



THE GOTHAM TRANSLATOR



A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

by Rosene Zaros

The beginning of a new year is traditionally a time to look back over the past and look ahead to the future. We assess where we have been, where we want to be, and how we can get there. We can take hope in the fact that the world, by and large, has awakened to the fact that we, as translators, exist and that we play a crucial role in the world drama that is unfolding in the twenty-first century.

This is borne out by the number of books, plays, and films where the protagonist is an interpreter or a translator. But, in spite of this increased awareness, in many ways, we are suspect. We are neither fish nor fowl. We exist in the nebulous interstice between worlds, and neither side trusts us completely. But, both sides depend on us to provide a bridge of communication. At the present time, they have no real choice. As anyone who has availed themselves of the "translate this page" function on internet sites knows, machine translation leaves much to be desired. Nevertheless, with the use of a "controlled language," one can see possibilities. We cannot discount machine translation as a future "player."

We are facing a dilemma that can best be summed up by a quotation from Charles Darwin: "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the ones most responsive to change." If we are to survive in the marketplace, it is absolutely imperative that we embrace all aspects of an ever-evolving and developing technology. This means learning to utilize what Jost

Zetzsche calls "translation environment tools" in order to work more quickly and more efficiently and to work in technology-based fields.

But, we must not lose sight of the fact that translation must go beyond word to word or phrase to phrase equivalence. Those of us who translate from Spanish into English are aware that frequently the pronouns he, she, you, and they are included in the verb and the translator must choose which pronoun to use based on other words in the text. As writers of text that is destined to be translated into multiple languages learn to write using a "controlled language," we will see a marked improvement in machine translation.

Sometimes we encounter a particular concept that exists in one culture while it is totally non-existent in another. This, of course, is reflected in the language and gives rise to jokes and plays on words that are "untranslatable" or "lost in translation." In general, this is not a problem for translators of documents of a financial, legal, medical, or technical nature. While there may be differences

between/among systems, there exists a commonality among systems that can be translated. A concept, an entity, exists and it has an equivalent that can be expressed in another language.

Literary translation, on the other hand, stands apart from all the others in that it requires much more than just a thorough knowledge of two languages along with knowledge of a specific field such as law or medicine. One can study law or medicine and learn the vocabulary associated with these fields.

(continued on page 3)

INSIDE

- 3** President's Message
- 4** World literature: Found in translation
- 5** Translators Share For a Day
- 8** NYCT Annual Business Mtg.
- 11** NYCT Financials
- 12** Circle News
- 13** Members' Voice

NEW YORK CIRCLE OF TRANSLATORS

(212) 334-3060



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Suzana D. Martinez, President

Work/Cell: (732)768-3948
president@nyctranslators.org

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president-elect@nyctranslators.org

Gloria Barragán, Secretary

Work: (516) 977-9019
secretary@nyctranslators.org

Deborah Lockhart, Treasurer

deborah.lockhart@the languageshop.org

Lana Rachkovskaya, Program Director

H: (212) 988-9116 / Cell: (646) 752-1741
programdirector@nyctranslators.org

COMMITTEES

Continuing Education: Jordan Fox



THE GOTHAM TRANSLATOR

EDITOR

Rosene Zaros
editor@nyctranslators.org

EDITORIAL BOARD

Trudy Balch,
Ellen Sowchek,
and Betty Welker

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Bahl Graphics
kbahlmann@austin.rr.com

PRINTING

Mail Boxes, Etc. South Orange NJ
mailboxso@verizon.net

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

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CALL FOR PAPERS

The Gotham Translator accepts and welcomes contributions of articles about all aspects of translation and translator-related issues. These may include, but are not limited to, specific translation problems or approaches to translation, legal issues, and the business of translation. We also welcome dictionary and hardware/software reviews as well as reviews of books, conferences and workshops. The "Members' Voice" section of each issue is devoted to translations, stories, and poetry written by members.

In general, articles and other submissions should be limited to around 1500 words. All text should be submitted as e-mail attachments in Microsoft Word format. We prefer unpublished contributions. In the case of previously published submissions, please advise us of this fact at the time of submission. ■

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(continued from page 1)

However, the study of literature involves focusing on individual works created by an author to do more than simply tell a story. In other words, it is not the story but the way it is told that makes a work great. Great writers use language creatively and that may be why it has been said that only writers should translate literature. And, interestingly enough, some of our greatest writers have also been translators.

At the American Literary Translators conference in Seattle this past fall there was some discussion about what motivates someone to become a literary translator, and in some cases it was, indeed, the desire to write fiction but without the drive and tenacity to develop one's own ideas. This type of translator was compared to a musician who "interprets" the work of a composer, which, undeniably, is also a creative act. For others, it was a love of literature or the work of a particular writer that they wanted to "share" with readers unable to read the original. One might wonder how the motivation of the translator affects the translation, for there are differing opinions about what makes a translation a good translation. There are those who think that a translation is, at best, one person's "reading" of the work.

A few months ago when a friend suggested that I read *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi, I realized that it had been years since I had read any fiction in English. Nafisi calls it a "memoir in books," and in order to fully appreciate her book, the reader should have read the books featured in her "memoir." I had read all of them except *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov and, while I knew the "story," I knew nothing of the "telling" and nothing really about the author. To say that Nabokov's vocabulary and his use of the English language are impressive is an understatement that becomes even more so with the realization that he did not learn the language until he was a young adult in England and did not begin to write in it until he was a middle-aged man. By that time, he had already published nine novels in Russian. He had learned French and German as a teen-ager and lived in France and Germany for eighteen years before coming to the United States. It was during this time that he began translating, primarily into Russian, but after coming to the U.S. he translated the works of Pushkin, Lermontov, and others into English.

In the foreword to the Vintage International edition of *Invitation to a Beheading*, which he originally wrote in Russian, he discusses the problems of translation. He wonders if, when he reads the translation of his son, Demitri, he will want to alter his original words so as to "improve" the work.

