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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)

An Easy Reference To ATA Member Benefits

Your ATA membership has never been more valuable. Take advantage of the discounted programs and services available to you as an ATA member. Be sure to tell these companies you are an ATA member and refer to any codes provided below.

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...And, of course, as an ATA member you receive discounts on the Annual Conference registration fees and ATA publications, and you are eligible to join ATA Divisions, participate in the online Translation Services Directory, and much more. For more information, contact ATA (703) 683-6100; fax (703) 683-6122; and e-mail: ata@atanet.org.
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**ATA’s Membership Directory**  
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You’ll find the most up-to-date contact information for your ATA colleagues online, day or night! Search by name, location, even by email address—just click www.atanet.org/membersonly.

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Israel Translators Association 2006 Conference
February 7-9, 2006
Crowne Plaza Hotel • Jerusalem, Israel

We welcome all proposals for talks on subjects related to translation, interpreting, editing, language, and professional and technical tools. Papers may be in Hebrew or English (other languages are a possibility). Proposals may be submitted to Alan Clayman, ITA deputy chair and conference organizer, at route1@bezeqint.net.

For more details, visit www.ita.org.il.
A Look at the Online Directories—Update

The ATA online Directory of Translation and Interpreting Services for individuals and the Directory of Language Services Companies are more popular than ever. Listings in these online directories are only available to ATA members. As of mid-August, the individual directory featured 5,667 profiles. The company directory had 365 profiles.

Be sure to keep your listings up to date. To update or add your listing, please go to www.americantranslators.org/tsd. And, just a reminder, these directories are different from the online Membership Directory, which is in the Members Only section of the ATA website. The Membership Directory is set up strictly to facilitate communication between members; the online directories are structured to market and promote members’ services to ATA members and the general public.

Here is a look at some of the stats for the first half of 2005:

**Top 10 language combinations from most queried to least for individuals**
(The numbers in parentheses are the rankings from December 31, 2004.):

1. English into Spanish (2)
2. Spanish into English (1)
3. English into French (3)
4. English into Japanese (7)
5. English into Chinese (9)
6. French into English (8)
7. Japanese into English (6)
8. Chinese into English (5)
9. German into English (4)
10. English into German (-)

Dropped from the top 10:
- Russian into English (10)

**Top 10 areas of specialization from most queried to least for individuals**:

1. Medicine (General) (1)
2. Law (General) (2)
3. Business (General) (3)
4. Pharmaceuticals (7)
5. Engineering (General) (5)
6. Economics & Finance (9)
7. Computers (General) (6)
8. Industry & Technology (General) (8)
9. Patents, Trademarks, & Copyrights (-)
10. Software Localization (4)

Dropped from the top 10:
- Contracts (10)

**Top 10 language combinations from most queried to least for companies**:

1. English into Spanish (1)
2. Spanish into English (2)
3. English into All (3)
4. All into English (4)
5. English into Chinese (7)
6. Chinese into English (8)
7. French into English (6)
8. English into French (5)
9. Russian into English (9)
10. Japanese into English (10)

**Top 10 areas of specialization from most queried to least for companies**:

1. Medicine (General) (1)
2. Business (General) (3)
3. Law (General) (2)
4. Arts & Humanities (General) (4)
5. Health Care (6)
6. Software Localization (-)
7. Education (10)
8. Pharmaceuticals (-)
9. Economics & Finance (-)
10. Computers (General) (7)

Dropped from the top 10:
- Engineering (General) (5),
- Industry & Technology (General) (8),
- and Entertainment (General) (9).
TA Past President Edith Losa died of a heart attack August 5. Edith, who was the first ATA president I worked for, served as president from 1993 to 1995.

When you talk about presidents—be it ATA or the United States—and their records, you often hear the term legacy bandied about. For Edith, her legacy is that she took office during one of the most tumultuous times in the association’s history and led the organization through it. Edith’s quiet confidence and leadership helped set the foundation for ATA to thrive and grow.

While she could be demanding (you do not get to where she was in life by not being), at the same time she protected me from much of the politics. For that I am eternally grateful. She helped me get set in my job and guided me through the all-important first year.

I spoke with Edith’s husband Domingo a couple of times as he was preparing for her funeral service, and each time I would learn something new. For instance, Edith was a gourmet cook and also adopted her sister’s daughter after her sister died. She gave of herself in so many ways for so many folks.

To honor Edith, Domingo has requested that donations in Edith’s name be made to the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation. Checks may be sent to AFTI, Columbia Plaza, Suite 101, 350 East Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007. For more information on AFTI, please visit www.afti.org.

On behalf of the American Translators Association, thank you Edith—and, of course, Domingo and your supportive family—for all the time and energy that you gave to your profession and your organization. Many, many people have benefited from your efforts.

Register Today for ATA’s 46th Annual Conference

Register today for ATA’s 46th Annual Conference in Seattle, November 9-12. Visit ATA’s website at www.atanet.org/conf2005 for the most up-to-date listing of educational seminars, exhibitors, and sponsors. You can register online or you can print out the form, complete it, and fax or mail it to ATA.

In addition, while planning your stay in Seattle, please be sure to check out the fantastic Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society website for a wide array of information and activities, www.notisnet.org.

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ATA 2005 Election: Candidate Statements

The election this year is to fill the positions of president-elect, secretary, and treasurer, as well as three directors’ positions (each a three-year term). The ballots will be mailed in late September.

President-elect
(two-year term)
Tony Beckwith
tonyhbeckwith@cs.com

Like many ATA members, I come from a multilingual, multicultural background. I was born to a British family living in Argentina and have been a translator/interpreter ever since.

My first career was with international advertising agencies, which allowed me to live and work in a number of countries around the world. Then came a chance to do something completely different, and I spent about 10 years managing a successful chain of restaurants in Texas. I am now a certified, full-time, freelance Spanish-to-English translator and interpreter, and have been for the last 15 years.

I served two consecutive terms as president of the Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association, after serving one term as director of communications. My proudest achievement during that time was the launch of the AATIA website. Although I had no special knowledge of website development, I understood the need, so I assembled a team of volunteers who met at my house in the evenings and we soon accomplished our goal.

As a commercial and literary translator, as well as a conference and court interpreter, I believe I can represent the interests of a broad cross-section of our membership. I think of myself as an innovator, but I also have a deep respect for the value of continuity. As president-elect of ATA, I would work hard to connect the past, through the present, to the future.

What does the future hold for us as language professionals and for the association as a whole? There are challenges, of course, but there are also, as always, great opportunities for those who can learn to adapt to the changes. I believe ATA’s role should be to strive to understand the trends evolving in this country and in the rest of the world, and then do everything possible to help our membership prepare for the days ahead. Translators working in other economies influence our market in a variety of ways. Machine translation is becoming more sophisticated all the time. These and other factors affect U.S.-based individuals and agencies, though not always with the same results. But we have all faced challenges of many kinds before and know that resourcefulness, teamwork, and determination will always win the day. As president-elect, I would commit ATA’s wealth of resources to helping our membership develop the flexibility and skills we’ll all need to succeed in the years to come.

In these global times, I believe that ATA should build and strengthen ties with other language-based organizations, both here and overseas, as a means of keeping our membership informed about worldwide developments in the fields of translation and interpretation. We must continue to promote a broad, outward-looking approach and keep improving our system of internal membership communications. We must also keep seeking creative new ways to educate the client community on the value of professional translation and interpretation. It’s a struggle that will never be completely won, but it must never be abandoned.

Thank you very much, and I appreciate your consideration.

President-elect
(two-year term)
Jiri Stejskal
jiri@cetra.com

Gearing up for Father’s Day, one of my children was asked at school to write a letter to his dad about the three best things he liked about him. This is what came in the mail a few days later: 1) The Thunder Squadron models you buy me; 2) You’re in ATA; and 3) You love me. While there are things in our house that are more important than ATA, it showed me to what extent our association has permeated my—and my family’s—life over the past few years.

I’ve had the pleasure of serving as the association’s treasurer and as chairman of ATA’s Finance Committee for two consecutive terms (2001-2003 and 2003-2005). Working closely with ATA Headquarters, the Board, and dozens of ATA members over the past four years, in addition to my duties as the treasurer of the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation and chairman of the Status Committee for the Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs, I have gained more than a few insights into the world of nonprofit organizations in our industry. One of these insights was the sometimes overlooked fact that association leaders are not here to be served, but rather to serve the members—you.

Regardless of whether I am elected, I promise to do my best to serve you by supporting the association’s core objectives, which are:

• to promote the recognition of the translation and interpretation professions;
• to promote the communication and dissemination of knowledge for the benefit of translators and interpreters;
• to formulate and maintain standards of professional ethics, practices, and competence;
• to stimulate and support the training of translators and interpreters;
• to provide a medium for cooperation with persons in allied professions; and
to promote professional and social relations among its members.

The academic qualifications that will help me promote these objectives include M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Slavic languages and literatures (University of Pennsylvania), an Executive M.B.A. degree (Temple University), and a Certificate in Communication for Professionals (University of Pennsylvania). My experience as a translator dates back to the early 1980s, and my love for languages to my childhood—as a schoolboy in Prague, Czech Republic, I took courses in English, Russian, French, Arabic, and Polish, later adding German during my two-year sojourn in Austria on my way to the United States.

I look forward to continued cooperation with my many friends and colleagues in the ATA. It is a great honor to have been nominated for the office of president-elect. Thank you for giving me the opportunity!

Secretary
(two-year term)
Arlene Kelly
xingukelly@comcast.net

When the call came asking me to be a candidate, I was totally surprised! Then, I was flattered and proud that my colleagues thought so much of me. Of course, if I had known then that Alan Melby wished to remain as secretary of ATA, I may not have accepted. And I did vacillate somewhat. But then I realized that I would have five minutes to speak to you all about some ideas I value and want to share with you. Independent of the election results, at least my ideas will be available and perhaps implemented.

As secretary of ATA, I promise to record faithfully the minutes of all Board meetings held. I have held this post successfully with the Portuguese Language Division and the Boston Chapter of the Fulbright Association.

In addition to the regular duties of a secretary, I would like to propose cultural presentations for and service projects by ATA members, either individually or through divisions.

The cultures with which we deal are rich and varied. We seldom have opportunities to appreciate aspects of the cultures whose languages provide our living. Music, poetry, theater, art, and film presentations could and should be a featured part of our gatherings. The more we know about the cultures we serve, the better our translated or interpreted project will be.

Also, many of the groups with whom we share languages suffer from the effects of non-natives not knowing or understanding their host cultures. Perhaps each of us, or a division or chapter as a group, could offer an hour or so of free interpreting or a public service announcement translated without charge. There are refugee organizations, immigrant centers, and shelters for battered women who perhaps would love to have something translated or a few hours of interpreting to ease the already difficult lives of their clients. We here are all fortunate and at least somewhat successful, otherwise we would not be members of this professional organization. In addition to the benefit of providing desperately needed services, our donation can serve as additional publicity for our talents. Donating some time in this way is one of the few, true win-win situations in life. The agencies’ clients win and we have the satisfaction of knowing we helped. Perhaps as an added incentive, ATA continuing education points could be offered for these actions. That I cannot promise, but I would pursue it as a possibility. ATA’s School Outreach Program is a great example of interpreters and translators who are participating in the community.

These are the two most important ideas I have considered since being nominated to run for this position. I offer you my accumulated experience in translation since 1973, interpreting since 1978, and other activities: teaching interpreting and translation for academic and adult ed programs; speaking at over 20 conferences nationally and internationally; writing articles for the Chronicle and other publications; and 12 years of living in the Brazilian Amazon Region, where I completed the demographic-historical research for my doctorate. Please allow me an opportunity to serve ATA.

Secretary
(two-year term)
Alan Melby
akmtrg@byu.edu

As the current secretary of ATA, I am very pleased to be invited by the Nominating Committee to run for a second term as secretary. Over the past 20 years of my involvement in ATA, my perspective has broadened considerably. For the first dozen years, my focus was solely on the effective use of technology by translators. Of course, technology is still important to me as I continue to serve as chair of ATA’s Translation and Computers Committee. However, during my two terms as ATA Director and my current term as secretary, I have become involved in translation-related projects that go beyond technology. Here are a few examples.

In September 1999, I joined the team developing a translation quality assurance standard under the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). I have been closely involved with this
Project, which was jointly initiated by ATA and the National Foreign Language Center in 1998. Now, in 2005, the ASTM standard is close to being ready for publication, and it is important to see this project through to completion and take it to the next level (a world-wide translation quality standard). As ATA secretary, one of my roles is to act as coordinator between the Board and ATA’s representative to ASTM. A translation quality standard will improve communication with clients—building on the excellent Translation: Getting it Right brochure by our own Chris Durban—and enhance the image of translation as a profession rather than as a sideline for someone who happens to speak two languages.

I am also involved in a related project initiated by ATA’s Certification Committee, helping to evaluate the feasibility of seeking accreditation for ATA’s Certification Program through the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This project will be long and difficult at best, but could greatly strengthen the perception of ATA certification by outsiders and document for everyone additional details of how the program is administered. As ATA secretary, I am working to help maintain the momentum of this important project. In this regard, Gabe Bokor’s task force has already completed extensive technical work to find a suitable way to allow certification exams to be completed on a computer rather than having to be handwritten, and I am now helping to see this computerized certification project through to operational status at the ATA Headquarters level.

Please allow me to continue with the above projects and otherwise continue to promote the interests of ATA and its members during a second term. At the end of my second term, I will be ready to turn over the position of secretary to someone else and find other ways to serve within our great association.

**Treasurer**

**Two-year term**

Peter W. Krawutschke

peter.krawutschke@wmich.edu

I am honored and pleased that the Nominating Committee gave me its endorsement as a candidate for the position of ATA treasurer and, with your support, I will continue the fine work ATA treasurers such as Eric McMillan and Jiri Stejskal have done for us in the past. When I joined ATA in 1971, our budget amounted to a few thousand dollars; today it has grown beyond two million. And that is one of the clearest indications for what we have achieved as a profession.

During the past six years, I have served the Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs/International Federation of Translators (FIT), first as its secretary general, and recently I completed a three-year term as FIT’s treasurer. While FIT’s budget is modest compared to ATA’s, it is nevertheless quite complex because of FIT’s international nature. With the support of the member organizations, we were able to create a basis for solid fiscal growth during the past three years. At the university level, I have gained experience in reviewing budgets involving considerably larger amounts.

Service to professional associations requires considerable amounts of time, and I am fortunate that my employer values and supports such service.

My approach to the treasurer’s task quite simply consists of assuring that the financial resources are available to accomplish the Board’s goals; that ATA members continue to receive value for their dues; and that our staff has an economically secure work environment. Together with the Finance Committee, I will review our auditor’s recommendations carefully and have them implemented when appropriate. In particular, I will assure the association that our investments will continue to be sufficiently diversified to reduce risk.

I would consider it a privilege to serve our association once again, and I thank you for your support.

**Director**

**Three-year term**

Ines Bojlesen

inesb@hevanet.com

My involvement in ATA has been a learning adventure, combined with sharing the experiences accrued during my 26 years in the translating and interpreting field. I feel honored to be nominated by my colleagues to contribute further as a member of ATA’s Board of Directors. I hope to work on promoting public awareness and client education for the recognition of our profession.

I believe my love for translating and interpreting will be an asset to ATA. After 26 years, I still get excited about translating a challenging text or interpreting under unusual circumstances. I still enjoy perusing old and new dictionaries, surfing the Internet for information, and sitting in a classroom to learn from scholars. I have always believed in and practiced the sharing of knowledge with peers. I believe we are a special and unique community, and that ATA is the binding element that promotes unison among our different languages, skills, and cultures. I believe in volunteer work, in paying back and paying forward, in continuing education, and in making high quality professional development options available and accessible to all members.

Born in Brazil, languages were music to my ears, as my parents
spoke six languages. This nurturing in a multilingual/multicultural home kindled my interest to explore the world. I started at age 16, as an exchange student in the State of Washington. Later, I worked for U.S. companies and at the American Consulate in São Paulo. I earned a degree in industrial design, but my career aspirations were truly realized in 1979, when I was appointed an official English/Portuguese translator/interpreter. In 1998, my family and I moved to Oregon, where I currently work from my home office.

I feel it is important to interact with other T&I professionals in order to share my experiences and learn from theirs, so I actively contribute to several T&I associations. I joined ATA (and its Portuguese Language Division [PLD], Interpreting Division, and Medical Division) and the Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society in 1999. I also recently joined the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators. I volunteered as an election teller at several ATA Annual Conferences and assisted in drafting the Election Procedure Guidelines in 2003. I served as PLD treasurer (2001–2003) and have been the editor of our division newsletter since 2002. I served on ATA’s Financial Guidelines Committee in 2003. I am also a mentor in ATA’s Mentoring Program. I am proud to be one of the four founding members of the Associated Linguists of Oregon and the editor of the ALO News. ALO started meeting informally in 2002, and has since become an active association of translators, interpreters, and language professionals, offering good networking opportunities, in addition to lectures and presentations as a way to earn continuing education units.

If elected, I will continue to work diligently to enhance our profession by supporting and promoting ATA policies and representing the association in a positive and professional way.

**Director**
**(three-year term)**

Tereza Braga
terezab@sbcglobal.net

I accepted the idea of running for the Board because my two terms as division administrator are up and I find it hard to stop once I get involved in something I really care about. ATA has helped me to find pleasure in working, the same way that my family and friends help me to find pleasure in living. I could never separate ATA from my personal growth, even if I wanted to. I always knew I could translate and interpret, but ATA inspired me to take a road never traveled, which was to own my own business and make a good living doing what I always loved to do.

