



ITIA BULLETIN

August 2008

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Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association
Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Teangairí na hÉireann

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■ Editorial

Dear Readers,

I write to you fresh from the FIT World Congress that took place earlier this month in Shanghai (see below for full report). The FIT World Congress is a meeting of professionals in the business and is not, like many conferences, oriented solely towards academics. I spoke to people from many sections of the industry - freelance translators, technical writers, conference interpreters, community interpreters, representatives from large companies like Bowne Global and SDL, students, lecturers and even a policeman from Oklahoma! It's a wide, wide world.

Also in this issue is an interview with President of FIT Europe, João Esteves-Ferreira, who has worked tirelessly to improve the profession in Europe.

Enjoy!

Elizabeth Hayes

Editor ITIA Bulletin

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- ◆ Ordinary
- ◆ Professional
- ◆ Corporate
- ◆ Concession (undergraduate & senior citizen)
- ◆ Honorary

Ordinary membership is open to anyone with an interest in translating or interpreting. *Professional membership* is for those who meet strict criteria set by the professional membership committee of the ITIA and which is part of the drive to raise the status of the profession in the European market.

Corporate membership is for firms and agencies associated with the profession while *concession membership* is for undergraduate students engaged in third level language and/or translation studies and senior citizens. Finally, *honorary membership* is intended for national and international persons who have distinguished themselves in our professional field. For more information on how to join as well as for the relevant application forms, visit the ITIA website at:

www.translatorsassociation.ie

■ Quran translator passes away

It was reported in the Tehran Times that Iranian scholar and the first translator of Quran into French, Mohammad Mehdi Fuladvand, died on August 5. He was 88. Born in 1920 in the Iranian central city of Arak, he earned his Ph.D at the Sorbonne University in Paris. He studied literature, art, philosophy and Arabic linguistics during his 14 years at the university. He returned to Iran in 1965 and started his career as a university professor. He taught at several Iranian universities. He taught philosophy, aesthetics, French language and literature, and history of religions. He has translated *Nahj-ul Balagheh* and *Sahifeh Sajjadih* into Persian and his translation of the Quran is known as one of the best Persian versions of the holy book. He had also translated Gustave Flaubert's "*Madame Bovary*" into Persian.

New Ordinary Members

ELEANORA CARROLL

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ENGLISH from Russian; ENGLISH from French

General

ANNA MHC LAIFEARTAIGH MA TTG

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IRISH from English and ENGLISH from Irish

ELAINE NEVIN

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GERMAN from English

IT software, SAP, technical, marketing

CIARÁN Ó CEALLAIGH

9 The Writings

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ENGLISH from Irish; IRISH from English

■ Joining the ITIA

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* is always delighted to welcome new members to the Association. There are five categories of membership:

Corporate

MAS CONSULTING SERVICES LTD.

49 Radharc na Coille
Rathcoole, Mallow
Co. Cork
Tel: 00353 87 9054859
Email: mascsltd(a)gmail.com
Contact: Mr Marek Szepietowski

Professional Membership of the ITIA

Please note that applications for Professional Membership of the ITIA are now being accepted from both Ordinary Members and non-members of the association. The closing date is 1 September 2008. For details on membership criteria and procedure please see the ITIA web.

■ Report - FIT World Congress, 2008

Shanghai, China's most international city, was host to this year's FIT Congress. European-style architecture, Chinese architecture and modern skyscrapers sit comfortably side-by-side in Shanghai due in part to its history of foreign occupation. Although the foreign aggressors have long since been expelled, many non-Chinese still flock to this beautiful city for business and pleasure.

This year's Congress was the first ever to be held in Asia. The event was divided into two parts – the Statutory Congress, at which administrative issues related to the structure and organisation of the body itself were dealt with, and the World Congress, which involved presentations and discussions on the state of the art. Attendance at the Statutory Congress was limited to those involved in the running of FIT. The World Congress, on the other hand, was attended by anyone interested in the world of T/I. This is a report on the World Congress, not the Statutory Congress. 2008 saw the largest congress yet with 1,500 participants. This number was no doubt boosted by the large number of locals who took the opportunity to attend.

Keynote Speeches

YOHANNES MENGESHA, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT

Mengesha provided an insight into the rewards and difficulties of translating/interpreting in the UN. The UN is the most universal organisation in history and in addition to its 192 member states, it is increasingly reaching out to NGOs and civil society. There are just 6

official languages spoken in the EU so many member states are working in a language that is not their own.

