

### The Letter

of the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association

**May 2003** 



# Two Lines to publish debut literary translation

Zoya Marincheva's first literary translation—Stefan Bonev's "Feta Cheese," translated from the Bulgarian—has been accepted for publication in the 2003 issue of *Two Lines: A Journal of Translation*, due out this month.

Marincheva's fellow LitSIGer, Marian Schwartz, has also had a story accepted for the same issue, "To Shashlyk," by Oleg Radzinsky, translated from the Russian. ★

### Phillips edges Thickstun in Prexy runoff

J. HENRY PHILLIPS WON the run-off election, held at the March AATIA general membership meeting, by a three-vote margin over candidate Pat Thickstun. Vote totals were as follows: Phillips 26, Thickstun 23.

Results of the election were announced at the end of the meeting, and Phillips assumed the office of President at the April meeting of the AATIA Board of Directors. \*

### Website to accept PayPal transactions

AATIA will soon begin accepting electronic payments through the online service PayPal.

This digital clearing house is a service of eBay through which AATIA could set up an account to receive payment for membership dues, workshop registration fees, and items for sale, such as t-shirts.

One of the goals of the Membership Office is to create an easy process for maintaining website profiles and renewing membership in order to boost membership satisfaction. Adding Pay-Pal would eliminate the need for members to write and mail in checks.

A PayPal account would be less expensive than a merchant account, and it would save work. Several members already use this service successfully for receiving client payments for translation and interpretation assignments. \*

## The Harvie Jordan Collection

IN HIS THIRTY YEARS OF PRACTICE as a translator, Harvie Jordan gathered an impressive collection of dictionaries and other reference materials. These



include dozens of general and specialized English and Spanish dictionaries.

Soon you will have the opportunity to own part of Jordan's

collection. A list of titles for sale will be distributed to members through the AATIA listserv and details will be available at the AATIA membership meeting in May.

Watch your e-mail for details. ★

# Last edition of ink directory hits streets

The 2003 edition of the AATIA Translation and Interpretation Services Directory will be the last printed version.

This edition is distinguied from its predecessors by the cover design, courtesy of Michael Conner, and the inclusion of colored dividers to separate the interpreter and translator sections

Designed to serve both for internal communication among members as well as a marketing tool for member services, the directory now fulfills the latter purpose through the online version at www.aatia.org.

After assessing costs and benefits of printing and distributing the ink version, the Board of Directors decided to replace it with a "phone book" for member use and promote the online version for marketing purposes.

Communications Director Jonathan Cole has also been developing a client-oriented brochure, which at press time was scheduled for completion by late April. Besides briefly describing AATIA, the brochure would promote the existence of the website and online directory.

The decision to abandon the printed directory should save the association some \$1500 in production and distribution costs and hundreds of volunteer hours, both of which can be spent for other projects, including raising AATIA's profile through targeted advertising. It will also allow the association to improve other services without raising dues.

Originally scheduled for distribution at the March meeting, the directory was delayed by printing glitches, but should now be in members' hands. Those who have not received it should contact Membership Director Zoya Marincheva. \*

# Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association

### http://www.aatia.org

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## Welcome returning and new members

AATIA MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES to grow, according to Membership Director Zoya Marincheva, who reported the following membership numbers at the April 12, 2003, board meeting:

Active members 149
Active w/business listing 16
Associate members 6
Business members 1
Total 172

Marincheva stated that 45 people who were members in 2002 have not yet renewed for the current year, but the current figures include 30 new members and 10 who are returning after an absence of a year or more.

Dues-paying SpanSIG members number 69, and the MCISIG has 13 members. Other SIGs do not collect dues, so their membership figures are not tracked.

The following are new members who joined after press time for the print directory:

MasterWord Services, Inc.
713 823 1812
masterword@masterword.com
All languages
Translation/Interpretation
All subject specializations

Mona El-Azzi
512 454 8922
monamkazzi@hotmail.com
English <> Arabic
English > French
Translator/Interpreter
documents, public information,

immigration law, legal and paralegal services, human resources, health administration, education, food administration, special education, health and social services

Kwei K Chang 512 219 8628 kchanglina@aol.com English > Chinese Translator/Interpreter mathematics, nuclear engineering, mechanical engineering, environmental sciences, energy and fuels, nuclear science, environmental engineering, physics

