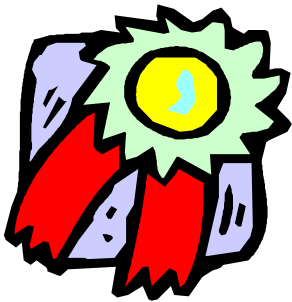


Valenzuela, Schwartz honored



LILIANA VALENZUELA HAS WON the Christina Sergeyevna Award for best poem at the Austin International Poetry Festival. The poem, "November 2, 1998, on the Eve of Becoming an American Citizen," is included in this year's anthology *Tres Di-Verse-City*, which is available at local bookstores. ★

THE TEXAS INSTITUTE OF LETTERS has given the \$1000 Souerette Diehl Fraser Award to

two translators, who shared the award: Marian Schwartz for *The Ladies from St. Petersburg: Three Novellas*, by Nina Berberova (New Directions); and James Hoggard for Raul Mesa's *Poems from Cuba: Alone Against the Sea* (York Press). ★

Mix fun, finance at AATIA Garage Sale and Pot Luck

AATIA WILL HOLD a combined fundraiser garage sale and pot luck dinner 6–9 pm, May 22.

Bring your duplicate dictionaries, references, fiction, or old home office equipment (no household items, please) to the carport of Marian Schwartz's home at 1207 Bickler Road anytime before 6 p.m., and don't forget your favorite covered dish, salad, dessert, or bread for the feast.

Price your donations yourself and help inaugurate this certain-to-be AATIA tradition. If you'd like to volunteer to help set up or clean up, contact Liliana Valenzuela at Lvalenzuela@compuserve.com. For directions, contact Schwartz at mbs@texas.net. ★

NAJIT lobbies for rate increase

THE PER DIEM RATE for federally certified contract interpreters has remained the same since 1991. The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) has launched a letter-writing campaign to lobby the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts to raise this rate.

Visit www.najit.org for more information and a sample letter. ★

THE 20TH ANNUAL NAJIT Meeting and Educational Conference, May 14-16, 1999, at the Shelter Pointe Hotel and Marina, Shelter Island, San Diego, California. Information and registration forms are available at www.najit.org. ★

May 8 meeting Bilingual readings top May program

AATIA WILL CELEBRATE PEN's World in Translation Month with an hour of bilingual readings at the May meeting [see page 8 for complete agenda].

You can be one of the stars at the meeting by reading a short favorite translation—either your own or one you've read. Each reader will have 8-10 minutes to read the original and the translation. Remember, you don't have to be the translator of the work. It just has to be a work that you enjoy and would like your colleagues to enjoy also. Don't be shy. First come, first served.

Volunteers please send e-mail to Liliana Valenzuela at Lvalenzuela@compuserve.com.

The PEN Translation Committee initiated the annual World in Translation Month three years ago to focus attention on literary translation and the literary translator by holding readings around the country.

In another event, this year's "official" observance in Austin, three of AATIA's own—all of them members of PEN as well—will be reading from their work: A. Leslie Willson, Liliana Valenzuela, and Marian Schwartz. This reading will be at 8 p.m. on 20 May at Borders (10225 Research, opposite side of the highway from the Arboretum). ★

Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association

<http://www.aatia.org>

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Membership figures slightly exceed 1998

AS OF THE APRIL BOARD MEETING, AATIA had 191 members, according to Database Coordinator Jane Chamberlain, compared to 188 last year. Of that total, 167 are active members, 20 are business members, and 4 are associate members.

During the same period, the Spanish Special Interest Group experienced even greater growth: from 60 in April 1998 to 73 in April 1999. ★

Borges focus of next LitSIG meeting

AT THE NEXT MEETING of AATIA's Literary Special Interest Group Tony Beckwith will discuss several poems from the new edition of *Selected Poems* by Jorge Luis Borges, one of three volumes of Borges' works published this year in honor of the centenary of his birth. The LitSIG will meet on Wednesday, June 2nd, at 7 pm, at 602 Carolyn Avenue.

The translators who participated in this effort were: Willis Barnstone, Alexander Coleman, Robert Fitzgerald, Stephen Kessler, Kenneth Krabbenhoft, Eric McHenry, W.S. Merwin, Alastair Reid, Hoyt Rogers, Mark Strand, Charles Tomlinson, Alan S. Trueblood, and John Updike.

Beckwith, who reviewed Andy Hurley's translation of Borges' *Selected Fiction*, is also reviewing the poetry volume for the *Austin American Statesman*.

