

## Carolyn Sommer

BA Hons – MCIL – TA

### Dependable German to English / English to German Translator

Native German, virtually bilingual, qualified translator  
Passionate about translating, committed to producing idiomatic target texts,  
dependable where accuracy and deadlines matter,  
resourceful when it comes to finding innovative solutions to cross-cultural challenges

As a native German speaker, I will understand every detail and nuance of your  
German source text, and - being virtually bilingual - be able to produce  
an idiomatic target text in English.

- Translated international bestseller published in the UK and the US in 2015
- Translated and self-published three-volume memoirs in 2013
- Diplom-Übersetzer (Cologne University of Applied Sciences)
- Based in the UK since 1997

### Professional Experience

**2011- present: Freelancing at Carolyn Sommer Translations**

**Client: *The Experiment Publishing, New York (2014)***

Translated Jennifer Teege's international bestseller "Amon: Mein Grossvater hätte mich erschossen" from German into English, published in the UK and in the US as "[My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me](#)".

**Client feedback:**

"From the very beginning of the translation process, and at every point along the way, Carolyn favorably impressed me. She was absolutely committed to translating the book accurately and precisely as well as idiomatically and readably; and to capturing the two authors' distinct voices and styles. She met all agreed-upon deadlines. I recommend Carolyn unequivocally as a translator, and I hope my colleagues and I will soon find another German-language book we will want to publish in English, and that we will be able to retain Carolyn to translate it."

**Client: *The Sommer family (2011-2013)***

Translated and edited Ignaz Bing's memoirs "Aus meinem Leben" into English, self-published as "[Tales From My Life – Memoirs of a merchant and cave explorer in Germany 1840-1918](#)". Written 100 years ago by my husband's great-great-grandfather, it presented a large number of time, culture and language-specific subtleties which needed to be addressed carefully in order to maintain the style and feel of the original while producing a readable and coherent text in English.

## Various engagements

Translated personal letters, written in Sütterlin, dated 1935-1944 for private client from German to English. Further translated websites, recipes, classical music lyrics, children's non-fiction and personal documents for private and corporate clients. Provided translations on a voluntary basis of eyewitness accounts from the Holocaust for the Wiener Library in London.

### 1999-2005: 3M / 3M Touch Systems, Bracknell (UK)

Worked as a **Technical Support Engineer** for touchscreens, supporting end users as well as key customers such as Wincor Nixdorf throughout Europe. Promoted to **European Product Manager**, then **Business Development Manager** for touch monitors, supporting European sales teams and customers in German, English and French. Left the company to become a full-time mum and devote my time to my children.

### 1997-1999: DePfa IT Services, London (UK)

Working as an in-house **Translator** for a German-based IT consultancy adapting a German software system for use in property management in the UK, I was responsible for the translation and quality assurance of user manuals, help texts and in-system messages.

### 1993-1995: ASD Sprachendienst, Cologne (Germany)

Worked at a translation agency to finance my studies (1.5 days during term-time and full-time during the holidays), translating documents from English into German as well as liaising with customers and translators, assigning jobs and dealing with customer queries. Performed well under pressure and to tight deadlines. Gained invaluable experience and insight into the world of translation.

## Qualifications

Triple degree in Applied Languages / Translation Studies (Eng-Fr-Ger), awarded in 1997

- “Übersetzer-Diplom” from Fachhochschule Köln, Germany (now Cologne University of Applied Sciences)
- “BA Hons in Applied Languages (Europe)” from Thames Valley University, UK (now West London University)
- “Maîtrise Internationale en Langues Appliquées (Europe)” from Université de Provence, France

## Other Skills and Interests

**Skills:** Fluent French, fully computer-literate (Mac & Windows), strong project management and organisational skills, self-publishing, photo editing

**Interests:** History, literature, photography, astronomy, travelling, food & cooking