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Dear Readers,

The world of translation tends to lurk in the shadows of society and commerce—an industry that is rarely seen or recognized. When a translator’s work ends up in print or online, it is more often than not published in someone else’s name—the end client’s, for example. Literary translators, on the other hand, represent a group in our industry who see their names in print on a more regular basis. So it’s no wonder that those of us who translate works of fiction and nonfiction are more recognized in the “outside world.”

In this Winter 2014 issue of interaktiv, we’d like you to meet a few of our fellow GLD members who have published translations recently. (Please note that the translators presented here answered a call put out on the GLD-List and do not represent an exhaustive list). In addition, Northwestern University Press has graciously granted permission to reprint the Translator’s Preface of Dieter Kühn’s Gertrud Kolmar Leben und Werk, Zeit und Tod, published in March 2013, by Linda Marianiello, who translated the biography together with Franz Vote. If you’re like me and not the most cultured individual on the face of the planet, the preface provides some rare insight into “A Literary Life”—both Kolmar’s and Marianiello’s.

But before being wowed by the scholarly talent among us, read our lead author, GLD Administrator Eva Stabenow, whose “Word from” will expand your knowledge of all (current) things GLD, followed by another pager-turner: the minutes of the GLD meeting in San Antonio, penned by none other than Jill Sommer, one of the GLD’s most accomplished translation bloggers. Aachen-based GLD European Coordinator, Karen Leube, offers her second installment of “(Translation) Notes from the Homeland” and der Ausschuss für Übersetzen (AfÜ) der UNIVERSITAS Austria presents its first Zwischenbericht zum Korrekturlesepool.

By tradition, we tap a talented “newbie” to tell us what they thought of their first ATA Annual Conference, and this year we are pleased to have two: one seasoned, Germany-based translator, Tatjana Dujmic, who offers a comprehensive, first-time look followed by one budding young, Wisconsin-based translator, Emery Paine, who poetically ponders his experience and whether there will be a next one. (Actually, I lied, a third one is coming soon via the GLD blog so keep your eyes peeled).

This issue’s Translator in Profile just happens to be yours truly, who denies being “a writer” but manages to scribble down this editorial twice a year not to mention maintain a copywriting business. To make matters worse, he put pen to paper yet again to tell a Translator on Tour story that has nothing to do with translation.

Our final interaktiv author, Christiane E. Bohnert, records a concise Wörterbuch-Rezension of the Fachwörterbuch Zoll- und Außenhandel. And like a good bookend, this Winter 2014 issue is buttressed by our trusted calendar of events, which—thanks to some member feedback—provides a (hopefully) comprehensive list of events on both sides of the Atlantic of interest to you.

Happy reading!

Mit besten Grüßen aus Bonn
Matt Baird
A Word From the Administrator

Dear GLD Members,

2014 is already well underway as I write this, and yet it seems as though only a few weeks ago we were all gathered at the 54th Annual Conference in San Antonio, attending the sessions, networking, meeting friends both old and new, sampling the local cuisine and absorbing the local vibe, not to mention the fabulous weather.

Those who were able to join us in San Antonio may have noticed that the annual GLD meeting turned into a regular race against the clock. We accomplished most of our official business, but the reduced timeslots for divisional meetings this year definitely cut into what is normally a very fruitful discussion about next year’s conference, as well as time to give all members in attendance a chance to speak. We plan to request a larger timeslot for next year.

Preparations for the 55th Annual Conference in Chicago in November are already underway. At this point we only have a few potential presenters and leads and would love to hear your suggestions. If you would like to present this year, please email me! And please also let me know if you have submitted a proposal to ATA.

In administrative news, we decided to streamline our Leadership Council a bit as we discovered it had grown quite large compared with other divisions. This was done in part to make room for the new division leadership talent. Each member now has a specific role. You may be wondering what these people are doing, so here’s a short overview of some of the happenings:

Our European Coordinator, Karen Leube, has organized a half-day meeting in Mainz on Friday, February 7. We’re very excited to have a platform for GLD members in Germany to meet and get a bit more face time with the division! Make sure to read her “(Translation) Notes from the Homeland” column to stay on top of translation industry topics in Germany.

Former division administrator Ruth Gente-Krawczyk is now in charge of responding to questions from new members. She is also our new contact for the proofreading collaboration with Universitas Austria. You’ll find a nice report on the collaboration in this issue. Contact Ruth (ruth@krawczyktranslations.com) to sign up and find a proofreading partner!

Our webmaster Susanne Aldridge is working on a website redesign that will hopefully be online within the next month or so. In other online news, we hope to announce our new Social Media Coordinator shortly so stay tuned! The division plans to follow the lead of other divisions and use social media to extend our reach to more members as well as the general public.

