In this issue

Client education
Master of Science in Translation

Today’s ever-shrinking “global village” calls for professional translators. As a response to this need, NYU’s School of Continuing and Professional Studies is proud to offer a Master of Science in Translation.

The program focuses on superior linguistic competence, speed, and accuracy in translation and terminology, in two rapidly evolving international fields – finance and law. Designed especially for translation professionals, the program is offered online, except for the last term, which is completed on the NYU campus.

We also offer a Graduate Certificate in Translation, which provides a foundation for professional practice and further study in the field. Please call or visit our website for more information about all our translation programs.

A Master’s degree from NYU – a tradition of innovation and excellence.

INFORMATION SESSIONS:
Tues., 6-8 p.m., Apr. 15 or
Wed., 6-8 p.m., May 21
1601 Broadway, 7th Floor
Please call to RSVP.

For more information | Phone: 1-888-998-7204, ext. 375 | Website: www.scps.nyu.edu/375
Features

17 Regional Network for North America
By Esteban Cadena
The Regional Network for North America is working to establish a common forum for translators in Canada, the U.S., and Mexico to provide information, share resources and expertise, and discuss tri-national projects, including certification and reciprocal recognition, training exchanges, and quality assurance.

18 Creating a Superior Performance Method
By Barton Goldsmith, Ph.D.
Have you ever thought that the most effective methodology for motivation could come from your team members themselves?

19 Managing Translation From the Client’s Side
By Catherine Deschamps-Potter and Scott Bahr
A simple framework for assessing and refining the translation project process.

23 Peering Into a Mirror: Translator Perception of the Public’s Awareness of Translators
By Dena Bugel-Shunra
Speaking with translators in many different countries shows us the extent to which cultural bias (monolingual, multilingual) affects our, as well as the public’s, perception of ourselves as professionals.

24 Is Technical Translation Really a Collaborative Activity?
By Steve Vitek
Not all technical translation is suitable for the collaborative, multi-layered approach to proofreading by “bilingual category experts” that is supposedly practiced by some translation agencies.

Columns and Departments

5 Display Advertising Index
7 From the President
10 From the Executive Director
11 Conferences and Events
12 Letter to the Editor
13 International Certification Study
47 Our Colleagues Write
49 Dictionary Reviews
53 The Translation Inquirer
55 Humor and Translation
56 New Active and Corresponding Members
59 Marketplace

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

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

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

Standard Length
Letters to the editor: 350 words; Opinion/Editorial: 300-600 words; Feature Articles: 750-3,500 words; Column: 400-1,000 words

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.

Business Owners Insurance
National Professional Group
(888) 219-8122
www.ata-ins.com

Collection Services/Receivables Management
Dun & Bradstreet
Mike Horoski
(800) 333-6497 ext. 7226
(484) 242-7226
Horoskim@dnb.com

Credit Card Acceptance
Program/Professional Services Account
NOVA Information Systems
Reference Code: HCDA
(888) 545-2207 • (770) 649-5700

MasterCard
MBNA America
Reference Code: IFKV
(800) 847-7378 • (302) 457-2165

Life and Disability Insurance
Mutual of Omaha
(800) 223-6927 • (402) 342-7600
www.atanet.org/mutual.htm

Overnight Delivery/Express Package Service
UPS
Reference Code: C0000700415
(800) 325-7000
www.ups.com

Professional Liability Insurance
National Professional Group
(888) 219-8122
www.ata-ins.com

Retirement Programs
Washington Pension Center
(888) 817-7877 • (301) 941-9179

Website Development
Two Rad Technologies
radtown@atanet.org
www.atanet.org/radtown

...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.
28 Behind the Mirror: Now We See Her, Now We Don’t
By Anne Milano Appel
Reflections on the ironies and ambivalences of being a female translator in today’s world, and some of the paradoxes inherent in translation.

34 Intimate Portrait of a Language
By Paulo Rónai, translated by Tom Moore
I have never met a foreigner who has managed to learn Hungarian well.

37 An Interview with Dava Sobel
By Lily Liu
A talk with the award-winning author of Longitude and Galileo’s Daughter: A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love.

Proposed
ATA Middle Eastern Languages Division

During ATA’s 43rd Annual Conference in Atlanta, a group of attendees met to discuss the establishment of a new ATA division, the Middle Eastern Languages Division (MELD). As its acronym suggests, MELD will be designed to serve as a nonpolitical forum that welcomes participation from all translators and interpreters working in the languages of this region. For more information or to volunteer with this effort, please contact Haleh Vakhshori, MELD coordinator, at eztranslations2@yahoo.com.

Display Advertising Index

| 15  | Clear Sonic Manufacturing | www.clearsonic.com |
| 35  | Cybertec                   | www.cybertecusa.com |
| 48  | GMT                        | www.gmt-ils.it     |
| 43  | Lomac                      | www.lomac.net      |
| 2   | New York University        | www.nyu.edu        |
| 64  | TRADOS Corporation         | www.trados.com     |

It pays …

to keep your listings updated in ATA’s online
Directory of Translation and Interpreting Services and
Directory of Language Services Companies

www.atanet.org

The ATA Chronicle | April 2003
About Our Authors...

Anne Milano Appel specializes in commercial and literary translations from Italian to English. Formerly a director of public libraries, she has also taught English, Italian, and English as a Second Language, and holds a Ph.D. in Romance languages and literature. Several of her book-length translations of contemporary Italian fiction and nonfiction have been published, and shorter works have appeared in a number of issues of Beacon: A Journal of Literary Translation. She has been a contributor to the journal Tradurre, as well as to the ATA Chronicle, and has been a presenter at ATA and American Literary Translators Association conference readings several years in a row. Contact: aappel@aol.com.

Scott Bahr is a freelance multilingual web designer. Contact: weblocal@mindspring.com.

Dena Bugel-Shunra is the business development manager of Shunra LLC. She’s been translating in and out of Hebrew since 1989, and has done extensive work in the localization of PC, mini-terminals, and mainframe computers. Contact: dena@shunra.net or www.shunra.net.

Esteban Cadena is the president of the Organización Mexicana de Traductores, and is the coordinator of the International Federation of Translators’ Regional Network for North America project. Contact: estebancc@infosel.net.mx.

Catherine Deschamps-Potter is vice-president of sales and marketing for International Communication by Design, Inc. Contact: info@icdtranslation.com.

Dr. Barton Goldsmith is an international speaker, author, and consultant who is considered an expert on leadership. He is a contributing author to numerous books and publications, including The Los Angeles Business Journal. Contact: www.bartongoldsmith.com.

Lily Liu has translated the essays of contemporary Chinese writers of the Republic of China. She works as a writer/editor in Washington, DC. Contact: lilyliu99aol.com.

Tom Moore has been fascinated by the language and culture of Brazil since 1994. In addition to Portuguese, he translates from Spanish, French, Italian, and German. He is the music/media librarian at The College of New Jersey. Contact: querflote@yahoo.com.

Steve Vlasta Vitek received his master’s degree in Japanese and English studies from Charles University in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1980. He worked as an in-house translator for the Czech News Agency in Prague (1980-81) and for Japan Import Center in Tokyo, Japan (1985-86). He has been a freelance translator specializing mostly in the translation of Japanese and German patents and articles from technical journals for patent law firms in the U.S. since 1987. Before moving to Chesapeake, Virginia, he spent almost two decades in Northern California. Contact: stevevitek@patenttranslators.com.

Legal Translation Conference

Hyatt Regency
Jersey City, New Jersey
May 2-4, 2003

Friday, May 2:
Legal translation sessions will be presented in English.

Saturday & Sunday, May 3 & 4:
Specialists will present language-specific sessions.

Participants are asked to sign up for a specific language pair, but are free to attend sessions in other languages.

Registration:
ATA Members $305
Nonmembers $420

For more information: Contact ATA Headquarters at (703) 683-6100 or visit the ATA website at www.atanet.org and click on the Legal Translation Conference link on the home page. (Direct link is www.atanet.org/legal.)
From the President  Thomas L. West III
president@atanet.org

Accreditation: It’s Not Just an Exam Anymore

Special thanks to ATA Accreditation Committee Chair Lili Van Vranken, Accreditation Committee Deputy Chair Celia Bohannon, Accreditation Program Manager and Deputy Executive Director Terry Hanlen, and the rest of the Accreditation Committee and ATA Board for all their work on implementing these important changes.

In the spring 2000, then ATA President Ann Macfarlane commissioned a comprehensive review of the accreditation program by Michael Hamm & Associates, a firm that assists certification organizations, accrediting bodies, and national associations interested in developing or improving these services. The following spring, ATA’s Board of Directors approved a roadmap for the implementation of several of Hamm’s recommendations, among them to establish “pre-qualifying requirements for the examination portion of the credential” and “continuing education and/or professional development requirements to retain the credential.”

At its March 2003 meeting, in close collaboration with the Accreditation Committee, the Board implemented these two recommendations. An ad hoc committee chaired by ATA Treasurer Jiri Stejskal proposed the eligibility requirements; another, chaired by Board Director Marian Greenfield, proposed the continuing education requirements.

The eligibility requirements serve two purposes. First, they require applicants who lack the educational background expected of a competent translator to demonstrate a comparable level of practical experience. Second, such requirements strengthen the credential’s credibility outside the profession.

Hamm noted that while continuing education requirements do require additional work and expense for applicants, “everyone benefits from this requirement in the long run because the…program creates a philosophy of lifelong learning and individual responsibility for professional development.”

Hamm described the examination itself as a “realistic and valid assessment mechanism” that many other certification programs would envy. The ATA Accreditation Committee has worked hard over the last several years to standardize grading criteria and passage selection, train graders, and refine examination policies and procedures. But until now, the examination has stood alone as the criterion for ATA accreditation. When the new requirements take effect, this assessment will be flanked by eligibility standards and continuing education requirements, yielding a “tripod” that provides a much stronger base for a credential attesting to professional competence.

The Board resolutions outline the framework of an ambitious undertaking. In the coming weeks, the Board, the Accreditation Committee, the two ad hoc committees, and ATA Headquarters staff will work out the details. One important consideration not spelled out in the Board resolutions is that all ATA members who are currently accredited will retain the credential. Continuing education requirements will apply uniformly to those currently accredited and those who earn accreditation in the future.

To facilitate the administrative tasks associated with implementing these new requirements, as well as to eliminate a source of perpetual confusion, the Accreditation Committee has decided to change the “examination year,” which formerly began with one ATA conference and ended a month before the next conference. In the future, the “exam year” will coincide with the calendar year. This means that candidates taking the exam during the 2002–03 year will not be eligible to retake it in that language combination and direction until January 2004.

The applicants will sign a statement that they have read and that they understand ATA’s Code of Professional Conduct and Business Practices, and that they pledge to abide by it. The statement will include rules of using the credential, if granted, and will describe the consequences for false claims and...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category A</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATA Annual / Regional Conference sessions</td>
<td>Hour for hour credit for seminars, workshops, conferences</td>
<td>ATA Professional Development / Accreditation seminars / workshops</td>
<td>ATA Chapter seminars / conferences / workshops</td>
<td>Approved U.S. non-ATA, non-Chapter seminars / conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATA pre-conference seminars (cap separate from the conference itself)</td>
<td>Target language grammar / writing courses</td>
<td>Specialization-related seminars, with statement signed by course relates to translator's / interpreter's specialization</td>
<td>Tools of the trade courses / seminars</td>
<td>Approved foreign translation / interpreting association seminars / conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics workshop</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Approved classes / seminars / conferences offered by U.S. university translation / interpreting programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Approved classes / seminars / conferences offered by non-U.S. university translation / interpreting programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Approved privately offered seminars</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category B</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 hour of credit for each type of current membership</td>
<td>1 hour for hour credit for seminars, workshops, conferences</td>
<td>1 hour of credit for each line of membership per year</td>
<td>1 hour of credit for each accreditation / certification acquired during the period</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam grading</td>
<td>Translation / interpreting / professional association membership</td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ATA pre-conference seminars</td>
<td>ATA Chapter seminars / conferences / workshops</td>
<td>Serving as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ethics workshop</td>
<td>ATA Professional Development / Accreditation seminars / workshops</td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category C</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 hour of credit for each type of current membership</td>
<td>1 hour for hour credit for seminars, workshops, conferences</td>
<td>1 hour of credit for each line of membership per year</td>
<td>1 hour of credit for each accreditation / certification acquired during the period</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam grading</td>
<td>Translation / interpreting / professional association membership</td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ATA pre-conference seminars</td>
<td>ATA Chapter seminars / conferences / workshops</td>
<td>Serving as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ethics workshop</td>
<td>ATA Professional Development / Accreditation seminars / workshops</td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category D</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 hour of credit for each type of current membership</td>
<td>1 hour for hour credit for seminars, workshops, conferences</td>
<td>1 hour of credit for each line of membership per year</td>
<td>1 hour of credit for each accreditation / certification acquired during the period</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam grading</td>
<td>Translation / interpreting / professional association membership</td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ATA pre-conference seminars</td>
<td>ATA Chapter seminars / conferences / workshops</td>
<td>Serving as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ethics workshop</td>
<td>ATA Professional Development / Accreditation seminars / workshops</td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category E</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 hour of credit for each type of current membership</td>
<td>1 hour for hour credit for seminars, workshops, conferences</td>
<td>1 hour of credit for each line of membership per year</td>
<td>1 hour of credit for each accreditation / certification acquired during the period</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam grading</td>
<td>Translation / interpreting / professional association membership</td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ATA pre-conference seminars</td>
<td>ATA Chapter seminars / conferences / workshops</td>
<td>Serving as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ethics workshop</td>
<td>ATA Professional Development / Accreditation seminars / workshops</td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category F</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 hours of credit for each article, book / publication</td>
<td>2 hours of credit for each article, book / publication</td>
<td>2 hours of credit for each article, book / publication</td>
<td>2 hours of credit for each article, book / publication</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article regarding translation / interpreting / published in a peer-reviewed journal / publication</td>
<td>Article regarding translation / interpreting / published in a peer-reviewed journal / publication</td>
<td>Article regarding translation / interpreting / published in a peer-reviewed journal / publication</td>
<td>Article regarding translation / interpreting / published in a peer-reviewed journal / publication</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column 1</th>
<th>Column 2</th>
<th>Column 3</th>
<th>Column 4</th>
<th>Column 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATA Annual / Regional Conference sessions</td>
<td>ATA Professional Development / Accreditation seminars / workshops</td>
<td>ATA Chapter seminars / conferences / workshops</td>
<td>Approved U.S. non-ATA, non-Chapter seminars / conferences</td>
<td>Approved foreign translation / interpreting association seminars / conferences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATA pre-conference seminars (cap separate from the conference itself)</td>
<td>Target language grammar / writing courses</td>
<td>Specialization-related seminars, with statement signed by course relates to translator's / interpreter's specialization</td>
<td>Tools of the trade courses / seminars</td>
<td>Approved classes / seminars / conferences offered by U.S. university translation / interpreting programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics workshop</td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column 6</th>
<th>Column 7</th>
<th>Column 8</th>
<th>Column 9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 hour of credit for each type of current membership</td>
<td>1 hour for hour credit for seminars, workshops, conferences</td>
<td>1 hour of credit for each line of membership per year</td>
<td>1 hour of credit for each accreditation / certification acquired during the period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam grading</td>
<td>Translation / interpreting / professional association membership</td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ATA pre-conference seminars</td>
<td>ATA Chapter seminars / conferences / workshops</td>
<td>Serving as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ethics workshop</td>
<td>ATA Professional Development / Accreditation seminars / workshops</td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column 10</th>
<th>Column 11</th>
<th>Column 12</th>
<th>Column 13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 hours of credit for each article, book / publication</td>
<td>2 hours of credit for each article, book / publication</td>
<td>2 hours of credit for each article, book / publication</td>
<td>2 hours of credit for each article, book / publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article regarding translation / interpreting / published in a peer-reviewed journal / publication</td>
<td>Article regarding translation / interpreting / published in a peer-reviewed journal / publication</td>
<td>Article regarding translation / interpreting / published in a peer-reviewed journal / publication</td>
<td>Article regarding translation / interpreting / published in a peer-reviewed journal / publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ATA as Mentor within ATA Mentoring Program / Participant within ATA Mentoring Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ATA Accreditation exam passage selection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Column 1: Category A activities | Column 2: Category B activities | Column 3: Category C activities | Column 4: Category D activities | Column 5: Category E activities | Column 6: Category F activities | Column 7: Category G activities | Column 8: Category H activities | Column 9: Category I activities | Column 10: Category J activities | Column 11: Category K activities | Column 12: Category L activities | Column 13: Category M activities
From the President Continued

failure to abide by the Code. The Ethics Committee will draft the statement in cooperation with ATA counsel.

**Resolved, that the Board adopt the attached criteria for Accreditation Continuing Education Requirements:**

**Criteria for Accreditation Continuing Education Credits Requirements:**

1. 20 hours over a 3-year period, with a maximum of 10 hours in any given year.
2. Certificate of attendance for verification of credits, submitted with a form (designed by ATA Headquarters) to be filled out by the applicant every three years and submitted to designated HQ staff.
3. Classes/seminars/conferences offered by ATA and ATA chapters, accredited colleges and universities, and ATA “partners” (e.g., Dun & Bradstreet) are pre-approved. For other courses, instructor bio and session abstract/course description/syllabus, conference proceedings, etc., and any other supporting documentation would have to be submitted to HQ for approval. HQ will consult with the Professional Development Committee chair when necessary.
4. NAJIT, Federal Court, and foreign sworn translator credentials are pre-approved. For other credentials, a description of the criteria for conferring the credential would have to be submitted to HQ for approval. HQ will consult with the Professional Development Committee Chair when necessary.
5. Below is a “menu” plan for the awarding of credit hours. One hour of ethics to be required in the first period after accreditation (The Professional Development Committee will then have to offer ethics workshops—we envision a choice between attending a workshop at the Annual Conference and completing an ethics workbook that the Professional Development Committee will commission).

The same credits will be awarded for teaching/presenting as for taking/attending classes/seminars/conference sessions.

Category A—maximum of 10 hours/event; 5 hours maximum/university course.
Category B—maximum 2 hours for each of the lines in this category and 5 hours overall for the category.
Category C—maximum 2 hours.
Category D—maximum 6 hours.
Category E—maximum 3 hours.
Category F—maximum 4 hours.

---

**Attention Exhibitors**

**American Translators Association 44th Annual Conference**

Phoenix, Arizona • Pointe South Mountain Resort • November 5-8, 2003

Plan now to exhibit at the American Translators Association’s 44th Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, November 5-8, 2003. Exhibiting at the ATA Annual Conference offers the best opportunity to market your products and services face-to-face to more than 1,300 translators in one location. Translators are consumers of computer hardware and software, technical publications and reference books, office products, and much more. Face-to-face selling, as you know, is the most effective and successful method of marketing. The ATA Annual Conference is the perfect venue, and you are assured of excellent visibility. Exhibit space is limited, so please reserve your space today. For additional information, please contact Drew MacFadyen, McNeill Group Inc.; dmacfadyen@mcneill-group.com; (215) 321-9662, ext. 37; Fax: (215) 321-9636.
From the Executive Director

Walter Bacak, CAE
Walter@atanet.org

Board Meeting Highlights: Accreditation Changes, Public Relations, and More

The accreditation program, public relations, the budget, and a new chapter highlighted activities at the recent ATA Board of Directors meeting. The Board, which met in Alexandria, Virginia, March 7-9, made some truly historic moves. Here’s a summary of them.

Accreditation Program. The Board approved instituting eligibility requirements for candidates to sit for an exam as well as continuing education credits for those who pass the exam. These motions, which were the culmination of years of work by the ATA Board and the Accreditation Committee, should dramatically strengthen the program and the credential. The core changes are included in this issue in “From the President” (page 7). Of course, more details will be publicized as they are finalized.

Public Relations. The Board approved a motion by ATA President-elect Scott Brennan and the Public Relations Committee to work with a PR firm. The Solution, based in Potomac, Maryland, will support ATA’s efforts to aggressively get the message out on the translation and interpreting professions and ATA. The Solution assisted ATA PR Committee Co-Chairs Kevin Hendzel and Chris Durban on the international media coverage garnered by the Translation and Terrorism Town Hall meeting at last year’s ATA Annual Conference in Atlanta.


New Chapter. Welcome to the Midwest Association of Translators & Interpreters, ATA’s newest chapter. Based in Chicago, MATI represents members in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Moira Pujols is the acting president. For more information, visit MATI’s website: www.geocities.com/futureata.

Nominating Committee. The Board approved the 2003 Nominating Committee, which will be chaired by ATA Director Robert Sette. He was a member of last year’s committee. This year’s elections will be for president-elect, secretary, treasurer, and three directors’ positions.

The minutes of the meeting will be posted in the Members Only section of ATA’s website (www.atanet.org/membersonly). Past meeting minutes are also posted on the site. The next Board meeting is tentatively set for June 28-29, with the location to be determined. As always, the meeting is open to the membership.

Nominating Committee Approved

The Board approved the 2003 Nominating Committee. The Committee members are:

Robert Sette, chair
Rudolf Heller
Odile Legeay
Courtney Searls-Ridge
Benjamin Tompkins

For more information, please contact ATA Headquarters at (703) 683-6100 or ata@atanet.org.

ATA Welcomes Its Newest Chapter!

Midwest Association of Translators and Interpreters (MATI)
Moira Pujols, president
542 S Dearborn Street, Suite 1060
Chicago, IL 60605
Tel: (312) 427-5450
Fax: (312) 427-1505
moirapujols@aol.com
www.geocities.com/futureata
Conferences and Events

Washington, DC
Translators Discussion Group
Borders Books and Music
18th & L Streets, NW
Meets the second Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8:00 pm at Borders. For more information, please contact Borders at (202) 466-2152.

