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The ATA Chronicle Submission Guidelines

The ATA Chronicle enthusiastically encourages members to submit articles of interest to the fields of translation and interpretation.

1. Articles (see length specifications below) are due the first of the month, two months prior to the month of publication (i.e., June 1 for August issue).
2. Articles should not exceed 3,500 words. Articles containing words or phrases in non-European writing systems (e.g., Japanese, Arabic) should be submitted by mail and fax.
3. Include your fax, phone, e-mail, and mailing address on the first page.
4. Include a brief abstract (two sentences maximum) emphasizing the most salient points of your article. The abstract will be included in the table of contents.
5. Include a brief biography (three sentences maximum) along with a picture (color or B/W). Please be sure to specify if you would like your photo returned. Do not send irreplaceable photos.
6. In addition to a hard copy version of the article, please submit an electronic version either on disk or via e-mail (Jeff@atanet.org).
7. Texts should be formatted for Word or Wordperfect 8.0.
8. All articles are subject to editing for grammar, style, punctuation, and space limitations.
9. A proof will be sent to you for review prior to publication.

Standard Length
Letters to the editor: 350 words; Op-Ed: 300-600 words; Feature Articles: 750-3,500 words; Column: 400-1,000 words
(See Chronicle editorial policy—under Chronicle—at www.atanet.org)

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TIP-Lab Twelfth Distance Spanish Translation/Revision Workshop

TIP-Lab is pleased to announce its Twelfth Distance Spanish Translation/Revision Workshop, July to November 2005. This workshop is open to English-to-Spanish translators from any country. Participants will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Excellent command of both Spanish and English is a requirement. In the course of the workshop, four texts will be translated by the participants, reviewed by Leandro Wolfson, a professional translator from Argentina, and returned to each translator with revisions, annotated comments, and a model translation selected each month from the group. As in previous TIP-Lab workshops, application for continuing education credit will be submitted to the Judicial Council of California, the Washington State Courts, and ATA. Registration is now open. Space is very limited and interested translators are encouraged to register as soon as possible. For further information and to request a brochure with the registration form, call, fax, or e-mail: TIP-Lab, c/o Alicia Marshall (847) 869-4889 (phone/fax), e-mail: aliciamarshall@comcast.net.

Earn 10 ATA Continuing Education Points.
About Our Authors...

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Jiri Stejskal is currently serving his second term as ATA treasurer. He also serves as the treasurer of the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation and chairs the International Federation of Translators (FIT) Status Committee. He was born and raised in Prague, Czech Republic. He left Prague for Vienna in 1986 and settled in the U.S. in 1988, where he earned a Ph.D. in Slavic languages and literatures and an executive MBA in general business. An active translator, he joined ATA in 1991, and founded a translation company, CETRA, Inc. (formerly Central European Translations, Inc.), in 1997. In addition, he teaches graduate language courses at the University of Pennsylvania. Contact: jiri@cetra.com.

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The ATA Chronicle | June 2005

Guide to ATA

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Note: Not all presentations are included due to speaker consent or program changes. Visit www.atanet.org/pd/finance/cdrom.htm to learn which sessions are included.

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From the Executive Director

Online Directory Changes

Walter Bacak, CAE
Walter@atanet.org

The online Directory of Translation and Interpreting Services has undergone several additions and updates that are important to note. The directory is at www.americantranslators.org/tsd_listings.

The Directory of Translation and Interpreting Services markets the services of 5,500 translators and interpreters, all of whom are ATA members. The listings are complimentary with ATA membership, but inclusion in the directory is an option and does not happen without a member’s consent. With a variety of search features and 24/7 access, the directory has proven to be a very effective medium to advertise services to the business community and the general public. For further clarification, there are actually three online directories for our members. The Directory of Translation and Interpreting Services profiles the services of individual translators and interpreters. The Directory of Language Services Companies promotes ATA corporate members who offer language services. The online ATA Membership Directory, which is available only to ATA members in the Members Only section of ATA’s website, lists all current ATA members and was established solely to facilitate communication among ATA members.

Non-English-to-Non-English language combinations. Most significant, as approved by ATA’s Board of Directors, searches can now be done for non-English into non-English language combinations. So, for example, if you work from French into Spanish, you can now list this combination, and businesses or potential clients using the online directory will be able to search on that language combination.

Number of language combinations listed. To accommodate the new search, members can now list as many as seven language combinations, up from five. As of late last year, only 6% of the individuals profiled in the Directory of Translation and Interpreting Services listed five language combinations. Therefore, I do not expect to see many take advantage of the additional combinations, but it is there for you.

Directory home page. We cleaned up and streamlined the directory’s introductory page where searches are started. Based on the comments (or lack of comments) we have received so far, we find that this new design makes it easier for users to conduct their searches.

ATA-certified language combinations. Under Translator and Advanced Searches, we added a sidebar listing all the ATA-certified language combinations. Now searchers will not have to take an extra step (click) to view them.

Translation tools. Under Advanced Search, we added a section on Translation Tools in response to member feedback. If a translation tool you use is not listed, please follow the instructions on how to submit tools you would like listed.

Areas of Specialization. Under Areas of Specialization, we increased the number of fields that you can select from 6 to 12 in response to member requests. If you do not see your area(s) of specialization listed, please let me know.

Additional Information. Under Additional Information, we added a keyword search function, which will make the information listed more useful, particularly for those who use this copy block to mention languages or dialects not listed.

Finally, be sure to keep your directory listing updated. (For more information on updating or adding your profile, please see www.americantranslators.org/tsd.) Take a look at these additions and let me know what you think. As I have written many times before, much of the success of the directory is due to the valuable member feedback we have received and incorporated.

Internet Scam Messages Follow-up

I want to thank all the members who forwarded me messages regarding the various Internet scam messages that have been targeting ATA members. One point I did not address is that ATA does not rent or give out e-mail addresses in bulk. In addition, we do not send broadcast e-mail messages for unrelated groups. If you have any questions, please contact me at walter@atanet.org.

Spread the Word!

Does your local library carry the Chronicle? Help spread the word about professional translation and interpreting. Next time you go to your local library, take a copy of the Chronicle and recommend that they subscribe. You’ll be reaching out to future colleagues and clients.
New MA Degree to Start in Fall 2005  
Master of Arts in Translation and Localization Management (MATLM)  
The MATLM degree will be a combination of translation, localization technology, and business management. The program will be offered as both a two-year (four semesters) and a one-year degree (Advanced Entry – two semesters with 30-32 credits required).

New Summer 2005 Medical Interpreting Course  
Certificate Course in Medical Interpreting: August 18 to 21, 2005 in Monterey, CA  
This course is offered to German and Spanish Interpreters interested in medical interpreting.

New Fall 2005 T&I Training Conference  
Professional Translator and Interpreter Education in the 21st Century  
An international conference to be held in Monterey from September 9 to 11, 2005.

Please log on to www.miis.edu for detailed information about the new MATLM degree program, the Summer 2005 medical course and the Fall 2005 T&I training conference.

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International Translators Day Annual Conference of the Organización Mexicana de Traductores  
“Is T & I an industry?”  
Centro Cultural “El Refugio”  
Tlaquepaque, Mexico  
September 30-October 2, 2005  
www.omt.org.mx/general.htm

Submit proposals (in Spanish or English) by July 16, 2005 to:  
Organización Mexicana de Traductores  
A. C., Avenida Vallarta 1525-304  
Guadalajara, Jalisco, México  
Tel: (52) 33-31-24-04-36 (afternoons) or (52) 33-36-31-01-82  
Fax: (52) 33-31-24-02-37  
estebancc@infosel.net.mx
How fast should I get paid for my work? What if I don’t get paid at all? How do I know the translation company that just contacted me is trustworthy? Freelance translators often ask these questions, only to find that the answers are not readily available. Conversely, translation companies may ask: How fast should we pay our freelancers to keep them happy without jeopardizing our cash flow? Should we pay a freelance translator who delivers late or delivers a sub-standard translation? To answer these and other questions, ATA recently conducted a survey of payment practices among its members.

The issue of payment practices frequently comes up in discussions among ATA members. Not surprisingly, it is one of the primary concerns of freelance translators working as full-time independent contractors. At its November 2004 meeting in Toronto, ATA’s Board of Directors resolved to revisit the issue of the association’s role in payment disputes between its members. To gauge the actual interest in such efforts as well as the severity of the problem for the membership, the authors of this article, with the assistance of other ATA Board members, developed a Web-based survey of payment practices among ATA members.

The survey was distributed in February and March 2005, in time to present the results at the annual conference of ATA’s Translation Company Division (held in April in Philadelphia). We polled a group of corporate members (474) and a group of randomly selected individual members (503). The response rate was 18% (86 respondents) for corporate members and 22% (112 respondents) for individual members.

Given the statistically significant number of responses, we now have a representative set of data that enables us to answer some of the most pressing questions. For reasons of data clarity, the freelance part of the survey only considers translators, not interpreters. This was primarily driven by the desire to keep the data as simple and straightforward as possible, and certainly does not mean the association is overlooking the concerns of interpreters. The following summarizes the results of the survey. Translation companies are abbreviated as “TCs” and “freelancers” represent individual translators who work for translation companies or direct clients on a regular basis.
Survey of Corporate and Freelance Members Regarding Payment Practices Continued

Work Experience and Working Relationships

- Number of years in business: The majority of respondents reported that they had been in business over 10 years (58% for TCs, 50% for freelancers).

- Source of revenue: TCs derive 86% of income from direct clients; freelancers derive 60% of income from TCs. Please note that at the end of this article we provide URL links to summary results available online. For questions 2 and 4 in the online results, the total percentages (i.e., corresponding fractions of the entire sample) are not given, but rather average percentages (i.e., average responses for each category). The total percentages were computed separately and are presented in this article.

- In the past 24 months, most TCs (34%) worked with more than 100 freelancers, and most freelancers (32%) worked with 1-5 TCs.

- Most TCs worked with a variety of freelancers from different countries, but reported that the majority (58%) of their freelance contractors lived in the United States. In turn, freelancers reported that more than three quarters of the TCs they worked for are in the United States.

- Most TCs didn’t know whether the freelancers were ATA members, and most freelancers didn’t know whether the TCs were ATA members. This is an interesting finding, as it points to the lack of awareness on both sides.

Payment Practices: Part I

The first part of the survey was designed to make comparisons between the opinions of TCs and freelancers. For this reason, questions in Part I were identical for both groups. As the responses revealed, the two groups diverge most on the issue of ATA’s much-discussed policy of non-involvement in commercial disputes among members (see ATA’s policy on

Figure 2:

Number of freelancers that TCs work with:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Freelancers</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 10</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 to 50</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 to 100</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100+</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of TCs that freelancers work with:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of TCs</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 5</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 10</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 to 30</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30+</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3:

TCs work with freelancers in:

- 25%
- 20%
- 15%
- 10%
- 5%

Freelancers work with TCs in:

- 25%
- 20%
- 15%
- 10%
- 5%
The responses to the individual questions offered some very interesting information, and the highlights are summarized below.

- Preferred payment terms: The majority of TCs and freelancers agree that a freelance translator should get paid within 30 days of the translator’s invoice.

- Delivery of substandard work: Both TCs and freelancers agree that a TC should not have to pay in full a freelance translator who delivered substandard work or delivered it late.

- Contractual language for arbitration/mediation: The vast majority of TCs (78%) and freelancers (93%) do not include an arbitration or mediation clause in their contracts. This is another area that deserves a closer look in conjunction with the dispute resolution issue.

- ATA’s non-involvement policy: Most TCs (61%) and most freelancers (77%) do not know the reasons for ATA’s policy of non-involvement in commercial disputes among its members. This policy (see page 16) is available online in the members only section of ATA’s website (www.atanet.org/membersonly). Clearly, it would be beneficial to communicate this policy to all members more effectively.

- Changes to the non-involvement policy: This question revealed the largest discrepancy in opinion between the two groups. While most TCs (82%) think that ATA should not change its policy of non-involvement, a majority of freelancers (62%) would like ATA to change its policy.

- Most TCs and most freelancers did not offer any specific suggestions for ways in which ATA could help resolve commercial disputes. However, several respondents for both TCs and freelancers came up with the following suggestions:

  Quotes from Translation Companies:
  - “Professional mediation.”
  - “Publish a code of good practice that both parties can agree to be bound by at the outset.”
  - “ATA can come up with fair and impartial standards for payment, and might have a list of linguistic ‘arbitrators’ that members could hire if needed.”

Figure 4: Preferred Payment Terms

**What payment terms are fair?**

Figure 5: ATA’s Non-involvement policy

**Do you know the reasons for ATA’s non-involvement policy?**
• “Form a mediation board made up of corporate and freelance members. Decisions could be binding or not, or could end up in a referral to a court. You might have to compensate members a nominal fee.”

• “Set up an arbitration committee based on the fact that ATA is a translator certification body.”

• “A system of referral to third-party arbitrators/mediators should be investigated.”

• “Create some sort of way to report bad business practices that is accessible to all members, following a structure similar to a Better Business Bureau report or credit history report.”

• “As a professionally qualified third party arbitrator.”

Quotes from Freelancers:
• “In the past, I once received help from the Ethics Committee chair, who contacted an agency on my behalf. This can be sufficient without incurring legal liability.”

• “Operate as an arbitrator, in which case you would not be liable. Just like the Canadian associations do.”

• “Education, mediation, arbitration.”

• “Ethics should be the basis for intervention.”

• “Simply backing the translator with a letter of support would make a difference.”

• “Have both parties sign waivers of ATA responsibility.”

• “The translation work should be challenged only by individuals who are competent, tested, qualified, experienced, and who hold valid credentials.”

• “By mediating and issuing an opinion.”

• “Offer arbitration that translators and agencies/companies can use.”

• “Publish the name of translation agencies that have been found to be at fault in disputes, either in the Chronicle or online.”

• “Allow publication of non-payers.”

• “Perform a quality check.”

• “Provide an independent evaluator.”

• “Simply establish a black list of bad payers as reported by translators, possibly with ratings such as done by Dun & Bradstreet.”

• “By giving binding advice, after both parties have agreed that this advice is binding. (This is a regular practice in Holland.)”

• “ATA should take part in a mediation process between the translator and the translation bureau. The Ethics Committee seems to be only an advisory body. Translators want to feel they are being represented.”

• “Allow members to publish names and addresses of companies with which they have had problems.”

• “A non-binding arbitration through ATA.”

• “Keep a list of poor paying companies. This way, commercial disputes can be avoided.”

• “If the translator was not at fault in any way, offer to contact the company to offer assistance to mediate.”

• “Provide links/info of resources (legal firms, attorney, legal advise services, etc.).”

• “In disputes over quality, before resorting to court, ATA’s opinion could be sought to verify whether the accusation was true. Payment or other measures could be determined accordingly.”

• “Legal help, resources, information, establishing a voluntary arbitration that could help solve disputes if both parties agree.”

• “Keeping a list of bad payers to protect the interests of freelance translators/interpreters.”

Payment Practices: Part II
The second part of the survey featured specific questions that were pertinent to the work reality of each of the groups. Summary responses to Part II are discussed below.

Translation Companies
This section included questions that were specific to TCs.

• ATA membership status in the case of substandard work: Most TCs reported that in the majority of cases, the translators who delivered substandard work in the past 24 months were not ATA members, or else only a small fraction of them were. Again, a large number of TCs did not know whether the translators were ATA members.
ATA membership status in the case of work delivered late: Most TCs reported that they did not know whether the translators who delivered late were ATA members. The second largest group reported that 1-25% of translators who delivered their work late in the past 24 months were ATA members.

In cases when substandard work was delivered by a freelancer, most TCs paid the invoice, but informed the translator that he or she had provided substandard work.

Freelancers on policy change:

Freelance Translators
This section included questions that were specific to freelance translators.

Most translators did not know whether TCs who had delayed payment past the agreed payment terms in the past 24 months were ATA corporate members.

If a payment was not made as agreed, most translators’ first action was a friendly reminder by phone and/or e-mail.

Most translators typically wait 15 days before they notify a TC about a delay in payment.

The majority of translators eventually received full payment in all instances. This underscores the fact that payment issues are more focused on late payment than an outright failure to pay, and that much of the problem lies in the time spent on collection efforts.

Freelancers on policy change:

The last question for both TCs and freelancers referred to the proportion of “disputes” that would have benefited from action by a neutral third party. Most TCs responded that none of the disputes were fit for outside involvement, while most freelancers thought this question irrelevant.

Conclusions
The issue of payments has long divided the two groups within our association. It is most certainly a frequent topic of conversation among freelancers. According to the survey results, 60% of income among freelancers is derived from orders placed by TCs. This type of work arrangement makes delayed payment much more significant, as income does not come from a wide range of sources, and attempts to collect consume time that cannot otherwise be used productively. On the other hand, corporate members are grappling with problems of substandard work and quality shortcomings. Most report having multiple serious quality problems in the past 24 months, and have also seen a sizable number of assignments that were handed in late. Many of the individual open-ended responses suggest instituting an arbitration mechanism.

Interestingly, very few translation companies and freelance translators include clauses to govern arbitration or mediation in their contracts. The American Arbitration Association recommends the inclusion of an arbitration mechanism.

Continued on p.17
The American Translators Association and Commercial Disputes Between Members

All members of the American Translators Association (ATA), by the act of joining the association, agree to abide by the ATA Code of Professional Conduct and Business Practices.

In addition to the principles outlined in the Code, ATA encourages all its members to follow established business practices. Such practices include exercising due diligence and good business judgment before accepting or offering work by verifying that the prospective client or vendor has a satisfactory business record and qualifications with reasonable expectation of satisfactory future performance.