(continued on page 15)

■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by **Suzana D. Martinez**

It is an honor to be the President of our Circle. I can already feel the weight of the responsibility that comes with this honor especially as the successor of Margaret Altieri, who did a wonderful job as our President throughout 2006. Thanks Margaret!

As I said in our January 25th meeting, one of my goals is to increase member participation in our activities. That means that I count on you to come up with ideas and suggestions to open our Circle and make it bigger and better.

We are looking at an intellectually stimulating year ahead of us, so keep checking our website for the exciting programs our Circle will offer this year.

We are going to reinstate ATA exam sittings in the metropolitan area, and I have the great satisfaction to announce that Ms. Edna Ditaranto has accepted our invitation to chair the exam sittings. Ms. Ditaranto is a former president of our Circle and brings with her many years of experience as a translator, instructor, and exam grader.

The web site project will continue and we hope to conclude 2007 with an improved web site.

The Mentoring Program will receive special attention this year. We are looking for someone with experience and enthusiasm to Chair the program, because we consider it a vital part of being a language professional. Sharing knowledge is a great gift to give.

We are also planning an annual seminar to honor Susana Greiss, and the focus of the seminar will probably be the novice language professionals. More about the seminar will come in our next issues.

Your board is ready to walk our Circle through another great year, working enthusiastically in its administration and fulfillment of your needs and wishes. In order to work for your needs and wishes, we need to know what they are. I invite you to talk to us and tell us what topics you would like to see in our program, write articles for our Gotham, suggest speakers and activities. Think and share with us and we will do the best we can to implement your ideas and suggestions. After all, we are a group of about 270 people and 270 heads can think better than 5 (which is the number of members on the board)!

As you can see this is going to be a great year and I ask you to share the news with our colleagues who are members of the Circle, but have not yet participated in our activities. Most of all, share our Circle with our colleagues who have not joined our organization yet. Call or email them to invite them to our monthly meetings and fun dinners; forward our announcements to them; share your Gotham copy with them; spread the word, and participate! That is going to be your assignment for this year!

Thanks so much! ■

WORLD LITERATURE: FOUND IN TRANSLATION

Online magazines and groups push for greater availability of writings from around the globe.

by Megan Wong, Contributor to The Christian Science Monitor

Aside from news reports that tend to focus on war or election scandal, Americans generally don't hear much about — or from — people in other countries. One reason may be that very little foreign-language literature is translated into English. Less than 3 percent of all books published in English worldwide are translations, according to a leading publishing database. In the United States, just a fraction of the titles that make it into English are translations of foreign novels, short stories, or poetry.

Since 9/11, when Americans felt an urgency to learn more about other cultures, a number of efforts have taken root to try to bring more global literature to US audiences.

The online magazine of international literature, Words Without Borders, was founded "to address a yawning gap in literary publishing," says Alane Salierno Mason, founding editor. "We just weren't hearing enough from voices around the world." The e-zine is hosted by Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y.

Originally conceived as a resource for publishing professionals like Mr. Mason (a senior editor at W.W. Norton) to become exposed to international authors, www.wordswithoutborders.org has since evolved to serve a larger purpose: connecting the public directly to the hearts and minds of people beyond American shores.

"It was clear that Americans did need and want to know more about the realities of the rest of the world, not just the abstractions that are flung around in political discourse," says Mason.

The nonprofit site, now in its fourth year, offers contemporary writing from places such as Argentina, China, Italy, and Pakistan, often for the first time in English. It gets about 200,000 page views per month and counts roughly 8,000 subscribers, more than one-quarter of whom live in the US. (Some subscribers choose to pay a fee, but anyone can access the content for free.) Last fall, the organization published its first print anthology of works from Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Sudan, and Syria titled - what else? — "Literature

from the 'Axis of Evil' and Other Enemy Nations" (The New Press, 2006), now in its third printing.

"There's a wave of interest right now," says Jill Schoolman, publisher of Archipelago Books, a small nonprofit press in Brooklyn, N.Y., established in 2003 to publish world literature in translation exclusively. "People are hungry for perspectives from other countries."

Case in point: One of Archipelago's recent books, "Gate of the Sun," by Lebanese novelist Elias Khoury, was one of The New York Times's 100 Notable Books of 2006.

Rainmaker Translations — a Las Vegas-based consortium of Ecco/HarperCollins, W.W. Norton & Company, New Directions, and Archipelago Books — was also recently formed to support the publication of more top-quality global writing here in the US. The consortium put out its first three titles (translated from Arabic, Chinese, and Russian) in the spring of 2005 and plans to fund up to four more in the coming year.

In March, the Center for the Art of Translation, a nonprofit in San Francisco, will publish the first in its new bilingual anthology series, TWO LINES World Library, focused on writing from specific regions published over the last several decades.

Dalkey Archive Press, a long-time nonprofit publisher in Champaign, Ill., has upped the number of translations on its publication list since 2003, from 25 percent to nearly 80 percent. "We're actually, in our relative terms, being successful with translations. They're selling better and better for us," says Dalkey publisher John O'Brien, citing a recent translation that sold roughly 6,000 copies — a lot for a small publisher. "Stores are recognizing that there's an audience for them."

In recent years, more nonprofits have applied to the National Endowment for the Arts for grants to publish literary translations, says Amy Stolls, who oversees the grants program in literature for the NEA. The agency is also leading initiatives to increase the availability of translated prose and poetry in the US, such as publishing

partnerships with foreign governments.

Not everyone views these developments as evidence of a larger movement, however.

"There is definitely renewed interest in translation, but scrutinized carefully, it isn't clear that it's consequential," writes Lawrence Venuti, professor of English at Temple University in Philadelphia and an expert in translation studies, in an e-mail. He notes that while a handful of new efforts have surfaced recently, others have floundered. "The big commercial presses seem more interested in investing in foreign writing that makes money straightaway" — such as sexy memoirs, crime fiction — "than in creating a readership for foreign literatures," he adds.