Montreal, Quebec, Canada
4th Annual ATA Translation Company Division Conference
Delta Centre-Ville
May 15-18, 2003

Dublin, Ireland
14th International Japanese/English Translation Conference: IJET-14
May 17-18, 2003
The 14th annual IJET conference in Dublin will mark the first time that IJET has met in Ireland, and promises to provide an exciting and charming experience for all attendees. The venue was proposed in the hopes of not only providing a thoroughly enjoyable conference, but also to expand the horizons of IJET attendees. Just as translations serve to bring Japanese- and English-speaking cultures closer together, IJET conferences provide an opportunity for firsthand exposure to the languages and cultures. It is hoped that IJET-14 will be a learning experience, as well as a good time, for all participants. Information: http://ijet.org/ijet-14/.

Dallas, Texas
Society for Technical Communication
50th Annual Conference
May 18-21, 2003
For technical writers, usability specialists, web designers, and others involved in technical communication. Seminar topics include manual production, online help design, and the internationalization of communication products. Visit www.stc.org.

Halifax, Nova Scotia
Canadian Association for Translation Studies
16th Annual Conference
Theme: “Translation and Globalization”
May 29-31, 2003
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Information: Dr. Louise Brunette (organizer): louiseb@alcor.concordia.ca; Marc Charron: marc.charron@uqo.ca; Anne Malena: amalena@ualberta.ca; Marco Fiola: marco.fiola@uqo.ca; Dr. Anne Malena (Program Committee Chair)
Modern Languages & Cultural Studies
200 Arts Building • University of Alberta
E-mail: amalena@ualberta.ca; Tel: (780) 492-1187; Fax: (780) 492-2106.
www.uottawa.ca/associations/act-cats/.

Chicago, Illinois
Global Websites and eCommerce Conference
June 9-11, 2003
This conference will bring together global website managers from a broad spectrum of industries, including IT, travel, financial services, publishing, and others for an opportunity to discuss recent developments, strategies and tools, and to exchange information about how to efficiently manage global websites and eCommerce. Cost is $995 (preconference seminars not included). Information: www.localizationinstitute.com.

Athens, Greece
Choices and Difference in Translation Conference
University of Athens
December 3-7, 2003
An awareness of what features might constitute linguistic/cultural identity is significant in modern culturally interactive societies, in that it contributes to intercultural understanding. Papers that raise questions on linguistic and interdisciplinary issues in the context of translation are particularly welcome in the following areas: news and media translation; translation at the upcoming Olympic Games; scientific and/or environmental studies translation; translation and the EU; advertisement translation; literary translation; and theater and film translation. Information: www.cc.uoa.gr/english/C&D/C&D1.htm.

Lisbon, Portugal
European Society for Translation Studies
4th Congress
“Translation Studies: Doubts and Directions”
Faculty of Letters, University of Lisbon
September 26-29, 2004

Plan Now!
ATA’s Annual Conference
Phoenix, Arizona
November 5-8, 2003

16th Annual Conference
Carolina Association of Translators and Interpreters
University of North Carolina
Charlotte, North Carolina
Saturday, June 7, 2003
This will be your opportunity to:
• Listen to interesting speakers
• Network with colleagues
• Purchase new dictionaries & books
• View new software
• Have some fun
Don’t miss out on this wonderful event! Mark your calendars today!
Information: www.catiweb.org

The ATA Chronicle | April 2003
The Net Bible

Mr. Peter Silzer missed one Bible translation of particular interest to translators in his article, “Current Issues in English Bible Translation” (February issue). The translation I refer to is The Net Bible, containing no less than 57,875 notes from the translators! Biblical Studies Press first copyrighted it in 1996, and the edition I received as a gift last Christmas is the sixth copyright, calling itself the first Beta edition, dating from 2001.

The same translation is available at www.netbible.com. Constant updates occur at this site. This is not shareware, but can be downloaded as long as the user either makes personal use of the download, or gives it away and does not charge for it. What makes The Net Bible of particular interest to translators is the way in which the translators use footnotes to explain the rationales for choosing the English wording, along with the phrase in the original Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek; literal renderings and alternatives considered. In addition to the translators’ notes, there are also study notes, explanatory notes for the nonspecialist regarding historic or cultural background, explanations of obscure phrases, and brief theological points.

For me, reading the translators’ notes has markedly changed the way in which I handle seemingly garbled or obscure material in what I translate. The notes constitute a kind of working textbook on how to deal with difficult passages.

John Decker
jdecker@uplink.net

ATA’s Customized Website Program

ATA and Two Radical Technologies (2RAD) have teamed up to provide ATA members an opportunity to build their own customized websites. Through 2RAD’s online creation tools—RADTown—ATA members will be able to set up their own online presence. The offer includes obtaining a domain name and creating links to ATA’s online directories. For more information, please contact 2RAD at radtown@atanet.org or log on to www.atanet.org/radtown.

Call for Papers

44th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association

Phoenix, Arizona • Pointe South Mountain Resort • November 5-8, 2003

Proposals are invited on topics in all areas of translation and interpreting, including the following:

Agencies, Bureaus, and Companies; Financial Translation and Interpreting; Independent Contractors; Interpreting; Language-Specific Sessions; Legal Translation and Interpreting; Literary; Medical Translation and Interpreting; Scientific and Technology; Social Sciences; Terminology; Training and Pedagogy; Translators and Computers.

Suggestions for additional topics are welcome. Proposals for sessions must be submitted on the Conference Presentation Proposal Form to: Conference Organizer, ATA Headquarters, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314; Fax: (703) 683-6122. All proposals for sessions must be in English.

There’s no time like the present! Download a Conference Presentation Proposal Form at www.atanet.org/abstract.htm.
International Certification Study: Belgium and the Netherlands

By Jiri Stejskal

After reviewing the credentialing procedures for translators and interpreters in several Latin American countries, we will now return to the member countries of the European Union and review the credentialing procedures (or lack thereof) in the Low Countries. I would like to extend special thanks to the following colleagues who helped me compile the information for this article:

- Professor Erik Hertog, Department of Translation and Interpreting at the Lessius Hogeschool, erik.hertog@lessius-ho.be
- Rita Gircour, treasurer of Stichting Vrouwennetwork Vertalers en Tolken, rgr@cbs.nl
- Robert Croese, ATA director, rcroese@charter.net

Belgium

Belgium has three official languages and four language regions, Brussels being bilingual; however, there is currently no certification of translators and interpreters in the sense described in this series. At the same time, the Belgian Constitution states that in Belgium the use of language is free, and that any citizen appearing before a court is free to address the court in the language of his or her choice. A free interpreter must be made available for criminal proceedings; in civil cases, the plaintiff or defendant must bear the costs for an interpreter or translator. This provision applies to all members of the European Union, as per the European Convention on Human Rights of 1950.

A list of “sworn interpreters” is usually maintained by the courts of first instance. It is drawn up by the president of the court in consultation with the public prosecutor’s office. Professor Hertog reports that until recently, the qualifications of interpreters have been tested and verified only in a few cases. Each court has its own system for the recruitment and certification of translators and interpreters. Unlike in the Netherlands, described below, there is no national register of interpreters or translators. The title of “translator” or “interpreter” is not legally protected, and there is no law or official statute for the profession of interpreter or translator.

“As...Unlike the Netherlands, Belgium has no national register of interpreters or translators, and the title of “translator” or “interpreter” is not legally protected...”

As far as eligibility requirements are concerned for candidates who wish to appear on the lists maintained by the courts, a clean criminal record and evidence of language proficiency usually suffices. Most courts do not examine or test language proficiency themselves; reportedly, a few courts offer a written test for translators. Interpreters are required to take the oath before the court at the beginning of the proceedings of each new case. Before the Court d’Assises, an interpreter must be at least 21 years old.

The situation in Belgium is changing, however, at least for legal translators and interpreters. Since 2001, in a pilot project conducted by the Lessius Hogeschool, together with the Antwerp Bar, the courts, and the police, every candidate’s language proficiency is first screened in both Dutch and the foreign language(s) before the Antwerp Court.

Only after this screening is the candidate admitted to a course of study, which consists of judicial procedures and structures, police structures and interrogation techniques, Dutch and foreign language proficiency, legal translation and/or interpretation, code of conduct and professional good practice—all this leading up to a final exam before the candidates can become “certified” or “sworn” legal interpreters or translators.

Professor Hertog adds that in Belgium it essentially comes down to the fact that there is currently no “official” or institutional training whatsoever for legal interpreters and translators, who then act as “sworn” interpreters and/or translators before Belgian courts. The EU Grotius project, which examined access to justice across language and culture in the European Union, together with the King Baudouin project, resulted in two pilot projects aimed at the credentialing of legal interpreters and translators. Both pilot projects have been organized with the support of the Belgian Ministry of Justice.

A pilot project to train legal interpreters and translators has been started in Antwerp (with the courts of Dendermonde, Antwerp, Turnhout, and Mechelen). The program is funded by the Belgian Ministry of Justice and the Lessius Hogeschool.

There is another project in the French-speaking part of Belgium which is coordinated by the Chambre belge des traducteurs, interprètes et philologues / Belgische Kamer van Vertalers, Tolken en Filologen, a Belgian professional T&I association and a member of FIT (www.ctip-bkvtf.org). The project is called Intr’Act and is aimed at languages of limited diffusion. Attempts are currently being made to get a statute for the profession of a legal interpreter and/or translator.
passed by the Belgian Parliament, which would facilitate proper training and better remuneration.

The discussion of the situation in Belgium would be incomplete without a brief overview of T&I academic programs. There are nine academic institutions for translators and interpreters in Belgium, six of them members of CIUTI (Conférence Internationale d’Instituts Universitaires de Traducteurs et Interprètes or International Permanent Conference of University Institutes of Translators and Interpreters). The CIUTI institutions are listed below:

- Lessius Hogeschool (www.lessius-ho.be), Antwerp;
- Hogeschool Antwerpen, Hoger Instituut voor Vertalers en Tolken (www.hivt.be), Antwerp;
- Hogeschool Gent, Department Vertalen en Tolken (www.hogent.be), Gent;
- Institut Libre Marie Haps (www.ilmh.be), Brussels;
- Université de Mons-Hainaut, Ecole d’Interprètes Internationaux (www.umh.ac.be), Mons (host of the XV FIT Congress in 1999); and
- Institut supérieur de traducteurs et interprètes (www.heb.be/isti/), Brussels.

**The Netherlands**

The Law of May 6, 1878, also known as the Sworn Translators Act, contains general provisions concerning sworn translators in Articles 1 and 2. Article 1 concerns persons authorized to teach one or more foreign languages at the secondary school level. They must provide the court with ample evidence that they possess the necessary knowledge of the Dutch language and submit a declaration of good conduct. Article 2 concerns the swearing in of translators who are not authorized to teach. They must provide ample evidence to the court that they have a good command of Dutch and the pertinent foreign language, as well as provide a declaration of good conduct. The criterion of “ample evidence” differs from court to court. Diplomas of language, translation or interpreting training, and professional recommendations are usually sufficient, but courts may also apply other criteria. A person who wishes to be a sworn translator can go to the pertinent court and ask for the specific requirements of that court. The sworn status is valid throughout the entire country of the Netherlands and does not have a time limit. It can be recalled, however, if the translator gives evidence of incompetence or inappropriate behavior.

Dutch law and regulations have no general provision or specific requirements for the swearing in of interpreters. Certain specific laws do contain a basis for swearing in interpreters in the courts. A judge can have interpreters swear that they will perform their task to the best of their ability. In general, the criterion of “a competent person” applies.

Translators and interpreters in the Netherlands now have the option to be registered in the new central registry of certified interpreters and translators. The registry, however, appears to be a highly controversial issue. The Dutch Ministry of Justice has not yet signed the proposal concerning an agreement between the Ministry and a representation of translators and interpreters on the working conditions, qualifications, and wages for interpreters and translators working for the courts and the police. The proposal has been in the making for nine years now, and the reasons for its failure seem to be of a financial nature. Rita Gircour reports that the Ministry wants very experienced, highly qualified people working for the courts and the police, but does not want to offer wages commensurate with their qualification. This has been very discouraging for the translators and interpreters involved in the negotiations concerning the registry, so now it is difficult to find volunteers who are willing to spend time negotiating any further. It is also quite unclear who would have the necessary qualification to maintain the registry. Currently, this is a hotly debated issue, and it appears that a new body will have to be formed.

The information below is a translation from Dutch of the information provided on the KTV website, where KTV stands for Kwaliteitsregister Tolken & Vertalers (www.ktv.rvr.org). My esteemed friend and colleague, Robert Croese, reviewed the Dutch website and generously provided the translation of relevant sections. However, as was mentioned above, the negotiations involving this registry are far from concluded, and the information below provides a theoretical framework for its potential function rather than a description of the actual situation. My attempts to reach a representative of the KTV for comment proved unsuccessful.

As of January 2002, all interpreters and translators who work for offices of the Department of Justice may register in the Interpreter and Translator Quality Registry. To be registered, an application must be completed and signed. Based on the application and the accompanying documentation, a decision will be made as to whether the interpreter or translator has complied with the criteria for registration.

Until January 1, 2005, interpreters and translators can be registered
either temporarily or permanently in the registry. Registered interpreters and translators often receive priority over other colleagues who are not included in the registry. At present, no special advantages or disadvantages are entailed in the temporary or permanent registrations. Interpreters and translators who cannot be registered permanently because they have not taken a recognized course of study, may sit for a qualifying examination. Successful completion of this examination is automatically followed by permanent registration.

As of January 1, 2005, the Department of Justice will only work with interpreters who are registered permanently. In addition to the current criteria, interpreters and translators may be registered permanently after January 1, 2005, if they have a minimum of five years of demonstrable experience. Furthermore, as of January 1, 2005, permanent registration will include participation in a quality control system as an additional requirement. This system will be developed and implemented in the coming years, together with interpreters, translators, and translation users. This additional requirement shall also apply to interpreters permanently registered before January 1, 2005.

Eligibility requirements include the presentation of complete personal data information and a signature (passport or ID). At the end of 2001, the former Secretary of State decided to make experience a criterion for temporary registration in the Quality Registry. After 2005, interpreters and translators with five or more years of experience will automatically be registered permanently. Other requirements vary according to whether the registration will be temporary or permanent, and whether the candidate is applying as an interpreter or as a translator.

Temporary registration as an interpreter requires the candidate to have demonstrable experience as an interpreter or to have completed a recognized course of study in interpretation. If the candidate speaks a so-called incidental language (language of limited diffusion), temporary registration can take place after discussion with the end users.

Permanent registration of interpreters requires the candidate to have completed interpreting training at an institution that is part of a list of recognized interpreter schools (foreign schools can be recognized through NUFFIC, the Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education). In addition, the candidate should have demonstrable interpreting experience. Alternately, the candidate can take a qualifying examination that includes both a theoretical and a practical test.

Temporary registration as a translator requires the candidate to have demonstrable translation experience or to have completed a recognized course of study in translation. If the candidate speaks a language of limited diffusion, temporary registration can take place after discussion with the end users.

Permanent registration of translators requires the candidate to have completed a course of study in translation at an institution that is part of a list of recognized translator schools (foreign schools can be recognized through NUFFIC), and to have demonstrable translation experience. Alternately, the candidate can take a qualifying examination that includes both a theoretical and a practical test.

Interpreters and translators who applied to the Quality Office before January 1, 2002, and who made a partner agreement with the Department of Justice and received exemption from the qualifying examination for one or more languages, will be registered automatically in the registry. Partners with exemption will, in principle, be registered temporarily, but the registry will give these interpreters and translators a chance to provide additional information, on the basis of which permanent registration may follow.

Besides the basic information needed for registration, the application form also contains some additional questions. These have to do with the possible sworn classification of translators and the ability to translate into Dutch from a foreign language and vice versa. This additional information is published in summaries and sent monthly to the quality isolation.
International Certification Study: Belgium and the Netherlands Continued

following: TVCN (Tolk- en Vertaalcentrum Nederland or Interpreters and Translators Center of the Netherlands); IND (Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst or Immigration and Naturalization Service); and the Dutch courts. The summaries contain the following information:

• Personal and domicile data;
• Language;
• Temporary or permanent registration;
• Registration as interpreter, translator, or both;
• Experience;
• Possible sworn classification of translators;
• Ability to translate into/out of Dutch; and
• Other matters, such as special dialects, nonrecognized training, and work experience outside the Department of Justice.

In order to be permanently registered, interpreters and translators without a recognized course of study have to obtain a recognized diploma or take the qualifying examination. This examination is developed and offered by the Core Team for interpreters and translators, and consists of a theoretical test and a practical test. The theoretical test is identical for interpreters and translators and consists of four parts:

1. Knowledge of Dutch society and culture;
2. Experience;
3. Knowledge of society and culture with respect to foreign language.
4. Knowledge of the Dutch legal system and juridical concepts; and
5. Knowledge of Dutch healthcare.

The practical test is separate for interpreters and translators. Currently, practical tests are not available for all languages. New languages can be instituted according to the demand for interpreters and translators.

Starting in 2005, registered interpreters and translators will have to participate in a quality control system, whereby they must periodically demonstrate (e.g., by means of interviews and continuing education) that they comply with the quality requirements. In the Netherlands, the work of interpreters and translators is different from that of providers of professional services such as lawyers and notaries public, for whom continuing education is required to ensure professional quality.

When it comes to academic programs and professional associations, the situation in the Netherlands appears to be exactly the opposite of the one in Belgium. Holland boasts some dozen professional associations, but the academic training is not readily available as it is in Belgium. Some of the Dutch T&I associations are organized in a federation called MetaCom, or the Nederlandse federatie voor meertalige communicatie (www.metacom.org). These include:

• Congreestolken-Conference Interpreters (www.conferenceinterpreters.com)
• Association of Translation Agencies (www.metacom.org/ata)
• Nederlands Genootschap van Tolken en Vertalers (www.ngtv.nl)
• Organisatie van Vertaalbureaus in Nederland (www.ovin.nl)
• Stichting Vrouwennetwerk Vertalers en Tolken (www.metacom.org/svvt)
• Vertalersforum (www.metacom.org/vertalersforum)
• Vereniging Zelfstandige Vertalers (www.vzv.info)

Other organizations include the above-mentioned TVCN—Tolk- en Vertaalcentrum Nederland (www.tvcn.nl); SIGV—Gerechtstolken en Juridisch Vertalers (www.sigv-vereniging.nl); and SNEVT – Stichting Nationale Examens Vertaler en Tolk (www.snevtnl.nl).

Formal education in the area of translation is available at the college level at the universities of Maastricht and Utrecht. Court interpreters can receive specialized training at the above-mentioned SIGV, which also offers certification in major European languages (French, English, German, Spanish, Italian, and Dutch), as well as Russian and Turkish. Reportedly, the SIGV certification program is on the rise, but currently it is limited to legal translation and interpretation only.

Next time, we will take a look at the situation in the Arab countries. As the editor of this series, I encourage readers to submit any relevant information concerning non-U.S. certification or similar programs, as well as comments on the information published in this series, to my e-mail address at jiri@cetra.com.

Note
1. Information on the situation in Belgium relies largely on the Aequitas report, edited by Erik Hertog (www.legalinttrans.info/Aequitas.pdf, or available in print from erik.hertog@lessius-ho.be).
The discovery of the “New World” in 1492 made North America a focus of attention for the European powers. The establishment of New Spain, the 13 British colonies, and New France were independent historical events that gave rise to a series of commercial, political, and social relationships between the fledgling colonies. These relationships were further strengthened in the last decade of the 20th century with the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). NAFTA continues to play a vital role to ensure effective cooperation on issues of mutual interest between Mexico, the U.S., and Canada.

Stressing the need for more cooperation is the fact that the demand for translated material between these three countries has increased considerably in recent years. However, one of the challenges is that there are no uniform quality standards for translators to follow. Although the text of the NAFTA treaty mentions Spanish, English, and French as official languages, it does not specify exactly what is meant by the term “official.” As it turns out, the languages are only “official” in their respective countries. At the present time, there is no NAFTA language policy. The lack of a uniform language policy is another challenge for translators working in these countries.

Isolation is common to most translators, and colleagues living in North America are no exception. Working as a team when your counterpart is thousands of kilometres away requires a feasible organization. To assist in this effort, the International Federation of Translators (FIT) established the Regional Center for North America (RCNA), which held several conferences involving Mexican, American, and Canadian colleagues during the 1990s. In recent years, the RCNA has not been active. At the FIT Congress in Vancouver last August, members of Mexican, American, and Canadian translator and interpreter associations got together and decided to try to create a network where translators/interpreters could share resources and information to facilitate better communication. Taking these steps will put them in a better position to serve the agenda set by the NAFTA treaty.

“…RNNA has the potential to play a very important role in the commercial, political, and social relationship between Mexico, the U.S., and Canada…”

During the final week of the Congress, after an informal preliminary introduction session, ATA hosted the first exploratory meeting of the new Regional Network for North America (RNNA). In addition to ATA, this meeting was attended by members of the following organizations: American Literary Translators Association; Colegio Mexicano de Intérpretes de Conferencias; Canadian Translators and Interpreters Council; Literary Translators Association of Canada; Organización Mexicana de Traductores; Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec; National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators; and the Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia. The RNNA, whose business has been primarily conducted through e-mail exchanges, is designed to establish a common forum for providing information, sharing resources and expertise, and discussing tri-national projects, including language issues related to NAFTA. After the first enthusiastic meeting in Vancouver, the RNNA held a second session during ATA’s Annual Conference in Atlanta last November. The main points brought up were certification and reciprocal recognition, training exchanges, and quality assurance. Committees were also established to work on these issues.

