

The TRANSLetter

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A Publication of the Society of Translators & Interpreters of British Columbia (STIBC)

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President's Message

Evelyna Radoslavova, C.Tr.

Dear Colleagues,



You have before your eyes another great issue of *The TRANSLetter*. Thanks to the hard work of our editors, proofreaders and staff, it is ready just in time for our AGM, and I don't want to miss this opportunity to invite you once more to join us on Saturday, June 7 for two great workshops, a presentation of our achievements over the past year and of our priorities for the next, and the chance to meet our new Executive Director, Terry J. Clark.

Yes, this is correct: STIBC now has a part-time Executive Director. As discussed at the last AGM, the Society has grown to a point where its activities could not be maintained by volunteers alone, and we were in dire need of the type of support that Terry will offer in order to improve the services we provide to our members and to raise the profile of STIBC and our professions throughout the province. A seasoned association management professional, Terry will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to help us take the Society to the next level. This issue features a short biographical statement about Terry, along with his photograph.

Among a variety of serious and entertaining articles of interest to translators and interpreters, I would like to draw your attention to an item by Fenella Sung regarding the new Canadian quality standard for translation service providers (TSPs). .../2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message.....	1
Introducing Terry J. Clark, CAE.....	2
Cultivating a New Breed of Butterflies in Interpreting	3
Accuracy versus Readability	4
The World Wide Web as a Corpus for Translators (1)	4
The Mystery of the "En Dash" and the "Em Dash" in English Texts	6
Report on National Standard for Translation Industry	6
Court Interpreter Update.....	8
On the Lighter Side.....	11
Notes on the Japanese Language Division Translation & Interpreting Workshop	11
Continuing Studies Opportunities.....	12
Referrals (Feb. 2008 – May 2008).....	13
Upcoming Conferences	13

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As you may or may not know, discussions began last year under the guidance of the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) to establish a Canadian standard for companies (of all sizes) that provide translation services in Canada. The goal was to institute guarantees of quality and protection of the public at the corporate level comparable to those that our own system of professional certification has been providing for a long time in Canada for individual practitioners.

STIBC, together with OTTIAQ and CTTIC, represented the professional associations on the CGSB's Committee on Translation Services, which included stakeholders from various other communities: industry members such as the Language Industry Association (AILIA) and a number of translation companies, the Translation Bureau, university representatives, and several clients that make use of translation services.

This committee made sure that professional certification became one of the two criteria (the other being a university degree) that are used to define competence in the draft standard, which will soon be submitted for approval to the Standards Council of Canada.

Finally, allow me once again to remind you that even though STIBC now has an Executive Director, the Society will continue to rely heavily on you, its members, in order to carry out its essential functions. The AGM is a great opportunity to come and share your view on our priorities, but it is also the time when you can step in and join the Board of Directors or one of our committees and contribute in a more direct way to the growth of our professional association.

That said, and without further ado, I will let you enjoy the excellent work of our *TRANSLetter* editors and many contributors. Happy reading! ◇



“Translation is at best an echo.”

George Borrow

Introducing Terry J. Clark, CAE



Terry Clark is a “Certified Association Executive” (CAE) who specializes in working with not-for-profit societies and business associations. Formerly an accountant and Area Governor for Toastmasters International, Terry has provided leadership to over forty not-for-profit organizations over the past twelve years. His areas of expertise encompass, among others, strategic planning, certification, board governance and operational management.

Examples of past clients include the Vancouver Board of Trade, Victoria Chamber of Commerce, BC Housing Coop Federation, BC Printing and Imaging Association, and the Edmonton Advertising Association. Terry thrives on providing leadership and guidance to organizations wishing to maximize their potential to go to a new level of performance while exceeding member expectations.

Terry and his wife Dana live in North Vancouver. His son Bryan is responsible for Internet technology at General Electric in Burnaby; daughter Leah is an honors student attending Simon Fraser University. ◇

Cultivating a New Breed of Butterflies in Interpreting

By Sophie Bizeul

What would life be like if those butterflies of nervousness became butterflies of excitement?

The meaning we attach to an event often dictates our experience of it. Interpreting, for instance, can be perceived as an exciting opportunity to contribute to a wider audience, opening doors to communication that would not be possible otherwise. However, it is all too often considered a dreadful experience by beginning interpreters who, in the worst-case scenario, see it as an opportunity for failure in front of a group of hostile strangers. As a matter of fact, depending on the associations that you make with interpreting, the butterflies in your stomach will tend to be either feelings of excitement that will undoubtedly help you to bring out the best in yourself, or feelings of nervousness (sometimes even panic) that will more than likely deprive you of the most basic resources needed to think on your feet. So how can you replace associations that do not serve you with ones that support you?

