

www.aatia.org

# The Letter

of the Austin Area Translators  
and Interpreters Association

May 2002

## BookPeople to host readings For World In Translation Month

THREE AUSTIN TRANSLATORS WILL HELP CELEBRATE International PEN's World in Translation Month at 7 pm, May 7, by reading from their work.

Liliana Valenzuela will read her translations of the poetry of Mexican poet Lina Zerón. Valenzuela's translations into Spanish include *El Arroyo de la Llorona* and *Hairs/Pelitos*, both by Sandra Cisneros.

Marian Schwartz, reading from her translation of *Billancourt Tales*, a collection of short stories by Russian writer *Nina Berberova*, has translated seven volumes of Berberova's fiction; her translation of Edvard Radzinsky's *The Last Tsar* spent sixteen weeks on the *New York Times* Bestseller List.

Craig Cravens, reading from the Czech novel *Lovers and Murderers*, by Vladimír Páral, has been the Chair of Czech Studies at the University of Texas since 1999.

From its inception, International PEN has been concerned with the proliferation and preservation of literary translation as a cornerstone of communication and understanding between nations. The Translation Committee at PEN American Center was founded in 1959 to protect and support the work of literary translators and to celebrate the art of translation. In 1993, the Committee persuaded the Library of Congress to include the names of translators of belles lettres in its cataloging system. ★

## 2002 nominations due for Hall of Fame

The Translator Interpreter Hall of Fame (TIHOF) is now accepting nominations for 2002.

The TIHOF was founded September 30, 2000, to recognize the achievements of and pay tribute to the men and women who have helped penetrate cultural and linguistic barriers between the world's peoples.

Language specialists the world over observe International Translators Day every year on September 30, the Feast Day of St. Jerome, the patron saint of translators and the TIHOF's first honoree. Each year on this date the TIHOF will honor additional outstanding practitioners of the art of translating and interpreting.

Nominations for historical or contemporary figures should include a biography and/or essay on the nominee (700 words or longer) with optional illustrations. Send entries to [nominate@tihof.org](mailto:nominate@tihof.org) by the deadline of August 1, 2002.

Nominations will be judged by a panel drawn from various translator and interpreter associations.

New honorees will be announced on International Translators Day, September 30, 2002 and published on the TIHOF website [www.tihof.org](http://www.tihof.org), with proper credit given to essay authors and translators.

Submissions will become the property of the TIHOF. Nominees not inducted at the 2002 ceremony may be considered for future years. ★

### May 11 meeting

## Proofing Techniques for Translators

GOOD PROOFREADING PRACTICES are vital to maintaining the highest quality standards in writing and translating by helping to ensure the accuracy and readability of your finished product. Seemingly minor typos and sloppy formatting can be as detrimental to a translator's professional image as major meaning errors.

AATIA members who missed the April SpanSIG conference may hear Katrina Kargl reprise her presentation there for the May 11 AATIA meeting. Regardless of target language, her proofreading tips can help improve translator skills and work quality.

At the conference Kargl led an interactive workshop on proofreading techniques for translators, in which she shared tips for translators reviewing their own work, as well as the work of fellow translators. The group briefly examined the difference between proofreading and editing, reviewed the three basic areas for proofreading translations (meaning, readability, proper language usage), and looked at various proofreading techniques and their limitations, including word processing tools, third-party reviews and tips for enhancing basic proofreading skills.

Katrina currently serves as Communication and Translation Specialist for the North American Development Bank (NADB) in San Antonio, where her duties include translating, proofreading, editing and writing. She has more than 11 years of experience as a professional translator with an MA in Translation (Spanish to English and English to Spanish) from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey, CA. ★

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## March, April meetings recapped

### March 9, 2002 general meeting

AATIA members Jane Chamberlain and Herb Henion spoke at the March general membership meeting.

Chamberlain described the translation anthology project recently launched by the Literary Special Interest Group (LitSIG). The project will be a learning vehicle for both current literary translators and newcomers to the profession. By producing the anthology, participating translators will not only have the opportunity to be published but will also gain hands-on experience with aspects of the editing and publication process.

“Urban elements” is the tentative organizing principle for the anthology.