The business is precarious, warns Richard Wiley, associate director of the Black Mountain Institute at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. "At any time, these endeavors could fold. There's always a year-to-year, hand-to-mouth existence," he says.

Perhaps that's why some organizations are working to cultivate more global readers. Since 2005, the popular PEN World Voices Festival in New York has featured international authors from dozens of countries to build enthusiasm for world literature. Publishers and Independent bookstores launched the annual Reading the World campaign in 2005, which offers a recommended reading list. Educational efforts, like San Francisco-based Poetry Inside Out are paving the way for a new generation of internationally literate youth.

Whatever the future of these efforts, getting to know the stories of people across the globe can hardly be a bad thing.

"Good writing can give us a glimpse of the heart of foreign places," says Mason. ■

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TRANSLATORS SHARE FOR A DAY

by Emily Tell of Tellmealgo Translations and Deborah Lockhart of The Language Shop

On Saturday, January 20, 2007, Tellmealgo Translations and The Language Shop reached out to fellow translators, interpreters and language professionals as we presented our Introductory Training Seminar in Translation Tools Featuring SDL Trados 2006. We decided to present yet another Trados seminar on the heels of the ATA's prior seminar in May of 2006, because we are aware of the translator's constant need to maintain a technical foothold and to grow in efficiency and productivity in the translation and interpreting business. Our concern was apparently shared by fellow translators since sixteen persons registered for the seminar which was scheduled to be held at a seemingly inconvenient time immediately after the holidays.

Of the sixteen registered, fourteen attended the seminar at the Madison Avenue training center in New York that cold day. While some attendees came from Manhattan and Queens, some traveled from as far as upstate New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania to attend the seminar. This was a pleasant surprise because in our initial pre-seminar meetings, we had planned to reach out only to Queens and Brooklyn language professionals since the two translation companies are based in those boroughs.

Emily Tell, the owner of Tellmealgo Translations, facilitated the seminar which ran for the entire day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Most of the attendees

arrived by 8:30 a.m., completed their registrations and enjoyed a continental breakfast, compliments of the seminar.

During the first session, Emily explored the differences between key concepts such as CAT tools, translation memory and terminology management. This was particularly important because these terms are often used interchangeably and can be confusing. Statistics on the percentage of translators and interpreters worldwide using CAT tools were also presented.

A lively and interactive discussion took place among the attendees regarding their current translation practices. They discussed the file types with which they work and hope to work in the future and their need, if any, for a CAT tool such as SDL Trados 2006. The discussion also provided a forum for attendees to express their fears and anxieties about incorporating a technology tool into their practices in comparison with the confidence they feel working with Microsoft Word.

Session 2 involved file maintenance structure and how to organize files when using a CAT tool. At this point, the difference in the attendees' familiarity with

Windows became apparent. Operations such as creating and viewing files, right-clicking and working with shortcuts

presented a challenge to some attendees.

Attendees created their first translation memory in Trados and used the Analyse function to perform a word count. We discussed how "knowledge is power" and can lead to greater confidence when word rates are being negotiated

with language agencies that perform word counts in Trados. In this sense, translators may be at a disadvantage if agencies pay more for words that are not translated and less for fuzzy and repeated words.

The attendees learned that simple word counts using Microsoft Word are no longer the only standard practice in the industry. Nowadays, word counts can be performed using CAT tools and other software. In any event, being able to understand how agencies arrive at word counts and rates (based on a scale ranging from 100% - 50% matches) was just as important for collection purposes as learning the Analyse function.

Once we had performed the word count, the attendees were ready to start translating using the tool. They translated a

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short text from English into their working languages using the Trados toolbar in Microsoft Word. They also saw how Trados separates the segments in a visually appealing manner using different colors to distinguish between source texts, previously translated, and newly translated segments. After finishing the translation, the attendees learned how to clean up a file and differentiate between clean and unclean files.

In the last session, the attendees were given an updated file to translate. They were able to leverage (use) the translation memory ("TM") and see how it aids in the process of translating an updated file. The TM identifies which source segments have been translated before and automatically offers the translation from the database thus avoiding retranslation and maintaining accuracy. We also spent time analysing the updated file by looking at the statistic report. This report divided the updated file into percentages of segments and words which were identical or close to those which had already been translated and stored in the database.

If, for example, 50 words were at a 100% match, it meant that the exact translation of those 50 words was in the database and could be leveraged in the updated file. If 100 segments were at a 75%-99% match, this meant that a fuzzy



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Emily Tell is the director of Tellmealgo Translations, a New York based agency that specializes in Spanish and Portuguese language services. She has also

taught in the translation program at the Universidad de Santiago, Chile. She is currently developing a series of EFL

instructional videos. Contact: translations@tellmealgo.com



Deborah Lockhart is the treasurer of the New York Circle of Translators and the owner of The Language Shop, a New York based Translation Company specializing in translation,

interpreting, transcription and various other linguistic services. She has worked as a freelance translator and educator since 1985. Contact: info@thelanguageshop.org

translation of those segments was in the database and could be leveraged and edited by the user.

The seminar eventually came to a close. The attendees not only acquired a practical knowledge of the basics of SDL Trados 2006, but they departed more confident and aware of how this tool can enhance translation and be used by agencies to perform word counts based on fuzzy and exact matches. They became aware of the availability of free online resources and learned that they did not need to feel intimidated by any pressure resulting from marketing strategies

designed to oblige translators to acquire and be proficient in translation tools.

At the end of the seminar, the attendees performed an evaluation which led to the conclusion that we had met our main objectives of discussing translation tools currently on the market and providing an introduction to SDL Trados 2006. Of the challenges present during the seminar, the biggest was by far the difference in translators' familiarity with and ability to navigate in Windows. This pointed out a need for computer training for translators who are intent on succeeding in the constantly evolving technical world of the translation profession. However, most translators at the seminar were familiar with Windows and were able to follow the training with ease. The more

confident ones left with much enthusiasm declaring that they were going to purchase the software right away. Some even expressed interest in attending an intermediate SDL Trados 2006 seminar. We distributed certificates of participation in order for certified ATA member participants to claim their continuing education points.

