

THE LETTER

January 1993

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Austin Area Translators
and Interpreters Association

Bobeck Passes AATIA Gavel to Diaz

Strengthened Member Services Mark 1991-92 Administration

AATIA best serves its members by promoting continuing education and advertising their expertise. I am proud that during my two years as President, we made unprecedented progress in both areas.

AATIA's first Regional Conference in 1991 was a resounding success. The two-day event attracted 80 people from all over Texas and neighboring states.

Besides my hours of locating free meeting rooms, finding a mansion for a reception, securing hotel discounts, mapping the reception site and lunch spots, and many other jobs, a lot of work came from others. I enlisted the professional expertise of my husband, Bob Kinney, in brochure design and production, media coverage, and photography at the event. Marian Schwartz planned an elegant reception that was a definite highlight, and Esther Diaz, who had proposed the conference, recruited translation workshop leaders and keynote speaker Ben Teague.

A two-page ATA *Chronicle* photo spread brought national attention. Attendee comments were overwhelmingly positive, but they demanded longer workshops, more sessions, and more

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Regional Conference, Professional Development Targeted for 1993

Hello again! Thank you for granting me the opportunity to serve you as President once more. After a brief sabbatical to finish my graduate studies, I am back at work for AATIA.

And there is plenty of work to be done.

For starters, there is our second regional conference scheduled for May 1993. [See related article on page 3.]

Next, there is program planning for the upcoming year in which I will strive to address the needs of *all* our members.

I am very interested in promoting the professional development of our members through workshops and the development of a mentorship program.

I will explore the benefits of obtaining nonprofit status and formal ATA chapter status. For marketing and growth purposes, I will work toward obtaining an AATIA phone line and



1993 AATIA Officers

Marta Blumenthal of the Teller's Committee announced the newly elected officers at the regular November meeting:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| President | Mary Esther Diaz |
| Secretary | Ingrid Lansford |
| VP-Professional Development | Mike Magee |
| VP-Communications | Patricia Thickstun |
| VP-Finance | Howard Simms |
| VP-Membership | Marian Schwartz |

They began work at the December Board meeting, joining the outgoing officers for orientation and planning for 1993.

Yellow Pages ad.

Last, but not least, I look forward to spotlighting our members at ATA's national conference in 1994. With your support and active participation, we can make the next few years the best yet.

Mary Esther Diaz

INVITATION

AATIA invites members and their guests to an International Potluck Dinner at 7:00 pm, January 9, 1993 at Mike Conner's home, 3213 French Place (four blocks east of IH-35 between 32nd Street and Edgewood Ave.).

For international flavor, members are asked to bring an ethnic dish (appetizer, main dish, or dessert), preferably related to their language specialties.

AATIA will provide wine and soft drinks and members may bring beer if they wish (and don't forget to designate a driver).

Please CONTACT Social Chairman Nora Castro to RSVP and let her know what dishes are coming to dinner.

Continued from page 1

frequent conferences: more everything! And the event earned a profit of almost \$500!

1992's big achievement was a data base for our *Translation and Interpretation Services Directory*, mailing labels, job referrals, and other purposes. AATIA distributes the *TISD* free to translation and interpretation users in business, industry, and government in Texas and beyond. Albert Bork produced it by labor-intensive word processing since 1987 when AATIA was much smaller. But now, nearing 200 members, we have simply outgrown that method. Marian Schwartz spearheaded a committee to develop the data base and create a questionnaire. Fabio Missana programmed and will manage the data base.

Many in AATIA have worked hard on these projects, but not everything has been done already. It would benefit AATIA to seek and obtain nonprofit status. This would let us mail *The Letter* and the *TISD* much more cheaply (you would be surprised how much of our budget is eaten up by postage!).

AATIA should also revise our bylaws, originally patterned after ATA's, but not now

reflecting our growth. We should also restudy the pros and cons of a closer relationship with ATA and hold a membership referendum.

AATIA members can become involved in many ways, and the rewards are many. I have been repaid many times over for my service to AATIA: I have gained visibility in ATA and throughout the city of Austin, developed self-confidence doing a job I had never done before, and enjoyed a camaraderie that is very special.

Volunteer to do something in AATIA--I think you'll be glad you did.

Patricia Bobeck

Message from Austin's Interim Japanese Translators Forum

Some Austin-area Japanese translators gathered last March to talk about having a group in Austin. We decided on giving it a try. Since then we have been meeting once a month, issuing a monthly newsletter with a mailing list of 26 names. The typical attendance at our monthly meeting is between five and ten.

