

## Summer 2013



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Newsletter of the German Language Division of  
the American Translators Association



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## Editorial

Dear Readers,

Did anyone else not know that San Antonio was the seventh most populous city in the United States? I sure didn't. And someone forgot to mention that to the airlines. They certainly don't make it easy to get to the Texan metropolis from Germany.

This fact was actually a topic at a recent gathering of GLD members in Frankfurt. Karen Leube, who has graciously volunteered to become the GLD's new European Coordinator, organized a meeting in late June. Fifteen of us came together to talk about being an ATA member in Europe. Acting as a kind of liaison, Karen will help build a bridge to our membership in Europe. Sadly, that bridge doesn't include non-stop flights from the homeland to the home of the Alamo.

Building bridges is a thin but noticeable thread running through this issue of *interaktiv*. Following "A Word from" by GLD Administrator, Eva Stabenow, Karen Leube offers a first in a hopefully soon-to-be-regular series "(Translation) Notes from the Homeland." In it she tells us a little about the rather contentiously debated update of the Justizvergütungs- und Entschädigungs-gesetz in Germany.

Like last year, the GLD Conference Primer is your short catwalk over those unimportant sessions right to the all-important German sessions slated for the ATA's 54th Annual Conference in San Antonio.

The Goethe Institute Poland's "Übersetzer im Gespräch" series has been bridging the

gap between German and Polish literary translators for several years now. Don't miss the latest addition, "Stets im Wege, nach Kräften bemüht sich in Luft aufzulösen" by Andreas Volk. And the GLD's own Hillary Fayen Higgins crossed not one but two bridges, leaving her freelance life in beautiful Bellingham, Washington, to take an in-house job in bergisch Burghausen on the banks of the Salzach River.

We thought it would be nice for you to get to know the latest addition to the GLD Leadership Council, Karen Leube. Read how the self-exclaimed extrovert and translator/trainer landed in introversive Aachen. Michael Engley takes us on tour again with a brief review of the ASTTI Financial Translation Summer School in Spiez, Switzerland, where the GLD was well represented.

This issue's dictionary review of the English-German Siemens Dictionary of Electrical Engineering, Power Engineering and Automation by David A. Coats is also a bridge of sorts, as it builds upon his 2011 review of the Deutsch-Englisch companion issue, published in the *Summer 2011 issue of interaktiv*. Both are standard issue for technical translators working in these fields.

At the end of our Summer 2013 *interaktiv* bridge you'll find, as always, a calendar of events.

Happy reading!

Mit besten Grüßen aus Bonn  
Matt Baird

### Please note:

ATA has discontinued mailing hard copies of division newsletters. The Board has approved this change effective April 19, 2012. For more information, visit the [GLD website](http://www.ata-divisions.org).

## A Word From the Administrator

Dear GLD Members,

Although it seems like 2013 has only just begun, summer is already well underway and the GLD, like other divisions, is preparing for the 54th Annual ATA Conference in San Antonio, Texas. I hope you're already making plans to join us this November while thoroughly enjoying your summer!

With Thomas Mann III lined up as our guest speaker on legal topics not to mention many exciting sessions, the conference should once again be very much worth attending. Our annual meeting is slated as the final session on Thursday afternoon. Please make time to attend – it's the one time of the year we can all convene and deliberate on how to make the most of our division. Our social networking event will take place a little later that evening, giving us a chance to relax and enjoy the San Antonio weather while networking, sipping Margaritas and nibbling on – what else? – Tex-Mex food. Remember to sign up early to secure your spot!

In other, no-less-exciting news, we've created two new positions – and filled them with wonderfully capable volunteers – to provide GLD members with some new services and points of contact.

Firstly, Abigail Dahlberg has kindly agreed to be our New Member Coordinator. If you are new to the profession and/or to the

division, you may now contact her at [info@printrtranslations.com](mailto:info@printrtranslations.com) for an initial bit of guidance. Thank you, Abigail! (And don't forget to join our mailing list! See [page 12](#) for details).

Since fully 9% of our members live in Germany and surrounding countries, Karen Leube has been named "European Coordinator" and also made part of the GLD Leadership Council. Karen has already organized a very productive meeting with members in Germany and GLD Assistant Administrator Michael Engley, who was in

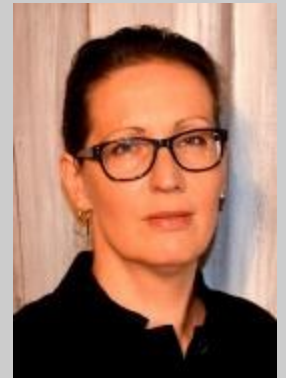
Europe in July to attend the ASTTI Summer School (check out his review on [page 14](#)). I'd also like to thank Birgit Voessler-Brehmer and Elke Mailand for helping to make this first overseas meeting possible. Having a

point of contact on the ground in Germany will help to reinforce our – by nature – transatlantic community of translators and interpreters. Karen has kindly contributed the first in our "(Translation) Notes from the Homeland" series and is also our Translator in Profile in this issue.

That's all for now – I'm looking forward to seeing "all y'all" in Texas!

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer,

Eva Stabenow  
GLD Administrator



Eva V. Stabenow

"Also, since fully 10 % of our members live in Germany and surrounding countries, Karen Leube has been named "European Coordinator" and also made part of the GLD Leadership Council."



**Karen Leube** grew up in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. She earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in German in the United States and obtained a Ph.D. in English and German as a Foreign Language (DaF) from the University of Heidelberg. She taught translation at the universities of Heidelberg and Mainz (Germersheim) and now works as a freelance translator and seminar facilitator from her office in Aachen.

## (Translation) Notes from the Homeland

*Karen Leube*

This past year one topic in particular has provoked discussion, debate and dissent behind the scenes on the BDÜ's member platform "MeinBDÜ" and in various translators' newsgroups in Germany: the updating of the "JVEG" (*Justizvergütungs- und Entschädigungsgesetz*). The most relevant changes to the act involved raising the line prices for translation and hourly rate for court interpretation (go to [ADÜ-Nord's Infoblatt newsletter for an overview of the changes](#)).

