



ITIA BULLETIN

November 2003

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Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association
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■ Editorial

Welcome to the November issue of the *ITIA Bulletin*. This month's issue features items on a range of issues including an exciting new project aimed at producing a new, state-of-the-art corpus-based Irish-English dictionary and the issue of standards in translation. This is an extremely interesting project and those responsible are eager to involve the public. After reading the article on page 7 why not visit the project's website at Foclíor.ie.

As ever, I would like to use this section of the ITIA Bulletin to urge you to contribute your news, views etc. to the Bulletin. It is almost a year since we set up the ITIA Bulletin. In this time we have seen membership rise to some 810 people from all over the world. This figure has by far exceeded our expectations and we are delighted that so many of you continue to enjoy the Bulletin each month. To make sure that this continues, we need you to play your part. The ITIA Bulletin should be a forum for everyone interested in translation and interpreting. Please support the Bulletin and send in your comments, articles, news and so on so that we can continue to provide an interesting publication each month.

Jody Byrne, MITIA
Editor
jody.byrne@dcu.ie

■ ITIA Chairman's Book Prize

Congratulations to the winner of the *ITIA's Chairman's September 2003 Book Prize* who is María Concejo of Leamington Spa, England who is the winner of the ITIA Chairman's October Book Prize 'Scorched Earth' by David L. Robbins which is on its way to the lucky winner as we speak.

By way of a "continuing thank you" and in order to promote the ITIA Bulletin a little more, we are continuing the Chairman's Book Prize for our subscribers in November 2003.

To enter, all you need to do is:

- 1 Invite a colleague to join the ITIA Bulletin mailing list by their sending an email to itia-ezine-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- 2 Send a blank Email to bookprize@infomarex.ie to confirm your participation in the November 2003 draw.
- 3 On the 20th November 2003, we will pick a low prime number at random and - in the date and time order of the replies to bookprize@infomarex.ie. A member of the itia-ezine@yahoogroups.com

mailing list will then be the proud and lucky owner of a translation related book.

- 4 The winner will receive the book in the post /mail and his/her name will be announced in the December issue of the ITIA Bulletin.

So, don't delay, invite a colleague to join our ITIA Bulletin list and send a blank Email to bookprize@infomarex.ie

■ Public Consultation on Mental Health Services

The Expert Group on Mental Health Policy has been established to:

- (a) Prepare a comprehensive mental health policy framework for the next ten years.
- (b) Recommend how the services might best be organised and delivered and
- (c) Indicate the potential cost of its recommendations

Submissions in writing are now invited from any interested individuals, groups of organisations to:

Marie Cuddy
Secretary to the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy
Department of Health and Children
Hawkins House
Hawkins Street
Dublin 2
Email: marie_cuddy@health.irlgov.ie

Submissions must be received not later than Friday 12th December 2003.

(Please note that submissions may be released under the Freedom of Information Act 1997)

The above advertisement appeared in national newspapers on Friday 7th November 2003. The Executive Committee intends to make a submission on Interpreting in Mental Health settings. If you have any ideas or comments on this issue please send an email to Mary Phelan at

mary.phelan@dcu.ie

■ Review: *Aequitas* - Access to Justice

Aequitas – Access to Justice across Language and Culture in the EU. Ed. Erik Hertog. 2001. Antwerp: Department Vertaler-Tolk, Lessius Hogeschool.

The recent debate in Ireland over standards of legal translation and interpreting (T&I) foregrounded the importance of linguistic issues in securing the effective provision of judicial procedure. Interested parties here would do well to familiarise themselves with the present volume, which provides an account of Grotius Project 98/GR/131, the aim of which, as Erik Hertog and Yolanda Vanden Bosch note, was “to encourage the establishment of internationally consistent best practice standards and equivalencies in legal interpreting and translation” (14).