We have overwhelming support from experienced translators and have survived an initial 10-month "testing period." We find workshops stimulating and conversation enjoyable. However, we are still not ready to take off as a full-fledged group. To develop a more solid foundation of member participation so we will have a more definite character as a group, we have decided to go on another six months on an interim basis. So we are not able to publish a manifesto at this time.

Because we are a tiny group focused on a specific subject, we should be able to discuss and deal with our interests, needs, problems, and solutions in a more specific and direct manner. We hope that we can develop something uniquely beneficial to AATIA and ATA.

The changes we are undergoing seem to be very promising (you may see it in our monthly newsletter), although I personally think that we need more participation of younger translators in our activities. If you want to join our group or just find out about us, please phone or fax us at (512) 331-2156.

Bunichi Ohtsuka

AATIA Schedules Second Regional Conference for May

Planning is already underway for AATIA's Second Regional Conference here in Austin on May 7-9, 1993.

Besides workshops and accreditation testing, a task force led by Esther Díaz has planned a presentation on the North American Free Trade Agreement, at least one tour of a local high-tech company, and a client panel. An encore of the highly acclaimed interpretation demonstration from our first conference is also scheduled. There will also be lots of opportunities to socialize and network with colleagues.

The task force consists of a group of dedicated members who have already met several times: Albert Bork, Harvie Jordan, Mark Juditz, Ingrid Lansford, Diana Garza Lewis, Mike Magee, Hank Phillips, Marian Schwartz, and Pat Thickstun. Anyone else interested in playing a more active role in making sure they get what they want out of this conference should CONTACT Esther Díaz.

The next issue of *The AATIA Letter* will carry more information and registration material.

Members Recap ATA Conference

AATIA members returning from the ATA Annual Conference in San Diego shared their experiences at the November meeting.

Besides the weather, food, and tropical vegetation, they enjoyed meeting some of the approximately 1000 registrants at official sessions, including out-of-Austin AATIA members Joyce Baghdadi, Michel Munier, Perihan Teague, Maria Van der Auwera, and Maria Vance de Vries.

Allan Adams listed PC-based translation software and detailed several packages he tried. Mike Magee attended the newcomer program, the translator/agency relationships panel, and three German terminology sessions. He shared a list of agencies which he compiled at the conference.

Pat Thickstun reviewed a terminology session, the Sci-Tech Division data base project, the idea exchange among regional groups, and accreditation changes. Stan Rappaport compared the 1988, 1990, and 1992 conferences. He said that the latest was the best, in part due to the

program, exhibits, and job exchange.

Fritz Hensey attended interpreting sessions, most of which focused on Spanish. Mark Juditz found that a background in academic translation wins respect for translators and expressed hope that someone will start a Middle Eastern Interest Section.

Albert Bork led a conference seminar on translating medical records. He discussed ATA elections and the relationship between ATA and AATIA. David Jones reported on software for Japanese-English translators. Leon McMorro shared conference impressions and stressed the importance of quality control in translation.

Members who were unable to attend either the Conference or this meeting can contact these members to get more details.

24 Test for ATA Accreditation

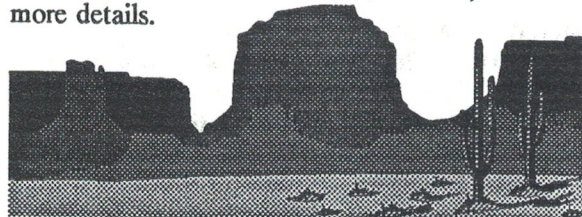
AATIA hosted morning and afternoon sittings for ATA accreditation exams on November 21 at the University of Texas campus.

Twenty-four persons sat for 31 exams (some sat for more than one). Exams were given for Arabic, French, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish to English and English to French, German, Spanish, and Russian.

David Jones, outgoing VP for Professional Development, thanked Bunichi Ohtsuka, Ingrid Lansford, and Albert Bork for proctoring these exams and Fritz Hensey for arranging rooms for the sittings.

NAJIT Sets Tucson Annual Meet

NAJIT will hold its Annual Meeting and Conference February 12-14, 1993 at the Doubletree Hotel in Tucson. Hotel reservation deadline is January 18, 1993 (602/881-4200 or 800/828-0444). Mention the NAJIT Conference for special rates. CONTACT NAJIT (whose President is AATIA member Sam Adelo) for more details.



