



## ATA RECAP: SHAPING THE FUTURE

The NOTIS meeting of November 13, 1996 at the Downtown Seattle Library was devoted to a review of the American Translators Association 37th Annual Conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado. NOTIS members who participated shared their experiences with the membership. Contributors to this article include Henry Christoffers, Claudia Kellersch, Sandra Layman, Courtney Searls-Ridge, Sandra Thomson, and Caitilin Walsh.

### Literary Historical Narrative

Melissa Meier Tarkki enthusiastically summarized a description by Chilean translator Jennie Ibarra of her experience rush-translating a life of St. Francis of Assisi. For Meier Tarkki, undeterred by the fact that the language discussed was not one she works in, the session was the highlight of the ATA conference.

Ibarra was chosen to translate the biography after a chance meeting with a nun. For the next five months, the highly organized Ibarra, who also held a full-time editing job, mapped out all her evenings and weekends with an exhausting schedule enabling her to meet the deadline.

Ibarra had no time to read the whole book through before she translated it, nor to do any rewriting, so her abilities as an editor were crucial. Fortunately, Ibarra was paid based on *her* word count, not on the post-edited count. Less fortunately, her name was put on the copyright page, not on the title page.

Meier Tarkki's vivid presentation reminded us of the excitement which drew many of us to this profession.

### Job Exchange

Sandra Thomson was just starting out as a freelancer when she decided to try the ATA Job Exchange. The aim of the Exchange is to bring translation agencies and individual translators and interpreters together, even if the parties cannot all attend the conference.

Before the annual conference, members send in an information sheet. At the conference, people can drop by the Job Exchange room and look at material about agencies and at individuals' information sheets. About thirty agencies were listed, and some had a representative present. Individuals could leave resumes and sign up for interviews with agency representatives.

Thomson went to four interviews and found that the Job Exchange is a good opportunity to hone marketing skills. One month after the conference she had already been contacted by one agency. (Incidentally, she discovered that bringing a baby to the conference could also be quite a marketing ploy, because everyone remembered seeing her husband walking around with the "Snugli".)

### Machine Translation

Alfred Hellstern confirmed that the debate still rages over the benefits and pitfalls of machine assisted translation. The needs of the user and the levels of complexity of the material to be translated are important factors in determining whether to use machine assistance. Confirmation of the terms, comprehension of the material and the suitability for publication must enter into the process. Pre- and post-editing by translators is essential with the proviso that

the post editing involve a bi-lingual editor. In some studies machine assisted translation appeared to help reduce the cost per page of the work. Much remains to be done.

### LOGOS

Caitilin Walsh reported that the Central LOGOS Database on the LOGOS Web Site (WWW.LOGOS.IT) has materials in thirty-one languages, with a total of three million terms. Five thousand terms a week are contributed to the Word Exchange Forum. The twenty thousand visits per month to this Web Site demonstrate the popularity of this resource.

### ATA Divisions: New Developments

In her account of the latest developments affecting ATA Divisions, NOTIS President Ann Macfarlane told of a flurry of meetings during the conference. There were

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**Northwest Translators  
and Interpreters Society  
(NOTIS)**

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Vice-President	Caitilin Walsh
Treasurer	Jean Leblon
Secretary	Katalin Pearman

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Computers & Translation Membership	Michael Broschat (206) 328-6138 BBS Caitilin Walsh (206) 382-5642
Program	Open
Hospitality	Lilly May Bayley

**SPECIAL INTEREST  
GROUPS**

Literary	Open
Slavic	Karina Watkins (206) 562-7156

NOTIS News is published six times yearly in odd-numbered months. Letters to the Editor, short articles of interest, and information for the calendar and other sections are invited. Submissions become the property of NOTIS News and are subject to editing unless otherwise agreed in advance. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, the Society or its Board.

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Individual & Institutional	\$35.00 a year
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NOTIS is a Washington State non-profit organization.

**NOTIS NOTES**

**WELCOME TO  
NEW MEMBERS**

Helle Andersen, Lydia Boswell, Marieta Darrah, John O. Falconer, Charles Johnson, Norgard Klages, Ph.D., Juan Alberto Lara, Andrew Lillie, Beate E. Moges, Márta Pásztor, Christopher Schindler, Natalia Shaughnessy, Olga Sledziewski, Patrik Swanljung, Elwin Wirkala.

**WELCOME TO NEW  
CORPORATE  
MEMBERS**

**Interpreters United in Yakima**

**THANK YOU**

Jaime Aldaraca, Gerry Diamond, Afifi Durr, John Falconer, Carol Liebowitz, Sam Mattix, Katalin Pearman, Karina Watkins for assisting with the mailing of the 1997 NOTIS *Directory* on December 7. Especial thanks to Claudia Kellersch for the generous use of her home, and for organizing this essential event.

