



capital translator

Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Translators Association
Vol. 22, No. 2 March 2000

It Seems Like Just Last Century: NCATA Rises From The Foggy Bottom

by Ted Crump

On a cold snowy day in March 1980 the founding fathers and mothers of NCATA, some fifty translators, met at a hotel near Dupont Circle in Washington, D.C. to form a new chapter in the American Translators Association. It was a mixed bag of crusty ATA veterans and us rank newcomers, but everyone in attendance shared an abundant enthusiasm and determination to create something. Led by Deanna Hammond, Marilyn Daly, Ed Bourgoin, Bill Cramer, Marcia Doron and others, the meeting wasted no time: Marilyn Daly was selected as provisional Chair, committees were formed, and a plan was struck, which was adhered to with unflagging zeal. The group met again in April and June, voted on leadership structure and officers and chose a chapter name. Marilyn Daly was elected as the first Chapter President, while Edwina Alborno Gomez was elected Vice-President. Where are they now?

The first newsletter appeared on June 4, 1980 and was succeeded in October by the first issue of *Capital Translator*. The very important effort of drawing up a constitution and bylaws was capably led by Albin

Drzewianowski, whose name took three men and a boy to pronounce, but who worked quickly and efficiently, energetically assisted by Denise Tsiaperas, and had the constitution and half of the bylaws written by October. Gerald Geiger chaired the Accreditation Committee, and by August 2nd had conducted the first accreditation seminar, with the examination taking place on October 25. Walter Haller headed the Finance Committee, opened the bank account, received dues and made disbursements; by October dues payments had been received from 45 chapter members. Bill Cramer headed the Professional Support Committee, which met regularly and focused initially on terminology, contracts, book catalogs, dictionary information and employment opportunities. Ed Bourgoin ably chaired the Program Committee, and the meetings he planned were standing room only. Arcadio Torres-Arroyo was the first Chair of the Membership Committee, and he energetically pursued potential chapter members living within reasonable driving radius of the chapter.

In the drive to gather members as rapidly as possible, complementary copies of *Capital Translator* were mailed to more than 150 addresses, including all individual and corpo-

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Printed on recycled paper.

President's Corner

by Scott Brennan

And that's the way it was, 20 years ago. Credit for the debut issue of NCATA's newsletter goes to Stewart Colten.

As I looked through NCATA's newsletters from its first year of existence, I was struck by how active our chapter had been, right from the start. Membership surged to 72 by mid-December and broke a hundred 6 months later. ATA accreditation examination sittings, practice workshops and regular chapter meetings were held with professional development programs followed by a social hour "enlivened by the grape." I was edified to learn that translation bloopers predate the Internet by several years at least, but I never learned who won the prize for coming up with the chapter name – and is it Encata or N-C-A-T-A, anyway?

Ted Crump coined the name for the *Capital Translator*, and right away it set the standard for ATA chapter newsletters, so much so that the editors felt compelled to bestow the first-ever Turkey of the Month – Dindon du Mois – Pavo del Mes – Peru do Mês – Puter des Monats award on a certain "provincial newsletter that reprinted, word for word, the texts of two articles from the November 4, 1980 issue... with-

out bothering to credit the source." The *CT* received special recognition at the 1983 ATA Conference in Atlanta as the outstanding local newsletter. From a Royal manual typewriter to an Olivetti with a carbon ribbon to a Selectric II to a Xerox Memorywriter to its present incarnation, the *CT's* face has changed but it is still as energetic as it was in its youth.

The faces on NCATA's board have also changed over the years, as the roster on page 6 shows. But that list of names doesn't even begin to tell the tale. Perhaps the highest tribute I can pay them is simply to say that my professional life – and even my personal life – is immeasurably richer because of the colleagues and friends I have met through NCATA.

And that is what NCATA has always been about for me. Generosity among colleagues, engaging conversations, enthusiasm for our chosen field, and making Washington a better place to be a translator or interpreter. I want to wish us all a happy 20th anniversary, and many more. ☺



Happy
Anniversary
NCATA!

NCATA Chapter Meeting Military/Naval/Aviation

When: Wednesday, April 26, 2000, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Where: Department of State, Office of Language Services
 2401 E Street, NW, Washington DC
 (Columbia Plaza Office Building, not the main
 State Department complex)

The military, naval and aviation subject cluster is a niche translation specialty in the Washington area. At this subject-specific chapter meeting, some of the top practitioners in the field will report from the front lines and train us in tradecraft.

