



2/2026

Newsletter of the German Language Division
of the American Translators Association

What's
new?

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Sabine Seiler lives in Niskayuna, located in New York's Capital District, near Albany. After several years studying in Florida and Louisiana, she moved to New York State more than 20 years ago for her first in-house translation and editing job at a small publishing company. Soon thereafter, she started her own translation business. Sabine has been an ATA member since the 1980s. She translates and edits German <> English and for several years has been editing English texts for publishers and translation agencies, specializing in scholarly texts in the humanities and social sciences as well as legal translations. She can be reached at seilersabine7@gmail.com.

Editorial

Dear Readers,

We're in the home stretch of what looks to be—at least from where I sit—a turbulent year, and due to various turbulences and untoward situations, this issue of *interaktiv* is coming a bit later to you than usual. Still, like past fall issues, this one offers substantial reading to guide us through the coming months and ease the transition to next year.

In particular, you'll find a [preview of conference sessions at ATA67](#) in San Francisco that are likely to be of special interest to translators and interpreters working with German. As you put together your conference schedule, please consider writing about your experience for the spring 2027 issue of *interaktiv*. We love to hear from conference attendees, especially about the German sessions and the GLD networking event. If you're willing to share your experience, whether in narrative or interview format, please contact me (seilersabine7@gmail.com).

To get a taste of what awaits you in the German conference sessions, check out the [interview with the GLD Distinguished Speaker Michael Hofmann](#). Thank you to Erin Riddle, *interaktiv*'s new book review editor, for preparing and writing up this fascinating interview.

Another big event to plan for is the [GLD Jubilee Conference](#) celebrating the GLD's 30th anniversary in 2027. You'll find the [Call for Speakers here](#), and please check out the [program overview here](#). In addition, in her (Translation) Notes from the Homeland Ellen Yutzy Glebe promises another GLD in Europe workshop for 2028.

In addition to the usual content, such as the [GLD Calendar of Events](#) and a very interesting [Translator in Profile column](#) where

we meet Pavitra Baxi, this issue also features an abridged recap of the [GLD-NYCT Stammtisch & Awards Ceremony in New York](#) by Matt Griffin. While the full version has been published on the [GLD blog](#), the article is worth including here because it aligns so well with the theme of literary translation that emerges—more or less serendipitously—from Erin's book review of [Getting Started as a Literary Translator](#), the interview, the preview of conference sessions, and Ellen's column: literature endures and calls for translation. And, at least so far, by and large, it eludes the grasp of AI, instead bearing witness to an enduring human characteristic: storytelling in the widest sense.

Therefore, I want to encourage *interaktiv* readers to consider sharing their translation stories—successes, challenges, tricky linguistic problems in your field, and translation adventures you're considering. Let us know when your translations (or other works) have been published so we can share your success in *interaktiv*. Your suggestions for topics to cover in future issues are also always welcome. In addition, we are looking for German copy editors. If interested in writing or copy editing, please contact me at seilersabine7@gmail.com.

I want to thank the *interaktiv* team of editors, proofreaders, and writers for their hard work and patience. A special thank you to Daniela Radivo-Harder for her outstanding design work and her great patience when the delays kept snowballing on the road to design.

Happy reading!

Sabine H. Seiler

Editor-in-Chief

By Karen Leube



I would also like to thank Robin Limmeroth, who accompanied me in the previous two terms as GLD assistant administrator. Robin moved into the position from her role as web manager, where she invested a great deal of time and energy in updating the GLD website, including bringing the division's history up to date—a task that required endless amounts of time and patience to trace and record the developments

I am especially grateful to Robin for the many years of being at the other end of the phone (or WhatsApp) through all the ups and downs of managing the German Language Division. Making decisions on behalf of a diverse group can feel daunting, and it was great to always have Robin to bounce ideas off of. I will miss the many (often panicky) calls and messages!



As I continue in my role as administrator, I am thankful for the continued support of our very industrious Leadership Council. Our new collaboration with the New York Circle of Translators is also very exciting! The German Language Division will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of its founding in New York from May 15 to 16, 2027, with a *Fachkonferenz*. Several keynote speakers have already confirmed their attendance and a call for speakers is included in this issue of *interaktiv*. Please consider submitting a session proposal. And be sure to mark your calendar for this very special event!

I also hope to see you at the ATA 67th Annual Conference in San Francisco in October. I am very excited that the GLD Distinguished Speaker Michael Hofmann will be presenting sessions on Thursday (1:30 pm, interactive!) and Saturday (1:30 pm, interview). Michael, the 2024 International Booker Prize recipient, will also be joining us for our GLD Conference Social on Thursday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Perry's Embarcadero, within walking distance of the conference hotel. Please be sure to sign up early!

Bis bald – in San Francisco, New York, or online!

Karen

Did you miss our GLD Annual Meeting?

The meeting was held virtually on Friday, September 18, 2026.

You can read the minutes in our online archive:
ata-divisions.org/GLD/gld-archive

The GLD Website is Your Resource!

The GLD website is not only our division's face to the world, it's loaded with information and resources for members. Find back issues of *interaktiv*, a calendar of events, and more. Follow the GLD blog for regular updates on division happenings!





