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Newsletter of the German Language Division
of the American Translators Association



***T&I Tales:
GLD Members
Reveal Their Most
Memorable Assignments***





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Marion Rhodes is an ATA-certified English to German translator and content writer. She works as a full-time multilingual SEO copywriter for Thrasio and continues to run her translation business, [Integrated MarCom Translations LLC](#), on the side, where she focuses on international SEO and transcreation. Before starting her translation career, Marion worked as a reporter for the *Omaha World-Herald* in Nebraska and as a freelance writer. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree in integrated marketing communications. A native of Germany, she has lived in the United States since 2001 and currently resides in San Diego, where she can frequently be found riding one of her two horses through the hills of East County.

Editorial

Dear Readers,

I hope that as you are reading this, your lives will have somewhat returned to normal. The last year has been a wild ride that hasn't always been easy for entrepreneurs like us. Some people took advantage of federal grants or loans to keep their businesses afloat; others decided that it was time to look for alternative ways to make a living. Earlier this year, I re-entered the corporate world after 15 years as a freelance translator, and COVID-19 certainly played a role in my decision to accept a position as an in-house SEO copywriter for a large e-commerce aggregator.

However, I couldn't turn my back on the translation industry completely. I continue to run my freelance business on the side, but I have significantly scaled down the number and types of the assignments I accept. What is it that made me want to keep a foot in that door, on top of working 40 hours for someone else?

Alas, it's the diversity of this profession. In my years as a translator, I have learned many interesting things and gotten to explore lots of exciting topics. From writing German S&M shorts to transcreating songs for a popular animated kids' movie, I've had some truly unique and fun assignments. In this issue, we want to celebrate the wide variety of work our field offers.

Rainer Klett kicks off this series with his article on a unique interpreting gig in [Dolmetschen für Nachteulen](#). Heike Holthaus tells us about her first time [Trying Something New](#) in the field of voice-over translation. Jacqueline Jugenheimer reports how she learned about

[The Art of Fine Wine](#) during an assignment. And Ruth Boggs looks back on one of her many exceptional interpreting trips that had her [Ready to Go—But Where?](#) Finally, Ivonne Reichard-Novak takes us back to a year she spent [In the Shadow of History: Translating a Jewish Family's WWII Letters](#).

While the pandemic continues to put events on a hiatus in Europe, Ellen Yutzky-Glebe has some [\(Translation\) Notes from the Homeland](#), and of course we have our usual [Word From the Administrator](#) with the latest GLD news.

"In this issue, we want to celebrate the wide variety of work our field offers."

With the ATA 62nd Annual Conference only a few weeks away, we also included our usual [Conference Primer](#) to help you make the most of your time in Minneapolis or as a virtual attendee in front of the computer. If you can't make it, don't worry—

you can still connect with your GLD colleagues by [Making Time for a Chat](#) during one of our GLD Digital Socials! Speaking of being social, it's time to formally introduce our new Social Media Coordinator, Ilona Fried, who is this issue's [Translator in Profile](#).

To round out this issue, we have a [book review](#) by Matthew Bunczk before leaving you with the usual [Calendar of Events](#) for the coming months.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

Mit sonnigen Grüßen aus San Diego,
Marion Rhodes



Carlie Sitzman

graduated from Weber State University with a BA in German and an AAS in Technical Drafting in 2009, at which time it was clear that the best way to make her passion for language and fascination with technology into a career was to become a translator. In 2011, she moved to Germany, where she simultaneously freelanced and earned her MA in Intercultural German Studies from the Universität Bayreuth. She now translates from her office in New Castle, Delaware, and will be celebrating her eleven-year anniversary in the industry this year.

Word from the Administrator

By Carlie Sitzman

Dear Colleagues,

Temperatures are high, vaccination rates are rising, and the end of this year is looking just a little brighter for some. I hope you are all at least getting out to enjoy the sunshine and a much-needed vacation—even if you find yourself relaxing just a few steps from your front door.

The forecast is looking up for the ATA 62nd Annual Conference in Minneapolis. This year, it will be a hybrid conference—with some attending in person, and others attending through their computer screens. Wherever you are in the world, don't miss this great opportunity for networking and continuing education!

There have been a lot of factors to consider while planning the GLD social at the conference this year. Not only are we taking into account local policies for indoor gatherings, but also the varying comfort levels attendees may have after over a year of coexisting with COVID-19. Stay tuned for more details.

Since the position of Social Media Coordinator was created, [Elani Wales](#) has planned and executed three digital socials. The most recent one was travel-themed, and before that, members had the opportunity to network with translators who have the same specialization as they do. Thank you to Elani for organizing and to everyone who made these socials lively networking opportunities by attending. Keep an eye out for future events.

Don't forget to check out the GLD's two social media channels. We are on Facebook (@GLDATA) and Twitter (@ATA_GLD). [Ilona Fried](#) has been sprucing up our accounts with new graphics, and has also been hunting down engaging information to share on a regular basis. Be sure to follow us so you won't miss a thing!

