

net news

FEBRUARY—MARCH 1977 issue. The NETA News is the newsletter of the New England Translators Assoc'n.*

*The NETA is a regional Chapter of the ATA, The American Translators Association, a national professional society.

Editor: Alice Berglund

Assistant Editor: Marianne Warnick

Ed. Office: 35 Catherine Dr.
Peabody, MA 01960

MARCH MEETING

Dr. Marc Boucher will be coming down from Maine to talk to us March 8 at 8:15 p.m., Harvard Science Center, Room 109 (same as last month). Dr. Boucher is an expert on bilingualism in Quebec. He will sketch the background of the Separatist Movement and the events leading up to "La Loi Vingt-Deux" (22) which mandated bilingualism.

The interest of all this for us is that the disciplines of translation and terminology have had to be suddenly and massively expanded. The Canadians have had the opportunity to set things up as they should be, from the start. The Quebec government (and the Ontario government) have been actively involved. What the problems are and how the Quebecois have been facing them we shall hear from Dr. Boucher.

The talk will be in English. No Roundtable this month.

FEBRUARY MEETING

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A TRANSLATOR

Bob Abilock kindly supplied a list of 10 questions relating to the coordination of a translator's work with his other personal, social, family and intellectual pursuits, which was sent out with last month's meeting notice. We discussed these questions, sharing our common experiences and our differences.

1. How many hours do you work?

We answered this question with respect to hours per week. The full-time translator works roughly 40 hours per week (A notable exception is an 80-hour week put in by one of our members!). But there the similarity stops. Some translators prefer to work hard one week and relax the following week. Others prefer to put in a certain number of hours per day. Some prefer to work by day; others, by night. A good deal of the translator's time is devoted to library research, administrative details, and editing. Perhaps 5 out of 8 hrs. is spent actually translating at typewriter or dictaphone.

2. How is a week's work divided—over 5, 7 days?

Most of the translators agreed that they would prefer not to work weekends, but concurred that due to the nature of the business, some weekend work was inevitable. Some translators preferred to divide their work evenly over 5 days, although some days were infinitely more productive than others; others

preferred to work in long spurts superefficiently and then relax several days at a time. Most felt a minimum of two days break per week was necessary for productiveness and mental health. But, again, the pressures on a translator are sometimes such that he prefers to work until his job(s) are completed, whether or not it involves weekend work.

3. When working 8 hours, do you work 8 hours straight or in spurts?

One translator referred to his work as the "ideal piecework" job, because the work could be done well in spurts with relaxation in between. Another worked better plowing through long jobs without stopping so as not to lose momentum. Most agreed that the intellectual endeavor involved was so intense that it was extremely difficult to work for many hours at a time without break. (For those who use dictaphones, they can't seem to work for hours on end because hoarseness sets in.) Most felt productiveness plunged with fatigue.

3. Can a translator schedule vacations?

While everyone admitted the need for a change of pace, most found that scheduling vacations is a troublesome matter. Problems involved are: telling your customers you will be away (and taking the chance that they will come back to you when you return—although translators who have long worked in the business have gained some confidence with respect to their clientele!); winding up your present workload (and saying "no" to last-minute rushes); delegating responsibility (and hoping that the place does not fall apart while you are gone!); etc. Some translators have taken their work with them—to Greece, Bermuda, etc. and extended their "vacations" over a long period of time, weeks or even months.

4. How do you (and your family) feel about the inability to plan ahead in your personal life?

Some of us feel very strongly that the lack of planning is a very big drawback to translating—but certainly not so great that it would drive a translator back to a 9-5 job. Families of the translator appear to like the idea that he (or she) works at home and is on hand to participate in family life, the rearing of children, etc. Interruptions may occur in plans for outings; should one go to the ballet when a call comes in for a rush job? Since the home is also the office, friends must often be told (sometimes firmly)

"I can't talk now—come back later". Telephone calls often (although sometimes pleasantly) interrupt a train of thought.

6. How much concentration does your work require? What about background noise?

Some translators felt that low-key music playing in the background aided the translation process; others could even tolerate loud jazz-type music. An "out-house" translator felt he could not work with the clacking of typewriters in the background, while an in-house translator felt this noise to be most routine and untroublesome. Most of the translators with children around felt they "tuned them out". The consensus was that certain noises bothered some, while others were unaffected.

7. How does full-time translation affect your sense of the passage of time?

All of us felt that free-lance translation is an activity that precludes "clock watching." One translator felt that time stood still and he looked out the window to see a sunset when it seemed that hardly a few minutes ago he sat down in the morning to work. Another fell asleep at the dictaphone; she had lost all track of time. This lack of time distinction extends also over the long period. We debated whether this sense of rapid time passage was peculiar to the translating business, or whether it was a sign of living a life of doing what one likes to do, not noticing how fast time passes, and this is particularly the case as one grows older.

