



THE GOTHAM TRANSLATOR

REVELATIONS OF A CASE STYLE IN A VEHICULAR ACCIDENT LAWSUIT



By Josef F. Buenker and Diane E. Teichman ©2005

Whether interpreting at a court proceeding, deposition, or sworn statement, judicial interpreters benefit from knowing as much as they can about an assignment and the type of matter in which they are interpreting. If the interpreter is familiar with legal procedures, parties, and the different types of potential witnesses commonly found in a lawsuit, he or she will have a much easier time performing the assignment. Knowing the role of each participant in the lawsuit, that party's interests in the lawsuit, and the potential lines of questioning will allow the interpreter to focus on the job at hand and alleviate some of the potential stress of encountering unexpected vocabulary or unfamiliar participants. All too often, interpreters are not provided with information about the lawsuit or proceeding in which they are interpreting.

One simple way to learn a lot about a vehicular accident lawsuit is to analyze the case's "style." The "style" of a case

is the caption at the top of a pleading that names the plaintiffs, defendants, case number, and court where the case is pending. This article will explain the development of the case style and demonstrate to the interpreter how analyzing the style of a lawsuit can yield valuable information. Examination of the case style can clarify the roles of witnesses and predict evidentiary material and potential types of testimony that may be elicited at the proceeding.

There are at least fifteen different types of accidents that can give rise to a vehicular accident lawsuit, and at least eighteen different proceedings that can result in testimony from over thirty different types of witnesses. Certain types of documents will require translation or sight translation. The testimony of some witnesses, such as expert witnesses, will include technical terminology or industry specific concepts or terms.

The case style of a vehicular accident lawsuit begins to develop with the initial

plaintiff's attorney-client interview and continues through further investigation by the attorney or his staff. The plaintiff's attorney tries to identify all parties that could potentially be liable to the plaintiff(s). Here we show how a case style can develop from a simple intersectional collision between two vehicles into a relatively complicated lawsuit.

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While the parties in the following demonstration bear “tongue-in- cheek” names, the reader should keep in mind that any individual party or witness could have limited English proficiency and require the services of an interpreter.

We begin with the simple intersectional collision. Polly Pureheart was innocently driving down a street when she was hit by Ned Negligence. Ned Negligence ran a red light, striking Polly Pureheart’s vehicle, causing her personal injuries and causing property damage to her vehicle. The style of the case in this lawsuit would be “Polly Pureheart v. Ned Negligence.”

At the time of the accident, Ned Negligence was driving for his employer, “Crummy Corporation.” This is called being in the “course and scope of employment” for his employer and thus, as a general rule, the employer is liable for the employee’s actions. The style of the case has now become “Polly

Pureheart v. Ned Negligence and Crummy Corporation.”

What if Ned were intoxicated at the time of the accident? Suppose Ned came from Crummy Corporation’s happy hour at Terrible Tavern. This adds a potential “dram shop” case against Terrible Tavern. A dram shop lawsuit is one wherein it is alleged that a business that serves alcoholic beverages served alcoholic beverages to someone who was obviously intoxicated. That person then, due to his or her state of intoxication, injures someone in a motor vehicle accident. The lawsuit then becomes “Polly Pureheart v. Ned Negligence, Crummy Corporation, and Terrible Tavern.”

During the investigation, Polly Pureheart’s attorney learns that the brakes on Ned’s truck failed, possibly contributing to cause the accident. The vehicle in question is manufactured by Mediocre Motors, and the brakes were manufactured by Bogus Brakes, Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Slavica Zecevic



This is our election year and we need your support more than ever. The Circle holds the election of its new officers by secret ballot in the last quarter of each year. However, to come to this final stage we must have candidates. So, we ask you to volunteer your time and energy in further building of our organization.

You may ask yourself, "Why volunteer?" Here are some of the reasons that past volunteers have given for offering their services:

- Because it can't be left to chance.
- Because of the results.
- Because of your experience.
- Because of the experience you will gain.
- Because you care.
- Because you have ideas.
- Because you have something to offer.
- Because you know what the members want and you want to give it to them.
- Because you get out of your association what you put in.
- Because you get more back than you give.
- Because you are paid with satisfaction.
- Because it matters to you.
- Because you will gain recognition and professional contacts.
- Because it's good for your business.
- Because it allows you to develop connections, both professionally and personally.
- Because you will develop confidence.
- Because it's an opportunity to try new tasks.
- Because you may have hidden talents you've never used.
- Because it adds to your sense of purpose.
- Because you get practice adjusting to new situations, people, and experiences.
- Because you become empowered.
- Because it is fun.
- Because you can be creative.
- Because you get to work with a team.
- Because you get to learn from others.
- Because you want to do something new and worthwhile.
- Because you want to learn new things and have new experiences.
- Because you will meet new people.
- Because you will gain a sense of belonging.
- Because it feels good.

May be you have your own?

