



ITIA BULLETIN

March 2004

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

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■ Editorial

In the past month we have seen one of the most explicit examples in recent times of the importance of the role which translators play in the international arena. The information leaked by GCHQ translator Katharine Gun and the subsequent dropping of legal proceedings against her by the British government highlighted the dilemma which translators may face when coming into daily contact with highly sensitive information. Though the work of the translator has traditionally been perceived as somewhat monastic, it is nowadays becoming increasingly clear that translators operate with highly organised information networks and, as such, it is ever more important that translators themselves feel the support from their own professional community in their work.

One of the primary aims of this Bulletin is to assist in providing this support network for translators, both in Ireland and beyond. The ease of distribution facilitated by e-mail and the Internet enables support networks to be developed in ways which could scarcely have been imagined even ten or fifteen years ago. So if you enjoy receiving the Bulletin, do your professional community a favour and spread the word. And, as ever, if you feel like making more vocal contact with others in the profession, all contributions will be gratefully received.

John Kearns
Editor
kearns(a)pro.onet.pl

■ Nice Guys Finish Last

The most earnest piece of advice I have received from another translator is: don't help your friends. And this was friendly, sincere advice, from an old, old friend. Recent developments have fragmented the professional translation "community," vastly increased the pressure on individual translators, and helped the introduction of destructive competition. Modern telecommunications have greatly helped this process, but the villain of the piece is, for want of a better word, the new economy.

In this splintered world translators each sit in their homes and offices doing the work that has been outsourced to them via agencies. All well and good, but this efficient business model means wasteful duplication of resources since each translator must have the full range of dictionaries and software

necessary for the job. It need hardly be added that the agency will not be paying for your guide to Irish flora and fauna nomenclature any time soon. A pool of translators working together (really working together – not just responding to queries on a bulletin board when they happen to see them and have time to answer) could easily share one copy of the less heavily-used dictionaries. Not only could they share dictionaries, they could share knowledge – still doable, of course, except now the person you're asking is likely to be your business rival. Rather than describe the painful internet bidding process which pits translator against translator I will outline just one case from a well-known translators' website. At 10:28 am Feb 23rd a client placed an advertisement on this site looking for a translator for an urgent, 15,000-word job. How urgent? Well the deadline was 9 o'clock the following morning. When I checked the site at 10 pm on the 23rd the client was *still* accepting bids....

The human element is missing from the translator-client relationship, with agencies frequently taking great pains to ensure that never the twain shall meet. Any criticism or comments from the client are mediated by an agent (or the agent's secretary) who may or may not understand the languages in question and who may or may not (but probably will) have a thousand other things on his mind. I once translated a company brochure from a badly scanned pdf file of a blurred photocopy which I received by fax and from which all details identifying the client had been removed. Things were further complicated by the fact that there were two agencies in between me and the client. When I asked for a legible, hard copy I received by courier (of course the job was "urgent") the same blurred photocopy of the scanned brochure, again minus any identifying information. I'm quite sure the many difficulties – technical and linguistic – I had with the brochure could have been solved with one phone call. Alas, the telecommunications revolution stops well short of simple client-translator phone calls. I never found out if the translation I turned in was any good.

The last and perhaps most drastic effect of the modern means of production is simply put: the more conscientiously you work the less you earn. In the outsourced economy payment is by word. Faster translation means the more money per hour. There may be some people who make fewer mistakes working hurriedly (like, one hopes, the poor translator in the example above with 15,000 words to do in about 12 hours) but I'm not one of them. Nor is the rarefied atmosphere of literary translation free from this effect. Writing in *Der Spiegel*, (Feb 16th, 2003) about the poor quality of word-for-word style translations into German, Elke Schmitter complains that the enormous competition among English translators has led to a depression in the price per page and a corresponding increase in time pressure.

Agents will protest that they have quality control checks in place but the fact remains that there is an economic imperative to cut corners. In theory a golden mean should be established over time: your speed will increase only up to the point where inaccuracies begin to make it a liability rather than an asset. But given the lack of meaningful communication with the end-user I wonder how you are supposed to know if you have reached that golden mean. If the agency has not had any work for you for a while is it because you have been working too fast and loose or because they have found someone who will do it for half the price?

