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The Letter

of the Austin Area Translators
and Interpreters Association

January 2003

Harvie Jordan, the Man in the Hat

February 18, 1943 - November 8, 2002

By Tony Beckwith

It was obvious that Harvie loved hats. But until just the other day I'd never given much thought to how many of them he actually wore.

He tossed his hat into the translating ring when he joined Mary Esther and Al as one of the AATIA's founding parents. Since then he's been a translator's friend. Most of us can remember an incident like this: "Harvie was the proctor at my ATA exam. When he found out that I'd come from out of town and was on my own, he insisted I join him for lunch." Or this one: "He knew I didn't know anyone there, so he asked me to sit beside him at dinner."



He certainly knew how to pass the hat, to ask for support of one kind or another for his beloved AATIA. Or for SpanSIG, his own creation. Some thought he must have lots of spare time on his hands to be able to devote so much to these organizations. Now we find that he was also giving of his time to neighborhood association projects, and church activities, and taking part in all manner of workshops, and of course he also had his own business and a family.

Wearing a hat is one thing. Knowing how and when to doff it is an entirely different matter. Harvie was a master of civilities. He delighted in the measured pleasure of exchanging traditional greetings, for example, and was never too busy to

enjoy the pleasantries of civilized relationships. We occasionally addressed each other as *caballero* in our conversations, and it hadn't really struck me until now how entirely appropriate the word was in his case. One day a Spanish word for hat—*chambergó*—caught his fancy, and led to a conversation that in turn brought up something the Argentine gauchos say: *La vida es una cebolla y hay que pelarla llorando*. Life is an onion, and we must peel it and weep.

Autumn was glorious this year. If color were sound, it would have been deafening around here in the early days of November. But our symphony in the streets played its saddest movement when we heard the news of Harvie's passing, and suddenly countless golden leaves lay scattered at our feet. None of us could believe that we'd never hear that mellifluous, well-polished baritone voice, ever again.

Rather than dwell on the aching void he has left among us, I'd like to imagine Harvie in high cotton, in a linguistic paradise of some kind. Perhaps, as Maurine speculated, he is now fully omnifluent in all languages. And is no doubt wearing that halo at a jaunty angle. ★

Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association

<http://www.aatia.org>

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT Michael A. Blumenthal v & f 295-3141
mblumenthal@austin.rr.com
SECRETARY Janet K. Peirce v 868-5654
jpeirce@cox-internet.com
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS Jonathan Cole
v 682-2250 njcole@texas.net
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE Howard Simms v 452-4700
howard.simms@gte.net
DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP Zoya Marinchevai
v 927-9317 membership@aatia.org
DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Ezequiel
M. Quijano v 210-615-9638 ezequielquijano@msn.com

The AATIA Letter

EDITOR R. Michael Conner v 474-7012 f 474-2895
editor@aatia.org
PRODUCTION Howard Simms v 452-4700
Howard.Simms@gte.net & Merry Wheaton v 451-4772
f 451-1935 mcwheaton@austin.rr.com
DISTRIBUTION Efrat Schwartz v 342-9836 f 342-9891
efrat@austin.rr.com

Coordinators

ACCREDITATION Ezequiel M. Quijano
v & f 210-615-9638 ezequielquijano@msn.com
ADVERTISING Esther Díaz v & f 312-1599
mediaz@austin.rr.com
COMPUTERS Frank Dietz v 491-6069 f 491-6086
fdietz@rocketmail.com
DATABASE Laszlo Eosze v 254-542-5090
leosze@hotmail.com
HOSPITALITY Aura Guevara v 301-4531
eguevara@mail.utexas.edu; Patricia King-Sigg
v & f 266-6612 pkingsigg@aol.com; Laurel A. Treviño
v 394-0420 laureltm@earthlink.net
INTERPRETATION Cristina Helmerichs D. v 452-5895
helmerichsc@netscape.net
LITERARY Marian Schwartz v & f 442-5100
schwartzm@sbcglobal.net
MEDICAL AND COMMUNITY INTERPRETING
Esther Díaz v & f 312-1599 mediav@austin.rr.com
MEMBERSHIP INFO Traci Andrighetti v 454-3305
f 302-0273 traduttrice@hotmail.com
NEW MEMBERS Esther Díaz v & f 312-1599
mediav@austin.rr.com
REFERRALS Steve Zaveloff v 219-7142 f 707-988-8694
zaveloff@earthlink.net & Merry Wheaton v 451-4772
f 451-1935 mcwheaton@austin.rr.com
RUSSIAN Jane Chamberlain v 453-1486 candide@io.com
SPANISH Marta & Michael Blumenthal v & f 295-3141
mblumenthal@austin.rr.com
WEBSITE R. Michael Conner v 474-7012 f 474-2895
editor@aatia.org
VOICEMAIL Emma Widener v 443-5931
emwidener@mail.utexas.edu
WORKSHOPS Ezequiel M. Quijano v & f 210-615-9638



