



ITI-LRG Newsletter



Issue 13

www.iti-lrg.org.uk

January 2007

Editorial

A very happy New Year to all of you and welcome to the January issue of the LRG Newsletter.

The Committee has been busy putting together our programme of events for 2007 and things are beginning to fall into place. As usual you can see an at-a-glance overview of our events calendar on the back page.

Most imminent, of course, is Peter Linton's talk on 24 January about translators' online forums. These are becoming ever-more relevant for freelance translators as a source of work, professional exchange and much more.

The next event takes place in March and is a workshop with Cate Avery, Peer Support Group mentor and CV guru.

We don't have an April event, since this is the month of the ITI Anniversary Conference, which takes place in London this year and we hope to see LRG members being strongly represented there!

Lucy, our Cultural Events Organiser, has offered to organise tickets to attend an open air classical music concert this summer, but tickets will need to be booked very soon. So please contact Lucy now if you're interested! See below for more details about this.

We also welcome two new Committee members, duly elected at the AGM in December: our new Treasurer, Oliver Walter, who introduces himself on page 7, and Brian Wolfe whose role on the Committee is yet to be specified. All Committee members' contact details are also on the back page.

Betti Moser

Forthcoming LRG Events

**Thursday, 22 March 2006
6 for 6.30pm:**

Cate Avery's CV Clinic

**Venue: upstairs function room of the
Edgar Wallace pub, 40 Essex Street,
London WC2**



Cate Avery will give a talk on how to design a CV suitable for sending to UK translation agencies. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion. The following aspects will be covered:

- the content and look of a CV;
- how to make yourself stand out from the crowd;
- what agencies expect;
- using a CV to approach direct clients;
- the covering letter;
- how not to become a spammer.

Participants are very welcome to bring their own CVs along for some expert feedback.

Cost: free for LRG members,
£10 for non-LRG members.

Prior booking essential. Maximum number of participants is 30. Please book early to avoid disappointment!

To book, please contact Daniela Ford at dford@softtrans-ltd.com.

Non-members, please send a cheque for £10, payable to ITI-LRG, by 16 March to: Daniela Ford, 44 Heron Island, Caversham, Reading RG4 8DQ.

LRG Cultural programme:

Open-Air Classical Music Concert

Those of you who were at the AGM expressed strong interest in a visit to an open-air classical music concert in the summer.

Open-air concerts take place in early June and July in Hampton Court and in July and August in Holland Park. Tickets start at £45.

Tickets will need to be booked well in advance – preferably in February! So, if you are interested in this, please contact Lucy *now* to arrange details.

Contact: Lucy Eratt at lucyeratt@hotmail.com

Review of LRG Events

Terminology Workshop – Saturday, 30 September 2006

A day spent in Central London thinking about terminology in the company of other translators – would this be just a busman's holiday but without the constant supply of coffee and snacks that normally fuel my lone musings on the knottier problems of everyday translation?

Happily, no. The coffee and snacks were plentiful, the company stimulating, the atmosphere relaxed.

Sue Young, well known to many from her multiple hats worn in the ITI and elsewhere, kicked off the day by asking where terminology ended and translation began. Although she emphasised that this, like many other related questions, does not have a pat answer, her commonsense approach was a comfortable one for the working translator. She also encouraged the audience to consider further involvement with the Association of Terminology and Lexicography (ATL), whose 2007 Conference promises to be fascinating.

It was equally reassuring to find that the academic background of the next speaker was also no barrier to clear, jargon-free presentation. Margaret Rogers talked about teaching terminology and why terminology is important; she also took the opportunity to introduce us most approachably to 'synonyms' and 'polysemes'. She rapidly convinced us of the key role of terminology, illustrating her talk with charming pictures and details from the life of St Jerome.

We then moved from a picture of how fledgling translators begin their relationship with terminology to an outline of the working methods of a doyenne in the profession with almost 50 years' experience. Karin Band lit up the stage with her enthusiasm, her strongly-held views and her entertaining examples.

