

# INTERSTENO Newsletter 53



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## From the President's desk

I am back from Zagreb where I attended the celebration of the 130th anniversary of the foundation of the Croatian Stenographic Society (HSD).



Hosted in the richly decorated hall of the City Council, the ceremony was the occasion for me to reward the Intersteno Croatian Group for their activities and the competition results they have achieved. The President, Josip Haniš, (read the interview on the following pages) is surrounded and sustained by a motivated, young and colourful team; the Croatian competitors have recently achieved considerable goals in Intersteno competitions and the Group has constantly increased the number of attendees at Intersteno Congresses, in particular in participation at the Internet keyboard competition, thanks to the efforts of Mrs Pršlin, who was present at the ceremony and made useful suggestions for a further development of that competition so as to involve schools from all over the country.

The Croatian Society is not only looking to its valuable history but is facing the changes and the challenges of new technologies with a positive attitude and a willingness to play an active role within the Federation.

If you find that your PC keyboard is out of control and weirdly distracted, do not worry. It is one of the side effects of the most “keyboarded” marriage of the century - that between Vice-President professor Jaroslav Zaviačič and former World Champion Helena Matoušková.

We send our best wishes to the new family because two Intersteno are better than one! On next pages you will see pictures of the party, in which our Board members Danny Devriendt and Georgette Sante took part, as well as several other INTERSTENO-friends. But do not imagine that the honeymoon can disturb the two Intersteno pillars in their duties. The next Council meeting and the IPRS meeting are approaching (Prague, end of September). A total of 56 participants have already registered and additional ones are expected. The agenda is filled with crucial topics also relating to the next Congress. Jaroslav and Helena will do their best as always.



By the way! While the Belgium organizing committee of the Congress is double-checking the balance of foreseen income and expenses, the committee created to present the Congress Conferences, led by Carlo Eugeni, is ready to spread the calls for papers. Intersteno wants to stay tuned with the developments of the profession and welcomes all those who want to put forward their ideas and studies.

In Ravenna, one of the most beautiful art cities in Italy, the local Intersteno group met to congratulate the winner of the Internet keyboard competition, now in its 10th edition, with 1340 competitors from 19 countries. Carlo Parisi, a reporter in Milan, was the champion with 896 strokes per minute. He is now practicing in order to be ready for the Olympics, to be held in Ghent next year.

More news came from the active Italian Group. They have handed to the Jury President a proposal for a new world keyboard competition, in which the text production will be done listening to an audio file instead than copying from paper. The proposal is supported with the statement that nowadays that is the professional and common way of working as a transcriber or a reporter in most of the countries. A final decision will be taken in Prague at the said Council meeting with the advice of all Intersteno members.

Well, if all this news is not enough for you, you may want to surf on to the other topics of this e-news issue. I am sure you'll find something interesting for you!

Happy reading,

Fausto Ramondelli

## Less than 365 days to go

In less than one year the 49th **INTERSTENO**-congress will start at Ghent (Belgium) at 13<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

Prices, hotel information and final excursion package will be published in October 2012. Registrations will start at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013! Visit [www.intersteno2013.org](http://www.intersteno2013.org) for further information.





The INTERSTENO Board and the congress organization committee are looking forward to meeting you in Ghent / Belgium next year:

- opening ceremony and awarding ceremony at Ghent University UFO
- world championships, conferences and IPRS-meetings at Artevelde University College
- social networking events, youth event, farewell dinner and party
- visit to Ghent, excursions to Brussels, Liège... Final excursion to Brugge

## Ghent?

Ghent is a historic city in Flanders, yet at the same time a contemporary one. The modern daily life of the city's active inhabitants plays itself out against a gorgeous historical backdrop. In Ghent, they live, work and enjoy life over and over again each day.

A couple enjoys the peace of an authentic beguinage. Parents and children stroll through the traffic-free streets of the city centre. A tourist snaps a photo of the three towers, as so many have before, but just a little differently. A businessman with an iPhone walks along the distinctive Graslei, crosses the Lys and enters his stylish four-star hotel hiding behind a medieval facade. Dozens of pavement cafes invite you to discover Ghent's specialities. The sun is reflected in the many waterways. The city is alive and bids you welcome.

[www.intersteno2013.org](http://www.intersteno2013.org) □ [www.visitgent.be](http://www.visitgent.be) □ [www.visitbelgium.com](http://www.visitbelgium.com)



[www.facebook.com/gent2013](https://www.facebook.com/gent2013)

## No holidays for the 2013 Organizing Committee

On Tuesday 17th July the organizing committee for the 49th INTERSTENO congress 2013 in Ghent (Belgium) met in the Town Hall of Sprimont (Wallonia). All seven members were present, accompanied by an eighth member - Ms. Liliane Remacle from Wallonia.

