

www.aatia.org

The Letter

of the Austin Area Translators
and Interpreters Association

January 2001

Tie for Communications Director resolved by resignation, appointment

THE 2001 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION RESULTED IN A TIE for the only contested office, Director of Communications. Both candidates, Traci Andrighetti and Deborah Turner, received 38 votes.

The tie was resolved when Katarzyna Priebe resigned from her post as Director of Membership just before the November board meeting and withdrew her re-election candidacy due to personal reasons. Andrighetti then withdrew from the Communications race and was appointed by the board to fill the remainder of Priebe's term. Andrighetti is slated for appointment to the same position by the 2001 board.

Tellers Committee Chair Elisabeth Joffrain reported the following balloting outcome:

President:	Patricia Thickstun	64
<i>Write-in</i>	<i>Michael Blumenthal</i>	<i>(1)</i>
	<i>Marta Blumenthal</i>	<i>(1)</i>
	<i>Steven Mines</i>	<i>(1)</i>
	<i>Albert Bork</i>	<i>(1)</i>
	<i>Esther Diaz</i>	<i>(1)</i>
Secretary:	Laura Vlasman	73
<i>Write-in</i>	<i>Nereida Zimic</i>	<i>(1)</i>
Directors of Communications	Traci Andrighetti	38
	Deborah Turner	38
<i>Write-in</i>	<i>Crysol Villareal</i>	<i>(1)</i>
Finance	Edgar H. Guevara	72
<i>Write-in</i>	<i>Rosalia Cruz</i>	<i>(1)</i>
Membership	Katarzyna Priebe	72
<i>Write-in</i>	<i>Alexis Takvorian</i>	<i>(1)</i>
Prof. Development	Ezequiel M. Quijano	71
<i>Write-in</i>	<i>Albert Bork</i>	<i>(1)</i>
	<i>Tony Beckwith</i>	<i>(1)</i>

77 ballots were received and no ballot was voided. ★

January 13 meeting, party Dietz, Bork to talk on CAT, speech-to-print

TWO HIGH-TECH TOOLS that translators find useful will be examined at AATIA's regular meeting, 1-4 p.m. on January 13 at the Austin History Center, 9th & Guadalupe.

Frank Dietz will give a presentation on his experiences with Trados and Albert Bork will discuss his use of Dragon Dictate for quick rough draft translations.

Networking and an array of munchies will round out the afternoon's program. ★

Celebrate new year at the Carousel

AATIA'S ANNUAL JANUARY BASH will immediately follow the regular January 13 meeting. The Carousel Lounge, an old Austin hole-in-the-wall with plenty of local charm located at 1110 East 52nd Street (off Cameron Road), has graciously offered to host the party.

AATIA members plus spouses, significant others, and children are welcome. AATIA will provide finger food. Beer, wine, and setups will be available for purchase. ★

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2001

Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association

<http://www.aatia.org>

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2000: It was a very good year

AATIA'S IMPROVED FINANCIAL POSITION crowned the achievements of what the Board of Directors called "a very good year."

Director of Finance Leon McMorrow attributed the trend toward the black side of the ledger for the second year running "to continued cost-cutting efforts by the Board in the areas of website hosting, directory and newsletter production, and mailing costs."

McMorrow also noted improved directory sales and the generous donations of \$1265 from a number of active and business members.

The better financial status of the association allowed the Board to meet perhaps its number one goal this year: to create a "reserve fund" for possible future emergencies, which is critical for any organization.

President Asele Surina also pointed out achievements in raising our profile in the community through volunteering and active work with the media, resulting in appearances in local news broadcasts and in newspaper announcements and interviews.