If you decide to run but see that you may not qualify because you are not an ATA member, don't worry, you may do the following:

1. To be an associate member: Go to www.atanet.org and become a member.
2. To become an active member without taking a certification exam, please do any one of the following:
 - Translators and interpreters: Proof of an accreditation or certification issued by a member association of the Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs.
 - Translators: Proof of a degree or certificate in translation (acceptable programs to be determined by the University Accreditation Committee), and a letter of reference from a client or supervisor.
 - Interpreters: Proof of a degree or certificate in interpretation (acceptable programs to be determined by the University Accreditation Committee), and a letter of reference from a client or supervisor.
 - Translators or Interpreters: Evidence of at least three years' work as a translator or interpreter, which may include either of the following: three letters of reference from clients or supervisors, or copies of records of business activity such as Schedule C, corporate tax return, 1099s, invoices, or work orders.
 - Persons professionally engaged in work closely related to translation and/or interpretation: Evidence of at least three years' work in a closely related field, which may include either of the following: teaching appointment letters, or terminology/lexicography research studies. ■

**PLEASE DON'T MISS THE
CALL FOR NOMINATION
FORM ON PAGE 15.**

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR By Rosene Zaros



I feel both honored and privileged to have the opportunity to serve the “Circle” as editor of this publication. As a new member, I am painfully aware of some of the problems that have interfered with NYCT's growth and progress. Just becoming a member was a difficult process because of problems with the NYCT website. Then, even after the website showed me as a member, I still did not receive notices of meetings. I kept asking myself: Can this be the organization that I heard so many great things about?

Wanting to see the “Circle” regain its vitality, and feeling that I had something to contribute, I accepted the responsibility of editing *The Gotham*. I will do my best to make this publication both interesting and informative, and I would like to use this column as a platform for dialogue with readers. Please get involved and let me know your concerns. Thank you.



BEWARE OF SPAM

109TH CONGRESS

Unenacted bills:

Anti-Phishing Act of 2005
(S. 472/H.R. 1099)

The Anti-Phishing Act of 2005 (previously introduced as S. 2636 in the 108th Congress) was introduced on February

28, 2005, by Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT). A companion bill, H.R. 1099, was introduced in the House by Rep. Darlene Hooley (D-OR) on March 3, 2005. The bill would prohibit, among other activities, sending e-mail that directs recipients to a website that falsely purports to belong to a legitimate online business and solicits recipients to provide personal information.

NEW YORK

The State of New York has not enacted legislation relating to unsolicited bulk or commercial e-mail.

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(continued from page 2)

In order to make sure that all relevant parties are in the lawsuit, Polly Pureheart’s attorney needs to add both Mediocre Motors and Bogus Brakes, Inc. as parties. The style of the case now becomes “Polly Pureheart v. Ned Negligence, Crummy Corporation, Terrible Tavern, Mediocre Motors, and Bogus Brakes, Inc.”

In addition to all of this, Polly Pureheart’s injuries were more severe than they should have been because the air bag on her vehicle failed to deploy properly. Corporate names are often related to the product the company provides or manufactures. Polly Pureheart’s vehicle was manufactured by Awful Autos, which used air bags made by Antiquated Airbags. Now, Polly Pureheart’s attorney adds Awful Autos and Antiquated Airbags as parties. The style now becomes “Polly Pureheart v. Ned Negligence, Crummy Corporation, Terrible Tavern, Mediocre Motors, Bogus Brakes, Inc., Awful Autos, and Antiquated Airbags.”

The defendant Ned Negligence claims that the traffic signal through which he was proceeding at the time of the accident did not work properly, and that he actually had a green light at the same time that Polly Pureheart had a green light. Polly Pureheart’s attorney learns that the traffic signal was manufactured by So-So Signal Corporation, who is then added as a party, thus making the style of the case “Polly Pureheart v. Ned Negligence, Crummy Corporation, Terrible Tavern, Mediocre Motors, Bogus Brakes, Inc., Awful Autos, Antiquated Airbags, and So-So Signals, Inc.”

This intersectional collision has suddenly become a much more complicated lawsuit. However, we have only added additional defendants. In any motor vehicle collision lawsuit, there can be multiple plaintiffs. Assume that Polly

Pureheart’s husband, Virtuous Vic, was in the vehicle, and was killed in the collision. Polly Pureheart would have a cause of action for the death of her husband under the state’s wrongful death statute. She would also have an individual “bystander” claim, which is a cause of action in favor of someone who witnesses the death or serious injury of a close family member. In addition, the estate of Virtuous Vic may have claims against the defendants as well. The style of the case then becomes “Polly Pureheart, Individually and as Executrix of the Estate of Virtuous Vic v. Ned Negligence, Crummy Corporation, Terrible Tavern, Mediocre Motors, Bogus Brakes, Inc., Awful Autos, Antiquated Airbags, and So-So Signals, Inc.”

