The Letter

of the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association

March 2004

Goodby Accreditation, Hello Certification

A PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NAME of the American Translator Association's longstanding credential from "accreditation" to "certification" was approved by a vote of the membership at the 44th Annual ATA Conference this past November.

Other changes resulting from a comprehensive review of the accreditation program include education/experience prerequisites for the certification exam and acknowledgement of ATA's Code of Professional Conduct and Business Practices. Also, one hour of ethics training will be required in the first period after certification.

The prerequisite education and experience are as follows:

- With an advanced degree in any field, no experience is required.
- With an approved translation and interpreting undergraduate degree or certificate, no experience is required.
- With a bachelor's degree in any other field, two years of experience are required.
- With anything less than a bachelor's degree, five years of experience are required.

In order to retain their certification, members must obtain 20 continuing education points over a 3-year period, with a maximum of 10 points in any given year. This CE requirement does not apply to members older than 60.

Exam passages will now be changed each calendar year, so candidates may only take a given language-pair exam one time each year.

These changes became effective on January 1, 2004. For more information, including a "menu" plan for the awarding of credit hours, visit the ATA website at **www.atanet.org**. ★

Sit for certification exam in August

AATIA will sponsor an ATA certification exam sitting in conjunction with the regional conference to be held July 30–August 1, 2004, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Austin. Two exam sittings will be offered on Sunday, August 1: at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The three-hour certification exam consists of three passages, from which candidates select two to translate. Each passage contains about 225–275 words in English or the equivalent in another language.

The exam is offered into English from Arabic, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish, and from English into Chinese, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.

Prospective candidates should apply for the exam as soon as possible to allow ample time for verification of eligibility. Besides meeting the requirements [see above], candidates must have been ATA members for at least four weeks prior to the exam date.

Candidates are also strongly encouraged to take a practice test before attempting the certification exam.

Contact ATA headquarters at **www.atanet.org** or (703) 683-6100 to request a practice test and register for the sitting. The registration form can be downloaded from the website.

Local workshop planned

AATIA will hold a certification workshop prior to the exam sitting. Watch THE LETTER and the AATIA website for details. ★



March 13 meeting

Financial Planning for Financially Challenged Freelancers

Do you ever find yourself wondering how you're going to scrape together your monthly rent when the client for whom you did that 50,000-word job three months ago still hasn't paid you? Does the quarterly tax bill always seem to come when your bank account is at an all-time low? Does retirement seem like a pipe dream?

If so, then you won't want to miss the March 13 membership meeting. Local financial expert Lisa Bargsley will be providing tips on how to deal with some of the financial planning headaches that confront translators and interpreters, especially those who are self-employed.

Bargsley is a certified public accountant and partner in the Austin accounting firm of Bargsley, Andrews & Steinbach, CPAs. In addition to her CPA license, she holds bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration and has received numerous awards and distinctions in her field. She specializes in tax and financial management advice for small business owners and has a particular passion for family business issues. *

Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association

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January 10 meeting reviewed

Conference reports from Paris to Phoenix

THE JANUARY AATIA MEETING gave members the opportunity to get an update on recent meetings of national and international translator and interpreter associations.

FIT conference

Marian Schwartz reported on the 50th anniversary meeting of FIT (Fédération internationale des traducteurs/ International Federation of Translators), which was held at UNESCO in Paris on November 20–22 and focused on copyright issues.

On the first day, seven of the translators of the Harry Potter books

(into German, Norwegian, Serbian, Slovenian, Thai, Catalan, Afrikaans) spoke about the artistic and commercial problems that arose in connection with that project. Of particular interest was the problem of proper nouns specifically, whether they are to be transliterated or translated. They all realized that this was more than an aesthetic problem once the HP books became wildly successful. When Warner Bros. entered the picture and began its huge marketing campaign, which was largely keyed into these names, considerable pressure was brought to bear on the translators to transliterate, thereby preserving the tie-in to the marketing campaign.

The second day addressed legal aspects of copyright. Of special interest

to those from the United States was the notion that copyright (the term used in common law countries such as ours and the UK) protects the object, that is, property, whereas civil law countries such as France talk about the *droit d'auteur*—the author's right—and thus protect the creator of the property. In these latter countries, copyright is both an economic and moral right and cannot be permanently alienated from the creator—in this case, the translator.