ISIG Examines Equipment, Memory Techniques

Ten members of the Interpreter's Special Interest Group (ISIG), including newcomer Mimi Anh-Ngoc Tran of Austin, met November 14 in the Austin History Center's Reception Room.

Fritz Hensey's demonstration of the use of FM wireless transceivers for simultaneous interpreting began the second meeting of the After the demo, members took turns using the equipment for practice interpretation of the rest of the meeting.

In the main program Isabel Guerra McSpadden discussed techniques for memory improvement. She emphasized that the essence of memory work and technique is to be sure to learn something the first time, and she outlined several "tricks" to learn it or recall it. She also recommended a couple of books on a handout.

The next ISIG meeting will focus on practicing memory skills and adapting certain techniques to specific situations. For the remainder of 1993 the meetings will move to the O. Henry Room of the AHC. A new meeting time, 10 am to noon, will give members a break before the regular AATIA meeting.

Production Notes & Policies

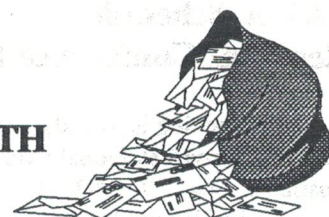
The Austin-Area Translators and Interpreters Association, a not-for-profit organization, publishes *The AATIA Letter* six times a year in odd-numbered months using WordPerfect 5.1 for DOS.

Opinions expressed belong to the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, the Association, or its officers.

The Editor welcomes submissions of short feature articles (limited to about 500 words) shorter news reports, letters, and reviews (250 words), and very brief items (a paragraph or so). Materials submitted may be edited and become the property of *The Letter* unless otherwise agreed.

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THE MAILBAG OVERFLOWETH



To the Editor:

In view of the prevailing TDoC (Texas Department of Commerce) view of translation as a non-profession [as discussed in the last two issues of *The Letter*], or at least one that is only practiced in other countries, I thought you would want to see the notice that appears in the current issue of the *ILAS Calendar* [see box, below].

From the description, the item in question would be somewhere between five and twelve thousand words. Per U.S. State Department technical rates of \$102/1000 words, it would come to \$510 to \$1224.

Copy of ad from *ILAS Calendar*:

TRANSLATOR

The Texas Department of Commerce . . . is looking for someone familiar with the Mexican tourism industry to translate a 20-page confidential legal document from Spanish to English. TRABAJO VOLUNTARIO that could possibly lead to future paid assignments with the Department of Commerce. For more information, please call ■■■■ ■■■■■■ at ■■■■ - ■■■■.

I'm quite certain that copies of AATIA's *TISD* have been sent to TDoC. I would like for us to contact the agency and see if we can shed some light on this situation. Maybe we should see if TDoC also solicits free advertising. What other free services do they solicit, and do they obtain any of them? Is this what they mean by their support for a "Free" Trade Agreement?

Albert G. Bork

And does TDoC get its money's worth? Paying nothing, they must expect very low-quality work. By the way, in view of recent FTC concern about rate fixing, I'm sure you don't suggest anyone adopt the rates quoted in your letter.

Editor

BULLETIN BOARD

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. Just a reminder: to appear in AATIA's '93 *Translation & Interpretation Services Directory* you must send in your dues and questionnaire by the January 31 deadline. If you didn't receive a reminder, CONTACT Marion Schwartz right away.

AATIA MEMBERS IN HIGH PLACES. AATIA contratulates two members who have assumed offices in ATA. Mike Stacey was elected to a three-year term on the ATA Board of Directors, and Hank Phillips has been appointed Editor of the Portuguese Division newsletter. They join members Leslie Willson and Vivian Carmona-Agosto, who have been serving as ATA President and Sci-Tech Division Administrator, respectively.

TISD EDITOR APPOINTED. The AATIA Board has appointed Mark Juditz as Editor of the 1993 edition of the *Translation and Interpretation Directory*. CONTACT him if you can help in some aspect of its publication.

BYLAWS REVISION. AATIA has set up a committee to propose bylaws revisions. The goal is to accomplish this task in time for any changes approved by the membership to be included in the bylaws printed in our 1993 membership directory. The committee consists of David Jones (Chair), Albert Bork, Mike Conner, Esther Diaz, Harvie Jordan, and Hank Phillips. Anyone else wishing to serve on this committee should CONTACT Jones.

