



ITIA BULLETIN

May 2005

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Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association
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■ Editorial

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the May issue of the ITIA Bulletin.

The cry for greater visibility for translators and interpreters is one that is often heard and fully justified. In the literary sphere, writers such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez are widely lauded for their works in the anglophone world without any thought for the person who was responsible for turning a great Spanish novel into a great English novel. In all areas of translating and interpreting, we need to be seen more and to be heard more. It is therefore great to see the media showing an interest in our business. This month, there were two different articles published in national media (Ireland and Britain) on the subject of translators and interpreters.

The Irish Times reported on a judge who asked 'Why should this court be put to the expense of bringing interpreters to the court? They [non-nationals] have plenty of money.' Apparently, this judge feels that the courts should not have to pay for the interpreting services of non-nationals who have jobs. See commentary by Mary Phelan below.

Also, The Guardian reported on the awarding of a £15,000 prize for translators as part of the new Man Booker International Prize for fiction. While it must be said that at no point in the article, or indeed in any of the press releases of Man Booker International, was a single translator's name mentioned, it is a move in the right direction. For more, read on...

Enjoy!
Elizabeth Hayes
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particular work but rather the "writer's continued creativity, development and overall contribution to fiction on the world stage." The Man Booker International Prize will be awarded to a living author who has published fiction either originally in English or whose work is generally available in translation in the English language.

The winner will receive £60,000 and IF the winning author's work was translated into English an extra £15,000 will be awarded to the translator or translators. Of the 17 authors short-listed this year, ten have had work translated into English. Professor John Carey, Chair of Judges comments, "During the first stages of judging for the Man Booker International Prize we, the judges, became increasingly aware of the huge role translators play in making first rate fiction accessible to a global audience. I am delighted that this separate award has been announced to recognise their unique part in the readers' enjoyment of the work."

How the money is distributed will be at the discretion of the author who may decide to give all the money to one translator or divide it between several.

ITIA

■ New Members of the ITIA

The ITIA welcomes the following ordinary members...

■ Man Booker International Prize for Translators

£15,000 TO BE AWARDED TO TRANSLATORS IN MAN BOOKER INTERNATIONAL PRIZE

The Man Booker Prize was set up in 1968 to award authors for excellence in a work of fiction. Only authors from the Commonwealth and the Republic of Ireland who write in English are eligible. The winner receives £50,000 and plenty of free publicity.

2005 marks the very first Man Booker International Prize which will be awarded every two years. The International award differs in that it does not award a

TOM QUINN
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English from French

MR IRENEUSZ NAGORNY
142 Meadowbank Hill
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Polish-English, English-Polish
Nursing, medical, laboratory, diagnostics, literary/
cultural.

MR ZAMIR QEJVANI

19 Woodford Garth

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English from Albanian, Italian, French

All areas

MS ERMELINDA QEJVANI

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ermelinda(a)eircom.net

Albanian and English from English, Albanian and

Italian

All areas

LUCY ARBUCKLE

56 The Richmond

North Brunswick Street

Dublin 1

lucy(a)arbuckle.com

English from French and Italian

general, business, IT (software), education

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:

Sylvia Hogerzeil-Kien has changed her e-mail to

syluto(a)eircom.net

Correction on April issue

In last month's issue Magdalena Rej's home and e-mail address were incorrectly stated. The correct details are as follows:

MAGDALENA REJ

56 Lower Drumcondra Road

Flat 5 Dublin 9

Tel: (085) 7314313

e-mail: em.ray(a)wp.pl

Polish to and from English

law, finance, medicine, science, technology

Joining the ITIA

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* is always delighted to welcome new members to the Association.

There are five categories of membership:

- ◆ 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

■ A word on clo(a)king

In bygone days we delighted in throwing our e-mail addresses around with careless abandon for if someone sent us something we did not want to read, it was easily deleted. The advent of nasty little spammers has forced us to exercise a little more caution. E-mail harvesting programs have been developed that scan web pages and web-based documents for e-mail addresses. These e-mail addresses are then compiled into databases and sold to companies who want to reach a very wide, if entirely random, audience.

