NAJIT and the San Francisco State University Legal/Court Interpretation Program present

EAST MEETS WEST
16th Annual Meeting & Educational Conference
Cathedral Hill Hotel, San Francisco, May 19-21, 1995

Tentative Program

Friday, May 19
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Making the Grade: A Workshop on the Certification Exam for Other than Spanish Interpreters, Drs. Dagoberto Orrantia, John Jay College-CUNY and José Varela-Ibarra, U of Texas-Brownsville
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Translation Workshop: Theory and Practice, Part I: Family Law--Marriage, Divorce and Separation, and Children; Part II: Personal Injury and Workmen's Compensation, Prof. Ada Franzoni de Moldavsky, Universidad de Buenos Aires (Spanish/English 3 CEU)
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Seminar: Regionalisms and the Law, Prof. Irene Pastor and Angola Zawadzki Suarez, SFSU (Spanish/English 3 CEU)
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Seminar: Interpreting Legal Argument, Part I, Prof. Maria Lucia Wait, SFSU; Part II, Nancy Festinger, Chief Interpreter, U. S. District Court, Southern District of New York (Spanish/English 3 CEU)
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Reception

Saturday, May 20
9:00 AM - 9:45 AM Welcoming Session, Prof. Lee Gallery, Program Director, Haydee Claus, Program Advisor, Legal Interpretation Program, SFSU; and Mirta Vidal, Chair, NAJIT Board of Directors
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM The Transition from Judiciary to Conference Interpreting, Janis Palma, USCCI

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM On Knowledge and Experience: What are We Trying to Teach? How do We Teach it? Prof. Julie Johnson, Monterey Institute of International Studies
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Legal, Practical and Ethical Issues on the Use of Court Interpreters: Talking to the Bench and Bar, A. Samuel Adelo, J.D. and Miriam Leniz, NJ State Certified Interpreter
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM 'Tain't What a Man Says But Wot He Means: A Terminology Update by the NAJIT Terminology Working Group
3:45 PM - 5:15 PM Interpreting Asian Languages, Jacki Noh (Korean), Mary So (Chinese), Cong Pham (Vietnamese), Sunai Tapraseuth (Thai, Cambodian)

Sunday, May 21
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM The Grammatical Dimension in Translation and Interpretation: Patterns and Processes, Dr. Fritz Hensey, U of Texas-Austin
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Improving Consecutive Interpreting Skills, Teresa Salazar, Court Interpreter/Administrative Analyst, U.S. District Court, District of Columbia
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM NAJIT Membership Meeting

FOR REGISTRATION, TRAVEL & HOTEL INFORMATION, SEE PAGE 14
Message from the Board

1994: A Year of Growth for NAJIT

Dear Colleagues:

Last January we launched a membership drive with the ambitious goal of recruiting 100 new members by the end of 1994. The Board is pleased to announce that we surpassed that goal, adding 184 new members to our ranks. This has contributed to the association's financial health, making it possible to allocate more funds to improving the day-to-day administration, while remaining well within budget. More important, however, is the infusion of new blood: talented interpreters and translators from all over the country who bring experience, energy and new ideas.

Two new committees—the Committee on Shared Concerns with the Bench and Bar and the Committee to Draft Guidelines for the Transcription and Translation of Tapes—are now active, and both will make presentations at the upcoming meeting in San Francisco.

Another development concerns the long-awaited application for tax-exempt status. Thanks to the diligent work of Sandra Morra in Rhode Island—in conjunction with Michael Aaronson, NAJIT’s new accountant—this rather cumbersome process is now in its final stage. All that remains is to obtain approval from the IRS, which we fully expect will be granted.

In the area of activities, we again organized a panel on legal interpreting at the last American Translators Association conference in Austin, Texas. An article by Sara García Rangel, the coordinator, appears in this issue. We hope to continue to hold this event and encourage members to contribute ideas for NAJIT’s participation at this year’s ATA conference in Nashville. These can be submitted to the New York office, or directly to Sara.

The new year got off to a good start with an advanced workshop on conference interpreting held in New York January 6-9. Nineteen participants completed an intensive 24 hours of practice in a simulated conference setting. Most of those attending came from outside the New York area, including several from California and two from Mexico, indicating a considerable demand for this kind of event. We hope similar workshops can be organized in other regions. Let us know if you would be interested in helping to organize one in your area.

Elections to fill the two vacancies on the Board were delayed due to factors beyond our control, but we expect the new Board will be installed by mid-February. I thank everyone who made nominations, which were numerous this year, although several candidates withdrew for various reasons.

Organizing the 16th annual meeting and educational conference in San Francisco will continue to be NAJIT’s major project for the next several weeks. The program covers a range of subjects that interpreters and translators will find relevant regardless of their experience level or what languages and jurisdictions they work in. Although several events on Friday are Spanish-specific, a concurrent all-day workshop for other-than-Spanish languages will focus on preparing for the certification exam.

The seminars to be given by the faculty at San Francisco State University, whose Legal/Court Interpretation Program is co-sponsoring the conference, have already been approved for credit by the California Judicial Council. California NAJIT members will request credit for the other presentations and we expect that a number of them will meet with the Council’s approval, enabling interpreters in that state to add a number of credits to their continuing education requirements.

Topics include regionalisms, terminology, grammatical issues, teaching interpretation and translation, Asian languages, differences between judiciary and conference interpreting, how to educate judges and lawyers about our profession, and tape transcription and translation (a continuation of last year’s debate).

I look forward to seeing all of you in San Francisco.

MIRTA VIDAL
Chair, Board of Directors
ADVANCED CONFERENCE INTERPRETING WORKSHOP: A PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

Daniel Sherr

A New York colleague once remarked that whereas some people do exercises every morning to stay in shape, she spends a half-hour each morning practicing simultaneous interpreting.

While her example is worthy of emulation, unfortunately, many of us are incapable of such feats of self-discipline. Those who work predominantly in the courts and aspire to conference interpreting know that practicing simultaneous interpreting in a wide array of subject areas can only be beneficial. Nevertheless, it is hard to find the time or willpower to do it.