ALTA conference

Michele Aynesworth reported on the AATIA's LitSIG representation at the November ALTA conference. She reported that the best thing that happened at the ALTA conference was, of course, the special readings from Thresholds, the anthology of literary translations published in 2003 by the LitSIG's Message in a Bottle group. As Jonathan Cole put it, "the Thresholds reading seemed like the culmination of all our efforts." We thoroughly enjoyed the chance to strut our stuff before an audience, breathing life into the poems and stories we had been endlessly revising.

AATIA members performed in other sessions as well. Ingrid Lansford gave a stirring reading from Birgit Biehl's account of a Shiite religious ceremony. Traci Andrighetti wowed the Italian contingent with her reading from Adolfo Albertazzi's "The Devil in the Decanter." Liliana Valenzuela read her translations of Lina Zeron's poetry, thus giving Thresholds another plug. Liliana also spearheaded a panel on "The Rise of Spanish Publishing in the U.S.," and Marian Schwartz participated in a panel focusing on Nabokov's eccentric translations of his own and others' works.

As outgoing ALTA president, Marian pointed out the fringe benefits of the annual conference: "What always strikes me about ALTA are the intangibles, not only the number of connections you end up making, but the number of useful connections."

Marian was one of the stars of this year's evening of *Declamación*, giving a memorable recitation of a Russian poem. Other highlights of the conference included David Ferry's keynote address on the frustrations of translating poetry and a panel on the past and future of World Literature Today.

ATA conference

Esther Díaz reported on the Medical Sessions at the ATA Annual Conference in November in Phoenix, Arizona. The "Day of Medicine" at the American Translators Association Conference this past November provided a wealth of interesting sessions.

The main event of the day was a national forum on Language and Healthcare in Crisis, co-sponsored by ATA and the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care. This session drew over 500 participants as well as national media coverage to the panel discussion between representatives from the American Medical Association, Office of Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Alameda Alliance for Health, an assistant professor of medicine from Cook County Hospital, and the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care.

Experts talked about legal struggles, funding shortages, and certification issues related to language support in the healthcare sector. Vivid testimonials from individuals affected by the lack of interpreters gave this event great impact.

A panel on Medical Interpreters as Advocates discussed the pros and cons of advocacy and when goestoo far. The panelists defined advocacy as persuading someone to do something differently for the patient, and offering the patient options for how to best access services.

End of Life and the Rise of Palliative Medicine* was presented by Dr. Rafael Rivera, Assistant Administrator of the ATA Medical Division. He explained how technological advances have created end-of-life management issues and the new palliative medicine specialty. A short glossary of related terminology was provided.

Understanding the Power of a Medical Interpreter* was presented by Zarita Araujo Lane and Vonessa Phillips. They pointed out responsibilities and ambiguities in the field of medical interpreting by exploring concepts like impartiality versus transparency in an interpreted session.

Standards of Practice for Healthcare Interpreters* was presented by Katharine Allen, who surveyed the standards of practice developed by the California Healthcare Interpreters Association (CHIA). These standards

*Papers on these sessions are available in the Proceedings of the American Translators Association 44th Annual Conference. describe performance expectations and identify core skills and knowledge that a competent healthcare interpreter must demonstrate. They include ethical principles and the decision-making process, standardized interpreting protocols, and guidance on interpreter roles and interventions.

NAJIT notes

Finally, Cristina Helmerichs, NAJIT president, reviewed developments in the world of court interpreting, including recent and upcoming events of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators.

On February 7–8, the NAJIT Regional Conference on Forensic Language and Issues took place in Miami Beach, Florida. Presentations by Rubén Darío Sánchez, a forensic chemist from Venezuela, Juan Minalés of the Executive Office of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Enrique Acosta, Chief of the DOJ Civil Rights Division, FBI Ballistic, Blood Spatter, Autopsy, and DNA experts made it a very interesting and educational gathering.

Cristina also invited all interpreters and legal translators to NAJIT;s Annual Educational Conference which will take place in Denver the weekend of May 21, 2004. The National Council on Health Interpreting will participate in this conference and offer some training modules.

Cristina then spoke on the Grotius Project, a European Union initiative on a Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for court interpreting. In its final stages, the project will be announced formally and adopted in The Hague during the annual conference in November, 2004. The Code of Ethics requires unbiased, true, and complete renditions of the original language or recusal from jobs for which the interpreter is not qualified. The project has also required the European community to focus on differences in civil law and common law and differences among member nations in the use and regulation of court interpreters.

