



NORTHWEST TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS SOCIETY

RECAP OF THE 40TH ANNUAL ATA CONFERENCE: I MIGHT HAVE OFFERED TO EAT MY HAT

ALFRED FELDMANN

It has become traditional that those who, for one reason or another, could not make the annual pilgrimage to ATA's yearly Conference would gather in its aftermath and hear about it fresh from the mouths of those who did; and so it came to pass this past November 15th.

The meeting was chaired by ATA's incoming president, Ann Macfarlane, a distinct honor to which not many of ATA's chapters and affiliated groups can aspire. The fact that she is the immediate past president of NOTIS and a local resident, adds to it. She announced that Courtney Searls-Ridge, another former officer and present member of the NOTIS Board, had been elected national secretary of the ATA. It's a distinction to have a chapter member attain national office, but having two of them is certainly a first for the West Coast, if not for the country.

Nearly a dozen attendees at the Conference shared their impressions, another indication of the strong involvement of the NOTIS membership in professional affairs. Attendance of the ATA National Conference for the first time has been described as impressive by many over the years and this year was no exception.

Heather Murchinson was such a first timer. She was impressed by the number of different sessions available for newcom-

ers to the profession, as well as by the useful nuts and bolts of information provided. She found the sheets summarizing each days events very helpful in navigating

"Word 2000" and other Microsoft products, including various language tools and proofing tool kits demonstrated at the Conference. He also reported on discussions about the future of the SciTech Division, in particular the resurrection of its journal, which ceased publication some time ago. There is some feeling that with so many new divisions there may no longer be enough interest in maintaining the SciTech Division. Following Alfred, his son Marcus gave a vivid description of an extracurricular activity: how he went to the top of the famous St. Louis Arch in a cart.

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**NOTIS
Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 22, 2000
Call NOTIS Voicemail**

through the schedule. She singled out the "Meet the Board" session for positive comment and found people in general very accessible and friendly to newcomers. There was much opportunity for networking and she highly recommended future attendance at ATA Conferences to all.

Deya Nolan, another first timer and newly elected NOTIS Board member, reported that the American Society for Testing of Materials (ASTM) is in the process of establishing a consumer oriented guide for translation standards.

Alfred Hellstern, one of NOTIS' stalwart members, spoke of the new

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and Interpreters Society
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 Corporate \$50.00 a year

For membership information write to **NOTIS** or call **NOTIS** Voice Mail (206) 382-5642.
 E-mail: info@notisnet.org
 Home Page: www.notisnet.org

NOTIS NOTES

**WELCOME TO
NEW MEMBERS**

Virginia Anderson [French, Spanish, English], **Elena Bogdanoovich-Werner** [Russian, German, English], **Karin M. Born** [English, German], **Pablo C. Chang** [Spanish, French, German, Italian], **Max D. Christian** [English, Spanish], **Heidi-Marie Gennerman**, **Carmen Langevin** [Portuguese, English], **Monica Sharp** [Spanish, French, Italian], **Claudia Zar** [Spanish, Italian], **Jost Zetzsche** [German].

**CORPORATE
MEMBER**

elocale.com

THANK YOU

Thank you to Directory Mailing Volunteers. Many thanks to **Lilly May Bayley**, **Chila Harrington** and her kids, **Gabriella** and **Lucas**, to **Rosa and Ian Allen** and their kids, **Martina**, **Alexandra** and **Arthur**, and **Alex Mosalsky** for giving up their Saturday afternoon to pitch in, to **Anita Krattinger** for hosting the party and doing preliminary leg work, to **Courtney Searls-Ridge** for letting us use her postage meter and of course to **Caitilin Walsh** who guided us through the whole process. **Abby Clay**, NOTIS Membership Chair. The NOTIS Directory of its members is distributed to translation agencies and other organizations that use the services interpreters and translators nationwide. Members desiring a current copy can download the electronic version at www.notisnet.org.