AATIA welcomes new members

Gary Eisenbach
512.837.7298
Arabic > English
Castilian <> English

French > English
Russian > English
Translator
Correspondence, Public Information,
Medical, Biology, Computer Software

Cathy Figueroa
956.687.2126
cathy_figueroa@hotmail.com
Spanish <> English
Translator
Correspondence, Documents,
Employee handbooks, Public
information, Transcripts, Recreation
and travel, Workers compensation,
Human resources

Edward Vaught
210.573.2457
evco84@hotmail.com
Spanish <> English
Translator/Interpreter

Michiko Dodge
830.534.3543
michikododge@satx.rr.com
Japanese <> English
Translator
Bible and religion, Public relations,
Patents, Literature, Real estate,
Correspondence, Music, Audio/video
scripts, Marketing and sales

November meeting reviewed Phone interpreting made simple

ATTENDEES AT THE NOVEMBER general membership meeting learned some of the finer points of telephone interpreting, or over-the-phone interpreting (OPI), from AATIA member Odile LeGeay.

According to LeGeay, the OPI market has undergone exponential growth in the last 30 years, largely as a result of the enactment of Title VI of the U.S. Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin. Under the law, any entity receiving federal government funding must provide access to its services for persons with limited English proficiency. Many such agencies rely on telephone interpreters to comply with that requirement.

However, OPI is not limited to the public sector. Businesses also frequently utilize the services of telephone interpreters. In the U.S., the OPI market is dominated by a handful of large nationwide companies that offer interpreting in a wide variety of fields and languages. Numerous smaller companies serve regional markets and/or provide more specialized services.

Telephone interpreters normally work from their homes or offices, although they may receive calls elsewhere, which means that they can also work while traveling. They may work on a fixed schedule, for which they receive an hourly fee or, like LeGeay, they may elect to work without a set schedule, accepting assignments only when they choose to do so, in which case they are paid by the minute. Calls generally range in length from 1 to 30 minutes.

Pros and cons of telephone interpreting include flexibility of scheduling and relaxed work environment, great variation in subject matter from one call to the next and lack of nonverbal cues. LeGeay points out that these factors may be pros or

cons, depending on the situation and the interpreter's perspective. The absence of nonverbal cues, for example, may not necessarily be a negative, since sometimes they create distractions that interfere with effective communication.

For information on getting started in telephone interpreting, contact LeGeay at legeay@earthlink.net.

The forum question for the November meeting was "How do you market your services?" Suggestions included using the The Translator's Handbook, a comprehensive resource on the translation industry available from Schreiber Publishing; networking with colleagues and potential clients; and creating a website. Participants agreed that the best marketing tool is good work. Satisfied clients will call back and they will refer other clients to you. ★

Volunteers needed

Dear member:

AATIA needs you! Our association is the wonderful place it is because of the dedication of its members who volunteer their time and energy. Please look at the current openings [below] and consider volunteering!

—Zoya Marincheva
Director of Membership

Hospitality Coordinators

A table riddled with refreshments at the end of our meetings has turned out to be the magic point of congregation and friendly chatter. The socializing part of AATIA bimonthly meetings depends on the effort and creativity of our hospitality coordinators. Sirikarn Peters will be one of them. We need two more people to share the responsibility of breaking the ice and helping people connect.

Job description

Provide refreshments at the bimonthly membership meetings.

Voicemail Coordinator

Even though AATIA has focused on developing its website database listing

as a primary source of contact, the businesses and individuals who seek our members' services still have the option of reaching AATIA by phone and voicemail.

Job description

Check AATIA voice mail on a daily basis, Monday through Friday. Forward caller information to appropriate Board member, coordinator or member. Keep a log of all inquiries and responses. If you are interested or have questions, contact Zoya Marincheva at zmarincheva@yahoo.com. ★

January 11 meeting

Fund, candidates on January agenda

A PROGRESS REPORT on the Harvie Jordan Memorial Fund [provisional name] will highlight the January general meeting. Michael Blumenthal, who is spearheading the project, will outline the concepts developed by the organizing committee and ask for feedback from the membership.

