Interaktiv

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Newsletter of the German Language Division
of the American Translators Association

Painting by Sara E. Harder

ata American Translators Association
The Voice of Interpreters and Translators

In this issue...

Editor-in-Chief
Marion Rhodes, San Diego, CA
marion@imctranslations.com
Copy Editors
Ivonne Reichard-Novak, Blacksburg, VA
ivonne@lexlation.com
Annett Kuester, McLean, VA
annett.kuester@gmail.com
Melissa Kostelecky, Portland, OR
info@kosteltranslations.com
Sabine Seiler, Niskayuna, NY
seilersabine7@gmail.com
Proofreaders
Kimberly Scherer, Salzburg, Austria
kimberlyscherer@gmail.com
Ute Kegel, Bradenton, FL
ukegel@gmail.com
Jill R. Sommer, Cleveland Heights, OH
gertoeng@jill-sommer.com
Erin Riddle, Owego, NY
erin@erinriddle.com
Calendar
Stella Waltemade, Munich, Germany
post@stellawaltemade.de
Review Coordinator
Rosalie Henke, San Diego, CA
translation@rosaliehen.ke
Design & Layout
Daniela Radivo Harder, Norwood, MA
dradivo@translations.eco

GLD Officers:
Administrator
Carlie Sitzman, Wilmington, DE
carlie.sitzman@gmail.com
Assistant Administrator
Dr. Karen Leube, Aachen, Germany
mail@leubetranslation.com

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Editorial

Marion Rhodes is an ATA-certified English to German translator, certified copywriter and multilingual SEO specialist. A native of Germany, she immigrated to the United States in 2001 and currently lives in San Diego. 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. For more information, visit **imctranslations.com.**

Dear Readers,

The past year has been a year like no other. Here in California, translators and interpreters not only had the pandemic to deal with, but also California's infamous AB5 legislation and its aftermath. Add to that the growing competition from artificial intelligence, and you have a trifecta of challenges that can discourage the most optimistic translator. Life became very uncertain, and I admit even I have toyed with the idea of giving up the freelance lifestyle.

No matter where you live, you've likely noticed the transformation of our industry. In this issue, we explore the question: *Quo Vadis, T&I?* We asked several GLD members to tell us how they've adapted to the changing demands on our profession, including long-time translator and interpreter Bruni Johnson. Hilary Higgins shares why she made the decision to switch to an in-house position at a professional resume writing company. My predecessor Matt Baird talks about diversifying his portfolio by offering copywriting services. And "trash translator" Abigail Dahlberg reveals the benefits of specializing in a unique niche. Finally, Nina Sattler-Hovdar explains why she believes human translation experts will get to shine again.

> "No matter where you live, you've likely noticed the transformation of our industry."

Of course, with this being the first issue following the ATA 61st Annual Conference, we also have some opinions about our first-ever virtual conference (pages 9, 11, 13) for you.

In case you weren't able to attend our Annual Meeting of the GLD online, you'll find the Minutes of the meeting in this newsletter. And since no conference would be complete without Gerhard Preisser's Annual Listmaster's Report, we have reprinted his amusing musings for you.

At last year's conference, the GLD welcomed a new leader, Carlie Sitzman, who took over the reins from Ruth Boggs. In her Word from the Administrator, you'll discover what else is new in our Division, including the introduction of our new Digital Events Coordinator, Elani Wales. Some of you may have already met her during our first Digital Social in February.

On a sad note, we lost two valued GLD members over the past months: Silke Hufnagel passed away on October 13, 2020, in Colorado. On February 2, 2021, we lost another colleague, Michael Wahlster of California. Both of them are remembered in this issue.

As for our usual content, we have Ellen Yutzy Glebe's (Translation) Notes from the Homeland, and a book review by Rosalie Henke, who is taking over the role of Book Review Coordinator from Carlie. We also have our updated Calendar of Events. Finally, this issue's Translator in Profile is one of our copy editors, Ivonne Reichard-Novak.

Happy reading!

Mit sonnigen Grüßen aus San Diego

Marion Rhodes

Word from the Administrator

By Carlie Sitzman

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.

Dear Colleagues,

We may only be a month or so into the fresh new year of 2021, but it is already proving to be even more eventful than 2020. Like many of you, however, I am still living vicariously through my computer screen from the comfort of my own living room. With the COVID-19 vaccine on its way, I'm sure we can all look forward to being out and about again soon.

Staying home is exactly what we all ended up doing for ATA61. Even though we couldn't be together in person, we were able to see familiar faces and learn online at the conference. It kicked off with our annual GLD networking event. Participants were randomly assigned small five-person breakout rooms every 15 minutes, and lively conversations ensued.

At our Annual Meeting, I took over from Ruth Boggs as administrator of the GLD. It is an honor to serve as administrator, and I look forward to working with all of you to shape a bright future for the GLD. I have appointed Dr. Karen Leube as acting assistant administrator and would like to thank her for stepping up to take the role.

Due to the recent success of the networking event, I created the role of "digital events coordinator" on the Leadership Council. This person is responsible for organizing online networking events throughout the year. Considering that German translators live so far apart in the US, I hope these events will make it easier for members to get to know each other. Elani Wales has volunteered for the role, and we are very excited to have her on board. The first event took place on February 20.

Now that I have left the role of "new member and proofreading pool coordinator," we are looking for someone to take over. This person will be responsible

"Even though we couldn't be together in person, we were able to see familiar faces and learn online at the conference."

for answering questions from new members and maintaining the proofreading pool. It is a very rewarding position with a low time commitment. Please contact me if you are interested.

The proofreading pool is currently on a lockdown of its own, but not due to coronavirus. It had previously been hosted on Dropbox. Since this platform has introduced two-factor authentication; however, only our partner at UNIVERSITAS has access to the pool. I am working with them to choose a more suitable home for it so that access can be restored.

With ATA61 behind us, it is time to look forward to ATA62! We are planning our distinguished speaker sessions and working with local GLD members in Minneapolis to choose a venue for the networking event. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in person this year, but I know we will find a way to learn and grow together no matter what this year throws at us.

Comments, suggestions, and offers to volunteer are always welcome! Please feel free to contact me.

I wish you all a cozy, safe, and healthy spring.

Sincerely,

Carlie Sitzman MA, CT

Administrator, German Language Division

Join the GLD!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW MEMBER & PROOFREADING POOL COORDINATOR!

Would you like to get more actively involved in the German Language Division? Then we want to hear from you!

Responsibilities:

1. Answer inquiries from new members.
2. Add members to the proofreading pool.
3. Ensure smooth operation of the proofreading pool.
4. Greet and welcome new members at the ATA conference (if you attend).

Interested?

Contact Carlie Sitzman at csitzman@sitzmanaetranslations.com

(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.**

I was supposed to turn in this column between the invasion of the Capitol building in DC and Biden's inauguration, and as Germany was still in lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic and reports of a much more infectious strain were spreading quickly, I worried that whatever I might write now would seem at best outdated and at worst tone-deaf and hopelessly naive by the date of publication.

So, let's talk about snow. Sure, it will be long gone by the time you read these reflections, but snow is something special, and this year, we've been reveling in it in many parts of Germany. After not having had a chance to go sledding for the last two years, my daughters have been putting their sleds to good use, and we've even discovered sledding in the dark with headlamps as a way to avoid crowds on some of Kassel's most popular hills.

Having grown up in North Carolina, I still have a sense of snow as something magical of which one could never become weary. Snow was liberating, and as soon as the first flakes were evident outside our classroom windows, we knew the announcement was imminent: we could go home, drink hot chocolate, and curl up by the fire with a good book or go out and play, or both, as our hearts desired.

My father recently wrote that he has always found it interesting how snow changes relative distances: a trip to the mailbox can become an endeavor requiring warm shoes and a coat, while a trip to a nearby town, usually easily accessible, can become unthinkable. "It makes the world bigger," he wrote, "as well as temporarily more beautiful." I've certainly been enjoying the view from my desk.

"When the first lockdown came last spring, I think many thought of it as an unexpected snow day."

When the first lockdown came last spring, I think many thought of it as an unexpected snow day. Home improvement projects that had been on hold for years got done, and the woods across the street from my house were fuller than I've ever seen them (until recently in the snow).

And yes, like the snow, COVID-19 has made even simple tasks, such as trips to the grocery store, into an endeavor—do I have my mask? Have I washed my hands? Routine trips to visit elderly relatives or transatlantic friends have become difficult, if not unthinkable. Things we took for granted are suddenly no longer an option.

There is another side, though, as there always is. The world has also gotten smaller. We routinely "meet" in virtual spaces now, whether for international conferences and workshops or for informal gatherings with friends and colleagues. Our internet connections make it possible to stay abreast of the newest television shows and binge-watch old favorites as we please. (Well, unless we live in places like Schmallenberg, where a courier on horseback recently proved to be faster than the local internet connection for transferring files to the printer 10 km away.) Except for navigating the time difference (see the recent discussion on the GLD list about the proper hour for an international social!), we can meet whenever and from wherever we want. With German employees working from their homes these days, the pneumatic tube system in the Bundestag may be getting less use, even as the fax machines have been officially thrown out to the curb.

All of this is to say that though the transformation of the world might not be as noticeable—and certainly not as beautiful—as when you wake up to find the scenery outside your window blanketed in snow, these changes are there, and they will not melt away like a snowflake in the sun. And that when all else fails, conversation always turns to the weather. I'm dreaming of a white Christmas just like the ones we used to know. Maybe in 2021?

P.S. In case you missed it, the German government has updated the rates of the JVEG, which is worth checking out even if you aren't directly affected. The BDÜ has publicly criticized the law, especially §14 regarding *Rahmenvereinbarungen*.

Introducing Our New GLD Digital Events Coordinator: Elani Wales

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**.

When I heard the GLD was going to offer digital meetups to its members, my interest was instantly piqued. I've had many different types of Zoom meetups in the past several months, but one thing has been constant: getting to talk with people in this isolating time, especially people I might never have met otherwise, is deeply rewarding. I leapt at the chance to be a part of developing the program as the digital events coordinator.

We'll begin by having two types of events—purely digital socials, and (noncompetitive!) translation slams. At our digital social events, I'll offer a few prompts and a little structure to keep us moving and grooving, but the focus will be on simply keeping in touch with our colleagues around the world. In our translation slams, we'll let DeepL create a "translation" of the chosen text, then discuss the inevitable problems and creative ways to improve them. Of course, I'm excited to discover how our digital events will grow and change as the program gets up and running. If you have any suggestions or requests for our digital meetings, please feel free to contact me at elani@elaniwales.com. I look forward to developing something fantastic together!

I'll end with a few quick facts about myself. I am ATA-certified in German to English translation and work primarily with legal and business texts. That being said, I also have a deep love of tourism and a stumbled-into-it specialization in medieval arms and fighting techniques! I have a black belt in Aikido, and—when the world isn't engulfed in a pandemic—I live as a digital nomad, working while traveling the world. If you want to hear the lowdown on how to find the best tacos in Merida, Mexico, or why Penang, Malaysia, is deeply underrated as a travel destination, I'm your woman. For now, my world is limited to Bellingham, Washington, a small town in the Pacific Northwest. Thank goodness for Mt. Baker and its world-class snowboarding!

