



Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association
Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Ateangairí na hÉireann

ITIA Bulletin

2018 / 3

In this issue

Editorial.....	2
1986 - 2016: How it all began – a brief history of NZSTI by Patrick King.....	2
CEATL AGM Copenhagen May 2018.....	4
ASET RAD XV Congress in Zaragoza.....	6
Status and recognition of legal interpreters and translators (LIT) today.....	6
Obituary.....	7
What's Hot, What's Not.....	8
Worth-A-Click.....	8
New ITIA Members.....	8
Joining the ITIA.....	9
Contacting the ITIA.....	10

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Editorial

This summer edition of the Bulletin contains reports from our representatives flying the ITIA flag at three events, the CEATL (European Council of Associations of Literary Translators) AGM in Copenhagen, the EULITA (European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association) conference in Sofia and the ASETRAD (Spanish Association of Translators, Interpreters and Proofreaders) Congress, held every five years, in Zaragoza. These events allow us to keep abreast with current trends and practices in all aspects of translation and interpreting. Technology is wonderful but, in these instances, is no substitute for face-to-face contact with colleagues around the world, enabling the creation of strong networks, particularly useful for CPD events.

Speaking of international colleagues, in this instance fellow islanders and a former British colony, and in line with our series on windows into other translator/ interpreter associations, the NZSTI, New Zealand Society of Translators and Interpreters, have contributed an article on the history of their association.

Sadly, this issue's obituary is on a former ITIA member, Susan Cox, whose untimely passing was felt by many of our members.

We had a very healthy response to our 2018 translation competition for secondary school students and are currently in the process of correcting. All will be revealed in September!

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Anne Larchet, Editor

1986 - 2016: How it all began – a brief history of NZSTI by Patrick King

After graduating from Canterbury University in languages, with little idea of what my future career might be, I was lucky enough to land a job as a junior translator at the Department of International Affairs' Translation Service in the mid-1970s. I was shocked on arriving at Wellington's 'corridors of power', especially at the scale of the operation when I reported for my first day of work. Instead of the vast array of brilliant translators I was expecting, I was rather dismayed to find a tiny office with only five staff.

In the 1970s, this little office was the centre of what is today known as the New Zealand translation and interpreting industry. An Austrian émigré, Peter Klarwill, had been the first chief translator in 1949 and he was later succeeded by a young language graduate, Bill Aldridge, a very gifted translator. This was more of a cottage industry: small, isolated, with output of dubious quality and sparse reference material – but it was pretty well all there was.

If we fast forward to the mid-1980s we see an altogether different picture. The government Translation Service was now charging for much of its work and providing translations for a growing export sector – particularly necessary after Britain had joined the Common Market – the time of Brentry, you could say. The Translation Service by that time had around 11 staff.

This was a pivotal time for the industry: within just a few years NZSTI was established, along with The New Zealand Translation Centre Ltd, the Wellington Community Interpreting Service (later to become Interpreting NZ), and interpreting

services were formed at Middlemore Hospital and at the Manukau Court.

This was a time of huge economic change in New Zealand, with de-regulation and so-called Rogernomics. In rapid succession we witnessed the introduction of the fax machine, the modem, affordable computers, and then the landmark arrival of the Internet.

Overnight translation for overseas markets was started at NZTC, using New Zealand's time zone advantage.

So by 2016 we have a globally networked industry which is quite large, exporting a service to customers throughout the world, with greatly increased productivity and quality, and unlimited access to reference material.

Interpreting activities are now linked to the long-standing and world-leading telephone interpreting infrastructure of Australia via Language Line, which has now processed around 500,000 calls. However, interpreting overall is still fragmented, with little uptake of technology for the actual interpreting transaction.

So where exactly did our birthday child, NZSTI, spring from over 30 years ago?

In the early 1980s Senior Translator Bill Aldridge attended a meeting in Auckland with a handful of Auckland-based translators and interpreters, and they hatched a plan to form a national association. It took a couple of years to prepare a constitution, but one of the hardest tasks was finding the 12 practitioners required to sign the deed of incorporation. That reflects just how few people there were in the translation and interpreting business at the time.