The first project, scholarships for participation in a TIP-Lab skills-development workshop will be awarded at the meeting to Alejandra McGuire and Miriam Bleiweiss.

Candidates for the special presidential election will introduce themselves and make their statements.

Board members will also recognize the many volunteers who have helped the association work smoothly in 2002. ★

Thanks!

AATIA EXTENDS SPECIAL THANKS TO

- **Crustina Helmerichs** for transporting t-shirts, bookmarks, and banner to Atlanta for the AATIA table at the ATA conference.
- **Rafael Ojeda** for single-handedly staffing the table at the conference. Without your help, AATIA would not have been represented nearly so well at this important conference. ★

December 14 Board meeting

Blumenthal accepts interim appointment; Jordan Fund to be established

THE AATIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS at its December meeting appointed Michael Blumenthal to serve as interim president of AATIA until a special election can be held to choose a president to succeed the late Harvie Jordan. Marian Schwartz was appointed to chair the nominating committee for the special election.

In other action, the Board approved a proposal presented by Michael Blumenthal to create a memorial fund to honor Jordan and authorized Blumenthal and the members of the Jordan

memorial fund committee to begin the process of legally establishing the fund. The fund will be used to support professional development activities for translators and interpreters.

Additionally, the Board endorsed a proposal presented by Marta Blumenthal on behalf of the Spanish Special Interest Group (SpanSIG) to award annual scholarships of \$125 to enable AATIA members to participate in the Translators and Interpreters Practice Lab (TIP-Lab) distance translation/revision workshop for English-Spanish

translators. The SpanSIG funds will complement the \$100 scholarship being offered by TIP-Lab founder and coordinator Alicia Marshall in memory of Harvie Jordan. Scholarship recipients will be selected by a jury through a competitive application process. Initially, only SpanSIG members will be eligible to apply for this particular award. However, eventually other opportunities will be extended to all AATIA members as professional development activities to be supported by the Jordan memorial fund. ★

Special election called to fill presidential vacancy

AATIA WILL HOLD A SPECIAL ELECTION in early February 2003 to fill the office of President for the remainder of 2003. Voting will be carried out by mail, as stipulated in the AATIA Election Code. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Marian Schwartz, has presented three candidates for the office. Their statements are given below.

Candidate statements

Frank Dietz

When I joined AATIA, I was just starting out as a full-time translator. I will always remember the friendly atmosphere and professional advice I found at AATIA meetings. Conversations with translators and interpreters from all over the country have shown me that AATIA is one of the most active and innovative local organizations in this field. I would like to contribute towards continuing and enhancing this tradition. ★

J. Henry Phillips

The AATIA has been a friendly help to me since I joined in 1987, and I'd like to return the favor. For 4 years I served as Division newsletter editor and for 8 years as Language Chair and grader. Most recently I helped organize the Freelance Party for translators and interpreters at www.freelanceparty.org, and I am a

full-time professional linguist.

My platform is simply that translators and interpreters should be free, and have access to the facts. Translators' associations should be exactly that—not vehicles for restricting your choices nor cheap labor pools.

If elected I propose to continue as best I can the streamlining and simplification of our website and member information, and to get us listed with major search engines for better visibility. I am also in favor of continuing to upgrade our Yellow pages visibility from the #10 spot to among the top three. ★

Patricia Thickstun

AATIA suffered a great loss with the passing of Harvie Jordan. We can honor Harvie's memory by continuing on the path he planned. The three-point plan is:

- Provide direction for board members' duties and responsibilities and leadership development through coordinator and volunteer opportunities

- Provide professional development programs for senior language professionals
- Revise Special Interest Group (SIG) guidelines and Manual of AATIA Policies and Procedures (MAPP).

Over the past 10 years, I served AATIA as Vice President for Communications, President and as a member of the MAPP Revision Team. I also served as the Vice President of another non-profit organization, L'Alliance Française d'Austin, and have attended several continuing education courses on non-profit organization management.

If elected, I pledge to use my experience and education to assist AATIA in fulfilling the 3-point plan envisioned by Harvie and to ensure that AATIA is properly governed and maintains its fiduciary obligations. ★

Remembrances



It was a terrible shock to all of us at the ATA Conference to learn on Saturday of the death of our dear colleague Harvie Jordan. People were simply stunned when they heard the news. I saw tears on many faces. When President Tom West asked us all to keep a moment of silence in remembrance of Harvie, the feeling in the hall was profound.