During the meeting many items were discussed and decisions taken. More concrete plans will be proposed at the next council meeting in Prague, at the end of September.



In the next few months the congress website [www.intersteno2013.org](http://www.intersteno2013.org) will be gradually updated with more detailed information and the communication on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/Gent2013](http://www.facebook.com/Gent2013)) will be intensified. Starting from 1st January 2013 online subscription for the congress will start.

Notwithstanding difficult economic times the participation fees will not be higher than the last congress in Paris. Special efforts will be made to offer low-budget sleeping accommodation, especially for young people.

For some of the members of the organizing committee, the day ended late in the evening in the restaurant situated in the beautiful castle of Harze. Topics to discuss during the dinner were mainly... the congress of 2013!

The success of the 49th INTERSTENO congress will not only depend on the organizing committee but also on your important participation and on the weather. Just bring your umbrellas... to encourage good weather in the congress week.

The organizing committee hopes to see you in Ghent 2013 and will do everything possible to ensure the success of this congress.

*G. Sante & D. Devriendt*

## Interview of Mr. Josip Hanjŝ - President of the Croatian Shorthand Association in Zagreb

This interview was carried out by Fausto Ramondelli during the meeting in Zagreb.

**Q1** - *Mr Hanjŝ, HS, the Croatian Shorthand Association has reached a great goal with the celebration of the 130th year of the foundation. What is the purpose of the celebrations?*

Marking the anniversary is primarily an obligation and a sign of gratitude to all those who founded, operated and actively preserved the Croatian stenographic society during the past 130 years, during five different social systems, from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to an independent Croatian Republic. By organizing an

Academy meeting in the Old City Hall of Zagreb we would like to recall the role of the Croatian Stenographic Society in the past and awaken a stronger interest within the professional and wider public today. By doing so we will be able to look forward with confidence to the future.



*Q2 - Intersteno Hrvatska achieved very good results both in the competitions held in Paris, on July 2011, and in the last Internet keyboard contest. What activities are your Association carrying on in this phase?*

The basic statutory task of the Croatian Stenographic Society is gathering the support of stenographers, typists, IT and related field professionals in order to expand and improve the professional skills and protect the interests of its members. Our aim is to coordinate the activities of the Association through courses, competitions etc., with the activities of vocational schools and other labour institutions.

*Q3 - The Federation Intersteno is very willing to support the local activities of member Associations in upgrading the skills and technologies aimed at enhancing the profession. In which areas do you think Intersteno can help your country in these tasks?*

We think that the the Croatian Group membership of the Federation and its active involvement in Intersteno competitions are excellent bases for the faster development and progress of our professional associations. At the present time we especially appreciate the help and cooperation of Intersteno with our plans such as the introduction, application and use of modern IC technologies in speech and writing, since so far Croatia has not yet systematically engaged in such a technological breakthrough. Every form of institutional and individual support in this regard would be valuable and productive in the long-term.

*Q4 - The next Intersteno Congress will be held in Ghent (Belgium) in July 2013. How are you preparing your team for the competitions?*

Every year in November the Croatian Stenographic Society organizes a national keyboard championship on the occasion of the International Book Fair 'Interliber', in cooperation with the Zagreb Fair and the Croatian Association for Technical Culture. In the year preceding the Intersteno Congress, there are also the annual competitions for the composition of the Croatian team to perform at the World Championships. The composition depends on the results and on our financial



capabilities. On the eve of the 49th Congress and the World Championships in Ghent we will try to assemble a selected team to jointly train at least for a few days, which in the past for various reasons we could not do.

**Q5** - *Starting from shorthand and typewriting our professions have developed and nowadays there are many other areas where the "experts of text" can provide useful services to the people. How does the Croatian Association plan to follow up this development?*

The Croatian Stenographic Society is willing to preserve tradition and at the same time to orientate its activities so as to keep pace with the progress of new technologies and multimedia communication processing. We will certainly use the benefits provided by Intersteno congresses, conferences, contests, exchanging experiences and knowledge. Relying primarily on IT we have trained our members: they have increased in number and greatly enjoy their membership of the Croatian Stenographic Society.

In this context I want to especially thank the President of Intersteno, Dr. Fausto Ramondelli, who was present and gave a speech in the Academy meeting in Zagreb on the occasion of the celebration of the 130th anniversary of the Society. In this way he has provided a powerful impetus to our activities affecting the technological and social development of our country.

