

The Letter

May 1998

a publication of the
Austin Area Translators
and Interpreters Association



Other than that, it was a pretty well written thesis.

T-shirt design contest announced

After a successful five-year run and sales exceeding 500, AATIA's old t-shirt design is retiring. A contest with a July 20, 1998 deadline will select its successor.

The designer will win a year's membership plus a free shirt. The new shirt goes on sale at the September meeting.

Entries may specify white or colored shirts, monochrome or multicolored designs, and front and/or back positioning, but AATIA reserves the right to modify the winning design, which becomes AATIA's property.

Applicants may send as many entries as they want to AATIA, PO Box 13331, Austin, TX 78711-3331. ★

ACC, AATIA offer summer t/i classes

Austin Community College (ACC) and AATIA will offer a series of Saturday non-credit courses this summer, May 30–August 8.

Albert Bork, Esther Díaz, Fritz Hensey, Maurine McLean, and Leon McMorrow will give an "Introduction to Translation and Interpretation." Frank Dietz, Ben Maya, and Roberto Quiroga will demonstrate "Technology for Translators and Interpreters."

Registration will be open until May 29, but space is limited to 15 students. Tuition for each course is \$150. The ACC Summer Course Schedule contains registration information. For details contact Esther Díaz at 512/312-1599 or estherdiaz@juno.com. ★

May 9 meeting

T/I practices under the microscope

The May AATIA program will continue our year-long review of the practice of translation and interpretation.

Members and guests will look at a range of issues: getting work to getting paid, abbreviations to z-modem, and business cards to business lines, with audience participation and mini-presentations on selected topics.

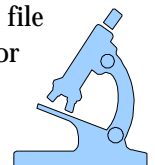
To prepare for the meeting, attendees may consider the following questions.

What were your first (best, worst, hardest) t/i jobs?

How did you get your best (worst) customer? Do you still do work for them; why or why not?

Do you specialize or take all assignments? How much research does your average job need?

What was it like to file in small claims court for an overdue bill and how long did it take to collect? ★



Magee follows de Vries as ATA Chapters Chair

Former AATIA President Mike Magee has been appointed Chair of the Chapters Committee of the American Translators Association, a position held previously by AATIA member Mies de Vries. ★

Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association

President Tony Beckwith ☎ 479-8865 fax 469-9664

104607.2510@compuserve.com

Secretary Denise Danzer-Lerma ☎ 707-1183 fax 707-1480

dllderma@sprintmail.com

Directors:

Communications Geneviève Dell ☎ 371-7117 fax 371-0907

studio@io.com

Finance Leon McMorrow ☎ 707-8928 fax 707-0089

75407.2656@compuserve.com

Membership Michael Blumenthal ☎ 437-8540 fax 512/295-3141

MBlumen935@aol.com

Professional Development Albert Bork ☎ 837-6448 fax 836-9440

73622.650@compuserve.com

Coordinators:

Accreditation Albert Bork ☎ 837-6448 fax 836-9440

73622.650@compuserve.com

Computers Alexis Takvorian ☎ 891-6814 fax 891-3798

alxis_takvorian@risc.sps.mot.com

Database Jane Chamberlain ☎ 453-1486 pangloss@io.com &

Howard Simms ☎ 452-4700 fax 452-5838

102036.3370@compuserve.com

Hospitality Maurine McLean ☎ 447-4779 bilingo@aol.com

Interpretation Cristina Helmerichs D. ☎ 452-5895

72174.3256@compuserve.com & Albert Bork 837-6448 fax 836-9440

73622.650@compuserve.com

Literary Marian Schwartz ☎ & fax 442-5100

70313.1636@compuserve.com

Membership Info, Job Referrals Ria Vanderauwera ☎ 832-8415

fax 339-9210 74034.547@compuserve.com

Regional Mike Magee ☎ 477-2977 fax 477-3007

74133.3551@compuserve.com

Russian Asele Surina ☎ 832-5950 fax 832-5945

asele@texas.net

Spanish Harvie Jordan ☎ 444-8537 fax 441-3983

102550.2315@compuserve.com

Web Site Frank Dietz ☎ 257-8413 fdietz@jump.net

The AATIA Letter

Editor R. Michael Conner ☎ 474-7012 fax 474-2895

70740.1410@compuserve.com or conner@texas.net

Production Howard Simms ☎ 452-4700

102036.3370@compuserve.com & Merry Wheaton ☎ 451-4772 fax

451-1935 75512.2650@compuserve.com

AATIA welcomes new members

At the April Board meeting, Membership Director Michael Blumenthal reported 5% growth since the February meeting.