Elsa Brodin, Emma Garkavi, Noriko Hill, Steve Kimball, Jochen Liesche, Melissa Meier Tarkki, Courtney Searls-Ridge, Ken Wagner, Pieter Zilinsky, table leaders for the ATA Accreditation Workshop, and Jean Leblon for organizing, coordinating and arranging the event.

**BOARD NEWS**

At its January meeting the NOTIS board reelected Ann G. Macfarlane to serve as President during 1997. The offices of Vice-President and Treasurer will continue to be filled by the incumbents until the Board has completed its review of responsibilities for the current year. Nancy Thiele has stepped down as Director and Program Chair, with the grateful thanks of NOTIS for her extraordinary service. The board reappointed Directors Elsa Brodin, Courtney Searls-Ridge, and Caitilin Walsh to two-year terms.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Anita Krattinger on her appointment as NOTIS Office Manager. NOTIS will be able to serve you better with Anita's assistance.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Thanks to all of you who have renewed!  
If you have not renewed, this is a reminder that this is your last copy of *NOTIS News*.

### NOTIS NEEDS

A production volunteer to handle ENN (Electronic *NOTIS News*). Requirements: Pagemaker 6.0 or higher, one hour every two months.

A volunteer to prepare the layout for postcards reminding members of program events. Requirements: must have or seek desktop publishing experience, and enjoy the creative challenge of preparing four to six postcards per year.

A copy editor to proofread the provisional drafts of *NOTIS News* and report back to the editor. Requirements: access to NOTIS BBS and ability to download files; one-two hours, every two months.

A chairperson for the Literary Special Interest Group. Requirements: a strong interest in literary translation; ability to generate cooperation among like-minded members; energy to set up appropriate meeting times and places.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Bilingual Glossaries of Medical Terminology

The Cross-Cultural Health Care Program is developing glossaries of English medical terminology for speakers of various languages to be used as a component of the Bridging the Gap interpreter training. These glossaries are not being offered to the general public. The languages represented are: Chinese (Traditional and Simplified), Khmer, Korean, Lao, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

To receive a Publication Order Form, please call (206) 621-4474 and leave your name and fax number. If you do not have a fax, please leave your mailing address.

### Editing Workshop

The Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society and the Washington State Court Interpreters Society are co-sponsoring another workshop: Revising, Editing, and Proofreading Translated Texts. This workshop should be of interest to freelance translators, editors, and production managers.

Consider attending this workshop if you want to:

- 1) Understand the differences between revising, editing, and proofreading
- 2) Learn to revise, edit, and proofread your own work
- 3) Learn what is expected of you when you are asked to edit or proofread someone else's work
- 4) Discuss how to charge for editing and proofreading services
- 5) Get recommendations for resources on style and usage
- 6) Enjoy an interactive workshop with other translators

Participate in hands-on exercises to:

- 1) Make your life easier by using style sheets
- 2) Improve your ability to manipulate the target text
- 3) Sharpen your proofreading skills

Presenters:

Melissa Meier Tarkki and Courtney Searls-Ridge. Melissa has a Certificate in Technical Writing and Editing from the UW Extension. Courtney has been editing her own work and that of others for many years. Both presenters are instructors at the Academy of Languages T&I Institute in Seattle.

Saturday, March 1, 1997, 1- 5 pm

University of Washington, Seattle

Gowen Hall 201

Cost: Advance registration fee is \$20 for members of NOTIS, WITS, SOMI, and TTIG. Non-member fee is \$30. Day-of-event registration if space allows is \$30.

Advance registration deadline:

February 24, 1997.

Please make checks payable to NOTIS and mail to:

NOTIS

PO Box 25301

Seattle, WA 98125-2201.

### Resume and Directory Entry Workshop

Feel that it's time to freshen your resume? Don't have one yet? Dislike traditional resumes, but haven't yet found a pleasing variation? Wondering how to format your resume for electronic mailing? Come to this workshop to review resumes of all types, and see both good and bad examples. Bring your current version for review, as time permits. We

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

ANN G. MACFARLANE

As so many of us do, I took the impetus of the new year to sort through old files this month. My blue NOTIS folders from the past contained much food for thought.

1993: NOTIS programming, in my humble opinion, was then as now excellent value for members, with both a terminology workshop and a party allowing us to observe the NOTIS fifth anniversary in fine style...The accreditation workshop offered all of six language pairs: English/French, English/German, English/Spanish, French/English, German/English, Spanish/English...As Caitilin Walsh described it in our last issue, NOTIS was just taking some steps into the electronic age, but the Internet didn't seem to appear anywhere in our collective thinking...