8. How do you cope with the pressure of never-ending deadlines? Is it healthy?

Most translators felt that even though there are many time pressures involved in producing their work, this pressure is not as great as that engendered by other types of employment. (Perhaps we as individuals work better under "work" pressure than under "people" pressure—Ed.) Some of us even require deadline pressure to get us going—a long job with a 6-month deadline is very frightening to one translator, who felt she would tend to relax until a few days before it would be due—and then work under extreme pressure to complete it. For this translator, shorter jobs with rapid turnaround time are perfect. This 6-month deadline, however, is perfect for another translator. He can work at a regular pace over a long period without worrying about job security or heavy time pressures. Some translators always have a backlog: such a condition produces job security (i.e., one doesn't pace the floor until the mail arrives), but seems to generate never-ending time pressures (the job has now been sitting here for over 2 weeks and has to go out today!) Are we Type A characters—prone to ulcers and heart attacks? I think we decided that, generally speak-

ing, we are not. Deadlines are always there, but we have learned to live with them.

9. Would you prefer work in a narrowly restricted field or a wide range of subjects?

Most translators agreed that over the years they tended toward specialization, simply because the work was easier (even though sometimes more boring) and that one could earn a better living by specializing—his client can receive a top-notch job, and the translator's hourly output is much higher than for subjects he is not familiar with. Other translators felt that although they like to specialize, they also enjoy other work from different fields, simply because they enjoy the wide learning experience and the satisfaction of doing something "difficult." Most admit that the remuneration in this case is very low, but the work is very absorbing. Some like work in advertising and medicine as a diversion and challenge. Another prefers patents as a "specialty." These provide both wide variety of subject matter as well as relatively simple linguistic treatment. (Of course, the translator is well-versed in "patentese".)

10. Is pure translation a viable career?

The answer to this question seems to depend on whether the translator is a literary or industrial translator. There are very few literary translators who can make a career or make a living from translation. On the other hand, industrial translators generally find that translation is a viable career both from the standpoint of adequate remuneration over the years as well as the intellectual satisfaction it affords. In addition, a translator can work as long as he is able and wants to—retirement and disabilities will little affect his life's work. On another level, is translation creative in itself? Does the translator take a back seat to the writer? Is every translator a would-be writer? Most felt translation in and of itself is creative; not all of us can be Karl Kraus—but we can introduce him to our culture. Even if the writers and researchers in the industrial field are the "doers", even though we as translators occupy a secondary place, most of us feel that being involved in the communicating of ideas is reward in itself.

11. Etcetera

One important addendum to our discussion was the very distinct advantage we as translators have—we are able to set our own course in life. We can turn the accelerator up or down—work more when we want to, less when we want to enjoy other things. We can set ourselves an "income level" and change it as we desire. What other profession could offer a person such flexibility?

ROUNDTABLE PASSAGES

1. The French passage printed in the Dec. 76/Jan. 77 issue of NETA News and originally picked by the Austin TX group was discussed at our January meeting. The passage was simple at first glance, but had the remarkable property of growing murkier and murkier the more one looked at it. Some clarity began to emerge after we had bounced some ideas around, but the last sentence, especially, still has us collectively baffled. (Any light to be shed from the sunny Southwest?) Here is our version:

Between the beginning of the nineteenth century, when the word "terminology" first came into the French language, and the present day, there has been a drastic upheaval in both the need for and the exercise of knowledge. However, the study of the lexicon and of vocabularies tended to evolve along a parallel course to linguistics, and somewhat independently.

Dictionary-making, a venerable activity which became socially important in the Renaissance when equivalences had to be established between different languages, became defined, especially in the eighteenth century, in Spain, Italy, France, and England as a description and standardization of one language in and of itself. In the Age of Enlightenment, particularly after the scientific revolution in the early nineteenth century, this practice gave rise to some thinking here and there which gradually came to form a specific field of endeavor: lexicography. This development is admirably reflected in the history of the words. Although the term lexicographer, the practitioner, is attested as far back as the sixteenth century, lexicography and lexicology emerge in the immense ordering of concepts and methods which was the Encyclopédie of Diderot and d'Alembert. However, despite considerable improvements in vocabulary description (we think of the work of the brothers Grimm, after that of Samuel Johnson, then of Littré or Murray in the nineteenth century), despite the great changes in linguistics at the time of Saussure, lexicography did not emerge as a scientific project until a few decades ago, from the theoretical thinking of linguists and logicians and the practice of a few (a very few) lexicographers who wanted their studies to be based explicitly on theory. The study of the dictionary as a sociocultural object, as metalinguistic speech, or governed by rules, or as a field of application (of transformation) of scientific options dates only from the 1960s.

