interaktiv

Winter 2012

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Newsletter of the German Language Division of the American Translators Association
Dear Colleagues,

As predicted, we didn’t see Paul Revere riding through the streets of Boston crying “the translators are coming, the translators are coming” this past October – nor did I somewhat surprisingly see any street actors playing the historic figure. But, as predicted, we certainly saw a shipload of translators from all over the world pour into town like sacks of tea at the Boston Tea Party.

The highlight of the ATA’s calendar – the Annual Conference – was once again a resounding success for GLD members. We highlight the 52nd edition of the Annual Conference in this Winter 2012 edition of interaktiv.

In Boston, the interaktiv editorial team took the opportunity to get together and take stock of the past year. We’re hoping to continue to make a useful and entertaining publication. As always, we welcome and encourage your suggestions.

I gave a brief presentation at the Annual Meeting of the GLD about some of the changes we’ve made to interaktiv over the past year. We’ve said goodbye to a few long-time volunteers and welcomed some new faces. A copy of the presentation can be found at the GLD Website.

Our faithful leader, Ruth Gentes Krawczyk, starts off this issue of interaktiv with an administrative word, which is followed by the Minutes of the GLD Annual Meeting. Sarah Koby, a masters student at Kent State University who sported the bright pink “first time attendee” ribbon in Boston, tells us why she’d “Rather Be a Translator.” Seasoned conference-attendee and GLD Dictionary Review Coordinator, Michael Engley, is this issue’s “Translator in Profile” – a Florida-based finance and accounting translator who plans to roar into San Diego next year on his Harley Davidson. And as a special treat, interaktiv is pleased to bring you two excerpts of the well-received bilingual reading presented by novelist and GLD guest speaker Jan-Philipp Sendker and literary translator Linda Marianiello in Boston.

Gerhard Preisser, the GLD list moderator, shows us just what’s so special about the GLD list with two recent discussion threads – another interaktiv first. And long-time GLDer Larry Schofer reviews this year’s "Erlangen trip."

And of course our newsletter would not be complete without a look at the 2012 calendar.

It’s a jam-packed issue, we know. Don’t be alarmed! There’s no need to grab your muskets or sound the horn. The translators have safely retreated so it’s time to sit back, stoke the fire, and enjoy the Winter 2012 edition of interaktiv.

Happy reading!

Mit besten Grüßen aus Bonn

Matt Baird
A Word From the Administrator

Liebe Mitglieder,

Another conference has come and gone and, if I do say so myself, Boston turned out to be one of the best conferences ever for German translators. This was due to a number of reasons, not the least of which was the plethora of great sessions offered by many of you, which meant a full slate of German-related sessions. The conference primer in the summer issue of *interaktiv* gave you a summary of all the sessions, and not a single one disappointed, at least not in my opinion! Two wonderful guest speakers rounded things off: Jan-Philipp Sendker speaking on the art of writing and editing in German, and Craig Morris speaking on green energy technologies.

Our networking event topped off this exceptional year. The invitation from the Goethe Institut Boston, within walking distance of the conference hotel, provided the perfect setting to mingle with long-established colleagues and get to know new ones. At the annual GLD meeting, the membership overwhelmingly agreed that events like these are ideal for the future. We’ll do our best to accommodate this preference in San Diego, maybe even something under starlit skies in what promises to be wonderful weather!

My co-administrator, Eva Stabenow, and I are now turning our attention to next year’s conference – yes already! ATA headquarters only gives us a couple of months to make contact and secure speakers. At the annual meeting in Boston, members expressed interest in the biotech industry along with technical areas such as transportation. The film industry was mentioned as a possible resource, as was the German-American Chamber of Commerce in San Diego. We will do our best to find great speakers again. Of course we rely on all of you to offer great sessions. Let’s repeat what we did in Boston and place a GLD session in every time slot!

The call for proposals is out, so make sure you get your proposal together. I especially appreciated this year’s panel discussion and hope some of you will come up with something similar for San Diego.


Herzliche Grüße

Ruth Gentes Krawczyk
GLD Administrator
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the ATA German Language Division
Boston, MA, October 29, 2011

The Administrator of ATA’s German Language Division, Ruth Gentes Krawczyk, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Agenda approval and corrections
The assembled members approved the agenda of the present meeting and the minutes of the previous year’s meeting with one minor correction. Regarding the GLD list, “there have been as many as 1055 contributions in a single day” was changed to indicate “1055 contributions in a single month.”

BDÜ
Karen Leube, who is based in Germany, reminded the meeting of the upcoming BDÜ conference and the impending deadline for submitting proposals for presentations.
Ms. Gentes Krawczyk discussed presentation proposals, guest speakers, and this year’s German sessions.

GLD Website
Michael Wahlster, who oversees the GLD website, talked about the progression of the website and the blog over the last year. There has been an increase in traffic. Member visitors to the website are up to 305/month on average. He envisions the website as a GLD archive and made a call for members to submit their conference presentations to be archived on the website. Mr. Wahlster announced that he is stepping down and will be replaced by Susanne Albridge.