At the meeting Marian Schwartz will also lead a question-and-answer session on rights,

contracts, submissions, or other publishing-related issues.

Contact Schwartz at mbs@texas.net for more information about the meeting, the LitSIG, or directions to the meeting. ★

Aynesworth to speak at May SpanSIG meeting

THE TRANSLATION of Roberto Arlt's 1926 novel *El juguete rabioso* will be the focus of the May meeting of AATIA's Spanish Special Interest Group. Michele McKay Aynesworth will discuss the problems she encountered in her translation and offer page one for a group translation exercise.

The warmup exercises at the meeting will include some local publicity materials for the Austin-Travis Country Rodeo and more *perlas* from the translation office at the Texas Department of Human Services.

SpanSIG will meet at 10 a.m. on May 8, the morning of the regular AATIA meeting, at the Austin History Center. ★

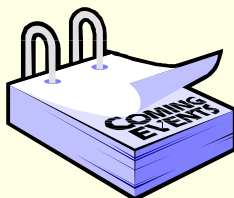
AATIA finances reported stable

ANGEL DONATIONS and proceeds from the dissolution of the Regional Cooperation Committee have brought AATIA's checkbook balance to 5690.46 (as of 3/31/99), according to Finance Director Leon Morrow's report at the April board meeting.

An anticipated increase in advertising revenue and lower production costs for *The Letter* will also help keep AATIA finances stable, but McMorrow warned that

we must still continue to look for ways to cut costs, since we need to establish a "safety cushion," a reserve fund which could be called upon in cases of emergency expenses, and the RCC revenue was

a one-time occurrence. He proposed a goal of a sum equal to half the annual budget, which would be invested and held until needed. ★



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.

EVENTS IN AUSTIN

- MAY 8 10 a.m. SpanSIG meeting. Info Harvie Jordan 444-8537
1-4 p.m. AATIA regular meeting. Info 707-3900
5 p.m. Rowdy Translators SIG meeting. Info Ria Vanderauwera 832-8415 or go_dutch@compuserve.com
- MAY 15-16 10th International Japanese-English Translators Conference. Info: <http://www.ijet.org/ijet-10/>
- MAY 16 1-3 p.m. Russian SIG. Info Jane Chamberlain 453-1486 or candide@io.com
- MAY 17 ATA accreditation exam. Info ATA HQ 703-683-6100 or ata@atanet.org
- MAY 20 PEN World in Translation Month Readings. 8 pm, Borders Bookstore (10225 Research Blvd.)
- JUN 2 7 p.m. LitSIG. Info Marian Schwartz 442-5100 or proza@compuserve.com
- JUN 12 2-5 p.m. AATIA board meeting
- JULY 10 AATIA regular meeting & SIG meetings

AND BEYOND

- MAY 14-16 **San Diego.** 20th Annual NAJIT Meeting and Educational Conference. Info www.najit.org or 212/692-9581
- JUN 28-JUL 1 **Birmingham, England.** 4th Biennial Conference of the International Association of Forensic Linguists. Info: Sue Blackwell phone +44-01210414-3219 S.A.Blackwell@bham.ac.uk
- AUG 6-10 **Mons, Belgium.** FIT Congress. Info: fit99@writeme.com or www.fit.ml.org
- OCT 20-24 **New York, NY.** American Literary Translators Association annual conference. Info: 972-883-2093 or www.utdallas.edu/research/cts/ALTA.htm
- NOV 3-7 **St. Louis, Missouri.** American Translators Association annual conference. Info: 703-683-6100 or ata@atanet.org
- DEC 17-19 **Norwich, England.** Gender & Translation: an International Symposium. Info: Jo Catling jcatling@uea.ac.uk or Keith Harvey k.harvey@uea.ac.uk

Brotherly Love

by Tony Beckwith © 1999

THE FLIGHT WAS DELAYED, and my brother was already settled in at the bar at the *Gran Hotel Catalán*. I only had carry-on luggage so I went straight in to join him. As we shook hands Chris wore his familiar smile: a little lopsided and wary, as usual. We exchanged the ritual words of greeting, then fell silent.

"So, what brings you to the *Gran Catalán*?" he finally asked, drawing out the "Gran" for effect. I hesitated, even though I'd been preparing for this moment ever since I found out I was coming to Barcelona.