The key challenge to today's translators is finding the balance between traditional core translation values and information technology.

Drafting legislation creates many problems for the translation process. Multilateral negotiations tend to produce texts that are murky and drafters often insist on maintaining unclear language making the job of the translator very difficult. Translators have access to the drafters only in the early stages so if problems arise later, it can be difficult to track down the drafters to satisfactorily resolve the problem. Mengesha gave some interesting and amusing examples of problems and mistakes that have arisen in translation.

Being a translator/interpreter in the UN is, he believes, more a vocation than a job. In the past, there were many suitable candidates queuing up to work in the UN. Today however, it is more difficult to find people who are suitably professional, humble and self-effacing. In addition to being proficient linguists, UN translators/interpreters must have a strong interest in the issues of the day. The perfect UN translator/interpreter is intellectually curious, a life-long learner and keen to learn new languages.

Machine Translation and CAT tools will never totally automate the translation process so human translators/interpreters will always be necessary. T/I professionals need to learn to reposition themselves within the process. The key challenge to today's translators is finding the balance between traditional core translation values and information technology. The UN has long enjoyed a fruitful collaboration with FIT and will continue to do so into the future.

KARL-JOHANN LÖNNROTH

Lönnroth spoke about multilingualism, legitimacy, transparency and efficiency within the language services of the European Commission. Multilingualism is central to the European project and is enshrined in Council regulation 1/58, the first piece of legislation ever to be drafted by the then EEC. Citizens are guaranteed the right to communicate in any of the official languages of the body. As part of the same policy, no legislation comes into force before being

translated into all official languages. Furthermore, no particular language version has precedence over the others as each version is considered original and equally authentic. The importance of consistent terminology across all language versions is therefore absolutely paramount.

€1.1 billion per year is spent on language services in the Commission. The DGT is often criticised for the expense of this 'tower of Babel' but every time they are criticised, they prove the critics wrong. Despite the ever-increasing amount of documentation for translation, the budget of the DGT is not growing which presents an obvious problem. The DGT is left with three options for dealing with the budgetary shortfall – increase productivity (difficult to do without extra staff), reducing the workload (not really an option) or lowering standards (not something they want to resort to). One method they have of increasing productivity is leveraging translation technology. Machine translation is used for gisting documents in some language pairs (only 28 language pairs are currently available in their MT system). Lönnroth noted that the MT systems they are using are moving from traditional rule-based systems to statistics-based systems or hybrids. Corpora are also used and the European Commission has at its disposal the largest corpora ever developed.

Lönnroth ended his interesting speech with what he felt the future holds for the European Commission's DGT. The multilingual regime will certainly be maintained and the number of languages within it will expand. He projects that there will be 33 official languages; this will produce 1,056 possible combinations. He also feels that there will be renewed emphasis on Europe's regional languages (of which there are more than 40). The English language will continue to grow as a lingua franca but should not be considered part of a multilingual policy as, he believes, multilingualism should only start after English. He says that the future is very bright for the translation industry but that the role of the translator within this industry is changing with the demise of the classical translator and the birth of, what he called, the 'treditor' who is both translator and editor.

WU JIANMIN, FORMER CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE

Wu Jianmin worked as an interpreter for 10 years before becoming a diplomat. He believes that the Western world has a long way to go to understand Chinese culture. Western culture, he said, is based on Christianity and thus views things in terms of black and white, good and evil, whereas the Chinese take a more nuanced view. He defended China's stance on the

Darfur issue claiming that critics were over-simplifying a complex problem.

He also criticised those (particularly Americans) who believe that everyone should behave and follow the same path that they are following. Democracy is evolving in different ways all over the world and he strongly believes that the way China is going is the best way for China.

Western relations with other parts of the world are historically characterised by occupation and colonisation but he says the Chinese mentality is different to this. He criticises the current discourse on 'the threat' of China. Napoleon is oft-quoted as saying, "When China will wake up, the world will shake." However, according to Wu Jianmin, China has never made the world shake nor intends to. China, he assured us, is no threat to the West.

Democracy is evolving in different ways all over the world...