Strict lockdowns in Europe have put a damper on any potential meeting plans of our GLD members in Europe. There is no word on when things will improve, but I've got my fingers crossed that vaccinations will soon allow the world to vanquish this microscopic foe. It would be nice to resume life as usual, wouldn't it?

We have also been trying to brainstorm ideas for GLD-specific webinars. The best way to find relevant topics, however, is to hear from you—our members. Please let us know if there is a subject related to German translation or interpreting you would like to learn more about, or if there is an engaging speaker you think we should invite to give a presentation. You can [contact me](#) or any member of the Leadership Council with ideas.

Comments, suggestions, and offers to volunteer are also always welcome! Please feel free to contact me. Take care out there and stay safe!

Sincerely,

Carlie Sitzman MA, CT

Administrator, German
Language Division



(Translation) Notes from the Homeland

By Ellen Yutzy Glebe



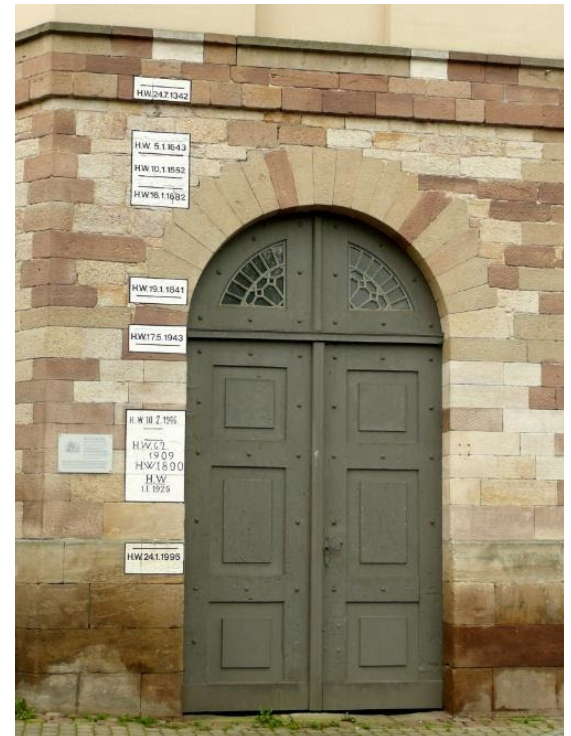
A native of western North Carolina, **Ellen Yutzy Glebe** was a history and German studies major at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC, and earned a PhD in European history at UC-Berkeley before transitioning to a career as a professional translator (GE>EN) and editor (EN) of academic texts. She now lives in Kassel, Germany, a town with beautiful green spaces and good ICE connections. She is a member of ATA, BDÜ, and a number of historical associations. For more details see www.writinghistory.de.

As the deadline approached for me to write this column, I wasn't sure what to write that wouldn't sound like a broken record. In fact, I went back to read the columns I had written since the start of the pandemic and was surprised to find that there were only two. How can that be? Partly a matter of timing, since I wrote a column in February of 2020 that was blissfully oblivious to the fact that so much would change in the six weeks after it was written. Recognizing that naïveté in retrospect is perhaps the cause of my sense of writer's block now—not usually one at a loss for words, I find it exceptionally difficult at the moment to pen anything about the future with a sense of assuredness, let alone when addressing such a varied and scattered group as the GLD.

While those in the Pacific Northwest or the Mediterranean have been sweltering this summer, those of us who live between the Alps and the North and Baltic Seas have had a wet, rainy summer. In recent weeks, our newsfeeds have been taken over by pictures of the extremes, both “natural”—wildfires in the American West and Turkey and Greece, devastating floods in the Rhineland and Berchtesgaden—and human-made—crowds at Wembley Stadium for the UEFA Cup and empty stands in Tokyo for the Olympics, even as ICUs across the South and around the world struggle to cope with a surge of COVID-19 cases. Was the world always this precarious? Has the news changed, or just the speed and brilliance with which it reaches us?

As a historian, I am particularly interested in this question about our perception of current versus past events. While I have no doubt that humans

are in part responsible for the changes in climatic conditions being recorded around the globe, and in intensifying the catastrophic repercussions of these changes, the flooding in the Rhineland was not unprecedented. This issue of *interaktiv* invites accounts of particularly interesting assignments, and several of my most interesting jobs in recent years have been about medieval cli-



Door in Hann. Münden with historical flood levels marked. Source: Wikipedia (Axel Hindemith)

mate history and the effects of extreme climatic events on social and cultural developments—and how the impacts of such events are exacerbated or mitigated by the context. So when confronted with pictures of the destruction in Ahrweiler, I couldn't help but think of the flooding that affected German-speaking areas along the Rhine in July of 1342, the result of a similar weather pattern.



“As a historian, I am particularly interested in this question about our perception of current versus past events.”