Maria Forsyth 512 341 7997 mtreynap@yahoo.com English > Spanish Translator immigration law, accounting, finance, insurance, management, marketing and sales, recreation and travel, human resources, employee handbooks, training materials

Thomas Thevenin
361 815 2377
thomasthevenin@aol.com
English > French
Translator
business and consumer law, civil and criminal law, corporate and labor law, general legal, immigration law, intellectual property law, international law administration, real estate law, tax law, torts and product liability

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project management and operations,
community affairs, energy, health
administration, housing administration

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business and consumer law, corporate
and labor law, employee handbooks,
human resources, immigration law,
instructions manuals, labor relations,
management, occupational health and
safety, workers compensation \*\*

# Directory help acknowledged

THIS YEAR THE AATIA DIRECTORY came out with several omissions. I deeply regret the omissions and errors and would like to extend in this newsletter my special thanks to several volunteers whose names do not appear on the contributors' list due to a typographical error but whose contribution was immensely valuable:

I would like to thank Mike Conner for kindly volunteering his time and designer talent. He sparked up the cover art using AATIA's royal colors and new logo (also bearing his trademark). Due to the printer's error, his contribution is not acknowledged inside the directory. Mike humbly rejected a reprint to save us time and effort.

Mary Esther Diaz and Laura Vlasman helped proofread the directory's voluminous body on very short notice on a weekend. They offered time and skills at a crucial moment for a challenging task. I would like to thank them for their great work and extraordinary responsiveness.

Zoya Marincheva Director of Membership

### ATA members start Middle Eastern Languages Division

AT LAST YEAR'S CONFERENCE in Atlanta, a group of ATA members met to discuss the possibility of establishing a Middle Eastern Languages Division. Currently, members are setting up the preliminary stages of establishing the division by means of an e-mail list set up at YahooGroups.

The division will be open to translators and interpreters working with any languages spoken in the countries of the Middle East, and will provide a non-political forum for networking and exchanging ideas and resources, professional and educational enrichment, terminology and computing issues, etc. The list discussions at this preliminary stage will focus on fulfilling the ATA requirements for establishing a new division, as well as setting up the division's core activities, which include a newsletter and conference activities.

All ATA members with an interest in belonging to the potential division are encouraged to join the discussion group. Even if you do not have the time or inclination to become actively involved in establishing the division, simply joining the group will be a helpful indication of the level of interest in the division.

More information about the group can be found at http:// groups.yahoo.com/group/ ATA MELD/

To join, send a blank message to ATA\_MELD-subscribe @yahoogroups.com. ★

### **UN schedules exams**

THE UNITED NATIONS has announced competitive examinations for Arabic, English and French interpreters for July 21–25 in New York, Geneva, Nairobi, Cairo, and other locations according to the number and location of qualified candidates convoked to the examinations and subject to availability of suitable interpretation equipment.

The purpose of these exams is to establish rosters from which present and future vacancies for the above posts in the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management will be filled.

Further information and application forms for these examinations can be obtained at www.un.org/Depts/OHRM/examin/exam.htm. \*



*HURRICANE!* 

By Tony Beckwith ©2003 tonyhbeckwith@cs.com

THE FIRST THING I NOTICED WAS THE WIND. It was clammy and restless, and flicked up my apron as I went from the galley to the walk-in freezer in the pre-dawn darkness. On the way back I stepped to the edge of the platform and looked down at the waves surging and churning around the pylons of the rig. The Gulf was a mass of skittish whitecaps dancing all the way to the black horizon. Something was up. You could feel it in the air.

By late morning the order had come in from the oil company's office in Houston: "Evacuate the rig!" There was a hurricane moving in from the east and we were right in its path. It was definitely time to leave.

The galley was the gathering place on our little metal island. As the resident cook, I was the unofficial host as the men crowded in out of the storm to wait for their helicopter ride ashore. Someone shouted, "Hey Cookie, how 'bout some fancy snacks for the trip?" Another one agreed, "Yeah, I could go for a *feelay mee-nione* on a bun!" Everyone laughed; there was the usual rough and tumble camaraderie amongst the crew, but with an underlying tension today. We all knew that a hurricane was no laughing matter.