For those of you who had the pleasure of working with Harvie on a more regular basis, the shock must have been stronger still. Harvie was such a force for good, such a source of energy, such a positive person, that it seems incredible not to have him with us on this earth. His contributions to his local association, to the ATA, and to the profession at large were very significant, but they pale in comparison with the place he held in our hearts.

*Ann G. Macfarlane
ATA Past President*



Harvie had a kindness and heart in other areas than translation. In the early eighties he was a radio personality in Austin! Melodious voice and bright curiosity. Harvie interviewed my ex-wife about her CEDEN Center for Early Childhood Education, providing development and training for children and families (primarily Hispanic). I had the fortune to know Harvie for his caring and active helping of others in our community even before seeing those same qualities spring to life in translation and the AATIA.

*Allan Adams
President, Adams Globalization*



I just learned of the untimely death, this past Friday, of Harvie Jordan. This man, a loyal member of the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association was a tireless worker. A soft spoken intellect, Harvie was a GIANT among those who stood out in both the translating and interpreting professions. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for placing respect, professionalism and fairness first in our professions. I looked to him and received very good advice as I entered my two term experience as administrator of the Interpreters Division. He will also be remembered as a kind and gentle friend to all the AATIA and ATA members who had the privilege of knowing him. In honor of his signature hat, for all he has done for us, hat's off in silent remembrance of Harvie.

*Diane E. Teichman
Past Administrator, ATA Interpreters Division*



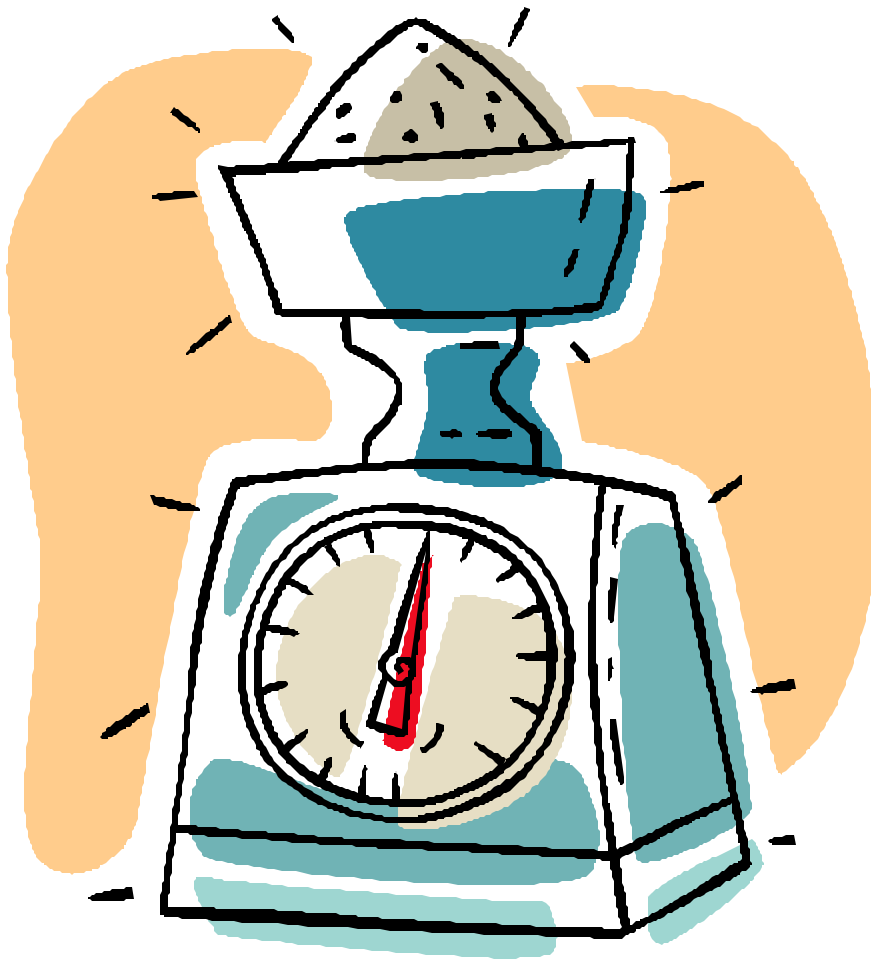
Harvie was an excellent colleague and hard worker and will be sorely missed. It was a shock when we learned about it on Saturday. The irony is that he died on the day and possibly around the time of the Spanish Division dinner. He was instrumental in starting the Division and its first Assistant Administrator.

