

Part Two

Foreword

An English Translation from German of the Danish Version of Life of Galileo

After the decision was made to base this thesis on the three different versions of the Galileo play, copies of the American version and the Berlin version were both obtained within a week. However, Danish version was not available in bookstores and libraries in Taiwan. A friend living in Germany was asked to find out if any copies were in local libraries, but he was unable to locate any. Then I asked my family members living in the USA to search in local university libraries for a copy, but again, only the two other versions were found. After a month of searching, a second hand copy of Desmond Vesey's translation of Life of Galileo was found selling in an online bookstore, however a shipment to Taiwan was not offered.

Then in an article, a comment on Eric Bentley's criticism on the Danish version stated that Bentley may have obtained a German copy at the Brecht Archive in Berlin, Germany. So an email was written to the director and the librarian of the institute to ask for further information about the availability of a German/English copy of the Danish version. After waiting with no reply, a friend living in Berlin was asked to contact the institute on my behalf. After more than two months of searching, I finally received information that the Danish version was republished in Werner Hecht's Werke: Grosse Kommentierte Berliner und Frankfurter Ausgabe, which is a 30 volume compilation of Brecht's work published in 2003 by Suhrkamp Verlag. With the help from my girlfriend, I obtained the 5th volume, which contains all three complete versions of the Galileo play.

However, since the Danish version was printed in German, I translated the full script into English with the help of Professor Margaret Yang Mar. The translation

took about three months. The Danish version is attached to this thesis, and the complete English copy, should provide a better understanding of the Galileo play.

