

NOTIS NEWS

VOLUME 13, No. 3, FALL 2000

NORTHWEST TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS SOCIETY

Is Yokohama Worth a Visit?

by Ann G. Macfarlane
NOTIS Director and ATA President

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A hundred and fifty years ago Yokohama was a fishing village. Today, it is Japan's second-largest city, with a population of over three million people. Two disasters—the earthquake of 1923 and Allied bombing at the end of World War II—have destroyed many of its historic buildings. The shift from sea to air travel has destroyed its former significance as the gateway to Japan. So perhaps *Fodor's Guide* has reason in asking, "Is Yokohama worth a visit?" and saying in reply, "Yokohama has less to see than one would expect." For me, though, a Saturday in Yokohama was one of the highlights of my recent trip to Japan.

I was in Japan to represent the American Translators Association at IJET-2000, a conference on Japanese/English translation to be held in Kyoto. Having flown for ten hours across the Pacific, I wasn't about to limit myself to my official duties, but had allocated some time for personal travel (at personal expense, of course). Early in the day I set out to explore, maneuvering my way by train and bus to the southern end of Yamashita Koen, a seafront park from which the piers and harbor were clearly visible.

Seattle is my hometown now, but I grew up near San Francisco, and a family trip to the harbor was always a treat. We would stare out at the massive liners, the freighters, and the little private yachts, and dream about setting out for the Orient. The dream was a

very realistic one for us, because in 1938, our mother had done precisely that. My grandfather, Leonard Lucas, was the public relations manager for Nippon Yusen Kaisha, a Japanese shipping line. In the summer of that year he had taken his wife and two children on a six-month trip to Japan as part of his official duties.

My uncle, a gangling fifteen-year-old of extraordinary technical abilities, had recorded

NOTIS Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 16

All Members Welcome!

some of their trip on a home movie camera. It still delights me to see the footage of my thirteen-year-old mother, looking just like me at that age, waving from the deck of the "Tatsuta Maru" or feeding the deer in Nara. And Yokohama was, of course, the port where they had landed after their two-week journey across the ocean.

Yokohama was also the port where many other people had landed. Yokohama, as we learned in sophomore "Asian Civilization" class, was the first port to be opened by the

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**Northwest Translators
and Interpreters Society
(NOTIS)
A chapter of the American
Translators Association**

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Special Interest Group

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NOTIS News is published in February, May, August, and November. Letters to the Editor, short articles of interest, and information for the calendar and other sections are invited. Please send submissions to Editor Anita.Krattinger@philips.com. 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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E-mail: info@notisnet.org
Home Page: www.notisnet.org

For information on the ATA contact ata@atanet.org or visit www.atanet.org

NOTIS NOTES

**Welcome to
New Members**

Gundega Aboltina [Russian, Latvian], Naoko Adachi [English>Japanese], Beverly Corwin [French], Samuel Cardenas [English>Spanish], Maia Costa [German>English], Masato Muramoto, M.D. [Japanese], Heidi Reinhart, Anna Witte.

**Welcome to
New Corporate
Members**

TranslationZone.com

**Only Once Every
Two Years**

The splendid NOTIS summer picnic only happens once every two years and this year's picnic is on August 12th. Combined with a fun run/walk, boules, whiffleball and other games, it promises to be great fun, rain or shine. Bring a potluck dish to share, your bilingual friends or everyone who enjoys a good time and join us there. NOTIS will provide refreshments and everything necessary to eat the wonderfully diverse food that you bring.

Saturday, August 12, 12 - 3 p.m., Magnolia Park. The fun run/walk starts promptly at noon. Updates and a map can be found at www.notisnet.org.

NOTIS On The Net

Wonder how to dispose of your outdated computer equipment in King County? Need telephone interpretation equipment? Or a model contract for a book translation? Or do you have a need for free Euro currency converter software? This and more you will find linked to the NOTIS web site at www.notisnet.org.

**Next ATA
Accreditation
Workshop**

The next ATA Accreditation workshop in Seattle will be held on **January 27, 2001 at the University of Washington**. Watch the next NOTIS News for more information or call Jean Leblon at (425) 778-9889 to reserve your spot and make sure your language pair will be covered.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Become a Translator or Interpreter

Learn about the Translation and Interpretation Program at BCC. The Translation and Interpretation Program offered at BCC is unique in the Pacific Northwest. It is one of just a few programs of its kind in the USA. Find out what it takes to pursue a certificate in Translation or Interpreting, and how this training can start a new career for you or help you advance professionally. There will be a time for questions and answers. This orientation is free of charge. Call (425) 564-3171 to register.