AATIA now has 158 active, 21 business, and 9 associate members, totaling 188. Roughly half the members are translators only. The rest combine translating and interpreting or only interpret.

Members should add to their directories the following newest members, whom AATIA welcomes wholeheartedly:

Tomasz J. Bialon

648 Wilderness Drive

Macon GA 31220

Tomasjb@aol.com

912-477-9941

Native lang: Polish

English> Polish, Polish> English

James Ellerbee

3620 Rainforest Lane

Killeen TX 76542

ellerbeej@hood-emh3.army.mil

254-519-4795

Native lang: Spanish

Spanish> English, English> Spanish

Susanne Schmidt Huke

2815 Salado Street

Austin TX 78705

susanne@jump.net

512-472-8849

Native lang: German, English

German> English, English> German

Julianne H. Lira

913 Chiswick Drive

Austin TX 78753

512-837-6122

Native lang: Spanish (Mexican, Central

American, Puerto Rican, Cuban)

Spanish> English, English> Spanish

Markhu Juhani Litola

1902 Nueces Street #3

Austin TX 78705

mjlitola@ccwf.cc.utexas.edu

512-481-1768

Native lang: Finnish

Finnish> English, English> Finnish,

French> Finnish, French> English

Stephanie Mitchel

609 West 18th Street, Unit C
Austin TX 78701

singe@flash.net

512-478-7821

Native lang: English

French> English

Puthusseri Ramachandran

11160 Jollyville Road #1601

Austin TX 78759

hemr@hotmail.com

512-346-9839

Native lang: Malayalam

English> Malayalam, Hindi> Malayalam,

Sanskrit> Malayalam, Tamil> Malayalam,

Sanskrit> English, Tamil> English,

Hindi> English, Malayalam> English

Tove M. Sebring

12503 Preece Drive

Austin TX 78729

(H&W) 512-250-1648

Native lang: Norwegian (no other
information)

Tim Shockome and Associates

9403 Curlew Drive

Austin TX 78748

512-292-8790

Native lang: English

Russian> English, Swedish> English

Paula B. Warren

9215 Shadowcrest Drive

College Station TX 77845

(H&W) 409-693-4639

Native lang: Spanish English> Spanish
Medical, scientific, technical. ★

SpanSIG hits new membership high

The Spanish Special Interest Group set a record of 60 members at the end of April, according to Coordinator Harvie Jordan.

Members get a lot for their \$10 dues (in addition to and payable with AATIA dues): bi-monthly meetings plus a monthly news-filled letter with a variety of terminology resources and translating tips.

Last year's speakers included Cristina Helmerichs on ballot translation, Katarina Kargl and Liliana Valenzuela on an exercise

in the *Taller a Distancia*, and Nelly Gallo on Spanish adverbs.

For more SpanSIG info, contact Jordan at 444-8537 or HarvieJordan@compuserve.com and attend the next meeting after AATIA's regular May meeting. ★

Gain fame by volunteering

Marketing your language services is an ongoing task for independent practitioners. The nicest jobs come by referral from a colleague. An easy way to raise your profile is to volunteer for AATIA. Working on a committee or task force lets you get to know other members and vice versa. Here are some ways to help AATIA and yourself at the same time.

Newsletter Distribution

Coordinator: organize bimonthly mailing sessions to stamp, label, and deliver prepared newsletters to the post office. Contact Geneviève Dell 371-7117.

Advertising Manager: solicit newsletter, directory, and Web site ads. (AATIA also needs leads from all members.) Contact Geneviève Dell [see above].

Metataggers: index AATIA Web site page by page and add keywords and descriptions as metatags so that more Web searches will hit an AATIA page. Contact Frank Dietz 257-8413.

Membership Drive

Committee: plan outreach to area educational institutions. Contact Michael Blumenthal 295-3141.

September special event: plan and implement one-day seminars or workshops, an accreditation sitting, and social events. Contact Albert Bork 837-6448. ★

Board thanks Angels, volunteers

Gratitude topped the agenda for the April 11 meeting of the AATIA Board of Directors.

Jane Chamberlain received thanks for her hundreds of hours of volunteer work as editor of the 1998 *Translation and Interpretation Services Directory* and for agreeing to continue in the job for 1999.

