

Emma Jones – Final Internship Reflection

August 2-13

Another journal entry that will cover two weeks. Last week, I interviewed Andri Snaer Magnason, an Icelandic author, climate activist, and would-be politician (he came in third in Iceland's last presidential election – this sounds very impressive, but as my boss pointed out, population-wise it would be more like coming in third in the race for mayor of Pittsburgh). Andri was a fascinating person to talk to because he has his fingers in so many pies, so to speak. He's written for children and for adults, and has won awards in both categories, I think; I know one of his adult books won a Philip K. Dick Award. He also writes nonfiction and has started to become a climate activist in Iceland. He said that it's hard to put down the torch once you've taken it up – I think his exact words were "you'll find the torch has Superglue on it," which is probably one of the best ways I've ever heard anyone phrase that. So it was really fun to talk to him, and fun to edit the interview this week, too.

The other thing I worked on this week was the radio adaptation of the translation I've been working on with my Hanover professor. Last week my boss interviewed my professor and I, and I edited that interview this week. I also put some finishing touches on the radio play, setting parts of it to music and running it through editing software to make it smoother. I turned in the final version of it today, and I'm pleased with how it came out. I can't wait for it to be released in September.

Thinking back on what I've done for the internship, I think I've learned a lot, but not necessarily what I expected to learn – I learned about myself and some of the parts of this job I found most challenging, and I also learned some skills I didn't anticipate, such as audio editing and producing/adapting theatrical productions for radio. These skills are still valuable, even if they're not what I thought I'd get. However, I really didn't do anything with the literary journal; apparently last year's edition had an Iberian theme but this year's was Eastern European, so they didn't need my expertise that much. I guess I never asked to be more involved in the journal, either, so maybe I should have done that.