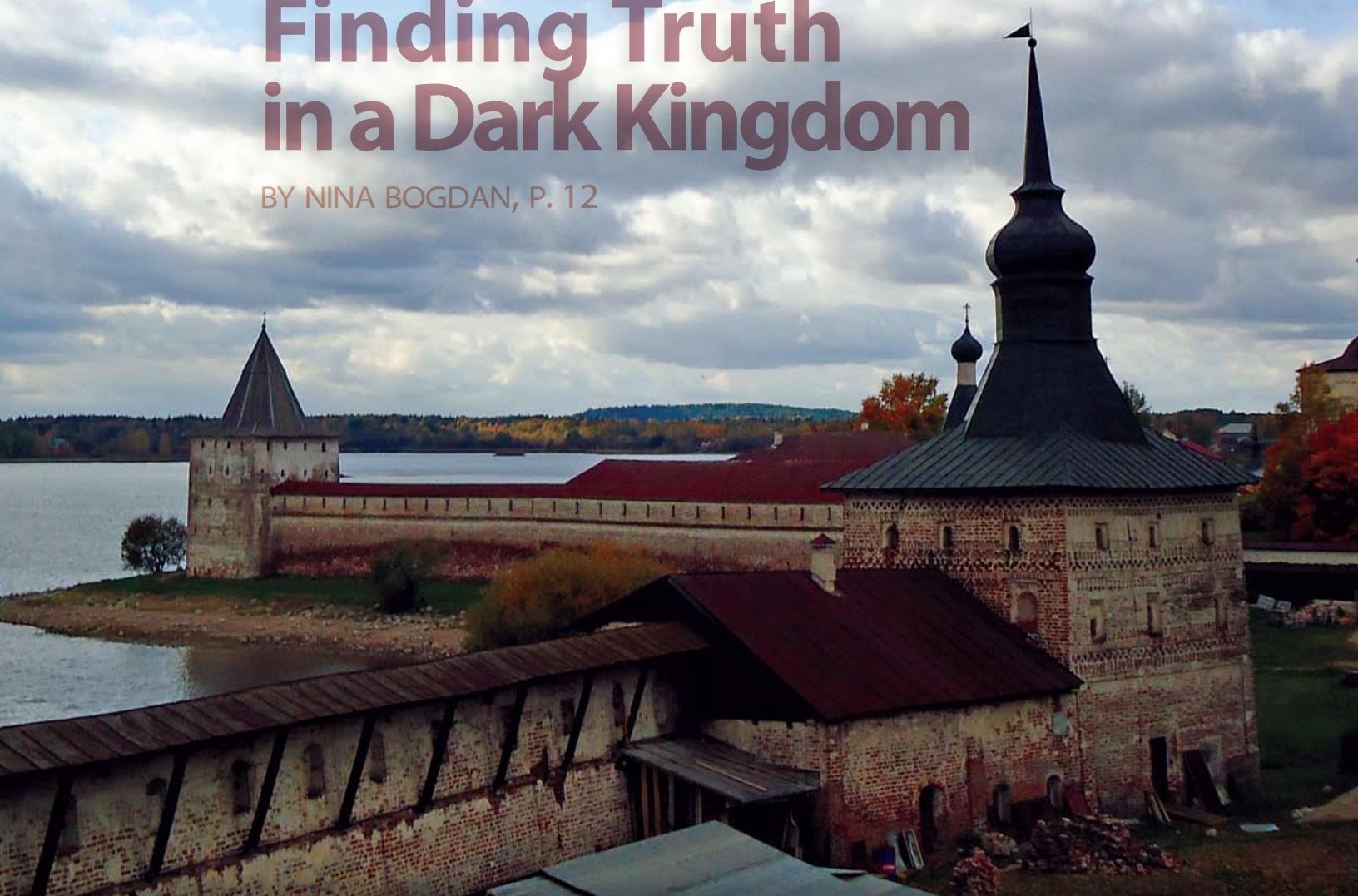


TRANSLORIAL

JOURNAL OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION

Finding Truth in a Dark Kingdom

BY NINA BOGDAN, P. 12



REPORT

Lunch Break

BY ERIC CHIANG, P. 5

CONTINUING ED

The Term's the Thing

BY JAY FEIST, MA, P. 7

PERSPECTIVE

Colonial Ruling

BY J. GOLDBERG, P. 18

CONTENTS

MAY 2012

| | |
|--|----|
| Contributors..... | 2 |
| Letter from the President | 3 |
| NCTA Board Reports | 3 |
| Member Benefits | 3 |
| The Editor's Note | 4 |
| New Members..... | 4 |
| Lunch Break | 5 |
| A CAT in a Sack (i.e. a Pig in a Poke?).. | 6 |
| The Term's the Thing..... | 7 |
| Editing and Revision for Translators | 8 |
| Approaches to MemoQ | 9 |
| Upcoming..... | 9 |
| The February General Meeting | 10 |
| Happy Hour | 11 |
| Finding Truth in a Dark Kingdom.... | 12 |
| The Translorial Tool Kit | 14 |
| The TransMUG Report | 15 |
| A Tangled Web | 16 |
| Missed Bios..... | 16 |
| Colonial Ruling | 18 |

TRANSLORIAL is a publication of NCTA, a nonprofit organization for professional translators and interpreters. ISSN 2164-6120. General interest articles are available online at www.translorial.com.

Publisher

Elisa Rossi..... elisa@translorial.com

Editor

Mary N.Wessling, PhD..... editor@ncta.org

Concept

Yves Avérous

yves@translorial.com

Distribution

Tatyana Neronova ..

tatyana@translorial.com

Ad Manager

Sarah Llewellyn..... sarah@translorial.com

Printing

Sundance Press.... www.sundancepress.com

Layout/Pre-Press

Flight 19..... www.flight19creative.com

Images Yves Avérous, Nina Bogdan, Dreamstime.com, Ilmari Karonen via Wikimedia Commons, Sarah Llewellyn, Morguefile.com, Christopher Paul Queen, Michael Schubert.

Proofreaders Connie Archea, Naomi Baer, Andrea Bindereif, Sharlee Merner Bradley, Jay Feist, Marilyn Luong, Brigitte Minault-Reich, Andre Moskowitz, Michael Schubert, Deana Smalley, Gabriela Urricariet.

YOUR TURN!

Translorial is always looking for contributions. We publish our members' stories, ideas and thoughts. Submitting an article also helps maintain your ATA certification and grants you a free "plug" in the Contributors section. Send your ideas to editor@ncta.org. ▶

contributors

NINA BOGDAN worked as a Russian Language Analyst for the U.S. Department of Justice from 1984 to 2007. She holds an MA in political science from UC Davis and BAs in Russian language and literature and international relations from SFSU. Nina is now an ATA-certified Russian > English freelance translator and writer. She coauthored an Images of America series book, *Russian San Francisco* and her article, *The Long Retreat*, about the Czech Legion's role in the Russian Civil War, was published in the March/April 2012 issue of *Russian Life* magazine.

ERIC CHIANG is a Taiwan native and studied Mathematics and French at the City College of New York. He had a previous career as a software engineer with AT&T. He has done translation and interpretation for a Buddhist temple in San Francisco since 2003 and is now a freelance Chinese and French translator and interpreter. He enjoys translating legal, financial and Buddhist texts.

JAY FEIST, MA, has done graduate work in German history and religion and holds a Certificate in German to English Translation from New York University. He works as a freelance German>English translator specializing in financial and legal texts. In addition, he has an interest in literary translation and is currently working on the translation of a novel.

ANNE O. FISHER, PhD, is a independent scholar and freelance Russian>English translator. She took Russian in her Oklahoma high school to introduce some exoticism into her life, not suspecting the far-reaching effects of this youthful indiscretion. She has been awarded NEH and NEA translation grants her translations of the early Soviet writing duo Ilf and Petrov have been recognized by Academia Rossica and Association for Teachers of Slavic and Eastern European Languages (AATSEEL).

CHRISTOPHER PAUL QUEEN is a candidate for the MS degree in Translation (French/English) at New York University. After high school, he studied abroad in France and Spain, then earned his bachelor of arts degree in Humanities and Spanish with a French minor at SJSU. Christopher is also completing the Certificate in Translation (Spanish/English) at NYU.