Translators of all languages may participate as long as they can make a serious commitment of time and work and are thick-skinned enough for peer critiques. LitSIG especially encourages literary translators of non-European languages to get involved, as most of the languages represented so far are European. Potential contributors should attend the next LitSIG meeting and bring their “pitch,” or idea for submission. The pitch should explain how the proposed

work relates to urban life and why it warrants publishing. Contact LitSIG Coordinator Marian Schwartz at schwartzm@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Herb Henion spoke on his experience in medical interpretation, which he says he entered “through the back door,” after completing bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Spanish and applying his language skills in the Army. He earned certification as a medical interpreter in the state of Washington and interpreted for several years in Seattle-area hospitals. Henion finds the work immensely satisfying. Medical interpreters, he says, can offer hope, serving not only as conduits of information but as advocates for non-English-speaking

patients. They provide a critical service, without which providers cannot communicate with patients and patients have no voice.

Henion highly recommends the "Bridging the Gap" training program for aspiring medical interpreters, which is offered locally by Esther Díaz (mediadz@austin.rr.com).

The topic for The Forum, a new discussion feature introduced at the January meeting, was "When dictionaries disagree, then what?" Suggestions included searching the Internet for the term in question, consulting colleagues, and reading reference materials on the subject matter in both the source and target languages.

### April 13, 2002 Board meeting

At its April meeting, the Board defined "senior translator/interpreter" as someone who has worked at least 10 continuous years as a paid translator or interpreter. The definition is the first step toward developing programs tailored to needs of long-time practitioners. AATIA President Harvie Jordan and Director of Professional Development Ezequiel Quijano will be organizing small group meetings in Austin and San Antonio to discuss programming with this membership subgroup.

The Board also approved a new color scheme and layout for the AATIA website, designed by Interim Webmaster Mike Conner as part of the effort to improve the site's appearance and functionality.

—*Laura Vlasman, Secretary* ★

## Update member directory

AATIA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING members who joined after the 2002 Translation and Interpretation Services Directory was published. This page may be cut out or photocopied and added to the directory to keep it up to date.

**Claudia Boomgaart**  
12728 Coralberry Cove  
Austin TX 78732

Claudia@Boomgaart.com  
Spanish  
Translators  
Business, public administration, politics and international affairs, economics, computer hardware, computer software, electrical engineering, general legal, international law administration, training materials  
Spanish > English  
English > Spanish

### Doris Cabezas

7455 Branston  
San Antonio TX 78250  
dee2020@msn.com  
210-521-2926  
Spanish  
Translators  
Interpreters  
English > Spanish  
Spanish > English  
Aeronautics, aviation, public administration, politics and international affairs, telecommunications, aerospace, training material, technical manuals, military, computer software  
English>Spanish  
Spanish > English

### Professional Research and Evaluation Group

P.O. Box 761085  
San Antonio TX 78245  
preg@angelfire.com  
www.angelfire.com/biz/preg  
Spanish  
Translators  
Management, public health, health and social services, health administration, human resources, education, correspondence, documents, public information, training materials  
English > Spanish

The following members renewed their membership after the directory deadline. AATIA is happy to welcome them back.

**Dr. Aslan Aslanian**  
9673 Crystal View Drive  
Tujunga CA 91042  
aslanian@pacbell.net  
818-353-5862

Armenian, Farsi  
Interpreters  
Translators  
Farsi <> English\*  
Armenian <> English\*  
Dari <> English  
Pashto <> English  
Business, engineering/technology, general medical, general legal, public administration, social sciences, miscellaneous

### Mr. Henry C. Hinds

3821 La Luz Avenue  
El Paso TX 79903  
fronterizo@msn.com  
915-565-9088  
English, Spanish  
Interpreters  
Translators  
Spanish <> English\*  
Arts/humanities, business, computer technology, engineering/technology, general legal, general medical, miscellaneous, public administration, sciences, social sciences

### Nereida Samuda Zimic

4904 Valley Oak Drive  
Austin TX 78731  
nsz@aol.com  
512-453-8109  
Spanish (Panamanian)  
Translators  
English > Spanish  
Education, literature, public information, transcripts ★

## Member statistics

DATABASE COORDINATOR

Crysol Gonzáles has reported the following statistics (as of April 5, 2002):

Active members	124
with business listing	14
Associate members	3
Business members	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>
SpanSIG members	62
MCISIG members	15

# All This, and Money Too!

by Tony Beckwith © 2002 104607.2510@compuserve.com



IT WAS LATE, AND HOT, and we were all tired. We'd put in a full day of interpreting at the conference and breakout sessions, and then we were asked if we'd mind helping out at an after-hours meeting, "just for a little while." Always glad to oblige, of course, but now it was nearly eight o'clock and we were starting to wilt.