While the Bundestag and, later, the Bundesrat adopted the changes, to take effect August 1, 2013, the run-up to the decision revealed Germany's relatively fractured translation association landscape. BDÜ, the largest association, is divided into 12 state chapters plus a separate chapter for conference interpreters (VKD). Several parallel associations exist (ADÜ-Nord and ATICOM in north-western Germany, Verein öffentlich bestellter und allgemein beeidigter Dolmetscher und Übersetzer Bayern e.V. (VbDÜ) in Bavaria, and the association of literature translators (VdÜ), to name just a few). Attempts were made to unite the associations' efforts to update the JVEG with

the foundation of the "[Berliner Kreis](#)," whose activities included a petition calling for policymakers to adopt the act and retain elements of the current act such as a separate line price for especially difficult translations of EUR 4.00/line.

In the end, the line prices and interpreting rates have been raised, albeit with the elimination of the EUR 4.00/line category. What many actually interpret as the step backward here has been the failure to bring about unity among the various associations – a sentiment alluded to in the *Infoblatt* article. And in an editorial in BDÜ's *MDÜ* member magazine, one member described the debate taking place in translator forums as reminiscent of the Polanski film *God of Carnage*. With Germany hosting the [FIT conference in 2014](#), this author feels the array of German translators and interpreters missed its opportunity to model the battle cry: "Translators of the world, unite!"

For the latest translation-related news from Germany, I highly recommend the [website of the Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer \(BDÜ\)](#). Click on "Aktuelles."

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### Proofreading Collaboration between GLD & UNIVERSITAS Austria

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

Both organizations will swap lists of interested members and provide the list to their membership upon request. The translators themselves can take it from there!

If you would like to be added to the list, please contact the GLD Administrator, Eva Stabenow.

Learn more about UNIVERSITAS Austria here: [www.universitas.org](http://www.universitas.org)





## The German Language Division of the American Translators Association cordially invites you to join us for a social networking event

**When:** Thursday, November 7, 2013  
7 pm to 9 pm

**Where:**   
The Center of Social Events  
RIVERWALK • SAN ANTONIO

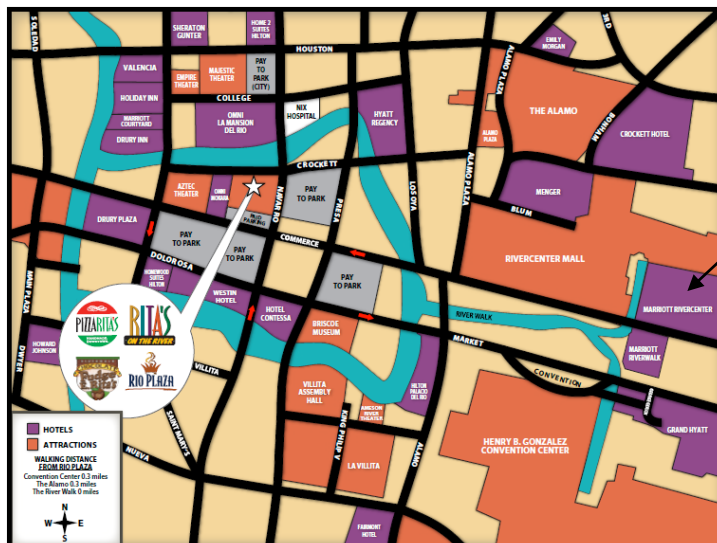
"Cielo Vista", 2nd Floor,  
245 E. Commerce, Suite 300  
San Antonio, 78205



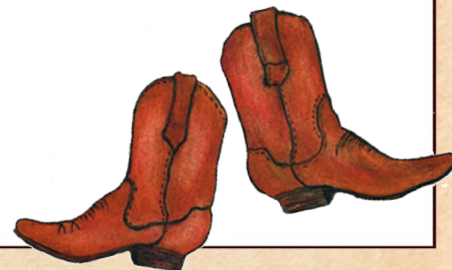
Tex-mex appetizer buffet reception (1 drink included) in a beautiful private room with floor to ceiling windows that overlook the Courtyard and Riverwalk and Riverwalk patio. Come have a margarita and network with your colleagues!

**Fee:** \$44

**RSVP:** Reserve with Eva Stabenow (Tel. 615-883-6608 / [work@wordplay-translations.com](mailto:work@wordplay-translations.com)) or Michael Engley (Tel. 941-875-6090 / [michael@mengley.com](mailto:michael@mengley.com))



Conference Hotel is here



**REMEMBER** ★  
**THE ATA CONFERENCE**



## ATA Annual Conference Primer – GLD Sessions at the ATA 54th Annual Conference

### **German Language Division Annual Meeting**

**chaired by Eva Stabenow**

**(Thursday, 5:00pm-5:30pm)**

The German Language Division Annual Meeting offers division members a chance to meet and network with other German translators and interpreters. Participants will review the division's activities during the past year and plan for 2014. All division members are encouraged to attend and nonmembers are invited to come learn more about the division.

### **G-1**

#### **Austriacisms for Beginners, Part II**

**Judy Jenner and Dagmar Jenner**

**(Saturday, 8:30am-9:30am; Intermediate; Presented in: German)**

The speakers will address the lexical challenges translators and interpreters might encounter when dealing with Austriacisms. Expect unusual-sounding terms that are an inherent part of life in Austria, including Spital, Bildungskarenz, Deckelung, Abfertigung, and Partezettel. Attendance at "Austriacisms for Beginners, Part I" is not required.

### **G-2**

#### **Managing German or American Lawyer Expectations on Legal Translations**

**Thomas Mann**

**(Saturday, 10:00am-11:00am; All Levels; Presented in: English)**

This session is intended to help German-language legal translators manage the expectations of their clients (American or German lawyers) in a transactional or litigation context. What are the responsibilities of the translator and the lawyer in situations where the law governing the source document needs to be explained to the client? The speaker will examine the challenges of terminological incongruity between the German and the U.S. legal concepts, as well as some of the more nasty features of traditional legal writing (both in Germany and the U.S.). Tips on how to meet these challenges will also be given.

