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# MICATA Monitor

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## **From the President**

Elections for the board of directors of MICATA were held in August and 39 ballots were returned to Harold Hutcheson, election committee chair. All candidates were elected for a one-year term as follows: President, Frieda Ruppenner-Lind; Vice President, Ben Tompkins; Treasurer, Bill Bergerson; Secretary, Norma Pringle; Directors, Luisa Gimenez Fuhlage, Kathy Foster, John Matthews, Meeri Yule. I would like to thank all candidates for their willingness to serve on the board during the past year and in the upcoming year and am looking forward to another active year on the MICATA board. I would also like to encourage all members to actively participate in our organization; this is essential to build and maintain a professional organization that benefits all of us.

The installation meeting for the new board will take place on October 12, 12:00 noon at *Les Bourgeois Winegarden and Bistro* near Rocheport, Missouri.

This attractive venue is close to Columbia, Missouri, and approximately a two-hour drive east of Kansas City. You can find more information at: [http://www.rocheport.com/merchant\\_directory.htm](http://www.rocheport.com/merchant_directory.htm)

All interested MICATA members are invited to attend. For more information and reservations please contact me by telephone at (913) 649-5147 or by e-mail at [friedarl@earthlink.net](mailto:friedarl@earthlink.net). We would like to finalize reservations by Wednesday, October 9, so please reply by that date.

With the ATA Conference coming up in Atlanta on November 6-9, I would like to encourage you to attend this event. It is a great opportunity not only for those entering the profession but for seasoned professionals as well. There are always new things to learn and this year's program once again features many interesting presentations, including the preconference seminars. An equally important aspect is networking with

colleagues and representatives from numerous agencies. Consider this an investment in continuing education and a worthwhile business expense. I would also like to remind you that you will be able to vote by proxy if you do not plan to attend. You can either give your proxy to someone who attends the conference or follow the directions in the ATA mailing coming out soon. So far there are several MICATA board members planning to attend, and if you have any questions feel free to contact the board.

This issue of the *Monitor* also features a report by Bill Bergerson on the FIT Congress he attended in Vancouver in August. You will see that attending such an event is valuable from both a professional and interpersonal standpoint. So I hope to see you at the installation meeting or maybe in Atlanta!

Frieda Ruppenner-Lind

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**2002-2003 MICATA Officers**

President	Frieda Ruppenner-Lind
Vice President	Ben Tompkins
Secretary	Norma Pringle
Treasurer	Bill Bergerson
Directors	Kathy Foster Luisa Fuhlage John Matthews Meeri Yule

**ATA Headquarters**

225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Tel: 703-683-6100  
Fax: 703-683-6122  
Website: [www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org)  
Email (general information):  
[maggie@atanet.org](mailto:maggie@atanet.org)

**MICATA website**

[www.ata-micata.org](http://www.ata-micata.org)

Many thanks to MICATA webmaster Ben Tompkins for his work in setting up and maintaining the website.

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Editor Kathy Foster  
[kfoster@sh3.com](mailto:kfoster@sh3.com)

Submissions of articles for publication in the *Monitor* are welcomed. Please send submissions in electronic format (if possible) to the editor at the above email address. Articles submitted will be printed on a space available basis.

The statements made in the MICATA *Monitor* do not necessarily represent the opinion or judgment of MICATA, its editor or its officers, and are strictly those of the authors.

Unless otherwise specified, information on non-MICATA or non-ATA events or services and other announcements are provided for the benefit of our members and does not imply either endorsement or sponsorship by MICATA or ATA.

# Language is a Funny Business

Found at: <http://anotherlanguage.com/jokes.htm>

A mother mouse was instructing her children on how to cross the kitchen floor. She whispered, "The cat is sleeping, so be very, very quiet while we go and get the food in the cupboard over there." Although all the baby mice tip-toed and didn't say a word, the cat woke up and charged at the mice with its claws out and teeth ready to tear the frightened little mice to pieces. At that moment, the mother mouse stood up on her back feet and let out the loudest sound she had ever made: "Bow wow! Bow wow wow!" Her barking was perfect and the cat ran away terrified. "Now you see," the mother mouse explained, "why I always say you should learn another language."

A businessman arriving in Boston for a convention found that his first evening was free, and he decided to go find a good seafood restaurant that served scrod, a Massachusetts specialty. Getting into a taxi, he asked the cab driver, "Do you know where I can get scrod around here?" "Sure," said the cabdriver. "I know a few places... but I can tell you it's not often I hear someone use the

third-person pluperfect indicative anymore!"