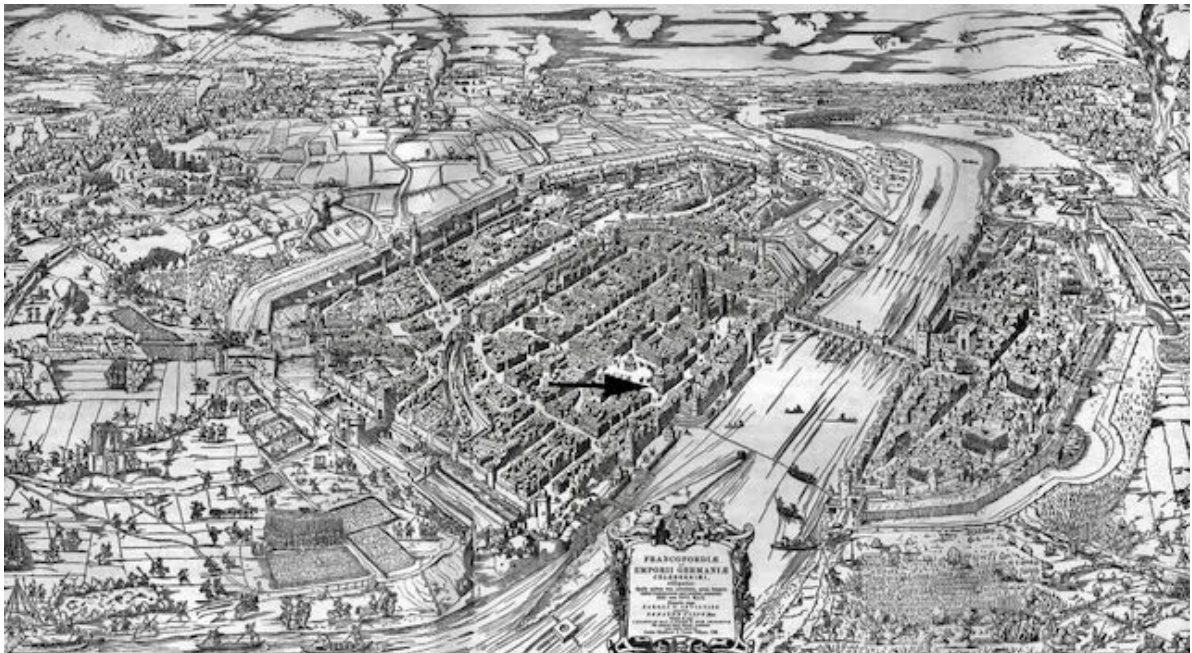
Known as *St. Mary Magdalene’s Flood* because of its proximity to that feast day, the fourteenth-century flood swept away *bridges*, including the famous *Steinerne Brücke* in Würzburg, and inundated major cities, including Cologne and Mainz. Within the space of a few days, as much soil was washed away as would normally be eroded over the course of two thousand years.

None of which made the pictures of the devastation of 2021 less astonishing or moving—or diminished the existential threat to those whose livelihoods and life’s work were literally washed away, or the grief over the lives lost when waters rose faster than people could flee. And none of the pictures of July’s disasters did anything to soften August’s pictures of earthquake damage in Haiti and the terrifying news of the Taliban’s advance in Afghanistan.

I find myself toeing the narrow line between gratitude and guilt, between a renewed appreciation of the fortunate hand I have been dealt (despite all the

extra stresses of the past 18 months) and a sense of undeserved privilege. I was further reminded of both this week when I read that the Bundesagentur für Arbeit had *reported an enormous jump* in the number of self-employed people in Germany who have filed for basic security benefits (*Grundsicherung*). In uncertain times like this, I am grateful for my professional networks and the opportunities they provide for moral support and continued professional development. Even as the advance of the delta strain makes the next months (once again) difficult to plan, I am hopeful that those of us on the European side of the Atlantic will be able to come together in person in the coming year for our traditional annual workshop. Stay tuned via our dedicated [ATA in Europe groups-io list](#) to find out more about upcoming events and virtual meetings.

Here’s hoping the next column will sound less like a broken record. Until then, *passt auf euch auf!*



Frankfurt in the Middle Ages. The arrow points at the Nikolai church. Source: J. Herget et al. The millennium flood of July 1342 revisited, *CATENA* 130 (2015), 82–94



GET
READY

GET
RESULTS

GET
AHEAD

ATA 62nd Annual Conference

Oct 27-30, 2021 | Minneapolis, Minnesota

In Person and Virtually

The [ATA 62nd Annual Conference](#) will feature a good variety of sessions of interest to division members. On the next two pages is a list of presentations in the German track to help you map out your virtual conference schedule. Full descriptions as well as a list of other conference sessions are available [here](#).

THE
ATA

CHRONICLE

German Topics Agenda

Wednesday, October 27

(AST-03) Interpreting for Depositions: Advanced Skills, Ethics, and Best Practices

Presented by Judy Jenner

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT

As some court systems have reduced the rates for judiciary interpreters, many court interpreters are actively looking for assignments outside the court system. There are plenty of opportunities available at depositions, which are typically held at law offices. There is little training focusing on the role of interpreters in depositions, and this workshop will provide an in-depth overview. Topics will include ethical conundrums, the role of check interpreters, stand-by interpreting, best practices, tips for correcting mistakes, and sample deponent responses. This will be an advanced training workshop for interpreters who are already familiar with interpreting for depositions. The basics will only be reviewed briefly.