Ronald Wolfe (Arabic) will relate his experience with, and ideas on, translating Army tactical manuals.

Dimitra Hengen (French, Italian) has a background in aviation and experience with NATO and the translation of techno-thrillers. Joseph Mazza (Spanish, French, Portuguese, Russian) and Paul Hopper (German, Russian, Italian, Swedish, Dutch), both currently with the State Department and previously the Naval Intelligence Support Center, will cover reference materials and other topics.

William Cramer (Russian, German, French, Spanish) has over 40 years of experience translating within the defense-intelligence community, and will discuss professional development and how to go about building subject-area expertise.

The State Department's Office of Language Services is located on the 14th floor of Columbia Plaza Office Building SA-1 on the west side of 23rd Street at 2401 E Street, NW Washington DC. Street parking is free after 6:30 p.m., and a parking garage is available in the complex (do not park in spaces marked by PMI Parking). A 10-minute walk south from the Foggy Bottom Metro station (toward the Lincoln Memorial). Photo identification is required. ☞

Accreditation Workshop

The NCATA will sponsor a workshop on April 1 from 1 to 4 pm at the Cleveland Branch of the DC Public Library, located at CT Avenue and Macomb St., NW, Washington DC. The workshop will consist of a brief discussion of the program by Harvey Fergusson II, who chairs NCATA's Accreditation Committee, after which he will attempt to answer any questions.

The second part of the workshop will involve critiques by accredited members of translations of passages used in prior year accreditation examinations made by the candidates. It is important for the candidates to do their best in translating these passages. You get out of the workshop what you put into it.

The workshop is free of charge and you do not necessarily have to be an NCATA member to participate. To sign up, contact Harvey - coordinates given below - who will send you a passage in your language combination. Unless you specifically request otherwise, he will send you the "General" passage or Passage A from a prior year. If you have a preference for some other passage, he can send that to you as well.

Harvey can be reached at:
 Tel: 703-849-8444
 Fax: 703-280-2570
 E-mail: HFergusson@aol.com

Membership Renewal Deadline Has Passed

January 15 was the deadline to renew your NCATA membership for 2000. If you have not renewed, this will be your last issue of the *Capital Translator*, and you will no longer be listed in the online *Professional Services Directory* or the 2001 print edition. To obtain a copy of your customized membership renewal form, contact Membership Co-Chair Alissa Webel at amw6@gusun.georgetown.edu or (301) 442-6637, or download a form from the Membership section of the NCATA website at www.ncata.org.

Important: If you joined NCATA on or after September 1, 1999, your membership is valid through 2000. Remember that you must renew your NCATA membership in addition to checking the dues rebate box on your ATA membership renewal form. ☞

From the Editor

You have to look at where you come from, if you want to know who you are."

I don't remember who coined that phrase (or something pretty close to it), but even our newest members should feel comfortable about being up to date on our collective history after reading this commemorative issue.

Just this once, we have put the latest news on the back burner and taken a step back in time, to 1980, when it all started.

Scott Brennan's President's Corner will give you a brief overview of how far the CT has come in the past two decades, and the articles by Bill Cramer and Ted Crump will enlighten you on how the idea to form a chapter was conceived and carried to fruition.

We would also like to thank Ted Crump for providing a complete list of members who served as Chapter officers during the past twenty years.

We hope you enjoy this brief retrospective; please be assured that the April issue will again be devoted completely to current issues! ✍



We've Come a Long Way, Baby!

by Bill Cramer

It's hard to believe that 20 years have elapsed since the birth of NCATA. As they used to say in the Virginia Slims ad, "You've come a long way, baby!" We certainly have, and I am proud to say I was there at the takeoff and have remained active in the chapter to this day.

It all started at the 1979 ATA Conference in Kansas City, where a small group of Washington-area translators got together to discuss the possibility of forming our own ATA chapter.

At the time, there were only a few local chapters in all of ATA. We had become aware of the benefits of chapter status from our association and extended conversations with various members of existing chapters. By then it had become apparent to us that having our own chapter in a large metropolitan area such as Washington-Baltimore was imperative, for a number of compelling reasons. First and foremost, sheer numbers: the large number of translators living in the Washington-Baltimore metro complex (and yes, interpreters, language teachers and owners of translation firms as well, lest we forget to give them their due, as happens all too often). We recognized the need for a forum where we could come together from time to time to share our hopes and aspirations, as well as our problems and concerns, and formulate programs. Secondly, it was apparent to us that there is a far greater opportunity to participate directly and make a significant contribution at the chapter level, and at minimal cost, travel and inconvenience. Moreover, it goes without saying, chapter members tend to share far more common interests and concerns with each other than they can with ATA. (By

the way, for the benefit of those of you who may not know, you do not have to belong to ATA in order to join NCATA).

