



PROTEUS

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The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators*

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MARIA ELENA CARDENAS, PRIME MOVER OF NAJIT, DIES IN MIAMI AT 58

María Elena Cárdenas, one of the pioneers of professional court interpreting and a founding member of CITA, the Court Interpreters and Translators Association, later NAJIT, died in Miami on June 3 after a long illness.

After completing language and literature studies at Vassar, Cárdenas launched a career as a conference interpreter and later branched out, in the early 1970's, into court interpreting, working primarily in the U.S. Attorney's Office and in federal trials in New York. In the late 1970's she spearheaded a movement to gather a handful of court interpreters into a professional association. She designed the CITA logo and became the association's first president. An indefatigable fighter for better working conditions, Cárdenas insisted that simultaneous equipment and team interpreting be used in place of the "talk till you drop" solo whisper technique. Historically, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan had only used equipment and rotation for "important" trials, but under Cárdenas's influence, equipment and rotation became the rule rather than the exception, with similar conditions prevailing for all trials. She was also the first translator of record to make use of the dual column system for translated tape transcripts. In 1978 she assisted in the planning and implementation phases of the federal Court Interpreters Act.

Originally from Havana, Cárdenas was a longtime New York resident who moved to Miami in the early eighties and taught interpretation at Florida International University and Miami Dade Community College. "I owe my profession to María Elena's encouragement," said Guillermo Suquet, one of her former students. By all accounts her warm and personal sponsorship of her students and colleagues was a decisive factor in their professional development.

In the late 80's she carved out another career as culinary expert and public relations specialist. She became president of the Latin Women's Professional and

Message from the Board

Time's Humming Loom

Among NAJIT's basic objectives are (1) to advocate working conditions good enough to enable interpreters to do their job and attract new talent into the field, and (2) to promote professional standards of performance, in part by sponsoring educational and training events. Lately NAJIT has been busy doing a lot of both.

NAJIT has been taking public positions on issues relating to working conditions in various places around the country. In New Jersey, Superior Court staff interpreter James Farrell asked for and received our support in a bitter confrontation with the court administration over a number of issues, among them, the use of team interpreting (see page 3); in California, we are supporting the Bay Area Court Interpreters in their efforts to prevent the California Judicial Council from eviscerating its own policy on team interpreting (see page 7); in Illinois, we have appointed and agreed to support a task force of court interpreters who have been working hard to get certification legislation passed in their state.

On another front, Samuel Adelo, longtime NAJIT member and former President, has been working with the American Bar Association to obtain approval for a progressively-worded resolution calling for professional standards, including mandatory interpreter certification. Adelo reports that the resolution has excellent chances of passing at the next ABA meeting in August.

The 1997 NAJIT pre-conference workshops, conference, and annual meeting held this May in Seattle was evaluated by the membership in attendance to be an unqualified success. Congratulations and thanks are in order to all who participated and made it all possible:

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Business Association and in 1992 was awarded the prestigious Floridiana prize by the Cuban Women's Club. ■

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Proteus

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registrants, presenters, workshop instructors, workshop facilitators, Arlene Stock and Glen Konstantin of Dynamic Management, vendors, and the staff of the Embassy Suites Sea-Tac Hotel.

Federal Court Interps Advisory Subgroup, Redux

Readers will recall that in the last issue of *Proteus* we published an open letter denouncing the Federal Court Interpreter Advisory Subgroup's decision that there was "no need" to recommend an increase in the per diem rate paid to federal contract interpreters, which has remained unchanged since 1991. In response, I received a letter from Lydia Pelegrin, then Chief of the District Court Administration Division of the Administrative Office, which reads in pertinent part as follows:

It was unfortunate that you were unable to attend the December 13 teleconference in which the Court Interpreters Advisory Subgroup made its recommendation that a per diem increase was not needed at this time. This was not a recommendation made in haste. The Subgroup discussed this issue at length and determined that the current per diem rate remains competitive with all state courts. Additionally, the district courts have never complained to us that they are unable to secure the services of an interpreter because of the fees.

I disagree with your assertion that the Court Interpreters Advisory Subgroup does not represent the interests of interpreters; one-half of the members consists of staff interpreters. Much thought went into the composition of this Subgroup. We attempted to select individuals who would do their best to raise and address issues that face the interpreting community. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to have a unanimous agreement on all issues, but I believe this Subgroup provides a forum to openly discuss issues and to strive for overall agreement to the extent possible.