Five of us had come to interpret at a conference in Albuquerque for a week. As usual, friends at home said, "You'll love it out there! Albuquerque is a really nice town." They always picture me sightseeing, taking day-trips to the mountains, and acting like a tourist. But what usually happens is that by the time I've finished interpreting for the day all I want to do is order room service and lie on my bed, staring at the ceiling in blissful silence. I have spent several days in some

As interpreters know all too well, conference work can be extremely demanding. At the first orientation meeting you are given a program and you highlight the sessions to which you are assigned, usually two in the morning and two in the afternoon, with coffee and lunch breaks in between. At a large conference, with several hundred people in attendance, the first few breaks can be spent frantically scurrying around trying to find the Sweetwater Room, or the Water-Room Suite, which aren't always exactly where they are shown on the hotel's floor plan.

A conference will of course have an overall theme, but each individual session can be on almost any topic imaginable. You might start off in a workshop discussing criteria for reciprocal acceptance of academic credentials, for example, and then go straight into a lecture on the legal rights of low-income minorities in border regions. After lunch there could be a presentation on children with asthma, followed by an interactive session on non-governmental organizations. All of

**"A free afternoon!  
We jumped a shuttle  
and disappeared be-  
fore any of the au-  
thorities could  
change their minds."**

which is interpreted simultaneously from one language to another—and sometimes in both directions at once. That's what I'd been doing all day when I was asked if I minded helping out at that after-hours meeting for a while. I looked at my four wilting

colleagues and thought, "I guess this is our payback for Saturday!" Saturday was the flip side of the picture I've painted so far—it was an interpreter's fantasy come true. After the morning sessions we were informed that, due to a miraculous glitch in the schedule, our services would not be required for the rest of the day after all. A free afternoon! We jumped a shuttle and disappeared before any of the authorities could change their minds.

Albuquerque's Old Town is a charming place to spend a few hours as a tourist. It was originally settled in 1706 as a farming village and military

outpost along the Camino Real between Chihuahua and Santa Fe, and was named in honor of the Viceroy of New Spain, the Duke of Alburquerque. (The first "r" was dropped later on.) We browsed the shops and galleries, and roamed the streets laid out in the classic Spanish grid, with a central plaza surrounded by the vintage colonial church, old single-story homes, and official buildings. The sound of music drew us to an open courtyard where four young musicians from Ecuador were playing the quena, the charango, and other traditional instruments of the Andes.

We made our way to the Casa de Ruiz for a late lunch. Fortunately it was so crowded inside that we were seated in the delightfully rustic backyard, where ancient farm machinery leaned against thick adobe walls that have stood for three hundred years. The air was warm in the sunshine and cool in the shade, and we had a perfect view of the mountains etching a crisp horizon against a flawless blue sky. We played show-and-tell with our souvenirs: Ecuadorian music CDs, special treats for infant relatives, postcards of the legendary Route 66, and a Navajo-English dictionary (because you just never know).

The food was good and the conversation excellent. Fascinating shoptalk of the kind you might imagine when five kindred spirits are fortunate enough to relax together in such a setting. Thinking of the assignment that had brought us there I sighed, "All this, and money too!" Ben smiled and said, "That would make a good title for a story." ★



# Ten Indispensable WWW Services

by Frank Dietz © 2002  
<http://www1.jump.net/~fdietz/>

WHILE SOME OF THE HOOPLA and hype over doing everything on the World Wide Web (remember online grocery stores?) has died down, the WWW has changed the way many of us live and work. Sure, I could easily make a list of dozens of things on the web I could do without (pop-up ads, Flash animation, etc.) but there are a number of Web-based offerings that are truly useful.

**Airline sites.** I just like being able to compare prices and schedules, order tickets and even pick my seating assignment online. Personal favorite: **www.iflyswa.com** (no seating assignments, there, of course).

