

AIA SEMINAR  
“Translation: Theory, Description, Applications”

**Translation and historiography:  
the role of translators writing the ‘true’ history of the Christian church in post-reformation London**

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*Abstract*

In this paper I propose to discuss the early English translations of the key text of Christian ecclesiastical historiography, Eusebius’ *Ancient Ecclesiastical History*, to highlight the contribution of their authors to the English language and to the writing of Church history in English. The paper will be three-fold: it will briefly explain the centrality of historiography in the wake of the Reformation; it will present selected evidence of the translators’ own description of the scope, purpose and significance of their activity; and it will exemplify the impact of their work on the English language. The importance of ecclesiastical historiography in post-Reformation London was in fact paramount, as it would enable generations of believers to learn about the origins of Christianity and about the nature of the Apostolic Church. One central issue was of course the correct interpretation of biblical and patristic sources, not an easy problem to solve, given the corrupted state of key texts and the decayed state of Greek and Hebrew studies.