I think digital events will be a fantastic new offering from the GLD and—as the saying goes—I'm excited to e-meet you.

ATA 61st Annual Conference Recap: Pros and Cons of the Virtual Experience

By Abbygail Huber

Abby Huber, MA, CT, has lived in Bad Homburg, Karlsruhe and Tübingen and studied abroad in Mérida, Mexico.
She began translating professionally in 2013 and is now a Spanish-to-English and ATA-certified German-to-English translator. With an MA in International Literatures from the University of Tübingen German department and a BA in European history, she specializes in German Jewish history, Holocaust translation and the old German script as well as translation for healthcare and clinical trials. She is currently completing the MIIS professional certificate program for Spanish medical interpreting.

This was my second ATA conference, my first was ATA59 in New Orleans. Being in New Orleans meant exploring a new city, meeting and seeing lots of new people and many familiar ones, and having breakfast with the ATA Board of Directors, lunch with my buddy (as an ATA newbie), and dinner out on the town with a fellow Rhode Island interpreter. What I remember most about ATA61, by contrast, is the website, the agenda, messages in the Community tab, and Zoom rooms, all visited from my lovely yet isolated home office. Two very different conferences, although I learned a lot from each one.

At the virtual conference, I appreciated the ease of entering into conversation in the Zoom breakout rooms and finding people that I wanted to find without having to spot them in a crowd or text them. At the same time, however, I felt limited by the challenge of trying to get a word in without interrupting anyone, a problem that arose due to Zoom delays. I grew tired of the constant scrutiny of cameras, making sure I was in the frame and looking presentable. And at the end of the day, a feeling of isolation remained.

On day one of the sessions, I put on a nice, professional outfit and even donned earrings, only to find that my fellow session attendees could not see me. (I'm curious: Did anyone else have the same experience?)

My conference highlights: Zoom division meetings with breakout rooms, networking events, and Coffee with the Board. I am a crossover translator, participating in both the GLD and the Spanish Language Division, plus the Interpreters Division and Medical Division. I found it was easier to be a crossover ATAer virtually than in person. In person, you have to choose which division event you'll devote your evening to, whereas virtually, you can go to all of them. Thanks to the online format, I was able to talk with many people face to face whom I had previously only met via email or discussion boards.

Best thing about ATA61: Getting to speak with so many fellow translators. Many of you might not know me, but I am happy to be getting to know more of you. Having Zoom coffee with several people during ATA was a delight. I even met a fellow member of the New England Translators Association from Rhode Island.

Best tip I received: Helen Eby suggested we set up a virtual calling card, just a text

file with our key information, languages, and specializations, and paste it into the Zoom chat in our calls or breakout rooms. I used something like:

Abby Huber
Translator, German (ATA certified) and Spanish to English
Medical, Healthcare, Clinical Trials
Historical & Handwritten German/Old Handwriting, Holocaust, Genealogy
Spanish Community Interpreter/Student in MIIS professional certificate program
www.ajordanhuber.com, https://www.linkedin.com/in/abby-jordan-huber/
Providence, RI, and Boston, MA, US

Best sessions I attended:

- Michael Schubert: "Decoding German Buzzwords: 'Digitalisierung' and All Things 4.0." Great encouragement to swim against the tide of terms commonly used or misused in Europe when translating for American end users.
- Dirk Siepmann: "Who's Afraid of DeepL?" Interesting examples of texts that DeepL has yet to conquer.
- Dagmar and Judy Jenner: "The Power of 'No': Self-Confidence for Translators and Interpreters." As a self-employed translator, I found it to be balm for the soul to listen to two cheerful and successful translators reinforce the importance of knowing our own value and sticking to our standards.
- Ellen Elias-Bursac: "Working in a Tug of War." Fascinating glimpse into the challenges of working at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.
- Andrew Gillies: "Long Consecutive Interpreting: Memory and Notes." I am very impressed by his skills and aspire to develop my own.

A final bonus: The conference still hasn't ended for me. I continue to watch sessions whenever I have the chance, and I must really be a translator, because I thoroughly enjoy them.

ATA 61st Annual Conference Newbie Report: Extraordinary Times Call for Extraordinary Measures

By Michelle Standley

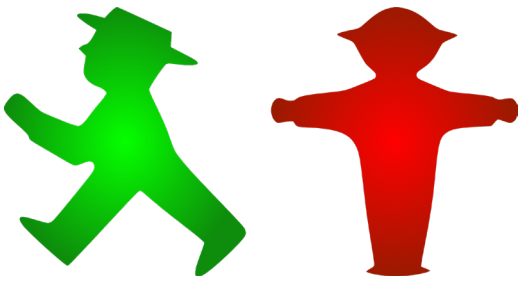
Michelle Standley is a writer, editor, and German-to-English translator based in Berlin and New York, specializing in texts related to the humanities and social sciences. Her writing and translations have appeared in such publications as *The Journal of Architecture, New York Magazine, The Brooklyn Rail, Diplomatisches Magazin,* and in edited volumes from Routledge, Berghahn, and Columbia University Press. She recently became a "qualified translator" with The Institute of Translators and Interpreting and eagerly awaits the opportunity to take the ATA Certification Exam. An adjunct associate professor at Pratt Institute, she has a PhD in History from New York University.

I have a secret. Please don't tell the other members of ATA who have attended past conferences. Because I have heard that they were very sad not to be able to meet in person this year. I don't want to hurt their feelings. But I don't share their sentiment. Because, personally, I am so very happy that the conference was virtual last year.

You see, I live in Berlin, Germany. That's 3,776 miles away from Boston, where the conference was supposed to have taken place. And if it hadn't been for these extraordinary circumstances—a global pandemic! Who would have thought?!—then I would not have been able to join in the community that, as I found out, is the American Translators Association. And during this incredibly unusual era in which we are living, I am craving, more than ever, community. That is precisely what my first ATA Conference, and the ATA's first all-virtual one, delivered: an immersion in the field and a connection with other people working in the profession.

That's not to say there weren't some obstacles related to attending an all-virtual conference. Apart from occasional issues related to muting and unmuting (children's voices, a phone call, a dripping faucet), the bigger problem was the time difference. I live six hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time, the time zone in which the virtual conference was held. Thus, when some members were waking up ready to Zumba at 8:00 a.m., I was getting ready to make my afternoon coffee. A second cup—or was it my third or fourth? I lost track at a certain point—was required to join the "After Hours Café." I am nonetheless glad that I stayed awake to hear poetry read in different languages, to see the faces of other members, and to read the flurry of comments in the chat from those who were as moved as I was by the beauty of hearing words spoken with such feeling in a language other than my native tongue.

No artificial stimulant was required to tap into the energy generated in the networking sessions, "Buddies Welcome Newbies" and "Stronger Together Networking" or "The Lounge." Considering the circumstances—communicating with strangers whose heads appear in little squares on your laptop—you might think that it would be hard to connect or bond in any way. But far from cold, the atmosphere was warm, collegial, and supportive. I suspect this has to do with the people involved, of course, but also with the fact that we were all speaking to each other from spaces into which normally we don't allow strangers to peer: our homes. I made some friends



that I later exchanged emails with and even had a virtual coffee date between sessions with a fellow German-to-English translator. In the lounge, I met the ATA president, Ted Wozniak, with whom I swapped tales about Berlin, and more than once I "ran into" a good-humored English-to-Arabic interpreter based in Egypt who tuned in from his car between errands.

My experience at the conference was not all networking and chatting. I also gained some insights into the practice of translation and into the state of the profession today. From Michael Schubert's "Decoding German Buzzwords: 'Digitalisierung' and All Things 4.0" I acquired some useful tips for translating such German anomalies as "Datenkraken" ("data octopus") into real English. Or from Dirk Siepmann's "Academic and Popular Academic Translation: German>English" I became aware of some common mistranslations that result from sticking too closely to the German term.

> "No artificial stimulant was required to tap into the energy generated in the networking sessions."

In addition to attending panels specific to my own languages and specializations, I also dipped into some sessions devoted to reflecting on the state of the industry and professional practices in general. If one theme emerged, it's robot translation—the specter haunting, if not the conference, then the industry. I am surely not the only one in a slight panic over just how eerily good machine translation programs can be, leading to night tremors and questions like: Did I choose the wrong profession? Are my skills and experience about to become redundant?

The overwhelming message from the sessions I attended was: relax! Said Shiyab, in his two-part "Issues and Challenges Facing the Language and Translation Industry," pulled out the stats and graphs to allay our worst fears. The industry and employment within it, he reassured us, is healthy and, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, projected to grow at a rate more than twice as fast as the average in other industries. And Dirk Siepmann, while acknowledging the efficiency and accuracy of machine translation, in his aptly-titled "Who's Afraid of DeepL?," also pointed to its limitations. We human translators, it seems, will still be needed for some time to come.

No offense to the other panel presenters, but my hands down favorite was the Jenner twins Dagmar and Judy's presentation, "The Power of 'No': Self-Confidence for Translators and Interpreters." It was the last session I attended and the perfect note on which to end the conference. The powerhouse translation-and-interpreting duo offered down to earth, practical advice to those working in the industry—87 percent of whom are women, by the way—counseling us to, well, say "No! No! No! No!" and to do so without justification or fear.

"What's the worst that can happen?" they asked. "Make mistakes, demand things, communicate, learn, repeat," they said. It was just the sort of assertiveness training that I think many of us need right now as we stretch ourselves to adapt to a world turned upside down. Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. I, for one, am grateful to the planners and participants in the ATA's first all-virtual conference for pulling me out of the confines of my living room and back into the world—for a few happy days last October.

Rosalie Henke is an English to German freelance translator located in sunny San Diego in Southern California. With nearly two decades of experience in technical translations and the gaming industry, she is always looking for new, interesting challenges to continue learning. She regularly visits her hometown in beautiful Schwabenland in Germany to stay in touch with her native language.

Hätte, hätte, Fahrradkette: Gedanken zur virtuellen ATA-Konferenz

By Rosalie Henke

Das Jahr 2020 wurde für mich von einem Softwareprogramm geprägt: Zoom.

Anfangs war es ja noch neu und spannend: Plötzlich konnten Meetings online abgehalten werden, ich konnte bei so viel mehr Veranstaltungen dabei sein, an Konferenzen teilnehmen, die hunderte Kilometer entfernt waren oder auch in anderen Zeitzonen stattfanden. Im Frühsommer setzte langsam die Müdigkeit ein, immer präsent sein zu **können**, gepaart mit FOMO, denn das Angebot an interessanten Themen wuchs und wuchs.

Wie so viele andere sehnte ich mich nach Monaten „erzwungenem Homeoffice“ wieder nach mehr menschlichem Kontakt, der leider vor meiner Haustür in Südkalifornien nicht stattfinden konnte. Reisen in andere Länder fielen auch flach.

Als die jährliche Konferenz der ATA schließlich im Onlineformat bekanntgegeben wurde und langsam näher rückte, musste ich zwischen mehreren Dingen abwägen: Lohnt sich der Preis? Lohnt sich die Zeit, in der ich nicht arbeiten könnte? Lohnt sich der innerfamiliäre Koordinationsaufwand? Schließlich habe ich zwei kleine Kinder daheim, die sich nur bedingt selbst beschäftigen können.