Little wonder, then, that when NAJIT announced an Advanced Conference Interpreting Workshop to be held in New York in early January, 19 people signed up. The course featured instructors Georganne Weller and Ignacio Barrrierton, two veteran conference interpreters with 40 years experience between them. Weller, a native English speaker, and Barrientos, a native Spanish speaker, provided a good linguistic balance and an excellent opportunity for interpreters wishing to hone their simultaneous skills in the direction they were least comfortable with (for most, as it turned out, this meant Spanish into English).

For me, the wide diversity of students participating was one of the most enriching aspects of the course. There were, as was to be expected, several court interpreters from the New York area, but I was astonished and delighted to meet six colleagues from California, others from other parts of the Eastern seaboard, Texas, and two who braved the currency devaluation and flew in from Mexico for the workshop. Most, but not all, had court interpreting experience. Some were already working as conference interpreters and wanted to improve their skills.

The subject matter of the course, determined in a poll taken among potential attendees, included six areas: environmental issues, political economy, banking and finance, public health, social policy development and international trade. With two exceptions, the course work was based exclusively on written material: magazine and newspaper articles and texts of speeches. In some cases, students

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INTERPRETATION at the ATA Conference

Sara García-Rangel

What did the 35th Annual Meeting of the American Translators Association have to offer interpreters? In addition to the pleasure of meeting friends and colleagues, networking and enjoying Austin’s beauty and hospitality (especially as extended by the members of the local group, AATIA), there were several sessions devoted to interpreting issues. Some presentations, conceived mainly for translators, were also of great interest to interpreters.

Dr. Georgeanne Weller reported findings from her comprehensive survey of active conference interpreters. She discussed how they monitor themselves and correct their renditions, and some reasons that cause mistakes to be made in the first place. (See the Conference Proceedings, for a discussion of self-monitoring, self-correcting mechanisms in simultaneous interpretation.)

Dr. Roda Roberts of Canada spoke about community interpreting. (Proceedings, 127-138) This type of interpretation has become increasingly necessary in Canada and Australia, in particular, where training efforts are under way. Community interpreters assist immigrants in gaining full and equal access to legal, health, education, local government and social services.

Medical interpretation continues to develop as a specialized field also in need of training and definition. The conference held a helpful medical terminology session for Spanish translators and interpreters, and there are two papers on the topic in the Proceedings, one on "Oncology" by Verónica Albin and the other on "Back Impairment" by Mary Esther Díaz. Also important was the overview of the Medical Interpreter's role presented by John M. Chávez of the Stanford University Hospital (Proceedings, 105-112).

The Second Forum for Spanish Translators offered a wealth of terminology for legal, technical and financial assignments. Moderators Alicia Agnese and Pimpi Coggin invited a group of distinguished experts who made interesting and useful presentations on those topics. (See the ATA Chronicle, 23.11, Nov.-Dec. 1994 for additional details).

Anthony Rivas underscored the importance of

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GRAMMAR NOTES FOR TRANSLATORS IV
COSMOPOLITAN LEXICON

George K. Green

The character of the English language is generally assumed to reflect the gradual fusion over almost a millennium of two ethnic groups: the Anglo-Saxons and the Normans. And yet one unique feature of English may owe more to the old Norsemen with salt in their veins, wanderlust in their hearts and the reflected glint of far horizons in their eyes. Over the centuries, they and their descendants have repeatedly gone out to the farthest corners of the globe— as conquerors, merchants, or in the newer role of peacekeepers. The linguistic result has been the acquisition of lexical items from exotic languages far removed from the shores of the British Isles or North America.

Albert C. Braugh and Thomas Cable in their History of the English Language are of the opinion that one of the major assets of English as an international language is what they term its "cosmopolitan vocabulary." However, their comment focuses principally on the major sources of English lexicton apart from the original West Germanic languages: Norman French, medieval Latin and other West European tongues.

One of the first places of English contact with foreign lexicton was in the Low Countries just across the English Channel. English has accepted numerous nautical terms from the Dutch, such as "deck," "bowspirit," "dock," "freight," "scow," and "skinner," as well as "yacht," which originally referred to fast sailing craft intended to keep pirates and smugglers away from the Dutch coast. "Boss" is also a Dutch word, one that English adopted in New Amsterdam at the time it became New York.

In the aftermath of the crusades, English took the word "assassin" from Arabic. In its origins it referred to Shiite killers in Syria who were hashish abusers. Other West European languages have adopted similar terms of the same origin with slightly different spellings.

The discovery, conquest and colonization of the New World resulted in the borrowing of numerous lexical items from the native languages of America for the purpose of naming flora, fauna, objects and customs then unknown in the Old World. Some of the first such vocabulary was taken from Arawak, one of the native languages of the Caribbean, and came into English through Spanish: "tobacco," "canoe," "maize," "hurricane," and "hammock." The naval supremacy of Spain in that period also provided English with a number of maritime terms such as "cargo," "embargo" and "flotilla."

The English settlement of North America meant the adoption of lexical items such as "wampum," "tomahawk," "moccasin," "raccoon," "caribou" and "hickory." The colonization of Australia added other words which have now become common, such as "boomerang" and "kangaroo." British control of India introduced a variety of vocabulary terms including "thug," "bungalow," "cot," "curry," "juggernaut," "jungle," "veranda" and "punch." From the Afrikaans of South Africa came "trek." From elsewhere in Africa English adopted "mumbo-jumbo" (originally the name of a Mandingo god) and "zombie" (person possessed in a voodoo ritual).

Trade with Asia in the nineteenth century meant the importation and naturalization of other curious words, among them "tycoon" and "yen." According to The Merriam-Webster New Book of Word Histories, "tycoon" in the sense of "great leader" was one of the titles bestowed on the shogun in Japan. The same source attributes "yen" in the sense of "craving" to a Chinese word denoting the specific craving for opium.

In the twentieth century the process of acquisition of exotic lexicton accelerated with the introduction of innumerable vocabulary items at the time of the Second World War. From Tagalog, one of the principal languages of the Philippine Islands, came "boodocks" and perhaps "boodoggle." The scaling of the highest mountains in Asia by Westerners gave us "yeti," the name of a creature not yet entirely proven to exist.

