

www.aatia.org

The Letter

of the Austin Area Translators
and Interpreters Association

November 2000



TIHOF debuts at AATIA anniversary fete

AMIDST THE CELEBRATION of AATIA's fifteenth anniversary on September 30, 2000, Mike Conner announced the founding of the Translator Interpreter Hall of Fame (TIHOF).

The TIHOF now takes the form of a website at www.tihof.org, which

contains essays and information about the first honoree, St. Jerome, the patron saint of translators and interpreters. Plans call for annual induction of new honorees plus web pages devoted to various types of translator and interpreter resources. An English-Latin translator is also being sought to translate the Jerome essay into Latin. Contact info@tihof.org to volunteer or for more information. ★

TTIG to certify freelance translators and interpreters

THE ONLY NATIONWIDE LABOR UNION for freelance language professionals, The Translators and Interpreters Guild (TTIG), has launched a certification program for translators and interpreters.

Members of the Guild may be certified by the union only after undergoing a rigorous screening process that requires references from clients and peers as well as a work sample or other proof of experience as a translator or interpreter. Certification status is reviewed by a screening committee every five years.

TTIG's certification program is an outgrowth of the Referral Service for translators and interpreters that the union has operated since 1992. Details may be found at www.ttig.org. ★

Magee takes ATA German Language Division office

MIKE MAGEE HAS BEEN ELECTED to the two-year post of Deputy Administrator of the German Language Division, as announced in September at the annual American Translators Association conference in Orlando, Florida.

In the German Division the Deputy Administrator is charged with organizing conference events and speakers, along with budgeting and other responsibilities. ★

November 11 meeting Focus on software globalization

"SOFTWARE GLOBALIZATION" is the process of altering software products (including embedded systems) for sale to people who speak languages other than English. Globalization places heavy demands on software companies and requires strategic planning, complex project management, code writing, translation, and use of unfamiliar software tools.

Globalization, localization, and internationalization are all terms used to refer to the various aspects of this process. It includes translation, reworking computer code, managing projects across different time zones and cultures, using industry-specific software tools, and all the items and processes necessary to transition a product from US-specific to the target market.

At the November AATIA meeting Dr. Tim Altanero will speak about his localization program at Austin Community College, one of three institutions in the U.S. to offer such a program.

Altanero has been doing translations for 12 years and owns a small company that specializes in translations to Afrikaans. He has taught language all over the world, including Jordan and Turkey.

Results of the annual board election will be announced at the meeting, which will also include a round of introductions, a networking session, and refreshments. ★

Thanks!

AATIA IS GRATEFUL to Adams Translations Inc. and Ralph McElroy Translations for their generous sponsorship of its 15th anniversary celebration. ★

Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association

<http://www.aatia.org>

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT Asele Surina v 832-5950 f 832-5945 asele@texas.net

SECRETARY Stacey Booth v 452-9123 f call first srbooth@flash.net

DIRECTORS:

COMMUNICATIONS Monica Mitre v & f 328-7618 anderm@aol.com

FINANCE Leon McMorrow v 707-8928 f 707-0089

leon@medtranslator.com

MEMBERSHIP Katarzyna Grzegorzczuk v 479-7658 kasia@texas.net

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Albert Bork v 837-6448 f 836-9440

73622.650@compuserve.com

Coordinators:

ACCREDITATION Albert Bork v 837-6448 f 836-9440

73622.650@compuserve.com

ADVERTISING Tony Beckwith v 479-8865 f 469-9664

104607.2510@compuserve.com

COMPUTERS Frank Dietz v 491-6069 f 491-6086 fdietz@jump.net

DATABASE Crysol Villareal v 438-5742 f 343-2188 & Joan Tuttle Vargas v

441-9502 f 438-5586 jtuttlev@aol.com

HOSPITALITY Aura Guevara v 301-4531 eguevara@mail.utexas.edu &

Patricia King-Sigg v & f 266-6612 pkingsigg@aol.com

INTERPRETATION Cristina Helmerichs D. v 452-5895

721743256@compuserve.com & Albert Bork v 837-6448 f 836-9440

73622.650@compuserve.com

LITERARY Marian Schwartz v & f 442-5100 mbs@texas.net

MEMBERSHIP INFO Katarzyna Grzegorzczuk v 479-7658 kasia@texas.net

NEW MEMBERS Esther Diaz v & f 312-1599 ediaz@flash.net

REFERRALS Jane Chamberlain v 453-1486 candide@io.com

RUSSIAN Jane Chamberlain v 453-1486 candide@io.com

SOCIAL Maria Fierro v 323-2881 f 323-9427 fiertrans@cwix.com

SPANISH Harvie Jordan v 444-8537 f 441-3983

HarvieJordan@compuserve.com

WEBSITE Eric Brooks v 659-3927 f 472-4591 eric@mcelroytranslation.com

WORKSHOPS Michael Blumenthal v 437-8540 f 512/295-3141

MBlumenthal@rr.com

The AATIA Letter

EDITOR R. Michael Conner v 474-7012 f 474-2895 editor@aatia.org

PRODUCTION Howard Simms v 452-4700 102036.3370@compuserve.com

& Merry Wheaton v 451-4772 f 451-1935 75512.2650@compuserve.com

DISTRIBUTION Efrat Schwartz v 342-9836 f 342-9891 efrats@usa.com

Year 2000 good for AATIA finances

THE YEAR 2000 REPRESENTS A LANDMARK in AATIA history. As well as being 15 years old, it also developed some financial maturity by saving enough funds to make establishment of a *permanent* financial "safety cushion" a reality.

The Board has had this goal for the past three years, because no formal means existed for guaranteeing continuation of essential membership services (directory, newsletter, mailbox, phone, website, mailings) in the event of a sudden drop in membership (member dues constitute about 90% of our income).

Steady growth in new membership throughout this year kept funds coming in. The big gain was a very successful cost-cutting campaign in 1999-2000 by Director of Membership Katarzyna Priebe and Director of Communications Monica Mitre: by diligent shopping they cut our printing costs by 30% and website costs by 60%. This has left us in the happy position of having about \$2,500 to invest in a dedicated "safety cushion," an emergency fund that future Boards will be able to rely on.

This cushion will cover about 50% of our operational expenses. It will not free future Boards from the obligation to balance their budgets, but will provide some peace of mind. While most of our costs have a fixed floor (they will not decrease further), it is almost impossible to predict income. A slow renewal pace in January can give a new Board a huge headache. The Board would be forced to make tough decisions, possibly cutting back on membership services.

We hope this situation will never happen and that we will continue to grow enough to pay our expenses and offer better services over time. This reserve fund will enable new Boards to plan more smoothly and avoid sudden disruptions. Maturity.

—Leon McMorrow ★

Teatro Vivo presents free staged reading of bilingual play

TEATRO VIVO WILL PRESENT a staged reading of "Petra's Sueño" ("Petra's Dream"), an all-new play that marks the third appearance of the hilarious and heart-warming characters of Las Flores. This imaginary small south Texas town is the setting for the popular bilingual comedies, "Petra's Pecado" and "Petra's Cuento" written and directed by local Austin playwright Ruperto Reyes Jr. The staged reading will take place November 3-4 at 8 pm at The Center for Mexican American Culture, 600 River Street.

Free to the public, this staged reading will give Austin audiences a sneak preview of this new work and the opportunity to participate in a feedback session with the playwright. The actors for the staged reading are beginning actors who participated in a two-week acting workshop offered by Teatro Vivo.

"Actors are also audience members and many times we have people who see our shows and want to be more involved. This workshop accomplished this by involving eight women and three men who are new to performing. But I think that the audience will be surprised by the quality of the performances." said playwright Reyes. "They are bring an honesty and enthusiasm to the stage that is really the spirit of the Petra Plays."

The staged reading is the first of what Teatro Vivo hopes to make an annual event in its effort to encourage new works by Chicano/Latino playwrights.

This project was funded in part by the City of Austin under the auspices of the Austin Arts Commission and private donors. ★

Welcome new members

AS OF THE OCTOBER BOARD MEETING AATIA had 179 active members, 8 associate, and 16 business members. The SpanSIG had a total of 85 members.