That same cold January day, in at least one corner of New York City, the temperature warmed as 21 professionals united by an interest in the linguistics profession attended a networking lunch

also hosted by Tellmealgo Translations and The Language Shop at Hudson Place. Our guest of honor was The New York Circle of Translators' Program Director, Lana Rachkovskaya. In attendance were language professionals of diverse "tongues and nations" as well as aspirants to the translation and interpreting profession. The more seasoned language professionals shared their knowledge and experiences with those who had less exposure and encouraged them to overcome their inhibitions and to set out with confidence. Prospective entrants to the translation and interpreting industry came away inspired and encouraged to "enter the fray" of translation and interpreting, if only to enjoy the

warm fellowship shared by a group of people who could potentially be in direct competition with each other but who did not seem to mind sharing ways of enhancing each other's business.

Apart from the translators' need for technical training in Trados and other translation tools, various topics were discussed at the lunch, including the benefits of membership with the New York Circle of Translators, interpreters' prior experiences while serving in the armed forces, interpreting at Guantanamo Bay, various ethnic foods, cultural practices and religions, the challenges of being taught a foreign language by native speakers from several different

countries where that language is spoken, diversity issues affecting translators and interpreters, overcoming challenges and fears while breaking into the interpreting market, and the constant challenge of Spanish interpreters and translators to understand the ever-evolving Spanglish, to name a few.

Some attendees of the seminar and the lunch have since become members of the New York Circle of Translators and are quite interested in the Circle's activities. We feel committed to playing our part in fulfilling the Circle's stated objective of educating the general public about the professional nature of interpreting and translating. ■



Hiring Staff Translators

The New York City Department of Education's Translation & Interpretation Unit is recruiting translators for future openings in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Korean and Urdu. Our translators are full-time staff who perform translation, editing and proofreading of a variety of documents for dissemination to non-English-speaking parents and communities.

Translator teams review materials translated by vendors or other NYCDOE staff members for accuracy, grammar, style and consistency. They are responsible for maintaining glossaries and style guides, though we also have translation memory software. Opportunities to work as an interpreter for the NYCDOE outside of regular business hours are also available, and occasional over-the-phone interpreting will be required.

The minimum requirements are native or near native fluency in one of the languages listed above, proficiency in English, experience as a professional translator, and a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university.

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For more information about the Translation & Interpretation Unit, please see our website: <http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/Translation>.

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NYCT ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

by Gloria Barragan

Minutes

Annual Business Meeting held on:
January 25, 2006.

Meeting was held at:
Heartland Brewery and Chophouse
127 West 43rd Street,
New York, NY 10036

Present: Margaret Altieri, President;
Gloria Barragan, Secretary; Lana
Rachkovskaya, Program Director;
Suzana Daroca Martinez, Incoming
President; Deborah Lockhart, Incoming
Treasurer; Lucien Morin, President-Elect

Members in attendance: 21

Agenda

- I. Review of 2006President
- II. Activities and Continuing Education.....Program Director
- III. Financial Report.....Treasurer
- IV. Membership Report/ Election resultsSecretary
- V. Introduction of New Board MembersPresident
- VI. New President - RemarksIncoming President

Review of 2006 Margaret Altieri

Margaret Altieri greeted the Board and all members attending the Meeting. She gave a short account of the happenings during 2006:

It was a challenging year, as the Circle needed to come back from very difficult times in 2005. Also, in 2006, we dealt with the passing of two long-time and

very active members: Susana Greiss at the beginning of the year, and then Slavica Zecevic-Pralica in the middle of the year.

The Website experienced several problems. We needed to update and improve our online system, review our security features, and add new languages. David Mintz helped to solve these problems. Still there are many website issues to solve and even we might be looking for someone to devote more time to our website issues.

The Gotham publication came out on a regular basis. Rosene Zaros, the Editor, is doing a great job.

Charles Stern established an award based on need with a maximum of \$500 a year. The funds have been invested in a CD for several years. In 2006, Melly Bartholomew was awarded the Charles M. Stern Autonomous Award. As announced on the Gotham's November/December 2006 issue, it helped Melly to pay medical bills. Later in the summer this year, someone else will be nominated to receive the Award in 2007.

Margaret asked the members to take an active role, to share information and give feedback. We need volunteers to assist in conducting registration, pass out material during the meetings, and contribute with articles and writings to be published in The Gotham. The meetings have been scheduled on different days so if you cannot make it on one night, you will make it on another.

Margaret gave thanks to the members of the Board for their great participation during the year: Lana Rachkovskaya, Program Director, thanks for all her good work in planning and arranging the monthly meetings, for bringing such good presenters, and for continuing her good work for one more year in 2007. Gloria Barragan, Secretary, for accepting to continue for a second year in 2007. Thomas Sherlock, Treasurer. Lori Colman, ex-officio Board Member for lobbying for the Circle and calling and convincing members to run for office. Margaret welcomed the new Board: Suzana Daroca Martinez, President, Lucien Morin, President-elect, Deborah Lockhart, Treasurer, Lana Rachkovskaya, Program Director, and Gloria Barragan, Secretary.

Activities and Continuing Education Lana Rachkovskaya

Lana did a good job during the year. She planned and coordinated meetings; she brought excellent presenters. She negotiated discounts with the Centers where we had the meetings and the good Restaurants where we had dinner after the meetings. Attendance at the meetings increased during 2006 attracted by the quality of the topics and presentations.

