

The Three English Translations of Soseki's *Meian*

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Two new English translations of Natsume Soseki's *Meian* (1916) have recently appeared, making a total of three published versions: one old and one new by V. H. Viglielmo (1971, 2011) and another by John Nathan (2014). This paper discusses how paratextual aids such as the book cover, illustrations, and footnotes showcase the differences in the way the editions embrace the foreignness of the text; how one version seems to have more of an inclination for idioms; how italicizing a certain interior monologue gives away slightly more information than the original; and how the difference in the interpretation of O-Nobu as the one “reading” or “being read” highlights her imperiled happiness all the same.