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Josef F. Buenker, a practicing attorney in Houston, Texas, received his J.D. from the University of Houston and was admitted to the State Bar of Texas in 1989. He is the author of *The Interpreter’s Guide to the Vehicular Accident Lawsuit* (Multilingual Matters, 2004; www.multilingual-matters.com). He is a lecturer with *Language Specialist Essentials*. His memberships include the Houston Bar Association and the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT). He can be reached at jbuenker@buenkerlaw.com.

Diane E. Teichman, a Licensed Court Interpreter for the State of Texas, has specialized in judicial interpreting and translation since 1980 and has published articles and lectured on interpreting for over 14 years. Her memberships include ATA, NAJIT, FLATA, and ALTA. She is the Series Editor for the interpreter instruction book series *Professional Interpreting in the Real World*, published by Multilingual Matters Ltd. Diane is a lecturer with *Language Specialists Essentials* and can be reached at articles@linguisticworld.com.

During the course of their ten-year marriage, Polly Pureheart and Virtuous Vic were blessed with a child, Adorable Abigail. Adorable Abigail was also riding in the car at the time of the accident, sustained personal injuries, and also witnessed her father’s traumatic injuries and death. Adorable Abigail thus has claims against the defendants as well. As a minor child, Adorable Abigail is not able to bring a claim on her own, and requires a parent to sue on her behalf. If Polly Pureheart wishes to assert claims on behalf of Adorable Abigail, the style of the case becomes “Polly Pureheart, Individually and as Next Friend of Adorable Abigail, and as Executrix of the Estate of Virtuous Vic v. Ned Negligence, Crummy Corporation, Terrible Tavern, Mediocre Motors, Bogus Brakes, Inc., Awful Autos, Antiquated Airbags, and So-So Signals, Inc.”

The addition of Adorable Abigail to the lawsuit will likely cause the court to appoint a guardian ad litem or attorney ad litem. This will be an individual whose sole purpose is to protect the best interests of Adorable Abigail in this lawsuit.

With each defendant added to the lawsuit, an attorney will be added as well. In this demonstration, there will be one plaintiff attorney, but at least seven defense attorneys, all of whom have the right to ask questions of any witness.

The case style will assist the interpreter in identifying the various participants in a vehicular accident lawsuit. This, however, is merely the first step in becoming educated about the vehicular accident lawsuit. The interpreter also needs to understand the various types of proceedings that can occur, and be familiar with the potential witnesses, the various types of vehicular accident lawsuits, and the testimony that may be elicited from a witness depending on that person’s role in the litigation. ■



Translation Seminars

ATA'S TRANSLATION SOFTWARE TOOLS SEMINAR

By Rosene Zaros

To all those in attendance on July 9 at ATA's Translation Software Tools Seminar in Chicago, it was obvious that Jost Zetsche achieved his stated goal: the process of learning how to maximize the potential of computers as tools in the translation business was, indeed, both positive and fun. His excitement about his work is contagious. It was interesting to observe how the audience responded with equal enthusiasm when, after demonstrating a new "tool," he would beam and ask: "Isn't that really neat?"

Jost began by making it clear that our ability to use computers well is critical to our success as translators in the 21st century. They can save us seconds that add up to minutes that add up to hours in the course of a week, and that means greater productivity. But, we have to be willing to make the investment in time to learn how to use the different applications, which ones we need, and which ones we don't. A big question: why *Windows* as an operating system? The big answer: compatibility. The importance of compatibility between/among applications was stressed throughout the presentation.

He went on to compare *Windows 2000/XP* with earlier versions. Some of the advantages for translators, in addition to stability, are multilingual editions, additional applications and Unicode. The latter, he explained, has important ramifications for translators. It is a character encoding standard for representing char-

acters as integers, the aim of which is to provide a universal way of encoding characters of any language, regardless of the computer system, or platform, being used. It contains space for over 65,000 characters from the world's languages including letters from alphabets and ideographs used in writing systems such as Chinese. There is no longer a need for different sets (or "code pages") between languages.



Jost Zetsche

Most of us know that *Windows Explorer* is a very helpful tool for file management. Jost gave a number of tips and tricks for getting the most out of this utility. These included right click shortcuts to any application or drive, searches with "wild cards" and changing the *My Documents* path. He continued with some pointers for maximizing the power of *Windows*. His description of how programs end up in your *Startup* folder was humorous as well as enlightening. One can only imagine the creator of a program being so excited about it that he/she programs it to start every time you turn on your computer! But, be that as it may, many of these programs serve no useful purpose and slow down the functioning of our computers. He gave instructions for accessing the utility as well as some guidelines for assessing the usefulness of programs along with a website, www.sysinfo.org/startuplist.php, and ways of removing undesirable programs. He also gave the names of some downloads to aid in this process (*EasyCleaner*, *RegVac*). Some instructions for defrag-



mentation and error check completed this part of his presentation.