NYCT Meetings for 2006

February

Translation of Technical Topic:
What is it, and...is it for you? (Patents)
Speaker: Lisa Laplante
Attendance: 26

March

Sales and Marketing for Freelance

Translators

Speaker: Kerri Modla

Attendance: 62

April

Revolutionary Approach to Subtitling -

New Income Streams

Speaker: Michael L. Smolens

Attendance: 54

May

Tax Planning and Savings

Speaker: Mark Ratafia

Attendance: 42

ATA/NYCT Translation Tools Seminar:

Speaker: Wim Schrieks

September

Paying on time is not enough!!!

Speaker: Ed Zad, Lionbridge

Attendance: 59 (26 in waiting list)

October

Legal and Practical Aspects of Business

Relationships between Freelance

Translators and Bureaus

Attendance: 56

Speaker: Jonathan Bernstein, Levy Davis & Maher, LLP

NYCT Seminar: PDF Files and

Formatting in the Translations Industry

Speaker: Jon Ritzdorf

November

Sales, Marketing, and Business

Correspondence/Communication for

Translators

Speaker: Kerri Modla, ASK Group

Attendance: 59

December

NYCT Holiday Party 2006

Heartland Brewery and Chophouse

Attendance: 57

NYCT Meetings in 2007

Lana presented the dates that have been arranged with the ANSI for the NYCT Meetings in 2007:

Wed., February 7

Spanish Round Table - Leticia Molinero

Tue., March 6

NYU Programs - Milena Savova

Wed., April 11

Requirements for Translators in the Financial Field - Tudor Stancu

Wed., May 2

Vendor/Company Relations - Kristi Gray, Eriksen

August

Summer Picnic at Marian Greenfield's

Thurs., Sept 6: TBA

Thurs., Oct 11: TBA

Thurs., Nov 8: TBA

Financial Report**Tom Sherlock**

Tom could not attend this meeting but sent the reports which will be published in the next issue of *The Gotham*.

Margaret Altieri did a short overall presentation of the financial situation. The Circle did much better in 2006, considering we are a non-profit organization. We reported a net income of \$2,863.85. The big expenses still are printing and mailing. The preparation of the Directory and *The Gotham* publication represent several thousands of dollars in formatting, postage and mailing, not mentioning the time that the President and the Secretary

have to spend in the preparation and review before publication of the Directory. *The Gotham* can be downloaded; however, the majority of the members prefer to receive the hard copy.

**Membership Report/
Election Results****Gloria Barragan**

Gloria Barragan gave an account of membership. She started by welcoming three new members attending the Meeting: Nejat Abou Sunima, Mihaela Ghiuseli, and Trisha Cunningham.

Total members: 260-270; Student members: 11; Life members: 15; Corporate members: 10

There are still 45 members who have not renewed their membership for 2007.

Gloria reminded all members to renew membership. If your dues are not received by January 31, 2007, your entry will not be included in the 2007 printed version of the Membership Directory. You will not receive e-mail announcements, and you will not receive *The Gotham* issue. When renewing your membership, you do not have to create a new record. Just send the check indicating "Renewal membership 2007", your name, and ID number.

If you need to update your profile, go to the NYCT website <http://www.nyctranslators.org> and click on "NYCT MEMBERS ONLY. Update your profile." At the login screen, enter your member ID number and password. Be sure to update the information on all three data screens of your profile, clicking on the "update" button at the bottom of each screen that you change. Your

profile information appears in both the NYCT online and print directories. This information is also used by the NYCT to mail *The Gotham* and contact you. It is your responsibility to update this profile to ensure that it is accurate and current. All members must update their own profiles online as necessary.

Ballot for Election of NYCT Officers for 2007

The following is the result of the votes received:

	<u>Total votes</u>
Lucien Morin President-Elect	6
Deborah Lockhart Treasurer	6

Gloria asked all members present at the Meeting: Where were you? It is very important to cast our votes and make our

votes count.

Introduction of New Board Members

Margaret Altieri

Margaret Altieri introduced the new members.

Remarks - New President, President-elect

Suzana D. Martinez and Lucien Morin

Suzana: I am very happy to be here and I am looking forward to the challenge ahead in the year. I am not going to be doing this alone. I need everybody working for the Circle, because this is not my Circle only. It is your Circle, our Circle. Please communicate with me and the members of the Board. Let us have your thoughts; share with us. Volunteer anything you can give to the Circle. As your

new President, I need to know what you want so that we can work together for your needs and wishes.

Background: Experience 13 years as Interpreter English \diamond Portuguese \diamond Spanish \diamond English. Business owner: Channel Translations in New Jersey.

Lucien: I would like to express my gratitude to you for selecting me. Marian Greenfield approached me some years ago but then I was not able to accept. I look forward to this year's meetings and activities. I'll be listening and learning. Thank you!

Background: Since 1968, I have been in the translation field, at least part time. Last year, I had the opportunity to interpret for the United Nations in New York at a meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum. Presently, I have a full time job as Technical Publications Supervisor.

Deborah: I am honored to have this opportunity to serve as the new Treasurer and look forward to performing all of my duties. I believe that the job has to be done well and in a timely fashion. I am enthusiastic about meeting the main stated objective of the Circle to educate the public about the professional nature of interpreting and translating. I anticipate building a mutually beneficial working relationship with all of the members. Background: I recently established a translation company, The Language Shop. I have been in the translation business since 1985.■

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**New York Circle of Translators, Inc.
Balance Sheet**

As of January 25, 2007

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

HSBC	37,893.86
Wachovia CD I	2,691.36
Wachovia CD II	3,970.00
Wachovia Non-Profit Checking	1,427.43
Wachovia Stern CD 7-Day.....	11,894.47
Wachovia Stern CD I.....	31,542.54