ATA recognizes that, even with due diligence, commercial disputes between members will sometimes arise. It is the policy of ATA not to undertake to resolve or publicize such disputes for the following reasons:

1. Publicizing alleged cases of non-payment by members would not only require ATA to review such cases and make a finding of improper action, which is not feasible for lack of expertise and resources, but could also open ATA up to potentially expensive and damaging litigation if such cases were publicized on incorrect or insufficient grounds of evidence.

2. The Board of Directors is obligated to allocate ATA resources in a way that maximizes the return to members on the investment they make in joining. Pursuing a policy of intervention in commercial disputes would require us to set aside financial resources to cover the potential legal costs, and to curtail other programs of established benefit to members.

3. If ATA were to adjudicate commercial disputes involving claims of non-performance on the part of translation companies, fairness would dictate that it also adjudicate disputes involving claims of non-performance by individual translators and interpreters. To do so, ATA would have to determine whether a translator’s or interpreter’s work for pay meets professional standards, a function ATA is not prepared to undertake.

The ATA Ethics Committee is ready to consider cases in which a member has been convicted of a felony or other crime of moral turpitude in a court of law, cases of alleged impropriety in the conduct of association business, and other cases properly brought before it under Article III, Section 6 of the ATA Bylaws. The ATA Ethics Committee will decline to consider disputes of any other type.

ATA committees, chapters, and divisions shall not publicize alleged cases of non-payment by members or non-members in their newsletters, websites, electronic listservs, or other publications. All ATA members are free, of course, to share among themselves views on commercial or other matters, provided that ATA channels are not used for communications covered by this policy.

ATA wishes to encourage good business practices and to foster a culture of prompt payment among its members. To this end, ATA has made the collection and receivables management services of Dun and Bradstreet available to members at reduced rates. This commercial service, while not always able to resolve a dispute to member satisfaction, nevertheless offers a useful and economical membership benefit. ATA has also made available on its website a Model Contract for Translation Services. The Board welcomes the initiative by the Translation Company Division to establish a voluntary code of business practices and quality standards for corporate members. ATA members who wish to suggest other ways to help ATA foster good business practices are invited to do so. All suggestions will be carefully reviewed and, if deemed appropriate and feasible, implemented.

March 2002
clause in all contracts. This is a preventive measure that defines what will happen in the event of a dispute and where the parties can turn. This issue deserves to be studied in greater detail, with specific recommendations for suitable language.

The reasons for ATA’s non-involvement in commercial disputes are not well known. Based on the survey responses, the majority of the association’s membership is unfamiliar with the reasoning behind the policy. Any discussion of the issue must bring to the forefront the original thoughts that motivated the policy so that an informed decision can be made. There is a clear need to better publicize the associated deliberations and to allow for an open discussion.

A variety of informational billboards and listservs already exist outside of the association to discuss “payment practices” and “contractor capabilities.” So far, the association has shied away from getting involved in such services and has not endorsed any of the existing options. As several of the open survey responses suggest, ATA members are looking for resources of this kind within the association. To avoid legal problems and lawsuits, any such attempt would need to follow a rigidly standardized format.

One important insight of the survey is that neither translation companies nor freelancers emphasize the fact of their ATA membership to one another in their working relationships. According to the survey participants, membership status actually seems to play a subordinate role. In the effort to underscore the benefits of ATA membership in general and of certification in particular, both groups should be encouraged to routinely enquire about the membership status of the other party. ATA membership status can be shown in e-mail signatures, on business cards, brochures, and in other communications.

Aside from these difficult questions for the future, translation companies and freelancers in our association actually share a lot of common ground. Both groups believe in the same high standards of professional conduct, and both share a love of language and a passion for translation quality. Forums such as the Translation Company Division conference will serve to strengthen the relationship of the two groups that depend on one another in our industry.

In closing, we would like to thank all the respondents who took the time to fill out the survey. More detailed results are also available online at the following addresses:

Freelancers:

Translation Companies:

We welcome further comments and suggestions. Do not hesitate to contact either of us at jiri@cetra.com or dracette@direcway.com.

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Look for the Preliminary Program and Registration Form with The Chronicle in July!
Culture Crash: New Refugees in the U.S. Biomedical System

By Amy Wade

The information for this article was obtained through research on recruiting and reliable testing purposes, as well as through interviews with refugees and from publications about the Nuer and Dinka tribes and the U.S. healthcare system. More information about Medicaid and refugees can be obtained at the website for the Department for Health and Human Services (www.os.dhhs.gov). Other sources of information on this topic include www.jcaho.org (the page for the Joint Commission on Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations) and www.diversityrx.org, a website dedicated to quality healthcare for ethnically diverse populations sponsored by The National Conference of State Legislatures, Resources for Cross Cultural Health Care, and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation of Menlo Park, California.

Imagine a place where the sun beats down on the arid earth, the smell of burning dung piles fills the air, and the sound of cattle fades in and out. Money is not important, but the ownership of cattle is. Getting ahead in your career is not important, but marriage and children are. Your home is not your biggest investment, but the ownership of cattle is. Getting ahead in your career is not important, but marriage and children are. Your home is not your biggest investment, but the ownership of cattle is. Getting ahead in your career is not important, but marriage and children are. Your home is not your biggest investment, but the ownership of cattle is. Getting ahead in your career is not important, but marriage and children are.

Now imagine this serene setting ravaged by the violence of war. Without warning, the village inhabitants run from their homes to save their lives. Many of them are brutalized or are subjected to the horror of witnessing loved ones being raped and murdered.

Suddenly, the only hope for survival is to leave home and a way of life. Without time to plan or prepare, a voyage is embarked upon to a far off land where nothing is the same.

This is the story of many Nuer and Dinka tribal people from Southern Sudan. Although the above introduction is very brief, it begins to paint a picture of the circumstances that brought many of these people to the U.S. While the details are different, similar tribulations are experienced by thousands of refugees pouring into this country from around the globe. The drama of their experience in the U.S. is often most clearly revealed through their encounters with the U.S. biomedical system.

What is a Refugee?

Victims of human rights violations (i.e., systematic violence) can fall within several categories depending primarily on their place of relocation: refugees, internally displaced people, asylum seekers/asylees, returnees, and disappeared people. In addition, people who have endured physical, mental, and/or sexual torture fall under the category of survivors of torture (dcc2.bumc.bu.edu/refugees/definitions.htm). According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, a refugee is a person who leaves the country of his or her nationality because of a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, political opinion, or membership within a particular social group. In a similar category, an “Asylee” (a person holding asylum status) is someone who leaves his or her country for the same reason, but applies for the protection of asylum status after arriving in the host country. This is slightly different from a refugee, who asks for protection and is granted this protected status outside of the host country. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 8% of the immigrant population in the U.S. include refugees.

Each year, there is a limit set for the amount of persons who will be granted refugee status. For the 2005 fiscal year, that limit is 70,000 people, allocated to six geographic regions: Africa (20,000 admissions); East Asia (13,000 admissions); Europe and Central Asia (9,500 admissions); Latin America/Caribbean (5,000 admissions); Near East/South Asia (2,500 admissions); and a reserve of 20,000 admissions.

The first wave of Sudanese refugees (from the Nuer and Dinka tribes) in the U.S. became known as “The Lost Boys.” Although they began to arrive in the U.S. in 1999, many had been refugees for over nine years in Kenya and Ethiopia. Their story is both heartbreaking and inspiring. They walked hundreds of miles, endured unspeakable violence, starvation, and were even hunted by lions before they began the refugee application process (a process that can take years).

First Encounters with Healthcare

Immigrants who are granted refugee status rarely get to choose the state where they will be relocated, with the exception being family members who are reuniting. Understandably, many refugees spend their first years in this country moving to locations...
where they can be closer to members of their own ethnicity. Some states, such as Texas, offer Refugee Medical Assistance (or RMA), which covers eligible refugees for up to eight months. Refugees are also granted access to Medicaid, but the length of time they are eligible varies because Medicaid is a joint federal and state program. This means that each state establishes its own eligibility standards, benefits package, provider requirements, payment rates, and program administration under broad federal guidelines. In many states, the amount of time a refugee is eligible for this type of coverage parallels RMA eligibility (eight months), making it imperative that refugees find employment as soon as possible in order to receive health insurance benefits from their employers once the Medicaid allotment has been depleted. Therefore, a refugee’s first challenge within the U.S. healthcare system is the cost and the paperwork associated with it.

Despite the good intentions of Medicaid, refugees find the experience of dealing with the system to be nothing short of exasperating, especially since there is no parallel system in their country of origin. The rules and regulations of Medicaid are complicated even for U.S. citizens, so imagine the challenge faced by people who have not even mastered the language yet. In fact, most refugees would never be able to take advantage of the service if it weren’t for the aid of volunteers. For example, in Jacksonville, Florida, where many of the interviews that contributed to the information in this article were conducted, Nuer and Dinka refugees rely almost completely on a small number of volunteers at the World Relief Organization for success in using Medicaid. These volunteers spend countless hours filling out forms, making appointments, and explaining the basic concepts of health insurance.

Medicaid can be vexing for health professionals as well, so it is unfortunate that rather than commiserating, doctors and patients sometimes become frustrated with one another.

The Appointment
Making an appointment to see one’s doctor is a familiar activity for most U.S. citizens, and aside from some frustration about the inevitable wait in the doctor’s office, it is a simple step in the process of healthcare. Not so for new refugees, for whom the option of being able to call and make an appointment is often an unknown concept. Refugees who come from places such as Africa may have had to travel miles on foot to see the doctor or nurse. Once at the “hospital,” they may have even had to sit around, sometimes for days, until someone was available to examine them.

Aside from the obstacles presented by the language barrier and the somewhat complicated medical referral system, issues surrounding the concepts of time, transportation, and even using the phone can get in the way of obtaining proper treatment. For instance, telephones are still not common in certain parts of the world, and for many the experience of speaking to someone who is not physically present is still somewhat ethereal. For Nuer and Dinka refugees, time is not measured by hours but by events, so honing in on a specific appointment time can be difficult. It is not uncommon for patients to arrive hours before or after the scheduled appointment. Transportation can be a challenge because new refugees generally do not have cars, and so must rely on bus systems or volunteers who have agreed to take them to their appointments. Also, paying for services can be a new concept, and Nuer and Dinka refugees often learn the hard way that if they don’t pay their bills, they’ll have their services discontinued. Also making things difficult is the fact that refugees who are fleeing their country often arrive in the U.S. with pre-existing medical conditions brought about by starvation, exhaustion, violence, and emotional stress. These people will need to see a doctor almost immediately, but it can be difficult for them to act quickly.

Healthcare Beliefs
The U.S. biomedical system has become extremely clinical. The focus is on physical symptoms, illnesses, and pathogens rather than on the person who suffers from them. The expertise of medical practitioners has become increasingly more specialized, and the demands of insurance and the high cost of healthcare encroach upon the time doctors can spend with their patients. The stress level in the emergency room and hospitals certainly detracts from the quality of care some patients receive, despite some healthcare workers’ best efforts.

Refugees generally come from places where a more holistic approach to healthcare is taken. Traditionally, spiritual, emotional, and even behavioral causes are deemed responsible for poor health, rather than physical symptoms or infectious diseases. Cures often involve rituals and some form of prayer or vigilance.

It is no wonder that these two systems clash. Nonetheless, Nuer and Dinka refugees embrace the practice of medicine in this country. They are extremely hopeful that the doctor will find a way to end their physical suffering and are attentive to every instruction—many times more so
than their new American countrymen and women. For example, Nuer and Dinka women have proven quite open to the divergent methods of aiding childbirth, and the advanced technology used in diagnosis is viewed with wonderment rather than fear. However, a willingness to accept American medicine does not negate these patients’ desires to understand what is going on with them. The constraints of a 15-minute appointment can cause confusion, frustration, and repeated visits. A good bedside manner usually means the difference between a successful encounter and a disastrous one.

Health Indicators

Health indicators for refugees vary widely, as the circumstances of life before becoming a refugee varies from country to country. For the Nuer and Dinka refugees, there are several health indicators that differ greatly from the overall U.S. population.

As previously mentioned, many Sudanese refugees suffer starvation and malnutrition before coming to the U.S. In the case of “The Lost Boys,” sucking on mud was necessary in order to prevent death from thirst. These factors, together with the prevalence of parasites in the drinking water, have contributed to a host of intestinal disorders that haunt these refugees, and have even caused death despite major improvements in the nutrition they receive while living in the States.

War has certainly taken its toll on these refugees as well. Not only do they suffer physical problems such as loss of limbs, but the trauma of war has also had a significant impact on their mental health. Mental health care would seem essential for most refugees, but it is not generally available through Medicaid except in certain states like Massachusetts. These refugees also learn early on that there is a certain stigma attached to seeking treatment for mental problems, and often shy away from taking advantage of the already limited resources available to them in this area.

The longer a refugee remains in this country, the more the healthcare indicators will align with the general population. However, this process is slower for certain refugees, because many of them hold on to the hope that they will be going back to their home country. There is no doubt that a certain amount of cultural assimilation occurs, but in many cases traditions (such as choice of cuisine) are maintained.

The Language Barrier and the True Importance of the Interpreter

Without a doubt, the language barrier is the greatest hurdle for most refugees. Many of them have not had the opportunity to learn English before their arrival in this country, and in some cases may not even speak the national language of their country of origin. Such is the case of many Nuer and Dinka refugees who speak their tribal tongues, but not Arabic, the national language of Sudan. However, these two groups in particular have demonstrated tremendous resolve and drive by enrolling in college courses, taking on two or three jobs, and making every effort to understand their new home. Unfortunately, it can take years to learn to use a language well, and despite an ability to understand English fairly well, some Nuer and Dinka refugees find it difficult to make themselves understood. It is not uncommon for American volunteers to accompany these patients to medical appointments in order to serve as an “interpreter.” These volunteers do not speak Nuer, Dinka, or even Arabic, but they do have a sympathetic ear, and because they are more used to conversing with the refugees, they can more readily understand a refugee’s heavily accented English.

Medical interpretation has been steadily gaining ground over the last several years, and in many cities quality professional interpretation is available for Spanish and many other major languages. This may be because English studies are more common in countries where the world’s major languages are spoken, so a larger number of people coming from these areas are already fluent in English. Consequently, there are also many native English speakers who have learned one of the major languages well enough to interpret. However, this is not usually the case for the “rarer” languages. There are many refugees who speak a language that no American has learned. In the case of Nuer and Dinka refugees, there are precious few native speakers who either learned English before coming to the U.S. (mainly those from the capital city where Arabic is spoken), or are children or young adults who’ve attended some formative schooling in the U.S.

Medical institutions may have found that they must use family members and volunteers to help them communicate with patients who speak a “rare” language, even though they may have labeled this practice as taboo for other major languages. Over-the-phone interpretation becomes extremely valuable in situations like this because of its immediacy and ability to provide professional interpreters in areas where no other options exist. Also, some telephonic interpretation companies, such as Language Line Services, are able to provide quality interpreters thanks to screening, testing, and observation practices. For some Nuer and Dinka refugees, working with an over-the-
phone interpreter represents freedom from the social demands of a face-to-face encounter. Nuer and Dinka may shy away from divulging personal medical information in the presence of someone who they feel could single them out in the community and cause embarrassment. However, when the interview is conducted over the phone, they can remain anonymous.

Of course, medical interpreters do much more than just act as conduits of language. They also provide critical cultural brokering skills, which are every bit as important to communication as language. In the case of the Nuer and Dinka, only the interpreter may realize that before discussing something so private as one’s health, these refugees will require a formal introduction to their interpreter and their healthcare provider, which includes the exchange of family names and origins. Only an interpreter may realize that men are prohibited from discussing women’s issues and vice versa without express permission and apology. Only an interpreter may be able to warn the doctor or nurse that a patient may prefer to lie about their condition rather than lose face and admit to something “embarrassing.” There are thousands of social praxes that a trained professional can interpret for the greater good of a successful encounter.

The Kindness of Strangers

Many refugees would simply not have access to healthcare in the U.S. if it weren’t for the tireless efforts of volunteers. There are several churches across the nation that sponsor refugee groups, where members of the congregation provide temporary lodging and help with acclimating refugees to new life situations. There are also a few key organizations, such as Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Services, and World Relief, where paid and volunteer staff work indefatigably to assist with such issues as the very complex Medicaid application process.22

There are also other “VOLAGs” (national volunteer/resettlement Agencies) that have entered into grant or other contractual agreements with the U.S. Department of State or other federal agencies to provide for the reception and initial placement of refugees in this country.23

Conclusion

Certainly there are issues with the U.S. biomedical system that affect all Americans, as evidenced by public outcries concerning its cost and increasingly impersonal service. For refugees, the added stress of language and cultural barriers requires even greater efforts to bridge this gap between the system and the public it serves. The issues of racial and nationalistic discrimination continue to plague U.S. institutions. Healthcare facilities and personnel are not exempt from these insidious barriers to quality care. The advent of cultural competency has made some headway in combating obstacles to equal healthcare, but there is a serious lack of data to aid in understanding the “rarer” cultures, such as the Nuer and Dinka. More research, understanding, and compassion are desperately needed to serve this very deserving group of people.

Notes
5. Interview with a Nuer refugee who wished to remain anonymous, July 2004.
10. Interview with a Dinka refugee who wished to remain anonymous, July 2004.
12. Interviews with a Nuer man and a Dinka woman who wished to remain anonymous, July 2004.