2014 marks an election year for the GLD, and the nominating committee, consisting of Ruth Boggs, Frieda Ruppaner-Lind and Susanne van Eyl, has been hard at work recruiting new GLD leadership.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who make this publication possible as well as all those of you who stepped up to present or otherwise assist at last year’s conference. We are always open to your suggestions and input on how to improve future offerings and events, so please take a moment to let us know your thoughts!

Wishing you all a prosperous, happy 2014!

Eva Stabenow
GLD Administrator
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the GLD
San Antonio, Texas
November 7, 2013

The annual meeting of the German Language Division of the American Translators Association was called to order at 5:05 PM by the division administrator, Eva Stabenow. Copies of the agenda and last year’s minutes had been placed on the table in the back of the meeting room for people to pick up when they walked in. The agenda was unanimously approved with no objections. The minutes of the 2012 meeting were unanimously approved with no objections. Ms. Stabenow lamented the lack of time this year and moved right on to the meeting itself.

Dagmar Jenner was invited to offer a greeting on behalf of Universitas in Vienna. Ms. Jenner invited the GLD members to participate in the group’s upcoming 60-year anniversary on September 26-27, 2014. The event will feature a visit from Austria’s Bundespräsident. She also reminded the members of the proofreading pool that was set up last year.

Matt Baird was invited to talk about the newsletter. The GLD newsletter, interaktiv, was published two times this year – in February and August. The PDF newsletter remains at 20 pages in length and features a greeting by the division administrator and newsletter editor, a translator profile, a dictionary review, and other content. He asked the members to send in more content. The members thanked Matt and his newsletter team for their hard work.

The webmaster Susanne Aldridge was not present at the meeting. Ms. Stabenow mentioned the website needs revising and more content and asked the members to please submit content.

The listserv moderator, Gerhard Preisser, was invited to talk about the listserv. There are currently 425 members, and there is some potential for growth considering the GLD membership is currently around 1500 members. Discussions on the listserv are primarily terminology, translation and business-related. Twenty percent of the posts are off-topic.

Karen Leube, the GLD’s European Coordinator, was then invited to discuss the GLD activities in Europe. There are 148 GLD members in Germany and Austria. They try to meet and have a listserv to facilitate the arrangement of get-togethers. Approximately 20 members attend these meetings.
The nominating committee of Ruth Boggs, Susanne van Eyl and Frieda Ruppaner-Lind was put for approval. Jill Sommer motioned to approve the nominating committee, and Matt Baird seconded the motion.

Ms. Stabenow thanked Leadership Council and Michael Engley for their hard work this year in helping organize the GLD events and sessions at this year’s conference. She reminded the members that next year’s conference will be in Chicago on November 5-8, 2014. She asked for suggestions for next year’s invited speakers and requested that members let her know when they have submitted a conference proposal.

Ms. Stabenow announced that the GLD Happy Hour would be held later that night from 7-9:00 PM at Rita's on the River and that tickets were still available.

The floor was opened for other comments. Robin Bonthrone thanked Ms. Stabenow for her excellent work as the GLD Division Administrator and was heartily backed up by the members.

Ms. Stabenow then asked if there were any other questions or concerns. When none were raised, she adjourned the meeting at 5:35 PM.

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.

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
(Translation) Notes from the Homeland

FIT XXth World Congress 2014: What’s in it for me?

Karen Leube

The International Federation of Translators (FIT) is inviting translators from all over the world to attend its 20th World Congress in Berlin from August 4 to 6, 2014. FIT is the largest international grouping of associations of translators, interpreters and terminologists in the world (including ATA). Host and organizer of the FIT congress, entitled “Man vs. Machine? The Future of Translators, Interpreters and Terminologists”, is BDÜ, Germany’s largest association of professional linguists. Conference sessions will be held in German, English and French, with interpreting services available for a number of the sessions.

So what’s in it for us, the translators on the ground? FIT may appear to be yet another echelon more remote than our national professional associations. And wasn’t there just a lively exchange on the Business Practices list about the financial ramifications of the 19th FIT congress, which was hosted by ATA in August 2011? I talked with Norma Keßler, BDÜ press spokesperson, and this was her enthusiastic answer:


Durchführung lehnen sich sehr stark an die beiden BDÜ-Fachkonferenzen 2009 und 2012 an. Neu beim FIT-Weltkongress werden die sogenannten Postersessions sein, die auch kleinen, aber feinen Themen, die nicht das ganz große Publikum anziehen, die Chance geben, sich den Teilnehmern zu präsentieren.


Convinced? Mark your calendars. A pre-conference get-together (dinner?) for ATA members attending the conference is also in the works.
Zwischenbericht zum Korrekturlesepool

Am Anfang stand die Idee der UNIVERSITAS-Generalsekretärin, Übersetzerinnen des österreichischen Berufsverbandes könnten sich mit ATA-KollegInnen aus Übersee vernetzen, um für beide Seiten gewinnbringende Synergien beim Lektorat von Übersetzungen zu bilden. Dies würde nicht nur die transatlantischen Beziehungen zwischen den Verbänden stärken, sondern griffe auch konkret das Problem auf, dass Proofreading durch eine/s zweite/n Sprachexpertin/Sprachexperten zusehends als Muss-Kriterium angesehen wird, es jedoch oft nicht einfach ist, eine geeignete Person für eine solche Kooperation zu finden.