**G-3**

**New International Financial Reporting Standards 2013:**

**Guidance for German>English Translators**

**Robin Bonthron**

**(Saturday, 11:30am-12:30pm; Advanced; Presented in: English)**

2013 has seen a number of significant additions to the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs), in particular the new IFRSs 10, 11, 12, and 13 following their endorsement by the European Union. Consequently, translators are now faced with a wealth of new terminology, both in English and German, in the areas covered by the new standards (e.g., accounting for joint ventures and fair value measurement). This session will focus on the new accounting concepts and terminology and what German>English translators need to know.

**G-4**

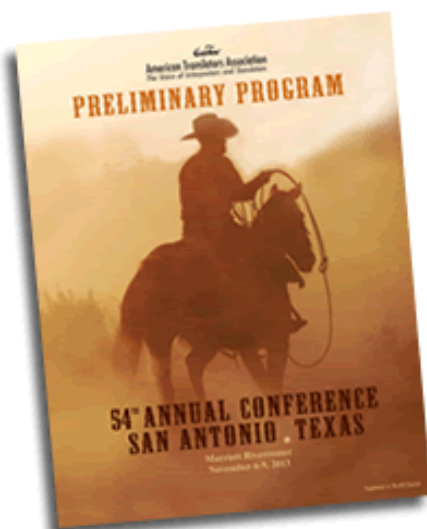
**Deconstructing Willie**

**Ruth Boggs and Michael Magee**

**(Saturday, 2:30pm-3:30pm; All Levels; Presented in: English and German)**

The speaker will focus on her years of experience translating the "road stories" written by Willie Nelson's daughter, which have been published on Nelson's website. Attendees will be invited to participate in translating samples from the blog.

**View the Preliminary Program online**



**Roommate Finder**

Use the ATA Roommate Blog to locate a potential roommate during your stay in San Antonio. You may also consider contacting a local group or your fellow ATA Division members to find a roommate.

[ataroommate-sanantonio.blogspot.com](http://ataroommate-sanantonio.blogspot.com)





GOETHE  
INSTITUT

## „Stets im Wege, nach Kräften bemüht sich in Luft aufzulösen“ – polnische und deutsche Literaturübersetzer im Gespräch

*Text: Andreas Volk, lebt als freier Übersetzer in Wien*

Hätte Wisława Szymborskas schwedischer Übersetzer nicht Anders Bodegård geheißen, hätte die polnische Dichterin dann auch den Nobelpreis für Literatur erhalten? Wohl kaum – dies behaupten zumindest einige Kenner, die es eigentlich wissen müssten. Die Rolle der Übersetzer bei der Wahl der Schwedischen Akademie kann gar nicht hoch genug veranschlagt werden.

Das Goethe-Institut hat diesem bedeutsamen Umstand in seiner Reihe „Übersetzer im Gespräch“ Rechnung getragen und Vertreter der Zunft (darunter auch Übersetzer mehrerer Nobelpreisträger) zu Wort kommen lassen: In den letzten drei Jahren sind so nach und nach fast vierzig polnische und deutsche Literaturübersetzer zu ihrer Berufswahl, ihrer Arbeit, ihrem Selbstverständnis als Kulturmittler und ihrem Verhältnis zu den von ihnen übersetzten Autoren befragt worden.

In die gleiche Kerbe schlägt auch die polnische Übersetzerin **Małgorzata Łukasiewicz**, die zu Recht in Zweifel zieht, dass Günter Grass' Erfolg in Polen ein Selbstläufer war: „Stellen wir uns zum Beispiel vor, Günter Grass [...] wäre seinerzeit in Polen nicht auf einen Übersetzer wie Sławomir Błaut gestoßen. Wir hätten vielleicht irgendeinen Grass auf Polnisch, aber das wäre vermutlich ein langweiliger, schwerfälliger Grass, nicht einer, der durch sprachlichen Einfallsreichtum fasziniert. Man hätte keine Lust, ihn zu lesen, um seine Bücher würde sich kaum jemand scheren.“

Die beiden Beispiele zeigen, dass der Persönlichkeit des Übersetzenden ein größeres Gewicht zukommt als gemeinhin

angenommen wird. In der Reihe des Goethe-Instituts werden einzelne Artgenossen dieser Spezies porträtiert, die im Allgemeinen eher ein Schattendasein fristet. In den Gesprächen kommt der Mensch hinter dem Übersetzer zum Vorschein, von dem in aller Regel erwartet wird, dass er vornehm hinter dem Autor zurücktritt, am besten er macht sich gleich ganz unsichtbar. Der ideale Übersetzer, so ist immer wieder zu hören, müsse so etwas wie ein Medium sein, dessen Existenz im Idealfall vom Leser nicht einmal bemerkt wird, denn die Übersetzung dürfe nicht als eine solche wahrgenommen werden, heißt es.

Der Übersetzer, das unbekannte Wesen, der demütige Arbeiter im Weinberg der Literatur? Liest man die einzelnen „Gespräche“, wird schnell klar, dass man es mit selbstbewussten Überzeugungstätern zu tun hat, die nicht im Affekt handeln, sondern nur allzu gut wissen, was sie machen. Es sind häufig Eiferer, die sich auch von geringer Wertschätzung und miesen materiellen Bedingungen nicht abschrecken lassen.

Viele der Befragten verstehen das Übersetzen als Berufung, andere wie **Karl Dedecius** gar als Ehrenamt („übersetzt habe ich fast ausschließlich ehrenamtlich“). Manch einer wartet sogar mit seinem eigenen, „privaten“ Glaubensbekenntnis auf (**Roswitha Matwin-Buschmann**). Wieder andere sind von einer fremden Kultur dermaßen fasziniert, dass sie im wahrsten Sinne des Wortes übersetzen, sprich überlaufen, in der fremden Kultur sich eine neue Heimat errichten und das eigene Leben zu einer einzigen Übersetzung (v) erklären (**Marlis Lami**). Zudem gibt es die Fraktion der verhinderten (**Sława Lisiecka**)

“Wieder andere sind von einer fremden Kultur dermaßen fasziniert, dass sie im wahrsten Sinne des Wortes übersetzen, sprich überlaufen, in der fremden Kultur sich eine neue Heimat errichten und das eigene Leben zu einer einzigen Übersetzung erklären.”



oder angehenden Schriftsteller, die zuerst übersetzten und erst später mit dem eigenen Schreiben begannen (**Jakub Ekier**). Die Übersetzerschaft sieht sich eher der Tradition eines Sisyphos denn eines Hieronymus verpflichtet: „Es sind immer wieder andere Autoren, die mich durch irgendetwas begeistern, woraufhin ihr erstes Buch in Polen ein spektakulärer Misserfolg wird – und ich meine Suche von neuem beginne ...“ (**Ryszard Wojnakowski**).

