maigret and the Countess	The Saint-Fiacre Affair	Death of a Countess	Maigret Goes Home	Maigret on Home Ground	The Saint-Fiacre Affair
Chez les Flamands	The Flemish Shop	Maigret and the Flemish Shop	The Flemish House			
Le Fou de Bergerac	The Madman of Bergerac					
Le Port des brumes	Death of a Harbour Master	Maigret and the Death of a Harbour Master	The Misty Harbour			
Le Passager du "Polarlys"	The Mystery of the Polarlys	Danger at Sea				
Liberty-Bar	Liberty Bar	Maigret on the Riviera	Liberty Bar			
Les Fiançailles de Mr. Hire	Mr Hire's Engagement					
Le Coup de lune	Tropic Moon					
La Maison du canal	The House by the Canal					
L'Écluse n°1	Maigret Sits it Out	The Lock at Charenton	Lock No. 1			
L'Âne-Rouge	The Nightclub	The Night-Club				
Les Gens d'en face	Danger Ashore	The Window over the Way	The People Opposite			
Le Haut Mal	The Woman of the Grey House					
L'Homme de Londres	The Man from London					
Maigret	Maigret Returns	Maigret				
Le Locataire	The Lodger					
Les Suicidés	One Way Out					
Les Pitards	The Pitards					
L'Évadé	The Disintegration of J. P. G.					
Long Cours	The Long Exile					
Les Demoiselles de Concarnou	The Breton Sisters					
45° à l'ombre	Aboard The Aquitaine					
Le Testament Donadieu	The Shadow Falls	Donadieu's Will				
L'Assassin	The Murderer					
Le Blanc à lunettes	Talatala					
Faubourg	Home Town					
Chemin sans issue	Blind Alley	Blind Path				
Les Rescapés du "Télémaque"	The Survivors					
Les Trois Crimes de mes amis	Three Crimes					
Le Suspect	The Green Thermos	The Suspect				
Les Sœurs Lacroix	Poisoned Relations					

Le Chien jaune (1931)



Le Pendu de Saint-Pholien	The Crime of Inspector Maigret	Maigret and the Hundred Gibbets	The Hanged Man of Saint-Pholien		
Le Charretier de la "Providence"	The Crime at Lock 14	Maigret Meets a Milord	Lock 14	The Carter of 'La Providence'	
Le Chien jaune	A Face for a Clue	Maigret and the Concarneau Murders	Maigret and the Yellow Dog	The Yellow Dog	
Pietr-le-Letton	Suite at the Majestic	The Strange Case of Peter the Lett	The Case of Peter the Lett	Maigret and the Enigmatic Lett	Pietr the Latvian
La Nuit du carrefour	The Crossroad Murders	Maigret at the Crossroads	Night at the Crossroads	The Night at the Crossroads	