Und wo stehen wir nun, einige Wochen nach dem Startschuss?

Nach einer ersten Welle von begeisterten Rückmeldungen („was für eine tolle Initiative“, „liebe Grüße aus dem nächtlichen Texas“) und ersten Korrespondenzversuchen, die über die gesamte AdressatInnenliste ausgesendet wurden, ist es nun ruhiger geworden um den Korrekturlesepool. Und das ist auch gut so! Von Anfang an drehten sich unsere Überlegungen zum Korrekturlesepool darum, dass dieser, von halbjährlichen Updates (Korrekturen oder Eintragen von neuen Pool-Mitgliedern) abgesehen, „selbst-administrierend“ sein müsse. Die Abwicklung einer Lektoratskooperation ist


Proofreading Collaboration between GLD & UNIVERSITAS Austria

A partnership of sorts is underway with our friends at UNIVERSITAS Austria. Together the two organizations have put together a “proofreading pool” – a list of translators on both sides of the Atlantic who may be looking for a proofreader to collaborate with on translation projects.

It works like this: both organizations swap lists of interested members and provide the list to their membership upon request. The translators themselves take it from there!

If you would like to be added to the list, please contact Ruth Gente-Krawczyk at ruth@krawczyktranslations.com

Learn more about UNIVERSITAS Austria here: www.universitas.org
den beteiligten Personen komplett selbst überlassen. Die Auswahl und Kontaktannahme sollen jeweils direkt durch die interessierten KollegInnen erfolgen. Dies hat auch den Vorteil, dass alle selbst entscheiden können, wie umfassend oder tiefgehend das Lektorat sein und auf welcher Basis diese Dienstleistung ausgetauscht werden soll (Punkte-, Zeilen-, Zeitkonto ...).

Der AfÜ verspricht, zur Unterstützung auch eine Übersicht über Art und Umfang von verschiedenen Lektoratsleistungen auszuschicken. Dieses Schreiben ist auch schon fast fertig und wird die Pool-Mitglieder bald erreichen. Die vorweihnachtliche Arbeitsflut und ein paar andere Projekte haben uns hier ein wenig in unsere Pläne gepfuscht ...

Aus einigen Richtungen hören wir, dass bereits sehr zufriedenstellende Kooperationen eingegangen wurden. Wir sind zuversichtlich, dass die Vernetzung weiter gedeihen wird. Vielleicht lassen auch Sie sich bald schon von einem Kollegen oder einer Kollegin aus Übersee dabei helfen, Ihrer Übersetzung den letzten Schliff zu geben!

Der Ausschuss für Übersetzen (AfÜ) der UNIVERSITAS Austria

Have you checked out the GLD website and blog?

The GLD entered the world of social media some time ago – now it’s time for our members to join in! Future news and articles will be posted on the blog throughout the year. That way you receive timely division news. Click below to go to the website or subscribe to the RSS feed today!
A Visit to the GLD Library –
Meet our Members and Their 2013 Publications

Meet a few of our fellow GLD members who published translations in 2013 and click through to learn more about their publications. Please note that the translators presented here answered a call put out on the GLD list and do not represent an exhaustive list of members who published translations in 2013.

Linda Marianiello and Franz Vote published two books this year:


http://nupress.northwestern.edu

Northwestern University Press has graciously granted permission to reprint the translator’s preface written by Linda. It is found on page 11.


Linda Marianiello, M. A. and Franz Vote, B. A. are Santa Fe-based freelance translators of German into English. The couple has been translating full-time in the arts, literature, fashion, and marketing since 2004; they added legal and medical translation to their list of specializations in 2010. For more than 20 years, Linda has translated and interpreted for international music festivals, presenting organizations, conferences, and publishers. Linda and Franz are active members of ATA. She also served on the board of the New Mexico Translators and Interpreters Association from 2010-2012. With the German novelist Jan-Philipp Sendker, Linda presented a bilingual reading at the 2011 ATA conference in Boston. Linda and Franz can be reached at lindamarianiello@gmail.com.
Elizabeth Tucker: Prehistoric Future: Max Ernst and the Return of Painting Between the Wars by Ralph Ubl (November 2013, University of Chicago Press)

Elizabeth Tucker translates German with a specialization in the history and theory of art and architecture. Her recent books include Las Vegas in the Rearview Mirror and Cindy Sherman: The Early Works, 1975–1977: Catalogue Raisonné (translated together with Fiona Elliott). She is currently working on The Systemic Image: Iconicity in the Frame of Computer-Based Real-Time Simulations, to be published by The MIT Press. She can be reached at tucker.ej@gmail.com.