In my life ATA has served as the best definition of an association—a venue in which we can freely associate. The results of this interaction, in my opinion, are up to us. We don’t really learn anything with ATA. We learn, yes, with each other—colleagues and clients. ATA can’t do a single thing for our bottom line, if you ask me. Achievement had to come from inside, from our ability to get inspired. My goal as a Board member is to help ATA continue to inspire others as it has inspired me.

I have been the administrator of the Portuguese Language Division for the past four years and editor of our division newsletter. I hold ATA certification from and into Portuguese and my freelance work includes contracts with the U.S. State Department, the Organization of American States, and the World Bank.

I was a teenager in my native Brazil when I passed the Cambridge proficiency exam in English with specialization in translation from and into Portuguese. My graduate studies were in international business, sprinkled with electives in everything from literary translation to political economy. My work history before translation was in the corporate world and the Brazilian foreign service.

If I join the Board, you can count on a director who believes that respect and understanding for our craft have to begin within ourselves. If you love this business, let us continue to inspire each other and help ATA continue to be a homecoming experience for more and new talent in the years to come.

**Director**
**(three-year term)**

Laurie Gerber
lgerber@
languageweaver.com

As a longtime member of the machine translation (MT) and translator communities, as well as an MT developer, I am not surprised or hurt if I am sometimes greeted as a pariah by translators. I understand the ambivalence that many translators have about automation, particularly MT. Whether or not you can consider an “MT person” for ATA’s Board of Directors, I hope you will consider my position about translation technology and the role translators have in shaping its evolution.

My motivation for running for the Board is not to promote MT per se, but to help the translation community work toward a productive and effective automation agenda. This agenda can form the framework for translator training and best practices. More importantly, such an agenda, if taken seriously by the ATA community, can help in communicating requirements to tools developers and guiding the direction that automation takes.
Individual translators have not always been well served by tools developers. MT has offered full automation of the translation process, or nothing. Translation memory developers have tended to focus on the lucrative features that agencies and institutions will buy, sometimes at the expense of user friendliness for the individual who works with the tools every day. If it were not for Alan Melby’s deft moderation, ATA panel sessions with vendors might turn into riots. Outrage simmers below the surface.

Maybe I can help. My experience and contacts may be useful in two ways. First, I will work to help translators communicate proactively with tools vendors. Developers have not done enough outreach, but translators have also missed an opportunity to send clearer messages about what they want and need. Second, I will work to help you formulate a picture of where you want technology for translators to go. This involves some careful thinking about how you work and how you would like to work, tempered by realistic expectations of what is feasible with language technology.

I have been active in the field of MT for over 18 years, including many years as a linguist and system developer at Systran. I have done research on MT, and have a strong ongoing interest in working with users and usability issues. I have masters’ degrees in East Asian studies (Yale) and computational linguistics (University of Southern California). I have been an active member of ATA since 1991, and worked occasionally as a Japanese-to-English translator in the 1980s. I am currently the director of business development at Language Weaver, Inc., a startup company specializing in statistical MT. I have been very active in the MT professional community since 1992, and currently serve as president of the Association for Machine Translation in the Americas (www.amtaweb.org).

**Director (three-year term)**
Jacki Noh
jacki@transkorean.com

It is an honor to be nominated to serve on ATA’s Board of Directors. I first started my journey into the world of language as a student at the University of California at Berkeley, when a small classified ad looking for interpreters in the school newspaper immediately grabbed my attention. With a voracious appetite to learn about the interpretation and translation field, I started attending lectures, workshops, seminars, and conferences, totaling over 800 hours during the last 20 years. I still consider myself a student who has plenty to learn, with intellectual curiosity and a burning desire to share information with others.

Since 1986, I have worked as a professional interpreter and translator and have been an active member in several local translator and interpreter organizations. I have served as membership director of the Northern California Translators Association (NCTA), chairperson of the San Francisco Bay Chapter of California Court Interpreters Association (CCIA), and a member of the Judicial Council of California Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (CIAP). For the NCTA, I worked tirelessly to increase its membership and visibility by being an official greeter and social director. For the CCIA SF Bay Chapter, I focused on providing continuing education for both our members and legal professionals who work closely with judiciary interpreters, and on increasing the number of Asian language interpreters.

During my three-year tenure as a CIAP member, I am proud to have lobbied to increase California’s budget for court interpreter services.

ATA has a responsibility to ensure that all its chapters are a useful resource to translators and interpreters. To accomplish this goal, a sense of unity needs to develop between chapters, those that have well developed programs, and those who are struggling to recruit and retain members. As a director, I would actively encourage communication between chapters by promoting newsletter exchanges that would facilitate the sharing of ideas on such topics as fund raising, membership drives, and how to conduct effective meetings. As chapters develop, this “network” would provide continuing education and serve as an information database to translators and interpreters. By becoming more active in nurturing its members, I believe ATA would further enhance and develop this growing industry.

**Director (three-year term)**
Richard S. Paegelow
rspaegelow@aol.com

I have been a member of the American Translators Association since 1992, either individually or as a corporate member. If elected, I would be delighted to serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

As part of the election process, I believe that it is essential that the voting members understand where potential Board members stand on key issues. Here are my general beliefs and positions on key issues as I see them.

The primary mission of ATA is to support written translation as a profession. Hence, ATA should not
duplicate nor dilute the efforts of other professional associations (such as those related to oral interpretation or language companies).

Specifically, I strongly support professional liability insurance provided by Lloyds of London covering written translations, the modernization of certification testing (especially the elimination of paper and pencils as soon as possible!), the ATA’s continuing education requirements, and increasing the business skills of all members. I oppose direct ATA intervention in individual member disputes with other members for many of the reasons recently published in the Chronicle. I would replace ATA’s Translation Company Division, which needlessly duplicates the annual conferences of the Association of Language Companies. Instead of a separate division, I would recommend that a set of business topics be given during ATA’s Annual Conferences, perhaps under a new and broader heading that combines and broadens the specializations of “Agencies, Bureaus, & Companies” and “Independent Contractors.”

When it was suggested that I run for a director position, I felt both honored and surprised. Although I have strong feelings on a number of issues facing ATA and have expressed them in conversations with some Board members and other colleagues, the thought of running for the Board never crossed my mind.

I am a translator and interpreter of Russian and Ukrainian. I joined ATA in 1986, and earned English→Russian certification in 1989 (Russian→English in 1990). I specialize in science and technology, finance, business, law, and the environment. My career as a freelance translator and interpreter began in the 1950s when I was still an engineering student at Kiev Polytechnic Institute. I have been freelancing ever since.

I have always tried to give back to the profession, especially now that I can devote more time to volunteer activities. For example, I volunteer as an interpreter for my county health department. For the last four years, I have chaired ATA’s Dictionary Review Committee. I am an English into Russian grader and a member of the committee working to establish English→Ukrainian certification.

I served on the Executive Committee and as president of the Chicago Area Translators and Interpreters Association. I have presented at ATA conferences and published in ATA publications.

As a Board member, I would focus on two areas.

First, we need to address continuing education (CE) requirements for certification, expanding the range of activities counted for CE points and bringing the number of points assigned to each activity into better alignment with their actual educational values. The current system is heavily tilted toward costly activities, including ATA conferences and seminars, creating the misimpression that the main goal of the CE requirements is to make money for ATA. I fear that in 2007 a number of highly skilled members may lose their certification (and perhaps even drop their membership) because they will have failed to meet current CE requirements. Since, because of my venerable age, I am exempt from these requirements, I would be able to work on this issue aggressively without being suspected of ulterior motives. We should also work to find ways of expanding ATA’s Certification Program to translators working in language pairs for which no exams are offered, and to interpreters.

Second, conferences are one of the most valuable membership benefits, but to many members, especially newcomers, their cost is a financial hardship, if not an impossibility. We must find ways of reducing conference costs so more people can attend.

In the almost 20 years that I have been in ATA, I have witnessed the evolution of our association. There were periods marked by painful conflicts and rivalries, both inside and outside the Board, negatively affecting member morale and damaging the efficacy and image of the association. We should all be thankful that those days are behind us, and that Board members are now guided by the common goal of serving the members and advancing the profession. As a Board member, I would be honored to work toward this objective.
countless papers in college and graduate school where I studied cultural anthropology. I also learned quite a bit of Danish as an exchange student in Denmark. Like many ATA members, I’ve had a life-long love affair with languages and other cultures.

Literature is my passion, and translating is my life, but I started at the very bottom some 15 years ago, translating anything from employee manuals, to recipes, to birth certificates, or whatever came my way. As a freelancer, I know what it takes to be a stay-at-home entrepreneur—meeting impossible deadlines, juggling childcare and home responsibilities, educating clients and the public, and doing your own public relations. Among the clients I have served in my professional career as an English-to-Spanish literary translator are publishers such as Simon & Schuster, Alfred A. Knopf, Rayo/HarperCollins, Random House, Harcourt Brace, museums like the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum of Women in the Arts, as well as numerous translation agencies.

These days, I get invited to conferences and book festivals, such as Publishing Latino Voices in New York City, the Border Book Festival in New Mexico, the Texas Book Festival, and the Latina Letters Conference in San Antonio, Texas. And while at these events, I always take the opportunity to speak about translation and translation issues. I also give public readings with the authors I translate (including Sandra Cisneros, Denise Chávez, Nina Marie Martínez) and help raise awareness about the very important role that we translators play in our digital society.

As a literary translator, I have achieved some minor and major victories in the publishing industry, such as insisting that my name appear on the cover and copyright page of each book, a right that translators could only dream of not too long ago. My version of the novel Caramelo, by Sandra Cisneros, was picked up by the Spanish publishers—a most unusual accomplishment, as they generally prefer to commission their own Peninsular Spanish translations.

Much remains to be done, and if I receive your vote, which I respectfully request, I will do my best to continue the outreach and education I’ve been engaged in for so long. I intend to improve communications among members and between members and the Board, to further educate clients and the media, and to inform the younger generations of future translators about the invaluable services we provide as border-crossers in our increasingly small world.

 candidates continued

**Candidate Statements Continued**

**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.
In Memoriam
Edith F. Losa
1936–2005
ATA President 1993–1995

By Peter Krawutschke
ATA Past President

Edith Losa, past president of the American Translators Association (ATA), passed away suddenly at her home in Lake Worth, Florida, on Friday, August 5, 2005.

When Edith assumed the presidency of ATA at the 1993 ATA Annual Conference in Philadelphia, she inherited an association plagued by internal dissension and a lack of direction. Her managerial skills acquired in industry, her sense of fairness, and her hiring of an outstanding executive director for ATA in the person of Walter Bacak brought a sense of professionalism back to the association and laid the organizational foundation for today’s ATA.

Born and educated in Hamburg, Germany, Edith also lived in Italy, New York, California, Arizona, and Oregon while working primarily in the field of German/English translation. She also dealt with French, Spanish, and Italian for a number of German and American companies before assuming a position with Siemens in Boca Raton, Florida, as manager of Language Services, a position she held for 20 years until her retirement in 1998. Following her retirement, until her untimely death, she continued to translate as a freelance translator and served the American Foundation for Translation and Interpretation (AFTI) as a member of its awards panels.

During her many years as an ATA member, Edith was involved in numerous activities, including organizing two annual conferences (1992 and 1993), serving as editor of the 33rd and 34th ATA Conference Proceedings, publishing monthly columns in the ATA Chronicle, and presenting various conference papers on translation topics.

Edith leaves behind her husband of 45 years, Domingo Losa; two daughters, Irene Hall of Atlanta, Georgia, and Ariane Guettler of Delray Beach, Florida; two grandchildren, Cameron and Austin Abdo; a son-in-law, Randy Hall; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass was held on Saturday, August 13, in Lake Worth. The family requests that memorial contributions be directed to AFTI to establish a memorial fund in her name. Checks may be sent to AFTI, Columbia Plaza, Suite 101, 350 East Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007. For more information on AFTI, please visit www.afti.org.
ATA Financial Translation and Interpreting Conference: The Most Bang for Your Buck

By Brigid Robertshaw

Congratulations to ATA for hosting yet another conference chock full of expert and charismatic presenters for what could potentially be a dry subject. Let’s face it, we’re not talking about translating Gabriel García Marquez here. We’re talking about annual reports, prospectuses, financial statements, bankruptcy proceedings, initial public offerings, and international financial reporting standards. Well, it may not be magical or romantic, but to some of us, the world of financial translation and interpreting is an exciting field. In this fast-paced industry, being up-to-date with current trends adds tremendous value to the services we provide. Even for those of us who aren’t hard-core financial translators, this conference covered a great deal of basic knowledge, answering questions that burn in the minds of translators who dabble in this area: What does securitization mean, exactly? What are the components of an annual report? How much is standard wording? How do I translate a balance sheet from another country? Where can I look for answers?

If you are reading this article, you probably fall into one of the following three categories. One, you’re a presenter seeking a few of your 15 minutes of fame (maybe your session is highlighted here). Two, you attended the conference and are curious to see if I found it as stimulating and informative as you did. Or three, you couldn’t make it to Jersey City for whatever reason. For me, the conference venue happened to be very convenient, since I live less than an hour away.

There’s fantastic news if you’re in any one of these groups. For the first time, ATA is offering almost the entire conference on a multimedia CD-ROM that connects the audio from the live presentations with the supporting slides, documents, and resource links. This is an especially useful tool if you’ve been asked to write a Chronicle article about said conference. Seriously though, having previewed this CD-ROM, I’m thoroughly impressed with the production quality. It’s amazing how technology can make our continuing education and professional development as easy as popping a CD into the computer. For less than $100, there’s no better deal—many hours of fun with financial translation combined with the collective wisdom of over 20 experts. By the way, the package also includes a certificate for ATA Continuing Education Points, and all you have to do to get them is view the CD-ROM when it is most convenient for you. To find out how to get your copy, go to www.atanet.org/pd/finance.

So what were the hot topics at this year’s Financial Conference? Well, to name just a few, anti-money laundering, the globalization of financial and accounting standards, derivatives, and bankruptcy law. I’ve tried to summarize a few of the presentations that I thought many fellow translators would find helpful.

The Basics: Annual Reports, Securitization

How about starting with annual reports? A company’s annual report is one type of document that provides a significant source of business for financial translators. Ted Wozniak took us through the different components of annual reports, their purpose, and who reads them. We learned that the management report and auditor’s report are basically in boilerplate format, and as Ted put it, “If you’ve done one auditor’s report, you’ve done them all.”

As far as the translation of the financial statements themselves, one of Ted’s main points was that U.S. accounting is not based on legislation or code law as in other countries, but on case law and precedent. Ted explained that the way generally accepted accounting principles have evolved in the U.S. has resulted in several individual accounting standards that apply to different sectors. So there’s no roadmap as specific as the one provided by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), which are becoming widely used in the EU and other countries. This is why there are so many explanatory notes in the statement part of U.S.-based annual reports. The translation of these notes is an area where we can add value, especially if the translator is well versed in the lingo of the company’s particular industry.

Ted explained that because financial highlights, usually short summaries, are the “most read” part of annual reports, it is important to pay special attention to these sections. According to Ted, one of the basic truths revealed about translating annual reports is that, “you need to find lots of synonyms for the basic verbs, increase and decrease.” It seems simple, but different business sectors have their own tone and language preferences. However, issues involving corporate values, ethics, and environmental and...
social responsibility are moving to the forefront as important issues to investors. In the end, perhaps Ted’s best advice comes down to common sense. When doing your research, read annual reports from similar companies. These will be the best parallel documents to use as references.

Silvana Debonis was also on the program in Jersey City to demystify securitization and explain the basics of risk management and derivatives to Spanish translators. Silvana is one presenter that I look forward to seeing at these conferences, not only because she has a dynamic personality, but because she approaches her audience as a true educator. Her goal is always for the audience to grasp fully the essence of whatever topic she is presenting. In her non-language-specific session, this topic was “The What and How of Securitization.”

So, what is securitization? One of Silvana’s definitions explained that securitization is a special kind of financing backed by cash flows that are isolated, legally and practically, from the intended beneficiary, also known as the originator. These cash flows are isolated by selling the originator’s income-producing assets to a special purpose vehicle (SPV) that finances the purchase of the assets through an issuance of securities to investors. Silvana went into a good amount of detail on what an SPV might take (usually a trust set up by an investment bank). The originator could be a consortium of companies, not just one. She explained that one of the main reasons this type of financing structure is attractive to borrowers is that it often removes the assets, and, therefore, the credit risk of those assets, from the originator’s balance sheet. The issue is usually rated on a stand-alone basis, regardless of what the originator’s rating may be. There is always a service agreement involved, which is also a plus for the originator’s balance sheet.

The classic example is a mortgage-backed security, which falls under the broader category of asset-backed securities (or ABS), but Silvana pointed out that nowadays securitization is being used in ways we never dreamed possible. For example, we learned of cases where soccer teams (pardon me, football teams) are borrowing to improve their stadiums and talent pool by selling instruments backed by future broadcasting rights. Back when Eurotunnel was built, the financing was “securitized” by future toll revenues. This was a groundbreaking project, literally and financially, because of the way it was financed as a mega infrastructure project using a consortium of companies based on the speculative future flow of income. This last example falls under the category of “future flow securitization,” which differs from ABS in that the assets do not exist yet and, therefore, cannot be removed from anyone’s balance sheet.