Next, Jost had some advice about HTML editors and cited his "golden rule(s)": Never use *Word* for HTML, unless the client specifically asks that you do so; and, only use "intrusive" HTML editors if the website was created with them. Web spiders such as *Teleport* allow for the download of complete websites, and while they are not suited for translation, are excellent resources for estimates.

Information and advice on tools that search and replace in a large number of files followed along with ways of structuring searches. He also talked about a free tool, *RnameIt* that allows you to batch rename any number of files and also to "touch up" date and timestamps. Jost had many of these tools installed on his computer and was able to show us how they work so that, although it was not really a "hands-on" seminar, we certainly got a feeling for how things work.

Other important topics for translation professionals were compression utilities such as *PKZip* and *WinZip*, as well as CD emulators, which allow you to use several CDs at a time. Jost also discussed quite candidly the problems associated with working with PDF files and briefly mentioned some conversion programs that may be helpful. He continued with a discussion of the currently available office "suites" and possible problems with compatibility. This was followed by some words of advice on

desktop publishing and graphics applications.

Next and last on the agenda were CAT tools. For many of those attending the seminar, this was the long-awaited moment, and some went away disappointed. There simply was not enough time to adequately cover this broad and rapidly evolving topic. Jost paid homage to the vastness of the topic when he introduced the subject with a definition of computer assisted translation tools as “all tools that aid in the translation process.” These would include project management applications, term extraction tools, word count tools, localization tools, as well as what most of us are primarily familiar with: machine translation programs and translation memory programs. We were able to continue with this very important topic during the networking session that followed the seminar and many people told me that Jost had been able to answer their questions and that they were more than happy with the knowledge and information they had gleaned from the seminar.

In addition, everyone attending the seminar received a free copy of Jost’s 200+pages e-book, *The Translator’s Tool Box – A Computer Primer for Translators*. You can order it on-line at www.internationalwriters.com/toolbox/. Unless you are a real computer wizard yourself, you can’t go wrong with this investment in your business. You can also subscribe to a free “Toolkit” newsletter at www.internationalwriters.com/toolkit. ■

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Joel Zetzsche is an ATA-certified English>German translator and a localization and translation consultant. A native of Hamburg, Germany, he earned a PhD in the field of Chinese translation history and linguistics and began working in localization and technical translation in 1997. In 1999, he co-founded International Writers’ Group on the Oregon coast. His computer guide for translators was published in 2003 and he now sends out a biweekly technical newsletter for translators.



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

BUILDING YOUR FREELANCE TRANSLATION BUSINESS SEMINAR

Reviewed by Elisabeth Ranhe

On Saturday, June 11, 2005, the seminar room at 48 Cooper Square was filled with translators and interpreters. The continuing education seminar, BUILDING YOUR FREELANCE TRANSLATION BUSINESS, a joint effort of the New York Circle of Translators and the NYU Translation Studies Program, covered details of the translation business that the attendees really wanted to hear about.

The first session of the seminar was presented by Marian S. Greenfield, ATA president-elect. Using her own experience as an example, she gave valuable advice on establishing a freelance translation business and developing a client base. Some of the key points were the compilation of an effective freelance resume, quality control, using technology, and networking. Emphasis was on those things that lead to a successful and steady freelance translation business and provide a solid structure for it.



The second speaker was Joel Schreiber, American Express Financial Advisor, who guided the attendees to a mature understanding of what it takes to plan for a secure future when managing one's own freelance translation business. Financial management, retirement plans, medical insurance and all of the necessary steps that one has to take to survive and move forward in the present while preparing for a secure future were set forth for consideration.

Both speakers were very open and interactive throughout their presentations. Therefore, attendees were able to ask questions and express concerns and receive immediate feedback. Praises were indeed abundant. ■

MEMBERS' VOICE

A collection of poetry by Karl D. Gluck

Karl D. Gluck has published a book of poems and his work has appeared in many magazines. He studied Russian in college with a minor in Chinese. For the past ten years, Chinese has been his main hobby. He speaks both languages fluently and uses them daily both in his work as a program director for an organization that helps new immigrants find jobs and as a freelance interpreter.



BOOK SHELF

Poverty, a novel of one angry sentence on a paper bag just big enough for one beer and smelling of sweat.

Isolation, sun-bleached to the color of a clam, with sand in its binding, when flipped rapidly, its pages moan like a seashell.

Triumph, a deceptively large log, illuminated with too many serifs, too few words.

Thinner than you would expect, *Love* was written by a clever Bohemian who knew

what heartstrings blank pages can pull.

Enlightenment, a volume of air on silk whose pages sound neither like the bells on a dancing girl's leg nor the shake of a witch doctor's rattle.

Written on the skin of a human heart,

Jealousy has been crinkled by many shaking hands with bulging grey veins.

A primer with a brass cover shiny from the rubbing of sweaty palms entitled *The Kitchen Sink* sits heavily on the shelf.

