

Editorial

The New Look

With this, our second volume of the *Interpreters' Newsletter*, readers will note that we have adopted a more attractive and more effective format. One reason for this new look is that we here in Trieste now have a fully operative network of Apple Macintosh computers which makes each and every step in the publishing of our Newsletter so much easier, from the laborious task of transcribing contributions through to actual proof-reading and printing. The other main reason for the new look is size. We obviously want the Newsletter to remain as slim and manageable as possible and with the response we have had in the preparation of this second number we simply had to adopt a format that would accommodate all of the contributions in the same space as before without sacrificing readability. We believe that the column format achieves just that - but do let us know your views.

The New Frontiers

At the time of writing this editorial, we are witnessing something that until very recently was quite unthinkable - the breaking down of borders in Eastern Europe. Interestingly enough, this seems to be reflected in the enormous response and feedback we have had from colleagues in the Soviet Union, Hungary and East Germany whose kind offers of mutual cooperation and exchanges of information and opinion are indeed most welcome. A very special thanks must go to Prof. Heidemarie Salevsky, Doz. dr. sc. Director of the Sektion Slawistik, Humboldt University, East Berlin and Dr. Cordula Martin, a graduate and researcher from the same University, for all of their suggestions and particularly for kindly providing us with a list of publications by Eastern European scholars that you will find included in the bibliographical update.

Of course, the opening up of new frontiers does not mean forgetting old friends and so, as always, we wish to thank our consultant editors for their help and advice in compiling this second number and especially Christopher Thiéry and Daniel Gile. We would also like to thank those who have contributed to this number and also the many of you who have given us feedback and encouragement and in particular Fidelis Morfaw

(WHO, Yaoundé) and René Hotterbeek (*Interpreters' School of Mons*). Lastly, our eternal gratitude must go to Anna Dodds for her indispensable assistance and hours of work spent in formatting our Newsletter.

The New Initiatives

We must say that we are most satisfied with all of the contributions for both their interest and variety which is so much in keeping with the spirit of this publication as envisaged by our Director, Franco Crevatin, at the Trieste Symposium¹ in 1986. Also very much in keeping with the spirit of our Newsletter is the inclusion of three articles by graduates from our School on experimental thesis and dissertation work. We would very much like to extend this initiative to other Schools, so if any of you have young researchers working with you, do ask them to send us reports on their research activity (not more than 10 type-written pages) for future issues of the Newsletter.

Readers will also note another novelty in this issue of the Newsletter, suggested by both Karla Déjean Le Féal and Daniel Gile, and that is the "Letters to the Editors" section. Once again many thanks to Christopher Thiéry for his most interesting letter and we do hope to have many more letters of this kind for the next number. This sort of section clearly has great potential as a forum for discussion and debate and has an added advantage in that letters are less time-consuming than articles. So do let us have your thoughts on the contents of this present issue in order to have a stimulating debate going on next time round.

Also for the next number, we would like to have less blank spaces between articles. This can easily be done by including various announcements. So, if you wish to make announcements about forthcoming conferences, new books, interpreting courses, scholarships and grants etc., simply send us a draft layout.

The Next Issue

In order to really come to grips with some of

¹ For those of you who have not received an order form for the *Proceedings* (entitled the *Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Teaching Conference Interpretation*, eds. Laura Gran and John Dodds) the book can be obtained directly from the publisher upon their receipt of 40,000 lire or equivalent. The publisher's address is the following:

Campanotto Editore
Via Michelini, 1
33100 Udine, Italy.

the more burning issues involved in the interpreting profession and in the teaching of interpretation as well, some colleagues have suggested that it would be interesting to have more views expressed on the following topics:

- Is shadowing really a useful introductory exercise for simultaneous?*
- Is sight translation a useful exercise and if so how should it be taught?*
- Interpreting from language A or from language B: which is better?*
- Does the number of languages required in international organisations affect the quality of interpretation?*
- Is aptitude testing (a) reliable and (b) necessary?*

Of course, there are many other topics to discuss as well but it would be nice to see some of the above topics thrown about a bit.

We would also very much like to keep our bibliography up-to-date and so do please send us new data as it becomes available. We would also be most happy to collaborate in whatever way we can with Jenny Mackintosh and Daniel Gile concerning their bibliographical research carried out within the Research Committee of AIIIC. We also would like to complete our new bibliography on unpublished thesis and dissertation work, so again if you have available data there, please let us know.

A last word about deadlines. For the next issue we need to have your articles and letters by and not later than June 30, 1990. Much as we would like to, it is honestly not possible for us to accept contributions after that date and still have the number published by the early autumn. If you can, we would greatly appreciate your contributions also on an Apple Macintosh or Macintosh compatible diskette. This obviously saves us a great deal of time and effort at the transcription stage which is the most laborious and time-consuming. That's all for the moment. We do look forward to hearing from you soon with your reactions to and opinions about this present issue of our Newsletter.

Laura Gran and John Dodds