MICHAEL WAHLSTER is an ATA-certified English>German translator with over 25 years of experience. Specializing in high-tech subjects, he also tackles corporate communications and movie subtitling. His blog *Translate This!* has been on-line since 2003, and you can follow him on Twitter (@TranslateThis). Michael is based in the Los Angeles area and serves clients in the U.S., Europe, and Japan. ▶

•••

Unabridged bios at <http://tinyurl.com/76upmdh>

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 14015, Berkeley CA 94712-5015

Administration/Telephone Referral

Juliet Viola (510) 845-8712
administrator@ncta.org fax: 845-8712

Officers

President, ATA Certification

Paula Dieli (415) 258-8247
president@ncta.org fax: 457-5153
certification@ncta.org

Vice President

Sonia Wichmann (415) 285-9837
vicepresident@ncta.org

Secretary

Connie Archea (415) 346-4865
secretary@ncta.org fax: 373-3719

Treasurer

Dagmar Dolatschko (650) 421-2500
treasurer@ncta.org fax: 421-2501

Online Referral Service

www.ncta.org

Directors

Continuing Education

Sarah Llewellyn (415) 350-3924
continuing-ed@ncta.org

Ethics & Publications

Elisa Rossi (415) 430-8955
ethics@ncta.org
publications@ncta.org

Events

Kristen Corridan (202) 441-7074
events@ncta.org

Marketing & Public Relations

Afaf Steiert (510) 684-4586
marketing@ncta.org

Membership

Käre Lindahl (415) 390-2630
membership@ncta.org

Webmaster

Paula Dieli (415) 258-8247
webmaster@ncta.org



letter from the president

NCTA 3.0

BY PAULA DIELI

I'm sure you've all seen it by now, so it's not exactly breaking news, but still: the updated website is finally live! It was a few years in the making, but it's finally done! A big thanks to our administrator Juliet Viola, my fellow board members, and our previous board members who contributed ideas, design, testing and moral support. Juliet and I are still finding minor things that need fixing, and I imagine we'll continue to iterate on the design as we grow into it.

One of the things we'll be tracking with the updated site is whether we're getting more traction, more clicks, more searches in our referral database. If you're a corporate member, don't forget to use the NCTA database when searching for qualified translators or interpreters! The search page is pretty flexible, allowing you to filter by name, specialization, credentials, language pair, native language and more!

We've also been making forays into the world of social media. At this writing we have 237 "likes" on our Facebook fan page, 215 members in our LinkedIn group and 85 followers on Twitter. We're working to

streamline our social media contributions so that we're keeping everyone informed about our activities and demonstrating that we're a truly vibrant organization. If you're not participating in our social media, visit the NCTA home page and "like" us, join our group or follow us (@nctaorg)!

In our annual election, a whopping 27% of you participated, many more than used to vote when we had paper elections. Also, we're saving over \$1,000 with our use of electronic voting. The board says "thank you!"

What else is going on? Lots of great workshops! Our Continuing Education Director, Sarah Llewellyn, continues to work hard to bring you high-quality and varied workshops, so please check out our home page, stay tuned to our newslashes and read the Yahoo! posts to make sure you're not missing out!

Kristen Corridan, NCTA Events Director, has a great lineup of events for the coming months. So now that the days are warmer, get out of the house, join your colleagues for lunch or a happy hour—and we'll see you at the General Meeting on May 12! ✓

member benefits

The NCTA is working hard to promote the association and its members.

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Membership for MIIS grads | The NCTA has offered a free six-month membership to all 2011 graduates of the Translation/Interpretation/Localization Program at the MIIS and the Medical Health Care Interpreting Program at CCSF. |
| NCTA LinkedIn group | LinkedIn is an effective site for networking and increasing your professional contacts. Join the group to display the NCTA logo on your LinkedIn profile and instantly connect to other NCTA members. |
| Facebook page | For sharing news and announcements of NCTA events and activities, including with non-members who are Facebook users. Spread the word! |
| Members Yahoo Group list | Don't forget to join the over 300 members on the NCTA listserv to quickly receive answers to your questions, exchange information, or post jobs. |
| NCTA logo | Enhance your professional image by displaying the NCTA logo on your website, business card, and email signature. Contact administrator@ncta.org to request use of the logo. |

BOARD REPORTS

At the January Board Meeting

- » Reviewed NCTA membership numbers
- » Discussed plans for the New Year's Brunch
- » Talked about possible speakers for the May General Meeting
- » Discussed upcoming and potential Continuing Education workshops
- » Reviewed progress on and adjustments needed for new NCTA website
- » Discussed upcoming election
- » Reviewed 2012 timeline
- » Looked at possible NCTA representatives for IMIA conference calls

At the February Board Meeting

- » Reviewed NCTA financials
- » Reviewed NCTA membership numbers
- » Discussed New Year's Brunch
- » Reviewed plans for February General Meeting
- » Reported on Happy Hours in SF and the Peninsula
- » Discussed speakers and topics for February and May General Meetings
- » Discussed past, upcoming and potential Continuing Education workshops
- » Talked about IMIA conference call and Administrator's Symposium
- » Reviewed the marketing report and ideas for increasing membership
- » Reviewed progress on new web site

At the April Board Meeting

- » Reviewed NCTA membership number
- » Discussed speakers and topics for May and September board meetings
- » Talked about upcoming film (*Woman with the Five Elephants*) and the June picnic
- » Discussed past, upcoming and potential Continuing Education workshops
- » Discussed marketing strategies for NCTA
- » Discussed progress made on this issue of *Translatorial* and challenges encountered
- » Discussed possibilities for filling Webmaster position
- » Reviewed status of new website
- » Reviewed election final report numbers
- » Reviewed 2012 timeline ✓

THE INDIVIDUAL TRANSLATOR

The Editor's Note. BY MARY N. WESSLING, PhD

In the January issue, we focused on the global role of translators, mainly on the way our skills are being applied to help persons in developing countries. In this issue, we're pulling back to the individual translator: how we came to this profession, how we keep our skills fresh and updated, and how our brain gets a bit of rewiring as we learn new languages.

In our feature article, Nina Bogdan describes her quest to clarify a family history obscured by the darkness of totalitarian regimes. She confronts the ethical issue involved beyond translating words in historical documents: how to interpret the point of view and possible prejudice of the writer without imposing one's own view of the truth. Jonathan Goldberg also invokes

his family history in the context of a legal proceeding where he served as interpreter. He explores the way that colonialism brought together a group of persons whose native languages ranged from rare African dialects to English, while he interpreted from their adopted language (French).

Recent NCTA workshops provided opportunities to further our understanding of translation software: Anne Fisher reviews CAT tools from the perspective of a literary translator—and concludes that they could indeed improve her efficiency. Michael Wahlster focuses on memoQ, as presented by Tuomas Kostainen. Topics that are important no matter what assisting technologies are used, or not—proper translation of terms in specific fields and

high quality editing—are reviewed in articles by Jay Feist and Christopher Queen.

Two other articles provide further insights into translation and the translator's life. Eric Chiang recounts the way Richard Howell became a translator of poetry. A reprint from the ITI Journal analyzes that weird experience: we are speaking one language and words creep in from one of our other languages.

Finally, Karthik Raman of Adobe Systems explored computer security issues with us at the February General Meeting. He provided tips on keeping our data secure and avoiding invasions by the "bad guys."

All this goes to prove what a rich, varied, and important resource we translators have in NCTA! ✓

WELCOME

The following members joined NCTA between November 1, 2011 and February 29, 2012:

INDIVIDUAL

Susan Anderson, Billings, MT (de)
sandersonhx@gmail.com

Ana Isabel Beltrán-Wells, Castro Valley (es)
anaisabel_b@yahoo.com

Sylvia Castro, Redwood City (es)
translatorsylviacastro@gmail.com

Beth Celani, San Anselmo (es)
bethcel@comcast.net

Mary DeNike, Berkeley (it)
medenike@hotmail.com

Gail Desautels, Ottawa, Canada (fr)
gail.desautels@gmail.com

Gemma Paola Franck, Sacramento (es)
curry.vert.sa@gmail.com

Noemi Gonzalez, San Francisco (es)
noemi@asimpletranslation.com

Caroline Huang, Berkeley (zh)
cahuang77@gmail.com

Dorothy Heller, Sunnyvale (es)
dorothy.heller@gmail.com

Mahfooz Ahmed Jafry,
Flushing, NY (bn-hi-pa-ur)
mjafry8@aol.com

Qian Vivien Jiang,
San Jose (mandarin-shanghainese-zh)
vivienjq@gmail.com

Angeles Jimenez Zarate, Salinas (es)
anjiza@gmail.com

Olga E. Kouznetsova-Magee,
Westminster, CO (ru)
oekmagee@gmail.com

Tatyana Latushkin, San Francisco (ru)
tatlat99@yahoo.com

Laura Marina Low, San Lorenzo (es)
lauramlow@att.net

Adam Stuart McIver, Monterey (zh)
kangjinsu@gmail.com

Olivia Park, American Canyon (es)
amomuv4@sbcglobal.net

Jennifer Peacock, Chico (de)
jennifer.peacock@peacocktranslation.com

Justin Renquist, San Francisco (de-flemish-fr-nl)
justinrenquist@gmail.com

Maritza E. Resendiz Castillo, Santa Rosa (es)
edithcastillo22@hotmail.com

Claudia Ana Sofia Schalesky, Gilroy (de-es)
claudia.schalesky@evc.edu

Camille Teresa Taiara, Oakland (es)
ctaiara@gmail.com

Narongsak Thitithanyanont, Concord (th)
narongt@alum.mit.edu

Alexander Nikolayevich Vasilev, Palo Alto (ru)
alexnvvasilev@yahoo.com

Johnny Wall, Jr., Sacramento (es)
johnnywalljr@yahoo.com

Sabine Winter, Kentfield (de)
sabine@thewizardconnection.com

CORPORATE

ANTA Wiz Translation
Larisa Bershadter
San Francisco
(415) 742-5750
(415) 665-6948
larisa@antawiz.com
anta@antawiz.com

