

The MITA

Vol.4 Issue 1

Reader

www.dfw-mita.com

A newsletter for the DFW-area Metroplex Interpreters and Translators Association

Other Options in the Field of Translation

By Charlotte Karam

(page 2)

*Goodbye 2008,
Hello 2009
(or MITA, the inside story)*

(page 3)

April Workshop!

Details inside...

Calendar, page 6

The MITA Reader is published for the benefit of MITA members and friends. Submissions are welcome and should be submitted to the editor,s, Karla Badillo and Carlos Escorcía, at in2spanish@gmail.com

Other Options in the Field of Translation

by Charlotte Karam

Commercial translators, have your translation businesses slowed down due to the tightening of corporate purse strings in the last year? If so, it could also be due to the fact that companies are beginning to depend on the 'quick and free' translations they acquire from free software available on the web. They prefer to respond to Requests for Quotes (RFQs) in English and force the foreign customer to spend their own money to translate the English quotes. You can say that all the work we have done convincing American companies to budget for translating, which they had avoided for so many years, is disappearing as our economical slump is forcing them to retrieve. If you can't wait for the market to turn around, then consider looking into a new field of translation! Have you ever thought about translating literature? Wait! Don't get too excited. It is not as easy as it sounds but it is an alternative.

Though converting from commercial to literary work is not an easy as it seems, you can start looking into the field. There are many issues to consider, such as: What is the purpose of literary translation? How well can you write in the target language? What will be your target language? What are the rules of the industry? Are you better at translating prose or poetry? What is a publisher? How does a translator get published? Who hires the translator? How is the translator paid?

There are hundreds of organizations and publications dedicated to the literary translation world. Search the web for ideas by simply entering the words "literary organizations", "literary translations", "literary publications", "literary blogs", "literary events" and "book clubs". Take a course in literary translation to see if this is an option for you. One good local resource is at

the University of Texas at Dallas's Center for Translation Studies (<http://www.utdallas.edu/research/cts/>).

Walk through your local book store and see how many of the novels sold today are translations done by translators like you.

Look into the PEN American Center (<http://www.pen.org/>). Organizations such as PEN American Center and ALTA (American Literary Translators Association) are fighting to get the names of translators on the covers of their published works giving them more visibility and credit than they had in the past. To reach that point, most translators usually get their start by translating/publishing articles and small works pro bono to get their names in the public eye. The road is an uphill climb, but it is an alternative. Ask questions. Step out and test the waters!

About our guest writer:

Charlotte Karam has a Masters degree in Spanish and teaches Spanish at the Dallas County Community Colleges. She has been a commercial translator for more than 30 years, specializing in Telecommunications and Engineering. As she continues working in the commercial translation industry, she is working on translating two books. Contact information: ckii@sbcglobal.net.

MITA's **Barbara Manning**, along with fellow translators Konnie Garrido and Alberto Escobar, recently completed the translation of , "*El Toro de Osborne: The First Fifty Years*". Congratulations!!

Goodbye 2008...

On December 13, 2008, MITA wrapped up the year with a Christmas party at **Tiina Fallini's** house in Colleyville; between Tiina, **Karen Sharp** and **Maria Elizalde-Honoman**, who did all the preparations, and every MITAn who brought a dish to share, food was a plenty and so was the good cheer.

In addition, the newest members of the Steering Committee were introduced. **Francisco Guerrero, Karla Badillo** and **Carlos Escorcía** were in attendance and took the opportunity to get to know long-term MITAns a little better. Unable to make it to the party were **Norma Pace, Claudia Guerrero, Fabio Torres** and **David Hostler**.

...Hello 2009!

Remember, MITA's **Steering Committee** is not limited to a specific few; **everyone** wishing to contribute to MITAs success is welcome to serve on the Committee. Steering Committee meetings will be announced in advance so that anyone who would like to participate, may. **The next meeting is in the first week of April, 2009.** The Committee is currently working on translation memory software training, starting with a **Trados** workshop in April (see below.) Other widely-used translation memories, such as **Wordfast** and **Déjà Vu**, will likely follow. Another upcoming workshop will address community and other professional inter-pretng. A **general membership meeting** is being planned for little later this year; more details will be provided by mass mail or other means.

Editorship of The MITA Reader will pass to Carlos Escorcía and Karla Badillo. Ever since my husband and I started the Reader several years ago, I have enjoyed publishing it. Unfortunately, as has been obvious over the past year, life has intervened and it's time to pass the torch. I'm grateful to Carlos and Karla for being willing to take on this rewarding task! - *Cheers, Carol*

TRADOS Workshop

When: Saturday, April 25, 2009 9:00 am - 5:30 pm
& Sunday, April 26, 2009 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Where: Room 2580 (2nd floor) at the Bill J. Priest Institute for Economic Development, 1402 Corinth Street, Dallas, TX 75215 (<http://www.elcentrocollege.edu/bjp/>)

Instructor: **Tuomas Kostianen**, an experienced and well-respected Trados trainer will be coming from the west coast specifically for this workshop. Full details are posted at www.dfw-mita.com/uploads/mita-trados-workshop-descriptions.pdf.

Directory Project in the Works

A **new directory** will be published this year! Claudia Guerrero and Fabio Torres are beginning the work necessary to produce the new directory. **What they need from you:**

- A) make sure that your *information in the online directory is accurate*.
- B) *volunteer!* They will need team members to help with proofreading, layout, calls, and more. If you're interested in helping, please contact Fabio, at ftorres@ccdfw.org or Claudia, at lettersandletras@teleteam.net.
- C) *contact former members!* If you know of someone who used to belong to MITA and may be interested in rejoining, please forward this information to them!

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	Groundhog Day 2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	Valentine's Day 14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	Mardi Gras 24	Ash Wednesday 25	26	27	28

Federal holidays:

February 16: Presidents Day

Events:

April 4: AATIA-sponsored session on ATA Certification preparation (www.aatia.org)

April 17: TAHIT, Third Annual Symposium (<http://tahit3.eventbrite.com>)

April 25-26: MITA Trados Workshop (see page 3)

May 15-17: NAJIT, Annual Conference (www.najit.org)

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Daylight Savings Time begins 8	Mawlid al-Nabi 9	Purim 10	11	12	13	14
15	16	St. Patrick's Day 17	18	19	1st day of Spring 20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				