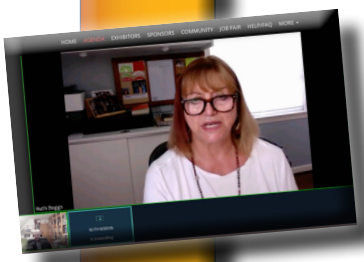
Durch die Verfügbarkeit der vielen anderen Onlineveranstaltungen und -ressourcen, für die ich auch gefühlt nie Zeit hatte, kam ich schließlich zur Entscheidung, dass sich die Konferenz für mich in diesem Jahr nicht auszahlt.

Trotz allem (und dank einer Uhrzeit, die zufälligerweise sehr gut in unseren Alltag gepasst hat!) habe ich aber am jährlichen Treffen der German Language Division teilgenommen, was dankenswerterweise auch ohne Teilnahme an der Konferenz möglich war. In diesem kurzen Onlinemeeting habe ich mal wieder gemerkt, wie viel mehr Wert mir die Konferenz der ATA im Vergleich zu anderen Veranstaltungen bietet: Ich habe (virtuell) in viele bekannte Gesichter geblickt, viele geläufige Namen gelesen, erfahren, wie anders diese Konferenz doch im Vergleich zu den zahllosen Zoom-Meetings war, die in diesem Jahr meinen Kalender füllten.

Fürs nächste Jahr nehme ich mir vor, mir meine Onlinezeit etwas bewusster einzuteilen und mir gezielt Zeit für diese Konferenz zu nehmen, denn das Menschliche, das für uns alle so wichtig ist, ist hier trotz virtuellem Format nicht verloren gegangen.

ata THE ATA PODCAST
News and Insights from the American Translators Association

Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting of the German Language Division
at the ATA 61st Annual Conference held via Zoom Conference on October 19, 2020



The Annual Meeting of the German Language Division of the American Translators Association was held on Monday, October 19, 2020, via Zoom Conference. **GLD Administrator Ruth Boggs** called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM EST.

An agenda for the meeting was made available. A move was made to accept the agenda, which was then seconded. The minutes of last year's Annual Meeting on October 25, 2019, in Palm Springs, CA, were also accepted by a motion. All minutes of Annual Meetings of past years are posted on the GLD website under the heading GLD Archive and printed in the newsletter *interaktiv*.

As the first order of business, GLD Administrator Ruth Boggs welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Jill Sommer suggested a moment of silence in memory of Silke Hufnagel, who had passed away a few days earlier.

Ruth Boggs briefly presented the agenda. Ruth B. presented the newly-elected administrator, Sandy Jones, and assistant administrator, Carlie Sitzman. Sandy J. briefly addressed the meeting and explained that, for personal reasons, she was unable to serve in the administrator position to which she was elected.

Ruth B. explained that due to time constraints, it was not possible to hold another election. According to ATA's Governing Policy for Divisions, when an administrator drops out, the assistant administrator takes over and then appoints a new assistant administrator from the Leadership Council. In line with this, Carlie Sitzman took over as administrator and appointed Karen Leube as assistant administrator.

Ruth B. provided her 2020 summary of the state of our division. The division is doing well; it is running smoothly, and all goals and objectives set for ATA divisions are being met.

As of the date of the Annual Meeting, the GLD had 963 individual and 211 corporate/institutional members; 201 members were registered for the conference.

2020 saw a number of personnel matters:

- Jessica Lucio resigned as web manager and Robin Limmeroth took over.
- Marion Rhodes took over as *interaktiv* editor from Matt Baird.
- The Division had to recruit a new layout designer and more copy editors and proofreaders for *interaktiv*.
- The search for a new calendar person for *interaktiv* had not been successful.

The "GLD Members in Europe" group had held a successful workshop in Erfurt from February 7–9, 2020.

Marion Rhodes presented her report on *interaktiv*. She said the new editorial team published two issues of *interaktiv* in 2020, a spring issue focusing on continuing education and a fall issue focusing on the pandemic and its impact on the T&I community. The 2/2020 issue

had undergone a redesign with the new layout editor, Daniela Radivo Harder, taking over. *Interaktiv* had been looking for a new calendar editor without success, but ultimately, the current editor, Stella Waltemade, decided to keep her position.

Robin Limmeroth presented her report on the GLD website. Robin introduced herself as **webmaster** and talked about our website and the information that can be found there:

Information about **ATA**, the **translation industry**, and **our division**, as well as the opportunity to download the latest issue of the newsletter and all previous issues, read about membership in the GLD, what you get out of it, how to become part of the proofreading pool, read about the listserv (aka the GLD list) and find contact information for everyone on the GLD Leadership Council. The website also includes the GLD calendar, which shows the dates of relevant workshops, seminars, etc., for translators working with German and English.

"The website also includes the GLD calendar, which shows the dates of relevant workshops, seminars, etc., for translators working with German and English."

Robin asked for contributions and suggestions for the blog, including reposts from other blogs. Next, she talked about the section of the website where presentations given by GLD members at past ATA conferences can be downloaded, going back as far as 2003 (ATA 44th Annual Conference in Phoenix), as well as some presentations from GLD in Europe workshops. Presenters who have not yet submitted their files but plan to do so were asked to please submit them, including those presenting at ATA61.

Ellen Yutzy Glebe presented her report on the **GLD Members in Europe group**. The workshop in February in Erfurt was a success, although cut short by Orkan Sabine. Planning for next year's workshop is on ice due to the ongoing pandemic. The group members have met for a social event on Zoom and considered digital alternatives or postponing the event to the summer, etc. They planned to meet again in November to touch base.

Sandy Jones presented her report on GLD's **Social Media**, reporting the following numbers:

Twitter @ata_gld
2019 748 followers
2020 860 followers

FB @GLDATA
2019 398 followers
2020 434 followers

Carlie Sitzman presented her report on the **New Member and Proofreading Pool**. There was not much to report for the proofreading pool. There were no new requests to join. There also were no new queries from members or prospective members. This is unusual and may be due to the pandemic situation.

Listmaster Gerhard Preisser presented his now 11th Annual Listmaster Report. Gerhard reported that currently 453 GLD members were participating in the list, a decrease of 42 compared to 2019. Gerhard explained that the group had migrated from Yahoo Groups to Groups.io in November 2019. Members had to proactively respond to an invitation to join the group on the new platform. In all, 12% of the previous members declined to do so. Sixteen new members joined the list after the migration.

Gerhard reported that the list had seen its first increase (20% more than in 2019) in the number of posts since taking over list ownership 11 years earlier. As many as 2320 posts had been made to the list in the previous year.

Gerhard provided an entertaining, month-by-month summary of the post highlights. [The 2020 State of the List report (in German) will be posted in its entirety on our website].

Ruth B. recognized the Nominating Committee for their work, and thanked her assistant administrator and the members of the Leadership Council for their excellent work, cooperation, and service. She stressed that more volunteers were needed and said a brief farewell, thanking the members for their confidence in her for the past four years.

Ruth handed over the meeting to the new ***Administrator Carlie Sitzman.***

Carlie informed everyone that she was stepping down as new member and proofreading pool coordinator and asked for volunteers.

She said ATA was thinking of making future meetings virtual as well. She asked for feedback from the members. A lot of people expressed support for a hybrid in-person/digital meeting. The reason they gave was that they have a strong desire to meet in person again, but they want people who cannot travel to the conference to have the option to attend as well. Members missed the social aspect of the meeting. No one was interested in continuing fully digital meetings in the future.

Carlie announced that we have the option to organize GLD-specific webinars. She asked if anyone had ideas for a webinar. There was no response.

Carlie made a call for distinguished speaker ideas for the next conference. **Assistant Administrator Karen Leube** also emphasized that we would need help finding a location for the social. No one volunteered speaker ideas, but David Coats offered to help with scouting since he lives in the area.

Carlie adjourned the Annual Meeting at 11:45 AM EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Leube
GLD Assistant Administrator
Aachen, February 17, 2021

Displaying the ATA logo is a benefit that some members overlook

If you don't, you're missing out on an important way ATA can work for you. All ATA members may access and use the ATA logo. Learn more here: **www.atanet.org/membership/ata_logo_guidelines.php**

ata American Translators Association
The Voice of Interpreters and Translators

Jahresbericht 2020 von GLD Listmaster Gerhard Preisser

Guten Morgen!

Eigentlich wollte ich mich angesichts der besonderen Umstände dieses virtuellen Meetings mit einem reinen Tatsachenbericht zum GLD-Listengeschehen seit der letzten Konferenz begnügen, aber dann hat Ruth mich gebeten, fünf Minuten zu füllen, und es widerstrebt mir zutiefst, ihr einen ihrer letzten Wünsche als Division Administrator zu verwehren.

Also dann … zunächst ganz kurz die Zahlen der letzten 12 Monate:

Wir haben aktuell 453 Mitglieder; das sind 42 weniger als im Vorjahreszeitraum. Allerdings darf man diese Zahl nicht unkommentiert im Raum stehen lassen: Wir haben im November den *List Host* gewechselt und sind von Yahoo Groups auf Groups.io umgestiegen. In diesem Zusammenhang mussten alle Mitglieder, die an einer Fortsetzung ihrer Mitgliedschaft interessiert waren, die Zumutung hinnehmen, aktiv eine entsprechende Online-Einladung anzunehmen, wozu immerhin ca. 12 Prozent nicht bereit waren. Da es sich bei diesem Kreis aber ausschließlich um Karteileichen, notorische Querulanten und Personen handelte, die sich in der Vergangenheit erdreistet hatten, die Autorität des Listmasters in Frage zu stellen, habe ich diesen Verlust nicht weiter bedauert, sondern als notwendigen Kollateralschaden abgehakt. Im Übrigen haben wir seit dem Umstieg 16 neue Mitglieder aufnehmen können, was für die ungebrochene Attraktivität der Liste spricht.

Auch bezüglich des Listenverkehrs gibt es Positives zu vermelden: Zum ersten Mal seit 11 Jahren, also während meiner gesamten Regentschaft (Verzeihung: Amtszeit) verzeichneten wir einen Anstieg der Wortmeldungen, und zwar um fast 20 Prozent. Im Augenblick stehen wir somit bei respektablen 2320 Postings – Glückwünsche dazu bitte an meine private E-Mail-Adresse, die Sie dem ATA-Mitgliederverzeichnis entnehmen können.

> "Zum ersten Mal seit 11 Jahren, verzeichneten wir einen Anstieg der Wortmeldungen, und zwar um fast 20 Prozent."

Damit bleiben uns noch ein paar Minuten für einen Jahresrückblick im Schnelldurchgang:

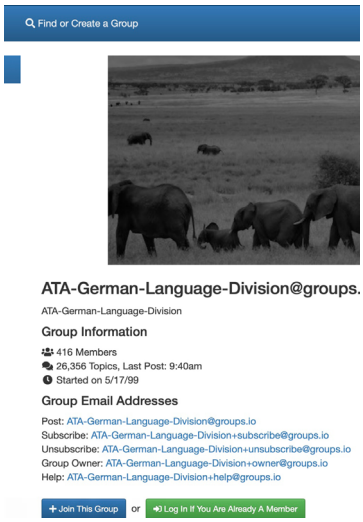
Im **November** sind wir, wie bereits angesprochen, auf den neuen List Host umgestiegen, was für die überwiegende Mehrheit der Listenmitglieder völlig reibungslos vonstatten ging. Ganz nebenbei wurde, gerade noch rechtzeitig vor dem Winter, auf der Liste die Formel zur Berechnung des Heizölpreises präsentiert.