He was keen to emphasise the timeliness of the China-based Congress. He discussed how China is central to major shifts that are occurring at the moment such as the alleged shift of international relations from the Atlantic to the Pacific. At this crossroads, he believes T/I is more important than ever in bringing about understanding between cultures.

Presentations

The presentations were categorised and grouped together into sessions under headings such as translation studies, translation of literature, translation and culture, corpus-based translation studies, to name but a few. The categorisation of presentations into sessions was a little disconcerting as if just one presentation in a session was of interest to a listener, the choice was to sit through all the presentations (and perhaps missing something else of interest) or make an exit from the session (which is impolite). Within each session there were between four and seven speakers who had about 15 minutes each to present. The speakers came from the ranks of industry, academia and the freelance world. Of the presentations this writer attended, some of the highlights included:

Anne Aboh-Dauvergne's description of the methodology used by her team in the International Criminal Court to create reliable and consistent

terminology in minority African languages. The linguistic problems that the ICC deals with in Africa are many and relate to the fact that there are dozens of minority languages in any given African country. According to Dauvergne, it is not unusual for a person in, for example, the Democratic Republic of Congo to be conversant in six languages without being truly fluent in any of them. Compounding the problem is the fact that many of the minority languages are predominantly oral. For example, Acholi, a language of northern Uganda has no dictionaries, no standardised orthography and precious little documentation to work from. The ICC team follow a clear procedure to produce terminological data in African languages.

Some very interesting presentations were given related to how translators perform and are influenced by certain factors.

Adriana Pagano and *Igor Antônio da Silva* of *Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais* in Brazil presented their study on how domain knowledge affects execution of the translation task and are finding that orientation phase is heavily affected by whether or not the translator is working in their own domain. Fabio Alves of the same institution in Brazil is studying the impact of using translation memories on the cognitive process. Perhaps surprisingly, the research indicates that use of TMs actually increases the use of external documentation that the translator relies on. It is hoped that this research will enable better translator training as it shows that trainee translators need to be taught how to work with the solutions offered by TMs.

Séverine Hubscher-Davidson of the *University of Salford* presented her study on how the personality of the translator can shape the target text. According to this study, we can lay at least one stereotype to rest – that introverts make better translators than extroverts. Hubscher-Davidson has found that this has no effect on the target text.

There were many other worthwhile presentations on diverse topics that cannot be covered in this article. It must be said that all presentations were not of the high standard of those mentioned above and perhaps a more rigorous acceptance procedure could be introduced in order to better separate the wheat from the chaff.

As stated above, the FIT Congress takes place every three years. It provides an opportunity for different stakeholders in the translation industry to get together and share their experiences and research. The massive diversity of presentations at the Congress demonstrates

what a broad church we in the world of T/I belong to. Whether the broadness of this church is an advantage or a disadvantage to us as professionals is an open question.

Elizabeth Hayes

■ Interview With the President of FIT Europe

João Esteves-Ferreira became involved with FIT in 1996 and was a council member for 9 years. He has been Chair of the Solidarity Committee and the Translation Technology Committee. He devotes about half a day per working week to FIT activities which are, of course, carried out on a volunteer basis. Esteves-Ferreira currently holds the position of President of FIT Europe. At the recent FIT Congress he spoke to the ITIA bulletin about FIT Europe and his activities within it.

The goal of FIT Europe is twofold. Firstly, it aims to foster communication with members and among members. FIT members are translation/interpreting associations (such as the ITIA), rather than individuals. Information is primarily communicated through the website. Secondly, FIT Europe runs projects for the benefit of members. Some recent projects include:

- 1 The “bad payers” project; this aims to educate members on how to deal with bad payers, especially when the bad payer is in a different country. Member associations were encouraged to compile a guide on how to pursue bad payers in their own country. This information is at the disposal of all members and available for download on the website.
- 2 Recommendations on certification under EN15038; FIT Europe has been part of the original project since inception and encouraged its member associations to join the national committees to ensure that their voice was heard. The European standard “*Translation Services – Service Requirements*” was issued in June 2006, and FIT Europe then prepared and put online recommendations on conformity assessment and certification, aiming at common criteria throughout Europe.
- 3 Copyright issues with translation tools; a seminar was held in Barcelona on this topic and there are round-table discussions being held around Europe.
- 4 Admission criteria project; FIT Europe recognizes that translators often feel that it is of benefit to be

members of associations based not only in their home country but in the countries with which they work. For this reason, information on how to gain admittance to different European member associations was collated and put online.