Die Aussagen der Porträtierten verknüpfen sich zu einem Netz von Querverbindungen, Assoziationen, Widersprüchen und Bezügen. Während Ryszard Wojnakowski seine skandinavischen und niederländischen Kollegen beneidet, die beim Übersetzen aus dem Deutschen, aufgrund der Ähnlichkeit der Sprachen, nicht einmal ins Schwitzen geraten, kann **Sven Sellmer**, der auch aus dem Sanskrit übersetzt, darüber nur schmunzeln. **Katarzyna Leszczyńska** suchte jahrelang nach einem polnischen Verleger für Hannah Arendts Biographie Rahel Varnhagen, Małgorzata Łukasiewicz dagegen gibt sich mit einer Biographie nicht zufrieden, sie hätte sich am liebsten mit der Philosophin persönlich unterhalten. **Agnieszka Kowaluk** erklärt, wieso das Übersetzen nicht als reines Verlustgeschäft zu betrachten sei und bringt den von Barańczak geprägten Begriff der „Ökonomie der Übersetzung“ ins Spiel, **Maciej Ganczar** wiederum spricht ganz konkret von den Schwierigkeiten beim Übersetzen der inzwischen antiquierten Wirtschaftssprache in Hermann Brochs

Dramen. Als fremd an der an sich so vertrauten Kultur, die man ja berufsmäßig zu vermitteln trachtet, empfindet **Jacek Buras** den preußischen Nationalismus, **Ursula Kiermeier** hingegen den polnischen Messianismus. Die Aufzählung ließe sich beliebig weiterführen.

Auf diese Weise entsteht ein Dialog zwischen den Übersetzern. Der Übersetzer wird nicht nur als sonderbares Einzelwesen ans Licht der Öffentlichkeit gezerrt, sondern auch seiner Vereinzelung entrissen, in seinen vielfältigen Varianten und Ausformungen gezeigt. Das ist das ganz besondere Verdienst dieser Umfrage. Man sieht diverse, ganz unterschiedliche Sichtweisen und Erfahrungen, man entdeckt immer neue Aspekte und Facetten des Übersetzerhandwerks, von denen man nicht einmal geahnt hat, dass sie existieren.

Nur eins würde man dann doch noch gerne wissen. Wie hat nun Jacek Buras in Thomas Bernhards Theatermacher den dienstäglichen Blutwursttag ins Polnische übersetzt? Welche Lösung hat er nach tagelangem Grübeln gefunden, als er schon kurz davor war, hinzuschmeißen. Vielleicht lag es ja gerade am mangelnden Beharrungsvermögen und Einfallsreichtum des schwedischen Bernhard-Übersetzers, dass das Lebenswerk dieses bedeutenden deutschsprachigen Autors nicht mit dem Literaturnobelpreis gekrönt wurde. Ein interessanter Gedanke, der aber dann doch weit übers Ziel hinausschießt.

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Sie finden die Reihe  
„Übersetzer im Gespräch“ des Goethe Instituts im Internet  
hier: [www.goethe.de/uebersetzergesprach](http://www.goethe.de/uebersetzergesprach)

## Have you checked out the GLD website and blog?

The GLD entered the world of social media some time ago – now it's time for our members to join in! Future news and articles will be posted on the blog throughout the year. That way you receive timely division news. Click below to go to the website or [subscribe to the RSS feed today!](#)





**Hilary Fayen Higgins** has worked as a German>English freelance translator for 14 years, specializing in marketing, manufacturing, corporate communications, business, and information technology. She has worked in-house for several German companies, both in Germany and the U.S. In 2000, she launched her freelance business, Higgins German Translations, Inc., which she officially reopened in April. She is relocating back to Washington State in August and can be reached under: [higginstranslations@gmail.com](mailto:higginstranslations@gmail.com).

## From Freelancer to Factory Girl: The Professional and Personal Benefits of Returning to the Office

*Hilary Fayen Higgins*

In October of 2011, after working as a U.S.-based freelance German>English translator for 14 years, I accepted an 18-month contract as an in-house translator at the parent production plant of a large chemical company in Burghausen, Germany. I decided to take this position for multiple reasons. Though I had a very successful business, after many years of freelancing I felt the need for a change, a bit more financial security, and a bit of adventure.

My husband and I also wanted our eight-year-old son to have an international living experience and to learn a foreign language. So, my family and I packed up our house and moved to Germany.

When I first started this job, I was asked frequently why I gave up a successful business as a freelancer to work for a company again, or, as I like to paraphrase, why go from freelancer to factory girl? Now that my tenure at the plant is coming to an end faster than I would like, I have had some time to reflect on the answer to this question and the benefits of such a career move.

### Professional Benefits

The most obvious advantage of the proverbial day job is the greater financial security that comes with it. The health insurance here in Germany is far more extensive than any coverage I could find or afford as a freelancer in the U.S. I no longer have to worry about how much a visit to the doctor or a minor medical incident is going to cost, and instead focus on my health or my family's health. Though I never had trouble collecting

payment from my clients, the regular pay-check is nice, and so is the six weeks of paid vacation, performance bonuses, and the other regular perks that come with a full-time job in Germany. There are, however several additional professional benefits that I had not really thought about when I decided to return to the "office."

"After 14 years of working in my isolated home office, it has been a nice change to work as part of a team."

