

## Notes on translation

Translation is always a tricky business, especially when dealing with historical documents. In translation, you always deal with a shift between two languages and cultural environments, and when translating text from a different time deepens the shift. However faithfully one tries to translate, there will always be an aspect of interpretation involved. In the translation of the Fireburn files, I have tried to keep the historical and cultural “feel” of the original text and I have purposely tried not to stray far from the tone of the language, whose linguistic and semantic aspects are quite different from modern Danish. The sentence structure in the original documents is generally complex, consisting of many very long sentences with subordinate clauses within subordinate clauses. Mostly, I have kept the structure, but I have also shortened sentences when the length makes the meaning unclear. In some instances, the sentences in the original Danish actually lose their “chain of thought” and end in an entirely different place than they began. In these instances, I have, as faithfully as possible, tried to straighten them out, and any mistakes in this regard are solely my own. In a few instances, it has been impossible for me to straighten out the sentences accurately, simply because I am unsure of their intention, and in these cases, I have simply left the sentence “as it is” and added a note. I have had to make slight rearrangements of many of the sentences in order to give them a structure which makes sense in English. Mostly, this has resulted in the moving of adverbial phrases, which are typically situated in the beginning or end of English sentences, whilst they, in Danish, are placed in different places. Also, the relative placement of verbs in Danish has made it necessary to rearrange the sentence structure somewhat.

Regarding singular words and concepts which belong specifically to the historical period and place, I have researched as far as possible in order to do an accurate translation. The legal language of 1878 is a bit treacherous. I have rendered the legal terms as precisely as possible, and have written a note towards the end of the sentences.