Continued on p.28
The Value of the In-House Linguist

By Memuna Williams

Last year, I joined a local nonprofit as a volunteer to help the group advance a new interpretation service they had decided to offer to local health and human services agencies. After an initial marketing campaign, one of the big local hospitals took us up on our offer, enabling us to really get the service off the ground.

During the time leading up to the hospital’s acceptance of our offer, we dealt with an office administrator who was committed to providing translation and interpreting to all persons of limited English proficiency requiring service at the hospital. Because of the administrator’s commitment to translation and interpreting, the hospital had an intricate system for handling their language needs. That system included in-house interpreters and translators, an external telephone interpreting service, and outsourcing the rest of their interpreting and translation to groups like ours.

Almost as soon as the ink had dried on the one-year contract we signed, the dedicated administrator we had been working with left. She was replaced by someone we knew from the community, so we were hopeful for the continuity of our partnership.

Three months into the contract, the new administrator called a meeting. She wanted to contract out all parts of the hospital’s translating and interpreting operation to us. She also wanted us to provide a service proposal that would include a guarantee stating that we would respond to requests for interpreters within 10 minutes. During the meeting, she showed us a spreadsheet she had been keeping of the hours the in-house interpreters were spending on actual interpreting. It showed that the interpreters never interpreted for the full eight hours a day for which they were on staff. On good days, they interpreted four to five hours. All this was good news for us, but it likely meant that at least some of the professional linguists at the hospital would be losing their jobs.

I had long recognized that companies with language services departments often discontinue their in-house translation and interpreting capabilities due to those services not being part of the company’s core operations. It was not until my meeting with the new office administrator that it dawned on me that the spreadsheet scenario had played out several times in the past, and was likely to do so repeatedly in the future.

In my experience, it had happened when I worked in-house and our department was reviewed but spared any cuts in my first few years on the job. It happened again with a second review a few years later, when the translation department was not as lucky and lost about one-third of its staff. It was happening yet again as I prepared to leave the company and the department was under review once more. A few years after I left, the department was completely disbanded.

The fortunes of in-house linguists rise and fall with the peaks and troughs of the business cycle…”

...The fortunes of in-house linguists rise and fall with the peaks and troughs of the business cycle...

The Value of In-house Translators and Interpreters

The starting point for staff translators and interpreters is to understand their own worth. As the ones most likely to face questions about their relevance, they must be able to articulate their value to employers.

In-house linguists take full ownership of a company’s translation and interpreting work for a number of reasons. In-house linguists are directly responsible for the work they produce. Since they are company insiders, they likely have first-hand knowledge of the company’s communication protocols and desired image. As insiders, their values are better aligned with those of the company than someone from the outside. For example, if a translation question cannot be easily resolved through research, staff translators also have direct access to other in-house resources, such as a corporate counsel for legal translations or the production department for technical translations.

All of this usually means that...
in-house linguists have the desire and are better positioned to produce the best possible outcome. As a result, they often provide better quality work, and projects are more likely to be completed correctly the first time around. This reduces the aggravation and cost to requesting departments of having work corrected or redone.

In spite of these benefits, having an in-house team rarely completely eliminates the need for help from additional outside resources like translation agencies or freelance translators. However, the in-house team can help the company by bringing their experience to bear in choosing the right outside resources to provide the needed assistance so that projects can be completed seamlessly, efficiently, and effectively.

Additional Translation- and Interpreting-Related Services

What should translators and interpreters do with time that is not directly spent on their primary functions? As is the case in other professions, the translation process is performed best with the help of certain support functions. A couple of the support functions most closely related to translation and interpreting are terminology management, documentation, and technology.

For instance, translations can be kept consistent and produced quickly when terminology and legacy materials are tracked properly and are easy to access and use. Translators and interpreters can have a hand in building, updating, and maintaining the terminology databases, computer-assisted translation tools, and document catalogues they need to be the most productive. Their contributions in such cases could be anything from adding terminology records to databases, keeping translation memories updated, indexed, and maintained, and suggesting new and useful electronic and hard copy resources for a department or company library. In addition, translators and interpreters can propose new technologies that will continue to increase their productivity. Something they could be doing right now, for example, is experimenting with the new search engines that index documents and cut search times down to seconds from minutes.

When an in-house language services department is required to function as a profit center, at least some of the department’s time should be spent on marketing its services to other parts of the company and keeping track of all aspects of the department’s performance.

Making the Most of the Cyclical Nature of Business

Given the nature of the business cycle, it is inevitable that even the best intentioned and well organized in-house translation and interpreting department will at some point face questions about its relevance to the business it is a part of. If allegiance to and knowledge of the business through training and helping to build internal systems proves insufficient to save some jobs or the department, consider the following.

The knowledge that translators and interpreters gain over the years through working for a company still remains of value after they leave. Depending on the extent of the cuts, that knowledge can be used by individuals to continue to work for the company on a freelance basis. Alternatively, teams of translators and interpreters can join forces to form a company that can bid on translation and interpreting projects at the company where they used to work, as well as at other companies.

The dollar value to a company from institutional knowledge, interdepartmental cooperation, preventing learning curve issues, saving time and money by reducing errors, streamlining recruiting, and continuing to improve translation productivity and efficiency can be quite significant over time. Once properly quantified, such added value can be presented in a way traditional managers can relate to, and may go a long way towards helping clients see what in-house linguists bring to the table. If these benefits fail to save staff positions, understanding the value built over time from their services and putting a positive spin on the situation can help translators and interpreters negotiate from a position of strength when discussing a potential new relationship with the company. Alternatively, the knowledge built can be parlayed into a new venture that can continue to benefit all sides.
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E-mail: fit2005@tampereconference.fi
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Read more about the Congress on page 11!
ATA Chapters, Affiliated Groups, and Other Groups

ATA Chapters
Atlanta Association of Interpreters and Translators (AAIT)
P.O. Box 12172
Atlanta, GA 30355
Tel: (770) 587-4884
aaitinfo@aait.org • www.aait.org

Carolina Association of Translators and Interpreters (CATI)
318 Bandock Drive
Durham, NC 27703
Tel: (919) 577-0840
catiweb@pobox.com • www.catiweb.org

Delaware Valley Translators Association (DVTA)
606 John Anthony Drive
West Chester, PA 19382-7191
Tel: (215) 222-0955
devinney@temple.edu
www.fortunecity.de/lindenpark/kuenstler/59/dvta.htm

Florida Chapter of ATA (FLATA)
P.O. Box 14-1057
Coral Gables, FL 33114-1057
Tel/Voice: (305) 274-3434
Fax: (305) 387-6712
info@atafl.org • www.atafl.org

Michigan Translators/Interpreters Network (MiTiN)
P.O. Box 852
Novi, MI 48376-0852
Tel: (586) 778-7304 • Fax: (248) 344-0092
info@mitinweb.org • www.mitinweb.org

Mid-America Chapter of ATA (MICATA)
6600 NW Sweetbriar Lane
Kansas City, MO 64151
Tel: (816) 741-9441 • Fax: (816) 741-9482
translate@kc.rr.com • www.ata-micata.org

Midwest Association of Translators and Interpreters (MATI)
542 S Dearborn Street, Suite 1060
Chicago, IL 60605
Tel: (312) 427-5450 • Fax: (312) 427-1505
moirapujols@aol.com • www.matia.org

National Capital Area Chapter of ATA (NCATA)
P.O. Box 5757
Washington, DC 20016-5757
Tel: (703) 255-9290 • Fax: (202) 234-5656
johnvazquez@msn.com • www.ncata.org

New York Circle of Translators (NYCT)
P.O. Box 4051, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163-4051
Tel: (212) 334-3060
president@nyctranslators.org
www.nyctranslators.org

Northeast Ohio Translators Association (NOTA)
33425 Bainbridge Road
Solon, OH 44139
Tel: (440) 519-0161
js@jill-sommer.com • www.ohiotranslators.org

Northern California Translators Association (NCTA)
P.O. Box 14015
Berkeley, CA 94712-5015
Tel: (510) 845-8712 • Fax: (510) 883-1355
ncta@ncta.org • www.ncta.org

Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society (NOTIS)
P.O. Box 25301
Seattle, WA 98165-2201
Tel: (206) 382-5642
info@notisnet.org • www.notisnet.org

Southern California Area Translators and Interpreters Association (SCATIA)
P.O. Box 34310
Los Angeles, CA 90034
Tel: (818) 725-3899 • Fax: (818) 340-9177
info@scatia.org • www.scatia.org

Upper Midwest Translators and Interpreters Association (UMTIA)
Minnesota Translation Lab
University of Minnesota
218 Nolte Center
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Tel: (612) 625-3096
mtl@tc.umn.edu • www.umtia.org

Affiliated Groups
Houston Interpreters and Translators Association (HITA)
P.O. Box 421343
Houston, TX 77242-1343
Tel: (713) 202-6169
www.hitagroup.org

Iowa Interpreters and Translators Association (IITA)
P.O. Box 7631
Urbandale, IA 50323
Tel: (515) 865-3873 • Fax: (515) 278-5841
info@iitanet.org • www.iitanet.org

Utah Translators and Interpreters Association (UTIA)
P.O. Box 433
Salt Lake City, UT 84110
jcalleman@aol.com
www.stampscapes.com/utia

Other Groups
This list gives contact information for translation and interpretation groups as a service to ATA members. Inclusion does not imply affiliation with or endorsement by ATA.

American Literary Translators Association (ALTA)
The University of Texas at Dallas
Box 830688 Mail Station JO51
Richardson, TX 75083-0688
Tel: (972) 883-2093 • Fax: (972) 883-6303
www.literarytranslators.org

Association of Language Companies (ALC)
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Arlington, VA 22209-1605
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15. Interviews with five Nuer and Dinka men and three Dinka women, all of whom wished to remain anonymous, February and July 2004.


21. Interview with Awein Majak, a Dinka and Arabic medical interpreter, August 2004.


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**Culture Crash: New Refugees in the U.S. Biomedical System Continued from p. 22**

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I

De-Hyping Translation Memory: True Benefits, Real Differences, and an Educated Guess about its Future

By Jost Zetzsche

In a literal sense, translation memory programs are applications that extend the memory of the translation professional by allowing him or her to build up databases of translated material and leverage that against newly translatable content. However, this general definition does not take into account all of the capabilities of these programs.

These tools also allow the user to build up terminology databases that complement and extend the functionality of the translation memories. They enable translators to work in very complicated file formats that they may not understand or otherwise be able to support. Furthermore, many of these programs provide methods for analysis, quality assurance, and productivity that go way beyond the typical functions of a mere “translation memory” tool.

It may be surprising for some to learn that translation memory tools have been around for some time. The TRADOS translation company, founded in 1984, released its first commercial product, MultiTerm (TRADOS’ terminology management component), in 1990, and Workbench (TRADOS’ translation memory application for DOS) in 1992. In 1994, TRADOS released a Windows version with an MS Word interface. The translation agency Star—like TRADOS, founded in 1984—released a product that was originally designed for in-house use: Star Transit, with its terminology component TermStar. IBM released its Translation Manager (TM/2) product in 1992 (and buried it in 2002). And, as the first Windows-based commercial product, Atril’s Déjà Vu was released in 1993.

While a large number of other tools have entered the market in the ensuing years, old tools are being discontinued at nearly the same pace (such as IBM’s Translation Manager, Alpnet’s TSS/Joust, SDL’s Amptran, or Cypresoft’s Trans Suite 2000).

Categories of Translation Memory Tools

The commercially available tools can be classified into two main categories:

• Tools that perform all or most of their work through macros in Microsoft Word that allow interaction between translation memory(s) and terminology database(s); and

• Tools that let the translator work in an independent, mostly tabular environment.

“…While translation memory does make us all more efficient, ultimately any translation memory or terminology database is only as good as the translation professional who created it…”

Tools Using Microsoft Word as Their Main Translation Interface. The most well known application of the MS Word plug-in is TRADOS (see www.trados.com). Others include:

• MultiTrans (www.multicorpora.com);
• Wordfast (www.wordfast.net);
• MetaTexis (www.metatexis.com);
• WordFisher (www.wordfisher.com, now available as freeware);
• Fusion (www.orcadev.com); and
• Logoport (www.logoport.net).

This group can be categorized by its range of applications:

• TRADOS covers a very large range of applications and formats through its RTF and tagged text conversion utilities and, lately, with the increased use of its new interfaces, the TagEditor and the T-Windows collection.

• MultiTrans offers several other translation interfaces besides MS Word, including WordPerfect and PowerPoint.

• The other tools are primarily focused on native MS Word files or other formats that can be accessed through MS Word (either through a tagging mechanism or by “calling” into other applications).

MultiTrans does not completely fit in the above category. In fact, its developers would argue that it is not a “translation memory” tool at all, but a “bi-text” or “corpora” tool. Instead of matching on a sentence-by-sentence level, MultiTrans’ corpora are full source- and target-language texts that contain the entire context of the original. These texts have an approximate matching capacity that allows alignment (the generation of translation memory databases out of previously translated text) to be done virtually on the fly. MultiTrans was designed to cater to the needs of the Canadian government, whose millions of pages of translated content from and to French and English proved too much to put through a manual alignment process.

Tools Using an Independent Translation Interface. The last group—the category that presents all files in an independent, uniform format—includes:
• Lionbridge’s open source application ForeignDesk (www.foreigndesk.net);

• German newcomer across (www.across.net);

• Singaporean Heartsome (www.heartsome.net); and

• The better-known applications: SDLX (www sdlx com), Star Transit (www star transit com), and Déjà Vu (see www atril com).

Lionbridge truly broke new ground when it released ForeignDesk as an open source software application in 2001, but it never really caught on, partly because of its interdependence with many of the TRADOS tagged formats.

Heartsome offers a whole new approach to translation memory because it uses the exchange formats TMX (for translation memories), TBX (for terminology databases), and XLIFF (for multilingual translation files) as its primary working format. Any supported file type is first converted to one of these data types before the actual translation occurs. Another first for Heartsome is that it equally supports Windows, Mac, and Linux platforms.

In the following analysis, I will concentrate primarily on three somewhat representative tools: the veterans TRADOS, Transit, and Déjà Vu, and the relative newcomer SDLX.

The Similarities

In some areas, the major tools have become increasingly similar (aside from their inherent similarity that they all have translation memories and display translatable text). For instance:

• All of them have a freely configurable terminology component that plays a fairly major role in the translation workflow.

• All of them process texts in Unicode, thus providing access to all languages that are supported by the Windows operating system.

• All of them have a feature that allows alignment.

• All of them provide support for TMX, the XML-based translation memory exchange format.

• All of them support a similarly broad range of file formats (including desktop publishing, word processing, and software development formats) and tagging standards (HTML and SGML).

• All of them allow concordance searches (searches for a single word or expression within larger segments) in their translation memories.

• All of them have some general word processing features, such as spell checking or a “search & replace” function.

• All of them provide fairly detailed analysis features.

This is more or less where the similarities end.

The Differences

Translation Memories. Transit is fundamentally different from TRADOS, SDLX, and Déjà Vu in the sense that rather than using an external translation memory, which stores previously translated information, it provides for a “virtual” translation memory—Transit refers to it as “reference material”—by associating already translated files. The benefit of this is that there is no need for an “additional” database that may tie up computer or server space. The drawbacks are the large amount of translated file pairs that have to be retained to provide for the necessary “reference material,” plus the fact that the user has to have a very good overview of what is actually contained in the legacy material.

A major difference between the translation memory databases of TRADOS, Déjà Vu, and SDLX lies in their formats. In its non-enterprise versions, TRADOS uses a proprietary database format, while Déjà Vu and SDLX use a generic industry-standard format. TRADOS uses the same database engine for its databases as Microsoft Access. This differentiation is probably not so relevant for a beginning user, but it can make a difference for an advanced user. TRADOS’ database concept limits the user to predefined ways of “communicating” with the databases, whereas the open database concept of Déjà Vu and SDLX allow for more extensive database access with readily provided tools and through standard SQL (Structured Query Language) commands.

Terminology Handling. What are terminology databases good for if all the relevant material is already located in the translation memories? For new users of translation memory programs, the use of the terminology databases often seems superfluous, if not downright confusing. There are several reasons for this:

• Obviously, the name “translation memory” program seems to suggest that the emphasis is on the translation memory. (Most of the major applications have recognized this and do not actually use
that terminology anymore.

• There is a more immediate gain through perfect and fuzzy matches on a sentence-by-sentence basis than there is with terminology databases.

• Translation memories can be built up relatively quickly by aligning existing translated file pairs automatically as you translate new texts.

• The construction of terminology databases is a comparatively tedious process. Terms have to be individually highlighted in the translation or even entered into the terminology management application, and additional information has to be entered.

If it is indeed so tedious to build up and use terminology databases, what makes them so important?

The terminology database is the place where translation professionals can invest effort into defining words and phrases grammatically, contextually, or even by contrast. If this is very helpful for a single translator, imagine how much more beneficial it is in a virtual workgroup! Of course, none of this is news to anyone: any good dictionary offers the same concept. What makes these “dictionaries” much more exciting is that they are completely customizable. Furthermore, they are “living dictionaries” that present their findings for each segment being translated.

Why, then, is it helpful to have numerous translations for—let’s say—“cat” (“feline animal,” “computer-assisted translation,” “Caterpillar,” etc.) pop up during the translation of a text? Because of the close association of the terminology databases with a given translation project, and because of all the information that has been fed into the terminology database as the terms were entered, the application will actually recognize which of these terms is more relevant. Depending, for instance, on whether a text from the subject area “Flora and Fauna,” “Translation Technology,” or “Heavy Machinery” is being translated, the application will make the more likely choice for the correct term (while still allowing the translator to access the other ones).