Kagi
Vicki Thomas
Berkeley
(510) 550-1336, x.1009
vicki@kagi.com
www.kagi.com

Saura Spanish Services
Alicia Saura
Sausalito
(415) 302-3466
alicia@sauraspanshineservices.com
www.sauraspanshineservices.com

Spartan Consulting
Chase Tingley
San Francisco
(415) 682-8524
info@spartanconsultinginc.com
<http://spartanconsultinginc.com>

UNI-CODES

Find the key to the two letter codes that designate a member's working language at <http://tinyurl.com/26umq4g>. ✓

LUNCH BREAK

Amusing anecdotes offer wisdom on the topics of poetry, translation, and even ballet; a lunch hour presentation by American poet and translator Richard Howard leaves this reporter reminiscing of a 1970s Paris. BY ERIC CHIANG

A presentation by Richard Howard, American poet and translator of such French authors as Roland Barthes, Simone de Beauvoir, Michel Foucault and Alain Robbe-Grillet, brought back memories of the Paris I knew in the 1970s. These illustrious French authors, now all deceased, were very much alive when I was a student in France in 1973. My sister and I were there on separate study abroad programs. I went to the University of Nancy in Lorraine while she studied at Reid Hall, a veritable chateau on Rue de Chevreuse in the sixth arrondissement of Paris. I went to Paris as often as I could and slept in the men's dormitory at the chateau for free. The sixth arrondissement wasn't the most chic and expensive district of Paris that it is now; those fancy shops didn't start to move in until the late 1970s. There was a *quartier chinois* that consisted of a small grocery store of unknown Asian origin and a couple of Vietnamese restaurants on Rue Monsieur-le-Prince. From her memoirs, I knew that Simone de Beauvoir lived in an apartment on Boulevard Raspail.

Wit and wisdom

So what would Richard Howard talk about at this gathering during lunch hour at a location that is a five-minute walk from where I work in San Francisco? Would he spill the beans on the authors he translated? What was the translation industry like when he was working? Did he have to convince publishers of translation that he could jump from poetry to semiotics, as we now have to convince the translation agencies of our abilities to do legal and medical documents?

Richard Howard is 82 years old. He looked healthy and spoke with a low raspy voice. About thirty people came to hear him talk at 111 Minna Gallery. If some were translators, they didn't look as though they had struggled with PDF files at home. Howard started by talking about his childhood and some incidents that led him to his distinguished and varied vocations.

To wit: He came from a wealthy family in Cleveland. His parents went to Europe often. The family owned a bookstore that his uncle managed. One day, a lady came in asking to buy a Bible. Howard was struck by the persuasive authority with which his uncle told the woman that the Bible was all sold out. It was brilliant that his uncle knew the content of the bookstore like the back of his hand. After the woman left, the aunt came out and asked his uncle, "Why did you say the Bible was sold out? We have many copies in the back." "I know," the uncle replied, "but there are days when one simply doesn't feel like selling the Bible."

Prelude and postlude

Howard talked at length about *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*, a poem that he translated, and the ballet that was subsequently based on it. He described in graphic detail what the dancer Nijinsky did with a handkerchief during his performances that kept the Parisian spectators coming back for more. The names he mentioned were Sergei Diaghilev, Claude Debussy, and Stéphane Mallarmé (these were people of the arts who lived well before his time,

of course). At one point, he recited a portion of a script he had translated for a new theatrical production of *Prelude*. This touching rendition of the "soliloquy of the faun" lasted a good ten minutes while we sat in respectful silence.

Howard talked about the first time he was asked to do translation. From what I can recall, a very well known publishing house asked him to translate a book of French poems for about \$20,000. Howard refused, but the publishing house kept coming back with increasing levels of compensation. When the figure hit \$35,000, he consented. I don't know whether Howard meant to imply that this was typical...

In the Q & A section, a woman wanted to discuss his ideas on translating poems. When he said something to the effect that it was sometimes hard for him to know what the original poem meant and that he had to keep going in spite of it, a man in the audience asked whether he had departed the realm of the translator and entered into that of the author. Howard smiled and said, "That I leave to you to think about." Apparently he was not amused.

At this point my lunch hour ended and I left. ▶



Help change lives in the developing world with KIVA

Kiva.org is an innovative micro-lending website. It lets individuals lend to specific borrowers in the developing world – empowering them to lift themselves out of poverty.

Through the [Kiva Volunteer Translation Program](#), volunteers support the Kiva mission by translating loan requests and stories. Use your translation skills to contribute to Kiva.org, to network, and to build your resume.

We encourage professional translators to join the [Kiva Peer Review Program](#). You'll contribute to the Kiva Volunteer Translation Program by mentoring Kiva translators on your own schedule.

Join today:

Kiva Volunteer Translation Program Apply online at www.kiva.org/volunteer

Kiva Peer Review Program

Send resume to naomi@kiva.org



Kiva believes in the power of connecting people through micro-lending and we support the translation communities that bring these connections to life. Kiva is a proud supporter of NCTA!

A CAT IN A SACK (I.E. A PIG IN A POKE)?

Will tools typically used for analytical translations prove efficacious for fiction and poetry? A literary translator learns about CAT tools and considers their application in her own field. BY ANNE O. FISHER

For some time now I have been curious about CAT (Computer-Assisted Translation) tools and whether they would be useful for someone who translates primarily fiction and poetry. Unlike translators in other fields, literary translators are almost never required by their “clients” (publishers, poets, grant-distributing associations) to use CAT tools, but maybe there’s something we’re missing if we don’t? The NCTA CAT tools workshop on November 12th, 2011, was a good introduction to what these tools do and a great way to get specific information in a short time for not a lot of money. As for the particular applicability of CAT tools to literary translation, it seems that there is less to fear, and more reason to use them, than I thought.

An intro to CAT

The workshop was geared toward complete neophytes to CAT tools, and so started from the very beginning with a fine overview by Uwe Muegge. From it I learned that CAT is a general term for all computer-assisted translation tools, which include MT (machine translation, such as *Google Translate*) and TM (translation memories, which are repositories of previously translated material stored and used by CAT tools like *Trados*, *Wordfast*, and *MemoQ*), and that CAT tools work essentially by breaking the source document into segments, automatically comparing these with the repository, and automatically providing you with “fuzzy” or “perfect” matches it finds there.

Uwe also touched on some of the more business-end uses: CAT tools can work with multiple file formats, so you don’t have to ask your clients to send you everything in a *Word* document, and they make it very easy to provide estimates, since you can see whether most of the matches that come up are non-existent or fuzzy (meaning that fewer of the automatically supplied translations will be correct, so you’ll have to do more work and it will go

slower) or perfect (meaning most of the automatically supplied translations will be correct, so you do less work faster).

Nuts and bolts

The bulk of the workshop was devoted to sessions by Tuomas Kostainen and Yves Avérous demonstrating the way the top three CAT tools, *Wordfast*, *Trados*, and *MemoQ*, process the same simple source text. Both Tuomas and Yves are clearly experienced instructors as well as translators, since they took care to explain terms as they went, which helped immensely. The *Trados* demo came first, and was a good introduction to the nuts-and-bolts of how these programs look on the screen and how the translator uses them. *Trados* and *MemoQ* seem to share many similarities, although there are differences in details and features. The biggest downside to the *Trados/MemoQ*-type programs for me was that the text shows up in segments of just one sentence, so I would have to translate my next novel one sentence at a time; since I am used to working in *Word* with two documents on my screen, the source document occupying the top half of my screen and my translation the bottom half, I am used to being able to see more of the text at a time. However, sentence-level segmenting would also ensure that I never missed a single sentence, which is always a possibility when working with *Word* alone.

Out of the bag

The *Wordfast* demo was the most attractive to me; because this CAT tool works from inside *Word*, so I could see more of the source text at a time. Also, Yves informed us that *Wordfast* has the second-largest user base after *Trados*, meaning that acquiring it for use for my literary translations would also make me eligible for all those jobs out there that are not literary and do require use of a CAT tool. The demo also showed that since *Wordfast* is web based and Mac friendly, you can take your *iPad*® (or, in



The Russian idiom “buying a cat in a sack” means the same as the English idiom “buying a pig in a poke.”

my case, your 2005 *PowerBook G4*®) to the local café, get on the Internet, get your source file from www.dropbox.com, and start translating; the ability to work outside the office is especially nice for those who have no office.