**Working in a Team:** After 14 years of working in my isolated home office, it has

been a nice change to work as part of a team. I am one of five translators that the chemical plant hired to translate the technical documentation involved in a special two-year project. Three of us are native English speakers (two Americans and one Brit) and two are native German speakers. This has been invaluable for all of us because the English speakers have been able to consult with the German speakers concerning source-text comprehension, and the German speakers have consulted with the English speakers regarding style and terminology use. This type of collaboration has been a real confidence booster. When working as a freelancer, I would naturally do my best to verify my understanding of the text by consulting colleagues online or leaving comments for my clients, but it is nothing compared to being able to ask my colleagues immediately whether I have correctly understood a sentence written in "Ingenieur Deutsch."\* It has also led to some lively discussions about translation style and approach (e.g., whether to favor an accurate, yet close-to-the-original style, or accurate, yet easier-to-read style).

\*Poorly written technical German that can give translators a real headache.

**Learning New Skills:** Working in-house has also greatly improved my skills with computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools. As a freelancer, I had very little experience working with tools such as MultiTerm. Clients usually just send the translation memory and a glossary, but almost never a

“I have since learned the value of working with the MultiTerm component of Trados, which enables you to select the appropriate term for a specific context more accurately, rather than just using the concordance feature in Studio.”

MultiTerm database file. However, I have since learned the value of working with the MultiTerm component of Trados, which enables you to select the appropriate term for a specific context more accurately, rather than just using the concordance feature in Studio. The particular benefit is that not only can you add terms, but also term definitions, categories, and comments on usage. When I return to freelance work, I intend to create my own MultiTerm database where I can set up client terminology databases, create client glossaries, and use filters for mini databases for individual customers. Most language services providers probably do this, but I think it might be to my benefit on a freelance level as well.

**Working Onsite:** The biggest advantage of my job here has been the fact that our office is located directly in the middle of the production plant. There are American and German engineers working in offices next door to us, and the production hall is in the building across the street. When we first started, we were given a tour of the various production areas, machines, and equipment, which

has enabled us to visualize the equipment descriptions and instructions we translate more accurately. When confronted with particularly complex technical texts, we are able to consult with the engineers. They explain the process and often just take us over to the production hall to show us the piece of equipment or the machine in question. As freelance translators, we often work in a vacuum and can only dream of this kind of access. In my job here, the engineers review our translations and verify terminology. This feedback gives me the confidence that I am doing my job correctly.

**Broader Networking Opportunities:** Working in a different environment can also create a host of new networking opportunities



## Tips and References for Those Thinking about Working Abroad

1. To find in-house jobs for your language combination, try checking out [Monster.com](#), [Monster.de](#), or the localized Monster jobs site in your desired country.
2. The Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer, which is the German equivalent of ATA, posts translation and project management job openings on its website ([www.bdue.de](#)).
3. Refer to local professional translator associations in the country where you want to work.
4. If your direct clients have their own language services department, you could ask them if there are any openings.
5. Those looking for affordable housing options while working in another country might want to investigate the possibility of a home exchange. For an overview of what this involves, please see: Hedden, Thomas. “Home Exchanges Make Long Trips Affordable,” *The ATA Chronicle* (November/December 2007), 27, [www.t9y.com/Home\\_exchanges.pdf](#).
6. For information on how to file taxes while living abroad, check out the IRS website: [www.irs.gov/Individuals/International-Taxpayers/U.S.-Citizens-and-Resident-Aliens-Abroad](#).

*Special thanks to my colleagues for their comments and feedback.*



and contacts. I now have a broader range of colleagues not only in translation, but also from a wide range of engineering fields. I hope to leverage my expanded network using LinkedIn and other social media sites when I return to freelance work.

### **Personal Benefits**

There have been a few personal benefits garnered from this experience. For example, working in an office has meant having to improve and update my wardrobe to include professional business attire. I have also enjoyed more free time as a company employee than I did running my own business. The established nine-to-five workday means I can (usually) leave my work at the office. I do not work evenings or weekends the way I did as a freelancer, giving me more time to spend with my family, to pursue hobbies, and to travel. This experience has also made me rethink how I want to manage my time when I return to the freelance world.

### **A Rewarding Experience**

Overall, working as an in-house translator has been a positive experience. I have come away with a lot of ideas on how to improve my freelance business and better manage my time. My CAT tool skills have improved, and I have extended my professional network. But most importantly, my son now speaks better German than I do, but do not tell him I said that.

While I am enjoying my in-house job and my time in Germany, I am looking forward to returning to the States with my family, and to my home office and clients. In the meantime, you can read more about my family's adventures in Germany on our blog,

*From Bellingham to Burghausen and Back* ([bellinghamtoburghausen.blogspot.com](http://bellinghamtoburghausen.blogspot.com)).

Also, for those who are thinking about working abroad, please check out the tips listed in the box on page 11.

### **Why should I sign up for the GLD email list?**

Once you've subscribed, you can pose questions to the list, assist others by responding to queries or simply follow the conversation. If you haven't subscribed yet you're missing an opportunity to tap into the wealth of knowledge GLD members are eager to impart. Come be a part of one of the most rewarding benefits of GLD membership.

### **Subscribing is as easy as 1, 2, 3:**

1. Send an email to: [gldlist-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:gldlist-owner@yahoogroups.com)
2. In the subject line, enter: **subscribe gldlist**
3. In the body of your email, write your:
  - email address
  - full name
  - ATA membership number

## Translator in Profile: Karen Leube

### Where are you based and what brought you there?

I am based in Aachen. This is the fifth German city I have lived in (after Marburg, Kassel, Heidelberg and Mainz), trailing my German husband for all but the first move.

### What got you started in translation?

I did a one-year translation internship at the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva, Switzerland from 1983 to 1984. (Amazingly, my successor in that position was none other than former GLD Administrator, Ruth Gentes Krawczyk, whom I ran into again many years later at my first ATA conference in Toronto – at break-fast!)

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

I work in German and English and specialize in medical, international development cooperation, and paints and coatings. But I also do a lot of translation teaching and continuing education.

### What do you like most about being a translator?

I enjoy mentoring future and fellow translators.

### What do you like the least?

It's a tie between the constant sitting and the frequent isolation.