In addition to the lack of quality standards, another project for the RNNA is to address the lack of consistency regarding the certification of translators. Certification is a complex issue involving requirements, methodology, and standards, and attaining mutual recognition of this credential is a real challenge. ATA members are already familiar with the process in the United States. In Canada, a translator who has a degree and work-related experience that includes meeting government standards and regulations can qualify for certification. On the other hand, certification in Mexico is administered for the most part by state and local governments.

Although some Mexican federal departments do certify their own translators, there is no consolidated certification system. The Judiciary Branch in Mexico City and some of the country’s 32 states, such as Jalisco, Michoacán and Baja California Sur, authorize “perito traductores” (expert translators) who meet certain standards; however, these standards are different in each case. In other states, such as Colima and Nayarit, the concept of an expert translator is not recognized under the legal system. Any person who does a translation must appear and swear to
Have you ever thought that the most effective methodology for motivation could come from your team members themselves? Of course it can. Would you like a unique, sure-fire method for team members to become self-motivated and to give superior levels of performance? Of course you would.

Management benefits from self-motivated team members because people who have chosen to do superior work on their own usually get the job done. Self-instilled goals are more powerful because the individuals who created them have the psychological need to succeed and the personal desire to achieve a higher level of performance.

Self-directed goals work best because there is a much higher level of ownership on the part of the team member. If your company can utilize this psychic advantage, everyone will benefit from this relationship—it’s a win-win for all concerned.

What happens when your company goals and individual team member goals are aligned is that a synergy takes place and a bond is created. Everyone who wants to succeed also wants to be part of something greater than they are. In other words, they want to have a positive effect on the world. So inspiring your team members to create their own goals instills a drive in them that cannot be duplicated.

This is perhaps the most intense form of motivation available, and it can’t be produced artificially.

Allowing team members to create their own job descriptions and then encouraging them to define exactly what it takes to do a superior job gives them the ultimate authority in creating their own destiny. A note of care here. If the team leader and the team members are not in alignment, psychically, they will work against each other rather than for each other. So make sure that everyone involved is on the same page.

There are three questions that need to be asked of a team member for them to “buy in” to doing a superior job. I think it’s best to do this exercise in writing for two reasons. First, writing requires you to slow down your thinking process and refine your thoughts. Second, you then have a document that you can refer back to if necessary, which holds the author accountable.

Each question needs to be on a separate piece of paper and answered in order, one at a time. The person answering the questions will see the progression. This process will open their eyes regarding what is expected of them because they create their own “superior standards.”

The three questions, which need to be asked in this order to create the necessary psychological effect, are:

1. What is (your view of) your job description?
2. What are the basic requirements of doing your job?
3. What is required to do a superior job?

Knowing that the team members you have brought on board want to succeed beyond your (and their) expectations needs to be an important part of your hiring process. One of the questions I always ask prospective team members is how they want to be evaluated, either as an individual or as part of the team. If they choose an individual evaluation, it makes me aware of two possibilities: either they do not have confidence in the other team members (or perhaps management), or they are not team players. If you would like additional information on bringing in new talent, including some of the unique questions that I use in the hiring process, send an e-mail with the word “hiring” in the subject line to barton@bartongoldsmith.com.

In order to have what it takes to empower your team to create superior standards of performance, you have to know what you are going to do with this level of commitment and how you are going to recognize and reward it. Talk with your board of advisors, others in management, and your executive coaches to create appropriate recognition techniques. This also may be a good time to revise your five-year plan because with this technique in place, your team may hit that mark long before you thought they would.
Managing Translation From the Client’s Side

By Catherine Deschamps-Potter and Scott Bahr


In a typical documentation project cycle, attention and resources committed to translation often arrive a day late and a dollar short. Unless your company is large enough to require the presence of a full-time translation coordinator, it is likely that an already busy technical writer or marketing manager squeezes in the additional responsibilities of translation management. As a result, the process may be little more than gathering whatever information seems relevant and sending it to one or more agencies for quotation and subsequent production. There is no real strategy in place for evaluating costs, quality, or the process itself.

In this article, we offer a simple framework for assessing and refining your translation project process. We hope our suggestions will assist new client-side translation managers while also offering experienced project managers an opportunity to review their own practices.

Gathering Feedback and Assembling a Strategy

Who determines your company’s translation priorities? In an ideal situation, marketing personnel and technical writers work together to formulate an international multilingual strategy. As the designated translation manager, it is your job to gather necessary information, solicit quotes within budgetary constraints, and assist the chosen translation agency during the production process by providing files and answering questions about your product or service.

More typical is a piecemeal approach, wherein various department heads and technical writers send you material on an “as needed” basis. If you work for a large corporation, you may not even be aware of what has been translated for other departments or regional offices. If this is the case, it may be hard to determine what your company is spending overall on translation and localization services, and you are not taking advantage of the inherent efficiencies and cost savings a unified approach can offer.

The beginning of a new fiscal year is a good time to ask relevant associates to provide you with an overview of anticipated translation needs. Assemble a project priority list that includes a detailed description of each project, including estimated word count, delivery date, and, if possible, your anticipated translation budget. Doing so not only helps you assess current priorities; it also provides you with political cover later in the year when various departments are battling each other for limited resources and priorities have unexpectedly shifted.

Encourage input from your international sales and technical support personnel. They are the people who work every day with your translations.

Next, share your gathered data with your translation agency’s account representative. Review anticipated translation volume and pricing terms. Ask your agency’s project manager to offer suggestions that might improve quality or lower costs. In a typical year, he or she may manage dozens of large, complex projects using a variety of platforms and applications. Agency project managers have seen it all, the good and the bad, and they have a wealth of experience to share.

The Quotation Process

A translation agency’s quotations are only as accurate as the information you provide in advance. Unfortunately, you may not always have access to the information needed to ensure a smooth quotation and production project cycle. We cannot lengthen unrealistic deadlines or add to your financial resources, but we can offer some suggestions to help you manage the process.

How detailed are the quotations you receive from your translation agency? Do you have a clear understanding of how the agency prices translation database matches and repetitions? For complex projects involving desktop publishing, help authoring, or software compilation, does the quotation itemize each language and project phase, or does your agency lump everything together with an additional project management fee? If you are comfortable working with your current agency, this may seem unnecessary, but if you are accepting competitive quotes, make sure you aren’t comparing...
apples to oranges. Ultimately, it is wise to establish sound working relationships with one or two agencies. Doing so should provide you with consistent translations and smoother project cycles.

The use of translation memory (TM) software may greatly affect, in a positive way, the quality and price of your translations. Virtually every agency now uses TRADOS, SDLX, or Déjà Vu, along with a whole range of complementary localization plug-ins. If terms such as fuzzy match, text alignment, and field code make your eyes glaze over, you may want to investigate one of the online translation software demos. Take a few minutes to become more knowledgeable about the process so you can better understand what is involved.

**Quality vs. Price**

Customers who want to spend a bare minimum on translation often get what they pay for. There will always be clients who simply want to satisfy minimum regulatory requirements, and they are motivated by nothing more than the lowest price.

Most clients, however, realize that translation quality directly affects a company’s image and, at times, the safety of its clients. What steps can you take to ensure a balance between quality and price?

**Sample Translations**

If you are contemplating a change of agencies or accepting competitive bids, sample translations can be an effective tool to help you determine if the agency’s product is of an acceptable quality. This can be accomplished by having the test translation reviewed internally, ideally by a native-speaking employee or distributor located in the target country. Try to submit sample files that are short yet representative of your project as a whole. After the samples have been approved and you have selected a new agency, ask your reviewer to quickly review the first few translations you have received. Unscrupulous agencies may use a talented translator to land the account and then switch to a lower-priced (but less talented) translator once production starts.

**Targeting Your Translation Strategies**

Translation does not have to be an all-or-nothing proposition. If your budget is smaller than your list of projects to be translated, consider how you might effectively stretch your available dollars. For example, if you wish to make your corporate website available to international viewers, but you don’t have the resources available to have the entire site translated, you might instead consider an incremental approach that selectively targets certain customer service and product specification pages.

Quite often, English documents containing U.S.-specific information are translated verbatim, since no one bothered to notice that a user in Brazil doesn’t care about the page devoted to California clean air regulations. Try to look at your English documentation from the perspective of an international reader and delete or shorten sections that simply aren’t relevant. In doing so, you are saving money while concurrently making the translation more readable for your intended audience.

**Striking a Balance With Translation Software**

Some of our clients are under the impression that translation software means translate once and never proofread again. If a phrase is already a 100% match, the reasoning goes, why should I have to pay a proofreading fee?

A TM is not a static database of perfect linguistic pairs, but rather a dynamic work in progress that must be maintained, refined, and occasionally corrected. This is particularly true if you have shared your files with a number of agencies. Various translators have added their own linguistic styles and interpretations. Even a well-maintained database is likely to contain a small number of errors and...
linguistic conflicts, and proofreading is the only way they can be corrected (unless one of your end users points out what will inevitably be an embarrassing error). Translation software can reduce your project costs, but equally important are the quality and consistency enhancements that the tools offer.

Some Ways to Avoid Production Pitfalls

The importance of creating translation-ready English documents cannot be overstated. Multilingual templates can lead to lower desktop publishing costs and a more readable document for your target audience. Here are several suggestions to consider when you design new documents.

Leave enough white space on your pages to compensate for foreign language swell. Allow only minimal hyphenation when setting your document preferences, and eliminate narrow columns that might force awkward line breaks when translated into other languages. If your graphics contain callouts, consider placing them in a table format underneath the artwork, as shown in Graphic 1, instead of cramming them into separate text boxes. The document will be easier to read, and the agency’s desktop publisher will not have to modify your existing artwork.

If you are planning to implement a change in your desktop publishing software, ask your agency project manager how this may affect future translations. Exported desktop publishing tags may be imbedded in your TM databases, and these tags will not be compatible with the tags generated by your new application. This could lead to fewer matches during the file analysis process, and problems can occur when converting files back to their native format. Your agency project manager will need to modify your TM. Just give him or her advance notice before you start working with the new application.

Internal Language Reviews

Internal language reviews, if handled correctly, can provide an additional degree of quality control. Soliciting the feedback of international employees and distributors can help ensure that obscure industry-specific terminology is properly translated. There are, however, a few factors to consider before implementing an internal review process.

In order to efficiently integrate reviewer changes into your TMs, it is necessary to follow a specific series of steps. Since we often use the TRADOS suite of TM tools, we ask our clients to send “unclean” post-translation files to their reviewers. These are bilingual Word files sent directly to us by the translator, like the one shown in Graphic 2. If our client’s reviewer is the only person implementing changes to these files, we eliminate the possibility of missing or misinterpreting hard copy edits. The modified files are then uploaded to the TM database, and the new terminology is available for future projects.

GRAPHIC 2
Part of a bilingual Word file created by TRADOS Workbench. If you send this type of file for editing to your internal reviewer, your translation agency can use the file later to update your translation memory.
The second issue to consider is language review turnaround time. If your reviewers are extremely busy, they may not return the files in a timely fashion. Make it clear to them that you will proceed with the translation “as is” if they do not return the files by a specific date.

Third, discourage your reviewers from making a large number of stylistic changes. Do you allow your domestic sales associates or technicians to completely rewrite your English documentation if they don’t care for your writer’s style? It can be helpful for everyone to have access to an approved bilingual glossary for each language, particularly if you work with more than one translation agency. Glossaries can be created in an incremental fashion by translators and reviewers, or they can be assembled by extracting phrases from your TM databases.

Project Archival

We cannot stress enough the importance of properly archiving project files, e-mails, and notes. Three months from now, it will not be easy to determine which English version of a document was sent to you by your sales department and why your sales associate is now insisting that the wrong version of a document was translated. There are simply too many players involved during the project process, and you want to be in a position to quickly and correctly address questions or problems as they occur. It is also wise to request backup copies of your TM databases. Most agencies will be happy to send them to you on a periodic basis.

In Conclusion

Client-side translation management involves numerous players, both internal and external, and anticipating challenges before they occur is part of the job description. Costly production problems occur most often when the minor details are not anticipated or effectively communicated. Our process refinements may require some preliminary effort on your part, but an active translation strategy should pay big dividends on future projects.

Managing Translation From the Client’s Side Continued

Project Archival

We cannot stress enough the importance of properly archiving project files, e-mails, and notes. Three months from now, it will not be easy to determine which English version of a document was sent to you by your sales department and why your sales associate is now insisting that the wrong version of a document was translated. There are simply too many players involved during the project process, and you want to be in a position to quickly and correctly address questions or problems as they occur. It is also wise to request backup copies of your TM databases. Most agencies will be happy to send them to you on a periodic basis.

In Conclusion

Client-side translation management involves numerous players, both internal and external, and anticipating challenges before they occur is part of the job description. Costly production problems occur most often when the minor details are not anticipated or effectively communicated. Our process refinements may require some preliminary effort on your part, but an active translation strategy should pay big dividends on future projects.

Managing Translation From the Client’s Side Continued

Project Archival

We cannot stress enough the importance of properly archiving project files, e-mails, and notes. Three months from now, it will not be easy to determine which English version of a document was sent to you by your sales department and why your sales associate is now insisting that the wrong version of a document was translated. There are simply too many players involved during the project process, and you want to be in a position to quickly and correctly address questions or problems as they occur. It is also wise to request backup copies of your TM databases. Most agencies will be happy to send them to you on a periodic basis.

In Conclusion

Client-side translation management involves numerous players, both internal and external, and anticipating challenges before they occur is part of the job description. Costly production problems occur most often when the minor details are not anticipated or effectively communicated. Our process refinements may require some preliminary effort on your part, but an active translation strategy should pay big dividends on future projects.

Managing Translation From the Client’s Side Continued

Project Archival

We cannot stress enough the importance of properly archiving project files, e-mails, and notes. Three months from now, it will not be easy to determine which English version of a document was sent to you by your sales department and why your sales associate is now insisting that the wrong version of a document was translated. There are simply too many players involved during the project process, and you want to be in a position to quickly and correctly address questions or problems as they occur. It is also wise to request backup copies of your TM databases. Most agencies will be happy to send them to you on a periodic basis.

In Conclusion

Client-side translation management involves numerous players, both internal and external, and anticipating challenges before they occur is part of the job description. Costly production problems occur most often when the minor details are not anticipated or effectively communicated. Our process refinements may require some preliminary effort on your part, but an active translation strategy should pay big dividends on future projects.
In monolingual countries, as well as in multilingual ones, the role of the translator is often regarded as a lowly one. In some places we are seen as clerical staff, rather than experts in the language and culture of another society. In others, our work is admired as a subspecies of “high-tech,” since we spend our days in front of computers.

I asked a few freelance translators about how they saw themselves as being perceived by their clients and by society at large. My biggest concern was the question of “comparative professionalism.” Are translators seen as professional knowledge workers, on a par with doctors, lawyers, and accountants, or as merely secretarial or administrative staff?

Pytsje van der Sluis is a Frisian and Dutch translator and interpreter working in the Netherlands into these two languages from English. She finds that in her market, the attitude towards translators lacks social grace: “It just does not come to their [the clients] minds that it would be sensible to express their gratitude. Just a thank-you note or whatever would be a lot. Mostly, you only hear from clients when they have something to complain about.” In her capacity as a police interpreter, this attitude is also reflected in lower pay. “We have been fighting for higher pay for years now, but I think the [translators] organizations should take the same position in this and unite.”

The situation is better in other parts of Northern Europe. Alexander, a translator and interpreter working in Hebrew, German, and English from Cologne, Germany, reports that in his country, translation is regarded as a profession like any other. “It can be studied at a graduate school of administration,” he explained. “ Judicial recognition and state licensing is available for translation.” This environment is conducive to the respectful treatment of translators. “Clients treat me as an expert in the matter of translation,” he told me. “They ask for my advice about the kind of translation, its price, and the format in which I submit it to them.”

A very different picture transpires in Sweden, despite a state licensing process being in place. Susan Larsson, a Swedish-to-English translator, is internationally renowned as a presenter of Internet searching seminars for translators. Unsurprisingly, Susan is perceived by her friends in the U.S. as a high-tech worker. “I get tremendous respect here in the U.S., even admiration, for being able to take advantage of ‘new technology,’ and this respect comes from the professionals in my community and circle of friends and acquaintances.” However, in Sweden, where most of her work originates, she has encountered a problem common to many translators working into English. “I have some clients who decide they can ‘do it themselves,’ and either come back for me to edit their work or come later when their work flops.” This is more of an issue with one-time clients than with long-term ones. “In Europe, where my clients are, the idea is that anyone who knows two languages can translate,” whereas in the U.S., the concept of actually being a translator mystifies people. “The idea of knowing two languages boggles most minds, let alone mastering the ways of the Internet, or living in different time zones simultaneously.” Somehow, this attitude is apparent only with some languages. Not all French or Spanish translators have the same experience as herself when they work with clients in Sweden, she notes.

The attitude mentioned by Susan Larsson was recently discussed on the Lantra Internet discussion list she moderates. The discussion involved the outrage over comments made in a recent *Vanity Fair* column entitled “Ask Dame Edna,” in which the comedian advised prospective students of Spanish to avoid learning the language, since, according to her, there would be no one to talk to and nothing to read, with the exception of *Don Quixote*. If this type of, supposedly, humorous writing reflects the undercurrent of cultural thought, than this particular spoof would seem to indicate a certain American disdain for the impracticality of studying another language. Such an attitude would also seem to include translators, who make their living by such arcane study.

Carol Shaw, who translates and interprets from and into Spanish in Texas, is doing her part to change this popular position. “Once people have a taste of transparent communication across language and culture barriers, they don’t want to go back. By [doing] pro bono work, we not only help a worthy cause, but we also help raise awareness of what transparent communication can provide.” She practices what she preaches, with effects visible in her community.
Is Technical Translation Really a Collaborative Activity?

By Steve Vitek

“Whereas other translation services send their materials to professional translators who work in many fields, XYZ sends its translation projects to bilingual category experts—people who trained and worked in the field. Translations are reviewed by a second bilingual category expert for technical accuracy, and finally the translations are brought in-house where an editor reviews the document for readability. If graphics or formatting are required, that is also accomplished by a bilingual professional. All our translators and editors have advanced degrees (such as, MDs, Ph.Ds, MHAs, RNs) in their fields, and virtually all are natives of the target language country...."

“...A bilingual expert is not necessarily a good translator, and a good translator is much more than a bilingual expert...”

The statements above were on the website of a translation agency under the heading: How We’re Different (including the “so we always certain part”).

There are several schools of thought on the topic of this article. Some translators enjoy having their masterpieces dissected, criticized, and/or praised by editors and/or colleagues. Beginners especially fall into this category, and for a very good reason. But most translators, including this one, dislike few things more than when other people try to change anything in their translation, other than fixing a typo or an omission. This article will attempt to explain the reasons why technical translation, and in particular the translation of patents from foreign languages such as Japanese, German, or French for litigation and filing purposes, is probably not a suitable candidate for the collaborative approach described by the agency just quoted. Such an approach is perhaps more appropriate when translating software or operating manuals.

It always makes me laugh when I read statements like the ones at the beginning of this article, which often appear on the websites of translation agencies. If you run a search, you can easily find dozens of agency websites that are all “different” in the same way—they don’t trust a hapless translator to translate anything accurately until his or her translation has been checked by another translator, then rechecked by yet another translator, then proofread by a proofreader who has at least a Ph.D., and then checked one more time “for readability” by yet another editor who is possibly God Herself. The assumption here seems to be that since more heads know more, the company will use as many heads as it takes, all of them incredibly wise heads, to attain The Perfect Translation. Why, even the graphics are input by a bilingual expert (this is optimal for superior scanning resolution). The XYZ agency (having been brought up in the humanist tradition in the old country, I am not using their real name) seems to display a healthy amount of contempt for translators, especially given the fact that they are in the translation business. They don’t use “translators who work in many fields” at all. They prefer “bilingual category experts,” whatever that means, who work in the field, presumably a field that these “bilingual category experts” know thoroughly. One can probably assume that since these experts are not translators, they did not study their language for many years at a university, but simply “picked up the language” somehow instead of majoring in it. It is not really important how they “picked up the language”—a beautiful expression common in this country. In most other countries, people do in fact study languages rather than simply picking them up like a piece of unwanted garbage lying on the street. As long as they are not really translators, agency XYZ will trust these “bilingual experts” to know their languages. (When a doctor asks you next time, “How did you pick up your German, Ms. Interpreter” [misinterpreter], answer by saying: “How did you pick up your medicine, Doc?” Will he get it?)

So now we know that as far as the general public and some translation agencies are concerned, you don’t really have to be a translator who has been studying languages all your life, a translator with a degree in translation who has been putting his or her brain through mind-bending exercises in more languages and more highly technical subjects than just one for the last few decades. As long as you are a “bilingual category expert,” you’ll do.

Where Have Those Bilingual Category Experts Been Hiding All This Time?

The thing is, most of the time, there are no bilingual category experts around when you need them. That is, when you happen to be a hapless monolingual category expert, such as a patent lawyer or doctor, who has to figure out what the heck is
in that Japanese document that was just delivered by FedEx. Had we had a few more of these experts where they should have been in September 2001, two very tall buildings would still be standing in Manhattan and a lot of innocent people would still be alive today.