**THINK MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL!**

You can save us postage and time by renewing your membership early. Membership rates remain the same for 2000: \$35/yr. for Individual and Institutional members, and \$50/yr. for Corporate members. Please be sure to let us know of any changes in your address and phone number when you renew. In order to be included in next year's Directory we need to receive your renewal by June **30th**. Thanks to all who already have renewed. If you have not renewed your membership in NOTIS, this is your last copy of NOTIS News.

NOTIS OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering offers you one of the best opportunities to stand out from the crowd and learn some new (and marketable) skills! NOTIS currently has the following opportunities to offer: **Directory Distribution Database Volunteer:** This database tracks the people and companies that receive the NOTIS Directory of Translators and Interpreters. You enter new directory requests, changes of address, forward email addresses to Webmistress. We can provide you with a copy of MS Access and the know-how to get you up to speed. A great opportunity for someone with a little bit of time who would like to learn a bit about databases.

NOTIS News Editorial Committee: NOTIS News goes into production four times a year. You prepare files for the pagemaker, proof the final copy before print, oversee the printing process and conversion to electronic file. We're looking for somebody with Adobe PageMaker and pdf experience to join the NOTIS News Editorial Committee.

If any of these opportunities match your abilities and interests, please call NOTIS voicemail, drop us a note at info@notisnet.org or call the Editor at (425) 747-5240.

NEW NIB

The Spring update to the NOTIS InfoBase (NIB) will be appearing at the beginning of April. Look for it on our home page (<http://www.notisnet.org>). The deadline for changes to information for the next update is the 15th of March.

THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW

Directory user Marta Reyes is delighted with her directory. She found a Portuguese translator in the NOTIS Directory of Translators and Interpreters and the next thing you know, she married him! Now, we all know the NOTIS Directory is one of the best reasons to renew your membership, but we have to add this disclaimer: Individual results may vary.

Visit: www.notisnet.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

ATA Exam Sitting

The ATA examination will be held on **Saturday, April 29, 2000, 1- 4 pm** (come 1/2 hr. early), room 019 Architecture Hall, University of Washington. To register and for other information: call ATA at (703) 683-6100. **Registration deadline: April 15** (confirm with ATA).

Membership in ATA by March 25 is required. Confirm with ATA and inquire about cost.

Election Results

All five candidates standing for election to the NOTIS Board of Directors were elected: **Ann Macfarlane** (52 votes), **Deya Nolan** (51 votes), **Michelle Privat Obermeyer** (51 votes), **Shoko Fujita-Ehrlich** (50), and **Jean Leblon** (48 votes). The question of ATA chapterhood was approved, with 32 votes for and 22 against. Congratulations to all those who choose to serve the society!

Spanish Translation/Revision Workshop

TIP-Lab and El placer de traducir offer an extensive workshop in Spanish translation from February to July, 2000. Translations will be reviewed by a professional translator in Argentina and returned with revisions and annotated comments. Registration deadline: Friday, January 21, 2000. For further information, call (evenings only) or fax any time:

Alicia Marshall (847) 869-4889

e-mail: AliciaMarshall@compuserve.com

Medical Interpreting Skill Building Seminar

Open to anyone interested in the field of medical interpreting. An introduction to the different modes of interpreting, terminology building, note taking, and ethical considerations in medical interpreting.

Instructor is Cristina Perez Lopez, cost is \$39.

Saturday, March 4, 2000, 9:30 am to 4pm at the BCC Factoria Center. For information call (425) 649-3171 or visit www.conted.bcc.ctc.edu.

NAJIT Annual Meeting and Educational Conference

The National Association of Court Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) announces its 21st Annual Meeting and Educational Conference, to be held in Miami Beach, Florida, on **May 19-21, 2000**.

For information, contact NAJIT.

AM I A TECHIE YET?