### What was your most memorable job, strange or otherwise?

I translated and handled the project management for a foundation's database of medical articles. The founder was a businesswoman who had decided to dedicate her energy to curing a genetic disorder carried by her husband, daughter and grandchildren. Meeting her was motivating and it was fun to work with fellow colleagues, including

translators with other language combinations. And I even engaged my German father-in-law to translate one article from Latin to German that I subsequently translated into English.

### What are your goals for 2013?

I would very much like to return to full-time translation teaching.

### What are your hobbies or other interests?

I play the viola in an orchestra here in Aachen, go hiking with the Heidelberg chapter of the German Alpine association and go jogging on a regular basis.



"I would very much like to return to full-time translation teaching."



**Michael J. Engley** obtained a Master's of Accountancy from the University of Louisville, USA, after studying Volkswirtschaftslehre at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany. He is a full-time ATA Certified German to English freelance translator specializing in finance and accounting and GLD Assistant Administrator.

## Translator on Tour: ASTTI Financial Translation Summer School

*Trading his Harley Davidson for an ICE train, financial translator and GLD Assistant Administrator Michael Engley found himself in spectacular Spiez, Switzerland for ASTTI's biennial Financial Translation Summer School.*

Hemingway once said that "Switzerland is a small, steep country, much more up and down than sideways, and is all stuck over with large brown hotels built on the cuckoo clock style of architecture." Walking the ten minutes downhill from the train station in Spiez to the Ausbildungszentrum, where ASTTI holds its Financial Translation Summer School, it is difficult to dispute this rather simplistic description of the Alpine country.

I arrived early in the evening on the first day, deciding to skip the day's sessions since they were mainly devoted to French and Italian. Thankfully, I was just in time for the aperitif and dinner, which to everyone's surprise and benefit turned out to be the final exam for the apprentices in the kitchen. After an exquisite meal, including venison prepared three different ways, everyone wandered downhill to the marina. Spiez is not known for its night life, but the Piratenbar with its cozy atmosphere and adept service would be the obvious place to go even if it weren't the only game in town.

The morning schedule was packed with presentations on general financial topics given by speakers from the financial industry, including representatives from KPMG, UBS, and private banks, but since some of the presentations were given in French or Italian, and others in German or English, there was ample time to mingle and meet other

other attendees. In contrast to the passive morning program, afternoons were devoted to more intensive translation workshops in the four languages, including one by our very own Robin Bonthrone.

Apropos, the German Language Division was well-represented with myself, Ted Wozniak,

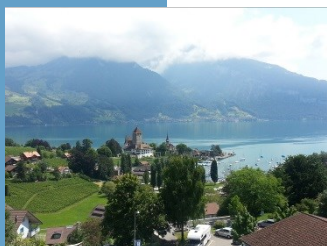
and Melissa Field attending in addition to Robin. The social highlight of the three days was the dinner cruise on the second evening. We were treated to an excellent dinner as well as spectacular views of scenic Spiez and the nearby mountains, including the Eiger and Jungfrau, while the boat cruised slowly around

"Hemingway once said that 'Switzerland is a small, steep country, much more up and down than sideways, and is all stuck over with large brown hotels built on the cuckoo clock style of architecture.'"

Thunersee.

As always, parting from friends new and old is such sweet sorrow when these events inevitably come to an end. But dragging my suitcase up the long hill to the train station on Saturday morning while taking in the view of the medieval castle and surrounding peaks one last time, I was consoled by the thought that many of us would meet again soon at the ATA conference in San Antonio.

For anyone wondering, ASTTI's Financial Translation Summer School was definitely worth the long trip from the U.S., in particular when combined with a European vacation, and I expect to make my way to Spiez again for the next conference in two years.





## Dictionary Review

# Dictionary of Electrical Engineering, Power Engineering and Automation

David A. Coats

After reviewing the German to English companion volume of this dictionary, published in 2011, I was pleased to have the opportunity to review this dictionary.

The dictionary reviewed here is the most recent edition of the English to German volume. As noted, also appearing in this series is the German to English volume, as well as a CD-ROM of both volumes, Edition 2011, for Windows 7/Vista/XP/2000, priced at 189.00 EUR.

The translation service at Siemens has done an admirable job in the compilation of this dictionary, which should prove very serviceable for translators in the fields covered. The strengths of the German to English volume are also present here, as well as some of the problems I found in Vol. 1. These problems, however, are not of such scope or seriousness as to significantly diminish the value and usefulness of these dictionaries.

I am struck by the broad range of terms included in this dictionary (far wider than the title would imply), and it's unclear whether the editors had clear criteria for the inclusion of terms. They state:

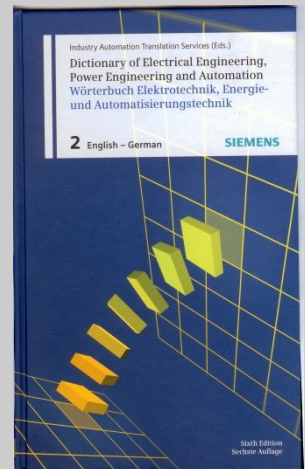
"This dictionary essentially covers the following subjects:

- Basic electrotechnical terms and standards
- Automation technology (control engineering, numerical controls, process control)
- Automotive electronics

- Bus systems, communication networks, data transmission and communication
- Drives
- Electrical installation technology (including lighting)
- Electrical machines (including transformers)
- Measuring and analysis technology
- Electrical systems and networks
- Power cables and distribution
- Power electronics
- Protective devices and relays
- Quality assurance and reliability
- Semiconductor devices, integrated circuits
- Switchgear
- Telecontrol (including ripple control)
- Test engineering

Technical literature, national and international regulations and standards and the database of the Translation Department of Siemens AG in Erlangen/Nuremberg were an important source for generating this dictionary."

"Technical literature, national and international regulations and standards and the database of the Translation Department of Siemens AG in Erlangen/Nuremberg were an important source for generating this dictionary."