All the legal agreements and financial documentation required to set up an SPV and securitization structure are fertile ground for financial translators.

Financial Market Trends that Affect Translators

As an important link in the financial information supply chain, we need to keep on top of developments in the world’s financial markets and how these affect our specialty areas.

Robin Bonthrone explained how information flows and where we fit in (virtually at every level). Once again, IFRS came up as an important development and tool for translators. Better get familiar with those, folks!

Anti-money laundering was covered by both Marion Purcell and Marian Greenfield. Don’t let the similarity in names fool you. Marion is an assistant U.S. district attorney in New Jersey specializing in money laundering investigations. Marian serves as ATA president-elect and conference organizer (thank you Marian, and Teresa Kelly at ATA Headquarters, for all the hard work in organizing this event). She is also a top-notch financial translation specialist.

Marion Purcell kicked off the first day of the conference with a fascinating primer on money laundering. She provided lots of facts on a serious subject, but peppered her talk with a good dose of humor. Besides drawing scenarios explaining why and how money laundering is committed, Marion got into plenty of detail with regard to the important documents and financial reports required by banks for cash transactions over the $10,000 threshold. The main reports to know about are the Currency Transaction Report (CTR) and the Suspicious Activity Report (SAR). This session provided excellent background on the terminology used in this area, especially with regard to the legal and regulatory framework and the reporting requirements we may encounter as financial translators.

Marian Greenfield approached this subject from the banker’s point of view, giving us background on the “Financial Action Task Force and Anti-Money Laundering Measures” (“Know Your Client” procedures). This presentation defined the Financial Action Task Force as a new regulatory framework created to combat abuse of the global financial system. We may run across individual bank or country rules that need to be translated, and Marian’s workshop tackled some of the nitty gritty found in these kinds of texts.
The most interesting term I learned in this session was “smurfing,” alluding to those little blue cartoon characters, but actually referring to the practice of runners, or “smurfs” (“pitufos” in Spanish), going from bank to bank making deposits just under the $10,000 CTR reporting requirement.

Money laundering occurs in connection with a variety of criminal activities, the big ones being drug trafficking, organized crime, and white-collar crimes. Heightened sensitivity to the link between money and terrorism also makes this is a timely issue. More governments and financial institutions are mobilizing to take an active role in the vigilance of suspicious transactions.

**Professional Issues**

Targeted to financial translators, but relevant to any of us, were a series of sessions on professional issues in our business. What are our clients’ concerns? How can we maximize our earning potential? Where can we find online resources for financial translation? How can we protect ourselves from the risks associated with this service industry?

Chris Durban, author of The Onionskin column in the ATA Chronicle, led a two-part session called “Where the Action Is” with her co-presenters Bob Killingsworth and Dominique Jonkers. The first part included trends and highlights from a semi-scientific survey conducted by Chris, based on interviews with 10 industry leaders (bankers and financial journalists). What did she learn from these interviews? Buzzwords for these business giants were regulatory or legislative issues, ethics and company values, corporate governance issues, and cross-selling services.

On the regulatory side, if you don’t know about IFRS, you should. They will soon be available on the Internet. In the meantime, the full standards can be ordered from www.iasb.org. Also, read up on the 2002 Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which has significantly affected federal securities law in the United States. Human resource issues were also important to these managers, which means that if motivational, rally-round communication is one of your strengths, you should toot your horn because this seems to be a high priority for the subjects in Chris’ study.

The best part of this discussion was hearing success stories from several of our colleagues. It was refreshing and encouraging to hear someone say that they’re extremely busy, that they can be choosy about the type of work they accept, and can charge premium prices for these services. There’s no mystery to it. It is not that these translators have superhuman strengths. On the contrary, roundtable speakers even admitted to falling into this business as a backup career, as many of us do. However, they have proved their business savvy by choosing a premium niche to work in, developing clients who produce assignments on a predictable schedule (wouldn’t that be nice?), and realizing what their work is worth in the eyes of their clients.

Chris offered an excellent business development strategy that translators could use as an alternative to the often-tossed aside cover letter and resume formula. Chris suggested that any time you come across a poor translation, make it a business opportunity. She explained that you can capitalize on these opportunities by retranslating a sample of a poorly translated text and sending it to the right person within the client’s organization as a free sample of your work. Of course, this must be done with a careful balance of tact, respect, and professionalism.

Another helpful hint that came out of this discussion is to build a network of other translators whose work you trust, and work out some kind of reciprocal referral or coverage relationship. This way, you are helping your client, you can focus your energies on areas where you can add the most value (and earn the most premium), and maybe go on vacation once in awhile without suffering from professional guilt.

Gaia Morandi, an Italian working in London for none other than the International Accounting Standards Board, took us on a journey exploring online research in this field. Many translators believe we are already experts on searching the Internet for terminology we need, but there’s always a better, faster way to find the right answers. Besides rating the best search engines (Google is her favorite), Gaia went over basic search techniques and then delved into some more sophisticated variations. In this presentation, we got to crawl into the brain of a clever translator while following the logic and techniques used by Gaia in her online sleuth work. I now have many more tricks up my sleeve and learned of a few websites that will certainly help me use the Internet more efficiently in the future. We all have work habits that suit our own individual translation styles, but with this kind of translation method, trying something new and different could prove to be a huge timesaver while increasing accuracy.

Last but not least, Ralph Lemster, a German-to-English financial translator who also acts as a moderator for ProZ.com, shared his insights in “Risk Management for (Financial) Translators.” As a risk management specialist in my former life, this is a
subject near and dear to my heart. Ralph applied sound risk management techniques to our business while using concrete examples to make us aware of situations where we need to qualify our clients and quantify the risk associated with taking on work from an unknown entity. If you are listed in an online directory with a trade association, you have probably received e-mails or calls from unknown sources that are, in fact, scams targeting translators. Ralph gives us a number of Internet resources, such as www.whois.net, that we can use to cross check a person or company’s identification based on domains, names, and e-mail addresses. Ralph also argued, rather convincingly I might add, that asking for partial pre-payment on a job from an unknown customer is not an unreasonable demand, and serves as a very effective protection measure.

In addition to these counterparty/credit risks, Ralph covered foreign currency exchange risk and provided examples of how you could use hedging instruments to help mitigate currency risk. As translators, we also face security related risk, since we are in a business that depends on computer technology. Ralph recommends updating virus definitions on a daily basis, backing up data on a regular basis, and perhaps even storing backup data at an alternate location. Having a backup computer handy is also a good idea. As translators dealing with financial statements, annual reports, or other information that may be considered insider information, we may be included on insider lists. You need to be aware of your exposure if there is a suspected case of insider abuse. If you are receiving sensitive information and your client is not taking the proper security precautions in transferring the information by e-mail, you should help educate your client.

The subject of putting all our eggs in just a few baskets came up as well. Translators should recognize that if most of their business is generated from a few clients, the loss of one of those clients could be a big hit. Ralph’s key message is to know what your business risks are, as just being aware of them is half the battle.

**Conclusion**

My apologies for not being able to include all 22 of the presenters within the confines of this article. Unfortunately, I am not proficient enough in French, German, Italian, or Portuguese to do them justice. But let it be known that plenty of language-specific sessions were available for translators working within these languages. Obviously, if you want more detail on any of these subjects or language-specific sessions, you would do well to purchase the CD-ROM from ATA for your reference library. I must confess that I did not physically attend some of the sessions that I chose to highlight here, thus the beauty of the CD. But, does having access to a CD mean you never have to travel to one of these ATA conferences again? Absolutely not! Nothing can replace the exchange of ideas, personal contact, and total immersion of attending a conference.

So what kind of networking was going on between sessions and at lunch? Those brave enough to venture into the neighboring Harborside area in the rain were treated to a diverse palette of restaurants within walking distance, some funky and eclectic, others more mainstream catering to this booming financial district right across the Hudson from New York City’s Wall Street area. For those of us who work in relative isolation, it’s wonderful to get a chance to catch up with old friends, re-establish contact with colleagues, and meet new faces.

Being a relative newcomer to this business, it’s always a humbling experience to attend these conferences and soak up the expertise from seasoned veterans who are able to speak eloquently on these subjects. I relish opportunities like this where I can continue to grow in knowledge and keep up-to-date on developments in the field.

Financial translation requires special expertise and familiarity with current practices in order to provide a good product. After all, our clients must adapt to changing regulations as a function of the global marketplace, where creativity continues to boggle the mind and borders don’t seem to matter, but language does.
Organization: A Last Mile Solution!

By David Santori

TUESDAY MORNING… SIX PROJECTS TO START, FOUR OTHERS TO QUOTE, VARIOUS PHONE MESSAGES TO CHECK, 57 E-MAILS TO READ, COUNTLESS TRANSLATOR QUESTIONS, AND AN APPLE TO EAT STILL SITTING ON YOUR DESK. WELCOME TO THE LIFE OF A PROJECT MANAGER! IT’S ONLY TUESDAY MORNING, YOU THINK; AND NOT EVEN 8:00 A.M. YET. CLIENTS WILL START CALLING SOON FOR THEIR LATEST PROJECT UPDATES. THE PRESSURE IS ON, THE CROWD IS CHEERING. ON YOUR MARKS! GET SET! HOLD YOUR BREATH! GO!

Whether you love ‘em or hate ‘em, project managers hold a key position in the translation industry. They live and breathe to make their translation projects bloom with a bit of magic, while dedicating their time to making their clients’ lives easier. As a project manager, you’re expected to know the status of the project at each and every stage: Who’s translating this document? Which proofreader is taking care of the Spanish file on that 18-language manual project? Where are the Arabic translated files, and did you already send them to be reviewed?

When you’re dealing with hundreds of files, countless languages, and more than 20 projects on your desk, organization is imperative. A project manager needs to have an efficient workspace, a methodical working approach, and an organized mind. But what does “being organized” mean? Why is organization so sought after, and why is it so important in our industry? Included in this article are ideas and suggestions to help you become a super-powerful organized project manager who will utilize all the most effective approaches to execute translation projects in a timely fashion, offer the best customer service, and cross the finish line like a champion.

First, let me begin by telling you that there’s no magic potion to drink to make you wake up one morning and suddenly be a very organized person. If perfection existed, we would have found it already and it would be sold in a bottle next to the energy drinks at your local supermarket. Unfortunately, nothing is perfect by nature, so we have to create perfection with the most efficient systems possible. The keys to organization are self-discipline, logic, and a willingness to get things done.

“…Whether you love ‘em or hate ‘em, project managers hold a key position in the translation industry…”

All the magic happens in your workspace, so begin by ensuring that everything has its own place and is clearly separated and labeled: your desk, your inbox, your filing cabinet, your computer, and so forth. For example, make sure you have only the bare minimum amount of paper and office supplies on your desk. The less clutter you have around you, the faster you’ll be able to find something in a time of crisis. Your drawers should be free for you to use and shouldn’t be filled with old projects, which should be archived instead in a separate, easily accessible area. File your resources in binders and keep them nearby. Create a client, a translator, and a special language binder where you can keep articles and examples of specific linguistic rules for each language you work with. Your translation magazines should also be filed away chronologically, not saved indefinitely on your desk. Reserve your inbox for incoming mail or messages and avoid using it as a deposit area for miscellaneous items and project folders without a home. A clean workspace will help keep your mind clear and allow you to focus on your projects much easier. Remember that we spend a big part of our life at work, and if it’s disorganized we are less likely to want to come to the office and perform well.

A project manager should not be tripping over boxes to get into his or her cubicle/office or, and most importantly, digging through folders to find the phone. Clients should never have to wait! If your space is clean and orderly, you can rest assured that you won’t have to worry about a translation you forgot to send out, especially while you’re sitting at home enjoying an evening away from work.

Another element to remember is to keep your contacts updated. Don’t put it off until next week when this huge project will finally be delivered or the next time you think you might have a free moment. As soon as you receive a change from a client or a translator regarding their e-mail or phone number, update it! If you wait, you’ll forget, or it will never get done. Don’t wait until the day an outgoing e-mail bounces back to you because you didn’t update your favorite French translator’s contact information. It will always take more time to search through old e-mails for the new address, and chances are the returned e-mail will get to you two days too late.

Make sure your e-mail inbox is as clean as your desk. Project managers can easily get overwhelmed with thousands of e-mails in their inbox. Keep in mind that if a problem is solved, if a project is done and billed, if a question has been answered, there is no need to keep those e-mails in your inbox. Let go of past issues you already dealt with and delete all messages you don’t need.
anymore (even the one offering you a trip to Cancún for $89). Keep all-important messages with the project itself or as part of the client information for possible future use. With fewer messages in your inbox, you’ll spend your time being more proactive than reactive. Keep any ongoing questions and issues in your inbox, or anything that is not yet solved. If a client calls hoping you have an answer as to why this word was left in English in the Japanese letter you delivered two days ago, it will be much easier to find the translator’s answer in your inbox.

Project managers have different methods for tracking their projects. Many use white boards, others write down lists, a few set up an electronic schedule in their e-mail system, others use complex project management software, while some simply don’t keep track at all. Whatever you feel most comfortable with, it’s important to have a daily system that shows you where you are and what you need to remember to do each morning. A simple, yet cost-effective dry-erase board is the easiest solution to implement and reduces time lost to paper shuffling. Since we are always being asked to arrange, prepare, and sort things out, we don’t need more paper on our desk. A board quickly offers a panoramic view of what needs to be done. Erasing is fast, adding projects to the board is easy, and using a color code helps the eye focus on what’s most important. When you’re out of the office, the board is also a good tool for other project managers to see quickly what’s happening and set up an emergency committee to handle any crises.

Time management also plays a big part in being organized. When you’re swamped, take care of smaller or rush tasks first. Decide which task will take the least amount of time to complete and do it first, so you can cross it quickly off your list. Once it’s done, it’s off of your desk and out of your mind. With a shorter list, your mind can be a bit more at ease and you’ll be able to concentrate on what will require the most out of you.

With these tips, one can understand why organization is such a crucial part of a project manager’s daily routine. The translation industry requires us to be fast and very adaptable, due to the wide variety of existing documents we have to work with, not to mention the fact that there are more languages than one could possibly know in a single lifetime. If a project manager is disorganized, clients will stop sending projects, translators will stop accepting jobs, and a project from 2003 will still be on your desk awaiting final delivery and billing. A highly organized person is one of the main requirements to look for when hiring a new project manager. Before scientists invent a machine capable of checking someone’s organizational skills, you can always put new project managers to the test by employing different catastrophic translation project scenarios in order to see how they would prevent the ship from sinking.

Translation agencies seek organized project managers because they will get the job done and also because they will succeed in the “translation arena” instead of being instantly devoured, never to be seen or heard from again. Without a logical system of organization, projects will be hard to manage and clients will leave one right after another.

Being organized is truly a skill. It is an ability that a select few possess, usually without realizing it. However, it is also a skill that most people can master and learn how to utilize. In any case, being organized is a key factor to working as a project manager in the translation industry. Our clients assume we have this skill, and our translators rely on it in order to keep receiving projects. While project management is not an Olympic sport yet, I like to think that one day, maybe, we will receive a gold medal for our skills and sense of organization. In the meantime, don’t panic and enjoy that apple still sitting on your desk. Don’t hold your breath for too long, keep running fast, and you’ll see that the finish line is not far off.
Translation Software Tools Seminar

By Jordan Fox

Jost Zetzsche was bruised, but brimming with excitement at ATA’s recent Translation Software Tools Seminar in Chicago. Despite an unfortunate run-in with a softball prior to the seminar, he maintained his exuberance throughout the day for a subject that many translators dread, or at best, regard with ennui. In a large room filled to capacity on a beautiful Saturday in Chicago, Jost, an ATA-certified English-to-German translator and localization and translation consultant, propounded some of the more technical aspects of translation. These included fine-tuning operating systems and office applications, low-cost and practical software programs, computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools and the pros and cons of each one, and issues regarding desktop publishing software. All of these topics and more are discussed in the latest edition of his e-book, The Translator’s Tool Box: A Computer Primer for Translators.

Jost focused his presentation on the Windows XP operating system, since it is so widely used, more reliable than previous Windows operating systems, and because many CATs are either not available for the Mac or don’t run well on it. He praised the fact that the XP system uses Unicode, a code page which allows characters from many different alphabets to be viewed on the same page, and that the system itself can be booted into several different languages (albeit at some additional cost).

Another advantage of the XP system is its Explorer feature, which allows files to be easily copied by clicking and dragging the file while pressing the Control key. If you do the same thing within the same folder, the resulting file will automatically be named “Copy of + (the original file name).” Searches on Explorer are facilitated through so-called “wildcards,” the symbols which can stand for more than one character. If you’re looking for a file that you know starts with “a” and ends with “b,” you can search for its title by using “a*b.” The Explorer and the XP’s stability make this operating system an ideal and dependable choice for translators.

 “…What are some of the practical programs designed to make our jobs and lives a little easier?”

