



# capital translator

Newsletter of the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Translators Association  
Vol. 20, No. 2 March 1998

---

## The Web is a Translator's Playground!

by Eve Lindemuth

Over the last year or so, I have used this space to discuss various issues relating to the presentation of electronic resumes through e-mail or actual web sites. This month, I would like to survey some of the web resources available to you once you are ready to share your résumé with potential clients the world over!

First, you can stop by Yahoo, one of the first and most popular directories on the Internet, to register your résumé web site address. Go to [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com). Then, click through Business and Economy: Companies: Communications and Media Services: Translation Services. Up at the top of screen, click "Add URL" and follow the instructions. Now, your site should pop up when web surfers are looking for a translator in your language pairs or field of expertise.

BizWeb, found at [www.bizweb.com](http://www.bizweb.com), is also worth visiting. "Translation" is listed as one of their Service categories. To register your web site there, click on the "submit your company" link on the site's main page.

At HandiLinks ([www.ahandyguide.com](http://www.ahandyguide.com)) click on

"T" in the Category Index and scroll (way) down to "Translators and Interpreters" [sic]. Once there, click on "Add/Edit" at the top of the page and follow the instructions. Yahoo, BizWeb and HandiLinks are just a few examples of sites that offer free publicity opportunities.

Other great sources of information and possible publicity on the web are the home pages of regional translator associations worldwide. For example, the NCATA's own web site, found at [www.ncata.org](http://www.ncata.org), was one of the first to provide a searchable database of translators for potential clients. The Colorado Translators Association also has a searchable database providing members' information to the surfing public. The CTA's site can be found at [www.sni.net/base/ctaframeset.htm](http://www.sni.net/base/ctaframeset.htm). Several other regional groups offer similar services and the list is growing.

There are also international translation web-based databases with which you can register your services. The Atril directory ([www.atril.com/directory.html](http://www.atril.com/directory.html)) allows you to easily submit information. Aquarius (Aquarius.net) is one of the better known translator

databases on the web, having been around for several years.

The American Translators Association's site ([www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org)) and The International Federation of Translators' home page at [www.umh.ac.be/atim/fit](http://www.umh.ac.be/atim/fit) do not

...continued on page 3

---

## Inside

President's Corner	2
Job Fair	3
Accreditation	4
On the lighter side	4
Membership	5
Online Directory	5
Virus Alert!	5
Inglis At Large	6
Working Moms	7
Calendar	8



## capital translator

The *Capital Translator* is a newsletter published by NCATA nine times a year from September through June with a combined issue for December and January. Letters to the Editor, short articles of interest, and information for the calendar and other sections are invited. Submissions become the property of the *Capital Translator* and are subject to editing unless otherwise agreed to in advance. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, the Chapter, or its Board.

Editor: Ruth Zimmer Boggs  
703-378-9305  
102076.3271 (CIS)  
REZB@aol.com

Production: Karin Wuertz-Schaefer  
301-607-8036  
wuertz-schaefer@erols.com

Deadline: No later than 5th day of  
month before the issue

---

### National Capital Area Chapter of the American Translators Association (NCATA)

President: Scott Brennan  
500-447-7407  
sbrennan@compuserve.com

Vice President: Kim F. Olson  
703-803-6781

Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: Therese Hathaway  
703-925-9087

Membership: vacant

Program Chair: Alissa Martin  
301-718-0405

Accreditation: Bill Keasbey  
301-897-8318

---

The **Chapter Address** is P. O. Box 65200,  
Washington, DC 20035-5200,  
Tel: 703-255-9290  
Web site: www.ncata.org

The **National HQ Address** is American Translators  
Association, 1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 220,  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2840,  
Tel: 703-683-6100, Fax: 703-683-6122  
Web site: www.atanet.org

For membership information and address changes,  
please write to the chapter at the above address,  
Attn: Membership

For advertising in the *Capital Translator*,  
please contact Angelika Spears, Advertising  
Coordinator, Tel: 301-464-8309,  
e-mail: 102502.3224@compuserve.com

Printed on recycled paper.