A bilingual category expert in my field would be a patent lawyer fluent in at least Japanese, German, and English, with a degree in chemistry and physics, etc. If he really knows his stuff and at the same time knows Japanese or German, he can be hired on the spot by any number of major patent law firms who deal with hundreds of patents and other documents in foreign languages, especially Japanese and German. The problem is, a good patent lawyer or MD, monolingual or trilingual, will make at least twice what a good technical translator can make, which is probably a good explanation why not too many patent lawyers or doctors are clamoring to become translators. There may be some exceptions, but they are extremely rare. Thus, the only expert who really knows his stuff in several languages will usually be an experienced patent translator who has translated thousands of patents from a complicated language such as Japanese or German in a number of fields. If you find a good one, there is no need for five layers of additional checking and proofreading, because the highly technical material will be translated accurately the first time around. On the other hand, 5 layers of checking and proofreading, or 25 layers, are unlikely to result in an improved translation if the original translation was not accurate, even if a company could afford such a wasteful use of the most important and expensive asset that any business has—human intellect.

**Too Many Cooks Will Spoil The Broth**

To try to change terms in a highly technical translation is about as wise as to pull out bricks from the construction of a house in order to replace them with bricks that look better to you. The problem is, the original construction will collapse even if you pull out just a couple of bricks. Every translator makes hundreds of split-second decisions during his or her work. After the translation is finished, the translator must make dozens of additional instantaneous decision during proofreading. Whether these decisions are right or wrong will depend in part on how well the translator knows and understands the subject area and the terms, but that is only one segment of the total package. The most important factor, in my opinion, is whether the person making these decisions is a good translator—a person who has the required education, skills, and experience, and who is also a very good writer. Most bilingual experts are not translator material if they lack education emphasizing linguistic skills and translating experience. I once had to retranslate a biomedical patent that was “already translated” by a Japanese doctor who knew all the terms perfectly well and whose command of English was incredibly good for a Japanese person. This doctor would have made a superb translator, provided that money was not important to him. But for some reason, his translation was really a summary rather than a translation. Some parts were left out and other parts of the patent were rewritten to some extent, so that the resulting text was not really a translation but an edited version that was not accurate enough to be used for filing a patent in English in this country. I am not sure why he translated the patent the way he did, but I had to retranslate the whole thing to provide a real translation so that the patent could be modified and filed as a U.S. patent.

On another occasion, I once received a short medical patent in a language I don’t really know well enough to translate from. This was only the second time I received a medical patent in this language, and the translator I had worked with previously was not available. A translation agency recommended a bilingual doctor to me, so I sent her the patent, even though she charged more than what most freelance translators are charging. She did a terrible job. It took me several hours to correct the mistakes and omissions in the translation, and I was only able to do that because I understood the original well enough based on the doctor’s poor English translation and because of my somewhat limited ability to follow the text in the original language. A bilingual expert is not necessarily a good translator, and a good translator is much more than a bilingual expert. From now on, if I have a choice between a doctor and a professional translator, I will always choose the latter.

**When I See Other People’s Translations, My First Reaction Is Usually Negative**

Although I try to translate as much of the patents that I receive from law firms myself, sometimes I send work to other people if I don’t have enough time to finish everything myself. When I see other people’s translations, my first reaction is usually negative. I realize that the main reason why I don’t like translations done by other translators is mostly that their style may be different from mine, but this doesn’t mean they are incorrect.
Fortunately, I almost always work with people who are experienced translators that I have known for many years, and once I get used to their style, I hardly ever change anything in their work. Sometimes I fix an occasional typo or an omission, but I am consciously not trying to change much more beyond that because I respect the interpretation of the original of this particular translator. Who am I to say which nuances in the interpretation of the text are better and make more sense? Five layers of additional proofreading and editing would most likely destroy a good translation, and would definitely not save a bad one, because nothing can. We know good translation when we see it. Why should we try to change a good thing? Except, perhaps, if we get paid for doing so by a dumb boss who thinks that you can keep changing a good thing several times until you get an even better thing.

**Those Who Can Translate Usually Translate, And Those Who Can’t…Edit**

Which is not to say that proofreading is not useful and in fact indispensable, even proofreading a translation that is excellent. Everybody makes mistakes. But a concept that translation should be approached like a public meeting at City Hall, where we all put our heads together and arrive at the perfect solution in our collective wisdom, is fatally flawed.

This concept is, in my humble opinion, nonsense, even if it were economically feasible to have five qualified expert translators check a translation several times. Based on my experience over the last two decades here and in Japan, the reality is that coordinators and proofreaders who work for translation agencies are rarely expert translators. The reason is similar to the reason why good patent lawyers and doctors usually don’t become translators. While technical translators usually make less than lawyers and doctors, a good translator of Japanese or German patents can easily make more than $100 an hour when translating. Why would such a person want to make a fraction of that amount by checking other people’s work, which is not nearly as interesting as translating? So what really happens is that those who can translate, translate, and those who cannot, edit. It is not unlike the dichotomy that has been observed to exist in the writing profession. People who are good writers write books, people who like writing but maybe are not that good at it, teach creative writing at college. Even if the editor is bilingual, which does not happen very often in my language combinations, he or she will usually not be as good a translator as the one who actually translated the thing from the scratch. On the other hand, even a monolingual editor who knows a technical subject very well can catch potential mistakes in a translation, and when you deal with “exotic” languages such as Japanese or Czech, your editor is likely to be monolingual.

I am not against proofreading and proofreaders. (Some of my best friends are proofreaders…. Well, not really, but close enough). But seriously, several layers of collaborative proofreading make sense in some cases. But there is a right way to do it, and then there is the way that is proudly featured in the website propaganda of a great number of agencies, which involves checking by layer upon layer of supposed experts who are not really translators. I sometimes get work from a small agency that organizes proofreading in an intelligent way. Because they always proofread my translations very carefully and nobody there knows Japanese or Czech, they sometimes call me with editing questions. One of the persons working there has a degree in biology and has actually worked in the field, so she is usually the one who proofreads my translation of biomedical patents. But if I ask them who is proofreading a huge biomedical monster patent, 150 pages of DNA slicing and dicing, the answer is usually: “Oh, well, we all read it. We catch more mistakes that way.” This is absolutely true, provided that the proofreaders realize that their job is to look for typos, inconsistencies, and omissions, and not to try to “improve” my translation. And these people do realize this, which is why I still work for them.

According to the European Patent Office, about one million patents are issued every year on this planet, and about one-third of them are patents in Japanese. Japanese scientists, inventors, and patent lawyers have one great advantage over their counterparts in this country: they can usually read patents in English, while their counterparts almost never read Japanese. Although every Japanese patent application is provided with an English summary, these summaries are sometimes very short, usually about 50 words or so, even if the patent is more than 10,000 words long. U.S. patent lawyers, or in fact their clients, thus have to pay a lot of money for translations, but first they have to be able to identify which patents need to be translated. This is no easy task when you deal with a language as complicated as Japanese.

**Once We Accept Your Translation, We Are “Stuck” With It**

It is thus quite important for a patent law firm to have access to a reliable translator who can be trusted.
to provide competent expert testimony in court about his translation or other translations done by other translators. The first question to a translator testifying in court about his translation would be: “Is this your translation?” When you are under oath, you better tell the truth. Let us assume that you have been hired by XYZ agency to translate a patent that happens to be crucial to a lawsuit, and the agency had your translation proofread by several proofreaders who have made significant changes instead of just correcting typos or omissions as a sane person would do. Since you are under oath, you would have to say: “Yes, I translated it, but I did not use these exact words. Somebody changed this word and that word at the agency. They check and edit all translation in five stages for readability. It is a company policy.” In other words, your translation has just been rendered worthless as a crucial piece of evidence in a very expensive lawsuit.

On the other hand, a professional translator who translates in several fields, and preferably from several languages, and avoids agencies of the XYZ type like a plague, will be able to tell the lawyers why a so-called causative mode construction followed by a mode called “renyokei” in Japanese was translated in a certain way into English. Such a translator will be able to explain these unique elements of Japanese grammar and then compare his English translation to translations of the same Japanese patent into French and German that appear on the EPO website and websites of the patent offices of respective countries. So instead of trying to invalidate a translation by arguing that the Japanese word “ki” means device and not apparatus or vice versa (it depends), and what the Japanese word “mono” means in this particular patent (it can mean almost anything you want it to, trust me), the lawyers will concentrate on the actual elements of the design rather than arguing about semantics.

Once a law firm accepts a certain translation, they are “stuck” with it, as one patent lawyer put it to me. That is why sometimes they have to go over it together with the translator with a fine-tooth comb before submitting it as evidence. I was asked once to compare five different translations of a patent, one of them mine, in order to try to establish the meaning of a single sentence. On another occasion, I was asked by a U.S. inventor to translate a Japanese patent related to his invention. He told me he was going to order at least three translations of the same Japanese patent because he believed he was provided with an incorrect translation. I remember a conference call between myself and two patent lawyers who were going over my translation, looking for potential problems before submitting the translation into evidence. The patent was so complicated that two patent lawyers with two different professional backgrounds were needed to grill me for about an hour. It was not very pleasant for me, but one thing I learned about my work from that grilling session is that a patent translator has to be responsible for his translation. He has to be able to defend the meaning of every term, every sentence, and every word based on his education and professional experience.

Only an experienced professional translator can do that. A “bilingual subject expert,” even if there were such a thing, would probably fail the test. And five such experts would most likely make a total mess of what originally might have been a good translation. Fortunately, we know that, in reality, these layers of bilingual experts who proofread and check and recheck everything five times do not exist. They are about as real as the housewife (I mean, homemaker… wrong continent and/or decade) on a TV commercial for a new detergent or margarine brand. The woman on TV has an apron and looks just like a real housewife (I mean, homemaker), but she is really an actress who projects the right kind of domestic astuteness and bliss. Chances are, she does not use this detergent or margarine brand at all. In fact, her husband probably does all the household chores anyway because he works at home, composing music for movies and commercials, since she makes much more money than he does at this point, being so terminally cute and talented.

What you just saw, folks, was just a TV commercial that has really nothing to do with reality. (I know this for a fact because I used to know a couple just like the one described above when I lived in San Francisco in early 1990s.)
Behind the Mirror:
Now We See Her, Now We Don’t

By Anne Milano Appel

Recently, I was invited to speak at a panel discussion entitled “Les Belles Infidèles: Women & Translation, from the Margins to Midway” at the 2002 American Literary Translators Association (ALTA) Conference in Chicago. The moderator, Oonagh Stransky, posed a number of intriguing questions regarding the role of female translators and what it means to be a woman translator in today’s world. In thinking about the theme, I was especially piqued by her reference to the “historical marginality of women” and her question “Don’t women always have to translate?” Instinctively, I felt that the answer was, yes—indeed we do, all the time—but in what ways? The more I thought about it, the more I began to see the belle infidèle in several roles reflecting issues that, while not necessarily unique to women, are possibly more problematic for them. Specifically, I saw her (us!) as a kept woman, a sensualist, an exorcist, a paradox, and finally as a “translation” of herself.

The Kept Woman

In thinking about the belle infidèle as a “kept woman,” there is a certain irony in the fact that the very activity that allows creativity and provides a path to an alternate self also makes economic independence difficult, if not impossible, for her. There is frequently a tradeoff between the economic dependence that often results from practicing her craft and the independence that the financial security of a more lucrative profession would bring her. Consider the protagonist of the novel Lost in Translation by Nicole Mones.1 Alice, a translator living and working in China, considers herself an independent woman, yet she is dependent on checks from her father to make ends meet. The demeaning reality of the situation shames both of them to the point that neither father nor daughter ever mentions the checks that he regularly sends her to keep her afloat.

In Possessions by Julia Kristeva, Gloria Harrison is a gifted translator, yet it is her family’s wealth that gives her status. “Gloria was a woman,” we are told, “Not a ‘mere’ or ‘poor’ woman, because she was wealthy, or rather her family was. But all the same she was just a woman, a translator…”

“…The more I thought about it, the more I began to see the belle infidèle in several roles reflecting issues that, while not necessarily unique to women, are possibly more problematic for them…”

On a personal level, I never fail to be amazed by the way a particular Italian publisher perceives women translators. He seems to count on the classic female posture of compliance and doles out jobs (and euros) accordingly. A charming, elegantly dressed man of youthful middle age, he has made it clear to me over and over again that, in his eyes, we are merely dilettantes, dabblers. We don’t need to work since we are supported by a husband (or in the case of a female writer whose work I translated, by her brothers). If confirmation were needed to support the fact that the publisher in question is not an isolated case, a colleague recently confided to me that at a well-known school for translators in Italy, the professors routinely told their female students (who made up the majority of those enrolled) that the best thing they could do to ensure their success was to find a husband.

We are, in short, viewed as “kept women.” Our work is valued differently than that of men, who are traditionally seen as the ones supporting a family. Woman translators are often taken less seriously. As the police detective in Possessions puts it: “Any woman who wants to survive has to prostitute herself in some way…One solution is for her to act as if she has a vocation and hide behind the rules of her profession…”

Is being a translator lowly work, then? Alice’s fictional lover seems to think so: “She was so intelligent, so perceptive. Why had she not aimed higher?” he wonders. Alice herself seems to share this sense of devaluation, of diminishment: “…at thirty-six she was little more than a go-between. She’d done nothing she could call her own.” In Transgressions by Sarah Dunant, the translator Lizzie, trying to get her life together after the breakup of a long-term relationship, accepts the job of translating a long, hard-boiled thriller by a new Czech writer only because she feels she has nothing better to do with her life: “…though she had reservations about its originality, she’d decided to do it anyway, partly because the money was good and partly because living in another language would allow her to live less in herself, or at least the self that she associated with Tom. ...Its translation would take her the rest of the year and into the new one. Why not? She had nothing better to do with her life…”

Clearly, the effects of being a “kept woman” can be devastating to one’s work as well as to one’s self-esteem. Lizzie’s own sense of self-worth has been badly damaged: “As a
translator she had the confidence to do wonders with other people’s words, but was still too often wrong-footed when it came to finding her own.” Similarly, a female writer “kept” by her brothers after the dissolution of her marriage (to an older man who had also “kept” her) recently moved to a place of her own and rejoiced at her newfound independence. She wrote to me that for two years she had been living a “suspended” life under her brothers’ roof. Though their care was well-intentioned, the paternalism that surrounded her resulted in total writer’s block. With matters unresolved, her days unsettled, her entire life was up in the air. Completely dependent on her brothers, she lost her “voice” and was unable to write a word.

The Sensuallist

What of the belle infidèle as a sensuallist? It is a common belief that the best way to learn a language is by having a love affair with a native speaker of that language. The act of translation goes beyond this, allowing the translator to have a love affair with the author’s words. There is a certain connection between passion and language, between erotic experience and the physical manipulation of words. Words appeal to the senses and have a voluptuous quality. Their suggestive ness is able to express a thousand shades of yearning and desire which reverberate intellectually and emotionally. Moreover, the beauty of words is matched by their power. With the right words, anything can happen. The translator’s appreciation for words is based on her belief—conscious or not—in their transformational power, their ability to influence.

On one level at least, translation is all about seduction and attraction: the translator finds herself drawn to the language and attracted to the text. In love with words and the intricate new worlds they create, she is seduced by the foreign language and this brings her pleasure. Gloria in Possessions is well aware of this phenomenon. When the story opens with the discovery of her decapitated body, the narrator explains: “There was nothing missing except the head. ‘My sexual organ,’ as she laughingly used to call it, referring to the cerebral pleasure she got out of her work as a translator...” A similar sexual chemistry is even more explicitly at work with Lizzie in Transgressions. Having seduced and raped her would-be rapist, she becomes emboldened. While earlier she lacked the confidence to fashion with her own words the magic and wonder she was able to create with other people’s words, she soon finds her own voice, to the extent that she begins altering the original text and creating her own scenes! For Lizzie, it is a disturbingly erotic experience: “The words flowed like genital juices.”

In the novel The Translator by John Crowley, another fictional translator, Kit, reflecting on her work translating the poetry of Falin, her professor, also comes to realize the connection between sensuality and language: “She thought, long after, that she had not then ever explored a lover’s body, learned its folds and articulations, muscle under skin, bone under muscle, but that this was really most like that: this slow probing and working in his language, taking it in or taking hold of it; his words, his life, in her heart, in her mouth too.” Falin, too, seems to be well aware of the association between love and language. When Kit asks the transplanted Russian poet why he should have to choose between writing in English or writing in his native tongue, his reply is: “I don’t know. It may be that languages are like lovers. You can have more than one at a time. But perhaps it is possible to love only one at a time.”

For Kit, the translation process itself is steeped in yearning and aspiration. As Falin recites one of his poems to her, she longs to understand, though she is able to recognize only a few words of Russian: “She bent her soul toward his voice as though she might be able to translate what he said by will alone, or by desire.”

Anecdotal reports from practicing translators confirm that, like their fictional counterparts, they have also experienced the sensual aspects related to translation. A colleague, for example, recounts that upon completing the translation of a novel, she found herself in love with the protagonist! Not in the sense that she admired the way the character had been created and depicted in all of his many nuances. Instead, she had actually fallen in love with the man who had begun to live a life of his own independently from the pages of the book. After weeks of living in close, intimate contact with him in order to render the subtle meanderings of his mind, his habits, his tics, his passions, and addictions, she was no longer able to do without him “physically” (her word). She was heartbroken when it came time to submit the translation to the publisher and had to leave him.

A male colleague wrote that a book he translated by a particular woman author was so steeped in her “femaleness” that he had to first translate from one gender to another before he could translate from her language to his. He felt as though she had written the book “with her life and with her genital organs.” After the book was published, he had
occasion to meet the writer at a dinner party at her home. Their meeting was eerie. He felt at once as if he knew her in a way that no one else knew her, not even her husband. The feeling of intimacy was so intense between them that, had they made love together, the impact could not have been more compelling. The words and glances they exchanged, the few minutes they spent alone together, confirmed his sensation that he was not mistaken in his impression, that she felt it too, and that the book—now their book—was evidence of a secret complicity between them.

This complicity or intimacy attendant on the act of translation is perhaps the inevitable result of coming to know the “other” on such close terms. In Le Ton Beau de Marot, Douglas Hofstadter talks about “identity-blurring” or “empathy”: “the ability to project oneself into another’s life...to absorb inside oneself another person’s way of being.” In the chapter entitled “On the Ununderstandable,” he explains that “when two people live together intimately...each imbibes the other’s point of view, and over a period of years, another person’s way of looking at the world has become internalized.” To illustrate this internalization or “interpenetration of souls,” he cites Mrs. Miniver’s conundrum: “She saw every relationship as a pair of intersecting circles of the same size, which had to overlap to just the right degree, not too much and not too little.” With the optimal amount of overlap, “the center of each circle is located inside the other circle.” Taken metaphorically, this means that the “I” becomes “we,” that the very core of each person is incorporated into the other person until the two are merged, blurred, fused. Hofstadter is referring to a reciprocal understanding that is, above all, intralinguistic, and the image is especially suggestive when applied to translation.

Mark Musa, in the “Translator’s Note” to his translation of the Divine Comedy, refers to this complicity as “being a good lover.” By this he means that a translator of Dante “should do what Jackson Mathews recommends to the guild of translators in general—‘be faithful without seeming to be’...” He notes what Mathews adds in regards to this type of faithfulness: “a translator should make a good lover.” What does it mean to be a good lover? Musa explains that Dante’s translator should be as faithful as possible and not call attention to himself, that he should read and reread what he is translating, that he should read the lines aloud to hear their rhythm and movement—in short, that he should listen carefully to Dante’s voice and presumably internalize it.

The Exorcist

The belle infidèle as exorcist uses the act of translation as a kind of incantation or charm: a spell invoked to drive out certain personal demons. Indeed, at times translating a book can have a cathartic effect, provoking certain emotions and feelings that, while painful, may be therapeutic and liberating; a little like a session with an analyst. I felt this impulse toward exorcism very strongly as I translated a volume of stories by Italian writer Isabella Messina. Indeed, it was Oonagh Stranksy’s reading of my translation of Isabella’s The Face which led her to invite me to be on her panel at the ALTA conference referred to earlier. She said she felt “uncomfortably familiar with the torment of the woman character and her relentless other.”

I felt this same discomfort and eerie sense of familiarity while translating many of Isabella’s stories, most especially so with Beasts, in which the female protagonist, worn out and emotionally numbed by an unfeeling brute of a husband, stonily deals with the situation in a very unique way. The fictional construction of female identity in this story represents both a flight from a reality that is unbearable, as well as a struggle to create a new reality and identity. Having come to know the writer personally, I understand that Isabella was dealing with her own personal demons when she wrote this story, exorcising the malign spirit of a marriage better ended.

The fictional translator Alice is also exorcising her own particular demons. Her work allows her to escape to China, leaving behind a past which is excruciating to her. Here, too, there is a fictional construction of female identity: a struggle between a remembered past and a newly formed present persona. At one point, Alice tries to imagine a world without her father: “His dominance, his paternalism, vanished. Would she be free then? Could she be herself?” Later, she tries to explain wanderlust, the lure of the open road, to her Chinese lover. “I’m a wanderer...” she tells him. It was “A free feeling. Leaving her old life behind. Becoming herself.”

The ability to exorcise one’s demons is made possible by living the lives of others. For the belle infidèle who is trying to expel the spirits of a painful past (or an unbearable present), translation becomes more than a craft or a profession. It becomes a way of being, a way to safely explore and try on other lives without committing to them. But how safe is this really? As she engages in
the métier of living the lives of others, the translator risks becoming an imposter, a sham. Moreover, as she comes face to face with the many different lives, real or imagined, that inhabit the pages of her books, these fragments of lives she lives often threaten the very core of her personal identity. The greater the pretense, the more fragmented she becomes. In a sense, the ability to place herself in different situations, to identify with other personas, and to try on other lives makes the translator a kind of versatile playactor in a screenplay written by someone else. A screenplay to which she gives voice through her performance. The words she writes are hers, but they have been conceived by someone else and reflect another person’s thoughts. Where does that leave her?