Surina also praised the streamlining of AATIA's referral service, converting the database files from Mac to PC format, and putting the directory database on the website. ★



Welcome new members

AATIA cordially welcomes the following new members:

Aztec Translations

Juan Massey

600 S. 1st St. Apt. 239 Austin TX 78704

jumassey@yahoo.com

512-428-9722

Primary language: Spanish, English
Spanish > English

English > Spanish

Arts and humanities, bible and religion, fine arts, history, literature, general legal, civil and criminal law, immigration law, international law administration, public information

Mr. Joseph Francis Pilkinton

PMB 110

603 W 13th #1A

Austin TX 78701

joseph-francis@usa.net

512-453-8987

Primary language: English

English>Spanish

Spanish>English

Marine sciences, archeology, environmental quality, music, agriculture, recreation and travel, labor relations, occupational health and safety, zoology, environmental sciences

Ms. Kathleen Sweeney

P.O. Box 58245

Houston TX 77258

281-218-9416

Primary language: English

Aerospace, tax law, civil and criminal law, economics, general legal, general medical

Russian>English*

French>English+

Polish>English

+ATA accredited

*U.S. State Dept. accredited

Renewal deadline

for publication

in 2001 AATIA print directory:

January 13, 2001

End-of-year membership stats

IN A SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 2000, Database Coordinator Joan Tuttle-Vargas reported that as of the final board meeting in November AATIA had a total of 194 individual members. This breaks down as follows: 181 active members (including 12 with additional business listing); 8 associate members, and 5 business members. The Spanish Special Interest Group had 87 members. ★

Advertise services in AATIA directory

AATIA members looking for an inexpensive marketing tool should consider advertising in the 2001 AATIA Translation and Interpretation Services Directory. Contact Membership Director Traci Andrighetti for information about rates. Deadline for submission of copy is January 13. ★

Borderlands seeks submissions

THE AUSTIN-BASED LITERARY JOURNAL *Borderlands* is now seeking submissions of original poetry for its Spring/Summer 2001 issue. Deadline is January 15. See the website at www.borderlands.org for details. ★

Mix business, travel at conferences

Independent language professionals often take advantage of professional conferences not only for the knowledge and networking they offer, but also for the chance to combine a tax-deductible business expense with the opportunity for travel.

Madrid, Spain is the venue for the Conference of Training and Career Development in Translation and Interpreting, to be held at the Universidad Europea de Madrid on March 7–10, 2001. The website www.uem.es provides details.

Conferences relatively closer to home are planned for Chicago and New York this spring. The Society for Technical Communication will be holding its annual conference in Chicago on May 13–16, 2001, for which information can be found at www.stc-va.org. And the American Translators Association is holding a Financial Translation Conference at New York University on May 18–20, 2001. The ATA website at www.atanet.org has information on this conference. ★

Change of address

CRISTINA HELMERICHS has a new email address: chelmerichsd@netscape.net

★

The Ties of Freedom

by Tony Beckwith © 2000

MY FATHER AND I ARRIVED at the *Jauja Bar* at the same time. It was nearly noon on a warm Saturday morning in downtown Montevideo. I'd walked a few blocks from the office and he'd done the same. "I think you'll like this place," he said. "It's one of the most interesting watering holes in town."

The sunlight filtered in through the upper panes of the front windows, above the white curtain hanging from the rail at about shoulder level. It was darker towards the back, where we sat at a small marble-topped table halfway between the bar and the side wall. The place was steadily filling up and a gentle hum of conversation drifted overhead. The fans moved the air and the smoke from our cigarettes, circulating it all up towards the high, old-fashioned ceiling.

On the polished wooden surface at the front end of the bar, dozens of short, slim glasses were set out in rows on a white cloth. They were all about two thirds full. The light from the windows glinted on the glasses, and sparkled on the luminous lime-colored cocktails. Every now and then a bartender would reach over and stir each one with a long-handled spoon. I could hear the spoon tinkling against the sides of the glasses as he worked his way up and down the rows. These were the house specialty, a legend in the city: the best gin fizz in town.

A waiter came by and smiled at my father and they shook hands. "Your son? A pleasure! What will you have today?" We pointed at the gin fizz display and the waiter walked

over to the bar, stirred up a couple and brought them to our table. He set them down on paper napkins and placed a bowl of peanuts between us. "*¡Salud!*"

By the time we ordered the second gin fizz it was standing room only at the bar and the buzz of conversation had grown to a steady roar. My father



tapped my arm and pointed towards the door. I saw a middle-aged man with dozens of ties hanging off his left arm, which he carried bent at the elbow. He had a pleasant, round face, clean-shaven, and bald at the crown. He was dressed in a hounds tooth sports jacket and gray slacks, with comfortable-looking dark brown shoes. I looked back at Dad and

raised my eyebrows. He leaned forward and said, "He sells ties." I nodded and turned around again. The man was working his way from table to table, pausing here and there to hold up his arm and show his selection, angling the ties so that the sunlight caught them and set the colors blazing for the customer to see. He had a graceful, easy manner. People smiled and exchanged a few words with him, and one or two shook him by the hand. The waiters patted him on the back as they slid past carrying their trays of gin fizzes back and forth across the busy room.