By Ellen Yutzy Glebe

One way to escape the present is to flee into the past, ideally in search of inspiration for the future. In 2025, exhibitions and special events throughout Germany recalled the events of the Peasants' War, where the serfs and common people rose up against the ruling classes, burning monasteries to the ground (after looting their contents and drinking their cellars empty, of course) and demanding a restructuring of society that would allow those who toiled and labored to enjoy just a few more fruits of their own fields and a few more rights. One of those exhibitions, at the Dreiländermuseum in Lörrach, encompassed both the Peasants' War and the emergence of the Anabaptist movement under the title "[Umbrüche 1525](#);" the curators wrote "*Wie [damals] haben viele Menschen das Gefühl, in einer Zeit grosser Umbrüche zu leben.*"

or so-called *Prognostication* in the early sixteenth century. A lot of people, including Martin Luther, thought the end was nigh. In this respect, too, we might see a certain similarity to our own moment in time, as nervousness about the technological “advances” of AI and predictions of its looming threats to humanity accumulate. While warnings proliferate, with even those driving the technology forward suggesting the *potential that cataclysmic failure* could soon push humankind to extinction, it is hard to envision who could possibly rein it in at this point. The chasms within the political landscape seem more dramatic and impassable by the day, whether within individual *Bundesländer* struggling to form viable coalitions for governance or at the geopolitical level. As traditional alliances collapse and the individual parties increasingly pursue their own interests, the world order certainly seems more fragile than one would hope, leaving incredible power in the hands of a few corporate plutocrats with international empires.

Meanwhile, while the political landscape becomes ever more fraught and tensions mount, the online landscape is becoming noticeably and increasingly characterized by a monoaesthetic, though here, too, there are signs of an emerging chasm between the slick, obviously AI-generated posters and texts—and hand-scrawled messages posted by those declaring their resolute avoidance of AI. (The sceptic in me wants to know whether AI can create hand-scrawled messages; the artist in me wants to know whether we've come so far that we need to eschew artistry

'One way to escape the present is to flee into the past, ideally in search of inspiration for the future.'

and creativity in order to support natural intelligence and humanity; and—while we're here in this parenthetical interjection—the conspiracy theorist in me wants to know whether the warnings about AI from the makers of AI are just part of a plot to render us helpless and more likely to surrender.) As the market in AI-Amish-influencers continues to flourish, it seems clear to me that there is a general affliction of conflicted feelings about technology and how we deal with it. Paradoxes abound. If you have not yet discovered this genre, check out this very funny [YouTube overview](#) or this much less funny [NY Times article](#).

In a normal year, I'd say something here about the necessity of staying grounded and pivot to talking about the upcoming ATA in Europe workshop. The workshop is taking a year off, however, so that everyone can invest their time and resources in attending the [GLD anniversary celebrations in New York](#). On the other hand, staying grounded is surely more important than ever, so I'll highlight two

opportunities for upcoming real world exchange with colleagues on this side of the pond: First, coming up very soon, the [Anglophoner Tag](#) organized on a biannual basis, this time in Saarbrücken over the first weekend of November, by the BDÜ and ITI German Network. Refreshingly, the program seems to represent a fairly optimistic take on the present moment and highlights the very human facets of our work and lives as translators. Techies who want to practice their German should take note, however, that the BDÜ is planning another large conference for March 2027 around the slogan "[Prompting the Future: Sprachexpertise neu denken](#)." The program for that has not yet been released, but the *Frühbucharfrist* runs until December 6. Finally, for those of you who plan very far into the future and think there's a chance we'll still be around to talk about translation in 2028: We've booked a delightful little conference hotel near Schloß Schönbrunn in Vienna for the first weekend of March, so mark your calendars and save the date!

List of Handwritten Documents Translators

Hans-Jochen Trost manages a list of GLD members who specialize in **old German script/handwriting**. If that is your specialty and you are not yet on the list, please contact Hans-Jochen at Jochen@hjtranslations.com.

The list can be accessed on the [GLD website](#).



ata American Translators Association

67th Annual Conference

October 28-31, 2026

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Get ready for what the future holds.

ATA67 provides valuable insights, effective solutions, and innovative strategies, helping you prepare for the challenges ahead. [Learn more.](#)

The **ATA 67th Annual Conference** in San Francisco will feature several sessions of interest to GLD members. Below is a list of presentations in the German track to help you map out your conference schedule. Full descriptions as well as a list of other conference sessions are available [here](#).

Conference Sessions and Events

ATA67 provides a comprehensive selection of educational opportunities for professional development specific to your needs. You'll find sessions that focus on practical skills and theory across all levels of experience. You'll be inspired and challenged to consider new ideas.

The conference also offers a variety of networking events. You'll find opportunities to promote yourself and your services, connect with friends, get involved with your association, or just have fun!

Earn while you learn! ATA67 provides continuing education opportunities for both ATA-Certified Translators and Credentialed Interpreters. [Learn more.](#)



German Topics Agenda

Wednesday, October 28

(AST-04) From Practice to Progress: Improving Simultaneous Interpreting Performance

Presenter: Carola Lehmacher

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. PDT

Simultaneous interpreting is mentally demanding and requires ongoing practice to maintain and improve performance. In this hands-on workshop, attendees will work through targeted skill-building exercises such as reformulation, paraphrasing, and chunking to strengthen core interpreting skills. Attendees will record themselves and reflect on their performance to identify areas for improvement using a rubric. The workshop will also introduce the principles of deliberate practice and explore how interpreters can incorporate them into their routines to support continued professional growth.

Track: Interpreting

Language: Neutral

Hashtag(s): #ATA67

Thursday, October 29

(002) Translation and Machine Translation: Fallada's *Each Man Dies Alone*

Presenter: Michael Hofmann, Distinguished Professor, University of Florida 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. PDT

Michael Hofmann is a poet, translator, literary critic, and essayist born in Freiburg, Germany. He moved to the U.K. at a young age and later earned his BA and MA at Magdalene College, Cambridge. His first poetry collection, *Nights in the Iron Hotel* (1983), received immediate acclaim in Britain. Widely regarded as one of the most influential translators from German into English, he has translated more than 80 books by authors including Kafka, Jünger, Koeppen, and Roth. In 2024, his translation of Jenny Erpenbeck's novel *Kairos* won the International Booker Prize. He also received the PEN/Book-of-the-Month Club Translation Prize and the Helen and Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize. He is a Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Florida.