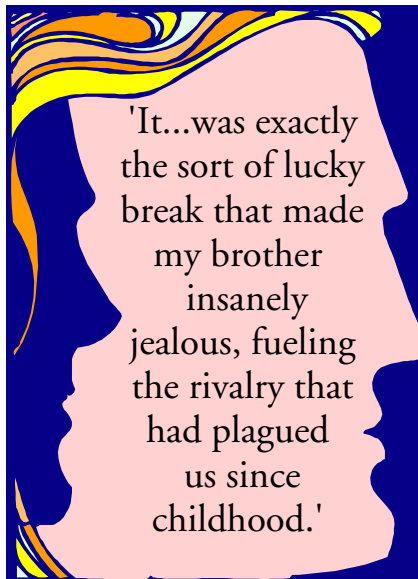
I was living in London in those days, but I used to live in Madrid, where I worked as an advertising model. One day my ex-agent called to say that there was a job in Barcelona if I wanted it: an overnight stay in a fine old hotel and a shoot in the morning for a cognac commercial. All expenses paid and my fee on top. It all sounded rather glamorous—and was exactly the sort of lucky break that made my brother insanely jealous, fueling the rivalry that had plagued us since childhood.

Chris lived near Barcelona, in Sitges, a small town a little to the south along the Mediterranean coast. He owned a club where tourists danced themselves crazy and miraculous friendships blossomed overnight. It was a good business, and he was perfect for it. He had a loving wife and a delightful daughter. He was a happy man. And fun to be with.

Except when he thought that I was somehow one-upping him,

which I had spent so many years trying to do. As a scrawny younger sibling, that was my way of fighting someone bigger and stronger. In response to my gamesmanship, he pouted and sulked and wasn't very good company at all. This was an old routine.

But I was all grown up now: twenty-five years old. I told myself I



had outgrown our childish jealousies and was ready to move on. It was simple—I just wouldn't provoke him anymore. That was so immature and I was over it. And then, this trip to Barcelona! On the phone I told Chris it was a business trip. What could I say?

I answered, "Isasi called. They're shooting a commercial here in the morning," and waited for his expression to change.

But he kept smiling, his brown eyes sparkling. "Great! Good for

you," he said, raising his hand to order another round.

I was dumbfounded. Maybe, I thought, we have both come to the same conclusion, and he's tired of the old routine as well. That's perfect, I thought, and nodded to the bartender.

Then I saw my brother's smile change to the one that means he has a monstrously powerful card up his sleeve. One that will trump everything on the table and be the clear winner in any game of "mine's-better-than-yours." He wasn't bothered by my news because he had something even better to tell me.

"So, what's new with you?" I asked.

His smile slid up onto one cheek. "Oh, nothing much. Same old thing." He took a sip from his tall glass. "Well, just one thing, I suppose.... The Hollies were in town and I went to see them."

"Excellent," I said enthusiastically. Chris had been somewhat friendly with the lead singer of The Hollies when he lived in London several years ago. I was beginning to see where we were going.

He shot me a sidelong smirk and said, "They asked me to join them on-stage! I stood beside the drummer and played the tambourine for the entire show. It was incredible!"

He'd obviously had an exceptionally good time, and I really was pleased to see him enjoying the retelling so much. This was good, I thought. Much better when he feels

that he's ahead. We have a better time that way.

In a little while I was ready to go to my room. We walked together into the enormous lobby and started up the grand staircase. It was a magnificently wide one, carved from cream-colored marble in the days when there was time and space to be gracious.

As we rounded the first bend, we saw three people descending on the far side of the staircase. There were two beautiful young women, and between them was Salvador Dali. I looked straight at him and he returned my stare. He suddenly altered his course and came tacking across the stairs towards us. He walked right up to me, extended his hand, and released a torrent of French.

I shook his hand, looking at his marvelous smile and that extraordinary mustache, and managed to stammer "Enchanté." Then he was gone.

Chris looked at me in amazement. "That was Salvador Dali!" he said in an excited whisper. "How do you know *him*?"

I didn't, of course. The man was an eccentric, and something simply took his fancy. It meant nothing to him. I could have told Chris the truth, and said it was a freak incident, random chance at work, no big deal. But what's a brother to do? This was so much better than hanging out with a rock band, for heaven's sake.