The project may best be judged by its intended outcomes, which include

- Legal interpreters and translators having equivalent adequate standards of training, assessment, and practice throughout the EU
- Provision of guidelines offering recognised standard benchmarks of professional competence by which legal interpreters and translators may be selected and assessed
- Provision of curriculum outlines for legal T&I, along with recommendations on piloting and evaluating training courses and providing samples of teaching materials
- Provision of a code of conduct and practice, outlines for working arrangements, models of national registers, and guidelines for interdisciplinary co-operation between translators and interpreters and those working in the legal services.

The project aimed to bring together existing systems as a nucleus with a view to establishing internationally best practice.

The strength of *Aequitas* lies in its willingness to devote attention to the broad gamut of topics pertaining to its subject – not merely what the standards should be, but also selection of students for training, the training itself, and other topics less frequently discussed but no less relevant, such as continuing professional development (CPD), training the trainers, ethics and guidelines to good practice, and professional working arrangements. Much of what the book suggests has a further importance in acknowledging standardisation of legal translation and interpreting as important in the regulation of the area.

The significance of the National Language Standards for Translating (reviewed in the September 2003 edition of the *ITIA Bulletin*), along with its companion volume on interpreting, can be seen in its influence on Edda Ostarhild’s discussion of linguistic standards for trainee legal interpreters and translators. Of course these Standards were intended for use in a business context and, while Ostarhild’s assertion that “a more general use is possible simply by transferring the context in which assessment of performance takes place” may be true to a limited extent (though many would still argue with it), this is at least partly due to the dearth of any other assessment guidelines for specialist T&I training standards. And just as one may commend the pioneering nature of the Standards, one gets the feeling that the present report is long overdue, particularly reading Hertog and Vanden Bosch’s history of attention to matters of court T&I provision in Europe dating back to the European Convention on Human Rights (1950) and subsequently consolidated and specified by a number of landmark legal cases, the Council of Europe Recommendations, and particularly the resolutions of the 1999 Tampere European Council meeting and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. Moreover, Ostarhild makes the same presumption as the Linguistic Standards, in assuming that skills in both languages have already been mastered and consequently perceives language training as limited to the teaching of formal terminology, informal vocabulary, and legal registers. The criticisms I made in my review of the Standards on this point apply here also.

Also worrying is the frequent neglect in *Aequitas* to specify linguistic standards, with attention being largely focused instead on professional skills. All too often one encounters passages such as “The interpreter – and the translator – has to ... be able to comprehend fully what they are being asked to transfer – whether in spoken or written form. Then they must be able to express the meaning or the message appropriately in the other language coherently, accurately and as smoothly as possible” (110). Certainly, considering that the supposed audience for the book will generally not be familiar with the vagaries of T&I, one can acknowledge some need to start at a fairly primary level, but this really does seem to be stating the obvious (and, more significantly, it sounds like it’s stating the obvious!). Sometimes this tendency even produces humorous results: “It is not acceptable for family and friends (and especially not fellow prison inmates) to interpret and translate” (103). This is not to deny that there are situations where such parties are asked to translate or interpret, but the sentiments might be better conveyed

by setting a general example of who should translate and integrating this within a larger institutional framework.

Indeed Aequitas often gives the impression of being an exercise in damage limitation. There is the acute realisation that at least minimum standards are required in the field and perhaps force of economic circumstance, together with the relative youth of T&I professional training, conspire to make such modest aspirations appropriate. In the long term, though, it would not be unreasonable to expect more precise and rigorous demands than some of those detailed. Frequently, great aspirations are suggested, only to be whittled down by the more immediate need to satisfy lowest common denominators, such as in Ostarhild's oxymoronic recommendation that legal interpreters must possess a "full command of grammar and syntax beyond basic levels" (49).

Elsewhere, Ostarhild's chapter on CPD commendably emphasises both personal CPD plans along with structured workplace CPD. It might well have included "lifelong learning" in the title, both to draw attention to the distinction between the two, and to reflect the relevance of much of her chapter to both. Ann Corsellis's chapter "Training the Trainers" is a valuable contribution to a much neglected area and provides a wealth of good advice. Sadly, it does not attempt to grapple with a major issue impeding the development of a cadre of professional T&I trainers – that of monetary (dis)incentives. This is particularly a problem in many of the countries soon to join the EU, where university T&I training salaries are paltry in comparison to what can be earned in the more lucrative T&I marketplace.

translators and interpreters be established, with membership being a prerequisite for working in the judicial system. This would thus create a body of translators and interpreters which police and legal services would be obliged to use. Further essential reading for the authorities here is Rasmussen and Martinsen's "Interdisciplinary Conventions with the Legal Services" providing step-by-step guides on how interpreters and translators should be selected and employed by the legal services – on their particular requirements and on problems likely to arise.