Fine-tuning

What are some of the ways to maximize Windows? Many of us may have multiple programs running along with the operating system, which may slow or hinder its performance. If you’d like to see for yourself, just go to Start, then Run. Type in “msconfig,” and you’ll find a whole laundry list of programs, most of which, according to Jost, are unnecessary. There are many lists on the Internet that describe what these programs do and which ones are really necessary (one comprehensive list can be found at www.sysinfo.org/startuplist.php). The most offensive of these unnecessary programs may be Real Networks, which may return to the start-up list even after it is deleted. In order to remove this program permanently, you must search for “realsched.exe,” located somewhere else on your hard disk, and delete it. Other ways of improving performance can be found in “Tools,” under “Properties,” on the C Drive. Here you will find the ScanDisk and the Defragment utilities. The former checks your hard disk for errors and the latter gathers fragments of files that have been saved in different areas of your memory so that your machine works more efficiently. Jost explained that ScanDisk should be run before Defragment and that both should be run at night, since defragmenting may take several hours to complete if it is not done regularly (he does it every two weeks). A third helpful utility that can be found in the same “Properties” window is the disk clean-up utility that searches for and removes any unnecessary files from your system. Once you run these three utilities and clear your start-up list of any unnecessary programs, you will surely note a difference in your system’s performance.

What are some of the practical programs designed to make our jobs and lives a little easier? When it comes to word counting, numbers can vary significantly among programs such as Word, TRADOS, and text editing programs such as UltraEdit. One program Jost recommends is Practicount and Invoice. This program allows its user to set parameters for word counts of one or several documents at the same time. Not only does it support many file formats, it also allows for easy transfer of the information into its own invoices. On the other hand, if you are being paid by the hour, Jost recommends Time Stamp (www.syntap.com), one of the many examples of freeware included in his book. Unlike Word’s time tracking utility, which takes into account the amount of time that a file has been open, Time Stamp sits on your task bar so that whenever you resume work on a file, you can just click on it. You can also run several versions of this program if you are working on more than one file at the same time and save all the data afterwards in a text file. Do
you deal with several different languages in the same text? Allchars (allchars.zwolnet.com), another freeware utility that provides a large number of character shortcuts, sits on your SysTray for easy access.

Many of us are typically working on several interrelated files at the same time and have run across the impracticalities of utilities that can only deal with one file at a time. For this, Jost has several recommendations for the search and replace, renaming, and clipboard functions, such as the text editor UltraEdit. Besides loading and searching large documents more quickly than Word, this utility allows for searching and replacing across several files, even when searching with wildcards. When it comes to renaming batches of files, Jost recommends a freeware program called RnameIt. With this utility, you can batch rename any number of prefixes and suffixes and “touch up” any seemingly erroneous date or timestamp. As for clipboard programs, many translators have encountered limitations with ones that automatically override our last clipping, or force us to open a new file in order to print it, or that cannot be used outside Microsoft Office. Clipmate (www.thornsoft.com) not only works with multiple clippings, but can save them and retain formatting and style regardless of whether they are text, graphics, or whole files. It can even send clippings directly to your printer. Clipmate works with several programs, but does not work well with TRADOS.

CAT Tools

Computer-assisted translation tools include any tools that assist in the translation process. These include project management applications (LTC Organiser), term extraction tools (SDLPhraseFinder), and, of course, translation memory tools, such as TRADOS and Déjà Vu. Project management applications are available for both agencies and freelancers from companies such as the British Language Technology Centre, which produces LTC Organiser (www.langtech.co.uk/eng/organiser/index.asp), or Advanced International Translation, which makes Translation Office 3000 (www.translation3000.com/index.html), two products Jost recommends. These programs assist translators in tracking the whole process (from bidding, to managing, to invoicing) as they relate to any particular client or for comparisons among clients. Unlike Quicken, these two programs are designed by translators, for translators. Term extraction tools are utilities that are used to “mine” terminology in documents to be translated according to parameters such as the number of occurrences, number of words, etc. From this information, a glossary is created which ranks all the terms according to relevance, and this can then be shared by several translators or sent to the client. TRADOS and SDLX users must buy a separate product (Term Extract and SDLPhraseFinder, respectively) to accomplish this, while Déjà Vu has a somewhat less powerful utility that is already integrated into its program under “lexicon.”

These programs are mostly known for their translation memory applications. They not only facilitate the development of a terminology database, but may also include analysis, quality assurance, and productivity tools. One of the major distinctions among these tools is their translation interface. Some tools, such as TRADOS and the lesser-known MultiTrans and Wordfast, use Microsoft Word. Others, such as SDLX and Déjà Vu, use an independent translation interface that presents all files in a uniform tabular format.

If you are wondering if you should finally take the plunge and buy one of these products, Jost suggests that those of us who work in the technical, medical, or legal fields have already wasted a lot of time and money by not having initially invested in a translation memory tool. He quotes ATA’s 2003 Translation and Interpreting Compensation Survey, which states that 42% of all U.S. respondents already use translation memory tools. If you are unsure about which tool to buy, keep in mind that SDLX has recently acquired TRADOS and, while both products will continue to be developed separately and supported for the next few years, they will eventually be merged.

If you would like to know what TM tool Jost prefers, and are interested in a much more detailed and in-depth examination of the subjects discussed in this article, I would suggest you order his e-book, The Translator’s Tool Box: A Computer Primer for Translators, now in its third edition. It is available on Jost’s website at www.internationalwriters.com/toolbox, as a PDF file for $30, which is a small price to pay for the wealth of useful information it contains.

Get the Early Bird Special!

Register now for ATA’s Annual Conference and save! See page 62.
New Jersey: Is a Crisis Looming in the Court Interpreting Field?

By Virginia Pérez-Santalla

The need for professional court interpreters across the country has been steadily increasing. The demand for interpreting services has become an even more pressing need in states like New Jersey, which has a large immigrant population.

The fact that people are aware and are actively seeking out our services as qualified professionals indicates quite a bit about our successful efforts to gain professional recognition. Just a few years ago, the interpreting profession did not have the respect it is currently shown. Many people thought that being bilingual automatically qualified a person to be an interpreter. Of course, much still remains to be done on this front.

There are still many places where people are not aware of what it takes to be a professional interpreter. This leads to ridiculous situations, such as a recent one where a judge sentenced a bilingual defendant to community service to be served interpreting for others just because the defendant had lived a couple of months in Mexico.

Great strides have been made to provide defendants with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) the same understanding of the judicial system that is available to those who speak English. A case in point is the passage of the Court Interpreters Act of 1978, requiring federal courts to supply interpreters to LEP defendants. Shortly after passage of the 1978 Act, the personnel office of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts developed the first Federal Court Interpreter Certification Examination. However, the federal exam only offers certification in Spanish/English, Haitian Creole, and Navajo, so there is still a need to offer certification in the many other languages that require interpreting services.

In 1995, the National Center for State Courts Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification was established to facilitate the creation and administration of tests, provide testing materials, develop educational programs and standards, and facilitate communication between members. New Jersey became one of the founding members, together with Minnesota, Oregon, and Washington. Currently, the Consortium consists of 33 member states.

The need for judiciary interpreters in New Jersey has grown almost exponentially in the past few years. The Administrative Office of the New Jersey Courts began keeping statistics regarding the need for interpreters and the languages requiring interpreters during the 1996-1997 court year. At that time, interpreters were needed in the state’s superior courts for over 45,000 events in 46 languages. By 2002-2003, the volume of interpreted proceedings increased by 59% to 71,370 events. Unfortunately, there are no specific records kept for municipal courts. If these courts kept records of interpreted events, the statewide number would increase significantly. As can be expected, the language most often needed in the courts is Spanish (see the chart below—source: www.judiciary.state.nj.us/interpreters/intro.htm).

There is a greater need for interpreters in the more densely populated northern half of the state, even though the demand is growing all over due to an increase in—mostly illegal—immigration. Since the adoption of “equal access to courts for linguistic minorities,” several programs for training court interpreters have been implemented in New Jersey. Among them, one of the most thorough is the program at Rutgers University, chaired

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<th>YEAR 2002-2003: Volume of Interpreted Court Events by Language</th>
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<td>Arabic, Levantine</td>
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(Note: Languages used in less than 100 events per year were omitted.)
by ATA member Phyllis Zatlin, where many fine interpreters have received their degree. Unfortunately, Ms. Zatlin is planning to retire in the near future, so the university is considering phasing out the program. This would be a great loss and disservice to the profession that sorely needs more educational programs.

Many aspiring interpreters in New Jersey also take advantage of courses offered by New York University. Of course, it is harder for people who live far away from the city to attend this program.

Most superior courts in New Jersey have staff interpreters, some as many as five, because of the great need to provide and coordinate interpreting services. Not surprisingly, the principal requirement for the post of staff interpreter is to interpret Spanish and to have achieved a score of 70% or more on each part of the test administered by the Administrative Office of the New Jersey Courts or on tests administered by any of the members of the Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification. Passing the federal exam is also accepted in lieu of the state or Consortium test.

With so much opportunity for professionals in this field, it comes as a surprise that there is a dearth of proficient Spanish interpreters available for full-time positions in courthouses around the state. Qualified interpreters do apply whenever an opening is announced, but many already hold staff positions and prefer a lateral career move for a variety of reasons. As a result, there are very few New Jersey approved interpreters applying for available positions.

In the following section, I would like to explore the various reasons for the problems I have discussed here and suggest some possible solutions.

Lack of Awareness

**Problem:** Many people are unaware that court interpreting is a real profession.

**Analysis:** The good news is that more people are becoming cognizant of what it takes to be a qualified interpreter. However, those who are not involved with the court system or in providing services to LEP defendants still do not realize that in order to be approved for interpreting work by the courts, interpreters must pass a test administered by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Many are not aware that professional interpreters are used until they are involved in a court proceeding.

**Possible solution:** More professional interpreters need to reach out to schools to make students aware of the career possibilities that exist in the language industry. As students become aware of the profession, it is conceivable that many more will decide to pursue careers as translators or interpreters. The ATA’s School Outreach Program is a good start for pointing candidates in this direction. (Go to www.atanet.org/ata_school/welcome.htm to learn more about how you can become involved in this important outreach program.)

Certification Process

**Problem:** To some candidates, the period they have to wait for the results of the exam seems to be very long. As a result, candidates get disheartened and some even decide to leave the field.

**Analysis:** Test results are supposed to arrive in two to three weeks. It might take longer due to unforeseeable reasons, but a long wait might make interpreting candidates reconsider their career options.

**Possible solution:** One solution would be to hire more graders to expedite matters and schedule more tests. Even though examinations in Spanish are given almost monthly in New Jersey in Trenton and Paterson, possibly some other sites should be added across the state for the convenience of candidates.

High Failure Rate

**Problem:** In New Jersey, 91% of the people who take the interpreter’s test fail. When candidates take the test and are not able to pass even after taking it several times, they lose interest in the profession.

**Analysis:** Being able to achieve a professional level of competency interpreting takes many hours of practice and study. People sometimes take the test just because they are bilingual, without realizing that it takes more than that to become a good interpreter.

**Possible solution:** More universities around the state should offer interpreting programs to provide more opportunities for training. One possible way to increase the available pool of interpreters is to award grants for court internships.

Income

**Perceived problem:** Many certified interpreters believe they are able to make more money freelancing full-time than working as staff interpreters.

**Analysis:** Looking strictly at the numbers, the above might be true, but there are many variables to consider. Freelance interpreters have to work many long hours to achieve a high income. They cannot take sick days or
Plain English: The Cure Against Translating Infectious Legal-Speak

By Matthew Adams

If you translate any kind of legal documents into English, you can improve your translations markedly by reading a book on plain legal English. I highly recommend Plain English for Lawyers, by Richard Wydick. In addition to being concise, it’s full of legal writing insights that are immediately and repeatedly applicable to legal translations into English.

Plain English books are written for lawyers by legal writing experts. Fortunately, it doesn’t take a lawyer to understand one of these books because they’re written in fluid, everyday English, and their focus is not on law, but good legal writing. The goal of these books is to eradicate the muddled and archaic language that abounds in legal documents—such as contracts, articles of incorporation, and insurance forms—and gets passed around like the flu from one lawyer to the next.

Because of the predominance of U.S. law in foreign commerce, the contagion of rambling verbosity and outdated expressions in legal documents doesn’t just get passed from lawyer to lawyer, but from lawyer to translator and then from translator to foreign attorney. For example, a New York attorney writes a contract full of unnecessary legalese like hereinafter, inasmuch as, and notwithstanding the fact that. That document then gets translated into Spanish for a Mexican attorney, who later incorporates the clauses into future contracts. When those contracts are eventually translated back into English, the result is a document that is challenging to read, unpleasant to translate, and infects everyone—attorneys, translators, and end-users—with its legal gobbledygook.

Since a good translator is first a good writer, knowing how to discard the rubbish in the target language is important. To illustrate the need for concise writing in legal documents, please read the following brief translations. Each of these examples is not only typical, but also violates a principle of sound legal writing. Although these examples are Spanish into English translations, the errors are independent of the source language and can be detected by reading the English text alone.

En el caso de que no se hayan entregado las especificaciones…

In the event that the specifications are not submitted…

“…The contagion of rambling verbosity and outdated expressions in legal documents doesn’t just get passed from lawyer to lawyer, but from lawyer to translator and then from translator to foreign attorney…”

…dicho precio será reconocido como precio de compra…

…said value will be recognized as the purchase price…

…prorrateo del número de días de acuerdo a la Sección 14…

…prorated for the number of days pursuant to Section 14…

The error in the first example is probably the most obvious. The phrase in the event that, while a literal translation of en el caso de que, requires four words to express the author’s idea, which can be stated simply in one word: if. And since both in the event that and if are grammatically correct—and express the exact same meaning—the choice between them is a matter of style. But one is clearly preferable to the other. Keep in mind that in most writing, bloated phrases weaken the text and detract from the message, while conciseness improves clarity and comprehension—qualities especially valued in legal writing.

Translators who tend to render texts more literally might argue that if the author of the original document in the first example above had meant to say if, then he or she would have used the Spanish word si. These translators might object that changing the translation from in the event that to if alters the style or tone of the source text, resulting in a less precise translation. Although there is no change in meaning, perhaps there is a slight change in style. One of the goals of translation, however, is to express the author’s ideas as clearly as possible in the target language while following the rules of proper usage as established by professionals in the field of the target language. If, and not in the event that, is always the choice of legal writers who know their craft. More importantly, any alteration in style is more than compensated by the improvement in clarity and readability. Further, these are the kinds of subtle changes good translators necessarily make, to good effect, all the time.

Reducing the bulky phrase in the event that to if is one of many examples of how to slash superfluous words. Other frequent offenders (and their more direct substitutes) include: during the course of (during); subsequent to (after); not less than (at least); notwithstanding the fact that (although); for the purpose of (to); with reference to (about, concerning); and until such time as (until). It’s true that many fine lawyers continue to use these verbose phrases, just like...
many fine people fail to heed their dentist’s advice to brush after meals, but there’s really no good excuse for it. These are just some of the topics translators can learn about by reading books about plain English, such as Wydick’s Plain English for Lawyers.

Returning to the translations mentioned earlier, the second and third examples contain stylistic errors resulting from the use of legalese. Again, said (used as an adjective) and pursuant to appear in countless contracts and other legal documents, just like hereinafter, but that doesn’t make these terms the best choice, as Wydick explains in the case of said.

Lawyers who use said claim that it is more precise than ordinary words like the, this, or those. They say it means “the exact one mentioned above.” The extra precision is either illusory or unnecessary, as the above example shows. If only one [value] has been mentioned in the preceding material, we will not mistake this [value] for some other [value], and said is unnecessary. If more than one [value] has been mentioned, said does not tell us which of the several is meant. The extra precision is thus illusory. If the were put in place of all the saids, the sentence would be no less precise and much less clumsy.¹

Incidentally, the phrase pursuant to has several non-legalese substitutes (by, under, or in accordance with). And hereinafter, used to define party names, can be struck altogether: instead of (hereinafter “ABC Company”), simply write (“ABC Company”).

A caveat: The concepts discussed here are a sampling of those covered in books on plain legal English, but these books—directed at attorneys and not translators—also cover other topics in legal writing. Some of these topics, like legal drafting, do not apply to translation. Obviously, it would be inappropriate to completely rewrite the document you’re translating, even if it is poorly written.

With that warning in mind, read a book on legal writing in plain English and vaccinate your translations against infectious legal-speak. In addition to Wydick’s text, I also recommend two excellent books by Bryan A. Garner:

The Elements of Legal Style, Oxford University Press, 2002.

Note
Can Freelance Translators Deduct Home Office Expenses on Their Tax Returns?

By John Matthews

Is my office in my home or apartment deductible?
Could be!

1. The IRS says that the home office, a room or area, must be used “exclusively and regularly” as your principal place of business in order to qualify for the deduction.

2. “Exclusively” means that there must be a specific area in your residence that you use solely for your translation business activities. If you ever use it for some kind of personal purposes also, the area does not qualify for the business deduction.

…We are adept at what we do professionally, but we need to be aware of the business aspects of our endeavors as well…”

What’s a deduction?
It’s the amount you subtract from income this year to reduce your taxable income. Business deductions are generally expenses for business items that are paid for and used up within the tax year.

1. Examples of deductible expenses that are directly attributable to your home office are a business telephone line or Internet service used solely in your office, repairs or maintenance for the room (such as fixing a broken window or painting), having the office cleaned, etc.