Analyse des titres



Le Président	The Premier					
Dimanche	Sunday					
Maigret et les témoins récalcitrants	Maigret and the Reluctant Witnesses					
Une confidence de Maigret	Maigret Has Doubts	Maigret's Secret				
La Vieille	The Grandmother					
Le Veuf	The Widower					
Maigret aux Assises	Maigret in Court					
L'Ours en peluche	Teddy Bear					
Maigret et les vieillards	Maigret in Society	Maigret and the Old People				
Betty	Betty					
Le Train	The Train					
Maigret et le voleur paresseux	Maigret and the Lazy Burglar	Maigret and the Idle Burglar	Maigret and the Lazy Burglar			
La Porte	The Door					
Les Autres	The House on Quai Notre Dame	The Others				
Maigret et les braves gens	Maigret and the Black Sheep	Maigret and the Good People of Montparnasse				
Maigret et le client du samedi	Maigret and the Saturday Caller					
Maigret et le clochard	Maigret and the Bum	Maigret and the Dosser	Maigret and the Bum	Maigret and the Dosser	Maigret and the Bum	Maigret and the Tramp
Les Anneaux de Bicêtre	The Patient	The Bells of Bicêtre				
La Colère de Maigret	Maigret Loses His Temper	Maigret's Anger				
La Chambre bleue	The Blue Room					
L'Homme au petit chien	The Man with the Little Dog					
Maigret et le fantôme	Maigret and the Apparition	Maigret and the Ghost				
Maigret se défend	Maigret on the Defensive	Maigret Defends Himself				
Le Petit Saint	The Little Saint					
Le Train de Venise	The Venice Train					
La Patience de Maigret	The Patience of Maigret	Maigret Bides His Time	The Patience of Maigret	Maigret Bides His Time	Maigret's Patience	
Le Confessionnal	The Confessional					
La Mort d'Auguste	The Old Man Dies					
Maigret et l'affaire Nahour	Maigret and the Nahour Case					
Le Chat	The Cat					
Le Voleur de Maigret	Maigret's Pickpocket	Maigret and the Pickpocket	Maigret's Pickpocket	Maigret and the Pickpocket	Maigret's Pickpocket	
Le Déménagement	The Move	The Neighbours				
Maigret à Vichy	Maigret in Vichy	Maigret Takes the Waters	Maigret in Vichy			
La Prison	The Prison					
Maigret hésite	Maigret Hesitates					
La Main	The Man on the Bench in the Barn	The Hand				
L'Ami d'enfance de Maigret	Maigret's Boyhood Friend	Maigret's Childhood Friend				
Novembre	November					
Maigret et le tueur	Maigret and the Killer					
Maigret et le marchand de vin	Maigret and the Wine Merchant					
Le Riche Homme	The Rich Man					
La Folle de Maigret	Maigret and the Madwoman	Maigret's Madwoman				
La Disparition d'Odile	The Disappearance of Odile					
Maigret et l'Homme tout seul	Maigret and the Loner					
La Cage de verre	The Glass Cage					
Maigret et l'indicateur	Maigret and the Informer	Maigret and the Flea	Maigret and the Informer	Maigret and the Flea	Maigret and the Informer	
Les Innocents	The Innocents					
Maigret et M. Charles	Maigret and Monsieur Charles					
Quand j'étais vieux	When I Was Old					
Lettre à ma mère	Letter to My Mother					

Signes de consécration



- Vitesse de traduction
- Nombre de publication
- Présidence du Mystery Writers of America
- Obtention du Grand Master Award
- Profil des retraducteurs
- Collections classiques
- Tendance des titres traduits à s'approcher de l'original
- Rééditions récentes

Simenon, auteur belge francophone



Pierre Assouline
Simenon



Simenon, auteur belge francophone



Revue belge de philologie et
d'histoire

Georges Simenon et le français de Belgique

Christian Delcourt, Janine Delcourt-Angélique

En dépit de ce parti pris de parcimonie et de l'exclusion des (para)statismes, la taille de notre exemplier peut surprendre s'agissant d'un auteur aussi international, par la vie et par l'œuvre, que le fut Simenon. Ce répertoire compte, en effet, quelque cent huit items et seize de ceux-ci sont doubles (par exemple, *remettre* : "céder" et *remettre* : "rendre") ou même triples (*tirer*).

Le fait que notre corpus principal ait fourni la majorité des items en question n'a rien d'étonnant puisque, pour rappel, cette collection de textes réunit les dix romans dont Simenon « situe la totalité ou une part significative de l'action en Belgique ». Le fait que notre corpus secondaire ait fourni une quote-part substantielle donne davantage à penser. Il est intéressant, par exemple, de noter que deux vocables de l'argot scolaire — *bloquer* et *brosser* — ne sont pas attestés dans le corpus principal (où Simenon, puisant dans ses souvenirs de jeunesse, met pourtant en scène de nombreux élèves et étudiants), mais le sont dans deux romans — publiés, soit dit incidemment, à six mois d'intervalle — dont Simenon situe l'action en France : S41b et S42.