The Board also thanked Irina Marchenko for distributing AATIA bookmarks at the *Austin American-Statesman* Job Fair March 31, 1998.

Finally, Treasurer Leon McMorrow extended the Board's special thanks to AATIA Angels Allan Adams, Maria Brown, Consuelo Byrd, Ben Maya, Patricia Ayala McLean, and Howard Sims for their generous contributions.

Members may obtain the meeting's minutes from Secretary Denise Danzer-Lerma 707-1183 or dlerma@sprintmail.com. ★

AATIA on Career Day

Tony Beckwith, Albert Bork and Esther Díaz spoke to foreign language students at Austin Community College's Career Day on March 10.

They covered skills, credentials, specializations, associations, and job opportunities. Students and instructors were invited to AATIA's next meeting.

Thanks go to Dr. Guadalupe Lopez-Cox for the opportunity to represent the translation and interpretation community. ★





Hat Trick

by Tony Beckwith © 1998

IN THE LATE SIXTIES I lived in Madrid, in one of the older residential neighborhoods not far from the Avenida del Generalísimo. By day I worked at an advertising agency, wearing a coat and tie and a crisp white shirt. But at night I moved in the city's café society, dining late and gliding on to flamenco bars and cabarets in the wee small hours of the morning. I traveled in excellent company: my roommate, Juanín, shared my interest in the bright lights, and possessed impeccable credentials as a boulevardier and all-round bon vivant.

There was something a little surreal about the life of a foreigner in Franco's Spain of that period. As Juanín and I whiled away the evenings at sidewalk tables, we wondered aloud about expatriates in other places and times. We fantasized about Paris in the twenties, and wished we could have been there in those sepia-toned days, sipping absinthe and saying exquisitely witty things to adoring sycophants and generous art patrons. Perhaps we were too easily impressed by the presumed glamour of other places. We seemed to spend a good deal of time wishing we were somewhere

else, or someone other than who we were.

One aimless, rainy afternoon as we waited at a traffic light in an unfamiliar part of town, we noticed a shop on the corner. The sign over the door said, "Blanca's Theatrical Costumes." In the window were dozens of hats of every imaginable kind, and above them a handwritten sign that said, "Going Out of Business Sale. ¡Bargains! ¡Bargains!"

As we stepped over the threshold into the shop we felt as though we had gone backstage at the Teatro Calderón. There were costumes of every color and fabric, rows and rows of them hanging chaotically on racks against the walls. There were suits of armor, horse's heads, swords, wishing wells, and half moons hanging from the ceiling. And there was an all-pervasive fragrance of greasepaint, geraniums, and dust.

We were met by a very small woman of indeterminate age. Her hair was platinum blonde, cut in a pageboy style with bangs over her forehead. Her eyes and lips were heavily made up, and in her red-tipped fingers she carried a cigarette in an extremely long holder. "I am Blanca," she said in a deep, melodious voice. "How can I help you?"

We pointed to the hats in the window and she arched her eyebrows and blew out a long plume of smoke. "You like the

hats?" she inquired. We nodded, yes. "Which ones you like?"

There were top hats and berets, bowlers, elegant felt homburgs, fedoras, jaunty straw hats, ladies' hats with veils, green ones with feathers, turbans, more than one fez, Stetsons, trim-looking derbies, sombreros, bonnets, sailor hats, shiny black tricorneres, picador's hats, pillboxes, splendid maroon velvet toques, a crimson cloche, and a marvelous mauve boa several feet long.

As we examined them one by one, Blanca smoked thoughtfully and watched us through half-closed lids. "Every hat is special, you know, like a costume, and much better than a mask" she told us. "With each one you can be whoever the hat makes you feel." We nodded again, exactly. She shrugged her tiny shoulders in a gesture of extraordinary eloquence and murmured, "Why not take them all?" So we did.

Two weeks later we threw a Hat Party that is still talked about by patrons of the Café Gijón. Hats of every description were scattered about the apartment, on the furniture in the hall and on coat hangers by the door. As guests arrived they chose a hat and put it on. Some wore the same hat all night; others exchanged hats with people they had never met and discovered things about each other that nobody had ever known before. Miraculous conversations took place as people came to see themselves as they could have been, should have been, and indeed would have been, if only they'd found the right hat. ★

The two-line sentence

by Eileen Brockbank
102075.713@compuserve.com

Reprinted with permission from the Spring 1998 issue of Apuntes, the journal of the Spanish Special Interest Group of the New York Circle of Translators.