2. Examples of deductible expenses that are indirectly attributable to the home office are annual home-related costs like home utility bills, home owner’s insurance, pest protection, rent, burglar alarm maintenance and service, furnace repair, etc. Since the cost is directly attributable to the whole house and indirectly attributable to the part of your house that is your office, here’s how you figure how much is attributable to the office: (square footage of home office divided by square footage of home times cost). Here’s an example. You pay $200 per year for service on your burglar alarm that protects your home and home office. You have a 1,500-square foot home, and your home office is 150 square feet. 150 square feet divided by 1,500 square feet means that 10% of your home is attributable to the office, here’s how you figure how much is attributable to the office: (square footage of home office divided by square footage of home times cost). Here’s an example. You pay $200 per year for service on your burglar alarm that protects your home and home office. You have a 1,500-square foot home, and your home office is 150 square feet. 150 square feet divided by 1,500 square feet means that 10% of your home is attributable to the office. Therefore, 10% of the $200 equals $20 of the annual burglar alarm service that can be deducted as a home office business expense.

How does this save me money?
It allows you to reduce your taxable income and, therefore, reduce your tax by deducting business expenses or depreciating business assets that are directly and indirectly attributable to the area you use exclusively and regularly as a home office.

Note: This article appeared in the March/April 2005 MICATA Monitor, the newsletter of the Mid-America Chapter of ATA (www.ata-micata.org). The information in this column is not intended to constitute legal, financial, or other business advice. Each individual or company should make its own independent business decisions and consult its own legal, financial, or other advisers as appropriate. The views expressed here are not those of ATA or MICATA.

As any good tax preparer will tell you, “Yes and/or no.” Well, that’s as clear as mud.

As self-employed people, most of us work at home, and we have a home office where we have our desk, chair, computer, Internet service, dictionaries, and other work items ad infinitum. Is any of that deductible?
A lot of it is, and today we’ll focus on the deductibility of the physical office room itself. In a future article we’ll take a look at other business expenses, like the desk, chair, computer, continuing education, etc., to see whether they’re deductible or not.

Here are some general and regular parameters that govern this topic, but as always, consult your tax advisor for details specific to your situation.

1. For something to be deductible, it’s a good idea to have income from which to subtract the deductions. If your income is less than your deductions, those deductions will often be limited.

2. Most of what you spend or use (other than your brain and talent) to produce income (i.e., your expenses) can be subtracted from the income you’ve worked hard to earn in order to reduce taxable income. That means you’ll pay less income tax. That’s good!
3. If this is your first year of business, you deduct a portion of those expenses that equals the proportion of the year that you’ve been in business. For example, if you started on July 1, you’ve worked a half year, so you would deduct one half of the $20 mentioned in #2 above.

4. Keep in mind that some annual home-related costs can be fully deductible anyway, like home mortgage, real-estate taxes, etc.

5. Also keep in mind that some annual home-related costs are otherwise never deductible, for example, rent, home owner’s insurance, burglar alarm service, pest extermination, condominium monthly fees, etc. However, as a business expense, at least part of these costs can be deducted.

What is depreciation?
It’s the amount you’ll subtract from income over a period of years to reduce your current and future income in order to reduce your taxable income this year and beyond. Business depreciation is generally for business items (assets) that you buy or own and that take longer than the current tax year to use up.

1. If you own your home and it qualifies for home office deductions under the “used exclusively and regularly as principal place of business” criteria, you can claim a deduction for depreciating the home office portion of your home. The depreciation for your home office is an allowance for the wear and tear on the part of your home used for business.

2. You calculate the deduction by first figuring both the fair market value of your home (the price at which your house, minus the value of the land, would trade hands between a willing buyer and seller) and the adjusted basis of your house (what you paid for it, minus the value of the land, plus permanent improvements). Use the lower of the two values to figure depreciation.

3. Then you multiply that amount by the square-foot percentage of your house used for the office. This is your depreciable basis for the home office.

4. You depreciate this basis over 39 years by multiplying it each year by a percentage predetermined by the IRS. You include the annual depreciation amount in your deductions subtracted from your income in this year and also in future years.

5. You can deduct annual rent expenses related to a home office apartment, but you cannot depreciate a home office apartment because you don’t own the apartment.

Caveats
Keep in mind that “depreciation” is very complex and has more convoluted permutations than you can imagine. Plan ahead with your tax professional.

What happens when you sell your house in which you have had a home office? In general, when you sell your house, if you have owned and lived in it as your main home for two out of the previous five years, a single person can generally exclude a gain of up to $250,000 ($500,000 for a married couple) from tax. And you may not even need to declare it on your tax return. That’s great!

However, if you’ve claimed a home office deduction, the total amount of depreciation allowed is not included in this exclusion. It must be added back on your tax return when you sell your house. And you may have to declare details of the house sale on your return as well. This isn’t really so bad, since it just requires a lot of record keeping.

For example, Mary Q. Translator sold her house in 2004. She bought the home in 1995 for $100,000, lived in it as her main home the entire time, and sold it for $175,000. She has a gain of $75,000. She met the ownership and use tests described above to exclude up to $250,000 of her gain from the sale of her house. If this were the whole story, she would not have to declare the sale of her home on her 2004 tax return and there would be no tax on the $75,000.

But, in fact, she used one room of her home as a home office for her translation business for several years and claimed a total of $5,000 depreciation over those years. She can exclude $70,000 ($75,000 - $5,000) of her gain. She has a taxable gain of $5,000. Thus, she declares details of the sale of her home and details of the depreciation she has taken on her 2004 tax return, and pays the capital gains tax on the $5,000.

Conclusion
We are translators, interpreters, and business people. We are adept at what we do professionally, but we need to be aware of the business aspects of our endeavors as well. We want to keep in our own pockets as much of what we earn as possible, so it’s wise to know how to reduce our taxable income as much as legally possible.
The Court Interpreters Act of 1978: A 25-Year Retrospective, Part II

By Nancy Schweda Nicholson

The first installment of this series (published in the August issue) presented a general overview of the developments at the federal and state levels within the legal interpreting field since passage of the Court Interpreters Act of 1978. It included background information on Constitutional provisions and the rules that were in effect before the 1978 law was enacted. To conclude this series, the following article will briefly review some of the ongoing challenges, controversial issues, and new developments in the court interpreting domain, including telephone interpreting, team interpreting, and collective bargaining efforts. Many states have formed task forces to study interpreter use and to suggest ways to meet the burgeoning need for qualified interpreters. This article also briefly discusses the most recent federal-level endeavor: the State Court Interpreter Grant Program Act (Senate 1733), introduced in October of 2003. A new law in California, the Trial Court Interpreter Employment and Labor Relations Act—Senate Bill 371, which entered into force on September 28, 2002, will also be examined (Raïnof, 2004). In addition, this overview looks at the efforts of interpreters in various states to improve their working conditions and professional standing. The goal of this two-part series is to provide a better understanding of the progress that court interpreters have made as well as the work that still remains.

Telephone Interpreting

Telephone interpreting is a relatively recent development in the court interpreting realm, and has engendered much discussion since its inception (Divers, 2003; Hewitt, 2000, 1995; Lucas, 2000; Nikolayeva-Stone, 2001; Samborn, 1996; Shields, 1996; Stone, 2001; Swaney, 1997; Vidal, 1998). The AT&T Language Line, for example, has over 500 clients, and the list is growing (Heh and Qian, 1997; Hewitt, 1995; Huppke, 2000; Shields, 1996).

The Telephone Interpreting Program (TIP) was created by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AOUSC), which launched a pilot project in 1989 (Schweda Nicholson, 2002; van der Heide, 2005, 2003). TIP is used only for short proceedings. Figures for Fiscal Year 2003 show that there were 2,585 TIP events during that year.

“At the state level, New Jersey promulgated standards for telephone interpreting in 2001 (Operational Standards, 2001), and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has carried out research on telephone interpreting (Hewitt, 1995).”

The total number of languages required was 39; however, 87% of all TIP events used Spanish. Also of interest is that a full 67% of TIP events were handled by staff interpreters. This number is significant because staff interpreters earn a salary, so no additional costs are incurred by the AOUSC. In fact, the estimated amount saved by the AOUSC during Fiscal Year 2003 was calculated at $765,379 (van der Heide, 2004).

Telephone interpreting is becoming more widespread, but it is controversial. Some interpreters object to the process because they miss all of the extralinguistic components of the interaction (Vidal, 1998). They feel that they are at a disadvantage because they cannot see the principals and are not physically present. They state that they don’t have a “feel” for the courtroom dynamic. (See Schweda-Nicholson, 1987, for a detailed discussion of extralinguistic factors.) Others do not support this type of interpreting due to problems with signal transmission and sound quality.

Interpreters are not the only ones who have strong feelings about the use of telephone interpreting. Some defense attorneys have also lodged their objections. For example, in February 2003, a new interpreting policy went into effect in Virginia’s Prince William County General District Court. Interpretalk now provides telephone interpreting via speakerphone for all cases. As background, the Virginia Supreme Court signed a contract with Language Services Associates (Interpretalk’s parent organization) in 2002. Attorneys are not pleased to hear a “disembodied voice floating into a Manassas courtroom” (Hegstad, 2003). Also upsetting to lawyers is the lack of access to interpreters outside the formal courtroom setting, removed from the judge’s presence.

At the state level, New Jersey promulgated standards for telephone interpreting in 2001 (Operational Standards, 2001), and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has carried out research on telephone interpreting (Hewitt, 1995). Also outside the federal umbrella, Network Omni, “the second largest provider of telephone interpreting services worldwide” (www.networkomni.com), has entered into a training partnership with the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS) to teach students the techniques of telephone interpreting (Network Omni and MIIS, 2003). In the fall of 2003, Network Omni offered a one-day seminar on telephone interpreting at no cost to students in the MIIS Graduate School of Translation and Interpretation (GSTI). Also in 2003, Network Omni provided...
$7,000 in scholarship funds for GSTI students. As a future commitment, Network Omni has agreed to make a donation of audiovisual equipment to the GSTI in 2005 (Bao, 2005).

It appears that telephone interpreting, even with its limited scope, is definitely here to stay. Perhaps with additional technological advances, its use will become even more prevalent in the future. Discussion to date, however, suggests that this method will most likely remain controversial.

Team Interpreting

Team interpreting has been the standard in the field of conference interpreting for many decades. Using this method, interpreters share the booth with a colleague. Due to the strenuous nature of the task, they relieve one another every 20-30 minutes to avoid fatigue. Having two interpreters present also allows the person who is not on the mike to assist his/her boothmate in terms of looking up words/expressions and/or writing down numbers.

The concept of team interpreting is relatively new to the world of court interpreting for spoken languages (Festinger, 1999; Salazar and Segal, 1999). Most courts have balked at the use of this framework. After all, cost has often been cited as a reason for appointing no interpreter at all, or for hiring uncertified interpreters when certified people are readily available. Various courts have taken the approach that it is more important to save money than to work toward ensuring a fair trial for a non-English-speaking client by providing the services of a competent interpreter.

Happily, team interpreting is generally the rule in the federal courts, but this approach is far from being universally accepted in state, county, and municipal courts. As a recent example taken from an enlightened state, New Jersey Standard 3.4 addresses the issue of team interpreting: "[a] team of two interpreters should be provided by the vicinage for proceedings if they are projected to last more than two hours" (Standards, 2004). Interpreters have a long way to go to convince judges to authorize funds for two interpreters, especially when the courts complain that they don’t even have the money to hire one!

The issue of team interpreting can also be examined from another perspective. In terms of the guarantees provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Department of Justice has offered guidance regarding “Competent Language Providers (CLPs):” These guidelines state that CLPs must be “physically/mentally capable” (Aloot, 2003). Not providing teams of interpreters could be viewed as a violation of this law. Forcing individual interpreters to work alone could certainly diminish their physical and mental capability. (Schweda Nicholson, 1999, provides an overview of interpreting at the Executive Office for Immigration Review, another branch of the Department of Justice.)

Finally, Executive Order 13166, “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency [LEP],” signed into law by President Bill Clinton on August 11, 2000, mandates that federal agencies improve the availability of assistance for LEP persons. The order does not institute new rights; rather, it was created to improve the enforcement of current obligations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Executive Order 13166, 2000).

Collective Bargaining

Even with the numerous accomplishments and progress in the area of court interpretation during the past decades, some interpreters have decided that a good way to improve their overall treatment (for example, salaries, benefits, and promotion opportunities) is to become involved in union activities (Bajaña, 2004; Choate, 1999; Roder, 2000). The Translators and Interpreters Guild (TTIG), established in 1993, is the only nationwide union of translators and interpreters (www.ttig.org). It counts over 250 freelance interpreters among its ranks. Subsequently, the TTIG joined the Newspaper Guild (NG) (a journalists’ union), as the organization had been looking for a larger group with which to affiliate (Kisell, 2003). In 1997, following a trend for small unions to merge with larger ones, the NG joined the Communications Workers of America (CWA). The CWA is one of the largest union components of the much bigger and very powerful American Federation of Labor - Congress of Industrial Organizations (www.aflcio.org). It offers a number of services to its members, including a newsletter, mentoring, advocacy, lobbying, and, of course, assistance with contract negotiations.

Cook County, Illinois

In 1998, some Cook County, Illinois, interpreters decided to take steps to improve their overall status as well as their work environment within the courts. They were successful in forming a union in order to proceed with collective bargaining through the Chicago Newspaper Guild Communications Workers of America (CNG/CWA). These interpreters were also the beneficiaries of two Illinois State Labor Relations Board decisions, which acknowledged their status as court employees. Beginning in October 2002, these dedicated professionals partici-
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parted in 17 negotiating meetings until mid-2003 (Orozco, 2003). Collective bargaining has continued since that time. Finally, after more than two years of wrangling, the first Cook County, Illinois, interpreter contract went to the membership for a vote on January 20, 2005 (Minkkinen, 2005).

Hawaii
Hawaii joined the NCSC Testing Consortium in 1997, but has never implemented a testing and certification program. There are no full-time staff interpreters in the Aloha State. Interpreters in Hawaii made contact with the Hawaii Newspaper Guild in the summer of 2002 and formed the Interpreter Action Network (IAN). The principal goal of the IAN was to secure a pay raise, which was long overdue (Boido and Harpstrite, 2002). Work continued through 2003, during which time the IAN lobbied the Hawaii state legislature. Its efforts were successful, and a pay increase was implemented on January 1, 2004. The judiciary made some other changes as well: 1) instead of the then-current “half-day/full-day” framework, an hourly structure was introduced; and 2) people who were certified in other regions were accepted for a higher pay rate. In terms of additional legislative attempts, House Bill 1655 was introduced in 2003 to the Hawaii state legislature by Representative Roy Takumi. The primary focus of this bill was securing collective bargaining rights for Hawaii interpreters, but the bill died in committee. In 2004, Representative Takumi sponsored House Bill 2856. The goal of this proposed legislation was to “…require the [Hawaii] judiciary to take the first step toward a court interpreter certification program by formally creating the category of ‘Hawaii Certified Court Interpreter’ for interpreters with recognized certifications from other jurisdictions” (Harpstrite, 2004). Finally, HCR 144 was introduced by Representative Marcus Oshiro in an attempt to recognize court interpreting as a "regulated profession" with Hawaii state certification. Both of the 2004 initiatives also died in committee (Harpstrite, 2004). One very positive recent development in the Aloha State is the creation of a full-time interpreter coordinator, who manages interpreter scheduling for the First Judicial Circuit on O‘ahu, which includes both the district and circuit courts (Harpstrite, 2004).

While there has been some progress on limited fronts in Hawaii, there is still much to be done. It is a frustrating situation for the dedicated interpreters who have turned activists. For example, in December 2003, the Honorable Sabrina McKenna, the head of the Hawaii State Supreme Court Committee on Court Interpreter Certification, informed interpreters that important steps would be taken during 2004 in order to move forward with implementing the NCSC Consortium’s testing and certification program. Hawaii interpreters, however, have not been contacted by the judiciary in this regard since that open meeting (Harpstrite, 2005).

In December 2004, the IAN formally joined the Hawaii Newspaper Guild and became the Hawaii Interpreter Action Network (HIAN). Inasmuch as interpreters are not legally considered judiciary “employees,” they do not yet enjoy collective bargaining rights. The HIAN is now focusing its efforts on introducing court interpreter certification legislation in 2005 (Harpstrite, 2005).

California
In September 2002, former California Governor Gray Davis signed the Trial Court Interpreter Employment and Labor Relations Act, which went into effect in January 2003. This law created a new interpreter classification: “court interpreter pro tempore.” These interpreters are hired as required and are compensated through a per diem framework at the rate of $265/day. On January 6, 2005, a group of approximately 40 certified interpreters marched on both the Vista and San Diego County courthouses. They are disappointed in the slow progress of the contract negotiations currently taking place in San Diego, Los Angeles, the North Bay (San Francisco area), and the Central Valley (Fresno area) (Geist, 2005). Although interpreters are considered court employees, this group is upset because the benefits extended to court reporters (also court employees) do not extend to them. The CWA has been involved in negotiations with California County courts for a period of months. The goal is to secure pay increases as well as benefits for court interpreters. Although there is no firm deadline by which a negotiated contract agreement must be reached, Yvonne Pritchard, a negotiator for the courts, indicated that she had hopes that the talks would not continue for years, as they have in some other states. Pritchard stresses that the courts are cognizant of the vital contribution that interpreters make to the judicial system (Littlefield, 2005).