Its washers worn thin, each day readers pull and twist and are given nothing more than a few drops.

Finally, dwarfed into anonymity by the overbearing oilcloth-covered parchment *Tears* and crushed flat by a gargoyle-headed bookend,

Contentment, with two roses from a long-ago high school prom, still fragrant,

pressed between pages fifty-eight and fifty-nine, lies forgotten in a place where my fingers are too thick and chubby to reach.

Thanks to www.thundersandwich.com for putting this poem on their website



NIGHT OFF

Sisyphus rolled his rock, careful not to scuff his oxfords, glad his shirt would soak up the sweat running down his back and perhaps he wouldn't have to send the whole silk tuxedo to the cleaners.

Sisyphus rolled his rock, careful not to disturb the sunbathers reading theater reviews beside the rut he was making in the mountainside. No one told him there were free bathing suits in the cabana next to the jetty. He never saw the changing room doors banging in the arid wind.

Sisyphus by his campfire hugging his rock in the evening murmuring of a day to come when he will wake up, feel the cold stone beneath his calloused fingers, not worry about moving it past the lifeguards halfway up the mountain in their highchairs, screaming from the sunny coolness for the volleyball players to look out below.



POEMS FOR VIVIAN (BORN JULY 20, 2004)

POST-PARTUM DEPRESSION (BEFORE)

As my wife grows larger,
 The life is being sucked from me,
 I shrivel like a balloon stuck with a slow pin,
 wheezing like a mosquito.
 Now there is nothing else but her, the baby.
 The plants have to go, my bicycle has to go,
 All to make room for tiny Vivian!
 Then mommy becomes the baby,
 she needs eggs on toast in the morning,
 milk, water, water “and can you get me another
 glass of water, please?” “Sing me to sleep, rub
 my tummy, sing to Vivian, say, ‘Vivian
 time to go to bed!’” She’s God these days,
 rolling around in her liquid heaven,
 occasionally punching a fist
 to the surface, you can almost hear her
 grunting like the monkey who adorns her birth year.
 But I was born a dragon, notoriously impatient
 With little girls screaming, “I don’t need your talk
 About your ‘personal space,’ your friends,
 Your evenings out! They’re out! out! out!”
 says Vivian the Ventriloquist pulling mommy’s
 mouth strings,
 “you all belong to me now!”

EIGHT MONTHS (AFTER)

A high-pitched squeal is all she can muster,
 if muster is the right word, as it goes on all day.
 A high-pitched squeal like a whale or a dolphin,
 happily swimming off the coast Tahiti,
 spurting water through her blowhole,
 rolling in the wake of cruise ships.
 Babies are such watery creatures.
 She *could* be a whale or a dolphin,
 but she would have to have fingers, too—
 curious fingers reaching everywhere,
 grabbing ears, poking eyes, yanking phone lines,
 tiny scientist testing everything—
 the durability of objects,
 the limits of human patience—
 in this, her relatively new world, her laboratory.
 Oh, my baby, a tabula rasa, a shining new chance
 That perhaps one life can be lived perfectly,
 With no mistake, flaw or blemish.
 Perhaps Vivian will remain innocent forever.
 Then again, I think, untangling my hair
 From her twisted fingers, then again...perhaps not.



**BRASS DOOR KNOB,
 ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA**

The sea spray ruins everything down by the bay.
 In the 22 years since my father built that house,
 the brass knob on his front door
 has corroded to a sickly green.
 Memories of when it was shiny
 drag me back to the age of television,
 when my stepmother, now dead from cancer,
 read Ray Bradbury to us in bed.

Dad smoked on the porch,
 accompanied by wind chimes,
 the rustle of palm fronds and
 the moan of tankers' horns
 as they passed through the channel.
 My dad grew great tomatoes.

These days I live in a cramped apartment in Queens.
 Instead of wind chimes, I hear car horns.
 Instead of waves rolling on the bay,
 restaurant grease rots in the streets.

Late last night, an old Twilight Zone show came on.
 The memories make me feel
 like an empty milk jug in the basement.
 I remember the first time I saw it,
 twenty years ago (It was old even then)--
 water lapping on sand, Ray Bradbury,
 crabbing knee-deep in the bay, riding in Dad's boat.

Today I called my father to hear,
 “Oh, just all sweaty from mowing the lawn,
 scraping pelican crap off the dock,
 varnishing the porch again.”
 I wonder, when he opens the front door,
 and sees the corrosion as he turns
 that ugly green knob, does he, too, think of the past,
 or does he say to himself, “there's another thing
 that needs to be fixed”?

Thanks to www.roguescholars.com for
 publishing this poem on their website



BOOK REVIEW

HELP YOURSELF AND YOUR BUSINESS BEGINNING TRANSLATOR'S SURVIVAL KIT

By Susana Greiss, M.A. and George Fletcher, Ed.D. (ISBN: 0-9631999-3-5)

When I started reading *Beginning Translator's Survival Kit*, I did not want to put it down. It is practical and useful, and when you read about Susana's and George's experiences and advice, it makes you realize that as translators and/or interpreters we go through so many common experiences.