Nothing is worse than having to spend time deleting useless and unsolicited information from your inbox. It is with this in mind that the ITIA Bulletin chooses to 'cloak' all e-mail addresses. Often the e-mail harvesting programs work by simply selecting any text containing the symbol @ so, as you may have noticed, we replace this symbol with (a) to throw the evil spammers off the scent.

For now, this little trick seems to elude them.

■ Interpreters and the Courts

According to a report in The Irish Times on the 14th May ([click here to go to the article](#)) a District Court judge objects to paying interpreters because he feels that defendants should learn English. Article 6.3. of the European Convention on Human Rights states that 'everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimal rights' including 'the right to the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court'. There is no question of defendants in criminal cases having to pay their own interpreters and over the years a number of cases have been taken to the European Court of Human Rights on the issue of interpreting.

There are many reasons why people do not learn English: some have few opportunities because they live and work with people who speak their language. Some people are not particularly gifted at languages. Above all it takes a number of years to become competent in a foreign language. And in any case the stress of being in an unfamiliar situation may affect language ability.

Yet some District Court judges assume that if a defendant can say their name, address and occupation in English then they can understand terms like summary trial, remand in custody, consent to bail, bench warrant, independent surety, custodial sentence, bail bond etc.

Judges, solicitors and barristers would greatly benefit from training relating to the provision of interpreters, how to work with interpreters, and what to do when ethical issues arise.

interpreters are no doubt excellent, some will only be able to interpret a fraction of what is said. Or they may decide to paraphrase what is said.

Furthermore, many interpreters do not know what to do when ethical problems arise. What should they do if they cannot hear what is being said in court? What should they do if they know the defendant? Should they tell the court if they interpreted for the defendant in the garda station? What should they say to a defendant who asks about the likely outcome of a case? Such ethical issues need to be teased out as part of interpreter training.

The Courts Service arranges for interpreters to be present in court cases where the defendant does not have enough English to be able to understand what is said in court. In fact, just last week the Courts Service issued an invitation to tender for the provision of managed interpretation services. For the first time there will be a requirement that interpreters undergo security clearance by the Garda and that they be aware of ethical issues. Unfortunately, when it comes to levels of proficiency, the tender document focuses on language ability rather than interpreting ability. Knowledge of two languages does not automatically guarantee a competent level of interpreting.

Mary Phelan
Mary.phelan(a)dcu.ie

The full address for the article in the Irish Times is:
www.ireland.com/newspaper/front/2005/0514/2857349521HM1JUDGE.html

...while some interpreters are no doubt excellent, some will only be able to interpret a fraction of what is said. Or they may decide to paraphrase what is said.

Legal interpreters are expected to carry out a complex task. For example, in cases taken in the District Court the interpreter has to simultaneously whisper everything that is said by the prosecuting garda, the judge and the solicitor, to the defendant. But interpreters receive no training in whispered simultaneous interpreting or in legal language and they are not tested to ensure that they can actually carry out this difficult task. The result is that while some

■ Next Issue of the ITIA Bulletin

The next issue of the ITIA Bulletin will be out towards the end of June 2005. So if you have any contributions, news suggestions, or scandals that you'd like to share with over 900 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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■ XVII FIT World Congress

TAMPERE, FINLAND, 4th-7th AUGUST 2005

More than 500 translators and interpreters from all over the world have already registered for the XVII World Congress of the International Federation of Translators (FIT) that will be held in Tampere, Finland, on 4-7 August 2005. In addition to the diverse professional programme, the Congress provides an excellent opportunity to meet friends and establish new contacts.

The lower registration fee is valid until 31st May 2005 – so it's worth registering now!

For details about the Congress programme and registration, see www.fit2005.org.

■ A (Chartered) Institute of Linguists

Translators in Ireland (and no doubt elsewhere) will be following with some interest the recent developments in the *Institute of Linguists* (IoL) in Britain. The IoL has applied to become a chartered institute, which would mean that it could act as a regulating body for professionals such as translators or interpreters.