The manager of a large zoo was drafting a letter to order a pair of animals. He sat at his computer and typed the following sentence: "I would like to place an order for two mongooses, to be delivered at your earliest convenience." He stared at the screen, focusing on that odd word mongooses. Then he deleted the word and added another, so that the sentence read: "I would like to place an order for two mongeese, to be delivered at your earliest convenience." Again he stared at the screen, this time focusing on the new word, which seemed just as odd as the original one. Finally, he deleted the sentence and started over. "Everyone knows no fully stocked zoo should be without a mongoose," he typed. "Please send us two of them."

A linguistics professor was lecturing to his class one day. "In English," he said, "A double negative forms a positive. In some languages, though, such as Russian, a double negative is still a negative. However, there is no language wherein a double positive can form a negative." A voice from the back of the room piped up, "Yeah, right."



## Membership Updates Requested

After sending out a recent e-mail announcement to the MICATA membership regarding the elections and the installation meeting, within one minute six messages were received about undeliverable e-mails due to bad e-mail addresses. If your e-mail address or other information has changed, please let us know so that we can make you aware of all the latest MICATA news.

Send updates to the MICATA treasurer at [drbergerson@go.com](mailto:drbergerson@go.com)

## Resources for Translators

As professional translators, we all strive to maintain our skills and find ways to facilitate our translation activities, so that our translations will be the most accurate possible. Most of us have found tools or resources that allow us to do just that. If you have resources that you would like to share with your colleagues, drop us a line and let us know what tools you find useful in your work. We will publish them in upcoming issues of the *Monitor*.

Here are a few on-line sites which may be of interest:

Financial terminology database in English, French, German and Italian at <http://tradition.axone.ch/>

Acronym finder at <http://www.acronymfinder.com>

NETGLOS multilingual glossaries of Internet terms at <http://wwli.com/translation/netglos/netglos.html>

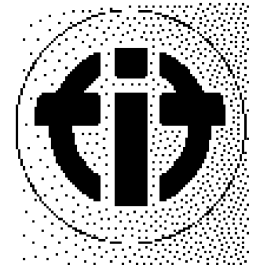
Microsoft glossaries in 25 different languages can be downloaded at <ftp://ftp.microsoft.com/developr/msdn/newup/glossary>

Multilingual search engines include [www.hotbot.com](http://www.hotbot.com) and [www.altavista.com](http://www.altavista.com)

*All Things Considered* on National Public Radio featured an article on May 10, 2002, concerning the many documents recovered in Afghanistan and written in Pashtun which needed to be translated. There were too many for the few Pashtun translators in the United States to handle. Software designers have been trying to create software that can automate the translation work. To find out more, you can read the text of this article at <http://search.npr.org/cf/cmn/cmnpd01fm.cfm?prgID=2&prgDate=05/10/2002>

# I Would Have Had a FIT!

(had I not attended the XVI World Congress  
in Vancouver, BC from August 7-10, 2002)



by Bill Bergerson

Minutes of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario remind us that: “September 30 has been declared National and International Translation Day by the Canadian Translators and Interpreters Council [Conseil des traducteurs et interprètes du Canada, aka CTIC: [www.synapse.net/~ctic](http://www.synapse.net/~ctic)] and the International Federation of Translators [Fédération internationale des traducteurs, aka FIT: [www.fit-ift.org](http://www.fit-ift.org)].” In the spirit of this year’s theme: “Translators as agents of social change,” I feel privileged to offer my impressions of the recent World Congress as hosted and organized by these two federations, which represent the interests of translators’ and interpreters’ associations at national and international levels, respectively.

Implicit in the term “agent” is the concept of agenda, and the multifaceted program of this XVI World Congress did not disappoint. Under the conference theme of “New Ideas for a New Century,” more than 500

global attendees experienced a rich atmosphere conducive to professional, interpersonal and – one might even contend – spiritual enrichment!

To wit: Plenary sessions for the three mornings struck a fitting balance between translation and interpretation (T&I), where we first heard of R. Bringham’s extensive work in translating native North American literature; followed a day later by H. Obst’s unique approach to “omnilingual interpreter training;” culminating Friday in A. Melby’s insightful talk on technology and its effect in blurring the distinction between the two disciplines.

