

www.aatia.org

The Letter

of the Austin Area Translators
and Interpreters Association

July 2000

AATIA to celebrate 15th anniversary with Translators Day fete

AATIA WILL TURN 15 THIS YEAR and will mark the occasion with a special International Translators Day program and celebration on September 30. This event will replace the regular September meeting.

Marian Schwartz is organizing a bilingual reading of translated literature. Esther Diaz is coordinating the social aspects of the celebration.

Those wishing to help plan the day's events should contact Schwartz at mbs@texas.net or 442-5100 or Diaz at ediaz@flash.net or 312-1599. ★

Details about time, venue, and agenda will be publicized on the AATIA website www.aatia.org and in the September issue of the newsletter. ★

2001 election season begins

THE 2001 ELECTION PROCESS has kicked off with the appointment of Harvie Jordan as Chair of the Nominating Committee. He will be assisted by Esther Diaz and Leon McMorro (incumbent Finance Director, who will not be running for reelection).

Members may contact anyone on the committee to nominate someone for a board position or to be considered themselves. ★

July 8 meeting

Improve "hated translations" and sing!

PUT ON YOUR THINKING CAP and warm up your vocal cords for "Translations You Hate: How to Improve Them" and a sing-along led by Teresita Gonzales at the July meeting. Also contribute your ideas for AATIA's 15th anniversary celebration at the July meeting.

The meeting will also feature a brief business meeting, the traditional networking session and refreshments provided by new Hospitality Co-Coordinators Patricia King-Sigg and Aura Guevara. ★

AATIA business cards debut at conference

AT A MAY 16 CONFERENCE "Mapping Austin's International Future," AATIA President Asele Surina had the opportunity to make several announcements about AATIA and distributed the association's new business cards. The cards were the result of a project completed just in time for the conference. Maurine McLean, Monica Mitre, and Mike Conner were responsible for the idea and the final product.

The conference, held at St. Edward's University, was an endeavor of the Greater Austin International Coalition aimed at identifying the needs of Austin international community and determining Austin's international future.

At the conference various panels drew up lists of priorities for "internationalizing" Austin. Surina

attended a panel on associations, which assigned a high priority to paying more attention to the quality of translation and interpreting, communicating not only the business, but cultural practices. That priority remained on the final list

compiled from all the panels' lists, and it was published in the *Austin American-Statesman*, May 17, 2000. ★



Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association

<http://www.aatia.org>

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Welcome new members

RETIRING DATABASE COORDINATOR Jane Chamberlain reported that as of the June 10 board meeting AATIA had 198 members, including 175 active, 7 associate, and 16 business members.

The members listed here and on page 6 have joined (or rejoined) since the 2000 directory was published:

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administration, real estate law

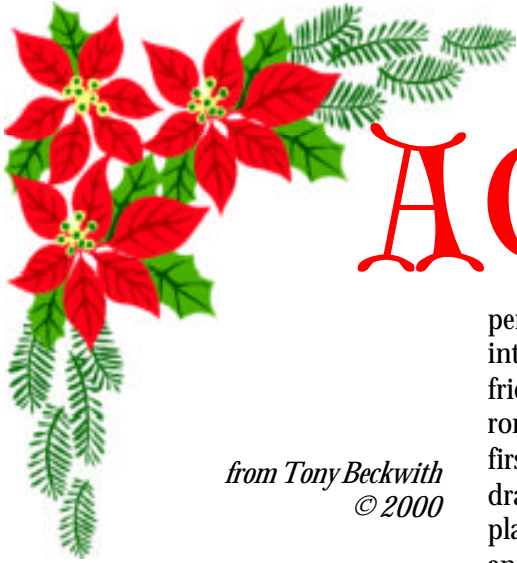
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See page 6 for more new members.



A Christmas Present

from Tony Beckwith
© 2000

IT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE in San Miguel de Allende. We sat in the *Jardín*, the main plaza across from the church. It was about noon. Iron benches facing inwards and outwards surrounded the central gazebo that was decorated as a nativity scene. A thick, hedge-like canopy of leaves formed an archway over the outer ring of the plaza—the strolling circuit—leaving the gazebo’s roof open to the sunny, blue sky.