Tuesday, August 22, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., BCC Factoria Center, Rm T204, 12400 SE 38th in Bellevue.

ATA Conference

The preliminary program of this important conference, as well as registration forms and other information can be found at http://www.atanet.org/conf200/main_page_f.htm or contact ATA Headquarters at Conference@atanet.org or by phone at (703) 683-6100 or fax at (703) 683-6122.

September 20 - 23, 2000, 41st Annual Conference of the American Translators Association at the Wyndham Palace Resort in Orlando, Florida.

ATA Recap Meeting

Join your colleagues who attended the ATA Annual Conference and learn the latest news—educational sessions, exhibits, elections and what's on the horizon for the Accreditation Program. This year a controversial bylaws amendment has been proposed. NOTIS members have the opportunity to get the "inside story."

Tuesday, October 3, Green Lake Library, 7364 E. Green Lake Dr. N, 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Parking is available and bus routes are close by.

Russian Posers and Delicious Food

The next NOTIS Slavic SIG (Special Interest Group) meeting will take place at the European Restaurant and Pastry Shop at 4108 University Way NE.

The meeting will be devoted to the discussion and translation options of some commonly used Russian words, terms and phrases, which pose a real chal-

lenge, as far as their translation is concerned. Your time and contribution will be highly appreciated. The workshop will be followed by dinner and socializing. Everybody is welcome! Should you have any further questions, please contact Larissa Kulinich at (206) 236-0286 or E-mail: larajim@earthlink.net.

Wednesday, October 25, 5:30 p.m., at European Restaurant and Pastry Shop, University District. Parking is available and bus routes stop right in front.

Medical Interpreting Workshop

Cristina Perez Lopez is teaching this seminar as a non-credit course at the T&I. It is open to anyone interested in or working in the field of medical interpreting. It will introduce participants to the different modes of interpreting, terminology building, note taking, and ethical considerations of medical interpreting. Memory exercises and practice time will be included. Registration required. There is a \$39 fee.

Saturday, October 28, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., BCC Factoria Center, Off Campus, Room S 124, 12400 SE 28th in Bellevue. To register call (425) 564-2263.

NOTIS Annual Meeting and Literary Workshop

This Saturday meeting will include the customary review of the Society's work, elections for NOTIS Directors, and a new event: a workshop in literary translation for everyone. Almost all of us love literature, yet few of us have the opportunity to do literary translation professionally. This is a chance to try your hand at it for fun. We will provide short texts at the ATA Recap meeting, which will also be made available to all members, to look over in advance. Gather with colleagues and see what is the most elegant, interesting, challenging translation you can come up with. If you work in a less-common language combination, please contact NOTIS to see if we can jointly obtain some good texts to offer. We will finish with delicious refreshments.

Saturday, November 4, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. University of Washington campus, Denny Hall 216.

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Japanese shogunate in response to the demands of Commodore Perry. The very agreement providing for humane treatment of castaways, right of supply at two ports for U.S. vessels, and most-favored-nation treatment was signed in Yokohama in 1854. And so the city launched me into a meditation on transportation, trade, and translation—without which trade is not possible.

I remembered Commodore Perry very well from that Asian civilization class, but what I hadn't realized was that that agreement was only one step in a long dance of welcoming, modifying and sometimes rejecting foreign culture. For several thousand years the Japanese have been developing their own civilization by a kind of selective borrowing. The word for the characters in which Japanese is written, the *kanji*, means "Chinese characters." China, Korea, Portugal, the Netherlands, the U.K. and the U.S. have all provided elements in the unique mix that is Japan today.

My grandfather's shipping line, Nippon Yusen Kaisha, played a key part in that borrowing. A few steps from the harbor's edge I encountered the NYK Maritime Museum, where I spent a happy hour studying the development of the first shipping lines between Japan and the West, the effect of modernization on NYK vessels, the amazing luxury passenger ships, and the sad history of the wars in which marine transport was also crucial. A single remaining ship, the "Hikawa Maru," anchored in the harbor now as a museum, provides an unusual setting for wedding ceremonies and receptions, as well as a destination for middle-school field trips.