One did not need to look far to re-experience a one-two T&I punch or synthesis in the general sessions either: Examples ranged from the abstract “Model of the Translation Process” offered by W. Lorscher; over the concrete approach to “Web-Based Interpreter Training” (S. Carr, D. Steyn); to G. Hung’s incipient proposal for combin-

ing T&I programs in the US to increase synergies and critical mass, and hence the visibility of our professions.

Apropos visibility; our own professional organization was well-represented: Both J. Stejskal’s recap of his ongoing *Chronicle* series on international certification and the ATA informational session hosted by T. West and P. Krawutschke played to packed houses.

Coming back to our mandate as agents of social change, I was particularly intrigued by the panel discussion: “What does the future hold for Canadian translators, terminologists and interpreters?” (J. Boucher, B. Knowlden, B. Cohen, S. Whitman). The presenters noted that Canada, as a country with two official languages, has long enjoyed an extensive T&I infrastructure. The requirement that services be available in both English and French has not only led to better public appreciation for the intricacies of translation, but to a corresponding receptiv-

ity toward accommodating those of other tongues as well. One consequence is that demand for language professionals will far outstrip supply for the foreseeable future. Perhaps this climate helped tip the scales for the three T&I associations that have since managed to gain “legal professional recognition by their provincial governments” [cf. J. Stejskal. 2002 “International Certification Study: Canada Revisited.” *ATA Chronicle* 31 (3): 10-12]. It certainly prompted me to think about our US situation in a very different light, particularly as regards the potential benefit to our professions of a dual official language policy in this country...

But the need to effect social change transcends professional issues *per se*. During the Congress, FIT was asked to take a position on the boycott of Israeli academics that led to the ouster of two faculty members from the boards of British journals of translation. Without taking sides, FIT issued a statement clearly affirming that the organization “deplores any discrimination on the basis of race, religion, nationality, gender or language.”

One small, yet visible means of demonstrating personal support for the federation’s work is to spring a mere five dollars for an attractive, quarter-sized, lapel

pin of the FIT logo (cf. above). Contact [secretariat@fit-ift.org](mailto:secretariat@fit-ift.org) for these, or for copies of the proceedings, which remain available to those interested in learning more about the individual sessions.

Shifting now from professional to interpersonal aspects, I found the size of the congress quite conducive to personal interaction. Jump-started by an opening reception that featured fare from the West coast of British Columbia and a generously varied luncheon buffet on the first full day, many faces quickly became familiar. By the closing luncheon and award ceremony three days later, one would have been hard-pressed *not* to establish new friendships and professional relationships among the spectrum of attendees hailing from over 40 nations.

There was, of course, a “home field advantage” as evidenced by the attached pie chart (see Figure 1 on the following page). But just 50% of the attendees originated from NAFTA. European representation was particularly strong, thanks in large part to a pronounced Scandinavian component, which, at eighteen percent equaled the combined total for the United States and México. While the Finnish presence may be related to hosting of the next FIT Congress (August 5–10, 2005, Tampere Finland – mark your calen-

dars!), the Norwegian numbers seem to infer that there is no need to search for ulterior motives. Percentages by continent were as follows: Americas: 54.7%; Europe: 34.3%; Africa: 1.2%; Asia 8.4%; Oceania: 1.4%.

And what of that spiritual enrichment that I alluded to at the onset? I found it in Vancouver’s majestic setting, which, throughout the conference, was graced with clear skies and idyllic temperatures belying the region’s true identity as a temperate rain-forest. I found the hospitality of the residents to be as warm as the daytime skies, which in turn were illuminated in spectacular fashion after dark for the Grand Finale of an international fireworks contest the closing night of the congress. The opportunity to “step outside the border” and reflect upon our profession under these conditions was inspirational indeed!

In summary, the FIT organizing committee is to be commended for orchestrating a conference that, in this author’s opinion, succeeded on all counts. Whether these thoughts reach you before or after International Translation Day this year, my hope is that all will be inspired to not only attend the next World Congress in 2005, but to function as agents of social change to such an extent in the interim that the involvement alone will propel you to Tampere.