In this interactive session, the speaker will discuss selected passages from his English translation of Hans Fallada's novel *Jeder stirbt für sich allein* (1947). Attendees will be invited to compare their own translations with the speaker's published version and to contemplate alternative solutions, taking into account style, tone, accuracy, fluency, register of language, and cultural relevance. The session will also include a comparison between the published translation and a machine-generated version of the same passages, providing an opportunity to reflect on the strengths and limitations of human and machine translation in literary contexts.

Track: Translation

Language: English, German

Hashtag(s): #ATA67

THE
ATA

CHRONICLE

Friday, October 30 (Continued)

(068) Translation Scams in the AI Era

Presenter: Dr. Carola F. Berger

2:40 p.m. – 3:40 p.m. PDT

Scams are ubiquitous in online commerce, especially when conducted entirely online. Thus, the language sector is particularly vulnerable to fraudulent schemes. The advent of AI has enabled new nefarious schemes that bear very little resemblance to the older, more obvious tactics and can fool even seasoned professionals. However, the risks can be minimized. We begin with an overview of various scams targeting translators and interpreters, followed by specific real-life examples. We then discuss concrete actions to protect against these fraudulent schemes. A list of resources complements these action items.

Track: Translation

Language: English

Hashtag(s): #ATA67

(073) Objection! Now What? Navigating Courtroom Objections as an Interpreter

Presenter: Carola Lehmacher

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. PDT

In courtroom proceedings, objections—ranging from “hearsay” and “leading” to “relevance” and “speculation”—serve as pivotal procedural tools. For court interpreters, these interruptions present unique challenges that require swift judgment, contextual understanding, and role clarity. At the witness stand, however, the interpreter must navigate real-time exchanges involving judges, attorneys, and witnesses, often under pressure to pause, resume, or withhold interpreting based on courtroom protocol. The session will examine the decision-making process interpreters face in these moments and invite attendees to think judiciously about their intervention while fostering dialogue on a frequently overlooked but critical aspect of court interpreting.

Track: Interpreting

Language: English

Hashtag(s): #ATA67

Saturday, October 31

(127) Voice, Choice, and the Bilingual Translator: A Conversation with Michael Hofmann

Michael Hofmann, Distinguished Professor, University of Florida

Karen Leube

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. PDT

This interview-style session will explore Michael Hofmann’s professional journey, shaped by his multicultural and multilingual background, and the impact of that background on his approach to translation. The discussion will focus on the translation of Jenny Erpenbeck’s novel *Kairos*, addressing linguistic, stylistic, and cultural challenges. The speaker will read selected passages from the English version and discuss key translation decisions.

The session will also examine broader aspects of literary translation, including strategies for negotiating the translator’s voice and the author’s voice, as well as the experience of managing multiple linguistic identities when translating as a bilingual speaker.

Track: Translation

Language: English and German

Hashtag(s): #ATA67



German Language Division Networking Event at ATA67

Join us for an evening of networking, lively conversation,
and *Gemütlichkeit!*

WHERE: **Perry's Embarcadero**

155 Steuart St., San Francisco, CA, 94105

WHEN: Thursday, October 29, 2026, from 7–9 p.m. PDT

Your event fee includes:

Your choice of one of three main courses:

1. Grilled Salmon
with lemon caper butter sauce over mashed potatoes
& sautéed vegetables
2. Spaghetti with Roasted Vegetables
vegan
3. The Perry's Cheeseburger
with cheddar & french fries

Dessert:

Chef's Mini Sweets:
chocolate-covered strawberries, mini cheesecakes,
chocolate chip cookies
approx. 4 pcs. per person

You will be asked to select your entrée when you sign up for the dinner.

Registration Details

Price:

\$76 per person (includes taxes, the San Francisco health insurance mandate, gratuities, and the restaurant's coordination fee, for a total of **39.625%**)

Beverages are not included and are to be paid individually. Since the restaurant will only accept a maximum of four credit cards for payment that evening, Karen and Robin will have to personally collect the costs for your drinks in cash at the end of the evening (plus the 39.625% taxes and gratuities) and pay them along with the entire bill, so please remember to bring cash for your drinks.

Sign up here:

Cheddar up. (Registration is managed via Cheddar Up. Please note that platform and payment processing fees apply.)

Deadline:

Monday, October 12, 2026, or until sold out. (We will be dining in a private room, so registration is limited to 35.) Tickets are nonrefundable.

Getting there

Perry's Embarcadero is located at **155 Steuart St., San Francisco, CA, 94105**, just a 7–8-minute walk along the waterfront from the hotel.

Questions?

Contact **Robin Limmeroth** at robin@robin-limmeroth.com or on **WhatsApp** under **+49 1792038541** or **+1 272-213-9707**

All ATA conference attendees (and spouses/partners) are welcome to sign up. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this exciting evening networking event with your GLD colleagues in San Francisco!

Castle Gripsholm!—in 1985, there was no sense that that would necessarily be the case.

ER: For many of these authors, you have translated a number of their works over many years. How does that experience inform your craft, approach, and experience? What challenges does it present?

MH: I think that's the Holy Grail—*Jacobs Krönung*—for translators. Becoming “someone's voice” in English, or wherever. Helping Joseph Roth, say, or Wolfgang Koeppen, find a readership again. Without that as a factor, your work is scattered and becomes random and replaceable. A conduit. I don't necessarily think territorially, but it's a fact that the conditions are territorial. Don't waste yourself. Do only what's worth doing. I think I can say I'm proud of every one of my books, the serially assembled as well as the disject. They have my imprimatur, whatever that's worth. Which isn't necessarily the case. As long as you throw in your lot with good authors, there's no real downside to the series habit. In Raymond Carver's words, it's “gravy.”