The Paradox

The belle infidèle as a paradox connotes a certain ambivalence, as well as contradictory aspects in what she is and what she does. For example, in the process of translating, is she giving birth or devouring? While it is true that women have traditionally played the role of caretaker, facilitator, and enabler, is the belle infidèle enabling a new text or consuming the original?

The idea of translation as giving birth is an obvious metaphor. There is a certain nurturing quality to the act: the female principle is at work as a new work is born. We recognize the life force in the accomplishment of recreation, and experience the entire range of the maternal process, including gestation, birth, and even a post-partum sense of emptiness and loss when a translation is finally completed and turned over to an editor. But there is also the idea of devouring, consuming, as the original work is swallowed up by the translator and absorbed into the translation. In a presentation given at ATA’s Annual Conference in St. Louis in 1999, Adriana Pagano cited the Mexican poet Eduardo Lizalde, who used the image of the tiger to describe the translator. Like the tiger, the translator lurks near her prey, then devours it. These two aspects are not necessarily antithetical. Rather, they are more like two sides of the same coin: the translator as both “mother” and “devourer,” “creator” and “destroyer.”

Another paradox concerns the provisionality, multiplicity, and ironies of identity. The belle infidèle does not attain a coherent, centrifugal identity: tensions and complexities remain. The only constant is multiplicity and variance. This tension is apparent in the case of another translator, Elizabeth I of England. As queen and even before that as a young child, Elizabeth’s position of power was tempered by ambivalence and the uncertainties surrounding that power. David Starkey points out in his biography that Elizabeth’s early attempts at translation were aimed at gratifying those in power in her life. “Intelligent, always eager to please,” Elizabeth translated into English a French religious poem for her stepmother, Catherine Parr, when she was only 11 years old. The following year she translated a religious treatise by her stepmother as a New Year’s gift for her father. Perhaps in recognition of the primacy of Henry’s power, and to court his favor, she undertook a more demanding task—translating the treatise from English (her mother tongue) into not one, but three foreign languages: Latin, French, and Italian. In another biography, Alison Weir states that “like most educated gentlewomen of her day, Elizabeth was encouraged to become the equal of men in learning....” Was her translation an attempt, then, to compensate for being a woman? Did even a queen have to prove herself in a man’s world? Whatever the reason, we are told that Elizabeth continued translating to the end of her life.

A “Translation” of Herself

Seen in this role, the belle infidèle is, metaphorically speaking, a revision or “translation” of her former self. There is a reinvention of the self as she moves toward and becomes subsumed in the “other”: the other author, the other language, and the other culture. The metamorphosis is reminiscent of the tradition of becoming a “new man” by relocating to a different place or adopting a new set of principles (Dante’s “vita nuova” comes to mind), except that in this case, the change involves language rather than locale or morality.

The belle infidèle as a “translation” is a chameleon capable of changing color and adapting to decontextualization. Is this an attempt to correspond to the timeless female posture of compliance and acquiescence? Does it bespeak conformity, submission, deference, or is it a more proactive form of role playing? The latter, I think. By engaging in a form of rewriting or recreation, both of the original text and of herself, the translator attempts to find a new voice. This goes beyond the usual task of the translator, which is generally acknowledged to be that of giving the writer a voice.

For Mones’ Alice, translation is indeed a way of finding a new voice. It is a door to an alternate self, allowing her to escape from a former identity to one which suits her better: “Here in China the self could always be reinvented. She, too, could become someone else. Or so she’d told herself all these years.”
fact, her desire to reinvent herself startles a Chinese interlocutor at one point: “This woman actually wanted to be Chinese!” he exclaims. It is also puzzling to the American archaeologist who is her client: “She could feel his stare, but there was no use explaining. He’d never understand the safe, settled feeling it gave her to be a foreigner in China, an outside person, barely tolerated. The way the geometry of her world seemed righted here, all weights and balances, all retributions, called into play.”

In The Translator, there is a new twist: the author “translates” herself into the translator. Kit becomes a “translation” of the Russian poet himself. Falin’s aspiration is to pass on “Not his poems into other poems... [but rather] himself ...into another poet. ...So then it was he who was truly the translator.”

Speaking is tied to the culture and leads to recognition and acceptance by that culture. Because she is able to speak their language, Alice is accepted by the Chinese even though she is an “outside person.” Indeed, at times she even becomes her interlocutor, adopting the local patois like a chameleon. She can’t help replaying the accent of the person she is speaking with.

Commonality of language provides a certain comfort and security, a sense of belonging. Italian dialects are an example of this. Though much has been written about their gradual disappearance as a result of standardization, nationalism, and the global village (first TV and now the Internet), most Italians speak both standard Italian and their local dialect. Dialects are still spoken within the family and within one’s circle of friends precisely because they define an in-group and create a sense of belonging.

Alice feels this sense of belonging, yet has her doubts: “There was a certain security in it. One always knew where one was, in the group. Is this my group? she thought for the thousandth time. China. The Chinese.”

There is a certain ambivalence to all of this in that reinvention, becoming part of a new group, can lead to a loss of self. Alice tells an old friend, a long-time expatriate like herself: “You know I am not an American, not anymore, not really.”

For the translator, being bilingual and bicultural is a dual-edged sword. It can mean recognition and acceptance by the other culture, but it can also mean duality and dichotomy. The displacement of the mother tongue and of one’s cultural identity, social traditions, and shared memory—all the things which make up the self—can lead to a divided self, a distancing from the true self. When Alice unconsciously adopts the accent of her Chinese lover Lin Shiyang, he asks: “Ah, so you mirror me. And where is the real you?”

Still, perhaps one’s identity is not defined by one’s mother tongue. Perhaps one can become a “translation” of oneself. Adriana Pagano, in her presentation referred to earlier, also cited Hector Bianciotti, an Argentinean writer born of Italian parents, whose home dialect (he was from Piedmont) was displaced by two foreign languages: first Spanish, then French. Bianciotti writes: “I don’t think one’s mother tongue is fatally linked to one’s identity; you can feel at ease in another tongue. I feel better in French.” On a personal note, I can identify with this. For communicating some things, I feel better in Italian. Once, at a reception following a program at the Italian American Museum in San Francisco, I overheard an interesting exchange between my sister and my husband, neither of whom speak Italian. Not realizing I was listening, my sister commented to my husband that it was as though I had become a different person as I circulated among my Italian friends, chatting in Italian. She said my whole personality seemed different! Had I reinvented myself? Had I (temporarily, at least) become a “translation” of myself? I’ll have to think about that.

Notes
3. Ibid., p. 8.
4. Ibid., p. 186.
5. Mones, op. cit., p. 316.
8. Kristeva, op. cit., p. 3.
Peering Into a Mirror: Translator Perception of the Public’s Awareness of Translators

Continued from p.23

These efforts included impromptu interpreting for a policeman who had stopped a car full of Spanish speakers who were afraid of a roadside arrest (there is quite a difference between the way people feel about the police if they’ve grown up in Mexico as opposed to the U.S.) and volunteering to translate a parent notification published by the school district—a “letter in ‘Spanish’ that was almost impossible to understand!”

“Translators and interpreters who volunteer their professional services from time to time help tremendously,” Carol reminds us. The school district accepted the freebie translation. “They accepted my offer, the corrected version was sent out, and public response was noticeable.” As a result, they now have everything that will be sent to the parents translated professionally. A similar transformation happened to the policeman, “who found out what it was like to have a professional interpreter. That police department has increased their demand for interpreting work since then.”

Michelle Asselin, from Montreal, does much of the same client education as part of her daily work, although not on a volunteer basis. “In Canada, as elsewhere, many bilingual people still believe they could become translators in a pinch, but my experience is that, in most cases, it is relatively easy to convince a new client that being able to converse the ‘other’ language and translating require different sets of skills. I believe that it is the translator’s duty to ‘educate’ reticent or misinformed clients and explain that translators are not just ‘people’ who type in another language,” and that ancillary work, such as desktop publishing, is not part of translation.”
I read in the newspaper some time ago the obituary of an illustrious German polyglot¹, one who knew an unbelievable number of languages. When he was asked which was the most difficult, he answered without hesitation that it was Hungarian.

It is quite possible that the scholar was correct, for I have never met a foreigner who has managed to learn Hungarian well. At best, he manages to speak it poorly, making serious mistakes in every sentence. I knew intimately, in Budapest, where he lived for more than 20 years, a cultured Frenchman, Professor Henri Ancel. He was an excellent translator of Hungarian authors into French, but was incapable of writing a proper letter, and his speech was only intelligible by the waiters at his favorite cafe. Another erudite foreigner, the English historian C.A. Macartney, eventually got to the point of being able to write letters in Hungarian, in which one could sense a certain antique flavor, as he had learned the language from the classics of the 19th century. However, during the war, I heard him speaking on a program of propaganda aimed by the BBC at Central Europe; a program which failed in its mission, since the peculiar accent of the professor and some poorly assimilated nuances of expression weakened the impact of the arguing points.

These and other proofs of the difficulty of my native tongue could lead me to think that extraordinary intelligence is necessary in order to learn it, and inspire unbounded pride, if I did not know of a huge number of perfect imbeciles (Magyar natives) in Hungary who spoke and wrote it reasonably well. Their unconscious apprenticeship in the mother tongue, taking place in the company of compatriots, made them capable of using a language that they would never have learned had they started studying it after the age of 12.

In a story by the great writer Mikszáth², there appears a village blacksmith who became famous for the skill with which he removed even the most obstinate cataract. The fame of these operations finally attracted the attention of a great ophthalmologist, who watched, astonished, during one of them as the smith performed it with his pocketknife without the slightest attention to sterilization. One of the eyes of the patient having already been operated on, the university-trained physician set about explaining, indignantly, the mechanism of the eye to the healer—the complexity of the retina, the sensitivity of the lens. This explanation frightened the smith to such a degree that he threw away his pocketknife and forever renounced the removal of cataracts, including the one which still covered the other eye of the patient he had been operating upon. The operations the smith performed were so delicate that only one who was not self-conscious could perform them. One who was aware of the complicated details would refuse to do them, terrified.

It seems to me that this parable (which Mikszáth, master of the short story, exploits in his preface as an excuse for not developing a theory of the genre) can be applied to the Hungarian language itself. If the Magyars knew the complexity of the operations the smith performed, they would not touch it, or at least would lose any spontaneity in using it.

It took me many years to understand the complexities of the mechanism of Hungarian. The more I learned other languages, the more I became astonished with my own.

The foreigner, curious and unprepared, who, by a whim or any other contingency, is brought to the study of the Hungarian language, finds that it seems attractively easy at the beginning, since it is lacking the usual stumbling blocks found in other languages.

The spelling is one of the easiest in the world, since it is almost entirely phonetic: one sound is always represented by the same letters. The orthographic vocabularies of the Hungarian Academy have been used without significant change for more than one hundred years. The plethora of symbols that alarm the curious in their first look at a Hungarian text are not accents, which are more or less unnecessary, but act as integral parts of their respective vowels. Each vowel has a designated sound so unique that there is no possibility of confusing them. (In the homework of Hungarian students, the confusion or omission of “accents” is extremely rare.)

Pronunciation, in spite of the existence of some sounds, especially that of the a, which will always give away a foreigner (there is no foreigner who is able to pronounce magyár), offers the great consolation of uniform accentuation. It is always the first syllable that is accented.

The grammar has other surprisingly attractive features. Above all, there is no grammatical gender, nor even those few vestiges (personal pronouns, etc.) which are still present in English. The absence of gender is
not a problem. During the reform of the language (a conscious movement at the beginning of the 19th century designed to enrich the language, which managed to impose an extraordinary number of innovations in the area of vocabulary), a certain writer tried to create a feminine personal pronoun, which he felt was lacking in his translations from German and French. The innovation was accepted by no one and fell into derision.

Another delight is the nonexistence in Hungarian of most of the verb tenses. There is only a past, with no difference between imperfect preterite, perfect, and pluperfect. Likewise, there is no future, since this tense is always expressed by the present or with an auxiliary verb. Thus, there is no coordination of tenses.

If we further mention that the adjective, which is necessarily uniform (since there is no gender), does not agree in number with the noun, the reader will, for a moment, think that Hungarian is a language of ideal simplicity, which could serve as a model for the rest.

Unfortunately, from other points of view, Hungarian presents a jungle of opaque labyrinths in places where other languages offer wide and sunny highways for the tourist. It possesses, for example, one of the most highly developed declensions in the world. This system is so terrifyingly complex that teachers in high schools conceal its existence, and authors of writing manuals make two-thirds of it disappear, trying to make the credulous think that the schema is like that of Latin, with its six cases. One needs to study Finnish (a punishment reserved for the teacher of Hungarian) to discover that, alongside the classical nominative, accusative, and such, there thrives a whole extended family of ilatives, adlatives, elatives, sociative-instrumentals, and who knows how many others, corresponding to an infinite number of relations, such as “going into,” “by the side of,” “from within,” etc. The indigenes escape the horrors of this perfection by ignoring them. The hapless tourist, however, gets hopelessly lost in them.

But if, thanks to an exceptional analytical faculty, the foreigner manages to escape the trap of the cases, he will fatally fall into the pit of “vocalic harmony.” Its law is one of a crystalline clarity. Words with “high” vowels (like e, é, and ü) may only take suffixes with high vowels. Words with “low” vowels (such as a, o, u) may only take suffixes with low vowels. Thus, words like almatalanabbat or engeszeltetetlenbekkel are common. However, just to spoil the rule, the vowel i can either be “high” and “low,” although it is hard to know exactly why (perhaps because in former times, Hungarian had, as the Slavic languages still do today, two types of i with different tonalities). However, as this is another point on which the natives only manage by instinct, it constitutes yet another ridiculous trap for the foreigner.

The lack of verbal tenses is also richly compensated by the abundance of another type of resource. Hungarian, like Russian, is little concerned with the correlation of tenses in a sentence, but is zealous to clearly mark the aspect of each separate action. The language does not sense the difference between “I wrote,” “I was writing,” “I have written,” or “I had written,” actions which, in its eyes, are conflated into a vague past tense (írtam). However, it wants to know the circumstances in which the action was realized: if the person was taking dictation or copying; if he was writing on a loose page or in a book, with or without the intention of keeping the annotation; if he filled the page or not; if what he wrote was substantial or secondary; or if he took it from one or more sources. According to the dominant aspect, the writer will use the past írtam preceded by a different prefix or preverb (leírtam, dírtam, beírtam, felírtam, teleírtam, odaírtam, kiírtam, összeírtam...), or, as we would say, he would use another compound verb. The richness of nuance of these and of other prefixes is frightening. For instance, one of the (ki-), together with the same írtam, will indicate that the writer gave all that he could give and is exhausted; another (el-) that the
subject he discussed will be taken up by another author; a third (agyon-) that he died from so much writing.

Hungarian adolescents do not know what verbal aspects are, but they manage them instinctively, while the foreigner completely loses his Latin without having acquired Hungarian. This is especially the case when the same preverbs that are associated with other verbs indicate entirely different aspects. Thus, fel-, followed by "to write," indicates that one is writing with the intention of keeping the annotation; by "to read," that one is reading out loud; by "to live," that one eats all that one has; by "to look," that one looks from bottom to top; by "to weep," that one explodes in a convulsion of tears; by "to cite," that one is evoking one who has passed on; by "to cover," that one uncovers; by "to give," that one sends something through the mail, or that one denounces someone, or that one gives up on a game; by "to take," that one picks up something from the ground, or that one takes on an employee, or that one takes an observation seriously. Yet, to top it all off, sometimes fel- expresses none of this, but simply the completion of the action.

If this richness in the expression of aspect constitutes a phenomenon which is surprising in comparison with the Latin languages, it will not perturb a German or a Russian very much, since they are familiar with the use of preverbs from their own linguistic experience; perverse little phonemes that, though not quite words, frequently escape from the verb, sometimes even substituting for them. However, Germans and Slavs lose all their intrepidity when learning of the existence of a "transitive" and an "intransitive" conjugation (not a perfect appellation, since the latter is also used intransitively, but just with an indeterminate object). They are also perplexed to discover that the verbal forms can reflect the person not only of the subject, but also of the direct object. For instance, in the sentences "I love a woman," "I love blond women," and "I love you," three different forms of the verb szereti (to love) are used: szeretek, szeretem, and szeretlek.

After receiving such a violent shock to his habits of expression, the student of Hungarian will agree without qualms to other peculiarities, which can at least be summed up with rules: to use only the singular after numerals; to speak of "halves" each time that one of the members of a pair is missing ("a man with one leg, one eye, etc."); and to forget the possessive adjective, and instead to "conjugate" the name of the objects which belong to someone.

However, what will disorient the student even more will be his contact with the Magyar vocabulary, which deserves a separate chapter, as it offers yet another proof of the unsuspected richness of expression in Hungarian.

Notes
1. Ludwig Harold Schnett, who "spoke perfectly more than 90 of the most varied languages and dialects. He was a specialist in Asiatic dialects (Japan, China, Manchu), and had established the relation between the languages of the north of Siberia and those spoken by Native Americans." (Jornal do Comércio, March 25, 1941).

2. Translated in my Antologia do Conto Húngaro (Editora Civilização Brasileira, Rio de Janeiro, 1957), the preface of which, by João Guimarães Rosa, includes a penetrating analysis of the characteristics of the Hungarian language and style.

3. Corresponds to the French eu in feu.

4. Corresponds to the French u in mur.

The ATA Chronicle | April 2003
An Interview with Dava Sobel

By Lily Liu

In December 2002, I had the chance to sit down and speak with Dava Sobel, the award-winning author of Longitude (Walker 1995; Penguin 1996) and Galileo’s Daughter: A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love (Walker 1999; Penguin 2000). Galileo’s Daughter, the subject of our interview, is based on Dava’s own translations of 124 letters written to Galileo by his eldest child, Virginia, later known as Suor (Sister) Maria Celeste Galilei. Although Galileo’s Daughter does not contain the text of all the translated letters, these have now been published separately in a bilingual edition called Letters to Father (Walker 2001). The recently published paperback edition by the same title, a Penguin Classic, contains only the English translations and lists Suor Maria Celeste Galilei as its author.

Where did you get the idea to write Galileo’s Daughter?

While I was working on Longitude, I read a book by Silvio Bedini (The Pulse of Time: Galileo Galilei, the Determination of Longitude, and the Pendulum Clock) about Galileo’s efforts to solve the longitude problem. In it, I discovered a letter written to Galileo by one of his daughters, Suor Maria Celeste, which referred to the clock in her convent. This letter really stunned me because I had not known that Galileo had daughters, or that they were nuns of the order of the Poor Clares, the second order of Franciscans, founded by Saint Clare of Assisi in the 13th century. It overturned everything I thought I knew about Galileo, and made me think that there was a much better story there than the one I had learned in school (the one describing him as a hard-nosed scientist and an enemy of the church). So, that was the start of it—a possible new picture of Galileo.

Was there only one letter in Bedini’s book, and was it translated into English?

Yes. I didn’t think about who had done the translation or where it had come from. Then I found out about a book called A Private Life of Galileo, Compiled Principally from His Correspondence and that of his Eldest Daughter, Sister Maria Celeste, Nun in the Franciscan Convent of St. Matthew, in Arcetri, based on the letters of his daughter. This book, also written in English, had been published in 1870. Mary Allan-Olney is listed as the author, although the book was published anonymously at first.

Undoubtedly, Mary Allan-Olney translated all the letters, but she didn’t publish the full translations in the book, only sections. However, the text had many factual errors, including the daughter’s name and date of birth. The tone of voice in the letters in her book was also different from the tone that Silvio Bedini had given the daughter, which led me to wonder which version was correct. By that point, I realized that Suor Maria Celeste’s letters had never been published in a complete translation in any language. They had existed in a published form in Galileo’s complete works for about 200 years, but only in Italian. Her letters had also been printed many times in Italy as a stand-alone volume, and had been in more or less continuous print for more than a century. In Italy, the volume containing her letters is a little-known but well-loved book.

How did you find a copy of the daughter’s letters in Italian?

I first found out about Galileo’s daughter in October 1994. My agent, Michael Carlisle, loved to go to Venice. In early 1995, before he left for his trip, I said to him, “Since you’re going, will you try to get me this book?” I think it turned out to be a simple matter of a little confab with his hotel concierge, but Michael was able to find an out-of-print paperback copy. I now realize how fortunate I was to get a copy of this edition, since the volume that came out after was by a different publisher and was missing the helpful footnotes and six of the letters! I told Michael later, “You know, as far as I’m concerned, this may have been your most important business trip ever!” We joke about it. By now, with the number of times that I’ve been over it, it’s starting to come apart, but it’s a very sturdy little book.

So, most Italians would have been aware of Galileo’s daughter and her letters?

Many of them would have, yes. In fact, there was a novel written in 1983 about the daughter, also based on the letters, called Galileo, Mio Padre by Luca Desiato. But it is not as good as the real letters, because Desiato just couldn’t improve upon them.

The edition that your agent found contained all of the existing letters, right?

Yes, there are a total of 124 letters written between 1623 and 1633.
starting from when she was 22 until age 33. There might have been other letters, but they didn’t survive.

**When would Galileo’s daughter have started writing to him?**

Presumably from the time she was 13. Shortly after her 13th birthday, Galileo placed her and his other daughter, who was one year younger, in the Convent of San Matteo in Arcetri. It’s about a mile south of Florence, where he was the chief mathematician and philosopher at the Medici court.

You mentioned that the edition of Maria Celeste’s letters your agent bought in Venice had footnotes.

