Dear colleagues,
I am back again with a new edition of The IAPTImes! In this issue we meet one of our members from FYROM, Jasmina Martinovska. Diana Coada from London gives some advice to Mr. Dolphy who is thinking about complementing his translation career with interpreting jobs. You will also find an insightful article about post-editing. And don’t forget to stop by “Our Stars” section and learn about Alexandre Alcântara’s experience with the translation of his first book.
Also, I would like to give a warm welcome to IAPTI new authorities, Luis Arri, Nicole Adams, Sandra Cravero, and Dimitra Karamperi.
These days, one of the news items that has reverberated more in the industry has been the ALS & UK MOJ affair. I am taking this opportunity to express our support and to keep on joining forces with our colleagues from the UK. Historically, when it comes to fighting for better working conditions and workers’ rights, only those who were united have been victorious. Their courage is a lesson for us to learn from.

Luciana E. Lovatto

Newsletter Editor
I think the first thing you have to do is to answer this question: are you a generalist, do you specialize in any particular field or would you consider specializing in a new one? Generalist interpreters accept a variety of assignments. But you will rarely hear of a court interpreter accepting an assignment for a factory visit. You also have to keep in mind that every interpreting assignment involves some degree of research, even if it’s just to brush up on the vocabulary of a field you are already quite familiar with. Because if we interpret on the subjects we enjoy researching on, well, then half the work is already done, isn’t it?

Another aspect you have to consider is your level of confidence. I say that because this will dictate the kind of assignments that you will accept. Would you be confident interpreting in a business room for executives? Would you be comfortable interpreting on a patient’s urinary problems? Would you have the emotional strength to interpret in a court room describing how a person was beaten? You have to consider the level of responsibility and stress that you are ready to take on because some medical and legal cases can really drain you emotionally. So, can you maintain a professional distance? From my own experience, I have to say that after this kind of assignments I return home with a terrible headache and muscle pain. Your body never relaxes, you have to be able to think on the spot and recall the right term at the right time. Do you think you can handle it? And most importantly, would you enjoy it?

After you’ve considered all these aspects you will know whether you want to do community, legal, business or consecutive interpreting. And the best way to start your interpreter training and get some experience would be locally, in your city. Contact your local hospitals, police stations, legal practices and even schools and ask how they recruit their interpreters and take it from there. Try and find out if there is a basic interpreter qualification offered in your area. In England for example there’s the Community Interpreting qualification offered by the local adult learning associations. Attend some classes and see if you enjoy interpreting in the first place. And if you do, then you will find it to be a truly rewarding profession.

Respondent: Diana Coada
Translator and Interpreter in Romanian, Portuguese and English
http://www.aipti.org/eng/coada/
When planning the August conference, our Board remembered a discussion a group of colleagues had held some time ago: translators and interpreters tend to devote a lot of time to the mother tongue, but not so much to the second language (third, fourth, etc. in the case of the lucky translators who master more than one language). Based on this reality, our Board decided to organize an event with two lectures and one workshop about English and in English.

Professor María Teresa Viñas Urquiza (Argentina) will lecture on ambiguity in translation and the possibility (or impossibility) of resolving it. A valuable opportunity to revise grammar concepts around clauses, patterns, modals, and categories. There is nobody better than Professor María Teresa Viñas Urquiza to be in charge of this lecture!

Joanna Richardson (UK), an expert in the field, will also cover ambiguity, this time in the area of Plain English.

During the afternoon, Attila Piróth (France) will present a workshop on Quality Assessment. This workshop has already been held in London, and the audience praised it, giving the highest marks as a very useful and original activity for translators and reviewers.

*Have you already registered for the conference? There are limited spaces. See you in August!*
We represent and protect the interests of our members. How? We Cooperate, We Learn, We Share, We Educate. We Care about Translation and Interpreting. We Defend Our Careers. There are no wholesaler agencies in our Association, just translators and interpreters, like you, to make sure there are no conflicting interests.