In 1987, at the urging of Patrick Delhaye, owner-operator of a private translation agency in Auckland, we joined the International Federation of Translators (FIT) and regular national conferences began. The Australian NAATI exam system was adapted as the standard for entry.

By the time Dr Sabine Fenton arrived in New

Zealand she would have encountered a fledgling organisation divided in its approach to its entry standards and unsure of its direction: was it to be a Social Club or a Professional Body?

Dr Fenton drove the reincorporation of NZSTI after it had slipped into a short state of dormancy, and she moved to re-establish our membership of FIT.

The following passage from Sabine's own story in Word for Word says a lot about her role as a key person in the rebirth of NZSTI:

"Before coming to New Zealand I lived in Australia for 12 years and had experienced the way that multicultural country had established and developed their community, healthcare, legal and commercial interpreting and translation needs, resources and industry. Equipped with this background knowledge, my own training at the interpreting schools of the University of Mainz in Germany and the University of Geneva, and my professional practice as a translator and interpreter, I set to work."

From those early national meetings of about 25 people, we now have 600 members and growing, a website, a history of high-quality annual conferences, our newsletter Word for Word...

So a dose of German and Swiss scholarship and academic tradition, exposure to the well-developed Australian model, and a realisation of how far New Zealand had to go in developing a profession of interpreting and translating, and becoming a serious participant at the international level, all contributed to fire up Sabine and led to a revitalised NZSTI.

The fruits of the efforts of Sabine and many other contributors to NZSTI are impressive. Just one example of these many dedicated volunteers is Gene Oh, a Korean translator and interpreter, who spent seven years as National Treasurer.

From those early national meetings of about 25 people, we now have 600 members and growing, a website, a history of high-quality annual conferences, our newsletter Word for Word, and Memoranda of Understanding with the Australian sister-association AUSIT, the Maori Language Commission, NZ Sign Language interpreters, and an online National Directory of practising members accessible to user groups.

Our relationship with FIT has been very active, with our own past-President Henry Liu being elected President of FIT at the Congress in Berlin in 2014, a remarkable achievement that gives New Zealand strong representation at the highest level. Henry has been on the council of FIT since 2008. We had even more opportunity for involvement last year, when the FIT conference took place in Brisbane.

Important as it is, NZSTI is really just another stage in the historical path of translation and interpreting in New Zealand. The paths followed and the structures developed are very different when we compare the several centuries of translation and interpreting of Te Reo Māori with the more recent activities involving the languages of science and technology, trade, law and the migrant communities. But that's another story ...

CEATL AGM Copenhagen May 2018

The CEATL annual general meeting was hosted this year by the Danish Authors' Society, founded in 1894 and comprising of approx 1,300 authors, translators and illustrators. The three-day event included meetings, talks and much discussion.

The AGM opened with the Board reporting to the 35 delegates on the work they had carried out during the year. The proposal at the end of the 2017 AGM in Utrecht had been that CEATL would work towards tapping into EU network funding, which would have involved hiring staff, having an office base etc. When they studied in greater detail what this would mean in practice and the

costs involved from CEATL's very limited budget, they came to the conclusion that both the cost and the loss of independence, on balance, would not be favourable for CEATL in the short or long term. Members were in agreement.

The Board reported that they had worked on the Utrecht mandate to enhance cooperation with RECI, and IAF (International Authors' Forum). They also agreed that rather than a 'top down' approach, they felt that their mandate should be more a combination of 'bottom up' and 'top down' in direction, and that CEATL's WGs (Working Groups) really should be leading future directions for CEATL. Once again members were in agreement.

The Board and delegates covered many issues of major and less major importance for all translators as well as the members of the associations represented at this AGM.