Ostarhild regards the implementation of the European Human Rights Convention as being the impetus for the future development of new university programmes in legal T&I (134). This may, to some extent, be true (though considering that the European Convention on Human Rights was implemented in 1953, we probably shouldn't hold our breath). What is certain, however is that if, as seems likely, Brussels is to instigate change in translator training in Europe, the terms of that change must be determined from within the T&I studies and T&I training communities. As such, Aequitas provides some of the groundwork, though much more remains to be done in terms of curriculum and syllabus development, development of course content, etc.

One final point - in a book closely concerned with establishing high standards of language use, it is regrettable that there are so many language and typographical errors. The impression of sloppiness is further exacerbated to by the absence of an index, of biographical notes for some of the contributors, and of pagination for the Table of Contents.

John Kearns
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Particularly relevant to the situation in Ireland is its suggestion that a national register of public service translators and interpreters be established...

Leandro Felix Fernández joins Ostarhild in writing about ethics, conduct, and guidelines for good practice - a discussion providing a model presentation of its subject and one which all student translators and interpreters would do well to familiarise themselves with. It is usefully complemented by a chapter on "Professional Working Arrangements" by Doris Grollmann, Bodil Martinsen, and Kirsten Rasmussen. Particularly relevant to the situation in Ireland is its suggestion that a national register of public service

■ New Members of the ITIA

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* is delighted to welcome the following new members to the Association:

Honorary Members

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ROMANIAN ENGLISH from English Romanian - court, community, religious, general

Interpreting: bilateral

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ENGLISH from French, Spanish – legal, commercial, agriculture, insurance

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RUSSIAN ENGLISH from English Russian, ENGLISH from

Ukrainian - general, commercial, legal, medical

Interpreting: bilateral

DR. LORNA SHAUGHNESSY, PHD

2 Bóthair na tSléibhe, Moycullen, Co. Galway

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ENGLISH from Spanish - contemporary Mexican poetry

Corporate Member

SANDFORD LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

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Web: www.sandfordlanguages.ie

All European, Asian and Scandinavian Languages

Joining the ITIA

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

Next Issue of the ITIA Bulletin

The next issue of the *ITIA Bulletin* will be out on **15th November, 2003**. So if you have any contributions, news, suggestions or something you'd like to share, send them to [jody.byrne\(a\)dcu.ie](mailto:jody.byrne(a)dcu.ie). The deadline for submissions is **10th November**.

Subscribing to the ITIA Bulletin

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

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

There are five categories of membership:

- ◆ Ordinary
- ◆ Professional
- ◆ Corporate
- ◆ Student
- ◆ 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 *student membership* is for undergraduates engaged in third level language and/or translation studies. 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

■ Calls for Submissions

POLISSEMA - A Journal of Letters

Volume 4, 2004 - Interpreter and Translator Training

Polissema - A Journal of Letters is published yearly by the Institute of Accounting and Administration, Porto (*Instituto Superior de Contabilidade e Administração do Porto*), Portugal, and is now going on Volume 4. It is dedicated to promoting effective communication and exchange between scholars, teachers and institutions of higher learning working specifically within the scope of Translation Studies. This year's overall theme is "Interpreter and Translator Training" ("*Formar Tradutores e Intérpretes*"), and we welcome unpublished articles focusing on this theme and on these research areas:

- ◆ Applied Linguistics
- ◆ Audiovisual and Screen Translation
- ◆ Automatic and Automated Translation
- ◆ Comparative Linguistics
- ◆ Intercultural Studies
- ◆ Interpreting Studies
- ◆ Literary Translation
- ◆ Multimedia Translation

- ◆ Pragmatics
- ◆ Semiotics
- ◆ Technical Translation
- ◆ Terminology
- ◆ Translation Theory
- ◆ Website and Software Localisation

The articles will be reviewed anonymously by internal and external referees. All contributors should follow the journal's editorial guidelines.