Networking Event
Ms. Gentes Krawczyk inquired about the success of the off-site reception held at the Goethe Institut. Members overwhelmingly agreed that it was a major improvement over past dinner events.

New Leadership Council & Nominating Committee
The new Leadership Council was introduced with a description of its function and role. The new procedure for nominating and electing division administrators was discussed. The Nominating Committee, comprising Susanne van Eyl and Ted Wozniak, is to select a single candidate for each position. As an alternative, there will be the possibility of an electronic election. This change in the nominating procedure was met with the disapproval of some members due to
complaints regarding the lack of democracy. Linda Marianiello volunteered to serve on the committee. Frieda Ruppaner-Lind, an ATA board member, explained that the new procedure by no means rules out elections; the primary issue is a general lack of volunteers. Abigail Dahlberg moved to approve the Nominating Committee and the members approved by acclamation.

**2012 Conference**

Next year’s conference will be held from October 24-27, 2012, in San Diego at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront. Possible guest speakers were discussed, with the suggestion of a technical topic perhaps related to Silicon Valley issues. Other guest speaker topics included ‘Germany after the crisis,’ something related to the biotech industry with a speaker possibly from the Scripps Research Institute or a San Diego-based biotech company, ‘teaching bilingualism’ with a speaker possibly from the Albert Einstein Academy, and subtitling in relation to the film festival sponsored for the first time this year by the German-American Chamber of Commerce in California, which is based in San Diego. The German-American Chamber of Commerce in California was also suggested as a potential host for a networking event. The 2012 GLD event was discussed and the general preference was in favor of a networking event as opposed to an off-site dinner. A suggestion was made to find an agency to sponsor next year’s event.

A call was made for proposals for next year’s conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Engley
I didn’t grow up knowing that I wanted to be a translator. I wanted to be an astronaut or an author, or a knight or a backhoe driver. While I have since found that outer space may be (just a little) beyond my reach—not to mention knighthood—I’m finding that translation has more in common with being an author than I might have guessed as a five-year-old when I still illustrated my books with crayons. I could even translate about aerospace, history, or even construction, if I wanted to.

The ATA conference, with its myriad of sessions on everything from renewable energy to false friends to editing strategies has helped affirm my direction of study and career choice in many, many ways.

I proudly wore the bright pink “first time attendee” ribbon on my nametag this year at the 52nd annual ATA conference in Boston. I grew up around translators, and I always saw them come home from the conference full of tales of camaraderie and networking (though I’m not sure I knew what that was when I was younger). Even before I knew I wanted to translate, I knew I wanted to be a part of that society. The stories seemed to say that translators were a truly fascinating bunch of people with diverse interests. So I was really excited when, as a second-year student in the German into English MA translation program at Kent State University in Ohio, I was encouraged to go to the ATA conference. I’m particularly interested in the scientific and technical fields, so when I first got my hands on the preliminary program, there were three things I looked for: the German sessions (I learned the color codes fast!), the Sci/Tech sessions, and names I recognized. Looking for names was to some degree to make sure I didn’t go to sessions led by translators who are also professors at my university (I can always ask them questions later, and they might cover the material during class anyway). However, it was also because I grew up and studied in Kent, and coming to Boston, a very large city, and staying at such a grand conference hotel as well as seeing the wealth of translators and their experience...I have to admit, there were moments when I found it all quite overwhelming. So finding a familiar name and knowing I might run into someone I knew in the halls was a safety net—and having that net allowed me to go out and explore the conference with more confidence and enjoy it that much more.

Until now, the phrase “you’ll be a professional translator,” or even “I’ll be a professional translator,” seemed to be a very theoretical statement. Coming to the conference has really brought it home—I am a translator, albeit a newly forged one. I am part of a wide network of many skilled, friendly, wonderful people. I am getting to know other people with a passion for the very thing I love, and with a myriad of other related (and not so related!) interests just like me. How amazing is that!

There are so many things from the conference that I’d love to mention—the sessions, the Stretch, Breathe & Move morning exercises, the opening session, the people I met, the closing dance—that I will just have to be selective and only mention a few highlights. Several sessions I attended stand out in my memory. The GLD meeting, while often over
my head as a new member, was wonderful. I got to see who is involved and identify who else spoke German (the language dots can be hard to spot from farther away!). The meeting also gave me a feel for what the GLD is, the resources it can offer me (such as the listserv), and how it is run.

The session on the renewable sector, led by GLD Distinguished Speaker Craig Morris, was also particularly interesting to me and was actually the first session I picked out before the conference. The renewable sector is a field I find fascinating, as well as a very relevant topic in the world today, because of how environmentalism and “going green” are on people’s minds, so it was wonderful to see that ATA and the GLD are helping translators keep up with forward-looking issues.

I also attended several sessions on editing (the breadth of opinions in this area is quite fascinating!) as well as a session on Sanskrit (did you know that the alphabet is organized phonetically?) to name two more. Indeed, if I tried to list all of the great sessions that I had the chance to attend, this article would end up three times longer!