We were told we'd be evacuated in alphabetical order, so I was ready to leave with the first group. But the chopper came and went and nobody called my name so I went to see the tool pusher, the boss of the rig. He explained: "Tool pusher's the last man off the rig. Electrician's gotta stay with him in case of any last minute electrical problems. So the cook's gotta stay too, in case we get stranded and have to ride out the storm." He grinned. "It's in the fine print of your contract." I wanted to tell him that people who sign up for this kind of "Foreign Legion" job don't usually read the fine print on anything. But there was no point, so I let it go and made my way back to the galley. The wind was howling around the little cluster of prefab buildings now, and although it was barely past noon the light was fading fast. The dark waves were running high and strong and I started wondering what it would be like to be stuck on this rig when the full force of the hurricane hit. My little refuge from the world now looked puny and I suddenly felt scared.

When all the roughnecks and roust-abouts were gone, the tool pusher, the electrician and I sat in the galley drinking coffee, huddled around the company radio. A small helicopter was trying to get back out to fetch us, but the headwinds were almost too strong. We listened to the roaring wind and the crackle of the radio, and waited for what seemed like forever.

At last we heard the whirring of the chopper as it landed on the helipad. We turned off the lights, secured the door, and headed up the stairs. The tool pusher yelled, "Don't let go!" I nodded and gripped the rail as if my life depended on it. Once on the pad we crouched down, held onto each other, and scuttled over to the helicopter, the blades beating the air just above our heads. Getting the door

open against the gale was a struggle, but then we were inside, and the pilot was revving his engines. "Buckle up and hang on," he shouted. "When we lift off it'll try to dump us in the water!"

With engines screaming, the pilot took off. The little egg-like craft was immediately hurled to one side and sucked downwards. I pushed down hard with my boots against the floor as we plummeted toward the wild waters beneath us. Waves broke over the runners, spraying the window beside me with a staccato spatter of drops that sounded like machine gun fire. The chopper drifted towards the platform, shaking and shuddering and tilting desperately in the opposite direction. The muscles bulged in the pilot's forearms as he fought for control, his khaki shirt dark with sweat. I

held my breath and watched in horrified fascination as we slowly—slowly!—pulled away, rose up and headed for Louisiana.

The hurricane was now blowing at very close to full strength and the helicopter was like a little mosquito in the wind. We were battered and bounced from side to side, and thrown up and down, lurching and plunging every inch of the way. The pilot battled nonstop to keep from being forced down into the terrifying waters of the Gulf. I never loosened my grip on the arms of my seat, and even though I braced myself as firmly as I could, the sudden violent movements slammed my head and shoulders against the side of the cabin every few minutes. We flew in a murky, gray-green rainy darkness under low, angry black clouds and I'm sure we all wondered if we'd ever

make it home.

But we did. After two exhausting hours the helicopter landed in Lafayette. We sat in the darkened cabin as the blades gradually stopped whirring, each of us lost in our own thoughts. I looked out at nothing in particular the raindrops sliding down the window, the sign over the office door swinging in the wind, and the lights of the town. We stepped down onto the tarmac and the ground had never felt so good. Nobody seemed to know what to say and we suddenly, spontaneously all shook hands. The tool pusher grinned and said, "Did you read in the fine print that the cook has to buy drinks for everyone if we make it to shore safely?" ★

# The Jordan Foundation for the Advancement of Translation, Interpretation, and Communication

### History

After a short illness, Harvie Lee Jordan died on November 8, 2002, leaving behind a legacy of accomplishment and an enormous loss of leadership to the community. Over the days and weeks following his death many friends and colleagues expressed their desire to remember Harvie in a permanent manner. The consensus was reached that the best way to perpetuate his memory would be through the promotion of professionalism in translation, interpretation, and communication.

### The foundation

A Memorial Committee composed of members of the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association (AATIA) was formed. The committee concluded that a foundation to hold funds in trust would be an appropriate means of honoring Harvie.

After investigation and consultation, it was decided to join forces with Austin Community Foundation (ACF). ACF will provide the umbrella under which the Harvie Jordan Fund is administered.

### Distribution of funds

Grant applications will be made for professional development in translation, interpretation, and communication, and sent to a Grant Proposal Screening Committee composed of AATIA members. Based on criteria of leadership skills and career goals, AATIA involvement and commitment to serve, and special contributions to translation and interpretation, the most meritorious grant requests will be selected and presented

to the AATIA Board of Directors for final approval of funding.