Thank you for bringing to our attention the concerns of your constituents.

If Ms. Pelegrin and I agree that much thought went into the composition of this Subgroup, it is for different reasons. Half of the group's six members are administrators, and half staff interpreters. There is no freelance representation on the Subgroup, even though the vast majority of interpreters working in federal courts are freelancers rather than staff. Furthermore, having participated in the Subgroup's proceedings, I came to the

opinion that not all of the staff interpreters advocate zealously the goal of ensuring working conditions good enough to enable interpreters to perform at the standard they are duty-bound to uphold. Finally, the wording "no need" itself makes it clear that the Subgroup does not reflect per diem interpreters' point of view. That the courts report little difficulty finding interpreters at the current rate hardly means that *interpreters* don't think there is any need for a raise. Nike could well say it has little trouble finding workers willing to make shoes for them at prevailing wages in Indonesia. Hence my contention that "Court Interpreters Advisory Subgroup" is something of a misnomer.

As for the competitiveness of the federal versus the state rates paid to interpreters, historically, federal rates have always been higher than average state court rates. This fact was no impediment to an increase when the rate was last adjusted six years ago. I suspect that if the same criteria applied today as in 1991, the conclusion would have to be reached that an increase is due. If \$250 per day was appropriate compensation at that time, then an appropriate level today would include a percentage adjustment to offset increases in the cost of living.

Court interpreters everywhere deserve to be paid fees commensurate with the level of skill and responsibility that their job entails.

Telephone Interpreting

The Subgroup has also been pursuing the expansion of the federal telephone interpreting program. Plans are underway to expand the existing pilot project, headquartered in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and to add several new provider sites to make the service available to more district courts. Its proponents hail telephone interpreting as a cost-effective way to make qualified professional interpreters available in situations where the courts would otherwise use lay people to interpret. Administrators and some interpreters believe that with the proper equipment properly used, telephone interpreting is highly effective, especially since courts are reluctant to pay travel expenses to bring interpreters from out of town for brief proceedings. Skeptics—such as this writer—maintain that for obvious reasons, telephone interpretation is inherently inferior to live interpretation and therefore should only be used as a last resort in true emergencies. One concern is the slippery slope effect, which would result in the telephone being used in ever less appropriate situations, such as trials. Another danger is that state courts interested in economizing will contract out the service to companies with few scruples about using qualified interpreters.

Notes from the Field

NJ Interpreter Takes the Heat for Advocating Team Interpreting

Since 1992 I have been a staff court interpreter for the Superior Court of New Jersey at Middlesex County Courthouse in New Brunswick. When the court system was unified in 1995, court workers, previously county employees, had the opportunity to unionize for representation in negotiations with our new employer, the state of New Jersey.

I was an activist in organizing the 25 staff interpreters in New Jersey. We worked hard to win union representation by election. When the time came we voted overwhelmingly for the Communications Workers of America. CWA had been helpful to us early on in getting the court interpreter title included in the professional bargaining unit. Incredibly, the Administrative Office of the New Jersey Courts was not aware that

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There is ample anecdotal evidence that this is already occurring.

What should NAJIT's position be in the midst of all this? Are most members hostile, indifferent, or amenable towards telephone interpreting? Can we do our sworn duty over the telephone, even under optimal conditions, as well as we can in person? How much telephone interpreting are we doing already? What have been our experiences with it? Do we see it as a necessary evil, or an exciting, rewarding new opportunity? Will it displace qualified interpreters, or make them busier? We need answers to these basic questions before NAJIT can take a well-informed position on telephone interpreting. The Board of Directors is therefore considering undertaking a membership survey in order to gather information about this important issue.

In the meantime, NAJIT members are encouraged—as always—to share with their colleagues their views about this or any other matter, either by writing to *Proteus* or by posting on **courtinterp-l**, NAJIT's e-mail distribution list. See page 5 for more information on how to get connected.

DAVID MINTZ
Chair, Board of Directors

Taking the Heat

(continued from page 3)

interpreting was a profession. We had been preliminarily classified together with chauffeurs. As a result of our protests, our titles are now included in the professional bargaining unit.