For the most part, TRADOS and Transit have marketed and sold their terminology databases either as part of a combination with their translation memory solutions or as a standalone solution.

Transit probably concentrated most of its earliest efforts on developing a sophisticated terminology tool called TermStar. It allows you to enter a large variety of data: client, date, definition(s), homonyms, and, of course, translation. While this tool can be opened and used as an individual application, it becomes part of the workflow and interface when used in actual translation work. The terms that are displayed in the “Dictionary” windows in the main translation interface can be entered with the associated keyboard shortcut. New terms can be entered by highlighting source and target terms and entering them in the attached dictionary by choosing the appropriate menu commands.

TRADOS’ new terminology program, MultiTerm iX, has a similar range of applications to TermStar’s, and has a number of advantages over the older, relatively unpopular version of MultiTerm. For example:

• It is based on standard XML and the Microsoft Access engine rather than a proprietary database format.

• It exports into XML, HTML, and RTF.

• Term entry has become less cumbersome.

Déjà Vu and SDLX have gone a slightly different route with their handling of terminology. Their terminology components have always been closely integrated into the translation workflow—the terminology components were never sold and marketed apart from the main applications. In fact, terminology database files are accessed and maintained directly from the main interface. Just like TRADOS and Transit, the terminology databases are concept-based and completely configurable.

One unique aspect of the terminology treatment of Déjà Vu is the so-called “assemble” feature. This feature provides the possibility of piecing together segments that cannot be found in the translation memories or by fixing fuzzy matches from the translation memories and turning them into perfect matches.

The Work Environment for the Translator

There are three major areas where the work environment has an immediate impact on the work of the translator:

• The interface of the translation work;

• The file handling capabilities; and

• The code handling.

The Interface. Transit, SDLX, and Déjà Vu offer translations in an independent yet completely different interface from each other—Transit’s interface is more that of a bilingual text editor, whereas SDLX’s and Déjà Vu’s is that of a bilingual table. Users of these tools describe the benefits of handling text in independent applications, such as in SDLX, Transit, and Déjà Vu, as follows:
Regardless of the source text and file format, the translation environment always stays the same.

No “file conversion” is necessary to make texts display in an environment such as MS Word.

The program is independent of any third party (i.e., an upgrade to MS Word does not have any effect on the computer-assisted translation tool).

On the other hand, TRADOS’ traditional method of displaying translatable text in MS Word gives many users the comfortable feeling of operating in a familiar environment, and they find the full WYSIWYG (“what-you-see-is-what-you-get”) interface helpful when translating DOC or RTF files. However, because this was originally true only for these formats, since every non-RTF or non-DOC file had to be converted to an RTF or DOC file before processing, TRADOS introduced an additional interface. The TagEditor was originally intended only for HTML- and SGML-type files, but it now allows for the processing of a variety of tagged file formats (including RTF, HTML, SGML, or various DTP formats), and even Excel, PowerPoint, and MS Word in TRADOS-specific TTX (TradosTag format) files. Other TRADOS interfaces for other file types, such as the so-called T-Window programs, include different environments for software resource files, executable files, or clipboard content.

**Code Handling.** With the exception of plain text files, every file type contains some kind of coding information. This coding information can serve a variety of purposes, including formatting, programming information, and hyperlinks. Translation memory tools have to deal with two different kinds of codes:

- Code that appears only outside (or between) segments; and
- Code that appears within segments.

All of the tools make only the text and the inner-segment codes accessible to the translator. However, TRADOS and Transit store the actual codes for the formatting, whereas Déjà Vu and SDLX only store placeholders for these codes. The benefit of the former method is that you can store a change of formatting (let’s say, from bold to italics) between source and target languages. The benefit of the placeholders is that it is 100% compatible across file formats and formatting information.

**File Handling.** In the actual translation work, Déjà Vu and Transit think in terms of “projects.” Everything is treated as if it were one large file, with all the translatable information being accessible at the same time. Though SDLX works with projects, the only source format where it allows true batch translation is HTML, through a process of “gluing” a number of tagged files into one large file. Otherwise, it performs translation on a file-to-file basis. TRADOS, on the other hand, always performs translation strictly on a file-to-file basis. The difference in this approach becomes particularly apparent when working on translation projects with an extremely large number of files, such as websites or software localization projects.

**The Work Environment for the Project Manager**

From the project manager’s viewpoint, the work environments for these tools differ significantly from the translator’s. File handling for the project manager (which consists of analyzing, pre-translating, and post-processing) is done through batch processes in all four tools. In the case of SDLX and TRADOS, translators may receive numerous individual files, but the project manager only processes them in batches.

While Transit, SDLX, and Déjà Vu offer the ability to prepare files so that translators can translate them using a free download of the appropriate program, TRADOS does not offer this functionality. On the other hand, TRADOS is clearly the most frequently used tool among freelance translators, so there is a high likelihood that translators already own TRADOS. And lastly, should the translator not own TRADOS, TRADOS files can be processed using many of the other translation memory tools. TRADOS offers Web-based translation memories, and TRADOS, SDLX, and Transit offer Web-based terminology databases. Déjà Vu does not offer any of these features.

Of course, all these tools do offer multilingual processing, but only Déjà Vu and SDLX allow the possibility of having all languages contained in one translation memory, thus reducing setup time for the project.

**A Glance into the Future**

The midterm developments for translation memory technology and use will be in the following areas:

- Stronger integration into content management systems;
- Stronger emphasis on integrated workflow/project management capabilities;
- Online access to databases as a common and well-used feature; and
- Translation memories as mar-ketable assets.
Content Management Systems. Both TRADOS, SDLX, and Transit have been very active in this area; TRADOS and SDLX through a number of partnerships with content management providers, and Transit through the development of compatible content management systems. While this is a positive development, it presents somewhat of a challenge to the language provider. If there is a true integration of content management and translation memory, either the clients will be more heavily involved in translation memory management or else the vendors will have to broaden their service portfolio.

Workflow/Project Management Integration. Various systems, including TRADOS and SDLX, have integrated a strong workflow component. Other primarily workflow systems, such as Idiom, have an integrated translation memory component.

I believe that most multi-language vendors today would describe the need for an adequate workflow system as being equally if not more important than a translation memory system. Considering this, it is not surprising that computer-assisted translation vendors are trying to cater to that need. When the workflow systems are able to cover most or all project management needs, including accounting, these tools will have a tremendous impact on the industry.

Online Access. Virtually all of the translation memory systems that were released in the last couple of years—Fusion, Logopost, across (as well as the more well known tools, such as TRADOS, Transit, and SDLX)—have at least one online access component, thus clearly emphasizing the need for that feature. Virtual workgroups and routine high-speed access have long become a reality, and the only effective way to exchange data is through the use of common databases.

Translation Memory as a Marketable Asset. While to some this may seem like the most nebulous development, it is inevitable. So far the discussion surrounding this has not progressed beyond the copyright and quality concerns, but interest in a marketplace for translation memory data has long been present. (In fact, it has also long been a reality, as is evident by the popularity of the Microsoft “Glossaries.”)

When end clients who hold most if not all the copyrights to their translation memories recognize that they can receive a more immediate return on the investment of their translation costs, it will only be a matter of time before they begin offering their translation memories for sale.

For a recent development on this, visit www.tmmarketplace.com.

Conclusion The use of translation memory has become standard for translation professionals in the technical field, and this is increasingly true in the medical, legal, and financial fields as well. Has it made our profession more reliant on technology? Probably. But at the same time, has it replaced or removed the “human element” of translation in any shape or form? I would emphatically deny that. While translation memory does make us all more efficient, ultimately any translation memory or terminology database is only as good as the translation professional who created it.

ATA Honors and Awards Committee Seeks Readers

The Honors and Awards Committee needs to expand its corps of readers for its two translation prizes: the Ungar German Translation Award for a distinguished literary translation from German into English, awarded in odd-numbered years, and the Lewis Galantière Translation Award for translations from any language, except German, into English, awarded in even-numbered years. The first reader for each book nominated must be fluent in the source language; the second reader need not be. Readers are furnished with a formal report form and have roughly two months in the summer to evaluate the book(s). There is no honorarium, but readers may keep the book(s) they evaluate. For more information on responsibilities, please e-mail Honors and Awards Chair Marilyn Gaddis Rose (mgrose@binghamton.edu). Anyone ready to volunteer now should e-mail Gaddis Rose, with a copy to Teresa Kelly (teresak@atanet.org) at ATA Headquarters.
Making a Mountain of Mountains: Understanding Fukada Kyūya’s Meizan

By Craig McGinty

This article discusses the particular meaning given to the term meizan (名山) within the context of the well-known list of mountains that was developed by Fukada Kyūya (深田 久弥; 1903-1971), the Japanese mountaineer and author of the book Nihon Hyakumeizan (日本百名山; commonly understood to mean “One Hundred Famous Mountains of Japan”). Although my area of specialization in translation is not criticism, this topic has occupied my interest since I began hiking the mountains of central Honshū roughly seven years ago.

First published in 1964, Nihon Hyakumeizan has enjoyed a steadily growing popularity in Japan over the years, as have the 100 mountains listed therein. This is evident from the numerous guidebooks, periodicals, videos, DVDs, and CD-ROMs devoted to the subject, and also by posters advertising the towns and prefectures in Japan that are home to these 100 mountains. In fact, while in Yokohama last year to attend the 15th Annual International Japanese/English Translation Conference, I stopped in a bookstore to purchase some topographical maps and discovered an entire shelf labeled “百名山” stocked with books on the subject. In July of 2003, the Japanese Postal Service even issued a Fukada Kyūya stamp commemorating what would have been his 100th birthday. It seems the “hyakumeizan boom” that was underway when I lived in Japan is apparently still going strong.

I cannot recall the first time I encountered Fukada’s book or the term hyakumeizan. It was probably the result of seeing “百名山” on a topographical map and wanting to know what the hyakumeizan were and who devised the list. As I grew more familiar with Fukada’s Nihon Hyakumeizan and with some of the mountains it describes, I also became increasingly aware of how often the term hyakumeizan is used to describe the mountains listed in the book. For instance, one morning in the summer of 2001, after reaching the summit of Kōbushidake (甲武信岳; 2,460 meters, located where the borders of Saitama Prefecture, Nagano Prefecture, and Yamanashi Prefecture meet), I noticed that next to an old wooden sign with the name and elevation of the mountain was a newer and more conspicuous sign that read “日本百名山甲武信岳.” Obviously, the party responsible for the newer sign was capitalizing on the inclusion of the mountain in Fukada’s book and the appeal this has in drawing people to the mountain.

Perhaps due to the lack of literature in English on the subject, there seems to be some confusion among non-Japanese as to what the term hyakumeizan signifies and what distinguishes the mountains in Fukada’s list from other mountains in Japan. For instance, the majority of non-Japanese who are at least vaguely familiar with the hyakumeizan usually refer to them as “(the) 100 famous mountains of Japan,” but do not seem to be aware of the fact that the hyakumeizan comprise a subjective list of mountains selected by a single individual. Other non-Japanese who are more familiar with this list do not always seem to understand the basis on which the selection was made. For instance, on one Internet site, a woman writes that the mountains were selected using many criteria, including geography. As discussed later in this article, Fukada based his selection on only three criteria (and geography was not one of them).

Most non-Japanese living in Japan understand the term meizan to mean “famous mountain(s),” as is evident in English publications on the subject. However, a simple Internet search of Japanese websites reveals that Japanese people think of the term in very different ways. When I conducted a search last year using different keywords and combinations of keywords, I came across Japanese sites that translated meizan as “beautiful mountain(s),” “high and beautiful mountain(s),” “sacred mountain(s),” “great mountain(s),” “famous mountain(s),” and “renowned mountain(s).” The variety of these translations underscores the difficulty of capturing in one succinct English adjective what Fukada intended the term meizan to mean.

So what did Fukada mean when he referred to mountains in his list as the hyakumeizan? The term refers to the 100 mountains in Japan that were selected by Fukada as being, in his opinion, the most impressive or significant of all the mountains in Japan. The problem is that the use of the term meizan within hyakumeizan can lead to some confusion. Meizan relates to the greater cultural phenomenon in Japan of designating natural or other places as particularly beautiful, sacred, or important. This is manifested linguistically by such compounds as 名所, 名地, and 名水. Therefore, the mountains on Fukada’s list fall into a broader category of mountains known as meizan, or those distinguished enough to be worthy of...
meizan status. Thus, when one talks about meizan (i.e., as opposed to the hyakumeizan), one is not necessarily referring to the mountains appearing in Fukada’s list, but to mountains that have traditionally been accorded meizan status.

What gives a mountain meizan status? The problem in answering this question is that it can depend on which of the mountain’s characteristics is being given priority by the person with whom you are speaking or whose sentences you are reading. Perhaps a greater understanding of this will be gained by looking more closely at the criteria Fukada used to designate the hyakumeizan.

**The Book**

Structurally, Fukada’s *Nihon Hyakumeizan* is divided into 100 short entries that begin with Rishiridake (利尻岳; 1,719 meters, on Rishiri Island) and end with Miyanoouradake (宮ノ浦岳; 1,935 meters, on Yakushima Island). As such, one can either read through the entries from beginning to end or read individual entries in no particular order. In terms of content, the entries discuss interesting facts and stories about the mountains, such as the origin and significance of their names, as well as Fukada’s personal experiences in climbing them. The book can serve as a guide for novices wanting to select mountains in Japan to climb. It also offers veteran hikers information they might not easily find elsewhere.

The hyakumeizan are not the 100 highest mountains in Japan, nor are they arranged in order of elevation. (Thus, Mount Fuji does not appear as the first entry, but as number 72 on the list.) For this reason, it would be unfair to draw a comparison between the hyakumeizan and, say, the Fourteeners of Colorado, even though the goal of climbing all of the hyakumeizan might have the same meaning for some Japanese and expatriate hikers as climbing all of the Fourteeners might for some Coloradans. The hyakumeizan are also not listed in the order of best to next best. Instead, the arrangement of the list reflects a directional move from north to south over the topography of Japan. Moreover, few, if any, of the hyakumeizan require technical skill to climb. Thus, to view them as being the most challenging mountains in Japan would be erroneous. In short, the hyakumeizan list is merely a subjective selection made by a highly experienced mountaineer. The fact that Fukada himself climbed many mountains just to narrow the list down to 100 has lent an enormous amount of credibility to his selection. As he notes in the book, it took him some 50 years to compile the list.

**Understanding 名山**

I often question whether “famous mountain(s)” is an acceptable way of translating 名山 into English, precisely because several of Fukada’s mountains are not well-known (i.e., outside of a limited geographical area) among the majority of Japanese people. Even Fukada recognized this. For instance, in his entry on Kitadake (北岳; 3,192 meters, in Yamanashi Prefecture), Fukada wrote: “日本で一番高い山は富士山であることは誰でも知っているが、第二の高峰はどこか、知らない人が多い。北岳だと穏やかで、聞いてもそんな山はどこにあるかといっただけだ。” Herein lies one of the ironies of the hyakumeizan: if these are indeed “famous mountains,” many of them have become retroactively famous (or at least more famous) as a result of their inclusion in Fukada’s book.

Another reason why I question the translation “famous mountain(s)” is because the single adjective “famous” fails to capture the nuances of the term meizan itself. In this connection, my conviction is shared by Professor Miyashita Keizō, who writes: “名山という言葉をヨーロッパの言語に翻訳するのは簡単である。しかし、それでもたくさんの言葉をつらねて說明する必要があるだろう。たんに「有名な山」に過ぎない」といわれることも少なくない。

In order to understand what Fukada meant by the term meizan, one must refer to the three criteria Fukada used in making his selection for the list, which he discussed in the postscript to *Nihon Hyakumeizan*. The first criterion was “山の品格,” or what might be thought of as the character of a mountain. In other words, a mountain worthy of meizan status must have something that impresses itself upon anyone who looks at it. This criterion unequivocally refers to the physical appearance of a given mountain. That “something” that impresses itself on the viewer might be the severity, strength, or beauty of the mountain. However, Fukada wrote that even if a mountain passes the test in terms of its elevation, it will not earn meizan status if it is a commonplace mountain.

The second criterion was “山の歴史,” or the historical importance of a mountain. A mountain with meizan status is one that people have had a deep and historically long relationship with. Fukada wrote that a mountain which people revere morning and evening, and on the summit of which a small shrine has been placed, inherently has meizan qualifications. Such a mountain is one where a spirit or deity dwells. In this connection, Fukada lamented the explosive development of the
tourism industry, which he said has made profane once-distinguished mountains having old histories and left the mountain deities with no place to live. According to Fukada, a mountain that has been made profane is not worthy of meizan status.

The third criterion was “個性のある山,” meaning a mountain with individuality. A mountain worthy of meizan status must have a unique shape or a phenomenon, event, or tradition associated with it. Thus, this criterion might relate to the first criterion (the mountain’s physical appearance), but not always. Other, unseen, qualities may account for a mountain’s individuality. In this respect, Fukada conceded that not all mountains are the same, and that each mountain has its own characteristics, but argued a mountain with meizan status has strong individuality.12

Fukada used elevation as an additional criterion, and generally only considered mountains having a minimum elevation of around 1,500 meters. For instance, he regarded historically important mountains such as Yahikoyama (弥彦山: 634 meters, in Niigata Prefecture), Hieizan (比叡山: 848 meters, in Kyōto), and Hikosan (彦山: 1,200 meters, on the border of Fukuoka Prefecture and Ōita Prefecture) as having undeniably meizan qualities, but wrote that each of these mountains is too low. Fukada did, however, make two exceptions: Tsukubasan (筑波山: 876 meters, in Ibaraki Prefecture) and Kaimondake (開聞岳: 922 meters, in Kagoshima Prefecture). In the case of Tsukubasan, he referred to the long cultural history associated with it and to the numerous appearances of the mountain in Japanese poetry and literature. He wrote that Kaimondake is worthy of meizan status because of its unique, almost perfectly conical shape that rises upward from the sea.