Not surprisingly, we the founders were all deeply involved in the evolution of NCATA, and in time became progressively more involved in ATA as well.

I don't recall whose idea it was, but we all quickly agreed this was an objective we needed to pursue. It was simply an idea whose time had come.

There were four of us: Deanna Hammond, Marilyn Daly, Ed Bourgoin and I. We met a couple of times at the conference hotel in Kansas City to discuss the the whys and wherefores of forming a chapter.

I would like to comment briefly on the founders, for the benefit of those of you who never knew us. Sad to say, two of our founders have passed on: Ed Bourgoin, who died in 1986, and Deanna Hammond in 1997. Marilyn Daly left ATA some 15 years ago. Therefore, I am the only founding member still active in NCATA and ATA. I guess you might say I'm "the last of the Mohicans". It's a pity we couldn't all be here to celebrate this memorable occasion.

I made a concerted but unsuccessful effort to contact Marilyn, hoping she would be able to join us for our 20th anniversary. Her whereabouts still remain unknown.

Marilyn was our first chapter president, serving for 2 years. In later years she edited the *ATA Chronicle* and served on the ATA Board of Directors. At the time I knew her, Marilyn was a staff translator for a company in the Washington area.

Deanna served a term on the ATA Board of Directors, followed by a term as ATA secretary. She later



served as president-elect, then president of ATA. She was also a Gode Medal winner. Deanna was head of the Translation Unit at the Congressional Research Service (CRS) throughout her career. She also taught English as a second language.

Ed Bourgoin never served as an officer in ATA, though he had contemplated running for the Board of Directors shortly before his death. He was an enthusiastic ATA supporter, and his contribution, though generally unheralded, was substantial. Ed was a staff translator with the World Bank in Washington.

I served for one term as the second chapter president, then was elected to the ATA Board of Directors. I spent most of my career as a translator with the Naval Intelligence Command in Suitland, MD.

The momentous Kansas City Conference ended on a bizarre note. I flew home on TWA. Less than an hour out of KC the pilot announced that there was a problem with the landing gear, and that we would have to make a semi-emergency landing at the end of the landing strip in Columbus, OH, which was not a scheduled stop.

After a successful and uneventful landing in Columbus, we were ushered out of the aircraft and transported to the terminal, where we had to make alternate arrangements to get home. Due to the inconvenience and the overall mixup, TWA treated us to a complimentary dinner, complete with wine, in the terminal. And it was Labor Day, by the way. What finer treat, I thought, than to celebrate Labor Day at the Columbus airport, all courtesy of TWA!

And what a way to end such a momentous conference!

After finishing our delicious complimentary meal, and downing a carafe of French wine, my companion Ed Bourgoin and I joined the frantic mob at the TWA ticket counter. Everybody was desperately

trying to get a flight out of Columbus. At first, Ed wanted to rent a car and drive home from Columbus, a distance of 500 miles. I told him emphatically there was no way I was going to drive 500 miles, so that was the end of that. Instead, Ed and I managed to book passage to Philadelphia on another airline, with a connection to Dulles International Airport.

Just before boarding, I called my wife from the terminal to inform her of the nose gear problem and resultant delay. When I told her we were going to Philadelphia, she asked me, "Why are you going to Philadelphia"? Even as we spoke, I heard the last boarding call for our flight, so I anxiously retorted: "I don't want to go to Philadelphia, but I have to. The plane is leaving immediately. Goodbye. See you when I get home". We didn't get home until after midnight, but at least we arrived safe and sound.

We all returned to Washington resolved to immediately set about the task of forming a new ATA chapter. We held several meetings during the 6-month interval between the ATA conference in Kansas City and the organizing meeting in March 1980.

From then on out it was procedural. First we had to hold an organizing meeting, about which you will hear more from others. The four of us did the spadework in setting up this meeting. We invited a host of people to join us, and most showed up. Then, having established our organizational structure, a new group of chapter enthusiasts met to hammer out a constitution and by-laws, which we eventually submitted to the ATA Board of Directors for approval. We won hasty approval. This is basically how our chapter came into being. Unfortunately, in later years I lost touch with most of those who participated in drafting our constitution and by-laws.