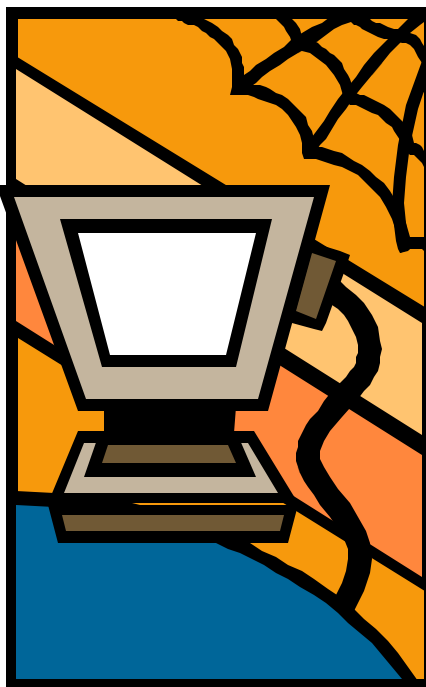
**Online bookstores.** I sometimes long for the experience of book shopping in Germany, where even the smallest bookstores are hooked up to an efficient book distribution system and can get almost any title for you in a day or two. Now I do much of my book shopping online, and the various search functions allow me to find titles I might never have located otherwise. Personal favorite: **www.bn.com** (for their free shipping on two or more items) and **www.ibiservice.com** (for their great prices on German books).

**PDF forms.** Yes, there are still paper forms to fill out in the 21st century (sigh!), but at least some can be downloaded now. I wouldn't call the IRS site a personal favorite, but it is certainly useful: **www.irs.gov/forms\_pubs**.

**Product review sites.** I like to read product reviews before spending my money, and even though *Consumer Report* is still a valuable resource, it just does not cover enough items (plus, some of them always seem to have been phased out by the time the maga-

zine is published). While online review sites tend to be more subjective, the number of reviewers usually assures a relatively balanced evaluation. Personal favorite: **www.epinions.com**.

**Online maps.** What a nifty idea! Just type in an address within the US and get a zoomable map, plus driving directions from your place. While



some towns don't seem to be covered, and the maps are sometimes slightly off, it is still a great service (and free!). Personal favorite: **http://maps.yahoo.com**.

**Useful manufacturer's sites.** Some companies simply put their advertising material online and offer flashy sites with little useful content. Others, however, provide you with detailed product information, troubleshooting guides, downloadable documentation, order status information, and links to customer support. Best of

all, some of these sites are multilingual and thus a great resource for translators. Personal favorite:

**www.dell.com**.

**Radio.** Who would have imagined that the Web would benefit one of the "old" media so much? Now you don't need a short-wave radio to receive foreign-language radio stations. Just go to **http://realguide.real.com/tuner** and click on "Find a Station" to access over 2,500 stations worldwide that offer broadcasts over the Web.

**Web-based discussion groups.** Usenet-based newsgroups still thrive, but web-based discussion groups offer beginners an easier way of finding people sharing a common interest, be it programming languages, country music or the payment habits of translation agencies. The archives of some of these groups also represent a valuable information source. Personal favorite: **http://groups.yahoo.com/**

**PC resource sites.** Yes, you can go to the manufacturer's website... but are we talking about the manufacturer of the PC, the motherboard, the video card, the sound card — and let's not even get started with software conflicts. There are a number of useful sites out there, from the comprehensive **www.zdnet.com** (which also has numerous international versions) to specialized sites such as **www.mvps.org/word/index.html** (questions about MS Word) or the Device Driver Discussion Forum (**www.driverforum.com/**).

**About.com.** This site has an amazing array of links to about any topic you can imagine, and these have been selected by "guides" who are knowledgeable in their subject areas (about.com advertises itself as "the human Internet"). The price you have to pay is a plague of pop-up ads. ★

**The University of Arizona**  
and the  
**National Center for Interpretation**  
*proudly announce the*  
**Agnese Haury Institute for Interpretation**  
**July 8–26, 2002**

The Agnese Haury Institute for Interpretation is the longest-running intensive Spanish/English interpreter training program in the United States. The Institute, now in its 19th year at the University of Arizona, is an intensive three-week course dedicated to improving language and interpreting services.