2. The roundtable Spanish passage also reproduced in the last issue of the News and which was the subject of an old ATA accreditation examination, publicized at the 1975 ATA Convention, was discussed at our February meeting. The following is our version; however, since we had only one contribution in writing to the Roundtable which was annotated during our discussion, we welcome any comments and criticism from the members-at-large.

According to Bohr's experiments, each atom is comprised of a positively charged nucleus that constitutes almost the total mass of the atom around which rotate negatively charged electrons, corresponding in number to the positive charge number of the nucleus. This structure immediately suggests our solar system, in which the sun is the nucleus and the planets are electrons, and, when we include Pluto, the last planet discovered, we find that the solar system is 10^{12} times larger than the sun, so that the density of the nucleus must be enormous. When we regard this coincidence, we find that the world of the infinitely large is related to that of the infinitely small. The positive charge number of the nucleus is equal to the number where the element is found in the periodic table and therefore corresponds to the atomic number. Assuming that it is a sphere, the atomic nucleus is 10^{15} times smaller than the atom; the size of the latter is determined by the outer electrons which rotate around the atomic nucleus. In comparison to this distance, the electron size is insignificant.

From the time when this theory first appeared up to the present, our knowledge of what constitutes matter has been greatly expanded. In the theories which prevail today, the intuitive ideas that gave birth to Bohr's model have been lost. Today's theories, based on indeterminacy principles, although very difficult to comprehend, adapt themselves much better to the experimental data than does the above depiction; they offer mankind an indispensable weapon for attacking problems which are so important today, such as nuclear fission, atomic and molecular spectra, etc. Nevertheless, in order to reach this stage of refinement, it was necessary to start with the foundation that Bohr had set forth in his comparison with the solar system.

JANUARY MEETING

Maria Salmon graciously offered her Winchester home and several of her neighbors driveways to the NETA group for its January meeting. Despite the bad driving conditions, there was a fair turnout.

After a lively Roundtable discussion, the group proceeded to the main business of the evening which was a discussion of sources of information for translators—other than dictionaries.

Isabel Leonard showed us a variety of appropriate books, the most valuable of which seemed to be a series entitled How does it work? There are versions of this informative series in several languages. It provides basic, easy-to-understand discussions of technical and mechanical subjects.

Bob Abilock presented numerous trade journals, among them Research and Development, ISA (Instrument Society of America) Journal, and Industry Week. These publications are an invaluable source of terminology, information about new products, and current research in a number of technical fields.

Alice Berglund brought the Technical Translators' Manual publ. by Aslib. She also passed around various pamphlets containing new product information. She suggested that second-hand book sales, an annual event at most local libraries, are a useful and cheap (sometimes \$1.00 per carton) source of technical volumes.

Rudy Heller buys the Spanish language version of Popular Mechanics—Mecanica Popular at the Out-of-Town Newstand in Harvard Square.

Bill Grimes uses foreign-language catalogues (as well as their English counterparts) to increase his vocabulary in the various languages with which he works. He also suggested that foreign language publications for students are helpful in learning about and understanding some technical topics.

The evening was successful and informative, and the informal, at-home atmosphere was enhanced by delicious refreshments served at the end of the evening.

M. Warnick

NEW APPROACH TO FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The last issue of NETA News included an article dealing with declining enrollments and lack of student interest in foreign language study at the university level.

Phyllis Coons of the Boston Globe staff attended a recent meeting of the Mass. Foreign Lang. Assn. She reports that William Spencer, Chairman of Foreign Languages at the Masconomet Regional

Jr. and Sr. High School revealed that enrollment in foreign language courses has increased since the adoption by his department of an Exploratory Foreign Language Program. Before the program began in 1974, only 68% of the students who took the required language course in 7th grade continued the course the following year. Last year, 93% of 8th grade students continued to take foreign language courses, and this year the figure was 92%.

Before institution of the new program, teachers in the school believed that lack of student interest resulted from lack of discipline, poor attitude, unwillingness to memorize and ignorance of English grammar. Then Spencer and members of his department began to investigate what might attract more students to languages. A decision to spend a year on general introductions developed from this investigation.

