The paper reveals the circumstances of the appearance of the Esperanto translation of the 1913 Croatian children’s classic Čudnovate zgode šegrta Hlapića [The Strange Adventures of Hlapich the Apprentice] by Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić, titled Mirindaj aventuroj de metilernanto Hlapić (1998). It records the wide popularity of this translation by Maja Tišljar in international Esperanto circles and chronicles the events which led to further translations of Hlapich from this one as a relay translation into Japanese, Bengali, Chinese, Persian, Vietnamese and Korean. It is shown how Hlapich the Apprentice has become accessible to a large number of readers around the world through Esperanto.

**Keywords:** The Strange Adventures of Hlapich the Apprentice, Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić, Esperanto, literary translation, relay translation, Asian languages, Croatian children’s literature