A subsequent inquiry with literary translators revealed that some do use CAT tools, primarily for their flexible, customizable glossaries, which can be invaluable even if the TM never suggests a single match. A few translators had high praise for tools that are less expensive (*Fluency*) or free (*OmegaT*), reminding me that these, too, can provide the main things that I want: harder to make inadvertent omissions, easier to self-edit, and wildly effective glossaries.

My conclusion is that I should definitely try a CAT tool, even if just for the glossaries, and see for myself whether it streamlines my process enough to compensate for the inevitable quirks and rigidity of said process. I would be willing to put up with a lot of pesky gremlins if it meant that I don’t have to look up the same early Soviet acronyms or jargon more than once... *Oprodkomgub*, anyone? ✓

WEBSITES:

Berdy’s interview of Mazza can be found here:

http://www.themoscowtimes.com/arts_n_ideas/article/the-art-of-diplomatic-translation/446307.html

THE TERM'S THE THING

Industry experts provide an informative perspective on the trickier aspects of financial and legal translation **BY JAY FEIST**

In December 2011, NCTA members had the opportunity to learn some of the ins and outs of financial and legal translation from two veteran translators with decades of experience in these fields. In their presentations, they brought their experience to bear on the problem of terminology.

Contexts and sources

The first workshop speaker, Robert Killingsworth, a CFA and French-English translator, covered general principles for financial translation and specific examples of terminological challenges. Accounting is the biggest source of tricky terms; translators need to be familiar with the various accounting systems, the differences between them, and the sources of international terminology. Killingsworth then discussed three types of terminological

challenges, the first being terms specific to a particular jurisdiction, especially newly created terms. The second type, terms with "wrinkles," have subtle differences between the source language (SL) and translated language (TL). In the final type, terms that differ between common law and civil law.

In the second part of the workshop, Joe McClinton of the Monterey Institute of International Studies asked, "Which legal system are you going to translate for?" The translator has to learn two legal languages to decide what is equivalent between the two systems. Equivalent, he stressed, does not mean identical. Even within the US, definitions of legal terms such as "corporation" or "marriage" differ from state to state. Hence, like any translator, the legal translator will have to live with a certain lack of perfect correspondence. McClinton

offered three preliminary principles for tackling legal terminology: understand what the term means; beware of *faux amis*; and don't guess. Consult dictionaries, the web, crosscheck results. When all else fails, leave the term in the SL followed by a brief explanation in English or other TL.

The final analysis

Both Killingsworth and McClinton stressed consistency: changing terms might introduce unintended distinctions. But if the difference between terms is not material, constantly repeating the same word can inhibit comprehension. In the final analysis, the translator's task is to be faithful to the form and content of the SL while making the translation as clear as possible. ✓

•••

Read the full version article online at translorial.com

Translation technology can be
simpler than that.



memoQ

CLEAN ■ INNOVATIVE ■ EASY TO USE

EDITING AND REVISION FOR TRANSLATORS

A bright winter workshop provided attendees with an excellent opportunity to gain tips and further hone editing skills. BY CHRISTOPHER PAUL QUEEN



Professor Malcolm Williams guides workshop participants through the interactive presentation.

On an unusually beautiful Saturday, January 28th, a group of translators assembled in the downtown SFSU Extension Center to further develop their skills in editing and revising written documents. Professor Malcolm Williams, of the School of Translation and Interpretation at the University of Ottawa, presented his 6-step approach to the production of documents of deliverable quality, which he calls The 6 C's of Quality Editing: Concision, Clarity, Coherence, Cohesion, Consistency, Correctness.

Professor Williams expanded these steps in the consecutive stages of ESL editing:

- » Marking Up Copy and Identifying and Correcting Common Errors
- » Plain Language and Morphosyntactic Reduction/Expansion
- » Tailoring and Smoothing
- » Structural, Content and Comprehensive Editing
- » Bilingual Revision

The presentation consisted of activities that involved applying the 6 C's to each of the stages of ESL editing. After discussing a specific topic, Professor Williams reviewed the concept by highlighting key aspects, then allotted time for participants to work on the practice activity. He concluded each practice activity with a group discussion. The process of introducing, describing, giving examples, reviewing, practicing, and follow-up with questions and answers reinforced the learning process.

Room for improvement

The 7-hour workshop, which began at 9 am and concluded at 5 pm with an hour-long lunch break, was a condensed version of a course that Prof. Williams developed and regularly teaches at the University of Ottawa. He also taught a 20-hour version of this topic in January as a guest lecturer at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS). Considering the MIIS tuition, those in attendance greatly benefited from Professor Williams' depth of experience and knowledge in the subject, and at the much lower NCTA workshop fee. A bright day indeed for those in attendance!

From the outset, insights into editing were emphasized. For example, a translator should take stock of where to develop personally and professionally. Citing *The Prosperous Translator* by Chris Durban, Professor Williams pointed out that a successful translator must possess two main qualities: one must be able to write well in the target language and must develop proficiency in the subject-field knowledge. Therefore, if a translator finds weaknesses in writing ability or specialization knowledge, it would behoove the translator to focus on overcoming those weaknesses. Of course, writing ability and knowledge are subjective, so honesty is the key here. Williams added a third quality to the list: translators must be able to be critical of their own work as well as of that of others.

Furthermore, an individual's instinct has an impact on success, but at the same time, it is also imperative not to rely blindly on instinct. The example given by Williams happened at MIIS: While reviewing the material on an aspect of his lecture, MIIS students corrected him. Apparently, the U.S. English word *dependent*, which is here correctly spelled, would be spelled *dependant* in U.K. English. Williams, an expert in his field, had he defended the U.K. spelling of the above-mentioned word, may have damaged his reputation if he had given short shrift to the MIIS students—who were, in fact, correct.

Value added

As an attendee, a principal benefit of the workshop was the value added to my understanding of editing, which is often underemphasized. It became evident that I had to make editing more important in my work. The workshop also brought the physical connection absent in reading an article, watching a webinar, or researching the subject online. While there certainly is benefit in reading about an event through the newsletter compared to missing it altogether, actual attendance brings so much more. On retrospect, it was well worth sacrificing a beautiful day outside, the fee to attend, and the effort to get myself to San Francisco from the South Bay. ✓

Read the full version article online at translorial.com

APPROACHES TO MEMOQ

New to MemoQ? Help is available for every learning style.

BY MICHAEL WAHLSTER

Just in case you missed the workshop on Saturday, February 25, *memoQ* is a translation memory tool developed by the Hungarian company Kilgray Translation Technologies. My European colleagues had described *memoQ* as easy to use and competitively priced, but were most impressed with Kilgray's rapid response to users' support requests. Also, two of my clients had adopted *memoQ* as their tool of choice, which motivated me to check out the software and attend the workshop given by Tuomas Kostainen.

Getting started

It was not difficult to get started with *memoQ*. The company offers an *Installation and Activation Guide* and a *Quick Start Guide*. Although *MemoQ* has extensive online help (also available as a PDF file), the company offers a number of webinars. There is a *memoQ* Yahoo Group, and the annual *memoQfest* takes place in Budapest this year, May 8 to 11.

Everyone approaches working with software differently. Personally, I need to be able to understand and to visualize the concepts that govern workflow and functions to use a program efficiently. My ideal resource would be a book with introductions to concepts, a systematic tour of all menu options, and a great index. Alas, for *memoQ*, no such book exists.

Tuomas started the workshop with a recap of general CAT tool concepts such as translation memory, translation unit, term base, exact and fuzzy matches. He pointed out where the implementation in *memoQ* differed from *Trados*.

Setting up a project in *memoQ* also means setting up (either creating or selecting) the translation memory and the term base. During these steps, it is very important to determine which path the software uses to store project files, translation memory files, and term base files. This is probably the place to give some thought to the overall organization of the translation files on your computer and to decide which organization of *memoQ* files makes the most sense for your work.



Tuomas Kostainen explains the basics of *memoQ*.

Memories

MemoQ allows linking more than one translation memory to a project, but only one memory can be the primary memory, and only the primary memory is updated during translation. Translators have to strategize if they want client-specific or project-specific memories and a memory combining all their translated segments.

Tuomas then addressed participant questions. He showed us memory descriptions that allow filtering out subsets of larger memories.

The user interface shows not only the translation grid with the segments that need translation, but also a large area with matches found in the translation memories, fragments that might be useful for the translation, term base hits, and much more. There is also a preview area.

Imports and exports

Tuomas discussed the options for spell checking, concordance search, automatic propagation, Live Docs, and many other functions. He suggested the online webinars on the Kilgray site for getting more in-depth information. In the hands-on part, we translated two prepared documents and tried out the translation suggestions that *memoQ* offers to users. I had several aha! moments during the detours from the pre-planned presentation. ▶

Read the full version article online at translatorial.com

UPCOMING

NCTA General Meeting

SATURDAY, 12 MAY 2012, 1 PM - 4 PM

SFSU DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

835 MARKET STREET, SAN FRANCISCO

Sight Translation: A Translator's Perspective
Presented by Tanya Pound

QA and TM Maintenance

SATURDAY, 19 MAY 2012, 1 PM - 4:15 PM

SFSU DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

This intermediate-level, half-day workshop will concentrate on two important aspects of Computer Assisted Translation (CAT) tools: quality assurance (QA) and translation memory (TM) maintenance. Presented by Tuomas Kostainen.