New Jersey
In May 2003, the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission’s Representation Director decided that freelance court interpreters meet the criteria to be considered “employees” rather than “independent contractors” within the New Jersey Judiciary. The ruling was based on the finding that
the New Jersey “...system exercised a significant degree of control over the interpreters’ work” (Freelance, 2003; New Jersey State Judiciary, 2003). In issuing the ruling, the director cited a 2002 Illinois Labor Relations Board decision regarding freelance interpreters in the Cook County Circuit Court (Freelance, 2003; Illinois Labor Relations, 2002). The CWA had filed a petition that sought to represent approximately 300 contract interpreters in a bargaining unit. The New Jersey Judiciary disagreed with this move, claiming that the court interpreters were not employees, but independent contractors (Freelance, 2003). In July 2004, 50 New Jersey freelancers approved their first contract, which incorporated the most substantial pay raise for this group in the history of the New Jersey Judiciary (and the first one for freelancers in approximately nine years) (Freelance Court, 2004). The agreement also included a grievance procedure. The wheels of justice move slowly, as evidenced by the fact that this collective bargaining accord was reached approximately five years after freelancers initially sat down with representatives of the CWA Local 1034.

**State Court Interpreter Grant Program Act (Senate 1733)**

On October 15, 2003, Senate Democrats Herbert Kohl (Wisconsin) and Edward M. Kennedy (Massachusetts) introduced the State Court Interpreter Grant Program Act (Senate 1733). This bill was intended “[t]o authorize the Attorney General to award grants to States to develop and implement State court interpreter programs (2).” Other goals for use of the projected $15,000,000 allocation for each Fiscal Year 2005 through 2008 include: 1) to encourage states without certification programs to implement them; 2) to assist states with newly-established programs to develop them; 3) to assist states with limited programs to improve and enhance them; and 4) “to recruit, train, and certify qualified court interpreters (3).” Senate 1733 was sent to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on the same day that it was introduced. There was no further action beyond this date, so the bill died there. Kohl, however, was able to obtain $250,000 for Fiscal Year 2003 to fund court interpreter initiatives in Wisconsin. The money has been earmarked for court interpreter testing and certification in Spanish and Hmong (Hirsch, 2003).

**The Indiana Supreme Court Commission on Race and Gender Fairness**

As of 1999, 40 states (including Delaware) had created task forces and other investigative bodies to study critical issues confronting the judiciary. As a case study, the Indiana Supreme Court created its Commission on Race and Gender Fairness in 1999. I am proud to say that I have served as a consultant to the Commission since 2000, advising this august body of judges, legislators, and attorneys on court interpreter matters. A Language and Cultural Barriers Subcommittee was appointed to examine how non-English-speaking and limited-English-speaking persons fare in the Indiana judicial system. It published its executive report and recommendations in 2002 (Honored to Serve, 2002). As a result of its efforts, the State of Indiana joined the NCSC Consortium and has moved ahead to implement the orientation, testing, and certification program in Spanish.

**Continuing Legal Education Seminar for the Delaware State Bar Association**

In April 2004, I was one of several instructors at “The Importance of Court Interpreters,” a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program for Delaware State Bar Association members. Other trainers included María Pérez-Chambers (a federally and Delaware-certified [through the NCSC Consortium] Spanish/English interpreter), Mary Beth Tkach (a sign language interpreter instructor at Delaware Technical and Community College), Franny Haney (Delaware Administrative Office of the Courts), and Patricia Griffin (Chief Magistrate, Justice of the Peace Courts, Delaware). Approximately 100 attorneys, judges, and court administrators attended. The major topics included: the role of the court interpreter; standard practices and the Code of Conduct; how to voir dire an interpreter; the modes of interpretation used in the courts; and legal and linguistic challenges. This half-day seminar was the first such CLE for legal personnel in Delaware. (For a judge’s perspective on court interpreting, see Grabau, 1996.)

**Conclusion**

This article series has examined court interpretation services from a variety of perspectives during the past 25 years since the passage of the Court Interpreters Act of 1978. While we have seen considerable improvements in many areas, shortcomings still exist, and much remains to be done. As with many things in life, funding (or the lack thereof) for federal and state programs has helped or hindered progress in this regard.

In terms of federal court language requirements at the beginning of 2005, Spanish still remains the number one language (behind...
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Continued

English) at all court levels in the U.S. In fact, Federal District Court statistics for Fiscal Year 2004 show that 212,223 “court interpreting events” required the use of Spanish. It is no surprise that Spanish has consistently been the number one language requiring interpreter services at the federal level since the early 1980s (Annual Reports: 1980-2004).

The existence of the 1978 Court Interpreters Act in no way guarantees that the courts will stop using ad hoc and/or uncertified interpreters (Schweda Nicholson, 2004). For example, the Iowa Civil Liberties Union recently estimated that “…[c]ertified interpreters are used in only about 10% of federal cases tried in Iowa” (Associated Press, 2003). Clearly, this number represents an unacceptably low usage rate for certified interpreters, who are likely to be “reasonably available” more than 10% of the time. The judge is the king/queen of the courtroom, however, and much discretion is allowed. Although significant progress has been made at the federal level and in the NCSC Consortium states, one still finds instances (especially in the lower courts) of incompetent, uncertified “interpreter” use.

What does the future hold in terms of court interpreter issues? Increased needs for specific languages, for example, may well be tied to changes in U.S. immigration laws. Numerous unanswered questions persist. Will the use of ad hoc interpreters become a thing of the past? Will judicial interpretation of the phrase “reasonably available” result in stricter standards for use of certified interpreters, making their services more frequently mandated in the federal courts? Will a language other than Spanish ever lead the list of required languages? Will court interpreter training opportunities become more widespread? Will the pass rate on the Federal Court Interpreter Certification Examination ever progress beyond approximately 5%? Will new federal laws regulating interpreter use and/or providing additional funding be passed? Will team interpreting become the norm in the state and lower courts as it has at the federal level? Will collective bargaining activity spread throughout the profession? Will more state and local bar associations sponsor programs to educate their membership on interpreter issues? Will the AOUSC move ahead to develop certification tests in languages other than Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Navajo? Will 100% membership in the NCSC Consortium be attained? All of these questions remain to be answered as the 21st century unfolds. As this article series demonstrates, an understanding of, and appreciation for, the work of interpreters continue to grow. Change in the legal world, however, takes time, so it remains to be seen whether these trends will continue in the future.

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May the Farce Be With You

Bootleg DVDs threaten the future of the film industry, says the Motion Picture Association of America. For The Onionskin, the unintentional humor of these pirate discs’ silly subtitles wears thin fast, but a look behind the scenes can serve the client education cause.

U.S. stand-up comedian Woody Allen set the stage in the mid-1960s when he purchased Kokusai himitsu keisatsu: Kagi no Kagi, a B-grade Japanese comedy described by one critic as an “uninspired take-off of the James Bond movies of the day.” Allen rewrote the script and over-dubbed the original footage for comic effect, re-releasing the film in 1966 as “What’s Up, Tiger Lily?” Its would-be madcap but ultimately predictable plot involves an Interpol agent, an arch-criminal, and a secret formula. For Western audiences, the fun came from Allen’s witty wordplay, contrasting image and dialogue.

Subtitle Silliness

Today, foreign-language versions of box office hits are a welcome source of revenue for movie producers, and a source of entertainment for the viewing public. An exception is pirate copies of recent releases, where the money goes into the bootleggers’ pockets and the humor in the subtitles is largely unintentional.

Not surprisingly, the perpetrators of the latter are amateur linguists, scuttling along one step ahead of the law.

Thus subtitles in a bootleg DVD of the latest Star Wars episode purchased in Shanghai have Anakin Skywalker intoning “Ratio file, the wish power are together with you” (original English: “Obi Wan, may the force be with you.”). A coy Padme has good news for her husband: “Is that baby on the hoof?” Anakin responds, “I was just made by the Presbyterian Church,” while arch-villain Darth Vader’s howl “Nooooo…” becomes “Do not want.”

Even the title of the episode is skewed, with The Revenge of the Sith translated as “The backstroke of the west” in the opening credits.

This particular—and, let’s face it, peculiar—DVD was purchased on a whim by 31-year old Jeremy Winterson, who works in an export trading company in Shanghai. Winterson had already seen the film in a cinema, liked it, and when offered the disc by a street vendor at an unbeatable 7rmb ($0.85), took the plunge. “I’d planned to use it as background entertainment while doing chores around the house,” he told The Onionskin, noting that pirated new releases are usually of poor quality, “[shot with] a video camera in a movie theatre or similar.”

But this time the silly translations caught his fancy, and he posted a selection on his blog (winterson.com), triggering a wave of interest and cross-links.

In China, bootleg DVDs are rushed to market with subtitles in Chinese, for obvious reasons, but also in English, since some are exported to other countries in the region, says Winterson. “Since there’s no official script for the bootleggers to copy,” he speculates, “they seem to do their best job of either watching the movie and writing down what everyone says before translating, or translating the Chinese subtitles that someone else has already written.”

No Laughing Matter

For film buffs, nonsensical subtitles are no way to take in a movie classic or even an adventure flick. And for the occasional filmgoer, forget it. Skewed grammar, spelling, and flow make it too much work past the first 10 minutes.

But haphazardly adapted pirate versions are not only creative counterfeits, pale reflections of forceful originals. As the Motion Picture Association of America points out, they are bad news for the future of the filmmaking industry. This professional body estimates that its members lost over $718 million in potential revenue in Asia-Pacific in 2003 alone. Hundreds of millions of illegal optical discs are produced, many exported to other parts of the world. China’s piracy rate for optical discs is among the highest in the world, at an estimated 95%.

Flawed Processes

Behind the scenes, even a brief analysis of just how the poor translations were produced has lessons for legitimate businesses seeking to communicate across borders.

Thus, in the pirated Star Wars III, the English subtitles are not simply silly computer translations of the Chinese. Instead a human dabbler has been at work: a computer wouldn’t come up with the “dreamses,” that plague Anakin, or “troopseses” called in by the Jedi knights.

The “Presbyterian Church” is a reference to the “Jedi Council,” which a correspondent on Mr. Winterson’s blog speculates was initially translated into Chinese as “Council (or path) of the elders.” If “Presbyterian Church” were rendered as the “church of the presbytery”
(a.k.a. elders) in Chinese, the mix-up is not all that random. Yet in cut-rate, slap-dash subtitleding produced for illicit gain, things can get worse—much worse.

“A while ago I bought a copy of ‘Gangs of New York,’ where the subtitler had apparently got bored and decided to write whatever he felt like writing, including greetings to his friends,” Mr. Winterson told us. Legit businesses that have ordered translations into languages they cannot check themselves may sympathize; the nightmare scenario, that sinking “leap of faith” moment.

In some cases, unscrupulous players have served up a set of subtitles taken from a different movie altogether. An example at http://winterson.com/2005/06/captions.html shows Michael Moore’s Fahrenheit 9/11 with subtitles borrowed from “Jungle Fever.” Viewers see Mr. Moore interviewing a U.S. legislator in a shot subtitled “— That’s my boyfriend. What are you doing? — Get back.” No grammar problems in sight, but someone has clearly lost the plot.

Lessons for Buyers (and Suppliers) of Translation?

Make sure your copyright situation is clear up front. Cut corners at your own peril. Above all, use a professional: when buying translations, non-linguists are almost always purchasing a product they cannot check, whence the importance of turning to a reliable supplier with bona fide references. Failing which, it’s your own fault if—as a somber Yoda puts it—“A line have beened distorted by the dark world.”

With thanks to Michael Benis and Matthew in Beirut.
There is still time for certified ATA members to earn the necessary 20 Continuing Education (CE) points required in order to maintain the certification credential. The first reporting period will take place in 2007. If you will be 60 or over by your reporting date, you do not need to worry about earning CE points. You can provide verification of your age when we contact you, and we will never ask you about continuing education again. But don’t send anything now. Wait for us to contact you.

For those of you who do have to earn CE points, you can earn a maximum of 10 points in a calendar year, and you only need to accumulate 20 points in each three-year reporting period. Even if you are certified in more than one language combination, you only have to collect a total of 20 points.

Certified members were sent a copy of the Continuing Education Record form along with their new certificate of certification. You should fill out and submit this form along with evidence to support your activities when we contact you. Much like your other record keeping, it’s best to keep all of your receipts and certificates together in a folder and fill in the form as you earn points. You might even find that you have reached your goal much earlier than expected.

It is also important to make sure in which category your activity fits. Category A events can earn up to the maximum 10 points each year. If you attend two ATA annual conferences in three years, you have already fulfilled the requirement. The other categories allow you to earn a limited number of points in each three-year period. The CE Record form makes it easy to track earned points and decide when you have reached the cap in each category. If you submit a form to request approval for CE points, you still need to keep a copy of that form or evidence of that activity to submit with your record.

Here are some important points to remember:

- All chapter-sponsored and ATA-sponsored educational activities are automatically approved for Category A points.
- All members earning points are required to complete an ethics component during the first reporting period. A few qualifying sessions are offered at our annual conferences and the online version of the ethics component is now available on the website under “Certification.” You can earn 1 point by completing the ethics component, and this should be indicated on your CE Points Record form.

- All current members can also earn 2 points in the reporting period by keeping their ATA membership, ATA-chapter membership, and professional association memberships current.

- The first reporting period will take place in 2007. We will contact you several months before you need to submit your documentation. That leaves you the rest of 2005 and all of 2006 to earn the needed points. If you earned your certification in 2005, your first reporting period will be 2008.

### ATA Certification Exam Information

#### Upcoming Exams

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

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

**Uruguay**
Montevideo
January 4, 2006
Registration Deadline: December 16, 2005

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.
Chinese and Japanese native speakers probably find reverse character dictionaries most useful for doing crossword puzzles, but I find them indispensable for translating illegible faxes and handwritten notes. The majority of Chinese and Japanese words consist of compounds comprised of two or more Chinese or Sino-Japanese characters. A reverse dictionary doubles my chances of deciphering a partially legible compound. Even if the head character is illegible, if I can make out the last character, a reverse dictionary allows me to find all the head characters that could occur with it. From this, I can deduce the reading of the illegible character and the meaning of the compound.

A Reverse Chinese-English Dictionary, initially published in 1986, is also useful for legible Chinese compounds. Chinese dictionaries list entries by head characters and list compounds as subentries. Looking up a compound like bùbiàn (inconvenient) that begins with a commonly used character such as bù (not) is analogous to trying to find “inconvenient” in an English dictionary by first looking up “in-” and then searching through all words beginning with “in-” until “-convenient” is found. A Reverse Chinese-English Dictionary expedites the process of looking up compounds that begin with high frequency characters by tackling them from the less common last character. It also allows for the quick look up of compounds where the last character is known, and shows at a glance all the compounds sharing the same root. The dictionary is available online at www.chinabooks.com.

About 60% of the Japanese lexicon consists of Sino-Japanese character compounds, so the Gyakubiki köjien [Reverse Köjien] is equally useful for translating Japanese faxes. It contains all the words from the Köjien (Japan’s equivalent to the Oxford English Dictionary), so it is more comprehensive than A Reverse Chinese-English Dictionary. However, it is not a bilingual dictionary, so it provides readings but no translations.

The standard-sized Gyakubiki köjien, based on the fifth and latest edition of the Köjien, was released in 1999, but Iwanami has yet to release a large format kijōban “desktop edition.” If you prefer a larger, easier to read format, buy the 1992 desktop edition. It is based on the fourth edition of the Köjien, but I still prefer it to the standard-size update. Both are available at amazon.co.jp, as is the large format fifth edition of the Köjien (ISBN: 4000801120).
Dictionary Reviews Continued

are the questions this review addresses.

Babylon-Pro 5.0 is a single click, interactive, dictionary access and search engine for PCs only. Babylon-Pro 5.0, with selected dictionary access, can be downloaded for off-line use. It can also be used online through the Babylon.com website, which provides a few extra well designed functions and glossary access. The software is packaged as a link in an e-mail message, with no lengthy instructions, other than “Click.” Once Babylon-Pro 5.0 is installed on your computer, you can configure it to your preferred specifications, including a user-defined hotkey “click.” Your (customized) Babylon-Pro 5.0 opens as a small window on your desktop, and with a single click on any term, searches for words in the multiple Babylon dictionaries and glossaries you have selected online at Babylon.com, and in any of the premium content dictionaries (PCDs) available for purchase. Babylon-Pro 5.0 then displays the search results in a single window, allowing you to obtain several hits for a single term that are retrieved from the sources you have downloaded or enabled for use on the Babylon-Pro 5.0 user interface (see Figure 1 for a single click search for the term “MP3”).

Babylon-Pro 5.0 offers three different dictionary resources covering 12 languages: French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch, Russian, Japanese, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Swedish, Hebrew, and English. For the nominal price of $49.50, you may download for access, on or off-line, any of the Babylon dictionaries (monodirectional, bidirectional, or monolingual) and free professional or user-created glossaries.

For an additional nominal fee, you may download Premium content dictionaries (PCDs), both general purpose and specialized in various monolingual or bilingual combinations. (See Table 1 for a list of the available PCDs, as well as the special promotional rates offered to ATA members.)

Beyond single click access to all of these dictionaries and glossaries, you may also download, free of any charge (even the Babylon software charge), a user-friendly program called Babylon Builder. Babylon Builder allows you to create your own glossaries, including pictures, other media, and links to your own Web pages. The glossaries that you create, and want to share with other Babylon users, using Babylon Builder, may be uploaded and submitted to Babylon. There are currently over 1,600 such glossaries, all of which Babylon can search to produce immediate results on the single Babylon platform.