For the translator working out of English, some items of this cosmopolitan vocabulary will seem to defy translation. Sometimes the best solution will be to use these words in quotation marks in the target language, and, if necessary, explain their meaning with a note in parentheses.
Lingua Franca

Our senior year at the University of Hawaii, two friends and I took an "Introduction to Education" course. Such a non-content course, we surmised, was sure to be full of nothing but doubletalk: talk that appears to have meaning but does not. Fred, Glenn and I challenged each other to come up with the most empty-of-meaning answers and class presentations. Fred, older and much wiser, easily won. He could talk for twenty minutes straight, never say anything, but sound very knowledgeable. He got an A; Glenn and I got B's.

Fred went on to become a first-rate teacher (doubletalk for "did not publish") but his contract was not renewed (doubletalk for "he was fired"). I was also let go for unbecoming conduct (doubletalk for trying to organize the non-tenured faculty). Glenn took a job with the U.S. government in Japan and by now must be a master of doublespeak, the official language of civil servants.

Since our student days doublespeak has increased to such epidemic proportions that there now exists a Quarterly Review of Doublespeak [National Council of Teachers of English, 1111 W. Kenyon Road, Urbana, Illinois 61808-1096; $10/year]. From the "virtual mountain of material" the editor receives, a very entertaining (chilling? depressing?) selection is published four times a year.

Is the QRD material useful to translators and interpreters? Yes. We may have thought that a prostitute is a prostitute. Not when she or he (let's be p.c.) is a sex-care provider. The value of keeping up with the latest doublespeak is that we need to know that sex-care provider means prostitute. As we invariably tell workshop participants, you need to know what a term means before you can translate it. Do you know what the following doublespeak items mean?

1. Long-range target reduction specialist
2. Deconditioned police officers
3. Dysfunctional behavior

4. Acrylic extenders
5. Spot market
6. Food idea
7. Chronologically gifted
8. Park
9. Preterminal healthcare consumer

Perhaps we could translate them literally and fog the target as much as the source language. But would we then be translating the "meaning"?

1. Sniper
2. Out-of-shape cops
3. Crime
4. Fake fingernails
5. Black market
6. Recipe
7. Old
8. Cemetery
9. Dying patient

Before I met him at the University of Hawaii, my friend Glenn had been in the Marines. "What did you do in the Marines?" I once asked him. "I killed people," he replied. Today Glenn would say he had been a target-reduction specialist. The problem with translating this literally is that--in Spanish, for example--it would come out "specialist in the reduction of targets," which might lead someone to believe that Glenn spent his time shrinking the size of targets used in shooting ranges. That same ambiguity is in the English, some will argue. But should we be accomplices in this deception?

"Doublespeak is not a slip of the tongue, or language used out of ignorance," writes William Lutz, "but is instead a very conscious use of language as a weapon or tool by those in power to achieve their ends at our expense." [Doublespeak. New York: Harper & Row, 1989] Do we want to be collaborators in this Orwellian use of language against us?

Some items in the pages of QRD are really euphemisms. Nobody likes to visit the cemetery, but a park... well, that sounds better. If your child flunks a grade, better tell your friends he or she was simply held back. But if you say "destreamed" you are not using a euphemism; it is doublespeak. How many people would readily understand "destreamed" as "flunked"?

Subscribe to QRD and enjoy. Now economically marginalized me must leave, not that I am motivationally different, but otherwise I'll be temporarily challenged for class.
DRUG LEGALIZATION: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

David Mintz

A small but significant number of people—distinguished legal scholars, judges, economists, political scientists, physicians, and even a few politicians—have come out in favor of drug legalization in one form or another. This issue is particularly relevant for those whose livelihoods depend largely if not entirely on drug prohibition. It hardly seems possible to work daily in the criminal justice system without questioning the wisdom of current drug policy in the United States. Legalization deserves serious consideration, and America’s Longest War is a thorough, rational and well-researched treatment of this question.

The authors argue that drug prohibition, which is doomed to fail, causes far more harm than do illegal drugs themselves. This seemingly heretical proposition is abundantly supported by the facts. I find their argument compelling.

While not disputing that the abuse of any drug should be discouraged, Duke and Gross show that the adverse consequences of using marijuana, heroin, cocaine and even crack have been exaggerated for propaganda purposes. Yet even prohibitionists acknowledge that our favorite legal psychoactive substances, alcohol and tobacco, are far more lethal. The illicit drugs are not criminogenic—i.e., their use is not causally linked to criminal behavior. Rather, it is high black market drug prices, along with poverty and marginalization, that drive addicts to crime. And prohibition, it is argued, is what drives drug prices so high.

As for health consequences, heroin, for example, is widely assumed to be invariably dangerous, yet “study after study has failed to find that the regular use of heroin, in conditions of relatively free availability, produces any substantial adverse effects on mental or physical health.” Heroin addicts often live in extreme poverty without proper hygiene, nourishment or health care. These conditions cause more death and disease than does heroin. The true dangers associated with heroin—shared needles, unpredictable potency and harmful adulterants—are all caused by prohibition, which relegates illicit drugs to an unregulated black market. As for cocaine, contrary to popular belief, “the majority of cocaine users indulge only intermittently,” and “most users suffer no serious physical or social problems from it.” And the case for legalizing marijuana is overwhelming.

Why, then, are these substances illegal? America’s Longest War analyzes the historical, social, economic and political roots of drug prohibition and suggests that there are racist and elitist aspects of the drug war. Although most users of illegal drugs are white, minorities are overrepresented in the drug-using population, and thus suffer the impact of prohibition disproportionately. Meanwhile, antidrug rhetoric notwithstanding, the US government (through the CIA) has been known to collaborate with drug traffickers when it seemed expedient in pursuit of anti-Communist foreign policy objectives, e.g., during the Vietnam War.

America’s Longest War argues that drug prohibition itself causes vast amounts of crime: direct violations of the drug laws; crimes committed to obtain drug money; systemic internecine drug violence—a large proportion of whose victims are innocent bystanders; the proliferation of deadly weapons; the corruption of the criminal justice system; unpunished prosecutorial crimes, police perjury and so forth.