Yes, in my edition, but there are no footnotes in the newer edition of her letters. That’s too bad, because in the original version the footnotes were written by Antonio Favaro, the great Galileo scholar who put together the national edition of the complete works, 20 volumes, of Galileo, Le Opere di Galileo Galilei.

Those footnotes must have been useful when you were translating the letters.

Sometimes, yes; sometimes, less so. Some of the letters don’t have dates, so many of the footnotes tried to guess at the date. If a name is mentioned in the letter, the footnote will try to identify the person. But not every name mentioned is explained. So, these notes are wonderfully helpful, but at the same time not thoroughly helpful.

**Did Favaro write an introduction to the letters? How helpful was he for you to get a sense of who Maria Celeste was?**

Favaro’s work was very helpful. But in terms of helping me get a sense of Maria Celeste, I don’t think he really did much, because she does it all! He really didn’t bring much else to light. At one point, he did write a separate little book called Galileo Galilei e Suor Maria Celeste, published in 1891, in which he tried to talk about the conditions of the convent and what was going on in Galileo’s life.

Let’s talk about how you went about translating the daughter’s letters.

The first thing I did after receiving the book was to copy the letters in longhand into a notebook, just to get a sense of how they felt going through a pen. After copying them, I would write a summary about what each letter had said, along with little notes to myself about what I thought about it. I knew there was very little that could be reconstructed about the daughter’s life. So, it all had to come out of her letters. That meant the letters required a very careful reading.

Copying the letters was an exercise that helped me get my thoughts immersed in the language again. Remember, I was 30 years removed from my study of Italian at City College in New York.

Did you read the letters out loud to hear how they sound?

Oh, yes, indeed.

**What was your next step?**

I actually started translating them on the computer. I would type in what I thought the letters were saying.

Were the letters in the original Italian edition placed in chronological order?

The letters were put in what Favaro believed was chronological order. However, by the time I got finished, I found myself disagreeing with him as to the order of some of the eight undated letters. I figured that I had read through them more than he had. He was really doing bigger things with the entire body of Galileo’s works, and was not solely concentrating on these letters.

As you were translating from the Italian, did you need to stop every few minutes to look up a word in the dictionary?

I probably stopped more frequently than every few minutes at the beginning! Because I am not trained as a translator, I was wobbly, so the first few letters were really an experiment. In my insecurity, I probably looked up every third word! I wasn’t sure I was anywhere near correct. Therefore, I went for the literal sense of the sentences first. And then I listened to the sound of the words again and tried to write them in English the way they sounded in Italian.

In her letters, was the language that Maria Celeste used similar to modern Italian?

It’s very similar. In my opinion, the language she uses is much closer to modern Italian than Shakespearean English is to modern English. And I
think the reason for that is Dante’s influence on Tuscan Italian. Galileo, as a student of poetry, was a wonderful, careful writer. And he was Maria Celeste’s teacher, so her Italian is quite good. It’s very Tuscan. It’s lovely.

**As you were translating from the Italian, what struck you about this process of bringing the letters into another language?**

It’s extraordinary how many possibilities there are—just the number of ways you can say the same thing in your own language. When you’re reading something in a foreign language, you realize that this person chose particular words, even though there were perhaps many equally good choices. Then, you have to decide which of the many options in your own language to choose in order to match what he or she expressed. It makes me feel that there could be an almost infinite set of translations.

**How did you decide what style of English to translate into?**

Maria Celeste always has a very respectful tone. Even the expression “Sire” was a choice from “V.S.” (Vostra Signoria), which can be translated “Your Lordship.” What does it mean when someone addresses her father in that manner? How would that sound, because if you write “Your Lordship” in English, it’s suddenly gone too formal, too far removed, and distorts the warmth of the tone. So, you’re making decisions like that all the time.

I wanted to maintain the complexity of Maria Celeste’s grammar, which, to me, was the most interesting aspect of her writing. After reading them, I could swear that these letters were written as first drafts. She just didn’t have time or paper to copy them over, so this is how they came out. And she was frequently interrupted while writing. The sentence structure is complex; these are long sentences! I’ve never tested this, but I would be willing to bet that the sentences in *Galileo’s Daughter*, on average, are twice as long as the sentences in *Longitude*. I know that translating the letters changed my writing style. I couldn’t have read all that material and not have it affect me. That’s just a quirk of mine. I have to be really careful what I read when I’m writing, because I’ll pick up the cadence of somebody else’s style and then I have to get rid of it!

**So when did you start to write *Galileo’s Daughter*?**

I started to write the book while I was still translating the letters. You know, there comes a point when you just say, “OK, I think I have to see how this book might start.” That probably happened in 1996.

And when I was a year into it, I suddenly remembered something which was probably the reason I chose the project in the first place. When my father died, I had helped my mother go through his clothing and give things away. I looked through his dresser drawer for something small I could keep. Among the things he had in there was a letter I had written him 20 years previously. That’s why, when I came upon the letters of Galileo’s daughter, I reacted so strongly. My father has been dead 10 years now, and *Galileo’s Daughter* is dedicated to him.

**As you were writing, did you read what others had written about Galileo?**

Yes, I was reading everything about Galileo at the same time, because *Galileo’s Daughter* is his story. There is so much material, it’s more a question of what not to read! There are many excellent biographies, and then there are all of his works. And there are histories about the Medici family and books about the bubonic plague. I was also trying to understand the Catholic faith with all of that reading.

**You dedicated *Letters to Father to Mother Mary Francis*, the Abbess of the Poor Clare Monastery of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Roswell, New Mexico. Please talk about how you got in touch with the order of the Poor Clares.**

I had gone to Roswell, New Mexico, in 1995 on an assignment for *Omni* magazine to write about the UFO craziness there. However, after discovering that the nuns were in Roswell, I was never able to get out there again for this project. The date that I was invited to attend a nun’s profession ceremony was near an important deadline, and since I already knew how hard it was to get out to Roswell and back, I didn’t even try to go. So, the relationship with Mother Mary Francis has been by letter.

**By letter, how apropos! What has this correspondence with Mother Mary Francis helped you to better understand?**

It’s helped me to better understand what makes a young woman choose the cloistered life. Although Maria Celeste did not initially choose this lifestyle, she seemed to have come to terms with it in the best way as was her wont, whereas the other daughter, Livia or Suor Arcangela, did not do well.

Nowadays, anyone who joins a religious order enters completely voluntarily. So, Mother Mary Francis could speak to me about what her own initiation was like, why she chose it, and what happened to
her. Also, she had written books about her life at the convent.

Did you ever send Mother Mary Francis copies of your draft translations to review?

No, because Maria Celeste doesn’t really talk about the specifics of the religious life. However, I had to be able to understand her mindset. I was raised Jewish, and when I was growing up, the idea of a convent sounded like life imprisonment. And I thought, “I’ll never write this book in that frame of mind.” I had to be able to understand Maria Celeste’s way of life from a joyous perspective. That’s what I got from Mother Mary Francis.

Another reason I didn’t send her my drafts is that she doesn’t speak Italian. However, her Latin is great. She has translated The Rule of Saint Clare as well as Clare’s letters to Saint Agnes of Prague. She also translated The Testament of Saint Colette from French into English.

Was there anyone who helped you with the Italian language as you were translating and writing?

Yes, definitely. When I decided, “OK, I’m going to do this,” I went back to school by going to the local adult education center. I found a wonderful woman, Dr. Mariarosa Gamba Frybergh, a retired professor who was teaching conversational Italian on three levels. So, I took all three classes and then asked her if she would work with me as a consultant.

When I had gotten through enough of the letters, I would meet with Mariarosa for two hours at a time to go over the ones that I found really difficult. She would read the Italian from the original, and I would read my translation to her and she would comment. For example, one of the ways Mariarosa was able to help me was with several passages in the letters that discussed game birds. At first, I didn’t know what these terms referred to. Mariarosa had the Italian equivalent of the Oxford English Dictionary, among others references, which she put at my disposal.

Of course, this project was just dense in coincidence the whole way through! Gamba was Mariarosa’s maiden name. The mother of Galileo’s children was Marina Gamba, and she came from the same part of Italy as Mariarosa. Galileo and Marina never married, but their 12-year relationship produced two daughters and a son.

So, Dr. Frybergh saw the book come to fruition.

She not only saw the book come to fruition, but I took her with me to some of the book tour events and she loved it!

Had Dr. Frybergh known about these letters?

She had no idea about the letters, and Mother Mary Francis had no idea that Galileo’s daughters had been nuns in her order. That was a wonderful discovery for her; the whole convent talked about it. In fact, I’m still in correspondence with them.

And Mariarosa had an aunt who was a nun. That was another area where she really helped me. There was one letter, possibly the most interesting, where Galileo was about to go to Rome and Maria Celeste writes a long plea about how he should intercede with the Pope on the nun’s behalf to have a “regular” or “ordinary” sent village priests who could become priests by apprenticeship. This didn’t mean that they had any kind of genuine calling, whereas the “regular” or “ordinary” is somebody who has been in a monastery—a whole other mindset. Apparently Galileo’s intercession worked, because later on Maria Celeste doesn’t have any more complaints. When she talks about the Father Confessor, he’s someone she really likes.

Do you have a favorite letter among the 124?

My favorite one is pictured on the jacket of Letters to Father, because it’s a poem. It’s just gorgeous! But I have another favorite for shock value…well, two others. The one I just mentioned in which she asks Galileo to intercede for them, which is very long, but she says lots of interesting things. She dismisses the bad confessors as “more accustomed to hunting rabbits than guiding souls.” I thought that was brilliant; she was only 22 when she was writing all this. And the other letter was the terrible one where she’s so distraught after a suicide attempt by one of the nuns.

Please use three adjectives to describe Maria Celeste as a woman and as a writer.

Graceful, complex, and sincere.

Did you ever see copies of the letters in her handwriting?

I went to see the actual letters in Italy. I got into a correspondence with Silvio Bedini early on. He was very helpful to me, and told me how to approach the National Central Library in Florence where these letters are
kept, to get permission. He’d even sent me an index of the letters that contained the first lines of each to show me how to identify them, since they are numbered in different ways in various places. I wrote to the library and asked for photocopies of six of the letters, which I think was the maximum you could get. I had to pay for them, but that was fine. This was how I got to see her handwriting.

Then I wrote to the director of the library for permission to come and sit in the rare manuscript room and see the actual letters. I got back a positive reply. Fortunately for me, I mentioned my impending journey to Bernard Cohen at Harvard, who was also a mentor to me on this project. He laughed and said, “I have done enough research in Italy to guarantee you that when you get to the library, whoever wrote you that letter won’t be there. And you won’t get in, and it won’t matter that you’ve come all that way. I’m going to help you.” He wrote me a “dazzler letter” on Harvard University stationery. He called me a “scholar of distinction at work on a project of great merit.” He signed it with his real and honorary degrees and a dime-store seal with a ribbon. And sure enough, when I got to the library, my contact was on vacation. I produced Professor Cohen’s letter and got a pass for six months. So, this piece of information is very important for translators to know!

When did you travel to Florence?
That was 1997. I don’t think I was in the library for more than 10 days, maybe not even that many.

What did you do while in Florence?
I wanted to visit all the places where both Galileo and Maria Celeste had lived. During my time in the library, I paged through the letters and took notes on the condition of the paper, even on how the paper was folded, and how her handwriting changed—whether it was very rushed, whether it looked larger or smaller than usual. The published version of her letters didn’t include the way she addressed her father. The published version also didn’t have her sign-off. For instance, sometimes she signed her whole name and sometimes she didn’t. I copied down all this information from each letter. I had a notebook, but I also made a lot of notes right in the original paperback that Michael had gotten for me.

Did you bring your translations along on that trip?
No.

By being able to see the original letters, did you find places in your translations that needed to be reworked for tone, style, etc.?
Not really, partly because Maria Celeste is so direct. You always know how she feels; you don’t have to guess. For example, in one letter she writes, “I’m in a terrible hurry, please excuse me for mistakes I may have made.”

Remember, I didn’t have to read the letters in the library. One of the things that struck me was that, although her Italian is not difficult, if I had worked from the original letters, the style of the abbreviations she used would have stumped me. She abbreviated all sorts of things, for example, the honorific “Ill” for “Illustissima”—the way she always addressed her father; “mo” written like superscript. It’s probably because she had no time and not much paper. And it was the convention of the time; everybody abbreviated certain words, so she did, too. Probably if I’d been trained as a translator, I would have been taught how to recognize those abbreviations.

How is it that the letters are in Florence?
I’m not sure what the history is. It could be that Italy was fragmented for so long that the various holdings just stayed in Florence, so it may just be by chance that the National Central Library has Maria Celeste’s letters. Perhaps nobody could convince Florence to part with them. They don’t have everything of Galileo’s; Rome has lots. These letters were kept with Galileo’s papers in his desk. His last student tried to recover other letters written to him, and was successful.

What did you find out about yourself through this translation project?
I learned that if you really want to do something, that’s actually the best imaginable credential for doing it. That was the overall lesson for me, because I really did not have the skills to do this, at least at the beginning.
I also met up with some interesting coincidences, both while I was writing *Galileo’s Daughter* and after *Letters to Father* was published. While I was working on *Galileo’s Daughter*, I got a message from somebody I knew telling me that there was another book being written by a science historian that was called *Galileo’s Daughters*, “daughters”— plural. I didn’t know what to make of that. It was a woman whose name I’d heard, Professor Paula Findlen at Stanford University. I had even read something by her.

When was this?

Maybe late 1997. So, I wrote Professor Findlen and told her what I was doing and asked her what her book was about. It turned out the book was not about Galileo’s two daughters at all. She was using that title as a metaphor, and her book was really about women who had been educated in science by their fathers.

Did you make your research available to Professor Findlen?

She wasn’t interested. She was working in another area. In the course of our correspondence, she mentioned that she had heard that somebody else had been translating the letters, but had dropped the project after hearing about my book.

There was another person translating Maria Celeste’s letters?

Yes, the letters sit there for a few hundred years and then two people pick them up at the same time! After *Letters to Father* had come out, I received an e-mail that a lecture was being given at a language center on the topic of the letters written to Galileo by his daughter. The person giving the lecture was not me!

I realized that she must have been the person Paula Findlen had told me about. Professor Russell is a well-established scholar of 17th-century Italian women writers and had translated other things. I decided to write to her. I said that our situation was somewhat awkward, but that obviously we were interested in the same thing. Then I asked if she would like to meet and talk about our mutual concerns.

She was very gracious, and invited me to her apartment in New York City. It was most interesting to sit and talk with her. She told me that she had done the translation and sent it to a publisher. And then when the publisher heard about *Galileo’s Daughter*, her manuscript was returned. I came away from our meeting reassured that she had not been brokenhearted by what happened. I certainly would have been if the situation had been reversed.

When did all this take place?

Let’s see. *Letters to Father* came out in November 2001 and we met in January 2002. It was all so connected!

So, there are two different translations of the same letters to consult—yours and Professor Russell’s.

I highly recommend it, because hers is such a different take. You know, I turned right to all those places that had really taxed me and Mariarosa to the limit to see how Dr. Russell had handled them. I looked at what she had said and thought, “You know, if the two of us had gotten together at the beginning, what a force we would have been!”

Dr. Russell is originally from Italy, like Mariarosa?

She’s not only Italian, but she’s really a translator.

How do you think *Letters to Father* differs from *Sister Maria Celeste’s Letters to Her Father, Galileo*?

In the first place, her book does not contain the Italian. What I love about *Letters to Father* is that it does have the Italian version in this country, so I wanted to make that available.

Did you know that I had published my translations on the Internet first? Because the original intent was to
have all the letters included in *Galileo’s Daughter*, but when they didn’t wind up in the book, Professor Albert Van Helden, another Galileo scholar who had counseled me, said it would be wonderful to have these letters available in English for students. So I thought, “Great, we’ll just publish them on the Internet so students can have them.”

**When did the Internet version become available?**

Immediately. Just as *Galileo’s Daughter* was coming out in October 1999, the letters were already posted on the Internet. It took a while to make it happen. I approached Professor Van Helden, who had created the Rice University Galileo Project website (http://es.rice.edu/ES/humsoc/Galileo). He created a separate website for the letters (http://es.rice.edu/ES/humsoc/Galileo/MariaCeleste/). Actually, *Letters to Father* came about after I was approached several times by people saying to me, “I loved your book. I really want to read all the letters and I don’t want to read them on the Internet.” That happened a few times and so my agent, wonderful Michael Carlisle again, had this idea: “Let’s do a gorgeous, expensive edition of the letters in both languages with a ribbon book mark and all of that. And you don’t take any money out of it. It goes to the convent. That’s what they are like.

Now Penguin is about to publish the paperback edition of *Letters to Father*. They are doing just the English, but they’ve made it a Penguin Classic. Which means that Suor Maria Celeste is now up there with Jane Austen, Mary Shelley, George Eliot, and the Bronte Sisters. So, it’s very exciting. The paperback is coming out in late December 2002, and they have already sent me a copy. Penguin was also the paperback publisher of *Galileo’s Daughter* and *Longitude*.

**How did you get paid as the translator of the letters that were published as *Letters to Father*?**

I want to emphasize that I’m not really a translator. The only reason that this book came out at all was that *Galileo’s Daughter* had been a bestseller.

When the publisher agrees to publish a book, you get an advance against royalties. My advance on *Longitude* was low. I had written some books before, but they had not been bestsellers. I had done *Longitude* as a magazine story for *Harvard Magazine*. I had such a negative reaction to the idea from other magazine editors that I would never have dreamed of pitching it as a book.

George Gibson, who is a Harvard alumnus, came to me. He loved the story and was already interested and wanted to do it. I agreed, even though I was offered very little money, because I just loved the idea and I knew that it would be a beautiful thing that we would be proud of. And then we had this unanticipated success.

**To what would you attribute the success of *Longitude*, besides, of course, your wonderful writing?!**

The fact that it was brilliantly written! [smile] Walker produced a gorgeous book. Have you seen a hardcover copy of *Longitude*? It’s perfect.
Interview with Dava Sobel Continued

I had a lot of respect for translators before, which is why I thought I was being bold in attempting it myself. But I didn’t want someone else to do it. I saw the translation as 50% of *Galileo’s Daughter.*

**From doing this project, what have you learned about yourself as a student of language?**

I’m married to an Italian. We tease each other, because he’ll say that, in many cases, my vocabulary is bigger, so he has to ask me how to speak Italian. However, the ease of not only speaking but understanding other people is something he has and I don’t.

I’m not that quick with the language, but I’ve been reassured that the important thing in translation, and you can tell me what you think of this, is for the person doing the translating to be really good at the target language. That’s the most important part. You want to really have a command of the language into which you are translating. So, there I felt that Maria Celeste and I were definitely equal. I could understand her style and celebrate it—I definitely had the ability to do that.

But truthfully, I did not have the skills that, say, Dr. Russell has, in terms of being able to see the materials in the context of the literature of that period.

**But we could say you got the spirit of the letters.**

Yes, I think that is very important. I felt I did understand Maria Celeste’s tone, her emotions. I paid a lot of attention to that. I read those letters over and over again.

**What has the advent of e-mail done to the art of letter writing?**

There’s so much that’s left out. I’d say the only thing you get in exchange for all you lose is the exact time of transmittal, that’s it. I refuse to write “real” letters by e-mail. I use e-mail for work, but if a friend writes me a whole long e-mail, I just send back, “I’ll write you a letter.” I’m not going to sit there and write lengthy e-mails. And I want the letter, obviously. I still write letters with a fountain pen. I’m a dinosaur. Correspondence is really dying out now.

**Into how many different languages was *Galileo’s Daughter* translated?**

Between 20 and 25. The Italian edition came out in 1999. We had a simultaneous publication in the U.S., England, Italy, Spain, and Germany, which was very unusual.

There is an anecdote I’d like to share because you’d asked me about 17th-century Italian. When *Galileo’s Daughter* was translated into Italian, I had to prepare a long memo for the Italian translator about where to find all the original quotes from Galileo’s writings. They didn’t need to translate those passages back; they just needed to pick up the original language. They had her letters, but they needed to be directed to which page in the complete works this or that letter was quoted from. This was the case for all of Galileo’s works.

They cut the letters quite a bit, and I asked them about that. The editor told me that the average Italian reader doesn’t want to wade through all that 17th-century language because it is difficult. So, I said, “How come I could understand it?” And he said, “You must be used to doing difficult things.” One of the things they cut out was the text of Galileo’s *Abjuration,* one of the most stirring speeches in the history of Western civilization! I asked, “How could you take that out?” And he said, “Well, we all have to memorize it in high school! We know it by heart.”

It’s very inviting-looking, and when you pick it up, it actually feels good in your hands. It has fat covers and a beautiful jacket! The publishers did everything they could and talked about the book, especially George, as it was coming into production. In fact, George talked about it with everybody who would listen. He told them the story of John Harrison. He was all excited about it, and had a “buzz” going before the book even came out. The book has surprised people. It isn’t just that the book has done well; it is a book that should never have done well but has enjoyed a great success. *Longitude* in hard cover is still in print—in its 26th or 27th printing. This just doesn’t happen.

When Walker signed me up for *Longitude,* there was so little advance money that my agent made it a two-book contract, so that the publisher would have more of an interest in me. And the advance for *Galileo’s Daughter,* because it was my second book on the two-book contract, was minimal. But I have now realized that the advance is meaningless, because if the book actually sells—if you’re with a publisher that prizes people. It isn’t just that the book even came out. The book has surpassed expectations. There was some vague sense there are the people who like to read letters. There was some interest in Italian. Then we thought it might sell to people who were interested in Italian. There was so little advance, there was so little advance, there was so little advance, there was so little advance, there was so little advance.

