

*Computers in Translation, A Practical Appraisal*, edited by John Newton. Routledge, JUNE 1992, 224 pages, Hardback, ISBN 0-415-05432-X, £35.00.

John Newton has set out to provide a book that could serve as a practical introduction to Machine Translation and Computer Assisted Translation. To this end, he has collected contributions from experts in this field from Europe and North America. I would have liked to have seen at least one contribution from Japan, given the level of activity in that country.

The difficulty with publishing an introductory work is divining the level of knowledge of the subject being addressed that the potential reader is likely to have. If the book is pitched too low, the reader is bored. If it is pitched too high, the reader is baffled. I believe John Newton has got it just right. His *Introduction and Overview*, the first chapter of the book, would serve as a valuable reference in its own right. His list of contributors reads like a Who's Who in Computers and Translation with such names as *Yorick Wilks*, *Alan Melby*, *Muriel Vasconcellos* and *Harold Somers*. One might ask the question, "How does this book differ from the proceedings one would expect to emerge from a conference addressing a similar subject?" The answer, of course, is that there would be no difference provided that the focus of the conference strictly adhered to a practical rather than a theoretical approach to the subject, a rarity in my experience.

The contributors have remained faithful to the introductory theme of the book and cover such areas as translation workstations, terminology databases, machine translation and machine translation evaluation. There is an enormous bibliography as well as a very useful glossary of terms. This book would be an excellent reference for anyone wishing to keep abreast of a subject that dates very rapidly. (*Bob Clark*)