Mary Burke holds degrees in German from Kalamazoo College and Indiana University and earned her ATA certification in 1999. Most of her work is in the medical field, with occasional forays into the arts. She also plays the viola da gamba professionally and has written program notes for numerous Baroque ensembles and soloists. She had the pleasure of seeing the German volume on display at Niggli’s booth at the Frankfurter Buchmesse during the Erlangen workshop. Mary can be reached at mvb@slapshoe.com

M. Charlotte Wolf: Pit, the Little Flea (November 2013, Ludwig2Verlag)

A native of Regensburg, Germany, M. Charlotte Wolf, Ph.D, is proud to announce her first translation of a children’s book into English. She has lived in the US for almost 20 years and has published a number of books with Dover Publications, Inc., among them a dual language anthology of German short stories. Currently, Charlotte is working on a collection of Bavarian folktales, to be published in 2014. She can be reached at www.transgermanllc.com.
Translator's Preface from “Gertrud Kolmar: A Literary Life”
Linda Marianiello

Writing for one of Germany's leading national newspapers, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Wolfgang Schneider said that "Dieter Kühn has reinvented the art of historical narrative." Kühn's German publisher, S. Fischer Verlag, had this to say about Gertrud Kolmar Leben und Werk, Zeit und Tod [Gertrud Kolmar: Life and Work, Times and Death]: "Dieter Kühn's polyphonic biography tells the story of the great poet and her Jewish family, a family that was forced to emigrate to the four corners of the world. By way of documents, eye-witness reports, and letters, he presents a literary and political picture, a broad panorama of the period."

The English translation of Kühn's biography of the Berlin poet Gertrud Kolmar has been more than two years in the making. Some aspects of the work may initially strike you as foreign, because Gertrud Kolmar's world was rather far removed from our own. Yet when we look beyond superficial differences, Gertrud Kolmar was not so different from you or I: she lived, she loved, and she created. And she did so in an era when women had many fewer rights and a murderous Nazi dictatorship decimated German culture."

"Yet when we look beyond superficial differences, Gertrud Kolmar was not so different from you or I: she lived, she loved, and she created. And she did so in an era when women had many fewer rights and a murderous Nazi dictatorship decimated German culture."

Dieter Kühn, whose generous, ongoing participation in the translation process helped us to remain faithful to his intentions. He is also responsible for the abridged version of the work on which the English translation is based. Our condensed biography of the poet thus includes those portions of the original work that he - and not we - considered essential.

Gertrud Kolmar: A Literary Life begins with an imaginary letter from her father, Ludwig Chodziesner, to his daughter and Gertrud's younger sister, Hilde. Dieter Kühn calls such letters "factitions. At the beginning of Chapter 2, Kühn explains their purpose: "So as to clearly differentiate, I will identify letters that are not part of the written record as 'factition'—that is, fiction based on fact. Put another way, these interfamilial letters shall stay within sight of verifiable facts. They are meant to connect, form a bridge, create an atmosphere, and bring to mind the poet's symbiotic surroundings."

In order to differentiate between "factitions" and other historical texts from which Dieter Kühn also quotes extensively, we have chosen a special font that stands out from the rest of the text. With regard to Chapter 1, in particular, I believe that the following quote on p. 15 of the opening "factition" will help you to understand why Kühn chose to open
the work in this particular way: "Whoever wishes to understand her must first understand her father. For, in many respects, his eldest daughter followed in his footsteps." Throughout the work, Kühn capably demonstrates that the symbiotic relationship between Gertrud Kolmar and her father played a significant role in her life and career. On the positive side, this unusually close father-daughter relationship gave Kolmar the financial freedom to practice her craft.

In collaboration with Northwestern University Press, we decided to use British spellings for Gertrud Kolmar’s writings, for those of other family members and contemporaries, and for Kühn’s "factitions." This gives their writing a more authentic flavor, while also transporting modern readers to another time and place. Gertrud Kolmar was proficient in many foreign languages, including English. She would most likely have known and used British English. On the other hand, Kühn’s writings and all other portions of the biography, including the poetry translations, are written in U. S. English. This decision is very much in keeping with the polyphonic nature of the text: We can almost hear the voices of the various characters that make up the fabric of Kühn’s newly created historical genre. In my view, this musical and theatrical element plays a major role in the effectiveness of his narrative.

My colleague, Franz Vote, translated the poetry in Gertrud Kolmar: A Literary Life. In addition to his expertise in the field of translation, Maestro Vote is a noted opera conductor (www.franzvote.com). He consciously decided not to preserve the rhyme scheme of Kolmar’s poetry, but to focus on rhythm, flow and imagery instead. The poet-translator Jon Delcourt also served as poetry editor. Many thanks to both of them for their important contributions to the successful completion of this multifaceted project.