**"Dictionary of Electrical Engineering, Power Engineering and Automation**

**Wörterbuch Elektrotechnik, Energie- und Automatisierungstechnik"**

**Deutsch-Englisch | English-German**

**Approx. 115,000 entries, 6th Edition 2009**

Editor: Industry Automation Translation Services, Siemens Aktiengesellschaft, Berlin and Munich

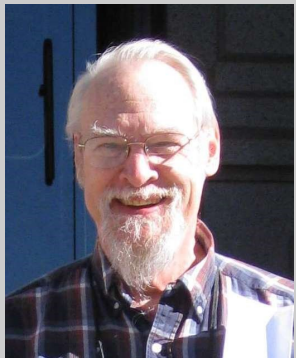
Publisher: Publicis Publishing

[Dist. in the U.S. by John Wiley and Sons, Inc.]

ISBN 978-3-89578-314-2

156,000 translations

Price: 89.90 EUR (each volume) (145 USD)



**David Coats** has been a freelance translator for 27 years, and is ATA-certified for German into English. He has 37 years of experience as a psychotherapist in public and private practice; including 18 years as a Social Worker in the field of civil commitments, working closely with the Probate Court and the medical system. Prior to obtaining his Master's in Social Work, he studied engineering and sociology. He specializes in translation of highly technical material and patents, as well as medical and legal material.

Most of the above subjects are related to the title in some way, though "quality assurance" is straying rather far afield, and "automotive electronics" seems distant from "electrical engineering." However, as in Vol. 1, quite a number of terms have crept into the dictionary that would, I believe, be more properly relegated to a general technical, other specialty, or even a general purpose dictionary. Some examples of these are: "**backhoe loader** / Lader-Bagger *m*, Bagger-Lader *m*," "**catalog** *n* / Katalog (KG) *m* || ~ *n* / Katalog *m* || ~" and **online ordering system** / Katalog- und Online-Bestellsystem *n* ||..." (and other combining forms of "catalog"), "**market analysis** / Bedarfsträgeranalyse *f* ||..." "**marketing** / Marktbearbeitung *f*, Vermarktung *f* || ..." (and two thirds of a column of combining forms of "market" and "marketing"), "**per diem** / Tagegeld *n*," "**per diem allowance** / Abordnungsgeld *n* || ..." (and two other combining forms of "per diem"), "**perfect** *adj* / fehlerfrei *adj*, einwandfrei *adj*" [in this latter case, at least, "perfect" is then combined with more relevant terms such as "capacitor," "conductor," "dielectric," etc.], "**sidewalk** *n* / Gehweg *m*, Gehsteig *m*," and "**vacation** *n* / Ferien *f* || ~ **entitlement** / Urlaubsanspruch *m* || ~ **not taken** / Urlaubsstand *m* || ~ **pay** / Urlaubsgeld *n*." There are others. It appears that many such headwords have been brought in from Siemens' database without stringent excising of unsuitable words.

As with any dictionary, occasional typos and errors have crept in ("**precession camera** / Präzessionskammer *f*" instead of "Präzessionskamera," or **SD 1 (screwdriver 1)** /SZ 1 (Schraubenzieher 1)", instead of "Schraubendreher, the more current term, for example [which does, however, appear under the headword "**screwdriver**"]. In this case, "SD 1" is clearly idiosyncratic to

Siemens, and could have been omitted. Another example: the translation of "**bimetal carrier**," defined as "Bimetallträger *m*, Bitträger *m*" (the latter definition is incorrect; it should be provided for "bit holder" or "bit carrier," neither of which appear as headwords). Gender designation of nouns is sometimes missing.

The dictionary is not consistent in providing (and does not identify) both British and American English terms. Thus, for example the British term, "**phase-earth-phase fault** /

zweiphasiger Erdschluss, Doppelerdschluss *m*, zweipoliger Erdschluss, zweipoliger Kurzschluss mit Erdberührung" and other combining forms, are given, but not the

American term "phase-ground-phase fault." The translator is forced in these circumstances to be aware of the British term in searching for an American English term.

One feature I particularly appreciated is the large number of acronyms, both in German and particularly in English, embedded among the entries as headwords, with the meaning expanded, such as "**QCA (quality capability assessment)** / QFB (Qualitätsfähigkeitsbewertung) *f*." As in this case, where there is a different corresponding acronym in English, both acronyms are expanded. It is thus disappointing that occasionally (and inconsistently), this expansion is lacking in association with specific headwords. For example, "**PEH time monitoring**" is defined as "PEH Zeitüberwachung *f*," and "**PEN terminal**" as "PEN-Klemme *f*," without the corresponding acronyms being expanded [PEH = "positioning end and halt", and PEN = "polyethylene naphthalate." Although in this case, the acronyms are the same in German and English, without the expansion, a translator is left to spend considerable time online researching these acronyms before

"The dictionary is not consistent in providing (and does not identify) both British and American English terms."

arriving at the decision to leave them as is].

In another example, the most common meaning (“personal digital assistant,” “personal data assistant”) of its acronym is missing: “**PDA** / Personendatenerfassung *f* (PDE) || ~ s. post-deflection acceleration, s. production data acquisition || ~ (**Process Data Acquisition**) / Prozessdaten-Aufzeichnung (PDA) *f* || (**production data acquisition system**) / BDE (Betriebsdaten-Erfassungssystem) *n*, Betriebsdaten-Erfassung (BDE) *f*.”

The acronym immediately preceding this one lacks some important and relevant expansions: “**PD** s. partial discharge || ~ (**pitch diameter**) / Teilkreisdurchmesser *m*.” Here, “pulse duration,” “passive detection,” and “public domain” are all missing.