## President's Corner

by Scott Brennan



Although the registration process for NCATA's March 28 job fair has just begun, a number of area translation companies and federal agencies have already expressed interest in taking part. Word has gone out to the Society of Federal Linguists, the Translators and Interpreters Guild, and a number of other regional ATA chapters. Encourage your colleagues and friends to take advantage of this opportunity for rising stars and established professionals alike to build and expand their client network.

There are new developments to report on the volunteer front. Capital Translator Co-Editor **Cassandra Decker** is stepping down after two years of service. Our newsletter has come a long way over the past two years, due in no small part to her effort and contribution. Thank you, Cassandra, on behalf of the NCATA members.

**Carmen Castro-Conroy** has volunteered to handle an upcoming membership mailing. Although the offices of Membership Chair and Secretary are still open, many duties can be broken down into one-time tasks that even the busiest translator or interpreter with a desire to pitch in can handle, as Carmen's example shows.

Although NCATA is already working on a Spring seminar on the language of international development (tentatively scheduled for May 2), I wanted to air an idea with the potential to greatly enrich NCATA's program schedule.

The larger workshops put on by NCATA are designed to appeal to the membership as a whole, and as a result they generally have to be language-neutral (translatorese, legal translation, marketing, the state of the profession, and so on). Recently, there has been interest in holding

smaller, informal gatherings of translators and interpreters working within a single language pair.

A group of translators working in, say, Russian and English might prepare an informal program with a couple of panelists speaking briefly about terminology or translation technique in their area of expertise or recent work. The session would then be opened up for general discussion.

Member interest is the key. The NCATA board will provide whatever administrative support is needed (finding a location and publicizing the event, coordination, etc.), but responsibility for the substance sits squarely with those taking part. Early weekday-evening sessions lasting about an hour and a half would probably be most appropriate. An essential element of this idea is keeping the sessions low-key and free of charge.

NCATA members would have the opportunity to meet more frequently with area colleagues with similar specific interests—complementing the larger, more general workshops—and I believe the organization as a whole would benefit.

I would like to invite members interested in organizing a session along these lines to contact me at the e-mail address or telephone number listed in the masthead. Note that the deadline for announcements in next month's *Capital Translator* is March 1. ✍

## Job Fair!

**O**n March 28 the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Translators Association will host its first annual job fair, to bring Washington-area translators and interpreters face to face with area bureaus and public-sector consumers of our services. At the job fair, freelancers, job-seekers and others will have the opportunity to present their résumés to recruiters and be interviewed. Participation in the annual job fair is one of the benefits of membership in NCATA.

The job fair will be held from 1:30 to 4:00, Saturday, March 28, at the Ellipse Conference Center of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, located at 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia, on the corner of Wilson Boulevard and North Taylor Street across from Ballston Common Shopping Center. Those who attended last year's legal translation workshop will remember this facility. A map will be included in next month's issue of the Capital Translator.

If you plan to attend, please send an e-mail message to NCATA Program Chair Alissa Martin at [martina2@gusun.georgetown.edu](mailto:martina2@gusun.georgetown.edu), or confirm your attendance in writing to:

Alissa Martin, NCATA Program Chair  
5230 Baltimore Ave.  
Bethesda, MD 20816

Tell your colleagues about the job fair. Nonmembers are invited to join NCATA (annual dues \$25), or pay \$10 to attend the job fair. Send your check to the same address.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is a smoke-free building. Men's and women's restrooms, public telephones and a coat room are conveniently located inside the Conference Center foyer. ✎

### When

Saturday, March 28, 1998.  
1:30 to 4 p.m.

### Where

Ellipse Conference Center,  
National Rural Electric  
Cooperative Association  
4301 Wilson Boulevard,  
Arlington VA

### Why

Meet with recruiters from area translation companies and public-sector consumers, present your résumé and be interviewed.