There are various arguments for and against this move. Those in favour argue that a chartered institute could be of immense benefit to people working in language services. Henry Pavlovich, chief executive of the IoL, has put forward the case as follows:

“A charter is a mark of approbation, a signal that the body concerned is a professional one of good standing whose activities are important enough to warrant what is in effect regulation by government in the national interest.

At the moment anyone can call him or herself a linguist and advertise their services. There is no law barring the unqualified from practising as translators or interpreters in the way that there is in medicine, law or accountancy. Clients nowadays therefore usually insist that the linguist should belong to a professional body (and therefore abide by its Code of Conduct). How much better it would be if that body were also chartered with the greater professional protection that this would imply. The public consumer and qualified/experienced linguists would gain; only the unqualified would lose.

In addition to applying for chartered status for the Institute, we are also working on the criteria for a possible extra application for individual chartered status for some qualifying members. Such a “Chartered Linguist (Translator)”, for example, would demonstrate the highest competence, skill and professionalism coupled with a commitment to maintain and develop them as well as submitting to periodic assessment or review.”

(For the full text of Pavlovich's letter, see <http://www.iol.org.uk/membership/news.asp> and for the charter itself, see <http://www.iol.org.uk/membership/IoL-Charter2.pdf>)

So much for the case in favour. On the other hand, however, many professionals have voiced reservations about the development, particularly in the discussion group at <http://www.linguists.bravehost.com>

...anyone can call him or herself a linguist and advertise their services. There is no law barring the unqualified from practising...

For a start only 313 (roughly 5%) of the IoL's 6,000 members voted for the charter. Furthermore, dissenters note that qualified individuals – even those who have passed the highest exams offered by the IoL – will be unable to gain full membership without full-time experience lasting for at least one year, and possibly even three years; the argument is that this discriminates against those who translate on a part-time basis. Some of those opposed to the plans also argue that the charter does not contain details of the procedure for qualifying for membership: one correspondent notes how “these rules were contained in the old pre-charter IoL by-laws, so what possible reason is there for excluding them from the charter documents?” Also, others are suspicious about the fact that the IoL have not yet published details about its proposed “Chartered Linguist” category. (The IoL do not appear to have adopted a particularly open attitude to debate on this issue, as may be seen in the correspondence available at <http://pub40.bravenet.com/forum/3426740439/show/491531>, leading to some allegations that they may have a hidden agenda.)

Finally, there is the argument – not often heard in translation circles, and certainly not here on this side of the Irish Sea – that the Charter may lead to excessive regulation of the translation profession in Britain. One correspondent to the debate outlines this stance as follows:

“More regulation, and obligatory, as opposed to voluntary regulation will, in years to come be the inevitable outcome of a charter, as has happened with other chartered societies, like the RICS [the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors –jk-]. It is now effectively impossible to practise as a surveyor in the UK without being a member of RICS. A similar situation may in future arise should the IoL become chartered. This will exclude many part-time linguists, particularly freelancers, from working because these individuals, who may be perfectly qualified, find it very difficult to meet the experience requirements. In the case of RICS and other similar societies, members are also required to participate in continuing education, demonstrate a certain number of hours practise per year, and meet the high costs of membership. This likewise excludes part time practitioners, and particularly those with family commitments, or specialist linguists who need full time work in another area because there is insufficient demand for their specialist translation or interpreting services.”

From “*Stop the IoL Charter: Here’s How*” available at <http://pub40.bravenet.com/forum/3426740439/show/488115>, where a more complete picture of the anti-charter movement is available.

...this will exclude many part-time linguists, particularly freelancers, from working because these individuals, who may be perfectly qualified, find it very difficult to meet the experience requirements.

However apt one may consider the parallel between translation and chartered surveying, the issue in general certainly raises interesting questions for those of us in Ireland who are involved in debates about greater degrees of regulation for the translation profession here. And for those of you who feel the IoL Charter may concern you, then May 31st is the deadline for feedback to be sent to the Privy Council, who will then statute on

the issue. The contact details are: Graham Donald, Deputy Clerk of the Council, Privy Council Office, 2 Carlton Gardens, London, SW1Y 5AA, United Kingdom.