Critical reviews of translations, dictionaries and books on translations published in 2003/2004 are also welcome.

Submission Deadline

All articles and reviews must be received by January 30, 2004.

Please send contributions via email to [polissema\(a\)iscap.ipp.pt](mailto:polissema(a)iscap.ipp.pt), or in both hard and electronic copy to:

Polissema-Revista de Letras do ISCAP

Gab. 410

Instituto Superior de Contabilidade e Administração do Porto

Rua Jaime Lopes Amorim

4465-004 S. Mamede de Infesta

Portugal

eXchanges

eXchanges is the University of Iowa's literary e-journal devoted to translations both into and out of the English language. We aim to foster cultural interchange and expand awareness of translation as a valid art form. Publishing the source text alongside its translation, we also highlight the symbiotic nature of the process.

The first eXchanges will appear at

www.uiowa.edu/~xchanges on 10/20 this year. We are currently accepting submissions for our second issue on the theme of SEX & DEATH. Submissions of short stories, drama, novel extracts, and poetry are welcome, as is literary non-fiction.

Submission Guidelines

Your submission should include both the original text and your translation, biographies of the author and translator, and digital pictures if possible. Translators must provide written evidence of the necessary copyright permission. Submissions should be limited to three per translator and total no more than 10 pages in length.

Electronic submissions are preferred. Please send both original and translation as a .doc attachment to eXchanges_journal(a)yahoo.com.

Direct all paper submissions to:
eXchanges journal, 425 EPB, Iowa City, IA 52242

Submission deadline is 30 November 2003.

For more information, visit:

www.uiowa.edu/~xchanges

■ News from the ITIA AGM 2003

At the 2003 Annual General Meeting of the *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association*, the following Executive Committee was elected:

- ◆ Michael McCann, Chairman
- ◆ Annette Schiller, Secretary
- ◆ Miriam Watchorn, Treasurer

Returned outgoing ExCom members

- ◆ Bassia Bannister
- ◆ Michael Friel
- ◆ Miriam Lee,
- ◆ Máire Nic Mhaoláin
- ◆ Christelle Petite
- ◆ Mary Phelan
- ◆ Giuliana Zeuli

New incoming ExCom members

- ◆ Malachy Brazil
- ◆ Vera Smyth

ExCom members - ex officio

- ◆ Jody Byrne - Editor ITIA Bulletin
- ◆ Marco Sonzogni - Editor Translation Ireland

Co-opted ExCom members - specific functions:

- ◆ Cormac Ó Cuilleanáin
- ◆ Bernadette Moynihan
- ◆ Angela Ryan

Grateful thanks to outgoing members

- ◆ Maureen Forde
- ◆ Robert Kortenhorst
- ◆ Conny Opitz

Honorary Members

The following new honorary ITIA Members were also named:

- ◆ Ciaran Carson, Belfast
- ◆ Hans-Christian Oeser, Dublin

Certification Sub-Committee

A new standing sub-committee on Certification was created to approve ITIA Certified Translators

■ Foclóir: A New Corpus-based Irish Dictionary

Some 40 years since Tomás de Bhaldraithe published the now familiar *English Irish Dictionary, Foras na Gaeilge*, the new body responsible for the promotion of the Irish language throughout the whole island of Ireland has announced that work is now under way on an exciting new project to produce a new, comprehensive and modern bilingual Irish-English dictionary. When completed, the dictionary will have in the region of 50,000 headwords and will be available in both print and electronic versions.

Unlike other dictionaries, this project will be based on a new Irish language corpus specifically created for this purpose. In general terms, a corpus can be described as a body of texts in digital form. However, a more specific definition of corpus is a large, representative sample of the written language which illustrates the full repertoire of text-types in a language. Over the course of producing this dictionary, the project will create a new corpus of Irish containing 30 million words as well as a new corpus of Irish-English consisting of some 25 million words taken from newspapers, novels and other sources.