The two final speakers of the morning gave complementary pictures of the working life of the terminologist in an international institution. From her standpoint inside the EU Terminology Co-ordination Team, Jenny Bell spoke of the problems of marrying the terminology databases of all the EU institutions to cover myriad topics and 23 languages – and tantalised us with the promise of public-access IATE by the end of the year. Isabel del Rio, in contrast, was the originator of the Terminology Division at the International Maritime Organisation and has worked for many years to create from scratch a terminology database/referencing system fit for the purpose of supporting the organisation's translators. Both speakers gave clear accounts of the working practices that lie ahead of many of today's translation students, who were well represented in the audience.

After lunch (considerably tastier and more generous than that offered on many, more costly, formal training courses), an efficient, focused approach by the organisers and tutors allowed all 60-odd participants to work on three separate practical exercises in a very short space of time. Isabel took us through the 'pre-translation process', vital where the text must be precisely consistent with standard documents. This added depth to a picture of the shared working practices of all those handling institutional texts, whether translator or terminologist, freelance or staffer. One fascinating detail to emerge was that the IMO presumes its translators are 'seasoned' enough to know standard phrases such as "whereas", "considering" and "recalling also", whilst the EU believes that these fall within the definition of problem terms, and so includes them in its database, against the protests of purists.

Margaret's workshop also focused on the practical. She took a technical text in three languages and, by simply getting us to examine all the terms used for one particular object, managed to highlight not only the fundamental role of specialist terminology, but also many of the pitfalls of the whole translation process. I, for one, was amazed to find myself confident that the best version was clearly the one written in the only language I didn't know!

Karin fulfilled her promise of the morning by slicing through a text that included specialist terms from tourism, history, medicine, alternative therapies and more, showing how she would use the Internet, monolingual dictionaries, consultation with the author and other expert informants, and specialist reference sources including visits, to solve these problems. And she threw in a few scary faux amis and register issues to keep us all on our toes!

All in all, the day offered something for everyone in the diverse audience. There seemed to be no one who doubted the central importance of terminology research and recording to our profession – the only dissent related to how we could get non-linguist customers to recognise this and pay us for these added value activities...

The LRG Committee made sure the day ran smoothly: we have all been to so many bumpy conferences that it was a real pleasure to feel so well-supported. Thanks are due to all of them – most especially to Pamela for managing to secure such a range of energetic, high-powered and interesting speakers.

To end on a personal note – this was my first-ever LRG event, and if they are all as good as this, I'll be back for more.

Karen George

London Eye flight and Dining-Out event – 3 November 2007

That famous lexicographer, Samuel Johnson, once said “When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life”, and from the top of the London Eye, you can see why – you get a superb bird’s eye view of the capital, its geography, history, architecture and life. A small and far from tired group of us took the flight at this combined event on 3 November last year, complete with a guide who pointed out all the sights as our pod rose slowly up into the night sky. The view from the top does give you a feel for the sheer size of the place, and the sheer number of people – even on a chilly November night, the South Bank was crowded with what looked like two-legged ants scurrying around.

That was followed by a Dining-Out event arranged by our favourite foodie, Sarah Venkata. It was not far from the London Eye, at an Italian restaurant immediately below London Bridge station – as we were occasionally reminded by the loud rumblings of trains passing immediately overhead. In between the rumbles, we talked of many things, including a vigorous discussion about the pros and cons of translation agencies – are they unnecessary middlemen (and women) or people who provide a valuable service to both translators and customers? Over large plates of delicious pasta the argument raged. We didn’t come to any conclusion, but it illustrated perfectly the point of a Dining-Out event – a chance to go somewhere off the beaten track for good food, meeting colleagues, conversation and debate. Samuel Johnson would have approved.

Peter Linton

LRG AGM and Christmas Party – 7 December 2006

The 2006 AGM and Christmas party took place at the Edgar Wallace pub, the venue of our 2004 Christmas party. Albeit a little on the cosy side it sports an absolute gem of a landlord and an excellent chef.