"Salvador?" I said casually, stepping ahead of Chris up the staircase. "Oh, I've known him for a while. We have mutual friends in Madrid." ★

Webmeister's Corner

Ten Great WWW Sites for Translators

by Frank Dietz © 1999

WHILE THERE ARE HUNDREDS of WWW sites out there that are of interest to translators, a few of them stand out by the scope and depth of information they offer. Here are my ten favorites:

1. Rivendell Language Resources

<http://rivendel.com/~ric/resources/dictionary.html> offers numerous online dictionaries from Abadani to Yoombe, links to language chat sites, a list of software localization companies, and Real Audio radio in many languages

2. The Human Languages Page

<http://www.june29.com/HLP/dazzles> with its wealth of languages (including Bavarian, Dalekarlian, Klingon and Manx). You also find information on language schools, organisations for translators and interpreters, as well as jobs and internships.

3. The Translators Home

Companion <http://www.rahul.net/lai/companion.html> offers links to foreign-language news services, patent and government databases, online dictionaries, translation agencies and much more.

4. **Onelook** <http://www.onelook.com/> contains links to hundreds of online dictionaries in subject areas ranging from medieval tournaments to high energy astrophysics to beer.

5. The University of Vaasa

(Finland) offers a substantial terminology collection at <http://www.uwasa.fi/comm/termino/collect/>. You will find both general language dictionaries as well as specialized glossaries in

many fields ranging from agriculture to vehicles.

6. Cecilia Falk's home page <http://www2.sbbs.se/hp/cfalk/indexeng.htm>, which is available in Swedish and English, links you to mailing lists and newsgroups, glossaries and tools for translators.

7. If you ever need an unusual font (Egyptian hieroglyphics? French sign language? Latvian? Old Church Slavonic?), the **Yamada Language Guides** site <http://babel.uoregon.edu/yamada/guides.html> is the right place to go. This site offers 112 downloadable fonts in 40 languages.

8. The **Translation Journal**, edited by Gabe Bokor <http://www.accurapid.com/journal/> is a great resource. Here you will find informative articles on topics such as diesel engine terminology, organic chemical nomenclature or "A Translator's Day in Armenia". The journal appears four times a year.

9. Did you ever need a flag for your advertising brochure or your web site? You find plenty of them at the **World Flag Database** <http://www.flags.net/>, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, plus flags of provinces.

10. Eurodicautom

<http://eurodic.echo.lu/cgi-bin/edicbin/EuroDicWWW.pl> is the multilingual terminological database of the European Commission's Translation Service. It just has received an "interface lift" and seems somewhat faster now. ★





Little Russia in Austin, Texas?

AUSTIN IS FULL OF SURPRISES. Well, it turns out it is also full of Russians. Would you believe over 400 and growing? Last December six people got together to organize a New Year's Party for Russian-speaking Austinites. We were really surprised when almost 300 showed up! And to think we almost hosted the party at someone's home instead of a clubhouse! Fortunately there was plenty to eat, since it's not a Russian party if you run out of food and drink.

As a result of that memorable evening only four months ago, the Russian-Speakers' Association of Austin has been formed and already has close to a hundred family memberships. We define ourselves

as Russian speakers, because this term includes not only Russians, but also people of various ethnicities from different countries of the former Soviet Union that share common language and culture. The main goal of this community-based organization is to preserve and celebrate Russian language and culture.

Emphasis is placed on cultural events but we also have a playgroup for Russian-speaking preschoolers, educational programs for older children, and other activities for all ages. AATIA members Natasha and Viktor Zinger twice made arrangements for a Russian deli in Dallas to bring Russian food to Austin for sale to our community.

Needless to say there will be more parties and other fun events. For information please contact RSA President Luda Voskov at 442-4016, or peruse the web site created and maintained by AATIA member Anna Rakityanskaya at <http://community.austin360.com/russia>.

As foreign language professionals we are fortunate to live in a place with a dynamic international community minus many disadvantages often associated with metropolitan areas. Please share with us what is going on in your community. Let's exchange

experience and ideas. For example, the Russian Speakers' Association is interested in talking with people that have recently gone through the process of registering a non-profit organization.

Look around, there might be enough of your compatriots in Austin to start planning for Y2K eve. ★

Asele Surina
AATIA President

Valenzuela translates for Smithsonian exhibit

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE has mounted a photographic exhibit "Americanos: Latino Life in the United States," for which AATIA member Liliana Valenzuela provided the Spanish translation.