Interestingly, Miyashita Keizō observes that the criteria Fukada and others applied to the term meizan all lack the perspective of a mountaineer.13 In other words, Fukada did use criteria such as the physical pleasure or adventurous thrill one feels in climbing a mountain. Fukada’s first criterion was a purely visual one. Therefore, one can understand why some Japanese people have translated 名山 as “beautiful mountain(s).” The problem with this translation is that it fails to take into consideration Fukada’s other criteria. With respect to Fukada’s second criterion, it is also understandable why some Japanese people have translated 名山 as “sacred mountain(s).” The problem with this is that not all of the hyakumeizan have explicitly sacred associations. Regarding Fukada’s third criterion, we can see why some Japanese people have translated 名山 as “great mountain(s).” Again, the problem with this translation is that it fails to take into consideration the other criteria. It is not that the various translations offered by native Japanese are incorrect, but rather that they are all correct in different ways.

Fukada was not the first to devise a list of mountains with meizan status, as he noted in the postscript. For instance, he mentioned that the physician and literary figure Tachibana Nankei (橘南齋: 1753-1805) cited several mountains that were meizan in a passage called 名山論 in his travel record Tōyūki (東遊記) of 1795-97. Additionally, the painter Tani Bunchō (谷文晁: 1763-1840) painted three scrolls of 90 mountains entitled Nihon meizan zue (日本名山図会).14 The mountains appearing in these works will not be discussed here, but it is worthy to note that not all of them correspond to the mountains selected by Fukada.

Another person who contributed to the meizan concept was the geographer Shiga Shigetaka (志賀重篤: 1863-1927). Shiga’s Nihon Fukeiron (日本風景論), which was published in 1894, was reportedly a bestseller at the time and had a huge impact on men who would later found the Japanese Alpine Club in 1905. In Nihon Fukeiron, Shiga listed two criteria for determining the qualifications of a mountain worthy of meizan status. The first was that the overall appearance of the mountain must be artistically and geometrically balanced. In other words, the mountain must be aesthetically pleasing. The second was that the mountain must be rich in variety.15 What should be noted here is that, similar to Fukada’s first criterion, Shiga’s first criterion was purely visual.

It is not the purpose of this article to trace the history and application of the term meizan, but I refer to the people above for several reasons. First, Fukada himself specifically referred to Tachibana Nankei and Tani Bunchō in the postscript to Nihon Hyakumeizan. He also referred to Shiga’s Nihon Fukeiron in the first entry of Nihon Hyakumeizan, calling it “わが国の山岳書の古典である.”16 Thus, he was clearly interested in what earlier travelers had considered meizan and, where possible, he investigated the reasons why these travelers accorded certain mountains meizan status. Fukada devised a new list of meizan mountains because, he reasoned, many of the more remote mountains were inaccessible and unknown to these early men. Second, the term meizan did not originate with Fukada. The practice of bestowing meizan status upon mountains had already been in existence for a long
time in Japanese culture. By appropriating this term for the 100 mountains featured in his book, Fukada was drawing upon a certain historical cultural resonance. But the unique aspect of Fukada’s use of the term was that he labeled certain mountains as *meizan* that had not been granted this status in the past—at least not individually—so that one might even argue Fukada modernized the *meizan* concept. This newly granted status was a consequence of further exploration resulting from the development, in late 19th- and 20th-century Japan, of mountain climbing as an activity unrelated to mountain worship or ascetic practices.17

Earlier, I mentioned that Miyashita Keiizo notes that the criteria Fukada applied to the term *meizan* lack the perspective of a mountaineer. I agree with this observation to a certain extent, but disagree when it comes to Fukada’s additional criterion of elevation. Fukada wrote: “山高きをもって尊しきとせずだが、ある程度の高さなくては、私の指す山のカテゴリーには入らない。”18 This is important because Fukada individually treated mountains that have generally been classified according to their association with adjacent mountains. For instance, several of the mountains in Fukada’s list belong to groups of “three mountains” (三山). Examples of these groups include the following: the “Shirane Sanzan” (白山三山), located in Yamanashi Prefecture, which consist of Kitadake, Ainodake (出羽出山; 3,189 meters), and Nōtoridake (出羽出山; 3,050 meters); and the “Dewa Sanzan” (出羽三山), located in Yamagata Prefecture, which consist of Gassan (出羽三山; 1,984 meters), Hagurosan (出羽黒山; 414 meters), and Yudonosan (出羽葉山; 1,500 meters). Of the Shirane Sanzan, Fukada selected Kitadake and Ainodake for inclusion in *Nihon Hyakumeizan*, but omitted Nōtoridake. He wrote: “北岳・出羽別岳・出羽葉岳は普通出羽三山と呼ばれているが、（中略）一括して呼ぶにはあまり規模が大きいすぎる”19 Also, although all of the mountains in the Dewa Sanzan group are historically linked as a sacred place and appear in important Japanese literary works, such as Matsuo Bashō’s *Oku no hosomichi*,20 Fukada included only Gassan in *Nihon Hyakumeizan*. With respect to Hagurosan, he wrote, “山とはいうものの四百未満の丘陵にすぎない。”21 Thus, Fukada’s general concern with elevation and his individual treatment of mountains reveal the perspective of a modern alpinist. This also becomes important in understanding Fukada’s particular use of the term *meizan*, because he acknowledged that there are many historically and culturally significant mountains throughout Japan that have *meizan* qualities, but indicated that not all of these met the criteria for inclusion within his concept of the *hyakumeizan*.

Conclusion

With *Nihon Hyakumeizan*, Fukada inadvertently created a “mountain” of mountains. Interest in the book and in the mountains it lists has fueled a boom in Japan that has yet to cease. More and more hikers are treading the trails of the *hyakumeizan*. Newer signs on the summits of some of these mountains remind successful hikers that they did not just climb any mountain—they climbed one of the *hyakumeizan*. As the popularity of mountain climbing in Japan continues, one can expect guidebooks and other materials to appear in English. It is my hope in writing this article that translators working with the Japanese language will gain a greater understanding of the term *meizan* (and Fukada’s concept of the *hyakumeizan*).

However, the issues I have touched on here relate to a more general issue with which all translators must grapple: namely, one must be sensitive to the complexity of problematic expressions in the source language when translating such expressions into English. In preparing this article, I consulted with several people who asked me how I might translate 『名山』into English. My own stance is that 『名山』is best handled by transliterating the term and providing the reader or listener with a brief explanation of its meaning(s). The reason for this is because using a single adjective in the translation is insufficient, and using many adjectives in the translation results in unwanted verbosity. I have noted that in some English-language publications, there is even a tendency to gloss over the problem altogether and translate 『名山』simply as “one hundred mountains.” This is not only inaccurate, but leaves the reader with no sense of the cultural significance of the expression. Hopefully, this will not be the case for long.

Notes

1. Throughout this article, Japanese names are given in traditional order, with the family name first and the given name last.

2. For instance, NHK BS-2 produced and broadcast a series of short programs entitled 『深田久弥の日本百名山』that aired in 1994 and 1995. All of these programs have been issued on 20 videos and 10 DVDs by Yama to Keikokusha. Also, Asahi Shimbunsha published 50 issues of a weekly magazine in 2001, 『週刊日本百名山』.
of this magazine was followed by the publication of 週刊日本百名山, which features the “二百名山” selected by the Fukada Club, and 花の百名山. Numerous Japanese-language guidebooks, such as those published by Shōbunsha, are also available. To my knowledge, no comparable book or essay has been written in English on 日本百名山.

3. Saitō Kazuo discusses this in the preface to Nihon no meizan o kangaeru (Tokyo: Atene Shobō, 2001), where he writes: “近頃の出版界は、ちょっと大袈裟な言葉方をすれば、‘名山ラッシュ’でなければならうか。試みに書店を歩いてみると、‘○○百名山’とか、‘○○二百名山’とか名山を題したカラーペンのきれいな本、かなりの量で並んでいるからだ。（中略）今日のラッシュに火をつけた張本人は、‘日本百名山’を書いた深田久弥先生だといえるだろう？”


5. For example, see Hiking in Japan (Melbourne: Lonely Planet, 2001) and the article “British Team Planning to Climb 100 Japanese Mountains,” in The Japan Times (February 4, 2001), www.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/getarticle.pl?nn20010204a8.html.


Fukada came up with the idea of the hyakumeizan many years before the publication of Nihon Hyakumeizan. Half of the essays that would later make their way into the book were first serialized from March 1959 to April 1963 in the periodical Yama to kōgen (山と高原), published by Hōbundō. A year after the book appeared, it was awarded the prestigious Yomiuri Award for Literature (読売文学賞) in the category of criticism and biography.

7. The term “Fourteeners” refers to all of the mountains in Colorado that have an elevation of at least 14,000 feet. See, for example, Gerry Roach’s Colorado’s Fourteeners: From Hikes to Climbs (second edition), published in 1999 by Fulcrum Publishing.

8. Of course, this can depend on the route and the season in which the mountain is climbed.


13. In Miyashita Keizō’s Nihon Arupusu, pages 63-64.

14. For more information on Shiga Shigetaka’s meizan and Tani Bunchō’s meizan, see Saitō Kazuo’s Nihon no meizan o kangaeru. An interesting attempt to photograph Bunchō’s meizan from the places where Bunchō is believed to have painted them can be found in Miyake Osamu’s Gendai Nihon meizan zue (Tokyo: Jitsugyō no Nihonsha, 2003).

15. The information here comes from Miyashita Keizō’s Nihon Arupusu, pages 61-62.


17. For example, see Yamazaki Yasuji’s Nihon tozanshi (Tokyo: Hakusui sha, 1969), and Yasukawa Shigeo’s Kindai Nihon tozanshi (Tokyo: Akane Shobō, 1969).


References
Television is an international business where translation plays an extremely important role. *Translating for Television: A Handbook in Screen Translation*, by ATA member Jan Emil Tveit, provides a step-by-step guide to screen translation. Its main focus is on subtitling, but it also covers such topics as:

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- Dubbing/lip synchronization: the essential steps
- Screen translation strategies
- Translating television news
- Translating television commercials
- Translating metaphors
- How to operate a subtitling workstation
- Condensation and subtitling readability
- Film features and screen translation
- Medium defined constraining factors
- How to design subtitles

Author Jan Emil Tveit has lectured on screen translation at institutions like New York University and The University of London.

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ne of the most frequently asked questions about ATA’s Certification Program is: Why is the exam still being given in the old-fashioned way on paper, despite the fact that translators have been using computers for over a decade? The reason lies in the complexity of ensuring the security that is essential for the integrity of the program, while at the same time ensuring the same test conditions for all candidates regardless of their language combination. Past attempts to computerize the certification program have failed to surmount the technical difficulties in ensuring adequate security while providing a simple, convenient, and fair exam.

In October 2004, Certification Chair Lilian Van Vranken appointed Gabe Bokor to chair a task force with the mandate to study the feasibility of a computerized certification exam (CCE). A CCE Task Force consisting of (listed in alphabetical order) Verónica Albin, Carla DiFranco, Cristina Márquez Arroyo, Alan Melby, Tony Roder, and Jost Zetzsche was formed immediately. Members of the Certification Committee joined the CCE Task Force ex officio and participated in its discussions.

Between November 2004 and April 2005, more than 900 messages were exchanged within the CCE Task Force’s Yahoo! Group, and many more privately between members and third parties. Questions discussed within the CCE Task Force included whether to use computers owned by the candidates, by ATA, or by third parties, and whether to allow candidates Internet access, spell checkers, or electronic dictionaries. Should the source text be provided on paper or electronically? Should translation be submitted on paper or electronically? Should candidates be able to proof their translations on paper?

The CCE Task Force’s decisions took into account practical considerations, exam security, and the nature of the ATA certification exam. The Certification Committee defines the exam as testing the "language skills" of a professional translator: comprehension of the source text, translation skills, and writing in the target language. In discussing the proposal, ATA Board members recognized the distinction between career skills (such as research skills) demonstrated in the marketplace and translation competence demonstrated in a proctored test under controlled conditions. In the CCE, as in the on-paper exam, candidates will not have access to the Internet, spell checkers, or electronic dictionaries. The question of allowing candidates to print-and-proofread raised practicality issues that remain under investigation.

By April, the CCE Task Force arrived at a consensus regarding the system to be used and the provider who offered the best features at a reasonable cost. The main features of the system selected are the following:

1. The system is Web based, i.e., the source text is presented to the candidate in an intuitive and user-friendly environment, and the finished translation is submitted via the Web when the candidate clicks the Finish button.

2. The exam is held at third-party locations in a proctored environment.

3. The computers at the testing venues are certified by the selected exam provider prior to the exams for compatibility with the provider’s software, the presence of the required keyboards, and glitch-free transmission of the exam.

4. Special software, supplied on a CD, prevents access to any other application on the computer during the exam.

5. No software is installed on the computer (this was the requirement of many sites where CCE exams will be held).

6. Graders evaluate exams on-screen using special Excel-based forms. Current grading standards and criteria will remain the same.

The system provider that has been selected is ALTA Language Services, based in Atlanta, Georgia, which has been providing computerized language exams to corporations, healthcare organizations, and government agencies since 1996. Nevertheless, ALTA’s existing system had to be modified to meet ATA’s high security standards and the requirement of some potential hosts not to have any software installed on their computers. ALTA will charge ATA a one-time setup fee and a yearly maintenance fee.

At its April 22, 2005 meeting, ATA’s Board of Directors accepted the report submitted by the CCE Task Force and the Certification Committee and agreed to fund the initial expenditure for the CCE.

Computerized practice exams (which do not require the modification in ALTA’s software that is needed for the actual exam) will start as soon as the administrative details are settled between ATA Headquarters and ALTA. The full system will be field-tested between the time ALTA’s modified software is available (foreseeably in August 2005) and the end of 2005. A demo is planned for ATA’s Annual Conference
Upcoming Exams

All candidates applying for ATA certification must provide proof that they meet the certification program eligibility requirements. Please direct all inquiries regarding general certification information to ATA Headquarters at (703) 683-6100. Registration for all certification exams should be made through ATA Headquarters. All sittings have a maximum capacity and admission is based on the order in which registrations are received. Forms are available from the ATA website or from Headquarters.

- California
  San Francisco
  September 3, 2005
  Registration Deadline: August 19, 2005

- Colorado
  Denver
  September 17, 2005
  Registration Deadline: September 2, 2005

- Georgia
  Atlanta
  August 6, 2005
  Registration Deadline: July 22, 2005

- Michigan
  Novi
  August 6, 2005
  Registration Deadline: July 22, 2005

- New York
  New York City
  September 17, 2005
  Registration Deadline: September 2, 2005

- Tennessee
  Nashville
  September 11, 2005
  Registration Deadline: August 26, 2005

- Texas
  Houston
  August 6, 2005
  Registration Deadline: July 22, 2005

- Utah
  Salt Lake City
  September 24, 2005
  Registration deadline: September 9, 2005

- Washington
  Seattle
  November 12, 2005
  Registration Deadline: October 28, 2005

- Wisconsin
  Milwaukee
  October 8, 2005
  Registration Deadline: September 23, 2005

- The Netherlands
  Utrecht
  September 10, 2005
  Registration Deadline: August 26, 2005

Attention Korean Language Translators and Interpreters!

A special interest group has been formed to explore the possibility of establishing a Korean Language Division within the American Translators Association. If you are interested, please subscribe to the discussion listserv by sending an e-mail to ATA_KLD-subscribe@yahooogroups.com.

Note: You must be an ATA member to belong to any of its divisions.

New Certified Members

Congratulations! The following people have successfully passed ATA’s certification exam.

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The Onionskin  By Chris Durban

The Onionskin is a client education column launched by the ITI Bulletin (a publication of the U.K.’s Institute of Translation and Interpreting) in 1996. Comments and leads for future columns are very welcome; please include full contact details. Contact: chrisdurban@compuserve.com or fax +33 1 43 87 70 45.

Opportunity Knocks

“Professional translator needed” sums up this month’s column. Niggling… or promising business opportunities? A little of both, and a reminder to translation buyers that you get what you pay for.

Turning Heads in Rome

A tip from a Japanese reader focused our radar on the Hotel Turner, which earned the Gambero Rosso Awards “Best Three Stars of Rome 2000.” Either standards have plummeted or it’s simply a language issue, says this frequent traveler, taken aback by the hotel’s well-intentioned website.

Indeed.

At www.hotelturner.com, the hotel markets itself to Japanese-speaking visitors not as a three-star establishment but as a “3rd-rate hotel.”

The Japanese text continues: “We did you a favor by building it in Rome’s Centre,” using the Japanese word for center, meaning sports center, not the downtown area of a city. “We did you a favour” appears to be a muddled attempt at rendering an honorific form in Japanese.

Whodunit? “It doesn’t look like machine translation to me,” notes Japanese-to-English translator Ben Jones, who initially speculated that it might be a student from Japan—“a particularly illiterate one.”