The social and economic costs of the drug war are staggering. Our courts and prisons are jammed with drug cases, in which most defendants are non-violent, while violent criminals are often released from prison to make room for drug offenders. The authors discuss at length how criminal justice in general and the Bill of Rights in particular have been dangerously compromised on the altar of the drug war; they also describe how civil forfeiture has gotten way out of hand. Scarce resources are squandered on failed interdiction at the expense of everything else, including drug treatment and education (which, to the extent that they have been tried, have proven far more effective and less costly than coercion). Legalization, it is argued, would alleviate all of these evils.

Duke and Gross demonstrate what is already
widely acknowledged: the drug war is a losing battle. Brute force does not reduce demand, and producer countries have little economic incentive to reduce supply by cooperating with U.S. efforts to eradicate and/or substitute crops (in fact, substituting coffee for coca actually hurts coffee producers, as increasing the supply drives prices down). Only market forces can defeat the drug trade by taking the profit out of it. This in turn can only be achieved through legalization and regulation. With drastically reduced drug prices we would see a corresponding drop in crime, and the black market would collapse.

The foregoing is essentially the pragmatic argument for legalization. But *America’s Longest War* also makes a strong philosophical argument that in a democracy, adults ought to enjoy the freedom to decide for themselves what chemicals to ingest. If paternalistic state intervention is warranted to protect people from themselves, a better case can be made for banning obesity or excessive television watching than for drug prohibition.

The authors consider the many objections to legalization and argue that the risks and costs of legalization are clearly outweighed by the benefits. Some maintain, for example, that legalization would greatly increase the number of users. But "during most of its history, this country had no drug prohibition, and drug abuse was never worse than it is now." Moreover, recent experiences in states that have decriminalized marijuana and in the Netherlands show that the abandonment of suppression efforts need not necessarily produce more users. In recent years marijuana use has declined generally, both where it is legal and where it is not. The explanation is that "extralegal, psychosocial forces [e.g., fashion and health consciousness] account for changes in patterns of drug consumption far more than do prohibition efforts; that official suppression — or lack thereof — is a relatively uninfluential factor[...]." The drug market is already saturated with both legal and illegal substances, and "virtually everyone who wants to get high already does so." How many people who want to smoke crack do not, solely because it is illegal?

The use of tobacco, though increasing in some segments of the population, has declined overall, despite the millions that the industry pumps into advertising. People have also reduced their cholesterol levels and fat consumption without government coercion. As U.S. District Judge Robert W. Sweet said in a speech in 1989, "if our society can learn to stop using butter, it should be able to cut down on cocaine."

There is some evidence that lower legalized drug prices would stimulate consumption, but none to suggest that the increase would be dramatic:

"The major reasons why people desist from smoking and drinking — health, social stigma, morality, aesthetics — are also applicable to other pleasure drugs.

The potential new users of legalized drugs are therefore people who are now deterred by the price of these drugs or the criminality of their use, but who nonetheless drink or smoke cigarettes. To the extent that such persons were to substitute newly legalized pleasure drugs for tobacco and alcohol, they would be better off from a bodily health standpoint, and so would those who come into contact with them. Cocaine or heroin users do not pollute the air and rarely beat up their spouses or children while intoxicated on those drugs.

After considering various forms of legalization, the authors conclude that the most desirable is a system of commercial distribution licenses under government regulation, as is now the case with power and telecommunications companies, gambling and liquor distribution. Drug use would be restricted to private settings and forbidden in public and in the workplace. Heroin addicts could be provided with transdermal patches which would obviate the need to shoot up every few hours, enabling them to work. Proscriptions against juvenile access to all drugs — including tobacco and alcohol — would be vigorously enforced. Since there would be drug regulations, there would be a role for an enforcement apparatus, but on a much smaller scale than what we have now. The $200 billion annual savings would be better spent on treatment, education and economic revitalization.

Court interpreters, as witnesses to the devastation caused by this futile drug war, may be more likely than the general public to agree with Duke and Gross; at least some of us believe that legalization is ultimately the best course for society. For such readers, *America’s Longest War* will be preaching to the converted, though they will still find it fascinatingly informative. Others will undoubtedly reject such radical challenges to deeply ingrained assumptions and beliefs. Either way, this stimulating and disturbing book is a must for whoever wishes to think rationally about the complex problems associated with illegal drugs.
translated the material as it was being read by one of the instructors; in others, they interpreted from a prerecorded text.

The clear advantage of such a format was that our instructors had a written copy of the source text in front of them, thus could concentrate more on our exquisite style and unique lexicon. The disadvantage was precisely that these were written texts. How many conference interpreters have to simultaneously translate magazine articles or wire releases without having the text in front of them? I don’t know many, but that was the very first exercise given to the group: a scholarly dissertation on the “Nature of Modernity.”

Of course, written discourse is much more dense than spoken discourse; there are no repetitions, no fillers, no hemming and hawing; and when a speaker reads from a written text, he does not pause to think. People have an innate tendency to go faster when reading, as any court interpreter who has had to interpret a charge to the jury knows. While I found interpreting an article about how the North Pole used to be covered by rain forests quite challenging, I also thought it rather unrealistic.

It is, however, common in conferences to receive the text of a speaker’s address before he delivers it. Here the course tried to simulate reality, and the students were given texts of some speeches beforehand. We were told to be prepared for possible departures from the text by the speaker, and were treated to a version of Hillary Rodham Clinton’s speech at the Americas Summit Conference.

Nonetheless, it would have been preferable to hear Ms. Rodham’s actual speech, rather than someone else reading from the typed text of her remarks. Indeed, many of the students expressed regret that there were not more interpreting opportunities like the one afforded us by the live tape recording of the meeting between the EPA director and a group of western U.S. governors. Furthermore, I would have enjoyed working with taped material from conferences at which our instructors had already interpreted. This would have guaranteed their familiarity with the texts; we would have been able to benefit from their specific knowledge of the text, and they would have known exactly what the pitfalls of each speech were.