ER: You are not only a translator, but also a poet and critic. How do these roles intersect and influence each other? Do you feel a distinct change in mindset in each of these roles, or are they fluid and overlapping?

MH: I must say, it feels less and less like there's any changing of hats. It's all the same sweaty baseball cap—not. The translations benefit from my poet's ear and imagination, and many of them—in the form of introductions or afterwords—from my critical *suada* as well. I can see the danger in this, but would strenuously deny that there's any sameness or monotony in the translations. The originals differ widely, and so, accordingly, do the translations.

ER: How has translation—including the work and process of translating as well as reader reception of translations—changed since you started? How have you changed as a translator?

MH: The blighted computer, I suppose. It's made everything so much easier, in mechanical/industrial terms. And at the same time, I often feel that it's wrecked it. Forty years ago—forty-five!—it was handwriting and typewriters and Xeroxes. It's how I translated Beat Sterchi's great novel, *Blösch* or *The Cow*. The keyboard has never given me—or given anyone?—the feeling that it's part of them, their *Nervenstrang*, their bloodstream. When you type-type on a typewriter, you are *in* the words, you *make* the words out of your flesh and blood. “Muscle memory” is the somewhat banal expression. There's been an “unbearable lightness” about everything since.

There's probably a bit more attention now given to translation, but a lot of it is reflexive, dutiful, bland, perhaps stupid.

Did you know?

The GLD has its own LinkedIn page!

Make sure to follow us at [linkedin.com/company/german-language-division/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/german-language-division/)

Personal Documents Translators

Do you translate personal documents or have you been asked for a referral for a certified translation? Frieda Ruppaner-Lind manages a list of GLD members who translate personal documents that can be accessed on the GLD website [here](#). Please contact Frieda at frlxlator@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the list.



**'Perhaps I'm
arguing for more
literary translators.
An art, not a craft.'**

So much of it feels like a pat on the bottom, "and now go away!" I get called "prolific" or "reliable" and it all makes me bridle. I often have the feeling I've somewhat deliberately wasted my life. Not to be ungrateful, I've had a good run, and feel, if anything, guilty at how much attention I've gotten for my work, but nothing or no one has really held up a mirror to it. I have no idea if I'm exquisite—*ein Glücksfall!*—or disreputable or scandalous or what. I miss that. But then the quality of attention—and probably of human judgment as a whole—has decayed precipitously in all kinds of ways over the past half-century.

ER: What might readers find surprising about your theoretical and practical approaches to translation?

MH: Ha! Perhaps my belief that some quality of independence or autonomy or orneriness or at the very least automotiveness should be inherent in a translation. It might be *ferngesteuert*, but should not appear to be so.

ER: Is there an observation about translation you wish to include that has not been addressed above and that

is generally underexplored? Are there questions and topics that you find unhelpful in discussions about translation?

MH: I have the belief that certain pairings are lucky or blessed or right. Some sort of deep congruence between writer and translator. Marquez and Rabassa is the example I always come up with. Of course there are others, many others, but they are a little hard to think of. Hamsun and Robert Bly. Perhaps I'm arguing for more *literary* translators. An art, not a craft. Randall Jarrell has the wonderful *mot* to the effect that no one supposes a Lithuanian professor of Russian somewhere wrote *War and Peace*, but everyone thinks he's the perfect person to translate it. Maybe not. One should try and say "*No*," instead of "*Why not?*" Literary translation is never a mechanical activity, and there is never a guarantee; how can there be, where literature is concerned? Past a certain point, it's not really about accuracy or fidelity; it's about taste and judgment and nerve. It is the great irreplaceable quintessential human activity.

The Bennite in me likes to play with the notion that it may have a tragic quality.

Would you like to prepare for the ATA certification exam with other GLD members?

While there are currently no GLD certification exam study groups, we know there is interest in forming new ones. If you would like to join a study group, please contact Karen Leube at mail@leubetranslation.com.



Matt Griffin joined ATA in 2002 and has worked for more than 20 years in language services as a translator, editor and project manager. He specializes in German-to-English translation, and leads a team of writers, translators and localization experts that provide marketing and technical content for customers in the Americas. In 2013, he founded Brooklyn Translation Works LLC, which operates from New York City. He serves as a reader for the ATA's literary translation awards, and was formerly an administrator of the Language Technology Division. He has a Ph.D. in German from New York University and a B.A. in English from the University of Texas. bktranslate.com

Feature: Good Things Come in Pairs: GLD-NYCT *Stammtisch* & Awards Ceremony in New York

By Matt Griffin

Abridged; full version available on the [GLD division's website](#).

Members of [ATA's German Language Division \(GLD\)](#) and its local chapter, the [New York Circle of Translators \(NYCT\)](#) met up at a *Stammtisch* on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, in Manhattan. At the informal meeting, members were able to catch up with each other, share about their work, and learn about other activities in the world of translation. The day ended with an awards ceremony for literary translators at [Goethe-Institut New York](#).

GLD and NYCT *Stammtisch* in Gramercy Park

GLD admin Karen Leube visited New York City on Wednesday as part of the planning for a conference in spring 2027 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the German Language Division, and members of NYCT and ATA arranged a meetup at a nearby café, where a number of topics of broader interest were discussed.