ANNA KUZMINSKY

It always used to amaze me how my grandparents experienced this incredible technical development during their lifetime. Being born when horses and buggies populated the streets, pedestrians and boys at street corners selling newspapers, gossip traveled from maid to maid, and even going to the next town was an event that was carefully planned. Few were privileged enough to travel to other countries, except those that emigrated to the U.S. out of necessity and a quest for a better life. Time seemed to be something that moved a certain slow pace. You had time to think about your next steps, books were written by hand, edited and typeset and printed, your words in the letter that you were sending, or what you were going to say to the person that you were on your way to meet.

Then I look at my own life in the last ten years and my mind is blown away! Anyone who has been in our business for eight, ten years or so knows what I am talking about. I remember getting my office set up with a PC with about 512 KB of memory, (remember we did not talk about RAM and megs in those days), 20 megs of hard disk space and a Hercules monitor. I got my jobs delivered by U.S. mail, sometimes FedEx, on paper and had to type my translation either in a text editor like Edix or in an early

version of Word. Diskettes were true "floppies" and there were even nifty mailing envelopes that the floppy fit perfectly into.

You had time to translate, look over your work the next day or so and think about the project a bit. Deadlines were usually pretty generous and accommodated for at least two to four days in transit. And best of all, agencies tended to pay within a couple of weeks.

Then the agencies started to send you a diskette with an English file that you could overtype and things got much easier. Translation by computers? Yes, but not computerized translation as stated in a recent article. It just got easier and the risk of missing a sentence or paragraph was greatly reduced.

I remember getting my first fax machine, rolls of icky paper that faded terribly and seemed to take over much space behind the machine as agencies discovered how much faster proofing projects could be sent out by fax. Suddenly they could make me read the fax and fax it back immediately! No time to think "Sorry, but the client needs this right away!"

Then my son started college and I was introduced to this thing called email and THE web. He communicated with friends all over the world, played all night chess with some guy in India,

and sent files over the Internet! He built my fourth (or so) machine that was so incredible I thought I never needed another one. He set me up with an ISP (whatever that was) and taught me to use terms like TCP/IP and URL. The browser was called Mosaic and with your 9.6 K modem you still had a bit of time to think while you downloaded. The transition from snail mail to email has had the most impact on how we do our jobs today. No more room for thinking, or padding in the deadline. The agency sends out emails to 10-15 translators asking about availability. You must reply within the hour, sometimes quicker if you want the job. If you accept the job of say 3000 words, you get a file the next morning and it is due by 5pm. If you are the editor, you get the file by 7pm and it is due by 10am the next morning.

My 128 MB RAM is NOT ENOUGH anymore! My 10 gigs of hard disk space are full, my 300 MHz processor is too slow, I need a DSL line...I had to learn how to install the new, faster modem, fix problems in Windows, keep up with the virus threats, connect all the wires and plugs the right way. I can work on larger files, including graphics, and have huge dictionaries online. I know how to resize dialog boxes, QA a help file and format my translation in FrameMaker, use Trados to speed up and make my translations more consistent. I can surf the Internet for terminology, visit the Web sites that I am translating and download files by the gig in no time.

Am I a Techie yet? I don't think so. Am I doing computerized translations? I don't think so. I'm just a translator who uses a computer and lots of outstanding software, like everyone else, to do my job faster and better (?) than before.

This article is reprinted with permission from the Fall 1999 Newsletter issue of the Colorado Translators Association.

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NOTIS:ATA'S NEWEST CHAPTER

HILARY FAYEN HIGGINS

One of my goals for 1999 was to become a more active member of NOTIS. However, after having just moved to Bellingham at the beginning of 1999, adjusting to a new job and a new environment, this proved to be somewhat unrealistic.