I also really enjoyed the exhibit hall, where, I have to admit, I caved to the “word on the street” and got a chair massage, which was well worth the wait. I talked to different vendors about their products or their companies and I networked and handed out my shiny new business cards. What I had not expected was the vendor giving away Rubik’s Cubes in addition to the more mundane pens and notepads! I have a soft spot for math, including Rubik’s Cubes, and had a lot of fun giving the vendor the cliff notes version on how to solve one.

When I got home, I had much to think about. I had learned so much and had met so many people. The arrival of the next Chronicle helped me realize how intimate the conference actually was, though, despite the impressive number of attendants and large offering of sessions. I flipped open the magazine, only to exclaim, “I saw that guy!” or “Ooh, she looks familiar,” and “I got to meet him!”

I probably drove my roommate crazy. One of the great things about coming back home from the conference was to be able to sink my teeth into my next translation with just a little bit more knowledge, a little bit more encouragement, and a whole lot more gusto. I am a translator – and I’m proud to be part of the ATA and GLD communities. Thank you for welcoming me!


Congratulations Caitilin!

Caitlin Walsh was elected President-Elect of the ATA at the Annual Meeting of Voting Members at the 52nd Annual Conference in Boston this past October. Caitlin will serve a 2-year term alongside current ATA President and GLD Member Dorothée Racette. She previously served on the Board of Directors from 2007-2010.
Translator in Profile: Michael Engley

Where are you based and what brought you there?
I’m based in Port Charlotte, Florida. My wife and I recently moved down here from Louisville, Kentucky, basically because of a deal on a house. We were already planning to move further south when my Aunt and Uncle asked us whether we would mind taking care of the house they bought in Florida until they are ready to retire and occupy it themselves. It was a win-win situation. I like sunny, warm weather, but I never expected to live in the Sunshine State. It has its plusses and minus-es and we’re still adjusting to life down here. For instance, it’s early December and it’s 80 degrees out – the Snowbirds have arrived en masse. But the outdoor Christmas decorations going up around the neighborhood really look out of place next to tropical flora. Santa ought to at least have the sense to shed the familiar red suit and hat for the Miami Vice look! On the downside, I just killed both a black widow and a brown widow on my front porch yesterday.

What got you started in translation?
My first job was dumped in my lap by a fellow economics student at the University of Freiburg. She had graduated and found a job working in Zurich as an accountant, so she didn’t have time for translation. The client was a local research institute that sent me work every few months. Not enough to quit my day job (I survived in Germany as a cook in a number of restaurants), but enough to whet my appetite. I didn’t begin working full time or actively marketing my services until I moved back to the US in 2006 to get my Masters of Accountancy.

What languages do you work in and what are your areas of specialization?
I translate from German to English, specializing in finance and accounting.

What do you like most about being a translator?
I really enjoy the variety of work that this job brings. Even though I start most jobs thinking they look familiar, I am almost always so much the wiser by the time I deliver the translation. There is always something new to learn – new terminology or a new topic to research – and that keeps me on my toes. I also take advantage of the flexibility inherent with being a freelancer. For instance, I don’t mind working evenings if it’s because I spent the day at the beach.

What do you like the least?
The worst part about being a translator is spending long hours staring at a computer monitor. Computers are both a blessing and a scourge of modern times. So much takes place online nowadays that I’m constantly looking for ways to spend time away from my computer that don’t involve a television screen. After a particularly long day or several long days, I can often feel the strain on my eyes, not to mention the rest of my body. I have a desk that I can stand at, and switch back and forth between standing and sitting in a tall chair. That helps a lot, but nothing really helps eyestrain except getting away from my desk for a while.
What was your most memorable job, strange or otherwise?
One job I’ll never forget was one I took on while studying at the University of Louisville. I dropped everything to work for a couple of days on a relatively urgent job for a new US-based client, who had accepted what I considered a good rate at the time without question. I even had to work in a café for a few hours when my home Internet connection went down, but I delivered on time. And then I waited to get paid. And waited, and waited. When pressed, the client admitted knowing that he couldn’t pay me when he hired me, but promised to do so eventually. Ultimately, it wasn’t enough money to make it worth going to court, but I kept sending monthly invoices with an updated late interest fee. After two years, he finally paid the entire outstanding amount. It was the only time I ever had a serious issue collecting payment from a client, and it taught me the value of Payment Practices and sensible due diligence before accepting jobs from complete strangers.

What are your goals for 2012?
My goal for 2012 is to improve the overall quality of my client base while diversifying the mix of agency and direct clients. I have some great clients and some pretty good clients – and I’d like more of the former. I’d also like to increase my profile in the industry. There are a number of things I’ve long wanted to do to that end, but so far I’ve kept busy enough while maintaining a relatively low profile, so they have been easy to put off.

What are your hobbies or other interests?
I suspect that most of my hobbies and interests are fairly commonplace among translators. For instance, I have been an avid reader all my life, having learned to read before I started school. I usually begin the day reading the news and finish it reading a book. And I have also been passionate about music for as long as I can remember – classical, jazz, blues, classic rock, Latin American, folk music, etc. I started playing drums and then trumpet at an early age, but decided to channel that creativity and discipline into other activities around the time I became an adult. More often than not, the local classical music station out of Sarasota (of which I am a founding member) is playing in the background while I work. I also enjoy watching movies and even some television series; I don’t have cable TV, but I subscribe to Netflix and do my best to keep the Post Office in business carrying those familiar red envelopes back and forth to my mailbox.