Hashtag: #ATA62Deposition1n

(AST-14) Multilingual SEO 101: From Keyword Research to Content Optimization

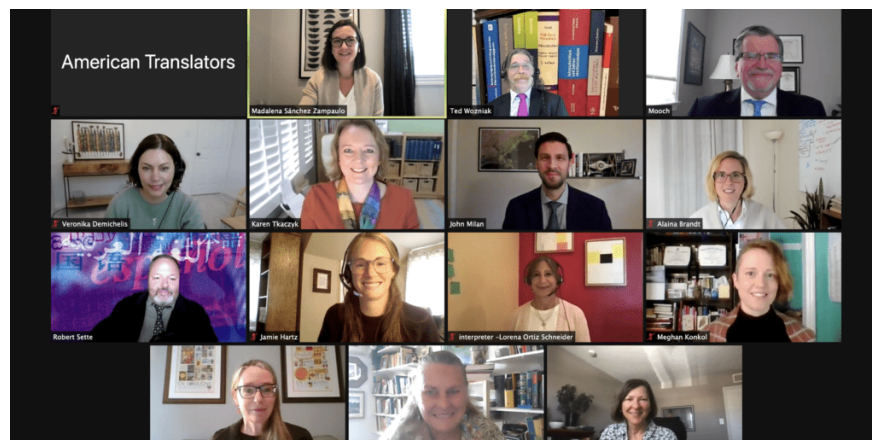
Presented by Marion Rhodes, CT

1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

The demand for search engine optimization (SEO) content in all languages is rising, opening up new opportunities for translators who are willing to learn the special requirements of this complex field. Attendees will learn how to perform keyword research, determine SEO potential, and best practices for writing content that catches the eye of human readers and search engines. Hands-on activities will provide attendees a chance to practice these skills and highlight common challenges encountered during the process. Attendees will leave ready to tackle their own multilingual SEO projects.

Hashtag: #ATA62MultilingualSEO

Note: AST sessions require a separate registration in addition to the conference ticket, additional fees apply.





Friday, October 29

(047) Poly-what? A Translator's Guide to Polymer Science

Presented by **Matthew Schlecht**

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT

Polymers are everywhere, but what are they, really? This session will survey polymer science from a translator's perspective: what is it, what types of source documents does it appear in, and how do you translate it? The content is aimed at an intermediate-level audience and assumes familiarity with science. Attendees will gain a basic knowledge of polymer and material science that will help guide technical translators to produce more sophisticated scientific prose in the target language. Terminology and translation examples from German, Japanese, French, Spanish, and English will be presented, and online resources will be identified.

Hashtag: #ATA62PolyWhat

Saturday, October 30

(074) Style, Register, and Decision-Usefulness: Conveying Information Effectively in English Translations of German Financial Reports

Presented by **Robin Bonthron, CT**

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. CDT

Typically, German management reports and notes disclosures are dense jungles of lengthy sentences, full of traps to confuse and mislead the unwary reader. Too often, English translations of these documents are equally impenetrable, suggesting that the translators were maybe unaware of their crucial role in influencing important financial decisions by readers. Based on decades of experience, the speaker will offer specific guidance on style and register issues for translations of these documents to ensure their "decision-usefulness." In addition to examining the relevance of "Plain English" in this context, the speaker will also present examples from actual financial reports with suggestions for improvement.

Hashtag: #ATA62FinancialReports

(109) Translating Shakespeare's Sonnets

Presented by **Anatoly Liberman (Slavic Languages Distinguished Speaker)** 2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. CDT

The speaker will discuss the challenges of translating Shakespeare's sonnets. The originals are masterpieces, so the translator should try to preserve every word. Yet English words are usually shorter than their equivalents in most European languages; something inevitably gets lost. Shakespeare's vocabulary is full of technical terms (commerce, etc.). Combining such words with those professing lovers' feelings poses difficult stylistic problems. Multiple puns on sex are important because several sonnets depend on them entirely. Yet the translator cannot afford to use modern vulgarisms, even though the language of the sonnets is archaic. It was not such long ago. Should the translations preserve a hint of that discrepancy?

Hashtag: #ATA62ShakespearesSonnets





Making Time for a Chat: GLD Digital Socials

By Elani Wales



Elani Wales is ATA-certified in German to English translation and specializes in legal texts and business communication. She firmly believes that everything can be made better with a good book. Elani's writing can be found at elaniwales.com/blog.

This past February marked a new beginning for the GLD: our first digital social! Designed to give us a space to have fun and connect with other GLD members, each digital social features a theme, prompts to get conversations started, and breakout rooms to give everyone a chance to talk. It's been a rush seeing how many members have signed up and attended each event, and an absolute pleasure to get to know so many of you.

