

## ATA alters path to active membership Active status: What does it mean to me?

by *Muriel Jérôme-O'Keefe,*  
*ATA President*

ATA HAS CHANGED the procedure for becoming an active member. If you are an associate member of the American Translators Association and are professionally engaged in translation, interpretation, or a closely related profession, I invite you to consider becoming an active member.

You will need to submit evidence of three years' work in the profession; or, if you have a degree or a certificate in translation or interpretation, you may submit a copy along with a letter of recommendation. Upon receipt of your materials and the fee of \$50, headquarters will review your application and, if all is in order, upgrade you to active status.

Active status does not mean that you are accredited. In order to be accredited, applicants must pass an examination administered by the ATA in their language pair. However, active members are entitled to vote and hold office within the ATA, as well as to serve on standing committees (doesn't that sound enticing?!).

But seriously, we live in challenging times for our profession. The ATA is responding to the demands of these times with new initiatives and new directions for our efforts. The recent institution of the online *Translation Services Directory* is just one of the steps we have taken, for

instance, to serve our members in the evolving world of cyberbusiness. The Ad Hoc committee, chaired by Director Marian S. Greenfield, recommended wider access to active membership to help position the Association for a more vibrant future. Other initiatives are also in the works.

We need your voice and your involvement if we are to choose the best possible course of action for our professional association. I invite all associate members of ATA who are interested in helping us move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century effectively to become active members at their earliest convenience. ★

## Joffrain replaces Nelson as Secretary

FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION of Jonell Nelson as AATIA Secretary for personal reasons, President Asele Surina has appointed Elisabeth Joffrain to fill the position for the rest of the year.

A French translator, Joffrain is also founder and president of Austin Accueil, an association helping new French speaking families to settle in Austin.

Surina said she participated in a week-long training seminar with Joffrain and "was highly impressed by her dynamic personality, professional abilities, common sense, and nice personality."

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Surina thanked Nelson for her service to AATIA. ★

### July 10 meeting

## Jordan & Phillips discuss contracts; Dietz teaches old Word new tricks



ALTHOUGH JORDAN & PHILLIPS are not a law firm, they will team up at the July 10 AATIA meeting (1-4 p.m., Austin History Center) to share their experience with contracts.

Harvie Jordan will lead a workshop using examples of the good, the bad, and the ridiculous contracts. Hank Phillips will then explain the evolution of his one-page contract, identifying critical elements that are missing from many "standard" contracts.

Next, in his ongoing series of sessions on working with computers, Frank Dietz will outline some strategies for working more efficiently with MS Word.

The afternoon's offerings will include door prizes, a brief business meeting, the traditional networking, and tempting refreshments. ★

# Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association

<http://www.aatia.org>

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## Meet me in St. Louis, Louis...

*by Ann G. Macfarlane,  
ATA Conference Organizer*

FANS OF JUDY GARLAND will recognize this old song, which 95 years after it was written still has a ring to gladden the heart. "Meet me in St. Louis, Louis" was the signature tune for the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, a splendid exposition that put the city on the map and symbolized the hopes for progress of the new century.

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the American Translators Association, to be held November 3-7, 1999 in St. Louis, has not been planned on so grand a scale. It promises many pleasures nevertheless. AATIA members are all warmly invited to join colleagues for educational sessions, networking, social get-togethers with those working in your language or specialty, and a varied menu of tourist attractions.

Our conference will be held at the Regal Riverfront Hotel, just minutes from the waterfront and the famous St. Louis Arch. The hotel has ample meeting space and, equally important, a very attractive room rate (\$118 single or double).

Proposals for conference presentations received to date promise a variety of valuable

sessions, covering the waterfront for beginners and offering new insights for the more experienced. The various ATA Divisions are planning language-specific sessions and anticipating many opportunities to socialize.

We will have the annual Networking Session on Thursday and the Job Exchange throughout the conference, both occasions to get to know your colleagues and establish valuable personal links. And of course, a full hall of exhibitors will try to tempt you with dictionaries, software, and other tools of the trade.

As Conference Organizer I think the elements are falling into shape for a professionally valuable, interesting, and lively conference. I do hope many AATIA members will make the trek to Missouri and, even if your name isn't Louis, "meet us in St. Louis!" ★

## ATA moves HQ

The American Translators Association has new offices at 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314. Phone 703/683-6100 and fax 703/683-6122 are unchanged. ★

## LitSIG takes summer off

A SUMMER VACATION is in store for AATIA's Literary Special Interest Group, according to Coordinator Marian Schwartz.

