

www.aatia.org

The Letter

of the Austin Area Translators
and Interpreters Association

May 2004



Aynesworth, Message in a Bottle translators take Texas Institute of Letters honors

AATIA was well represented at the 2003 translation awards ceremony of the Texas Institute of Letters. Michele Aynesworth was honored as one finalist for her translation of *The Mad Toy*, and the LitSIG's Message in a Bottle Translators was honored as the other finalist for their anthology of translation, *Thresholds*. Pictured above, Traci Andrighetti, Aynesworth, Liliana Valenzuela (standing), Jane Chamberlain, and Ingrid Lansford represented the MIB translators at the awards ceremony in Fort Worth on March 27, 2004. ★

Certification workshop set for June

AATIA WILL OFFER A WORKSHOP ON THE ATA CERTIFICATION EXAM on June 19, 2004, at Ventana del Soul Cultural Center and Coffee House in Austin.

The workshop is intended both for candidates planning to take the certification exam at the sitting to be held in Austin on August 1 and for potential candidates who want to know more about the exam before taking the plunge.

Pending confirmation, the presenter will be an ATA exam grader. The presentation will cover the nature of the exam and the skills tested and will include an explanation of the grading criteria, most common types of errors, and tips for candidates.

The registration fee will be \$10 for AATIA members and \$15 for non-members. Ventana del Soul is located at 1834 E. Oltorf Blvd. (corner of E. Oltorf and Burlinson Road) in Austin.

Watch the AATIA website and listserv for additional information and a downloadable registration form. ★

May 8 meeting

Secrets of legal, medical interpreting to be revealed

IF YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING what it's like to interpret in a legal or health care setting, or if you are an interpreter who wants to get qualified and certified and/or licensed as a court or medical interpreter, plan to attend the May 8 membership meeting, where all will be revealed.

A panel will discuss medical and legal interpreting and explain options and requirements for interpreter certification. Esther Diaz will focus on health care interpreting and a project to develop national standards of practice possibly leading to national certification of interpreters. Cristina Helmerichs, Sofía León, and Maurine McLean will discuss facets of court interpreting and interpreter certification, including the federal court interpreter exam, the Texas state interpreter licensing exam, and the certification exam offered by the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT).

Diaz and McLean will also introduce the new AATIA special interest group for interpreters, of which they are co-coordinators. This new group is an offshoot of the Medical and Community Interpreters Special Interest Group (MCISIG), which has recently been expanded to include court and conference interpreters.

While the program will focus mainly on interpretation, translators take heart: there will be something of interest for you, too! For example, you won't want to miss this opportunity to find out what to tell clients who insist they need a "certified translation." ★

Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association

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March meeting reviewed Maintaining the balance

LISA BARGSLEY DISCUSSED DYNAMICS of maintaining a delicate balance between business and personal life in small businesses at the March 13 AATIA membership meeting.

Bargsley's expertise includes more than developing tax strategies and compliance issues for small businesses. She works with owners to build a solid foundation for intergenerational ownership issues, practical growth, and exit strategies. Lisa creates systems for the routine collection of



financial data and processes for clear channels of communication among family members. She believes this is the foundation for success in any family business.

Bargsley pointed out that the first questions one should ask when establishing financial planning priorities are: How much money do

I have? What do I want to spend it on? When choosing a financial planner, a person should first establish goals and then find a financial planner who will help reach them.

Bargsley discussed all of the con-

siderations one must juggle when determining financial goals. These considerations include household expenses, accounts receivable, aging parents, income taxes, a slush fund, retirement, college expenses, life style choices, and health care. She stressed that at any given time in a person's life, some of these considerations will carry more importance than others.

In terms of accounts receivable, Bargsley emphasized the importance of making sure to get paid and even asking clients for payment up front when possible. She stressed that you, as a self-employed businessperson are not a bank, and to the extent that you do not get paid on time, you are extending credit to the person or entity who owes you money for a job.