Now, my first year in Bellingham has passed and as unlikely as it may seem for such a town of its size, a small community of translators and linguists has begun to form there. We meet quite frequently for coffee and chat sessions; we call each other up for computer and terminology advice; and simply give each other moral support when things get stressful. One result of our get-togethers is the uniform opinion that we need to become more involved with NOTIS. Hence, three of us acted on this by making the trek down to Seattle to attend the NOTIS Annual Meeting and Holiday Party. And, to live up to my goal for 1999, I agreed to do the write-up on the Annual Meeting for the newsletter. So, without further ado, here is the news from NOTIS:

NOTIS Directory

A mailing party was scheduled for December 11 to mail out 700 of the NOTIS Directory of Translators and Interpreters 2000 edition. President Caitilin Walsh reported that the directory listings have decreased from 205 to 126 and seventy language pair combinations are represented. This decrease is due partly to the fact that many members simply forget to renew their dues or that people are just harder to track down. Though advertising revenues are slightly down, thanks was given to all advertisers whose revenue of \$1810 for the 2000 edition will contribute significantly to the cost of the publication. Hardcopy versions may be ordered for \$5.00.

www.notisnet.org

As not only our President, but our respected Webmistress, Caitilin Walsh re-

ported that the NOTIS InfoBase (NIB), in its sixth year now, has been downloaded over 530 times this year. There were an average of 10 visitors to our Web site daily, totaling about 3500 visits for the year. The 'Marketplace' advertising/posting section for translation/interpretation related items and services continued to be very popular. NOTIS continues to send announcements of general interest to the email mailing list. The majority of NOTIS members (88%) now have email. She also attended a get-together of regional Webmasters and Webmistresses during the ATA conference.

Money Matters

Though Treasurer Jochen Liesche was unable to attend, he submitted the treasurer's report for the January 1-December 31, 1998 period. His report was presented by Caitilin Walsh. NOTIS' income in 1998 was \$9266.30, with membership dues, advertisement in the Directory and NOTIS News and Cascadia representing the top income sources. NOTIS expenses were \$11702.49, mostly for Cascadia, NOTIS News, postage and federal taxes. Total assets as of December 31, 1998: \$4368.14 (this includes a beginning balance of \$6804.33). The refund from sister organizations for Cascadia '98 expenses were not included in the report.

Membership

Membership Chair and Vice President Abigail Clay reported that at the time of the Annual Meeting, there were 201 individual, 17 corporate, and 2 institutional members, for a total of 220 members. Membership by state: Washington 192, Oregon 24, Montana 2, Alaska 1 and Idaho 1. There are 48 new members this year. Forty eight percent of NOTIS members are also ATA members. Abby also reminded everyone that membership expires in December and renewals are due.

Program

Program Chair Michelle Privat Obermeyer presented her report on the programs and workshops from 1999. The ATA Accreditation Workshop was held in January, a presentation on Internet search engines was given in March. As usual, the ATA accreditation examination was held in April. June saw the first ever Portland program to involve Vancouver/Portland area members, a networking session for freelancers and agencies was held and Courtney Searls-Ridge gave a presentation on contracts. A job fair was held in September. The ATA conference recap was held in November, and now here we are in December with the NOTIS annual meeting and Holiday Party. Michelle Privat Obermeyer is looking for volunteers who would like to be on the program committee to help organize and run various programs and workshops and to brainstorm for new program concepts. In addition, she announced that there will be an ATA accreditation exam in Portland on February 26, 2000.

NOTIS News

It was announced that NOTIS News editor Pieter Zilinsky is resigning after 7 years of service. He reported that the purpose of NOTIS News is to be more than just a newsletter, but also a valuable resource for its members. Over the last seven years NOTIS News had 44 issues with 300 copies per issue, distributed country-wide. Several local members' articles have since been reprinted in sister organizations' publications. Pieter Zilinsky thanked all the editors/proofreaders/writers and asked for more input from the membership. Caitilin Walsh extended everyone's gratitude to Pieter Zilinsky for all his hard work and gave Anita Krattinger a warm welcome as the new editor of NOTIS News.

