Early attempts at transmedia? Intersemiotic translations? Two illustrated Discworld novels by Terry Pratchett

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Terry Pratchett was an immensely popular British author. His fiction was translated into 37 languages. His novels have been adapted to television (stop motion animation, animated cartoon and live action films), for the stage, as a musical, as video games, role-playing games, board games, a fan-created online MUD, comic books and graphic novels, moreover dramatised as serials, inspired music, to say nothing of the illustrations and book covers and other Pratchett-related memorabilia from the maps, guides, diaries, calendars, companions, almanac and cookbook to the figurines of diverse characters. There is plenty of material for the curious researcher to conduct a Holmesian medium restricted (e.g. only the theatre productions), area restricted (eg. the contrasting the UK and the US editions, or only the Estonian visual adaptations), rank restricted (eg., the images of a character in different cultures versus the whole oeuvre including paraphernalia), text-type restricted (e.g. short stories contrasted with the illustrated novellas) time restricted (diachronic, or synchronic), problem restricted (e.g. the book covers as intersemiotic translations) comparative analysis of these adaptations.

Here I shall focus on just two Discworld novels, *~~Faust~~* *Eric* (1990) and *The Last Hero* (2001) using and adapting the methods developed by Anne Hiebert Alton, Marco Sonzogni, Brian Mossop, and myself to find what norms may govern the visual adaptations in these instances. Are they simply illustrated novels or graphic novels where the visual and textual elements together tell the story? If the latter, what is the textual translation without the visual elements? An abridged edition? When these books are translated, should the images be replaced by localised pictures (transcreation) – at least in the case of domesticated editions? Crossmedial / transmedial works and adaptations fire many questions at us: do we have the answers?

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