The rest, as they say, is history. I will leave more specific details for others to elucidate.

Over the past 20 years we have been blessed with inspired and dedicated leadership and a general membership consisting of extraordinarily gifted and dedicated individuals who have generously contributed their time, talent and energy to the welfare of the chapter. We owe them all a tremendous debt of gratitude.

In recent years, we have gotten out of the habit of meeting regularly. I hope we get back to holding regular meetings in the near future, since I firmly believe we need a few general membership meetings a year to stay in touch and maintain our high level of enthusiasm and dedication to the welfare of the chapter. We need to work on this.

I can't say it loudly enough or often enough: I am proud to have been associated with such a group of outstanding people. We have had many good times together. I have benefited enormously from my long and pleasant association with NCATA.

This is a time of rejoicing for us. May our blessings and prosperity continue. Happy 20th anniversary, NCATA! ✎

NCATA

...continued from page 1

rate ATA members, in Maryland, Virginia and D.C. By mid-December there were 72 NCATA members, 80 by February 1981, and 84 by March. NCATA was granted permanent chapter status in April 1981 by the ATA Board, which expressed particular satisfaction with the preparation of the charter and with the chapter's rapid growth. By May 1981 the chapter had 107 members, 112 by June, and so on, going on to break 300 by February 1987.



The twenty years of the chapter are a chronology of a family of wonderful people. We miss those who moved away and those who passed away. Whether we were meeting in a library, the PEPCO auditorium, or at a restaurant, we shared something special and formed friendships that are irreplaceable. We made the PEPCO the butt of our jokes at the time, but now looking back through the lens of nostalgia, we kind of miss the place. ✍

Ted Crump went to work as a translator at the National Institutes of Health two weeks before NCATA was born. He founded Capital Translator and served as its editor for seven years, edited the ATA Chronicle, served one hitch on the ATA Board of Directors, and helped found the Translators' and Interpreters' Guild.

NCATA Board Members 1980-1999

1980

Provisional chapter, founded March 1, 1980

President: Marilyn Daly
 Vice-President: Edwina Albornoz Gomez
 Secretary: Marcia Nita Doron
 Accreditation Committee Chair:
 Gerald L. Geiger
 Finance Committee Chair:
 Walter H. Haller
 Professional Support Committee Chair:
 William Cramer
 Program Committee Chair:
 Edward G. Bourgoin
 Membership Committee Chair:
 Arcadio Torres-Arroyo, Kathleen Kirk
 Charter/Organizational Committee Chair:
 Albin Drzewianowski
 Nomination and Election Committee
 Chair:
 Maria-Celina Heeter
 Newsletter Editor:
 Stewart Colten, Ted Crump
 Associate Newsletter Editor:
 Alicia Betsy Edwards

Permanent status granted to the chapter by the ATA Board April 25, 1981

1981

President: Marilyn Daly
 Vice-President: Marcia Nita Doron
 Secretary: Deanna Hammond
 Accreditation Committee Chair:
 Duane Larrieu
 Finance Committee Chair:
 Lloyd K. Vandersall
 Professional Support Committee Chair:
 Eric McMillan
 Program Committee Chair:
 Edwina Albornoz-Gomez
 Membership Committee Chair:
 Kathleen Kirk
 Information and Liaison Committee
 Chair: Denise Tsiaperas
 Newsletter Editor: Ted Crump
 Associate Newsletter Editor:
 Alicia Betsy Edwards

1982

President: William Cramer
 Vice-President: Barbara J. Sharpe
 Secretary: Denise Tsiaperas
 Accreditation Committee Chair:
 William P. Keasbey
 Finance Committee Chair:
 Lloyd K. Vandersall
 Professional Support Committee Chair:
 Maria Celina Heeter
 Program Committee Chair:
 Howard Clark
 Membership Committee Chair:
 Rebecca Carpenter
 Information and Liaison Committee
 Chair: Miriam Sigler
 Newsletter Editor: Ted Crump

1983

President: Barbara J. Sharpe
 Vice-President: Steven R. Sachs
 Accreditation, Information and
 Professional Support Committee Chair:
 William P. Keasbey
 Finance Committee Chair:
 Lloyd K. Vandersall
 Program Committee Chair:
 Denise Kirwan
 Membership Committee Chair:
 Cathy Wetmiller
 Newsletter Editor: Ted Crump