It's been more than two years since we've organized and it's been tough. I was nominated in 1995 by my fellow interpreters and took on the duties of shop steward. Through the union we interpreters adopted a position paper that states our position on a number of job issues, such as our endorsement of team interpreting, our support of basic job rights, our proposal to fairly reward interpreters who earn college credits in development of their skills, our desire to see "master interpreter" skill level appropriately recognized, our objections to unilateral departures from published job descriptions and salary scales, etc. The five-page position paper was comprehensive in scope.

We also started negotiations with the Administrative Office of the Courts for our first contract, to cover interpreters and the other 500 professional state judiciary workers in our bargaining unit. Negotiations with the present administration have not been easy for state workers, as those of you who keep up with the news about Governor Christie Todd Whitman may know.

In Middlesex County I am the lone staff interpreter. Greg Edwards, our Court Administrator, had been opposed to improving freelance interpreter fees for seven years. Spanish interpreter fees were frozen at 25 dollars an hour, and at that time qualified interpreters were refusing to come to Middlesex. Early in 1995 the new unified courts adopted "The Guidelines for Contracting Freelance Interpreters in the Superior Court," a document drafted by the Administrative Office in consultation with staff interpreters. It was approved at a meeting of the state's assignment judges (the Chief Judges for each Superior Court district, or vicinage). Mr. Edwards protested its adoption, but a second vote taken by the judges again approved the guidelines, which establish a fair rate of pay for interpreters based on the federal pay schedule.

I ran into trouble in April of 1996 when Mr. Edwards decided that Middlesex County would unilaterally depart from the guidelines, this time with reference to our practice of team interpreting in trials and lengthy court proceedings. Mr. Edwards declared that we would no longer be permitted to work in teams. I protested in a letter to him, and made the authorities in Trenton aware of my professional objections to this policy change.

NAJIT Corresponds with Judge Longhi

At the request of interpreter James Farrell, NAJIT sent the following letter of support to the Hon. Robert L. Longhi, Chief Judge in Farrell's court. We got a response telling us that we were mistaken because the policy calling for team interpreters is contained in the Proposed Standards for Interpreted Proceedings, which have not yet received official approval. We wrote back to His Honor and explained that we were alluding to the Guidelines For Contracting Freelance Interpreters which have indeed been approved, are binding on court managers, and do call for team interpreting in situations such as trials. Moreover, we pointed out, the reasoning underlying the team interpreting provision in both documents is the same. He wrote back to us and reiterated that we were "simply wrong," and that the issue of team interpreting has not been resolved.

April 9, 1997

Dear Judge Longhi:

I write on behalf of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, Inc., in support of James Farrell and his Communications Workers of America Unfair Labor Practice Charge currently pending before the Public Employment Relations Commission.

According to a report published in the newsletter of the CWA, Local 1034, of March 18, 1997, Mr. Farrell "ran into trouble after he raised objections through the union to the unilateral discontinuation of 'team interpreting' by [Trial Court Administrator] Greg Edwards in Middlesex County in April, 1996."

Since then Mr. Edwards and his managers have retaliated against me.

At the present time I am serving a fifteen day suspension for alleged insubordination. The union and I will continue to fight these unfair labor practices.

The good news is that on May 13, professional court workers ratified our first contract. For the first time we have important job rights. I hope to be around to enjoy them.

Jim Farrell, June 9, 1997

As you know, the policy that calls for the use of multiple interpreters where necessary and appropriate (e.g., in protracted proceedings such as trials) has been adopted by the Chief Justice and the Assignment Judges, and is not at the discretion of local court managers. Moreover, it is the position of NAJIT and of every responsible, well-informed individual that the use of multiple interpreters for simultaneous interpreting assignments exceeding approximately 30 minutes' duration is absolutely essential in order to avoid excessive fatigue and the resulting extreme deterioration in accuracy. In our view, it is not acceptable for local court administrators unilaterally to override this policy to the detriment of the quality of interpreting services, hence to the detriment of the interests of justice. Therefore, we applaud Mr. Farrell's consistent efforts to implement sound interpreter management practices. If in fact he is being punished for those efforts, we deplore it. In his defense of the quality of interpreting services for linguistic minorities who come before the court, Mr. Farrell enjoys the unqualified support of this Association.

For your information, I enclose herewith the Winter 1997 issue of *Proteus*, the official publication of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, whose lead article, entitled "New Study on Fatigue Confirms Need for Working in Teams," cites new research that supports NAJIT's and James Farrell's position.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

David Mintz
Chair of the Board

NAJIT ON THE INTERNET

JOIN THE DISCUSSION!