My other primary interest is perhaps somewhat less common: my motorcycle is both my favorite excuse to leave my desk as well as my daily driver – in particular now that my wife recently got her driver’s license and has commandeered the car. I do all my own maintenance and am constantly tweaking one thing or another. Sure, I’d prefer a few more hills and curves down here in Florida, but I love being able to ride year round. That brings me to yet another interest: travel. I love road trips! In fact, I’m planning to ride my Harley out to San Diego for the 2012 ATA Conference – over 2500 miles from South Florida to the Pacific Coast via the scenic route. However, there are some logistical issues to sort out, so we’ll see if I can make that happen. :-)

Michael can be reached at michael@mengley.com
A bilingual reading

Novelist Jan-Philipp Sendker and literary translator Linda Marianiello presented a captivating reading at the 2011 ATA conference in Boston, and the following excerpts stem from that presentation. Dragon Games (2009) is the second book in Jan-Philipp’s “China Trilogy” that began with Whispering Shadows (2007). Excerpts from Whispering Shadows were also read in Boston. Visit the GLD website to find all the passages read and discussed at the conference.

The Prologue
Setting up the mood for the entire book: how to match style of source language in the target language so that the same impression is created. What were the author’s intentions in setting it up this way, and how do we preserve them?


But I mustn’t complain. Many people have gone this route before me, so I must have seen traces of them on the long, well-beaten road to hell. I should have been able to hear their cries. I should have been able to smell the stench. Should have. Could have. Would have. Yet what do we see, hear, smell? Only what we want to.

I’m not alone here. Hell is a densely populated place. Not that this is any comfort...

Sie wollen dir einreden, ich sei nur noch eine leere Hülle. Eine alte, faltige, seelenlose Puppe. Sie lassen sich vom äußeren Erscheinen der Dinge blenden. Wie so oft. Wie so viele. Sie tragen Uniformen, weiße

They want to convince you that I am nothing more than an empty shell. An old, wrinkled, soulless doll. They allow themselves to be fooled by superficial appearances. As so often. Like so many. They wear uniforms, white coats. I know it, even if I can’t see

She would call every Sunday night before she went to bed, say she got home safely, how much she enjoyed their time together, that she already missed him, and he would tell her he felt the same way. Their Sunday evening ritual. For other couples, perhaps, just a simple habit of coexistence like eating breakfast and dinner together, goodbyes, hellos, good night wishes, always the same I love-you assurances. To Paul Leibovitz, they meant much more.
Es waren die kleinen Dinge, denen er jetzt Beachtung schenkte.
Er hatte begonnen, der Schönheit in ihr Versteck zu folgen. Zum ersten Mal in seinem Leben.
Früher hatte er geglaubt, es sei selbstverständlich, dass aus Säuglingen Kinder, aus Kindern Jugendliche und aus Jugendlichen Erwachsene werden.
Er hatte geglaubt, dass blaue Flecken auf kleinen Körpren auf nichts anderes hinweisen, als auf einen Sturz oder Stoß.
Er hatte geglaubt, dass Kinder, die krank werden, auch wieder zu Kräften kommen.

Die Zerbrechlichkeit des Glücks.

Die Willkür des Unglücks.

He paid attention to the small things nowadays.
He began to search for beauty where it hides. For the first time in his life.

His son’s death had taught him that. A cruel, unsparing taskmaster. Death pardoned no mistakes and tolerated no dissent. In witnessing it, Paul learned one of life’s most important lessons: Never take anything for granted.

In the past, he believed it was a given that infants grew into children, children into adolescents, and adolescents into adults.

He thought that bruises on little bodies were merely signs of a fall or bump.

He believed that children who were sick would get well again.

How fragile ... happiness.

How arbitrary ... misfortune.
Thread 1: Terminology Request: Angeorgelt

Member A:
Context at http://www.k-forum.de/archive/index.php/t-54124.html:
"Hallo Leute!
Der Monitor von meinem Laptop ist nun nach gut 1,5 Jahren irgendwie ein bisschen angeorgelt.
Deshalb wollte ich mich mal nach euren bevorzugten Reinigungsmethoden erkundigen.
Was nimmt man da am besten (und am billigsten)?"

Okay, what's wrong with this guy's monitor?

Member B:
Looks like it suffered a lot of wear and tear ... is in need of a good cleaning / overhaul ...

Member C:
A bit grimy would be my best guess.

Member A:
I guessed it was grimy or dusty or something similar simply because he's asking about cleaning methods. But I can't find a verb anorgeln anywhere in my dictionaries and I was wondering if it was something the German speakers recognized (just like the Schwein gehabt from yesterday that doesn't have to do with literal music organs).

Member C:
Very true. Angeorgelt isn't really a word, but it gets the point across when you use it in context. It is very possible that in his regional or family environment the word means something. For those of us on the outside it's guesswork. Just think of Morticia Addams dealing with dust or something like that and you get the picture... I can really hear organ music then :-(

Member D:
[A], like you, I could only guess from the context. I have never heard the word angeorgelt, contrary to Schwein gehabt, which is frequently used in German. For what it's worth...