Romans « belges »



- *Bergelon*
- *La Maison du canal*
- *Le Bourgmestre de Furnes*
- *Le Pendu de Saint-Pholien*
- *La Danseuse du Gai-Moulin*
- *Les Trois Crimes de mes amis*
- *Pedigree*
- *Crime impuni*
- *Le Locataire*
- *Chez les Flamands*
- *Le Suspect*
- *L'Ainé des Ferchaux*
- + *Le Clan des Ostendais* et *La Nuit du Carrefour*

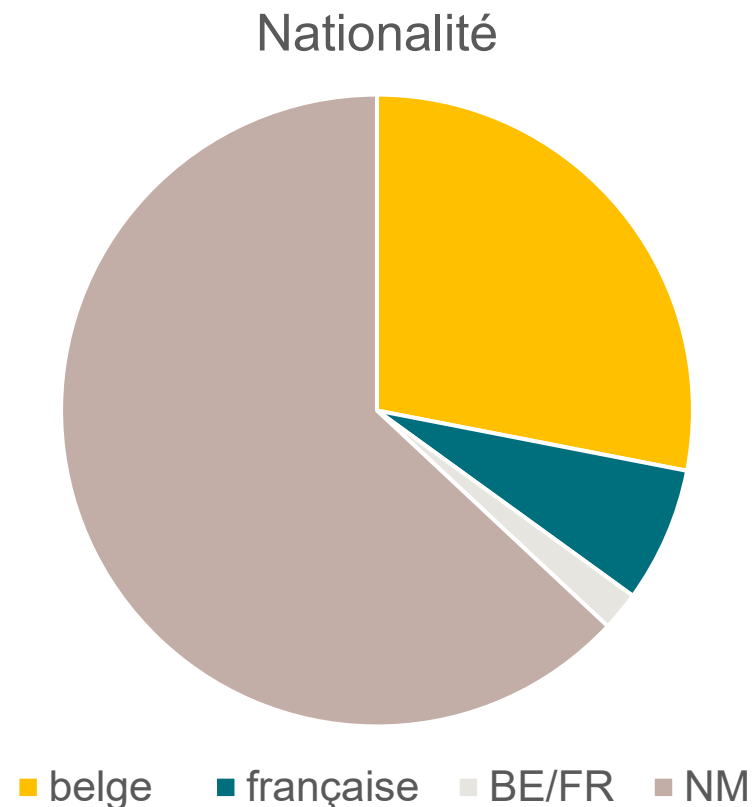
Références belges



Épitexte critico-journalistique (23/09/31 – 5/09/89)



Type d'article	Nombre
Article sur Simenon	409
Article mentionnant Simenon	280
Critique / Promotion littéraire, théâtrale et cinématographique	239
Article sur une littérature secondaire au sujet de Simenon	100
Article sur Denise Ouitmet	27
TOTAL	1055



Épitexte critico-journalistique (23/09/31 – 5/09/89)



Edinburgh: Evening Dispatch

2 Nov 54

Michael Howard sees Simenon



Simenon (left), Mme. Simenon, and Howard in Edinburgh.

Last night in Edinburgh I met a Belgian. Not just an ordinary kind of Belgian. For instance, if we wanted to be ridiculous, we could say that I met Agatha Christie's "Hercule Poirot"—because, after all, he was a Belgian. But it was not M. Poirot that I met. It was another Belgian called M. SIMENON—M. GEORGES SIMENON—and M. Simenon, as an author, can even put Agatha Christie to bed, if you know what I mean.

To compensate Michael Howard fans for yesterday's small "ration"—in a 12-page paper—here is a second instalment of the Columnist all Edinburgh is talking about.



Man on the Eiffel Tower—"New-haven-Dieppe" (translated, for film purposes, into the horrible name of "Temptation Harbour")—didn't want to know. Having seen them, I didn't want to know either. Simenon is a writer who, like Chandler in America, has risen from the "pulp" to the "class." A snobbish ride, no doubt, but one

With the exception of the internationally famous Georges Simenon, there is not in the Belgian literary fraternity one pure *romancier* whose sole ambition is to draw from his inner consciousness fictional heroes and to portray characters and customs through the medium of imagined adventures. We have many who are and do something else, who are administrators, who are business men, and all of whom yield more or less completely to the temptation to auto-

biographize, to describe a home region, to reel off personal recollections.

