



## 2023 Literary Division Annual Meeting – Minutes

The 2023 Literary Division annual meeting was held virtually on September 21, 2023, at 11 AM ET.

19 members were present:

Shelley Fairweather-Vega  
Mercedes Guhl  
Kelley Salas  
Patrick Saari  
Ellen Elias-Bursac  
Melody Winkle  
Jennifer Ottman  
Ronnie J. Rigdon  
Andrew Nemeth-Newhauser  
Timothy Gregory  
Carolyn Kyung Ha Kim  
Kelly Burt-Candelaria  
Patricia Schaefer Roeder  
Michele Bantz  
Laura Nagle  
Ellen Yutzy Glebe  
Kate Deimling  
Melanie Magidow  
Hannah Varadi

The **meeting agenda** was presented and accepted.

The **minutes of the 2022 annual meeting** were shared on the screen, read by attendees, and approved without changes.

**Administrator and Assistant Administrator: Shelley Fairweather-Vega** thanked the nominating committee for their work. **Mercedes Guhl** and Shelley were renominated. Their term will last 2 years. It is time to start thinking of others to run because Mercedes and Shelley will have to step down at that point due to term limits.

**LD Leadership Council:** The Leadership Council currently has 9 people (many of them at this meeting). LC terms are one year. Later this fall LD leadership will ask current members if they want to continue and will seek some new members.

**Report on 2023 LD activities:** This year LD hosted a webinar cohosted by **Andrea Nemeth-Newhauser** and **Arwen Dewey**: “Translators in the Spotlight: How to Give a Successful Reading.” There were 2 parts: instruction and a practice session with feedback from experts and peers. Shelley says it was very valuable and more webinars will be planned. Mercedes mentioned that part 1 was recorded and is available on the LD YouTube channel, but it is not a public channel. Mercedes shared the link in the chat. **Patricia Schaefer Roeder** asked in the chat if continuing education points are available. Mercedes confirmed that 1.5 CE points are available.

## ATA 64 in Miami:

- Highlights include sessions by our **distinguished speaker, Will Evans**, publisher of **Deep Vellum** (according to him, the biggest publisher of translated literature in the US right now). He will give two presentations about the current state of the publishing industry regarding translated literature. We like to have distinguished translators as speakers but it is also a good idea to bring publishers and editors too because they are an important part of our ecosystem.
- Shelley will offer a **multilingual translation workshop** as part of a new format at the conference called professional forums. It will be one hour long and may break up into groups based on language family depending on attendance. This will be a chance to receive feedback from peers. Shelley will send instructions to everyone in the LD so they know what kind of excerpt to bring and how it will work.
- **LD lunch on Saturday**: we need a volunteer to choose a place for this. Usually we only get 6 or 8 people at the lunch.
- **After Hours Café** Thursday evening: Please sign up and bring something to read!
- **Book and Resource Fair**: LD will have a presence at the book fair again. Members can bring a copy of their work for display (not for sale) like last year. We will have a catalogue again, in an updated version. Mercedes says a Google form will be sent out to add your publications (print or digital). You can provide a link for reading the translation online or purchasing in print. Like last time, donations of \$1 per work will be requested to cover printing costs. **Kelley Salas** agreed to work on the layout. Mercedes clarified that you don't need to attend the conference to be in the catalogue or to have your books present at the book fair. You can send your books with someone else. **Tim Gregory** mentioned the possibility of printing postcards to have something to give out. Mercedes specified that the catalogue should contain recent translation publications, i.e., from 2020 onward.

