

The AATIA Letter

A publication of the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association

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Harvie Jordan, ABC, Editor

May 1988

ANNUAL PICNIC DRAWS CROWD, NO ANTS

Thirty AATIA members and guests found their way to Northwest Park for the annual picnic last April 23.

As usual, those attending renewed acquaintances and made new ones. A steady breeze kept pesky insects away and tested physical dexterity in chasing paper napkins and cups.

The traditional volleyball game was played in abbreviated format. It seemed almost everyone had somewhere else to rush off to by mid afternoon.

Again, our collective thanks for making arrangements for this year's picnic, and the finger-lickin'-good trimmings for the Buda brisket, go to the new Social Activities Committee: Michael and Marta Blumenthal, Cristina Helmerichs and Esther Bailey.

NEW MEMBERS

Three members have joined AATIA in the last month. Please welcome Claudette Arnold, Austin (French); Cynthia Z. Calderón Gonzales, Midland (Spanish); and Martha Hogan, El Paso (Spanish). Martha edits the El Paso translators and interpreters newsletter, Echos.

WHAT

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE
IN THIS SPACE?

THREE SEATS ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO BE FILLED AT MAY MEETING

A brief business session at the May membership meeting will include election of three member of the AATIA board of directors. In addition to nominations submitted in writing to the board, nominations will be accepted from the floor. Members whose dues were paid by Feb. 28 are eligible to vote.

The meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 21 at the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, 118 East Riverside Drive at Congress Ave. Use the west entrance facing the Night Hawk restaurant across Congress. Be prepared to sign in at the security desk.

AND AFTER THE ELECTION...

The program is of special interest. We are fortunate to have Lee Wright come from Cleveland, Ohio to demonstrate computer programs designed for translators.

Lee's company, L.I.S., Inc., is the U.S. distributor for "Mercury," a powerful yet flexible program that allows translators to create and maintain specialized terminology.

Mercury was developed over the past five years based on Lee's conceptual design for a computer program which would work interactively with word-processing software and would allow immediate, on-screen access to glossaries created by the translator.

Mercury is published by LinguaTech International of Provo, Utah. It is currently available in Version 1.2 for the IBM PC and all compatible microcomputers. Version 1.3, which will include a number of new features requested by current

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AATIA meets Saturday, May 21, 1988 at 1:30 p.m.
at the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, 118 E. Riverside
(west entrance at South Congress Ave. & Riverside Dr.)

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users, should be on the market by the middle of the year.

In addition to Mercury, L.I.S. offers a variety of precompiled glossaries and dictionaries for use with Mercury, including the entire condensed Harrap's English-French dictionary.

Another LinguaTech/L.I.S. development project will soon produce a program designed to reverse the language direction of any existing Mercury glossary. This program is named "GLOSNOT" to emphasize the need for openness in glossary exchange. It will be distributed at no cost to current and future Mercury users.

L.I.S. is also the U.S. distributor for other translation-related software including 'INK TextTools,' a program recently developed in Europe. It goes one step beyond Mercury with capabilities to perform a complete English-language text analysis in machine-readable form and, from that create the basis for terminology entries in new or existing glossaries. These glossaries can be consulted during translation, and as with Mercury, the target-language equivalents transferred electronically from the glossary file into the translation being prepared with the word processing program.

Exciting! Come see and hear Lee's presentation. Try the software yourself. Enjoy informal conversation after the meeting.

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT COPYRIGHTS The Berne Convention

The Convention was established in 1886 in Berne, Switzerland to protect international copyright through mutual cooperation. In this convention works are protected without the need to observe any formalities. Seventy-six countries belong to this convention. Communist countries do not belong and they are usually the worst offenders.

The Universal Copyright Convention (UCC)

The UCC was adopted in 1952 and came into force in 1955 to close the gap between the union of countries belonging to the Berne convention and other including the USA, USSR and China. the latter countries need formalities to protect copyright. The symbol (c) was established as an international notice of claim of copyright. UNESCO administers the UCC. Eighty countries belong to UCC"

Terms of Copyright Protection (years)

Copyright in a work which is entitled to protection under copyright law continues to subsist for a limited duration so that cultural products may be available to the general public for their use after they are given a certain period of protection. Such term varies from 25 to 80 years. It is 50 years in the USA.

Copyright and translations

If you are going to translate a piece, you must request permission. You may, in certain instances, copyright your foreign language version. Before you do anything, come to an agreement to avoid unpleasant surprises.

(From T.O.W.N. News, April 1988, the Translators of Western New York newsletter)