MD EDITORIAL ESSAY

The Bard From Belgium

Will history write off Georges Simenon as just another big-selling crime writer — or place him among the classics of 20th century literature?

The prolific Belgian, born here and best known as the creator of detective Jules Maigret, has sold around 500 million cop-

Ma le home
Jooks Abroad

USA

Sept. 53

BELGIAN WRITING

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language, as is the case with certain French writers of Flanders (Baillon in Turnhout,

The Man Behind Maigret

By Lee Child

Georges Simenon and I are the only European-born writers ever elected president of MWA.

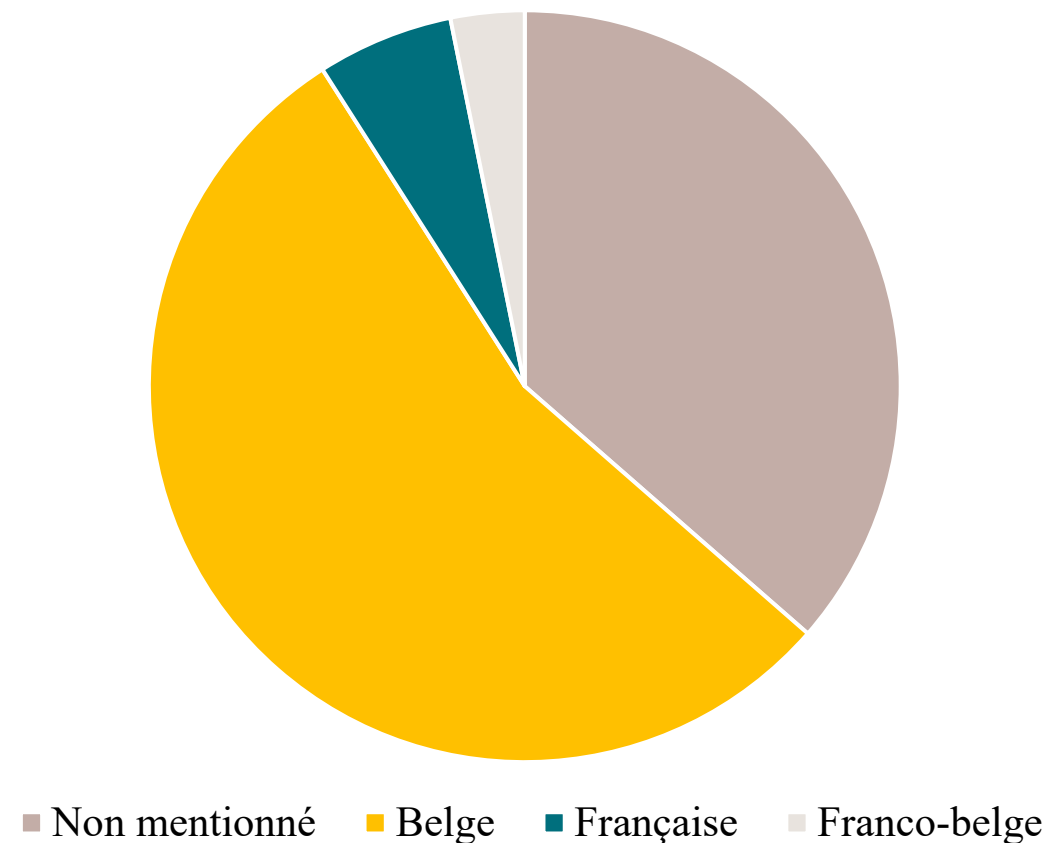
The similarity ends there. He smoked a pipe, I smoke cigarettes. And so on. But mostly, the differences are about numbers, to do with both productivity and proclivity. He wrote one-hundred fifty newspaper articles—at the age of fifteen. Plus eight hundred humorous pieces. He wrote two hundred novels and too much short fiction to count. He could write twenty thousand words a day. He has five hundred-fifty million books in print. He is credited on one hundred seventy-one movies and television shows. He slept with ten thousand women. And he wasn't even French. He was Belgian.