Seventh graders were divided, like Gaul, into three parts. Each student took one term of Spanish, one of German, and a third of French. They were introduced to the geography, history, music, customs, and food of each country, rather than to rules of grammar. Teachers gave lessons in the strategy of word learning before plunging into vocabulary tests. Since the classes started with a general approach to languages, the grade system and possible failure became less threatening.

There were food days with lessons in making German sausages, Spanish tortillas, French ratatouille. Students learned to say and spell what they were cooking, and to do their own shopping in ethnic grocery stores.

Instead of using standard films, teachers and students learned to make their own films and stage their own skits involving practical matters such as applying for a job in Germany as compared to doing the same in America.

Boys who staged a 5-mile bike race sweated out repairs in French in imitation of "Tours de France". Soccer and lacrosse players were penalized for speaking English. There were other projects which helped to lighten the drudgery of vocabulary drills and tenses.

At the end of the 7th grade, students are better able to make up their minds about which language is best for them. After exposure to the Exploratory Foreign Language Program, they are well prepared to learn their chosen language by more traditional audiovisual methods.

The exploratory program doesn't work with every student. However, early exposure to the culture of various other countries seems to have aroused the interest of many 7th graders, and the program appears to be worthy of investigation by other secondary school language departments.

—condensed from the Boston Globe

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FIT WORLD CONFERENCE MONTREAL, May 12-18, 1977

It is our hope that both Mr. Boucher's talk about Canada's bilingualism and our own desire to meet our foreign colleagues will encourage many of us to attend this year's conference in Montreal. We are enclosing a form for registration as an insert in this issue of the **News**. Please note that if the form is returned by March 15, a savings of \$10 will result. Transportation to Montreal: This is a 7-hr. trip by auto from the Boston area. Bill Grimes is considering the possibility of a car pool. Anyone interested should contact Bill as soon as possible. Round-trip air fare (coach) is roughly \$75, Boston-Montreal. Bus fare is \$47.70.

ACCREDITATION EXAMS TO BE GIVEN IN APRIL

As we announced at the February meeting, the NETA is again offering the ATA accreditation examinations. They will be held on Saturday, April 16 in Conference Room C, Usdan Student Center, at Brandeis. The exam is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. sharp; please plan to arrive 15 or 20 minutes early to allow time for registration.

Active and Associate Members of the ATA are eligible to take the exams, but not Student Members. The fee is \$25.00.

You can be accredited to translate from French, German, Portuguese, Russian, or Spanish into English; or from English to Spanish. Each exam is three hours long. Only one may be taken at this sitting.

If you have failed the exam in a given language, you may take it over again for a fee of \$5.00 as soon as a new set of questions has been devised. This means that no one who has taken and failed the Portuguese-to-English or the English-to-Spanish exam may retake it in April; no one who failed an exam in French, German, Russian, or Spanish in August or November, 1976, may retake it yet. New tests in some of these languages are planned for later this year.

If you wish to take the exam on April 16, please send a postcard—with your name, address, phone number, and language desired—to Susan Brownsberger, 25 Russell Ave., Watertown, MA 02172. THE DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 1977. You will receive by return mail an information sheet on grading procedures.

WORK

Medical Translator/Abstractor needed full time to assist medical writer of international pharmaceutical company in English translations or abstracts of published or unpublished foreign-language texts. Requires excellent command of both German and English (French desirable), preferably at least 3 years experience in translating medical, pharmacological or biochemical material on a professional basis; degree in one of the life sciences desirable but not essential. Salary: \$16,000-18,000.

Contact: Gerhard S. Sharon, Drug Regulatory Affairs, Boehringer Ingelheim Ltd., 33 W. Tarrytown Road, Elmsford, N.Y. 10523. (914) 592-4311, Ex. 256.

CHEROKEE LANGUAGE TEXTBOOK

The Cherokee language is the native tongue of about 20,000 Americans. Recently a Cherokee Indian and a linguist combined their abilities to write the first textbook for the language.

Sequoyah invented the Cherokee alphabet in the early 1880s. There are Cherokee books and a dictionary, but until now, no textbook for teaching Cherokee to English-speaking people.

The linguist, Ruth Bradley Holmes, has a degree in Slavic languages from the University of California at Berkeley and teaches Russian in adult education courses. The Cherokee Indian, Betty Smith grew up speaking Cherokee in Stilwell, Oklahoma.

About 6 years ago, Mrs. Smith asked Mrs. Holmes for help with lesson plans for an adult Cherokee language class she teaches. They spent so much time on the project that they decided to publish it.

"Cherokee is a concise language in which words are built from many small meaningful parts," states Mrs. Holmes. "If you really understand, you can make a verb say just exactly what you mean. It is very difficult to lie in Cherokee." As an example, she cites 2 Cherokee words, both of which mean "he was speaking". However, there is a subtle difference between the two. "Ka-ne-gv-gi" means "I heard him myself"; while "ka-ne-ge-i" means "someone told me so".