I'd like to offer special thanks to Karen Leube, who took over the second digital social at very short notice when I had to drop out due to a family health emergency. Karen, you are an absolute lifesaver!

More digital socials will be coming up, and for anyone who hasn't attended one yet: why not give it a shot? They're free for all GLD members! All you need to do is RSVP and follow the link at the appointed time. Come join us, and you'll be meeting up with old friends and making new ones in the blink of an eye.

Your Digital Events Coordinator,
Elani Wales

Die Liste wo einiges los ist!

The GLD List is one of our member benefits—an opportunity to collaborate with and learn from each other. Subscribers pose questions, assist others by responding to queries, or simply follow the conversation.

As Listmaster Gerhard Preisser puts it: „Wer helfen kann, hilft; wer eine Antwort weiß, hält damit nicht hinterm Berg. Kollegialität und Kooperation werden großgeschrieben. Die auf unserer Liste vertretenen Übersetzer und Dolmetscher konkurrieren nicht miteinander – sie inspirieren einander, und ich habe das außerordentliche Vergnügen, diesen regen, auf höchster Kompetenz und viel gutem Willen beruhenden Austausch moderieren zu dürfen.“

Subscribing is as easy as 1, 2, 3:

Send an email to:

ATA-German-Language-Division+subscribe@groups.io

1. In the subject line, enter: subscribe gldlist
2. In the body of your email, write your:
 - email address
 - full name
 - ATA membership number





German
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ANNUAL MEETING

VIRTUAL

October 8, 2021 11 AM EDT

Join us for the 2021 GLD Annual Meeting on October 8, from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm (EDT), held virtually on Zoom. We welcome your participation, including your suggestions and feedback and of course, any offers to volunteer for the German Language Division. Check your inbox for the Zoom [link from ATA Headquarters!](#) (ATA member login required.)



Heike Holthaus is a freelance translator specializing in patents and technical texts and a speaker on patent translation. From the time of receiving her vocational degree in logistics until starting her career as a translator, she was the owner of an artisan bakery and a board member of an import start-up. She received her Certificate in Translation from World Language Services, Dublin, with special merit in 2012. In her free time Heike enjoys taking a spin through the Michigan backcountry on her black Suzuki GSX 650 F, getting her hands dirty in the garden and putting her mechanical skills to the test.

Trying Something New

By Heike Holthaus

I like a good challenge. So, when Marguerite, an American journalist living in Germany, was looking for a German voice for her podcast on the cannabis industry *Weed Rather See This*, I thought: Why not?

The task was to record the German translation of her 5-minute podcast. Then check and edit the recording and send the mp3 file to Marguerite.

Well, there were a few reasons for *why not*: I had never:

- used Audacity
- recorded anything
- edited, cut, or spliced a recording
- done any voice-over work.

Ah, and did I mention: I reaaally don't like learning new software.

Great. Let's do it!

Testing, testing...

I replied to Marguerite's post, and after we got a few formalities out of the way, she sent me her latest English script to play around with, so I could figure out how to use Audacity. I ran it through DeepL to give me a gist version of the text in German. Then I started recording. Whenever I stumbled over my words, I just repeated that section and carried on. A quick online search yielded a few

really good tutorials on cutting sections in Audacity. In the end, I had my first recording. Cool!

Take One

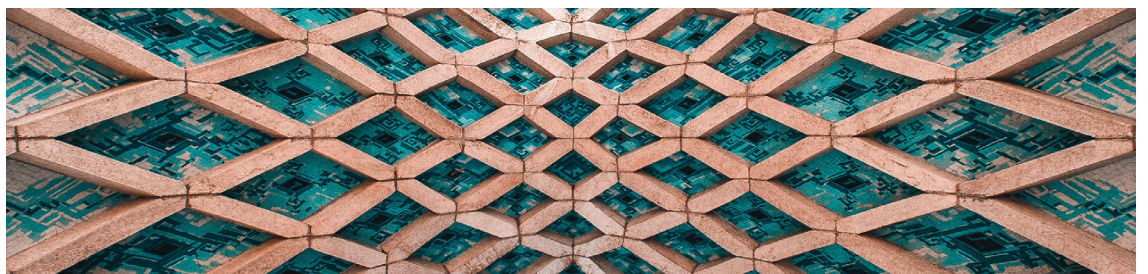
A week later, I received the first German script. Just a quick check and then I would be ready to record. Well, okay... let's fix this script first so it flows better and brings out the voice of the author. Now let's record. Forty-five minutes later I had recorded, checked, edited, checked again, and exported my first Audacity recording.

Those of you who have met me know that I am no computer genius. I've been known to swear at the computer and threaten to throw it out of the window if it will not cooperate instantly. So, I felt quite pleased that I managed to figure it all out.

This isn't working

It was supposed to be a team effort. Author (Marguerite) + translator (let's call him Mike) + German voice (me). This was our workflow:

- Marguerite records the English version and sends the script (600–800 words) to Mike for translation
- Mike translates the script and sends the translation to me





“While I really don’t like figuring out new software, the satisfaction of having been able to learn it anyway outweighs the strong aversion I felt.”