A man and a woman walked down the church steps, crossed the road, and strolled through the *Jardín*. They fascinated us from the moment we saw them. They looked Italian. Well, he looked Italian. She could have been from almost anywhere around the Mediterranean. They were elegantly dressed in a sharp, European style. His white hair was slicked back and his profile evoked an ancient empire. She was evidently younger than he. Her hair was black, and she was perfectly poised. They appeared to be in silent, intimate communication with each other.

Our friend Ros had invited us to a tea party that afternoon and, to our surprise, we found our fascinating couple saying hello to our hostess as we arrived. They were Virginia and Fulvio, and they were as delightful in

person as we had thought them intriguing from a distance. Some friendships—like some shipboard romances—click quickly, from the first hello. Such was this one. We drank tea and made short work of a plate of Ros’s cucumber sandwiches and told each other our life’s story. One thing led to another and we all had Christmas lunch together the following day. A hilarious, easygoing affair, not unlike the family ritual back home. The sun went down and we made plans to meet again.

A few nights later we went out for dinner with Virginia and Fulvio. Unbeknownst to us, he had called around to find a restaurant with live music. It was a chilly evening, and we strolled the few blocks to *La Bugambilia*. We stepped off the narrow sidewalks onto the cobbles and back again, weaving around other pedestrians, chatting as we walked in the damp mountain air. The waiter took us through a charming courtyard to a table beside the fire. The heat and the flickering light from the hearth were the perfect background. The room was spare in a Spanish way, with cream-colored stucco walls and a tiled floor. The doors were stone arches, leading to several different dining areas scattered around the courtyard. It felt pleasantly gracious.

We had fresh mozzarella and tomato salad, and shrimp and mushrooms in garlic-laden oil. According to Basque tradition, Christmas is the season to enjoy a dish of dried cod cooked in tomato sauce in the style

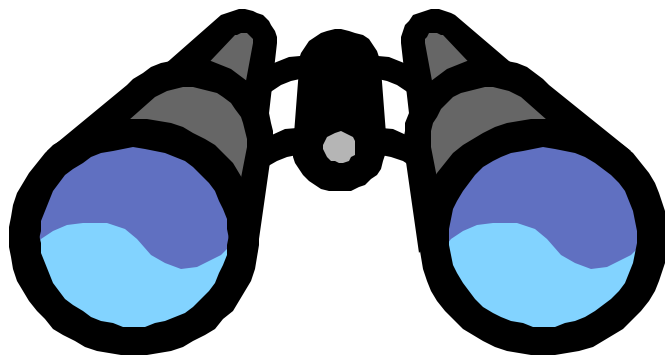
made famous in Bilbao. Our restaurant provided an excellent version. Over dinner we cemented our friendship with a free-flowing conversation that celebrated the miles we had all traveled and the stops we’d made along the way. Later in the evening, with the firelight playing against the walls, a quartet strolled into the courtyard and played a couple of lovely boleros. They came by our table and asked if we’d like to request a song. Fulvio asked for “*Nosotros*,” a wonderfully romantic ballad, and then delighted everyone by singing along in a splendid voice. He had mentioned in passing that he’d once had a career on the stage, but of course we had no idea how good he really was. The musicians loved it, and asked him to sing another song. Virginia smiled proudly and Fulvio serenaded the restaurant with the very beautiful “*Solamente una vez*,” by Agustín Lara.

It was late when we left the restaurant. The streets were quiet and ghostly as we wandered home. The town seemed to have slipped into its old colonial identity, and the shadowy outlines of the rooftops looked like a skyline in southern Spain. The church bells rang out and the incredibly starry sky disappeared into the distance above us. San Miguel was bewitching by starlight. We entertained fabulous ideas about quitting our jobs and coming to settle there, to write and sing, and try our hand at freedom. We felt on top of the world.



Search Engines Revisited

© 2000, Frank Dietz
<http://www.jump.net/~fdietz/>



ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN ON THE WWW for a while is likely to have used a *search engine* that allows users to input key terms and then returns a list of web pages containing the relevant term(s). While search engines, web catalogs and portal sites have been increasingly morphing into each other, search engines remain one of the most useful tools for finding information online.