Im **Dezember** wurde die Bitte eines Mitglieds der Liste um guten Rat in Steuerdingen mit dem hilfreichen Hinweis beantwortet, die Betroffene möge sich doch bitte professionelle Unterstützung holen, womit – und davon können wir doch alle getrost ausgehen – ihr Weihnachtsfest gerettet war.

Wie nicht anders zu erwarten, standen im **Januar**, also im finstersten Monat des Jahres, aufmunternde Themen wie Scammer-Attacken, Arbeitsunfälle und Sterbeurkunden im Mittelpunkt der Diskussion.

Dieser positive Grundton wurde im **Februar** noch einmal verstärkt, als kategorisch festgestellt wurde, dass, und ich zitiere, „Maschinen den Übersetzern die Arbeit wegnehmen und zu viele Studenten Übersetzen studieren".

Der **März** war für mich persönlich außerordentlich erhellend, weil ich anlässlich



diverser Beiträge endlich lernte, dass es DAS Virus heißt und nicht DER Virus.

Im **April** stieß die Frage, ob es sinnvoll sei, in wirtschaftlichen Krisenzeiten die Preise zu senken, auf enorme Resonanz. Die Antworten – und das unterstreicht wieder die riesige Meinungsvielfalt unter unseren Mitgliedern – deckten das komplette Spektrum ab, von Unverständnis über Indignation und Entrüstung bis hin zur Empörung.

Dieses Entsetzen setzte sich bis in den **Mai** hinein fort, als die mit DeepL Pro erreichte MT-Qualität weitere negative Gemütserregungen hervorrief, was wiederum zu diversen Klagen über den traurigen Allgemeinzustand führte, den uns das Jahr 2020 bescherte. Fazit: „Der Wahnsinn, der zurzeit abgeht, ist schwer zu verarbeiten.“ Auch ich persönlich fand den Monat sehr verunsichernd, weil plötzlich wieder die Möglichkeit ins Spiel gebracht wurde, DER Virus sei vielleicht doch akzeptabel.

Ebenfalls im Mai, aber bis in den **Juni** hinein, legten zahlreiche Listenmitglieder persönliche und ausgesprochen hilfreiche Erfahrungsberichte zu Zustellungsverspätungen im deutsch-amerikanischen Postverkehr vor. Von den 20 Kollegen und Kolleginnen, die sich zu diesem sehr bewegenden Thema zu Wort meldeten, hatten 18 nur Negatives zu berichten und 2 nichts Gutes. Gerettet wurde der Monat, wie das meistens so ist, von einer launigen Diskussion über Fleisch und Wurst, deren Vorzüge von niemandem bestritten wurden.

Im **Juli** wurde kontrovers um die Bedeutung des Begriffs „trocken wohnen“ gerungen; die Alternative „feucht wohnen“ wurde allerdings, und hier zeigt sich wieder der gesunde Menschenverstand unserer Mitglieder, rundum für schlecht befunden.

Im **August** ging es hoch her; in ganzen 50 Beiträgen wurde der Ausdruck „auf Augenhöhe“ von allen denkbaren Seiten analysiert. Das hatte vermutlich auch mit dem radikal neuen Ansatz des Fragestellers zu tun, der nach zahlreichen Beiträgen gestand, dass er „so wenig vom Ausgangstext wie möglich habe verraten wollen.“ Weil ich es grundsätzlich sehr begrüße, wenn sich möglichst viele von Ihnen zu Wort melden, fand ich das außerordentlich erfrischend.

Anfang **September** wurde auf der Liste eine düstere Frage gestellt, die mich völlig aus der Bahn warf: „Sind wir existenzgefährdet?“. Was immer ich mir daraufhin zur Beruhigung meiner Nerven verordnete, setzte mich mehrere Wochen außer Gefecht.

So richtig zu mir gekommen bin ich erst wieder im **Oktober**, als die Diskussion des Begriffs „Auspowern“ meine Neugier erregte. Ruths Bemerkung in diesem Zusammenhang, dass sie nach einem Workout „glücklich, aber erschöpft“ sei, kann ich mangels Interesses zwar nicht nachvollziehen, beschreibt aber treffend meine eigene Stimmungslage am Ende dieses Berichtszeitraums.

Und damit bleibt mir nur noch, Ruth und allen Mitgliedern des Leadership Councils herzlich dafür zu danken, dass sie stets bereit sind, die Werbetrommel für unsere bescheidene Liste zu rühren. Ihnen allen, denen die Liste am Herzen liegt, ob als Mitposter oder als stille Mitleser, sei für Ihre seit Jahren ungebrochene Hilfsbereitschaft und Ihr Engagement für die beste und aktivste Mailingliste aller ATA-Divisionen von Herzen gedankt.

Wie sich der Beruf der Übersetzer und Dolmetscher im Laufe der Jahre verändert hat: Interview mit Bruni Johnson

By Annett Kuester

Bruni Johnson is an accredited translator and interpreter, who is certified by the American Translators Association for German<>English. She has been working as an independent translator and interpreter since 1984. Bruni lives in Palatine, Illinois.

Frau Johnson, seit wann arbeiten Sie als Übersetzerin und was hat Sie ursprünglich dazu bewegt, Übersetzerin zu werden?

Nach meinem Abitur begann ich mit meinem Studium an der Freien Universität Berlin und belegte Germanistik, Anglistik und Romanistik. Teil meines Studiums waren 2 Semester in London. Der Hausherr meiner Gastfamilie beherrschte 16 Sprachen. Das beeindruckte mich ungemein und ich vertiefte mich noch mehr in ein Sprachenstudium.

Anschließend verbrachte ich 2 Jahre in Paris. Meine Französischkenntnisse waren katastrophal und ich musste erst fast ein Jahr lang an der Alliance Française meine Kenntnisse aufmöbeln, um dann an der Sorbonne den rasant schnellen Vorlesungen halbwegs folgen zu können. Geld war knapp, also arbeitete ich zum ersten Mal in meinem Leben als „Dolmetscherin" für deutsche Besucher in Paris und Versailles. Mein erster großer Dolmetschfehler war, dass ich die Mille chevaux des Rois Louis XIV (oder war es der XVI?) zu Millionen Pferde vergrößerte. Es machte mir Spaß, zu dolmetschen, und ich fing mit dem Überlegen an, was ich mit meinen Sprachkenntnissen anfangen sollte.

Nach meiner Rückkehr nach Berlin änderte ich meine Berufsabsichten von Lehrerin auf Dolmetscherin und setzte mein Sprachstudium an einem Sprachenseminar für Dolmetscher und Übersetzer fort, was die Freie Universität nicht anbot.

Nach Beendigung meiner Ausbildung war ich Übersetzerin bei der Berliner Bank und technische Übersetzerin bei einer Firma namens DEMAG und wurde mit deren Vokabular vertraut. Nach meiner Heirat (13. August 1961, Tag des Mauerbaues) lebten wir in Zehlendorf in der Nähe der Berlin Brigade (BB Command), und ich bewarb mich um eine Anstellung bei der BB, um mich auf mein zukünftiges Leben in Amerika vorzubereiten. Meine Aufgabe war Dolmetscherin und Übersetzerin eines Generals, der mit den Aufteilungs- und Unterkunftsproblemen Berlins unter den 4 Besatzungsmächten beauftragt war. 1962 zogen wir nach Chicago.

Wie fanden Sie die Lage für Übersetzer und Dolmetscher in den USA nach Ihrer Auswanderung vor?

Arbeit für Übersetzer und/oder Dolmetscher gab es keine, bis auf als Sekretärin beim Deutschen Konsulat oder bei der Lufthansa. Ich landete dann bei einer großen Anwaltsfirma, Baker & McKenzie, und arbeitete für deren französischen Anwalt hauptsächlich als Sekretärin für französische Korrespondenz, was wichtig war, und als Nebenbeschäftigung als Übersetzerin, was damals nicht ganz so wichtig war. Unserem Beruf wurde ja lange Zeit keine große Bedeutung beigemessen. Aber ich gewann einen Einblick in die Juristerei.

Nachdem meine beiden Kinder zur Welt gekommen waren, arbeitete ich freiberuflich von zu Hause aus auf einer alten

Schreibmaschine für die langsam entstehenden Sprachagenturen. Die Aufträge waren sporadisch, und ich entschied mich doch für etwas Festeres und nahm das Angebot einer damals noch kleineren aber feinen Anwaltsfirma 3 Tage pro Woche an. Auch dort wurde ich hauptsächlich als Sekretärin eingesetzt, mit den üblichen „unbedeutenden" Übersetzungen, die langsam länger und schwerer wurden, je mehr internationale Fälle angenommen und bearbeitet wurden. Ich bearbeitete selbstständig hauptsächlich Immigrationsangelegenheiten.

In dem Gebäude waren auch andere Anwaltsfirmen untergebracht, und ich wurde aufgrund meiner Sprachkenntnisse zeitweilig an andere große Anwaltsfirmen ausgeliehen. Ich übersetzte sowieso nebenher für andere Unternehmen.

Meine erste Übersetzung für einen deutsch-amerikanischen Anwalt war ein elend langes Patent, aber der Anwalt gab mir Rat und Unterstützung und war zufrieden mit meiner Arbeit und meinen Deutschkenntnissen, sodass er mich weiterempfahl. Chicago hatte sich seit meiner Einreise sehr verändert und ich bekam mehr und mehr Aufträge. Ich fühlte mich aber nicht kompetent genug und wandte mich an das Goethe-Institut in Chicago und erkundigte mich, ob es einen Übersetzerkurs oder eine Übersetzergruppe gäbe. Gab es aber nicht. So schlug mir der damalige Direktor des Instituts, Dr. Breuer, vor, mit seiner Unterstützung eine derartige Gruppe aufzubauen.

Die Geburtsstunde des German Translators Forums ...

The German Translators Forum wurde 1985 etabliert. Dr. Breuer machte Reklame für unseren Übersetzerkreis und wir hatten in kurzer Zeit eine nette Anzahl an Mitgliedern. Eines unserer unvergesslichen Mitglieder war Peter Less, der für die Nürnberger Prozesse gedolmetscht hatte. Ich kannte ja viele Anwälte, die selber an Übersetzungen für internationale Fälle interessiert waren. Einige wurden Mitglieder unseres Forums und erklärten sich bereit, uns durch Vorträge juristisch weiterzubilden und mit uns Übersetzungen zu besprechen.

Wir trafen uns einmal pro Monat und hatten in der Tat die besten internationalen Anwälte, Patentanwälte und Referenten der Handelskammer zu Gast, die uns wirklich viel anbieten konnten. Wir besuchten auch in den Vororten Firmen wie Siemens und andere größere Firmen, die uns durch ihre Werkstätten führten.

Wir wurden am Anfang durch das Goethe-Institut finanziell unterstützt und konnten Dozenten aus Deutschland zu Wochenendseminaren/Workshops einladen. Außerdem luden wir ATA-Übersetzer für spezielle Fachgebiete ein, wie Chemie und Wissenschaften, und natürlich auch Jura – alle für ein Wochenende und nicht nur für ein paar Stunden.