Yet on reflection, an Italian student of Japanese seems more likely, says Jones.

In which case, the offender’s classmates may have produced the bumpy German, French, Spanish, Russian, and English versions also displayed on the site.

When we phoned to find out, the proprietor had no comment. And although the site was removed briefly after our first contact, it is now back online. Enjoy.

Meanwhile, Back in Kyrgyzstan…

English being the international language of business, it was only natural that Kyrgyzstan-based StyleDesign STUDIO pitch its Web design skills in the Queen’s English. Er, sort of.

The company makes no claim to expertise in communication beyond a mastery of the nuts and bolts of website development and hosting. So it might seem uncharitable to raise eyebrows at its own website’s assertion that it specializes in “corporative sites, and many other online-systems on mountain-high level” (www.s-d-s.com/eng/).

The body copy lurches on: “But in the same way we render the enormous spectrum of many services: development of logotypes, designs, labels, branded forms, morning coats and a great deal another…”

Spelling glitches point to human error, not translation by computer software.

The errors are all the more unfortunate in that the projects featured on the site cover an impressive range of sectors. StyleDesign STUDIO’s rates also seem to make them look like an attractive offshore option.

But will foreign clients nibble? It seems unlikely. For to dine at the international table you need credibility, and the English-speakers we ran SDS’s copy past were not impressed.

“I’ll send my business anywhere in the world if the service is good and the price is right,” a small business owner in Canada told us, then added, “We do need a website, but I’m not sure these people would understand what we want.” Himself a casual dresser, even the prospect of a cut-price morning coat did not tip the balance.

An Australian businessman simply laughed.

E for effort, then, for StyleDesign STUDIO, for whom a professional translation of the roughly 250 words on its site would make a huge difference in terms of image for potential clients abroad.

Let’s be clear: the issue here is not necessarily comprehension. A highly motivated customer might well take the time to unravel phrases like “in a complicated way visualize the best facility of operative interaction with clients and partners, than correct designed and qualitative executed web-resource.” She might even slog through “And underrate the possibility, which gives Internet already today, amounting to refusal of use the most efficient instruments in hard competitive fight.”

But most potential clients will simply click past—it’s too much bother.

And therein lies the moral for translation buyers: If reaching international customers is your aim, peculiar translations will do you and your business a disservice. And if your texts are really bad, they may attract attention of an altogether different sort, including a posting in the joke section of office bulletin boards and egroups.

For texts the length of SDS’s, we are convinced that the problem is not budget, but buyers’ lack of awareness of basic best practice.

Whence our reminder (and we hope someone will translate this into Kyrgyz): friends of friends with make-do oral skills are not a good bet for written translations. Nor is the nephew who spent a summer abroad. Real translators work into their native language. And proofreading really is important—by a literate native

Continued on p.59
**Dictionary Reviews**  Compiled by Boris Silversteyn

Silversteyn is chair of the ATA Dictionary Review Committee.

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Stedman’s Illustrated Dictionary of Dermatology Eponyms  
Authors: Benjamin Barankin, Andrei I. Metelitsa, and Andrew N. Lin  
Publisher: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins  
Date of publication: 2005  
Size: Paperback, 412 pages  
Number of entries: Over 1,000  
ISBN: 0-7817-4547-0  
Price: $42.95  
Available from: All major e-booksellers  
Specialty/field: Medicine/Dermatology  
Type of work: Illustrated dictionary  
Language: English

Reviewed by: Verónica Albin

Overall evaluation:  
An exemplary work, *Stedman’s Illustrated Dictionary of Dermatology Eponyms* (IDDE) is well organized, easy to use, exhaustive, up-to-date, and rigorously researched and cross-referenced. Because of its excellent cross referencing, the dictionary is also a fabulous launching pad for doing in-depth research. Furthermore, its appendix on acronyms and abbreviations is unparalleled.

Reviewer’s note:  
In writing this review, I compared the IDDE to comprehensive general medical dictionaries and to other dermatology dictionaries, such as Carter’s *A Dictionary of Dermatologic Terms* (1992), Mallory’s *An Illustrated Dictionary of Dermatologic Syndromes* (1994), and Goeltzenleuchter’s *Dorland’s Dermatology Word Book* (2002). In all fairness to these earlier and less focused dictionaries, and as a challenge to the newly-issued IDDE, I opted to make my strongest comparison primarily with online sources on medical eponyms. According to Benjamin Barankin, the IDDE was three years in the making, and, in spite of it being a paper publication, the relevance and actuality of its content favorably compares to Internet databases that are regularly updated (a number of these sites are restricted). Now that Barankin, Metelitsa, and Lin have done the work for us of compiling this unrestricted corpus of the hardest terminology in dermatology (eponyms and acronyms) between two covers for quick, comprehensive, and easy reference, conducting additional research in dermatology terminology has been simplified. For medical translators, this book is not only informative, but a time-saver as well. As a coda, I have included a brief interview with Benjamin Barankin.

About the authors:  
Born in Kishinev, Moldova, Benjamin Barankin grew up in Toronto, Canada. He received a B.A. in psychology from Queen’s University, and an M.D. from The University of Western Ontario medical school. He is currently completing a dermatology residency in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He has a strong interest in medical education, physician well-being, and medical history. An avid writer with more than 100 publications related to dermatology, the history of medicine, reflective essays, humor, and poetry, he has received numerous awards and prizes for his work. He enjoys playing basketball and tennis, going to the movies, and playing with techno gadgets. He also loves to travel and learn new skills and languages.

Russian-born Andrei Metelitsa received his Bachelor of Medical Science and M.D. degrees from the University of Alberta, and is presently a dermatology resident in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Over the past four years, he has also been involved in clinical and basic science research projects that included the study of melanoma and squamous cell carcinoma. He is the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships. In his spare time, he enjoys downhill skiing and tennis.

Hong Kong-born Andrew Lin obtained his M.D. from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, and completed dermatology residency training at McGill University. He then became a research associate, and then assistant professor at The Rockefeller University, New York, where he studied the rare genetic disease epidermolysis bullosa. He is an associate professor of dermatology at the University of Alberta, Canada.

Appendix A: Dermatology Acronyms and Abbreviations  
Number of entries: Approximately 1,450 (34 pages, 2 columns)  
This is the most comprehensive compilation of dermatology acronyms and abbreviations in print and online.

Appendix B: Nationalities  
Names are listed under the country of birth (parenthetical information
is given if the individual completed work in a different country).

**Number of countries: 49**

I found a few discrepancies regarding nationality. The case of Nadia Sakati serves as a good example. The *IDDE* indicates that she is a Saudi pediatrician, whereas whonamedit.com and other sources have her as an American pediatrician. Due to the ease of mobility today, it is practically impossible to keep track of who has become what and where, so this should in no way detract from the overall quality of the dictionary. On the other hand, the *IDDE* is especially accurate regarding historical entries. For example, for Nikolay Ivanovich Andogsky, the *IDDE* correctly lists him as Russian, whereas whonamedit.com has him as German, but also possibly Russian. Thanks to the entry in the *IDDE* (its information was corroborated and slightly expanded by research done in Russian by ATA member Boris Silversteyn), the correct data for Andogskiy has been forwarded to whonamedit.com (and as of this writing, the changes have been incorporated). The dictionary also impressed me because of its listing of eponymous individuals by nationality. As far as I can tell, this has not been done previously in dermatology.

**Illustrations:**

Color: 34 syndromes; 39 other pathologies (16 pages).

B&W: 37 persons are given eponymous credit.

In addition, Barankin has made significant contributions to the Dermatology Image Atlas (free at http://dermatlas.med.jhmi.edu/derm), where many more photographs of the diseases and syndromes included in the *IDDE* can be viewed.

**Listing of entries:**

Entries are in bold and capital letters, and are listed alphabetically according to the last name of the person who is given eponymous credit. When more than one person has the same last name, they are ranked alphabetically according to first names. Kinship, if any, is described parenthetically. Disease names and their synonyms are alphabetized letter-by-letter, as spelled out, not word-for-word, disregarding variables such as hyphens and spaces. For example: Solomon-Fretzin-Dewald syndrome; Solomon syndrome.

**Convenience of look-up:**

Cross referencing is rigorous and user-friendly.

**Pronunciation guide:**

Not available. This book includes proper names from 49 countries where a considerable number of languages are spoken. Given that the pronunciation of proper names is often idiosyncratic even when we know a language well, the use of the phonetic alphabet in the *IDDE* would have been advisable. It would be most useful not only to physicians, who now customarily dictate reports, but also to medical interpreters, transcriptionists, and voice talents. I would like to see entries in the phonetic alphabet in the appendix of future editions of this dictionary, or, even better, have it enhanced by an audio CD.

**Encyclopedic information:**

Information boxes showcase especially important aspects of a person’s life, and clarify or rectify information published in other sources.

**Filler terms:**

Eponymic terms that have no clear skin/dermatologic manifestations have been carefully screened out. I found no filler terms that are often listed in other dermatology lexicons, such as Zellweger syndrome, Bollinger body, and Zollinger-Ellison syndrome.

**Spelling:**

Conventions: 1) To avoid confusion about names ending in “s,” the possessive form, with “’s” in all eponyms, was eliminated in this work. 2) Single last names are linked with a hyphen (e.g., Parry-Romberg syndrome). In the case of hyphenated last names, the word “and” has been used for linkage (e.g., Papillon-Léage and Psaume syndrome).

**Typographical errors:**

For compilers of medical dictionaries, but especially of eponymic and onomastic medical lexicons, typos are a serious concern. In these works, medical spell checkers are limited in scope. Regular spell checkers are not only useless, but also dangerous due to their propensity for changing some proper names into nouns of approximate spelling. The *IDDE* is impressively clean. Although there may be others, I found just one typo (erytheromelalgia) in the subentry for Mitchell syndrome.

**Translation versus name in the source language:**

I ran names in Western languages I do not speak through colleagues, mostly to check for accuracy of spelling and dialectics. Under Hungary in Appendix B, for example, there is an entry for Nékám, Louis A. I learned that Louis is Lajos in Hungarian. Googling “Nékám Lajos A.” gave hits only in Hungarian, but entering “Lajos Nékám” gave me a few additional sites in English that
added information to the “Louis” sites. Having names in the source language (as long as the person given eponymous credit used them) helps research. I would recommend, where possible, having given names in the source language/target language in future editions.

Transliteration:
I found a few inconsistencies of minor importance in the transliteration from the Cyrillic alphabet. It would have been nice to see all eponyms, not just a few (e.g., Nikolskiy/Nikolskii) transliterated using both the Library of Congress and Foreign Broadcasting Information Service (FBIS) systems—if not in the corpus, at least in the appendix—to assist in conducting further research. In the case of eponyms transliterated from Arabic or Asian languages, I am unable to judge or comment on whether more than one system should be provided. However, I was able to locate these names on the Internet with the orthography provided.

Diacritics:
With a few exceptions, source-language diacritics have been largely preserved and are used consistently and accurately throughout the lexicon. The use of diacritics in main entries (in capital letters) is less consistent.

A Brief Interview with Ben Barankin
VA: Regarding the color illustrations, why did you choose to illustrate these syndromes and diseases in particular?
BB: Pictures were chosen for a variety of reasons, but mainly to show interesting and rare disease pictures as well as some more common ones. Although the book contains over 1,000 eponyms, many of these are not in common usage, and so we did not illustrate them. Also, obtaining photos can be difficult and quite costly, and some of the rare entities have not been photographed. Finally, the book was limited to a 16-page insert for color photography, although we hope to expand this in future editions.

VA: Why include photos of certain researchers and not others?
BB: Again, we tried to have photos of those who have contributed the most to our specialty: those who have multiple eponyms named after them; those that revolutionized the field; those whose eponyms we use every day (rather than historically); and, ultimately, those whose photos we could obtain (very hard to do for some of the more obscure people).

VA: Why eliminate the possessives and respect native diacritics?
BB: We figured that this was becoming the new standard for naming. A while back I wrote a paper on Down syndrome, and I ran across papers mentioning that it shouldn’t be a possessive (Down’s) since it is not “his disease.”

VA: Why a paper corpus?
BB: Eventually we may have a personal desktop assistant version or make a CD available. For now, we wanted a product in the most standard, typical presentation. It is the most exhaustive book of its kind ever produced. For scientific credibility, a book still outshines CD and online versions. Doctors, in particular, still love to flip through books.

VA: As physicians, do you feel that you are well suited to write such a dictionary?
BB: One of the unique and relevant features of this book is that it has been compiled by polyglot medical doctors. Although we do not yet consider ourselves expert lexicographers, we have learned a great deal about lexicography in these three years of research, and our years of medical training enable us to provide useful and relevant definitions of medical entities, commonly used acronyms and abbreviations, as well as to determine which individuals, diseases, etc., are more worthy of photographs and vignettes in terms of interest to our readership.

VA: Did you find the Internet a useful resource?
BB: We found the Internet very useful, and used Google and PubMed extensively, among several other important websites. When we first discovered whonamedit.com, we thought our lives would be made much easier. Unfortunately, we found numerous problems with its dermatology-related entries. First off, a good number of entries are missing from the site (e.g., Bass syndrome; Verocay body). In addition, the descriptions are frequently not written for the dermatologist/physician, and there is confusion in regards to dates of birth/death, spellings, and relationships. Every entry in our book was verified using multiple sources, and in many cases multiple media (books, journals, the Internet).

VA: About decisions regarding transliteration from the Cyrillic. As far as I know, there are three systems for transliterating Russian into English: Library of Congress,
International Phonetic Alphabet, and FBIS. For some Russian names you used only one system, and for others you used two (I found this absolutely wonderful), but you did not use all three variants for any of them (this would have been a blessing).

BB: We transliterated Russian names (and less so, words) based on the most common spelling in the English-language literature and how they have been used/recorded. The “proper” way doesn’t matter if most people spell it a different way. We wanted it to be practical and usable, not necessarily “perfectly correct.”

Other books by Benjamin Barankin:


Other books by Andrew Lin:


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**Elsevier’s Dictionary of Reptiles**

*Author:* Murray Wrobel

*ISBN:* 0-444-51499-6

*Publisher:* Elsevier

*Publication date:* 2004

*Price:* €150 / $165

*Languages:* Latin, English, French, German, and Italian

*Number of pages:* 758

*Available from:* Elsevier B.V. www.elsevier.com

*Europe, Middle East, & Africa:* Linacre House, Jordan Hill Oxford OX2 8DP, U.K.

*U.S. & Canada:* 11830 Westline Industrial Drive St. Louis, MO 63146

*Reviewed by:* Jacopo Màdaro

Within a few months of each other, Elsevier has published two impressive volumes, further enhancing its primacy. First, Murray Wrobel’s latest. Quoting www.elsevier.com and the promotional leaflet, *Elsevier’s Dictionary of Reptiles covers the “names of orders, families, genera, and species of reptiles of the world.”* Considering that there are 8,240 species of reptiles, from worm lizards to turtles¹, Wrobel’s 8,826 lemmata seem to translate into a really exhaustive recueil.

As a substance test, I turned to an old quest and went hunting for dragons. Not the mythical ones, but the family Agamidae (subfamily: Agaminae; genus: Draco), the insectivore flying dragons of Southeast Asia.

The most up-to-date listing, compiled by McGuire and Heang in 2001, included 33 species. Wrobel achieves a sound 20/33 (60%). *D. quadrasi, palawanensis, and mindanensis* may be absent, but every flying dragon of consequence is listed, from *D.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species (McGuire et al.)</th>
<th>Omne-vivum</th>
<th>Wrobel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D. affinis</td>
<td>Latin only</td>
<td>Bartlett's Flying Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. baccarii</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. biaro</td>
<td>Latin only</td>
<td>Lazell's Flying Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. bimaculatus</td>
<td>Two-spotted Flying Lizard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. blanfordii</td>
<td>Blanford's Flying Lizard</td>
<td>Blanford's (Flying) Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. caerulhians</td>
<td>Latin only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. cornutus</td>
<td>Latin only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. cristatellus</td>
<td>Latin only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. cyanopterus</td>
<td>Latin only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. dussumieri</td>
<td></td>
<td>Indian Flying Dragon + 5 different regional variations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. everetti [Omne-Vivum only]</td>
<td>Everette's Flying Lizard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. fimbriatus</td>
<td>Orange-throated Flying Lizard</td>
<td>Fringed Flying Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. formosus [Wrobel only]</td>
<td></td>
<td>Formosa Flying Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. guntheri</td>
<td>Günther's Flying Lizard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. haematopogon</td>
<td>Red-bearded Flying Lizard</td>
<td>Red-barbed (Flying) Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. indochinensis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. jarecki</td>
<td>Latin only</td>
<td>Jarechi's Flying Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. lineatus</td>
<td>Latin only</td>
<td>Lined Flying Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. maculatus</td>
<td>Orange-winged Flying Lizard</td>
<td>Spotty/Spotted Flying Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. maximus</td>
<td>Giant Flying Dragon</td>
<td>Great Flying Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. melanopogon</td>
<td>Black-bearded Flying Lizard</td>
<td>Black-barbed (Flying) Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. mindanensis</td>
<td>Mindanao Flying Lizard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. norvillii</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alcock's Flying Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. obscurus</td>
<td>Malayan Flying Lizard</td>
<td>Veiled Flying Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. ornatus</td>
<td>White-spotted Flying Lizard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. palawanensis</td>
<td>Latin only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. quadra</td>
<td>Quadras' Flying Lizard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. quinquefasciatus</td>
<td>Five-spotted Flying Lizard</td>
<td>Five-lined Flying Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. reticulatus</td>
<td>Reticulated Flying Lizard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. rizali [Omne-Vivum only]</td>
<td>Riza's Flying Lizard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. spilopterus</td>
<td>Common Flying Lizard</td>
<td>Philippine Flying Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. sumatranus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. taeniopterus</td>
<td>Banded-winged Flying Lizard</td>
<td>(Thai) Flying Dragon/Lizard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. timorense</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. volans</td>
<td>French + German only</td>
<td>Common Flying Dragon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**maximus**, the great flying dragon (eight inches long!), to *D. tai-niopterus*, or Thai flying dragon, a most refined mini-glider with a two-inch wingspan.