In the introduction to the textbook Mrs. Holmes says, "A Cherokee noun is often a short description of the thing designated and could pass for a sentence since the description usually contains a verb."

An example of this is "tsa-na-da-ni-so-di" meaning cemetery or, "they are laid there by others, not finally". The word for California is "a-de-l'tsu-hdl-unh" or "where they find money".

Beginning Cherokee is a 332-page book published by the Univers. of Oklahoma press. It is designed to help those who already know Cherokee to teach it to others.

—condensed from The Peabody Times

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Bought a shirt lately? The pieces of cardboard inserted into shirt packages are perfect for stiffening a translation package before mailing. Shirt-stiffeners are always eagerly sought by freelance translators, and donations of same brought to NETA meetings would be gratefully seized.

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JANUARY—JUNE 1977 DUES (\$5.00)

Current dues must be paid by March 31st. On April 1, the Secretary will remove the names of all unpaid members from the mailing list.

DICTIONARY POOL UPDATE

All members of the NETA Dictionary Pool are asked to send 3 x 5" cards of new acquisitions to Alice Berglund, 35 Catherine Dr., Peabody, MA 01960 for our yearly update. The sooner such cards are received, the sooner we will type up and distribute the update.

HAVE CURSE—WILL TRAVEL

While the above slogan might well appear in a television spot for Midol, it is in reality printed in large letters in the middle of the business card sent to the NETA News by Dr. Reinhold Aman, self-styled President of "Maledicta, the International Research Center for the Study of Verbal Aggression, Inc."

We came across Dr. Aman's name in a recent issue of Verbatim, in which he was mentioned as the author of the "Bayrisch-österreichisches Schimpwörterbuch" (Lexicon of Austro-Bavarian Terms of Abuse), Munich, Süddeutscher Verlag, 1973 (2nd edition 1975). Intrigued by the idea of a dictionary of swear words, we wrote to Dr. Aman and received a healthy handful of abuse . . . not aimed at us, understand, but at the prospective readers of his forthcoming journal, Maledicta. The International Journal of Verbal Aggression. Quite simply, if you find it fascinating to learn the equivalents of our favorite four-letter words in a wide variety of esoteric tongues, or want to be able to read the graffiti in whatever airport loo you find yourself, drop Dr. Aman a line. We're sure he'll gladly tell you to ! ? **

Maledicta Press

Dr. Reinhold Aman, Pres.

331 S. Greenfield Ave.

Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186

—WJG

TRANSLATION EXPERTS HELP MANY FIRMS AVOID COSTLY AND EMBARRASSING ERRORS

When General Motors introduced its Chevrolet Nova to Puerto Rican dealers, the car met with little enthusiasm. There was a simple explanation. "Nova" means star in Spanish, but sounds like "no va", which means "it doesn't go". The car's name was changed to "Caribe", and sales increased.

Parker Pen Co. was similarly embarrassed when an ad campaign directed to Latin America stated

that a new ink would help prevent unwanted pregnancies.

The two preceding anecdotes are reported by G. Christian Hill in a recent issue of the Wall Street Journal. Mr. Hill points out that many companies are learning that there is a close relationship between phraseology and profitability.

With the growth of foreign trade comes an increasing awareness of the importance of foreign language. The linguistic nuance can be a critical factor when used in advertising aimed at non-English-speaking consumers. Incorrect legal, financial, and technical terminology can present even more serious problems.

As a result of this new growth there has been an upsurge in the demand for business and technical translation. Some of the larger firms—Agnew Tech-Tran, Inc. and AD-EX Translations International USA in California, and All-Language Services Inc. in New York City—report business increases of 7-10 times during the past six years.

Detente with the Soviets and extensive development by Middle Eastern countries have stimulated much of this growth. Control Data Corp. reports large sales to the Russians, and is now a major customer of Agnew Tech-Tran. An official of Control Data states that they now require translation of whole volumes of text in contrast to the situation five years ago, when little or no Russian translation was required by their firm.

Translation errors can be costly, and in some cases, tragic. A worker was killed at a construction site in the Middle East when a load of cement fell on him from a cement mixer. The translated manual for the mixer mistakenly stated that a lever should be pulled right instead of left, and was thus responsible for the accident. Structure collapses at two construction sites in the Middle East have also been blamed on poor translations.