Amongst the 'big' issues up for discussion and approval were:

The representative of the Finnish Literary Copyright Society, Sanasto, held the most radical view and declared article 12 to be a legal failure and requested support for their campaign to have it deleted.

A Memorandum of Understanding between FIT, FIT Europe and CEATL was put to a vote. The very sensible document proposed, in essence, sharing common objectives in promoting quality and professionalism in literary translation and copyright, co-operation in order to avoid duplication of efforts and enabling a pooling of resources to better serve the profession.

As a rising tide floats all boats, the CEATL Membership voted unanimously for future joining of forces in a common cause.

Article 12 in the proposed DSM (Digital Single Market) Copyright Directive COM/2016/0593 was discussed in detail by the Board, who had

been working on the issue during the year and had met with contacts at EU bodies and publishers. Member Associations shared their views. The representative of the Finnish Literary Copyright Society, Sanasto, held the most radical view and declared article 12 to be a legal failure and requested support for their campaign to have it deleted. It was generally felt that the chances of the EU body deleting the article were extremely slim. The Finns recognised this but were going ahead with the campaign anyway as a show of protest. The CEATL Board had been in discussions with EU representatives on the matter of Article 12 and believed that there was little or no chance of even any amendments.

The CEATL AGMs always include presentations from the different sub-committees, known as WGs, working groups. They are: Visibility, News, Working conditions, Authors' Rights, Education and Mobility and Best Practices.

This year's discussion resulted in some changes - News and Visibility WGs have merged and a new 'Freedom of Expression' group was formed, in light of the global increase in repression of freedom of expression.

The Authors' Rights/Copyright WG (Working Group) presented their 'Guidelines for fair translation contracts', a four-page detailed document, which, it is hoped, could/should be adopted by translators, publishers and original authors, the belief being that good practices benefit all the players in the literary translation sector. The members supported this final version.

The Education and Mobility WG presented a very ambitious cooperation project proposal entitled 'Small is Great'. As smaller languages have more difficulties crossing borders, the main goal would be to encourage, in many different ways, more translations from 'small' languages into both 'big' and other 'small' languages, thereby promoting more cultural exchange as well as helping translators to improve their skills.

Subsequent to the WG presentations, the delegates formed into smaller groups to review how CEATL works and each group then reported back to the General meeting. This process allows delegates to contribute and decide on the way CEATL functions.

On the third day, our Danish hosts put on an ambitious public event programme entitled 'The Danish translation landscape'. This was beautifully dovetailed with CEATL's WG structure in that there were 12 representatives/speakers from institutions and enterprises, with 3 speakers on the 4 topics of Working Conditions, Education, Visibility and Mobility.

Each representative presented a talk on their field followed by questions from the floor. All the entities they represent work to advance working conditions, mobility and visibility for literary translators in Denmark and internationally.

Amongst the 12 speakers were academics, literary translators, the president of the Audiovisual Translators Europe (AVTE), Kevin Quirk, president of FIT, as well as the political advisor of the Union of Communication and Language Professionals in Denmark.

As always, there was an Irish 'wild goose' in attendance, in this instance, Sinead Quirke Kongerskov, from Navan, the owner of a translation company, who gave us a fascinating talk on her non-literary translation work from Danish to English.

The academics spoke about the alarming rate of closure of language departments in Denmark and Europe.

We were entertained by Honorary CEATL member, Françoise Wuilmart, who gave us a 25th anniversary talk on the history of CEATL from its inception to the present day.

Final day wrapped up the 2018 AGM, with new mandates and new tasks for the Working Groups.

Request for venues for future AGMs was put to membership with a possible Scandinavian joint

venture in the pipeline. Watch this space! 2019 AGM in Norwich!

Anne Larchet

ASETRAD XV Congress in Zaragoza

Penelope Eades Alvarez, ITIA PM, fills us in.

Every five years, Asetrad, Spain's largest association of translators, Interpreters and proofreaders hosts a congress providing members and non-members with an opportunity to learn, network and take stock of developments within the profession. As a member of Asetrad, I decided that this year's fifteenth anniversary congress in Zaragoza provided the perfect opportunity to check out the pulse of the association and receive first-hand information on the latest activities in the Spanish arena.

