

(U) Summary of the 2003 ATA Annual Conference

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

(U) The 2003 American Translators Association (ATA) Annual Conference was held in Phoenix, Arizona, from 5 to 9 November. Provided below are some highlights of the conference and additional detail on conference sessions.

(U) Highlights

(U) **CAMPAIGN LANGUAGES:** Director Everette Jordan of the recently established National Virtual Translation Center (NVTC) delivered the opening address at the 2003 ATA Annual Conference. He reached out to private-sector translators and interpreters to enlist their help in defending the United States and combating terrorists; his message was well received.

(U) **CHINESE AND VIETNAMESE:** An expanded version of Bruce G. Hyman's *Chinese-English English-Chinese Information Technology Glossary with Abbreviations Commonly used in Telecommunications* was slated to be published in February 2004. The new edition will have almost twice as many terms as the original. The same author plans to publish a Vietnamese-language dictionary. According to Bruce, the Chinese, who have been playing "catch-up ball" for years in the areas of telecommunications and information technology, have taken the lead in some areas and even have their own telecommunications protocol now, so they are worth watching via translation.

(U) **CHINESE:** New York University's on-line translator training program had been designed to include languages like Chinese. A Chinese translator training program will not be available until 2007, contingent upon commercial viability.

(U) **CHINESE:** The ATA Chinese Language Division (CLD) is actively working on a Chinese-to-English accreditation test and hopes to have it ready within two years. Northrup-Grumman's Bruce Hyman has agreed to head up this endeavor. The CLD has grown and now has over 200 members nationwide.

(U) **JAPANESE:** Biomed-related documents have become one of the most lucrative areas in Japanese-English translation due to the high profits to be made from such translation and the increased threat from biochemical terrorism. Notes are available for the presentation given by Steven M. Sherman, which was entitled "Molecular Targeted Therapy," and for two other presentations given at the conference: Jon C. Hohanning's "Ghost-Busting Japanese Chemical Terminology" and Charles G. Aschmann III and Gregor L. Hartman's "Incorporating Graphic Images Into a Translation" (see Additional Details section below).

(U) **ARABIC:** New York University (NYU) has just instituted an on-line Arabic-English Certificate in Translation Studies program. The new language offering joins existing NYU online translation programs in German, French, and Spanish-to-English. Students typically take three years to complete the six core courses required to graduate. The four major areas of study are commercial, technical, legal, and medical translation. Students spend their last semester at NYU, and considerable time in a web-based chatroom (non-NYU participants are politely asked to leave).

(U) **FARSI:** The Monterey Institute of International Studies is preparing a comprehensive program for on-line training of Farsi translators and interpreters. The program includes

numerous Farsi-language scenes taken in Iran with every word and utterance explained. Six million dollars is being invested in the Monterey Farsi-language training program, which totals as many as 6,000 pages.

(U) PROPOSED ATA MIDDLE-EAST LANGUAGES DIVISION: A number of translators and interpreters of Middle East languages, such as Arabic, Hebrew, and Farsi met to map the inauguration of a new ATA Middle East Language Division.

(U) XML LANGUAGE: A session at the conference on XML Language revealed that learning XML to complement, not replace, HTML is extremely useful for technical translation.

(U) TECHNICAL TRANSLATOR SELF-TRAINING PROGRAMS: Morry Sofer's Schreibner Publishing Company (P.O. Box 2142, Rockville, Maryland 20847), one of the exhibitors at the conference, has had put together the "Translator Self-Training" for sale in a number of languages, including Japanese, Spanish, and Hebrew. Training in each language program is divided into sections on general, legal, medical, and business/financial translation. Each course comes equipped with a "Guide for Translators" and a CD-Rom.

(U) Additional Details

(U) Key Points of Everette Jordan's Address to the 2003 ATA

(U) The United States' deficiency in foreign language talent is one of our country's major shortfalls. Not knowing Arabic is one of the most costly luxuries that we "enjoy." People in the U.S. expect that foreigners will know English, but that only applies to commercial situations. Of course they are going to speak in English when they are trying to sell you something, but they are not going to speak in English among themselves, and definitely not when they are wiring detonators to

bombs to blow you up. Foreigners note that not speaking in English is one of the very best weapons they can wield against us. Unlike Americans, terrorists work "inside the box" only when they are wiring to explode! What did they say to Americans in their language - "we will bury you" or was it - "we will attend your funeral"?

(U) The NVTC (<http://www.NVTC.gov>) has truckloads of work. That's why we need your help. The government cannot keep up with the pace. The NVTC is looking to hire top-notch translators to be able to work from almost anywhere in the nation. The government will perform "triage" on the documents, selecting the most important ones to translate first.