Becoming more competent is obviously the best way to gain confidence in your skills and hence change your relationship to interpreting. Continued learning, especially experiential learning, is at the core of an increasing competence. Experiential learning stands in contrast to mere intellectual understanding – the difference between these can be likened to the difference between “knowledge” and “knowing.” While having a thorough knowledge of your working languages and specialty fields is certainly essential, it is not until you actually start interpreting that you develop an internal knowing of what it is all about. This is why participating in hands-on training like VCC’s Interpreting Program, and being exposed week after week to an audience through public speaking groups like Toastmasters, are extremely effective ways to improve your work in public and to help you get rid of the most nerve-wracking butterflies.

Another way that is often overlooked and yet is known to significantly speed up the competence building process is to develop a mental visualization routine of yourself as a world-class interpreter. Such a routine will eventually override any limiting ideas

that you might have about your skills. The reason is that whatever your mind can see, your body can do. In other words, if you can see yourself in your mind’s eye as a powerful, confident interpreter, you already are half way to becoming fertile ground for a new breed of butterflies. The best way to keep expanding that ground is to make sure you not only prepare for your assignments, but also are in peak emotional form as you do so. This will allow you to develop a strong and resourceful image of yourself when thinking of upcoming sessions. By doing this consistently, you will progressively reprogram the associations that you make with interpreting, until the day you truly start looking forward to opportunities for using your hard-earned skills. ◇

Adapted from an article written for the BC Toastmasters Fall 2007 Conference Magazine. Sophie Bizeul is a professional English-French translator who has transitioned into the world of life coaching. For more information, visit: www.essencialcoaching.com.

Please join us at the STIBC

Annual General Meeting and Members’ Day

Saturday, June 7, 2008

Segal Graduate School of Business
500 Granville Street
Vancouver, BC

Registration for the workshops

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Workshops

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Lunch

12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Registration for the AGM

2:00 p.m. – 2:25 p.m.

AGM

2:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Reception

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Accuracy versus Readability

By Eric Spalding, C.Tr.

Lydia Davis is a literary translator and a writer. Her 2007 collection of short stories is called *Varieties of Disturbance*. Upon reading a review of the book, I got the impression that many of the stories dealt with translating. As it happens, only one, “The Walk,” focuses directly on this activity. In it, a translator meets a literary critic at a conference and ends up going on a walk with him. There is a mild level of discomfort between them as the critic has expressed dislike in the past for one of her translations:

He felt that she kept too close to the original text. He preferred the studied cadences of an earlier version and had said so in person and in print. She felt that he admired lyricism and empty rhetorical flourishes at the expense of accuracy and faithfulness to the style of the original, which was far plainer and clearer, she said, than the flowery and obfuscating earlier version. (p. 73)

The story goes on to include both versions of her translation, which happens to be of a passage from Marcel Proust’s *In Search of Lost Time*. Each excerpt amounts to about 250 words. Here is a sentence from the earlier version:

I would by now be dragging my weary limbs and ready to drop with sleep; the balmy scent of the lime-trees seemed a reward that could be won only at the price of great fatigue and was not worth the effort. (p. 77)

Here is a sentence from the later version:

I would be dragging my feet, I would be ready to drop with sleep, the fragrance of the lindens that perfumed the air seemed a reward that could be won only at the cost of the greatest fatigue and was not worth the trouble. (p. 79)

By showing us both versions, Davis invites us to judge which of the two we prefer. She reminds us that translating involves balancing fidelity to the original against readability in the target language.

The other stories in the volume are precisely written and easy to read, providing minute insights into everyday life. Davis’ one novel, *The End of the Story*, might also be intriguing to someone interested in the writing process, as it’s about writing a novel. ◇

Source: Davis, Lydia. “The Walk.” *Varieties of Disturbance: Stories*. New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2007, pp. 72-82.

Eric Spalding is a long-time member of STIBC, certified to translate from French to English and from English to French. He was born and raised in Greater Montréal and now lives in Greater Vancouver. His dad is Scottish and his mom Québécoise.



The World Wide Web as a Corpus for Translators (1)

By Aaron Bull, C.Tr.

From time to time, my teen-age children are curious about what life was like in that far-off time when I was their age. My daughter wonders how people survived without cell phones or iPods. Or even microwaves. My son can’t imagine what people did with themselves before they had computers.

For my part, I feel similarly perplexed when contemplating the work of a translator in the pre-Internet era. The World Wide Web has provided us with a vast, ever-evolving source of information that we can draw on in countless ways to assist with our daily work.

Through the Internet, we have access to an enormous number of dictionaries and glossaries — monolingual, bilingual and multilingual, covering virtually every conceivable subject area, ranging from the ordinary (law, medicine, ecology) to the esoteric (foxhunting, comic book words, cigars). As a French-to-English translator, I have come to rely on certain resources, such as the *Grand dictionnaire*

terminologique, produced by the *Office québécois de la langue française*, the *Inter Active Terminology for Europe* or *IATE* (incorporating a number of existing databases, including the former *Eurodicautom*), offered by various agencies of the European Union, and the *Trésor de la langue française informatisé*, maintained by various French institutions.

However, quite apart from online dictionaries and lexicons, the World Wide Web provides us with a corpus: a massive library of linguistic raw materials made up of all the text that appears on all the Web pages available through our Web browsers. The challenge, of course, is to find effective ways to exploit this invaluable resource.