Medical Terminology

SATURDAY, 30 JUNE 2012, 9 AM - 5 PM

SFSU DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

A full-day Boot Camp aimed at teaching common medical terminology; basic anatomy and functions; prefixes, root words and suffixes used to form medical terms; the meaning of medical terminology used in context; and an explanation of terminology of common diagnosis, symptoms, diagnostic procedures and treatment of selected medical conditions.

Presented in conjunction with the IMIA.

ATA Exam Certification

SATURDAY, 25 AUGUST 2012, 1 PM - 4 PM

SFSU DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

This half-day workshop will acquaint attendees with the ATA certification process and its most recent changes. It will also explain the mechanics of the examination, the evaluation, and the concepts and details of the grading process. Participants will also learn "tricks of the trade" to improve their chances of passing the exam..

Presented by Tuomas Kostainen. ▶

THANKS!

NCTA WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING EVENT SPONSORS:

LUZ, Inc. – February GM
Kilgray Translation Technologies –
Introduction to *memoQ*

If you would like to support association events, please contact events@ncta.org.

MEETINGS



Left: Continuing Education Director Sarah Llewellyn presents association business while President Paula Dieli looks on. Right: Christine Lemor-Drake speaks.

COMPUTER SECURITY AND YOU!

How do you keep your data safe—and your temper under control—in the digital age? February GM attendees get the down low on browser security features, avoiding malware, password best practices, and data protection. BY MARY WESSLING, PhD

The invited speaker at our February 11th NCTA General Meeting was here to help us keep our translating business running smoothly; to keep NCTA running smoothly, the meeting opened with reports from our Board and Officers.

First of all, our Web site! It's updated, and it's gorgeous. The go-to place for info on our activities when questions pop into mind while tapping away at something else on the computer. Many, many thanks to Paula for the time she's spent to provide this convenient resource.

Kristen Corridan, our Events Coordinator, reminded us of the Happy Hours coming up, and Christine Lemor-Drake described the French dictation event, the *Dictée pour tous*, sponsored by Apple to Pomme and NCTA at the SFSU campus on Saturday March 24. It was open to Francophones of all ages. Sarah Llewellyn, our Director of Continuing Education, acknowledged Paula's work on the website and gave us a rundown of the upcoming workshops.

NCTA President Paula Dieli then presented her Annual Report, including membership statistics, financials, and social activities from the past year. Of note were a significant increase in *Translorial* subscriptions and continuing growth in participation of NCTA social media (LinkedIn and Facebook).

Sonia Wichmann, our Vice-President, presented the results of our election—the first time for our online voting system—you can read them in this newsletter. Paula introduced the new members in attendance, some of whom had attended the new member orientation run by Kåle Lindahl, our Membership Coordinator, before the meeting began.

The security essentials

Kristen Corridan introduced Karthik Raman, a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) now with Adobe Systems. His presentation was aimed at helping us avoid the problems that most of us have experienced at one time or another. Somehow, he managed to nest security education in a friendly, occasionally humorous, and completely understandable presentation.

To set the tone, he mentioned that at least 58 new viruses affected Macs® in 2011, according to one study—you Mac® users thought you were safe!

Karthik then introduced what he called the most “boring part” of the presentation: the fundamentals of computer security. He spent the remaining time giving us just the right amount of detail to keep our data (and our tempers) under control.

Accessing Internet sites: the first line

of defense is to use the latest version of a modern browser and be aware of the security defaults it offers. Type in the URL for your bank, look for the lock icon and the https that denote a secure site. And, of course, install good anti-virus software that will help you avoid malware, and keep it updated.

Passwords: those combinations of upper- and lower-case letters, symbols, and numbers that can't be easily figured out (especially by us)! Don't use simple passwords, change them often, don't reuse them, and stay away from networks that aren't password-protected. Protect your home-office router with a password. Karthik mentioned programs that store passwords securely and enter them without our retyping.

Data loss: we have seen the enemy and it is us! Common errors include not making backups not being able to retrieve backups we've made, and backing up the wrong data. Incremental backups are at least part of the solution here, and the best practice is to use a combination of cloud and disk backups!

Accounts: Another important precaution to protect sensitive client data is having a non-administrator account with a different password for critical tasks. The best practice is to keep work and personal data under separate users.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

BY MARY WESSLING, PhD



An NCTA-sponsored happy hour at Palio D'Asti in San Francisco.

The interactive part

Karthik opened the meeting to questions from attendees. One of the issues of frequent concern is using web sites from other countries, and arranging international transfer of payments. He pointed out that there is little difference between security in the national and international spheres; proper security procedures are valid worldwide. But then, how does the translator differentiate between real and fake job requests? This is an issue that comes up frequently on the NCTA listserv, as well as other professional listservs. Here, Karthik reemphasized what has been said previously: check your mail settings and set your spam filter to exclude emails in different character sets; scan attachments carefully; and get a sense of the context.

Asked about free antivirus programs, he mentioned Microsoft *Security Essentials* for Windows, while insisting that it's important to have a "layered defense." Karthik also informed us that Trojans are rising as threats to *Macs*[®]. In this case, the user has to actually install a program.

But the longest discussion by far was about backup strategy, with participants sharing their own approaches with each other. That segued nicely into the final point Karthik made for our work security: Don't share your work computer! ▶

Question: What does a recent (April 22) New York Times "Week in Review" section have to do with NCTA Happy Hours? Answer: It speaks to a problem for which the solution is—a Happy Hour with friends and colleagues. Well, I'll admit that it's only part of the solution, but why miss an opportunity to tell you about another of NCTA's great offerings. The article got my attention not because it's new news (the sociologist Sherry Turkle has written an entire book about the topic) but because the accompanying illustration depicted a scene I've observed only too frequently of late: people sitting together in the same space with a variety of digital gadgets, and not the people, but what's going on virtually, are the object of attention. We love our computers, our smart phones, our *iPads* because they offer us increased efficiency, and a source of entertainment to push away occasional boredom. But they don't replace, and in fact can hinder, interaction with friends, family, colleagues. The NCTA Happy Hours offer a way to get to know people beyond their virtual personality. We've recently added a Happy Hour location in Burlingame. Long-standing HHs happen in Berkeley and San Francisco. As for me, I'm pushing for one in Monterey. ▶



Translators and interpreters gather at the Ferry Building for the February Happy Hour.



Growing up Russian in San Francisco: the author and her brother in 1965, headed for a holiday event.



A house in the town of Simbirsk (now Ulyanovsk), on the Volga, where an Ukhtomsky ancestor lived in the 1920s.



FINDING TRUTH IN A DARK KINGDOM

Spies. Revolutions. An exiled prince. Secret love letters. Sometimes the truth is stranger, and more fascinating, than any fiction. BY NINA BOGDAN

There is a great freedom in doing research and translation work without worrying about the needs of a client, especially in this day and age when translators often work for intermediaries and don't even know who their clients are. Our contacts are project managers who have no knowledge of the language and are unable to answer the simplest questions. Our work goes through several hands, and we often may have no idea of what the finished product looks like.

It is quite liberating to be one's own "end client." With this liberty, however, comes responsibility, as when one is involved in genealogical research, for example. Whether one is researching one's own family history or someone else's, it is inevitable that discovered information may not be what we expected or, worse, may be something unpleasant. It is quite delightful to discover that one's ancestors were celebrated artists or noted scientists, but what if this is not the case? Nevertheless, researchers, historians and translators all have an obligation to document what they discover truthfully and accurately. They are documenting the past for future generations. In documenting my family history, for example, I am making a contribution to the exploration of Russian history—a history that has been,

in many respects, skewed. My task is to add what I've discovered to the body of knowledge, not to selectively include information that is pleasing to me.

Behind the curtain

When I initially set out on my research, I knew so little about our family history that I didn't even know what questions to ask. Neither one of my parents was prone to revelations about the past. Both of them had traveled long journeys to the United States, and their main concern was building a life in a new country, learning its language and customs. Reflecting on the past was viewed as pointless or painful. I knew that there were differences in my parents' background—my father was born in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic into a family of peasants; my mother came from Russian nobility and had been born in exile, in Harbin, China. Apart from these and other basic facts, however, the family past was hidden, as if behind a curtain, first the Iron Curtain itself and then, after the Berlin Wall fell, yet another opaque curtain of dusty old archives and long-forgotten memories.