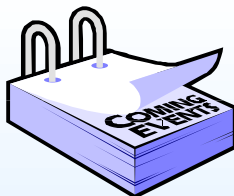
"In deference to summer heat," said Schwartz, "the Literary Special Interest Group is taking August off and will meet again on October 6, when Michele Aynsworth will talk about translating—and submitting—her translation of an Argentinian novel." ★

## Get published now

HAVE YOU EVER TRANSLATED a poem or short story and then filed it away, wondering if you'll ever see it in print? Do you dream of seeing your name credited in print for a literary translation? Well, here's your chance.

For the literarily inclined among our members, especially those with little or no publishing experience, *The Letter* will begin publishing an occasional translation. Due to limited space, only very short pieces can be printed. Original text and translation should not total more than 700–800 words.

To submit, mail your translation, a copy of the original text, and a cover letter stating whether or not you have permission to seek publication to *The AATIA Letter*, PO Box 13331, Austin, TX 78711-3331. If you do have permission, that's great. If you don't—or don't know—and your translation is accepted, LitSIG Coordinator Marian Schwartz will help you sort out your specific rights situation. ★



*AATIA welcomes visitors to the Austin History Center (9th & Guadalupe) on the 2nd Saturday of odd-numbered months for general meetings and even-numbered months for board meetings.*

### EVENTS IN AUSTIN

- JUL 10 10 a.m. SpanSIG meeting. Info Harvie Jordan 444-8537  
1-4 p.m. AATIA regular meeting. Info 707-3900  
5 p.m. Rowdy Translators SIG meeting
- AUG 14 2-5 p.m. AATIA board meeting
- SEP 11 AATIA regular meeting & SIG meetings
- OCT 6 7 p.m. LitSIG. Info Marian Schwartz 442-5100 or proza@compuserve.com

### AND BEYOND

- JUN 28–July 1 **Birmingham, England.** 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the International Association of Forensic Linguists. Info: Sue Blackwell phone +44-01210414-3219 S.A.Blackwell@bham.ac.uk
- AUG 6–10 **Mons, Belgium.** FIT Congress. Info: fit99@writeme.com or www.fit.ml.org
- OCT 20-24 **New York, NY.** American Literary Translators Association annual conference. Info: 972-883-2093 or www.utdallas.edu/research/cts/ALTA.htm
- NOV 3–7 **St. Louis, Missouri.** American Translators Association annual conference. Info: 703-683-6100 or ata@atanet.org
- DEC 17–19 **Norwich, England.** Gender & Translation: an International Symposium. Info: Jo Catling jcatling@uea.ac.uk or Keith Harvey k.harvey@uea.ac.uk



## Being Billy

by Tony Beckwith © 1999

*Obviously, this all happened to someone else. But his story has remained so fresh and vivid in my memory that I almost feel it happened to me. And now that's how I like to tell it.*

**B**ILLY LIVED UP THE STAIRS from my apartment in San Miguel. Billy Carson—an American painter and sculptor and free spirit. He was an all-round lover of life, and life loved him right back, too, with a passion. Our circles happily overlapped, and over time we became friends.

One afternoon, in his rooftop studio, I talked of my plan to go to the States to look for work. Someone had told me I'd need a Social Security number and that there were ways of getting one, for a price.

"You can use mine," said Billy. "I won't be needing it."

Billy followed the seasons, like a migrant worker. In the summer he painted portraits of tourists in a small harbor town up East somewhere. And in the winter he came to Mexico to work on his sculpture. On his way in each direction he'd stop in New Orleans and spend time with some friends who had a framing gallery on Jackson Square.

I accepted Billy's generous offer and came to the States to seek my fortune. It wasn't until I tried to find work in Houston that I learned that in order to use Billy's Social

Security number, I also had to use his name. It took all my concentration to remember to answer to "Billy," and not introduce myself by my real name.

People said that oil rig workers were making obscene amounts of money down on the coast, so I rode a Greyhound to Lafayette, Louisiana and started asking around. There were no openings for roughnecks or roustabouts (which wasn't a total disappointment), but I signed on as the galley-hand for a production platform about a hundred miles out in the Gulf of Mexico. Make that "galley slave,"

because my job was at the very bottom of the oil rig hierarchy.