With some 1300 members, Asetrad is an association that prides itself on being outward-looking, active and dynamic, so it was no surprise that the Congress was opened by guests of honour Kevin Quirk, President of FIT, the International Federation of Translators, and our own ITIA Executive Committee member, Dr. Annette Schiller, who is currently Chair of FIT Europe.

Over the course of the two-day congress, the 227 attendees enjoyed lively debates, workshops and presentations on a wide range of topics and issues. We listened to thought-provoking talks on best practices and learnt about the problems facing court interpreters in Spain, as well as industrial and intellectual property issues. As one might expect, machine translation and the latest advances in software and technology were dealt with from various angles. However, surprisingly –or perhaps not so surprisingly– the presentation that received the most resounding applause focused on the tools of the trade of writers and translators – grammar and syntax– and the need to get the basics right. Julia Gomez, an experienced translator of English, French and

German, insisted on the importance of grammar for translators and the dangers of losing sight of the fundamental rules of good writing, a call to arms that obviously struck a chord with her audience.

Solidarity was the underlying slogan of the Congress, which awarded honorary membership to Red T, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of translators and interpreters in conflict zones. The difficulties faced by interpreters not only in wartime, but also in post-war situations, were highlighted by Red T founder and CEO Maya Hess in an inspiring talk, which received an emphatic standing ovation. In a closing round-table discussion, Maya and fellow panellists Edina Spahic, an interpreter during the Bosnian war and Dustin Langan, who worked as a linguist for the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad during the Iraq war, underlined the need for raising awareness of the dangers faced by translators and interpreters in high-risk settings and the importance of solidarity in advancing a better understanding of the profession at all levels.

Status and recognition of legal interpreters and translators (LIT) today

EULITA 2018 General Assembly and pre-General Assembly event

16 – 17 March 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria

EULITA (European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association) was founded in 2009 with the aim of advancing “the quality of legal translation and legal interpreting in both spoken and sign language in all Member States of the European Union”. The association has 33 full members and 59 associate members, 35 of which are organisations and 24 individual members. Members hail from within and outside the EU. The ITIA has been a full member of EULITA since 2012. English and French are the two working languages of EULITA.

The EULITA General Assembly was preceded on Friday, 16 March and Saturday, 17 March, by events related to the topic of “The status and recognition of legal interpreters and translators”.

The first day began with a visit to the Palace of Justice in Sofia with consecutive interpreting provided by members of the Bulgarian Association of Interpreters and Translators (AIT).

Mr. Evgeni Stoyanov, Deputy Minister of Justice welcomed the attendees.

The Rt. Hon. Justice Daniela Borissova, Deputy President of Sofia City Court, then spoke about [...] issues experienced with interpreting in the court, the stringent penalties for inaccurate interpreting and expressed the hope for improvement.

The Rt. Hon. Justice Daniela Borissova, Deputy President of Sofia City Court and Head of the SCC Criminal College, then spoke about the legal framework, issues experienced with interpreting in the court, the stringent penalties for inaccurate interpreting and expressed the hope for improvement.

Interestingly, an interpreter at the Sofia City Court is not actually required to have a qualification in interpreting, which, as we know, is also the case in the lower/district court in a number of Member States, Ireland included.

The papers on day 2 of the conference covered a wide range of subjects, including:

- An account of his experience by a former interpreter at the Red Cross;
- The market for legal translation in Austria;
- Why a forensic linguistic tap expert should take the place of the former wiretap interpreter;
- The Greek refugee crisis: a linguistic stress test;
- Language assistance for communicating with counsel at the European Court of Human Rights, to mention but a few.