Soon he was standing by our table. I was filled with inexplicable pride when he and my father shook hands.

"How have you been? Good to see you too! Your son? My pleasure, *joven.*" His eyes were dark and lustrous, and his face was deeply tanned. He was

wearing a crisp white shirt and a stylish regimental tie. He chatted for a few minutes and then moved on. I was aware of his absence immediately.

Dad leaned forward again. "They say he's an eccentric millionaire who wants to keep in touch with ordinary people. The ties are just an excuse to be able to come and go as he pleases all over town. They say he doesn't want his wealth to isolate him from the world."

"What do you think?" I asked. He wrinkled his eyes and smiled. "I think he's the freest man I know." I nodded sagely, as I'd seen older men do, but it was years before I understood what he meant. ★

Along Literary Lines The Melancholy Pursuit of Imperfection

"Como Conversazione: On Translation" was a discussion held at Casa Ecco, Drue Heinz's villa on Lake Como, in 1999.

The meeting, to which neither the public nor the press was invited so that the atmosphere could remain convivial and relaxed, took place over a weekend—interspersed with trips on the lake and visits to restaurants in the hills.

This seminar was led by Jonathan Galassi, Editor-in-chief at Farrar, Straus & Giroux. An edited version of the discussion was published in *The Paris Review* (Summer 2000). The following is excerpted from a statement made by Adam Czerniawski, an editor and translator of *The Burning Forest*, an anthology of Polish poetry:

I recently published an essay on translation, which I entitled "The Melancholy Pursuit of Imperfection," in which I observe that the only perfect translation into Polish—and Chinese, and even Urdu—of Wordsworth's "She died, and left to me / This health, this calm and quiet scene" is "She died, and left to me / This health, this calm and quiet scene." You need to have it firmly in view that your translation is going to be different from the original. And it might even get better. It's not a logical truth that in translating you are losing; each language has its own parameters, its own genius. As you move from one to another you discover that something new is happening there. ★

Dept. of Genuine Reprinted Business Letters

___ Electronic Corporation
___, Japan
___, 1966

Manager, ___
___, USA

Gentlemen,

We received of your letter November 8, about answer. And you have not any plans this time only, we understand. But we wish, we would have opening an account with you next time. It's not now. Also, You needs are quite large knobs, don't you?

We are nothing can be done. We will very happy that if we have a cooperation with you work. Today, we are enclosing our big knob for you. If you wish big more knobs, we will send to you of our knob.

Christomas has coming and happy new year. Our country very cold and winter coming now. We will enclosing Japanese Christomas card to you.

Let's go at the longest.

Sincerely,
Y___ Y___
P.P. Manager
Foreign Department

Enc. Knob
Yy/kn

ALTA offers travel fellowships

Each year the American Literary Translators Association awards several fellowships to beginning translators to provide travel funds so that the young translator may attend ALTA's Annual Conference, October 22–26, 2001, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Application may be made by sending a letter of application, curriculum vitae or resumé, and up to ten pages of

translation (along with the original language text) to:

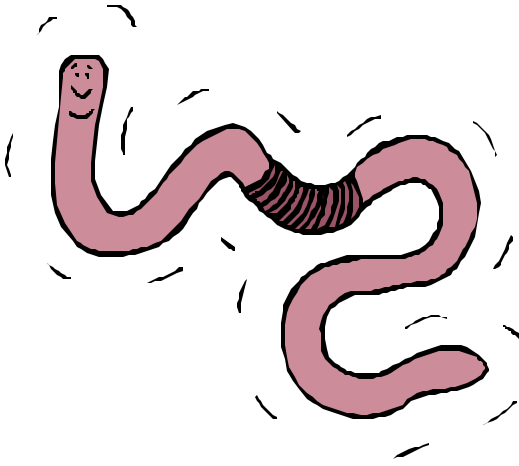
ALTA Fellowship
UTD, MC35
P.O. Box 830688

Richardson, TX 75083-0688

Applications must be received by June 15, 2001. Notification will be made to winner(s) in September.