The following new members joined since the last published update:

Mr. Humberto M. Juarez
1500 Faro Dr., Apt. 911
Austin TX 78741
mauricio@radiocristiana.org
www.radiocristiana.org
512-389-0287
Primary language: Spanish

Ms. Stephanie McDowell
1410 West North Loop Ste. 201
Austin TX 78732
GringoTrans@aol.com
512-459-0328
Primary language: English
English < > Spanish
Documents, employee handbooks, human resources, instruction manuals, management, occupational health and safety, real estate, training materials

Mrs. Josefa Valdez Moore
1208 Neans Dr.
Austin TX 78758
glgroupinc@ccms.net
512-833-9258
Primary language: Spanish
Spanish < > English
General medical, education, special education, computer technology, training materials, instruction manuals

Atsuko Tanaka Ojeda
4704 Tobago Cove
Austin TX 78749
aojeda@aus.telusa.com
512-292-3205
Primary language: Japanese
Japanese < > English
Computer technology, chemical industry, electrical engineering,

electronics, correspondence, documents, instruction manuals, product manuals, technical manuals, training materials

Ms. Nantana O. Rulon
PO Box 650149
Austin TX 78765-0149
ruloninc@flash.net
512 322-0367
Primary languages: English, Thai
English < > Thai

Mrs Anne Siems
3313 Broken Spoke
Georgetown TX 78628
AnneCS@mail.com
(512) 869-0330
Primary language: German
German < > English
Architecture, fine arts, history, advertising, administration, recreation and travel, archeology, education, audio/vidio scripts ★

LitSIG takes up theory and practice

AATIA'S LITERARY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP will meet at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 3. In recognition of the multiple aspects of literary translation, the meeting will address both its abstract and concrete sides.

LitSIG Coordinator Marian Schwartz will lead a discussion about the theoretical problems a literary translator must take into consideration when approaching a text.

Then Schwartz will go through the steps of proposing a translation for publication using projects of group members as examples. Everyone is invited to bring their proposal questions and problems to the meeting at 1207 Bickler Road for discussion and advice.

Contact Marian Schwartz (442-5100 or mbs@texas.net) for further information or directions. H

Old Tennis Shoes

by Tony Beckwith © 2000

IT WAS MY FIRST VISIT to the United States and everything was fascinating. Coming to New Orleans in the mid-sixties from Montevideo, Uruguay was like being fast-forwarded into the future. There were vending machines in the Greyhound bus station that I'd never seen before, selling products I'd never heard of. And that was just my first stop. It was a far different world from the one I knew.

I was twenty years old, a "road scholar" hitchhiking the Americas, searching for the meaning of life, or the next good time, whichever came first. My friend Keith was in New Orleans. He was studying economics at Tulane University but had a part-time job as a bartender at *Your Father's Moustache*, a lively place on Bourbon Street.

We went out for dinner to an open-air burger joint. My first real American hamburger tasted so fine I almost fainted on the spot. Later we prowled the city's nightspots, dallying at a low-down dive called *La Casa de la Marina* where they played the *Woolly Bully* so loudly I can hear it to this day, still throbbing somewhere on my mental jukebox.

The refrigerator in Keith's kitchen was a round-shouldered model with one of those little metal freezer compartments at the top. There was no door on the freezer compartment, of course, so the ice buildup was a chronic problem. One day someone (it may have been me) used a screwdriver to pry the ice off the metal surfaces, and I learned all about something called Freon. I must have been absent the day they covered

refrigeration at school because this was all new to me.

After a few days I was running out of clean clothes. Keith said we'd go to the laundromat, which was exciting because I'd never seen one before. Being a student, Keith's house was in a low-rent part of town. The laundromat was a couple of blocks away and had a sign in the window: *Whites Only*. I said, "What about my colored shirts?"

Keith threw back his head and laughed. He'd forgotten what it was like, but said he was just as naïve when he first arrived from Uruguay, not that long ago. There were so few black people back home that we had no experience of racial tensions—of that particular type at any rate.

In the evening I explored Jackson Square and the French Quarter, and the jazz halls, and the length and breadth of Bourbon Street which kept me busy far into the night looking at the people. In the wee small hours I drifted back to the *Moustache*.

It was nearly closing time and the crew was cleaning up, so I took a rum-and-coke and parked myself out of the way by the back door. It was a hot night, and the door was open to the alley. A handful of men were gathered out there, shuffling back and forth and talking amongst themselves like connoisseurs. "You cain't beat it when it's been a big bourbon night," said one.

"Hell no, red wine!

Red wine! Gimme that good red wine!" sang another.

"It don't make me no never-mind, man, just so it don't have too much club soda. All that gas 'bout kills me."