1984

President: Barbara J. Sharpe
 Vice-President: Steven R. Sachs
 Secretary: Margaret Scholpp
 Accreditation, Professional Support and
 Information & Liaison Committee Chair:
 Ruth Harwood Cline
 Finance Committee Chair (Treasurer):
 Lloyd K. Vandersall
 Program Committee Chair:
 William P. Keasbey
 Membership Committee Chair:
 Walter Pechenuk
 Client Contact Committee Chair:
 Steven R. Sachs
 Newsletter Editor: Ted Crump

1985

President: Steven R. Sachs
 Vice-President: Daniel Racine
 Secretary: Karin Burchard
 Treasurer: Lloyd K. Vandersall
 Accreditation Committee Chair:
 Walter Pechenuk
 Program Committee Chair:
 William P. Keasbey
 Membership Committee Chair:
 Shari Lama
 Newsletter Editor: Ted Crump

1986

President: Steven R. Sachs
 Vice-President: Daniel Racine
 Secretary: Sally Robertson
 Treasurer: Dean Benson
 Accreditation/Professional Support
 Committee Chair: William P. Keasbey
 Program Committee Chair:
 Anne Cordero
 Membership Committee Chair:
 Shari Lama
 Newsletter Editor: Ted Crump

1987

President: William P. Keasbey
 Vice-President: James W. Snow, Jr.
 Secretary: Sally Robertson
 Treasurer: Dean Benson
 Accreditation Committee Chair: Daniel
 Racine
 Program Committee Chair: Anne
 Cordero
 Membership Committee Chair: Shari
 Lama
 Newsletter Editor: Ted Crump

1988

President: William P. Keasbey
 Vice-President: Anne Cordero
 Secretary: Madeline Nevins
 Treasurer: Harvey Fergusson II
 Accreditation Committee Chair: Daniel
 Racine
 Membership Committee Chair: Margaret
 Scholpp
 Program Committee Chair: Thomas
 Malioneck
 Newsletter Editor: Sally Robertson

1989

President: Daniel Racine
 Vice-President: Anne Cordero
 Secretary: Muriel Jérôme-O-Keeffe
 Treasurer: Harvey Fergusson II
 Accreditation Chair: Colette Kent
 Membership Chair: Margaret Scholpp
 Program Committee Chair: Martha
 Witebsky
 Newsletter Editor: Sally Robertson

1990

President: Muriel Jérôme-O-Keeffe
 Vice-President: Anne Cordero
 Secretary: Marta Ferragut
 Treasurer: Harvey Fergusson II
 Accreditation Chair: Colette Kent
 Membership Chair: Mercedes Pellet
 Program Chair: Martha Witebsky
 Newsletter Editor: Sally Robertson

1991

President: Muriel Jérôme-O-Keeffe
 Vice-President: Anne Cordero
 Secretary: Marta Ferragut
 Treasurer: Harvey Fergusson II
 Accreditation Chair: Colette Kent
 Membership Chair: Mercedes Pellet
 Program Chair: Martha Witebsky
 Newsletter Editor: Sally Robertson

1992

President: Muriel Jérôme-O-Keeffe
 Vice-President: Anne Cordero
 Secretary: Marta Ferragut
 Treasurer: Yukako Seltzer
 Accreditation Chair: Colette Kent
 Membership Chair: Mercedes Pellet
 Program Chair: Martha Witebsky
 Newsletter Editor: Sally Robertson/Ted
 Crump

1993

President: Martha Witebsky
 Vice-President: Marta Ferragut
 Secretary: Donna H. Sandin
 Treasurer: Yukako Seltzer
 Accreditation Chair: Piotr Graff
 Membership Chair: Rogelio Ocampo
 Program Chair: Sangeeta Sahaya Prasad
 Newsletter Editor: Ted Crump

1994

President: Mercedes Pellet
 Vice-President: Eric McMillan
 Secretary: Martha Witebsky
 Treasurer: Yukako Seltzer
 Accreditation Chair: Barbara Sharpe
 Membership Chair: Donna H. Sandin
 Program Chair: Maria Luisa Edelson
 Newsletter Editor: Ted Crump

1995

President: Mercedes Pellet
 Vice-President: Yukako Seltzer
 Secretary: Kim F. Olson
 Treasurer: Kevin S. Hendzel
 Membership Chair: Donna Sandin
 Program Co-Chairs: Thomas W.
 Appich/Ted Crump
 Newsletter Editor: Ted Crump