The GLD's distinguished speaker for ATA67 will be award-winning German-to-English translator Michael Hofmann who will hold [two sessions at the conference](#) taking place from Oct. 28 to 31 in San Francisco. [Early registration](#) ends October 12. Note: The earlier you register, the more you save!

- Members also spoke about the activities of the [American Council](#)

on Germany (ACG). ACG is an independent, nonpartisan nonprofit organization founded in 1952 to strengthen German-American rela-

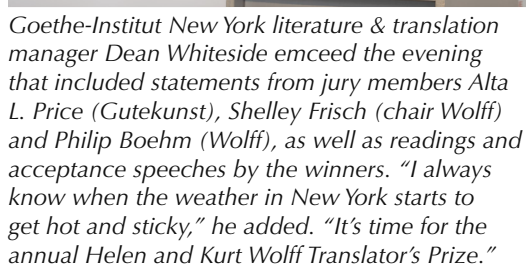
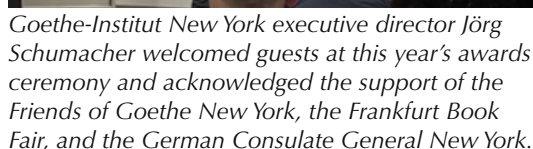


Kaffeeeklatsch (from left): Regina Geffner, Karen Leube, Renate Stein, Matt Griffin, Liz Herron-Sweet, and Randal Gernaat at a Stammtisch on Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

tions and the transatlantic partnership. Be sure to sign up for their emails—it's a great way to keep up with political news and learn more about their events, which are open to the public, often at no charge.

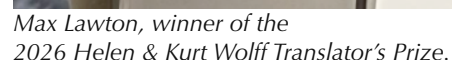
Translators Honored at Goethe-Institut New York

There was a special treat in the evening of June 10, 2026, when two prizes for German literary translation were awarded at a ceremony at Goethe-Institut New York: [The Helen & Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize](#) and the [Gutekunst Prize of the Friends of Goethe New York](#)



The Wolff Translator's Prize honors an outstanding literary translation from German into English published in the US and Canada the previous year. The

Gutekunst Prize recognizes an outstanding young translator of German literature into English and assists them in establishing contact with the translation and publishing communities.



The Gutekunst Prize recognizes an outstanding young translator of German

literature into English and assists them in establishing contact with the translation and publishing communities.

The event was held at 30 Irving Place, NY, in the Union Square and Gramercy Park area, where the Goethe-Institut's beautiful library is housed in a public space for anyone who wants to read, listen to music, watch films, or meet other people. Check out their online library offering [here](#).

The Wolff Translator's Prize commemorates the contributions of Helen and Kurt Wolff, and it honors their work by continuing to promote German-language literature in translation in the US and Canada. It is remarkable today to think about the legacy of the émigré publishers, like the Wolffs or Frederick Ungar, who arrived in New York in the early 1940s. Some 80 years later, it feels like we are living in a golden age of literature in translation, and the legacy of these writers, translators, and publishers, who sought to promote world literature and foster international communication, is evident today in the work of publishers, nonprofits, and associations, in addition to awards such as the Helen & Kurt Wolff Translator's Prize.

In his acceptance speech, Max Lawton spoke about risk, and he thanked his publisher [Deep Vellum Press](#) for taking the risk on a book that the jury for the [award](#) described as a “sprawling, experimental ‘requiem’ [that] defies classification as it roams across history, religion and mysticism, shifting like shadows.” Such works also require their translators to take risks, and it was fascinating to hear Lawton talk about the process—and



Goethe-Institut New York: German-language lending library at 30 Irving Place, NY. Can you spot the iconic red and black cover of the [100-volume German Library](#)?



Irving Place looking north from the offices of Civic Hall on 14th Street, the site of the GLD-NYCT conference in May 2027.

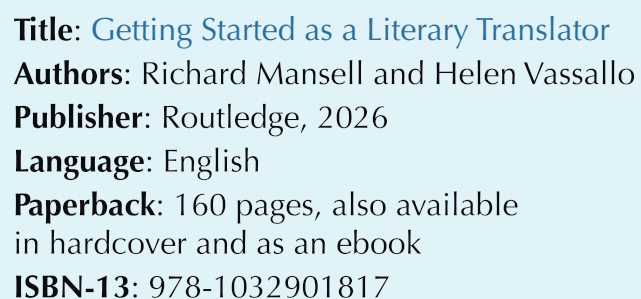
risks—involved in translating Michael Lentz's *Schattenfroh*. "Max Lawton's fearless rendering," wrote the jury, "matches the author's inventiveness, polymath expertise, and disregard for orthodoxy."

It is indeed an exciting time, and the publishing landscape today for literature in translation in North America is rich and comprises both large and (mostly) small presses such as And Other Stories Press, Archipelago Press, Deep Vellum, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Liveright Publishing, New Directions, New Vessel Press, NYRB Press, Seven Stories Press, Summit Books, The Experiment, Transit Books, Ugly Duckling Presse, World Editions, and many stalwart university presses.

Publishing in the US has changed greatly in the past 30-40 years, and awards like the Wolff Prize or the ATA's Ungar Award reflect these changes, as the number and variety of presses has grown. I remember when translator John Woods—the first recipient of the Wolff Prize in 1996—sat alone atop the “magic mountain” at Random House. It was a smaller world back then. Nowadays, there is a vibrant community of writers, editors, publishers—and literary translators—to connect with through events like these.