As usual, the AGM preceded the festivities and the business part of the evening was over and done with in good time before the buffet arrived.

Review of activities in 2006

The LRG organised nine events in 2006: the ‘Writing for the Web’ Workshop in January (courtesy of London Business Link); ‘The Freelance Translator’s Office: from Clutter to Clarity’ in February; a ‘Meet the Client’ evening in March (which proved so popular that the Committee decided to make it a regular feature every two years, and ITI is considering a similar event as part of the 2007 annual conference!); a visit to the Dulwich Picture Gallery in April; a Dining-out event in May (subsequent to the Houses of Parliament visit

organised by ITI as part of its 20th anniversary celebrations); the Interpreters’ Event in June, which was a huge success with a turn-out of over 100; the annual LRG Pub Crawl in July; the Terminology Workshop on St Jerome’s Day, an all-day event with five speakers and an attendance of 60; and the AGM and Christmas Party just taking place.

In addition, the LRG helped organise volunteers to man the ITI stand at the London Language Show in November and organised another Dining-Out event to link in with the Show, as well as a London Eye flight for ITI and LRG members and their friends and family (although take-up of the latter had been disappointing – possibly down to the price?).

Further achievements of the past year were a revamped LRG website – thanks to Peter Linton’s initiative; an updated version of the LRG Directory has been produced and sent to all ITI Corporate Members in liaison with the ITI office; and the LRG has introduced a grant scheme of £75 each for two LRG members wishing to attend the forthcoming ITI Conference. The deadline for applications had just passed shortly before the AGM, but no applications for the grants had been received. The deadline was therefore extended until 10 January 2007 (the two grant recipients are announced on page 5 of this Newsletter).

The Committee itself had quite a rollercoaster ride this year, with Betti celebrating her wedding in June, Santiago’s unexpected death in July, and, on 3 October, the birth of Kim’s son Benedict (see page 5).

Treasurer’s Report

Daniela Ford, acting treasurer for the past five months, then presented the Treasurer’s Report: LRG had 104 paying members plus the committee of nine, who are exempt from paying membership subscription. Eight members are paying their annual subscription by standing order. The Interpreters’ event generated a surplus. Finances for the Terminology Workshop have not yet been finalised (the breakdown on page 4 shows a surplus, but we are still awaiting the catering bill for this event).

Printing expenses for Newsletters and one flyer, including postage and stationery, were low at £350.63, as a result of more and more members receiving the Newsletter as a pdf file by email. The printing of the updated Directory for ITI corporate members cost £450 (this is not shown in the breakdown on page 4, as the payment was not debited until after 1 December).

Given the healthy financial situation, it was decided to maintain the membership subscription at £10 per year.

Plans for 2007

Betti Moser, LRG Co-Chair, then outlined the plans for 2007. Events already fixed (or regular annual events) were:

- Peter Linton's talk on ProZ and other online translators' forums in January;
- the 'CV Clinic' with Cate Avery in March;
- an Interpreters' event in June;
- the LRG Pub Crawl in July (to be organised by Peter Linton).

In addition, the Committee had brainstormed a list of options for events, which were put to the AGM for a vote by show of hands in order to gauge their popularity. These were:

- a debate on the issue of specialisation (14 votes)
- attending an open-air classical music festival in summer (14 votes)
- a practical IT workshop (12 votes)
- a talk or workshop on how to price and quote for jobs (11 votes)
- visit to the Royal Courts of Justice (10 votes)
- a talk about free translation software (8 votes)

- a one-day event with Michael Benis on PC maintenance and specialisation (8 votes)
- a talk by LondonLink (7 votes)
- a debate on the issue of mother tongue vs language of habitual use (7 votes)
- a marketing workshop (6 votes)
- a talk about Chartered Linguist status (6 votes)
- a Monday Lunch at The Banqueting Hall (6 votes)
- a visit to Clarence House (4 votes)
- a visit to the Docklands Museum (4 votes)
- a visit to the Museum of Cartoons (0 votes).