In the United States today, a good sentence is a short sentence. Maybe it's because TV has shortened our attention spans, or maybe it's because we're all in such a hurry. Whatever brought us to this pass, writers for U.S. readers take heed: if you want people to read your writing, keep those sentences short!

Here is the objective: the reader should be able to read the sentence once and know what it says. Long sentences often have to be read a few times before readers can comprehend them fully.

How short? A good rule of thumb is two lines (12-point type, 1-inch margins). When I am writing, I make myself abide by an almost inflexible rule of two lines per sentence. If I decide to leave a sentence longer than two lines, there must be a very good justification (for example, inclusion of a list). Applying this rule is not too hard technically, since you can easily eyeball two lines.

"Wait a minute," you may say. "I don't have any choice about sentence length; I'm a translator." Agreed that, in many translations, we are not free to alter sentence lengths much. Still, there is lots of room for cutting, even in contracts

and court-related documents. When translating documents in which strict adherence to the text is essential, look for conjunctions (*and, but, or*) and semicolons as potential cutting spots. You may not be able to get the sentences down to two lines, but a three-line sentence works a lot better than a five- or six-line sentence.

You probably have a lot more freedom when you are translating articles or newsletters; if you are in doubt, check with your client. In these cases, you may have to reorganize the sentence a bit. Here's an example of one Spanish sentence (from a Venezuelan financial/economic report) that I made into four English sentences:

Dado que se trata de presionantes compromisos adquiridos con la enorme masa de empleados públicos, quienes han estado promoviendo huelgas y protestas en todo el país, es probable que esos créditos adicionales sean aprobados antes del fin del año (el Congreso sesionará hasta el 15 de diciembre) para que sea pagado [sic] en el primer semestre de 1998.

What we are dealing with are highly charged commitments to the great majority of government employees. Meanwhile, these employees have been initiating strikes and protests throughout the country. This situation points to a high probability of approval for additional loans before year-end, to be paid during the first half of 1998. (Congress will be in session until December 15.)

Adapting the Will Rogers quote for my purposes, "I never met a period I didn't like." ★

Literary notes

Andy Hurley's translation of "Shakespeare's Memory" by Jorge Luis Borges appeared in the April 13 issue of *The New Yorker*. The index describes it as: "A ficción written in the last years of the master storyteller's life which has never before been published in English." ★

The **Literary Special Interest Group** will discuss some of the nuts and bolts of literary translation at its next meeting, Wednesday, June 3rd, at 7 p.m., at 602 Carolyn Avenue. In particular, we will focus on the PEN and FIT model contracts for literary translations. To obtain copies of these texts, go to their web sites:

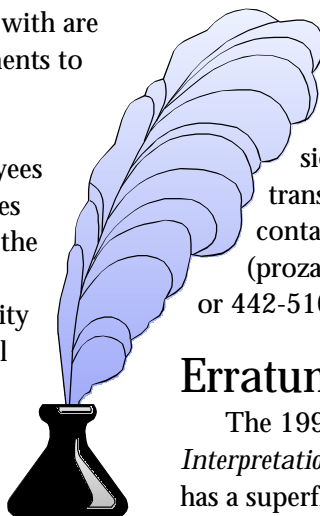
For the PEN model contract:
<http://www.pen.org/translation/tranhand.html>

For the FIT model contract:
<http://www.umh.ac.be/atim/fit/english/index-e.html>

Beginners and experienced translators alike may bring questions about contracts, copyright, submissions, and other aspects of the business side of literary translation. For information contact Marian Schwartz (proza@compuserve.com or 442-5100). ★

Erratum

The 1998 *Translation & Interpretation Services Directory* has a superfluous "t" in Ute Schwarzer's surname and e-mail address (page 84). AATIA has corrected the Web directory and apologizes for the error. ★



Webmeister's Corner

A Babble of Glossaries



by Frank Dietz,
fdietz@jump.net
© 1998

The WWW is constantly sprouting new glossaries, from those explaining real estate transactions to snowboarding slang, which can

be extremely useful to translators struggling with an unusual technical term or jargon expression. Here is my most recent cyber-harvest of monolingual English glossaries:

<http://www.matisse.net/files/glossary.html>

Glossary of Internet terms

<http://www.terra.org/sailing/glossary/glossary.html>

Glossary of sailing terms

<http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/jel/doddict/>

DOD glossary of military terms

<http://world.std.com/~jimf/biking/slang.html>

Glossary of mountain bike slang

<http://www.universe.digex.net/~kimberg/pokerdict.html>

Poker dictionary

<http://www.solsnowboarding.com/school/lexicon.htm>

Snowboarding terms

<http://www.sci.kun.nl/thalia/rapdict/>

Rap dictionary

<http://www.nymex.com/new/glossary.html>

New York Mercantile Exchange glossary

<http://www.remaxrealty.com/InfoSearch/G/glossa-b.html>

Real estate glossary

<http://www.lcgroup.com/explanations/index.html#B>

Insurance coverage terminology

<http://gunsmoke.ecn.purdue.edu/~laird/Dogs/glossary.html>

Dog terms glossary

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/tours/glossary.html>

Glossary of space terms

<http://pages.prodigy.com/NY/NYC/britspk/main.html>

"Britspeak"

<http://www.sabram.com/site/slang.html>

Silicon Valley slang

And if you found this all rather dry...

<http://www.samadams.com/glossary/gloss.htm>

Beer terminology ★

Web team targets site upgrades

The AATIA Web Team met April 20 to assess the AATIA Web site on its first anniversary and set goals for the next year.

Webmeister Frank Dietz reported that the site's Resources section now has a Downloadable Files subsection where one can obtain Hank Philips' checkbook and tax record templates, as well as the Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Beginning with the May issue, *The AATIA Letter* will be available for downloading and reading via Acrobat Reader and printing in color or black and white versions.

In the second half of 1998 the on-line member services directory will be converted from a simple indexed list to a searchable data base, where language pairs and

specializations can be specified as search criteria.

AATIA Web Designer Roberto Quiroga will build a bulletin board or chat room for virtual meetings of the AATIA Board or the Regional Cooperation Committee. ★

Micromarketing on the Net

by Mike Stacy

During a lull one Saturday, I noticed a two-sentence space filler in the *Dallas Morning News* about a major pipeline rupture in Ecuador. The company that laid the pipeline was an old customer of mine. A quick search on the Internet located a story in Spanish in an Ecuadorian newspaper that came to 9 full pages when printed out. I faxed it to the company and offered to provide a translation. Within 3 hours, the answer came: Yes!

This just goes to show that a few minutes spent in developing a promising lead can result in a job that would not otherwise have materialized. Chalk up one for the Net!

This article first appeared in the March-April issue of the newsletter of the Metroplex Interpreters and Translators Association. ★

Digital notes

Webmaster Nancy K. Ruiz invites all to the New Mexico Translators and Interpreters Association's new Web site <http://www.roadrunner.com/nmtia>. ★

Miguel Lerma has started a **Spanish translating mailing list**. Subscribe by contacting him at mmlerma@math.utexas.edu. ★

March meeting-goers exchange tax tips

Professional Development Director Albert Bork opened AATIA's March 14 meeting by presenting the 1998 *Translation & Interpretation Services Directory* and leading a round of applause for its editor, Jane Chamberlain.

All 60 attendees introduced themselves and gave tax tips, then Hank Phillips outlined his MS Excel-based system for tracking business expenses to simplify tax reporting. His simple macros are available on the AATIA Web site.

After a networking session and door prizes, Marian Schwartz conducted LitSIG's translation mini-seminar. The source text was the opening of Angeles Mastretta's *Lovesick*. Audience members compared their translations with an anonymous rough draft and the published English translation by Margaret Sayers Peden. A copy of the book went to Cristina Helmerichs, the first person to identify the author. —*extracts from minutes by Secretary Denise Danzer-Lerma* ★

UT-Brownsville students plan forum

The University of Texas at Brownsville will host its second Translation Studies Research Forum December 3-6, 1998.

Sponsored by the University Student Translation and Interpreting Society, the conference welcomes papers, panels, and workshops from established and younger scholars. Abstracts and bios should be sent as soon as possible to jvarela@utb1.utb.edu ★

Korean translators to host Asian forum

The Korean Society of Translators has announced the 2nd Asian Translators' Forum "Translations in the 21st Century" August 2-5, 1998, in Seoul, Korea.