Fortune favored me, though, and after a while I became the cook, which was actually much harder than being the galley hand, but the money was better and the prestige was a whole different story. I could have taken a break every couple of weeks, but there was nothing waiting for me ashore, so I stayed

out on the rig all summer, cooking three meals a day—every day—for a crew of about twenty-five men.

On a clear fall morning I finally came ashore in a helicopter, and by noon I was strolling around New Orleans. It felt good to be on land again. Jackson Square looked so pretty in the bright sunlight. On a whim, I asked in the frame shop if they'd heard from our mutual

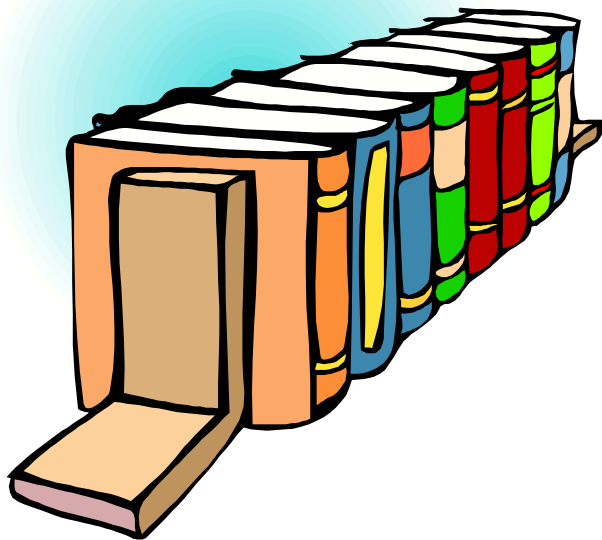
friend, and the man said, "He just got in last night. He's out in the Square."

I saw him from a distance; he was painting a portrait of a woman sitting on a bench. I walked over and stood about ten feet behind him, watching him work.

After a minute or so he paused, then stopped painting and cocked his head to one side. "Who are you?" he asked, without turning round. "I can feel you there but I can't get your name."

I smiled and said, "It's me, Billy!" ★

**"It took all my concentration to remember to answer to 'Billy,' and not introduce myself by my real name."**



## Webmeister's Corner Finding Books Online

by Frank Dietz © 1999

AFTER SURFING THE WWW for a while, many of you might get the impression that it is all fluff. There are so many web sites containing pretty graphics and little else, so many badly written pages that you start wondering whether it is real worth spending your time online. Well, here is an attempt to separate the wheat from the chaff and show you some content-rich sites.

First, you should visit Project Gutenberg <http://promo.net/pg/>, which puts electronic texts (etexts) of books in the public domain on the Internet—anything from the Bible to *Alice in Wonderland* to *Tarzan the Untamed*. A similar (though smaller) collection can be found at "Project Bartleby" <http://www.columbia.edu/acis/bartleby/>. The German "Projekt Gutenberg" (<http://gutenberg.aol.de/>) offers over 90,000 pages of text from German authors. A page on Western European Literature <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/wess/etexts.html> contains numerous links to etext sites in languages from Catalan to Swedish. A Portuguese literature site is at <http://www.ipn.pt/opsis/litera/>. A Russian collection can be found at <http://moshkow.relline.ru:5000/koi/>.

If you are looking for more technical titles, there are plenty available on the web. At <http://hoganbooks.com/freebook/weball.html> you find links to books such as *Learn to Use your Modem in A Day* or *A Short Course in*

*Digital Photography*. If you register at Macmillan Computer Books <http://www.mcp.com/personal/>, you can view up to 5 electronic books at one time from a collection of 150 titles. The National Academy Press now has an online reading room <http://www.nap.edu/readingroom/> containing over a thousand titles in a variety of versions, including scanned pages in image format, hypertext HTML books, and Adobe Acrobat PDF files. This means you can read the entire book online (or print it out). NAP reports that sales have actually gone up since making the books available online, as people obviously do not want to waste toner by printing these tomes and then have stacks of unbound pages lying around. The titles are very specialized. Here are a few examples:

- *Overcoming Barriers to Immunization: A Workshop Summary*
- *Microelectromechanical Systems: Advanced Materials and Fabrication Methods*
- *Glass as a Waste Form and Vitrification Technology*

Be warned, though: etexts, like much of the web, can be addictive, and you might soon find yourself wandering aimlessly, like a crazed Borgesian protagonist, through that online library which others call the universe. ★

## Localization Resources

IF YOU EVER HAD TO DEAL with software localization (or were interested in doing so), you might have come across a whole array of technical issues such as character sets, Unicode, ASCII, code pages, keyboard layouts, and more.