Committee Election

All current Committee members were re-elected. In addition, Oliver Walter was elected as the new LRG Treasurer and Brian Wolfe was elected as an additional new Committee Member.

Julia ten Elsen/Betti Moser

LRG Financial Report for 2006

Particulars	Income £	Expenses £	Balance £	Notes
SUBSCRIPTIONS 2006	1,040.00			104 paid-up members
<u>EVENTS 2006:</u>				
- Feb: Office Doctors	----	48.80	(48.80)	Travel expenses for speaker
- March: 'Meet the Client'	----	62.50	(62.50)	Room hire and catering
- May: Dining-Out	400.00	400.00	----	
- June: Interpreters' event	114.16	20.00	94.16	Surplus
- Sept: Terminology Workshop	980.00	315.24	664.76	includes all speakers' expenses, excludes catering
- Nov: Dining-Out	175.00	175.00	----	
- Dec: AGM/Christmas Do		50.00	(50.00)	Room hire
<u>ADMINISTRATION:</u>				
Postage & stationery		60.74		
Printing		289.89		(3 Newsletters + 1 flyer)
Travel expenses		19.40		
<u>Miscellaneous:</u>				
Donation to Memorial Fund for Santiago de Domingo		50.00		
Totals	2,709.16	1,491.57		Balance for 2006: £1,217.59
Net assets as at 01.12.06			£3,815.80	
Net assets as at 01.12.05			£2,788.62	

LRG News

LRG grant for ITI 21st Birthday Conference in April: recipients announced

Following the extension of the deadline for applications announced at the AGM, and later circulated by email, the Committee received one application for the two £75 grants offered towards attending the ITI Conference in April.

Deborah Chobanian, the member who applied for the grant, will therefore receive £75 as a contribution to the cost of attending the Institute's conference in London in April.

The Committee then decided that the second grant should go to Co-Chair Betti Moser, following her announcement at the AGM that she would like to apply for the grant if there were not enough applications forthcoming from the membership.

The two grant recipients will give a report-back session to members in May and will write an article about the Conference for the next LRG Newsletter.



Welcome to baby Benedict!

On 3 October 2006, Kim Sanderson, the LRG eGroup Moderator and a member of the LRG Committee, gave birth to a baby boy. He weighed 7 lb 14 oz and has been given the name Benedict Francis.

Congratulations to the proud parents Kim and Frank!

LRG Mini-Survey

The Committee has devised a very short questionnaire which will be sent round to members by email soon.

Although ITI's regional groups are not language-specific, the London Group has members with a large spread of languages and we think it might be helpful to know more about the languages used by our members in their work, when planning ahead for our 2008 programme.

We would therefore be very grateful if you could fill in the short questionnaire when it arrives in your inbox.

Many thanks!

Please don't forget to renew your LRG membership!

Together with this Newsletter you will have received your membership renewal form for 2007. Please make sure you return the form together with your payment as soon as possible.

You can also set up a standing order. A standing order form can be downloaded from the LRG website.

If you did not receive a renewal reminder with this Newsletter, this means that you have already paid for 2007.

New LRG Members

We welcome the following new members who have joined the LRG since August:

Yubanablus Taibi, Luna Venturi, Kate (Katarzyna) Kufel, Anne Hargreaves, Elizabeth de Zoysa, Alice Tallents, Rosa Andolfato, Dalila Segador, Lucia Ponzini Chilosi, Marzena Grzyb.

In addition, Renate Dockhorn of the BDÜ Nordrhein-Westfalen has joined as an 'info member' (she will circulate information about LRG events and in turn we will circulate BDÜ events).

We welcome back: Chris Whitehouse who has moved from London to Sheffield.

ITI News

ITI COMES OF AGE: ITI 21st BIRTHDAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

21-22 April 2007

**The Rembrandt Hotel, Knightsbridge,
London**

To mark the 21st anniversary of its foundation, ITI will hold its 2007 Conference at the impressive Rembrandt Hotel in London's exclusive Knightsbridge. The Conference programme will include discussion of the hot topics in translation and interpreting, and will cover issues such as training the next generation of translators and interpreters and using corpora to improve quality of output and research.