Small museums are something I enjoy almost any time, but this visit had special resonance as I thought of my de-

parted grandfather, whom I never knew personally. He had been born in Minnesota of Finnish immigrants, and spoke only Finnish until he was six years old and went to school. He appears to have been a natural linguist. He had learned enough Japanese to befuddle a group of Japanese schoolchildren at a train station. They asked "who are you?" and he replied energetically, "I'm a Japanese!" They were pretty sure that this six-foot foreigner didn't qualify, but the accent was convincing.. On another occasion, when it was time to travel with a delegation from Japan to Mexico City to discuss port arrangements with Mexico, he took along a Spanish grammar on the train. By the time they arrived, he was managing the essentials of interpretation among Japanese, English and Spanish.

I love those stories, but I am even more grateful for the love of Japan that my grandfather brought to his work and conveyed to his children and, through them, to me. After the NYK Museum, I went to the Doll Museum to admire the Japanese *ningyo*, ranging from fat little babies meant to be played with, to lacquered warriors bearing exaggerated facial expressions, and the *keshi-bina*, extremely small dolls furnished with tiny little *go* boards, hair combs, and *netsuke* to hold their *obi* in place. I loved almost all of them, and wondered whether my mother's professional involvement with sand-tray work, which requires that the therapist acquire small images and objects, might have had its roots in her trip to Japan. Surely part of that imperative to "open up Japan" to trade came from ardent foreigners, who saw the refined, cultivated nature of Japanese art and objects and wanted to enjoy them for themselves.

But it isn't the dolls, the fabrics, the architecture or the objects that matter

"Is Yokohama Worth a Visit?"

the most in a foreign culture—it's the people. The best inheritance that I remember from my grandfather in this arena is the respect with which he treated the Japanese, a respect that endured even in the terrible years of the war, when human relations were so difficult to maintain. I feel that respect in my bones, because I remember, when I was a child of six or seven, being taken by my mother to visit my grandfather's colleagues, then aging in San Francisco's Japantown. I remember how glad they were to meet Leonard's grandchildren, and with what pleasure they offered me a bun filled with red-bean paste, and talked with my mother of times gone by.

Which brings me, after "transportation" and "trade," to the third part of my musings in Yokohama harbor, "translation." I think that while the first two can be conducted purely for economic benefit, something more is needed to be a good translator. One cannot be a really good translator without respect, and, yes, love. It is when we open ourselves to another culture, when we delight in what it has to offer and look for the qualities we like in its people, that we are able to absorb the essentials and become the link between cultures that is so vital a part of our modern world. My grandfather was not a professional translator, but he loved Japan and its people and I am the beneficiary of that love.

Most probably it was growing up in a household that had such respect for other people and other cultures that inclined me to consider the Foreign Service as a career choice after college. And it was fascinating to me to see that among my colleagues at "third world" posts overseas, it was the curious who were also healthy and happy. Those

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President Clinton Replies to Letter on Machine Translation

ATA President Ann G. Macfarlane's letter to President Clinton correcting his remarks in the State of the Union address was reprinted in the last issue of NOTIS News. The President has replied as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 29, 2000

Ms. Ann G. Macfarlane
President
American Translators Association
Suite 590
225 Reinekers Lane
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Ann:

Thank you for your letter. I understand the concerns which prompted you to write, and I'm glad to know your thoughts.

As you know, in my time as President, I've been fortunate to meet with numerous world leaders who speak many different languages. I am very grateful for the service of the interpreters whose understanding and skill have facilitated these conversations.

As we prepare for the opportunities and challenges of an increasingly globalized world, the need for dedicated competent translators will be even more important. Please extend my appreciation and best wishes to the members of ATA for their dedicated work.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

Meeting Review SIG Joins Sts. Cyril and Methodius Day Celebration

by Alex Mosalsky

The NOTIS Slavic Special Interest Group (SIG) usually combines educational content (such as review of specialized or difficult terminology) with socializing during their meetings. This time, however, members of the NOTIS Slavic SIG, plus one Russian guest from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Russia, joined the festivities of this year's Sts. Cyril & Methodius Day celebration at St. Demetrius Greek Orthodox church on June 24, for a purely social gathering. This celebration, honoring the two people responsible for the Cyrillic alphabet, is sponsored yearly by the Slavic Languages department of the University of Washington.

We all gathered around one table, ate and drank as we watched the folk dancers perform, and listened and danced to the wonderful ethnic music. All of the performers were dressed in colorful ethnic costumes of the Slavic lands. Entertainment was provided by the Saint Sava Dancers, a youth dance group from Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church; Khorovod, a group performing traditional songs and dances from the villages of Russia under the direction of Olga Sukhover; Podhale, a group directed by Barbara McNair, which performs songs of the Tatra Mountain Region in Poland; Damir i Sinovy, who performed music from the Balkans; and Penny Orloff of Radost. The public danced to Croatian music of Ruze Dalmatinke and Ukrainian folk music played by Za Dunayem.