Taking advantage of a great zoological website, www.omne-vivum.com, and its extensive English database, I obtained the information in Table 1 (see page 47).

Looking at the pairing choices for dragons, not all languages were created equal. Wrobel offers 9 German translations out of 20 Latin head-words, 10 French renditions, but not a single drago volante.

This distribution is extreme, but with less than 800 pairings, Italian is somewhat underrepresented, compared to about 2,800 names in German and about 2,500 in French.

Before decrying the neglect of the only language capable of producing the immortal “La liscia biscia sul l’erba striscia ed indi poscia essendo moscia alza la coscia e piscia,” we must recognize that one of the best Italian sites in the field, www.serpenti.it, doesn’t do much better. It offers 543 names of species in both Latin and English, but only 7 Italian equivalents. Specifically, see Table 2.

If we verify the most common Italian snakes, Wrobel does even better, as indicated in Table 3 on page 49.

Relevance is the key here and elsewhere. There isn’t one major poisonous and nonvenomous snake, lizard, croc, or turtle that doesn’t have its Italian (often multiple) appellations. With a perfect Zen shift, this strength is also the dictionary’s only minor weakness.

As I had suspected during my review of Wrobel’s previous work, Elsevier’s *Dictionary of Amphibians*, no distinction is made between the Italian language and Italian koiné. For example, I cannot say why the Sicilian *Vèpra* is offered together with the Calabrese *Vipre* as Italian names for the *vipera comune*, the shy Viper aspis.

In order to properly follow the dialectal approach, the entries should be labeled according to the region and/or the linguistic group (exactly as Wrobel does for English and French variants), and the assemblage should be methodical. While I enjoyed finding Bergamo’s *bèssa* as one variant of the feisty Natrix natrix, or European grass snake, I cannot justify the exclusion of the Venetian *bixa*, the Milanese *bisson*, and the Campidanese *tzerpi*.

This minor methodological flaw is typified by three of the many Italian names of the once common swamp turtle: *galana d’acqua*, *tartuca stizziata*, and *tartuca do sciium*.

The first, although not Italian, is of unknown and perhaps unknowable origin, and the latter two seem to belong to the Central-Western Sicilian group (“sciume” means river in and around Enna, and “stizziato” means spotted in Trapani and elsewhere). Alas, if this is the case, 🙁

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**Table 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin Name</th>
<th>Italian Name</th>
<th>English Name</th>
<th>Wrobel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Acanthophis antarcticus</em></td>
<td>vipera della morte</td>
<td>common death adder</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Crotalus adamanteus</em></td>
<td>crotalo diamantino</td>
<td>Eastern diamondback rattlesnake</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Crotalus viridis</em></td>
<td>crotalo verde</td>
<td>Western rattlesnake, prairie rattlesnake</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English also: crotalo del Pacifico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Elaphe guttata</em></td>
<td>serpente del grano</td>
<td>corn snake, red ratsnake</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English also: elape scarlatta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Oxyuranus microlepidotus</em></td>
<td>taipan</td>
<td>inland taipan</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Oxyuranus scutellatus</em></td>
<td>taipan - serpente bruno</td>
<td>brown taipan - coastal taipan</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Thamnophis hammondii</em></td>
<td>serpente giarrettiera</td>
<td>garter snake - ribbon snake</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin Name</td>
<td>Italian Name</td>
<td>English Name</td>
<td>Wrobel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coluber gemonensis</td>
<td>colubro dei Balcani</td>
<td>Balkans snake</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coluber hippocrepis</td>
<td>colubro ferro di cavallo</td>
<td>horseshoe snake</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>also: colubro sardo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coluber viridiflavus</td>
<td>biacco</td>
<td>dark green snake</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>also: 6 other Italian variations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coronella austriaca</td>
<td>colubro liscio</td>
<td>smooth snake</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>also: colubro austriaco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coronella girondica</td>
<td>colubro di Riccioli</td>
<td>Southern smooth snake</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>also: 4 other Italian variations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaphe longissima</td>
<td>saettone, colubro d'Esclapio</td>
<td>Aesculapian snake</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>also: 4 other Italian variations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaphe quatuorlineata</td>
<td>cervone</td>
<td>four-lined snake</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>also: 3 other English variations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaphe situla</td>
<td>colubro leopardino</td>
<td>leopard snake</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>also: 3 other English variations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macroprotodon</td>
<td>colubro dal cappuccio</td>
<td>false smooth snake</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cucullatus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>also: colubro cucullato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malpolon monspessulanus</td>
<td>colubro lacertino</td>
<td>Montpellier snake</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>also: colubro di Montpellier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natrix maura</td>
<td>biscia viperina</td>
<td>viperine snake</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>also: biscia viperina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natrix natrix</td>
<td>biscia dal collare</td>
<td>European grass snake</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>also: 8 other Italian + 3 English variations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natrix tessellata</td>
<td>biscia tassellata</td>
<td>tessellated grass snake</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>also: 2 other Italian + 3 English variations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telescopus fallax</td>
<td>serpente gatto</td>
<td>cat snake</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>also: 4 other Italian + 3 English variations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vipera ammodytes</td>
<td>vipera dal corno</td>
<td>horned viper</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>also: vipera ammodite and 5 other English variations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vipera aspis</td>
<td>vipera comune</td>
<td>aspic viper</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+ 4 other variations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vipera berus</td>
<td>marasso</td>
<td>adder</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>also: marasso palustre + 7 other English variations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vipera ursinii</td>
<td>vipera orsini</td>
<td>field adder</td>
<td>✓ Italian + English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>also: meadow viper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
then the partitive must be “du” instead of “do.”
Still, this is the only typo I found in the whole book, and even the Italian issue is a mere peccadillo. In reality and by all accounts, Wrobel has produced another finely crafted opera mirabilis.

While a long search into Murray Wrobel’s background produced very little information, we know from the start that David C. Wareham, author of Elsevier’s Dictionary of Herpetological and Related Terminology and the former curator of the Cannon Aquarium and Vivarium at the

Table 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Italian</th>
<th>Wareham</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>abduct/adduct (to)</td>
<td>abdurre/addurre</td>
<td>✓ only abductor muscle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>autotomy</td>
<td>autotomia</td>
<td>✓ + autotomy plane, breakage plane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bridge [between carapace and plastron]</td>
<td>ponte [tra carapace e piastrone]</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brumation</td>
<td>brumazione</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>camouflage</td>
<td>colorazione criptica</td>
<td>✓ + crypsis, cryptic coloration, disruptive coloration, disruptive outline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coana</td>
<td>choana</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>diapause</td>
<td>diapausa</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dorsolateral ridge</td>
<td>striscia dorsolaterale</td>
<td>✓ + dorsolateral fold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ecdysis</td>
<td>muta</td>
<td>✓ + the anthonym endysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>epididymis</td>
<td>epididimo</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flipper</td>
<td>natatoia</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>frill</td>
<td>cresta, collare</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intercalary cartilage</td>
<td>cartilagine intercalare</td>
<td>✓ + intercalary replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>keeled scales</td>
<td>scaglie carenate</td>
<td>✓ only keel, but with a lengthy definition encompassing all variants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>patagium</td>
<td>patagio</td>
<td>✓ + patagial rib</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pentadactyl</td>
<td>pentadattilo</td>
<td>✓ + pentadactyl limb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phycophagous</td>
<td>ficofago</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>toadlet</td>
<td>rospetto</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unkenreflex</td>
<td>same, riflesso ululone</td>
<td>✓ Anglicized as unken reflex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vasoactive</td>
<td>vasoattivo</td>
<td>✓ only vasodilator and vasopressor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xeric</td>
<td>xerico</td>
<td>✓ + xeric pattern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yolk</td>
<td>vitello</td>
<td>✓ + vitellogenesis, vitellogenic activity, vitellogenin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Manchester University Museum, is the quintessential breeder.

This Elsevier’s monolingual gem, based on a previous work, Reptile and Amphibian Keepers Dictionary (Blandford Press: 1993), roams the whole field of herpetology. Please ignore the promotional leaflet and its gloomy stated audience of “amateur hobbyists faced with...intimidating scientific terms” and “trained zoologists who may sometimes have doubts over the exact meaning of a particular term.” (Short of politicians, do you know any other professional hobbyists? How well trained is a zoologist who does not know his or her own jargon?). Instead, go straight to the book and marvel.

The dictionary covers external features of reptiles and amphibians, herpetological families, selected bibliographies, biological processes, herpetological jargon and acronyms, and a bevy of anatomical, ecological, toxicological, veterinarian, and animal behavioral terms, with a grand total of over 3,100 headwords and definitions, all carefully cross-referenced.


Randomly skipping along, see Table 4 (page 50). Three misses out of 22 lemmata equal 86% overlap. If this weren’t remarkable enough, consider page after page of surprises, both delightful and sinister: froggery, a gathering of frogs; rhumba, a gathering of rattlesnakes; meristic, of or relating to countable structures of an organism; quincunx, a group of five objects arranged in a rectangle or square, with one object at each of the four corners and a fifth in the center; jubal, or the scales behind the head of the Eumece skink; jugal, or the scales below the crocodile’s eyes; fuzzy, a newborn mouse or rat that has just started to grow its fur; and pinky, a newborn mouse or rat that has yet to grow its fur.

There are 51 entries dedicated to practitioners of note. It is a true herpetological Ghota, covering a span of three centuries, from Linnaeus to Albert and Anna Wright. The very best and brightest in the field are introduced with a touch so genteel it borders on reverence. I had to smile reading the entry about George Jan, a relatively famous Italian zoologist who co-founded the Natural History Museum of Milan in 1838 and served as its first director. Giorgio, born Georg some two centuries ago, wouldn’t have minded the French twist. On the contrary, he would have been the first to herald this dictionary and its author.

Notes
1. I am not entering into the diatribe over Elapidae and Hydrophiidae that is currently raging among herpetologists. I do not care whether death adders and sea snakes are in the same family or not. I am just glad to live on the opposite side of the planet from both clades.

2. The smooth snake slithers on the grass and thereafter, being floppy, lifts its haunch and pees [sic!].
would rate this dictionary as very good, verging on excellent. It has many welcome features that I haven’t found in other dictionaries. An effort, mainly successful, has been made to address terms that are part of our current high-tech world.

The book has a sturdy, hard cover. The paper is of good quality, and the text is easy to read. Primary entries are in boldface and definitions in a normal typeface, which makes for easy scanning. Its readability is better than I have experienced with other foreign-language dictionaries in my possession.

One feature that I especially appreciate is the extensive inclusion of acronyms and abbreviations in their proper alphabetical places in the main reference section, in addition to those found in the appendices. I have found these to be lacking in most other foreign-language dictionaries, and their absence requires time spent on the Internet Googling.

This dictionary does not contain any pronunciation guides. Grammatical notes give parts of speech (and gender, in the case of Spanish). There are also some clarifications between U.K. and North/South/Central American usage. In general, however, the work may be said to be Eurocentric, favoring Peninsular Spanish and British English. This is especially noticeable in the section, “underemployment,” the Spanish word given is subempleo, while subocupación, which I have found in current Argentine newspaper and magazine articles, is not.

I did not find any filler words. Every entry seems to be justified in the context of business usage. As for missing terms:

- LGSM: (Mexico, Ley general de sociedades mercantiles)
- LGS: (Peruvian equivalent– Ley general de sociedades)
- MBCA: (Model Business Corporation Act) – not found in the English-Spanish portion
- S.A.: (Sociedad Anónima) – Many translators are puzzled about how to translate this. A suggested useful solution is to specify the country: “a Mexican corporation,” “a Venezuelan corporation” (I owe this solution to Tom West).
- S.A. de C.V.: (Variable capital corporation) – not found. There is no such thing in English or American law. A Google search brought up many instances of the term in both Spain and Mexico, so it should be included and explained.
- Desmaterialización is defined simply as “dematerialization.” The definition should be expanded to explain that it is “conversion of certificated shares into book entry shares.” “Dematerialization” in English is defined as the move from physical certificates to electronic bookkeeping. Actual stock certificates are slowly being removed and retired from circulation in exchange for electronic recording. Outside this narrow business terminology use, it seems to have purely physical explanations, so it should be more fully explained in terms of business.

- Talonario is included, but not libro talonario (counterfoil book). This dictionary seems to equate the term with “checkbook,” which usually refers to an individual’s checkbook, while a counterfoil book is one maintained by a business.
- Under firma, firma por reproducción mecánica (facsimile signature) is omitted, in spite of such other phrases as firma electrónica and firma digital.
- Prima de emisión is given as “share premium, issue premium.” Specifically, it is “additional paid-in capital.” That useful definition is omitted.
- Acciones rescatables (callable or redeemable shares) is omitted even though there are many other phrases under acciones.
- Dividendos pasivos (capital calls) is omitted from the long list of phrases under dividendos. In the entry for pasivo, that word is treated only as a noun.
- Tanteo (right of first refusal) is omitted. Under tanto, this is omitted as the Mexican equivalent of tanteo.
- Amortización de acciones (redemption of shares) is not shown under amortización. In the English-Spanish section, “redemption of shares” is defined as rescate. In the Spanish-English section, rescate (de acciones) is defined as “redemption.”

Two appendices, one each in Spanish and English, serve as “Guides to Communication” in the respective languages, covering such topics as business correspondence (with model letters), sample dialogues in business meetings (in the Spanish-English section only), resumes, faxes, e-mail,
telephone phrases, and abbreviations and acronyms. These appear to be useful, correct, and up-to-date. The netiqueta instructions, in particular, are spot on, as the British might say. These appendices are definitely a useful addition to the dictionary.

I found no typos in the main reference section of the dictionary. However, typos are fairly frequent in the appendices (e.g., participantes on page 34 of “Reuniones en inglés”; durnate for durante in the same paragraph; also los os asientos. They may have been a hasty addition or not as carefully edited as the main reference body.

The appendices feature boxes containing hypothetical dialogues. These are undoubtedly useful, but in the case of the telephone phrases, if one is speaking extemporaneously on the phone, one would have to be quick to find the right sentence. No doubt, reading ahead and crib notes would be useful.

The advice on pronouncing phone numbers in English (“20095=two zero double nine five [U.S.]”) is not accurate. We’d say “two zero nine nine five.” The “zero double” represents British usage.

The “Trabajar con un intérprete” section is really about interpreters (not translators!), and the advice it contains is useful and sound. A professional interpreter would have to judge whether it is not only necessary, but sufficient.

There are lists of “Países del mundo” and “Naciones of the World.” I can’t vouch for the accuracy of every bit of information, but “The Gambia” as nombre inglés for Gambia? Not likely. Are we again seeing a U.K. bias?

Divisiones administrativas: For translators in either direction, this would seem to be very useful in general, especially in terms of the two-character postal abbreviations used in the U.S., and sobrrietus for the various states. However, “Downeasters” for people who live in Maine? This is old-fashioned. Lately, they are “Mainers,” having rejected the joking designation of “Mainiacs.” These popular state designations need to be backed up by additional references.

In the list of sources of citations for the usage examples in both languages, a sweep over them seems to confirm that U.K. and Peninsular Spanish citations are about 35% in each case. This does not seem to address the vastly greater proportion of users in the Western Hemisphere.

There were no citations from Puerto Rico that I could find. Puerto Rico, of course, is heavily dependent on the U.S. as far as business terminology goes, most of their business laws being bald copies of Delaware laws (e.g., their Ley general de corporaciones). Perhaps they are not considered true members of the Spanish-speaking business world.

Overall, I think this dictionary is an admirable and mostly successful effort to cover business usage among a vast expanse of Spanish speakers, and to make it as up-to-date as possible. As dictionaries are said to be obsolete as soon as they are published, this one, like all others, should be supplemented by online searches.

Miriam Eldridge has a doctorate in Spanish language and literature. She is an ATA-certified (Finnish→English and Italian→English) freelance translator, with some 15 years of experience in translating into English from French, Spanish, and Portuguese. In addition, she was a software technical writer in California’s Silicon Valley for 10 years. Contact: LeinoM@comcast.net.

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WordFinder Professional 8 Software with Collins German-English
English-German Dictionary (4th edition) on CD-ROM
Publisher: WordFinder Software International AB, Växjö, Sweden.
Publication date: 2004
Price: $328 ($275 for the product and $53 for shipping to the U.S.). Value added tax may apply to purchases from some countries. Prices as of February 11, 2005, when purchased from the publisher. Discounts available for multiple copies.
Available from: www.wordfinder.com
Platforms supported: Windows:95/98/NT/2000/XP; Macintosh: System OS 7 through 9 for WordFinder version 6; System X Panther (10.3) for WordFinder 8
Hardware requirements: Windows: Pentium or equivalent processor, 8 MB of free hard disk space for program and approximately 5-20 MB free space for each dictionary, CD-ROM drive, VGA or better monitor, mouse. Macintosh: If your hardware can run the specified OS, then it should be able to run WordFinder.
User interface language of search software: English (Danish, Dutch, Finnish, German, Norwegian, Spanish, or Swedish). Can be changed without restarting the program.
Documentation: Printed Quick Start guide and PDF manual in the language specified during installation.
Number of CD-ROMs: 1 (required for installation only, not for using the product).
Reviewed by: Thomas Hedden
This product is primarily a piece of software that can be used to access CD-ROM dictionaries that are also sold by WordFinder Software. Dictionaries are available in the following languages: Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Spanish, and Swedish. (Note that the bilingual French and Italian dictionaries available at the time of this review only go into or out of the Scandinavian languages, not English; however, WordFinder Software is hoping to make French-English and Italian-English dictionaries available before the end of this year.) It is possible to purchase both directions or one direction separately. For the purposes of this review, I am using the Collins German-English English-German Dictionary (fourth edition). However, the review concentrates on the WordFinder software and on the computerized format of the dictionary rather than the contents of the dictionary, which are already well known to German-English and English-German translators. All my experience reported below was with WordFinder on the Windows 2000 platform.