The papers are all accessible on the Eulita website at:

<https://eulita.eu/wp/lit-materials/status-and-recognition-of-legal-interpreters-and-translators-today/>

The 2019 EULITA General Assembly will take place in Luxembourg and will be hosted by ALTI, the Luxembourg Association of Translators and Interpreters. [<https://eulita.eu/>]

Annette Schiller

Obituary

Susan Cox 1962 - 2018

Susan's first steps towards a career in translation began in UCD where she studied German and English. After graduating in 1984, she spent some years working in Germany and France. Her work included research, secretarial work and a language school. She worked full-time as a translator from 1989, adding Italian to her repertoire when she met her Italian husband. The two translators set up shop with their two children in Leitrim.

Susan had endless intellectual curiosity and she mastered many complicated and challenging subjects. She translated scientific, academic and literary documents in subjects ranging from forestry, climate change and sustainable development, to social and political science, architecture, urban planning, photography, fine art and short stories. Her specialist areas grew out of her experiences while working abroad. When she worked in Berlin as a translator she shared an office with a group of architects and made contacts in the areas of architecture, town planning and environment. Her work was often highly technical and she worked hard to ensure that her English translations were every bit as accurate and well written as the original. Just last year she translated notes to accompany a major exhibition in Germany on the Reformation. She

was a regular attendee at ITIA events.

She believed that the best education for a young translator is based on working and living experience as much as on explicit professional training. When asked if she would advise a young person to go into the profession she replied: "Yes, if you really enjoy translating and can live with the fact you will never be a top earner."

She is survived by her husband Diego Ceroni and their children Anna and Sean.

What's Hot, What's Not

What's HOT...

The two most important people at the Kim Yong Un / Trump summit in Singapore – the interpreters of course! Not an assignment for the faint hearted!

...What's NOT

The Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales has predicted that high-quality simultaneous translation technology will be available in a few years and 'see the end' of court interpreters.

Hmmm?

Worth-A-Click

What makes a translation great? Ten literary translators from across the world weigh in

<https://tinyurl.com/y7zy9qdp>

Court finds 'manifest errors' in awarding of interpreters contract

<https://tinyurl.com/ycyo4kd9>

Macron says Australian PM's wife is 'delicious'

<https://tinyurl.com/y9eqezr7>

Replacing interpreters with technology will lead to miscarriages of justice

<https://tinyurl.com/y9p2pyj2>

New ITIA Members May - June 2018

New ITIA Professional Members

Silvia Pajoro

English to Italian

Julie Napier

French to English

Susanne O'Connell

English to German

Eugénie Delale

English to French

New ITIA Associate Members

Claudia Bauch

English to German
German to English

Jacqui Parkes

Russian to English
German to English

Anna Szalkowska

English to Polish
Polish to English

Ivonete Araujo Lopes

English to Portuguese (Brazilian)

New ITIA Affiliate Members

Kamal Tribak

Joining the ITIA

The Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association is pleased to welcome new members to the association. We currently have the following categories of membership:

- Professional
- Associate
- Affiliate
- Institutional
- Student
- Honorary

Professional Membership is awarded to translators or interpreters who meet the strict criteria of the ITIA based on qualification and level of experience.

Applicants must also achieve a PASS in the annual Professional Membership Examination (translator or interpreter) set by the ITIA.

Associate Membership may be granted to holders of a third-level qualification in translation and/or interpreting and/or languages or to holders of a third-level qualification with relevant experience.

Affiliate Membership is generally availed of by people with a professional interest in translation and interpreting, by those with a general interest in these professions or by professionals from other sectors who wish to work in the area of translation or interpreting and do not currently have a specific qualification or experience in the area.

Institutional Membership is available to bodies that do not function as commercial agencies, for example university centres for translation and interpreting studies or cultural institutes. Application documents for Institutional membership are currently being prepared.

Student Membership is available to persons undertaking undergraduate studies in any discipline or those undertaking postgraduate studies in translation or interpreting.

Honorary Membership is awarded by the ITIA AGM to persons in Ireland or abroad who have distinguished themselves in the field of translation or interpreting.

Contacting the ITIA

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