1994: A joint letter with the Washington State Court Interpreters and Translators Society (WITS) asked the head of DSHS to reconsider the decision requiring liability insurance for interpreters. Our eloquent appeal went unheeded, a shot fired in (blissful?) ignorance of the coming battle over the DSHS brokerage...The Translation

and Interpretation Institute of the Washington Academy of Languages was just opening its doors. It was exciting even at the start to reflect on the promise of that new endeavor, which now benefits so many in our profession, both in Washington state and elsewhere... Our regional conference, Cascadia '94, required a new level of organization and planning, and attained a new level of success...

1995: The year when the Board took collective leave of its senses and elected me President...(Just wanted to see if you were

paying attention!)

I will spare you a recapitulation of the last two years, saying only that it has been a privilege to serve as your President during 1995 and 1996. NOTIS seems to combine serious commitment to its endeavors with the ability to undertake them gracefully, and in good spirits. I hope that we have kept that tradition vital during my first term, and am honored to have been elected by the NOTIS Board to serve you again in 1997. Here are some of our agenda items for the coming year:

### MOVING?

Please let us know your new address and phone numbers so we can keep your membership record and directory information current. Remember, the electronic directory updates quarterly, and we want potential clients to be able to find you!

- We bid farewell to Nancy Thiele as a Director with many thanks for her faithful service on the Board, and as Program Chair. Nancy, who undertook the organization of the 1994 Cascadia Conference at a late stage in the planning process and brought it off brilliantly, has raised our programming to a new level of professionalism. We will do our best to live up to her high standards with our programming offerings. We are enormously grateful for her contribution.

- We will continue to refine and improve our Directory, as one of the services

members most value. Advertising in the Directory has enabled us to meet a substantial portion of the production cost, and we will do our best to make it an economical and effective marketing tool for you.

- We will continue to publish *NOTIS News*, well-received and valued by colleagues all across the country and most of all, we hope, by you, our members. Please do keep this newsletter in mind as a forum for your thoughts, observations and comments on any and all aspects of our profession.

- We will do our best to keep NOTIS on the "cutting edge" of the information revolution, allowing our electronic offerings (Web Page, email, bulletin board, Electronic NOTIS News) to evolve as circumstances require in order to serve you best.

- We are keeping our administrative needs under careful review, beginning with the assistance of our first-ever Office Manager and looking to the future as NOTIS continues to grow (over 250 members to date).

- We continue to assist members wishing to join the American Translators Association (ATA) and take the accreditation examination (our January workshop had 16 language pairs, for which we were able to provide nine table leaders). See elsewhere in this issue if you are interested in taking the exam in April. The ATA is reviewing the role of chapters, cooperating groups and "non-affiliated groups," and NOTIS will be an active participant in that discussion. At this time, the Board foresees no change from our status as a "cooperating group."

- We will engage in on-going dialogue with our sister organizations in the region, moving towards better coordination of communications and programming, and discussing the possibilities for some sort of regional grouping or confederation.

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“ATA Recap” *continued from page 1*

representatives not only of the five current ATA Divisions (Japanese, Portuguese and Slavic languages, as well as Literary Translation and Science and Technology), but also of other language groups forming their own divisions, in particular Nordic languages, French, and German or Spanish.

At the conference, a Divisions Committee was formed, with the indefatigable Macfarlane as chair. NOTIS member, Claudia Kellersch has been named acting head of the German Division.

If you work in a Nordic language, French, German, or Spanish, you can now contribute to the formation of your own Division. The *ATA Chronicle* will be tracking new developments.

#### ATA Chapters

Caitilin Walsh, NOTIS Vice President, remarked that NOTIS is not a chapter of the ATA but a cooperating group. This is a more loosely defined category of association. NOTIS is bigger than many of the chapters. Currently, about a third of NOTIS's members are also ATA members. Feelings about the status of cooperating groups vary.

#### Japanese Language Division

Andrew Taylor reported on one of the long-established Divisions.

The Japanese Language Division enjoys a big budget, and its members want to go beyond the usual expenditures, such as the annual networking dinner.

Division members have been compiling a handbook of essentials (e.g. desktop publishing, setting up a business, hardware) for translators. It may be ready by the next ATA conference and will be available for purchase by all translators. A handbook on translating patents may be ready as soon as March 1997. The Japanese Language Division hopes to put its entire roster

of translators on the Internet.