COURTINTERP-L is an electronic mail distribution list for discussing court interpreting and legal translation. To subscribe, send the command

subscribe courtinterp-l

as the body of an e-mail message to majordomo@najit.org



Tools of the Trade

Thoughts on live vs. telephone and video interpretation

Ines Swaney

New developments in technology have resulted in an ever-increasing array of sophisticated tools aimed at facilitating human interaction. There was a time when using an interpreter meant that everyone had to be in the same room or general area. Now some interpreting is done by video or by telephone. Interpreting by telephone is efficient when the sole purpose of the participants is to gather simple facts and to have some questions answered with the assistance of an interpreter. This style of interpreting is acceptable in situations involving an exchange of raw data, getting facts, communicating ideas and sending or receiving specific information.

However, in situations involving the fate of human lives, the character of an individual, or under circumstances requiring the rendering of an opinion about a person, there is no substitute for live, face-to-face contact. Heads of state and diplomats serve as a clear example. Because of their elevated status, they un-

In situations involving the fate of human beings, there is no substitute for live contact.

doubtedly have at their disposal the most sophisticated video conferencing equipment available anywhere. Instead, high-level diplomacy today continues to take place eyeball-to-eyeball. As these historical events transpire they are then reported and we see the participants' image on television or their photograph in the newspaper. There is often one more person visible, usually not identified by name: the interpreter, who was also physically present while high-ranking diplomats and government leaders were discussing delicate issues. Our President goes there, their leader or Prime Minister comes here, or two leaders are invited to meet on neutral ground. Still, face-to-face remains the favored means of civilized contact.

Something similar happens with the judicial system. If a judge were to impose sentence while observing a video image instead of a live three-dimensional defendant, that judge is prevented from fully perceiving

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Pelegrin Replies to Albuquerque Resolution

In a previous issue [Vol. VI, No. 1] we published a resolution calling on the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts "to adopt the policy that adequate relief through team interpreting must be provided for any proceeding expected to last more than thirty minutes, and to undertake to inform judges, court clerks and other administrators of the compelling reasons for this policy and the need to implement it." The resolution, adopted last January by over 60 interpreters who attended the federal court interpreters workshop in Albuquerque, New Mexico, was later published on the Internet and circulated widely. NAJIT sent a copy to the Administrative Office, and received this response on February 25. Lydia Pelegrin has since resigned, and has taken a position with the U.S. Attorney's Office at the Washington, D.C. Superior Court.

I am responding to your letter of February 5, 1997, regarding the resolution supported by the interpreters attending the Federal Court Interpreters Workshop in

On Phone Interpreting

(continued from page 5)

the demeanor, mannerisms, attitude and other character traits of the defendant.

Why don't we "improve" on the jury system by letting jurors go home to deliberate the facts of the trial via telephone or computer? Because there is no substitute for human dynamics, the highly charged atmosphere that permeates the deliberation room, where half a dozen conversations might be happening all at once, each dialogue somehow influencing the verbal interaction between others within hearing range. Slight nuances conveyed by body language, the need to persuade, the attempt to reach out to a stubborn, closed-minded individual, are important factors that come into play, not only among jurors themselves inside the deliberation room while attempting to reach a verdict, but also for other parties throughout the trial or hearing that preceded these deliberations. The jury charge read by the judge typically discusses the demeanor of witnesses as it relates to their credibility. In fact, the courtroom and the jury deliberation room are two of the best examples that demonstrate the absolute need for live, face-to-face human interaction in matters involving the fate of human lives. ■

Albuquerque.

The issue of team interpreting for proceedings that last beyond one half hour has been raised and discussed on a number of occasions. As a participant, you know that the Court Interpreters Advisory Subgroup has discussed this issue at several of their meetings and conference calls. One of these meetings was a work group session specifically to revise the draft of the *Federal Court Interpreters Policies and Procedures*, chapter of the *Guide to Judiciary Policies and Procedures*. At this meeting, the issue of using multiple interpreters for lengthy proceedings was raised and the Subgroup members agreed to omit any reference to the specific length of time in the draft chapter.