Registration is \$40 US before June 30, \$60 after, but will be waived for presenters. Contact

Prof. Myong-Woo RYU by e-mail at ryumw@honam.honam.ac.kr for details about presentations.

For more information contact:

K.S.T. Forum Organizers
2F Youngji Bldg.
424-14 Ahyon-dong
Mapo-ku, Seoul, Korea
Tel: + 82-2-725-0506~ 8
Fax: + 82-2-725-1266 ★



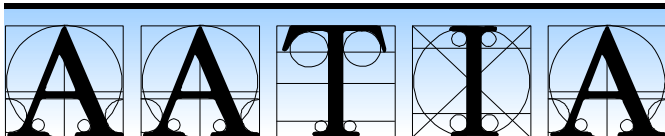
AATIA welcomes visitors to the Austin History Center (9th & Guadalupe) on the 2nd Saturday of odd-numbered months for general meetings and even-numbered months for board meetings.

IN AUSTIN

- MAY 9 10:30 a.m. Regional Cooperation Meeting. Info Mike Magee 477-2977
1-4 p.m. AATIA Member Meeting. Info 707-3900
4 p.m. SpanSIG meeting. Info Harvie Jordan 444-8537
- MAY 31 1 p.m. RusSIG meeting. Info Asele Surina 832-5950
- JUN 3 7 p.m. LitSIG. Info Marian Schwartz 442-5100 or proza@compuserve.com
- JUN 13 1-4 p.m. AATIA Board Meeting
- JUL 11 AATIA Member Meeting & SpanSIG meeting

BEYOND AUSTIN

- MAY 15-17 **San Antonio.** NAJIT Annual Conference. Info headquarters@najit.org or fax 212/687-4016
- MAY 19-23 **Vancouver.** "The Critical Link" 2nd International Conference for Interpreting in Legal, Health and Social Service Settings. Info fax 604/871-7300
- JUN 6 **Dallas-Fort Worth.** MITA general meeting and picnic. Info Diana Iannariello 972/402-0493
- AUG 2-5 **Seoul.** 2nd Asian Translators Forum: "Translations in the 21st Century." Info phone + 82-2-725-0506~ 8 or fax + 82-2-725-1266
- OCT 1-3 **Sudbury, Ontario.** 3rd Annual Conference of the International Society for Lus-Hispanic Humor Studies. Info Cecilia Novella cnovella@nickel.laurentian.ca or 705/675-1121 ext 4346
- NOV 5-9 **Hilton Head, S.C.** 39th ATA Conference. Info 703/683-6100
- DEC 3-6 **Brownsville.** 2nd Translation Studies Research Forum. Info jvarela@utb1.utb.edu



PO Box 13331 ★ Austin, TX 78711-3331 ★ 512/707-3900

<http://www.aatia.org>



AATIA Agenda: May 9, 1998

1 p.m. General meetin

**(Austin History Center,
9th & Guadalupe)**

4 p.m. SpanSIG

**(Sanchez Bldg., UT Campus,
MLK & Speedway)**

Last Laugh

The delicate process by which movies are translated from English to Chinese apparently includes skills way beyond linguistics. The Sunday Times of London reports that in China, the titles of the following movies have changed as follows:

- In Mandarin, "The Full Monty" is "Six Naked Pigs," in Cantonese, it is "Six Stripped Warriors."
- The Cantonese version of "The English Patient" is "Do Not Ask Me Who I Am, Ever."
- "Fargo" in Cantonese is called "Mysterious Murder in Snowy Cream."
- "Boogie Nights" is "Instant Fame," which, in Hong Kong, is a slang term for a large male sexual organ.
- Oliver Stone's "Nixon" is "The Big Liar."
- "As Good as It Gets" is "Mr. Cat Poop."
- "Secrets and Lies" becomes "Dreadful, Difficult People." ★

Apply now for accreditation

AATIA will offer an ATA accreditation exam sitting in June if demand warrants. Members should express their interest by contacting Professional Development Director Albert Bork 837-6448 as soon as possible.

Remember: the entire process, from joining ATA to sitting down for the exam, has a six-week timeline. ★



Uncle Sam wants you!

The FBI currently has a critical need for in-house and freelance Hebrew translators. It is also still looking for free-lance and in-house translators in Arabic, Chinese (all dialects), Farsi, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Freelance translators proficient in Lao, Thai, Armenian, and Turkish are also needed.

Interested individuals should contact Bonnie J. Reinke at (202) 324-2988. ★