What We Offer

Our members can enjoy a wide range of benefits and resources:
- International visibility through an online profile.
- Full listing in our Online Members Directory.
- Personal e-mail addresses (name@aipti.org) and use of IAPTI Logo on personal stationery/email.
- Free Articles, White Papers, and Reports about T&I. Visit our Website to learn more!
- A valuable database containing a broad range of up-to-date Resources and Links.
- Exclusive forum to discuss every aspect of our profession with absolute freedom.
- Free annual subscription to MultiLingual magazine (digital issue).
- 15% discount on orders from St. Jerome Publishing House.
- 20% off on AIT Software (Translation Office 3000, Anycount, Projetex).
- 25% discount on the public list price of Wordfast (in addition to existing discounts).
- Member-priced subscription to Payment Practices list — A must for translators & interpreters!
- A wealth of networking contacts to share information and expertise with colleagues.
- Advice on Good Professional Practices.
- Workshops, Webinars and Seminars (free or at reduced-rate for IAPTI Members).
- Free Subscription to The IAPTImes, our quarterly newsletter, and to our upcoming magazine.

How to Register

Visit http://www.aipti.org/eng/register/ to join us now and start enjoying the benefits of belonging to IAPTI.

Contact Us
E-mail: info.request@aipti.org
Website: www.aipti.org
Meeting other IAPTI Members!
Jasmina Martinovska, who joined IAPTI this year, tells her story about her passions and her experience as a professional translator

How did you become a translator?
I have always had a distinct gift for languages, and my multilingual and multicultural background and upbringing only added to that. My parents are Serbian, I have lived in Germany and in Macedonia, and I picked up some pretty good English during my education. As far back as I can remember, I have always been translating something. My first experience was in the 7th grade, when a German Red Cross delegation came to my school — I was terrified, but I did just fine. Although I was schooled to work in agriculture, somehow life turned me towards translating, and I am loving it.

Which is your specialization?
Being an Agricultural Engineer, on the one hand, and having worked at a major trailer company, on the other, gave me a solid base in technical knowledge, especially in heavy machinery and mechanics, which is the core of my expertise. Later on, working for a major pharmaceutical company gave me the knowledge on which I based my expertise in medical translations. So, here I am today, a declared technical and medical translator.

What was the most rewarding experience you have had in your career?
Since the nature of my work is being in the background, I can’t point out any spectacular experience, but I like to believe that being selected for the Macedonian Proz.com Localization Team was the ultimate acknowledgement from my peers. I did also translate and adapt the lyrics of a song for the Junior Eurovision Contest into English. It felt good hearing my words in front of such a huge audience. But, I am definitely flying on clouds when a PM tells me that I am their No 1.

How long have you been a translator?
Officially since 2002

What do you do when you are not translating?
Apart from being a designated chauffeur for my kids, I do aerobics and Zumba on weekdays, and on weekends I go hiking on the nearby Vodno Mountain. My greatest love is traveling, and I use every opportunity to organize a nice getaway.

Which is the best book you have read?
The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Which countries would you like to visit?
All of them! But I would especially like to take the Trans Siberian route through Russia, all the way to China.

Which are your hobbies and interests?
Traveling, hiking, rafting, books, movies, photography, cuisine…

Which are your future goals?
I am perfectly happy with my career, and my basic goals are already achieved, but I am kind of obsessed with the technology of written translation, and I do my best to implement all up-to-date tools. Hence, I would like to further improve my skills by attending related conferences, seminars, courses, etc.

Jasmina Martinovska IAPTI’s Profile:
http://www.aipti.org/eng/jasmina-martinovska/
IAPTI’s Position on Machine Translation

Free or commercially available machine translation (MT) software cannot be expected to render with accuracy the meaning of a foreign-language text, and thus MT systems cannot guarantee that their output is suitable for any purpose other than obtaining the gist of a text. The result can be a very poor translation, leading to a negative image for the client and potentially loss of business.

One other aspect of the translation process that MT systems will never fulfill is the human communication between translators and clients: professional translators are trained communication specialists who take pride in their work, are readily available to respond to any concerns and additional requests—even the subtlest ones—from their clients, and are committed to assisting their clients in achieving successful communication outcomes.

Another important point to be made concerns the use of online MT with respect to confidentiality. Confidentiality is a fundamental value in translation, which is compromised by those MT tools that store information online. The information fed into an online MT tool remains stored in the engine and can be accessed and used by others. Thus, access to proprietary information could be in the hands of third parties alien to the duty of confidentiality that binds a translator with a client.

In short, machine translation does not offer the consistently high quality and accountability that a professional translator does, and information obtained by means of machine translation cannot be considered reliable. Therefore, users of publicly and commercially available machine-translation software should be aware of the dangers involved, such as compromised quality and confidentiality, and making any decisions or taking any actions based on machine-translated information shall be at the users’ own risk.