In the area of health insurance, Bargsley pointed out that starting with the 2003 tax return, health insurance is 100% deductible on page one of Form 1040.

Regarding a retirement plan, the self-employed businessperson should decide how much he can contribute to a retirement plan based on his net income. In the case of tax-deferred retirement plans, you do not pay taxes until you begin to take money out.

Bargsley stated that it is not so bad to have a large tax liability because that means you are making a lot of money, and consequently, have more to work with. Taxes are just another cost of running a business.

Lifestyle choices include such decisions as: Where am I going to live? How am I going to live? What kind of car am I going to drive? Sometimes these issues can get out of balance when we start comparing ourselves to other people. Bargsley emphasized that you have to determine for yourself how much you have to spend and what is it you really need and want?

Bargsley suggested that when you receive a payment, take 30% off the top and set it aside in an interest bearing savings account to pay self-employment tax and income tax. She said that approximately 15% will go to Self-Employment tax, which is how the self-employed contribute to Social Security. By disciplining oneself and setting aside funds in this way, it will be much easier when it comes time to pay your quarterly estimated tax.

Bargsley briefly spoke on the differences and tax implications of being a C Corporation, an S Corporation, a Limited Liability Company, a Limited Liability Partnership, and a Sole Proprietorship. She stated that other than a Sole Proprietorship, they are all entities unto themselves. The net income flows through to the owners in all the entities except the C Corporation. In a C corporation, income taxes are paid at the corporate level. S Corporations are for small businesses in which you are an employee and write yourself salary checks. The net income flows through

to the shareholders. Ms. Bargsley stated that you shouldn't incorporate to save taxes. If you're going to do it, do so for liability reasons if you're worried about being sued or if you are looking for something that is less risky. However, you can also purchase liability insurance for this purpose. A Limited Liability Company files income tax on a 1065 partnership tax form if there is more than one owner. A Limited Liability Partnership is a company with at least two owners. Its partners form a separate entity, just like a Limited Liability Company. If a client sues the company, it will come first to the partner assets.

Bargsley emphasized that the best way to prepare for an accountant is by routine collection of information. The better information you have to give to the accountant and the more you have your data summarized on a Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement, the more money you will save in fees paid to the accountant.

Bargsley is a member of the Family Firm Institute which is an international professional membership organization dedicated to providing interdisciplinary education and networking opportunities for family business advisors and to raising public awareness about trends and developments in the family business field. She was recognized as the 1996 Distinguished Alumna of the Year at Thomas College where she earned a BS in Business Administration. She also holds an MBA degree from the University of Texas at Austin and was licensed as a CPA in Texas in 1994.

Her firm, Bargsley, Andrews & Steinbach CPAs, LLP, located at 11940 Jollyville Road #210-South in Austin, is a full service public accounting firm which provides tax, accounting, and consulting services to businesses and individuals. Their philosophy is to emphasize quality, integrity, and personal service using a team approach in the support of their clients. Their website is www.bargsley.com. Contact her at 512-250-0027 or lisa@bargsley.com.

— Janet Peirce, Secretary ★

Highlights of the April Board Meeting

- Preparations are progressing for the Regional Conference in Austin on Friday and Saturday, July 30–31, 2004.
- New T-shirts in white will be ordered in time to sell them at the AATIA Regional Conference in July.
- One ATA certification exam sitting has been scheduled for the following day, Sunday, August 1, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.
- A translator certification workshop to be held before the ATA exam sitting is in the planning stages, and will be held at Ventana del Soul. This workshop/seminar will be aimed at both candidates registered to sit for the certification exam on August 1 and potential candidates who want more information about the certification process before they sign up to take the exam.
- Anita Stauber Berthold, Director of Communications, received Board approval to create and print official AATIA stationery.
- Director of Membership Hank Phillips will conduct a mail campaign to ATA members in surrounding states, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, which do not have a translation/interpretation association asking them if they would be interested in joining AATIA.
- The Google AdWords campaign continues to generate clicks and flash images of the AATIA ad before the eyes of people actively searching for translators and interpreters. Our website's visibility to search engines has increased by roughly a factor of 10 over the past year.
- The Board worked collectively on the 2004 Budget which will be finalized by Howard Simms, Director of Finance. Simms reported that AATIA has a total of \$18,081.53 in all of its accounts.
- The June Board Meeting was rescheduled for Thursday, June 17.

