

Fabre-Serris (2016) “Anne Dacier (1681), Renée Vivien (1903) or What Does it Mean for a Woman to Translate Sappho?”, in E. Hall and R. Wyles (eds), *Women as classical Scholars*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 70-102.

The author of the first translation of Sappho in France (1681) is a woman, Anne Le Fèvre, better known under her married name, Anne Dacier. Her translation of two odes and two epigrams attributed to the poetess was based on the edition made by her father, Tanneguy Le Fèvre in 1660. The second woman, who translated Sappho in French, Renée Vivien published in 1903 “Sappho. Traduction nouvelle avec le texte grec”, a book in which she proposed 118 fragments in Greek and their translation in prose, but also some modern poems in verse, written by herself and by Swinburne. She used the English edition of Wharton (1888) that was established from the German edition of Bergk (1882). Anne Le Fèvre studied Greek and Latin with her father, Professor at the Academy of Saumur. Renée Vivien studied Greek with Gaëtan Baron, a Professor of Greek, from 1898 to 1902. Both proved to be exceptionally gifted and impressed their teachers. This paper proposes a successive and comparative study of the undertakings of these two women, separated by two centuries, and try to show that the illustrious and respected philologist and the scandalous writer were closer than one might think at first glance. To answer the question: what does mean for a woman ‘translating Sappho’? Anne and Renée identified with the passionate woman and the poetess, and both tried to draw Sappho to their own sides: women succeeding in competing with men for Anne, women loving women and writing about their loves for Renée.