Total Checking/Savings.....89,419.66

Total Current Assets89,419.66

TOTAL ASSETS89,419.66

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Opening Bal Equity87,890.11

Retained Earnings1,529.55

Total Equity89,419.66

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY89,419.66

**New York Circle of Translators, Inc.
Expenses by Vendor Summary**

January 2006 through December 2007

Bahl Graphics	3,670.00
DMintz Web Design	221.00
Foundation Center	850.00
Heartland Brewery	761.70
HSBC	28.50
Intuit Quickbook	222.50
Intuit Software	75.31
Mailboxes Etc.	587.62
Masonic Hall	650.00
Penn Plaza Garage	33.00
Ritzdorf, Jon	300.00
Rocketship & Print	2,347.49
Trattoria Dopo Teatro	895.40
UP&UP	4,133.17
USPS	104.88
Verizon	633.60
TOTAL	17,139.17

**New York Circle of Translators, Inc.
Profit & Loss**

January 2006 through December 2007

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Advertisement	250.00
Dinner	578.00
Fees	4,278.00
Interest from CDs	149.25
Membership	14,872.63
Seminar Income	1,445.00
Transfer from Stern CD	11,808.71

Total Income33,381.59

Expense

Cash Management Transaction Fee.....	28.50
Chargeback fee	10.00
Dinner Expense	1,757.10
Erroneous Income Entry	0.00
Interest issued as check	0.00
Lease	
P.O. Box	80.00
Lease - Other	3,125.00
Total Lease	3,205.00
Mail Boxes, Etc	615.10
Mailings	587.62
Meeting expense	33.00
Newsletter	9,650.66
Office Supplies	297.81
Postage and Delivery	24.88
Printing and Reproduction	500.00
Reimbursement	380.37
Return of Deposited Item	32.00
Seminar	500.00
Service fee	115.00
Telephone	633.60
Website	221.00
Withdrawal	11,808.71

Total Expense30,400.35

Net Ordinary Income2,981.24

Other Income/Expense

Other Income

Interest Income	1,407.81
Other Income	221.80

Total Other Income1,629.61

Other Expense

Other Expenses	1,747.00
Total Other Expense	1,747.00

Net Other Income-117.39

Net Income2,863.85

CIRCLE NEWS

■ NYCT FEBRUARY MEETING

Round Table on U.S. Government Communications in Spanish (general information is applicable for any other languages)

You must register in order to attend.

When: Wednesday, February 7, 2007, 6:30pm-8:00pm

Where: American National Standards Institute
25 West 43rd Street, 4th floor
(between 5th and 6th Avenues)
New York, NY 10036

To register please e-mail:
programdirector@nyctranslators.org
before February 2.

Laura Godfrey, Bilingual Web Content Manager of *FirstGov en español*, will present new developments and guidelines for the communication of government related material in Spanish. The round table format with representatives of local government agencies, academics and translators is designed to allow translation project managers and other key government communicators to interact directly with translators and other participants in cross-cultural communications. A Q&A session will follow. This is a golden opportunity to ask everything you always wanted to know about government-related terminology and procedures.

Among the subjects to be discussed are:

- Presentation of new Federal government resources and guidelines
- Review of some key terminology
- How to prepare texts for translation into other languages
- How to translate texts for U.S. immigrants
- How to interact and network with personnel at different government levels
- How to determine responsibilities when communicating with U.S. immigrants

Panelists:

Laura Godfrey, Bilingual Web Content Manager, *FirstGov en español*

Stefanie Trice, Senior Associate Director for Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Development, Queens Health Network, NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation

Maria Cornelio, Coordinator, Spanish Major Concentration in Translation/ Interpretation

Hunter College (CUNY), Language Advisor to the Spanish Language Style Guide published on WebContent.gov.

Leticia Molinero, Director of ApuntesOnline and Editor of Apuntes, Language Advisor to the Spanish Language Style Guide published on WebContent.gov.

Note that for security reasons all visitors to the ANSI must be registered in advance. E-mail Lana at programdirector@nyctranslators.org anytime **BEFORE Friday, February 2** to register for the meeting and your registration will be confirmed. The seating is limited; therefore, please try to register as early as possible. Meetings are free of charge for NYCT members. Please include your full name and if you will be attending the meeting and/or dinner.

Please do not stay at the facilities after the meeting is over. If you wish to chat with friends, meet new people and informally network after the meeting you will be welcome to have dinner with us at the restaurant (when registering for the meeting, please indicate if you will be attending the dinner) at:

Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.
(Cuisine: Southern)
1501 Broadway (at 44th Street)
New York, NY 10036
(212) 391-7100

Dinner is \$25.00 per person (tax and tip included) which will be collected at the meeting.

E-mail programdirector@nyctranslators.org **BEFORE Friday, February 2**, to make your reservation for dinner.

■ MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Upcoming NYCT Meetings:

Wed., February 7:
Spanish Round Table - Leticia Molinero

Tue., March 6:
NYU Programs - Milena Savova

Wed., April 11:
Requirements for Translators in the Financial Field - Tudor Stancu

Wed., May 2:
Vendor/Company Relations -
Kristi Gray, Eriksen

August:
Summer Picnic at Marian Greenfield's

Thurs., Sept 6: TBA

Thurs., Oct 11: TBA

Thurs., Nov 8: TBA

■ NATALIE DANFORD PUBLISHES BOOK

Longtime NYCT member Nathalie Danford's debut novel, *Inheritance* was published in January. Much of the book is set in Italy's Marche region. (She translates Italian into English), and there are several lost-in-translation mix-ups that play a large role in the story. The original title was *The Hair Ace*, which was an Italian's mispronunciation of the word "heiress," but that was changed to *Inheritance* somewhere along the way. To read more about the book, visit www.nataliedanford.com/inheritance. She is also very interested in meeting by phone or in person with book clubs in the NYC area, so if any NYCT members are in book clubs, she'd love to hear from you.

Natalie Danford
77 East 12th Street 6C
New York, NY 10003
Ph: 212-353-2355
Fax: 646-349-9654
e-mail: ndanford@nyc.rr.com

Buy on line at
www.nataliedanford.com/inheritance



MEMBERS' VOICE

LITERARIOS (LITERARY EPIGRAMS)

Book II of *Grafitos*

by Manuel González Prada • translated by G. J. Racz

1

If there were such a thing as perfect style,
It's this perfection critics would revile.