Finally, please refer to the glossary at the end of the book. We have tried to include footnotes in places where unfamiliar terms, facts and/or names appear in the text. Some German keywords don’t readily translate into English, so we’ve also added them to the glossary that you may revisit them at any time. These terms are not merely words, but the reflection of an entire cultural orientation and way of thinking. The word, Volk, is just one example of a word that was loaded with nationalistic and cultural significance in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Germany.

As translator, I feel that I’ve come to know Gertrud Kolmar and her family personally. My world has become larger in the process. Along with Dieter Kühn, I grieve when Gertrud Kolmar and her father die at the hands of their Nazi persecutors. And I rejoice at her profound ability to write poetry for eternity, which was her express desire. For Gertrud Kolmar was one of Germany’s greatest, twentieth-century poets. She was also an intensely private person who lovingly served others. How lucky we are to be able to read her work today. If family members had not hidden her poems and other literary works during the Second World War, they would have been lost to us forever. I hope that you, too, will be deeply moved and inspired by the person and poetry of Gertrud Kolmar.
54. ATA-Konferenz
Blick über den großen Teich und den Tellerrand

Tatjana Dujmic

Von Trossingen in Baden-Württemberg nach San Antonio, Texas/USA: Tatjana Dujmic besuchte erstmals die jährliche Konferenz des amerikanischen Übersetzerverbands ATA und zieht ein persönliches Fazit, inwieweit die Investition in eine solche Reise lohnt.


Das Organisatorische

Sehr praktisch fand ich die „Language Dots“, bunte, selbstklebende Punkte, die man sich auf das eigene Namensschild kleben konnte und bei denen jede Farbe für eine Sprache stand. Diese waren ein wunderbarer Türöffner, über die man unkompliziert ins Gespräch kommen konnte.

“Mit insgesamt drei vollen Konferenztagen und mehr als 170 Sessions zu allen Themen, die das Übersetzer- und Dolmetscherherz höher schlagen lassen, wurde für das Geld wirklich sehr viel geboten.“

Das Fachliche


Das Menschliche

Alles in allem mehr als 20 Events außerhalb der Fachveranstaltungen hielten für jedes Interesse etwas bereit. Mein Highlight hier war die Welcome Reception – die erste Gelegenheit, einzu tauchen und bei leckerem Essen und einem Glas Wein locker mit Leuten ins Gespräch zu kommen.

Das Fazit
Ein Hotel als Veranstaltungsort hat durchaus Vorteile: Im Foyer gab es einen Coffeeshop und vielfältige Möglichkeiten, sich kurz zurückzuziehen oder etwas zu essen, und die Hotelbar war nach den Sessions magnetischer Anziehungspunkt für zahlreiche Kollegen.

Die Inhalte der Fachvorträge glichen denen der bisher von mir besuchten Konferenzen in Deutschland, wobei es im Gegensatz zu den BDÜ-Konferenzen kein besonderes Leitthema gab. Da in den USA geregelt Ausbildungs- und Studiengänge für Übersetzer und Dolmetscher nicht in dem Umfang und in der Qualität vorhanden sind wie in Deutschland, ist der Anteil der Quereinsteiger wesentlich höher, womit das Thema Professionalisierung und Spezialisierung einen hohen Stellenwert bekommt. Auch die Kollegen in den USA beschäftigen sich mit den Themen der Positionierung und der Erzielung guter Preise.

Wenn gleich der Besuch der Konferenz aufgrund der Reisekosten keine ganz günstige Angelegenheit war, so hat er sich doch in vielerlei Hinsicht gelohnt: neues Wissen, viele neue Kontakte und einfach mal über den Tellerrand geschaut zu haben.

Meine erste ATA Conference war ganz sicher nicht meine letzte – aber zunächst mal steht 2014 die FIT-Konferenz in Berlin auf meinem Programm. Als Welt-Kongress dürfte diese den Blick über den Tellerrand noch einmal ein gutes Stück weiter gehen lassen. Ich bin gespannt!

Weitere Infos: http://eventifier.com/event/ata54/ (Event-Zusammenfassung in Bildern, Tweets und Videos);
Website der ATA: www.atanet.org
ATA Conference First-timer: Emery Paine

This past conference was my first. I went into it new to both the organization, having just joined this year, and the profession, having only started in it a couple of years ago and not having met with much success. As much as I did to prepare, I was still nervous. Would I be received as a rank amateur, a promising novice or a fellow professional? More importantly, which of these was I?

In the conversations I had I learned a lot about both the profession and myself as a professional. My concerns about clients being unwilling to pay for translations. I received a lot of advice, some of it contradictory. Specialization was the major area of contention: some said that I should choose one, others said I would find my way to one naturally, and still others said I didn't need one. However, in one conversation I realized that I already had the background to go into technical, scientific, or journalistic translation.