*Virginia Perez-Santalla Signorelli
ATA Spanish Language Division*



I was utterly shocked and so very heartbroken to read the news about Harvie on the FLD liste and then your chapter web site. He and his family stopped at the UN several years ago to see me, but especially my girls, and Harvie later sent me enlarged photos, for which, kindly gentleman that he was, he thanked me for giving him the privilege of taking. I would like to write to his family but can't remember their names. Perhaps you could remind me and give me their home address. In searching for your e-mail address, I came across things that you and Harvie had authored jointly. This must be terribly hard for you. Why do these things always happen to the nicest and best people? What a loss for you Texas people, and for all of us.

*Laurie Treubhaft
United Nations Translator*



Stupid Interpreter Tricks

Measure for measure

by J Henry Phillips © 2003

interpreter@portugueseinterpreter.com
www.portugueseinterpreter.com

Mass, Weight and Pressure

MY THUMB TOLD ME the bicycle balloon tire was properly inflated, but the needle on the air gauge at the Ipanema gas station read under 2 instead of over 25. Sure enough the thing was calibrated wrong—instead of PSI it showed some goofy kgf/cm^2 units—obviously a typo, right? Nowadays, cons later, engineers still insist on abbreviating kilogram with an “P”—at least sometimes—and it turns out they have their reasons.

We know from science fiction that mass isn't the same as weight, yet Americans so often hear that kilos convert to pounds when multiplied by

2.2 that many come to believe it. Not so in Great Britain, where engineers first divide their pounds by the acceleration of gravity, converting them to slugs, then convert from slugs to kilos by multiplying by 14.6. Asked to explain, they'll reply that unit force is a force that causes a unit acceleration when applied to a unit mass—by their lights that settles the issue. At any rate, the mysterious “P” indicates that the kilogram is being treated as a unit of actual weight or force.

In France—metric before it became fashionable—the British definition of unit force is accepted. But when it comes down to cases, French engi-

neers sprinkle salt on British slugs and specify tire inflation in bars or kPa. A bar has nothing to do with the Demon Rum. It is an expression people use to refer to atmospheric pressure, 14 psi, when they don't much care to be understood. A kPa is 1000 pascals, each one of them named after the French mathematician Blaise Pascal—the gambling man who invented Pascal's triangle. Pascal would perhaps have attached deep significance to this procession of 14s: 14 psi being atmospheric pressure at sea level, while there are 14.6 slugs to the kilo, and 0.14 psi to the kilopascal—and the coincidence is certainly convenient for linguists doing conversions.

These different units are built out of several other units defined in terms of their corresponding yardsticks, but the fundamental dimensions underlying all units of measure are the same in every case. Units of pressure are always units of force divided by units of area. Units of area are always length multiplied by length, or L^2 . Units of force are everywhere units of mass times length divided by time times time, or ML/T^2 . Units of pressure in America, France or England must therefore be M/LT^2 in every case; the differences arising only from the various ways of constructing the units of mass, length and time. So next time your deadline pressure increases your blood pressure as you convert from British engineering pressure to metric, take comfort in the certainty that your source and target pressures will always have the same fundamental dimensions, and that mass, weight and pressure can always be reduced to mass, length and time. ★

Are you eXPerienced?

by Frank Dietz © 2002
<http://www.frankdietz.com>

BY NOW, YOU SHOULD'VE NOTICED that the minions of Bill the Mighty have a new operating system on the market: Windows XP (which comes in two flavors: Home and Professional). I have used XP Home for a few months and wanted to share some impressions.

You have to activate it. If you upgrade to XP or install it on a newly built computer, you have to activate it within 30 days by phone, modem or on a website. I chose the phone option and had to enter a 25-digit code by touch-tone phone, after which a computer voice read me an 80-digit (!) code that I had to type into a field on my computer, and that was it – no name or address had to be given. Note that a major hardware upgrade (new CPU etc.) could force you to re-activate. On my new laptop, by the way, XP was already activated.

The GUI was designed by 4-year-olds. And they used crayons. Big ones! Lots of colors, too! At least

you can change the Start menu by right-clicking on the Start button and selecting *Properties/Start menu/Classic Start menu*. You can also right-click on the screen, and then select *Properties/Themes/Windows Classic* to reduce the crayola overload.