I can still remember my elation on first trying a Web search using the Google search engine. It was as if the entire World Wide Web had been turned into the biggest concordance ever produced. No longer did my searches yield an opaque list of pages that somewhere — hopefully — contained the word or phrase I had typed in: now the words I had searched for were shown in their context. It was like winning the lottery!

When I wanted to refer to my daughter's musings about personal audio devices earlier in this article, I wasn't sure how to write the name for the popular item: was there a hyphen between the *i* and *p*, or was it written as a single word? A quick search for *ipod* revealed that the latter was the case, but that the *p* should be capitalized. Now, I felt quite confident that this was correct, since one of the sources that turned up in the search results was *apple.com*, the website of the company that makes iPods. In other cases, however, search results may be somewhat less reliable. We need only search for a common spelling or grammatical error and observe the large number of results yielded to be reminded how cautiously we have to treat information gathered in this way.

Often, then, we must make statistical comparisons to arrive at a decision. When we type in *accross*, for example, we get 5,000,000 results. However, a search for *across* produces 541,000,000 pages, a number far outstripping the results for the incorrect spelling. Incidentally, in this case, Google cleverly suspects we might have made an error when we entered *accross*, and suggests "Did you mean: across?" at the top of the results page.

As another illustration of how we can use statistical comparisons, we might try searching for the spellings *center* and *centre*. Using the "Date, usage rights, numeric range, and more" section toward the bottom of the Google "Advanced Search" page, we can choose to limit results to a specific region. Searches for *center* and *centre* yield the following:

	<i>center</i>	<i>centre</i>
United Kingdom	1,360,000	2,740,000
United States	103,000,000	20,100,000
Canada	1,690,000	4,260,000

Both spellings can be found on Web pages based in all three countries, but as we would predict, the currency of the spellings varies considerably, with *center* being vastly more common in U.S. sites and *centre* being more common in U.K. and Canadian ones.

Obviously, Google was not designed with language professionals in mind, so it does have a number of limitations when we adapt it to our purposes. For example, it does not distinguish between hyphen and space, or between accented characters. As a result, a search for "north-east" yields results with *north east* too, and a search for *schön* also gives us pages with *schon*. Also, over the past few months, Google has introduced "fuzzy" matches, so that results from a search for *translate* include *translator* and *translation* too. Sometimes this can be useful, but it can be a distinct disadvantage when we need to find a specific word or spelling.

That being said, Google offers a wonderful array of tools to help target our searches and find just the information we need. In a future article, I plan to discuss more specific techniques we can use as translators to make the most of Google and other Internet resources. ◇

Aaron Bull studied French linguistics, specializing in creole dialects, and collaborated in the writing of a dictionary of French Guianese creole. He taught in the French Department at Simon Fraser University before becoming a freelance French-English translator.

The Mystery of the “En Dash” and the “Em Dash” in English Texts

A dash is a punctuation mark and should not be confused with a hyphen, which is shorter in length and is used differently.

The en dash or “short dash” (–) is used to indicate a connection between two things (forming a compound expression, such as the riding of West Vancouver–Sunshine Coast) or to indicate a closed range, such as 6–10 years, read as “six to ten years.” Its name is derived from the rough width of the typeset lowercase letter n (unit of measure called an “en”). It is half the size of an em dash. The en dash has no space before or after.

The em dash or “long dash” (—), indicates a parenthetical statement — such as this one — or other sudden breaks in thought within a running text. Its name is derived from the width of the rectangular area occupied by the uppercase letter M in a particular typeface (unit of measure called an “em”). The em dash may be used to set off enumerations that do not end the sentence, clarifications, explanations, emphasis, afterthoughts, and interruptions. Some style guides recommend inserting a space before and after the em dash, while others prefer not to add a space. ◇

Sources: *The Canadian Style*, the Canadian government’s English-language editorial style guide, published by Dundurn Press Limited in co-operation with the Translation Bureau of Canada; Wikipedia.



Report on a National Standard for the Translation Industry

By Fenella Sung, C.Tr., C.Crt.Int.

The Committee on Translation Services of the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) was formed in May 2007 under the initiative of the Language Industry Association (AILIA) and Industry Canada, with a view to establishing a national standard for the translation industry. Note that the mandate of this committee does not include interpretation services.

The Committee was comprised of twenty-nine voting members, with twelve members in the category of suppliers (including both freelancers and translation agencies), eight in the category of users (such as the Translation Bureau and large corporations) and seven in the general category (such as academic institutions). Evelynna Radoslavova sat as a voting member on behalf of STIBC, and I sat as a voting member in my personal capacity as a TSP (translation service provider). We were the only two representatives from Western Canada.

Since the Committee is an industry-driven initiative (instead of being driven by service providers), the first draft presented to the Committee for discussion in June 2007 was very much a modified version of the European Committee for Standardization (*Comité européen de normalisation* – CEN) standard EN 15038 Translation Services, which is in essence a standard focusing on the translation process rather than on the measurement of quality.

