

www.aatia.org

The Letter

of the Austin Area Translators
and Interpreters Association

May 2007

Letter to the Editor

The following letter appeared on the editorial page of the Austin American-Statesman on Thursday, March 22, 2007:

Language skills

RECENT MEDIA REPORTS have focused on private- and public-sector jobs that pay higher wages and/or bonuses to those who speak more than one language and can serve as translators and interpreters.

It is admirable that such skills are being rewarded, but a word of caution: Just as knowing how to cook does not make one a chef, being bilingual does not make one a translator. There is more to it than that.

When translation is left to the untrained, results can cause embarrassment or, worse, serious legal or medical repercussions. Training and certification programs, as well as a database of skilled professionals fluent in many languages, are available through the American Translators Association (www.atanet.org) and the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association (www.aatia.org).

Tony Beckwith



May 12 member meeting

Are all translations mistranslations?

The next meeting of the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association (AATIA) will feature M.R. Ghanoonparvar, professor of Persian and Comparative Literature at the University of Texas at Austin. He will speak on the topic, "Are All Translations Mistranslation?" AATIA members are invited to participate in a discussion of the nuances and pitfalls of literary translation.

A second speaker Alliance Française d' Austin Elisabeth McKay, will speak about the history and purpose of the Alliance Française, as well as the activities and classes offered there. An interview with two French translators, Patricia Bobeck and Elisabeth Joffrain, will round out the meeting, followed by networking and French pastries.

Join us at the Austin History Center, 9th and Guadalupe St. at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 12. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information visit www.aatia.org. We hope to see you there, wearing a beret! ★

Translation: getting it right

EVERY TRANSLATOR HAS SURELY WISHED, at one time or another, that there was a way to educate clients in the nuances and realities of our profession. The ATA has acted on this idea, and produced a brochure called, "Translation: Getting it Right."

This is a guide to buying translations, and is an excellent text for translators to read and familiarize themselves with some of the talking points mentioned therein.

The AATIA website now has a direct link to this brochure, and anyone can review it online or download a version for their own use. ATA members are also welcome to order copies, free of charge. See www.aatia.org for more details. ★



Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association

Board of Directors

President Michael Blumenthal v & f 512-947-3300 president@aatia.org
 Secretary Carlota Grimes v 512-335-3383 secretary@aatia.org
 Director of Communications [interim] Tony Beckwith v & f 479-8865 communications@aatia.org
 Director of Finance Al Favela v 401-9388 finance@aatia.org
 Director of Membership Gisela Greenlee v 280-1523 membership@aatia.org
 Director of Professional Development Maurine McLean v 512-789-3885 prodev@aatia.org

Coordinators

ADVERTISING ads@aatia.org
 ATA CERTIFICATION Laura Vlasman v 891-9207 f 891-9208 lvlasman @earthlink.net
 COMPUTERS Frank Dietz v 491-6069 f 491-6086 fdietz@rocketmail.com
 DATABASE Laszlo Eosze v 254-542-5090 leosze@hotmail.com
 HOSPITALITY Merry Wheaton v & f 451-4772 [call first for fax] mcwheaton@austin.rr.com
 INTERPRETATION Maurine McLean 447-4779 bilingo@aol.com
 LITERARY Marian Schwartz v & f 442-5100 schwartzm@sbcglobal.net
 NEW MEMBERS Esther Díaz v & f 312-1599 president@aatia.org
 OILSIG J. Henry Phillips v 834-1941 aatia@portuguesetranslator.com
 REFERRALS Steve Zaveloff v 219-7142 f 233-2770 zaveloff@earthlink.net
 & Merry Wheaton v & f 451-4772 [call first for fax] mcwheaton@austin.rr.com
 RUSSIAN Jane Chamberlain v 453-1486 candide@io.com
 SPANISH Leo Bello & Susana Roca-Smith v: 380-9597 austinspansig@yahoo.com
 WEBSITE R. Michael Conner v & f 474-7012 webmaster@aatia.org
 VOICEMAIL Elisabeth Joffrain v 775-1459 joffraintrans@yahoo.com
 Workshops Laura Vlasman v 891-9207 f 891-9208 lvlasman @earthlink.net

THE AATIA LETTER

EDITOR R. Michael Conner v & f 474-7012
 editor@aatia.org
 PRODUCTION Howard Simms v 452-4700
 Howard.Simms@gte.net & Merry Wheaton v & f
 451-4772 [call first for fax] mcwheaton@austin.rr.com
 DISTRIBUTION Efrat Schwartz v 282-1951 f 233-1019

THE AATIA LETTER is published in odd-numbered months in print and online by the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association, PO Box 13331, Austin, TX 78711. Uncopyrighted material from THE LETTER may be reprinted or excerpted provided the following statement is included: "Reprinted from THE LETTER, newsletter of the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association (www.aatia.org)." Copyrighted material may not be reprinted without permission from the copyright holder.