Wir setzten diese jährlichen Seminare so lange fort, bis das G.I. uns finanziell nicht mehr unterstützen konnte. Am Anfang konnte ich durch Spenden vom Deutschen Konsulat, Lufthansa und German Language Publication noch genug Gelder zusammenbringen, um die Teilnehmerkosten für Übersetzer niedrig zu halten, was immer schwieriger wurde.

Da ich akkreditiertes Mitglied von ATA war und man dort anfing oder schon angefangen hatte, verschiedene Sprachdivisionen einzurichten, fragte ich nach, ob man nicht eine German Language Division einrichten und die Mitglieder des German Translators Forum übernehmen könnte. Andere ATA-Mitglieder, wie Ruth Boggs, hatten zu der Zeit die gleichen Gedanken, eine German Language Division zu gründen.[1] Der Vorschlag wurde freudig angenommen, was mich sehr erleichterte, denn nach 15 Jahren German Translators Forum hatte ich genug vom Leiten.

Wie sah der Übergang von Anstellung zur komplett freiberuflichen Arbeit für Sie aus?

Während der Zeit arbeitete ich weiterhin bei der ständig wachsenden Anwaltsfirma und übersetzte immer noch für Baker & McKenzie. Zwischendurch bekam ich mein Certificate als Paralegal und hatte nebenbei auch andere Kurse belegt. Als ich mehr Selbstvertrauen gewann und mich weiter entfalten konnte und mein Ruf in Chicago sich gefestigt hatte, gab ich endlich meine Arbeit bei den Anwälten auf und wurde selbstständig, aber mit einem Umweg über die Deutsche Bank, die damals hier ein kleines Büro hatte. Da lernte ich wieder etwas Neues und fand noch mehr neue Kunden. Es gab viel Arbeit auf dem Gebiet Banken und insbesondere Investieren, und ich übersetzte Investmentbroschüren und fing an, konsekutiv bei Beweisaufnahmen zu dolmetschen.

> "Uns wurde stets eingebläut, dass Übersetzen und Dolmetschen nicht zusammenpassen, man sollte nur das eine oder andere tun."

Bei Beweisaufnahmen lernt man eine Unmenge an Terminologie, die in keinem Wörterbuch und auch nicht im Internet zu finden ist, denn jede Firma hat ihre eigene Sprache (Fachbegriffe). Zur Vorbereitung dieser Aufträge bekommt man nur eine allgemeine Klageschrift zum Durchlesen, alles andere darf vorher nicht offenbart werden. Man kann sich zwar ein Glossar erstellen und hat eine Vorstellung worum es geht, aber die eigentlichen Spezialausdrücke muss man sich beim Dolmetschen erarbeiten und den Mut haben, die eine oder andere Partei anzusprechen und um Erklärung zu bitten.

Bei Gerichtsverhandlungen ging ich ähnlich vor, indem ich *Your Honor* ansprach, mir die Erlaubnis zu geben, den entsprechenden Anwalt um Erklärung zu bitten – oft nur, um Formulierungen zu vereinfachen.

Wie kamen Sie schließlich vom Übersetzen zum Dolmetschen?

Langsam bekam ich mehr und mehr Aufträge in Chicago, u. a. auch von McDonalds für Übersetzungen und Voice-Overs, was die McD-Sprachabteilung dazu bewegte, mich als ihre erste deutsche (sie hatten schon andere Sprachen) Simultandolmetscherin an ihrer Hamburger Universität zu beauftragen. Für Simultandolmetschen war ich allerdings nicht gut vorbereitet, denn in unserem Nachkriegs-Sprachenseminar gab es keine Simultananlagen.

Meine Ausbildung fand in einem noch nicht vom Krieg erholten Deutschland statt. Erfahrung hatte ich auch keine, also

[1] Anm. d. Red.: Die GLD wurde 1997 mit der Unterstützung von Claudia Kellersch im Rahmen der ATA-Konferenz in San Francisco gegründet.

war ich sehr beängstigt. Hier erhielt ich meine erste richtige Einführung. Es war nicht unbedingt schwer und es klappte auch sehr gut – meine Gehirnfunktion reagiert beim Simultandolmetschen anders als gewöhnlich, aber es war unwahrscheinlich anstrengend für mich, denn wir hatten zu jener Zeit nur einen Simultandolmetscher pro Sprache für fast 7 Stunden pro Tag. Abends ging es weiter mit Konsekutivdolmetschen im Gerätelabor.

Uns wurde stets eingebläut, dass Übersetzen und Dolmetschen nicht zusammenpassen, man sollte nur das eine oder andere tun. Im Gegenteil, durch das Übersetzen hat sich mein Wortschatz und Fachwissen sehr erweitert und ich bin oftmals erstaunt, wie viel passives Wissen beim Simultandolmetschen auftaucht. Auf der anderen Seite hat mir Dolmetschen ein besseres Verständnis für das Übersetzen gegeben.

Wie die anderen Dolmetscher auch hatte ich viele interessante Begegnungen und Erlebnisse und Reisen. Viele Aufträge bekam ich durch das Konsulat von Politikern und Delegierten, zumeist dieselben Gruppen, sogar Simultandolmetschen eines Theaterstücks vor Bertolt Brecht. Narrations und Voice-Overs (da kam mir meine Schauspielereierfahrung zugute), Besuche in Gefängnissen (blieb mal mit meinem Anwalt im Aufzug des Untersuchungsgefängnisses in Chicago stecken) und im Todestrakt, Börsenparkett, beim Kardinal usw., auch eine Megakirche war darunter. Und jedes Mal lernt man etwas Neues dazu.

Ach ja, ich musste sogar als Frau Nikolaus mit entsprechendem Kostüm auf einer Veranstaltung dolmetschen. In einem Humvee habe ich auch gedolmetscht. Ob man so etwas heute noch erleben kann, ist kaum anzunehmen. Ich weiß es nicht.

Wie sieht Ihr Arbeitsalltag heute aus?

Ich konnte/wollte mich nicht mit der neuen Technologie anfreunden. Heutzutage setze ich mich hin und fange an, wenn ich mit dem Thema vertraut bin. Wenn nicht, *nun* dann lese ich alles genau durch, stelle mir ein kleines Glossar der ungewöhnlichsten Ausdrücke zusammen und lese über das Thema nach. Ich würde mich dabei nicht unbedingt auf eine Datenbank verlassen.

Ich benutze viele der teuer erstandenen Wörterbücher, auch ältere, natürlich auch Online-Wörterbücher, die aber nicht alles enthalten. Ich bin sehr vorsichtig mit Internetinformationen und greife zumeist auf meine gesammelten Glossare von Dolmetschaufträgen zurück. Oftmals, wenn es möglich ist, kontaktiere ich entweder den Kunden oder wende mich direkt an eine zutreffende Industriesparte, die mir zumeist die entsprechende Information erteilt. Auch Verwandte und Bekannte müssen herhalten, mir mit ihrem Spezialwissen zu helfen. Zumeist verlasse ich mich auf mein Gedächtnis.

Die Vorbereitung ist ja bedeutend einfacher geworden, denn Internet hatten wir nicht und lasen ganze Bücher über ein Fachgebiet, um uns zu informieren – aber das macht man bestimmt auch heute noch. Ohne die Computertechnologie kann man allerdings nicht mehr arbeiten, aber Bücher sind trotzdem sehr wertvolle Hilfen.

Wie sehen Sie die Zukunftsaussichten für Übersetzer/Dolmetscher?

Beim Übersetzen wird es in bestimmten Bereichen etwas magerer werden durch die sehr hoch-entwickelten Computerprogramme, aber unser Gehirn arbeitet

doch noch besser und wir werden immer noch gebraucht, nur nicht so oft.

Für Dolmetschen sieht es meiner Meinung nach sehr gut aus, obwohl die Pandemie den Beruf total verändert hat. Aber es war sowieso schon im Kommen. Und was dazu gehört, das wurde ganz ausgezeichnet und ermutigend im letzten Chronicle von Natalia Fedorenkova erklärt und beschrieben – was man heutzutage dazu braucht, ohne Techniker von seinem eigenen Computer aus in den eigenen 4 Wänden zu dolmetschen.

Haben Sie nach all diesen Erfahrungen konkrete Tipps für Berufsanfänger auf diesem Gebiet?

Neulinge im Übersetzer/Dolmetscher-Beruf sind gut bedient, nach ihrer Ausbildung etwas mehr praktische Berufserfahrungen in verschiedenen Gebieten zu sammeln, nicht unbedingt als Übersetzer. Etwas Unbekanntes sehen, erklärt bekommen und es anfassen zu können, half mir zum Beispiel, Dinge/Texte mit anderen Augen anzusehen. Ich habe als Sekretärin mehr gelernt als in jeder anderen Funktion. Viele unserer Kollegen auf unserer Liste haben ja andere Berufserfahrungen, z. B. Anwälte, Chemiker, Wissenschaftler, usw., die ihnen zugutekommen.

Ich habe mehr in der Praxis gelernt, aber ich bin sicher, sie werden sich alle prächtig durchschlagen.

German idioms explained

Switching Career Gears: My Adventures in the Professional Resume Writing Industry

By Hilary Higgins

After working for 20 years as a freelance G>E translator, **Hilary Higgins** recently switched gears and is currently working as a bilingual editor (German/English), writer, and trainer for Talent Inc., a tech-enabled provider of career services focused on resume and online profile review and creation.

Every year when January rolls around and before work ramps up after the holidays, I use the quiet time to think about my career and where it is headed (*quo vadis* indeed). As a freelancer, I often looked at full-time job listings and would send out my application to several companies in Germany looking for in-house translators. That's how I ended up in Germany almost ten years ago to work in-house for 18 months.

After returning to the US and to freelancing, this pattern of reflection continued. However, two years ago, I felt a shift in my career trajectory. While I still had a good flow of projects coming in and was delivering on time, my quality level was dropping and my usual attention to detail was just not there. I was distracted, and my customers noticed. Professionally, I felt like I was circling down into this vortex of translator mediocrity, and, on top of that, my personal life was also in turmoil. After some soul-searching, I came to the tough conclusion that my work was not fulfilling me. While I translated and delivered documents on time, my heart was not in the work.

This conclusion was a hard pill to swallow, because I defined myself as a translator; I was committed to the profession and the industry, and, of course, wanted to excel. But I was not getting anything back from it anymore, and I was struggling financially. I would soon face some major investments and changes if I wanted to stay competitive in the industry, including computer and software/CAT tool upgrades, expanding my services, attending CAT tool training sessions, and an ATA Conference to reconnect with colleagues and the industry.

When January 2019 rolled around, I began looking for in-house positions again, this time expanding my search and looking for jobs in related industries, such as localization project management, editing, copywriting, and marketing. I was really open to a career *Tapetenwechsel*. And the universe must have heard me, because right around that time, I stumbled upon a job announcement on our local Craigslist site for a bilingual German/English editor for a career services company specializing in writing professional resumes.

> "In American resumes, we focus heavily on action verbs, whereas German phrasing tends to be more passive with the use of nominalized verbs."