After much discussion, the draft was revised to include language which now reads, "Measures to keep interpreters operating at a high level of proficiency include: use of multiple interpreters for lengthy proceedings. Examples of proceedings for which multiple interpreters are necessary include: trials, evidentiary hearings..." (Refer to draft, Part B, sec. 5A.(2)(a)). This language addresses the issue of when to use multiple interpreters, but at the same time leaves the discretion for the court to decide exactly what is considered a "lengthy" proceeding. During the meeting it was also discussed that this draft guide was meant to provide guidance, and in no way was the court mandated to adhere to this guidance. We appreciate that the interpreters support the position of team interpreting. In the spirit of decentralization, and supported by discussion and recommendation of the Court Interpreters Advisory Subgroup, we are not in a position to adopt a uniform policy for the courts; this is a local issue.

We applaud your continuing efforts in bringing to our attention the concerns of your constituents and also encourage you to use the Court Interpreters Advisory Subgroup as a means to raise such issues. We ask that you please share this letter with all of the interpreters who signed the resolution.

Sincerely,

Lydia Pelegrin
Chief

District Court Administration Division

CALIFORNIA JUDICIAL COUNCIL BACKPEDALS ON TEAM INTERPRETING

In April of this year, Mary Lou Aranguren, a member of the Bay Area Court Interpreters (BACI), asked for NAJIT's support in their efforts to persuade the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel to the California Judicial Council to reaffirm its policies providing for team interpreting. Aranguren reported that BACI had sent letters to judges and coordinators in their area, along with information about team interpreting, highlighting the fact that the Judicial Council's own advisory panel had added to its interpreter training manual language that recommends team interpreting. This information included a copy of the recent *Proteus* article on team interpreting by Mirta Vidal. In response, the Judicial Council sent a memo to every presiding judge and head administrator in California essentially disavowing the recommendation they made in their own manual, which is presented to interpreters at mandatory workshops.

At the Advisory Panel meeting held on April 19, BACI representatives made an oral presentation and introduced letters of support from NAJIT, the California Federation of Interpreters and NAJIT member Aleé Alger Robbins, who wrote the section on team interpreting in the manual. Observers report the discussion was contentious, with the panel showing little support for—or understanding of—the concept of team interpreting. Judge Lance Ito (chair of the panel) put the matter over to the panel's next meeting on June 7, at which time proposals to “revise” the language in the manual were to be considered.

For reasons that remain unclear, the panel departed from the published agenda and moved the team interpreting issue from the afternoon to the morning session. As a result, NAJIT member Holly Mikkelsen, scheduled to speak in support of BACI's position, was not present for the discussion. She spoke in the afternoon, but without the benefit of having heard the panelists' earlier remarks.

COMING SOON TO WWW.NAJIT.ORG!

Another membership benefit: the Online Membership Directory on the NAJIT Web site will make every NAJIT member's contact information available to the world. Stay tuned.

NAJIT's Letter to Advisory Panel

April 15, 1997

The Honorable Lance Ito
and Members of the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel
Judicial Council of California
Administrative Office of the Courts
303 Second Street, South Tower
San Francisco, California 94107

Your Honor:

NAJIT has been advised that on April 19, 1997, representatives of the Bay Area Court Interpreters Association (BACI) will be addressing the advisory panel to the Judicial Council of California on the subject of the need for interpreters to work in teams during lengthy proceedings. I am writing in support of BACI's position.

The second edition of the “Professional Ethics and the Role of the Court Interpreter” training manual, which is used in California's mandatory court interpreter ethics workshops, accurately states the reasons why it is necessary to use multiple interpreters for protracted court proceedings. NAJIT recognizes as does every well-informed, responsible individual that the necessity of team interpreting is an unsailable, objective fact, not a matter of opinion. Unless multiple interpreters are used where appropriate, the interpreter's performance deteriorates to such an extent that the very purpose of having an interpreter in the first place is defeated. We urge the Judicial Council to adopt a policy that will truly enable interpreters to fulfill their duty of providing equal access to court proceedings for linguistic minorities.

For your information, I enclose herewith the Winter 1997 issue of *Proteus* [containing a copy of Vidal's article on team interpreting, which] cites new research that supports NAJIT's and BACI's position. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

David Mintz
Chair of the Board



Charlotte's Corner

A Visit to the New York Public Library, Part 2

Alexander Rainof

As you might already know, Charlotte these last few weeks has been a devoted bookworm at the New York Public Library (<http://www.nypl.org/>). For those fortunate enough to find themselves in such wonderful surroundings, being in a library inspires thinking. Charlotte, a strong believer of "When in Rome do as the Romans do," found herself pondering why the French, in three proverbs which she deemed somewhat unfortunate, linked spiders and time of day to what can only be considered capricious fate: *araignée du matin*, *araignée du chagrin* (spider in the morning, spider of sorrow), *araignée de l'après-midi*, *araignée de l'ennui* (spider in the afternoon, spider of problems and gloom), *araignée du soir*, *araignée de l'espoir* (spider in the evening, hope is abringing). Having translated these sayings into English, and somewhat pleased with both the rhyme and the use of "morrow" for "morning," Charlotte turned her thoughts to the importance of proverbs to particular cultures and consequently to translators and interpreters in general.