Advertise in THE AATIA LETTER

THE AATIA LETTER offers a great opportunity to advertise your translation- and interpretation-related products and services. The online version of this bimonthly newsletter reaches a global audience through free downloads at www.aatia.org. And at rates like these, you can't afford to miss out on this opportunity. Ad copy and payment must be received by deadline on the 15th of the month preceding issue date.

To obtain more information and to **place your ad** contact Advertising Manager ads@aatia.org.

Newsletter Ad Rates*

Full page	\$125
Half page	85
Quarter page	45
Business card	25

*10% discount to members

Beckwith takes board seat in election for Director of Communications

TELLERS COMMITTEE CHAIR Gloria Gonzalez announced the results of the recent special election to fill the vacant position of Director of Communications, as follows:

Toni Beckwith	20
J. Henry Phillips	1
Yolanda Z. Luehan	1

The Board of Directors thanks all members for taking the time to adapt to the new and improved way of voting.

—Carlota Grimes, Secretary ★



need for filing, maintenance, and other work-related chores.

Next, Tony Beckwith introduced the Mentoring Moment, this month on the benefits of giving back to one's organization and community. He pointed out that volunteering is an important part of any organization like AATIA, which would not exist without member support. And while acknowledging that sometimes we don't have time to volunteer—or think we don't—Beckwith expressed hope that all members would find a way to contribute to the running of the association and the organization of the meetings.

Beckwith then asked Director of Membership Gisela Greenlee and Director of Finance Al Favela to talk about their positions, about how much (or how little), time they take, and about why they choose to volunteer in the service of AATIA.

—Carlota Grimes, Secretary ★

March member meeting reviewed

PRESIDENT MICHAEL BLUMENTHAL opened the March member meeting by greeting all those assembled and asking everyone to introduce themselves, stating languages they speak and places where they have lived for six months or more.

During the introductions several members also made a few announcements. Liliana Valenzuela graciously donated a copy of her latest translation, *Los Santos de Agua Mansa, California*, a book by Alex Espinoza, as a door prize. The lucky winner was Ms. Jaimes.

Blumenthal then took the floor and demonstrated some Keyboard Quickies: a series of keystrokes that allow one to work on a computer without using the mouse.

The featured speaker of the day, Marsha Weuve of Impact Solutions, then offered a number of creative

ideas and solutions for organizing the home office. The objective, according to Weuve, is to improve one's efficiency and productivity by keeping the work environment organized and not allowing oneself to be overwhelmed by the endless

Highlights of April board meeting

THE AATIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS met from 10 am to 1 pm on April 25, 2007, at the Austin History Center.

- One of the Board's highest priorities is to improve the AATIA website by making it user-friendly. It is important for everyone to have access to the different forms and to make payments online.
- Laura Vlasman is working with the board to make sure the Manual of AATIA Policies & Procedures (MAPP) is up-to-date.
- The June board meeting board will be taking a leap into the world of high tech by meeting via Skype.
- Maurine McLean has scheduled a speaker for the membership meeting and is working on future workshop possibilities.
- Tony Beckwith is actively involved and making sure that the AATIA meetings, as well as other news, are publicized in a variety of media. ★

A Black Tie Affair

by Tony Beckwith © 2007

www.tonybeckwith.com

OUT OF THE BLUE, we received an invitation to the Opera Ball. It was to be a black tie affair, of course, so I elbowed my way to the back of the closet and retrieved my tuxedo. Awash in affectionate nostalgia, I opened the hanging bag and there it was, just as I had left it after the last time I'd worn it, which was some time ago. I put it on and paraded into the other room for Lillian's approval.

"Oh dear," she said, and I knew exactly what she meant. The tuxedo had shrunk! It was a very fine garment, which had cost an unseemly amount of money several years ago, and now it clung to me like a shrink-wrapping of some kind. "Could it be the humidity?" I wondered aloud, but Lillian's expression quickly convinced me to abandon my futile state of denial. Ever the positive one, she said, "You look wonderful in it. If you lost a few pounds it would fit perfectly."