The conference was important to me and my career trajectory. I've determined that the freelancer sites which I was frequenting would never yield steady income and so I should instead focus more on direct clients and agencies, in addition to attempting to find in-house positions. The conference helped with that as well; as I met many representatives of agencies and people who can otherwise refer clients to me. I've already had a couple of projects from a contact I made.

I'm not sure if I will be seeing you all at Chicago; I don't know at this point if I'll have the money to come but if I do, I will definitely come back.

My first conference | I came quite far
I was nervous | for I was new
and reticent. | The Rivercenter
was where my merit | would be measured.

But when I came | I counted no weights
I found no foes | just friendly folk
who wished to know | what this novice
could do for them | & they for him

My first event | the first evening
was for newcomers | to this network
to meet with some | senior members
who'd act as guides | at this gathering

I did not know | how one networks
could I learn it | quick as lightning?
It was easy | as everyone
met me half way; | a mite helpful

Many advised | about matters
some counsel | conflicted with
what others said | one the subject
like the selection | of specialties

Some opined | it's optional
others told me | the opposite
with my background | as a basis
I found I had | a few already

Many advised | an altered method
I decided to | directly take
all my clients | or call agencies
I shall forgo | freelancer sites

Betimes I met | Matt Baird, who
asked me to write | an article
He suggested, | not seriously
I could, perhaps, | compose a poem

On the last day | there was the dance
A finale | for the fleet feet
I found the steps | not so formal
as I'd assumed | antique ideas.

After my return | I reflect on
the conference | & what comes next:
a year of work | & whether yet
I shall travel | to Chicago?

Am I truly | a translator
worthy of such | social wordsmiths?
I concluded | that I can call
these polyglots | my germane peers
Translator in Profile: Matt Baird

Where are you based and what brought you there?
I’m based out of Niederkassel, Germany, which is just outside of Bonn – rechtsrheinisch, die richtige Rheinseite! I followed my beautiful bride, Carolin, to Germany in 2008. After four years in a cozy apartment in the city, we bought a house just a stone’s throw from the river. My home office has never been this quiet – and lunch-time runs along the river have become a regularity!

What got you started in translation?
Like many translators, my path to translation was not a straight one. I like to say I “backdoored” into the business. It all started with an internship as a translator for a German machine tool manufacturer, which just happened to have an office in Boulder, Colorado, and whose CEO just happened to be a close friend of one of my professors. I certainly wasn’t qualified, but I could “speak German” and that’s about all the qualifications they thought I needed. Fortunately – for them and for me – they started me with simple communications from the home office and I was able to query several native speakers – something I did on a regular basis! After nine months as an intern I was offered a full-time job as a translator and administrative assistant, a position I instantly accepted. Two years later I had established some skills as a translator, attended two ATA conferences on the boss’s nickel and – most importantly – learned that nine-to-five was not for me.

Now translation had never been on my radar screen. A double major in German and International Affairs, I actually had political aspirations – policy writing, that is. I took the job in Boulder as a resume builder. Two years later I was accepted into a graduate program at the Center for German and European Studies at Georgetown and went to Washington D.C. as an optimistic youth following his dreams – dreams that in less than a year “inside the beltway” were shattered into oblivion. There, nine-to-five quickly became eight-to-seven and I got a first-hand experience of the meaning of “work hard, play hard,” though the play part typically meant darts or billiards in one of many Dupont Circle bars on Friday night. I burned out rather quickly, something easy to do when the flame is lit on both ends.

The upshot of my Washington experience was threefold: I learned that K Street wasn’t for me, the Colorado calling was too strong to resist, and I could make a living as a freelance translator.

“The upshot of my Washington experience was threefold: I learned that K Street wasn’t for me, the Colorado calling was too strong to resist, and I could make a living as a freelance translator.”
Back in Boulder, I settled into my new life as a freelance translator rather quickly and naturally – I was never comfortable in a suite anyway. I loved being my own boss and working flexible hours from home. I was pretty sure I had found what I wanted to do for a living. Over a decade later, I’m absolutely certain of it.

What languages do you work in and what are your areas of specialization?
I translate exclusively from German to English and specialize in corporate communications.

What do you like most about being a translator?
No doubt, I love the freedom and flexibility.

What do you like the least?
I sometimes lament the ebbs and flows of the business – often referred to as feast or famine. Thankfully (knock on wood) I’ve never experienced a real famine. Whenever business was slow, a quick note to one of my best clients was typically all it took to land that next job. I have a business-savvy cousin to thank for that tip early on! I’m lucky enough to complain about having too much work, one of the few downsides of working with direct clients. When a client really depends on you, it’s excruciatingly difficult to say no. I’m getting better at it, though, so with any luck I won’t have an answer to this question in the future.