2/2026

In chapter 4, the book examines the landscape of literary translation, specifically related to ethics and efforts toward promoting diversity among the languages, geographic spaces, and perspectives in English language publishing that can be achieved through literary translation. The final chapters outline ways that translators can further engage with the process of publishing a work written in a language other than English. Chapter 5 covers the editing process, whether editing a work translated by someone else or having one's own work edited, as both experiences entail the interweaving of editing and translating on the path toward publication. Readers gain an understanding of what to expect while working with an editor and of how to respectfully edit another translator's work (that is, moving beyond the role of "correcting" another translator's choices, which may often be motivated by competition and showmanship). Finally, chapter 5 connects the translator's manuscript with the wider world of publishing for a better understanding of the publication process: working with authors, publishers of both languages and literary contexts, and readers and reviewers. The chapter ends with the seemingly inevitable emergence of



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.)

the topic of artificial intelligence (AI), highlighting through a critical lens its impact on expectations of increased productivity and quality, work in machine translation post-editing (MTPE), copyright, ethics, linguistic and cultural diversity, and the human in translation. The final chapter concludes with a list of literary translators who have achieved public name recognition, understood in the section title as "The rise of a new visibility." This is thanks to the work over the last few decades by the literary translators quoted throughout the book who have pushed back against the work of machines (and the publishers who have tried to use machines to replace the work of individual humans).

Literary translators have gained ground, achieving visibility and recognition for their work, which also means responsibility for their contribution to a global dissemination of ideas through the literary arts. As the authors note, "being a literary translator is taking an active role in sharing the view of the world we want to see reflected in literature. Discovering and promoting works from other parts of the world involves us in an attempt to reckon with our own cultural

legacies and to be a force for change" (p. xviii). Thus, the role of the translator has shifted over the last few decades from assumed facilitator of "meaning transfer" to a reader, writer, language specialist, literary critic, and cultural ambassador who hopefully engages ethically as an agent of literature and culture. The authors note: "Discovering and promoting works from other parts of the world involves us in an attempt to reckon with our own cultural legacies and to be a force for change.... It is this kind of commitment to expanding knowledge and challenging dominant discourses that keeps translators working, pitching, and sharing" (p. xviii).

This book offers an inspirational guide for those who wish to embark or continue on the path of literary translation as a career, coupled with a realistic overview of the work and financial realities that could lie ahead. The book can also serve as a textbook not only for those teaching the art, craft, and practice of translation, but also for those who want to support the entrepreneurial ambitions of their students. Mansell and Vassallo have presented The Plan for those who wish to pursue it.

How's the ideal project manager



<http://mox.ingenierotraductor.com>

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NYCT has reserved a block of rooms at the Best Western Premier Empire State Hotel on 30th Street in Manhattan for the nights of May 14 and 15, 2027.

The special group rates are \$299 per night for a King room (1 bed) and \$319 per night for a Double room (2 double beds), plus 14.5% tax and a \$7.00 fee. Rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please use the link below to book a room:

bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.33183.html?groupId=C38PD6X7

The hotel is located in Manhattan's NoMad neighborhood, near the Empire State Building and within walking distance of our conference venue at the Goethe-Institut. With short-term rental options in New York now quite limited, this room block offers a convenient location and good value compared with other hotels in this part of Manhattan.

Save the date for the **NYCT-GLD Jubilee Conference, May 15–16, 2027**, at the Goethe-Institut New York! Celebrating **30 years of ATA's German Language Division**, this special weekend will bring together translators and interpreters for two days of learning, exchange, and networking. The program will feature keynote presentations, breakout sessions, and a roundtable on the changing profession and diversification, as well as a look back at 30 years of the GLD and a discussion of where the division is headed next. Marlies Wulf, Chief of the German Translation Section at the United Nations, will deliver a keynote address on the evolving T&I profession. Sunday's keynote speaker, Prof. Mark Loudon of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will explore the distinction between language and dialect, with a focus on Yiddish and Pennsylvania Dutch. The conference will be preceded on **Friday, May 14**, by an optional walking tour and networking event, and Saturday's program will conclude with a happy hour at the Goethe-Institut.

Translator in Profile: Pavitra Baxi



Where are you based and what brought you there?

I am based in Bangalore, India. I was born and raised in India.

What got you started in translation?

Translation sneaked upon me slowly and steadily. I studied German while I was studying for my degree in mechanical engineering. Thereafter, in my first job as an applications engineer, I used to interact with German clients sporadically. My second job as an applications engineer was with a German construction firm, and along with software programming for their construction equipment, I would help with document translation off and on.

It was after the birth of my daughter that I started translation full time as I could not keep up with a demanding job and care for a newborn. In hindsight, I think it was a good decision because translation allowed me to keep in touch with my core competency and at the same time give my full attention to my children.

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

Primarily I translate German to English. My areas of specialization are technical and medical. I also translate patents on a regular basis. I have also started taking up small technical writing projects after completing my ASD-STEMG certification in Simplified Technical English and wish to do more of it in the future.

What do you like most about being a translator?

The vast range of topics I get to work on. Work is seldom repetitive and I like the

research aspect of it. I put in a lot of effort in researching the subject I'm translating and picking out the right target terms that come closest to the source terms.

What do you like the least?

The same reason why I like it. Term selection is subjective; there are times when the client prefers one term over the other, and you are conflicted as the target term might not be the best match for the source term. Finally, the client has the last word. However, the missed opportunity of better communication/translation tends to haunt me for days to come.

What are your goals for the near future?

My primary goal is to get better at my craft. Medical transcription is another area of focus for the near future. Also, Simplified Technical English is interesting and upcoming, and I wish to focus my energies on projects related to it. If time permits, I wish to write more on topics related to languages and translation.

What are your hobbies or other interests?

Friends and family call me the serial hobbyist. When I am not translating, I am working toward gaining a new skill. My latest passion is rock climbing. Photography has been a love interest since childhood, and I combine my love for outdoors by climbing and clicking pictures of fellow climbers. Physical fitness is an important part of my life, and I am striving to get better at long-distance running and playing basketball.