We are happy to announce that the FIT (International Federation of Translators) Council has accepted IAPTI as an observer member and we look forward to working with FIT for the benefit of our profession.
Time to laugh!

Things to keep to yourself

Your neighbors have complained about the noise. They claim you insulted and menaced a guy called Crados.

No time for this, officer. 2000 words for tomorrow and I think that Crados is actually dead.

Cartoon reprinted with the permission of the author, Alejandro Moreno-Ramos. Alejandro is an Electromechanical Engineer and English & French into Spanish Translator.

We are impressed by the number of followers IAPTI has on Facebook! We have reached more than 10,000 fans!

Thank you very much for your support!

Save the link!
http://www.facebook.com/IAPTI
Post-editing: a niche for translators. What a glorious truth!

On the basis of indisputable arguments, let us aspire to achieve the same levels of social recognition for our profession as other professions have achieved, a recognition that comes, of course, in the form of pecuniary recognition.

So are we doing a good job at getting recognition for what we want? Not always.

For several years now, technology has begun to be used to the benefit of five rascals and the detriment of hundreds of thousands of translators. I personally question translation memories turning into yet another opportunity for those same old five rascals.

Translation memories are another work tool and should serve to improve our work (standardizing terminology, gaining time to correct our own work or having more time for us to dedicate to other translations or... to go to the spa!). They should be our asset, like voice recognition software, like those new dictionaries we have, like that new thing we learned at the last workshop we attended.

However, we have ceded our place to the people making money off those notorious, unacceptable discounts. What a coincidence....

The people applying those discounts are the same ones paying miserable rates. So they start at a rate under three cents and end up (after applying the discounts) with rates lower than 1 cent. Nauseating.

Some people say it’s already too late to try to change that reality, but we can’t help asking ourselves how we could have let something that should have benefited us turn into yet another way for a few people to get rich. Of course the other party is fine with this, but why shouldn’t we be complaining, talking, objecting? It is obvious to me that it’s a great business, but it isn’t my business, it isn’t your business, friend. It isn’t the business of those of us on this side of the profession. And doesn’t anybody try to say that I am thinking anti-technology! Please! I’m glad to have technology! The case is that there should be a more equitable situation where technology benefits language professionals, and not just (in any case) the sellers of software or the same five scoundrels. But let’s leave the issue of discounts for another chat.

Nowadays, it’s the latest fashion to tell us: “post-editing is a niche for translators.” I believe it’s not too late for us to raise our voices against that idea. If I studied to translate, am I being overambitious to want to... translate?

The same voices wanting to convince us how BRILLIANT it is to work as a corrector of machines are already starting to make themselves heard at a number of conferences. Nowadays, we are witnessing the straw that will break the camel’s back, maybe along the lines of Lionbridge’s “pay to work” format: a workshop is being held to talk about post-editing, and you have to pay to attend it. In what professions would you see something like that? Of course you would expect a software seller to want to make money. Of course you’d expect those five scoundrels to want to make money. What you shouldn’t expect is for us to bow our heads, once again, lulled by incense or back massages, at the chance to turn ourselves into machine correctors. What dentist would put his head on a platter by handing over his practice and accepting to become the office receptionist? What architect would turn his studio over to a machine while delightedly accepting the role of, let’s say, his own studio’s office boy? What lawyer would allow a machine to draw up the document to persuade a judge of John Doe’s innocence, and start chasing ambulances (in the belief, dear Lord, that it’s a new niche)?

So, now, how can some of our colleagues look through rose-colored glasses and let themselves be convinced that post-editing is the best of all possible worlds?

The same old rascals are charging their end clients the same as always, while coming up with this new way to make more money: turning us into the obligated correctors of a machine.

It is altogether too obvious that this ploy will atomize more and more translation work. That is, people post-editing a machine now will never be able to look up and try to fish for some little job with their own fishing rod, because the wide net those 5 scoundrels are casting keeps getting wider and wider.

So do we still need to state the obvious? Collective work to create a vast memory is doing the profession a lousy favor in the medium run. I’m not saying in the long run, because this massive handover of our intellectual capital (our translations) is hastening our own deaths exponentially.

Market niche. Why of course, dear colleagues. This is a niche. Settle into your coffin, cross your arms on your chest and let the last one out turn off the light.