Many members, especially those members representing the Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council (CTTIC) and professional associations, expressed concern over this apparent approach in favour of process rather than quality.

Another issue pertained to the use of the term “certification.” “Certification” of the process as defined in the standards industry (such as the ISO standard or the European CEN standard) may be easily confused with “certification” meaning the qualification granted to a competent individual who has successfully passed the CTTIC examinations or on-dossier requirements.

A working group was formed to address these two issues and, after many negative votes on the original draft, a substantially modified draft was tabled, discussed at another meeting in November 2007, and passed with a few dissenting voices in January 2008.

Following is the letter from Michel Parent, President of CTTIC, to Bob Charest, Chair of the Committee on Translation Services and Team Leader, Standards Division of CGSB, regarding the vote. This letter is reprinted with Mr. Parent’s permission:

As agreed over the phone, this is to confirm that further to the discussions

held on October 29-30 and November 28-29, CTTIC is indeed changing its vote from negative to affirmative.

However, CTTIC remains extremely concerned about the use of the words "certified" and "certification" in the case of TSPs who would comply with the eventual standard. This presents a very real risk of creating confusion in the minds of the public. As I mentioned during our meetings, provincial organizations of translators, terminologists and interpreters in Canada have a clear mandate to ensure the protection of the public by granting membership and professional certification to individual practitioners who satisfy specific competence criteria, and by making certain that their members retain the appropriate level of competence. In four provinces, the organizations' mandate is a matter of provincial law.

At least in the case of Ontario and Quebec, the provincial legislation clearly specifies that no one can claim to be "certified" (or use any words or abbreviations which may lead members of the public to believe that they are) unless they have been granted that title by the provincial organization.

But the distinction may not be clear to the general public. Practitioners who are not professionally certified, but are compliant with the standard, might present themselves as "certified" or something similar and, in so doing, lead the public to believe that they hold a professional title which, in fact, they do not. And the public would not be protected.

So if anyone not duly "certified" under provincial law, but compliant with the standard, uses the word "certified" or anything similar which might create confusion, they would possibly open themselves up to action by the provincial certifying organization, who would rightly be concerned about maintaining the meaning of professional certification and, in four provinces [TRANSLetter note: British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick], upholding the law.

Therefore, CTTIC will be asking its member organizations to be vigilant about claims of "certification" made by TSPs, and to ensure that unfounded expectations are not created among the general public.

I thank you for letting me have this opportunity to put this concern on the record. As I recall, it was shared by other

participants around the table. I understand from our conversation that this will be posted on the website.

I look forward to working with you on the next steps of the process.

Michel Parent, C.Tr.
President, CTTIC
819-685-1955

Although the standard will soon be passed by the CGSB as the first-ever national standard for the translation industry, many voting members as well as the CGSB recognize that it is deficient in some areas, particularly in its lack of a mechanism for quality measurement. There is already talk of a revision phase, which hopefully will start as soon as the standard is officially established. In short, it is still a work in progress. ◇

Fenella Sung is both a Certified Translator and Certified Court Interpreter specializing in legal work, government policies and the media. She joined STIBC in 1994 and has served on the Board in various capacities. She was President of STIBC from 2004 to 2006.

Thank You to STIBC Volunteers!

Event Organizers and Workshop Presenters:

Stanley Fukawa, Shoko Falvo, Tatsuo Kage, Masako Sharpe, Yuko Ikegami Lee

Mailouts:

A special thank you to Stanley Fukawa for helping with the Directory mailout. Stanley always offers his time when the Office needs assistance.

Court Interpreter Update

By Roger Barany, C.Crt.Int., C.Tr.

This is meant to be a snapshot of the recent court interpreter contract renewal process with Court Services Branch (CSB) of the Ministry of Attorney General. Given the complexity and timing of the events and the range of vantage points, others may have a different perspective on some items. Any opinions expressed are, of course, mine.

At the beginning of this year, CSB increased the minimum cancellation notice from 24 to 48 hours. As I understand it, this means, for example, that if an interpreter is cancelled after the scheduled start time on the first day of a multi-day trial, he or she is now entitled to payment of the minimum hours for day one plus the minimums for the following two days (in this case, 4+4+4 or 12 hours). Along with other interpreters, I had previously written to CSB asking for a review of the cancellation policy. This change was a welcome improvement, although it still falls short of adequately compensating interpreters' lost time and earnings when multiple-week trials fall through at the last minute.

This year, many interpreters wrote to Victoria weeks and months ahead of our April 1, 2008, contract renewal date to request that the hourly rates also be raised. The argument for an increase was compelling given that the fee structure had remained unchanged for 17 years. When the contracts were mailed out to us for signing a few weeks prior to April 1, they included the same rate of \$35/hour. Several interpreters, while talking over coffee during their breaks at the Triple Two (the court house café at 222 Main Street), decided they would not sign the contract this time as our letters on the subject of rates continued to fall on deaf ears, as they had in previous contract renewal periods. An ad hoc language-based coalition was spontaneously formed. Interpreters began to send back their contracts unsigned with explanatory letters requesting, *inter alia*, an increase to at least \$50 per hour, a 3-hour minimum, and a review of the 32 km travel policy.