— Janet Peirce, Secretary ★

iGRINGO!

by Tony Beckwith ©2004
www.tonybeckwith.com

AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL where I spent my childhood there was nothing worse than being called a nab. The school was in Uruguay, and the word was a hybrid, Spanglish version of nabo, which means “turnip.” Hardly as cruel as the slings and barbs we learned later in life, but at that tender stage it was a devastating insult. In the asphalt jungle of the playground you (and everyone else) would hear the shout, “Don’t be such a nab!” Or worse, the whispered, “He’s such a nab!” The word itself was insipid but the energy behind it was venomous, and the target of this abuse was frequently reduced to tears. As I remember well.

It’s been years since I’ve heard anyone called a nab. Like most people, my peers and I progressed through a rich heritage of insults based largely on the various taboos in effect in our culture at the time: there were the fairly standard religious blasphemies, embarrassingly crude references to body parts and functions, gleeful allusions to the reputed sexual habits of family members, politically incorrect (to say the least!) characterizations of ethnic origin, and on special occasions, a no-holds-barred mayhem of all of the above. In the playground we learned that the only possible protection against any or all of them was a steadfast conviction that they simply weren’t true. One might feel scorched by the emotion behind the words, but all withering accusations and slithering innuendo bounced off one’s armor of self-knowledge. Otherwise, one was doomed.

So what is it about the word gringo? Why is it that people who can remain perfectly calm while their pedigree is being impugned can totally lose their grip when called a gringo?

What is the power of this word, and why can it ruffle so many feathers?

In the first place, there is considerable misunderstanding about the origin and exact meaning of the word. For years, people have referred to a song that was allegedly sung by British soldiers during their various campaigns in Latin America early in the nineteenth century. The song was “Green Grow the Rushes, Oh,” and many have suggested that the word gringo derives from there. There are other urban legends that attempt to

Why is it that people who can remain perfectly calm while their pedigree is being impugned can totally lose their grip when called a gringo?

answer this question, such as the explanation that it has something to do with the American greenback.

The *Diccionario de la Real Academia Española* begs to differ, and defines gringo (“of disputed etymology”) as follows: “Foreigner, especially English-speaking, and in general one who speaks a language other than Spanish.” It then goes on to say that the term refers to people from the United States, or England, or Russia, according to where in Latin America the word is being used. In some countries it is defined as a “fair-haired person with white skin.” The entry ends with this definition: “An unintelligible language.” No insults there so far.

A search of the Internet and other resources reveals that the word gringo

came originally from Andalucía in southern Spain, and was a corruption of the Spanish word for “Greek” which is griego. Just as in English we say “it’s all Greek to me,” in the Spanish of the fifteenth century griego referred to something unintelligible, something foreign. Over time griego eroded to gringo and was brought to Latin America by the Spaniards who came with the Conquest. They used it in Argentina, for example, to refer to the other main group of European migrants—who were foreigners to them—the Italians. So in Argentina, gringo means an Italian, and since the Italian migrants moved out to the country to work the land (while the Spaniards stayed in the city to work in the restaurants and cafés), gringo came to mean “Italian farm worker.”

Meanwhile, in northern Latin America, the “foreign” meaning of the word coupled with its other connotations of “white-skinned” and “English-speaking” was tagged to the main group of foreigners in these parts, and gringo became just another word for norteamericano. Like other Latinos, Mexicans took exception when people in the United States appropriated to themselves the name of their common continental homeland by calling themselves Americans, so they called them gringo instead, and it stuck.