Finally, Babylon comes with two wonderful extras: “Say it” using MS TextToSpeech, and a conversion tool. “Say it” enables you to hear the pronunciation of English words or phrases in the search box. You may set the “Say it” voice for special effects

Babylon ATA Promotion Pricing
Call: 1-866-237-7098
Promotion name: ATA-Giveaway
Valid through November 30, 2005

1. A Babylon-Pro 5.0 Permanent License will be discounted at $39.99.
A permanent license plus annual maintenance ($8.91), providing free major version upgrades, enhancement updates, and preferred client technical support, is available for $48.90. Otherwise, the current price for a major version upgrade is $29.70. Annual maintenance is available only through this offer.

2. Special deals for purchasing Premium Content Dictionaries.
Your first Premium Content Dictionary will come with a discount (see Table 1). Anyone who buys two Premium Content titles will be eligible to purchase the Concise Oxford English Dictionary and the Oxford English Thesaurus at a special price of only $43, (normally $59.80).

3. Package deals for each language with a 25% discount (examples provided below, also available for other languages):

German Business Package: $333 (sales price), customer saves $112. This 25% savings includes: Permanent License, Langenscheidt Business and Commerce, Gabler Banklexikon, and von Eichborn Wirtschaftswörterbuch.


(male, female, whisper, echo, robot, etc.), as well as the language, with a pull-down menu, which currently only lists English as an option. The conversion tool, in addition to converting regular units of measurement (such as length, weight, volume and temperature) also includes real-time quotes for currencies, updated on a daily basis, and time conversions for any country or time zone. Compared to standard conversion tools, the Babylon conversion tool is greatly enhanced. The same applies to the “Say it” function, which converts text to speech—hence more than a single word—while affording a few good laughs, with all of the special voice effects and pronunciation of foreign words in English.

This explains Babylon-Pro 5.0 in a nutshell, and what your (customized) Babylon can offer, depending on your specifications in terms of languages and the kind of dictionary and glossary access you download, enable, or purchase. The next questions follow: “Does it work?” and most importantly, especially considering an already existing 26 million users, “Does it work for professional translators?”

Installing the software via an e-mail link was pleasantly easy for almost everyone on the review team. For two translators, however, a series of interferences occurred. One of these involved browser extensions, in particular “Spyware Doctor,” which needed to be disabled in order to use the Babylon Click with Yahoo! opened in Internet Explorer. Another interference occurred with the use of DDWin, a look-up program that searches multiple Japanese dictionaries. Care also needed to be taken when defining the Babylon hotkey “Click” so that it correlated with mouse button definitions. And finally, those who tried using Babylon with Adobe Acrobat discovered, as specified, that Babylon only works with Acrobat Reader. The upside was that Babylon’s technical service proved to be extremely persistent and efficient in tracking down the root cause of any interference problems arising in conjunction with installation. For a modest $8.90, you can subscribe to Babylon’s Annual Maintenance Plan, which will ensure that you are not routed to the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) site, even if there is much precedence regarding your particular question. A friendly technician will message you personally, and call you, to help with any of these known interferences, pending their resolution among business partners.

The professional translators who participated in this review agreed that Babylon definitely offers the wonderful advantage of single click access to multiple dictionaries, with hits from multiple sources appearing in a single window. For example, a single click search on the term “snuff” may, depending on your Babylon configuration, return results in a single window from 13 different sources, including the Concise Oxford English Dictionary, the Oxford Thesaurus, the Encyclopedia Britannica, as well as translations to French returned from the Babylon dictionaries, explanations from an Australian slang glossary, word anatomy from the Princeton University WordNet, and translations gleaned from a Shakespeare to modern English glossary, etc. This capacity was perceived as terrific on several counts. You do not have to search each of these sources separately, depending on the kind of information you are seeking, Your desktop is uncluttered, and so is your computer’s memory. You do not have to swap CDs in your CD-ROM drive, and the speed of it all is simply mindboggling; not to mention access to resources that you wouldn’t have even thought existed!

However, there was also a consensus among reviewers that despite the abundance of well-known dictionaries and sources available, these resources still needed to be greatly expanded and enhanced on a continuous basis. Unlike most people working in multilingual environments, professional translators seldom work with more than two languages. However, and perhaps paradoxically, the dictionary needs of professional translators are simply gargantuan, aforciori when as many as 12 languages are involved. In Japanese, for example, Babylon offers two dictionaries from the Taishukan publisher, but it was noted that there is no access to other industry standards, such as the Kenkyusha Japanese<> English Dictionaries. For Russian, Hebrew, and Chinese, there are no PCDs, and the absence of access to resources such as the New Big Russian-English Dictionary, the Rav Milim monolingual dictionary, and the Ectaco electronic bilingual dictionary for Hebrew was noted. Similarly, in French, one could bemoan the absence of access to the Robert & Collins or the Harraps’ Pro, which includes the Harraps’ Business Dictionary offered via Babylon. And the same would hold true for Spanish, for which the current PCDs cover non-English-language combinations (Michaelis Portuguese-Spanish, Larousse French-Spanish, and Larousse German-Spanish).

Still, assuming that all of the aforementioned general language PCDs were included, professional
translators in the field of medicine, for example, would still need access to medical dictionaries, and the same would hold true for the legal or engineering domains. Thus, while Babylon offers a model that correlates perfectly and beautifully with translators’ needs for multiple megasources of definitions, translation, and word anatomies, with the added speed and convenience of single click access and single platform lists of hits, it was also perceived that the model was not yet supplying access to enough reliable resources, both in terms of breadth and depth. That is, professional translators would need access to a still wider selection of standard dictionaries, with more specialized resources before they would consider abandoning their current lengthier search functions, more expensive installations, or existing alternative Web resources. As one of the experienced reviewers pointed out in reference to the Japanese content:

“The quality/usefulness of a lookup tool like Babylon Pro ultimately boils down to the quality of the available dictionaries and ease of use. I would give Babylon Pro very high marks for ease of use and its interface, but the dictionaries are nothing to get excited about.”

Beyond issues of expanding the PCD offerings, the question of enhancement was also raised. Regarding the Babylon-devised dictionaries, a small list of terms used for testing revealed that translations for compounds (e.g., “health professional”) could not be retrieved. Additionally, at least one professional translator felt that any specialized glossary-type resource would have to be referenced, or in some way explicitly evaluated or recommended, per industry standards, to be considered reliable enough for consultation. In other words, information gleaned from many of the 1,600 Babylon community user glossaries could be simply ignored as potentially unreliable. Extreme as this position appeared, it also served to highlight the special needs of professional translators, who often work on material (for example, medical instrumentation or machine specifications),
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the meaning of which subsumes serious life and death situations, and for which there simply is no permissible margin of error. As the University of Chicago, Graham School Translation Studies mantra goes, with no tongue in cheek:

“Misunderstanding the nuances between different languages can be very amusing. And expensive. And potentially dangerous.”

Thus, the enthusiasm and hesitations generated by Babylon at first glance may perhaps be tempered and better understood, once put into the perspective of translators-at-work.

Despite this “no nonsense” criticism of the program, only one translator on the review team would not use, or recommend, the program. I’d like to conclude this review with a couple of possible explanations.

The first concerns Babylon Ltd., the company located in Israel that is masterminding this product, and where Babylon is immensely successful. Even if Babylon was initially designed with users other than professional translators in mind, the model of the product appears extraordinarily compatible with a translator’s needs: one click access to multiple dictionary and glossary resources for translation. Similarly, none of the shortcomings in terms of more access to a wider, more specialized, and more standardized set of resources appeared in any way outside the realm of possibilities, or incompatible with the company’s plans. In fact, assurances were given that expansion of the PCD offerings was scheduled as early as the summer of 2005 for Spanish. And finally, Babylon Ltd. negotiates PCD prices directly with the publishers (on average about 10% lower than what you would pay via another source of supply).

The second explanation that I would venture for everyone’s enthusiasm, again despite the aforementioned criticism, is that this is a really super friendly little turbo program that fits snugly on your desktop, bringing with it a glimpse of the next generation of

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* Additional Spanish PCD titles available in August 2005.
MP3-style multiple and selective electronic dictionary resources, beyond CDs. (See the June 2005 ATA Chronicle review of WordFinder). Babylon.com is also willing to host the sharing of glossaries created by ATA members (in the tradition of Termium™), to be posted on the website in a special ATA folder. And the Babylon model of a single platform, dictionary look-up tool, is certainly open-ended enough to potentially accommodate every professional translator’s specific dictionary needs.

Try Babylon-Pro 5.0! You will enjoy it! And, as another member of the review team has put it: “You may risk not being able to live without it!”

*Thanks also to Hannah Feneron, Katherine Loh, and Jeannette Ringold.

1 Babylon recently informed us that Babylon-Pro 5.0 had been recently tested by the SOFTPEDIA labs and found to be completely clean of adware/spyware components. More information about certification and the award is available at www.softpedia.com/progClean/Babylon-Pro-Clean-23359.html.

Françoise Herrmann is a freelance translator and interpreter for French and English (sometimes Spanish) based in San Francisco, California. She occasionally teaches scientific translation at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Contact: fherrmann@igc.org or www.fhphd.org.

New Certified Members

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

**Portuguese into English**
Naomi J. Moraes  
_South Weymouth, MA_

**Spanish into English**
Patricia A. Yacovone  
_Austin, TX_

**English into Spanish**
Juan E. Dávila-Santiago  
_San Juan, Puerto Rico_

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<td>Mario Miguel Fernandez</td>
<td>Naomi J. Moraes</td>
<td>Patricia A. Yacovone</td>
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<td>Liane L. Huet de Bacellar</td>
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general-purpose, non-specialized bilingual dictionaries—the ones that often appear in hardback—are great, but the examples they give sometimes leave something to be desired. The compilers of such tomes usually pride themselves on providing examples of how a particular word is used in everyday speech. In the example I am about to quote, an otherwise excellent, authoritative dictionary, which I won’t name, gives a phrase in the source language and then provides this English equivalent: The town was hit by the supporters. Huh? It must have meant something significant to the compilers, but it leaves this native English speaker scratching his head. In this age of terrorism, it has a vaguely unsettling sound. On the other hand, it just might be positive, caused problems for a ProZ member attempting to provide good Swedish. He encountered SOHO Firewall Security with NAT-technology and Bridge Filtering. What is it? Can it be expressed concisely in Swedish, or is a whole paragraph needed? In the world of construction and civil engineering, is a “joint de souffle?” Context, regrettably, is lacking in this ProZ query. In Gothic architecture, “Bündelpfeiler” are seen in such structures as the cathedral in Milan (and perhaps many other places), but a ProZ user was unable to find an English term for what she could easily visualize in her mind. Not even Peter Schmidt’s authoritative Fachwörterbuch der Kfz-Technik gives even a hint of a clue as to what “Bremsenknurpsen” is, to help this ProZ user. Here’s the sentence: “Beispielhaft sei das Bremsenknurpsen gennant, das aufgrund des Schleppmoments insbesondere bei Automatikfahrzeugen und leichter Bremsbetätigung im Quasistand auftritt.” What on earth are the brakes undergoing? Here’s Galician making its debut in this column (on my watch, anyway) with the word “enmenda” in a medical context. It comes from the following: “Que presenta para a sua evaluación o (marcar o que corresponda) - enmenda maior.” Where is the rare soul that can handle this?

In the area of energy and power generation, A ProZ wants some insight into “súvos útemeterv szerint dolgoznak” and “hišos védőelemet.” Anybody willing to try? The real target language for this legal ProZ query (“Ufficio Tavolare”) was French, but we’ll take English. Surely enough context was supplied: “E’ un ufficio pubblico, normalmente con competenze territoriali a livello provinciale, presso il quale giornalmente vengono trascritti, iscritti o annotati nel registro generale atti relativi a beni immobili. La Conservatoria del Registri Immobiliari o Ufficio Tavolare deve custodire nei propri archivi tutti i titoli (trascrizioni, iscrizioni ed annotazioni) ivi consegnati ed inserendo negli appositi registri, con numerazione progressiva annuale, uno degli originali della nota. In alcune province italiane di particolare visitabilità o densità abitativa possono coesistere più Conservatorie.”

In translating an ERP manual (accounting), this
Replies to Old Queries

(E-Sp 6-05/4) ("going off the record, back on the record"): Anne Hartzenbusch says that this is related to journalism, it is “ahora hablamos extraoficialmente, confidenzialmente.” If it is related to any type of judicial proceeding, it is “ser extraoficial” and “constar,” respectively.


(G-E 6-05/7) (“Brötchenhalterung”): For Hans Liepert, this is the device positioned above a toaster that enables rolls to be toasted or warmed up. The picture he enclosed shows three horizontal wires, connected at their ends to roughly triangular (and probably plastic) handles. Each of the handles has a support beneath it, enabling the whole structure to support a roll or other heated item without touching the ground. Anette Gralla calls it a rack for rolls, a device to warm up rolls and other food items that do not fit into the toaster slots. In a store in Wetzlar, Germany, she found bun warmer, toasting attachment, roll attachment, and bread roll warmer. And even a grandly named integrated bun warmer.

(I-E 1-05/8) (“macchina di rappresentanza”): Michele Marcoux takes issue with Berto Berti’s translation of this as a company car, minus the gloss of a status symbol. She feels that a company car is a “macchina aziendale.” Her understanding is that the vehicle in question is meant to impress, even though it is not necessarily a luxury make like Maserati. To bring it into the human sphere, there is an analogous term, “ragazza” or “fidanzata di rappresentanza,” meaning a woman who is officially your companion, but she is there with you more to impress others than because you truly care for her. The same holds true, says Michele, for the car in question.

(Pr-E 5-05/12) (“bula”): Wendy Gallagher, who uses this column sometimes as an aid in teaching her Spanish-to-English translation course at Metropolitan State College in Denver, acknowledges that in Brazilian Portuguese, this means patient information, a small document accompanying the drug. The English equivalent, she says, is not nearly as interesting or elegant in language terms as “bula.”

(Sw-E 6-05/10) (“vid myndigheten”): Gabe Bokor can’t provide a total solution, but did write that the first capital “I” (see page 58, June Chronicle) should be lower case, but that the second capital “I” (“vid anslutningen”) appears not to make sense, or else something is missing.

(T-E 6-05/11) (“Yayma preparatlarım…”): Nur Reinhart calls this a prepared smear, and translates the entire Turkish phrase (found on page 58, June Chronicle) thus: While examining the prepared smears, in the background there were abundant leukocytes with polymorphic nuclei. The Turkish is not the best in the world, because medical publications depend so heavily on the passive voice, but Nur has encountered much worse writing than this.

It pains me to say it, and I hope I am incorrect due to only sampling their wares 11 times a year, but ProZ has grown exponentially as a source of queries (page after page of them!), while Lantra-L has declined until little is left but occasional queries concerning oriental languages, especially Chinese Mandarin, which are precisely the type of queries that I find hard to incorporate into this column. I would like to put Chinese text support onto all my computers, but do not have the expertise. Anyone want to call me and give me instructions on how to do this?

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Sex

Sex is fun, and frequently funny. Charles Lecocq’s French comic operetta La fille de Madame Angot / Madame Angot’s Daughter, first performed in Brussels in 1872, was extremely popular and greatly influenced Gilbert and Sullivan’s subsequent English operettas. However, unlike the G&S operettas, Angot, being French, was free to include real politics and sex. English translations which appeared on the contemporary London stage were censored. The modern translator need not gratify the censor, but still should gratify an audience wanting to laugh.

Near the end of Act I, the title character Clairette sings a scandalous song in order to get herself arrested and thereby avoid an unwanted marriage. The time is 1797 in Paris, during the Directory period after the Reign of Terror. The chief director is Barras. His mistress is the actress Lange, and another of Lange’s lovers is the financier Larivaudière. The first two are historical characters. Currently hanging in the Minneapolis Institute of Arts is a 1799 portrait of Lange as Danaë being seduced by Zeus in the form of a shower of gold. Lange/Danaë wears only a turban, earrings, and sandals.

The third verse of the song is:

Des favorites infidèles
ont sait quelles étaient les moeurs.
Les rois étaient trompés par elles;
aujourd’hui sommes-nous meilleurs?
Non, car l’amour est hypocrite,
et Larivaudière est chéri.
À prix d’or de la favorite
il est, dit-on, le favori!
Il chifonne la souveraine.

[The custom of the [kings’] faithless favorites is known. The kings were betrayed by them; are we any better off today? No, for love is a hypocrize, and Larivaudière is his darling. At the cost of gold for the favorite woman, he is, they say, the favorite man! He tumbles the queen.]

In context, it is obvious that the “queen” being referred to is Lange.

Here, the task of the translator is not to be literal, but to generally follow the meaning while writing lyrics full of clever sexual innuendo. And, of course, to rhyme and fit the music. Here is what Ronnie Apter and I came up with:

How often did the royal mistress betray the king with other men!
And love today, no less a hypocrite,
turns its head and strays again.
Lange’s closet is full of dresses
all paid for by Larivaudière,
yet whenever he comes to visit
she shows him she hasn’t a thing
to wear!

---

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Tel: (515) 865-3873 • Fax: (515) 278-5841
info@iitanet.org • www.iitanet.org

Utah Translators and Interpreters Association (UTIA)
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Salt Lake City, UT 84110
jcallender@aol.com

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www.literarytranslators.org

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webmaster@chicata.org • www.chicata.org

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Tel: (720) 890-7934
kathy@kdtranslations.com
www.cta-web.org

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levinx@cs.com

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mhogan@elp.rr.com

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www.dfw-mita.com

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Keep track of your continuing education points and supporting documentation: this is your responsibility. Use the forms on pages 57 and 58 to request approval, if required, either before or after the event. ATA Headquarters will notify you and provide materials for reporting your continuing education points, when due.