To become a translator is not only a matter of knowing a language. Susana tells you it is essential to be a well-rounded individual with a solid educational background and familiarity with the cultures of the target and source languages. Analyze your situation before deciding to freelance as a translator, make sure to pave the way to independence before you jump.

She tells you how important it is to keep up with recent technology, to become familiar with the computer and its applications and now to use it to do research. It is also important to continue to educate yourself by taking training courses and by attending workshops to improve your chances of success.

"Knowledge does not take up any space in your suitcase and nobody can take it away from you," she says. She tells you how important it is to join organizations such as the American Translators Association (ATA) and the New York Circle of Translators and to take the certification exam.

She discusses mentoring, building up contacts, where the jobs are, and how to get started if you want to freelance, what tools you will need, how to present your image, how to build client relations, how to decide what to charge. In her words: "honesty is the best policy."

George tells us about his experience

when he came to New York in 1979 to offer his services in translation and how difficult it was to get started. He tells us how he became the owner and founder of Globe Language Services, Inc. His presentation is twofold: the applied theory and practice of translation and anecdotal observations from an agency's viewpoint on what makes a good translator.

He talks about: What is Translation? What is a Translator? How does one

Knowledge does not take up any space in your suitcase and nobody can take it away from you.

become a Professional? Translation Basics, Translation as a Business. He gives an example of a bad translation from Chinese and how important it is to make sure a translation is correct and how much harm an inaccurate translation can cause. He talks about the importance of gaining clients, completing the job on time and to the client's satisfaction.

Beginning Translator's Survival Kit is an excellent book that any newcomer to the profession should read. Susana and George, thanks for sharing with us your experiences, thoughts, and recommendations!

Gloria Barragán
E-mail: gbarrg@optonline.net

All translators will enjoy and can benefit from this timely contribution to the profession. The 107 pages of the *Beginning Translator's Survival Kit* written half by Susana Greiss M.A., an experienced translator, interpreter and mentor who

was awarded the Gode Medal for her contributions to the profession, and the other half by George Fletcher, Ed.D., an experienced translator interpreter and now translation agency owner. The contrast and balance of the two points of view contribute to the unique benefits of their instruction. Both authors write in an eminently readable style. Part One, by Greiss, gives recommendations about language combinations, training, mentoring, contacts, job hunting, sources of work, tools, client relations, clients abroad and more. Part Two, by George Fletcher, gives a theoretical overview of types of translation, basics such as time, rates, proofreading, obtaining and maintaining clients, and what not to do.

Other helpful hints are: keep your old computer as a backup, keep your cell phone handy at all times.

One of the interesting and valuable topics is Fletcher's advice on translating diplomas and academic transcripts. He drives home the recommendations given by an evaluator who explained what is expected from translators at an ATA conference some years ago.

Bottom line: If you are an experienced translator, you will enjoy the anecdotes in this extended FAQ. If you are a beginner, this handbook will give you some essential advice.

Sharlee Merner Bradley
Reviewed for Translorial, December 2004

Books about translation, fortunately, are increasingly easy to find. But asked to name a book about how to become a translator, and even the best informed among us would be stumped.

Translators and interpreters constantly find themselves answering questions from persons with language competence and translation skills who want to become freelance translators.

Now, at long last, a highly practical guide for the aspiring translator as well as the veteran professional has appeared that answers virtually every imaginable question about the business of translation. The authors dissect the subject in a blunt, well-organized and easily digestible fashion, providing insights on seemingly every aspect of translation for hire. And they do it from two perspectives: that of an independent freelancer, and that of the co-founder of a successful translation agency.

Russian-born Susana Greiss' unique life experiences in a succession of countries gave her skills that qualify her for translation in five language pairs. She has translated for UN agencies, private companies and many other clients. George Fletcher, who earned a PhD in education

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Susana Greiss, the founder and past administrator of ATA's Slavic Language Division, a recipient of ATA's Alexander Gode Medal in 2002, and an honorary lifetime member of NYCT, with her colleague **George Fletcher**, has written a manual for those who are embarking on a career in the interpreting and translating professions. They have very aptly entitled the manual: *Beginning Translator's Survival Kit*.



Susana Greiss

but had a passion for translation, became a partner in Globe Language Services Inc. in 1986 and has been an adjunct professor of translation at NYU for many years. Their insights and real world experiences make this book a welcome "must read" for anyone wishing to get started in our business.

The "Survival Kit" explores literally everything (and the bullets abet brevity to allow more information):

- Creating an office at home
- Steps to take regarding your tax deductible expenses
- How to get started with those first few projects
- Invoicing and getting paid

- Establishing a range of value for one's fees
- Basic information about what translation is and is not
- Legal implications for certified translations
- Editing, proofreading and assuring quality work
- Keeping clients.