### Tax-deductible gifts

All contributions to the fund are tax deductible and written verification of all contributions will be made to donors. Checks may be made out to **ACF**, with the annotation on bottom left, **Harvie Jordan Fund**.

The mailing address is:

Austin Community Foundation PO Box 5159 Austin, TX 78763 ★

# Unexpected publicity: Hallmark films LitSIG meeting

project

by Ingrid Lansford

WHY WOULD A DOZEN literary translators converge on Traci Andrighetti's house at 6:30 on March 5th? Why Wednesday night, when the usual LitSIG meeting time is 1-3 on Saturday afternoon? T'was the night when a Hallmark film crew wanted to shoot Traci and her husband at home among their friends—and the translators qualified as friends.

The invitation to be filmed was a surprise, but very welcome. For one, it validated the bond between group members, and for another, gave them a chance to bring their profession

before the public. It also came at a time when they could see the end of their current project and a celebration was called for.

The project, compiling a translation anthology, has kept the LitSIG busy since late 2001. The concept was the following: Every member would contribute the translation of a story, a set of poems, or an excerpt from a book of literary merit to fit a theme. Members would function as contributors, editors, and book designers, as they accepted or rejected pitches for the contributions, reviewed one another's submissions, and put together a book to be printed. The group would seek funds to cover the cost, find a way to publish, and sell the anthology in order to recoup expenses. From start to finish, the project would give all participants a hands-on learning experience.

The anthology kick-off took place at Michele Ainsworth's house in early December 2001. Since then, the LitSIG has met every month

and except for one contribution still to come, has reviewed all translations. The group decided to adopt the theme "Thresholds" for the anthology. Traci Andrighetti volunteered to act as secretary for the meetings and has been one of the most vital LitSIG members, hosting the group more frequently than anyone else since the

began.
Parallel
to
the LitSIG's progress on
the anthology, Traci's
house exhibited new stages of

its owners' remodeling work every time the translators met there. She and her husband Graham were preparing their home for a baby from a large orphanage in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Adopting a Kazakh child is said to be easier than adopting one in the U.S., but requires a trip to the birth country and still plenty of paperwork. The official language of Kazakhstan is Russian. Since the LitSIG includes Russian speakers Asele Surina, Evgeniy (Jay) Tkachuk, Marian Schwartz, and Jane Chamberlain, the group naturally got caught up in their colleague's experience.

At their February 15th meeting, Traci told the translators that she and her husband hoped to leave in March, and that the Kazakh orphanage had asked her and Graham to choose among their six- to eight-month-old baby boys—there would be thirty of them.

Enter the Hallmark Company with their TV program "Adoption." Their scouts had contacted the Austin social worker who was helping Traci and Graham through the long process, and after some e-mailing, the couple became the future stars

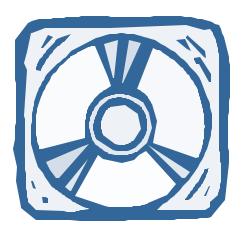
of an "Adoption" episode. Hall-mark reporters would accompany them to Kazakhstan.

With the well-known card company and American TV involved, red tape fell away like magic on both sides of the ocean. LitSIG members received the following e-mail message on February 26:

Hallmark wants to film the LitSIG at my house next Wednesday (March 5th) evening. I need Russian speakers there....

Ciao, Traci

As the group got used to the cameras and mike, that Wednesday evening turned into a happy send-off party for Traci and Graham, with jokes about baby-raising, airplane travel, and foreign delicacies, as well as useful Russian phrases and nicknames. The producer will notify LitSIG members when Traci's adventures in Kazakhstan will be aired nationwide, sometime later this year. The evening of fun at Traci's house will then be condensed into one brief moment of glory. \*\*



### **Backups revisited**

by Frank Dietz © 2003 http://www.frankdietz.com

WITH ALL KINDS OF NEW STORAGE technologies becoming available (or becoming cheaper), I thought it would be time again for an article on the thrilling subject of data backup. Yes, I know it makes me look like one of those cartoon characters that stand around on street corners holding placards ("Thou shalt back up frequently"), but a single hardware failure can wipe out irreplaceable glossaries, address lists, and notes, let alone the large project you had almost finished and that was due tomorrow morning.

While your computer most likely still has a floppy disk drive, this no longer offers a viable backup medium in terms of storage capacity or priceper-MB (just compare the prices of CD/Rs, which offer about 50 times the storage capacity). Floppies will do for a quick and dirty backup of the file you are working on, but not much more.