- 5 Code of ethics; while some member associations have codes of ethics, others do not. FIT Europe analysed the existing codes of 23 member associations and found strong similarities. A Europe-wide code of ethics has been developed and sent to associations for comment. There is no obligation on member associations to adopt the new code as it is simply a recommendation.

The aim of the current projects is to create a profile describing what a professional European translator is.

Regarding professionalization, Esteves-Ferreira sees the goal of FIT oriented toward professionalizing translators themselves, rather than instituting a statutory certification process and a legal authorization to access the profession. The organization aims to highlight the significant differences between professional translators and mere language practitioners (i.e. bilinguals and polylinguals with no specific T/I training and/or proven expertise), namely the (often self-imposed) constraints and standards under which the professional works. There is no explicit plan or project in FIT regarding professionalization but these issues are emphasized in meetings with the European Union, etc.

The EU is a leader in translation policy and services, and one of the largest clients for European freelancers, but Esteves-Ferreira points to budget constraints as the fundamental problem with the provision of language services within the EU, with costs taking precedence over quality. Budgetary decisions are made by administration and finance departments, rather than language professionals. Furthermore, the regulations on calls for tender put additional limitations on decisions made regarding language services. Again, these

The next issue of the ITIA Bulletin will be out next month. If you have any contributions, suggestions or scandals that you would like to share with over 1,000 subscribers worldwide, send them to Elizabeth Hayes at [elizabeth.hayes7\(a\)mail.dcu.ie](mailto:elizabeth.hayes7(a)mail.dcu.ie).

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limitations are driven by financial rather than quality considerations. Esteves-Ferreira states that he thinks translation-related problems could occur and demonstrate the shortcomings of the current approach.

As former chair of the translation technology committee, Esteves-Ferreira is very aware of the technology available to translators as well as the effect that this has on working conditions. He recalls his progression from mechanical typewriter to electric typewriter to early word processors and finally the wealth of tools that we have at our disposal today. In general, technology has benefited the profession and the onus is on the translator to adapt to it, he says.

...working with TMs can cause the translator to lose macro-perception of the text.

In particular, Esteves-Ferreira discussed the advantages and disadvantages of translation memories. They have, he believes, led to an increase in productivity and enabled freelance translators to compete with companies. The translator who interacts with and masters the technology shows clients a modern, up-to-date image of the profession. This gives the freelancer a certain leverage when negotiating rates. On the other hand, working with TMs can cause the translator to lose macro-perception of the text. Using TMs can alter the cognitive experience to the point where the translator is micro-analysing the text and thus may lose the sense of the text as a whole. In extreme cases, the work amounts to revising pre-existing segments rather than translating.

He recognizes that companies often play on the fact that TMs are being used when deciding rates. Payment per hour, rather than per word or line might be a way to move beyond this problem. However, Esteves-Ferreira recognizes that the market may not be ready to take this step, not least because there are huge trust issues inherent in a pay-per-hour system. Yet other professions would never accept payment based on such a rudimentary system (i.e. the pay-per-word or pay-per-line systems). For example, an architect would never be paid based on each line drawn!

One of the emerging trends he sees in the profession and one that all translators might need to think about is the move away from generalism. He feels that there is a definite shift towards specialization and that this may

indeed prove necessary for survival. According to Esteves-Ferrera, the generalist is a dying species.

...being part of a global movement is valuable and necessary...

FIT Europe, while part of FIT Global, works very independently of the main organization although there is, of course, contact between the two. FIT Europe is run on grants sourced within Europe (with one minor exception) so is also financially independent of the global organization. FIT Europe is required to report to FIT Global, which it does regularly, as it did at the recent FIT Congress in Shanghai. Relations between FIT Global and FIT Europe became somewhat strained due to perceived misunderstandings between the two bodies. Esteves-Ferreira felt that FIT Europe has been working hard for the last 3 years (since the last FIT Congress) and that this progress has not been understood or matched by the global organization. He believes the misunderstandings will clear up and that relations will improve under the newly-elected FIT Council. Esteves-Ferreira feels it is important to stress that FIT Europe owes loyalty, first and foremost, to its European member associations. Nonetheless, being part of a global movement is valuable and necessary to enable exchanges of information, ideas and values and also to be aware of and influence changes that are taking place within the profession at an intercontinental level.