Compatibility may be an issue. If you have older software or hardware, it might not work well (or at all) with XP. Microsoft has been issuing compatibility updates (<http://v4.windowsupdate.microsoft.com/en/default.asp>) for software, and you

should check the website of your hardware or software manufacturer for XP patches. Just don't expect too much for that 10-year-old printer of yours. You can also check Microsoft's compatibility list at <http://www.microsoft.com/hcl/>. Trados, by the way, has just issued an upgrade version (5.5) to offer full XP compatibility for Trados Freelance Edition.

Some nifty new features. The System Restore function lets you "roll back" the system to a point before something bad (e.g. the installation of a driver that made your system unstable) happened. The Network Setup Wizard makes it easy to create a home network, even with computers running older versions of Windows.

Stability. Many users have commented on this, and I also found XP very stable – no BSOD (Blue Screen of Death) so far!

The verdict: If you have a Windows 98 or ME system that is running reasonably stable, don't change it. If you are getting a new system with Windows XP pre-installed, make sure it has at least 256 MB of RAM – XP extends the porcine proclivities of the operating systems from Redmond.★

Bargains for the Next Depression

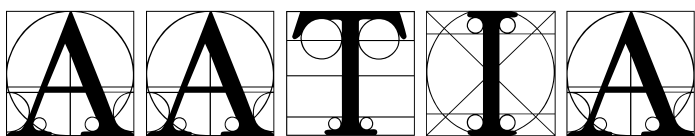
NORTH AUSTIN'S DIVERSIFICATION INTO HIGH-TECH INDUSTRY following the Crash of 1987 has made this a relatively easy place to keep computers and peripherals up and running. A secondary market in used computer parts, manuals and software has become as essential to translators as the used book market. M. C. Howard Electronics at 9417 Neils Thompson Drive has for two decades been a mecca for hackers and technicians looking for hard drives, EEPROMs, memory chips and other components at bargain prices. More recently, Discount Electronics, now over on Anderson Lane just west of the railroad tracks, has offered some great deals on mice, keyboards, software, drives and knickknacks.

Goodwill Industries (Goodwill Computer Works) has also found itself a niche market disassembling and rebuilding donated computers. If something breaks on a computer that is more than a year old, you stand a good chance of finding a replacement there. For network cards, monitors and cables they simply cannot be beat, and some of their components even come backed by a guarantee – albeit measured in hours, not months. It helps to be able to spot broken and defective items and avoid them in the first place if you're going to be shopping at junkyards.

More upscale yet still economical is Valiant Computers at the southwest corner of Burnet Road and 183 North. This is a small store selling late-model motherboards, cases, drives, memory and peripherals at discount-chain bargain prices. Their personnel are technically competent, and the company has a very agreeable repairs and exchange policy. All of the places mentioned here will sell you a complete system or any part thereof.

These are just some examples of Austin's lesser-known attractions for technology-tied professionals. The University campus area is a constantly shifting hotbed of recycled computer activity, and I have seen a number of economy outlets come and go on the south side and downtown. AATIA members from other towns who travel here for meetings will find an unusually large selection of computer-related bargains.

—J. Henry Phillips ★



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 at 9th & Guadalupe on the 2nd Saturday of odd-numbered months for general meetings and even-numbered months for board meetings.

EVENTS IN AUSTIN

- Jan 11 10 a.m. SpanSIG meeting
1–4 p.m. AATIA member meeting
Feb 8 10–12 noon. MCISIG meeting
12 noon. MCISIG networking lunch
1–4 p.m. AATIA board meeting
Mar 8 SpanSIG meeting and AATIA member meeting

IN SAN ANTONIO

- Apr 25–27, 2003 ATA Spanish Language Division's 2nd
Annual Conference: virginiasps@comcast.net

Forty sit for ATA exam; other sittings scheduled

FORTY CANDIDATES SAT for the American Translators Association's accreditation examination on December 7, 2002, according to Ezequiel Quijano, AATIA Director for Professional Development.

ATA has announced the following dates and places for upcoming accreditation examination sittings in Texas:

- 4/26/03 San Antonio
- 5/10/03 El Paso

Candidates who want to sit for the exam should visit the ATA website www.atanet.org for information about the exam and for details about registration. ★



There's that guy called Garcia in accounting. He can translate for us.