Member E:
Morticia Addams indeed! Typically the inside of the organ chambers or casework is never
cleaned. I can imagine quite a thick layer of dust. :-) One of my organ professors once claimed that the decades and sometimes centuries of dust built up inside the casework - and likely the dead flies, birds and bats - contributed to the character of the sound of historic instruments in France. If anyone had ever vacuumed, he claimed, the sound of the instrument would be completely different. Off to tickle the ivories (although organ keys are more typically made of bone or beautiful woods)...

Member F:
I second that! But from the context, the meaning is clear.

Member G:
Angeorgelt seems to be used in the context of an old engine that needs time to come to life -- see http://www.busfreunde.de/read.php?1,319426 (... noch gaaaanz laaangsaaaam drehendem Anlasser auch nach so 15-20 sek. angeorgelt bekommen.... mit neuer Batterie ...). I am not sure that the term refers to cleaning. I found another reference for angeorgelt in the context of computers: "Notebook: Lenovo z60m, 2Ghz single core, 1GB, XP Pro, schon etwas angeorgelt..."
Looking at both references, it seems to denote a drive or an engine that is somewhat aged/has been used a lot and thus needs some time to come up to speed. Hope that makes sense.

Member H:
Habe es zwar noch nie gehört, aber es kommt offensichtlich von der Drehorgel - die muss man bekanntlich erst mit einer Kurbel mechanisch auf Touren bringen bzw. sie läuft nicht immer ganz rund; sehr anschauliches Bild. Wenn also der Bildschirm angeorgelt ist, heißt das wohl, der funktioniert nicht mehr so ganz, ruckelt vielleicht oder so. Ist auf jeden Fall seeeeeehr umgangssprachlich. Schwein gehabt für Glück gehabt ist hingegen sehr weit verbreitet, sogar in Österreich (!) ;)

Thread 2: Terminology Request: Dear Associate

Member A:
I cannot think of an elegant way of expressing "Dear Associate" in German. Context is a letter to an employee who has raised a concern through the company's online system. Apparently, the first level is their DIALOG system. If the employee's issue cannot be resolved on that level, it is elevated to the Ombudsman level, and this system sends an initial automated reply (which is what I am chewing on right now), addressing the employee as "Dear Associate". This reply informs the employee that his/her concern will be looked at, but that a specific response may take longer than 14 days, blablabla...
Sehr geehrter Kollege/Sehr geehrte Kollegin? – I'm drawing a blank.

Member B:
[A], Kollege ist genauso gut wie Mitarbeiter. Mal sehen, was andere dazu sagen.

Member C:
Hallo [A], ich würde auf jeden Fall Mitarbeiter nehmen. Die Frage ist nur, ob es auch so ginge: Sehr geehrte/fr Mitarbeiter/in
Deine Version ist zwar länger, aber vielleicht doch etwas höflicher. Was meinen andere?

Member A:
Subscribing is as easy as 1, 2, 3:
1. Send an email to: gldlist-owner@yahoogroups.com
2. In the subject line, enter: subscribe gldlist
3. In the body of your email, write your:
   - email address
   - full name
   - ATA membership number

Why should I sign up for the GLD email list?
Contrary to many email list subscriptions, the GLD list is not for advertising! It is the way members collaborate and learn from each other. Once you’ve subscribed, you can pose questions to the list, assist others by responding to queries or simply follow the conversation. You can customize how you receive messages so don’t fear an onslaught of emails! If you haven’t subscribed yet you’re missing an opportunity to tap into the wealth of knowledge GLD members are eager to impart. Come be a part of one of the most rewarding benefits of being a GLD member.

Member B:
Hallo [A], ja, wenn der Ombudsman intern ist, dann wäre Kollege/Kollegin vielleicht doch besser. Die Anreden im Deutschen sind eine Katastrophe, v.a. wenn man/frau politisch korrekt beide Versionen anbringen will ...

Member A:

Member C:
Ja, ich glaube, das ist in der Tat am besten.

Member D:

Member A:
Das war auch mein Bauchgefühl. Und ich habe Kollegin/Kollege genommen. Danke, [D].

Erlangen IX – Translators and Interpreters Go to Germany

Larry Schofer

I had heard the “Erlangen trip” being bandied about on the GDL list and at ATA meetings over several years, but I couldn’t quite comprehend what it was all about until I finally got to go this past September and October.

It’s quite a family – some 25 people showed up, of whom about 20 had been on the trip previously. The program has been organized for the past 18 years by Frank Gillard, who has recently retired as the head of Institute of Foreign Languages, a part of the University of Nuremberg-Erlangen. The purpose of the program is to introduce translators of German to significant places, events, and people in German society. I will review some of the highlights of this Erlangen IX.

In Erlangen itself – “Siemensstadt”, with many, many buildings occupied by Siemens – we met with the Bürgermeisterin, who talked about her general approach to cultural events and in particular to the attempts being made by the city to reach out to immigrant groups. The city has had some success in establishing sister city relationships with cities throughout the world, and a number of exchanges have taken place. I did note to myself that the most challenging task for the acculturation of immigrants in Germany is the Turkish community, and it didn’t seem to me that Erlangen (or the rest of Germany, for that matter) has had resounding success in this regard.