In the heat of battle we hurl whatever we have at hand, but the fact is there is nothing inherently evil or malicious about the word itself. It’s how you say it that counts. I’d rather be called a gringo than a nab any day.



Hoax: The Wordy Virus

by Frank Dietz © 2004
www.frankdietz.com

BY NOW, MANY OF US have probably formed the impression that the Internet is a rather dangerous place, full of malign presences that can infect your computer and corrupt your files. While the use of a firewall, a regularly updated virus program, and a good portion of common sense can greatly reduce the risks posed by viruses, worms, and other cyber-dangers, it seems much harder to combat what might be called the “gullibility virus” (for a wonderfully funny description of this phenomenon, see www.virtualsalt.com/warning.htm).

What I am talking about are the dire warnings and pleas that well-meaning individuals forward to all their friends and co-workers, who in turn are asked to forward this message to everyone they know. The most common topics involve virus attacks—you might be warned, for instance, not to open an e-mail with a particular subject line. One of the oldest of these hoaxes is the “Good Times” warning. Supposedly, if you opened an e-mail message with that title, the following would occur:

“Once a computer is infected, one of several things can happen: If the computer contains a hard drive, that will most likely be destroyed. If the program is not stopped, the computer's processor will be placed in an nth-complexity infinite binary loop—which can severely damage the processor if left running that way too long.”

A more sophisticated method is to warn users of supposedly malignant files on their computers. An example that is still making the rounds is the JDBGMGR.EXE hoax. Recipients of the warning are told to check their computer for a file of this name and DELETE IT INSTANTLY (notice how these warnings often “scream” at

you by using all caps). Actually, the file is not a virus, but the shock of finding it, just as the hoax e-mail described, has led many users to delete it and then forward the message. As you can see at http://us.mcafee.com/virusInfo/default.asp?id=description&virus_k=99436, the hoaxers are quite polyglot, and there are versions of this message in several languages.

Besides virus warnings, there are hoaxes appealing to greed, such as the “Microsoft (or Disney or AOL or Netscape) will pay you X dollars for every person you forward this e-mail to” message. This allegedly tests an “e-mail tracking device.” Others are directed at your sense of pity and compassion, such as the one about the boy dying of cancer who wants to receive lots of greeting cards (or business cards, in another variant) so he can get into the Guinness Book of Records. These messages are debunked on several Urban Legends pages (see below).

Warning (yes, a real warning): collections of urban legends can make for fascinating reading, and you might waste quite some time on these websites.

So what should you do if you receive one of these e-mails that you are supposed to forward to everyone you know?

First, take a deep breath, have another cup of coffee and do nothing. Then, check with someone who might be knowledgeable in this area, such as the tech support department of your company. You could also write back to the person who sent you the e-mail and ask to have the facts verified.

Secondly, check one of the hoax and urban legends websites listed below. You can also enter the name of the alleged virus and the word “hoax” into Google and do a search.

Remember, unlike the fictitious viruses they so often describe, forwarded hoax e-mails do no really serious damage. However, they waste people's time and can really annoy some recipients, so think twice before you forward that URGENT message.

McAfee Virus Hoaxes: <http://us.mcafee.com/virusInfo/default.asp?id=hoaxes>

Symantec Hoax Page: www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html

Computer Virus Myths and Hoaxes: www.vmyths.com/

Urban Legends Archive: www.urbanlegends.com/

Urban Legends Reference Page: www.snopes.com/ ★

Improve Internet Explorer with MyIE2

NOW WHY DIDN'T MICROSOFT think of that? Many out-of-the-box software programs work well enough, but independent developers are often not satisfied with the status quo. A free download called MyIE2 adds some useful tools to Internet Explorer for the power user.