They were winos, gentlemen of the alleys, bums looking for a night-cap. The *Moustache* had a long-standing and immensely popular tradition: all the slops from the night's business went into a tub at the end of the long bar. Whatever came back in customers' glasses was tipped into the tub and left to ferment till the end of the night. The foaming concoction, regardless of its flavor, was called *Old Tennis Shoes* and was sold out the back door at twenty-five cents a pint. Four pints for a dollar! Sales were brisk.

The Quarter was beautiful at daybreak. The light was pearly soft and glistened gray off the cobbles. The air felt heavy and damp blowing in from the Gulf. As the sun came up we drove home through city streets, gleefully taunting people on their way to work with the chant, "Nine-to-five! Nine-to-five!" It was an excellent time to be an economist and a writer on the streets of New Orleans. ★



When Disaster Strikes

by Frank Dietz © 2000

<http://www1.jump.net/~fdietz/>

THE RECENT DEMISE of my hard drive reminded me once more how important a good backup regime is for a freelance translator. While it was a hassle to re-install numerous programs and readjust settings to the way they were, I did not lose any vital data, as I had backups of them on tapes and Zip disks.

Here are a few observations derived from this experience:

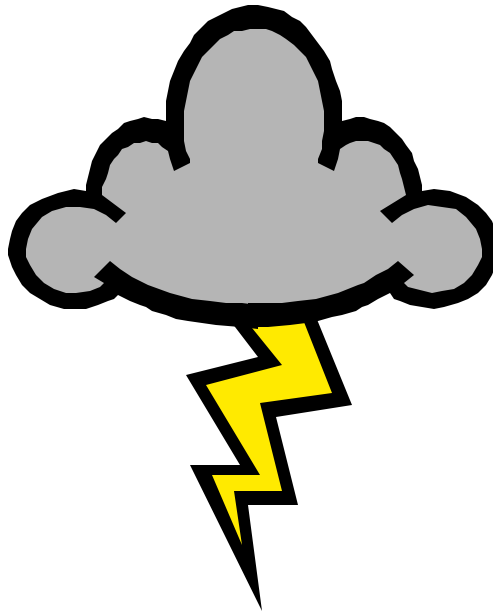
1. Hardware costs are irrelevant

What? After you just paid so much for that shiny new computer six months ago? Yes! If you derive a significant income from translating, the data on your computer will soon be more valuable than the hardware itself (whose value, anyways, will drop rapidly towards zero). In my case, the hard drive was easily replaced by a 10 GB model for \$99. The glossaries, translation memories, previous translations and address lists on the old drive, however, were worth so much more. This is your “electronic memory”—imagine recreating it from scratch! How many hours would that take you? How many jobs

would you have to turn down during that time? This also means that money spent on backup hardware is a very good investment.

2. Choose the right backup medium

I remember backing up the 20 MB hard drive of my first computer to a stack of floppies (which involved a lot



of disk swapping). Imagine doing that with a hard drive 500 times as large! While floppies might do for a “quick and dirty” backup of individual files, they are clearly inadequate in today’s computing environment. The first halfway serious contenders are high-capacity floppy replacements such as LS-120 and Zip disks (the latter being

available in 100 MB and 250 MB versions). These disks can hold even large DTP files, but are still too small for complete backups—a modern hard drive would require dozens of Zip disks as backup media. If you have a CD-R or CD-RW drive, you can “burn” your own backup CDs and store them in a safe place. Those of you *really* serious about backing up data should look into tape drives—they are available in capacities of up to 30 GB now and offer low cost-per-MB ratios. Lastly, there are now several services such as Freedrive (<http://www.freedrive.com/>) or X:Drive (<http://www.xdrive.com/>) offering free storage space (currently 50 MB or 100 MB) on the Internet. I am still skeptical about them, though. First of all, storing confidential client files there might conflict with a non-disclosure agreement you signed, and secondly the online storage company might eventually go to the big dotcom graveyard in the sky, leaving you without access to these files.

3. Create backups regularly

All backup hardware is only useful if you employ it regularly—a six-month-old backup set won’t help you too much if your hard drive crashes. Many backup devices come with programs that let you schedule unattended backups at fixed times, which might be a good idea if you are not too diligent about manual backups. ★

Spanish-to-English & English-to-Spanish
Translating, Interpreting, Composing, Proofreading.
Legal and business in general. Spontaneous and paused
interpreting. Freelance court interpreter/translator.
Mexico City Spanish. University graduate.