And thus it came to pass that I resolved to diet my way back to the good old days, and regain the svelteness I had once possessed, so that I might wear my perfectly good tuxedo to the Opera Ball. I had about a month, which seemed like a reasonable amount of time. The trousers, interestingly enough, were not the problem. They were brilliantly designed, with an ingenious system for expanding the waistline at will. All I had to do was let out the little buckles and they fit like a glove. No, it was the jacket that was the challenge, and actually it looked quite passable until I tried to button it. Could I get away with not buttoning the jacket? Not according to my mother who, while looking at a photograph taken of me at some formal event many

years ago, informed me somewhat stiffly that one should never, *never* unbutton one's dinner jacket unless one was sitting down. "Not even when you're dancing!" It was one of those maternal reprimands I've never forgotten.

While gazing sadly at my tuxedo-wrapped reflection in the mirror (more bearable face on than in profile, but only just), I started wondering about this garment. I ran my fingers over the satin lapels, and admired the silk ribbon running down the outer seam of the trouser legs. Where did this all begin? And how?

As with many questions regarding classical men's fashions, the answers are to be found in nineteenth-century Europe, and in this case can be traced directly to Beau Brummell, the legendary man-about-town and arbiter of fashion in Regency England. Brummell, a consummate dandy, moved in aristocratic circles and is credited

with popularizing the dinner jacket as a modern alternative to the traditional evening dress known as white tie and tails.

The dinner jacket, which was essentially a shortened version of the classic smoking jacket, was and is worn with matching black trousers with no cuffs or belt loops held up by braces (if you're British) or suspenders (if you're American), a white dress shirt with or without a pleated front, a black silk bow tie, a black cummerbund, and black shoes and socks. The cummerbund, borrowed from British military attire, is a pleated sash worn around the waist, which conveniently covers the area where the shirt is tucked into the trousers. The word is originally derived from the Persian for

"waist" (*kamar*) and "to close" or "encircle" (*band*), and was appropriated by the English language from the Hindi word *kamarband* meaning "loin band." It is traditionally worn with the pleats facing up as a place to hold things like coat check stubs and opera tickets, so one should be careful to avoid collecting crumbs and other detritus from the banquet table in the folds. It sometimes has a secret pocket on the inside for carrying items such as keys and money that would otherwise create unsightly bulges in one's pockets. I was pleased to see that my cummerbund could also be let out in case of shrinkage.

In the late eighteenth-hundreds the dinner jacket migrated to the United States, where it was adopted by members of the Tuxedo Club, an exclusive New York country club, from which it eventually took the name by which it is generally known in North American circles. Incidentally, the word "tuxedo" is phonetically derived from the Algonquin word for the region where the village of Tuxedo Park was settled. This New World version of the European dinner jacket soon became standard attire for celebrations of all kinds; it has been glamorized by the movies, and is an enduring icon of our society's vision of elegance for the male of the species.

The days passed and the diet accomplished its goal. Incredibly, my body released some of the pounds it had been storing up for a rainy day, and when I put on my dinner jacket and stood once again for Lillian's inspection, her flattering assessment was all the reward I needed for the privation I had suffered. I looked in the mirror, and seemed to stand a little taller, a little straighter. I think most men get in touch with their inner James Bond when they wear a tuxedo, don't you? I offered my lady my arm, and off we went to the Opera Ball. ★



Something Vista this way comes

by Frank Dietz ©2007

UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN HIDING under the proverbial rock, you should have noticed that Microsoft has developed a new operating system called Vista. Actually, that is not quite accurate—Microsoft has released a whole family of software packages under the Vista label, ranging from Home Basic via Home Premium to Business and Ultimate (plus Enterprise for large companies). As usual, the question arises whether you should upgrade now or wait (and continue using Windows XP) for the time being.