A meeting was solicited and obtained with the BC Attorney General. A group of eight interpreters sat down to discuss the situation with the Honourable Wally Oppal and his assistant on March 14. We advised the Attorney General that some 60 long-

standing active interpreters had sent their contracts back unsigned. He did not seem to be fully apprised of the situation. Mr. Oppal was sympathetic and indicated that he would review the issue, but it was a problem of dollars and cents, with competing demands for funding. (He cited the Pickton case.) We were encouraged to continue making representations. There was an implicit understanding, I think, that it was going to take some sustained pressure to change the status quo.

Although no concrete promise came out of the meeting, most believed that an increase would be forthcoming. The meeting agenda (prepared by us) included concrete ways to avoid disruptions should the change not go through fast enough. Specifically, it was suggested that the existing contract could be extended for a few months or binding arbitration could be initiated under the terms of the contract. In any event, we would continue to accept work to allow time for funding to be secured or for a solution to be negotiated in good faith. We promised to honour all the other terms and conditions of the contract and uphold the usual ethical standards and practices expected of court interpreters.

Shortly after that, CSB mailed new but identical contracts again to those interpreters who had returned the previous contract unsigned, along with a message saying that a signed contract was required in order to continue working as a court interpreter. In early April, the court registries began calling interpreters to cancel all their April bookings. Staff refused to pay the cancellation fee if it was within 48 hours. Interpreters began sending the second contract back unsigned with yet another letter.

If there was ever a need for additional pressure, it had just been satisfied by this unexpected turn of events. After all, many of us had been "late" submitting our signed contracts in previous years with no consequence. Apprehensive about our livelihoods, many of us went through some pretty stressful days wondering what was going to happen. Were we really expendable? Numerous e-mails went back and forth and meetings were called to talk about what to do but clearly, the main action required was to simply wait out the storm. Based on this analysis, I should say that I missed a number of these strategizing meetings since in my mind, the strategy was to wait. Our letters indicated unambiguously that we were not going to sign the contract in its present form, so

something had to give on the other side if the courts wanted us back.

The court registries did everything possible to keep the system functioning, including flying in non-accredited interpreters and using under-qualified people supplied through agencies. One or two interpreters were personally hounded to sign the contract, and saw their appointments strategically cancelled one at a time. Another interpreter who had not been cancelled in advance showed up for work and wasn't paid. One interpreter clerk reportedly went on sick leave. This is probably only the tip of the iceberg. I'm sure there are other hair-raising stories to tell.

Around this time, the STIBC Board, which had not been fully apprised of the situation up to this point, offered to write a letter of support.

Trials began to be adjourned for want of qualified interpreters and the judiciary took notice that there was more chaos than usual in the system.

On Friday April 11, another interpreter and I acting as liaison received notice by telephone from Kate Kimberley, the Senior Manager in charge of this file for Court Services, telling us that a solution had been reached which the interpreters "should find positive." It included an immediate rate increase and a commitment to sit down with a group of interpreters to discuss the remaining issues, namely, minimum hours and travel policy. For operational reasons, the details could not be divulged right away, but an official announcement would be made early the following week.

I thought this was excellent news and wanted everyone to know as soon as possible. However, an emergency interpreters' meeting had been called by others for that same evening, on one day's notice, and a couple of my colleagues asked me specifically not to mention this news, yet. Apparently, there was a strategy.

The news was in fact announced that Friday evening in a Burnaby library meeting room with 35 or 40 in attendance, but it was not given very high priority on the packed agenda. It was left to the end, when people had already started leaving and after they had heard from representatives from two different unions, voted on joining one of them, signed union cards, and

decided to form a new interpreters' association as well, to back up the union. The atmosphere was charged, people were tense, and some important decisions were made under duress. I can't say whether properly communicating the "positive news" at the outset would have changed the course of events; by now the "campaign" had more than one front.

On the following Monday, April 14, we received official word from the Court Services Branch that the increase was from \$35 to \$45 an hour (non-accredited interpreters also received a \$10/hour increase to \$30/hour, by default), effective immediately, and we were also given confirmation that a meeting would be arranged in the near future to sit down to discuss the remaining issues with a small group of interpreters. The memorandum accompanying the now revised contracts that were rushed back to us, for a third time in some cases and by email wherever possible, included this:

"The Ministry is also committed to reviewing contracted interpreter terms of service and making the required budget requests, as necessary, for the 2009/10 fiscal year. Branch staff will be actively consulting with contracted interpreters on the following policy areas:

- Minimum hours. This policy will be revised to better reflect operational requirements.
- Travel policy. This policy will be reviewed to ensure fairness, consistency and better reflect current travel costs.
- Use of agencies. Where agencies continue to be used, they will be subject to improved quality assurance and risk management requirements."