1996

President: Lillian Clementi
 Vice-President: William P. Keasbey
 Secretary: Kim F. Olson
 Treasurer: Barbara Oldroyd
 Membership Chair: Michael Wahlster
 Newsletter Editor: Ted Crump
 Associate Newsletter Editor: Kim F.
 Olson

1997

President: Lillian Clementi
 Vice-President: Kim F. Olson
 Secretary: Russ Hultgren
 Treasurer: Barbara Oldroyd
 Membership Chair: Michael Wahlster
 Accreditation Chair: Bill Keasbey
 Program Chair: Alissa Martin
 Newsletter Editors:
 Ruth Zimmer Boggs/Cassandra
 Decker
 Newsletter Production: Karin Wuertz-
 Schaefer

1998

President: Scott Brennan
 Vice-President: Kim F. Olson
 Treasurer: Therese Hathaway
 Membership Chair: Michael Wahlster
 Accreditation Chair: Bill Keasbey
 Program Chair: Alissa Martin
 Newsletter Editor: Ruth Zimmer Boggs
 Newsletter Assistant Editor:
 Dimitra Hengen
 Newsletter Production:
 Karin Wuertz-Schaefer

1999

President: Scott Brennan
 Vice-President: Sangeeta Prasad
 Secretary: Kriemhild Zerling
 Treasurer: Therese Hathaway
 Membership Chair: Alissa Martin
 Accreditation Chair: Bill Keasbey
 Program Chair: John Vázquez
 Newsletter Editor: Ruth Zimmer Boggs
 Newsletter Assistant Editor:
 Dimitra Hengen
 Newsletter Production:
 Karin Wuertz-Schaefer

June 4, 1980

NEWSLETTER -- AMERICAN TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER

The chapter meeting was held April 26. NEXT MEETING: June 14, ^{1:00}~~4:30~~, at Marymount College, 2807 N. Glebe Rd., Arlington, north of Old Dominion Rd. The room assignment will be available in the main building.

General Announcements:

1. ATA has a professional services directory in print, \$⁵~~8~~ for members, \$22.50 for nonmembers. There is also a news release promoting the directory. The entries are from resumes collected in late 1978.

2. California Pacific Insurance Co. will consider offering "comprehensive major medical" insurance to the chapter if 20% of members sign up. Our group could be combined with Washington Independent Writers' Assoc. The deductible for illness is a basic \$100, \$500, or \$1000, plus 20% of the next \$6250. The basic deductible is waived for accident, and there is a \$5000 life insurance benefit. Any chapter member may qualify, with no medical questions or exam. Cost of the WIWA plan for a 40-yr-old single male is about \$40/mo (for \$500 basic deductible) or \$57/mo (for \$100 basic ded.); for 2 40-yr-old parents and one child the corresponding figures are \$90/mo and \$134/mo. We could consider dropping the extra accident benefit and the life insurance in return for a premium reduction. If you can't make the June 14 meeting and are interested in the insurance, please indicate by notifying Walter Haller, 1916 R St. NW #307, DC 20009.

3. The new ATA address is 109 Croton Ave., Ossining, NY 10562 (914/941-1500).

4. The chapter's office and info center is at Lloyd Vandersall's, in Mitchel-

ville, MD -- 262-8321, preferably after 5.

5. Deanna Hammond has a draft report of the UNESCO study for which ATA members received questionnaires last year. (Response was under 20%.)

6. The new ATA Government Relations Committee will be chaired by Deanna. Both she and Marilyn Daly attended the recent board meeting in NY. Our provisional chapter status was approved at that meeting.

Agenda for June 14 Chapter Meeting:

Dues of \$10 are due. Voting on leadership structure and officers, and on chapter name (prize for winning name suggestion). Discussion of insurance participation.

Committee Activity:

1. Organizational. Work is proceeding on a constitution and bylaws, with help from a questionnaire, available from Denise Tsiaperas, 834-0100. Question categories are Goals & Activities, Organization, Leadership, Selection of Committee Chairs, Terms of Office, Voting Rights, Scheduling of Board Meetings, Approval of Semiannual Reports to ATA, and Finances. The unofficial consensus on April 26 was that we want a 1-yr President and VP, and either an elected board or one composed of committee chairmen. (Whether the Pres. & VP could be committee chairmen wasn't discussed.) Each committee is requested to prepare a function statement for inclusion in the bylaws. Note that chapter members must be ATA members or we lose affiliation. A nominating committee comprising Deanna Hammond, Clare Trang, and Bill Cramer was elected, to nominate candidates for President and Vice President. Candidates as of press date are, for

President, Clare Trang,^{+ Marilyn Daly} and for VP, Edwina Alborno Gomez.