Fortunately, most mistakes are simply embarrassing or funny. For instance, Otis Engineering Co. once informed Russians attending a trade show that its oil well completion equipment was great for improving a person's sex life; and an auto battery made in the US was advertised in Venezuela as a "highly overrated" piece of equipment.

Illustrations can also present problems. A picture that offends can spoil an otherwise accurate translation. McDonnell Douglas Corp. once encountered a problem when it produced an aircraft brochure for distribution in India. The brochure pictured some turbaned men. The company was politely informed that turbans were worn by Pakistani Moslems.

Good translators need many more abilities than knowledge of the target language. They must be familiar with current idiomatic use of the language, the culture of the country and the technical area in which they are working. They must also have a knack for conveying American concepts to foreign consumers. It is often necessary to rewrite entire passages and to coin new words—especially in technical areas—

when the target language has no equivalent term.

Major translation jobs can be costly. Agnew Tech-Tran charged Hughes Aircraft Co. \$375,000 for translating nearly 2 million words of specifications.

Lengthy technical reports or major sales presentations could cost a company from \$25,000-\$40,000. These are more typical of jobs handled by large translation firms. These firms pay their best translators \$15 per hour. Translators skilled in certain areas or languages may be paid more. One Japanese certified public accountant earns a salary of \$60,000 per year.

Translation services receive many applications from would-be translators. Irene Agnew of Agnew Tech-Tran relies on a 6th sense to find the good ones, but admits she is not always successful.

—WSJ, 1/13/77, contributed by B. Reichenbach

JEDER SPRACH EINE ANDERE SPRACHE

—Nur keiner sprach Deutsch: Richter vertagte den Fall

Darmstadt, 19. April—Der Richter schüttelte den Kopf, der Staatsanwalt blickte ungläubig: Was sich in dem Darmstädter Gerichtssaal tat, hatten sie noch nicht erlebt.

Ein Angeklagter sprach nur Marokkanisch, der zweite nur Italienisch, der dritte nur Türkisch. Sie hatten einem Engländer den Rolls-Royce

ausgeräumt. Als Zeugen waren geladen: Ein Grieche und zwei Spanier. Doch der einzige unter den Juristen im Gerichtssaal, der eine Fremdsprache fließend beherrschte, war der Verteidiger—leider sprach er nur Polnisch.

Resignierend vertagte der Richter daraufhin die Verhandlung, denn das einzige, was zu verstehen war, war die Aussage des Italieners: „Ich war so besauft.“ Zur nächsten Verhandlung sollen Dolmetscher geladen werden.

Contributed by B. Reichenbach from
Münchner Abendzeitung

COMMUNICATION GAP?

The NY Times story on the use of plurilingual verse to inform a friend where a house key was concealed (NETA News, Oct./Nov. 76) reminds me of the time I used a similar technique to convey the same information to a keyless roommate. The roommate knew Russian (she now translates it for the U.N.); so I wrote the note not in Russian—a language of which I am ignorant—but in English, in Cyrillic characters. My friend came back to find a helmeted bobby peering at the message. He thought we were a commy drop.

—I Leonard

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Detach the form below and send it with \$5.00 dues to Rudy Heller, Box 55, Newton Highlands, MA 02161 before MARCH 31. The names of all unpaid members will be removed from the Membership List after this date. (Please note: We are currently paying dues twice yearly; our current period is Jan.—June 1977).

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Commentary—Free style. We invite you to jot down your thoughts on translation in general and the NETA in particular. Also, we are always on the look-out for appropriate material from other sources to include in the News. Again, we were happy to receive so many contributions from the membership for this issue of the News.

FEB 11 1977

GUIDELINES FOR TRANSLATION PROJECTS

I. The Division of Research Grants of the National Endowment for the Humanities announces an experimental program to support translations into English of major works in foreign languages and invites the submission of proposals for that purpose.

The intention of the program is to make available to scholars and to the general reading public annotated translations which will contribute to an understanding of the historical and intellectual values of other cultures. The availability of a greater range of translated works should also broaden the possibilities and scope of comparative research by scholars in all humanistic fields.

II. Categories of Texts

Texts from any discipline relevant to humanistic scholarship are eligible. Preference will be given to translations of primary sources from pre-modern periods, but outstanding secondary works of particular historical or cultural importance will also be considered. Although projects for translation from all languages are eligible, the Division has been alerted to particularly pressing needs for translations from the Chinese and from the major Islamic languages (i.e. Arabic, Persian, and Turkish).