The relative lack of taped materials highlighted the linguistic homogeneity of the workshop: the overwhelming majority of the Spanish speeches and subjects were from Mexico, and 100% of the English texts and tapes were in American English. Part of the challenge of conference interpreting is coping with the lexicons and accents of speakers, both native and non-native, from all over the globe: a German accent in Spanish, a Bangladeshi accent in English, a Scotsman who refers to "redundancies" and is talking about layoffs, not repetitions, or Ross Perot (as some interpreters doing the 1992 presidential debates for Spanish television discovered when they translated the Oregon Health Plan as the Organic Health Plan).

Students had the opportunity to be recorded and then critiqued by the instructors and fellow participants.

One aspect of the course which was well received was the taping and subsequent playback of students’ renditions. During the three-day workshop, most students had the opportunity of being twice recorded and then critiqued by both instructors and fellow participants. While many felt that this was not enough, practically all enjoyed the chance to benefit from the constructive criticism of their peers.

In addition to discussing individual performances, the class spent considerable time discussing possible translations of particular "sticking points" in the text. These brainstorming sessions led to some very good options: "state-affiliated companies" for *empresas paraestatales* (thanks, Ignacio), *hicieron borrón y cuenta nueva* for “it’s a whole new ball game” (kudos to Inés Swaney), and *it’s like putting your finger in a dike* for "no se puede tapar el sol con un dedo" (courtesy of Nancy Festinger) or its Iberian equivalent, "no se puede poner puertas al campo." While our instructors were encouraging and generous in their comments, some of the students would have preferred more specific, perhaps more candid, criticism. Perhaps our teachers did not want to embarrass us in front of our classmates. However, the end of the course, when the students were writing their evaluations, would have afforded an ideal time for one-on-one interviews with the instructors.
In less than 24 hours of actual interpretation, some students showed noticeable improvement in fluency and self-confidence. They benefited greatly from the practice and from the feedback. Many asked Weller and Barrientos to consider the possibility of running a similar workshop to dovetail with the NAJIT annual convention scheduled for May in San Francisco.

In the meantime, aspiring conference interpreters have various options: 1) practice on a regular basis; 2) increase their volume of work to such a point that they don't need to practice, because their work is their practice; or ... 3) sign up for NAJIT's next advanced interpreting workshop!

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INTERPRETATION AT ATA CONFERENCE
(continued from page 3)

regional differences in Spanish by comparing a paragraph translated into American Spanish with another version in Peninsular Spanish. JoAnne Engelbert of Montclair State University emphasized the importance of defining the activity of interpreters and translators as a profession for the codification of curriculum requirements, the accreditation of professional training programs and the definition of academic credentials required of professors. These issues are also important for practitioners in their dealings with governmental authorities, in light of recent conflicts between the New Jersey Department of Labor and agencies over tax liability for independent contractors vs. employees. (In another session, Joe Murphy described the New Jersey situation, which sparked discussion about comparable problems in California, Colorado and New York. Mr. Murphy now heads the ATA Committee on professional Advocacy, Legal and Regulatory Affairs, and is planning to promulgate policy statements for the profession. Virginia Bennaman discussed the efforts of her alma mater to create a Master's Degree Program in Legal Interpretation at the University of Charleston, South Carolina.

Holly Mikkelson of the Monterey Institute of International Studies presented useful practical exercises for Sight Translation that encouraged audience participation. (Her paper, "Text Analysis Exercises for Sight Translation," appears on pp 381-390 of the Proceedings). It was serendipitous that her presentation came after Dagoberto Orrantia's "Sight Translation: The Forgotten Third Skill," in which he had discussed the importance of sight translation—in addition to consecutive and simultaneous interpretation—for the training of court interpreters. He handed out a list of documents that interpreters can use to enhance their sight-translating abilities. He also showed several versions of a document to compare translation styles.

Orrantia's paper was part of the traditional session on court interpreting issues that NAJIT has been presenting regularly at the ATA Convention since 1979. The other two participants in the NAJIT session were José Varela-Ilbarra and myself. Varela-Ilbarra talked about legal translation programs and the textbooks that he is now using: In Other Words by Mona Baker and his own text book, currently being completed.

My presentation dealt with the Scopos Theory and its application to court interpretation (Proceedings, 113-120). This general theory of translation and interpretation is based on the function (scopos) that the target text is to achieve in the target culture. The actual communication, with its constellation of text producers (speakers, interpreters and listeners who may then become speakers), and their roles and perceptions in the interaction network, is perhaps the most important level of analysis; the court interpreter's code of professional responsibilities adds loyalty, which is an important component in applying this theory to judiciary proceedings.

If these comments have whetted your appetite, you do not have to wait until November for the 36th ATA meeting in Nashville. Start making plans to attend NAJIT's conference in May. See you in San Francisco!

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Monthly Interpreters Forum at MSU

The Association of Professional Legal Interpreters and Translators of New Jersey, in cooperation with Montclair State University, has been offering monthly forums for interpreters and translators. A short series of orientation sessions was offered to prepare candidates for the federal written exam.

Daniel Sherr, guest speaker in January, discussed Conference Interpreting vs. Court Interpreting. Meetings are held at Montclair State University. For information call (201) 996-1311 or write to APLIT, PO Box 28163, Newark, N.J. 07101-2483.
THE TRIALS OF THE TRIAL

Nancy Festinger

If you could translate any book you wished, what would it be? For German translator Breon Mitchell, the answer was The Trial. But little did he know his dream—or nightmare—would one day come true.

Last November, Mitchell recounted the tale of the translation-in-progress to a rapt audience at the 1994 American Literary Translators Association convention in Albuquerque. An El Greco figure in modern dress, he conveyed the everyday demeanor of a worried wordsmith by appearing in rolled-up shirtsleeves. His talk, marked with the trepidation and self-deprecatory humor befitting a Kafka aficionado, took in the publishing history and some contrasting examples of Kafka translation.

The Trial was brought before the public by an act of disobedience when Max Brod, the friend and literary executor to whom Kafka had entrusted the burning of this and other writings, refused to honor the author's wishes. ("Couldn't Kafka have destroyed it himself if he had really wanted to?" Mitchell drily remarked.) Brod restored the fragmented text and published Kafka's startling tale in 1925, the year after Kafka's death. That first, "historical" edition was followed by a later "critical" edition in which Brod undertook to reproduce with greater fidelity the word order and repetitions of the original. The translation into English, by Edwin and Willa Muir, appeared in 1937, published by Gollancz in London, and Knopf in the U.S.; it is this same translation that college students have been poring over for generations.