An entire book on these issues, *Developing International Software For Windows 95 and Windows NT* by Nadine Kano, is available online at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/isapi/msdnlib.idc?theURL=/library/books/techlang/devintl/D3/S24AA.HTM>.

There you will find the complete text of the paper version of the book, which is out of print by now. If you are involved in translating web sites, you might want to read Sjoert Ebben and Gwyneth Marshall's article "The Localization Process: Globalizing Your Code and Localizing Your Site" at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/workshop/management/intl/locprocess.asp>. While this article appears to be aimed at translation project managers, it should also be of interest to individual translators. ★

## Messages from the AATIA Board

### PRESIDENT:

In any organization the time comes to regroup, redefine goals, and set priorities. Such a time has come for AATIA.

Harvie Jordan, who is accredited by the International Association of Business Communicators, proposed and facilitated a very successful organizational planning workshop this May for the Board and Coordinators. Vision and mission statements were developed several years ago during a series of similar meetings.

Participants in this year's workshop defined the following goals supporting our vision and mission and developed measurable objectives for each goal: increase membership; develop a more effective financial model; increase AATIA's exposure in the community; offer more workshops; put a searchable membership directory on the web.

As you see, no surprises; these goals reflect the priorities our organization has always maintained. However, it was productive to reaffirm them and find ways to implement them.

*Asele Surina* ★

### COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR:

One of my primary goals is to promote AATIA in the Austin community. To meet this goal we are going to need participation from you, the members.

We need volunteers for a KLRU pledge drive. We will be thanked on-air several times so we will get lots of public exposure. We can also wear our t-shirts and



display our AATIA banner. The next drive is August 5-22. Members may sign up at the July meeting or call 328-7618.

Our second project is to encourage members to submit articles on translation and interpretation to industry newsletters and magazines. For example, the *New Mexico Bar Journal* has published several articles by Sam Adelo, AATIA member and former President of NAJIT. His

latest, "Helping to Understand the Work of Judiciary Interpreters," targets the judicial community.

I have contacted the *Texas Bar Journal*, *Texas Medicine* (magazine published by the Texas Medical Association), the *Austin Business Journal*, and the *Austin Software Leader*, who are willing to consider submissions. I will also contact publications in the social services and food/entertainment industry, as well as *The Austin Writer*, the newsletter for the Austin Writers League. Please think about this great opportunity to promote yourself and the AATIA. Contact me if you want to discuss this.

Finally, remember that your suggestions are always welcome. If you have any other ideas about spreading the word about AATIA, please let me know.

*Monica Mitre* ★

### MEMBERSHIP:

At the recent planning workshop, I set a goal of increasing membership by 10-15% this year. The following are some of the steps I'm taking to reach that goal:

1) I have requested mailing labels from ATA of all of their members who live the Austin area. I will send information about us to everyone on that list who is not an AATIA member yet.

**DR. ASLAN ASLANIAN**  
ARMENIAN, FARSI, DARI, PASHTU, ARABIC

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2) Database Coordinator Jane Chamberlain has provided a list of past members who have not renewed. I will do a post card mailing to them and try to follow up with a phone call.

3) Everyone who requested information about AATIA but has not yet joined is sent a copy of the newsletter and followed up with a phone call before each general meeting with an invitation to join us. This has encouraged some people to join.

4) I am planning a recruiting campaign at local colleges and universities this fall. I'll have more details for this at the next meeting.

For social events, we need a coordinator to spearhead the activities. We are considering a Town Lake dinner cruise in late summer.

I am also recruiting a coordinator to manage our voice mail and assist with follow-up calls to potential members.

*Katarzyna Grzegorzcyk* ★

## Exotic fonts on the web

NEED A SPECIALIZED FONT? Try the website offered by Luc Devroye of the School of Computer Science, McGill University, Montreal. The site <http://cgm.cs.mcgill.ca/~luc>

[/fonts.html](#) is organized into African, Arab, Armenian, Assyrian/Syriac, Burmese, Cambodian (Khmer), Celtic/Gaelic, Chinese, Cyrillic, Georgian, Greek, Hebrew, Indic, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Tibetan, Turkish, Vietnamese, and "other" fonts.