- I edit the script and record, edit, and finalize the German version of the podcast

- I send the mp3 file of the German version to Marguerite

This all had to happen between Wednesday morning in Germany and Thursday at noon in the U.S. Both versions were supposed to go live on Friday morning German time—a pretty tight schedule considering the time differences and all the moving parts involved.

Caveat: Mike wasn’t a translator but a journalist, and it showed. I spent more time editing the German script than it would take me to translate it myself. With time of the essence, everyone involved agreed that it would save time and effort if I took over the translation as well. Taking out one of the moving parts did actually help to smooth out the workflow.

Takeaway

It was a refreshing change in pace and tasks. Marguerite likes to play with words and even create neologisms. I enjoyed reading between the lines and figuring out what she was really saying. Occasionally, though, I had to call and ask. It was great fun to replicate her voice and pace. Even just reading her script, you can “hear” that her speech is fast-paced and energetic.

While I really don’t like figuring out new software, the satisfaction of having been able to learn it anyway outweighs the strong aversion I felt. And so I feel slightly sad that Marguerite has put her podcast on hold for the time being, and I am looking forward to the day she starts it up again. Because, you know, I like a good challenge.





“I also had the chance to give a voice to someone who had been silenced long ago.”

subject to numerous cruelties that Aryans were permitted to bestow upon Jewish people. For example, Jews could be forced to clean the streets with toothbrushes. They could also be incarcerated for any reason, or none at all.

I got anxious with the family when their friends started fleeing the country to Turkey, Cuba, Israel, or South America, and even more when friends abruptly vanished.

I felt their world shrinking as the dwindling number of places members of the Jewish community were permitted to frequent grew more and more hostile.

I witnessed their trip to the municipal building to get an “endorsement” for their passports. The endorsement was, in the words of the father: “*a big, fat, red J*” on the first page of the document.

I experienced the aftermath of the Night of Broken Glass with them and was heartbroken by their detached acknowledgment of their situation.

I celebrated with them when the oldest daughter received an affidavit of support from a relative. Such a document proved that the owner had a financial supporter and would not become a charge of the state if they were to immigrate into the United States of America. This was required to obtain an entry permit.

Throughout it all, the family stayed unfathomably and unshakably positive. They were all hard-working and took every odd job they could get. When they lost their apartment because all nicer apartments were allocated to Aryan families and were issued a new, smaller one, they told the daughter abroad how wonderful it was. They had not needed “all that space” anyway.

Every path the family took to obtain a permit to leave the country disappeared. They worked relentlessly to find new possibilities to escape. They tried to get the younger daughter on one of the famous *Kindertransporte* to England. They wrote letters to friends and family all over the world, asking for help between the lines and sometimes outright. Every attempt they made meant appointments at administrative offices; waiting periods of three weeks, or six weeks, or three months; letters of character references that needed to be written and sent; affidavits of support that were not always accepted by the Nazi regime, and applications that sometimes got “lost” in public offices alongside documents that needed to be re-obtained. Yet, week after week and letter after letter, and through growing and diminishing hopes, the family’s optimism never waned.

They anticipated October 1940 eagerly, as it marked their turn to officially receive permission to leave the country, for which they had applied in 1938. But October turned into November, and 1940 into 1941.

In the spring of 1941, the daughter in Switzerland managed to reach the USA and secured affidavits of support for her family that would help them obtain approval to emigrate.

When she sent them via airmail to Vienna, her father, mother, and sister had already been relocated to a concentration camp in Poland. Still, they were able to send letters to a relative in Vienna who forwarded them to the daughter in the U.S. and described their living situation in a “*filthy Polish ghetto on the border to Russia. Feces, dirt, foulness, and business...*” they wrote.

“No other translation project in my 15-year career has ever come close to having such an impact on my life.”

In October 1941, the mother contracted typhoid fever and passed away the following November.

The letters turned into postcards with every square inch covered in writing.

On September 15, 1942, the father sent the last postcard to reach his daughter in America through relatives: *“God may give us the strengths to endure,”* he wrote.

According to research, on October 8, 1942, the inmates of the concentration camp were deported to one of three extermination centers in the “Aktion Reinhard.” The elderly and invalids were, according to witnesses’ reports, “murdered right then and there.” Of the 999 Austrian Jews, only 13 are known to have survived. (Source: Yad Vashem. Shoah Resource Center, The International School for Holocaust Studies.)

No other translation project in my 15-year career has ever come close to having such an impact on my life.

Of course, I worried about my intrusion into something incredibly private, but I also had the chance to give a voice to someone who had been silenced long ago. I sent my client an agreed-upon number of translated letters every two weeks and compiled them all into one 320-page document in the end. For twelve months, my days revolved around this painful and horrifying period of our past. The project overshadowed all other work I did in that same year so entirely that I had to check my records to see whether I had, in fact, worked on anything else that year at all. I had. Some projects were quite substantial. Some might even still exist. Others will have been updated many times by now, my impact long gone.