More than fifty years later, Kafka was certainly due for a new translation—Camus and Dostoevsky, among others, have been retranslated in recent years—but what spurred the project forward, ironically, was Brod's death. It was then that the original manuscript, over which Brod held exclusive rights, passed into public sale, becoming available to scholars. The newest German version of the text, now called the "definitive critical edition," came out as recently as 1990.

In the U.S., Schocken held the English translation rights to all of Kafka's work. When Pantheon acquired Schocken, they decided to retranslate the entire Kafka oeuvre, beginning with the new German edition of The Trial, and to this end, ten-page samples were requested from various translators. Upon receipt of a ten-page sample by Mitchell, the editor responded that he wanted a "more literal" translation, as if the text were sacred. Mitchell revised his sample although to do so, he feared, was akin to enclosing the text in a straitjacket. But when the editor read the "more literal" version, he agreed that it was far too literal, and asked Mitchell to revise it again, aiming for a tone halfway between the two versions. Making a virtue of patience, the translator went back to the drawing board. The editor was pleased by the tone of the third version, and a contract was finally drawn up. Two years later Mitchell submitted the translation. End of story?

Not quite. Dissatisfied with what seemed to him a still too literal version, Mitchell requested time for further revisions. Then the original editor changed houses, a new editor took on the project, had new ideas, and --you guessed it-- the translation is still in progress.

Mitchell turned to the opening and closing chapters of the novel (Kafka wrote these first, then filled in the others) to examine the choices the original translators had made and to offer his own.

Maybe these translators are trying to tell you something...

"Glenn's Guide is great." — Melany Laterman
"Excellent. I got new clients." — Silvia Hipple
"Your lists are invaluable! I recommend them whenever a translator says they are having difficulty finding work!" — Tammy Chazinski
"...am indebted to you." — Galen L. Clark
"Extremely good — source of most of my (now full-time) business." — Dana Morris
"An excellent, cost effective investment."
— John C. Decker

They used "Glenn's Guide," an up-to-date directory of translation agencies looking for free-lancers. And now, I have just added 100 new agencies in a supplement called Glenn's Guide II. All 380 addresses are also on self-stick mailing labels for convenience, guaranteed up-to-date. Drop me a note or call, and I'll send you more information about the guide. Maybe 700 translators know something you don't...

Glenn's Guide to Translation Agencies
John M. Glenn • 275 Liberty St. # 4 • San Francisco, CA 94114 • (415) 824-2345, FAX: -1707
"Jemand musste Josef K. verleumdet haben, denn ohne dass er etwas Böses getan hätte, wurde er eines Morgens verhaftet."

"Someone must have been telling lies about Joseph K., for without having done anything wrong he was arrested one fine morning."

Mitchell pointed out that in the very first sentence, the use of the subjunctive in German leaves room for doubt as to whether Joseph K. in fact had been guilty of any misdeed. "Verleumdet," translated in previous versions as "telling lies" or "traduced," is a legal word but easily understood in German as meaning "relating false or unsubstantiated facts to the detriment of someone's character." Mitchell chose an equally legal-sounding but easily understood word in English, "slander." Further, the ironic overtone in English of "one fine morning" adds a breeziness to the German, which simply says "one morning." "Böses" seemed to Mitchell to have a stronger, more sinful or wicked overtone than "wrong." He offered:

"Someone must have slandered Joseph K., for one morning, without having done anything truly wrong, he was arrested."

These and similar problems set the audience abuzz, but no one envied the translator's predicament. Living authors view their texts as alive and subject to flux; here the author is long dead and never saw his manuscript in print. While "Kafkaesque" has entered the modern vocabulary to denote foreboding and baffling complexity, Kafka's singular style was forged in a language of great structural specificity. And the fact that Kafka is a cultural icon has not made Mitchell's task any easier. The first translation, the one most people have read and studied, established a certain tone, the echo of which will hover over his work. Any new translation will find it difficult, if not impossible, to please lay readers, scholars and literary pundits alike.

Brod had the undoubted advantage of a twenty-year friendship with the author; he had heard the author read and had discussed the manuscript with him. How does the scholars' interpretation of Kafka's disordered manuscript differ from Brod's? To find out, you have two choices: compare the previous and current German editions, or wait for Mitchell's translation.

Kafka never intended the case to reach the higher court, but let's hope the translator will one day close the book so that we may read it anew.

NEW JERSEY AOC TO COORDINATE ALL FREELANCE COURT INTERPRETING SERVICES

Effective January 1, 1995, all judicial operating costs, including interpreting services, will be borne by the state rather than the twenty-one county court systems. Newly enacted legislation (State Judicial Unification Act A-1529/A-2266) requires that the shift of financial responsibility from the counties to the state be completed by end of fiscal year 1996.

Robert Joe Lee, head of the Court Interpreting section of the Administrative Office of the State Courts in New Jersey, has established a "Registry of Interpreters and Interpretation/Translation Agencies" to satisfy the statewide needs for interpreters in the Superior Courts.

Interpreters are divided into several categories: "master," "journeyman," and "conditionally approved." A schedule of rates for each category has been proposed, along with an hourly rate for preparation time and a rate for interpreters in the bottom-of-the-barrel classification, "eligible unapproved." Rates for telephone interpreting services are yet to be developed.

Guidelines have been approved, and will go into effect on March 1, 1995, to assist administrators in contracting freelance interpreters, who are classified in the Registry based on their scores on the AOC screening test and other factors such as experience and accreditation from other entities. The guidelines call for an elaborate rotation system and include the fee schedule, cancellation policy, fiscal constraints and other measures.

For additional information, contact the Court Interpreting Services Section at (609) 984-5024; fax (609) 633-7142.

A Note from the Nominations Committee

The Committee thanks all who responded to the call for nominations. Although we appreciate having been nominated, Committee members are automatically disqualified from running. Student members are likewise ineligible. Thanks also to nominees who accepted and submitted a campaign statement. Good luck to all!

