

James Rampant

Manga Translation Workshop: Lost in Scanlation

The workshop started in February 2004, when a group of Monash students of Japanese, with an insatiable appetite for Japanese manga, got together on a weekly basis to experiment with approaches to translating manga. The aim was to raise public awareness of manga's diversity and cultural significance through manga translation and the group has indeed gained much cultural capital since then. This presentation will introduce not only the group's efforts in translating Japanese manga into English but also the difficult task of translating something as foreign and complex as the Japanese *dōjinshi* experience for an Australian audience. While originally the project was going to be translation of the books in the Manga Library, it evolved to take advantage of Japanese web-comics, a much more fertile field, in that the group can approach these amateur artists and get their permission before beginning scanlation. The presentation will also discuss the 5 day workshop in November 2005 run jointly by the Japanese Studies Centre and Tokyo-Pop, supported by the Tokyo Foundation, and the translation group's recent foray into publishing their translations at Australia's first *dōjinshi* convention Doujicon (held by OzTaku).