PATRICIA CARRASCO-O'BRIEN

Ph/Fax: 972.771.2149

E-mail: pcobrien@webtv.net

DR. ASLAN ASLANIAN
فارسی - العربية - Գ.Յ.Բ.Գ.Յ.
Armenian, Farsi, Dari, Pashtu, Arabic
Translations and Interpretations since 1976

Fax/Phone: 818-353-5862 Pager: 1-888-953-4005
9673 Crystal View Dr. Tujunga, CA 91042
ASLANIAN@PACBELL.NET

Member: NAJIT, ATA, SFL, CCIA, SOMI, CHIA, CATI, NCATA
A Translator for All Seasons. An Interpreter for All Reasons

ATA sends birthday greetings

American Translators Association
President Ann G. Macfarlane
PO Box 60034
Seattle, WA 98160-0034
September 29, 2000

Ms. Asele A. Surina
President, Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association
11613 Parkfield Drive
Austin, TX 78758
Fax: 512-832-5945

Dear Ms. Surina:

On the occasion of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Austin Area Translators and Interpreters Association, I would like to offer heartfelt congratulations to you and all your members. I have admired AATIA ever since I first came to know your work, at the 35th Annual Conference of the American Translators Association held in Austin in 1994. That conference was a landmark for its level of organization, its liveliness, and the special touches provided by the hardworking members of AATIA and the other regional groups involved.

In the years since, it has been my privilege to get to know many of your officers and members personally, to work with them on ATA business, and to enjoy the bimonthly *Letter*, a newsletter to which I always turn with pleasure and interest. Your work in professional development, communications, marketing member services, and establishing a presence on the World Wide Web has been extraordinary. AATIA is truly one of the most outstanding regional groups in the United States, and I salute you for all the hard work that has made this so.

I am sure that tomorrow's celebration of your anniversary, on the occasion of International Translators Day, will be lively and enjoyable. Please accept my thanks on behalf of the ATA for all AATIA does for our profession, and my very best wishes for your continued success in the future.

Sincerely yours,
Ann G. Macfarlane
President

First MCISIG meeting set for December

AATIA'S NEW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP, the Medical and Community Interpreters SIG will hold its first meeting on Saturday, December 9, at a site to be announced on the AATIA website and voicemail (707-3900), from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The meeting will cover general information about this emerging field, training opportunities, and future program plans. Networking may continue over lunch following the meeting. ★

ATA chooses Toronto for 2004 conference

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the American Translators Association has chosen Toronto, Canada as the site for the 2004 Annual Conference. The Directors visited Toronto in June and found that its unique mix of cultural diversity, a vibrant downtown, easy air access to a large swath of the United States, and a highly favorable exchange rate portend favorably for the conference.

This will be the first time that the ATA has met outside the borders of the United States. President Ann G. Macfarlane commented that "in an international profession like ours, it made sense for us to consider a multilingual city like Toronto. We believe that the membership will enjoy the ethnic richness of the city and that the conference itself will benefit from taking place in Canada, which is an officially bilingual nation."

The ATA conferences have been growing in size over the last several years, and the choice of site and hotel is not an easy one. Finding hotels large enough for the many diverse educational sessions the ATA offers, at favorable rates, presents a challenge. After reviewing several hotels in the

city, the Directors have chosen the Sheraton Centre Hotel for the Conference.

Toronto is so popular as a destination that 45% of its conference business originates in the United States. The Canadian government has made special arrangements to facilitate access for exhibitors and conference attendees.

Other forthcoming sites for ATA conferences are Los Angeles in 2001 (starting on October 31, Halloween); Atlanta in 2002, and Phoenix in 2003. The ATA Board continues to investigate possible sites for a conference in the northeastern United States, but has found that high demand has made hotel rates for the first few years of the decade prohibitive. The ATA is monitoring the situation closely and has noted some signs of overbuilding that may produce more favorable room rates in the future. ★

ATA plans financial translation meet

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY'S SCPS Translation Studies Program and the American Translators Association will host a financial translation conference May 18–20, 2001.

Financial translation background sessions will be held in English. On Saturday and Sunday, financial translation specialists will present language-specific sessions.

Participants will be asked to sign up for a specific language pair, but will be free to attend sessions in other languages. Languages offered will be based on early registration figures (mid-February cutoff) as well as availability of speakers specializing in financial translation.