Thus, aware that the proof of the pudding is in the eating, Charlotte decided to make hay while the sun was shining and, knowing that the early bird gets the worm, remembered that a sequence of interesting links at the NYPL lead to a world of proverb related URLs. In fact, if one selects from the NYPL Home Page, under The Research Libraries, the link to the "Science, Industry and Business Library" (SIBL), it will connect the proverb seeker to eight new links. Access the fifth link from the top of the list, "Patents and Trademarks at the New York Public Library" and from there select "International Patent, Trademark and/or Copyright Sites." This in turn will produce a variety of links, of which the eighth, under "Individual Country Sites" will access the Japanese Information Home Page (<http://www.ntt.co.jp/japan/>). Here, one's patient search is rewarded with a glorious home page which is a must for the Japanese language translator and interpreter. It has links to the Japanese national anthem which can be downloaded together with Sound Machine, also provided, to a clickable map of Japan from which every major university in the country with a home page can be reached, in addition to links to the Diet and the Prime Minister's residence, the text of the Japanese constitution, weather information for Japan, and last but not least, under "Cultures and Customs," to the Kotowaza (Japanese

proverbs) link developed by Tim Duncan (<http://www.aiai.ed.ac.uk/~timd/kotuwaza/kotuwaza.html>).

This site already has 45 proverbs listed in Romaji (Roman alphabet equivalents of the Japanese kanji) which can be selected individually. When selected, each proverb is given in Japanese ideographs, followed by a Romanji transcription, a literal translation, a clarification regarding the real meaning of the proverb and an equivalent English proverb if available, and finally by notes about the cultural and/or linguistic and grammatical background of the proverb and by photographs or illustrations. For instance, *iwanu ga hana* means literally "Not speaking is the flower," and the meaning of the proverb is given as "Some things are better left unsaid" or "Silence is golden." The notes provided state that *nu* is a negative ending like *nai*. *Yabo wo tsutsuite hebi wo dasu*, which translates literally as "Poke a bush, a snake comes out," is shown to be the Japanese equivalent of "Let sleeping dogs lie" and is usually abbreviated to *Yabu hebi da* or *Yabu hebi ni naru*. *Saru mo ki kara ochiru*, meaning literally "Even monkeys fall from trees" has two possible English equivalents, discussed in the translation and the notes: "Even experts make mistakes" or possibly also "Pride comes before a fall." In some cases, such as *Toranu tanuki no kawa zan'you*, or "Count the skins of badgers which haven't been caught" or "Don't count your chickens before they are hatched," an additional link is provided for "tanuki" (an animal found in Japan, similar to a badger or a raccoon, and rich in symbolic and iconographical meanings in Japanese culture) which when selected, presents the viewer with a magnificent photograph of a tanuki. *Neko ni koban*, meaning literally "a coin to a cat" is equivalent in English to "pearls before swine." A koban is a Japanese gold coin. *Nakitsura ni hachi*, or "A bee to a crying face" is the Japanese equivalent of "When it rains, it pours." In one instance, for the proverb *Ningen banji saiou ga uma*, the Chinese tale about a man named Sai, on which the proverb is based, is summarized in the notes, so that the reader can understand how "Humans everything Saiou horse" in fact means "Inscrutable are the ways of heaven."



All too often, translators and interpreters have come to grief when faced with highly idiomatic and culturally encoded structures such as proverbs that really cannot be translated unless the idiomatic equivalent is known in the target language. However, those fortunate enough to have discovered the Kotuwaza site will find at the end of the list of individual Japanese proverbs twelve more links under the heading "Further links," most of which are indeed the treasure at the end of the rainbow.

- "The '96 Tokyo International Proverb Forum" discusses papers read during said Forum held in Tokyo on October 24 and 25, 1996. Abstracts of the papers given in paremiology (the study of proverbs) and paremiography (the collection of proverbs) by scholars from the U.S., Korea, Russia, France, China, Germany, Japan, etc., can be downloaded. Collections of Swahili, Kurdish and Tamil proverbs can also be downloaded.