When asked how he saw the future of the organisation, Esteves-Ferreira would not speculate because he feels that FIT Europe is not responsible for driving the industry or the profession. "FIT Europe is there to accompany the evolution of the profession by following and monitoring changes, and then to keep its member associations aware of the trends" says Esteves-Ferreira.

■ New Telephone Interpreting Guide

Readers of the ITIA Bulletin may remember that Nataly Kelly launched the ITIA Continuing Professional Development courses in May of this year when she gave two really interesting presentations on Telephone Interpreting and how to do it properly.

Nataly has now written *A Medical Interpreter's Guide to Telephone Interpreting* for the International Medical Interpreters' Association which is based in the United States. This guide is useful for telephone interpreting in

different contexts, not just medical. Nataly makes a crucial point about training:

'...it is essential that all interpreters who provide telephone interpreting services receive specific training in /guidelines for telephone interpreting/, which can be different from guidelines for interpreting in person. Telephone interpreters must be tested in language proficiency, interpreting skills and terminology knowledge. In addition, ongoing observation of the interpreters is critical in order to ensure quality and consistency.'

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have training, testing and ongoing observation of telephone interpreting (and other types of interpreting) here in Ireland? In question and answer format, the Guide is available to the public from <http://www.imiaweb.org/uploads/pages/380.pdf>

■ New Freelance Qualified Interpreter Pay Rates

At a time when we are awaiting news of the *Garda* tender and the changes that will bring, it is interesting to learn of recent advances in the UK. *Guillermo Makin* of the *Interpreters and Translators Branch* (ITB) of the GMB trade union has sent us the new rates jointly negotiated with *Cambridgeshire Constabulary* by the ITB, the *Institute of Translation and Interpreting* (ITI), the *Association of Police and Court Interpreters* (APCI) and interpreters who have worked for *Cambridgeshire police*. *London Metropolitan Police* established agreed rates with interpreters some years ago.

Quarterly meetings will be held between the Constabulary and interpreters to discuss working conditions, pay and any problems that may arise. These rates apply to qualified interpreters only, presumably holders of the Diploma in Public Service Interpreting.

As you can see, there is a minimum call out charge which varies depending whether it is day or night time, week day or Saturday, Sunday or bank holiday. The travelling time is 80% of the hourly rate and in addition interpreters can claim for travel expenses including by bicycle.

In contrast, in Ireland interpreters are not paid at all for travel time and travel expenses, car parking, bus fares and bicycle trips in Dublin and other cities are not covered by most translation agencies. Nor is there a minimum fee.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Freelance Qualified Interpreters Pay Rates
(Payable from 1st July 2008)

Face-To- Face Interpreting (Spoken And Sign Languages):

Hours	Day	Night/Saturday	Sunday/Bank Holiday
	08:00-20:00	20:00-08:00	24 HOURS
0.5	£17.13	£25.70	£34.26
1.0	£34.26	£51.39	£68.52
2.00	£68.52	£102.78	£137.04
Minimum	£68.52	£102.78	£137.04

- ◆ Minimum does not include travel time and travel expenses.
- ◆ Travelling Time will be paid at 80% of the relevant interpreting rate.
- ◆ Mileage
 - £0.357 per mile (car)
 - £0.24 per mile (motorcycle)
 - £0.20 per mile (pedal cycle)
- ◆ Payments will be made for the most direct route that can be established by an accredited route finder (www.theaa.co.uk). In the event that a detour is necessary and extra mileage is claimed as a result a written explanation should be submitted with the claim.
- ◆ Public transport and parking expenses will be reimbursed at cost on provision of official receipts.

Telephone Interpreting

(rounded up to nearest 15 minutes)

Minutes	Day	Night/Saturday	Sunday/Bank Holiday
	08:00-20:00	20:00-08:00	24 HOURS
15	£8.57	£12.84	£17.13
30	£17.13	£25.70	£34.26
45	£25.70	£38.52	£51.39
Minimum	£8.57	£12.84	£17.13

Written Translation

(from English into other language and from other into English)

- ◆ Category of work Non Technical - £ 53 per 1000 words
- ◆ Category of work Technical - £ 82.00 per 1000 words
- ◆ Minimum payment for written translation £ 25.00