Aurora Matilde Humarán

Translated by Yolanda Stern Broad

Read more IAPTI free articles at: http://www.aipti.org/eng/articles/
Our Stars

The red carpet is laid out. People applaud the arrival of our star. The lights are being gradually lit, Alexandre Alcântara is on the stage, let’s read his story!

The translation into Portuguese of Financial Management – Theory and Practice was published in 2001 by “Editora Atlas”, and took nearly a year to be completed. The original version had approximately 1200 pages of pure finance and I literally had to learn, and sometimes “coin” new terms with the aid of several specialists to succeed. Fortunately enough, my father is professor of Finance at FGV (Fundação Getulio Vargas). However, there is a sad side to this story.

Another publishing house, without any reference as to the translation, published the 10th edition in Portuguese. It is common for such textbooks to be revised and updated periodically, thus small changes were made between the 9th and 10th edition. Only in 2010 did I discover this. And just as I laid my eyes on first few paragraphs of the book, I could see my “handwriting” all over it! I never did go after any rights I may have had, but it was a turning point and a revelation in my life as a translator.

One the things that make me proud is that the book was re-printed eight times up to 2008 and is still being sold in used bookstores at prices close to its face value. Besides being more sought after than the 10th edition, the 13th edition from the same publishing house is nothing more than the re-worked version of a poor revision of my translation back in the last century.
Browsing the Web

Blogs

**Patenttranslator’s Blog**
In Steve Vitek’s blog, you will find articles about IP, the translator / agency relationship, machine translation, and the various facets of the T&I professions.
http://patenttranslator.wordpress.com/

**Musings from an overworked translator**
Jill R. Sommers’s blog is about the peculiarity of the working-life and emotions of translators.
http://translationmusings.com/

**The translator’s teacup**
Rose Newell’s blog is full of articles with useful information for translators and translation clients.
http://translatorsteacup.lingocode.com/

Journals

**in TRAlinea**
inTRAlinea is an online Translation Journal of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies in Translation, Languages and Culture of the University of Bologna, Italy.
http://www.intralinea.org

**TARGET**
Target promotes the scholarly study of translational phenomena from any part of the world and welcomes submissions of an interdisciplinary nature. The journal’s focus is on research on the theory, history, culture and sociology of translation and on the description and pedagogy that underpin and interact with these foci.
Subscription info: http://benjamins.com/#catalog/journals/target/subscription

Articles

**Memory Training in Interpreting**
This paper analyzes the major characteristics of Short-term Memory (STM) and their implications for interpreters’ memory training. Tactics for memory training for interpreters like retelling, categorization, generalization, comparison, shadowing exercises, mnemonics, etc. are presented in this paper.
http://translationjournal.net/journal/25interpret.htm
GTD is a powerful method to manage commitments, information, and communication. It is the result of thirty years of consulting services, private coaching, training, and organizational programs with millions of people internationally. It has earned a reputation as the gold standard in personal and organizational productivity.
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PaperRater.com is a free resource, developed and maintained by linguistics professionals and graduate students. PaperRater.com is used by schools and universities in over 46 countries to help students improve their writing.
More info: www.paperrater.com

Mendeley is a free reference manager and academic social network that can help you organize your research, collaborate with others online, and discover the latest research.
http://www.mendeley.com/

Evernote makes it easy to remember things big and small from your everyday life using your computer, phone, tablet and the web.
www.evernote.com
Upcoming seminars and conferences

_IAPTI’s Second Conference on Professional Practices for Translators_
18 August, 2012
Buenos Aires, Argentina
**Organizer:** International Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters

_4th Conference of the International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies_
24-27, July, 2012
Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK

_Annual International Conference on Language, Literature & Linguistics_
9 - 10 July 2012
Hotel Fort Canning, Singapore
More info: [http://www.l3-conference.org](http://www.l3-conference.org)

_Meaning in Translation: Illusion of Precision_
12-15, Sept, 2012
Riga, Latvia
**Organizer:** Institute of Applied Linguistics of Riga Technical University
More info: [http://lvi.rtu.lv/eng/eng/content/conference](http://lvi.rtu.lv/eng/eng/content/conference)

_Subtitles and Language Learning (International Conference)_
13-14, September, 2012
Pavia, Italy
**Organizer:** University of Pavia
More info: [http://www-5.unipv.it/sllconf/](http://www-5.unipv.it/sllconf/)

_Acknowledgements_
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