Contact Marian Greenfield msgreenfield@compuserve.com for more information. ★

Middle-schoolers want your input!

ANYONE INTERESTED IN SHARING with mid-schoolers how you use your translating and/or interpreting skills to earn a living, contact Marlene Rogers at marlenerog@aol.com or 280-7549 (home) or 841-2829 (school room). These students would be very interested in hearing about your experiences with a foreign language and appreciative of your sharing your expertise. ★

UN seeks interpreters

THE UNITED NATIONS INTERPRETATION Service is seeking to hire freelance and in-house simultaneous interpreters. Candidates must have native English and excellent passive knowledge of both Russian and French or French and Spanish. An examination will be held January 8–10.

For more information, contact Lynn Visson at lvisson@aol.com and the UN website www.un.org/Depts/OHRM/examin/exam.htm. ★

Seminar to examine translation tools

ALICIA AGNESE & PIMPI COGGINS will present a "Translation Tools Seminar: Focus on Trados MT, TW, and WinAlign" on Saturday, November 25, at 9:00 am–4:30 pm at the University of Texas Medical School.

Presenters will briefly review translation tools, then focus on Trados MultiTerm, Translator's Workbench, and WinAlign from the point of view of two translators who have worked with these tools.

Participants will be expected to be familiar with the basics of these Trados tools for a better grasp of this

seminar content. Participants may also bring their own laptops and Trados Freelance 3, although all exercises will be projected on a screen.

The seminar will cost \$150. For more info, email info@aagnese.com or pimpi@pcoggins.com. ★

Hippocrene hiring

Hippocrene Books is looking for people to write small dictionary/phrasebooks for the following languages (into English): Armenian, Bengali, Corsican, Dutch, Gujarati, Hausa, Hindi, French Cajun, Hungarian, Korean, Maharathi, Mongolian, Navajo, PA Dutch, Pushtu, Quebecois, Swahili, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu, Vietnamese, Yoruba.

All details are available from Hippocrene at the following e-mail: contact@hippocrenebooks.com. ★

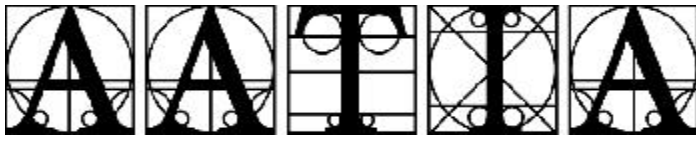
"Grand dictionnaire" goes online

L'OFFICE DE LA LANGUE FRANÇAISE and Semantix have put the "Grand dictionnaire terminologique" online. At www.granddictionnaire.com, surfers will be able to consult almost 3 million French and English terms in almost 2000 specialized fields of the industrial, scientific and commercial vocabulary. This rich source of information, equal to 3 000 reference works, is now available free of charge.

—*Posted on sci.lang.translation* ★

AMONG THE MORE THAN 2 BILLION Web pages on the Internet today, 68% are in English. Japanese and German come next, with 6% each. Chinese is the language of 4%, and 3% are in French. Spanish, Russian, and Italian account for 2% each, and 7% are in other languages.

—*PC Magazine, Sept. 19, 2000* ★



Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association

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

<http://www.aatia.org>



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

- Nov 11** 10 a.m. SpanSIG meeting. See Ññ for location.
Info Harvie Jordan 444-8537
- Dec 3** 7 p.m. LitSIG, 1207 Bickler Road. Info
Marian Schwartz 442-5100 or mbs@texas.net
- Dec 9** 10-12 noon. MCISIG [see article page 6]
1-4 p.m. AATIA board meeting, AHC
- Jan 13 2001** AATIA regular meeting and SIG meetings



I'm looking for an exquisite nuance that was lost in the translation.

U.S., Cuban writers plan 2nd meet

WRITERS FROM THE UNITED STATES and Cuba will get a chance to learn from some of the top literary figures in both countries, share literary styles with each other, and critique each others' works at the second U.S.-Cuba Writers Conference, to take place in Havana and Matanzas, Cuba, January 7-19, 2001.

Daily, intensive workshops are scheduled for fiction, non-fiction, poetry, playwriting, translation, and writing for performance.

Learn more about this at the website www.wtamericas.com.

Potential participants can also reach WTA by telephone at 212-388-1219 or email at cuba@wtamericas.com. ★