This add-on to MSIE has tabbed browsing. Close a page by double-clicking on the tab. It has mouse gestures (hold down the right mouse button and move the mouse in a certain way to go back a page, for example, or take other common actions). It supports the Google Toolbar and other plug-ins.

It has several plugins, but for me the “light” version, which contains only the popup and ad blocker (both of which can be disabled) is the best. All in all, it's a great improvement on standard IE. Go to www.myie2.com for the free download.

—Mike Conner★

Free speech threatened by security ruling

IT HAS BEEN AN ALARMING WINTER for free speech. In September 2003, the Office of Foreign Assets Control, part of the U.S. Treasury Department, issued a ruling requiring a license for any publisher wishing to edit any informational material from a country under U.S. trade sanction: Balkans, Burma, Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Liberia, Libya, North Korea, Sudan, or Zimbabwe

The story began in 2000, when the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers got into a dispute with OFAC over its web-based services, which it offered to members who lived in Iran. The dispute eventually led to an OFAC review of all of IEEE's activities, including its journals publishing program. OFAC issued its conclusion in the September ruling: all activities that required the investment of U.S. funds to improve the quality of the article itself (editors, designers, and so forth) could only be performed under license.

In other words, OFAC was prepared to sacrifice free speech in order to enforce economic sanctions.

Although OFAC seems never to have mentioned translation specifically, it's not hard to imagine how this ruling might affect translation. Indeed, the three major U.S. translation associations--ALTA, ATA, and PEN--were alerted immediately and have in the intervening months all sent letters of protest to the U.S. Treasury Department. (Meanwhile, some translation projects involving Iran and Cuba were quickly put on hold by their respective publishers.) Grave concern was also expressed in print by the American Association of University Presses, the Chronicle of Higher Education--even our own Austin American-Statesman, in a

March editorial. In an act of civil protest, the editors of *Circumference*, "a journal of poetry in translation founded on principles of free and open exchange," decided to respond with an issue dedicated largely to translations of poetry from the sanctioned countries. (The issue is scheduled to appear early this summer.) Various scholarly, publishing, and civil rights organizations have also expressed their vociferous objections.

On March 7, ALTA sent the following letter to Treasury Secretary John W. Snow and OFAC Director Richard Newcomb:

Dear Secretary Snow and Mr. Newcomb:

We are writing to add our voices to our fellow organizations of translators (and writers and editors) and to many others who have called for an immediate review of Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) regulations that could be interpreted to bar or restrict the publication of literature from countries subject to U.S. trade embargoes. Such restrictions are contrary to the basic values of freedom of expression set forth in the First Amendment, contrary to the free circulation of ideas essential to democracy and the free circulation of literature that is the ideal and practice of literary translators.

To the extent that literature provides "information"—and it does, if only information about human life—good translators always engage in "substantive or artistic alteration or enhancement of informational material" forbidden by OFAC regulations; that's exactly what literary translation is. Like our colleagues in PEN, we are deeply troubled at the thought that "translations of works

of literature . . . might either require a license from the Treasury Department or trigger criminal prosecutions."

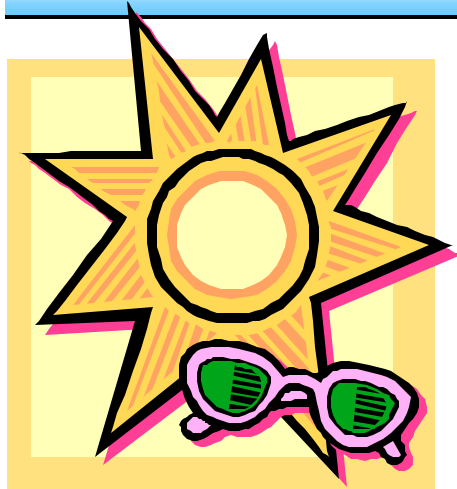
Sincerely,
David Ball,
President, American Literary Translators Association (ALTA)

Early in April, it seemed as though victory was at hand: OFAC lifted its restrictions against the IEEE. Upon closer examination, however, it became clear that the ruling was very narrow. Basic First Amendment issues were left unresolved. In short, no one thinks the matter has been laid to rest.