**T**ranslation on the whole is an art, not a science. Guidance can be given and general principles can be taught, but after that it must be left to the individual's own feeling for the two languages concerned. Almost inevitably, in a translation of a work of literature something of the author's original intent must be lost; in those cases in which the translation is said to be a better work than the original, an opinion sometimes expressed about the English writer Edward Fitzgerald's "translation" of *The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám*, one is dealing with a new, though derived, work, not just a translation. The Italian epigram remains justified: *Traduttore traditore* "The translator is a traitor." ✎

—excerpted from  
Encyclopædia Britannica ©1996

### Playground ...continued from page 1

allow direct advertisements by translators but are a resource for information about the profession. Hopefully, in the future, the ATA's site will include links to the web sites of its many divisions and chapters. The French Division of the ATA, for example, does have its own home page at [www.spiretech.com/~gwenhael/frediv.html](http://www.spiretech.com/~gwenhael/frediv.html).



This list of web sites shows that there are numerous types of resources on the web from which the translator can benefit. Some basic surfing will reveal that the web can be used in truly creative ways to publicize your translation services internationally. ✎

© Eve Lindemuth 1998

## Accreditation coming up!

by Bill Keasbey



The NCATA is sponsoring another accreditation sitting on Saturday, April 25, at the Alexandria Graduate Education Center of The George Washington University, 1775B Duke Street, Alexandria, VA. The Education Center is right across from the King Street Metro station. For those driving cars, parking is available in the Colonial Garage for \$2 on Saturday. The examination will start at 1.30 p.m., but you should arrive early to get your dictionaries set up and receive the instructions. To register for the examination, you should obtain the necessary forms from ATA Headquarters and send them in at least two weeks before

the examination. You must be a member of ATA to take the examination. You are no longer required to have taken a practice test before the actual examination, but it is highly recommended that you do so because the feedback from the corrected test is very useful. Practice tests may be obtained from ATA Headquarters.

Another useful way to learn more about the accreditation process and what it takes to pass the examination is to attend the chapter's accreditation seminar. The next one will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 4, in the upstairs auditorium of the Cleveland Park Library at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and

Macomb Street, NW in Washington, D.C. To gain the greatest benefit from this exercise, you should translate an old test passage and bring it to the seminar to be discussed with an accredited translator. You may obtain the passage by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope and indicating your language combination (e.g. Spanish into English) to Bill Keasbey, 5031 Alta Vista Road, Bethesda, MD 20814. It would be helpful to include your telephone number or e-mail address so that I can discuss options with you if we do not happen to have an old passage in your language combination. ✍

## On the lighter side...

*Credit for finding this gem in a South African publication belongs to Tony Carroll, supportive and alert spouse of Alison Sondhaus Carroll.*

The European Commission has just announced an agreement whereby English will become the official language of the EU rather than German, which was the alternative. To make the language easier for other Europeans, however, the British government has agreed to simplify spelling and phase in a five-year program known as "The Euro-English."

In the first year, "s" will replace the soft "c." This is certain to appease sivil servants. Next, the hard "c" will be dropped in favor of

"k." This should klear up konfusion and keyboards can have one less letter. There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the second year when the troublesome "ph" is replaced with "f." This will make words like "fotograf" 20% shorter.

In the third year, publik akseptance of the spelling can be ekspekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Government will enkourage the removal of double leters which have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. Also al wil agre that the horrible mes of the silent "e" in the language is disgrasful and should go away.

By the fourth year people will be receptiv to steps such as replasing

"th" with "z" and "w" with "v." During ze fifz year ze unesesary "o" can be dropd from vords kontaining "ou" and similar changes vud of kurs be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters. After ze fifz year ve vil hav a reali sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubl or difikultis and evrivun vil find it eazi to understand each ozer.

Ze dream vil finaly kum tru! ✍

Reprint Permission granted by  
*Financial Mail*, Johannesburg,  
South Africa.

## Deadline Approaching

February 15 was the deadline for renewal of your NCATA 1998 membership. For those who have not renewed yet, the March issue of the *Capital Translator* will be the last newsletter they receive. Their entry will also be deleted from the online Directory.