What was your most memorable job, strange or otherwise?
The jobs I remember the most are the ones that are the most fun – and I have the most fun translating articles for clients who don’t want to see a 1:1 translation and actually encourage me to be creative. Most recently I translated a *wanderlust*-inducing travel article for Audi’s quarterly customer magazine. My client has an outstanding editor and we had a lot of fun fine-tuning that one for publication!

What are your goals for 2014?
Work less and make more, it’s that simple.

What are your hobbies or other interests?
When I’m not working, I pretty much like to do anything that doesn’t require me to be at my desk, but my favorite pass times are skiing, mountain biking, cycling, hiking, running and travel – basically anything outdoors.

Editor’s note:
Who would you like to learn more about? Please send your suggestion for our next Translator in Profile to matt@boldertranslations.com
Translator on Tour:
5 Countries, 6 Cities & 25,000 Kilometers...

...all in five, frantic days!

Matt Baird

It was dubbed “The Greatest Journey in Rugby” – a promotional tour put together by my client, DHL, to officially announce becoming the Official Logistics Partner of Rugby World Cup 2015. The Webb Ellis Cup, which is the Trophy claimed by the winners every four years, was to be taken from the current champions, New Zealand, back to International Rugby Board headquarters in Dublin. And I was to tag along on assignment as a content editor and ghost writer.

You’re probably scratching your head at this point, so let me backtrack for a moment. DHL is one of my direct clients. I not only translate for them, I also review and write English content for both online and print media – one area of which is marketing and sponsorships. I was tapped for this assignment because I had been involved as a writer when DHL sponsored Rugby World Cup 2011.

Now this was bold, new territory for me in so many ways. Not only had I never witnessed a corporate promotional tour such as this one, I had never been a ghost writer for anyone, not to mention flying half way around the world in five days...

Starting in Frankfurt, I first flew to London to meet with my soon-to-be counterpart from the PR firm that had organized the tour. He was in charge of making sure we – which included our “cup chaperone,” New Zealand rugby legend Grant Fox – were always at the right place at the right time. This I found out later was both a blessing and a curse. Though I never had to worry about our itinerary, I was never able to keep our itinerary straight!

In Auckland 26 hours and two flights later, we hit the ground running, meeting both the local DHL team and Grant within hours of landing. Grant turned out to be a real laid back Kiwi and right away we all knew we were going to get along just fine.

The tour was organized like this: DHL was to carry the Webb Ellis Cup from Auckland to Dublin via Sydney, Johannesburg, Cape Town and London – so the four nations that have won the Trophy since the inaugural tournament in 1987 – with local events along the way. We were slated to overnight on the ground only in Sydney and Johannesburg. The events included customer receptions, press conferences, school visits and kids’ rugby clinics, and in each country former national players met Grant to boost local exposure and media interest.

Matt Baird is a German-to-English translator, editor and copywriter based in Niederkassel outside Bonn and specializing in corporate communications. Matt has a B.A. in German Studies and International Affairs from the University of Colorado and over 13 years’ experience in translation. He can be reached at matt@boldertranslation
Though only a side note, my job was to both observe from the shadows and interview both Grant and others along the way in order to write a first-person account for Grant and do some reporting for DHL’s internal communications. I admittedly struggled at first, not being a journalist by trade, but by the end of the tour I was shoving my recorder into the faces of just about anyone who would talk to me. The hardest part of the whole deal was finding time to write and writing on the fly – literally in the plane, in a cab, in the airport lounge and late at night in my hotel room. I’d be lying if I told you I diligently put pen to paper all along the way – I mostly just wanted to sleep whenever we had some down time.

Grant was great to work with and fun to write for. Even after 14 hours and six events, he was both willing and able to give me some great quotes in the cab to the hotel or airport. I spent much of my time listening and recording Grant in order to capture his voice and use that in his blog posts.

All in all it was a fabulous though undoubtedly frantic trip that left me exhausted – and under the weather for days afterward. I didn’t have much time to recover though. Four days later I found myself on a plane again bound for San Antonio for the ATA Conference.

Follow Mox’s freelance-translator life at Mox’s Blog
Dictionary Review / Wörterbuch-Rezension
Fachwörterbuch Zoll- und Außenhandel Deutsch-Englisch / Englisch-Deutsch

Christiane E. Bohnert


„Jedoch sollte ein Wörterbuch im Zeitalter der allgemeinen Zugänglichkeit des Internets schon Quellen oder Autorerfahrungen vorweisen können, die sich nicht mit einem Klick bei Google erschließen.“


Der englische Teil enthält anscheinend mehr Fachwörter, aber auch er ist fehlerhaft: Unter „interrogation“ steht richtig „Vernehmung, Befragung“, jedoch steht davor noch „Anfrage, Abfrage“, was eine Verwechslung mit „inquiry“ bzw. „query“ zu sein scheint. Unter „intoxication“ steht nur „Vergiftung“, obwohl es in der Regel den Zustand der Betrunkenheit bezeichnet („driving while intoxicated“). Daneben steht „food intoxication“ als „Nahrungsmittelvergiftung“, was wohl nur stimmen kann, wenn die genossenen Nahrungsmittel vergoren sind, ansonsten ist es „food poisoning“. Bei „meat offal“ schließlich ist das EU-offizielle „Schlachtnebenerzeugnisse“ aufgeführt, aber hinter „Schlachtabfall“.