#### German Language Division

Claudia Kellersch, Acting Administrator of the German Language Division [being established], stated that there is a desire to organize into this Division all ATA members who translate into or from German, regardless of target language and regardless of where the translator resides and works. ATA membership may be associate, active, corresponding or corporate.

A monthly newsletter in electronic format and electronic membership directory are planned, as well as eventually a web page. An electronic forum is being set up. The Langenscheidt dictionary company is a potential corporate sponsor. Dues, payable directly to the ATA, for membership in the German Division are \$15 per year.

A search is on for a conference organizer, preferably from the San Francisco area, for events for the 1997 ATA conference. Study trips to Germany will be continued. Prospective members should contact Ms. Kellersch by e-mail: [74541.535@compuserve.com](mailto:74541.535@compuserve.com)

#### The ATA Board of Directors

ATA Board member Courtney Searls-Ridge began her summary of Board activities by giving a brief overview of how the ATA operates administratively. Since its beginnings in 1960 until the last few years, the ATA was run almost entirely by volunteers. In recent years, as membership has grown to over 6000 members, virtually all of the administrative tasks are being handled by paid staff at headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. In addition to the obvious benefits of having paid professionals run an organization of this size, this means that being on the Board of Directors no longer requires the sacrificial time commitment that it once did. It is hoped that this will make it possible

for more freelancers and small business owners to consider serving on the Board. This year Tom West from Atlanta and Marian Greenfield from New York were elected.

Among other duties, the Board is responsible for setting policy, approving the budget, picking conference sites, and deliberating on honors and awards. At the most recent meeting in Colorado Springs, the Board explored the use of seed money for regional chapters, discussed the current Code of Conduct and Business Practices and approved a committee to revise it, approved the establishment of a Divisions Committee to revise division organization, and voted to establish a relationship with a collection agency as a service to members. Other recent membership services approved by the Board include offering a credit card through the ATA, errors and omissions insurance, and special UPS rates. At the March Board meeting in Alexandria, the Board is setting aside an additional day to focus on long-term planning.

The ATA Board of Directors usually meets three times a year in different locations throughout the US. All ATA members are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.

#### High School Outreach

Michele Privat-Obermeyer informed us that for the first time the ATA Board sponsored a (well received!) outreach venture to high schools near the conference site. Full of enthusiasm at seven o'clock in the morning, thirteen members of ATA went out by twos and threes to speak to students in foreign language classes at various schools. Over a thousand students heard about the profession. For many it was the first time they had been exposed to the idea of putting their foreign language skills to good use. Members attending next year's conference are encouraged to participate in another outreach effort.

## DO YOU HAVE THE MAKINGS OF A TRANSLATOR?

RENATE H. SIEBERICHS

(REPRINTED FROM CATI CLIPPINGS, VOL. X, NO. 3, JUNE 1994.)

1. What is your claim to fame? What makes you a legitimate translator?
  - A. You have received formal training as a translator, and you have been in the business for quite a while now.
  - B. You never planned on it, but you have always been good at languages, and somehow you ended up doing translations.
  - C. How can you not be a translator? You know TWO languages, right?
  
2. You see an ad for a translation software program in a NON-professional journal. What do you do?
  - A. You have been in the business for too long to be fooled by that. You grin.
  - B. You wonder whether that would be of any value to you.
  - C. You rush out to buy it. Finally, the good times are here to stay, and you are going to make a buck doing translations the easy way!
  
3. You see an ad for French wines saying, "Our wines leave you nothing to hope for". What is your first reaction?
  - A. A lame smile. You've read about this translation blunder before.
  - B. You assume it is a translation error, and you're glad it isn't yours!
  - C. Why would they advertise such a product?
  
4. Have you ever lived abroad?
  - A. Of course. How else could you have acquired a sound foreign language knowledge and cultural awareness?
  - B. Yes, although not for very long.
  - C. No, why?
  
5. Someone once said that translations are like women. The faithful ones are not beautiful, and the beautiful ones are not necessarily faithful. What is your opinion?
  - A. A slick, macho saying, but not necessarily true.
  - B. When looking at your own translations, you wonder whether it's true.
  - C. You don't get the analogy.

???

Now count which letter you marked most often and see how you score. If more than one category applies, read both.

Mostly A: Congratulations! You are a Pro, either at translating or test-taking.

Mostly B: You seem like the average translator, and that's okay. You're aware of what it is you don't know yet.

Mostly C: Hey, you must be reading some other newsletter. Thanks anyway for your interest in the translation profession!