HOUSTON BUREAU HONORED. Beatriz Bonnet, a Houston AATIA member whose Global

Translation Services recently has won nominations for the Blue Chip Enterprise Initiative and the Houston 100 for 1993, was the focus of an extensive profile in *The Houston Post's* business section. In her four years with GTS, revenues have grown almost tenfold, providing work for more than 350 translators and interpreters.

PUBLICATION ANNOUNCED. Marian Schwartz's English translation of "The Scandinavians," by Mikhail Barash, appeared in the November/December 1992 issue of the *North American Review*.

ACCREDITATION REVIEW APPROVED. The ATA Board of Directors recently approved a formal review procedure for candidates failing the accreditation exam. Currently candidates who fail the exam do not receive an explanation of the reason(s) for their failure. As the procedure is envisioned, the candidate would pay a fee and receive such an explanation. CONTACT ATA HQ for details.

NEW MEMBERS. AATIA welcomes new members Witold P. Napiorkowski, Irina B. Plumlee, and Samar Raad of Austin; Raymond Flores of Dallas; and Karen M. Kedney, Maria Victoria Ryan, and Catalina G. Valle of San Antonio. Membership now totals 168.

NEW ADDRESSES. Update addresses for Maria M. Vance de Vries, 1349 Lakeview Dr., Southlake, TX 76092, and Edward Brandes, 3404 American Dr. #3118, Lago Vista, TX 78645-6548.

AATIA ADVERTISING RATES AND SPECIFICATIONS

General Policy: The Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any advertising at any time. Position requests will be honored when possible, but not guaranteed. Camera-ready copy must be received by noon local time on the 15th of even-numbered month for inclusion in the next issue.

| Display Ad Category | Full Page | Half Page | Quarter Page | Business Card |
|----------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Dimensions (w" x h") | 6.5 x 8.5 | 6.5 x 4 or 3 x 8.5 | 6.5 x 2 or 3 x 4.25 | 3 x 2 |
| Cost | \$100 | \$60 | \$35 | \$20 |

Classified Ads: \$15 for first 15 words, \$.50/additional word. Copy must be submitted in DOS WordPerfect 5.1 or ASCII format on 3.5" diskette. **Discounts:** The following discounts apply for prepaid multiple insertions of unchanged ad: 5% discount for 2, 7.5% for 3, 10% for 4, 12.5% for 5, and 15% for 6+ insertions. AATIA members receive an additional discount. Refunds will be given only for cancellations received at least 5 days before copy deadline. Payment in full (payable to AATIA, no cash) must accompany copy. CONTACT Ad Manager Patricia Thickstun for further details.

CONTACT!

Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association

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VP-Membership Marian Schwartz
voice/fax 512/442-5100

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or Albert Bork 837-6448; fax 836-9440.
Literary Translating Marian Schwartz (see above)

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1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 903
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National Assoc. of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators (NAJIT)

Plaza Executive II Suite 400
125 Lincoln Ave.
Santa Fe, NM 87501
voice 505/984-8161

THE CALENDAR

AATIA meets at 1:00 pm on the 2nd Saturday of odd-numbered months in the Reception Room of the Austin History Center (AHC), 810 Guadalupe (unless otherwise announced). The Board of Directors meets at the same time on even-numbered months in the O. Henry Room of the AHC.

IN AUSTIN

- JAN 9** 10 am: Interpretation SIG meeting, O. Henry Room, AHC.
1 pm: AATIA Member meeting.
8 pm: International Potluck Dinner [see article, page 2].
- FEB 13** 1 pm: AATIA Board meeting.
- FEB 17** 6 pm: Literary Translation SIG meeting at O'Brien's, 624 W. 34th St. Topic: French & German texts.
- MAY 7-9** Regional Conference. ATA Accreditation exams.

BEYOND AUSTIN

- FEB 12-14** NAJIT Annual Conference in Tucson, Arizona.

Join AATIA: Make out your 1993 dues check to AATIA (\$15 for individuals & non-profit corporate members, \$50 for other businesses) & mail it to the PO Box.



PO Box 13122

Austin, TX 78711-3122

Member Meeting 1 pm, Jan. 12, 1993

Topic: Fritz Hensey of UT-Austin's Dept. of Spanish & Portuguese on how translation theory can help practicing translators