As professional translators, it is incumbent on all of us to monitor developments carefully at the very least. If necessary, we should be prepared to write our representative or senator, or send a letter to the editor of our local paper. Of course it is in our own narrow interest to prevent this kind of restriction on foreign informational materials, but even more, we need to consider the broader principles at stake. We have a special vantage on this situation that brings with it a moral responsibility. We can appreciate perhaps more vividly than most the dire implications of this particularly destructive form of censorship. ★

Are you a licensed court interpreter or in the process of getting your license? If so, we would like to talk with you about interpreting opportunities we have available.

OneWorld Language Solutions
(214) 871-2909 x34



ACC announces summer t/i courses

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
will offer the following courses this
summer:

**BSKL 8087 Basic Translation Skills
(30.0 hours/\$175.00) May 1 - July 17**

This course is the second in a
series presenting an introduction to

translation for individuals who are
fluent in a foreign language. Fluency
will be determined based on a written
and oral exam. Topics will include
steps in the translation process, guided
translation practice, introduction to
specialties such as medical, computer-
related, and legal translation. All
languages are welcome, as long as
there are at least two students for each
language.

Upon successful completion of
this course, students receive a
certificate of completion from ACC,
showing hours of instruction received.
This is not a translation certificate and
is not equivalent to ATA certification.
**BSKL 8088 Basic Interpreting Skills
(30.0 hours/\$175.00) May 8 - July 24**

This course is part of a series
presenting an introduction to
interpreting for individuals who are
fluent in English and a foreign
language. Fluency will be determined
based on a written and oral exam.

Topics will include interpreter roles
and ethics and intensive practice of
consecutive interpreting skills as used
in social service settings. All languages
are welcome, as long as there are at
least two students for each language.
*Language partners are needed for Arabic,
French, and German.*

Upon successful completion of
this course, students receive a
certificate of completion from ACC,
showing hours of instruction received.
This is not equivalent to interpreter
licensing or certification.

For more information, check the
continuing education schedule online
at [www3.austincc.edu/schedule/
wcell/cetri.htm](http://www3.austincc.edu/schedule/wcell/cetri.htm) or contact Esther
Diaz at mediaz@austin.cc.tx.us. ★

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in cooperation with

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See www.austincc.edu/techcert/accGIL for more information.

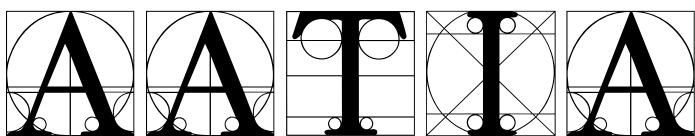
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AATIA holds meetings at the Austin History Center, 9th & Guadalupe, unless otherwise indicated. Visitors are welcome.

EVENTS IN AUSTIN

May 8 10 a.m. SpanSIG meeting
1–4 p.m. AATIA member meeting
Jun 12 10–12 noon. MCISIG meeting
Jun 17 (Thursday) 1–4 p.m. AATIA board meeting
July 10 SpanSIG meeting and AATIA member meeting

BEYOND AUSTIN

May 21–23 **Denver, Colorado.** Silver Anniversary Educational Conference of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators.
Oct 13–16 **Toronto, Canada.** 45th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association.

Editor's Email Inbox

New translation blog on the block

Dear Editor:

I'd like to draw your attention to www.translationexchange.blogspot.com, a new translation blog designed to foster transnational conversation about translation and create a global translation community.

Please take a moment to visit us, and should you wish to become a posting member, send an email to translationexchange@yahoo.com.

Yours truly,
Nicky Agate
Blog Administrator



I'm looking forward to the day when my email is forwarded to my hearing aids.