

guage Publishing House in Beijing, on the Esperanto monthly *El Popola Ĉinio* [From People's China]. He also helped in the editing of books, such as *Ĉina Antologio 1919–49* [Chinese Anthology 1919–49]. He subsequently lectured in Japan, South Korea and Canada on his experiences in China. While in Japan, he helped in the preparation of the concordance to the works of L. L. Zamenhof, *Zamenhofs Ekzemplaro* (1987), compiled by Rihej Nomura. Geoffrey Sutton was one of the first people to be allowed to present contemporary mainland China to audiences in South Korea. The talks in Esperanto, with slides, attracted large audiences on university campuses and elsewhere.

He was editor of the World Esperanto Association's monthly *Esperanto* from 1984 to 1986. He later edited guidebooks for ports around the world and, subsequently, guides to tourist attractions in the UK. Among the later is *Art in Parliament – The Permanent Collection of the House of Commons* by M. Hay and J. Riding (1996).

He has translated two books into Esperanto from English: *Sepdek Sep Ŝlosiloj por la Japano Civilizacio* (1987) (*Seventy-seven Keys to the Civilization of Japan* ed. Tadao Umesao) and *Kio estas Demokratio? 80 Demandoj kaj Respondoj* (2000) (*Introducing Democracy? 80 Questions and Answers*) by D. Beetham and K. Boyle).

He was honorary secretary of the Esperanto Association of Britain for four years from 2002, and has been editor of their quarterly bulletin, *EAB Update*, from 2003.

- The planned, neutral international language Esperanto is used across the world as a second language by people who wish to practise mutual respect for other cultures, not merely advocate it. Learning Esperanto requires perhaps a fifth of the effort needed to acquire a national language, yet it is in no sense 'basic'. Esperanto's initiator, L.L. Zamenhof (1859–1917), understood the importance of the role of literature, so the language has evolved naturally, as all 'living', spoken and written languages evolve, through creative activity.

- *Concise Encyclopedia of the Original Literature of Esperanto* is a unique work of international reference, with over 300 individual articles on the most important authors. Its introductory articles to the literature and to each of its periods also tell the fascinating story of the development of the literature from its humble beginnings in 1887 to its worldwide use in every literary genre today.

- Esperanto is the concretization of an ideal that has been incubated by enlightened people for centuries. The philosopher Leibniz (1646–1716) wrote:

*When this project (of a universal language) is realized, the happiness of mankind will depend solely on themselves, because then they will have a tool at their disposal that will serve to increase their good sense as the telescope serves to increase the capacity to see ...*

- Original Esperanto literature – that is to say creative writing directly in Esperanto by, at least, bilingual speakers – is the work of authors from many countries, who have chosen to write in it because of its merits. It is, as yet, always a labour of love, that is to say a product of culture. It is also most fundamentally democratic – a product of people – as opposed to capital, power or national prestige. Esperanto culture is rooted in the fundamental values of humanity, equality and mutual respect, multilingualism, language rights, and cultural diversity and emancipation.

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Original  
Literature  
of  
Esperanto

by  
Geoffrey Sutton

Original  
Literature  
of  
Esperanto

GEOFFREY SUTTON



**Geoffrey Sutton** is English, born in 1947. He began learning Esperanto in 1962, at the age of fourteen. In 1969, he privately published the little study *Konciza Historio pri la Kornvala Lingvo kaj Ĝia Literaturo* [A Con-

cise History of the Cornish Language and Its Literature].

He read Scandinavian Literature and Swedish at the University of East Anglia (1972–1973), going on to take a degree at Uppsala University (1973–80), Sweden, where he became *filosofie kandidat* in Finno-Ugrian and Nordic Languages. He received a three-year scholarship from Svenska Institutet and completed doctoral studies in Finno-Ugrian Philology. He compiled 'Nordisk vetenskaplig litteratur om det internationella språkproblemet' [Nordic Scientific Literature on the International Language Problem] (Uppsala Universitet, 1976). His paper 'Cultural and Socio-economic Factors in the Formation of Foreign Language Education Policy in Sweden – with a Comparison with the Finnish Case' (*Language Problems and Language Planning*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (7)) was presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Sociology, Uppsala (1978).

From October 1981, he worked for a year as sub-editor and advisor at the Foreign Lan-