**Fast Facts about the Institute:**

AHI graduates have passed the Federal Court Interpreter Certification Exam at roughly double the national rate.

The creators and leaders of most interpreter training programs and professional organizations around the country began as AHI students.

The AHI has helped nearly 1,000 people improve their language and interpreting abilities.

AHI graduates show roughly 35% improvement in interpreting ability.

For more information about instructors, prices, and registration, access our website at:

**[nci.arizona.edu](http://nci.arizona.edu)**

or contact us at:

Phone: (520) 621-3615

Fax: (520) 624-8130

Email: [ncitrp@u.arizona.edu](mailto:ncitrp@u.arizona.edu)

## Jordan to review international manuscripts

THE 13,000-MEMBER International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) recently appointed Harvie Jordan, ABC, to its newly created International Review Team.

His invitation read, "As a valued member of IABC, we hope that you will take part in this new initiative to help ensure the continued quality of our knowledge products."

According to Naomi Mandelstein, Research and Production Manager, a very good team of 18 members was recruited that is almost evenly divided between U.S. members and members in other countries worldwide. She added that the team members' fields

of expertise comprise all major subject areas in organizational communications.

Jordan's fields of expertise include media relations, community relations, employee communications and special projects writing, all in both English and Spanish.

This new team was created to ensure that IABC products are up-to-date, relevant to all members and fulfill its readership's needs. The team will act as a first content review panel for all new manuscripts.

Two weeks after his appointment, Jordan received his first assignment: to review the manuscript for the second edition of a popular media relations manual.

IABC estimates that the team will review five to seven new product manuscripts each year. ★

## Díaz interviewed on Title VI

MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICE providers who receive federal funds must provide equal access to people with limited or no English proficiency, as mandated by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. AATIA member Esther Díaz was quoted extensively on the subject in an recent article in the AMARILLO GLOBE-NEWS (Sunday, April 21, 2002, "Breaking through: Language can be a barrier for some," by Cheryl Berzanskis). The pertinent paragraphs are reprinted below

Esther Díaz of Austin is a member of the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association. She works as a translator and trains translators and interpreters. She said there is a renewed emphasis on Title VI, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of national origin.

"And language has been determined to be part of national origin. So there have been several reiterations of this policy, but most noticeably a guidance memorandum and also an executive order issued in the last days of President Clinton's administration. They both re-emphasize the requirement to provide language services for people with limited English proficiency, so that they can have full access to all services," Díaz said.

She said because almost every health care and social service agency receives Medicare or Medicaid funds, they are affected by the requirements. "We hope to see more business for both (translators and interpreters), but mostly interpreters, because of the limited English proficiency regulations," Díaz said.

The entire article may be read online at [www.amarillonet.com](http://www.amarillonet.com). From the Home Page, search on "Esther Díaz" (including the quotes). ★

## Speed up searches with Google toolbar

INSPIRED BY A COUPLE OF ITEMS in the March 2002 issue of THE LETTER, your Editor decided to check out the Google Toolbar. Google had already become my search engine of choice, but the toolbar promised to make searching even more convenient.

The installation process (MS Internet Explorer only) was quick and easy, with the various options clearly explained. Likewise, customization was simple, and it introduced me to several Google features I hadn't been aware of.

For example, the Directory is a variation of their standard Search process in which real live humans rank and describe Web pages, offering in-depth information that helps searchers narrow their queries.

The Rank display shows a bar graph of the relative importance of the page being viewed (whether or not it is the result of a Google search). One may also do a one-click search for links to the viewed page.

The setup procedure offers implementation in several languages, and one of the links related to that option led to a page describing Google's project to translate its website into as many languages as possible, using volunteer translators. Learn about this project at <http://services.google.com/tcbin/tc.py>.

Upon default installation into your browser, the Google toolbar occupies a complete row at the top of the browser window, but you can regain the geography by consolidating some of the other, shorter toolbars into a single row, repositioning them by drag-and-drop.

I've tried a number of browser add-ins and usually end up ignoring them. This one by contrast, has already seen heavy use and will be a permanent addition. Get yours at <http://toolbar.google.com>.