The exhibit will be on tour for the next two years: Washington, D.C. between March 27 and June 6 at the National Museum of American History; New York between June 26 and January 2 at the Museum of the City of New York. The exhibit will come to the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio between May 6 and July 30, 2000 and to the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston between January 26 and April 21, 2002. ★



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Jordan judges international competition

HARVIE JORDAN, ABC, joined other senior communicators in San Francisco, in early March as the International Association of Business Communicators' (IABC) Blue Ribbon Panel gathered to judge the annual Gold Quill competition.

"I was delighted that Harvie agreed to return to judge entries in both Spanish and English," said Bruce Wallace, Blue Ribbon Panel chair and principal in Bruce Wallace & Associates Ltd. in Auckland, New Zealand.

"Because of their stature in the international communication community, having ABCs (Accredited Business Communicators) evaluate highly competitive entries in IABC's international competition adds credibility to the awards," Wallace said.

Jordan also served on the Blue Ribbon Panel to judge Spanish- and English-language entries in 1997.

This year's Blue Ribbon Panel was composed of 27 senior communicators from Canada, England, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, and the United States.

Fifteen panel members are Accredited Business Communicators.

Jordan was the first IABC Accreditation Board member appointed to evaluate Spanish-language portfolios and grade accreditation examinations written in Spanish. Of IABC's 13,500 members worldwide, Jordan is one of fewer than 650 who are accredited. He is also accredited, Spanish-English, by the American Translators Association. An independent translator and voice talent based in Austin, Texas, Jordan is co-founder of the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters

Association (AATIA). He founded and coordinates AATIA's Spanish Special Interest Group of more than 70 translators. Jordan holds a bachelor of arts degree in Latin American Studies, with a major in Spanish and a minor in international business, from the University of Texas at Austin. ★

New translation published

New Directions has just announced the publication of Nina Berberova's *The Book of Happiness* in a translation by AATIA member Marian Schwartz. ★



Michael Blumenthal and Stephanie Mitchel develop their own Web pages at AATIA's workshop led by Frank Dietz (not shown).

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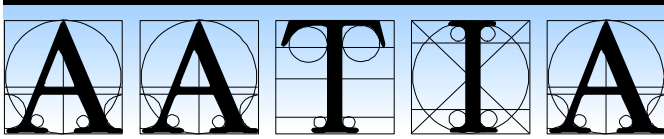
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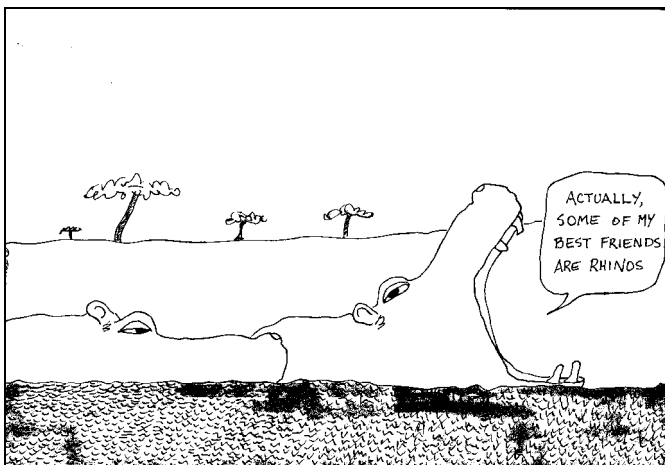
AATIA Agenda: May 8, 1999

- 10 a.m. SpanSIG
(Austin History Center,
9th & Guadalupe)
- 1 p.m. General meeting
(Austin History Center)
- 5 p.m. Rowdy Translators SIG
(Dog & Duck Pub,
17th & Guadalupe)

Editor's e-mail

I TRIED OPENING THE NEWSLETTER on the AATIA website, but failed because I was "timed out." Does this mean I have to sit in the corner?

pat.thickstun@tdh.state.tx.us



Hippocrates

May meeting to feature Dietz on computer backups

BESIDES THE LITERARY PRESENTATION at the May AATIA meeting, the program will also feature a short segment on computer backup strategies presented by Webmeister Frank Dietz. He will cover the following:

- Backup media (floppies, Zip disks and other high-density disks, hard drives, tape drives, CDs)
- Backup strategies (full vs. incremental, data vs. programs)
- Backup programs

Of course, attendees will also find great refreshments, networking, and door prizes. ★

Recommended reading

A SERIES OF ARTICLES on translation as a profession by Roger Chriss should interest beginning translators, even though some of the computer-related information is very dated (Pentiums have "too much horsepower for a translator"). Find it at http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/laszlo_gabris/CHRISS00.HTM ★