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“Recap of ATA Conference”

Emma Garkavi singled out the session on Evolving Internet Strategies: Working the Web, to report on. Presented by Skinner and Rials was a group of a dozen down-to-earth tips (too long to include here but available to anyone who wants them), about seven leading Web Search Sites (same as above) and online articles about Web Searching such as .com's Web Searching Series at

<http://websearch.about.com/internet/siteswebsearch/mbody.htm.>;
<http://searchenginewatch.com>; <http://www.notess.com/search/>;
<http://www.linkjbank.net/getlinks/default/ResearchBuzz>

Michelle Privat Obermeyer talked about French resources on the Internet, among them www.bodeuxinternational.com. She reported on the feeling by many at the Conference that “translation” as profession has no image. Talks in schools might be helpful and tapes for such presentations can be obtained (for sale) from ATA headquarters.

Caitlin Walsh described the Chapters Meeting she attended as a Chapters Brainstorming Session. Among the topics discussed were accreditation, always a touchy subject; grading of tests; standards; evaluation of educational backgrounds and the specialists in that field.

Brian Buckner focused on the event that most impressed him, the panel discussion with Dee Dee Myers. Ms. Myers, White House Press Secretary early in the Clinton Administration, was joined by four panelists including Manouche Ragsdale, ATA Chair of the Public Relations Committee. Myers confessed that during her time at the White House she didn't know the difference between translators and interpreters. While speaking at the forum she demonstrated that initially she had not yet learned the distinction. Again the low level image of the profession was cited in relating an event. Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin of Russia were walking together in the woods, ostensibly conferring with one another. Neither speaks the other's language but no third person, i.e. an interpreter, is seen on the publicity picture. What kind of a conversation can that be? The presence of an interpreter in the picture would have strengthened the belief that they really talked about important matters and it would also have raised the image of the interpreter as a key figure on such occasions.

Courtney Searls-Ridge related a new approach for helping newcomers make their way in the translating and interpreting profession - mentoring. To be successful there should be a way of matching up potential mentors, the seasoned professionals, with those just entering a profession that has seen more change in requirements during the past decade than during the previous three decades of ATA's existence. The appropriate interactive relationship between mentor and protege should prove of great benefit to all concerned and make life easier for newcomers.

Anita Krattinger spoke about translation memory

tools and their uses. Giving a short history of their development, she pointed out that they had been standardized by the Localisation Industry Standards Association (LISA) [note: European spelling] in Geneva, Switzerland. Anita briefly described the functioning of such a tool and what it can do. It is useful for software manuals with lots of revisions and for texts that are highly repetitive. Translation tools are of little or no help with marketing materials, literary translations, or letters. Within the limits of their application they can cut production time, i.e. the cost of translations on large projects like software manuals, and they insure consistency.

Winding up the presentations, Ann Macfarlane spoke about the business end of the Conference, the meetings of divisions and committees and about the election results. Apparently there was hardly any time to relax for those who wanted to sample all that the Conference had to offer. There was just one note of regret by some of the “old hands”: that the offerings focused on the needs of newcomers more than on theirs. Given the fact that a first time attendance at an ATA Conference can be such a revelation, this writer would say that the focus is correct. The old hands have heard much of the information before and come to Conferences mainly for networking, keeping up old contacts and making new ones.

Ten years ago, when NOTIS was founded, I was rather skeptical about its future. No more than half a dozen providers of translations were listed in Seattle's Yellow Pages, including Berlitz. Had someone told me that ten years hence this organization would generate a President and Secretary of the ATA, I might have offered to eat my hat if that occurred. Fortunately, no one challenged me.

Albert Feldmann works in German, Hebrew, French and English. He can be reached at (206) 525-5610.

NOTIS

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“ATA's Newest Chapter”

Election of Board of Directors and ATA Chapterhood

The five candidates for the Board of Directors introduced themselves: Shoko Fujita Ehrlich, Jean Leblon, Ann Macfarlane, Deya Nolan and Michelle Privat Obermeyer. After a few minutes were given for the members in attendance to vote, Ken Wagner, Director of Elections collected all the ballots. Half the membership had already voted by absentee ballots. At the end of the meeting, the election results were announced. All 5 directors were elected and membership voted 32-22 in favor of becoming an ATA chapter.