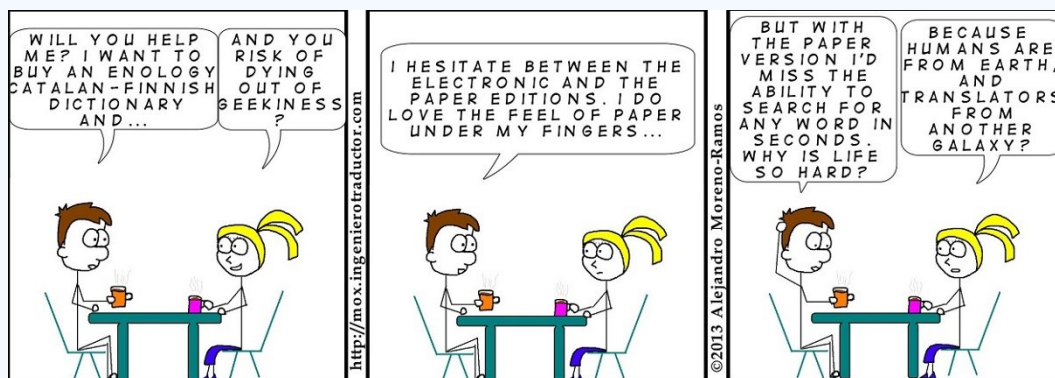
It is also inconsistent that some of the acronyms provide the translation following some of the expansions, but then provide only cross-references for other translations (as in the **PD** example).

“**PE**” as the acronym for “protective earth” (the British English term) is present, but not “**PG**” for “protective ground” (the American English term), and several combining forms with “PG” are provided, without expanding or translating the “PG” portion of the term, as in “**PG/PC interface** / PG/PC-Schnittstelle *f*” where here, it may mean “pulse generator.”

“**PDB** / FDB (Fabrikdatenbank) *f*” lacks the English expansion [product database], and the German expansion is apparently incorrect—it should be “Fabrikate-Datenbank.” The dictionary could be made even more useful and usable by the consistent expansion of all included acronyms.

In summary, although the headword selection criteria are somewhat blurry, this dictionary, like its German to English companion volume, should prove extremely useful to the technical translator. I was able to find the translation for virtually every word I searched for within the covered fields. Given the broad scope and large number of terms included, it is well worth its price.

### Difference between cognates and false friends



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## Calendar of Events 2013

Date	Location	Organization/Event	More Information
24 Aug	San Francisco, CA	Northern California Translators Association <i>ATA Certification Exam Workshop 2013</i>	<a href="http://www.ncta.org">www.ncta.org</a>
29-31 Aug	Quebec City, Canada	Translate in Quebec City <i>A conference for premium market translators</i>	<a href="http://translateinquebeccity.com">translateinquebeccity.com</a>
29 Aug - 01 Sep	Essen, Germany	Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer e.V. <i>Summer School Rechtssprache 2013, 2. Block Strafrecht</i>	<a href="http://www.bdue.de">www.bdue.de</a> (Seminare)
6-8 Sep	Edinburgh, Scotland	British Association for Applied Linguistics <i>46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference</i>	<a href="http://www.llas.ac.uk/baal2012">www.llas.ac.uk/baal2012</a>
13-15 Sep	Memphis, TN	Tennessee Association of Professional Interpreters & Translators <i>TAPI and TAMI Join Annual Conference</i>	<a href="http://www.tapit.org">www.tapit.org</a>
21 Sep	Chicago, IL	Midwest Association of Translators & Interpreters (MATI) <i>10th Annual MATI Conference</i>	<a href="http://www.matiata.org">www.matiata.org</a>
26-27 Sep	London, UK	Association of Translation Companies <i>ATC Annual Conference 2013</i>	<a href="http://www.regonline.co.uk">www.regonline.co.uk</a>
30 Sep	Everywhere!	International Translation Day	<a href="http://fit-ift.org">fit-ift.org</a>
3-5 Oct	St. Julian's, Malta	European Language Industry Association (ELIA) <i>ELIA Networking Days Malta</i>	<a href="http://www.elia-association.org">www.elia-association.org</a>
9-11 Oct	Silicon Valley, CA	Localization World Silicon Valley <i>Translation &amp; localization industry conference</i>	<a href="http://www.localizationworld.com">www.localizationworld.com</a>
11-13 Oct	Oakland, CA	California Federation of Interpreters <i>11<sup>th</sup> Annual CFI Continuing Education Conference</i>	<a href="http://www.calinterpreters.org">www.calinterpreters.org</a>
11-12 Oct	Leipzig, Germany	Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer e.V. <i>2013 German Annual Report Masterclass</i>	<a href="http://www.bdue.de">www.bdue.de</a> (Seminare)
12 Oct	Novi, MI	Michigan Translators/Interpreters Network <i>MiTiN Conference on Interpreting and Translation</i>	<a href="http://www.mitinweb.org">www.mitinweb.org</a>
14-15 Oct	Portland, OR	TAUS <i>TAUS Annual Conference 2013</i>	<a href="http://www.taus.net">www.taus.net</a>
24-26 Oct	Tarragona, Spain	Mediterranean Editors & Translators <i>9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting 2013</i>	<a href="http://www.metmeetings.org">www.metmeetings.org</a>

Date	Location	Organization/Event	More Information
6-8 Nov	Wiesbaden, Germany	tcworld conference 2013 <i>Language technology, content and terminology management</i>	<a href="http://conferences.tekom.de">conferences.tekom.de</a>
6-9 Nov	San Antonio, TX	ATA 54 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference	<a href="http://www.atanet.org">www.atanet.org</a>
15-16 Nov	Köln, Germany	Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer e.V. (BDÜ) <i>Workshop für Existenzgründer</i>	<a href="http://www.bdue.de">www.bdue.de</a> (Seminare)
22-24 Nov	Orlando, FL	American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) <i>2013 Annual Convention and World Languages Expo</i>	<a href="http://www.actfl.org">www.actfl.org</a>

For more events in Europe, please visit the websites of these organizations:

BDÜ  
[www.bdue.de](http://www.bdue.de)

UNIVERSITAS Austria  
[www.universitas.org/de/home/](http://www.universitas.org/de/home/)



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#### ATA Certification Exams

The ATA generally has 30-40 exam sittings each year. Please visit the ATA Certification Program page on the ATA website for the most up-to-date list:

[www.atanet.org/certification/upcoming.php](http://www.atanet.org/certification/upcoming.php)



#### Questions or comments?

We hope you enjoyed this issue of *interaktiv*. If you have any questions or comments, or would like to contribute to a future issue, please contact Matt Baird at [matt@boldertranslations.com](mailto:matt@boldertranslations.com).