Fletcher also includes an extremely practical section on translating certificates and documents from educational institutions. He is an expert on the dangers and pitfalls. His insights are valuable for novices as well as experienced translators.

One could go on. The point is that this small tome (106 pages) is a goldmine of information that will pay for itself many times over.

Frank Gomez ©2004
Reviewed for Apuntes December 2004

If you want to buy the book, go to: www.globelanguage.com.
Net proceeds from sales go to The New York Circle of Translators, a non-profit organization.



IT'S PICNIC TIME!!!

We are delighted to inform you that we plan to have a picnic this summer for NYCT members. In order to make this a special occasion, your participation is essential. You can also bring your family members.

The plan is to have a barbecue. The veggie members should not worry: the menu will include greens and many other colors other than beefy red. The most important thing is that we will have this opportunity to enjoy each other's company again. After all, we are birds of a feather, having a common interest in languages and communications.

We will be flying and landing on a tree at the gracious home of Ms. Marian Greenfield, our ATA President-Elect.



Place
Marian Greenfield's home
2619 Holly Avenue
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
(Please check Internet maps for directions)

Date
Sunday, August 21st, 2005
Time: 12:00

Telephone
(908) 561-7590

Cost
\$12.00 (pay on arrival, cash only)

Reservations
Please confirm your participation by Tuesday, August 16, by e-mailing programdirector@nyctranslators.org (the e-mail address will work!).

CIRCLE NEWS



NEW MEMBERS

We would like to extend our warm welcome to Ms. Margaret Altieri, appointed President-Elect, Ms. Elisabeth Ranhe, appointed Program Director, Ms. Rosene Zaros, editor, and Ms. Laura Brandkamp, Programs Committee. We hope that taking on additional responsibility will bring them joy and satisfaction.

NEW LINKS ON THE NYCT WEBSITE



We exchanged links with

- **Luxury Hotels New York**

New York City Hotels, Vacations and Travel Guide from New-York-Hotels.bz. Find the lowest rates on hotels, rentals, lodging, travel deals and discounts, and the best vacation ideas in the cities of New York and Manhattan.

- **Cheap Hotel New York City**

New York hotels and New York City hotels as well as discount travel and vacation information for New York at New-York.Live.Net.

- **Travel to New York**

New York Hotels and Travel Guide from NewYorkHotels.Itravel.Bz. Find the lowest rates on hotel reservations, top attractions and more in the city of New York, New York and Manhattan.

We are sure they will be of advantage to our members.

OUR COLLEAGUES IN THE WORLD

A group of teachers and translators in Japan sued Tokyo's governor, Shintaro Ishihara, for allegedly calling French a “failed international language.” His words were, “French is a failed international language because it cannot be used to count numbers.”

Both languages, French and Japanese, have their own ways of expressing numbers. In French, one may have difficulty saying 90 (four-twenty-ten). In Japanese, every three digits of a large number are ignored: so, 30,000 would be “three-10,000”, 4 million would be “400-10,000” and 4 billion would be “40-100 million.” Additionally, counting one pencil or one bottle of beer (“ippon”) in Japanese differs from counting one sheet of paper (“ichimai”) or one book (“issatsu”).

What about your language?

CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES

<http://www.ncsconline.org>

If you want to learn about programs, go to Research, and then click on CourtInterp.

<http://www.answers.com>

If you are looking for a good English-English Dictionary, you will find it here and much much more.



Answers.com

A LOOK AT THE STATUS OF MEDICAL INTERPRETING

By Betty Welker (Bettywelker@cs.com)

It seems that New York has some catching up to do when it comes to recognizing the need for medical interpreters, not to mention what to do about their training and recruitment. The fact is that people with limited English proficiency require skilled interpreters to assist them in a medical setting, particularly in this age of specialized, compartmentalized medicine. As a matter of social justice, patients with limited English should no longer have to depend on relatives or ad-hoc interpreters to help them navigate the health care system, follow instructions and make complex medical decisions.

Here to help New York catch up to other states is a new association of medical interpreters. Called the Association of Medical Interpreters of New York (AMINY), the group held a seminar on May 4, 2005 at Teacher's College to discuss the issues and challenges facing the profession. It presented a distinguished panel, which included the following speakers:

1. Joy Connell, President of the Massachusetts Medical Interpreters Association.
2. Jennifer Edwards, Medical Interpreter and Founder of AMINY.
3. Javier Gonzalez, Director, Language Initiative, Center for Immigrant Health, NYU School of Medicine, Founding Member, AMINY.
4. Wilma Alvarado-Little, Medical Interpreter and Trainer, Founding Member, AMINY.
5. Lynnette Taylor, Nationally Certified Sign Language Interpreter.