We did not expect to sell more than 5,000 copies of *Letters to Father.* We recognized from the beginning that it’s a specialty item. It’s only for people who loved *Galileo’s Daughter.* And we thought it might sell to people who were interested in Italian. Then there are the people who like to read letters. There was some vague sense of the audience. Well, I think we’ve already gone to 10,000 copies in sales. It’s probably because of Mother Mary Francis. There’s some kind of karma operating!

**What respect have you gained for the work of translators after translating Maria Celeste’s letters?**

Well, we all have to memorize it in high school! We know it by heart.”
Did you have direct contact with the Italian translator of *Galileo's Daughter*?
I was in touch with the editor, although I never spoke to the translator personally. The translator’s questions were referred to me.

Were you invited to do a book tour in Italy after *Galileo's Daughter* was published?
Yes, when it came out. They brought me to Milan in 1999. They gave me an interpreter, and in one day I think I had seven interviews, one after the other.

What kind of questions were you asked?
A lot of their interest was about my take on Galileo, the controversial aspect of my book.

After *Galileo’s Daughter* was published, have readers written to you?
Yes, many readers have written to me on many aspects of the book. For example, I had tried to find out why Galileo was so sick and what the nature of his illness was. I was not able to find anything in the literature on whether anyone had tried to figure it out. A lot of medical journals will have historical studies like that, but there just wasn’t anything about Galileo. After the book was published, a couple of doctors wrote to me who were interested in his illness and had ideas about it. But still no one can say for sure what it was.

And a lot of people tell me they cried at the end of *Galileo’s Daughter*. That it brought the time alive for them.

What are you working on now?
I’m writing a new book on the planets of the solar system. The thread here, from *Longitude* through *Galileo’s Daughter* to the planets, is astronomy.

Would you take on another translation project after this one?
Probably not, even though I loved doing this. Just for fun later on, I translated the brother’s, Vincenzo’s, letters. There aren’t as many of those, only seven. He was born in 1606. Just reading them casually, you can tell that he’s a very different kind of bear! He doesn’t have Maria Celeste’s attitude at all.

I read some of these letters during a talk I had to give at a conference. I thought reading a few of Vincenzo’s letters would be fun and something a little different. I knew that everybody there was a Galileo scholar and that they had all read *Galileo’s Daughter*. Everybody enjoyed hearing them. It was comic relief.

Please use some adjectives to describe the translation process.
Arduous, instructive.

What advice would you give someone taking on a translation project?
To be sure you love what you’re taking on, because you’re going to be alone in a room with it for a long time, so it’s better if you like it. I can’t imagine someone taking on a translation project and not feeling that way about it.

What contribution have you made by having *Letters to Father* available in a bilingual edition?
What I think of as my “contribution” is *Galileo’s Daughter*. Really, for me, the hard work was done for *Galileo’s Daughter*. Certainly, I had to think about the letters more in order to get them published. I had to write notes and various introductions to make them stand on their own. But it’s not the same thing. It’s not as though I set out to publish a stand-alone translation in the first place.

Suor Maria Celeste’s letters were the vehicle for re-examining Galileo’s attitude about the church, something that is still the subject of argument today. So, all of that was very interesting. At the same time, it was gratifying to bring her forward as the most-beloved person in Galileo’s life, especially as the conditions of her life—living cloistered—had all but guaranteed she would not be heard from. So, to have the chance to put her voice before a large audience was thrilling.
NAJIT’s 24th Annual Meeting and Educational Conference will be held at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee (hotel rate: $79/night, with complimentary parking and airport transportation). More information on speakers, seminars, and preconference workshops available at www.najit.org. Come join us, and take a Tennessee vacation afterwards!

FOR
LONG-TERM
PLANNERS

Future Annual Conference Sites and Dates

2004
Toronto, Canada
October 13-16

2005
Seattle, Washington
November 9-12

2006
New Orleans, Louisiana
November 1-4

Detailed information on page 57.
Science in Translation: Movements of Knowledge Through Cultures and Time

Author: Scott L. Montgomery
Publisher: University of Chicago Press: Chicago
Publication date: 2000

Occasionally, a book about translation reminds us of the significance and complexity of our profession. Science in Translation is such a book—a guide through certain moments in the history of ideas and a new look at old suppositions about translation and the movement of knowledge. The question that drives this work is how the process of translation affects, and often even governs, the genesis of new scientific ideas.

What the author has demonstrated by his careful exposition of a few instances of knowledge transfer is summed up in the last two sentences of his book: “Translation easily becomes a new eye cast upon the delights and difficulties of science scholarship. Through its lens, one discerns that mobilities of knowledge are integral to the substance and crucial to any understanding of the scientific past and present.”

Science in Translation is divided into three parts. The first, and longest, depicts the transmission of astronomical literature within the West, away from the West, and back again. The second part lays out the role of ever-present translation in the development of modern Japanese science. The third part of the book proposes that even in contemporary scientific translation, the equivalence of scientific symbols does not mean a total equivalence of content in the source and target texts.

The author of this book, Scott L. Montgomery, serves as a plausible guide through a history of scientific translation—he has worked for many years as a scientific translator, as well as a scientist and geologist. With this as a foundation, the tone and intent of his writing as a historian and theoretician is acceptable to both practicing translators and scholars.

The ideas of Greek astronomy came to the modern West over a circuitous route: from Rome, to the near East, to the Arabic world, and finally back to Latin Europe. In tracing this progress, Montgomery illustrates in detail how at each step, the nature of science depended both on translation and on the interests and motives of the appropriating culture. In the process, he presents a picture of translation that is foreign to translators today—a process of adaptation, emendation, and nativization to such an extent that the “original” disappears.

Science in antiquity and the Middle Ages existed, to a very large extent, in texts as much as in observatories. But because these texts were manuscripts, produced one by one, they were vulnerable to the errors which might be expected when the scribe is not a master of the source language or the content of the document. In addition to errors, there was conscious editing, involving changes, additions, and reorganization of the text. Radical transformation of the text also occurred, motivated by the same reasons for which a translation was being made. Rome sought to conquer Greece not to destroy it, but to possess it.

Rome mined Greek culture by a sort of translation we would be more inclined to call imitation. It chose what it wanted from Greek writings on astronomy and worked with those, excerpting, translating, amplifying and, over the course of several reworkings which were often anonymous, “erasing” the original text and Rome’s debt to Greece. What was retained was largely practical—calendar making and astrology. Theoretical works were not as assiduously assimilated.

On the other hand, theoretical works in history, philosophy, and science were largely what interested Arab scholars. They, for their part, worked neither from the Greek texts nor the Latin ones, but rather from translations into Syriac, made by Nestorians who, persecuted for heresy, had fled eastward. These texts were combined with texts from India and Persia, and the work of amalgamation gave rise to a great epoch of translation into Arabic. In this way, Greek technical learning was moved away from Europe. Great scholarly effort was devoted to the establishment of master texts drawn from the most credible sources, and translation began to move away from interpretation toward accuracy and completeness. However, as in the case of translation from Greek to Latin, changes were decided upon, particularly in terminology, that made the target text seem native rather than borrowed.

Having sketched the movement of astronomical thought from both West and East into Arabic literature, Montgomery traces the growth of Arabic science in the 8th, 9th, and 10th centuries into a body of knowledge that would be eagerly sought by Western scholars two centuries later.

Part II is a much shorter but no less fascinating depiction, in some detail,
of the relationship among language, politics, foreign relations, and science in Japan from the 17th century onward. The first outside influence on Japanese science came from China. It was highly philosophical and entailed the adaptation of Chinese ideograms to Japanese. In the 17th century, European Jesuits came to Japan. In their copious writings in Japanese, they could have opened a window to Western science, but ideology on both sides prevented it. The first window, then, was opened by the Dutch, who had acquired exclusive trading rights in the country. For 100 years or more, Dutch served as the intermediary language between Japanese scholars and the rest of the intellectual world just as, much earlier, Syriac had served. In the late 19th century, it became a policy of the government to educate Japanese scholars in Europe, for the purpose of bringing Western science back home. Students were sent to countries that excelled in fields of research of importance to Japan. This was enriching, but as a result, scholars who had been educated in different European countries could not communicate with each other, because they did their work in the language of the country where they had studied and not in Japanese. This unproductive situation was resolved in large part by newly founded scholarly societies, which sponsored work in Japanese terminology and the creation of multilingual dictionaries for many fields.

In addition, ever since the late 19th century, English has steadily become the lingua franca of science in Japan, thus providing another source of commonality. In practice, this means that pursuing science, for a Japanese researcher, is based on pursuing translation in almost every facet of one’s work. Out of a need to reach an international audience, Japanese scholarship is still multilingual to a unique extent. One can say that the very considerable developments that have taken place in Japanese science, especially since World War II, reflect a great shift in cultural loyalties. However, when these individuals read and write in Japanese, they are working with a unique stratification of connotations, history, and sources that cannot be untangled without great literacy in Japanese language, culture, and history. This section of the book continues with a historical summary of the development of Japanese science.

The third part of Science in Translation has to do with contemporary scientific translation. Here, because it is not so readily apparent that scientific texts are as marked by their language as humanistic texts, Montgomery nimbly demonstrates this point. To do this, he uses an English mathematical report, a French geological paper, and an agronomy report in English written in India. The discussion is eye-opening, and an enriching one for a sci-tech translator.

Finally, Montgomery reiterates the points he has set up so convincingly—the nonidentity of languages and of original text with the translation provides a vibrant stimulus for research and innovation in science. We are more instinctively aware of this in times before our own, but the phenomenon continues and our work is vital to it. This book is of great interest to practitioners of scientific translation, and an encouragement for those who study its history and theory.
This dictionary, known to German legal translators as the “Romain,” is an excellent legal dictionary that no translator of legal German can afford to be without. It has now appeared in a new edition, revised by Sharon Byrd, director of the Law and Language Center at the University of Jena, and by Carola Thielecke. The fourth edition boasts that it contains the following:

- New German terminology in the fields of intellectual property law, commercial law, insolvency law, social security law, and the law of distance sales through new communication media;
- Legal and commercial terminology from European and international law;
- Legal terminology from the fields of international commercial litigation, international commercial arbitration, and international business transactions;
- Austrian and Swiss legal terminology;
- The rapidly growing number of abbreviations in international, European, and German law; and
- Differences in British and U.S. American translations of German legal terms.

Given the fact that the dictionary is indispensable and will therefore probably already be in the libraries of most German-to-English legal translators, the question is whether it makes sense for them to purchase this new edition. I, for one, was most interested in the claim that the book contains Austrian and Swiss legal terminology. Up to now, the standard reference works from Germany (i.e., the Creifelds Rechtswörterbuch, the Dietl/Lorenz, and the Romain) have failed to include any specifically Swiss or Austrian legal terminology. Unfortunately, I was unable to find any of the following Swiss legal terms in the new edition of the Romain: Vernehmlassungsverfahren, Domizilhalter, Instruktionsgebühr, Kanzleiauslagen, Regeste, Stadtamman, Dispositiv, Referentenaudienz, staatsrechtliche Beschwerde, Streitbeurufener, and Zivilgesetzbuch. Nor are the Austrian terms Haftrücklass and Schlussbrief included. Indeed, thus far, I have been unable to locate any specifically Swiss terms in the new edition. Even under “eidenössisch,” we find only “Swiss,” even though there are scores of Swiss terms and institutions that begin with that word.

This failure to include the terms is especially frustrating given the fact that Doucet/Fleck’s German-into-French legal dictionary, which is part of the same series of dictionaries as the Romain, does include many of the Swiss and Austrian terms mentioned (obviously translating them only into French). Because the Doucet/Fleck and the Romain are part of the same series, we can assume the revisers of the Romain could have consulted the Doucet/Fleck in their search for Swiss terminology. The failure to include Swiss terms is also frustrating because legal translators need to be alerted to the fact that sometimes a legal term has one meaning under German law and a different meaning under Swiss law. For example, in German law, a Pflichtteilsberechtigter simply has a claim to a monetary amount from a decedent’s estate, whereas in Swiss law, a Pflichtteilsberechtigter is guaranteed a portion of the estate. Unfortunately, information like this is nowhere to be found in the Romain.

I would also argue that some of the changes in the new edition are not necessarily improvements. For example, my colleague Margaret Marks drew my attention to the term Verrichtungsgehilfe, which the previous version gave as “vicarious agent with respect to tortious liability,” and the new edition has changed to read as follows: “Verrichtungsgehilfe/-gehilfin—vicarious agent (tort liability), servant (master-servant relation), employee, person employed for whom the employer is not vicariously liable.” Obviously, the new edition has changed “tortious liability” to “tort liability.” This is actually a switch from British English (tortious liability) to American English (tort liability), but the dictionary fails to mark “tort liability” as American even though it boasts that it shows “differences in British and U.S. American translations of German legal terms.” It also adds a “D,” presumably to indicate that the
term is used only in German law, and defines the term as “person employed for whom the employer is not vicariously liable.” This is very odd indeed, because it also states that the term means precisely the opposite—“vicarious agent,” i.e., a person for whom the employer is vicariously liable. I should also note that Margaret’s research has shown that “vicarious agent” is not really a term in English at all, but is instead simply a fabricated term to translate a German word.

All things considered, I would stick with my trusty third edition and not rush out to buy the fourth. However, if the fourth edition book were to be released on CD-ROM, I would indeed buy it, because look-up of the terms in the Romain (though somewhat improved in the new print edition) is still difficult.

Waiting for the electronic version of the Robert & Collins: An Interview with Martyn-John Back, director of bilingual dictionaries at Le Robert in France
By Françoise Herrmann

Martyn, perhaps you could first explain in a little more detail the kind of work you do, and for the younger generation of readers, your background and how you landed such a wonderful job?

I studied modern languages at a university in England, but I have no formal training as a lexicographer (in fact, very few institutions offer diplomas in lexicography). When I graduated, I moved to Paris and taught English for several years before becoming a freelance translator. In 1990, the publishing house Larousse was looking for junior editors for a large bilingual dictionary project, and I applied for a job. I didn’t really know what a lexicographer was back then! After several years at Larousse, I moved to Le Robert as project manager, and was eventually put in charge of the bilingual department. One of my favorite words is “serendipity”—partly because I love the word and its history, and partly because it sums up my career!

My job is very varied. I manage the regular updating of our range of bilingual dictionaries, working closely with our partner and copublisher Collins in Glasgow. This involves keeping abreast of new words and expressions in both French and English, and taking a fresh look at how our dictionaries deal with problem areas. What I love about working for Le Robert is that our dictionaries are changing all the time, not just in terms of content but also in how we approach linguistic problems. My work also involves setting up joint publishing projects with partner publishers—recently, for example, in Spain and China. And in recent years, I have been very busy designing and editing a new bilingual dictionary for young language learners. This has been a huge success in France, and we are hoping to export it to other countries soon.

I imagine that with the advent of new communication technologies and the expansion of the global economy at the turn of the century, these are also serendipitous times for dictionary designers. Could you highlight how an institutional giant such as the Robert & Collins manages to keep abreast of what I like to call the terminology frontier, and perhaps even more importantly, as you have pointed out, the new approaches to methodology and linguistic problems that have evolved.

Perhaps I should point out that at Le Robert, we are general lexicographers and not terminologists. The two demand very different skills and resources, and Robert & Collins are not in the business of producing specialist lexicons. But there are technical fields that have a public face, such as computing, economics, and even sports, and we do our utmost to keep abreast of the changes taking place there. We do this in two ways. First, both Le Robert (for French) and Collins (for English) perform continuous lexical monitoring, with staff specially assigned to reading a wide variety of texts and recording what they find in databases. Second, we have access to two of the largest lexical databanks in the world, the Bank of English and the Banque du Français Moderne. These regularly updated corpora contain a total of some 600 million words from a wide variety of sources, and are invaluable for monitoring the progress of neologisms and, above all, for exploring how words behave in relation to one
another. The latter is a key concept in translating, since the context of a word influences its translation just as much as its meaning. These tools have revolutionized our methodology by making it more scientific and less purely intuitive. If I had to give a single reason why I think the Robert & Collins is such a good dictionary, I’d say that it’s because it is based on corpus evidence.

New technologies are also influencing our overall approach to the dictionary concept. Advances in natural language processing and new media for carrying and displaying data are of great interest to dictionary publishers, as they challenge our traditional methods and encourage us to explore new avenues.

600 million terms...this sounds like a translator’s dream! You mention also that new media for displaying and transporting data transform both the process and product of dictionary publication. Could you explain this in greater detail, especially with regards to the upcoming and long-awaited new electronic versions of the Robert & Collins?

It’s true that we have kept our readers waiting a while! But we think their patience will be rewarded. Le Robert will publish its first major electronic bilingual dictionary in 2003. We set out with the idea that our electronic dictionary should not just be a reformatting of our data into an electronic medium. We wanted to think about it first and foremost as an electronic tool, making full use of the power, speed, and flexibility of digitalization. We are lucky enough to hold all our data in electronically tagged form, which means that the hundreds of types of information the dictionary contains all have meaningful “names” rather than just typographical codes attached to them. In the printed book, these “names” are invisible to the user, but in electronic format we can use them to call up different types of information. An interesting example of the power of this tool is its capacity to look on both sides of the dictionary simultaneously. If you look up the word “entitle” in a traditional dictionary, you’ll only access the entry for “entitle” and the translations given there. But imagine a device that would instantly display not only this, but also all the instances on the other side of the dictionary where “entitle” appears as a translation. It more than doubles the potential of your dictionary, because there may be relevant translations elsewhere than in the entry itself.

It certainly sounds as though the wait will be worth it! Could you give readers a few more pointers as to the kinds of new features to be found in the upcoming CD-ROM version of the Le Robert & Collins? And perhaps also clarify that this is indeed a brand new 2003 product that is different from the current Collins-Robert CD-ROM and the Lexibase version.

Yes, this is a new product, and it is the first electronic bilingual dictionary to be developed by Le Robert. Another feature readers may be interested in is the way translations for idiomatic expressions can be accessed. In the paper dictionary, when you look for an idiom you usually look under the key word (so, to grasp the nettle would be under nettle). But the idiom may be presented elsewhere on the English → French side of the dictionary (under grasp), and also come up as a translation on the French → English side, sometimes with different French equivalents. What we have done is to index thousands of idioms and set structures wherever they appear, which allows for the display of all possible translations, not just the term given as the keyword. And we have pre-edited these indices so that each translation only appears once (to avoid cluttering the display when an idiom is given exactly the same translation in four different places, for example).

Translators working (as most of us do) into their own language will find the “synonyms” function invaluable. This gives instant access to a complete list of synonyms for a given word. Though you may be satisfied that the French word “individualité” means “individuality,” you will find it useful to choose from a set of related nuances such as “character, discreteness, distinction, distinctiveness, originality, peculiarity, separateness, or singularity.” The print dictionary cannot give all these nuances and synonyms for reasons of space. Because the space problem disappears in the virtual universe of the electronic dictionary, it is possible to provide this wealth of extra information.

Further help with self-expression—in the target language this time—is given via a hyperlinked “Language in Use” feature. This means that starting from a given concept (for example, “disagreement,” with its related verb “disagree”), you can access a series of ready-made French sentences that are related to the concept. This extends the boundaries of the dictionary because what you’re being given is a thematically grouped set of sentences rather than just a single translation of...
the word itself. This is a real plus when you have to write structured arguments, essays, or letters in French and are unsure of the right way to express things.

All of these new features sound terrific. I love the “Language in Use” section of the paper Robert & Collins Super Senior, and a hyper-linked version sounds like a super bonus. Martyn, there are quite a few French–English bilingual dictionaries on the market, and many readers and users wonder which ones they should purchase. You have already pointed out how the Le Robert corpus evidence makes the Robert & Collins such a good dictionary. Could you address the forthcoming CD-ROM version in the same way?

The features I’ve mentioned are only as good as the data they allow access to. The real strength of this dictionary, and what sets it apart from the rest, is its treatment of the two languages it sets out to mirror. The mirror metaphor is doubly pertinent. The use of up-to-date corpora means that each side of the dictionary reflects real usage, and stringent translation criteria ensure that the two languages mirror each other. An example I enjoy quoting is the word “effréné,” which in previous editions (and other dictionaries) is translated as “wild, unbridled, unrestrained, frantic” because its collocates are felt to be things like “course effrénée,” “passion effrénée,” and “luxe effrénée.” Corpus analysis revealed that “effréné” is far more likely to qualify words like “spéculation,” “consommation,” “recherche,” and “concurrence.” The collocation “luxe effrénée” is rare, but the expression “à un rythme effréné” is very common indeed. The new edition has an entry that mirrors reality much more faithfully, with translations such as “rampant consumerism,” “the reckless pursuit of profit,” and “at a furious pace.” To me, this is what bilingual lexicography is all about—it’s far more than just including and translating new words.

That’s a convincing and insightful example. Research really does make a difference and I now have a better understanding of what you meant elsewhere when you mentioned truth in lexicography. One more question. The design conversion and your work in bilingual lexicography are ongoing. Quantum leaps usually occur from one version to the next, both in printed editions and especially in electronic versions. Even though the new Le Robert CD-ROM has not yet been launched, you have completed one pioneering cycle of production. I would like to ask you about your plans, and what you envision for the future: scheduled updates, or new versions, an interest in using the web for electronic mediation, or plans for tackling some hitherto uncharted territory?

We are actively considering the best way to use the web as a medium, if not a mediator, for our bilingual data. The parameters here are both conceptual and economic. We need to be sure that providing access to a bilingual dictionary on the web provides a genuine service to our users, and we also need to address the commercial viability of such a move. As you mentioned elsewhere, the web provides exciting opportunities for on-the-fly updating and user-publisher interaction. We are currently actively exploring these possibilities at Le Robert.