## A SPECIAL FIRST

ALAN SEID

### First Washington Academy of Languages Translation and Interpretation Institute Graduation Ceremony

The graduation ceremony for the first class to complete the certificate program at the Washington Academy of Languages (WAL) in Seattle was held on Halloween day at the ATA's 37th Annual Conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Contrary to appearances, which indicated a small low-key gathering, the ceremony was a milestone which proved to be particularly moving to WAL co-founders Susana Stettri Sawrey and Courtney Searls-Ridge. This event marked the bringing to fruition of a process started at least five years ago to bring more systematic training in professional interpretation and translation to this area.

The four graduates are Sandra Burns Thomson (German > English), Melissa Meier Tarkki (French > English), Christian Schmitz (English > German), and Amy Ryan (French > English).

Many words of appreciation were expressed by the graduates (excepting Amy Ryan, who was in Lyon, France), by Michael Broschat, instructor at WAL and chair of NOTIS's Computers and Translation Committee, and by Susana and Courtney. Special thanks were sent to the T&I Institute's Board and to ATA's President, Dr. Peter Krawutschke.

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### "Message from the President"

- We will be monitoring governmental activity as it affects translation and interpretation, speaking up when we believe that our voice can make a difference.

It's a long agenda, and this doesn't exhaust the list. We can only think of undertaking these matters because of the dedication and commitment of so many of you, who serve NOTIS as volunteers, board members, participants and active readers of *NOTIS News*. Please do keep in touch with your Board, and add your endeavors to ours when you see a tempting opportunity to do so. (We hope that some of you will find that "NOTIS Needs" on page 3 offers interesting volunteer possibilities.) We need you, and we value all you have to offer.

*“Upcoming Events” continued*

will also discuss the most effective way to write up your entry for the NOTIS Directory, with specific “dos” and “don’ts.”

This no-fee workshop is geared towards practical information for newcomers, but old-timers too may find it useful to review their current marketing approach. NOTIS members and friends are all welcome; no need to RSVP.

Presenters: Caitilin Walsh and Courtney Searls-Ridge

Thursday, April 3, 1997, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

University of Washington, Seattle, Gowen Hall 201

No fee.

#### ATA Accreditation Examination

The American Translators Association Accreditation Examination will be held on Saturday, April 12, 1997 from 12:30 - 4 pm, University of Washington Campus, Architecture Hall. You must be a member of ATA for at least four weeks before the examination (by March 12, 1997), and must have completed a practice test, to be eligible to sit for this examination. Register through ATA headquarters at (703) 683-6100.

#### NAJIT 18th Annual Meeting and Educational Conference

May 16-18, 1997, Embassy Suites Hotel, SeaTac, Washington. Pre-conference workshops May 15-16. For further information contact:

NAJIT, 551 Fifth Ave., Suite 3025, New York, NY 10176.

Tel. (212) 692-9581

FAX (212) 687-4106 e-mail: [headquarters@najit.org](mailto:headquarters@najit.org); <http://www.najit.org>

#### Translation Competition

##### British Centre for Literary Translation British Comparative Literature Association

The British Centre for Literary Translation (University of East Anglia) and the British Comparative Literature Association are pleased to announce their joint sponsorship of a Translation Competition for 1996-7. Prizes will be awarded for the best unpublished literary translations from any language into English. Literary translation includes poetry, fiction, or prose, from any period; entries may be up to 25 pages in length.

First Prize: £350; Second Prize: £150; other entries may receive commendations.

Deadline for entries: February 28, 1997.

Winning entries will be published in the annual journal *Comparative Criticism* (Cambridge University Press, 1997). Winners who wish to become Translators in Residence at the British Centre for Literary Translation, for periods of 1-2 months, will be given special consideration for one of the Centre's bursary awards.

There will be a £5 entry fee. Prize-winners will be announced in August 1997, and prizes will be presented at a ceremony at the British Centre for Literary Translation, Norwich, in September.

For further details and entry form, please write to:  
Mrs. Christine Wilson, Translation Competition, BCLT/  
EUR, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR47TJ, UK

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## CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	TIME & PLACE
March 1	Slavic SIG Lunch	Everyone welcome	12 noon Metropol Restaurant 10705 Main St. Bellevue
March 1	NOTIS & WITS Editing Workshop	Essentials for Everyone Courtney Searls-Ridge & Melissa Meier Tarkki	1 - 5 pm University of Washington Gowan Hall 201
April 3	Resume & Directory Workshop	No fee; everyone welcome Courtney Searls-Ridge & Caitilin Walsh	6:30 - 9 pm University of Washington Gowan Hall 201
April 12	ATA Exam	Accreditation Examination	12:30 - 4 pm University of Washington Architecture
May 16 - 18	NAJIT 18th Annual Meeting and Educational Conference	National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators - All Topics	Embassy Suites Hotel SeaTac

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