You must earn 1 continuing education point on the ethics of translation and interpreting during your first 3-year reporting period. You may choose between attending an ethics workshop at the ATA Annual Conference or taking a self-directed course available online and in print. The self-directed course is available online at www.atanet.org/acc/ce_online_ethics_component.htm. The Continuing Education Requirements Committee may approve other ethics classes.

A. Translation/interpreting courses, seminars, workshops, and conferences

Points: 1 point per hour for attending translation/interpreting seminars, workshops, and conferences (up to 10 points per event); 1 point per hour for college and university courses (up to 5 points per course); 2 points per hour for teaching/presenting classes, seminars, workshops, and conference sessions.

Maximum: Up to 10 points in any given year.

No approval required: ATA annual/regional conferences, preconference seminars, and professional development seminars. ATA chapter and division seminars, conferences, and workshops. Courses, seminars, and conferences offered by nationally accredited university translation/interpreting programs in the United States.

Approval required (before or after the event): Translation/interpreting courses, seminars, workshops, and conferences offered by other translation/interpreting associations in the United States or abroad, or by university translation/interpreting programs abroad. Privately offered seminars on translation/interpreting.

Approval process: While no approval is required, ATA chapters, divisions, and nationally accredited translation/interpreting programs in the United States are encouraged to submit an approval request to ATA Headquarters for record keeping prior to their classes, seminars, and conferences.

Examples: ATA Spanish Division Mid-Year Conference; NYU Translation Program online courses; Kent State University’s Terminology Summer Academy; conferences organized by the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators.

B. Other courses and seminars

Points: 1 point per hour for attending, 2 points per hour for teaching/presenting (up to 2 points per course or seminar).

Maximum: Up to 5 points in a 3-year period.

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Approval required (before or after the event): Seminars and workshops on running your business.

Approval process: You will be asked to provide a statement at reporting time attesting that each course, seminar, or workshop relates to your specialization. You can claim the ATA ethics workshop only once.

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Examples: Financial Accounting course at the University of Vermont; California Bar Association online legal continuing education; training sessions on TRADOS, Déjà Vu, Star, Transit, and other translation-support tools; Pharmacological Update at the Georgetown School of Nursing and Health Studies.
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Approval required: Membership in a specialization-specific professional association.

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No approval required: National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, Federal Court, and foreign sworn translator credentials.

Approval required: Other credentials.

Approval process: National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, Federal Court, and foreign sworn translator credentials are pre-approved, but proof must be provided. For other credentials, a description of the criteria for conferring the credential must be submitted to the Certification Program Manager at ATA Headquarters for approval. Attach a copy of the certificate awarded to your approval request.

F. Authoring articles or books

Points: 4 points for each new book published; 2 points for each new article published.

Maximum: Up to 4 points during the 3-year period.

Approval required: Published book on translation/interpreting. Published article on translation/interpreting in a professional journal/publication. (Translating a book or article is not counted as authoring a book or article.)

Approval process: Submit a copy of the title page of the book or article with the author’s name.
# Approval Request Form

**ATA Continuing Education Points (Individuals)**

American Translators Association  
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590 • Alexandria VA 22314  
Tel: (703) 683-6100 • Fax (703) 683-6122 • E-mail: Certification@atanet.org • Website: www.atanet.org

Refer to CE Guidelines in print or online at www.atanet.org for further information!

| Please print or type. |  |  |  |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Name of requesting individual: | Daytime Phone: | ATA Membership Number: |
| 2. Event sponsor’s contact information | Name of Sponsor: |  |
| Contact Person: | Email: |  |
| Address: |  |  |
| Phone: | Fax: |  |
| 3. Event/presentation: |  |  |
| 4. Brief description of content: |  |  |
| 5. Speaker’s name & title: |  |  |
| For conference or multi-day events, please list names and titles of speakers on a separate sheet |  |  |
| 6. Date(s) of activity: | 7. Time of activity: (from) (to) |  |
| 8. Number of continuing education points requested: |  |  |
| 1 point per hour credit for seminars, workshops, and conferences, with a max. 10 points/event; 5 points max./university course |  |  |
| 9. Signature of requesting individual: | Date: |  |

For ATA Use Only

| Points approved: | Comments: |
| Reviewed by: |  |
| Date: |  |
**Approval Request Form**  
**ATA Continuing Education Points (Groups)**

*American Translators Association*  
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590 • Alexandria VA 22314  
Tel: (703) 683-6100 • Fax (703) 683-6122 • E-mail: Certification@atanet.org • Website: www.atanet.org

Refer to CE Guidelines in print or online at www.atanet.org for further information!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please print or type.</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Event sponsor’s contact information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Sponsor:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>❑ ATA Chapter/Division: _____________________________________________________________________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>❑ Other*: ________________________________________________________________________________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Approval for non-ATA-sponsored activities must be sought by either the sponsor or the individual attending the activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Person:</td>
<td>Email:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>Fax:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Event/presentation:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Brief description of content:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Speaker’s name &amp; title:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*For conference or multi-day events, please list names and titles of speakers on a separate sheet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Date(s) of activity:</td>
<td>6. Time of activity: (from) (to)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Number of continuing education points requested:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 point per hour credit for seminars, workshops, and conferences, with a max. 10 points/event; 5 points max./university course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Signature of requesting individual: Title: Date:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| For ATA Use Only |  |
| Points approved: | Comments: |
| Reviewed by: |  |
| Date: |  |
Instructions for Completing ATA Continuing Education Approval Request Forms

General Information:
• ATA maintains a database of approved events at which ATA-certified members may earn continuing education points (CEPs).
• For events not listed, an ATA approval request form must be completed and submitted to ATA Headquarters.
• Approval may be requested either prior to an event or after an event, with the understanding that the approval may be denied if documentation is insufficient or if the educational content does not meet ATA criteria.
• Individuals and groups requesting CEPs will be notified by ATA Headquarters that the event has been approved for a particular number of CEPs or that approval is denied.
• Individuals must keep track of their earned CEPs and report them to ATA Headquarters every three years upon request.

Select one of the following forms to complete:
1. If you represent a chapter, regional group, organization, institution, or other sponsor of activities, complete the Approval Request Form for Groups (page 58).
2. If you are an individual, complete the Approval Request Form for Individuals (page 57).

CEP Request Form for Groups
1) Provide the name and contact information for the group sponsoring the event.
   a) Check the appropriate box for your group and provide the group's name.
   b) “Other” can include affiliated groups, international translation organizations, and universities.

   All ATA chapter educational events are automatically eligible for continuing education points. Events not sponsored by ATA or ATA chapters must be approved individually. Approval may be denied if documentation is insufficient or if the educational content does not meet ATA criteria.

2) Provide the name of the event or presentation.
3) Provide a brief description of the content of the event or presentation—two or three sentences should be sufficient.
4) Provide the speaker's name and title.
   a) If this is a single session, one name and descriptive title are sufficient.
   b) If this is a conference or multi-day event, provide all names and titles on a separate page.
5) Provide the date(s) of the event.
6) Provide the starting and ending times.
   a) If this is a conference or multi-day event, provide the number of session hours for each day of the event. Session hours do not include breaks or meals.
7) Provide the number of CEPs you are requesting for your attendees—one hour of creditworthy activity equals one CEP—no partial hours can be counted.
8) The form must be signed and dated by the individual recommending the presentation or event for CEP approval.

CEP Request Form for Individuals
1) The individual requesting the CEPs must provide his/her ATA membership number and sign and date the form.
2) Provide the name and contact information for the group sponsoring the event.

   All ATA chapter educational events are automatically eligible for continuing education points. Events not sponsored by ATA or ATA chapters must be approved individually. Approval may be denied if documentation is insufficient or if the educational content does not meet ATA criteria.

3) Provide the name of the event or presentation.
4) Provide a brief description of the content of the event or presentation—two or three sentences should be sufficient.
5) Provide the speaker's name and title.
   a) If this is a single session, one name and descriptive title are sufficient.
   b) If this is a conference or multi-day event, provide all names and titles on a separate page.
6) Provide the date(s) of the event.
7) Provide the starting and ending times.
   a) If this is a conference or multi-day event, provide the number of session-hours for each day of the event—session hours do not include breaks or meals.
8) Provide the number of CEPs you are requesting—one hour of creditworthy activity equals one CEP.

REMEMBER
• ATA offers 1 CEP per hour for approved seminars, workshops, conferences, and presentations based on full hours (not including meals and breaks), up to a maximum of 10 CEPs per event. No partial hours will be counted.
• ATA offers a maximum of 5 CEPs for an approved college, university, or other course regardless of its length.
• The requesting group or individual will be notified if ATA does not approve the number of points requested.
• When reporting points, an ATA member is allowed a maximum of 10 CEPs for any given year.
American Translators Association
46th Annual Conference

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or (215) 321-9662, ext. 19.

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www.intransbooks.com

John Benjamins Publishing Co.
www.benjamins.com

Kent State University,
Institute for Applied Linguistics
appling.kent.edu

Lexis-Nexis/Martindale-Hubbell
Law Directory
www.martindale.com/resources

Monterey Institute of International Studies,
Graduate School of Translation and Interpretation
www.miis.edu/gsti-about-dean.html

National Center for Interpretation,
University of Arizona
nci.arizona.edu

NetworkOmni Multilingual Communications
www.networkomni.com

New York University
www.scps.nyu.edu

New York University
www.scps.nyu.edu

Northwest Interpreters, Inc.
www.nwservices.com

Schreiber Publishing
www.schreibernet.com

SDL International
www.sdl.com/products

Sinometrics
www.sinometrics.com

Terminotix Inc.
www.terminotix.com

Translation Bureau/Bureau de la traduction
www.termium.com

TransPerfect Translations
www.transperfect.com

TripleInk
www.tripleink.com

U.S. Department of State,
Office of Language Services
www.state.gov

WordFinder Software International
www.wordfinder.com

46th Annual Conference Exhibitors
As of August 1, 2005

1-Stop Translation
www.1stoptr.com

Accent on Languages
www.accentonlanguages.com

Adler’s Foreign Books
www.afb-adlers.com

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org

Association of Language Companies
www.alcus.org

Atril
www.atril.com

Beetext Productivity Solutions
www.beetext.com

CLS Communication, Inc.
www.cls-communication.com

Defense Language Institute,
Foreign Language Center
www.dlicflc.edu

Dynamic Language Center
www.dlc-usa.com

Federal Bureau of Investigation
www.fbijobs.com

InTrans Book Service
www.intransbooks.com

John Benjamins Publishing Co.
www.benjamins.com

Kent State University,
Institute for Applied Linguistics
appling.kent.edu

LanguageWorks, Inc.
www.languageworks.com

Language Line Services
www.language-line.com

Monterey Institute of International Studies,
Graduate School of Translation and Interpretation
www.miis.edu/gsti-about-dean.html

Multicorpora R&D
www.multicorpora.com

MultiLing Corporation
www.multiling.com

National Center for Interpretation,
University of Arizona
nci.arizona.edu

NetworkOmni Multilingual Communications
www.networkomni.com

New York University
www.scps.nyu.edu

New York University
www.scps.nyu.edu

Northwest Interpreters, Inc.
www.nwservices.com

Schreiber Publishing
www.schreibernet.com

SDL International
www.sdl.com/products

Sinometrics
www.sinometrics.com

Telelanguage Inc.
www.telelanguage.com

Terminotix Inc.
www.terminotix.com

Translation Bureau/Bureau de la traduction
www.termium.com

TransPerfect Translations
www.transperfect.com

TripleInk
www.tripleink.com

U.S. Department of State,
Office of Language Services
www.state.gov

WordFinder Software International
www.wordfinder.com
Features

Over ***175 educational sessions*** that cover topics in a variety of languages and specialties, **offering something for everyone**

A **multitude of networking events** that allow you to connect with over 1,200 translators and interpreters from throughout the U.S. and around the world

Opportunities to **promote your services** and interview with language services companies **at the Job Marketplace**

An **exhibit hall** that brings companies together for you to see the latest software, publications, and products available that **fit your unique needs**

Register

Register today to take advantage of special **Early-Bird rates**, available **until October 3**. See the following page for the Conference Registration Form or register online at [www.atanet.org/conf2005](http://www.atanet.org/conf2005).

Join ATA to register at the discounted ATA Member rate. For an application, contact ATA or [join online at www.atanet.org/membapp.htm](http://www.atanet.org/membapp.htm).

Don't miss this **opportunity to network**, meet newcomers and seasoned professionals, **market yourself and your skills**, **reunite with friends** and colleagues, and have fun!

Hotel

**The Westin Seattle** is located in downtown Seattle, 15 miles from the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and within walking distance to Pike Place Market and the Space Needle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Type</th>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Double</th>
<th>Triple</th>
<th>Quad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Price</strong></td>
<td>$179</td>
<td>$194</td>
<td>$204</td>
<td>$214</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Take advantage of this special rate, **available only until October 19**. Call **(800) WESTIN-1** (937-8461) and tell them you’re attending the ATA Conference.

**The Westin Seattle**, 1900 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101
Phone: (206) 728-1000, Fax: (206) 728-2007; [www.westin.com/seattle](http://www.westin.com/seattle)
### Conference Registration Form

46th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association

#### The Westin Seattle
Seattle, Washington  
Nov. 9-12, 2005

#### Join ATA & Save
Receive discounted registration fees as well as 3 months free membership when you register for the conference and join ATA at the same time!
To take advantage of this special offer, register online at www.atanet.org/conf2005.

#### Cancellation Policy
Cancellation requests received in writing by Oct. 21, 2005 are eligible for a refund, subject to a $25 administrative fee. Refunds will not be honored after Oct. 21.

#### 3 Ways to Register
Register online at www.atanet.org/conf2005
Fax registration form to (703) 683-6122
Mail registration form to ATA, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

#### Don’t Forget
Include payment with your form  
Make your hotel reservations  
Tell a friend about this event

---

### Last Name First Name Middle ATA Membership#

### Employer/School (Only list employer or school if you want it to appear on your badge.)

### Street Address

### City State/Province Zip/Postal Code Country

### Telephone Fax Email

### Registration Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATA Member</th>
<th>Nonmember</th>
<th>ATA Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early-bird (available until October 3):</td>
<td>☐ $295</td>
<td>☐ $390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-day (indicate day _____________):</td>
<td>☐ $150</td>
<td>☐ $195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After October 3:</td>
<td>☐ $355</td>
<td>☐ $470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-day (indicate day _____________):</td>
<td>☐ $180</td>
<td>☐ $235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onsite (after October 21):</td>
<td>☐ $430</td>
<td>☐ $565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-day (indicate day _____________):</td>
<td>☐ $215</td>
<td>☐ $285</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: One-day and student registrants do not receive a copy of the Proceedings.

### Preconference Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATA Member</th>
<th>Nonmember</th>
<th>ATA Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar A 9am-12noon</td>
<td>☐ FREE</td>
<td>☐ Seminar H 9am-12noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar B 9am-12noon</td>
<td>☐ $50</td>
<td>☐ Seminar I 9am-12noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar C 9am-12noon</td>
<td>☐ $50</td>
<td>☐ Seminar J 9am-12noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar D 9am-12noon</td>
<td>☐ $50</td>
<td>☐ Seminar K 2-5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar E 9am-12noon</td>
<td>☐ $50</td>
<td>☐ Seminar L 2-5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar F 9am-12noon</td>
<td>☐ $50</td>
<td>☐ Seminar M 2-5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar G 9am-12noon</td>
<td>☐ $50</td>
<td>☐ Seminar N 2-5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar O 2-5pm</td>
<td>☐ $50</td>
<td>✗ Seminar P 2-5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Q 2-5pm</td>
<td>☐ $50</td>
<td>✗ Seminar R 2-5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar S 2-5pm</td>
<td>☐ $50</td>
<td>✗ Seminar T 2-5pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Special Event Tickets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Fee per person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Translation Company Division Dessert Reception, Wednesday 8-10pm</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Language Division Happy Hour, Thursday 7-8pm</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Division Reception, Thursday 8-9pm</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing Banquet, Saturday 7-8pm</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round Robin Tennis Tournament, Thursday 4-6:30pm</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(please indicate: Casual Player ☐ Avid Player ☐)

### Payment

| Check/Money Order: Please make payable, through a U.S. bank in U.S. funds, to the American Translators Association | $ |
| Credit Card: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover | $ |

### Total Payment

(include membership dues from reverse side, if applicable)

### Special Event Tickets = $

### Preconference Fees = $

---

### Conference Registration Form Notes:

- ATA Member
- Nonmember
- ATA Student
- Early-bird (available until October 3):
- One-day (indicate day _____________):  
- After October 3:  
- One-day (indicate day _____________):  
- Onsite (after October 21):  
- One-day (indicate day _____________):

### Registration Fees = $

### Preconference Fees = $

### Special Event Tickets = $

### Payment

- Check/Money Order: Please make payable, through a U.S. bank in U.S. funds, to the American Translators Association
- Credit Card: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover

---

### Name on Card Signature

- Please indicate if you require special accessibility or assistance and attach a sheet with your requirements.

- Yes, I would like to take part in the Job Marketplace.
Understanding the world and its many languages is what helps NSA solve the Nation’s most difficult challenges.

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