—Mike Conner ★

## Members publish

AATIA MEMBER ERIC DONDERO'S new book, *Worldwide Multilingual Phrase Book: Survival Skills for Over 40 Languages*, is available on his business website [www.portsidelanguages.com](http://www.portsidelanguages.com). An interpreter living in Houston, Dondero speaks over 20 languages and is fluent in Spanish, Italian, French & Portuguese.

Liliana Valenzuela's newest publication is the bilingual *Bugs for lunch/Insectos para el almuerzo*. Margery Facklam wrote the original English text, and Sylvia Long illustrated it. ★

### ATA Medical Translation and Interpreting Seminar

Saturday, May 18, 2002

Chicago, Illinois

Join your colleagues in the "Windy City" on May 18th for a full day of in-depth sessions on medical translation and interpreting. Get current on terminology, network with other translators and interpreters, and hear presentations specifically targeting professionals working in medical translation and/or interpreting. All sessions will be in English.

#### MORNING PLENARY SESSION:

Davi-Ellen Chabner: The Language of Medicine

#### AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION 1

Maria Cornelio: "Legal Issues in the Translation of Healthcare Documents"

Dr. Cornelia Brown and Dr. Bruce T. Downing: "Ethical Codes and Ethical Dilemmas in Medical Interpreting"

#### AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION 2

Dr. Lydia Razran Stone: "A Crash Course in Experimental Design and Inferential Statistics for Biomedical Translators"

Janet Erickson-Johnson: "Beyond Bilingualism: The Role of Telephonic Interpreting in Facilitating Cultural Competency"

Obtain abstracts and biographies at [www.atanet.org/medical/abstract.htm](http://www.atanet.org/medical/abstract.htm)

#### MEETING REGISTRATION:

Get registration forms from the ATA website. [www.atanet.org/medical/](http://www.atanet.org/medical/)

#### Early-Bird Registration Fees:

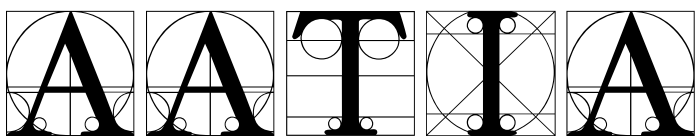
ATA Members \$145  
Non-Members \$230

#### Registration Fees After May 10 and Onsite:

ATA Members \$225  
Non-Members \$320

#### ROOM REGISTRATION:

To reserve your hotel room, contact Chicago's Radisson Hotel at (312) 787-2900 and mention that you are attending the ATA Medical Translation and Interpreting Seminar.



**Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association**  
PO Box 13331 ★ Austin, TX 78711-3331 ★ 512-707-3900  
<http://www.aatia.org>



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

#### EVENTS IN AUSTIN

- May 11 10 a.m. SpanSIG meeting, AHC  
1–4 p.m. AATIA member meeting, AHC  
Jun 8 10–12 noon. MCISIG meeting, AHC  
12 noon. MCISIG networking lunch  
1–4 p.m. AATIA board meeting, AHC  
July 13 SpanSIG meeting and AATIA member meeting



### May meeting profile: Mystery member

HERB HENION'S PRESENTATION at the March general membership meeting, giving a glimpse at the road he traveled on the way to becoming, and working as, an English/Spanish medical interpreter has suggested a new segment for those bimonthly meetings.

Another AATIA member will be the focus of a similar presentation at the May 11 meeting. Who will it be? We'll just have to wait and see. ★

### AATIA launches members-only newsgroup

AATIA HAS LAUNCHED a newsgroup exclusively for AATIA members to share time-sensitive information on work and training opportunities and other items of interest for members.

AATIA member were sent an electronic invitation to join the AATIA Newsgroup in April. Newsgroup subscribers have already received several email messages about training opportunities and a reading by our members.

AATIA will issue another invitation in May for those who may have missed the first one. Members may also join by contacting Esther Diaz at [mediaz@austin.rr.com](mailto:mediaz@austin.rr.com). ★

### Forum question for May meeting

TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS are admonished "not to leave anything out" and "don't add anything" when performing their work. This is, of course, necessary to ensure that content is accurately rendered in the target language. But, grammatically, when is it necessary to add or omit? President Harvie Jordan will lead a brief discussion of this question at the May 11 meeting, ★