Results will be published in the next issue.
Opinion

The Sky is Falling!

Dagoberto Orrantia

Are freelance interpreters employees of the agencies that hire them, or independent contractors? In this debate, no one has played more the fretful maid than an anonymous scribbler whining in a newsletter called the Translation News. He complains because he's afraid the Department of Labor is about to classify the people that agencies hire as employees, and like a leech that gets angry because the horse won't fight the farmer coming to stop it from sucking the horse's blood, he attacks the workers for not siding with the exploiter.

It is no surprise that translation agencies (they now call themselves "companies") will resist regulation; after all, agency profits may be in jeopardy. Naturally, as agencies perceive greater dangers, they grow more alarmed. But what is strange is the way the Translation News reacts to this threat: by obfuscation, negativism and divisiveness. This attitude is deplorable.

Translation News clouds the issue by trying to make believe that the independent contractor vs. employee question affects all translators and interpreters and by shrilly demanding that everyone forswear all other professional concerns to join its cause. There is no room for sharing new ideas, information, opinions or entertainment: Chicken Little says the sky is falling and we should all run to tell the king.

No amount of self-righteous statements, crocodile tears about the "wiping out of a cottage industry" or complaints about how minority-owned or female-owned businesses will be forced to hire interpreters from other states can hide the fact that government audits affect agencies. It is proper that agency owners hire lawyers and lobbyists and enlist newsletters to advance their cause; but it is obfuscation to criticize court interpreters (freelancers directly hired by the courts as independent contractors or, in fact, court employees) for not siding with the agencies.

I think we all agree that freelance interpreters or translators who decide to work for agencies have a right to be classified as independent contractors. And everyone recognizes the fact that agencies very often are the first door that opens for beginners in this increasingly regulated profession. But NAJIT is not only made up of agency owners and it should not represent the agencies' interests. Nor does it represent the government's interests. Our Association felt the heavy hand of unwarranted government intrusion when the Federal Trade Commission investigated NAJIT to satisfy themselves that we did not engage in price fixing.

And so Chicken Little squawks a single note in every issue of his newsletter: we must protect the profits of the translation industry. Any other concern, no matter how valid, draws a snide comment from this Howard Stern of the translation business. He criticizes Proteus for publishing articles on translation, on translation programs and on computers. What else should a newsletter for interpreters and translators publish? Never mind that our articles are reprinted by other newsletters. The Translation News editor knows only the negative remark and the unconstructive criticism; his joyless chortle is elicited only by news of how business is doing and who has joined his bandwagon. This parody of New York nastiness has grown tiresome.

Accusing the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators of apathy may be an attempt to discredit an organization that advocates professionalism and solidarity among court interpreters and translators. It is no coincidence that the same issue of his newsletter that comments negatively on NAJIT carries a front page article announcing that the American Translators Association "appears ready", and its leaders "appear disposed", to take an official stand on the issue of independent contractorship--presumably on the side of the agencies. Buried in his article is the comment that this "seeming willingness" on the part of the ATA "stands in theory to attract even more interpreters to its ranks--an idea that is looked upon most favorably in certain quarters of the Association." Such pious demurral does not hide the fact that this is his most fervent wish. He should know that unity is not achieved by attacking colleagues, poking fun at what they do or trying to discredit them.

The Editors of Proteus would like the Opinion column to become a regular feature. We encourage readers to express their views on any topic of relevance to the profession. Submissions should not exceed 750 words.
LETTERS

Estimado colega:

Unos breves comentarios sobre el "Handwriting Expert: Word List," por si pueden serle útiles. Parece que últimamente se está despertando gran interés en la traducción de vocablos y giros del inglés, tal vez ante la invasión de anglicismos, inevitables a veces, evitables las más, como usted dice, cuando se conoce el tema y la lengua del que traduce.

authorship autoría (En otros casos, paternidad.)

charts cuadros sinópticos. Creo que con cuadros, tablas, en su caso, bastaría. El cuadros sinópticos es un caso especial que, como su nombre indica, presenta una sinopsis gráfica de un asunto, organismo, etc., y que relaciona entre sí los diversos elementos componentes. El chart del inglés puede ser eso, pero en la acepción de cuadro sinóptico necesita ser más específico: organization chart, installation chart, etc.

flourish rúbrica, rasgueo. Aunque estas dos definiciones coinciden con la acepción de "figura o dibujo que se pone debajo de una firma," no abarca lo que se llama también "trazo de adorno" de una sola letra.

joined script letra cursiva ligada. Si vamos a guiaros por la definición del Diccionario de la Academia, "cursiva" significa ya de suyo "ligada". Pero es una definición muy vieja, y hoy apenas se emplea. En tipografía e imprenta, por "cursiva" se entiende lo que en inglés se dice italic. El script es cosa distinta del italic, y recibe en inglés, entre otros, el nombre de "plumilla" y "letra inglesa," es decir, una letra de molde que simula la escrita a mano.

overwriting escritura yuxtapuesta. Yuxtapuesto quiere decir "al lado de" o "en contiguidad de" lo que se supone una colocación horizontal, mientras que overwriting parece indicar algo que se pone encima o por encima de otra cosa. Sobreposición tal vez sería más apropiado que yuxtaposición. A veces, overwriting significa también "tachadura" (de lo que había antes).

stroke razo. (Supongo que es error tipográfico y que quisieron decir "trazo") rasgo, plumada.

terminal endings terminaciones. Si quieren decir los trazos pequeños con que terminan las letras que en inglés se denominan "serif," los nombres más comunes en español son "remates," "terminales," "bigotillos."

upright of a letter palo de una letra (sobre todo en las llamadas letras de palo seco); más particularmente, "asta" de una letra.