Speakers from within ITI, the wider world of commerce and top educational establishments will consider the importance of translation and interpreting, as we prepare to enter the second decade of the 21st century.

A copy of the draft programme and booking form can be downloaded from the ITI website www.iti.org.uk.

Cost for ITI members:

2 days = £224 (Early Bird fee = £206),
1 day = £130

Non-ITI members:

2 days = £271 (Early Bird fee £253),
1 day = £153

Students: 2 days = £106 (limited numbers)

All prices inclusive of VAT. ITI rates apply to members of FIT-affiliated organisations (SFT, BDÜ, etc) and ATC.

Early Bird booking rates apply to bookings made before 28 February 2007.

Negotiated hotel deals are available.

Reception and Dinner at the House of Commons – Saturday, 21 April

At the invitation of Martin Linton MP, conference participants and their guests and other ITI members are invited to celebrate the Institute's 21st Birthday with a dinner at the House of Commons on Saturday 21 April. This is preceded from 7pm by a drinks reception on the Terrace.

The after-dinner speech will be delivered by Miles Kington, well-known *Independent* columnist and Radio 4 presenter.

Noticeboard

Useful Websites

If your mouse dies and you need to work before a new one arrives, or if you want to explore ways of using the mouse less, this is worth a look:

<http://tinyurl.com/rvnsn>

There are also links to nice lists of keyboard shortcuts.

*With thanks to John Woodruff and SfePLine
(the Society for Editors & Proofreaders' eGroup)*

Word tip: customise your toolbar

Make life easier when switching between several documents in Word: adding the Work menu icon gives you rapid access to documents that you open frequently.

Right-click onto an empty area of the Toolbar, or choose 'Tools', and then click 'Customize', select the Commands tab and work your way down the Categories list to 'Built-in Menus'. Select it then go to the Command list and scroll down to 'Work'. Click, hold and drag it onto a Toolbar, and release. Close 'Customize'. Click 'Add to Work Menu' to add any open document to the list. This will stay there and bring back your documents even after you have closed them.

To delete entries press Ctrl + Alt + - [hyphen] – the cursor will change to a thick bar – go to the 'Work' menu, and click on the item you want to remove.

Adapted from a post on SfePLine

Diary dates

Saturday, 24 March 2007, 10.30 am

IoL Translating Division event:
The Art & Technology of Translation

Venue: Novotel, London City South,
53-61 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1
(nearest tube: London Bridge, Borough High St exit)

Subjects covered will range from the challenges of translating for web marketing to the altogether different challenges of literary translation. The practical application of the various translation tools on the market in both these areas will also be discussed.

*Cost: £30 for IoL Members, £35 for non-members,
£17.50 for students. Booking deadline: 14 March 2007.
Contact: Julie Hobbs, Chartered Institute of Linguists,
Saxon House, 48 Southwark St, London SE1 1UN, Tel:
020 7940 3144, Email: julie.hobbs@iol.org.uk.*



Introducing the LRG Committee: *Oliver Walter*

At the 2006 AGM, Oliver Walter took up the post of LRG Treasurer. A former student of Membership Secretary and past LRG Chairman Daniela Ford, Oliver has been a member of the LRG for three years. Here he describes how his interest in languages developed and, eventually, led to him becoming a translator.

I describe myself as a qualified engineer and translator, as I have degrees in both disciplines. When I was very young I heard my mother and her mother speaking German to each other while my grandmother was living with us for a couple of years (they were both born in Germany). However, when I asked my mother a few years ago why I was not brought up bilingually, she replied that she had tried to speak German to me but I refused to reciprocate. Presumably that was when I was old enough to be self-conscious and “embarrassed”!