Running with the Fox

by Tony Beckwith ©2004 www.tonybeckwith.com

"PRESIDENT VICENTE FOX is coming to town and the Mexican Consulate wants an interpreter to be available just in case. Are you interested?" Well, of course I said yes, I'd be delighted. So on a chilly morning in November I put on my best suit and presented myself at the Four Seasons Hotel.

I was introduced to Colonel Palacios, who would be my contact throughout the day. The Colonel was with the President's security team and at that point he and his people were making sure every member of the press corps was thoroughly screened before entering the room where President Fox would be having breakfast with local dignitaries. Reporters laid their cameras and tape recorders on the carpeted floor of the outer reception area and stood back while two specialists and a German shepherd checked (and sniffed) the equipment extremely thoroughly. There was an invigorating sense of anticipation in the air.

The buzz of conversation was suddenly muted, and the President and First Lady of Mexico came strolling through the crowd, holding hands. He is six foot five and carries his height elegantly. She is petite and lively. Smiling and nodding, they were ushered into the banquet area. I made eye contact with Colonel Palacios: should I accompany the President? He shook his head in a way that made me realize I was in for a long day of just hanging around.

After breakfast everyone was suddenly racing for the exits. The President was whisked out to his limousine and his entourage scrambled to get into the sixteen vehicles that would follow him everywhere he went. I was assigned to a black suburban and barely managed to clamber aboard

before we were off. The motorcade had a police escort of fifty two motorcycles, and we roared through Austin at high speed. The police raced ahead and stationed themselves at every intersection so that traffic lights wouldn't slow us down, and as I looked through the windshield I could see an avenue of flashing red and blue lights disappearing into the distance. Riding in a presidential motorcade is an exhilarating way to travel.

Our first stop was at the new Mexican Consulate where, with the smell of fresh paint still in the air and a marimba playing in the background, the President cut the ribbon and declared the offices open. He towered above everyone else, and yet when he shook hands with people and spoke to them he seemed to be on their level. Throughout the day he never missed an opportunity to speak to the many Mexicans who thronged to see him, and his questions always seemed perfectly relevant to their situation: "Are they treating you well on the Mexican side of the border when you go home?" Is your family receiving the money you send them?" "Are you able to work with dignity?" "A photograph? Of course, why not?"

From there we went to the Capitol, where the President met with the Governor of Texas and other elected officials, and they all huddled for a private meeting. Once again the Colonel shook his head at me: no, the President doesn't need your services right now. So I stepped outside and joined a group of men who were part of the presidential inner circle. One was a three-star general who oversaw all the logistical details of the President's travel plans and schedules. The second was the presidential doctor

(with his little black bag), and the third was in charge of protocol. Like me, these three had no specific job to perform right then, so we spent a most agreeable time chatting on the back steps of the Capitol.

Then there was the usual mad dash to get to the vehicles and we roared off back to the hotel for lunch. During the meal, President Fox addressed the assembled local business leaders, speaking in English as I stood idly by. He mentioned that other countries were now challenging Mexico's low-cost assembly plants for a slice of the American manufacturing pie, but cautioned that, "not everything that shines is gold." If I'd been interpreting, I would have said "glitters" instead of "shines" but that's just a quibble because his English is excellent. He also explained that Mexicans living in the United States send home fourteen billion dollars a year in remittances, contributing more to the Mexican economy than either oil or tourism revenues. By implication, the US economy obviously reaps a substantial benefit from this demographic group as well, a point that was not lost on this Texas audience.

After lunch we went to the LBJ Library for some public speeches and private conversations. By this time I was feeling quite comfortable in my role as one of the entourage, and was exchanging business cards and accepting invitations to come to Mexico City to visit Los Pinos, the presidential residence. And then it was time for the President to fly back to Mexico. He never really needed me at all, but I really didn't mind. I wouldn't have missed the experience for anything.

A Better Word



by Frank Dietz © 2004 www.frankdietz.com

FOR BETTER OR WORSE, Microsoft Word has become a de facto standard in the translation industry, and most agencies expect translators to work with and deliver files in this format. I can actually remember only a single case in my own work during the last ten years in which a client specifically

demanded a Word Perfect file.

The problem with MS Word has been its features bloat. Every new version adds new capabilities that few users (and particularly users outside of large corporations) will rarely (if ever) use, and for good measure reshuffles menus so that familiar functions are hard to find. Yet there many useful features buried in those menus, and I want to introduce several that might interest translators in particular. The version used is Word 2002 (i.e. the Word found in Office XP), and menu options are presented as they appear in that iteration of Word.