Translators have been divided and conquered. Fax machines, e-mail and the internet have been used to fragment them and drive them into competition with each other. Translation agencies have been able to externalise their costs – offloading them onto powerless, individual translators. The ITIA publishes rough price guidelines but not a “going rate” for translation work as to do so would in the eyes of the law constitute price fixing. If translators were organised in a union, of course, things would be different. Henry Grodsk

New Members

The following translators have joined the ITIA as ordinary members in the past month:

LAURA ARMADA BUCH

146 Knock Brack Downs, Drogheda, Co Louth
Mobile: 087 631 4752. E-mail:
lauraarmadabuch(a)yahoo.co.uk
English, Spanish and Catalan from English, Spanish,
Catalan, Italian, Portuguese
Specialist areas: general, literary, economic,
technical

SIMON FLAMBEAUX

Blatnicka 20, 62800 Brno, Czech Republic
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Paris, France
Tel: +420 605 163 115 Mobile: +420 723 913 577
E-mail: sim.flambeaux(a)laposte.net
Czech, English, French, and German from French

FINNUALA NÍ DHÚGAIN

105 Hillside, Dalkey, Co Dublin
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ILONA NOSULENKO

49 Grosvenor Lodge, Harold's Cross, DGW
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i_l_o_n_k_a(a)yahoo.com
English to and from Russian and Ukrainian

EMER SACCARDO, BA

41 Betaghstown Wood, Bettystown, Co Meath
Tel: 041 988 7811 Fax: 049 988 7812 Mobile: 087
913 3521
E-mail: esaccardo(a)eircom.net
English from French, German - pharmaceutical,
medical

ORLA SHANAGHY, MA

17 Magenta Mews, Grange Manor, Waterford
Tel: 051-854730 Mobile: 087-6845136. E-mail :
orla(a)jostraca.org
English from German
Specialist areas: information technology, software,
telecommunications, marketing and promotional
material, corporate communications.

MÁIRE UÍ FHLATHARTA

Cleas, Inis Oirr, Oileáin Arann, Co na Gaillimhe
Tel: 099 75979. E-mail:
maireguifhlatharta(a)utvinternet.ie

ITIA Subscriptions

Members are requested to take note that renewal subscriptions for 2004 year will be due from 1st June.

A number of subscriptions remain outstanding for 2003. If you are unsure whether you are up-to-date on your subscription payment, please contact the Treasurer at [mwatchorn\(a\)oceanfree.net](mailto:mwatchorn(a)oceanfree.net) who will advise you.

Subscriptions for 2004 may be made in any of the following ways:

Payment by cheque drawn on an Irish bank made out to the "Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association" and remitted to Honorary Treasurer, ITIA, Irish Writers' Centre, 19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1

Payment by credit card: ring the Irish Writers' Centre during office hours Monday to Friday at +353 (01) 872 1302

- Payment by postal order drawn on An Post.
- Payment by international or national bank draft drawn on an Irish Bank.
- Payment by standing order. Please contact your own bank to give the instruction and to set up this annual payment. See below for the Association's bank account details.

The former Direct Debit system has been discontinued by our bank as not being cost effective. It was not discontinued by the ITIA.

- Payment by bank transfer or Banking OnLine: you can do this through your bank or automatically over the Internet.
- Payment in cash at the Irish Writers' Centre, 19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. Please do NOT send cash by post.

Bank and ITIA account details:

Bank :	AIB, Church Road, Greystones, Co. Wickow
Account Name:	Irish Translators Association
Account Number:	11369024
Bank Sort Code:	93-35-54
BIC/Swift	AIBKIE2D
Address:	
IBAN:	IE98 AIBK 9335 5411 3690 24

Jobs

Le musée du Louvre recherche des traducteurs anglophones freelance spécialisés en archéologie et beaux-arts ainsi que des traducteurs littéraires généralistes qui seront chargés de traduire, du français vers l'anglais, un important contenu pour son site Internet.