GLD30 Jubilee Conference—Call for Speakers

**Celebrating 30 Years of the
German Language Division
May 15–16, 2027**

**Goethe-Institut New York, 30 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003
Hosted by the New York Circle of Translators (NYCT)**

The American Translators Association's German Language Division was founded in New York in 1997. Now, 30 years later, the GLD is returning to the city of its founding to celebrate this milestone. Hosted by the New York Circle of Translators (NYCT), an ATA chapter, the conference will bring together members, former members, and others in the German-language community to look back at the GLD's history against the backdrop of three decades of change in the German-speaking world, German-American relations, and the translation and interpreting profession—while taking a hard look at what lies ahead.

Please note: This is an in-person event and will not be recorded.

Proposals

We invite proposals on topics of interest to German-English/English-German translators and interpreters and others working with the German language. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- German-English/English-German translation and interpreting
- German language, linguistics, regional varieties, and dialects (including Yiddish, Pennsylvania Dutch, etc.)
- Specialized translation and interpreting – for example, medical, legal, technical, or culinary translation and interpreting; genealogy; old German script and handwritten texts; and other specialized fields
- Translation and interpreting technology, including AI
- Literature and literary translation
 - Teaching German as a foreign or second language
 - Social, historical, linguistic, and cultural developments in German-speaking countries
 - The changing business and employment landscape for translators and interpreters



These examples are intended as suggestions rather than an exhaustive list, and we welcome proposals on other topics relevant to the conference audience.

Session formats – 60 minutes

Proposals may be submitted for one of the following formats:

Presentation – session for either the full conference audience (up to 100 participants) or a smaller group (up to 20 participants)

Workshop – interactive session for up to 20 participants

Micro-workshop – highly interactive, hands-on session for up to 8 participants

The program committee will determine the most appropriate setting for accepted presentations.

Proposal requirements

Proposals should include the session title, an abstract (up to 300 words), the target audience/level, one or two learning objectives, and a speaker biography (up to 100 words). You do not need to be a member of ATA or NYCT to submit a proposal.

Selection criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on relevance to the conference audience, practical value, originality or timeliness, demonstrated knowledge of the subject, and contribution to a varied and balanced program. Interactive participation will be an important consideration for workshop and micro-workshop proposals. Sessions should be educational rather than primarily promotional.

Speaker arrangements

Presenters whose proposals are accepted will receive complimentary registration for the GLD30 Jubilee Conference and a \$200 honorarium. Speakers are responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses.

Submission

Please submit your proposal using the **submission form** no later than **November 30, 2026**. Notification of acceptance will be sent by January 15, 2027.

Displaying the ATA logo is a benefit that some members overlook

You may be missing out on an important way ATA can work for you. All ATA members may access and use the ATA logo. Learn more here: atanet.org/membership/ata_logo_guidelines.php





Carola Lehmacher is a multi-lingual freelance translator, interpreter, and trainer with over fifteen years of experience (DE, ES, EN, FR) based in Atlanta. She is also a Federally Certified Court Interpreter (FCCI), works as a conference interpreter for various local and international clients and is one of the voices of a major news network. Moreover, Carola dedicates many hours to volunteer as President of AAIT, the Georgia chapter of ATA, among others.



Book Review: Sommerlektüre

By Carola Lehmacher

Der Sommer ist bekanntlich die Jahreszeit, in der sich das Tempo des Alltags etwas verlangsamt, die Tage länger werden und ein Buch am Strand, im Garten oder auf dem Balkon besonders viel Freude bereitet. Lesen gehört in dieser Zeit zu meinen liebsten Beschäftigungen – sowohl für mich selbst als auch gemeinsam mit meinen Kindern.

So habe ich erst gestern Abend 50 Seiten aus dem ersten Band von *Die Schule der magischen Tiere – Endlich Ferien* vorgelesen (sehr empfehlenswert!).

Aber nun zu meinen eigenen Leseempfehlungen – in keiner bestimmten Reihenfolge:

Nachmittage von Ferdinand von Schirach

Ich hatte schon oft von Ferdinand von Schirach gehört. *Nachmittage* ist das erste Buch von ihm, das ich gelesen habe, und ich muss sagen, dass mich diese Sammlung von Kurzgeschichten begeistert hat.

Die in diesem Band versammelten Geschichten spielen in unterschiedlichen Städten rund um die Welt und bieten neben kulturellen Einblicken auch spannende Beobachtungen und Begegnungen. Es handelt sich um persönliche und allgemeine Notizen, Erinnerungen und Betrachtungen, die von falschen Entscheidungen, Zufällen und glücklichen Fügungen erzählen. Über Kunst, Literatur und Liebe hinaus geht es vor allem um unsere Menschlichkeit.

Sechszwanzig wunderbare Kapitel – manche länger, manche kürzer –, die zum Nachdenken anregen und die Lesenden für einen Moment in die Welt des Erzählers versetzen.

Titel: *Nachmittage*

Verfasser: Ferdinand von Schirach

Herausgeber: btb

Veröffentlicht: 2022 // 2023 (9. Auflage)

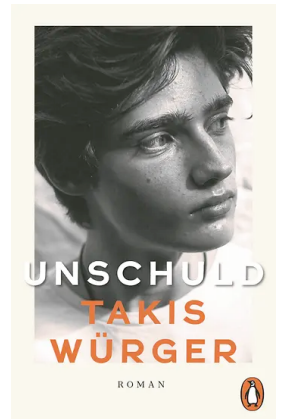
Sprache: Deutsch

Taschenbuch: 176 Seiten

ISBN: 978-3-442-77373-2

Unschuld von Takis Würger

Unschuld ist von der ersten Seite an eines jener Bücher, die man nur schwer aus der Hand legen kann. Ich persönlich habe eine Schwäche für Geschichten, die sich nach und nach aus den Erzählungen beziehungsweise den Blickwinkeln unterschiedlicher Figuren zusammensetzen. Gerade deshalb hat mir dieser Roman besonders gut gefallen.