Edit | Paste Special

View | Print Layout

View | Markup

View | Toolbars

Insert | AutoText

Insert | Comment

Insert | Symbol

Tools | Language | Set Language

Tools | Track Changes

Tools | Options | General

Tools | Macro

Tools | AutoCorrect Options

Tools | Customize

If you often paste in text from other applications, such as electronic dictionaries, WWW sites or Trados Workbench, you'll appreciate the "Unformatted Text" option that makes the pasted text conform to the existing font and paragraph format.

Don't forget to use this option, as it will show you headers and footers and text boxes that might be invisible in Normal view.

This will show you comments or tracked changes that a proofreader may have inserted into a document.

Make sure to get rid of toolbars that you do not need right now. They only eat up valuable screen space, and you can always add them again later.

AutoText can be a great time saver in documents with repetitive text blocks. Instead of typing with advanced hyperthreading technology dozens of time, simply assign a keyboard shortcut to this phrase, type that shortcut, and then press F3.

This comes in handy during proofreading. If you want to point out a more general issues (such as formatting), simply insert a comment.

Need the Euro Symbol (€) or a ±? Simply select the appropriate symbol from the list and click on Insert.

MS Word supposedly recognizes the language a text is written in, but I found that this does not always work. Therefore, I highlight the entire text (CTRL + A) and then select the appropriate language before running the spellchecker.

So much better than marking corrections on paper, as the recipient can always read your changes and choose to accept or reject them.

There are some useful options here. I, for instance, like to activate "Confirm Conversions at Open" and set the list of recently used files to 9.

If you find yourself repeating the same steps over and over again (for instance reformatting texts), you might want to record a macro and then simply play it back each time it is needed.

If you know that you sometimes misspell certain words, you can have MS Word automatically correct this. There are also functions for automatically creating fraction characters and much more.

Do you really need a button in your toolbar that lets you insert an Excel spreadsheet? Wouldn't it be nice to have a Paste Special button? You can simply go to Tools | Customize | Commands and drag unnecessary buttons from the toolbar and likewise drag more useful ones onto the toolbar.



In Memory of Frédérique Moinard

by Tony Beckwith

IN JANUARY A GENTLE BREEZE blew through Austin, rustling the trees all the way from the Hill Country to the banks of Town Lake. Many leaves were blown away on the wind, scattered here and there at their appointed time, leaving bare the wistful winter branches. Among them was Frédérique Moinard.

Frédérique was born in Forges-les-Eaux, France, on January 7, 1953, and died on January 18, 2004, in Austin, Texas. She had lived in a number of places around the world, as so many translators do, and had worked in several fields. She spent her childhood and much of her adult life in Paris, France, where she studied at the Sorbonne. After coming to the United States she lived in New York City for a while before moving to Texas in 1990 and opening InWords, a translation and interpretation agency in Austin.

As is also true of many translators, Frédérique loved poetry and prose, especially poetry. During her two-year battle with the cancer that eventually took her from her daughter, Camille, and those who loved her, she read and re-read "Instantes," a poem frequently attributed to Jorge Luis Borges, the Argentine man of letters. Though that claim has been convincingly disputed, the actual origin of the piece is still in some doubt. It is nonetheless a beautiful poem; as meaningful to one leaving this world as it is to those who remain behind.

Moments

translated by Alastair Reid

If I were able to live my life again, next time I would try to make more mistakes. I would not try to be so perfect. I would be more relaxed. I would be much more foolish than I have been. In fact, I would take very few things seriously. I would be much less sanitary. I would run more risks. I would take more trips, I would contemplate more sunsets, I would climb more mountains, I would swim more rivers. I would go to more places I have never visited. I would eat more ice cream and fewer beans. I would have more real problems, fewer imaginary ones. I was one of these people who lived prudently and prolifically every moment of her life. Certainly I had moments of great happiness: don't let the present slip away. I was one of those who never went anywhere without a thermometer, a hot water bottle, an umbrella, and a parachute. If I could live over again, I would go barefoot, beginning in early spring and would continue so until the end of autumn. I would take more turns on the merry-go-round.

I would watch more dawns

and play with more children,

But, you see, I am eighty-five and I know that I am dying.

if I once again had a life ahead of me.

Regional meet set for summer

PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR AATIA TO HOST a regional conference on translation and interpretation at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Town Lake July 30–31, 2004.

An ATA certification sitting will be held on August 1 in connection with this conference.