So don't hesitate. If you have not renewed already, do so **now**. If you have no renewal form, you can download it from the membership area of our website or contact any of the chapter officers. ✍

## Online Directory

A new and up-dated version of the on-line Directory is now available at <http://www.ncata.org>. If you are listed, please check out your entry and notify us of any changes you want to make. ✍

## Virus Alert!

by Ruth Zimmer Boggs



It has probably happened to you at least once or twice: Among your many e-mail messages is one that screams **VIRUS ALERT** on the subject line. You open it and find that it is addressed to zillions of e-mail addresses. It has been forwarded so many times that you spend minutes scrolling down until you finally get to the meat, the dirt, the scoop.

And it's a scary one indeed: A well-meaning friend warns you of a destructive killer virus. This monster has a benign and non-descriptive name such as "Good Times" or "Irina" or "Join the Crew" and, says the message, is about to destroy everything on your hard drive and make your life miserable. Don't ever, says the message, open up any e-mail messages that contain these words. And even more importantly, immediately forward this message to everyone you know to help them ward off similar misfortune as well.

For a translator, crashing your hard drive is almost as bad as losing your office to a fire, or your laptop to a thief, or your wallet/planner/cell phone/pager anywhere. Having always longed to save the world (or

at least cyberspace), you will therefore obediently oblige and diligently dispatch the warning immediately to everyone in your e-mail address book.

Well, I don't know if **YOU** will. I know that I did, though. And far from getting appreciative raves, I was subjected to a good bit of teasing and ribbing. My friend Mike, a conservative columnist in Chicago, embarrassed me by replying to *all* addressees that such things only happen to "people who work in the White House." Several others replied with "Been there—done that—have the e-mail to prove it" type of messages. Most others, I'm sure, sighed "Oh no, not again!"

Kudos, therefore, to Cassandra Decker, who enlightened me that

most of these virus warnings are a hoax, and that any e-mail message that asks the recipient to forward it to as many people as possible should be suspect.

That's not to say that there are no viruses. But most of us have virus detection software. (If you are one of the few still working without a safety net, please revisit last month's *CT* for Cassandra's article *Inoculate your machine*, which provided excellent anti-virus resources).

That said, I humbly apologize to everyone whose e-mail box I have ever spammed with frivolous hearsay. It won't happen again. At least not as far as viruses are concerned. ✍

These web sites can help you separate fact from fiction:

<http://www.mcafee.com/support/hoax.asp> and

<http://www.commandcom.com/htm/virus/hoaxes.html>

catalogue the hoaxes, and

<http://www.cpsr.org/program/y2k/>,

which is operated by a group called "Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility," has a rumor center that will help people figure out what will **really** happen with the "Year 2000" problem.

## Inglis At Large

# Three Articles In One!

by Neil Inglis



In a departure from my usual custom, I will be discussing three separate subjects in today's column.

\*\*\*

**EUROSTAR.** Gone are the days when translators went crouching to the nearest translation bureau to scrounge for work. The advent of globalization and the Internet have forever changed the ways in which linguists do business. As the millennium approaches, *CT* members may find themselves winging their way to Europe to sign lucrative deals and to schmooze with clients.

London remains a major hub for American visitors in transit. As all seasickness-sufferers know, there is now a third way to cross the English Channel: Eurostar. A short account of my own Eurostar experience follows.

Along with backpack-toting hordes of French students, I purchased my Eurostar ticket to Paris at London's Waterloo Station during the week before Christmas (99 pounds second class; first class costs 100 pounds extra). At 7:45 a.m., a couple of days after Christmas, I hopped into a cab from my flat in East London; my taxi driver covered the great distance to Waterloo in 25 minutes (the taxi dispatcher had warned us to expect a two-hour trip). Thus I had time to kill in the shiveringly cold Eurostar concourse.