A large round of "Spasibos" to Larissa Kulinich, the chair of the Slavic SIG, for organizing this fun social gathering at this special event.

NOTIS Director Alex Mosalsky translates from and into Russian and can be reached at alex@redstone.net.

A literary translation workshop

for all of us, the experienced, the interested, the timid and the curious. Plan to attend the NOTIS Annual Meeting and try your hand with your colleagues at translating literature.

Saturday, November 4.

***Artful Dodge*: Lively, eclectic, and translation-friendly**

How refreshing to come across a journal that not only publishes translations regularly but also makes a proactive effort to attract them. Call it affirmative action for literary translators.

Like many periodicals housed in academic settings, *Artful Dodge* enjoys the stability of an ongoing institutional commitment. This means it is likely to be around for some time—an important consideration given the inevitable delay between acceptance and eventual publication. Few things are more frustrating to authors and translators alike than to have a work accepted for publication, then watch helplessly as the journal folds.

Artful Dodge is edited by College of Wooster English professor Daniel Bourne, a rarity among editors of small journals in that he has held that position since its inception. He and his associate editors produce “one perfect bound, four-color double-issue a year”; circulation is currently at 1,110, he says, “and growing.” Their sometimes playful approach is much in evidence at their chatty and highly informative web site located at www.wooster.edu/artfuldodge. Here, among other things, one learns the origin of the magazine’s whimsical name: “During the seventeen years of the journal’s existence, we have pretty much lived up to our name, dodging our way along with the help of grants from the Ohio Arts Council and support from The College of Wooster, keeping our head above water and somehow managing...”

For translators, it is encouraging to hear an editor espouse the importance of showcasing literature that originally appeared in a language other than English: “[F]rom the beginning, *Artful Dodge* has strived to expand the wide but not infinite boundaries of American literature. We have developed an ongoing interest in translation, especially from Eastern Europe and the Third World, and have published well-received special sections on poetry from the Polish underground and the Middle East. One of our more recent issues ... featured a section of poetry written and translated from the Native American Ahtna by John Smelcer accompanied by an eye-opening essay entitled ‘Poems from a Vanishing Language.’”

One feature of interest to Literary Division readers is the “Poets as Translators” section. In the past this has spotlighted such translator/poet pairs as, inter alia, Orlando Richardo Menes and the Jewish Cuban poet José Kozler (see page 8 of this issue of *Source*), Pablo Medina and Philip Kobylarz, Khaled Mattawa and Leonard Kress, and Mary Crow and Karen Kovacik.

A look at recent issues of *Artful Dodge* yielded translations of recent Czech and Polish fiction: Lenka Prochazkova’s “The Woman Who Was Hungry” and excerpts from Stanislaw Eden-Tempski’s novel *The Orchid Hunter*. Also prominent (in two consecutive issues) were translations of Jorge Luis Borges by Robert Mezey and Dick Barnes.

Although *Artful Dodge* leans toward poetry, it also publishes prose in the form of fiction, interviews, and the occasional essay. From time to time, photos and other “graphica” adorn its pages.

Submission guidelines include typed manuscripts, SASE, no simultaneous submissions or previously published material. One week to six months response time. Maximum of 30 pages of prose or six poems, although long poems are encouraged. Payment in copies, plus \$5 per page. Translations should be submitted accompanied by original texts. The editors prefer that you indicate you have copyright clearance and/or author permission.

Address: Daniel Bourne, Editor, Department of English, The College of Wooster, Wooster, OH 44691.

In a final word of encouragement to translators, Bourne adds, “Rather than looking at these other literatures as rare exotica, we recognize that American literature right now is particularly open to writing from other languages, to fresh air from mythologies beyond our ... cultural and metaphorical borders. We are always on the lookout for excellent translations of contemporary literature.”

—Reprinted with permission from *Source*, published by the Literary Division of ATA, Spring 2000.

ATA Conference Recap

Tuesday, October 3, 2000 at the Greenlake Library

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“Is Yokohama Worth a Visit?”

who disliked the post, the people, and the culture were oddly prone to physical disease—and they were never the good linguists.