My old stand-by is AltaVista which is still one of the fastest search engines. Besides a new portal-like front (still not as good as Yahoo's), AltaVista now offers the ability to search for images, video and audio files. I also like the ability to search

for pages in a particular language (also available in Hotbot).

Recently, I wondered whether other search engines would yield more results and ran a highly unscientific test: I searched for the word *Marktbreit* (my home town in Germany). The table reflects what I found.

Apart from the fact that mere numbers do not reflect the relevance or freshness of links, the sheer spread from 4 to 634 results is amazing. I would therefore recommend to switch search engines now and then, or use a

meta-engine such as Dogpile (www.dogpile.com) or Mamma (www.mamma.com), which will yield better results. If you are interested in search engine comparisons, tips and tricks, then Search Engine Watch (www.searchenginewatch.com) is the place for you. Be aware, though, that even the best search engines cover only a relatively small part of the WWW — a recent report (www.searchenginewatch.com/sereport/99/08-size.html) estimates that none of them covers more than 16% of the web! ★

Name	URL	No. of results	Remarks
AltaVista	http://www.altavista.com	580	
AOL NetFind	http://search.aol.com	265	
Excite	http://www.excite.com	22	
FAST Search	http://www.alltheweb.com	634	Very fast indeed!
Go	http://www.go.com	156	
Google	http://www.google.com	235	
GoTo	http://www.goto.com	80	
Hotbot	http://www.hotbot.com	83	
LookSmart	http://www.looksmart.com	57	
Lycos	http://www.lycos.com	30	Not numbered
MSN Search	http://search.msn.com	200	Not numbered
Netscape Netcenter	http://search.netscape.com	235	
Northern Light	http://www.northernlight.com	605	
Snap	http://www.snap.com	120	Not numbered
Web Crawler	http://www.webcrawler.com	4	Not a typo!
Yahoo	http://www.yahoo.com	253	



Change of e-address

Leon McMorrow has a new email address. Now you can contact him at leon@medtranslator.com ★

Update directories: more new members

ADD THIS PAGE AND PAGES 2-3 to your copy of the AATIA directory.

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German>English

French>English

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Legal & administrative ★

Advertise in September issue

SINCE THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE AATIA LETTER will be distributed at the ATA and ALTA conferences this fall, members are encouraged to advertise their services in that issue.

A business card-sized ad will cost \$25. To inquire about other sizes and reserve the limited space contact Editor Mike Conner by fax 474-2895 or email conner@texas.net. ★

Jordan takes ATA committee post

HARVIE JORDAN HAS ACCEPTED appointment as Chair of the Active Membership Review (AMR) Committee of the American Translators Association (ATA).

"Harvie brings years of experience, knowledge of the profession, and seasoned judgment to this position," said ATA President Ann G. Macfarlane. "I value his advice and counsel in this important committee chairmanship.

"I know that he will help the ATA expand its active membership, one of the most significant things that we can do to keep the ATA a vibrant organization."

In 1999, the ATA Board of Directors expanded the process to obtain Active Member status through peer review. Prior to the new policy, passing the ATA accreditation examination was the major route to Active Member status. Now, ATA members may achieve Active or Corresponding (foreign residence) status by successfully submitting credentials and other information to the AMR Committee.

Under Board policy, these applications are handled administratively at ATA headquarters. Any application that does not clearly meet established criteria is referred to the AMR Committee for evaluation and recommendation.

Jordan is accredited by ATA (Spanish-English) and by the International Association of Business Communicators.

He was the first assistant administrator of ATA's Spanish Language Division.

A co-founder of the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association, he also founded and coordinates its 80-member Spanish Special Interest Group. ★

Schwartz takes Manhattan

MARIAN SCHWARTZ GAVE TWO READINGS in New York in connection with PEN's World in Translation Month in May.

At the Park Avenue Borders, she read from her latest fiction translation, Nina Berberova's *Cape of Storms*, which was a New York Times Notable Book for 1999, and at the Russian Consulate-General she read from her current project, a new translation of Leo Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*, as part of PEN's Works-in-Progress panel.