The conference will include a full day of workshops for Spanish language translators and interpreters. Non-language-specific sessions will also focus on medical and literary translation, localization, and computer-assisted translation tools. Other topics, such as ethics, business, and finance, are under consideration.

Hotel room rates will be \$99 for single or double occupancy, and the registration fee will be approximately \$130.

In addition to offering a very cost-effective way of earning continuing education credits for ATA certification, the conference could also serve as a family vacation. Nearby family attractions include Barton Springs, hike and bike trail, riverboat and paddle boats, bat viewing, 6th Street, Bob Bullock Texas History Museum, and the State Capitol.

AATIA members who want to volunteer to help make the conference a success should email Esther Díaz at president@aatia.org or phone 312-1599. ★

U.S. publishing threatened

THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PUBLISHERS has issued a memorandum on regulations by the U.S. Treasury's Office of Financial Assets Control (OFAC) that have raised concerns among U.S. publishers of scientific and scholarly journals and books.

The concern stems from recent interpretations of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). "Collectively, [these interpretive rulings] indicate that routine activities by U.S. publishers will require licenses from the U.S. government if the U.S. persons engaging in such activities are to avoid potentially serious criminal and civil liability under the OFAC regulations." "Although these concerns arose in connection with OFAC regulations dealing with Iran, it should be noted that they also apply in connection with OFAC regulations that similarly govern restrictions on importation and exportation of 'information or informational materials' with respect to other countries, including Cuba, Libya and Sudan."

Among the 'routine activities' listed are the translation, publication, and distribution of literary works in Iran; assisting or collaborating with Iranian authors in editing and otherwise preparing manuscripts for publication; facilitating a peer review process, including selection of the reviewers, for the purpose of collaboration with an Iranian author that results in alterations to a manuscript submitted by that author for publication in a U.S. journal.

For further information on this issue, see "OFAC Background" on the website of the Association of American Publishers' Professional and Scholarly Publishers Division www.pspcentral.org. ★



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The

Portuguese Language Division

American Translators Association announces its

10th Annual Spring Meeting

Providence Courtyard by Marriott Providence, Rhode Island Friday & Saturday, April 16-17, 2004

New web-based journal Passport seeks submssions

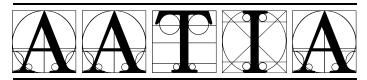
A NEW PUBLICATION Passport: The Arkansas Review of Literary Translation is now inviting submissions of English translations of literature and/or essays about the art of translation.

Sponsored by the University of Arkansas's Creative Writing and Translation Program, *Passport* publishes new, underrepresented international authors in English translation. It seeks to balance work by experienced and new translators and provide a forum for discussing literary translation.

Passport solicits previously unpublished translations of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction into English. For the non-fiction section, the editors particularly seek essays on literary translation written originally in English or translated from other languages. Passport invites contributions that deal with issues such as finding texts to translate; securing publishing rights; getting translations published; and the status of the translator in the literary world.

Solely web-based, *Passport* is published biannually in May and December. The inaugural issue is scheduled for May 2004.

Submissions are accepted during two reading periods, January 1–March 15 and August 1–October 15. For more information, email passport@cavern.uark.edu. ★



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AATIA holds meetings at the Austin History Center, 9th & Guadalupe, unless otherwise indicated. Visitors are welcome.

EVENTS IN AUSTIN

Mar 13 10 a.m. SpanSIG meeting 1–4 p.m. AATIA member meeting

Mar 27 1 p.m. Literary Special Interest Group, Topic: Book-length translation proposals. Contact Coordinator Marian Schwartz (512-442-5100) for directions.

Apr 10 10–12 noon. MCISIG meeting 1–4 p.m. AATIA board meeting

May 8 SpanSIG meeting and AATIA member meeting

MARCH 2004 THE AATIA LETTER PAGE 8

Lunch with OilSIG

GRAB THE LATEST TIPS on translation in the oil industry while you grab a quick lunch before the next AATIA meeting.

When: Saturday, March 13, 12-1 p.m. Where: Dog & Duck Pub, 17th &

Guadalupe ★

Get the latest news

DON'T WAIT FOR THE BI-MONTHLY newsletter to read news of the t/i community. Get the news as it happens by receiving **AATIA_News** in your email in-box.

AATIA's members-only listserv announces AATIA activities, job offerings, and other career opportunities.

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I've spent all day dotting my I's, crossing my T's, watching my P's and Q's. Now I'm going home to catch some Z's.