After breathing a collective sigh of relief, within a few days, those who still wanted to work for CSB had signed and returned the amended contracts and apart from a few glitches, it was business as usual in the court houses.

A few days later, I was advised that a meeting had been scheduled for May 20 at the Vancouver Law Courts between representatives of Court Services and five or six interpreters, in order to discuss these items. The interpreters planning to attend began to exchange ideas on other items to add to the agenda.

Then, on April 30, I was e-mailed the following message from Kate Kimberley, who asked me to pass it on to the others:

“The meeting scheduled for May 20th needs to be cancelled/postponed until further notice. On April 21st, the Ministry of Attorney General was informed by the Public Service Agency that it received an application for certification of Court Services’ contracted court interpreters from the BCGEU. As such, Court Services has been given advice that until this matter is determined and resolved through the arbitration process, discussions regarding modifications for current terms of service must be postponed.”

The arbitration in question was ordered by the Labour Relations Board, which had quickly heard the application from the BCGEU for union certification of court interpreters. The issue to be resolved is whether interpreters can be classified as employees of the Province for union purposes, when our contracts state we are not employees. A letter to us from the union says that this arbitration is a very positive outcome; but we have also been told the overall process will be lengthy.

If union certification is finally achieved, there is no assurance that the required majority of interpreters will vote for it. It is a challenge to even figure out who we all are. Several colleagues have since voiced disagreement with joining a union, and others, including myself, have changed their minds, although as a freelance translator and interpreter, I have personally never seen the need for a union. It promises to be a divisive rather than unifying experiment.

To sum up my present feelings on how events have unfolded, it is not every day that you win the opportunity to sit down directly with your employer to be “actively consulted” on policy concerning your pay and working conditions, and then cause this process to come to an abrupt halt.

To end on a positive note, although some colleagues found the increase insufficient and one even called it an insult, I think it is indeed “positive” and the door remains ajar for further improvements down the road, possibly through direct meetings with CSB staff with whom a working relationship of sorts has been forged. In my occasional dealings with Ms. Kimberley, who was a go-between for Court Services and not the ultimate decision maker, I always found her to be courteous, straight-forward and non-critical of the position taken by the interpreters. Finally, it was encouraging to see how

colleagues rallied together and were willing to step out on a limb, individually and collectively, for what was felt to be a just, although arguably self-interested cause.

The CSB’s April 14 letter to us also ends on a positive note:

“We recognize that this period of instability has not been easy for interpreters, Court Services staff, Crown Counsel, the judiciary or members of the public. The Ministry is eager to move forward. We trust that the contract rate increase and a commitment to review the terms of service illustrate a renewed commitment and appreciation of the important contributions that court interpreters make to our justice system in BC.”

As for the formation of another court interpreters’ association, I am averse to reinventing the wheel. I would hope that STIBC has the flexibility to fulfill the role(s) for which the proponents of a new association consider that STIBC does not have a mandate. This, of course, will depend not only on the STIBC Board of the day, but on the willingness of more STIBC court interpreters, certified and associate, to engage in a process to assure that the Society is doing what it can to promote the professional interests of court interpreters, which, incidentally, is part of STIBC’s mandate. In particular, an effort is needed to accommodate the needs of VCC accredited interpreters who may not see any advantage in joining STIBC.

In fact, this may be a good time for STIBC, VCC and CSB to sit down and look at the possibility of adjusting the present model to better reflect the status of the VCC program as a trainer of court interpreters and STIBC’s role as a certifying and self-regulating body. Simply stated, this would mean that court interpreters who are STIBC members would be bound by the Society’s code of ethics and continuing education requirements and would receive a slightly higher rate. ◇

Roger Barany juggles three languages in oral and written modes, two kids plus wife/business partner, and a home office that flows like lava into every available space. His six-year-old knows how to say “chaos” in three languages. Roger is also a former STIBC board member and previously coordinated the National Court Interpreter Certification Exam for CTIC/STIBC.

On the Lighter Side...

Candidate for a Pullet Surprise

By Jerrold H. Zar

I have a spelling checker,
It came with my PC.
It plane lee marks four my revue
Miss steaks aye can knot sea.

Eye ran this poem threw it,
Your sure reel glad two no.
Its vary polished in it's weigh.
My checker tolled me sew.

A checker is a bless sing,
It freeze yew lodes of thyme.
It helps me right awl stiles two reed,
And aides me when eye rime.

Each frays come posed up on my screen
Eye trussed too bee a joule.
The checker pours o'er every word
To cheque sum spelling rule.

Bee fore a veiling checker's
Hour spelling mite decline,
And if we're lacks oar have a laps,
We wood bee maid too wine.

Butt now bee cause my spelling
Is checked with such grate flare,
Their are know fault's with in my cite,
Of nun eye am a wear.

Now spelling does knot phase me,
It does knot bring a tier.
My pay purrs awl due glad den
With wrapped word's fare as hear.

To rite with care is quite a feet
Of witch won should bee proud,
And wee mused dew the best wee can,
Sew flaw's are knot aloud.