2. Membership. There are a potential 134 members. Non-ATA members will be recruited and encouraged to join ATA and the chapter. A survey of employers and users is proceeding.

3. Finance. The proposed budget is \$770, as follows: membership cards 30, brochure 40, dues mailing 50, stationery 45, general mailings 90, accounts 25, misc. 40, bimonthly newsletters 300, program and other committee costs 150. Telephone listing would cost about another \$150.

4. Info and Liaison. A general brochure is in preparation, modeled on the Dallas and KC brochures. We would like some humorous bad translations for it. At a later meeting this year, proposals will be put on the agenda involving whether to maintain a written information exchange in the area of professional standards and ethics, whether to publicize or exchange rate experience, and whether to support resolutions on civil service policies and on government procurement.

5. Professional Support. Information and views in the ethics area are being solicited. A glossary file is being maintained by Ted Crump, 496-2257 or (home) ~~683-0594~~²⁶⁵⁻²⁰⁸⁵. Suggestions for improving government procurement contracts and translation agency contracts are being written up. Book catalogs, dictionary info, and employment opportunity info are sought -- Bill Cramer, 763-~~5567~~³⁵⁶⁷ or (home) 262-1949.

6. Accreditation. Local testing is here! Your accreditation will be noted in the ATA Professional Services Directory and generally enhance chances for employment. Chapter members wishing to take the ATA accreditation exam at a convenient Washington area facility, on a Saturday in October to be announced, are asked to send a note with their last

name, first name, address, phone, and test language(s) (from ... into), along with a check or money order in the amount of \$25 for each test (\$15 for each retake), made out to ATA, to the following before September 3, 1980: Sister M. Benedict Murphy, RHSM, Marymount College of Virginia, 2807 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 22207. Local accreditation workshop: The chapter Accreditation Committee is making tentative plans for a National Capital Area combined accreditation examination workshop and practice test session at a local facility, at a date in August to be announced. There will be a Test Workshop Sign-up Sheet at the June chapter meeting.

The workshop will consist of a briefing on test rules and procedures, a question-and-answer session, a 2-hour practice test, and a discussion. Individuals may send their practice tests for comment to the ATA reviewer.

Members unable to attend the June 14 meeting may register for the workshop and practice test by supplying the same information as above, plus check or money order made out to ATA, to the following before June 30, 1980: Mr. Gerald L. Geiger, c/o Geiger Associates, Suite 727-E, 7315 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20014.

III

NCATA INCOME AND EXPENDITURES - 1999

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Cash in bank as of January 1, 1999 | \$ 7,947.85 |
| Income: | |
| Dues 1999 | \$ 8,273.00 |
| Dues 2000 | \$ 4,108.00 |
| ATA Chapter Rebate | \$ 1,521.50 |
| Professional Development Seminar (Business of Translation) | \$ 1,150.00 |
| Job Fair 1999 | \$ 210.00 |
| Networking Events (Holiday Party 1999) | \$ 1,325.00 |
| (SFL/NCATA luncheon) | \$ 450.00 |
| <i>Professional Services Directory</i> | |
| Sales 2000 Directory | \$ 870.00 |
| Sales 2001 Directory | \$ 480.00 |
| Advertising 2000 Directory | \$ 395.00 |
| Interest Income | \$ 90.67 |
| Total | \$18,873.17 |
| Expenditures: | |
| <i>Capital Translator</i> | \$ 7,097.81 |
| Printing, Production Manager, | |
| Postage/Supplies/Other Costs | |
| <i>Professional Services Directory</i> | |
| Printing | \$ 1,363.86 |
| Marketing/Mailing/Supplies/Shipping | \$ 1,246.93 |
| Professional Development Seminar (Business) | \$ 1,089.18 |
| Job Fair 1999 | \$ 144.42 |
| Networking Events (Holiday Party 1999) | \$ 1,624.73 |
| (SFL/NCATA Luncheon) | \$ 517.27 |
| Language-Specific Chapter Meeting (German) | \$ 26.28 |
| Membership Expenses | \$ 79.40 |
| Refreshments (Programs, Board Meetings) | \$ 223.08 |
| Telephone NCATA (Monthly Charges) | \$ 782.84 |
| Internet Fees (Web Page) | \$ 233.00 |
| P.O. Box Fee | \$ 82.00 |
| Bank Service Charges | \$ 99.95 |
| Withholding Tax on Interest Income | \$ 28.06 |
| Office Supplies/Postage/Miscellaneous Expenses | \$ 225.72 |
| Total | \$14,864.53 |
| Cash in bank as of December 31, 1999 | \$ 6,043.49* |