Vista does offer a range of interesting new features, which I am not going to describe in detail – you can look them up at www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/features/default.mspx

I decided to not to upgrade now, for the following reasons:

- **Irrelevant features.** Transparent menu bars in Windows Aero? I couldn't care less. And by the way, you won't get that snazzy Aero interface in the lower-cost Home Basic version.
- **Pricing.** Not exactly cheap. The *upgrade* version (as opposed to the *full* version) of Vista Ultimate [pictured above and discussed below] costs about \$250!
- **Hardware issues.** If you want to upgrade a computer that is a few years old, you might have to invest in more RAM (even Microsoft recommends 1 GB as minimum) and a better graphics card (with at least 128 MB video RAM). So remember to add that to the price of the upgrade version. Microsoft offers a downloadable "Upgrade Advisor" at www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/buyorupgrade/

upgradeadvisor.mspx

- **Upgrade problems.** A colleague of mine decided to take the plunge and upgrade his computer. He told me that he spent 14 hours over several days talking to Microsoft customer support on the phone and that he saw not one but actually two of the notorious "blue screens of death" (yes, they still exist). Eventually, things were running more or less smoothly, but consider how much that cost him in lost productivity.
- **Program versions.** Take a look at the programs you really need and use every day. Are all of them ready for Vista? If not, when will a fully compatible update be published?

The one thing that would tempt me to upgrade is the multilingual user interface option in Vista Ultimate (see www.microsoft.com/canada/smallbiz/products/windows-vista-ultimate/overview.mspx). Yes, after Microsoft no longer offers full-fledged glossaries for download, I would like to run my computer with a German interface, so that I can look up interface strings when I translate software or hardware manuals. However, I have decided to wait until I need to buy a new computer and then get one with Vista Ultimate pre-installed. The same goes for the new Microsoft Office 2007, which also exists in a number of retail versions.

Until then, Windows XP will have to soldier on. ★



Get Vista fonts without buying Vista (legally!)

IF YOU ARE NOT READY to spend the effort and money to upgrade to Microsoft's new Vista operating system or Office 2007, you can still legally obtain six excellent new fonts bundled with this software.

Download Microsoft's free PowerPoint 2007 viewer at <http://tinyurl.com/u5bsa>. The downloaded .exe file will install the new fonts, which you can then use in other applications. The fonts in this download supersede the incomplete previews made available earlier; they now include numbers and full punctuation characters.

If you are currently using Arial, try substituting Calibri, which looks good in body text or headlines. Cambria is an excellent replacement for Times New Roman. Candara replaces Trebuchet, and Consolas is a fixed-width font that replaces Courier. Constantia looks good wherever you would use Palatino or Georgia. Finally, Corbel is a nice substitute for Verdana.

—Michael Conner ★

Calibri
Cambria
Candara
Consolas
Constantia
Corbel

Take control with Launchy

IF YOU PREFER TO CONTROL your computer activity from the keyboard instead of reaching for the mouse, you should download and try out Launchy (www.launchy.com).

Launchy is a small, but powerful command-line mini-app for Windows (similar to Quicksilver, familiar to Mac users, but not quite as powerful). Invoke it by pressing Alt-Space, then start typing what you want. For example, type math for a calculator; type "google" (without the quotes) followed by the search keywords; type a URL to open a browser tab or window and go there (or type a short alias, or abbrevia-

tion, that you set up in advance); type a folder or filename on your computer to open it in Explorer; etc. It has an auto-complete function, which displays a dropdown menu of indexed possibilities as you type, offering you the option to select one instead of typing out a complete file location, for example.

There are probably other things that I haven't yet discovered, and it

has a simple programming function, so you can train it to do custom tasks. It is also skinnable, i.e., you can change its appearance, but I like the default black/transparent skin, which is neutral enough to "go" with any wallpaper you may be currently displaying.

—Michael Conner ★



Litcetera

Marian Schwartz's translation from the Russian of Ruben Gallego's *White on Black*—published in paperback in January by Harcourt/Harvest—was selected to receive the Texas Institute of Letters Soeurette Diehl Fraser Award for Best Translation of a Book for 2006. The award was presented at the annual TIL Awards Banquet at Dallas on April 14, 2007. In April, Schwartz also delivered the keynote address to the Midwest Slavic Conference, held at Ohio State University in Columbus, and lectured and taught at Miami University of Ohio, Kenyon College, Kent State University, and Oberlin College.

★

Ingrid Lansford has three new short publications:

- “Lollapalooza” from *Sidste Søndag i Oktober* (2000) by Jan Sonnergaard, in *Absinthe: New European Writing*, Spring 2007.
- “Horn of Plenty” from *Rådhus* by Pablo Henrik Llambías, in *Rhino 2007*.
- “The Young Man in the Shopping Cart.” Excerpt from *Das Jüngste Gericht des Michelangelo Spatz*, by Michael Scharang, in *Contemporary Austrian Writings*, Continuum 2007, reprinted from *Dimension2*, Fall 2002.