At 9:00 a.m. I crossed the gate into the enclosed Eurostar terminal, which contains newsagents and a decent bar/cafeteria. We boarded at 10:00 a.m., and left twenty-three minutes later (check the Eurostar website for regularly scheduled departure times).

Our train crept out of Waterloo and slow-poked its way through the

English countryside. Eurostar is a must for train lovers, less so for claustrophobics. The ride was restful but a bit cramped; not as bad as economy flying, however. Under the English Channel itself, passengers might as well be on a D.C. Metro train—there is nothing to see outside.

An 8-year old American girl by name of "Mack" (?) was a vexing presence in our cabin; she whiled away the time flicking paper pellets at her distracted, taciturn father, repeating the words "You're a naughty boy!" by way of explanation. Mack's mother disappeared and returned bearing a propitiatory shepherd's pie, which stank up the place for a while.

On arriving in France, the Eurostar whips along, not far short of 200 miles an hour; quicker than a French TGV. Be prepared to wait in line for a cab at the Gare du Nord, however.

\*\*\*

**TYNDALE.** I recently returned from the California Tyndale conference in San Diego. I stayed on Shelter Island, a spit of land festooned with boatyards and marinas, and a stone's throw away from a major naval base. Violent storms belted the West Coast within hours of my return to Washington on February 2. So exposed was my hotel, I would have been washed out to sea had I spent an extra day in California; and then there would have been no more witty, sparkling *Inglis at Large* columns for you to enjoy, dear reader.

On January 30th, the air outside my hotel twice erupted with a noise so vile, so deafening that I wondered whether (i) a commercial jetliner was about to pile into my hotel

room, or whether (ii) Tyndale's *Apocalypse of St. John* had come to pass on my doorstep. Gawpers gathering in the street outside listened to an ex-pilot explain the source of the commotion—the afterburners on three fighter planes flying in formation. With such acceleration, don't bother trying to follow the trajectory of such craft in the sky. The g-forces to which their pilots are exposed are beyond the grasp of sedentary translators like me.

The California Tyndale Conference was held at Point Loma Nazarene College, a small liberal arts establishment. Point Loma is a delight, with killer whales spouting in the waves at the base of the foothills. Point Loma, incidentally, is home to one of the world's most advanced facilities for repurifying water from sewage for human consumption. People cannot tell the difference in blind taste tests; in fact, they invariably prefer the local brew over brand-name bottled waters.

The international Tyndale conferences commemorate the life and work of William Tyndale, a renegade English priest executed for heresy in 1536, whose Bible translations served as the basis for the better-known King James Version released almost a century later. Tyndale's New and (incomplete) Old Testaments belong in every translator's bookshelf, and can be obtained through *The Common Reader* catalogue (also, I believe, at the Bethesda branch of Barnes and Noble).

I had often regretted that William Tyndale died too soon to work his magic with other Classical texts (imagine a Tyndalian *Iliad* and *Odyssey*). But according to the Chairman of the Tyndale Society, Tyndale's "literary" output is more than double that of Shakespeare's. I

also hear that people in the Far East are now using the Tyndale Bible to learn English. With this delightful bit of news, the time has surely come for us to cast aside the diffidence and inferiority complex that are the professional translator's badge of dishonor.

Don't get the idea that the Tyndale conference was entirely high-minded, however; my colleagues pestered me with questions about, well, recent events in our nation's capital. As a San Diego Bible student remarked in this connection, the word "deny" hasn't been used so often since Peter disowned Jesus three times before the rooster crowed. In such cases, one yearns to shut out the outside world and draw upon the timeless consolation which only Tyndale can provide.

"And they came into a place named Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples: Sit ye here, while I go apart and pray. And he took with him Peter, James and John, and he began to wax abashed and to be in an agony and said unto them: My soul is very heavy even unto the death, tarry here and watch. And he went forth a little and fell down on the ground and prayed: that if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said: Abba father, all things are possible unto thee, take away this cup from me." (Mark 14, Tyndale's *New Testament*, Yale, p. 83).