III. The Application

The Application should include:

1. a) A description and summary of the contents of the text proposed for translation.
- b) A statement concerning the status of the text. (For example, does the text exist in a definitive edition?)
2. A statement concerning the significance of the work, its place in its own intellectual tradition, and its importance for scholars who do not command the language of the original.
3. A brief description of the applicant's linguistic competence and general scholarly expertise.
4. A discussion of the particular problems connected with the proposed translation and how these are to be dealt with. In addition to questions of translation, this discussion should include details concerning the scholarly apparatus-- notes, glossaries, etc.--and an outline of the introduction which will precede the translation.
5. The applicant should submit a sample translation (with notes), of approximately five typewritten pages. A photostat of the original from which the sample was translated should accompany the application.

IV. Funding

A single application may request support for up to three years of funding. If work on a project will extend beyond the limits of a single proposal, the application should outline the work that would subsequently remain. Support may be offered in outright funds, gifts-and-matching, or a combination of both.

V. Staff

Any queries about this program should be addressed to J. Leeds Barroll, Deputy Director of the Division, and to Susan A. Mango, Division of Research Grants, Mail Stop 350, NEH, 806 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506.

VI. Deadline

The first deadline for submitting proposals in final form will be April 1, 1977. This is the last day on which applications may be mailed. Decisions on these applications will be available in September, 1977.

N.B. Applicants in this program should read and follow the General Information and Instructions for Application issued by the Division of Research Grants in December, 1976.

Symposium gehalten in Mainz am 19. und 20. Januar 1976

Die Zahl von mehr als dreihundert Teilnehmern aus den In- und Ausland hat sowohl die Erwartungen des Veranstalters, das Deutsche Atomforum in Bonn, als auch die der Fachleute übertroffen. Das große Interesse ist sicherlich durch die nun allorts erkannte Bedeutung begründet, die nicht zuletzt in den nicht endgültig gelösten Problemen dieses Bereiches liegt. Zur „Entsorgung“ gehört neben der Wiederaufarbeitung die Abfallkonditionierung und Abfallagerung, die weiteren wichtigen Schritte wie Brennelement (BE) -Zwischenlagerung, Transport der BE und des endlagerfähigen Abfalls, die Refabrikation der BE sowie die Beseitigung der Abfälle aus Kernkraftwerken (KKW) und die Stilllegung von KKW. Bei der Betonung des Entsorgungscharakters darf nicht vergessen werden, daß die Wiederaufarbeitung eine große energiepolitische und wirtschaftliche Rolle spielt und Voraussetzung für die Einführung der schnellen Brutreaktoren und damit der letztlich angestrebten unabhängigen Energiewirtschaft ist, worauf H. Böhm hinwies.

Start

Der Vortrag von H. Mandel behandelte insbesondere die energiepolitische Bedeutung der Entsorgung. Die Wiederaufarbeitungs- und Abfallkosten werden heute auf mehr als 500 DM/kg U (J. Sornein: 250 bis 350 S/kg ohne Abfallmanagement) geschätzt und sind damit in den letzten drei Jahren in der gleichen Größenordnung wie Uran und Anreicherungskosten angestiegen. Wegen des gleichzeitigen Anstieges der Kosten für fossile Energieträger – der Anstieg der Kernbrennstoffkosten um 1,1 Pf/kWh entspricht einer Steinkohlenkostensteigerung von nur 33 DM/t – wird jedoch die Kernenergie die Schlüsselrolle in der zukünftigen Energieversorgung nicht streitig gemacht werden können. Die Kosten der Entsorgung betragen auch heute nur etwa 12 % der gesamten Brennstoffkosten.

Ausgehend von einer Kernenergiebedarfsschätzung, die für 1980 rd. 20 % für 1985 rd. 40 % und für 1990 rd. 60 % an der Gesamtstromerzeugung betragen soll, werden unter der Randbedingung, daß langfristig keine ausländischen Wiederaufarbeitungs- und vor allem Abfalllagermöglichkeiten für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland zur Verfügung stehen, zwei Dinge dringend notwendig:

1) zügiger Aufbau von Wiederaufarbeitungs- und Abfallagerkapazität und

2) Errichtung von Zwischenlagern für bestrahlte Brennelemente.

Bei der Wiederaufarbeitung ergibt sich in der nächsten Zukunft folgende Situation: für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland fällt 1985 86 mehr als 1000 t U/a und 1990 ein kumulierter Anfall von mehr als 10000 t U an. Für Westeuropa sind es 1990 mehr als 3000 t U/a, kumuliert fast 60000 t U für die EG.