2

Here at a glance is Spain's attempt
At criticism as a whole:
Authentic beauty counts for naught
In any work of verse and prose
Unless we speak like Lope or
Cervantes or Mendoza spoke,
Or place an errant colon where
A semicolon ought to go.

3

The thoughts that stay between the
lines—
Those parts that readers have to guess—
Turn out in many instances
To be an author's loveliest.

4

No treasure chest could countermand
The joy of works that thrill me still:
A ballad from Quevedo's hand
Or letter from Voltaire's sharp quill.

5

To ride in Logic's saddle means
What grousing pedants just can't brook:
Possessing every earthly right
To trample Language underfoot.

6

Before you wing your way aloft,
Be sure to know the roads on high
Because, each time we soar, we don't
Direct our flight path toward the light.

7

All lax ideas...his language poor...
A wretched writer...fails to please...
These phrases only mean one thing:
This writer doesn't think like me.

8

The joy that books convey
Is simply due to this:
They force us to forget
That we exist and think.

9

For authors, the descriptive mode
Can prove to be the mother lode:
When words from pens have ceased
to spring
And all creative ink has flowed,
We'll start describing anything.

10

In chapels and in cenacles,
By symbolist or realist hand,
I see the same concoction brewed,
Though bottled under different brands.

11

A middling translator of verse
Adopts a lackey's servile role
While all the time grotesquely clad
In finery that's his master's clothes.

12

To head straight for the stratosphere
Is not the best thing man can do
For, if bold eagles soar on high,
Remember, there are the balloons.

13

With your simplicity of thought,
Your antiquated turn of phrase
And cursing of modernity,
You won't survive the coming age;
You don't belong to your own time
Or ever really had your day.

14

The barbs of native Spanish wit
Are pointed like a sphere's round tips.

15

Put any old thing down in print,
Devoid of serious style or thought,
And hand-submit the shoddy
manuscript?
To "perpetrate a book" is what it's called.

16

An author cannot imitate
Another's power, charm or wit,
But only end up copying
A mannered style and verbal tics.

17

Now hearken to this sage advice
If you would be a follower:
Pale imitators only see
The back sides of their precursors.

18

Oh, singer pure of marriage's chaste rule,
The Homer of Paquito and Lili,
You see ambrosia in a newborn's stool
And nectar in its pee.

19

A hundred poets write,
Though not divine at all,
Just lumps of flesh that bow
To egotism's calls.
They hit upon their lines
Like truffles are unearthed
By indiscriminate swine.

20

An artist's search for novelty
Can lead him to go off the rails;
Columbus's strange egg would be
A legendary case of note:
Though one would least expect it, veils
From neighbors' bedrooms might
well fall
To bare a novel all might call
The oddest thing man ever wrote.

21

Members of the Spanish Royal Academy
They can convene symposia, moderate,
Give lectures on the *Crónica del Cid*,
Recite *Thrice Holy's*, help a bit at mass,
And even write a few things in between.

22

Observant Catholic authors don't observe
The boredom readers suffer from their
works.

23

Repudiating works of art
For causing morals great offense
Means forfeiting a critic's role
And taking on a sacristan's.

24
An author gifted and well-known,
From having translated so much
He can't say what he's penned as such
And which are works that aren't his own.

25
Peruvian Literature
No dearth of critics here,
Though authors can't be found:
The scythes we've got, just not the fields
of wheat;
Our abattoirs boast butchers but no
cows.

26
On wings of air it quits the ground
And leaves the distant earth behind.
Thus, way on high you'll hear the sound
Of some poor jackass fast resigned
To having his bray echo round.

27
Use images, oh poet mine,
In lieu of wordy eloquence
And hear your songs or lieder sung
Without a single pause for breath.

28
The Spanish Royal Academy
This old, phlegmatic institution whose
Outlandish motto overstates its might
Still can't compose a grammar we
can use
Or get a standard dictionary right.

29
Scram, Schiller, Lessing, Goethe,
Herder! Scat!
And take that hyperborean fog back,
please,
To where your northerly expanse casts
down
Its clouds on splendid Latin clarity.
I'll take those mystic souls of Spain,
instead,
All inspiration and true life assured:
Malón de Chaide, San Juan de la Cruz,
The two Luises, and Teresa pure!
You Goths and your forget-me nots, get
lost!
Give me the sacristy of Spanish moss!

30
To be a sociologist
Of undiminishable fame,
One need but use the sure-fire strategy
Of simply calling old things by new
names.

31
Economics
Is this a science so advanced
It's dubbed "divine" to seal our trust,
Or, like the Art of Cooking, just
A would-be science, much enhanced?

32
Metaphysics
Just acrobatic whirling out
Among the sparse and turbid clouds.

33
Theology
Such earnest thought on whether God
exists
Can turn its students into atheists.

34
International Law
Though texts and theories may be rife
With rules and rights, as I recall,
It's likely matters in real life
Are settled with a cannonball.

35
Deceit with white-gloved ease,
A linen shirt's soft feel
And golden monocle
Above a tie discreet
Topped off by stylish tails:
Now that's Diplomacy!

36
Academy detractors die
Too often members of what they'd attack
Like horrible misogynists
Who strangely end up bedding their own
dams.

37
You are *maudite*, you bad *poète*,
To weary and annoy us so
By drafting prose first into verse
And rendering your verse in prose.

38
The Spanish critic scarce evaluates
But, *ex cathedra*, sure pontificates!

39
The inklinger, renowned for acts of
spite,
Will hold a grudge for every little slight.
A hack who feels aggrieved
May well pursue a corpse beyond the
grave
Like some rude blowfly buzzing round
the nave

That mars the mass's hush for the
bereaved.

40
The gall that festers deep inside
An envious poet's wretched soul
Could make the rivers, lakes, and seas
Turn bitter over all the globe.