Profil requis

- Langue maternelle anglaise
 - Parfaite compréhension du français
 - Bonne culture générale
 - Formation/connaissances en Histoire/Histoire de l'Art
 - École de traduction ou études supérieures en Lettres/Sciences Humaines avec expérience en traduction littéraire
 - Excellente grammaire, orthographe et typographie
- Les candidatures doivent être accompagnées d'un CV et adressées par e-mail à: [traduction\(a\)louvre.fr](mailto:traduction(a)louvre.fr)

Service Internet - Musée du Louvre

Call for Papers

"CONFLUÊNCIAS – Revista de Tradução Científica e Técnica"
Special topic issue: "Scientific and Technical Translation: Challenges and Perspectives"

"CONFLUÊNCIAS – Revista de Tradução Científica e Técnica" is a new independent and trans-disciplinary e-journal produced by and for translators, specialists, teachers, researchers, clients and other professionals

Next Issue of the ITIA Bulletin

The next issue of the *ITIA Bulletin* will be out on or after April 15th 2004. So if you have any contributions, news, suggestions, or something you'd like to share, send them to me, John Kearns at [kearns\(a\)pro.onet.pl](mailto:kearns(a)pro.onet.pl) Deadline for submissions is April 10th.

Subscribing to the ITIA Bulletin

To subscribe, simply send an e-mail to [itia-ezine-subscribe\(a\)yahogroups.com](mailto:itia-ezine-subscribe(a)yahogroups.com)

To unsubscribe, simply send an e-mail to [itia-ezine-unsubscribe\(a\)yahogroups.com](mailto:itia-ezine-unsubscribe(a)yahogroups.com)

related to translation in the various technical and scientific domains – natural and exact sciences, engineering and technology, medicine and health, law, economics and localization – from and into the Portuguese language in all its diversity. The journal prints original texts of practical and scientific value on the following topics: translation, terminology and professional issues, lexicology, style and editing, teaching and pedagogical methods, reviews, projects and news/events. It also publishes work in progress papers and information on projects, news and publications.

The journal is available twice a year, in May and November. Authors are invited and encouraged to submit material for publication in Issue 1 by July 31, 2004.

Instructions for authors are available on our website: <http://www.confluencias.net>.

For more information, contact:
[confluencias\(a\)confluencias.net](mailto:confluencias(a)confluencias.net).

■ Insurance for Translators

Mc Parland Finn in England are offering professional indemnity insurance to ITIA professional and corporate members. For further information please contact:

Jonathan Leese,
mail(a)m-f-l.co.uk
web www.m-f-l.co.uk
Fax : 0044 (0) 161 2362583

If you wish to discuss anything relating to professional indemnity insurance for translators in Ireland, please contact either: Bernadette Moynihan - [bmoynihan\(a\)eircom.net](mailto:bmoynihan(a)eircom.net) - or Michael Friel [mfriel\(a\)iol.ie](mailto:mfriel(a)iol.ie).

■ Conferences

■ Dublin City University – Postgraduate Conference in Translation Studies

A reminder that the first Dublin City University Postgraduate Conference in Translation Studies will be held on March 26th and 27th 2004. Over two days postgraduate students from all over the world will be presenting their research into a wide variety of issues relating to language mediation. The registration fee for the two-day event is 15 euro, which includes refreshments, lunch, and a wine reception at the Irish Writers' Centre.

For further information, along with the full programme and registration details, click on the link at <http://www.ctts.dcu.ie/>

■ XVIIth World Congress of FIT

The next world congress of FIT will be organized in Tampere (Finland) in 2005, 39 years after the congress in Lahti. Our Finnish association, the SKTL, will then celebrate its 50th anniversary and will welcome translators from all over the world with an interesting programme in wonderful surroundings.

Statutory Congress (only for delegates of member associations): 2 and 3 August 2005

General Congress (open to all): 4 to 7 August 2005.

For more information see <http://www.fit-ift.org/english/congres-e.html>

■ First International Colloquium - The Subject and Translation

Research Group Étienne Dolet. Department of Translation and Interpretation. University Autònoma of Barcelona (Spain)

The Research Group Étienne Dolet invites abstracts for its First International Colloquium "The Subject and Translation" that will take place on November 12-14, 2004 at the University Autònoma of Barcelona, Bellaterra campus.

"The Subject and Translation" presupposes the existence of a subject who inscribes his/her mark on the text. However, to admit this presence implies not only a revision of those traditional concepts embedded in the theory and practice of translation - fidelity, meaning, interpretation – but, and probably more important, a reflection upon the status of the enunciator, whether in the source or in the target language. It also implies a revision of the history, the theory and the didactics of translation as a discourse where the tension to make visible or efface the subject is textualized.

If, following Lacan, the subject ineluctably finds a way to represent her or himself through the chain of signifiers, is there a failure manifest in existing theories of translation in as much as they ignore the semiotic and subjective dimensions of the translation process? And, further, does accepting the translator's visibility necessarily imply that we take into account that subjectivity supported by the chain of signifiers, the unavoidable mark and textual presence of the translator?