CD/Rs and CD/RWs (which you can write to multiple times) have become a cheap and speedy backup medium. Today's CD burners will fill 700 MB disk in a few minutes, and the backups can easily be used in other computers. However, take care not to scratch or otherwise damage the CD surface.

An alternative to recordable CD media are Zip disks, which work in drives made by Iomega. This company recently announced a new 750-MB

disk which will supplant its earlier 100-MB and 250-MB versions (but new drives will still be able to read the older formats). Zip disks are encased in sturdy plastic, an advantage over CD/Rs, but are considerably more expensive.

If you want to back up an entire hard drive, though, all of these media are too small. Recordable DVDs offer several GB of storage, but drives are still rather expensive and the issue of standardization has not been fully decided (for further information go to www.vcdhelp.com/dvd.htm). A more traditional approach would be a tape backup drive, which offers high capacity, though slow operation and proprietary standards.

Recently, the availability of cheap USB 2.0 and Firewire cards has added another option – an external hard drive connected through one of these high-speed interfaces. These drives, available in sizes from 20 GB upwards, also allow you to move large amount of data between computers.

Finally, there are more exotic options coming to market – tiny USB-connected "keychain" drives whose capacities range from 16 MB to (by the time you read this) several GB. According to the manufacturers (I haven't yet tried out one of these devices), you simply plug them in, and your computer recognizes them right away. These gizmos are just a few inches long and can actually be carried on a keychain.

Makes you wonder, though, what will happen to people who often lose their keys. ★

# Nominate for 2003 Hall of Fame

The Translator Interpreter Hall of Fame (TIHOF) is now accepting nominations for 2003.

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

Linguists 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 (minimum 700 words) with optional illustrations. Send entries to nominate@tihof.org by the deadline of August 1, 2003.

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

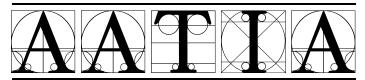
New honorees will be announced on International Translators Day, September 30, 2003 and published on **www.tihof.org**, with proper credit given to essay authors and translators.

Submissions will become the property of the TIHOF. Nominees not inducted in 2003 may be considered in the future. \*

### Time-tracking your work

IF YOU CHARGE PROJECTS ON AN HOURLY BASIS, you might be interested in *Time Stamp* (freeware, www.syntap.com/products\_timestamp.htm), which monitors time spent on a project.

The developer's website says, "It enables you to time how long you spend on a task, including features that let you take 'slack time' for a phone call or break. Times for various tasks can be linked to an hourly charge rate for accurate billing. Export your data using ASCII or XML, and customize your report for your own letterhead."



## 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**

May 10 10 a.m. SpanSIG meeting 1–4 p.m. AATIA member meeting

June 14 10–12 noon. MCISIG meeting 12 noon. MCISIG networking lunch 1–4 p.m. AATIA board meeting

July 12 SpanSIG meeting and AATIA member meeting

Sept 16 NAJIT certification exam—Spanish, written portion. Info: www.najit.org

### **BEYOND AUSTIN**

May 23–25 NAJIT 24th Annual Meeting & Educational Conference, Nashville. Info: www.najit.org

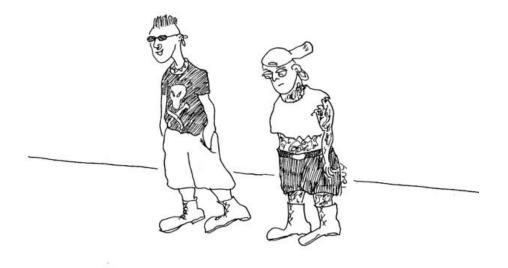
Sept 16 ATA Accreditation exam. Houston. Info: www.atanet.org

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# Journal credits Phillips translation

CONGRATULATIONS ARE DUE to Hank Phillips, translator of the Winter 2000-2001 issue (the ranslation is copyright 2003) of the *International Journal of Political Economy* not only for the translation itself, but for being acknowledged for the translation in the masthead, along with the journal's Editor and Assistant Editor.

The journal is dedicated to translations of scholarly work in the field of political economy from around the world, and the edition in question focuses on "The Brazilian Crisis: Where is Brazil Going?" ★



My dad's like, this big deal interpreter, whatever, but he, like, you know, doesn't understand a thing I say.