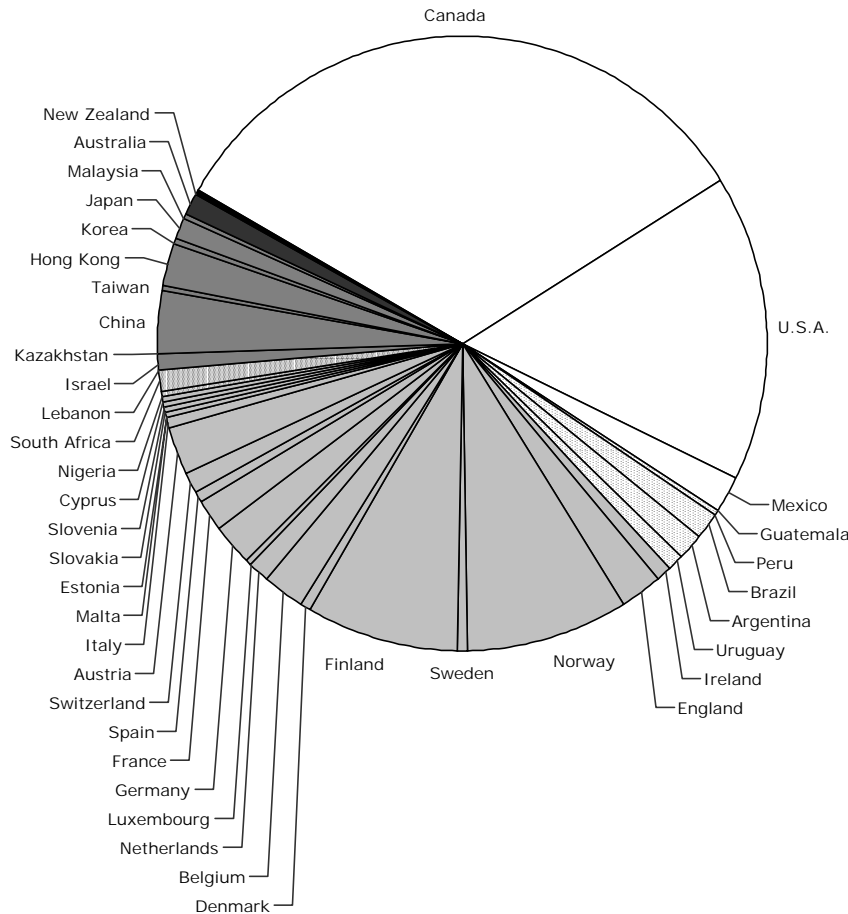


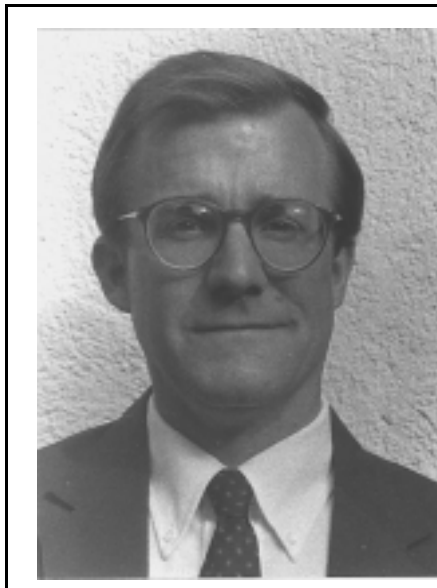
Figure 1.  
XVI World Congress of the International Federation  
of Translators – Attendees by Country

## Member Profile

William O. Bergerson is an active member of the ATA and your MICATA Treasurer for 2002–2003. Bill translates German>English full time, with a focus on medicine and intellectual property. He likes to strive for holistic vantage points, and thus is intrigued by meta-communication, the role of third-person observers in all interactions and the prospect of completing a major home remodeling. All but the last point have their roots in his initial exposure to foreign language, which began while hosting an exchange student in high school and continued when he became one himself – first as an undergraduate and then as a student of veterinary medicine.

Past lives have also lent themselves to the adaptation of various viewpoints: High school choir, acting, and band gave way to post-BA employment in diagnostic R&D, QA and PSE (product stability evaluation). As a prelude to the re-release of his artistic alter ego, Bill temporarily renounced acronyms to dabble in business development and international project management. His ongoing quest is the constant battle against personal vantage point constraint, be it linguistic, geographic or even physical. Toward this end he has, for example, also acquired a working knowledge of Spanish; spent extended periods in Canada, Australia and pre-1989 Berlin; learned to SCUBA dive and obtained a pilot's license.