I spent ten years pulling that curtain aside. The main focus of my research gradually became the life of my maternal grand-

father, Prince (*Knyaz* in Russian) Nikolay Alexandrovich Ukhtomsky, whose death long preceded my birth. He had been taken away from his family, arrested by the Soviet organization SMERSH (*Smert' Shpionam*—Death to Spies), when my mother was 11 years old, so even her knowledge of him was limited. I had learned early on that he died in the GULag, but finding out how he got there and why was perhaps the most difficult part of my research. When I was younger, I had often thought to write a fictionalized history of my family's past, but as I learned more and more about it, I found that truth was not just stranger but infinitely more fascinating than fiction.

Needless to say, virtually all the materials and documents that I discovered were in Russian and, since I write in English, translating everything accurately and faithfully was a primary concern. As usual, I experienced my share of careless commentary from the uninitiated. "Well, that should be easy for you." Yes, it is "easy" for me compared with, say, earning a PhD in nuclear physics. But my translation of historical documents and letters is a great responsibility. Like it or not, I am emotionally involved. And since I know I am involved, I frequently have to step back and check myself.



Ruins of a church in northern Russia, near the White Lake, where the progenitors of the Ukhtomskys lived from the 9th to the 16th centuries.

An investigation of sorts

I found quite a number of negative things written about my grandfather. Of course, just because they are written, doesn't necessarily make them the true, but these writings must be documented nonetheless if I am to compose a true picture of who he was. I was jolted when I read a comment made by an erstwhile associate of my grandfather's, that "many" people in Berlin in 1923 "considered" Prince Ukhtomsky to be an informer of the GPU, the Soviet Union's State Political Directorate, a precursor of the KGB. Iosif Gessen, a Russian political activist and writer in Berlin, wrote that "metamorphosis was an integral part of refugee existence" but, despite the complexities of life in exile, and the fact that Berlin was, in fact, the "spy capital" of Europe in the 1920s, I found this assessment of my grandfather impossible to believe, knowing what I did know about his life by then. His family was descended from Rurik, the first ruler of ancient Rus', and the Belozersk princes. He had abandoned his study of law at Petrograd University in 1916, enrolled in Nikolayev Cavalry School, and went on to fight on the Northern Front in World War I, then with the White Guard in the Russian Civil War. He spoke German, French and English, worked as a journalist both in Harbin and in Western Europe, and included both members of the Russian intelligentsia in exile as well as various political figures among his associates.

In refutation of this first assessment, Prince Ukhtomsky was accused and convicted of counterrevolutionary activity and espionage against the Soviet Union in a 1946 trial where he was one of eight defendants. Because this trial was the Soviet version of the Nuremberg Trials,

with two members of the Russian Fascist Party as defendants, Prince Ukhtomsky was, in later accounts, often described as a "fascist." Again, I was taken aback. These extremist labels seemed to have nothing to do with the man I was getting to know through his letters to friends and associates. So who was this man that aroused such ire in others that they would accuse him of such terrible things? My desire to know spurred me to continue my research. It became an investigation of sorts—my purpose was to separate fact from opinion, truth from propaganda.

A portrait never complete

Though I traveled as far as Siberia and China in the course of my exploration of the past, some of the most fascinating information I found was in my own "back yard." The Hoover Institution Library and Archives at Stanford University are one of the largest repositories of Russian émigré materials in the world, and I spent many hours there poring over files, both in the course of my research for the book *Russian San Francisco* as well as my family history project. As I leafed through one file, which had never been properly organized (probably because it consisted of hand-written letters written in pre-Revolutionary Cyrillic that were fairly difficult to decipher), I came across a scrap of paper with the words "Ouchtomski letters." My heart stopped for a moment as I knew this English-language spelling was yet another version of "Ukhtomsky." And, indeed, this file turned out to be a treasure trove of letters from my great grandparents in Harbin to a Russian family that had immigrated to Seattle, Washington in the 1920s. They were not in any order nor were the pages

numbered, so deciphering them was a monumental task, not unlike deciphering coded messages. The task was not made easier by my great grandfather's scrawling writing or my great grandmother's penchant for scribbling additional notes and postscripts on the page edges.

Leafing further through the file, I came across two other letters, these in neater handwriting that was strangely familiar. But the ink was faded and they were undated. They were both addressed to an unnamed Princess or *Knyaginia*. (The title *Knyaginia* meant that a noblewoman was married whereas *Knyazhna* meant she was unmarried.) And the signature of this letter-writer was "Knyaz Ukhtomsky." I had previously obtained documents that included handwritten statements by my grandfather and therefore was familiar with both his signature and his writing and I realized these letters were from him. As I labored over the faded words, I learned that these were love letters, written to this woman when they both lived in Harbin, probably in 1922. Of all the documents I found over the years, these letters were the only true window into the soul of this man whom I had never met, a soul that he himself described, in one of the letters, as a "dark kingdom."

My grandfather's life was tragic and his portrait will never be complete. Too much has been lost in the tumultuous years of war and exile. But the labels attached to him fell away as I continued to delve into his life and learned never to be satisfied with pat explanations, which are, inevitably, inaccurate. My discoveries were not always sad, of course, but it was the painful ones that underscored the importance of always remaining faithful to the truth. ▶

THE TRANSLORIAL TOOL KIT

The Tool Kit is an online newsletter that comes to its subscribers' mailboxes twice a month. In *Translorial*, we offer a quarterly digest of Jost's most helpful tips from the past season. BY JOST ZETZSCHE © 2012 INTERNATIONAL WRITERS' GROUP, COMPILED BY YVES AVÉROUS



DuckDuckGo(ose)

I was just reminded of a new search engine called *DuckDuckGo* (<http://duckduckgo.com/>). Apparently it's rapidly gaining in popularity after some of *Google's* recent privacy controversies. The makers of *DuckDuckGo* have paid heed to *Google's* struggles and go to great length to ensure the privacy of your searches.

Now, *DuckDuckGo* is not necessarily a replacement for *Google* or *Bing*. In fact, if it does not find what you're looking for, it gives you links to both *Google* and *Bing*. But beyond that, it has certain features that make it a nice addition to those engines.

DuckDuckGo specializes in quick answers, called "zero-click info," data that is presented to you on the top of the page. For example, enter "age of Besse Cooper" to receive this supercentenarian's shocking exact age to the day. Or enter "weight of egg" and get the average weight of an egg.

DuckDuckGo derives these kinds of functions from *WolframAlpha* (<http://wolframalpha.com/>), the search engine that likes to make you feel stupid. But there are also other things that are specific to *DuckDuckGo*. Say you can't decide on whether to go out on a date tonight or not. Type in "yes or no" and you'll get the randomly generated answer faster than plucking the petals from a daisy. (You can also try things like "CAT or TEnT". Or my son's prom date quandary last week—"Gabby or Emily." His answer was Emily.)

There are plenty more *DuckDuckGo* uses that you can find at <http://tinyurl.com/29sucay>. My favorite, though, is the !bang feature (<http://tinyurl.com/ybvjosh>).

This allows you to directly search within certain websites by using a code preceded by an exclamation mark. For instance, entering !a zetzsche into *DuckDuckGo* immediately opens Amazon and shows my new book with Nataly Kelly right at the top. Entering !yt jeromobot brings up Jeromobot videos within YouTube. (And there are some new ones at <http://tinyurl.com/8yrc2au>!)

Writing in Style

The 4th edition of the (English) *MicroSoft Manual of Style* (<http://tinyurl.com/6vwyzcm>) was published a few weeks ago. The many non-English versions of *MicroSoft* style guides are available for free on the web at <http://tinyurl.com/6vrdwen>. But it is indeed worth a mention because a whole chapter (*Content for a Worldwide Audience*) is dedicated to writing for translation- and localization-related purposes. Some of that content is on the *MicroSoft* blog (<http://tinyurl.com/8444rxd>), including the interesting guidelines for writing for machine translation, but there's plenty of other stuff in the chapter that you can find only in the actual book.

Still, is this helpful for folks like us who "only" translate? I think it is, if you look for relationships with clients that go beyond just receiving and returning jobs. One part of our work as translators has to be that of a consultant, especially when working with small and midsize companies that have not been exposed to translation questions. This kind of consulting is not only profitable but obviously very helpful in our later translation work. Being able to present clients with well-written and well-researched materials like those in the *MicroSoft* style manual has to be an asset that speaks in our favor.

Time to Manage

Last month I mentioned that I would look at the new version of *Translation Office 3000*. And so I did.

TO3000 has been one of those products that I've been rather unabashedly bragging about as one of the tools that I use for

myself and really like. It's a software program that allows freelance translators to do many of the menial tasks that we need to do, including bidding for projects, tracking projects, invoicing, and managing payments. The program, developed by AIT, uses a database for your clients' information, your pricing, your payment methods, etc., and it also allows you to run reports on individual clients, projects, or time periods. *TO3000* includes a sophisticated word-counting tool (that counts words in files as you invoice or bid for them) and a tool that allows you to enter and process weighted rates for TEnT-processed data.