The group went on several field trips. The first was to Munich, starting with TÜV Rheinland, one of three independent product testing groups in Germany (the other two are also TÜV, Nord and Süd – none of them referring geographic location). The seal of these groups – CE – is more akin to the American Good Housekeeping seal than it is to Consumer Reports. Manufacturers commission the group to test their products for safety, and the report goes back to the manufacturers. We saw teddy bears tested for fire resistance, machines to “sit” on a chair 100,000 times, cupboards opened and closed tens of thousands of times. Back home I was amazed to see how many of my own products carry the CE, something that I had never noticed before.

The afternoon trip to the BMW manufacturing plant in Munich was astounding for its presentation of thousands of robots manufacturing cars. It was clear why employment is down in the auto industry; one robot after the other was completing all kinds of repetitive tasks. I was particularly amused by the painting robots – one robot carefully opens the door; another robot enters and paints the inside of the chassis; then the first robot carefully closes the door. As an American, I was surprised to learn that high-end German cars are only manufactured to order. Otherwise the shells sit on a shelf awaiting final manufacture.

Lunch in a beer hall was what one might expect – very boisterous. From my point of view, we got lucky by being taken upstairs to a great hall where it was mainly older folks, not quite so loud. Polkas and waltzes were the order of the day.

“The purpose of the program is to introduce translators of German to significant places, events, and people in German society.”
Another highlight of the trip involved two days to Strasbourg to visit the European Parliament. Each month the legislators pack up all their files and move from Brussels for one week to some magnificent buildings. We were able to watch part of a plenary session, and all of us were fascinated by the work of the simultaneous interpreters working into all the EU languages. It was amusing to see a few delegates stick around after most people had left to get their remarks into the voting record.

Our hotel near Strasbourg was in the town of Molsheim, where I was intrigued by one plaque near the local church to the men of Molsheim lost in Russia in 1942-43. The Nazis did not occupy Alsace-Lorraine; they reincorporated it into the Reich. As such, the men were subject to the draft, and many of them were shipped off to the eastern front, never to return.

Of course we visited Strasbourg, admired the cathedral and the shops and the Fußgängerzone. A really pleasant place, with some fantastic views along the Rhine!

Back in Germany, one very unusual site was the kontinentales Tiefbohrprojekt in Windisch Eschenbach, Bavaria. This project, now complete, involved boring down to the earth’s mantel to make geological soundings. The pipe went down almost to 10,000 meters, which is like going down the height of Mt. Everest inside the earth. The pipe went down almost to 10,000 meters, which is like going down the height of Mt. Everest inside the earth.

“The pipe went down almost to 10,000 meters, which is like going down the height of Mt. Everest inside the earth”

Finding a local history tour of the entire campus, which is really quite large. My impressions of the atmosphere of the party rallies of the 1930s were reinforced by the nearby soccer stadium, which was incredibly loud. I had the opportunity(?) to be accompanied by some very loud fans all the way from Erlangen to Nuremberg on the train, and then to be treated to some more screaming on the streetcar out to the documentation center.

Much of the benefit of the trip lay in the interaction among the translators. Conversations varied from English to German (and sometimes other languages), with about one third of the group consisting of native German speakers (though everyone was a resident of the US or Canada or Mexico, plus one Russian). Evenings often consisted of small groups patronizing local restaurants, and I personally was astounded to see how often Germans eat out. It’s no wonder there are so many restaurants.

I was reminded of German punctuality when I went off by myself to hear a concert by a group called the Ural Cossacks. Since I had no ticket, I arrived about an hour early to buy one. There were already about 25 people ahead of me in line, and they already had tickets! By 10 minutes before starting time, everyone was already in his or her place. No latecomers here!

In sum, I feel that while visiting some very interesting places and interacting with some very nice people, informally I also learned a lot about translating and about the economics of translating. Since Frank Gillard has now retired, it is unknown whether there will be an Erlangen X. Lois Feuerle of Portland, who acted as US coordinator, has begun conversations with some people to see about another edition, but a decision is still up in the air. If it happens, I highly recommend it!
Dictionary Review
Wörterbuch Immobilienwirtschaft (Englisch/Deutsch)

Andrew Catford

4th revised edition, Wiesbaden: Immobilien Zeitung, April 2011

Scope
This German/English and English/German dictionary aims to cover the needs of the real estate industry in the broader sense. In addition to core topics such as real estate law, finance and investment, it includes a range of related subjects such as architecture, construction and general business and economic issues. The publishers claim over 43,000 entries. Where applicable, both US and UK English spelling and usage are provided.

The package
The dictionary consists of two components: a physical volume and an online dictionary. Purchase of the dictionary entitles access to the online database through the publisher’s website for a period of 3 years following initial registration.