Still, I do not think any other of the many hundreds of projects I worked on throughout the years equal in significance to this one. For the descendants, I am sure, nothing will ever compare.





Translator in Profile: Ilona Fried



Where are you based and what brought you there?

I have been living in Miami, Florida, for 23 years, but I grew up in Bavaria, Germany. I came here with my family due to a work transfer after living in Switzerland for seven years, and Miami has become my home away from home.

What got you started in translation?

I always loved languages and knew that I wanted to be a translator. Not a princess or an astronaut. 😊

After spending a high school year in the United States, I applied to and was accepted into the Staatliche Fremdspracheninstitut in Munich. I graduated with English as my major and a minor in Business Spanish.

What languages do you work in and what are your areas of specialization?

I do German-English-German. After a 2-year certification program in translation at New York University, I was ready to translate into English, even though I am a German native. I have been working with National Geographic Television for many years—both translating and proofreading. Currently, I work at the German Consulate General, where my language qualifications are coming in handy. I love this job because it keeps

me connected to Germany in many ways.

What do you like most about being a translator?

I love everything about it—especially dissecting every sentence, every meaning, and every little nuance until it precisely reflects the transition from the source text to the target language.

What do you like the least?

The payment negotiations.

What are your goals for the near future?

First of all, due to the current and ongoing situation, I want my family, all the people in my life including myself, to stay healthy! This means we will have to adapt to a new and changed normal—both at work and in my private life.

What are your hobbies or other interests?

I love to work out, bike, ski, and play golf. Most of all, I like to travel and get to know the habits and customs in each country or part of the country I am in, without following the mainstream tourists. I feel totally at peace when I am on top of a mountain or sitting on the beach listening to the waves.



What's all the "ataTalk" about?

"ataTalk" is a forum for discussing ATA policy, activities, and governance. It's a place where members can voice opinions and be heard by the association at large. Join in and find out what all the talk is about! (Please note that questions and problems that need to be addressed right away should continue to be directed to president@atanet.org.)



Matthew Bunczk is an ATA-certified German-to-English and ATA-certified French-to-English translator specializing in business, legal, and financial translations. He is based near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in French from Ursinus College and a certificate of proficiency in Paralegal Studies from Delaware County Community College. His undergraduate studies brought him to Strasbourg, France; various parts of Europe; and Senegal, West Africa. After providing translations to employers on an ad hoc basis starting in 2006, he decided to turn translation into a career and has been translating full-time since 2015.

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Book Review: *Lost in Translation*

By Matthew Bunczk

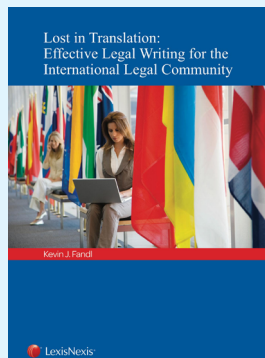
Lost in Translation: Effective Legal Writing for the International Community is a writing guide for foreign legal professionals who draft legal documents for use in the United States. The author, Kevin Fandl, starts by explaining how legal writing is different from other forms of writing, why it is important for legal writing to be effective, and what makes effective American legal writing different from effective legal writing in other countries. For Fandl, the four key features of effective American legal writing are brevity, plain English, clearly identified issues, and succinct conclusions.

After explaining what makes for effective American legal writing and why it is so important, Fandl devotes the rest of his book to helping readers hone their American legal writing skills. He spends an entire chapter on general effective writing skills. He also devotes four additional chapters to specific types of legal writing: legal correspondence, legal memoranda and case briefs, contracts, and academic legal writing. In each of these chapters, he explains the

component parts of each document and offers advice on how to draft each part. He also provides practical exercises in each chapter to reinforce the information presented. In the final chapters, Fandl covers citation, proofreading, and editing.

One of the major strengths of *Lost in Translation* is that Fandl examines the context of legal writing, in addition to providing hands-on exercises. These contextual and practical elements reinforce each other, leaving the reader with an understanding not only of *what* constitutes effective American legal writing, but also *why* it is effective. While many more books can be and have been written on both the writing and legal topics presented in *Lost in Translation*, the book provides readers with a good general introduction to writing in the U.S. legal environment and with a strong frame of reference for further research.

One of the weaknesses that I encountered in *Lost in Translation* concerned proofreading and editing. The book contained a few grammatical mistakes as



Title: *Lost in Translation: Effective Legal Writing for the International Legal Community*

Author: Kevin Fandl

ISBNs: 9780769857466, 0769857469,
9780327179825, 0327179821

Publication Year: 2013

Language: English

Publisher: Matthew Bender & Company, Inc.

Number of pages: 162



well as inconsistently applied grammar rules. This detracted from the sense of urgency that the author evokes (and that exists in reality) around the need for the utmost care in legal writing. In addition, the answers to the practice exercises do not appear in the appendices in the order in which the exercises appear in the text. This creates a bit more work for the reader when searching for the answers.