Sow ewe can sea why aye dew prays
Such soft wear four pea seas,
And why eye brake in two averse
Buy righting want too pleas.

Reproduced here by courtesy of its author Jerrold H. Zar; this "Ode to a Spelling Checker," as it is often referred to on the Internet, is the authentic version of

a poem initially published in the Journal of Irreproducible Results, in January/February 1994. By the author's count, 127 of the 225 words of the poem are incorrect (although all words are correctly spelled). For more information, click on the following link to the author's website:
www.bios.niu.edu/zar/poem.html

Notes on the Japanese Language Division Translation & Interpreting Workshop

Saturday, May 24, 2008, Burnaby

By Masako Sharpe, C.Tr.

The Japanese Language Division of STIBC held a workshop at Nikkei Place on May 24, 2008, sponsored by the Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association, Japanese Division. The idea for a workshop stemmed from the need for continuing education for STIBC members to deal with Japanese language issues. During the brainstorming stage, the organizers (Tatsuo Kage, Yuko Ikegami Lee and Masako Sharpe) came to realize the needs in the community for workshops led by experienced, professional translators/interpreters, covering topics not taught in schools. Consequently, we had an overwhelming response: nearly 50 people attended, including 20 STIBC members.



STIBC members present at the Japanese Language Division Translation & Interpreting Workshop on May 24, 2008 in Burnaby.

The opening provided an introduction to STIBC, including certification, followed by a two-part program on translation and interpreting. For

translation, “Translation Basics E>J” (presented by Masako Sharpe, C.Tr.), “Process of Translation and Exercises E>J” (by Tatsuo Kage, C.Tr.), and “Most Common Problems in Translating J>E” (by Stan Fukawa, C.Tr.) were discussed. For interpretation, “Types of Interpretation and Assignments” (by Yuko Ikegami Lee, C.Tr.), “Experiences as a Court Interpreter” (by Shoko Falvo, C.Tr.), “Training” (by David McIntosh), and “Hands-on Training such as Note Taking, Shadowing” (by Yuko Ikegami Lee, C.Tr. and David McIntosh) were covered.

This three-and-a-half hour workshop was rich in content and well received by the audience, who expressed a desire to see this type of workshop held regularly in the future. Following are some of the comments received from participants, including experienced translators and interpreters:

“Presenters were very well prepared!”

“Great presentations and organization.
Superb team and good work!”

“Thank you for a great learning opportunity.

I was able to learn a lot from today’s seminars.
I was impressed with the highly substantial content given
by the all-star presenters.” ◇

Masako Sharpe is a certified translator from English into Japanese and has been a member of STIBC since 1988. Apart from doing freelance translation, she is involved in dog agility sports with her two Australian Shepherds to keep in shape and stay sharp.



The Japanese Language Division Workshop Presenters:
Front row, left to right: Yuko Ikegami Lee, C.Tr., Past Director STIBC; Shoko Falvo, C.Tr., Past Director STIBC;
Back row, left to right: David McIntosh; Stanley Fukawa, C.Tr.; Masako Sharpe, C.Tr., Past Coordinator, CTTIC Exam Committee; Tatsuo Kage, C.Tr., Past Vice-President STIBC.

Continuing Studies Opportunities

STIBC AGM Workshops

Saturday, June 7, 2008, 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Segal Graduate School of Business
500 Granville Street, Vancouver, BC

✧ Tools for Remote Control and Other Neat Internet Tools, by Nelson Laterman, C.Tr.

✧ Code of Ethics in Community and Healthcare Settings, by Maria Schneider, Assoc. Mbr.

VCC Interpreting programs

Centre for Continuing Studies
Downtown Campus, 250 West Pender Street

Information Session:

Thursday, June 5, 2008, 7:00–10:00 p.m.

An Orientation to Interpreting (INTR 1178)

If you are interested in interpreting as a profession, this course gives you an overview of interpreting and its attendant skills. Handbook and materials provided. This course is a prerequisite for entry into the VCC Certificate Programs in Court Interpreting or Health Care and Community Services Interpreting. (30 hours, August 23 to September 5, \$310)

Entrance Exam (INTR 1106)

The entrance exam evaluates written and oral command of English and a language of specialty, as well as aptitude for interpreting. Registration accepted only on completion of INTR 1178. (1 day; Saturday, June 14 or Saturday, September 6; \$97)

INTR 1178 and successful completion of INTR 1106 are prerequisites for admission to the following programs:

Court Interpreting Certificate Program

October 7, 2008 – May 21, 2009

Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6:30–9:30 p.m., and some Saturdays. \$3,085.

Health Care and Community Interpreting Certificate Program

October 7, 2008 – May 12, 2009

Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6:30–9:30 p.m., and some Saturdays. \$2,555.