Schwartz is President-elect of the American Literary Translators Association. ★

Get online terminology help

IF YOU EVER NEED HELP translating a very difficult term, try asking at: www.proz.com/kudoz_survey.php3.

Answers provided by real translators that are experts in their fields will be mailed back to you within the hour.

The whole thing is free (it's a service of ProZ.com, a 7300-translator cooperative), and you don't even have to register unless you want to answer questions. However, those who do register and provide help may earn "brownie points," called kudoZ, which are awarded by satisfied inquirers. Thus, the number of kudoZ you have, the more respect and prestige you have earned as a source of information.

Unlike newsgroups, such as Lantra, STIC, and others, the only emails you get are answers to your questions. However, you can also browse Q&As posted by other translators on the website.

You may join virtual communities based on language pairs, even those

Americans would find quite exotic. For example, do you know anyone who translates Turkish to Japanese?

ProZ allows potential clients to post translating assignments, job opportunities, and calls for resumes. Registered members receive email notification only of jobs in their language and subject specialties.

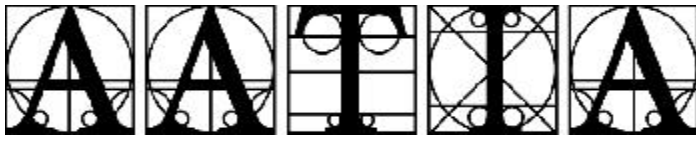
ProZ.com emphasizes that it is only a venue. It is not involved in the actual transaction between outsourcers and freelancers. It also promises not to sell any personal contact information, so spam should not be a problem. ★

AATIA Angels

AATIA EXTENDS A BIG THANK-YOU to its angels—those wishing to contribute to the association over and above their annual dues. Total angel donations this year so far have reached \$350. This year's angels include the following:

Mr. Allan W. Adams
Mr. Tony Beckwith
Mr. Albert G. Bork
Ms. Consuelo Byrd
Ms. Martha Cotera
Ms. Cristina Helmerichs D.
Ms. Claudia J. Kellersch
Dr. Ingrid Gimm Lansford
Dr. Leon McMorro
Mr. Bunichi Ohtsuka
Mrs. Arlette J. Quervel
Ms. Beatriz E. Quintana
Mr. Howard Simms
Mrs. Laura M. Spencer
Ms. Perihan Teague
Dr. Maria Vanderauwera
Ms. Mercedes Smith
Ms. Ruth
Germann-Ford
Ms. Patricia Carrasco-O'Brien
Mrs. Camelia Joffe ★





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

EVENTS IN AUSTIN

- Jul 8** 10 a.m. SpanSIG meeting, AHC. Info Harvie Jordan 444-8537
1-4 p.m. AATIA regular meeting, AHC. Info 707-3900
5 p.m. Rowdy Translators SIG meeting. Dog & Duck Pub, 17th & Guadalupe.
- Aug 12** 1-4 p.m. AATIA board meeting, AHC
- Sep 6** 7 p.m. LitSIG, 1207 Bickler Road. Info Marian Schwartz 442-5100 or mbs@texas.net
- Sep 9** SpanSIG meeting
- Sep 30** International Translators Day



Regents Professor of Art at UT Austin, 1981-98.

The exhibit will run through August 1 in Sid Richardson Hall (near the LBJ Library on the UT campus). Get a preview by visiting www.utexas.edu/research/pasp/cipem/exhib. ★

Deciphering Linear-B, Mayan writing in UT exhibit

THE NETTIE LEE BENSON LIBRARY of the University of Texas School of Latin American Studies has opened an exhibit of great interest to translators and interpreters.

Entitled "Unlocking the Secrets of Ancient Writing: The Parallel Lives of Michael Ventris and Linda Schele and the Decipherment of Mycenaean and Mayan Writing," the exhibit looks at

two of the most famous decipherments of ancient writing of the last century and two individuals credited with making major breakthroughs that have enabled us to read the Linear B texts of the Mycenaean Greeks (1450-1200 B.C.E.) and the hieroglyphs of the Maya of Mesoamerica (100 B.C.E.-1250 C.E.): British architect Michael Ventris (1922-1956) and Linda Schele (1942-1998), John D. Murchison