JOAQUIN SEGURA
Director de la Comisión de Traducciones,
Academia Norteamericana de la Lengua Española

Estimado colega:

Fue a través de Proteus que leí parte de su glosario de telecomunicaciones y puedo que sugiere que le enviemos alguna sugerencia, me atrevo a hacerlo, sin deseo de molestar a nadie. Espero que pueda añadirlas (en algunos casos):

area code prefijo, clave
cloning operation operación de clonación, operación de retransmisión
conference call llamada de a tres
dialing discado, marcado, marcación
hand held cellular phone auricular portátil plegable, teléfono celular portátil
monitor a beeper vigilar, controlar un biper
reverse charge call llamada por cobrar, a cobro revertido
touchtone keypad teclado de marcación por tono, teclado de tonos al tacto

Me gustaría sugerirle que añadiera dos términos más, ya que a veces es difícil decidir cuál usar.

pound key (#) tecla de gato
telephone operator telefonista

Le quiero felicitar por su trabajo y me encantaría me hiciera llegar el mini-glosario, cuando se publique.

Beatriz Tell
Milton, Ontario
announcements

RENEWAL TIME. If you haven't already, please send in your 1995 membership dues. Memberships not renewed by March 31 are subject to cancellation.

1996 IN MIAMI. NAJIT's 1996 Annual Meeting is being planned for the spring of next year in Miami.

PROTEUS welcomes articles in English and letters to the Editor from interpreters of any language on issues of concern to the readers. Preferred format is WordPerfect 5.1 for DOS, either on 3.5 inch diskettes or via CompuServe e-mail c/o David Mintz at 70323,1710. Desired length is 500 to 1500 words; please consult editors before sending longer manuscripts.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY update forms will be sent out in May. Please verify all information. The 1995 Directory will be published in July, and will be available to law firms at $15/copy.

SOLUTION to CROSSWORD

CONFCERENCE INFORMATION

Registration: On-site registration accepted as space permits. Registration fee: Members $195, Nonmembers $230, Students (limited to students who derive no income from employment as interpreters or translators) $155, spouse or guest $115. Registration includes all sessions, three days continental breakfast, open bar reception Friday evening, sit-down lunch Saturday, box lunch Sunday.

Lodging: Cathedral Hill Hotel, 1101 Van Ness, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. For overnight accommodations, call the hotel directly at 415-776-8200 or, in California: 800-622-0855, nationwide: 800-227-4730 and specify that you are attending the NAJIT conference. The rates are $95 single or double, plus 12% tax. The deadline for reservations is April 27.

Travel: For travel arrangements call Tzell Travel. From New York, call 212-279-3700 ext. 605 or 800-288-7908, ext. 605 and ask for Marie-Alice. From Los Angeles, call 213-651-5557 or 800-949-4159 and ask for Robert.

See you in San Francisco!
ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Monterey Institute of International Studies, Monterey, CA. March 6-10 Written Exam Preparation; March 6-31 Medical-Legal interpreting; May 15-19 Advanced Court Interpreting (state or federal oral exam prep); June 19-23 Written Exam Preparation; June 26-30 Advanced Court Interpreting; June 28-August 24 Summer Intensive Language Program: English, French or Spanish for Translation & Interpretation. Tel. (408) 647-4115; Fax (408) 647-3534.

April 18-23, 1995. Havana, Cuba. Expolingua Habana '95. Courses, symposia and workshops on Carribean and African languages and cultures and intercultural communication and lexicography. Address: Comité Organizador, CTTE, Capitolio Nacional, Apdo. Postal 2014, C.P. 10200 La Habana, Cuba. Fax: (0537) 33-8237; E-mail: Internet ctte@ceniai.cu

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Advanced English > Spanish Translation Workshop on April 22, 1995. For information contact Verónica Albin, Albin Professional Translations, 6320 Westchester, Houston, TX. Tel. (713) 668-1265; Fax (713) 661-5481.


July 31-August 19, 1995. Havana, Cuba. 1st International Summer Workshop on Conference Interpreting. Address: Centro de Traducciones y Terminología Especializada, Apdo. Postal 2014, C.P. 10200 La Habana, Cuba. Tel. 60-3411 ext. 1270. E-mail: ctte@ceniai.cu


September 25-27, 1995. Charles University, Prague. "Translators' Strategies and Creativity": The 9th International Conference on Translation and Interpreting is organized in cooperation with the University of Geneva's Ecole de Traduction et d'Interprétation. Address: Institute of Translation Studies, Charles University, Hybersnská 3, CZ-110 00 Prague 1, Czech Republic. Tel. +422-24217961; Tel./Fax: +422-24217965.

February 9-16, 1996. Melbourne, Australia. "Translation: New Horizons": XIV FIT World Congress 1996. Address: Ms. Clare MacAdam, Congress Management, Fauth Royale & Associates Pty Ltd., P.O. Box 895, North Sydney, NSW 2060, Australia. Tel. +61 (0)2 954 4544; Fax: +61 (0) 2 954 4964.
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIARY INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS
531 Main St., Suite 1603
New York, NY 10044
Tel. (212) 759-4457
FAX (212) 759-7458

The objective of NAJIT is the advancement of the profession of court interpreting. All interested persons are encouraged to join. Membership entitles you to a free subscription to Proteus, a scholarly newsletter published quarterly; a listing in the Language Services Guide and Interpreters/Translators Directory; and the right to vote and participate in the activities of the Association. Membership is extended to individuals, students, and institutions.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Last Name ___________________________ First Name ___________________________ Middle Initial ______

Business Name (if applicable) ________________________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________________________

City __________________________________ State __________ ZIP __________

Home Phone (_____)______________ Business Phone (_____)________________________

Fax (_____)________________________ Beeper (_____)________________________

Languages ________________________________________________________________

Passive Languages ________________________________________________________________

Accreditation or Certification:

____ Federal ______ State: From which state(s)? __________________________________________

____ ATA: What language combinations? ________________________________________________

____ Department of State: Escort ______ Seminar ______ Conference ______

Are you willing to travel? Yes ___ No ___

If you are a language instructor at a college, please indicate which one: _________________________________

I certify that the above information is correct and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Applicant’s Signature __________________________________ Date ______________

1995 PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Individual: $75 _____ Student:* $25 _____ Institution: $150 _____

* Student membership is available ONLY to students of interpreting and translation who derive no income from employment as interpreters or translators.

Please make your check payable to NAJIT. Return completed application and your check to:

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New York, NY 10044