(U) The government needs people with the right skill sets, not merely native speakers who can talk "kitchen" Arabic, Pashto, or Farsi. Americans must stop looking at the "language problem" and start looking at the "language challenge." Acquiring a truly proficient command of a foreign language is nothing that you can just "add water to" and, "voila," there you have it. Effective language learning entails continually acquiring an up-to-date knowledge of specialized terminology in fields such as metallurgy and requires keeping up with the ever-evolving language and culture of the country whose language is being translated. It also requires braving the risks engendered by living in dangerous foreign countries and not being rejected for security clearances later just because you did!

(U) Today's translators must avoid laboring under a 19th century mindset to the effect that "I'll die before using that computer tool."

(U) The Chinese Language Division

(U) Membership in the Chinese Language Division has continued to grow, but only from 194 in 2002 to 211 in 2003, almost half the size of the Japanese Language Division. Of those, about fifteen registered for the 2003 ATA Annual

Conference (about the same number as last year). The membership appears to be split into two groups. The first group largely comprises native speakers of Chinese, a number of whom hold doctoral degrees in physics and who do technical translation. This group seems to do much of the translation from English into Chinese, which includes advertising. The second group is made up largely of Chinese language translators and interpreters working for the federal government. With the downturn in the U.S. economy and translation-agency customers looking to save money by shipping off documents to be translated in China, one presenter suggested that Chinese translators diversify themselves as much as possible into sidelines, such as publishing and teaching.

(U) Chinese Presentations in the ATA Annual Conference

PROCEEDINGS: The only CLD presentations that are written up in the *Proceedings of the 44th ATA Conference* are Elizabeth Tu and Ma Yuanxi's "Reality versus Idealism: Comments on the Relationship Among the Translator, Proof Reader, the Translation Agency, and Client" and Carnegie Mellon University Zhao Ran's "The Translation Processes of Expert and Student Translators: A Protocol Study in Process." Unfortunately, a session on "Some Mistakes in English-to-Chinese Translations" was cancelled, as was a session on film and TV translation in China.

(U) CHINESE-LANGUAGE MATERIALS: As was the case in the 2002 ATA Annual Conference in Atlanta, the CLD dinner in Phoenix (Fenghuangshi) was held in a suburban "Chinatown," a block-wide complex of Chinese stores and restaurants. Such suburban centers of the local Chinese-American community may or may not contain a Chinese-language bookstore similar to the World Journal located in the suburban Chinese block on Rockville Pike in Maryland. The Phoenix Chinatown did not

appear to have a Chinese bookstore. The new practice of purchasing Chinese books and periodicals over the Internet has been cited as a reason for the closing of Chinese bookstores even in well-established locations like New York's Chinatown. Many people apparently purchase their Chinese-language books directly from companies such as Cheng & Tsui.

(U) CHEMICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL DICTIONARIES AVAILABLE ON-LINE: A Blue Cross/Blue Shield attendee at the the conference explained that the packed attendance at the ATA sessions related to biochemistry stems from the fact that documents that may give warning of biochemical attack and other medical-related materials are now on the leading edge of translation opportunities. According to S. Edmund Berger, who delivered a presentation at the conference entitled "Chemical Aspects of Biomedical Translation," protocols and instruction booklets on manufacturer's websites are an excellent source of highly useful biochemical terminology and related information. Provided below are some reference works available over the Internet or from bookstores and libraries cited at the 2003 ATA conference that may help in such translations:

(U) Dr. Masato M. Ho's *Transliteration and Translation in Chemistry*

(U) <http://www.chem.qmul.ac.uk/iupac>

(U) <http://acdlabs.com/iupac/nomenclature>

(U) <http://accirapid.com/journal/sci-tech.htm>

(U) <http://www.aocs.org/member/division/analytic/fannames.htm>

(U) Chester E. Claff's *A Translator's Guide to Organic Chemical Nomenclature*

(U) <http://periodiclanl.gov>

(U) P.W. Atkins' *The Periodic Kingdom*

(U) *Kagaku Daijiten*, published by Tokyo Kagaku Donin in 1998

(U) Solomon's *Organic Chemistry*

(U) Software

(U) Many translators seem to prefer TRADOS, which creates a project Wizard that guides you through the translation process and fosters the creation of teamwork among translators, checkers and editors in the process of running sub-tasks. TRADOS essentially is a translation memory environment which expedites translation by making use of previously translated words and phrases. The more you translate, the more useful it becomes for given topics. Others, like LTRACK, a customized web-based utility, becomes a website around which translators can build a business.