OK, so now on to the new version. This version allows you to choose between two different workflows: one allows you to do everything on the basis of projects (actual billable tasks have to be added); the other allows you to forego that step and just work on the task level. Three versions ago, the latter workflow was the default way and many—including me—have never really appreciated the more cumbersome project-based workflow.

There are now differently priced versions that essentially differ in the number of clients you can enter, the number of file formats that are supported for automatic word counts, and some customizability. You can find the differentiations along with the prices of the different versions listed at <http://tinyurl.com/7cwqmz5>.

Now, if you outsource jobs regularly or even once in a while, this tool is not for you. But if you work on your own and just need to take care of your own billing and tracking processes, it's a fabulous tool.

Oh, and before I forget, the upgrade process did not go quite as smoothly as could be hoped for: I ended up having to manually move some of the templates for invoices, as well as the actual file that contained all my previous data. But, it was nothing that couldn't be achieved after a little head-scratching. (Maybe in future builds those problems will be solved. JZ to AIT: Hint, hint.) **JZ** ✓

THE TRANSMUG REPORT



Sharlee Merner-Bradley and Emmanuel Lemor at one of TransMUG's latest quarterly lunch meetings.

THE ULTIMATE iFAN EVENT

For 2012, Macworld has become Macworld/iWorld 2012. The new name says it all: Steve Jobs was not there; Apple® was not there; but the creative juice that has always been there was definitely in the air. Computers, iWhatever, accessories and a lot of apps. Since TransMUG has belonged to the community of Apple User Groups, for years, members of our group had in past years volunteered to help

visitors find their way on the exhibition floor. The space has considerably shrunk, and these opportunities are gone. But, we still see some of the key Apple Groups staff. We met with Sandy Foderick who offered us a lot of nice Apple-branded merchandise to give away at our quarterly meetings. Hint: our next meeting is around the corner. On the Friday of the show, a few TransMUG members met for lunch and shared their discoveries. So many gadgets! Like the *iKlik* plastic "multi-angle viewing stand" or the Crimson aluminum cage for your iPhone®. Mac® applications at a discount, none bigger than the 90% reduction on the Concept Draw suite of mind mapping and project management tools! And a lot of cleaning freebies... You could find some new and improved technologies like the affordable, cloud-connected, portable scanner *Doxie Go Wi-Fi*, or the new *Thunderbolt* drives from Western Digital. And we met with the Readdle people, who had interesting solutions for PDF processing, for printing, and for note-taking for the iPad®. With an ever growing number of amazing developers, the iOS

platform is maturing at a fast pace.

All in all, Macworld/iWorld has become in great part an inventors fair, and one can only wonder how many of these entrepreneurs, lured by the promise of multimillion sales of apps, will still be standing next year. But first and foremost, Macworld is where TransMUG was founded in 2003, and this is where we will meet again next year, for lunch on the Friday of the exhibit, to celebrate our 10th anniversary. In the meantime, our group has more to offer: you can come with all your questions to our quarterly meetings, generally set prior to the NCTA General Meeting; visit our website, TransMUG.com, where you can join the group by adding your name to our mailing list; or follow our tweet feed, [@transmug](https://twitter.com/transmug), to stay in the loop—we retweet articles and reviews on Mac and iOS matters relevant to our profession. And if you are already signed up, don't forget that on the Yahoo! Group mailing list you can always find a colleague to answer your questions. CLD

Translitorial is an independent publication and has not been authorized, sponsored, or otherwise approved by Apple Inc. Apple, iPhone, and iPad are trademarks of Apple Inc.



NATIONAL CENTER
FOR INTERPRETATION

PREPARE FOR
CERTIFICATION

Agnese Haury Institute

The premier legal interpreter training program
in the United States, now in its 29th year.

2-Week Medical Interpreter Training Institute

Prepare for any medical certification, including the National Board and CCHI exams.

These Institutes are intensive courses with certified instructors dedicated to improving your abilities and skills in all areas of interpreting, and helping you prepare for state and federal certification exams.

JUNE 2012 - TUCSON, ARIZONA

Web: <http://nci.arizona.edu>

Email: ncitrp@email.arizona.edu

Phone: (520) 621-3615

Fax: (520) 624-8130



THE UNIVERSITY
OF ARIZONA.

A TANGLED WEB

Knowledge of several languages can often lead our minds to unexpected turns as we negotiate between them: experiences in the day of a multi-lingual translator.

BY SUSAN BASSNETT (REPRINTED BY PERMISSION FROM THE ITI BULLETIN, NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011, PP26-7.)

Some months ago I wrote in an article about how languages I had thought were forgotten were somehow creeping back into my consciousness. I speculated on whether this might be linked to the ageing process: just as one's short-term memory declines while the long-term memory increases, so perhaps the same thing happens to languages spoken in childhood.

My early language learning was complicated by the fact that although one language stayed constant, the second language changed three times, each incoming language pushed the previous ones further away. Then, in secondary school in Italy, I started to study other languages, French and Latin in the first instance. The method was the old grammar-based one, sound in that what I learned I never forgot. The basis was thus laid for the acquisition of other languages.

All translation exercises were done in and out of Italian, and although I spoke English at home, Italian was the central language of inter-lingual communication. What I find bizarre is that this has never changed, and 30 years since settling in England, I still find Italian is my 'bridge' language.

Linguistic oddities

German is one of my later learned languages, and I don't consider myself proficient by any means. I had been invited to give the opening lecture at a conference, and all the shorter papers were in German. At first I found myself having to concentrate very hard indeed, and needed the help of a young German scholar, who kindly provided me with quick and skilful paraphrase whenever I found myself getting lost, but by the end of the third day I was following both papers and discussion comfortably, though still having trouble with dialect speakers. Yet I could not switch from German back into English, and whenever I found myself in linguistic deep water, the only words that would come were Italian. At the airport, when I thought my suitcase was disappearing without a label I let out a shriek, and what I heard was the phrase 'O Dio!'

Even more confusingly, I went to a museum one afternoon, and found myself in a room with a voiceover, and images projected onto walls as I then walked through a series of rooms. It was not until the third room, some ten minutes after going in, that I suddenly became aware that the

language I was following was French. I am puzzled and fascinated by these linguistic oddities, and I know that I am not alone by any means in not understanding my own mental processes at all when it comes to language shifting. I don't understand why it is that when I am using a language in which I do not feel particularly comfortable, when I have to concentrate very hard to follow an argument and to join in a discussion, that I find my English receding, Italian acting as a bridge or, as the experience in the museum shows, an inability to distinguish between languages I know quite well.

The migrant experience

Language confusion is something that millions of people all over the world experience to some degree. Bi- or multilingual families are far more frequent today. Not long ago I sat next to a young couple on a plane with a small child. Dad was Danish, Mum was French, and they were speaking to the little boy in English because, as the young man explained, they wanted him to have a consistent central language. They were also familiarizing him with their own

MISSED BIOS

NCTA and the Translorial Team would like to recognize the following contributors to our January issue, for whom we were unable to provide mention in print.

RAFFAELLA BUSCHIAZZO has been working for 6 years as localization project manager and international product manager at several Silicon Valley companies. Previously she was a freelance and in-house translator for ten years. She comes from the bilingual Italian Aosta Valley region and translates from French and English into Italian. Raffaella holds an M.A. in Translation and postgraduate degrees in Terminology and Machine Translation from the University of Geneva, Switzerland.

INGRID HOLM is a freelance Spanish – English translator and interpreter with a B.A. in Applied Linguistics specializing in Translation from the Catholic University of Ecuador. She recently relocated to the United States after nearly a decade living and working in South America, and now runs her translation and interpretation business, Ingrid Holm Translation, out of Minneapolis, MN. You can view her website at www.ingridholmtranslation.com for more information!

BRENDAN RILEY is an ATA-certified Spanish to English translator. Since 1994 he has been a high school teacher of English and Spanish. He holds a B.A. from Santa Clara University, an M.A. from Rutgers University, and a Translation Studies Certificate from U.C. Berkeley-Extension. In 2010, he earned a Certificate in Literary Translation through the University of Illinois and Dalkey Archive Press. He is currently translating a book by Carlos Fuentes.

languages so that he could communicate with his grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Unsurprisingly, there are many novels being written about the kind of language confusion that comes with cultural translocation, some of which make best-seller lists in many countries. Writers such as Kiran Desai, Khaled Hosseini, Jhumpa Lahiri, Amy Tan and Gish Jen write from the perspective of first- or second-generation immigrants, well aware of the complex layers of linguistic adjustment that they have either experienced first hand or observed in their own families. The migrant experience, which is pre-eminently linguistic, provides rich material for writers who know what it feels like to meet with communication blocks, to be considered stupid for not understanding someone else's language, or to be unable to say precisely what one wants to say because another language does not allow for it to be said.

When we translate, or when we live with more than one language in our head, we are moving around in a state of 'in-betweenness'...