As for the future of bilingual lexicography, I think aligned bilingual corpora have huge potential for making the dictionary of the future. The idea is simple, its realization more complex. Highley trained and experienced translators all over the world are producing reams of accurately translated text. Why not use this as the basis for dictionaries? It really works. For example, I carried out a modest text alignment project some years ago, and was able to improve several dictionary entries with the results. But processing the data is very labor-intensive and expensive. Potentially, the web is the biggest and best multilingual dictionary the world has ever known. But my corpus shows that one of the most common collocates of the word “web” is “tangled.” Our new challenge is to untangle the web.

Thanks, Martyn, for sharing these compelling ideas with us. I think that dictionary designers and translators are true allies. And I wish you good luck unraveling the tangled threads of the web to further all of our common interests in language. As you know, Godot never shows up, but I am sure that Le Robert’s promises will exceed our most daring expectations. Thanks again.

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.fphd.org.
W
ant to see a real hoot of a video that has strong linguistic, political, and artistic interest all wrapped up together? Go to virtually any of the Internet services that offer a wide variety of videos and order East Side Story. It is a documentary video, with subtitles where appropriate and more than an hour in length, depicting what happened on the rare occasions behind the old Iron Curtain when filmmakers took it into their heads to produce musical comedies. Such films went against the grain of everything communism stood for, and yet a recognition did develop that light-hearted films with music were needed. Stalin himself actually began this trend, strange as it seems. About half a dozen Warsaw Pact nations’ movies are surveyed, with East Germany’s DEFA (Deutsche Film-AG) having the strongest representation. You don’t need to have even a nodding acquaintance with any of the languages used to appreciate East Side Story. You’ll love the tractors!

[Abbreviations used with this column: D–Dutch; E–English; F–French; G–German; I–Italian; P–Polish; R–Russian; SC–Serbo-Croatian; Sp–Spanish; Sw–Swedish.]

New Queries

(D-E 4-03/1) Several conflicting responses, with no evident consensus, came after this query in ProZ regarding draakrans. Maybe ATA members can do better with it. The full sentence goes like this: Deze assen worden dan gemonteerd op een subframe welke via een draakrans aan het chassis is vastgemaakt.

(E-D 4-03/2) Report engine stumped a ProZ member trying to translate a text into Dutch that mentioned several features in list fashion without elaboration: order administration, supplier administration, report engine, and document management. Evidently, the process is one of placing orders with a supplier. Who can tackle this latest buzzword?

(E-SC 4-03/3) A ProZ correspondent wondered about crisis management in a text that read like this: An EU-NATO deal reached last December allows the EU to use NATO planning, logistics, and intelligence for its own crisis management operations. How is this best rendered into Serbo-Croatian?

(E-Sp 4-03/4) A literary reference to strip malls brought to a full stop a translator who was trying to make decent Spanish out of this. Just about any American who reads this has seen these facilities many times, and they are part of his or her mental geography, requiring no elaborate explanation; but just what can one do with this concept in Spanish?

(E-Sw 4-03/5) A feature of CD player performance called peak search (AMS), referring to a capacity to search for the loudest sector of the record, troubled a ProZ’er who was dealing with an English text about such players to be translated into Swedish. He thought that topp and toppsökning might work, but needed either a confirmation of this or a suggestion of something else.

(F-E 4-03/6) This query originally called for a response in Spanish, but we’ll settle for English: Arriver 20 minutes avant votre course pour vous “désestresser.” What to make of the final word?

(G-E 4-03/7) This banking-related query comes from ProZ, and has as its focus the problem word “Kontingentprüfung.” Luckily, there is plenty of context: Die Kontingentprüfung erfolgt bei XXX AG. Die Meldung muss folgende Daten beinhalten: ISIN, Kunden-Konto-Nr., Stückzahl und angefordeter Betrag (nicht zwingend erforderlich). What is taking place?

(G-E 4-03/8) In a parts list for an electrofilter, a ProZ user had trouble with the term Klopfung: NE-Klopfung: Antrieb ohne Getriebemotor; NE-Klopfung: Hammerwellenlager, etc. What is this phenomenon?

(I-E 4-03/9) The term chiocciola portante, dealing with automobile engines, stumped a ProZ user. Unfortunately, the entire sentence was not available. Can anyone take this small amount of information and make something of it?

Responses to Old Queries

(E-R 8-02/4) (pre-crime unit): It should be noted that unit is best translated as группа, says Vera Chakhov in commenting on Alexander Aron’s reply to this on page 70 of the October 2002 ATA Chronicle. This is because служба, as suggested by Alexander, has a broader meaning: take, for example, Федеральная служба безопасности, воинская служба, служба связи. Vera’s preference is группа по предупреждению (или профилактики) преступлений. But in her heart of hearts, she would like most of all to see a translation that includes the phrase…но борьбе с..., because, as she says, “We Russians like to battle with something (Мы, русские, любим бороться с чем-то).”

(E-R 10-02/3) (to bring or recover in an action): Vera Chakhov offered many options for this, for which we are grateful. We cannot give them all, but a few of the more concise are: выставить нам иск и получить по нему: обвинить нас и выиграть дело;
As for the entire sentence, a fairly lengthy one to which the reader can refer back on page 69 of the October 2002 ATA Chronicle, she translates ability in this context, meaning an ability to recover, as правомочие, правомочие основания или описания, возможности, вероятность. This, of course, results in a huge list of possible sentences that could logically result as legitimate Russian translations, and Vera was kind enough to provide 15 of these. Here are just a couple interesting samples:

Dthjznyjcnm njuj> xnj ds ghfdjvjxys dscnfdbnm yfv bcr b gjkexbnm gj ytve djpvto< d celt,yjv gjhzlrt> vfkf> gjcrjkmre d Hjccbb frwbjyths> yt bvt/obt rjynhjkmyjuj gfrtnf frwbq> ckf,j pfobotys. One more:

Ghfdf frwbjythjd> yt bvt/obt rjynhjkmyjuj gfrtnf frwbq> d Hjccbb juhfybxtys> gj'njve e dfc vkj jcyjdfybq gjlfnm yf yfc d cel b dsbuhfnm 'nj ltkj. This response from Vera was done with such diligence that it may be described as not much less than a cottage industry. A list of five sources was provided!

(E-Sp 10-02/4) (The goal of this program is to ensure redundancy, etc.): Jaime Vargas provides his version of this sentence, found in full on page 69 of the October 2002 ATA Chronicle. Thus: Según una notificación del Pentágono, el propósito de este programa es asegurar capacidad de repetición, supervivencia, recuperación, buen manejo, disponibilidad, seguridad y una adecuada proporción a escala.

(E-Sp 11-02/5) (skeletons to be unearthed): For Miriam Lassman-Rosin, the best solution is...aun existe la posibilidad de la disculverta ulterior de nuevos escándalos.

(E-Sw 1-03/5) (data capture): Paul Hopper’s advice to the questioner, who cautiously advanced datafangst as a suggestion, is not to overlook the obvious. That may be right. Possible alternatives could be dateinsamling (data acquisition in Collin’s English→Swedish Dictionary of Computing and Information Technology) and insamling av data. But maybe it might be more enlightening to find out, in English, exactly what data capture is. The Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary, third edition, calls it: 1.) The collection of information at the time of a transaction.; 2.) The process of saving on a storage medium a record of interchanges between a user and a remote information utility.

(F-E 11-02/6) (La société produit, distribue et exploite les films): Miriam Lassman-Rosin proposes The company is engaged in the production, distribution, and marketing of the films.

(F-E 1-03/7) (fichiers de police): From his days in Paris in the late 1950s, Jaime Vargas can state that these were simply old-style police card-files where information on people, mostly delinquent types, was kept in cabinets. The term may have made a transition to mean the computerized files of today.

(G-E 11-02/9) (Jetzt-erst-recht Stimmung): Ilse Andrews calls this an attitude of defiance. Based on that, a translation simply of defiant attitude could work, but a more elaborate rendition might be a nearly defiant mood of “we’ll do it just the same.” It is called an “in spite of it all” mood by Miriam Lassman-Rosin. The Translation Inquirer supposes that such moods were the constant staple of the more serious, socialism-will-triumph films made by DEFA, as mentioned at the top of this column, from the 1950s until the late 1980s.

Please keep the queries and responses coming. In dealing with them once a month, I have become a well-oiled machine after 10 years on the job. But unlike real machines that are subject to mechanical wear and tear, my wear and tear comes from getting too little material to work on. It sounds crazy, but I can say that on a purely subjective level, that’s how the Translation Inquirer feels.

Attention Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian↔English Translators and Interpreters

An effort is underway to establish ATA accreditation for one or more of the above language pairs. For information, to express your interest in accreditation, or to participate in the initiative, please contact the Volunteer Committee at dbaPlanB@aol.com.
The following material is taken from a piece by Wayne Grytting which appeared in the February 2003 issue of Z magazine. It is used here by permission. Wayne Grytting is the author of American Newspeak: The Mangling of Meaning for Power and Profit. Newspeak, of course, is George Orwell’s fictional degraded language, which enslaves its speakers by making them incapable of independent thought.

But fiction can become reality.

According to the U.S. Government, a neutron bomb is a “radiation enhancement device,” a heat-ray gun used for crowd control is an “active denial system,” and, in a piece of pornographic military verbosity, an invasion is a “pre-dawn vertical insertion.”

Part of “reinventing government” was to make sure that everyone understood that a “deputy associate deputy secretary” is a high rank, higher than “associate deputy assistant secretary,” “assistant deputy assistant secretary,” and “deputy associate assistant secretary.”

In the Community Protection and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Act, the hazardous fuels are trees.

And those who fought against fascism in the Spanish civil war of the 1930s were, according to the U.S. Defense Department, “premature anti-fascists.”

State governments also get into the act. In the state of Washington, cow manure has become “dairy nutrient.”

Corporations do their bit. If you are made a “partner” at Starbucks, you receive about minimum wage. That’s far better than being “unassigned” by AT&T’s “force management program,” or, if you are a temporary employee, being asked to “strengthen your relationship” with your employment agency by Microsoft. In both cases, you’re fired!
ATA Accreditation Exam Information

Upcoming Exams

California
July 12, 2003
Gardena
Registration Deadline: June 27, 2003

Colorado
September 13, 2003
Boulder
Registration Deadline: August 29, 2003

District of Columbia
June 28, 2003
Washington, DC
Registration Deadline: June 13, 2003

Michigan
August 30, 2003
Novi
Registration Deadline: August 15, 2003

New Mexico
Albuquerque
August 16, 2003
Registration Deadline: August 1, 2003

New York
September 20, 2003
New York City
Registration Deadline: September 5, 2003

North Carolina
June 8, 2003
Charlotte
Registration Deadline: May 23, 2003

Ohio
June 21, 2003
Kent
Registration Deadline: June 6, 2003

Tennessee
September 13, 2003
Nashville
Registration Deadline: August 29, 2003

Texas
August 16, 2003
Houston
Registration Deadline: August 1, 2003

Wisconsin
August 16, 2003
Milwaukee
Registration Deadline: August 1, 2003

Argentina
June 7, 2003
Buenos Aires
Registration Deadline: May 23, 2003

Germany
May 24, 2003
Regensburg
Registration Deadline: May 9, 2003

Mexico
June 7, 2003
Guadalajara
Registration Deadline: May 23, 2003

Please direct all inquiries regarding general accreditation information to ATA Headquarters at (703) 683-6100. Registration for all accreditation 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.

Congratulations

French into English
Jean-Loup R. Combermale
Warrenton, VA

Italian into English
Elizabeth A. Hill
New York, NY

Japanese into English
A. Claire Debenham
Osaka, Japan

Spanish into English
Nidia E. Marshall
Sewell, NJ
Maria A. Prio
Miami, FL

English into Spanish
Maria C. Propato
Houston, TX

The Active Member Review Committee is pleased to grant active or corresponding member status to:

Active:
Joyce R. Lott
Greenville, SC

Corresponding:
Olivier P. Andre
Boston, MA
Eva Harrison
Chicago, IL
Plan now to attend ATA’s Annual Conference. Join your colleagues for a rewarding experience in Phoenix, Arizona.

ATA’s 44th Annual Conference will feature:
- Over 150 educational sessions offering something for everyone;
- The Job Exchange where individuals promote their services and companies meet translators and interpreters;
- Over 50 exhibits featuring the latest publications, software, and services available;
- Opportunities to network with over 1,200 translators and interpreters from throughout the U.S. and around the world;
- and much more!

Preliminary information, along with the Registration Form, will be mailed in July to all ATA members. The conference rates are listed below. As always, ATA members receive significant discounts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference Registration Fees</th>
<th>ATA Member</th>
<th>Non-Member</th>
<th>Student Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early-Bird (by October 1):</td>
<td>$245</td>
<td>$335</td>
<td>$110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-day:</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>$170</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After October 1:</td>
<td>$305</td>
<td>$420</td>
<td>$130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-day:</td>
<td>$160</td>
<td>$220</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onsite (after October 24):</td>
<td>$380</td>
<td>$525</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-day:</td>
<td>$195</td>
<td>$270</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Students and one-day participants do not receive a copy of the Proceedings. All speakers must register for the conference.

Hotel Accommodations
The Pointe South Mountain Resort, the host hotel, is the largest all-suite resort in the Southwest located on 200 acres at the base of South Mountain Park. It is conveniently located at 7777 South Pointe Parkway, just six miles from Sky Harbor International Airport.

Conference attendees can register at the discounted rate of **$155 single/double and $175 triple** plus tax per night. This rate is good until **October 13, 2003**. The availability of guest rooms or the group rate cannot be guaranteed after that date. In addition, take advantage of the special resort rate that is being offered to ATA conference attendees. For a daily charge of $8.00 per suite, attendees may enjoy unlimited local phone calls, unlimited access for credit card, toll free, and collect calls, free incoming and outgoing facsimile service, daily in-suite pot of coffee, weekday delivery of *USA Today*, admittance to the Fitness Centre, unlimited tennis and volleyball, and complimentary shuttle to the Arizona Mills Mall.

To make your hotel reservations, contact the Pointe South Mountain Resort at 1-877-800-4888. Be sure to specify that you are attending the ATA Annual Conference.

Mark Your Calendar Today for November 5-8, 2003!
**Call for Proposals**

Second Annual Conference of ATA’s Chapter of the Upper Midwest Translators and Interpreters Association

Saturday, October 18, 2003

Twin Cities, Minnesota

The Executive Committee of UMTIA is seeking presentation proposals on topics related to the translation and interpreting fields for this daylong conference. Possible topics include: legal translation and court interpreting; medical translation and interpreting; financial translation; technical translation; translation software and tools; terminology; localization; literary translation; agencies and commercial translation; business practices; and training and pedagogy. All proposals for sessions must be in English. Please send presentation abstracts and resumes to UMTIA President Laurence Bogoslaw at uppermidwestata@yahoo.com or fax to (612) 624-4579. Deadline: May 15, 2003.

Please direct questions to Dr. Bogoslaw at (612) 624-4055. To request a UMTIA Conference Presentation Proposal Form, e-mail UMTIA at uppermidwestata@yahoo.com.

**Notice of Display Booth Availability**

Reserve display space early, as high participation is expected. Reach an estimated 250 language professionals from the five-state Upper Midwest area (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota) for a minimal booth fee at this full-day conference. UMTIA members receive a discounted booth rate. Participants will include: translators and interpreters, government agencies, translation agencies, educational institutions, community organizations, professional associations, and consultants.

For details on display booth information and booth reservation forms, please contact Deb Kramasz at uppermidwestata@yahoo.com or (612) 349-3142.
**Arabic, French <> English**

PhD plus MBA, UN freelance verbatim translator and interpreter, ATA accredited Arabic to English. Voice/fax: 212-647-1428; E-mail: transwriter@xs.com

**Chinese <> English**

Fast, experienced and affordable full-time freelancer. Traditional/Simplified character. Mandarin/ Cantonese. Visit www.chentranslation.com or – Tel: (305)362-6823 Fax: (305)558-1157 Email: webmaster@chentranslation.com

**Chinese, Japanese, Korean etc.**


**Czech, Slovak <> English**

Highly experienced, reliable, fast translator / conference interpreter. Any work volume. Quality control. (303) 530-9781; Fax: (303) 530-5600; ireznicek@aol.com.

**English<>Vietnamese**

Top quality and high volume translation services. PC and Mac. We support most Vietnamese fonts. Call us today at (954)755-9617; Fax: (954)755-9618; Email: interel@attglobal.net

**French<>English**

Search For French<>English Translators Exane, Inc., the New York-based subsidiary of Exane SA, an independent French brokerage, is looking for freelance French-to-English translators with experience in equity research. Please email CV and cover letter (including rates) to: complianceny@exane.com. No phone calls please.

**Freelance Multilingual DTP**

Freelance DTP Source for Romans, non-Romans & C/J/K, PC or Mac. Contact Ana Migens at amigens@telefonica.net, @yahoo.com, tel. +34-954-21-77-86

**French<>English**

Translation QA/QC - Editing

17 years' experience in translation & DTP quality control, editing & writing for agencies and translators. Winning proposals, websites & more! Ph: 703/573-6831. Cell: 703/864-6631. mswymelar@mindspring.com

**Free to Advertise call Don Serfass today at 215-321-9662, ext. 30**

**Korean<>English**

INTERPRETATION & TRANSLATION Southern California based. (714) 739-6061 www.koreantranslation.us

**Polish<>English**

Full-time independent translator/conference interpreter. PC/Macintosh. Dr. Piotr Graff. 802-258-4667. graff@sovver.net www.sovver.net/~graff

**ProZ.com Web workplace**

Voted the "best source of translation jobs on the Internet", ProZ.com is actually much more. Over 40,000 member agencies and freelancers also use the KudoZ™ collaboration network and other unique tools. Registration is free, platinum membership is just $120/yr. There are no commissions on jobs, and ATA credentials are honored. Join now!

http://www.ProZ.com

By translators. For translators.

**Translation Services**

Fast, Reliable and Affordable

Korean, Chinese and Japanese Services

1-888-351-STOP

**Web Recruitment**

**Translation QA/QC - Editing**

17 years' experience in translation & DTP quality control, editing & writing for agencies and translators. Winning proposals, websites & more! Ph: 703/573-6831. Cell: 703/864-6631. mswymelar@mindspring.com

**To Advertise call Don Serfass today at 215-321-9662, ext. 30**
Build Your Own Website with RADTown!!

American Translators Association (ATA) and Two Radical Technologies, Inc. (2RAD) have teamed up to provide ATA members with an incredible membership benefit. ATA is offering members an opportunity to build their very own customized website by using one of the most advanced online website creation tools - RADTown.

RADTown is a powerful, dynamic website creation tool that lets you be in complete control of your website and offers an extraordinary lineup of dynamic features that you can easily add to your site. RADTown will help ATA members harness the power of the Internet and establish an online presence for themselves in just minutes!

Benefits

As a benefit to being an ATA member, you can sign up for a full-featured web page building program that is fast and easy to use for the low cost of $99/year. With RADTown, not only do you get to create your own unique website, but you can also use your own unique domain name (i.e. www.yourname.com), receive free hosting, PLUS your website will be fully integrated with the ATA online directories!

SIGN UP NOW!
log on to www.atanet.org/radtown
Email questions to: radtown@atanet.org

American Translators Association
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590
Alexandria, VA 22314
ata@atanet.org
Have you ever wondered how your compensation compares to that of your peers?

Stop wondering!

Read ATA’s newest publication

Translation and Interpreting Compensation Survey

and you will know for sure.

Order the complete survey results today by mail, fax, or e-mail. Contact ATA, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314; Tel: (703) 683-6100; Fax: (703) 683-6122; e-mail: ata@atanet.org.

$45 for ATA members

$60 for non-members
Plan Now!

Plan now to join your colleagues for a rewarding experience in Phoenix, Arizona, including:

- Over 150 educational offerings featuring something for everyone;
- The Job Exchange where individuals promote their services and companies meet translators and interpreters;
- Over 50 exhibits featuring the latest publications, software, and services available;
- Opportunities to network with over 1,200 translators and interpreters from throughout the U.S. and around the world;
- Much more!

American Translators Association

44th Annual Conference
November 5-8, 2003
Pointe South Mountain Resort

Phoenix, Arizona

See page 57 for details about fees and hotel accommodations.

Mark your calendars today for November 5-8, 2003!
You Can!

With TRADOS 6 Freelance You Can:

- Increase your productivity and complete jobs faster
- Analyze files to quote your translation assignments
- Win more customers
- Avoid ever having to translate the same sentence twice
- Ensure consistency at the term and sentence level
- Insert preferred terminology from your glossaries at the click of a button
- Add terminology to your glossaries on-the-fly
- Translate any file format from Word to HTML to XML to FrameMaker to QuarkXPress to InDesign
- Leverage your existing translations by adding them to your translation memories

INTRODUCTORY OFFER
TRADOS 6 Freelance

Now just $695!
Retail Price: $895
A $200 Savings
Offer Expires June 27, 2003

Order today at www.translationzone.com or call +1-703-797-2624.

TRADOS 6 Freelance
Language Technology for Professionals

© 2003 TRADOS, Inc. All rights reserved. Special Offer expires June 27, 2003. All pricing and orders are in USD. This offer is not to be combined with any other TRADOS offer. Certain other restrictions apply. TRADOS 6 Freelance includes Translator's Workbench, MultiTerm X Workstation, TagEditor including XML Validator, Generic Tag Verifier, and X-Tag Verifier, T-Window Collection for PowerPoint, Excel, software resources, software executable files, and Clipboard content, Filters for FrameMaker, PageMaker, QuarkXPress, and Interleaf/Quicksilver, and InDesign, and WinAlign.