(U) **TRANSLATING DIAGRAMS:** One of the more difficult problems that translators of technical documents must overcome is rendering complicated wiring diagrams and charts into English. The following are some practical solutions offered by ATA Phoenix attendees.

(U) Use VISIO, a portion of a Microsoft Office package which enables translators and technical writers to drag emblems (boxes, stars, squares, icons and so forth) onto a blank screen, connect the resulting collection of figures, and then manipulate the figures without the problem of the connections disappearing. It resembles the more powerful netViz utility and is superior to MS PAINT, MICROSOFT WORD and COREL or WORDPERFECT because the latter programs merely are bitmaps which do not allow you to manipulate diagrams once you have drawn them. Unlike VISIO, in MS PAINT, COREL or WORD, the lines that you draw between diagrams do not remain intact when you alter the diagrams to needed configuration.

(U) USE PAINT AND WORD '97 ON AN NT AND A HP LASERJET 3200 PRINTER:

According to Gregor Hartmann's presentation at the ATA Phoenix Conference, to use PAINT you follow the steps described below:

(U) Steps

(A) **PREP:** First go through the entire document you wish to translate and label each image you are going to scan. Create a subdirectory to store graphic images. (Gregor puts them in his client's folders instead of the program's default graphic folder.) Consider the graphic image's size. If it is really small and has lots of text jammed in, enlarge it to make more room for the English text.

(B) **SCAN:** Insert the document page into the printer; a scanner toolbar will appear on your computer's desktop. Click SCAN on the toolbar; a box will appear. Tell the program where the scanned image should go; proceed directly to various programs or formats (Gregor makes an image file). Adjust settings; you can change the size, quality, and format of the image. Click Scan in the box. Give the file a name and instruct the program where to put the image. (Gregor uses "temp." In commercial translating: Where: c:\translationfiles\clientname\casename\graphics sub-directory.) Click scan. Wait while the program scans. When it's done you are back at the desktop, and the page you scanned is now under "temp.bmp" in the subdirectory.

(C) **PREP FOR EDITING:** Open the PAINT program (in Accessories), go to the subdirectory, and pull up temp.bmp. Click on the cropping tools, which is a rectangle with a dotted border. Click Edit on the tool bar, then Copy. Click File-New on the tool bar to get a blank frame. Under Edit, click Paste and the cropped graphic will appear in the frame. Resize the PAINT frame to match your image. Click File and Save As; name your file and save it as a 16-color bitmap file. Note: This is because monochrome often does not suffice for a black-and-white image; fine

lines frequently disappear. The sixteen-color option gives reasonable quality without generating huge graphic files.

(D) **EDIT:** Erase or overwrite existing text and rotate the graphic to put the text in vertically. Undo is a handy utility if you make a mistake. You can rearrange stuff to make room for your text. When you are done, save the resulting graphic file and click New on the PAINT toolbar to obtain a blank frame. Minimize PAINT.

(E) **IMPORT:** Open MS WORD. Position cursor in the document where you want the image to appear. On the toolbar click Insert-Picture-From File. Browse to the correct sub-directory. Click on the image you want. Edited graphic appears in the text. You can click to display its frame then grab the edge and resize it. Save your originals because if you realize you have made a mistake you have to go back and edit the bitmap file and reimport the desired image.

(U) **USE MS WORD OR COREL WORD-PERFECT UTILITIES:** See <http://www.translatorsnet.com/ATAPresentations> and follow the steps it recommends. Use version six, since the full version gives one the ability to create PDFs. Steps: (1) Scanning: Open Acrobat, go to file and create a PDF from the scanner.

Summary

Attending an ATA Annual Conference is a truly worthwhile experience. It enables translators to obtain lists of words and phrases that they otherwise might not find. It briefs them on the latest translation tools. It provides an opportunity for networking that can prove extremely beneficial later. Perhaps that is why the all the hotels in the area were filled to overflowing with ATA conference attendees.

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(U//FOUO) [redacted] currently serves as a language analyst and reporter certified in two languages and intelligence analysis. He holds a B.A. degree in history and master's degrees in Asian studies from Seton Hall and Harvard Universities. He is certified in graphic Chinese and Japanese, as well as in Intelligence Analysis. [redacted] spent two years as treasurer and membership chairman of the Crypto-Linguistic Association, and remains active in that organization, where he focuses on obtaining foreign-language books on tape and other materials to help linguists working to make the difficult transition from graphic to voice translation and report writing. He has also spent many years as a member of the NSA Holocaust Memorial Committee, and currently helps interested personnel at NSA sites put on DOD-mandated Holocaust memorial programs.