Respecting another culture doesn't mean putting on blinders. Yokohama, like other Japanese cities, was sometimes unwise in its rebuilding after the devastation of the war. There are environmental and societal costs that Japan has paid for its fantastic economic progress over the last fifty years. But it was a privilege and a joy for me to visit Yokohama harbor; to admire the red-dragon gate of the city's Chinatown; to pass by the old British Consulate (now the Yokohama Archives); to see a water fountain donated by the Indian community in memory of those who perished in the earthquake of 1923; and to meditate on the interplay of Japanese and foreign cultures that has produced the modern city of Yokohama. For me, at least, Yokohama was “worth a visit.”

Ann G. Macfarlane can be reached at president@atanet.org. A full report on the IJET-2000 conference is forthcoming in the ATA Chronicle.

Visit: www.notisnet.org

How to Run Great Meetings

Do you enjoy the volunteer meetings you attend? Are they focused, fair, and interesting? Does everyone feel that there is a chance to speak? Are the results lasting? Ann Macfarlane believes that getting a group of people to work together and achieve their goals can be one of life's most satisfying activities. This course distills the essence of her experience and training over the last thirty years. We will cover preparations for your meeting, the role of the presider, how to have useful discussions, emotional and psychological aspects of successful meetings, and the key elements of parliamentary procedure. Learn the ten principles that will enable you to chair every meeting well, and the nine motions that will let you handle 90% of your meeting's business. If you feel swamped by the 706 pages of *Robert's Rules of Order* and want a practical introduction to success, this is the course for you! The course will include an interactive exercise and handouts with resources for further study.

Ann G. Macfarlane has organized and chaired non-profit and volunteer groups and meetings since she was in college. She currently volunteers as a Director of NOTIS and the President of the American Translators Association, in addition to running her own translation service business.

This three-hour course will be offered on a weekday evening in November, in downtown Seattle.

Contact DiscoverU at 206-443-0447 or www.discoveru.org for exact date and time.

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.

FALL 2000 (Sept 18 - Dec 8)

***Introduction to Translation & Interpreting (INTRP 101)**

9/28 - 12/7 Th 6 - 9

***Fundamentals of Interpreting (INTRP 102)**

9/30 - 12/9 Sa 9 - 12

***Vocabulary Acquisition & Terminology Research (INTRP 105)**

9/20 - 11/29 W 6 - 9

***Language specific advanced classes
Schedule and language pending**

NONCREDIT WORKSHOPS

***Skill-Building for Medical Interpreters
10/28 Sa 9:30 - 4:00**

WINTER 2001 (Jan 3 - March 22)

***Introduction to Translation & Interpreting (INTRP 101)**

***Fundamentals of translation (TRANS 103)**

***Technology for Translators & Interpreters (INTRP 104)**

***Ethics & Business Practices (INTRP 106)**

***Language specific advanced classes
Schedule and language pending**

NONCREDIT WORKSHOPS

***Essential Skill-Building Seminar for Consecutive Interpreters**

***Localization Workshop**

***Skill-Building for Medical Interpreters**

To request a brochure call 425-649-3171. To register for Institute courses, you must first register as a BCC student by calling 425-641-2222. International students please call International Student Services first at 425-649-3118. For information about specific course content call the Academic Affairs Office at 206-938-3252. All classes and workshops are subject to change or cancellation by The T&I Institute or BCC. In most cases, advanced language-specific classes will run with three or more students. Please notify the Academic Affairs Office at 206-938-3252 as soon as you can estimate in which quarter you expect to be ready for your advanced classes. In some cases, classes cancelled because of low enrollment will mean that you are not able to finish the certificate program as quickly as you anticipate.

CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS	TIME & PLACE
Saturday August 12	NOTIS Annual Picnic & Fun Run/Walk	Games, prizes & refreshments provided. Please bring a potluck item to share.	Magnolia Park 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday August 16	NOTIS Board Meeting	All members welcome	Call NOTIS Voice Mail
September 20-23	41 st Annual ATA Conference	Contact ATA to register	Orlando, Florida
Tuesday October 3	ATA Recap	All members are welcome	Green Lake Library 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday October 25	Slavic Special Interest Group	Russian Posers and delicious food	European Restaurant & Pastry Shop 5:30 p.m.
Saturday November 4	Annual Meeting and Literary Translation Workshop	NOTIS business followed by lively workshop	University of Washington Denny Hall 216 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
December	NOTIS/WITS Holiday Party	Get together with colleagues	UW Waterfront Activities Center

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