Information about ALTA and updates on the 2001 conference can be found at www.utdallas.edu/research/cts. ★

Lions and Tigers and Worms, Oh My!



© 2000, Frank Dietz

I RECENTLY GAVE A TALK to a translators' association about using the Internet as a resource, only to have some translators come up to me afterward to confess they were afraid that using the Internet would cause them to catch a terrible computer virus (this was shortly after the "Love Bug" swept the world). I assured them that, indeed, the newspapers were constantly reporting new cases in which a virus, trojan horse, or worm (for a definition of these terms, see http://www.mcafee.com/anti-virus/virus_glossary.asp) had fulfilled its malicious mission, but that things were not quite that bad, as long as you followed a few guidelines:

Learn to separate facts from hype and hoax.

Yes, I have encountered a few nasty computer critters (mostly spread through e-mail), but their number was much lower than that of the well-meaning, but misguided warnings against the Good Times Virus and other hoaxes. People often forward messages that supposedly originated at IBM or Microsoft or a similar well-known corporation,

warning of an e-mail entitled "(Insert name here)" that will wreak havoc with your computer. The message, of course, contains an urgent call to forward this to EVERYONE you know. There are several places on the web (<http://vil.mcafee.com/hoax.asp>, <http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html>, <http://www.europe.f-secure.com/virus-info/hoax/>) where you can check on virus hoaxes (or

find information about *real* virus outbreaks) and thus help stop the proliferation of these annoying messages.

Get protection.

First, get an anti-virus-program. You can find a review of the leading programs at http://www.pcworld.com/current_issue/article/0,1212,14572,00.html and can download demo versions of these programs, as well as shareware programs at http://jumbo.com/pages/utilities/sections.asp?x_sectionid=12200 and <http://www.pcworld.com/fileworld/category/0,1460,anti-virus,00.html>. Many of you may already have an anti-virus program, but how many think about updating it regularly? If this is an issue, you might want to choose a program that automatically checks for updates every time you start your computer or at scheduled intervals.

If you have DSL or cable modem connection to the Internet, i.e., don't have to dial in and are online for extended periods of time, you also might consider a firewall program to protect against malicious hackers. A

review of several programs (one of them free for personal use) can be found at <http://www.pcworld.com/top400/article/0,1361,17637,00.html>.

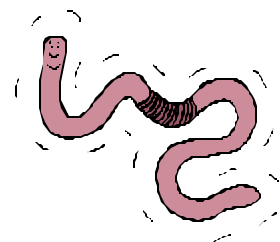
Use common sense.

Many risks can be reduced greatly by applying some common sense. Don't open e-mail attachments directly from within your e-mail program. Be wary about attachments sent by total strangers, and even odd attachments sent by friends or clients (why would a project manager you worked for last year suddenly sent you a message entitled "I Love You"?). Download shareware and freeware only from well-known sites such as www.shareware.com.

What do I do now?

Even if your computer has been infected by a virus, trojan horse, or worm, don't panic. The results are often more annoying than downright destructive. Go to the web site of the manufacturer of your anti-virus software and check for updates and fixes to combat this problem. Call people to whom you might have sent infected e-mail attachments. Clean up your computer.

If you really lost data, you can always restore them from your backups. You do back up your data regularly, don't you? ★



Interpreter Division website debuts

INTERPRETERS NOW HAVE A NEW HOME on the Web. Dan Mac Dougall, Assistant Administrator of the Interpreters Division of the American Translators Association (ATA) announced last month that the Division's new website at www.ata-divisions.org/ID/ will include a calendar of networking gatherings and ongoing training opportunities. He welcomed local interpreter groups to submit notices of any upcoming events or workshops.