Although *Lost in Translation* is not explicitly geared toward “into U.S. English” translators, it still offers us a valuable, deeper understanding of the U.S. legal environment and the various

legal documents we translate. I believe that many of Fandl’s writing suggestions are relevant and useful to “into U.S. English” translators as well. Although translators can only convey the meaning of the content that appears in a source document, we do have a bit of leeway in *how* we convey that meaning. Fandl’s tips could certainly help in making our U.S. English translations clearer. For recipients of legal services who rely on our legal translations, that could ultimately mean a more favorable outcome for their case.



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GERMAN LANGUAGE DIVISION NETWORKING DINNER

Please join us at the ATA62 GLD dinner and social event for a relaxing evening to meet new friends, catch up with old ones, and network while enjoying delicious Indian cuisine.

WHERE: Dancing Ganesha, 1100 Harmon Place, Minneapolis, MN 54403
612-338-1877, dancingganeshampls.com
We will meet for a sit-down dinner in a separate section of Dancing Ganesha.

WHEN: Thursday, October 28 at 7:30 PM

MENU

CHOICE OF ONE APPETIZER:

- **Vegetable Samosa**
Triangular pastry, potatoes and peas filling, mildly spicy (vegetarian)
- **Vegetable Pakoras**
Crispy fritters of potatoes, onions, cauliflower, and spinach (vegetarian)
- **Mirchi Baji**
Deep fried jalapeño peppers, sweet chutney (vegetarian)

CHOICE OF ONE ENTRÉE:

- **Chicken Tikka Masala**
Boneless chicken chunks, marinated and cooked in Tandoor oven (served with rice)
- **Lamb Rogan Josh**
Lamb chunks cooked in dry ginger and anise flavored sauce (served with rice)
- **Meat Biryani**
Biryani (spiced and herbed basmati rice) with choice of chicken, lamb, or shrimp
- **Vegetable Malai Kofta**
Croquettes of ground mixed veggies cooked in mild sauce, raisins, and nuts (vegetarian; served with rice)

We look forward to seeing you in Minneapolis!

COST

Included in the \$48.00 meal price is an appetizer, an entrée, soft drinks with unlimited refills or chai tea, taxes and gratuity.

Alcoholic beverages may be purchased separately at the bar.

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

Please use the UMTIA website to register and pay by credit card (umtia.org/event-4490843). Please note that due to this year's extenuating circumstances (pandemic!), seating is limited and registration is on a first come, first served basis.

QUESTIONS?

Contact David Coats, coats.trans@att.net



Calendar of Events 2021

The GLD calendar is available on the GLD website, where you can also add it to your Google Calendar, Outlook, iCalendar and other calendar apps. Go to: www.ata-divisions.org/GLD/gld-calendar

Date	Location	Organization/Event	More Information
Oct 05 – 07	online	GALA Connected 2021: Bounce Forward	gala-global.org/conferences/gala-connected-2021-bounce-forward
Oct 08 – 09	Munich, Germany	Übersetzen für Voice-over, pt. 1	sdi-muenchen.de/kurse/seminare-training/film-uebersetzung
Oct 15 – 17	Tucson AZ & online	ALTA44	literarytranslators.org/conference/alta44-inflection-points/registration
Oct 15 – 17	online	Translation in Translation: Human and Machine Intelligence	sites.google.com/site/centre-translationinnovation/conferences-workshops/tt5-2020
Oct 16 – 17	Leipzig, Germany	Kombiseminar Existenzgründung, Steuern und Buchhaltung für Sprachmittler:innen	seminare.bdue.de
Oct 19 – 21	online	LocWorldWide45	locworld.com/events/locworld-wide45-virtual-event/
Oct 21 – 22	London, UK	International Conference on Interpreting and Translation	
Oct 27 – 30	Minneapolis, Minnesota	ATA 62 nd Annual Conference	ata62.org
Nov 05 – 06	Cologne, Germany	Seminarreihe Revision – Aufbaumodul Lektorat	seminare.bdue.de
Nov 08 – 19	online	TCWORLD CONFERENCE	technical-communication.org/tekom/conferences/conferences-overview

Looking for even more professional development opportunities?
Check out our upcoming ATA webinars and workshops on the **ATA website!**



Date	Location	Organization/Event	More Information
Nov 12 – 13	Munich, Germany	Übersetzen für Voice-over, pt. 2	sdi-muenchen.de/kurse/seminare-training/film-uebersetzung
Nov 19 – 20	Hamburg, Germany	IT-Sicherheit für Anwender – inklusive Verschlüsselung	seminare.bdue.de
Nov 26 – 27	Hörsbach, Germany	13. Schmerlenbacher Tage	seminare.bdue.de
Mar 14 – 15	Rome, Italy	Elia Together 2022	elia-association.org/our-events/
Mar 15 – 17	San Jose, CA	TAUS Massively Multilingual Conference & Expo 2022	taus.net/events/conferences/120-taus-global-content-conference-exhibits-2020#tuesday-30-march





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Find the GLD online at
www.ata-divisions.org/GLD/

Join the GLD listserv at
groups.io/g/ATA-German-Language-Division