The book
The hard cover book is approximately 5” x 7.5” in size and runs to 753 pages. There are 3 primary sections: an English-German dictionary, a German-English dictionary and an appendix. Inside covers provide an overview of the dictionary’s structure and abbreviations used in the text to identify areas of application, such as finance, law, etc. Parts of speech are identified and noun genders are provided in the German to English section. Organizationally, use is made of headwords followed by derivative terms, so word sequence is not always strictly alphabetical. In circumstances where a narrow translation of a term may fail to completely clarify the concept, the authors elaborate the entry with an explanation. Text is arranged in 2 columns, attractively presented with clear, legible type on good quality paper. Facing pages carry the initial entry in the upper left margin and final entry in the upper right. Letters of the alphabet are printed on the outer margins of each page. Page numbers are rather inconveniently positioned, close to the binding.

Online dictionary
An access code to the online dictionary is provided at the rear end paper. For some reason, the simple instructions are only provided in German. The publishers plan to post updates to the online dictionary on an ongoing basis. Search options are limited to single entries and the search domain (German-English / English-German) must be selected to activate the search. Perhaps more interesting than the online version of the dictionary is an ongoing series of tutorial articles on the website (in German) addressing real estate topics and liberally sprinkled with English equivalents.

Strengths
Where is the dictionary at its strongest? It gives excellent coverage of core real estate topics, finance and general business. It seeks to address the needs of real estate practitioners, and provides excellent coverage of areas such as appraisal, acquisition, property development, management, leasing, and financial reporting. In the process, it deals with a wide range of directly related issues.
including forms of tenure, titles, land registration, zoning, and preservation.

There are copious references to industry groups and institutions affecting real estate and investment activity. The US Federal Reserve Bank and the Urban Land Institute are both included.

Extensive coverage of US, English and German laws affecting real estate such as the US Fair Housing Act or English town and country planning legislation is provided.

The dictionary provides very good coverage of more arcane real estate terminology such as adverse possession or quitclaim deed. Translators from German to English will also find very good coverage of the abbreviated references to German laws that are so frequently found in German real estate source texts.

**Weaknesses**
The dictionary is at its weakest and most uneven in the ancillary areas of architecture and construction. Among these, the topics of estimating, bidding and construction contracting fare best. British, American and German construction industries are different in numerous respects, resulting in trades designations and professional responsibilities that defy precise translation. The English terms joiner, clerk of works or quantity surveyor and the German Spengler are examples. Where warranted, the dictionary provides explanations rather than translations.

The architectural entries are a curious mixture. With limited space, the dictionary might be expected to concentrate on terms of immediate relevance in the development or marketing of real estate. While building types, forms and materials receive respectable coverage, it is unclear why terms such as tenon or eye are given space. Where spelling and terminology differences exist between US and UK usage, the authors generally do an excellent job of identifying them. But not in every instance. Sometimes, only the UK translation is offered, even though that term enjoys little currency in the US. Elsewhere, the choice of US term as synonym for a UK term can be disputed. e.g. public house (UK) and saloon (US).

**Topicality**
The dictionary appears to be reasonably up-to-date in its references. It is unclear whether the worldwide real estate and banking crisis influenced the selection of entries in this edition, but I searched in vain for bubble, underwater and Mortgage Electronic Registration System, Inc.

The authors are clearly aware of recent changes in English planning and land registration law.

**Literalness**
Not to be confused with false friends! This is rather a situation in which the offered translation may be literally true but fails at the level of common usage. The German term Bundesstraße is correctly rendered in UK terms. The US equivalents are not equally persuasive. Federal highway is a reasonable rendition and, in a strictly legal sense, interstate is too. After all, Route 66 identified a federal highway that was also an interstate highway. But in normal usage, interstate refers to a freeway component within the interstate highway system. Around here, we consider highway 287 (a Federal interstate highway in the narrow sense) and interstate 25 to be two very distinct road types.