\* \* \*

**GRAPPELLI.** All Francophiles will mourn the loss of Stéphane Grappelli, the jazz violinist who died last year. Those who knew him agreed that the warmth and humanity of his music was a reflection of the man himself. I listened to little else but Grappelli recordings during my college days; and I pondered many a flunked examination, or botched attempt at courtship, to the strains of Grappelli's violin solo in "The Lambeth Walk," as performed by his celebrated jazz ensemble, the

Quintet of the Hot Club of France.

Grappelli's career nosedived after the death (in 1953) of his musical partner, the Gauloise-puffing, functionally illiterate, literally fabulous Gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt. The mid-1950s found Grappelli in Italy, playing cocktail piano at the Hotel Excelsior in Rome. My mother's first husband, "Kiki," had drummed in Grappelli's band when both men were marooned in London during the Blitz; and as my mother and "Kiki" were in town, they invited the Frenchman to spend a week at their home.

"Kiki" was less than thrilled to have a celebrity around the house, for Grappelli nagged "Kiki" to pay more regular visits to his aging, crotchety mother in Cheltenham, England. On the other hand, my

mother found the jazz giant to be the epitome of charm and sophistication.

Nor was Grappelli bitter at his own professional eclipse. He enjoyed a revival in the 1970s and 1980s, cut scads of records, and was at last able to emerge from the shadow of his formidable, frightful Gypsy partner. Now that both men are dead, even a skeptical atheist might cherish the hope that somewhere far away, in some far corner of Elysium, these delightful musicians are reunited again, making wonderful music in the distant ether.

Any time you're Lambeth Way  
Any evening, any day  
You'll find us all  
Doing the Lambeth Walk  
OY!

---

## Working Moms (and Dads!) Online...

**L**isa M. Roberts, The Enterpreneurial Parent™, author of *How to Raise A Family & A Career under One Roof* and *Work at Home Mom Pro* for AOL's Moms Online has provided us with some new resources for the Parent Professional (or is it Professional Parent?).

There is now a new gathering spot for work-at-home parents on AOL. As the "Work at Home Moms (WAHM) Pro" for Moms Online, Lisa will be answering questions related to work-at-home parenthood on a weekly basis.

Any moms or dads with "WAHM" questions and an AOL address can visit "The Enterpreneurial Parent" on AOL, at "Keyword: Momsonline," mini site "Ask the Pros," and Lisa will do her best to address your concerns.

Because working at home isn't for everyone (and neither is AOL), you may also be interested in learning about the Web Pros Board, where Lisa's colleague and friend Nancy Collamer has moved her "Pro" spot to. Nancy is the "Career Counselor for the Soccer Moms of America" and answers questions on all aspects of part-time employment. She also advises on career development strategies such as job search strategies, options for flexible employment, how to choose the right field, and how to decide when is the right time to go back to work. She can be reached on the web at <http://www.momsonline.com>.

Together, Lisa and Nancy hope to provide a real service to mothers who need/want to work while also being the primary caregiver of their children.

Please feel free to contact either of them if you have any questions.

Lisa can be reached at [RobertsLMR@aol.com](mailto:RobertsLMR@aol.com) and Nancy at [NCollamer@aol.com](mailto:NCollamer@aol.com). ✍

# Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
March 28	1-5pm	Job Fair	NRECA, Ellipse Conference Center, Arlington, VA Contact Alissa Martin, 301-718-0405
April 4	2 p.m.	Accreditation Seminar	Upstairs Auditorium, Cleveland Park Library at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and Macomb Street, NW, Washington, D.C.
April 25	1:30 p.m.	Accreditation Exam	Alexandria Graduate Education Center, George Washington University, 1775B Duke Street, Alexandria, VA. Contact ATA, 703-683-6100
May 2	TBA	International Development Workshop	TBA Contact Alissa Martin, 301-718-0405

NCATA  
P. O. Box 65200  
Washington, DC 20035-5200

**A RED DOT?**    
Then this is the last CT you  
will receive unless you renew  
your membership immediately.