Daraus ergibt sich, daß für die volle Aufarbeitung 1981 die erste Anlage von 1500 t/a, 1984 die zweite und alle zwei Jahre eine weitere Anlage in Betrieb gehen müßte. Es ist heute bereits erkennbar, daß dieses Ziel kaum erreicht werden kann. Deshalb ist es notwendig, Lagermöglichkeiten für bestrahlte Brennelemente zu schaffen. Die Bedarfsschätzung ergibt für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland eine Zwischenlagerkapazität von rd. 6000 t U. Die Kostenrechnungen für die Zwischenlagerung (40 DM/kg U: spezifische Investitionskosten 125 DM/kg U) zeigen, daß keine spürbare Erhöhung der Brennstoffkosten bei einer zeitlich begrenzten Lagerung zu erwarten ist.

Der Nutzen der Rückführung von Uran und Plutonium als Brennstoffreserve ergibt annähernd eine Einsparung an Natururan von 20 %, und an Trennarbeitsbedarf von 13 % ... eine anderweitige Beschaffung dieses Brennstoffs dürfte nur in Ausnahmefällen möglich sein ...“ H. Mandel schloß seinen Vortrag mit der Forderung nach der Bereitstellung einer ausreichenden Reserve an Uran und angereichertem Uran, damit u.a. zeitlichen Verzögerungen bei Errichtung und Betrieb der Wiederaufarbeitungsanlage begegnet werden kann.

End

Der Vortrag von J. Sornein beschrieb die internationale Situation der Wiederaufarbeitung. Bezüglich des Brennstoffanfalls und der Wiederaufarbeitungskapazität kommt er in seiner Vorausschau auf das Jahr 1990 zu ähnlichen Schlüssen wie H. Mandel.

Zur Errichtung einer Wiederaufarbeitungsanlage sind heute bei akzeptiertem Standort mindestens 7 Jahre und bei noch nicht erschlossenem Standort mindestens 10 Jahre nötig.

Die Situation in den USA ist durch den Stop des Pu-Recycle-Programms gekennzeichnet, der erst 1978 (nach W. Stoll könnte schon im Frühjahr 1977 damit gerechnet werden) nach Ablauf der Studien und hearings des Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) aufgehoben werden

dürfte. Die NRC-Entscheidung beeinflusst auch den Betriebsbeginn der Barnwell-Anlage (1500 t/a), sie soll etwa 1978 anlaufen, und den Wiederbeginn der NFS (750 t/a), die etwa 1983 starten soll. Zur Zwischenlagerung sind in den USA Mitte der achtziger Jahre rd. 25000 t Brennstoff zu erwarten.

Für Japan ergibt sich der Betriebsbeginn für eine Anlage von 1500 t/a zwischen 1985 und 1990.

Die Schwierigkeiten der Wiederaufarbeitungsindustrie haben mehrere Gründe. Neben den technischen Problemen spielen die großen finanziellen Risiken, die unter den Randbedingungen der langen Errichtungszeiten und den Unbestimmtheiten bei den Sicherheitsauflagen und der Abfallbeseitigung auftreten, eine entscheidende Rolle und erlauben es einem einzelnen Unternehmen nicht, ein Projekt in der Größenordnung von einer Milliarde Dollar auf konventionellem Wege zu finanzieren.

Der Vortrag schloß mit der Feststellung: Gelingt es den europäischen Partnern nicht, in den nächsten zwei Jahren die Finanzierungsprobleme der notwendigen neuen Wiederaufarbeitungsanlagen und Lagerbecken für die achtziger Jahre zu lösen, bedeutet das eine Reduzierung der KKW-Bauprogramme.

Auf die Besprechung der Vorträge von J. Schwibach und W. Jacobi über Umwelt- und Sicherheitsprobleme wird hier verzichtet, da an anderer Stelle darüber berichtet wird¹⁾.

J. K. Pfaffelhuber stellte das Sicherheitskonzept der Bundesregierung vor. Obwohl in den USA heute bereits 50 KKW betrieben werden, zeigt eine kritische Beurteilung, daß eine Reihe von Fragen nicht endgültig gelöst und deshalb noch erhebliche Forschungs- und Entwicklungsarbeiten notwendig sind. Das Ziel der Bundesregierung ist es, bis Mitte der achtziger Jahre ein Entsorgungssystem in Betrieb zu nehmen. Dabei sollten Wiederaufarbeitung, Spaltstoffzyklisierung sowie Abfallbehandlung und -lagerung räumlich integriert werden. Die Endlagerung der mittel- und schwachaktiven Abfälle wird am Standort der Wiederaufarbeitungsanlage angestrebt. Nach einer Zwischenlagerung des verfestigten hochaktiven Abfalls soll dieser in Salzstöcken eingelagert werden.

¹⁾ E. Hoffmann: Entsorgung der Kerntechnik. TC 17 (1976) Nr. 6.