John Kearns
Kearns(a)pro.onet.pl

■ Jobs

Freelance Translators

CLS Communication (www.cls-communication.com) is an internationally active language services provider for multilingual communication in areas such as banking and finance. In addition to our internal resources, we also have a well-developed network of freelance translators, which we expand as necessary. We are currently looking for external partners with the following profile.

We are seeking experienced Spanish-English freelancers with working knowledge in one of the following areas:

- ◆ Finance (capital markets, macroeconomics, banking)
- ◆ Corporate communications (press releases, investor relations, results announcements, annual reports).

If you have at least 3 years of relevant experience in translation, please send your full resume to [info-es\(a\)cls-communication.com](mailto:info-es(a)cls-communication.com), AND cc to [regula.bachmann\(a\)cls-communication.com](mailto:regula.bachmann(a)cls-communication.com).

All candidates meeting the above requirements will be asked to perform a short test translation. Please note that due to deadline constraints, only professionals based in Europe will be considered on this occasion. We look forward to receiving your application!

Sincerely
Regula Bachmann
Assistant Head External Partners

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■ Conferences, Calls & Courses

TRANSLATION & CENSORSHIP

Trinity College Dublin, Saturday 15 October 2005

The conference is being organised by the Literary Translation Discussion Group, in conjunction with the MPhil in Literary Translation at Trinity College Dublin.

Keynote speaker: Maria Tymoczko, Professor of Comparative Literature, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Literary translators are usually expected to produce an acceptable text in a new language, creatively conveying the meaning and force of the original. Acceptability is a broad concept, and will sometimes prompt innocent minor adjustments, such as the non-literal translation of swear-words where the source culture is less shockable than the target culture and a literal translation would actually misrepresent the interpersonal meaning of the source text. More questionably, published translations can obscure or conceal "unacceptable" features of an original text, change characters' names to avoid unwanted phonic associations, or even suppress whole sections of the text to create an illusion that foreign literature shares the value of the local thought police. What are the proper limits of censorship? Can it ever be defended? How is it usually practised? Do translators automatically attenuate their texts? What are the links between self-censorship and public censorship, and how do these processes differ between original literature and translated literature? Do they differ across genres? How do English texts differ from American ones? These are some of the issues that might be explored at the TRANSLATION & CENSORSHIP conference.

We would like to invite proposals for papers of 20 minutes that explore aspects of the relationship between translation and censorship, particularly in a literary context. If you would like to offer a paper, please e-mail an abstract of 250 words to [enchllnn\(a\)tcd.ie](mailto:enchllnn(a)tcd.ie) (Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin, Dean of Faculty of Arts Letters, Trinity College Dublin) to arrive by Friday 3rd June 2005.

http://www.tcd.ie/Arts_Letters/translation/

Legal Translation Seminars

City University London, 2nd-3rd June and 27th June 2005

2nd-3rd June, Legal terminology for translators: commercial and corporate law. It follows the previous pattern of morning and early afternoon sessions with lectures on the law - very lively feedback, to go by the April event, which was attended by a flock of 9 Swedish translators in the group of 30 or so eager people who came - and language-specific workshops in the afternoon led by lawyers from each country.

http://www.city.ac.uk/languages/corporate_law.html

27th June, Legal translation seminar. The programme includes a presentation on a planned centre for legal translation, and separate comparative studies of legal systems in England/Germany and England/France from the translator's point of view, plus four language workshops (Eng>Fr, Fr>Eng, Eng>Ger, Ger>Eng).

http://www.city.ac.uk/languages/default_print_1_8427_8427.html

**British Centre for Literary Translation
Literary Translation Summer School**

University of East Anglia Norwich, UK 10-16 July 2005

The sixth international BCLT summer school bringing together writers, translators and literary professionals for a week of practical literary translation workshops, round tables, seminars, readings and debate. Whether you are a student or an experienced professional translator, the Summer School offers a unique opportunity for literary translators to work directly with writers in residence on the translation of their work.

Translation workshops in Arabic, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, and Spanish. All language combinations are welcome.