★

In their first 2007 issue, Zoland Poetry published **Zoya Marincheva's** review of a book of poetry by Bulgarian poet Lyubomir Levchev: *Ashes of Light: New and Selected Poems* (Curbstone Press), translated from Bulgarian by Valentin Krustev. The review may be found at www.zolandpoetry.com/reviews/Levchev.htm

★

Liliana Valenzuela appeared on TV in a show called “Desde Austin” (Univision 62 or cable 13), Sat. March 31, at 9:00 a.m. with Mariana Pineda. The interview lasted about 13 minutes and featured Valenzuela reading one of her poems. She is tentatively scheduled to make another appearance for the “Orgullo Latino” segment in the near future.

★

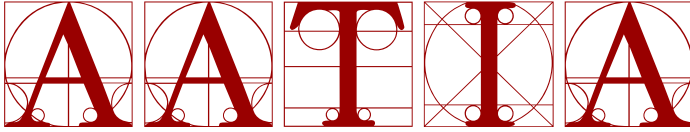
Pinto-Bailey translation of *Teeth under the Sun* has June publication date

DALKEY ARCHIVE PRESS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE the publication this June of Ignácio de Loyola Brandão's *Teeth under the Sun*, translated by **Cristina Pinto-Bailey**, in its Latin American Literature Series.

A modern-day Don Quixote and an exile in his own hometown, the protagonist of *Teeth Under the Sun* is kept from writing by a conspiracy (real? imagined?) designed to prevent him from revealing the truth about the town's strange status quo and violent past. In a place where people have abandoned their houses for tiny apartments in the confines of new high-rises, the narrator walks the almost empty streets, remembering better times and meeting figures from his past: his ex-wife, his son, writers, friends, and revolutionaries. And all of this is interspersed with his memories of the movies. Fact and fiction, past and present, all meet in this story of the narrator's attempts to engage more fully with a modern world forcing him into isolation.

Ignácio de Loyola Brandão began his career writing film reviews and went on to work for one of the principal newspapers in São Paulo. Initially banned in Brazil, his novel *Zero*, which is also published by Dalkey Archive Press, went on to win the prestigious Brasilia Prize and become a controversial best-seller. Brandão is the author of more than a half-dozen works of fiction, including *Anonymous Celebrity* and *Angel of Death*. ★





Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association
PO Box 13331 ★ Austin, TX 78711-3331 ★ 512-707-3900
www.aatia.org

EVENTS IN AUSTIN

- May 12 1–4 p.m. AATIA member meeting*
- May 19 1–3 p.m. LitSIG meeting (litsig@aatia.org for info)
- Jun 9 10:15–12 noon. SpanSIG meeting*
1–4 p.m. AATIA board meeting*
- Jul 14 1–4 p.m. AATIA member meeting*

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

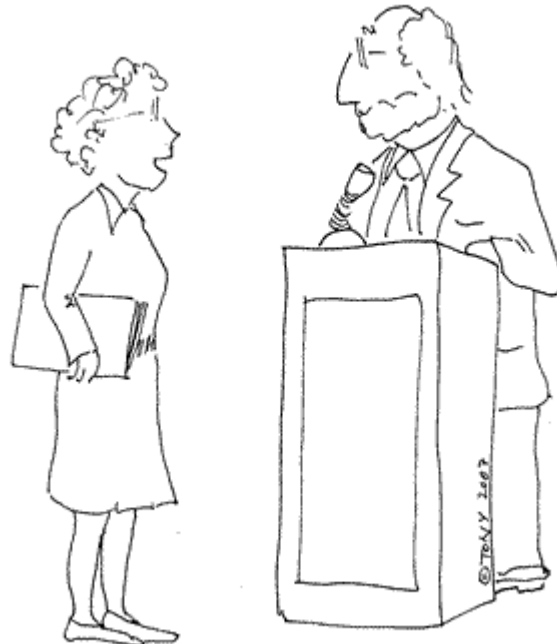
BEYOND AUSTIN

- May 4–6 **Houston**. ATA Energy Conference www.atnet.org
- May 18–20 **Portland, Oregon**. 28th Annual Conference of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators www.najit.org
- Oct 31–Nov 3 **San Francisco**. 48th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association www.atanet.org
- Nov 7–10 **Dallas/Richardson**. 30th Annual Conference of the American Literary Translators Association www.literarytranslators.org



od employs
several translators;
some pieces are
translated by age,
some by sickness,
some by war, some
by justice.

—John Donne
1572-1632
British Metaphysical Poet



As your interpreter, I put *your* money where *my* mouth is.