Specialized fonts cover astrology, AutoCAD, barcodes, Braille, chess, children's handwriting, erotica, horror, Morse code, music, phonetics (IPA), and science fiction, plus signature/logo fonts and typewriter fonts. ★

## Web Team seeks technical expert

Due to increasing work demands AATIA Webmeister Frank Dietz is taking a sabbatical from his post, leaving a big gap to fill. The Web Team is now seeking if not a replacement, someone who has experience with managing websites and understands the technical aspects of FTP, setting permissions, perl paths, and other Internet esoterica. Contact AATIA Communications Director Monica Mitre [anderm@aol.com](mailto:anderm@aol.com) or President Asele Surina [asele@texas.net](mailto:asele@texas.net) if you are qualified for and willing to serve in this vitally important volunteer position. ★

## ATA Services Directory online

CHECK IT OUT on ATA's Web site: <http://www.atanet.org/tsdmain.htm>

The online searchable Translation Services Directory features the in-depth profiles of more than 2,300 translators and interpreters (and growing).

Being included in the Directory is a benefit of ATA membership. While the online Directory is available at no cost to the public, only ATA individual members' profiles are included.

Suggestions for improving this service are encouraged. Send comments to [mis@atanet.org](mailto:mis@atanet.org). ★

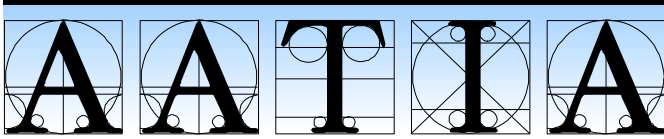
## RusSIG library inaugurated

Gordon Orris, a friend of AATIA member Martyn Hitchcock, has made a sizable donation of Russian dictionaries and reference books to the Russian Special Interest Group. RusSIG members decided to keep the collection as the beginning of a Russian SIG library or possibly a more comprehensive AATIA library. ★

Any way you translate it,  
fine dining always means

*Green Pastures*  
RESTAURANT

  
**Tres Amigos**  
RESTAURANT & CANTINA

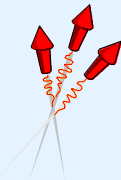


PO Box 13331 ★ Austin, TX 78711-3331 ★ 512-707-3900

<http://www.aatia.org>



## AATIA Agenda: July 10, 1999



- 10 a.m.** SpanSIG  
(Austin History Center,  
9th & Guadalupe)
- 1 p.m.** General meeting  
(Austin History Center)
- 5 p.m.** Rowdy Translators SIG  
(Dog & Duck Pub,  
17<sup>th</sup> & Guadalupe)

## Welcome new members

UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORIES with  
the following new AATIA  
members:

### Mr. Michael Larusso-Reis

101 North Wacker Drive  
Suite CM-285  
Chicago IL 60606  
733-252-4783  
dajavon@aol.com  
English, Italian, & Spanish  
(Mexican, Dominican)  
Business, conference & seminar,  
escort & telephone, legal &  
administrative, medical &  
community, Bible & religion, civil  
& criminal law, correspondence,  
health and social services,  
immigration law

### Ms. Marie Phenix-Rivet

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512-302-3913  
512-374-9159  
marieph@yahoo.com  
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bioengineering, education, electrical  
engineering, electronics, general  
medical, health

### Ms. Beth Anne Wiggins

9507 Shady Oaks Drive  
Austin TX 78729  
512-918-2846  
flaquita@swbell.net  
English, Spanish (Puerto Rican)  
Correspondence, documents,  
immigration law, insurance, legal &  
paralegal services, public  
information, technical manuals

### Ms. Huisuk Tyner

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512-219-1496  
Korean  
Legal & administrative, escort &  
telephone, Bible & religion, civil  
and criminal law

### Ralph McElroy Translation Co.

910 West Ave.  
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512-472-4591  
contact: Patricia Propst  
patriciap@mcelroytranslation.com  
Biochemistry, biotechnology,  
chemical industry, chemistry,  
electrical engineering, mechanical  
engineering, medical  
instrumentation, patents,  
pharmaceuticals, pharmacology