## Update on Source:

- **Rethinking Source**: Mercedes explained that the LD publication Source has come to a standstill for various reasons. Editorial now consists of 2 people; few submissions are received; it is hard to find contributors because people expect an honorarium or a line on their resume, but Source is not an indexed publication. There are also few readers. The LD is looking to move to a different kind of publication that requires less time and effort from an editorial team. Source could be 30-40 pp long; perhaps a shorter publication is needed and could be published online. One option is to publish one article at a time from a member about a past or upcoming literary translation project. The new publication could be on the website or take the form of a Substack. LC member **Laura Nagle** uses Substack, and her input could be requested. Mercedes invited Source editor **Patrick Saari** to add any comments. Patrick said that he enjoyed the experience of editing Source and acknowledged that it is time for a change.
- **History of Source**: Shelley said there is a long list of past issues on the website going back to 2008. Patrick explained that before 2008 there was a printed publication, Beacons, which came out once a year and there was also a newsletter that was more news-focused.
- In answer to a question from Kelley Salas, Mercedes said we could consider moving to a blog format.
- Members thanked Source editors for their work in the chat. Kelley suggesting announcing the change to Source on the website to inform members. She would like to see more coverage of literary translation in other ATA publications.

**LD website update:** All division websites are having problems right now after technical problems at ATA HQ and staffing changes. ATA now has an outside contractor who has resurrected division websites. But many things were lost and links were broken. There is no content on the LD website right now except old issues of Source. **Melody Winkle** has volunteered to help stock website. This can be taken as an opportunity for change, since LD website was a bit old-fashioned and hard to read. We will have links to webinars, resources, newcomers to field, etc. This will be a focus this year and next. LD is seeking input from members regarding website content.

**Social media and listserv:** Shelley put links to LD Facebook and LinkedIn groups in chat. Both groups are public. Mercedes says Twitter is not very active. She sometimes posts news or announcements. The listserv has not been that active but there are sometimes interesting discussions.

#### **Goals for the LD:**

- **A home for literary translators:** Shelley would like ATA to be more welcoming to literary translators. The LD has a huge membership, but few people actively participate. It's more an aspirational place for many members. This is fine. We want to welcome veterans and newcomers. Yet it's a challenge to serve both.
- **Communication:** LD would like more communication with ATA leadership. Some LD requests/concerns have been successfully addressed by ATA: fewer conflicts with distinguished speakers in literary fields presenting at the same time. The free table for the LD at the book fair is also welcome.
- **Engagement with ALTA:** LD interested in more engagement with ALTA. ALTA president **Ellen Elias-Bursac** is an LD and ATA member. She will attend ATA64 and is here at our meeting. Ellen says ALTA just published a newly written set of guidelines for universities considering professors for tenure or advancement and including translations in their portfolio. ATA endorsed it and shared the announcement in its Newsbriefs. Yet LD administrator and assistant administrator weren't informed that ATA leadership was considering endorsing the guidelines, which is unfortunate (even though they agree it is a good step).
- **ATA book prizes:** LD would also like to be more involved in ATA book prizes. **Kate Deimling** is now on honors and awards committee to help provide a voice for LD.
- **Proposals for ATA65 in 2024:** At next year's conference we will not have a distinguished speaker. It will be every other year for divisions now. Mercedes suggested a workshop about drafting conference proposals and is open for others to collaborate. Tim Gregory offered to help facilitate this.
- **Mastermind group on translation theory and critique:** ATA has created "mastermind groups." Mercedes proposes a study and discussion group about translation theory and translation critique. She pointed out translation theory in English is quite different from what you get in French or German or other languages. With different language pairs we could get a glimpse into different views of translation.
- **Online readings:** We had 200 attend the online After Hours Café in 2000. We may offer an online reading in the spring.
- **Webinars:** Propose a topic now or anytime to Mercedes or Shelley. We could also pair up with a language division to generate more topics and interest. Only LD members can attend ATA webinars and they must be offered for free. There is no honorarium for speakers. Webinars can then be available to members on our website and YouTube channel.

**Hannah Varadi** asked about mentorship possibilities. Mercedes and Kate both were mentors (to Kelley and Melody) through the ATA mentorship program, so that is a possibility. Kate suggested that an “Ask Me Anything” session could be offered as a webinar.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 11:59 ET.

Minutes taken by Kate Deimling.