Writers in residence: Leila Aboulela, Andrew Cowan, Geoff Dyer, Sherko Fatah, Jose Luis de Juan, Panos Karnezis, Mounsi, Roberto Piumini, Alexis Stamatis, George Szirtes Workshop leaders: Rossella Bernascone, Ilide Carmignani, Martin Chalmers, David Connolly, Maria Consta, Miquel Edo, Graham Fawcett, Anne McLean, Trista Selous, Martin Sorrell.

Keynote speakers: Professor Susan Bassnett & Professor Peter Bush

Registration Details: Fee: £600 including registration fee, full board and tuition. Non-residential rates on request. A limited number of bursaries are available per language.

Application form and further details from: British Centre for Literary Translation School of Literature and Creative Writing University of East Anglia, Norwich, Norfolk, NR4 7TJ
Tel.: +44 (0) 1603 592785. Fax: +44 (0) 1603 592737

Email: [bclt\(a\)uea.ac.uk](mailto:bclt(a)uea.ac.uk) www.literarytranslation.com

The BCLT reserves the right to change the programme subject to availability and confirmation of funding.

One Year On - Moving Closer to The European Dream?**The Centre for Translation Studies, University of Surrey**13th-17th June 2005

The emergence of a new enlarged Europe has brought about the need for re-balancing institutions and rethinking relationships. While in some respects the new face of Europe with its twenty-five member states is beginning to resemble the collection of states making up the United States, there are at the same time marked differences. The 2005 course will look at where we are and where we are going by adding a comparative dimension with the United States of America.

Seminars led by specialist guest speakers in the relevant fields will analyse subjects relevant to these questions as well as linked language issues.

- ◆ The European Union and the United States - the two major trading blocks
- ◆ The new European Constitution - is the dust settling?
- ◆ The Lisbon Strategy - an interim report, can Europe really match the United States by 2010?
- ◆ New developments in Innovation and Intellectual Property Law
- ◆ New Financial Developments
- ◆ Protecting the Environment in the EU
- ◆ Corporate Social Responsibility in Europe and the United States
- ◆ New Developments in E-Commerce
- ◆ Language, its terms and what they stand for - English and American
- ◆ Translation and Interpreting - the future of the languages of member states?

To find out more:

Please visit the short course webpage

<http://www.surrey.ac.uk/lcts/cts/shortcustom/shortcourses.htm#sc2005> or contact:

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E-mail: [G.James\(a\)surrey.ac.uk](mailto:G.James(a)surrey.ac.uk)

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■ Advertisement: Trados 7

New TRADOS 7 Raises Standard in Translation Memory and Terminology Solutions

Customer-driven features extend functionality, productivity, and compatibility

TRADOS Inc., the world leader in global information solutions, announces the coming availability of TRADOS 7, the latest version of its successful TRADOS desktop solutions for freelance translation professionals, corporate localization teams and language service providers. Starting next week, TRADOS 7 can be pre-ordered at attractive "early bird" prices. The much-anticipated release includes many important customer-driven enhancements that enable users to complete projects faster, increase profitability and earn more business, including the following:

- ◆ Complete XML Open Standards Support
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- ◆ Full Support for Hindi and Twenty Other New Languages - Complete Unicode Language Support
- ◆ Enhanced Support for Word documents in Context TM and TagEditor
- ◆ Support for Multiple Termbases in Active Terminology Recognition
- ◆ Improved Ease of Use incl. improvements to user experience for frequent activities

Availability and Special Early Bird Offers:

Starting April 25, 2005, customers ordering TRADOS 6.5 (new licenses or upgrades) will receive deep discounts plus TRADOS 7 for FREE when it releases in June 2005. Please see www.trados.com for more details. Early-bird promotional pricing expires on June 27, 2005:

- ◆ Freelance translators can order at www.translationzone.com.
- ◆ Language Service Providers can order by contacting their local representative at [LSP\(a\)trados.com](mailto:LSP(a)trados.com).
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Offer expires June 27, 2005. Order today at:
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■ Contacting The ITIA

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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*
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- ◆ *Database Entry*
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