Épitexte critico-journalistique (23/09/31 – 5/09/89)



Type d'article	Nombre
Article sur Simenon	409
Article mentionnant Simenon	280
Critique / Promotion littéraire, théâtrale et cinématographique	239
Article sur une littérature secondaire au sujet de Simenon	100
Article sur Denise Ouitmet	27
TOTAL	1055

Nationalité dans les articles sur Simenon



Épitexte critico-journalistique (23/09/31 – 5/09/89)



« Je tiens Simenon pour un grand romancier : le plus grand peut-être et le plus vraiment romancier que nous ayons eu en **littérature française** aujourd'hui. »

André Gide

“perhaps the greatest and most truly novelistic novelist in **French literature** today”

© Fonds Simenon

the best living **French novelist**

© Fonds Simenon

Simenon has been called by André Gide “perhaps the greatest novelist” and “the most novelistic novelist” in the world today.

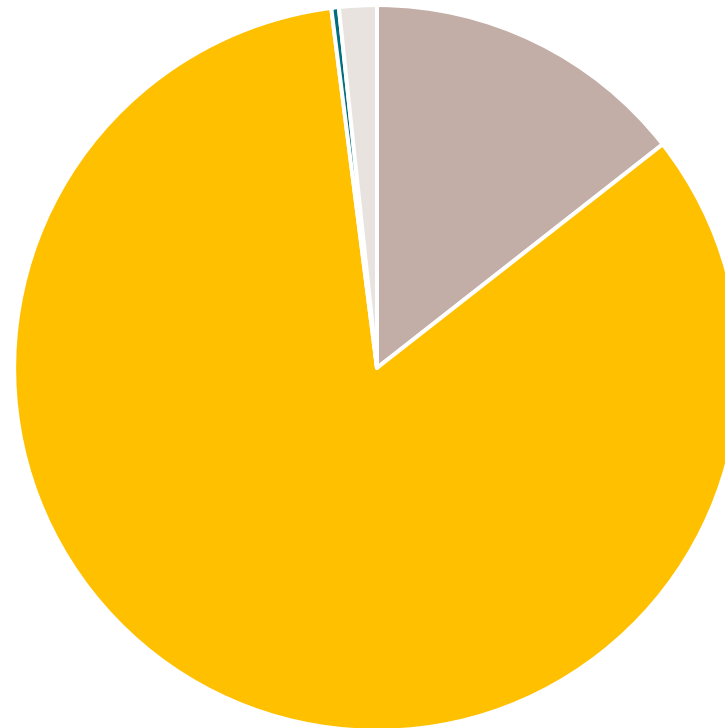
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Épitexte critico-journalistique (23/09/31 – 5/09/89)



06 – 07/09/89 (Nécrologie)