CLAIRE SCAMMEL is a Project Manager at The Language Factory, a translation agency in St. Albans, England. She and her colleague Donaji have just returned from a trip to Malawi where they completed The Malawi Challenge, a 3-day trek to raise funds and awareness for The MicroLoan Foundation, a charity which provides small loans and mentoring to help women in Africa start businesses and work their way out of poverty. Claire's trip resulted in the January *Translorial* article that described her visit to the MicroLoan branch in Salima, Malawi. Micro loans support women in very rural communities who wish to start a business, and have the added result of improving the health and quality of life of the recipients.

Translation's paradox

One such book focuses on how translation affects two individuals. In John Crowley's award-winning novel, simply entitled *The Translator*, an exiled Russian poet, Falin, teaching at an American college meets an aspiring student writer, Christa, and a relationship develops between the two of them. The relationship centres on poetry and language: Falin is cut off from his own world, while Christa tries to learn Russian in order to read his poetry, but neither can master the other's language. As she struggles to translate his work, he recognizes the impossibility of the task:

'A language', he said. 'It is a world. My poems are written for the people of a world I have lost. To read them I think you must have lived in my world – my language – since childhood, and grown up in it.' (*John Crowley, The Translator. New York: HarperCollins, 2002: p163*)

The novel is set in the Cold War period, at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis, when fears of a nuclear war started by the Russians were very real in the United States. Love blossoms between the exiled poet and the student, but we as readers share her inability to understand exactly who he is, why he came to the United States in the first place, and what happens to him when he disappears, supposedly killed in a car crash. The novel is framed by another narrative, 40 years on, when Christa, now a famous poet herself, is welcomed to Russia for a celebration of the 75th anniversary of

Falin's birth. She has been invited because her collection contains 15 of his poems, which they had worked on together:

'Translations without originals' she had called them: poems neither his nor hers, or both his and hers; poems written in a language that she couldn't read, and surviving only in a language he couldn't write. (p8)

The novel beautifully captures the paradox at the heart of translation: the intention behind translation is to bring a text not available to those who do not understand the language in which it is written into their world, to make it meaningful, to give it new life in a new language. Yet the very act of translating means that so much is left behind, so much is simply not transferable. Christa cannot ever enter fully into Falin's linguistic universe, nor can he ever realize his creativity in her language. The compromise is a text that is neither his, nor hers, that in some way belongs to both of them while belonging to neither.

I suppose, though, that what I call my linguistic confusion is, in a way, also a compromise. When we translate, or when we live with more than one language in our head, we are moving around in a state of 'in-betweenness', not quite a hundred per cent anywhere, always more aware of how language challenges us than the fortunate people who live contentedly in one language only.

Though on reflection, the state of in-betweenness, compromising or not, is never a dull place to be. ▶

AFAF STEIERT is President and cofounder of Afaf Translations, is an NCTA marketing director and works as a conference Arabic interpreter, voice-over, and translator. She speaks 5 languages and has good knowledge of all dialects of Arabic; her mother tongue is Arabic (Egyptian dialect), Afaf obtained her M.Sc. in molecular biology from University of Basel, Switzerland; she presently lives in California. Afaf has also lived in Holland, Italy, and Switzerland for several years, where she was exposed to different languages and cultures.

MATTHIAS STEIERT, PhD, is cofounder of Afaf Translations. He specializes in German pharmaceutical translations. ▶

•••
Unabridged bios at <http://tinyurl.com/76upmdh>

**Spanis
English**

Oscar Arteta
Translator & Interpreter

Member of the
Northern California
Translators Association

(415) 302-0671 Mobile
(415) 721-6867 Pgr/VM
oatranslator@yahoo.com
www.oatranslator.com

COLONIAL RULING

The colonial influences on participants in a Los Angeles courtroom—from the perspective of a French-English interpreter.

BY JONATHAN GOLDBERG



California, and Los Angeles in particular, is home to a mix of ethnic populations. This is reflected, for example, in the family names of the former Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger (born in Austria), the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Tani Cantil-Sakauye (from a Philippine family) and Antonio Villaraigosa (of Latino ethnicity).

I am one tiny speck on the map of immigrants who have made Los Angeles their home—but my genealogical path may have been more circuitous than that followed by many others who have settled in this city. My maternal grandparents were born in Russia and, like millions of Jews of their generation, fled persecution. They settled in a tiny island off northern Wales, where my mother was born. My paternal grandfather was born in Belarus, moved to India where he married and later brought his wife and my father to South Africa. My father studied in Scotland, where he met my Welsh mother. They returned to South Africa, where I was born.

Provenance

A court trial at which I interpreted in Los Angeles for a Senegalese plaintiff (Cherif) and a Cameroonian witness (Sylvie) led me to reflect on their genealogy as well as that of others present in the court room. (I learned that the jury included persons born in Iran, China and Russia, but their story is not relevant to the colonial theme that this article takes up.) The judge's name was Fruin (an old British name); his Protestant forefathers probably left England for the American colonies. That included the court reporter Mrs. Brown, who bore a name shared by many African-Americans whose ancestors were assigned standard English names when they arrived in America as slaves.

My role as an interpreter is to interpret

questions put to the plaintiff and witnesses by attorneys for both parties, as well as the responses to those questions. In the present case, I interpreted the lawyer's cross-examination from English into French and answers from French into English.

That the plaintiff and the witness, both born in West Africa, requested a French interpreter (interpreters are provided to trial participants in Los Angeles in every conceivable language and in many dialects) bears testimony to the ongoing influence of the French language in Africa, 50 years after France relinquished its last colonial possession. That the person chosen to provide the French interpretation in a Californian court was born in South Africa and speaks English as his mother tongue is part of British colonial history. Durban, a port on the Indian Ocean where I was born, had become a city when a party of British settled there in 1824; they later named it after Sir Benjamin d'Urban, a name of French locational origin: D'urban, or d'Urban in Languedoc.

...I am, linguistically a vestige of British colonialism...

If France and Britain had never colonized Africa, I (or someone else with similar DNA) might be living in Belarus or Russia, not knowing a word of English. The plaintiff and the witness, even if they had come to Los Angeles and been involved in this lawsuit, might have requested interpreters in one of the hundreds of languages spoken in the Cameroon or one of the dozens of languages spoken in Senegal.

If slaves had not been brought to the

US, a white-skinned person might have been recording the testimony, instead of Mrs. Brown, the black court reporter. If Mexico hadn't ceded California to the United States by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, trials taking place in Los Angeles might have been conducted in Spanish.

But the mass emigration of Jews from Eastern Europe did take place, as did colonization, slavery, and the Mexican-American War. It's not difficult to believe that other factors, such as the Californian sunshine, may also have drawn people from different corners of the world to Los Angeles. But in my case, the reason was personal/romantic.

The implied message

So here I am, linguistically a vestige of British colonialism, communicating in my brand of English with American Angelinos, bridging the gap between "two nations divided by a common language" and removing the language barriers between those Americans and other "natives" upon whom the British and French colonial powers endowed the benefit of two of the world's most widely spoken languages.

Did the plaintiff win his case? I will never know. Interpreters are relieved of their task the moment the witnesses in a trial have completed their testimony in the foreign language. At the conclusion of my assignment, the judge thanked me profusely with all the politeness appropriate to his British ancestry. But the implied message delivered by the judge to the interpreter is: "Mr./Madam interpreter, you have now outlived your contribution in my courtroom. Please let us continue to conduct this trial in a language we can all understand." ✓

Special
offer for all
Translorial
readers!



The new SDL Trados Studio 2011 does it all.

For translators, project managers, reviewers and terminologists.



The market-leading translation memory software

Are you looking for ways to accelerate translation? Do you find yourself translating the same content again and again? For over 25 years, SDL has been developing leading translation memory technology used by over 80% of the translation supply chain. **SDL Trados Studio 2011** Freelance is the ultimate translation software, providing

all the tools you need to edit and review high quality translations in the quickest possible time. It can help you complete translations up to 40% faster!

Depending on the type of content being translated, this figure could increase further.

Special offer for all Translorial readers: www.sdl.com/promo/TRANSLORIAL



Attn: Juliet Viola, Administrator
P.O. Box 14015
Berkeley, CA 94712-5015

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR FIRST
CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TUCSON, AZ
PERMIT #271

NCTA is a Chapter of the American Translators Association. Become a fan of NCTA on Facebook  and follow us on Twitter  @nctaorg.

NCTA CALENDAR

| | | | |
|---------|---|-----------------|--|
| May 12 | General Meeting | June 30 | Medical Terminology Boot Camp |
| May 19 | Tools for QA & TM Maintenance Workshop | August 25 | ATA Exam Certification Workshop |
| May 21 | Happy Hour in San Francisco | September 8 | General Meeting |
| June 24 | June Picnic | September (TBA) | ATA Exam Sitting |

See <http://ncta.org/calendar.cfm> for up-to-date information.