This product is not just a CD-ROM that includes both the WordFinder software and a dictionary. WordFinder can also be used as a terminology management system to create and maintain one's own dictionaries (see below). Most people will probably use it as a CD-ROM dictionary, so first I will discuss how it is used in this way.

The dictionary is launched like any other software program. It can be used as a typical stand-alone lookup program, by typing or pasting a source word into a text box. If both directions of a language combination are purchased, it is possible to switch between them on the fly by clicking on the flags icon appearing in the upper right of the screen. When WordFinder is used in this way, it does not differ greatly from other CD-ROM dictionaries. However, the program can also interact in a useful way with other Windows programs. A discussion of how this feature is used follows.

First, select a word in a Windows program. This can be done not only in
Word, but in any Windows program, such as Déjà Vu. (I assume that this is also true on the Macintosh platform, although I have not tested it.) The program used here is StarOffice 6.0 (see Graphic 1). Next, press the left Control key and then the left Shift key in this order (this sequence can be changed, if desired). This copies the selected term to the Clipboard, pastes it into WordFinder, looks up the term, and switches the focus from the window in which the user is working to the WordFinder window (see Graphic 2). (This accomplishes the same thing as if you had typed Ctrl-C to copy the term to the Clipboard, then Alt-Tab the appropriate number of times to switch to the WordFinder window, then typed Ctrl-V to paste the term into the “Search” textbox on the WordFinder window, and then pressed Enter to look up the term). Graphic 3 is a close-up of the WordFinder window that makes it easier to see what it contains.

Notice that one of the translations of this term is preselected in the WordFinder window. If this preselected term is not the desired translation, the user can select a different one. The only words that can be selected are the terms with a gray background, which are the possible target-language translations of the source term. Explanations and subject annotations are not copied when the dictionary is used in this way (although there is a way of doing this). To select a different translation, use either the mouse or the right and left arrows keys. It is not necessary to drag the cursor across the word you want, so this can be done very quickly. Once the desired translation is selected, press the Enter key, and this highlighted word will be copied to the Clipboard, and the focus will be switched back to the original program from which WordFinder was activated. The term is then automatically pasted in to replace the source-language term that was originally selected. For example, see Graphic 4.

This process is often very fast and clean, but not always. For example, some translations include usage notes, such as what preposition to use, and these are sometimes part of the copied text, which may or may not have to be deleted.

The choice of the left Ctrl and the left Shift key to activate WordFinder can be difficult for people who are accustomed to using keyboard commands to move around in Word, since many users find this key combination, together with the right or left arrow keys, to be an easy way to highlight a series of words. What this means is that WordFinder often tries to look things up when the user doesn’t want this. This can be overcome either by redefining the key combination used to activate WordFinder or by carefully pressing FIRST the left Shift key and THEN the left Ctrl key to move around in Word. However, it takes a certain amount of concentration to do this.

Another problem is that if the user accidentally presses the activation sequence (Ctrl + left Shift key) when no text is selected, the Clipboard is cleared. That is, if you have a word on the Clipboard that you wish to look up, and then accidentally press...
the activation sequence with no text selected, the word is no longer there. This presents a problem if you want to look the word up in another CD-ROM dictionary or in a Web browser, since it means that it is necessary to copy the term again.

It is possible to use the wild cards “*” (for any number of any character) and “?” (for any single character). Searches are not case-sensitive. WordFinder is able to process wildcard searches very quickly, even searches with an initial “*,” which some CD-ROM dictionaries have difficulty doing quickly. As is the case with many Windows applications, the special characters ä, ö, ß, and ü can be typed by inputting their ANSI code on the numerical keypad when the Alt key is depressed. Unfortunately, as is also the case in many Windows applications, it is necessary for the Num Lock key to be on when this is done, although many users prefer to leave it off so that they can use the keys on the numerical keypad as arrow keys. However, I was delighted to discover that it is not really necessary to type in the special characters at all. It is possible to type in “ä” for “ä,” “ß” for “ß,” etc., and the words will be found, which is not the case in some CD-ROM dictionaries, such as the UniLex series.

The text in the WordFinder window does not wrap, and if the resizable window is too narrow to show all of it, the right edge is simply cut off. It
would be nice if there was a scroll bar or some other indication that the right side is cut off. However, the window has to be very narrow for this to happen, and this is not usually a problem.

WordFinder includes an additional feature called WordFinder Easy Reader, which allows extremely quick and easy lookup of words that are displayed in Internet Explorer. Unfortunately, this feature only works in Internet Explorer, not in Mozilla, Firefox, or other Windows programs (however, see below). WordFinder Easy Reader is launched like any Windows program, and then it is activated by right-clicking on an icon in the Taskbar. When it is first opened, a short window opens across most of the width of the screen (it is across the bottom of the screen in Graphic 5).

Then, if the user opens Internet Explorer and allows the mouse to hover over an unknown word, this opens another window similar to, but larger than, a ToolTip window which displays the translation of the term (as shown in Graphic 6).

This way of using WordFinder Easy Reader allows a word to be looked up merely by allowing the mouse to hover over it. However, the program can be used in any Windows application using the wide window across the screen, without the ToolTip-like window. This is done by double-clicking on a word to select it and then right-clicking on it: The translation will appear in the wide window.

As I mentioned above, everything I have reported reflects my experience with the program on the Windows 2000 platform. WordFinder also has a Macintosh version, which I have not tested. At the present time there is not a native Linux version of WordFinder. There is a Linux program called CrossOver Office that provides Windows emulation in Linux, making it possible, for example, to install Microsoft Office, etc., on Linux. I tried installing WordFinder in this environment, but I was unable to get it to work, although I have had this difficulty with many CD-ROM dictionaries.

Attendees of ATA’s 45th Annual Conference in Toronto may recall that WordFinder participated in the Translation Support Tools Forum. This is because WordFinder software can be used not only to query a CD-ROM dictionary, but also as a terminology management tool. It allows users to create their own dictionaries that can be used together with or separately from the dictionaries provided with the WordFinder software. In order to be able to take advantage of user-created dictionaries in the same way as described above, the dictionary entries have to contain certain special codes, which can be tedious if terms are entered one by one. However, there is a way of importing and exporting user dictionaries, so it is very easy to import a long list of terms into a user dictionary. What is especially nice about this feature is that a user can group his or her own dictionaries with the Collins dictionary (or any of the other dictionaries which are sold with WordFinder), so that a term need only be looked up once, not first in one dictionary and then in another. The priority in which the dictionaries are queried is also configurable. The grouping is completely transparent to the user. The user’s terms appear alongside those in the Collins dictionary, and can be used exactly as described above.

What translators really need is a very quick and convenient way of copying and pasting terms back and forth between the program in which the translator is working and the terminology tool, and WordFinder does this better than any other terminology management program I am aware of. I highly recommend this product.

Thomas Hedden holds a Ph.D. in Slavic linguistics from the University of California, Berkeley. He has worked freelance for many years as a German-English technical translator. Contact: thomas@hedden.org.
According to a 19th-century phrenology illustration in a tome simply called The Science Book, a work for the coffee table on the subject of the history of science, the part of the brain that is responsible for language ability is located, not in the prefrontal lobes, or at the temples, or on the very top of one’s head, but...directly below the eyes! And all these years I was convinced that those dark bags beneath my eyes were simply indicators of fatigue or “allergy shiners,” the telltale signs of hay fever or an excessively dusty environment.

To the contrary, according to the ever-reliable science of phrenology, they are the outward sign of being a linguist. Who knew?

[Abbreviations used in this column: Da-Danish; D-Dutch; E-English; F-French; G-German; H-Hebrew; I-Italian; Po-Polish; Pt-Portuguese; Sp-Spanish; Sw-Swedish; T-Turkish.]

New Queries

(D-E 6-05/1) In a pharmaceuticals job related to the problems professional athletes have with drug testing when they use nutritional supplements, a ProZ user had problems with the phrases (1.a) “dopinggeduide stoffen” and (1.b) “Borgingssystem.” What are these?

(E-F 6-05/2) The concept of business as usual caused a bit of a problem for a Lantra-l member. The context was that the company wrote of concentrating on its ordinary operations as opposed to dealing with problems, like layoffs, that arise from reorganization.

(E-F 6-05/3) What, asks Dario Cavalieros, is good French for (3.a) We are now going off the record and (3.b) We are now back on the record?

(E-Sp 6-05/4) Same pair of queries as above about off and on the record, but Dario wants the Spanish for these.

(F-E 6-05/5) A denizen of Lantra-l asked about “journal de bord des marches,” as in “Le Journal de bord des marches vous présente les émissions pour différents titres.”

(G-E 6-05/6) This began as a German-to-Spanish query in ProZ, but is just as intriguing with English as the target language: What is “das laufende Gut” in the world of sailing? The context reads like this: “Er wird als Mastmann und Hauptsegel Grinder engesetzt und ist überdies für das laufende Gut mitverantwortlich.”

(G-I 6-05/7) What part of a toaster is the “Brötchenhalterung”? The ProZ questioner seems to have been well satisfied with the other components of the machine, but this one was a problem.

(Sp-E 6-05/8) This query, related to energy and power generation, concerns the phrase “cosidos en hilo de nilon de 3 cubos y título 470 dtex.” More context: “Guantes protectores con doble curtido de cromo (procedimiento mineral o vegetal). Cosidos con hilo de nilon de 3 cubos y título 470 dtex. Con forro de felpa jersey.” Who wants to try it?

(Sw-E 6-05/9) A Lantra-l member needed the English for “ammunitionstrójaren,” the person who uses a global positioning device, a digital camera, binoculars, and a handheld personal computer to locate mines and unexploded ordnance.

(Sw-E 6-05/10) “Vid myndigheten” is the problem phrase in this legal translation, being an excerpt from Swedish law. It goes like this: “Förenklad delgivning får användas bara om den sökte har delgetts upplysning om att förenklad delgivning kan komma att användas I målet eller ärendet. Sådan upplysning behöver dock inte delges med den som har inlett förfarandet vid myndigheten eller som har gett in en handling i målet eller ärendet, om upplysningen lämnas I nära anslutning till att ansökan eller han- dlingen har kommit in till myndigheten.”

(T-E 6-05/11) Other than the fact that it is medical in nature, the Translation Inquirer cannot say anything about this (rare) Turkish query, for which English is wanted: “Yayma preparatlarin incelenmesinde zeminde bol polimorf nüveli lökositler dikkati çekmektedir.”

Replies to Old Queries

(E-Da 4-05/1) (trust mark): Camilla Kieliger says that she searched Google.dk and found “e-mærke” for this. There is even a website (www.e-maerket.dk).

(E-H 1-05/1) (vice president for financial affairs): David Goldman has never seen a business executive referred to in modern Hebrew as “nasi” or “sgan nasi.” “Nasi” refers to a political president. As for the “smnk’l” that made up part of the reply on page 45 of the April Chronicle, this is an abbreviation for “sgan menahel klali” (deputy general manager), with “menahel klali” being a general manager. “Man’kal” means a CEO, and is also an acronym.

(E-Po 4-05/3) (“Oh, come on!”): This widely used English phrase has multiple meanings in Polish, according to Piotr Graff. One of them that denotes suspicion and disbelief is “Côś ty, nie mów.” Utter rejection and condescension are conveyed by “No to masz przechłapane.” Doubt is expressed by “Naprawdę? Na
pewno?” The notion of No kidding! is found in “Nie wygłupiaj się!” And last and best of all, says Piotr, and also closest to Come on! is a phrase that is heard only from Cracow southwards, “E idź i pokój z ciasta.”

(E-Pt 10-04/4) (child minder): In Britain, says John Kinory, such a child care worker would have to be registered with the social services department of the local authority.

(F-E 4-05/7) (All Blacks rugby team): This query, involving an extended French sentence on page 45 of the April Chronicle, was answered by Paul Hopper, who used Google to learn that, as the initial poser of the query wanted to know, four straight victories by this team resulted in a victory at the Dubai Sevens tournament. Dario Cavalieros notes that in this suite, “de suite” (part of the French sentence) means in a row in this context.

(G-E 4-05/9) (“Mandat”): Paul Hopper says that this context requires the English to be Authority to act on someone else’s behalf. If one is in the process of firing an attorney, for example, this is conveyed by “von einem Mandat entbinden.” The word is not to be confused with “Mandant,” a client.

(I-E 1-05/8) (“macchina di rappresentanza”): Berto Berti disagrees that there is any status symbol meaning attached to this term, as in Ferraris and Maseratis. His rendering of these three words is a company car used by top executives, driven by a uniformed driver.

(Sw-E 4-05/11) (“elslutbleck”): It’s an electric strike plate, claims Paul Hopper. And the “motorles” mentioned in the same sentence is probably a misprint for “motorlås,” a motorized lock.

(Sw-E 4-05/12) (“täckbrickor”): Most likely these are cover plates in this context, says Paul Hopper. Elsewhere, they might possibly be washers. Again, there is a misspelling in the context sentence involving the letter “å”: “låskista” should be “läskista” (lock receptacle).

Thanks a lot for your participation! It was great!

The Onionskin Continued from p. 42

Fluency Pays

Seven hundred reasons for studying languages are listed on a new website produced by the U.K.’s Learning and Teaching Support Network, a publicly funded organization that promotes learning in all subjects in higher education. A notice on the site informs visitors that the content results from new research by the Subject Centre (www.llas.ac.uk/700reasons/700reasons.aspx).

The Onionskin gave the “search by keyword” function a whirl, and discovered that “money” generates at least two intriguing tidbits: Britons who speak a foreign language are richer, happier, and regarded as sexier than those who can speak only English, while learning a second language can boost an average worker’s lifetime earnings by as much as £145,000. Hey, ask any professional translator.

With thanks to Bob Blake, Ben Jones, and Andy Klatt.

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Make foreign accents emphasize the fundamental differences between the sounds of two languages. These differences, in phonemes, allophones, pitches, and phrase shapes, make futile any attempt to mimic in one language the exact sounds of another. Nonetheless, some translators try.

The practice is most prevalent among those opera translators who claim that the sounds of the words of the original text are part of the music, and that reproducing them takes precedence over everything else. But some translators of non-sung texts also believe that the most important thing is how the original author “shapes air.” A notable example is American poet Louis Zukofsky, who, in collaboration with his wife Celia, translated the ancient Roman poet Catullus homophonically (London: Cape Golliard, 1969; reprinted in Louis Zukofsky: Complete Short Poetry, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991).

Here are the first five Latin lines of Catullus viii:

Miser Catulle, desinas ineptire,
et quod uides perisse perditum
ducas.
Fulsere quondam candidi tibi soles,
cum uentitabas quo puella ducebat
amata nobis quantum amabitur
nulla.

Here is Zukofsky’s original translation of these lines, first published in Anew (poems written between 1935 and 1944), and then also reprinted in the Complete Short Poetry:

Miserable Catullus, stop being foolish
And admit it’s over,
The sun shone on you those days
When your girl had you
When you gave it to her
like like nobody else ever will.

Then, in the 1960s, Zukofsky re-translated the poem:

Miss her, Catullus? Don’t be so inept
to rail
at what you see perish when perished is the case.
Full, sure once, candid the sunny
days glowed, solace,
when you went about it as your girl
would have it,
you loved her as no one else shall
ever be loved.

But not all of this translation is homophonic, and it all makes some sort of sense. Perhaps Zukofsky felt restrained by his earlier translation.

There was no such restraint when Zukofsky homophonically translated Catullus cxii, a two-line poem which itself exhibits no restraint:

Multus homo es, Naso, neque
tecum multus homo <est quin>
te scindat: Naso, multus es et
pathicus.

The literal meaning is:

You are too much a man, Naso, or
rather too many a man it is who
plows you: Naso, you are too much
and a deviant.

The first half of the first line of Zukofsky’s translation is enough to illustrate his results:

Mool ‘tis homos,’ Naso

The translation is not quite as senseless as it first appears, because, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, the verb “mool” (16th-19th century, apparently Scots dialect) means: 1) “to crumble, esp. to crumble bread . . . in order to soak it in liquid,” whence comes 2) “to associate intimately with,” although apparently with no sexual overtones. Nonetheless, my advice regarding homophonic translation is: do not try this at home, or anywhere else, not even if you’re a professional.

Humor and Translation

By Mark Herman

Herman is a librettist and translator. Submit items for future columns via e-mail to hermanapter@earthlink.net or via snail mail to Mark Herman, 5748 W Brooks Rd., Shepherd, MI 48883-9202. Discussions of the translation of humor and examples thereof are preferred, but humorous anecdotes about translators, translations, and mistranslations are also welcome. Include copyright information and permission if relevant.

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