Nationalité

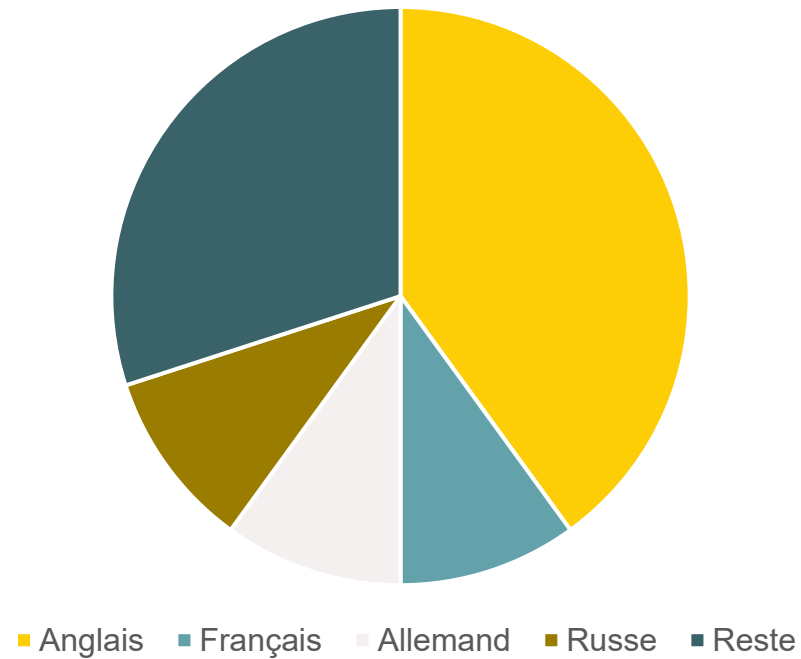


■ Non mentionné ■ Belge ■ Française ■ Franco-belge

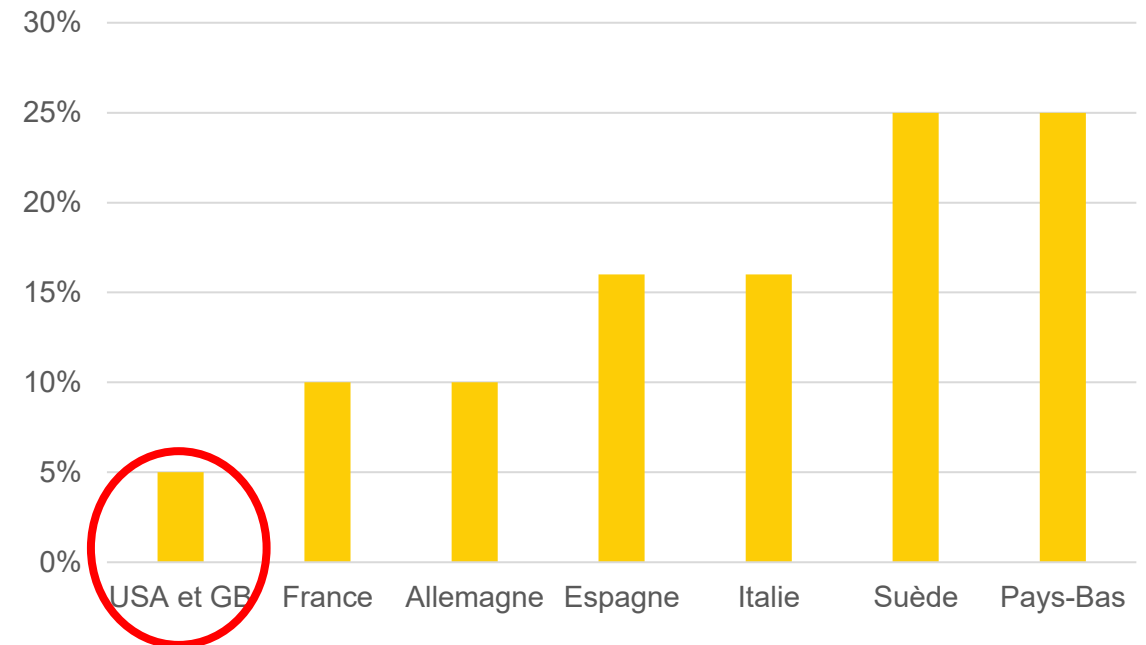
Point de vue sociologique



% d'ouvrages traduits (1999)



% d'ouvrages traduits (1999)



Heilbron, J. (1999). « Towards a Sociology of Translation: Book Translations as a Cultural World-System », *European Journal of Social Theory*, vol. 2, n° 4, p. 429-444.