The Constabulary reserves the right to increase or decrease the rates due to market forces. All claim forms are subject to scrutiny to ensure their validity under the Fraud Act 2006, which came into effect from January 2007, and preliminary covers the offences of fraud by false representation. Those who submit a fraudulent claim may be liable to prosecution

Mary Phelan

■ Asylum and language analysis

An asylum applicant from an African country had her asylum application refused by the Refugee Applications Commissioner. An appeal was lodged with the Refugee Appeals Tribunal. Subsequent to the appeal hearing, the Tribunal Member directed the Refugee Applications Commissioner to conduct a language analysis in order to establish whether the applicant spoke the language and dialect of her declared tribe and place of origin. The language analysis was conducted at the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner by way of a telephone conversation between the applicant and an analyst from a European language analysis company.

The language analysis report was not in favour of the applicant. However, the RLS representative determined that the language analysis was seriously flawed. The profile of the language analyst revealed that he did not actually speak the particular dialect of the applicant. The applicant had even complained about this fact during the language analysis to the attending official of the Refugee Applications Commissioner. Furthermore, the findings of several language analysis companies, including the company engaged by the Refugee Applications Commissioner, had already been seriously discredited in other countries. The RLS representative made submissions to the Refugee Appeals Tribunal setting out the flaws of the language

analysis and objecting to the use of the language analysis report.

Despite these submissions the Tribunal Member relied on the language analysis and issued a negative recommendation. The RLS wrote to the Tribunal and asked for the decision to be revoked informally as it did not take into account the submissions made by the RLS. The Refugee Appeals Tribunal agreed to do so and the matter was remitted for a fresh determination before a different Tribunal Member. There are currently several Judicial Review cases pending challenging the use of language analysis reports.

From: Legal Aid Board Annual Report 2007

■ Report: XIII Euralex International Congress

The thirteenth biennial International Congress of Euralex (European Association of Lexicographers) was held 15-19 July 2008 at Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Spain. It was a special occasion for the Association which has grown and developed considerably since its foundation 25 years ago at a meeting organised by *Prof. Reinhard Hartmann* in Exeter, England. It was especially fitting that the Congress take place at this particular university, one of the few seats of learning to be named after a lexicographer, the great Catalan scholar and grammarian *Pompeu Fabra*, who worked to establish a standard literary language in the early 20th century, as well as writing the *Diccionari general de la llengua catalana*, referred to affectionately as '*diccionari Fabra*'. The university, one of eight in Barcelona, operates the research group IfoLEX and its IULA institute also offers post-graduate training in lexicography.

More than 350 people attended the congress from all over Europe and beyond, and were treated to a fascinating array of lectures, papers, poster presentations, software demonstrations, and exhibitions, dealing with every imaginable aspect of lexicography and lexicology. Papers were given in parallel sessions and delivered in six languages, Catalan, English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. While English was undoubtedly the *lingua franca* (an essential when speakers of 38 different languages meet) the number of non-English sessions was higher than usual. Catalan was especially noticeable, not only at the congress (where plenary lectures were innovatively translated into Catalan sign language) but throughout

the city. This year's Proceedings volume carries not only the full plenary lectures but also abstracts in English of the various papers and posters, while the original texts, in whatever language delivered, are reproduced on the accompanying CD-ROM. Apart from acknowledging the diversity of language, and allowing better control of material, this approach certainly saves paper, and reduces the risk of air-travellers having to pay extra for overweight luggage on the way home!

Ireland was represented by a contingent of some thirteen persons, mainly working with Irish-language dictionaries, including lexicographers from Dublin City University, the Royal Irish Academy and Foras na Gaeilge. There was also a presence from the University of Ulster, from Froebel College of Education, and from Waterford IT. Irish contributions were papers by *Michal Boreslav Mechura* (DCU) on search-engine strategies for electronic dictionaries (on the terminology data-base www.focal.ie), a poster presentation by *Liam Mac Amhlaigh* (Froebel) on the role of *Foclóir Gaeilge-Béarla, Néill Uí Dhónaill* in Irish lexicography in the 20th century, and a paper by *Chris Mulhall* (Waterford IT/UCD) on the lemmatisation of lexically variable idioms in Italian-English dictionaries.

People still found time to have a look around Barcelona – lovely as ever – and to enjoy the hospitality provided by our hosts at social events. A busy time indeed for *Prof. Janet DeCesaris* and the other members of the Euralex organising committee!