Submitted by:



 Therese K. Hathaway, NCATA Treasurer 1999

* This amount does not reflect \$4,108 (membership 2000 dues), \$480 (PSD 2001 sales), and \$1,325 (holiday party payments) received by NCATA in last quarter of 1999 and forwarded to Treasurer for deposit in January 2000.

Information Exchange

Help! Overtyping has wiped out my English spellchecker!

Or: How I Found the Answer to an Annoying Problem

by Eric McMillan



Word cannot find the grammar file msgr FR32.dll for French (Standard)." Have you ever encountered this message when you tried to spellcheck your English translation of an original text in French that you have typed on top of the French original? And have you resigned yourself to carefully eyeballing your English text two, three additional times?

The KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid) way around this problem is obviously not to overtype but to start a new document from scratch and format it as you go. But sometimes the original format is impossible to reproduce (I still mourn WordPerfect and its helpful "reveal codes" feature), and overtyping is by far the easiest way to duplicate a complicated layout.

When I was reading the January 2000 *ATA Chronicle*, I came across an article by Robert Killingsworth on pages 32-37 under the title "Translating Equity Research: Breaking into French > English Financial Translation." I was struck by the following sentences: "For the Paris market today, however, you will typically not be creating a file but overtyping one, i.e., translating par écrasement.... Not uncommonly, these documents have elaborate two-column layouts with headers, footers, tables, floating text boxes, and embedded graphics; and, of course, the client wants it back unaltered except with all the French replaced by English." Aha, I thought

to myself, he must have run into the same problem with the vanishing English spellchecker.

So I sent an e-mail to Mr. Killingsworth (the *ATA Chronicle* helpfully tells its readers how to contact its authors) and was delighted to receive the following reply. I quote: "What you have to do is 'tell' Word what language you are using. If you are overtyping a text written in French, you need to select it (Control + click in the left margin to select the whole thing), then invoke Tools/Language/Set Language to change the language for the spellchecker (e.g. English (United States) or English (United Kingdom))." Unquote.

And it works! One further hint from Mr. Killingsworth: "One of the choices under 'Set Language' is 'no proofing,' which you can use if you want the spellchecker to skip any text passage so marked." This would

help calm down the spellchecker when, for example, it encounters a text portion that is remaining in French.

I hope this hint will prove helpful to other Word-challenged people like myself. And thanks again to Robert Killingsworth for his useful advice. ✎

Eric McMillan was born in Ireland, studied in England, and has worked in the Netherlands and Washington. After 33 years as a staff translator, first with an oil company and later with an international financial organization, plus occasional moonlighting and a stint as a part-time lecturer in translation at Georgetown University, he has now been "retired" for six years. He is currently Treasurer of the ATA. He was a founding member of NCATA, and served as Vice President in 1994. His hobbies include stamp collecting and world travel.

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|---|
| <p>DR. ASLAN ASLANIAN ARMENIAN, FARSI, DARI, PASHTU, ARABIC ՀԱՅԵՐԵՆՆԻ - العربی - فارسی Translations & Interpretations Since 1976 (Travel) FAX/PHONE: 818-353-5862 PAGER: 1-888-953-4005 9673 Crystal View Dr. Tujunga, CA 91042</p> <p>MEMBER: ATA, NAJIT, CCIA, SFL, SOMI, NOTIS, CATI ASLANIAN@PACBELL.NET A Translator for All Seasons, An Interpreter for All Reasons</p> |
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Calendar

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|----------------|------------------------|---|---|
| April 1, 2000 | 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. | Accreditation Workshop | Cleveland Branch of the DC Public Library, Connecticut Ave. and Macomb St., NW, Washington, DC Contact Harvey Fergusson II at 703-849-8444 |
| April 26, 2000 | 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. | Chapter Meeting on Military/Naval/Aviation | Dept. of State, Office of Language Services, 2401 E St., NW, Washington, DC (Columbia Plaza Office Building) See page 3 for details |

NCATA
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Washington, DC 20035-5200

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