My jaw dropped, as you almost never see such job listings for a German speaker in our area (Bellingham, WA), other than teaching at the university. The job duties included defining and monitoring adherence to the company's quality standards across its brands, liaising with and mentoring German-language resume writers, reviewing and auditing their work, and coordinating with customers to resolve editorial concerns. Other job requirements included excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and German, strong customer

service orientation, keen attention to detail, and strong editorial skills.

I was stunned at how much these requirements aligned with what we do as translators. I tweaked my resume, wrote a cover letter, and sent in my application documents. After several interviews and a comprehensive assessment process, the company clearly thought my skills matched their needs, because they hired me.

My new employer was looking for someone with my abilities and experience because plans were underway to enter the German market, with the goal of offering its resume writing services to German professionals. Once I was trained in the art of resume writing and had successfully completed several client projects for U.S. customers, I began training new German writers on resume writing. I worked closely with my German project manager, who handled recruiting German writers, customer service, and website and content localization.

Once our website and a good chunk of our resources were localized into German, the site and our services went live. It was a heady time; I was really challenged in instructing German writers on how to write German CVs using an American approach to resume writing. There was a lot of feedback from our writers on phrasing and style that was different from that of English. For example, in American resumes, we focus heavily on action verbs, whereas German phrasing tends to be more passive with the use of nominalized verbs. Compare, for example, *Einarbeitung der neuen Mitarbeiter* vs. *Onboarded new employees*.

It took us a few months to fine-tune our approach and to understand German customers' demands, which were quite a bit different from U.S. customers' needs.

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"My new employer was looking for someone with my abilities and experience because plans were underway to enter the German market."

For example, we found that German customers favor graphic-heavy, somewhat flashier templates than U.S. customers, and of course, German CVs also include photos. I put my graphic design skills to use and created new templates for our German clientele. Also, since many of our German customers are C-Suite executives and consultants, I tweaked several designs to include project-based templates to better support consultants and project managers.

Once our order volume rose, we hired another German editor (a native speaker), followed by a German staff writer. With a German native speaking editor, we really got moving. Due to bottlenecks in our resources, I began writing CVs in German and having my colleague edit and proof my work. There was also a rising demand from Germans to have their new CVs translated into English, projects that I took on with relish. I loved working with the German writers, answering their questions, as well as collaborating with my colleague to get more resources translated into German.

As we gained experience in the German market and expanded our team, my responsibilities began to fluctuate, and I was asked to take on more mentoring of U.S. writers while continuing to support the German team. I have since become a kind of bridge between the ENG editorial team and the DE team. As our editorial processes have evolved and expanded with the introduction of a new platform, I am working to ensure that the German team's processes align with the English team's processes.

Now, after almost two years, I have settled into this new job and industry. Having defined myself as a translator for most of my career, it does still feel strange to trot out my new elevator pitch when people ask me what I do or where I work. But in this day and age of COVID-19, with so many businesses shutting down and millions of folks out of work, it is truly gratifying to help people find their next job. I am getting something back, and my heart feels full. Plus, my financial situation is a bit more sound.

Since it is that familiar time of year again, I find myself getting ready to update my resume, equipped with my newfound skills, to put myself out there again and see what happens. But wait a minute—maybe I will stick around for a while instead and revel in this good feeling and see where this company takes me.

The company I work for is called **Talent Inc.**, a career services company specializing in professional resume and CV writing. Our products include TopResume, TopCV, TopCV.de, TopInterview, and ResumeRabbit. If you are looking for another income stream, think about becoming an independent contractor with us; we are currently recruiting German-speaking writers/deutsche Texter. Since my goal is to drive the launch of multilingual DE/EN CV packages for the German market in 2021, who better to recruit than translators who can move effortlessly between the two languages. If you are interested, please contact me at **hilary.higgins@talentinc.com**. Oh, and I can still be reached at **higginstranslations@gmail.com**. I have started taking on occasional translation projects to stay in the game and am finding happiness in returning to the work.

Future-Proofing Your Career: The (Copy)Writing Was Not on the Wall

By Matt Baird

The signs may not be clear, but translators open to trying new things may find copywriting a viable way to diversify their business.

Matt Baird is a copywriter and ATA-certified Ger>Eng translator specializing in marketing and communications. He currently serves on the GLD Leadership Council, as an ATA PR writer, and as host of the ATA Podcast. Matt has a BA in German and International Affairs from the University of Colorado at Boulder. After nearly burning out in Washington, DC, Matt broke out of the Beltway and fled back to Colorado, where he traded his suit for sweatpants and embraced the freelance life. Now based near Bonn, Matt is at his best crafting copy in his quiet office, but happiest playing with his wife and two kids in the great outdoors.

I don't exactly remember when, but sometime after joining ATA in 2000, I began hearing the phrase "translators are writers." But I didn't really believe it at the time. I understood that the ability to *write well* is arguably the most important tool in a translator's toolbox. Still, calling myself a writer seemed a stretch.

My mindset didn't change much in the first decade of my career, even as I discovered an affinity for corporate communications as an in-house translator for a leading global logistics company in Bonn. Working closely with the communications team, I was encouraged to be more creative—to adapt headlines and copy where appropriate. Still, my work began with a source text. Copywriters pen the original, so there's no comparison, right?

The opportunity to rethink the value of my skills came as I prepared to leave the corporate world two years later. My favorite "client"—the internal communications editorial team of my soon-to-be-former employer—wanted me to write content for the company's intranet. Relaunching my freelance business with a retainer agreement was too good to pass up.

The experience of an editorial room was eye-opening. I quickly learned that writing an article was not all that different from translating one. Assignments typically came with a brief and *source* material—or someone to contact and question. I often adapted text from PowerPoints, brochures, and other materials, *translating* it into news stories.

I also learned that my language and translation skills were essential in this bilingual environment. Each writer wrote in his or her native language, but we all had to communicate in both languages, and briefings took place in German and English.

Back in the freelance world, I returned to ATA's Annual Conference with a new brand—bolder translations—and a new attitude. Rather than remaining skeptical, I was reinforcing my world view. I volunteered for the GLD and found myself the editor of this very publication you're reading now, which allowed me to play an active role in the association while practicing my writing skills.

Today, that Bonn-based logistics giant remains my biggest copywriting client, although the vast majority of my work is now in content marketing. Referrals led me to clients across the company and beyond, and I seized each opportunity to challenge my skills and grow my business. I now ghostwrite for top executives, draft strategic corporate comms, craft promotional copy, and write online marketing content. What used to be a nice break from translation is now my primary source of income.

My language and translation skills have played a vital role in my success as an English copywriter working for German

"I now ghostwrite for top executives, draft strategic corporate comms, craft promotional copy, and write online marketing content."

clients, which is why I think many translators have what it takes to explore the profession. Like translation, there are many ways into the copywriting business. But being able to speak your client's native language gives you a competitive edge—especially in a market, like Germany, that speaks one language but often does business in another. You can connect with your clients on a level that monolingual copywriters cannot.

Beyond language and writing skills, translators are also wired like copywriters. We have to fully understand what we're translating, which is why we ask many of the same questions that copywriters ask, such as the five W's: who, what, when, where, and why (and how). We need to know the target audience, purpose, register, tone, etc., to produce a quality translation. As Marion Rhodes once wrote, translation and copywriting go hand in hand.

A client once told me the story of her attempt to encourage a translator to be more creative. She told the translator to try to think like a journalist when translating news stories. The translator replied: "But I'm not a journalist."

Hindsight is 20/20, but even as I look back now, there were no clear signs of success or failure. But when opportunity knocked, I opened the door and with it my mind.

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:

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Abigail Dahlberg is a German-English translator and copywriter specializing in environmental issues, primarily recycling and waste management. After completing an MA in Translation and Interpreting in 2001, she worked as a staff translator in Germany for several years before relocating to Kansas City and launching a freelance business in 2005. Over the past 15 years, she has helped dozens of direct clients in Germany, Austria and Switzerland communicate with an English-speaking audience via her business, Greener Words.
You can reach Abigail by emailing her at **hello@greenerwords**.com or visiting **greenerwords.com**.

Future-proofing your career
An Inch Wide and a Mile Deep

By Abigail Dahlberg

One of the most common ground-nesting bees in my garden here in the Midwest is *Anthophora abrupta,* also known as the mining bee. Unlike honeybees and other colony-forming bees, mining bees live a solitary life digging long, thin tunnels, but they work and build their own nests alongside one another. As a niche translator, I feel some kinship with the humble mining bee. Like *Anthophora abrupta,* I spend my days navigating a narrow space that I have excavated over time.

It might come as a surprise to learn that I didn't grow up dreaming of a career in trash. My niche in recycling, waste management, and related environmental issues is the result of happenstance: after graduating with a degree in translation and interpreting, I moved to the Black Forest and was offered a job as an in-house translator and journalist for a German recycling publication. Along with learning about waste legislation, policy, and court rulings on thorny issues (when does a material or product become waste? Is waste incineration a recovery or a disposal operation?), I also toured recycling facilities and attended trade fairs. I learned more about trash than I ever thought possible—and yet I had only scratched the surface.

When I moved to the Midwest in 2001, I knew that it would be a, well, waste to walk away from everything that I had learned. Over the years, I had also realized that there was a need for expert translators in this growing business, thanks to Germany's status as a sustainability pioneer. It only seemed natural to set up my freelance business geared towards meeting the English-language needs of companies and organizations in the environmental sector.

At the outset, I spent many hours brainstorming exactly who might need translation services and have the budget to pay professional rates. My trusty Excel list now numbers hundreds of potential clients, from PR companies and consulting firms to service providers and foundations. It didn't happen overnight, but I slowly built up a client base that keeps me busy today. Word of mouth has also been critical to my business, with more than 70 percent of my new clients referred to me by existing direct customers or fellow translators. My customers value the fact that I can talk their language and understand the ins and outs of their industry (for instance, I recently caught a mistake in a company's notification of a waste shipment that would have led to their export being

"My customers value the fact that I can talk their language and understand the ins and outs of their industry."

rejected—saving them lots of hassle and money).

As a niche translator, I can work quickly and earn more per hour, because I have to spend less time looking up terminology. I do have to be prepared to handle a wide variety of document types, though, ranging from contracts to technical data sheets to sustainability reports. I also recently started offering copywriting and content marketing services for my direct clients, making sure that they don't have to go elsewhere for language services.

That being said, like the mining bees in my back garden, I don't feel the need to be territorial and worry about competition. The beauty of working as a niche translator is that there is an infinite number of different specialties within each broader category that translators can tap. When picking your own niche, it is vital that there is sufficient demand for translation services and enough clients that can afford your services. Perhaps most importantly, make sure that you are truly interested in your niche—after all, you are hopefully going to be busy digging that mine for years to come.

Anthophora abrupta. Henryetta, Okmulgee County, Oklahoma, USA 2006. Photo by Charles Schurch Lewallen.

With a Master's degree in interpreting and translation and an additional background in marketing, **Nina Sattler-Hovdar** specializes in corporate communication, advertising, PR, and other business-critical texts that require top writing skills and expertise in corporate thinking. Her main work languages are English and Norwegian into German. Based on her 25+ years of experience, Nina has also become a sought-after speaker and coach, with presentations, seminars, and workshops around the world.
Find out more about her books, services, and blog at **transcreationexperts.com**

Opinion:
Human Translation Experts Will Get to Shine Again

By Nina Sattler-Hovdar

(The following is a partial reprint of the article *My closing statement at the 2019 BDÜ conference and is reprinted here with permission*. The full article can be read here.)