Contributions related to translation theory and subjectivity from various disciplines (semiotics, psychoanalysis, literary theory, anthropology, history, etc.) are encouraged. Possible topics include:

- Historicity, translation and ideology: conflicts of the subject
- Inscriptions of the subject in the translated text
- Theory as an observatory of subjectivity: the tension between the subject and the norm
- The subject and language: symbolic functioning and the production of meaning
- Integration of the subject and subjectivity: teaching translation

The Colloquium is expecting contributions from invited guests Alexis Nouss (Canada) and Angela Ryan (Ireland).

Abstracts should be about 350 words, sent in Word format, and include the name of the author, e-mail address and affiliation. They can be in Catalan, English, French or Spanish, the official languages of the Colloquium. For further inquiries contact any of the following organizers:

Nuria de Asprer (University Autònoma of Barcelona): n.asprer@wanadoo.es ; Ramon Lladó (University Autònoma of Barcelona): Ramon.Llado@uab.es ; Marta Marín-Dòmine (Wilfrid Laurier University): mmarin@wlu.ca

- The deadline for abstracts (e-mail acceptable) is April 15, 2004.
- You will be notified of acceptance in May 2004.
- A refereed selection of the Colloquium's papers will be published by the Scientific Committee.
- Registration fee: 60 Euros (30 Euros for students).
- Scientific Committee: Michael Cronin (University of Dublin); Didier Coste (Université de Bordeaux); Seán Golden (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona); Joaquim Sala-Sanahuja (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona); Nuria de Asprer (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona); Ramon Lladó (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona); Marta Marín (Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada)

■ Training & Education

■ Localization Summer School

Austin Community College, Texas / University of Limerick

Second International Summer School

June 16-18 in Austin, Texas

We will be offering the following 3.5 hour seminars:

- Web Localization
- Asian Language Enablement
- Localization Testing
- Hands-on Localization Tools
- Hands-on TM Tools Case Studies

For more information: <http://mistsy.home.texas.net/acc/110n/summerschool.htm>

Tim Altanero, Ph.D.

Associate Director, BIE Grant

Associate Professor of Technical Communications

Austin Community College

11928 Stonehollow Dr.

Austin, TX 78758

Ph.: 512.223.4021 Fax: 253.390.7101

<http://www2.austincc.edu/taltaner>

■ Translator Training Programmes in Tarragona

The Universitat Rovira i Virgili in Tarragona is offering the following programmes:

Masters in Spanish-English Translation and Localization

<http://www.ice.urv.es/trans/future/>

October 2004 - June 2006 Intake: 16 students (8 English as L1, 8 Spanish/Catalan as L1)

Postgraduate Diploma in Spanish-English Translation and Localization

<http://www.ice.urv.es/trans/future/>

October 2004 - June 2005 Intake: 16 students (8 English as L1, 8 Spanish/Catalan as L1)

Doctoral program in Translation and Intercultural Studies

<http://www.ice.urv.es/trans/future/isg/doc2003/>

October 2004 - June 2006 (coursework) Intake: 15 students (the best in the world; all work is in English)

http://www.ice.urv.es/trans/future/2004_tarragona/ Training Seminar for

Translation Teachers, 19-23 July 2004 http://www.ice.urv.es/trans/future/2004_tarragona/

Anthony Pym, Filologia Anglogermànica, Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Plaça Imperial Tàrraco, 1

E-43005 Tarragona, Spain. [ap\(a\)fill.urv.es](mailto:ap(a)fill.urv.es) Alternative e-mail: [apym\(a\)tinnet.org](mailto:apym(a)tinnet.org)

<http://www.tinet.org/~apym/>

For detailed information, visit our site

[\(http://www.ice.urv.es/trans/future/\)](http://www.ice.urv.es/trans/future/) or contact José Ramón Biau ([jrbig\(a\)fill.urv.es](mailto:jrbig(a)fill.urv.es))

■ Contacting the ITIA

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ITIA Bulletin

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Layout: John Kearns
Proofreading: ITIA Editorial Committee

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ITIA Resources for Translators

The Irish Translators' and 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
- Interpreting
- Background Information
- Translation Services in Ireland
- Admission Criteria
- Recommendations on Rates
- Professional Indemnity
- Advertising