Meta

Journal des traducteurs
Translators' Journal

META

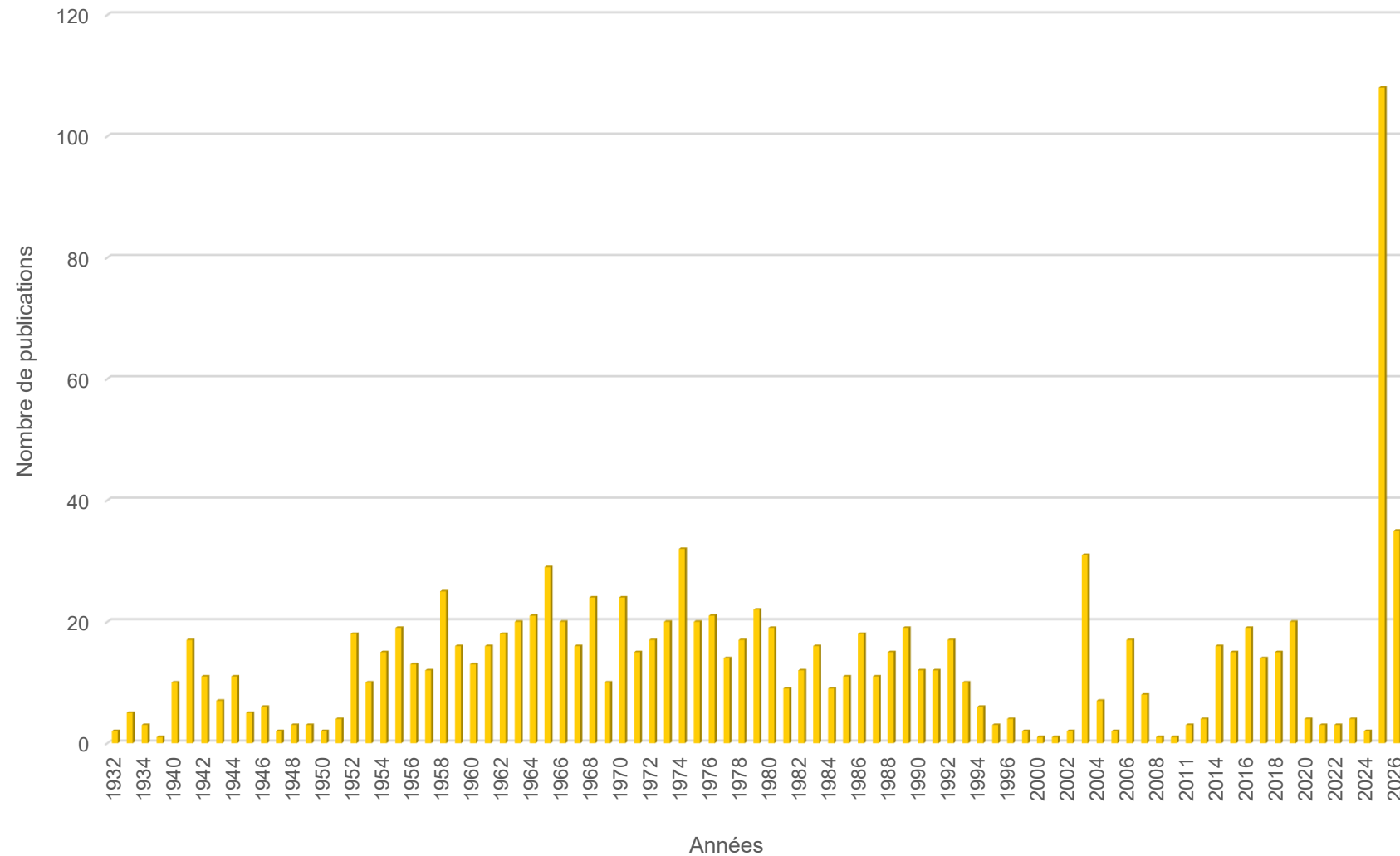
La littérature francophone subsaharienne en traduction : propositions pour l'étude de la circulation d'une littérature « semi-centrale »

Lisbeth Verstraete-Hansen et Katrien Lievois

3. Propositions théoriques

Nous proposerons d'envisager les littératures francophones non hexagonales comme « semi-centrales » dans l'espace littéraire international : centrales par la langue française et périphériques par leur histoire politique et culturelle, elles connaissent des conditions de circulation qui ne sont identiques ni à celles des écrivains doublement centraux ni à celles des écrivains doublement périphériques. Nous argumenterons ensuite l'intérêt d'une analyse des flux de traduction en termes d'intraduction globale. En envisageant notre problématique par le versant des langues cibles, il se dégage une hiérarchie très différente de celle des langues sources, si fréquemment véhiculée.

...à la visibilité



Merci pour votre attention !