The project team maintain that the three main dialects of Irish will be equally represented in the finished dictionary. This means that where there are different translations for the same term, each one will be given and the particular dialect will be indicated. On the other side of the dictionary so to speak, the English used will be predominantly of the Hiberno-English variety although some standard British and American English forms will be used.

As part of the development of the corpus, the team are asking the public to help by “donating” texts for inclusion in the corpus or by providing citations in Irish or Irish-English. All in all, this promises to be both an exciting and deeply beneficial project for the Irish language. Visit the *Foclóir* site to find out more.

Jody Byrne, MITIA
[jody.byrne\(a\)dcu.ie](mailto:jody.byrne(a)dcu.ie)

For more information, visit:
<http://www.focloir.ie>

■ Conferences

4th International Conference on Interpreting in the Community

CALL FOR PAPERS

May 20th-23rd 2004, Stockholm, Sweden

The overall theme of the conference is: Professionalisation of interpreting in the community

We invite abstracts of up to 200 words for

- ◆ paper presentations (time allotted 20 min.)
- ◆ panels of 3-5 participants, including the co-ordinator (time allotted 60-100 min.; abstracts should also include presentations of each individual contribution)
- ◆ posters (space allotted 180x90 cm)

Submit abstracts preferably by email in an attachment to CL2004@tolk.su.se or send it by mail to our address (see below).

Remember to give the name/s/ of the author/s/, affiliation and address.

Official languages: English, Swedish, American Sign Language

Theme(s):

- ◆ Empirical research on community and sign language interpreting
- ◆ Professional standards
- ◆ Interpreter training
- ◆ Labour market and working conditions
- ◆ The role of professional organisations

Invited Speakers:

Susan Berk-Seligson, University of Pittsburgh, U.S.A.

Gunnel Colnerud, Linköping University, Sweden

Frank Harrington & Graham H. Turner, University of Central Lancashire, UK

Kenneth Hyldenstam, Stockholm University, Sweden

Franz Pöchhacker, University of Vienna, Austria

For more information, contact:

Elizabeth.Hole(a)tolk.su.se

Or visit:

<http://www.tolk.su.se/critical.html>

■ Training, Courses & Education

Translation Research Summer School

The University of Edinburgh, UK

21st June-2nd July 2004

The *Translation Research Summer School*, a joint initiative of three British universities, organizes an annual two-week course offering intensive research training in translation and intercultural studies for prospective researchers in the field. In bringing together relevant research experience with expertise in teaching translation and intercultural studies at advanced levels, it provides a foundation for conducting research in the field and equips prospective researchers with the intellectual and practical tools to launch their own independent projects.

The units collaborating in the Summer School are the *Centre for Translation and Intercultural Studies* at the *University of Manchester*, the *Comparative Literature Graduate Programme* at *University College London* (UCL), and the *Centre for the Advanced Study of the Islamic World* at the *University of Edinburgh*.

The *Translation Research Summer School* aims to familiarize students with research models, methodologies and techniques, provide research skills specific to translation and intercultural studies, offer critical assessments of available resources and relevant approaches, address current theoretical and research issues in translation and intercultural studies, and lend individual support in designing and planning research projects

Theme(s): Regular modules: General Research Methods, Theories of Translation & Intercultural Studies, Research Methods in Translation & Intercultural Studies, and a Special Module whose theme varies every year.

For more information, contact:

s.susam-sarajeva(a)ed.ac.uk

Or visit

<http://www2.umist.ac.uk/trss/home.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 COMMITTEE - 2002/2003

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CO-OPTED	Bernadette Moynihan

■ 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.

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| ◆ <i>The Translation Profession</i> | ◆ <i>Translation Services in Ireland</i> |
| ◆ <i>Joining the ITIA</i> | ◆ <i>Admission Criteria</i> |
| ◆ <i>Ordinary Membership Application</i> | ◆ <i>Recommendations on Rates</i> |
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