- "Japan Links" provides access to numerous Japanese press links, often available in both English and Japanese. Such is, for instance, the "Japan Times," which covers the whole prior month of articles on a day by day basis, and which is only a couple of days behind the current date.

- "Proverbs Relating to the Game of Go" tends to be somewhat technical, but of great interest, no doubt, to Go experts.

- "Russian Proverbs" is somewhat disappointing, as it gives the proverbs only in English, without the original from which they have been translated.

- "Romanian Proverbs" refers the browser to the digital publication "De Proverbio" at the University of Tasmania, which will be discussed later, under the last link in this group.

- "Chinese Proverbs" is listed, but could not be accessed, and not for lack of trying on several occasions.

- "French Proverbs" is both poor and fraught with mistakes. Don't bother.

- "Dutch Proverbs," just as their Chinese counterpart, cannot be accessed.

- "Proverbs from Slavic Languages" leads to the Department of Slavic Languages at the University of Pennsylvania. Even though there are only a few links posted at that site, one of them, under "Slavic Related Links", is the REES Web link (the acronym for Russian and East European Studies). It leads the browser to the University of Pittsburgh and to hundreds of Slavic links (<http://www.pitt.edu:81/~cjp/rees.html>). These URLs cover language (and, of course, proverbs), literature, music, art, culture, government, etc. One can also access from this site the home page of numerous East European countries such as Albania, Armenia, the Czech Repub-

lic, Hungary, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldavia, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Yugoslavia, and so on.

- "African Proverbs" (<http://www.demon.co.uk/africa/proverbs/docs/proverbs1.htm>) provides a fun list, such as "The disobedient fowl obeys in a pot of soup" (Benin Nigeria); "When two elephants fight it is the grass that suffers" (Uganda); or "One should never rub bottoms with a porcupine" (Akan).

- "Proverbs from Around the World" and "Annoying Clichés." The former provides 290 entries from numerous countries—all alas in English—without the source text available. "Annoying Clichés" has 96 English language proverbs listed.

Last, but not least, "Further Proverbs" refers the fortunate browser directly to a wonderful site: the De Proverbio URL (An Electronic Journal of International Proverb Studies) at the University of Tasmania in Hobart, Australia (<http://info.utas.edu.au/docs/flonta/DP,1,1,95/index.html>). This is one of the richest sites relating to proverb studies. Under the heading "The Masters" numerous articles by Wolfgang Mieder (a professor at the University of Vermont and a leading scholar in paremiology) can be downloaded, including an exhaustive bibliography of paremiological publications. Under the heading "Books," Theodor Flonta (professor in the Italian Department at the University of Tasmania and the editor of "De Proverbio") has an excellent list of English-Romanian proverbs and a delightful list he has edited of Italian proverbs compiled by the sixteenth Century Siena scholar Antonio Vignali.

This concludes today's web on the WWW in Charlotte's Corner. Please remember that a byte in time saves nine, so we would be most grateful to all of you if you were to share with us any useful URL you may have discovered. We will try to include them in Charlotte's Corner, and will most certainly give you credit for your contribution. Please send your information, or any questions you may have, to Dr. Alexander Rainof, either by mail (1021 12th street, #101, Santa Monica, CA 90403); by e-mail (arainof@ucla.edu); or by fax (310-395-1885), or through my Web site (<http://www.electriciti.com/~trey/alexis/>) which has an e-mail link. With your help, Charlotte's Corner will be terrific. ■

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Advertising	70.00
Conferences & Workshops	44,118.31
Book Sales	1,999.44
Mailing List Rental	200.00
Subscriptions	32.00
Miscellaneous	46.25
Total Income	\$96,666.94

Expenses

Management	24,000.00
Office Supplies	618.08
Telephone	2,310.19
Postage	3,042.83
Printing & Photocopying	3,143.78
Web Site	775.00
Conferences	30,410.30
Gifts	147.45
Accountant	84.62
Board Expense	7,547.22
Certification Committee	1,104.58
Publications	150.00
Proteus	3,725.22
Conference Attendance	1,713.72
Refunds & Bounced Checks	472.19
Bank Fees	406.05
Credit Card Fees	1,483.07
Miscellaneous	15.00

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