Despite all the challenges we keep hearing about in the face of artificial intelligence in the translation world, and despite the complaints all around how hard it has become to survive as a translator in the face of continuous advances in neural machine translation (NMT) systems, I consider NMT a blessing in disguise—*a historic opportunity that we should not pass up on*.

Why?

Human translators whose performance and deliverables don't significantly surpass those provided by machine-translation systems will soon be replaced by those systems and, hence, disappear for good.

Consequently, the market will be cleansed from the many poorly qualified or poorly paid translators whose sub-par work has damaged the reputation of an entire profession for decades. Finally, the time has come for the highly qualified specialists among us to prove how much valuable multilingual and multicultural communication support we can offer our clients. Finally, there is a chance for the best of us to be adequately recognized as the experts we are.

Process-heavy jobs will go to agencies

NMT will ensure that jobs that are heavily process-focused and automatable will be placed with agencies that have the clout and money to invest in process-heavy solutions. Texts that require a nimble approach and deep knowledge of contexts that no machine will ever have by design will be handled by human communication experts guiding and advising their clients. This will ensure a healthy separation of expertise and make it easier for clients to decide when to go for larger-sized agencies, and when a human expert is the better choice.

In a nutshell

We should embrace neural machine translation as a historic opportunity to reinstate visibility for the expertise and added value that human translators and transcreators offer their clients. It is up to all of us to make intelligent use of that opportunity, with support from strong and active professional associations around the world.

Let's get to work, everyone!

Translator in Profile: Ivonne Reichard-Novak

Where are you based and what brought you there?

Today, January 5, 2021, marks the 16th anniversary of my moving to Blacksburg, Virginia. I was born and raised in Austria but decided at an early age that I would like to spend a year abroad, preferably in the United States. I imagined a year during college, but life happened, and when the opportunity finally arose, I was already married and had a young child. My husband had received a grant intended for working at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California. We packed, left our not even finished, newly built house, and settled in the Bay Area for a short year. Unplanned and unexpectedly, we fell in love with the state and its people. As planned, we went back to Austria after fourteen months, but we did not readjust well. Everything seemed too small and too restricted. The country we grew up in had not changed, but we had. Eighteen months later, my husband accepted a job offer from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, and we have been here ever since.

What got you started in translation?

I have always loved languages. Growing up near the border to Italy, I studied Italian in addition to English and Latin. After finishing the "Gymnasium," life took me in a different direction, and I pursued a law degree and graduated from law school. I took a few additional courses in English and Italian, but my main focus was legal studies. Fast-forward a few years. Suddenly, I found myself in small-town Virginia with an eight-year-old and a six-week-old baby (yes, we moved when our second son was six weeks old). I was facing the choice of continuing to work as a lawyer, for which I would have to go back to law school for 18 months and then take the bar exam—or do something else. It seemed incredibly daunting to me, mainly because I did not miss the long gruesome hours and the hectic schedule. I decided to take a year to adjust to my new environment and help my family settle in before making a decision.

During those months, I met a woman whose ancestors were from Austria. She had inherited many old letters that she would have loved to read, but, of course, they were in German. To make things more complicated, they were handwritten in Sütterlin, the old German handwriting style that not many people can read anymore. My grandmother had taught me to read Kurrent and Sütterlin

(the later form of Kurrent), and for the fun of it, I suggested I could translate the letters for her. And just like that, a new world opened to me.

Next to languages, I had always loved history—and there I was, translating letters from the beginning of the 20th century. I still did not consider translation as a career opportunity until I got contacted by a former colleague, who asked me whether I could help with an international lawsuit, not as a lawyer but as a translator. I doubt I did my best work right off the bat, but the client was beyond thrilled that someone could explain the differences in American and German contracts' legal interpretation. I will say, Google was my best friend in those early days. I learned a lot from American legislation text about the wording of American law, but legal translation guides on the web for English to German translations were full of mistakes and misinterpretations. While I did not have the necessary translation background, I realized that I might still be able to bring something to the table: a real understanding of legalese and the laws that back it up.

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

I want to say that I translate exclusively from English to German, but it is not entirely true. My love of papers, letters, and other documents handwritten in Sütterlin or Kurrent has stayed with me—and naturally, in these cases, the source text is in German—and I have to translate it into English. I justify this with the knowledge that the old language is hard to read and full of subtleties that only a native speaker of German would understand.

My area of specialization, besides historical texts, has remained law. For years, I also added medical translations. I slid unintentionally and reluctantly into this field by helping out a client (and most translators will understand how fast that can happen), simply because I had studied Latin. In recent years, being in the lucky position to choose which jobs I accept, I realized I genuinely enjoy SEO work.

What do you like most about being a translator?

I learn so much! I am the queen of useless knowledge, but then again, when is knowledge ever useless? I can discuss the newest computer games, the latest multi-cloud solutions, and which food might be best for your puppy. You want to travel to Toronto? I can tell you everything about the best attractions there and ways to save money when visiting them. I have intimate knowledge of the

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**.)

"My grandmother had taught me to read Kurrent and Sütterlin (the later form of Kurrent), and for the fun of it, I suggested I could translate the letters for her. And just like that, a new world opened to me."

most luxurious hotels in Dubai, down to the thread-count of the sheets, and yes, I am one of the few people who know precisely what all the things are that you agreed to by scrolling down and quickly clicking "I agree."

What do you like the least?

Billing, hands down. I hate it. My family knows not to talk to me on that day.

What are your goals for the near future?

Getting back to a normal life, unrestricted by masks and scary viruses. Unfortunately, the timeline on this is out of my hands. So I guess the next pressing item on the list would be updating my website.

In the last two years, I helped several American clients with administrative and legal problems, such as getting a German tax ID, applying for a Certificate of Free Sale, or setting up direct debit payments for the German tax authority. Although this means a lot of very early mornings, as some German authorities only take calls up to 12-1 PM, which translates to 6-7 AM for me, this is something I definitely want to expand in the future.

What are your hobbies or other interests?

Like most people in the language industry, I enjoy reading, writing, and everything language-related, such as word origins, idioms, and puns. (Yes, I am "that" person.) I love to travel, and I am known to create incredibly detailed itineraries for our travels. There's nothing worse for me than missing the best exhibit in a city just because I didn't do my research. Some, such as my "grateful" family, call it obsessive; I call it prepared.

One of my favorite relaxation activities is puzzling. I have a dedicated puzzle table and always one going. Speed-puzzling events are also on my to-do list. When puzzling, I listen to books or podcasts and lots of music, especially rap. I call it poetry in motion. (Get it? Get it?)

Become a GLD Contributor!

Do you write or blog about the translation industry – or would you like to start and need a platform? We want you! Please contact Marion Rhodes about how you can become a GLD contributor! E-mail: **marion@imctranslations.com**.

Nachruf auf unsere Kollegin: Silke Hufnagel

By Ruth Boggs

Schweren Herzens verfasse ich diesen Nachruf auf unsere geschätzte Kollegin und meine liebe Freundin Silke Hufnagel, die am 13. Oktober 2020 im Alter von 63 Jahren in Denver, Colorado, verstarb.

Sie war langjähriges ATA-Mitglied, GLD-Mitglied der ersten Stunde, und ihr Name dürfte auch noch aus Fleefo ein Begriff sein.

Silke wurde in Neumünster/Schleswig-Holstein geboren und wuchs dort mit zwei jüngeren Brüdern auf. Nach dem Abitur am Gymnasium Neumünster zog sie 1976 zum Mathematikstudium nach Tübingen.

Die erste USA-Reise machte sie 1977 mit einer amerikanischen Studienfreundin nach Montana. Dort verlor sie ihr Herz – an Amerika und an einen Mann. 1981 zog sie ganz nach Montana und schloss 1984 an der University of Montana in Bozeman ihr Studium mit einem Master's Degree ab. Ein paar Jahre später folgte ein Umzug nach Arkansas; dort unterrichtete sie am Hendrix College Mathematik. Anfang der 90er Jahre begann sie, sich als freiberufliche Übersetzerin zu etablieren; 1995 zog sie nach Evergreen, Colorado.

Silke war warmherzig, hilfsbereit, empathisch und großzügig gegenüber Freunden und Familie. Sie war weltoffen und reiste gerne. Ihr schönes Haus stand jedem offen, und sie war eine ausgezeichnete Gastgeberin. Man konnte mit ihr ausgelassen feiern und Spaß haben, aber auch tiefsinnige Gespräche führen, bei denen sie aus ihrer Überzeugung keinen Hehl machte.

Sie war zweimal verheiratet; seit 2005 lebte sie allein in ihrem malerischen Haus in den Rocky Mountains mit zwei Hunden, die sie 2005 nach Katrina aus New Orleans rettete.

Fachlich gehörte sie zu den Besten. Wir lernten uns Mitte der Neunziger Jahre kennen, als mir – damals noch sehr neu in diesem Geschäft – ein großes Projekt angeboten wurde, das ich mir allein noch nicht zutraute. Ich erinnerte mich dann an einen Review-Job von einer Agentur: Ein kurzer, hochtechnischer Absatz, der absolut perfekt übersetzt war. Ich erkundigte mich nach dem Übersetzer, und es wurde eine Zusammenarbeit und nach der ATA-Konferenz 1997 in San Francisco eine Freundschaft daraus.

Silke übersetzte ausschließlich in der Sprachrichtung Englisch-Deutsch und hatte sich in letzter Zeit auf Patentübersetzungen spezialisiert. Mit ihrem ausgeprägten Fachwissen war sie nicht nur auf der GLD-Liste eine gute Anlaufstelle. Als Bewerterin für die Englisch-Deutsch Certification-Prüfungen profitierte auch ATA von ihrer Expertise.

Silke hinterlässt eine große Lücke. Anfang Dezember vorigen Jahres trat sie ihre letzte Reise über den großen Teich an. Diese führte sie zurück an ihre geliebte Nordsee, wo sie neben ihrem überaus geliebten Vater beigesetzt werden wollte.

Wir werden ihr ein ehrendes Andenken bewahren.

In Memoriam: Michael Wahlster

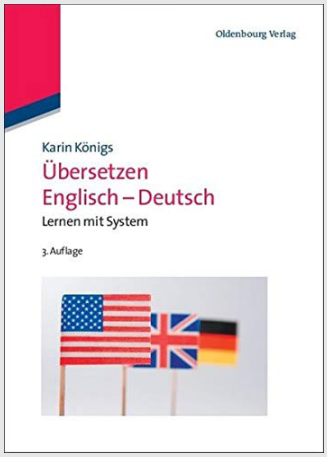
By Frieda Ruppaner-Lind and Jill R. Sommer

The German Language Division and ATA are mourning the death of Michael Wahlster, our long-time member, colleague, and friend. He passed away on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at his home in Los Angeles.

As some of you may know, he withdrew from all ATA-related activities last year after having been diagnosed with cancer. He was determined to fight this and welcomed upbeat messages from his colleagues and friends. Unfortunately, he lost this battle.