Read the complete review on the GLD website: www.ata-divisions.org/GLD/?p=1255

Andrew Catford, architect and senior project manager with an MBA and MArch, has extensive theme park, entertainment and commercial development experience and specializes in German-to-US and -UK English translation of real estate, architectural, construction and related business material. He was born in Perth, Scotland, and has been a US resident since 1975. He currently resides in Fort Collins, Colorado, with Jan and Teo the wonder dog.
# Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Organization/Event</th>
<th>More Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-11 Feb</td>
<td>Merzig, Germany</td>
<td>Europäische EDV-Akademie des Rechts (EEAR) &quot;Aktuelle Entwicklungen des deutschen Zivil- und Strafrechts für Übersetzer und Dolmetscher&quot;</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eear.eu">www.eear.eu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>13-15 Feb</td>
<td>Jerusalem, Israel</td>
<td>Israel Translators Association – ITA 2012 Annual Conference International conference with over 400 participants from 12+ countries</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ita.org.il">www.ita.org.il</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>16-17 Mar</td>
<td>London, UK</td>
<td>London Metropolitan University “Editing and Proof Reading for Translators”</td>
<td><a href="http://www.londonmet.ac.uk">www.londonmet.ac.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Mar - 1 Apr</td>
<td>Providence, RI</td>
<td>American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Annual Conference: “Collapse/Catastrophe/Change”</td>
<td><a href="http://www.acla.org/acla2012">www.acla.org/acla2012</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Mar - 1 Apr</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
<td>Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer e.V. (BDÜ) Frühjahrsakademie Workshop Übersetzen journalistischer und werblicher Texte</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bdue.de">www.bdue.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>19-20 Apr</td>
<td>Krakow, Poland</td>
<td>TMS Inspiration Days 2012 “Technology for Business“ Business and technology aspects of the translation industry</td>
<td><a href="http://www.inspirationdays.xtrf.eu">www.inspirationdays.xtrf.eu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Apr</td>
<td>Winston-Salem, NC</td>
<td>Carolina Association of Translators &amp; Interpreters (CATI) 2012 CATI Conference</td>
<td><a href="http://www.catiweb.org">www.catiweb.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>3-5 May</td>
<td>Munich, Germany</td>
<td>European Language Industry Association (ELIA) ELIA Networking Days Munich</td>
<td><a href="http://www.elia-association.org">www.elia-association.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>5 May</td>
<td>Boston, MA</td>
<td>New England Translators Association (NETA) 16th Annual Conference</td>
<td><a href="http://www.netaweb.org">www.netaweb.org</a></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>16-19 May</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
<td>Association of Language Companies (ALC) 2012 ALC Annual Conference</td>
<td><a href="http://www.alcus.org/education/conference.cfm">www.alcus.org/education/conference.cfm</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>18-20 May</td>
<td>Cambridge, MA</td>
<td>National Assn of Judiciary Interpreters &amp; Translators (NAJIT) 33rd Annual Education Conference</td>
<td><a href="http://www.najit.org">www.najit.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>30 May - 1 Jun</td>
<td>Waterloo, Ontario, Canada</td>
<td>Canadian Association for Translation Studies (CATS) 25th CATS Congress</td>
<td><a href="http://www.act-cats.ca">www.act-cats.ca</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>4-6 Jun</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
<td>Localization World Paris Translation &amp; localization industry conference</td>
<td><a href="http://www.localizationworld.com">www.localizationworld.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>9-10 Jun</td>
<td>Barcelona, Spain</td>
<td>2012 proz.com International Conference “The freelance translator as a professional CEO”</td>
<td><a href="http://www.proz.com/conference/305">www.proz.com/conference/305</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>15-16 Jun</td>
<td>Monterey, CA</td>
<td>InterpretAmerica 3rd North American Summit on Interpreting</td>
<td><a href="http://www.interpretamerica.net/summit">www.interpretamerica.net/summit</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Jun - 1 Jul</td>
<td>Poznan, Poland</td>
<td>Institute of Linguistics at Adam Mickiewicz University 7th International Conference on Legal Translation, Court Interpreting and Comparative Legiliugistics</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lingualegis.amu.edu.pl">www.lingualegis.amu.edu.pl</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>22-28 Jul</td>
<td>Norwich, UK</td>
<td>Britisch Centre for Literary Translation Summer School 2012</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bclt.org.uk/index.php/summer_school">www.bclt.org.uk/index.php/summer_school</a></td>
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<td>6-8 Sep</td>
<td>Southampton, England, UK</td>
<td>British Association for Applied Linguistics 45th Annual Conference</td>
<td><a href="http://www.llas.ac.uk/baal2012">www.llas.ac.uk/baal2012</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>28-30 Sep</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
<td>Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer e.V. (BDÜ) Biennial conference „Übersetzen in die Zukunft“</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uebersetzen-in-die-zukunft.de">www.uebersetzen-in-die-zukunft.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>4-6 Oct</td>
<td>Madrid, Spain</td>
<td>European Language Industry Association (ELIA) ELIA Networking Days Madrid</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-7 Oct</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
<td>California Federation of Interpreters</td>
<td><a href="http://www.calinterpreters.org/10thAnnualCFIContinuingEducationConference">www.calinterpreters.org/10thAnnualCFIContinuingEducationConference</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>17-19 Oct</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
<td>Localization World Seattle</td>
<td><a href="http://www.localizationworld.com">www.localizationworld.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>24-27 Oct</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>ATA 53rd Annual Conference</td>
<td><a href="http://www.atanet.org">www.atanet.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Oct -</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>Association for Machine Translation in the Americas (AMTA)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.amtaweb.org">www.amtaweb.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Nov</td>
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<td>10th Biennial Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-18 Nov</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA</td>
<td>American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.actfl.org">www.actfl.org</a></td>
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**ATA Certification Exams**

The ATA generally has 30-40 exam sittings each year. Please visit the ATA Certification Program page on the ATA website for the most up-to-date list:

www.atanet.org/certification/upcoming.php

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 Feb 2012</td>
<td>Houston, TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Mar 2012</td>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Mar 2012</td>
<td>Henderson, NV</td>
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<td>25 Mar 2012</td>
<td>Overland Park, KS</td>
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<td>28 Apr 2012</td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Apr 2012</td>
<td>Winston-Salem, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 May 2012</td>
<td>Boston, MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Aug 2012</td>
<td>Novi, MI</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Questions or comments?**

We hope you enjoyed this issue of interaktiv. If you have any questions or comments, or would like to contribute to a future issue, please contact Matt Baird at matt@boldertranslations.com.