41
He writes, and writes, and writes still
more,
This fertile author never short of lines,
A new Tostado here to bore
Fresh readers through the toasting of
their minds.

42
Ye would-be moralists of art,
Go someplace else where rules and
norms
Might hope to play a bigger part.
The sole morality of Art
Is the perfection of its forms.

43
Forgive a poet the hundredth time
He scribbles some barbarity
But never overlook one sin
Against a verse's metered beat.

44
The virus of corruption springs
From words the hypocrite writes down.
No twenty cynics poison more
Than people holier than thou.

45
Verano and his ilk will sell their works,
All pedants tried and true—and truly
jerks!

46
The king is all; his people, though,
Are just a mass of docile sheep.
There are no histories of the flock
But many shepherds' histories.

47
Ah, books! Who ever knew these things
Could prove such worthy, valued friends?
They proffer readers comforting,
Good humor, counsel that makes sense,
World knowledge, life prosperity,
And even slumber now and then.

48
He plucks no seven-chorded lyre;
His instrument has but one string,
And so his old-style verses move

To that same tune he always sings.

49

Juan praises Puente in his slanderous ways,
But who gets hurt when Juan sings
Puente's praise?

50

You see your melodramas sold
With monologues to pharmacists.
That's wise, for they can use your works
As sleep-inducing sedatives.

51

The copious waters of the seas
Are brimming with the author's sweat.
His toilsome effort to beget
Citations and keen commentaries...
These make the reader sweat more yet.

52

Let's look beyond moronic slights
Impassively and laugh them off.
A hail of stones is no response
To stop the yapping of the dogs.

Appendix

1

So people claim the sonnet form
Is not too overwrought in length?
I've read the one Don Cosme wrote

And swear to you it doesn't end.

2

They vouched for Don Gonzalo's play's
Fine qualities, such as it had,
But I must deem the drama bad,
For it received Centeno's praise.

3

What fool's a bigger fool than he
Who'd dash off riddles with his pen?
It has to be that fool of fools
Who'd waste his time deciphering them.

4

First blossoms on first violets
intertwined
With melodies of fragrance, lights and
breeze—
To Nature's hymn of souls and entities
The poet's hymn responds in kind.

5

The recitation of my woes
Elicited yawns in return
Though you once gave me endless praise
When I had sung you them in verse.

6

Your ponderous and silly-sounding poem
Makes time and patience victims of its
limp.

The dunce who praises you
Should have to do forced penance
reading it!

7

There's really no need to relate
That a translation lumbers on
When it should be enough to state
That said translation's Catalan.

8

Where may one find a sure-fire toxicant
That rapidly and without variance
Will overpower any antidote?
Why, in the soul of a grammarian!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Manuel González Prada (1844-1918) was a progressive peruvian polemicist and poet. The hundreds of epigrams he wrote in his lifetime were collected and published posthumously as *Grafitos* in Paris in 1937.

ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR:

G. J. Racz is associate professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature at Long Island University, Brooklyn. His translation of Pedro Calderón de la Barca's *Life is a Dream* recently appeared in the Penguin Classics series.

(continued from page 3)

I found myself wondering if translators have the urge to do the same thing. Happily that was not the case with Nabokov and he tells us that they settled between them that "fidelity to one's author comes first, no matter how bizarre the result [and]...down with the simpletons who think that all is well if the 'spirit' is rendered..." The big question is: how does the monolingual reader know? He/she has no choice but to accept the translation or, if it a well-known work, to take the word of reviewer. There are some horror stories of works being so drastically altered as to be unrecognizable and passed off as a translation.

Nabokov also gave a series of lectures at Cornell University from which came his Lectures on Don Quixote. After reading *Lolita*, I was curious to know what he had to say about Cervantes' novel, which

he read in translation. Suffice it to say that he definitely did not agree with the critics who call it "the greatest novel ever written." As I was reading his comments, I could not help but wonder if he would have felt the same way if he had been able to read it in Spanish. Literature is part of a culture expressed in the language of that culture. Even prose has a rhythm that the reader "hears" while reading the words on the page. I have read the English translation of some works that are well known to me in the source language and have been saddened. I could not find fault with the meaning, but the beauty was gone. If I had read only the translation, I might have thought that the work was mediocre at best and wondered why it had been deemed a masterpiece. On the other hand, I have read some translations that left me in awe. The beauty was equal to the original.

Even though most of us make our living translating documents of various types rather than literature, if the huge increase in the number of members of ATA's Literary Division is any indication, there are a lot of us who would like to translate literature. In the past, there was not much interest in the U.S. for reading works in translation and, consequently, very little opportunity for translators working into English. This has not been the case in Europe, Mexico, Central and South America where bookstores are filled with translations of American best-sellers. As U.S. readers become more aware of books written in other languages, there is an increasing demand. Magazines (and not just literary magazines) are beginning to publish stories translated into English from other languages - not in huge numbers, but it's a start. ■



**THE GOTHAM
TRANSLATOR**



The New York Circle of Translators (NYCT) is a New York State not-for-profit corporation grouping independent translators and interpreters as well as companies and organizations. It is a chapter of the American Translators Association (ATA) which is, in turn, an affiliate of the International Federation of Translators (FIT).

NYCT members work in a variety of languages and specialties. Our members are committed to the exchange of ideas and mutual support. One of our goals is to educate the general public about the professional nature of interpreting and translating.

NYCT members enjoy the following benefits:

- Free monthly meetings featuring speakers on all aspects of the translation profession
- Networking opportunities at monthly dinners and annual holiday party
- Professional development workshops and seminars
- Subscription to our newsletter, The Gotham Translator
- Listings in the NYCT Online Membership Directory and the annual NYCT printed Membership Directory
- Referrals (if you indicate that you accept them, existing members may direct work requests to you or clients may contact you directly)

Visit us at www.nyctranslators.org and join online!



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