Im Mittelpunkt stehen Geheimnisse, Familie und die Frage nach Aufrichtigkeit. Wie weit würde man selbst gehen, um einen anderen Menschen zu schützen? Gleichzeitig gewährt der Roman einen spannenden Einblick in die US-amerikanische Elitesgesellschaft und zeigt, was

sich hinter ihrer glänzenden Fassade alles verbirgt.

Titel: *Unschuld*

Verfasser: Takis Würger

Herausgeber: Penguin Verlag

Veröffentlicht: 2026

Sprache: Deutsch

Taschenbuch: 304 Seiten

ISBN: 978-3-328-11387-4

eines Gelegenheitsarbeiters, der am Markt ein Café eröffnet. Im Mittelpunkt stehen die Menschen mit ihren Geschichten, Gefühlen und Hoffnungen sowie die Begegnungen, die ihr Leben prägen. Gleichzeitig begleitet man die Hauptfigur auf ihrem Weg und erlebt mit, welche Einsichten sie im Laufe der Jahre über sich selbst und das Leben gewinnt.

Hoffnung, Liebe, Glück und Leid ziehen sich wie ein roter Faden durch den Roman. Besonders gelungen fand ich das Ende, das mich nach der letzten Seite noch zum Schmunzeln gebracht hat.

Robert Seethaler
Das Café ohne Namen

SPITZEL
Bestseller



Roman

Das Café ohne Namen von Robert Seethaler

Seit ich *Der letzte Satz* von Robert Seethaler gelesen habe, bin ich ein großer Fan dieses Autors. Bei meinem letzten Besuch in Deutschland durften deshalb gleich drei weitere seiner Romane mit nach Hause. *Ein ganzes Leben* hat mich zwar nicht ganz so überzeugt, dafür hat mir *Das Café ohne Namen* umso besser gefallen.

Der Roman spielt Ende der 1960er-Jahre in Wien und erzählt die Geschichte

Titel: *Das Café ohne Namen*

Verfasser: Robert Seethaler

Herausgeber: Ullstein Taschenbuch

Veröffentlicht: 2024

Sprache: Deutsch

Taschenbuch: 288 Seiten

ISBN: 978-3-548-06927-2

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

Subscribing is as easy as 1, 2, 3:

Send an email to:

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

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



Calendar of Events 2026-27

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: ata-divisions.org/GLD/gld-calendar

Date	Location	Organization/Event	More Information
Oct 7-11	Frankfurt, Germany	Frankfurter Buchmesse	buchmesse.de/en
Oct 21-24	Portland, USA (OR)	Alta 49	literarytranslators.org/event/alta-49
Oct 28-31	San Francisco, USA (CA)	ATA 67th Annual Conference	atanet.org/ata67
Nov 4-6	London, UK	Languages & The Media 2026	languages-media.com
Nov 6-7	Munich, Germany	International Conference on Literary Adaptation and Translation Theory (ICALATT-26)	researchfoundation.net/event/index.php?id=100929057
Nov 10-13	Oakland, USA (CA)	NAI Conference	nai-us.org/NAIConference
Nov 12-29	Stuttgart, Germany	Stuttgarter Buchwochen	buchwochen.de/#programm
Nov 16-19	Düsseldorf, Germany	Medica Düsseldorf	medica-tradefair.com
Nov 25-29	Vienna, Austria	Buch Wien	buchwien.at
Jan 19-20	Valencia, Spain	BP Interpreting Days '27	bpconf.com/bpid27
Dec 4-18	Online	BDÜ Seminar: "Dolmetschen und Übersetzen im Notariat – alle Sprachrichtungen"	seminare.bdue.de
Jan 26-Feb 3	Mexico City, Mexico	NAI International Conference	nai-us.org/nai/_events/International_Conference/IC2027/IC2027Reg.aspx

Looking for even more professional development opportunities?
Check out our upcoming ATA webinars and workshops on the [ATA website!](https://ata-divisions.org)

Date	Location	Organization/Event	More Information
Feb 22–24	Las Vegas, USA (NV)	Fintech Meetup	fintechmeetup.com/2027-theme
Mar 1–3	New York City, USA (NY)	Legalweek New York	event.law.com/legalweek
Mar 9–11	Berlin, Germany	Fachkonferenz zu Künstlicher Intelligenz des BDÜ e.V.	bdue-konferenz.de
Mar 14–17	Nashville, USA (TN)	ViVe27 health tech conference	hlth.com/events/vive
Mar 18–21	Leipzig, Germany	Leipziger Buchmesse	leipziger-buchmesse.de
Apr 9	Washington DC, USA	American Immigration Lawyers Assoc. Spring Conference	aila.org/conferences
Apr 14	Online	BDÜ Seminar: “Literaturübersetzen – Ein Überblick: Teil 1”	seminare.bdue.de
Apr 21	Online	BDÜ Seminar: “Literaturübersetzen – Ein Überblick: Teil 2”	seminare.bdue.de
Apr 26–28	Prague, Czechia	BP27 Translation Conference	bpconf.com/BP27
Apr 28	Online	BDÜ Seminar: “Literaturübersetzen – Ein Überblick: Teil 3”	seminare.bdue.de

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 Sabine Seiler about how you can become a GLD contributor! E-mail: seilersabine7@gmail.com.



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