„Daneben steht ‘food intoxication’ als ‘Nahrungsmittelvergiftung’, was wohl nur stimmen kann, wenn die genossenen Nahrungsmittel vergoren sind, ansonsten ist es ‘food poisoning’.“


Christiane E. Bohnert, CT EN -> DE (ATA), SGÜEN, has been working as a financial and legal translator from English into German for the past twenty years. After getting her doctorate in German, history, and philosophy at the Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz, she worked in publishing and academe. Coming to the U.S. in 1985 on a Charles-Phelps-Taft postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Cincinnati, she worked in academe, and in 1994 started her freelance business as a certified translator, specializing in finance and law with occasional excursions into literary, social and economic sciences as well as tourism. She lives in St. Louis, MO.

dr.bohnert@charter.net
### Calendar of Events 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Organization/Event</th>
<th>More Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-16 Mar</td>
<td>Karlsruhe, Germany</td>
<td>Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer e.V. (BDÜ)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bdue.de">www.bdue.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Erfolgreich Kunden gewinnen und binden</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>“The business of language” (in cooperation with InterpretAmerica)</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-30 Mar</td>
<td>Leipzig, Germany</td>
<td>Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer e.V. (BDÜ) Einstieg ins Lektorat</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bdue.de">www.bdue.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Apr</td>
<td>Spartanburg, SC</td>
<td>Carolina Association of Translators &amp; Interpreters 2014 Annual CATI Conference</td>
<td><a href="http://www.catiweb.org/">www.catiweb.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>24-26 Apr</td>
<td>Riga, Latvia</td>
<td>European Language Industry Association (ELIA) ELIA Networking Days Riga</td>
<td><a href="http://www.elia-association.org">www.elia-association.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 May</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>New England Translators Association (NETA) 18th Annual Conference</td>
<td><a href="http://www.netaweb.org/">www.netaweb.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>7-9 May</td>
<td>Budapest, Hungary</td>
<td>memoQfest International 2014 Kilgray Translation Technologies</td>
<td>memoqfest.org/</td>
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<td>16-18 May</td>
<td>Las Vegas, NV</td>
<td>National Association of Judiciary Interpreters &amp; Translators (NAJIT) 35th Annual Conference</td>
<td><a href="http://www.najit.org/">www.najit.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>18-21 May</td>
<td>Palms Springs, CA</td>
<td>Association of Language Companies (ALC) 2014 ALC Annual Conference</td>
<td><a href="http://www.alcus.org/">www.alcus.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>23-24 May</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
<td>Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer e.V. (BDÜ) Mit Erfolg in die Selbstdigkeit: Sprachmittler starten durch</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bdue.de">www.bdue.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>26-28 May</td>
<td>St. Catharines, Ontario</td>
<td>27th Conference of the Canadian Association for Translation Studies (CATS)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.act-cats.ca/">www.act-cats.ca/</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 13-14 Jun  | Mainz, Germany   | Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer e.V. (BDÜ)  
**Die Welt der Banken und ihre Sprache** | www.bdue.de       |
| 27-28 Jun  | Leipzig, Germany | Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer e.V. (BDÜ)  
**Kombiseminar Translation-Memory-Systeme und Terminologiesysteme im Vergleich** | www.bdue.de       |
| 4-6 Jul    | Poznan, Poland   | Institute of Linguistics at Adam Mickiewicz University  
9th International Conference on Legal Translation, Court Interpreting and Comparative Legilingual | lingualegis.amu.edu.pl/ |
| 14-18 Jul  | TBA             | British Centre for Literary Translation  
Summer School 2014 | www.bclt.org.uk/    |
| 4-6 Aug    | Berlin, Germany  | 20. FIT Weltkongress  
**Im Spannungsfeld zwischen Mensch und Maschine – Die Zukunft von Übersetzern, Dolmetschern und Terminologen** | www.fit2014.org/   |
| 4-6 Sep    | Coventry, UK     | 47th Annual Meeting of the British Association for Applied Linguistics  
Learning, Working and Communicating in a Global Context | www.baal.org.uk/   |
| 5-8 Nov    | Chicago, IL      | ATA 55th Annual Conference                                                          | www.atanet.org/    |

**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

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ATA is offering a new digital only option for The ATA Chronicle in 2014! This means you can choose to receive The ATA Chronicle in digital format only. Of course, you can also continue receiving The ATA Chronicle by mail and still have the same unlimited access to the digital editions on the ATA website. The choice is yours. Just check the delivery option you prefer when you renew.

**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.