Michael had been active in ATA and the GLD and also served as GLD webmaster for many years. As numerous colleagues have expressed in the past few weeks, it was always a highlight to meet him at the ATA Conference and to chat and socialize with him. He was a great colleague and friend and always very generous with his professional advice. He will be remembered for his deep knowledge of computers and localization, love of the Japanese culture (having lived in Japan for many years), and ability to stay on the cutting edge of culture by subtitling for Netflix. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

He is survived by his wife Margaret Grogan, and his daughter, Klara.



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Book Review: *Übersetzen Englisch – Deutsch; Lernen mit System* von Karin Königs

By Rosalie Henke

Als ich anfing, mich mit Karin Königs' *Übersetzen Englisch – Deutsch; Lernen mit System* in der 3. Auflage auseinanderzusetzen, fühlte ich mich sofort in den Deutschunterricht zurückversetzt.

Direkt auf den ersten Seiten sprangen mir das „vorangestellte Genitivattribut", „Kernsubstantiv mit Mehrfachattribuierung" und „Adjektivkomposita" ins Auge und mich beschlich das unangenehme Gefühl, dass ich mir mit diesem Werk etwas zu viel aufgehalst hatte.

Je mehr Zeit ich aber mit dem Inhalt verbrachte, desto mehr lichtete sich der Nebel und ich hatte zunehmend Freude am Schmökern.

Ich muss dem Buch zugutehalten, dass es sehr logisch aufgebaut ist. Nach dem anfänglichen (zumindest für mich sehr erschöpfenden) Durcharbeiten der „Syntaktischen Grundlagen", in denen wirklich nochmal sämtliches (teils lang vergessenes oder auch verdrängtes) Vokabular aufgefrischt wird, ist man gut vorbereitet und kann die enorme Tiefe des Buches voll ausschöpfen.

Die Gliederung in die Bereiche „Lexik", „Tempora und Modi", „Syntax" und „Infinitive Konstruktionen" ist gut strukturiert und man findet auf einen Blick, was man sucht.

Da es sich bei diesem Buch bereits um die 3. Auflage handelt, sind manche Inhalte bereits mehrfach überarbeitet worden und teilweise auch schon gar nicht mehr im Buch enthalten.

Im Inhaltsverzeichnis weist ein kleines Computersymbol darauf hin, dass man dieses Thema in digitaler Form erhalten kann.

Direkt am Anfang findet sich ein äußerst hilfreicher Abschnitt: Adverbiale Übersetzung englischer verbaler Ausdrücke, bei dem man das englische Hilfsverb durch ein deutsches Adverb ersetzt.

Um den Knoten im Kopf gleich mal zu lösen, wird direkt mit einem praktischen Beispiel aufgeklärt, was damit gemeint ist, in diesem Fall:

He may have missed the train
Vielleicht hat er den Zug verpasst.

Aaaah, da hat die Autorin bei mir direkt den richtigen Nerv getroffen! Dank solcher sehr gut nachvollziehbaren Erklärungen weiß ich nun auch die Fachbegriffe wieder einfacher zuzuordnen und fühle mich weniger verloren.

Es folgen seitenweise Beispiele und ich erwische mich mehr als einmal dabei, wie ich diese oder jene Seite gerne sofort „zu meinen Lesezeichen" hinzufügen möchte, um sie später leichter aufzufinden, um das Gelernte frisch zu halten. Wie oft passiert es mir nämlich im täglichen Trott, dass ich zu sehr am englischen Satzbau klebe und dabei fast

vergesse, dass unsere schöne Sprache so viele tolle und eindeutige Formulierungen hat – hier eine kleine Auswahl:

To be doomed to do so
zwangsläufig, unweigerlich

◇

To be happy to do so
gerne

◇

To be likely to do so
wahrscheinlich

◇

To be supposed to do so
angeblich

Ja, es kann so einfach sein!

Es geht nach klar gegliederten Mustern weiter: Ein Themenbereich wird in einem **Theoriekapitel** vorgestellt und die grundlegenden Diskrepanzen der grammatischen Gegebenheiten werden herausgearbeitet. Zum Schluss wird noch einmal gesondert auf die Dinge hingewiesen, die bei der Übersetzung besonders beachtet werden sollten. Danach folgt ein **Praxiskapitel**, in dem viele Beispiele nochmals zum Verständnis beitragen.

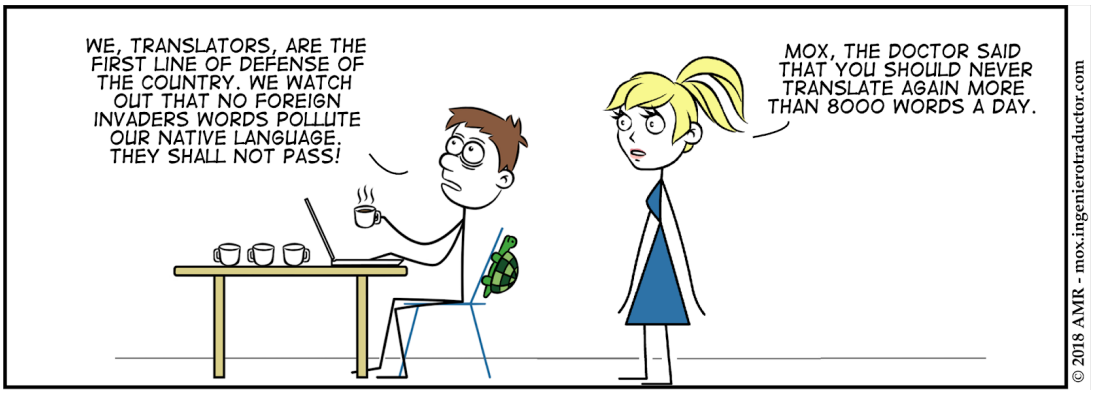
Die Kapitel werden durch verschieden gestaltete Tabellen und andere grafische Elemente aufgelockert, durch die man sich im Verlauf des Buches gut zurechtfindet und die auch bei schwierigen Themen eine gute Orientierung bieten.

Abschließend kann ich sagen, dass sich die Anschaffung dieses Buches lohnt, denn auch wenn in unserer digitalisierten Welt der Griff zur Analoglektüre zunehmend weniger wird, bietet es viele hilfreiche Anreize, sowohl für alte Hasen als auch für Berufsanfänger.

Wer sich bewusst Zeit nehmen möchte, in die vielen sprachlichen Eigenheiten einzutauchen, die die deutsche Sprache bei der Übersetzung eines englischen Texts bietet, ist hier bestens aufgehoben. Dieses Buch bietet viele Gelegenheiten, den eigenen Übersetzungshorizont zu erweitern.

"Wer sich bewusst Zeit nehmen möchte, in die vielen sprachlichen Eigenheiten einzutauchen, die die deutsche Sprache bei der Übersetzung eines englischen Texts bietet, ist hier bestens aufgehoben."

What do I think about myself?



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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
Mar 23 – 25	online	GALA Connected 2021	gala-global.org/events/conferences
Mar 26 – 27	online	MICATA 1st Virtual Conference: "Now What! Sharpen your Skills and Embrace New Opportunities"	micata.org/annual-conference/registration
Apr 20 – 23	online	BP21 Translation Conference	bpconf.com
Apr 23 – 24	Munich, Germany	Existenzgründer-Tag 2020 | Basis-Infos für freiberufliche Übersetzer/Dolmetscher	seminare.bdue.de
Apr 26 – 27	Philadelphia, PA	DigiMarCon Mid-Atlantic 2021 – Digital Marketing, Media and Advertising Conference & Exhibition	digimarconmidatlantic.com
May 01 – 02	Leipzig, Germany	Kombiseminar Existenzgründung, Steuern und Buchhaltung für Sprachmittler	seminare.bdue.de
May 05 – 07	online	TEKOM Frühjahrstagung 2021	fruehjahrstagung.tekom.de
May 06 – 07	online	MultiMeDialecTranslation 8 – Dialect Translation in Multimedia	knf.vu.lt/en/research/scientific-events/18-en/science/2460-multimedialectranslation-8-dialect-translation-in-multimedia
Jun 05 – 06	Karlsruhe, Germany	Workshop Filmuntertitelung: Grundlagen und Softwareschulung Arbeiten mit EZTitles	seminare.bdue.de
Jun 09 – 11	Lille, France	Culinary Translation / Traduire le culinaire	traduction-culinaire.univ-lille.fr/culinary-translation-traduire-culinaire
Jun 19 – 20	Bad Dürkheim, Germany	Translating Life Sciences - biochemische Grundkenntnisse für das Übersetzen von Fachtexten	seminare.bdue.de
Jun 24 – 26	Basel, Switzerland	Pragmatics of Translation	sympol-imean21.philhist.unibas.ch/en/home/

Date	Location	Organization/Event	More Information
Jun 25 – 26	Bad Dürkheim, Germany	Patentschriften verstehen und übersetzen. Praktische Anleitungen und Übersetzungshilfen für technische ÜbersetzerInnen (EN>DE)	seminare.bdue.de
Jun 25 – 26	Karlsruhe, Germany	Kombiseminar: Einführung in die Rechnungslegung nach IFRS + Finanzberichte mal anders	seminare.bdue.de
Jul 02 – 03	Bad Dürkheim, Germany	Translation - Transkreation: Vom Über-Setzen zum Über-Texten	seminare.bdue.de
Jul 02 – 03	Karlsruhe, Germany	Workshop-Premiere: Besser übersetzen sprachübergreifend – in der Literatur und mehr	seminare.bdue.de
Jul 19 – 24	online	International Literary Translation & Creative Writing Summer School	bclt.org.uk/summer-school
Sep 07 – 09	University of Alicante, Spain	5th ILLA General Conference: Language and the Law in the Age of Migration	illa.online/index.php/upcoming-events
Sep 20 – 22	Berlin (D)	Languages & the Media 2021	languages-media.com
Sep 23 – 24	Mannheim, Germany	Zertifikat Revision: Basismodul Revision	seminare.bdue.de
Oct 27 – 30	Minneapolis, Minnesota	ATA 62nd Annual Conference	ata62.org
Nov 05 – 06	Cologne, Germany	Seminarreihe Revision – Aufbaumodul Lektorat	seminare.bdue.de
Dec 02 – 04	Varadero, Cuba	XXII FIT World Congress	fitvaradero2020en.wordpress.com

Looking for even more professional development opportunities?
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GLD Leadership Council

Administrator
Carlie Sitzman, Wilmington, DE
csitzman@sitzmanaetranslations.com

Acting Assistant Administrator
Dr. Karen Leube, Aachen, Germany
mail@leubetranslation.com

GLD Listmaster
Gerhard Preisser, Manassas, VA
xlator@comcast.net

Web Manager
Robin Limmeroth, Mainz, Germany
robin@robin-limmeroth.com

Digital Events Coordinator
Elani Wales, Everett, WA
elani@elaniwales.com

Social Media Coordinator
Sandy Jones, New York, NY
sandy@sj-translations.com

European Coordinator
Ellen Yutzy Glebe, Kassel, Germany
eyg@writinghistory.de

New Member & Proofreading Pool Coordinator
Vacant (Contact Carlie Sitzman for details)

Newsletter Editor
Marion Rhodes, San Diego, CA
marion@imctranslations.com

Member at Large
Matt Baird, Niederkassel, Germany
matt@boldertranslations.com

Find the GLD online at
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