The general meeting of members took place towards the end of the Congress, and the next Euralex Congress is set for Friesland in the Netherlands, in the year 2010.

Máire Nic Mhaoláin

■ Conferences, Calls & Courses

New Masters Programme in Conference Interpreting at NUI, Galway

The M.A. (*Ateangaireacht Chomhdhála*) is a new full-time one-year masters programme in Conference Interpreting – delivered through Irish – commencing at the end of September 2008. The course is based on the European Masters in Conference Interpreting – a programme developed in conjunction with institutions of the European Union and offered in 18 universities across Europe.

The programme will specialise in the use of Irish and English as active and passive languages of interpreting, along with French as a passive language; other modern European languages may be accommodated where there is sufficient demand. The programme will cover memory exercises, sight translation, note-taking skills, mock conferences, glossaries for technical meetings, voice coaching, and booth etiquette. Students will also have the opportunity to visit EU institutions to see at first hand the work of international interpreters.

As part of the programme, students wishing to study French as part of their M.A. will also have an opportunity during the month of September to undertake a preliminary intensive French language course in Paris, as part of the scholarships funded by the Dept of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

The course is devised by *Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge* – NUI Galway's dedicated structure for the provision of third level courses through Irish – and will be delivered in the University's centre in *An Cheathrú Rua* in the heart of the Connemara *Gaeltacht*. The programme itself is funded by *Údarás na Gaeltachta*, meaning that tuition fees are paid for on behalf of students. A limited number of places are available, and prospective applicants should contact Siobhán Ní Chualáin at + 353 91 495428 or e-mail [aistriuchan\(a\)oegaillimh.ie](mailto:aistriuchan(a)oegaillimh.ie)

Award for Spanish>English translation

The sponsor is offering this award for translation of full length Spanish works of literary merit and general interest into English. The award is valued at £1000. The original must have been written in Spanish but can be from any period and from anywhere in the world. The translation must have been first published in the UK in the year of entry.

Deadline(s): 31/01/2009

- ◆ Sponsor: Society of Authors
- ◆ Program Number: 81178
- ◆ Title: Spanish Translation: The Premio Valle Inclán
- ◆ E-mail: [PJohnson\(a\)societyofauthors.org](mailto:PJohnson(a)societyofauthors.org)
- ◆ Program URL: http://www.societyofauthors.org/prizes_grants_and_awards/prizes_for_published_translations/translato

Link to full program description: http://europe.infoed.org/spin/spin_prog.asp?81178

9th Biennial IAFL Conference on Forensic Linguistics/Language and Law

The Department of Language and Communication at VU University Amsterdam would like to invite papers for the 9th Biennial IAFL Conference on Forensic Linguistics/Language and Law.

- ◆ Date: July 6-9, 2009
- ◆ Call deadline: November 14, 2008
- ◆ Location: VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- ◆ Conference URL: <http://iafl09.let.vu.nl/>
- ◆ Contact Email: [iafl09\(a\)let.vu.nl](mailto:iafl09(a)let.vu.nl)

We invite individual papers and posters that deal with all aspects of forensic linguistics/language and law, including but not limited to topics such as:

- ◆ courtroom interaction
- ◆ police interviews
- ◆ courtroom interpreting and translating
- ◆ the readability/comprehensibility of legal documents
- ◆ the analysis/interpretation of legal texts
- ◆ the communicative challenges of “vulnerable” witnesses
- ◆ language minorities and the legal system
- ◆ the use of linguistic evidence in court
- ◆ authorship/speaker identification
- ◆ the teaching/testing of forensic linguistics/language and law

Presentations will be 20 minutes, with 10 minutes for questions and discussion. Abstracts should be 300-350 words and can be submitted electronically at the conference website

<http://iafl09.let.vu.nl/callforpapers.html>

We also invite proposals for thematic sessions which are scheduled for 2-hour blocks. Organizers may organize as they choose, but time should be allocated for presentations, discussion and audience response. Proposals with an indication of participants and a brief description of their contributions may be submitted electronically at the conference website: <http://iafl09.let.vu.nl/callforpapers.html>

Important dates:

- ◆ November 14, 2008: Abstracts are due
- ◆ January, 2009: Notification of acceptance of papers.