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Closing Comments

President Caitilin Walsh expressed everyone's gratitude to several people who have helped NOTIS this past year: Jon Delcourt for filling in as office manager, Rosa Allen for her work with membership, Abby Clay who stepped in numerous times in numerous roles, Katalin Pearman who is stepping down after being secretary for the past 2 years, and Pieter Zilinsky, departing editor. She expressed the general overall feeling that it had been a good year for NOTIS and that we should be gratified to be one of the more dynamic regional groups. She also reminded us that NOTIS was a volunteer organization which has a constant need for people's time and talent. Ann Macfarlane and Courtney Searls-Ridge also stepped up to the podium individually to make a few impromptu comments. Courtney spoke briefly on the spirit of volunteerism by saying that NOTIS would not be the dynamic group it is, were it not for the generous members who have devoted their time, talent, and skills. The beauty of volunteering, she said, is not only the satisfaction of donating time and talent to this organization, but also what you receive in return: increased confidence, new skills, and the opportunity to move into previously unexplored horizons. Ann Macfarlane backed her up by saying that her own involvement with NOTIS over the years had led her to greater involvement with the ATA and ultimately to her position as President of ATA. Both called on members to donate their time and skills to make NOTIS an ever better organization. On this note, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Party Time

While listening and taking notes during the meeting, my eyes kept roving to the corner of the room where refreshments lay in wait for a hungry group of translators and interpreters. There were Christmas cookies, fruit of all sorts, beverages, crackers, cheese, and various sandwich meats. The party organizers, however, made us earn our treats with an intriguing party game that those who appreciate words and language would appreciate. We each had to come up with 6 proverbs in any language and then move around the room trading them with our colleagues. The idea of the game was to come up with the most interesting proverb category, for example, proverbs in as many different languages as possible, proverbs oriented around food, animals, or whatever you could think of. Luckily, the organizers of the game came armed with proverb books for those, like me, who had a hard time being imaginative under pressure. Once we had our 6 proverbs, we all milled around the room chatting, getting to know new colleagues, and, of course, exchanging proverbs.

When sufficient time had passed, we reconvened and prizes were awarded to various folks for the most interesting categories, some of which included animals (the early bird gets the worm, you can't teach an old dog new tricks), food and cooking oriented proverbs (a watched pot never boils), and just weird, unheard of proverbs. Unfortunately, I didn't keep track of who won which category, but several prizes were awarded, of which the most enthusiastically received was a jar of chocolate. Upon hearing that her prize involved chocolate, the winner got up and exclaimed "Chocolate, hurrah!"

All in all, a good time was had by all and I can personally attest to the feeling of satisfaction at having attended the meeting and fulfilling my goal for 1999 by writing this article. I wish all of you a great and successful 2000 and hope to see you at future meetings and get-togethers.

Hilary Faye Higgins works from German > English and can be reached at Hilfayhig@aol.com.

Translation and Interpretation Institute

The T&I Institute offers a certificate program for linguistically skilled people of diverse educational backgrounds who wish to pursue a career in translating and interpreting. Courses are offered at Bellevue Community College, Bellevue, WA.

SPRING 2000 (MARCH 27 - JUNE 9)

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6 - 9 pm, Tuesdays
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CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	TIME & PLACE
Tuesday February 22	NOTIS Board Meeting	All members welcome	Call NOTIS Voicemail
Saturday March 25	ATA Membership Deadline	Required for the April 29th Accreditation Examination	Call ATA at (703) 683 6100
Thursday April 27	NOTIS Board Meeting	All members welcome	Call NOTIS Voicemail
Saturday April 29	ATA Accreditation Examination	Register early. Bring necessary materials	12:30 - 4 p.m. 019 Architecture Hall University of Washington
May 5	Next NOTIS News	All submissions are welcome	Submit to Editor: AnitaKrattinger@compuserve.com by April 10th
September 20-23	41 st Annual ATA Conference		Orlando, Florida

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