Further passions offering unique perspectives include water-skiing, bicycling, his wife Meg of 12 years, a pair of quixotic cats and a Fiat X1/9 – though not necessarily in that order. Feel free to inquire about his current frame of reference by contacting: [drbergerson@go.com](mailto:drbergerson@go.com)



Mark your calendars for the  
MICATA Installation meeting

October 12, 2002  
12:00 noon

Les Bourgeois Wine Garden  
and Bistro

Rocheport, Missouri

To make your reservation,  
contact Frieda Ruppaner-Lind  
at 913-649-5147 or  
[friedarl@earthlink.net](mailto:friedarl@earthlink.net)

# How Much is That Word Worth?

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Scrabble® is the most famous word game in the world. More than 100,000 Scrabble games have been sold in 30+ languages and 120 countries since Alfred Butts invented the game in 1948. A Braille version is also available.

As all good Scrabble players know, different letters are worth more or fewer points, depending upon how rare the letter is in word usage. It is not surprising, then, that letters score differently in other language versions. For instance, a W is worth 10 points in French Scrabble, compared to 4 points in the U.S. Then there's the Polish version, where Z is worth a single point, compared to 10 in English Scrabble. In German Scrabble, the rules once required players to pick up eight tiles instead of the usual seven due to the longer German words.

*Scrabble is a registered trademark owned in the United States and Canada by Milton Bradley Company, a division of Hasbro, Inc., and in Great Britain and everywhere else in the world, by J.W. Spear & Sons PLC, a subsidiary of Mattel.*

## *Upcoming Events*

### **September 30, 2002**

Festival of St. Jerome, patron saint of translators, International Translation Day.

### **October 12, 2002**

MICATA Installation of Officers luncheon, 12:00 noon, Les Bourgeois Wine Garden and Bistro, Rocheport, Missouri. All MICATA members are invited to attend. For reservations, contact Frieda Ruppenner-Lind at 913-649-5147 or [friedarl@earthlink.net](mailto:friedarl@earthlink.net)

### **October 19, 2002**

The Upper Midwest Translators and Interpreters Association (UMTIA), an affiliate of the ATA, is holding its annual educational meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For a schedule of activities and presentation abstracts, go to [http://www.atanet.org/chapters/UMTIA\\_Flier.pdf](http://www.atanet.org/chapters/UMTIA_Flier.pdf). The registration form can be downloaded from [http://www.atanet.org/chapters/UMTIA\\_Reg.pdf](http://www.atanet.org/chapters/UMTIA_Reg.pdf). For more information, contact Gail Tanaka at [gailtanaka@earthlink.net](mailto:gailtanaka@earthlink.net)

### **November 6-9, 2002**

ATA's 43rd Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. The preliminary program and registration forms have been mailed to all ATA members, and are also available on line. For more information, go to [www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org)

### **November 22, 2002**

Annual Congress of the Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec in Montreal, Canada. For information, contact [info@ottiaq.org](mailto:info@ottiaq.org) or go to <http://www.ottiaq.org>

### **November 5-8, 2003**

ATA's 44th Annual Conference, Phoenix, Arizona

### **October 13-16, 2004**

ATA's 45th Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada

MICATA  
P.O. BOX 144  
SHAWNEE MISSION, KS 66201-0144

www.ata-micata.org

Serving mid-America, MICATA is a group of professional translators and interpreters residing in or involved with the Mid-America region. MICATA exists for the benefit of translators and interpreters and those who use their services.

MICATA's major objectives are to help formulate and maintain standards of professional ethics, practices and competence in the fields of translation and interpreting; to protect the rights and interests of professional translators and interpreters; to improve the standards, accuracy and quality of translation and interpreting; and to inform through its newsletter.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: (circle one: Mr., Ms., Mrs., Dr.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First MI

COMPANY NAME (include name of individual contact, please) \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State ZIP

BUSINESS ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ BUS PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

TRANSLATION ACTIVITIES: \_\_\_\_\_ part-time freelancer \_\_\_\_\_ full-time freelancer  
\_\_\_\_\_ in-house \_\_\_\_\_ other describe): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me an ATA application \_\_\_\_\_ I am already an ATA member  
ATA status (if member): \_\_\_\_\_ active \_\_\_\_\_ associate \_\_\_\_\_ other (\_\_\_\_\_)

LANGUAGES I translate (list in order of competence and circle those for which you have passed the ATA Accreditation Exam):

from: to:  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Major SUBJECT AREAS of competence:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

NATIVE LANGUAGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
DOMINANT LANGUAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed application, together with your check (made out to MICATA), to **MICATA, P.O. Box 144, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201**. Membership fees are \$20 for individuals (renewal \$15); \$25 for households (renewal \$20) [2 or more at one address, receiving only one copy of mailings]; \$60 for corporations and institutions (renewal \$50).