Computer-Assisted Translation (INTR 1187)

This course provides a practical introduction to the use of translation memory and terminology management tools throughout all phases of a project

from the translator's perspective. A short demonstration of SDL Trados™ will show the value of translation memory applications and how they reduce the tedious and repetitive tasks associated with translation. (3 hours; June 14, 2008, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.; \$55/\$48 for STIBC members, VCC interpreting students and grads)

Translation: Punjabi/Hindi/Urdu (INTR 1182)

Focus on accurate and professional translation from English into Punjabi, Hindi and Urdu, and from one of these languages into English. Designed for professional translators, interpreting students and would-be translators to hone skills in translation by practice in the classroom. This is a practical hands-on course culminating in one page translation as evaluation of participants' skills. (18 hours; 6 evenings, May 29 – July 3, 2008, 6:30–9:30 p.m.; \$250/\$220 for STIBC members, VCC interpreting students and grads)

For further details/to confirm schedules, visit: <http://www.continuinged.vcc.ca/interpreting/> or contact the Interpreting Program Coordinator, Dr. Silvana E. Carr, by e-mail at ce-interpret@vcc.ca or by phone at 604-443-8389.

Referrals (Feb. 2008 – May 2008)

The following statistics are for translation from the specified language into English, and include telephone and in-person referrals from the STIBC Office, but not referrals through the STIBC website.

Arabic	25
Chinese	680
Croatian	2
Czech	8
Dutch	5
Farsi	185
French	58
German	47
Hungarian	12
Indonesian	20
Japanese	74
Korean	123
Polish	5
Punjabi	33
Russian	28
Spanish	402
Ukrainian	5
Vietnamese	30

Upcoming Conferences

ATA's Translation Company Division

9th Annual Conference

July 17-20, 2008

The Inverness Hotel and Conference Center

Englewood, CO, USA

Highlights:

- Thursday evening reception and banquet.
- Two days (Friday and Saturday) of informative educational sessions tailored to the needs and concerns of translation company owners and managers.
- Topics will focus on industry trends, work flow tools, project management, sales and marketing, behavioral interviewing, and more.
- Plenty of time and opportunity for networking, networking, and more networking!
- Optional Friday or Saturday evening activity in Denver, The Mile High City (www.denver.org).
- Sunday morning buffet breakfast.

Advertising, exhibit, and sponsorship opportunities available. Contact: Kim Vitray (vitray@mcelroytranslation.com) or Ellen Boyar (ellen.boyar@thomson.com). For more information, see the ATA website at www.ata-divisions.org/TCD/

XVIII FIT World Congress

International Federation of Translators

Hosted by the Translators Association of China

August 4-7, 2008

Shanghai, China

- Theme: Translation and Cultural Diversity.
- Held every three years since 1953, and will take place in Asia for the first time this year.
- Traditionally attracts 600-700 translators, interpreters, linguists, terminologists and educators from around the world.

New STIBC Members

June 2007 to May 2008
Includes Associate and Certified Members.

Beatriz Cortez Lopez
Bo Liu
Ilianne Robredo
Isaac Tai
Joe Greenholtz
June Derlachter
Kaori Saito
Lisa L. Wu
Lyudmila Bochkaryova
Magdalena Mot
Maria Schneider
Mi Sun Lee
Michael St. Louis
Mi-Sook (Stella) Yoon
Monica Liscio Gordon
Mourad Machach
Pornpen Kwinsakulrat
Stefan Samu
Suha Abdallah
Susanna Fawkes
Suzanne Aubin
Yen-Hung (Terry) Shao
YiChing (Vicky) Chiang
Yong Mei No

2008 New Certified Translators

Adriana Torres Cardona – English to Spanish
Bohumil (Boris) Molak – English to Slovak
Christopher Lawrence – French to English
Gyu Hwang (Thomas) Chung – English to Korean
Hossein Ali Andalib – English to Farsi
Julia Neumann – German to Eng. & Eng. to German
Maria Guerrero – English to Spanish
Mi-Sook Yoon – English to Korean
Pavle Perencevic – Slovene to English
Rieko (Rachel) Enomoto – English to Japanese
Zorymar Lane – English to Spanish

Welcome to all new members who joined STIBC since the last AGM in June 2007, and congratulations to all translators newly certified in 2008!

The *TRANSLetter*

Co-Editors:

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The TRANSLetter is the quarterly newsletter of the Society of Translators and Interpreters of British Columbia (STIBC). It is sent by e-mail or regular mail to our Founding, Certified and Associate Members as a benefit of membership. Others are welcome to request a sample copy from the STIBC office.

As a forum for exchange of views and information, *The TRANSLetter* welcomes articles on translation, interpretation, terminology or a related area. Articles should be 1,500 words or less, and should be intended for a community of practitioners in these fields. Please note that we cannot guarantee that your article will be used in a particular issue, as acceptance depends on a variety of editorial requirements.

The TRANSLetter supports the moral and legal right of authors, artists and creators to benefit from their work by making all reasonable efforts to abide by copyright law, and encourages its contributors to do the same.

Our next issue will be published in September 2008. Please send all submissions to transletter1@stibc.org.

Deadline for submissions: August 15, 2008.

☞ STIBC Office Hours ☞

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Thursday