Organizing Committee: Martha Komter, Joyce Lamerichs, Esther Pascual, Keun Young Sliedrecht, Petra Sneijder, Olga Steenhoek-Kolbasina, Tessa van Charldorp, Fleur van der Houwen.

METM 08: Communication Support Across the Disciplines

University of Split, School of Medicine, Split, Croatia. 11-13 September 2008.

10 September: Pre-meeting workshop on corpus-guided editing and translation

http://www.metmeetings.org/?section=metm08_program

The full program of METM 08 has now been posted on the MET website. It includes keynote speeches, panel sessions, workshops, oral and poster presentations on a wide range of subjects related to promising practices and research at the writing-editing-translation-publishing interface.

For details about registration, travel and accommodation can be found on the conference website.

The Mediterranean Editors and Translators meetings are aimed at author's editors, copy editors, journal editors, translators, copywriters, proofreaders, teachers of English for special purposes, project managers, writing instructors, oral communication coaches, web localizers, and any other "language brokers" working with English in the Mediterranean area with an interest in communication across cultures.

The Translator as Strategic Partner

A conference on the practices and technologies of translation quality sponsored by the Chartered Institute of Linguists, the Institute of Translation and Interpreting and Proz.

London, November 22-23 2008

For the programme, see www.translationconference.org.uk

Nordterm Conference Proceedings

The proceedings from the Nordterm conference in Bergen last June have now been published. You will find a brief presentation in Norwegian (<http://www.sprakradet.no/Toppmeny/Aktuelt/Ny-Nordterm-rapport/>) and an electronic order form (<http://www.sprakradet.no/Toppmeny/Publikasjoner/Bestilling/>) on our web site.

The proceedings are free of charge.

www.sprakradet.no

LANGUAGES & THE MEDIA

7th International Conference & Exhibition on Language Transfer in Audiovisual Media

October 29-31, 2008

- ◆ Where: Hotel InterContinental Berlin
- ◆ Organizer: ICWE GmbH, Leibnizstr. 32, D-10625 Berlin, Germany,
- ◆ Tel.: +49 (0)30 310 18 18-0, Fax: +49 (01)30 324 9833, www.icwe.net, [info\(a\)icwe.net](mailto:info(a)icwe.net)
- ◆ Contact: Ms. Astrid Mendoza, [info\(a\)languages-media.com](mailto:info(a)languages-media.com), www.languages-media.com

Short Description:

Languages & The Media is a biennial international conference dedicated to the subject of language transfer in a changing media landscape (Video, DVD, digital TV and cinema). The conference themes include latest developments in dubbing, subtitling, voice-over and translation for the media. Participants will discuss national and international language policies in the media, multilingual access to global media as well as the distribution and quality of content.

The conference is accompanied by an exhibition where vendors and manufacturers of language services and technology products are represented. The conference language is English.

<http://www.languages-media.com>

International Translation Conference On Health Sciences

Lisbon, Portugal. October 17 and 18, 2008

Lisbon will be the World Capital of Language Services for the Health Sector. Join your colleagues for two exciting days of in-depth, advanced-level sessions presented by experts in this highly-sought field of today's translation market.*

- ◆ 21 speakers, more than 20 sessions and 5 tracks
- ◆ Practical learning sessions for the professional translator and interpreter.
- ◆ Complimentary 3-hour SDL TRADOS Information & Training Session for Translation Companies attending the Conference.
- ◆ Job Marketplace: bring your resume and business cards.

Working languages: Conference sessions and discussions will be held in Portuguese, English and Spanish.

Are you starting in this field of specialization? Get valuable information about your profession and many specialized fields of knowledge in this highly-requested segment of the language industry. And, of course, plenty of time for networking, networking and more networking.

Conference Website

<http://www.tradulinguas.com/conf-med/index.htm>

■ Contacting The ITIA

Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association
Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Teangairí na hÉireann

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ITIA BULLETIN

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■ ITIA Resources for Translators

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* has compiled a series of useful information leaflets for translators and interpreters - both members and non-members alike. These leaflets are available from the ITIA website at www.translatorsassociation.ie.

- ◆ *The Translation Profession*
- ◆ *Joining the ITIA*
- ◆ *Ordinary Membership Application*
- ◆ *Professional Membership Application*
- ◆ *Database Entry*
- ◆ *Code of Practice*
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- ◆ *Translation Services in Ireland*
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