

- Quality Standards Committee:
Chairman: Evan Geisinger. Members include Rogelio Cipriano, Franco Zearo, Camilo Munoz, Romina Marazzato, Michael Launer and Gabe Bokor
- Newsletter Committee: Mary Majkowski, Elisabete Miranda, Rolf Blum

Linda led discussion on the following topics:

- She suggested the implementation of an anonymous message board for translation companies to share problems and ideas about issues such as human resources, financing or banking issues. This led to an animated discussion about whether the contributions should be anonymous and what you can say without the risk of being sued. The discussion will be continued in a listserv committee with all the interested members.
- The 4th Annual TCD Conference will be held in Montreal, known for its European flair, French joie de vivre and north American drive, great shopping, fabulous restaurants, a casino and many more goodies. The official dates for the conference are May 15 to 18. Pre-registration forms will be sent out in February of 2003.

The end of the meeting was devoted to the review of the Quality Standards that Suzanne Robinson has worked on for the last 6 years. The 7th draft is still unapproved but reflects ideas from other associations around the world. The standards have been sent to the ATA attorney. Anti-trust claims need to be solved. The best way to avoid such claims is to invite input from the rest of the industry. Beatriz Bonnet who represents the ATA is involved in helping the ASTM develop a standard for translation. Their next step is also to elicit more comments from people who use translation services.

One point in the last section of the quality standards was discussed in greater detail. It is about signed work, i.e. for translation companies to take responsibility for their own work and to advertise the quality of their services. The signature would be a footnote at the end of each file delivered to the client stating the agency name. Should the client require special restrictions that lowered the quality, translation companies could let them know that they will not sign their work to indicate they are not delivering their best product. There should also be a clause indicating that if the translation is modified in any way, the client should delete the signature from the file. Also, it is up to the translation companies to abide by the guidelines. If the client thinks the quality standards are not respected, the client has to deal directly with the translation company. The TCD is not liable for poor translation quality.

To keep the ball rolling with the quality standards, the next step therefore involves taking the attorney's comments and do the necessary rewording and to offer the standards to the public for further comment over a long period of time. The standards have to prove the test of time and have a broader distribution than the TCD for them to be viable. 🌐

Letter from the Administrator

We are on the eve of a new year and in the first months of a new Division administration. I hope that both will meet with your expectations. Filling Steve Iverson's shoes will not be easy but the experience promises to be interesting indeed.

We are already working on our next Division conference, which is scheduled for May 15 to 18 in Montréal, Canada. I hope to see many of you then and meet some that I haven't had the opportunity to meet so far. We are working hard to make the Montréal Conference an enriching experience, both in and out of the workshops. Founded in 1642, Montréal is the second-oldest city in Canada with a rich history and a definite European flair. Cosmopolitan, Montréal calls to those with a love of magnificent cuisine, cultural events, exceptional wine and old world architecture. It is the perfect location for those who insist on a meeting of equal parts sophistication, flair and joie de vivre.

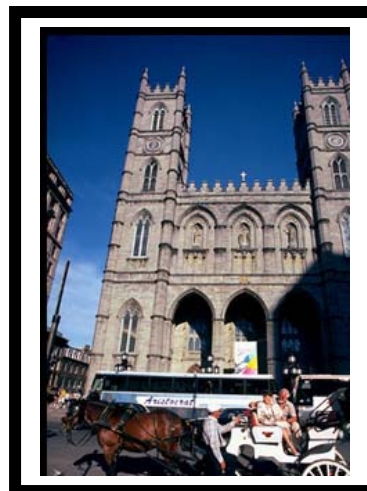
We will be sending out more information, a preliminary program and an opportunity to pre-register, so look for it early in the new year!

I am delighted to see so many volunteers, the names of whom you will find listed here, sign up for our various ongoing projects. Kim Vitray has graciously accepted to hold the office of Assistant Administrator. Thank you, Kim! The best practices issue will continue its progress thanks to the efforts of a seven-person committee chaired by Evan Geisinger. As you can see, our Division newsletter will now be produced by a three-person editing team. Their work is greatly appreciated. Several more have offered to sponsor portions of the Conference and give workshops. Many thanks to all.

Meanwhile, I welcome your comments and suggestions, be it about topics for the Conference, new issues that need to be discussed or anything else that may come to mind.

I consider my role as Division Administrator to see that the Division meets more of your needs and acts as a voice within the ATA.

In closing, I'd like to wish all of you health, wealth and joy in 2003. ~Linda Gauthier, TCD Administrator



Notre-Dame Basilica

one of the key attractions in Montreal. Put it on your list of sites to visit next May!