Visit the ATA's main website at www.atanet.org. ★

From the AATIA website In-house translators wanted in Colorado

PERMANENT, IN-HOUSE POSITIONS are now being filled in Colorado for translation of the UI, help, and documentation of financial and e-commerce software applications into Hungarian, Russian, Czech, and Polish, among other languages.

Candidates should have at least two years of technical translation experience, familiarity with translation tools such as Trados, and be native speakers of one the above languages. A degree in translation and previous knowledge of accounting or financial applications is desired.

Send resumes to Alex Yanishevsky at alex@infotechcs.com or phone 781-370-3012. ★

English, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish excerpts from the IMF Terminology Database are now online at www.imf.org/external/np/term/index.asp.

—Judy Langley on FLEFO ★

Letter to the Editor Beware of “free” Web-based fax services

IT MIGHT DO TO ISSUE A WARNING about the so-called free fax services floating about. What folks don't realize is that once you've clicked the send button on their forms, there is no way you can ever stop the flow of junk email.

[The Web-based company] JFax is an example. No sooner had I clicked Send than I noticed an “automatic” agreement I'd not seen before. Aghast at its contents, I notified them it was all a mistake, asked them to ignore it, take me off their lists, and have a nice day.

To the first couple of dozen idiotic spam messages I replied with the “remove” option, which had no effect other than to double their volume. You cannot get their phone number and call without a password, and as soon as you ask to be removed, they inactivate your password, so there is no way to contact a human.

If I could identify one, I would not hesitate to physically assault and kidnap a member of their conspiracy, the terms for release being to leave me alone forever. But with no way to deliver the ultimatum, the alternative is to simply snuff them outright in hopes other citizens are doing the same with the rest of their ilk, so that someday the plague will be eradicated.

In the meantime, it would be a public service to warn AATIA members that there is no way short of murder to ever stop the endless stream of spam once those creatures have you in their files.

Cheers,
J Henry Phillips
jhenryp@attglobal.net

German spelling, grammar reforms create confusion

THE GERMAN LANGUAGE saw a major overhaul of its grammar and spelling in Germany last year to simplify the rules and ostensibly to make life easier for schoolchildren.

As reported in the August 12 issue of *The Economist*, however, the results have been less than spectacular. Some parents have even gone to court to demand the old rules be brought back.

To make matters worse, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, a leading daily newspaper, has decided to ignore the new rules altogether.

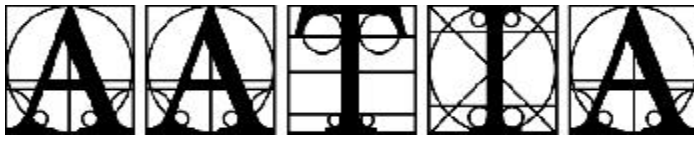
Some less-than-elegant examples of the changed rules are the new word *Bestelliste* (yes, that's right, triple-l) and the fact that sometimes you can still use the letterß, other times it is verboten.

According to the article, the premier of the *Land* of Thuringia “says he is more concerned about the increasing use of English words in everyday German than petty semantic tiffs.” As we all know, using English words is far worse than having confusing grammar and spelling.

For a comprehensive look at the new rules, go to www.duden.de. It has a zipped file that can be downloaded.

Reprinted with permission from the December 2000 issue of the NETA NEWS. ★

MARIAN SCHWARTZ REPORTS that her favorite new website is www.mega.km.ru. It has a Russian-Russian look-up that searches encyclopedias as well as dictionaries. ★



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

EVENTS IN AUSTIN

- Jan 13** 10 a.m. SpanSIG meeting, See Ññ for location.
Info Harvie Jordan 444-8537
1-4 p.m. AATIA regular meeting, AHC
4:30 p.m. Party at Carousel Lounge [see p. 1]
- Feb 10** 10-12 noon. MCISIG meeting, AHC
12 noon. MCISIG networking lunch
1-4 p.m. AATIA board meeting, AHC
- Mar 10** AATIA regular meeting and SIG meetings



The Literary
Special Interest Group
will not meet
in February,
as originally planned.

Would you buy this brand of soap?
Thanks to Hank Phillips for spotting this.