The history of medical interpretation in Massachusetts is instructive for New York, because it serves as an example of how the role of the interpreter evolved from volunteer status to a paid professional. Back in the 1980s, the need for

medical interpreters was set in motion by a change in demographics, which consisted of a large influx of people from Haiti and southeast Asia with limited English proficiency. Medical institutions were forced to fill this need, once they recognized that this service had to be provided to their patients. For example, Massachusetts General Hospital began with medical interpreters who were an all-volunteer group. Today it has a staff of 35, who are required to provide interpretation services in Russian, Spanish, Chinese and American Sign Language, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Organizing proved to be the key to upgrade the status of interpreters in Massachusetts. Interpreters and coordinators of hospital interpretation services formed the Massachusetts Medical Interpreters Association, which has been incorporated since 1986. The group works to promote standards, foster interpreter training, a code of ethics and certification. While there is still no statewide certification of medical interpreters, which is a long-term goal of the association, hospitals do expect interpreters to be members of the association.

As far as New York is concerned, it lags behind other large metropolitan areas. The myth that anyone bilingual also has the skills to interpret still persists, and many interpreters have received little or no training. In order to meet the demand for skilled interpreters in a world that is far from ideal, many hospitals use language banks, shift bilingual hospital employees (some receive training as interpreters) from their regular jobs to interpreter situations and make use of phone banks, agencies and volunteers.

Like Massachusetts and other states, New York state does not certify interpreters. However, there are training



programs, and AMINY has put together a resource kit for medical interpreters. Local program resources include Hunter College, the Center for Immigrant Health of the New York University School of Medicine, and the NYU School of Continuing Education.

These programs need to assess bilingual skills, the ability to interpret, and clarify the role of the interpreter. There seems to be no consensus in this country regarding the extent to which the interpreter should take on the role of a cultural broker, advocate or navigator of the medical system. What is clear, however, is that interpreters must know specialized terminology and colloquial terms, have cultural competence and some familiarity with the culture of the patient. ■

AMINY is planning to hold a general membership meeting this September. The AMINY Board of Directors (Jennifer Edwards, Jody Gill, Javier Gonzalez, Wilma Alvarado-Little, and Sonja Hubbert) is hard at work on accomplishing three major tasks: completing the association bylaws and securing a Certificate of Incorporation as well as federal and state not-for-profit status. It is only through collaboration that the medical interpreting profession will evolve into a recognized profession. For further information contact Jennifer Edwards at jenedw@erols.com.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR NYCT MEMBERSHIP



Dear Members,

Now that we have a new President and the 2005 Board in place, it is time to ask those of you who haven't renew your NYCT membership for 2005 to do it now. Many of you have asked, and we have formally decided to reduce the membership fee to \$40 for individuals for this year. However, we are still asking members with foreign addresses to pay an extra \$10 for postage and send payment in U.S. funds. Corporate membership for this year will be \$65. Please fill out the payment coupon at the bottom, detach it and send it, together with your check or money order payable to "NYCT" or "New York Circle of Translators," to the attention of the NYCT Treasurer at the address indicated above. Note that NYCT is not yet able to accept credit card payments.

This may also be a good time to update your profile. Your profile information appears in both the NYCT online and print directories. This information is also used by the NYCT to mail you the Gotham and to 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.

To update your profile, go to the NYCT website <http://www.nyctranslators.org> and click on "NYCT MEMBERS ONLY Update your profile here." At the login screen, enter your member ID number and password. If you do not know them, go to Get help on the same page. 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.

Keep the top portion of this letter for your files. Use your ID number and password to update your profile information if it changes at any time during the year.

2005 DUES FORM

Name: _____ ID # _____

Address: _____

Type of membership (check one)
Please add \$10 if you have a foreign address

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$40) | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$100 or more) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$30) | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Patron (\$150 or more) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate (\$65) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime (\$700) |



Mail to:
The New York Circle of Translators
PO Box 4051
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163-4051

NOMINATION OF NYCT OFFICERS



This form may be completed by either the nominator or the nominee. The nominator can nominate him/herself. Both the nominator and the nominee must be members of the New York Circle of Translators, and the nominees must be Active or associate members of ATA and members of the New York Circle of Translators in good standing.

SUBMITTING THE FORM

Please submit the form by mail to Dina Harrison, 315 95th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11209 by September 20, 2005.

QUESTIONS?

Contact any member of the NYCT Nominating Committee:

Dina Harrison: dina@harrison.net

Lori Colman: lcolman@rennert.com

Nancy Wright: nwright1014@yahoo.com

CALL FOR NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

- Nominated for position of: President Elect - ATA Active member, NYCT
 Secretary - ATA Associate member, NYCT
 Treasurer - ATA Associate member, NYCT

Is the nominee aware of this nomination? Yes No

NOMINATOR

Name of Nominator: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Comments: _____



Mail to:
Dina Harrison
315 95th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11209



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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