Surprisingly, I found French easy but German difficult at school. After my first year of German, my parents bought me a Linguaphone course in German (records, books and correspondence). I studied this in the summer holidays and in my second year of German I was top of the class all the time! I decided to study electrical engineering, and, as I had several months available between leaving school and starting at university and was still interested in languages, my parents generously financed me to take residential language courses in France and Germany and then stay with a French family (relatives whom I had not previously known) for two months.

During my university years I listened to language lessons broadcast on BBC radio, giving me a little knowledge of Italian and Spanish. During one of the university summer vacations I spent a few weeks in Zürich as a kind of trainee with a company in its high-voltage laboratory. My main language discovery in that visit was that, as I put it, “the [German-speaking] Swiss *can* speak German, but they don’t!”. Their everyday spoken language is a group of dialects they call *Schwiizertüütsch* (Alemannish to linguists) and they switch to “*Schrifttüütsch*” (“written German”) for writing, newsreading and when non-speakers of their dialect are present.

After a short time as an engineer in industry (English Electric, later acquired by GEC), I returned to university and gained a PhD, still in engineering. Then I was very fortunate to get a job at the ETH (technical university) in Zürich as a computer specialist in the chemical engineering department. That was a full-time job during which I also greatly improved my knowledge of German, and

Schwiizertüütsch. After six years there I decided to return to Britain, where I got a job as an engineer in the defence industry. My first contact with the idea of professional translation was in that job, as I was occasionally asked to translate technical texts from German or French.

In the late 1990s, my employer joined with French and Italian companies to become tri-national, and in the couple of years before the merger, the UK employees were offered French and Italian lessons. I went to the Italian classes, not really knowing what I would do with the knowledge. Then, early in 2001, I saw in the Imperial College alumnus magazine (my first degree was there) that a new MSc course in technical translation would be starting that year. As I felt that I was stagnating in my job, this course was really “up my street” and I could commute to Imperial College from home, I applied for the MSc course and was accepted. My employer allowed me to work just one day per week, which was possible during the nominally “full-time” course. That course taught me both about translation itself and about important related activities like using the Internet and computer-based translation tools. One of the course tutors was LRG member Daniela Ford.

Following the course, I stayed in my job, still part-time but more than one day per week, and made it known that I wanted to do technical translation work. I did a couple of French documents (relating to a contract for which the company was bidding) and then a colleague asked if I could translate a technical specification document from Italian. After initially doubting my own ability, I found that I could handle it without much difficulty. We got the (multinational) contract and I’ve spent all my employed (part-)time since early 2003 translating project-related French and Italian technical documents into English, with just one German document in that time. I also do a little freelance work at home, some of it found by my own efforts and some comes via a fellow ex-student of the MSc course who now lives in Germany and kindly passes work on to me when she has too much to cope with.

Oliver Walter, LRG Treasurer
Email: translator@owalter.co.uk

LRG Events for 2007

Thursday, 22 March 6.00pm for 6.30pm	CV Clinic with Cate Avery at the Edgar Wallace pub, Essex Street, London WC2 (Temple tube station) <i>To book contact: Daniela Ford at dford@softrans-ltd.com</i>
May w/c 14th (date to be announced)	Report from the ITI Anniversary Conference plus an update on the requirements for Chartered Linguist status
June (date to be announced)	Interpreters' event <i>Contact: Yilmaz Duzen at mail@yilmazduzen.com</i>
early July (date to be announced)	The LRG Pub Crawl <i>Contact: Peter Linton at Peter@lintononline.co.uk</i>
August (date to be announced)	Visit to the Royal Courts of Justice <i>Contact: Lucy Eratt at lucyeratt@hotmail.com</i>
September w/c 24th (date to be announced)	Don't miss the boat on the IT front! Nick Rosenthal will talk about the latest translation-relevant developments in the IT world <i>Contact: Betti Moser at betti@apriltext.co.uk</i>
October w/c 22nd (date to be announced)	The Specialisation Debate Details to be announced <i>Contact: Pamela Mayorcas at PamelaMayorcas@compuserve.com</i>

See www.iti-lrg.org.uk for the latest updates on forthcoming events.

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