## 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 - An "Intersteno" wedding

It was a long journey to reach the beautiful area of **Rožnov pod Radhoštěm**, where our vice-president, **Jaroslav Zaviačič** was to marry **Helena Matoušková**, the text production jury leader and the unbeaten keyboarding world champion,

The ceremony took place in brilliant sunshine on the lawn behind the hotel where our legendary couple had invited not only their family and friends but young competitors and Intersteno friends. While everybody was congratulating the newly-weds, an excellent violinist was playing a romantic tune. A substantial and delightful dinner served with tasty wine followed. Several traditional shows took place, as well as games specially designed by Helena for a special guest, and other games prepared for the stars of the day. The day ended with a barbecue, a dance party and a choral singing... please guess... Rosamunda!. Really a great day.









Our best wishes to Jaroslav and Helena... Zavaičičová!

G. Sante

## London 26 September, 1887 - The Birth of Intersteno (2) The final decisions and the first baby steps

'Even if...' was the ending of the first installment of these notes in the previous issue. As a matter of fact it was not easy to find agreement during the London Congress as to which way the positive experience had to continue.

The discussions on this matter mainly took place on the last day of the Congress, that is Saturday 30th September with Mr. T.A. Reed (member of the Stenographic Association) chairing the session, which was titled 'Final discussions'.

This part begins at page 423 of the report and ends on page 435. Mr Gurney-Saltner ((The shorthand writer to the Houses of Parliament) put forwards his proposal as follows:

"I have talked over the matter with a good many gentlemen who have been attending the Congress, and, so far as I can gather, there is a general wish that this should be the first of a series of Congresses. I therefore venture to move that what, I believe, is elsewhere called a Nexus Committee, be appointed to ensure the continuance of these Congresses. The Committee should be a small representative one, not to do the actual work when the time comes to make preparation for another Congress, but a Committee, which may be, if I may use the expression, a microcosm of ourselves. The question of the constitution of the Committee and of the place where the next Congress shall be held, will be the second and third resolutions. As far as I can ascertain, much doubt is felt as to the desirability of embarrassing the Committee with any code of rules as has been suggested by Mr. Westby Gibson. The object is simply to keep the Congress alive."

Several attendees gave their opinion on this proposal as well as with regard to the persons who would be part of this Nexus Committee and about the idea that the number of members should be left open so as to be able integrate representatives of countries not present during the Congress.

At the end of the discussion everybody agreed on the composition of this Nexus Committee while the proposal of Mr. Westby Gibson to produce rules for this new 'Association' was postponed. This decision influenced the other Congresses, so that every time a new nexus committee was decided it was done in accordance with the wishes of the nation taking charge of the Congress organization.

Following the decisions to continue attention was thereafter focused on the country that should host the next Congress, and the location. The first proposal

came from the German Gabelsberger Shorthand Association which mentioned that in 1889 in Munich there would take place the celebration of the first century of the birth of Gabelsberger during which a monument would be unveiled. Proposals were also submitted for France (Paris) and another one from Germany (Berlin - Stolzean Association).

The representatives of each inviting Association put forward the advantages in choosing their cities: Paris pointed out that 1889 marked the first century of the French Revolution for which a big Exhibition was planned (and the Eiffel Tower would also be built). For Berlin it was mentioned that over 1000 stenographers were members of the local associations and that a meeting with the parliamentary stenographers in Berlin could be a useful experience.

Discussions rose about several aspects of the proposals but at the end, with a very large majority of votes, the choice was made for Germany (Munich). Paris would be the location of the second Congress.

The Chairman concluded the session with these words: "Gentlemen, I have now only to say, "à Munich".

As everybody can easily see in the list of the Congresses, in spite of the decision taken in London, the second Congress was held in Paris. What was the reason for this change? The question remained unanswered until recently when, thanks to an investigation made by Dr Prof Boris Neubauer, it was discovered that the monument for Gabelsberger was not ready in time and therefore the German Association had to postpone the organization of the Congress to 1890.

Consequently 188 people from 15 nations attended the Paris Congress and the following year (1891) Munich was the meeting point in connection with the sumptuous celebration recalling the birth of Gabelsberger and with the erection of the important monument that is still standing in that city.

According to an 'Account describing all the points of interest in connection with the third international Congress Munich 1890" prepared by Henry Richer, 323 people were present at the inaugural meeting of this Congress. More than 500 people registered even if they were not ultimately able to attend.

In this document only a few reports are included in full; others are only briefly mentioned, Thanks to prof. Neubauer this information is made available on our web site (menu Congresses).

During this Congress a new 'Nexus Committee' was formed, consisting of eight German persons mainly of the Stolze system association, for the organization of the Congress to be held in Berlin in 1891.

The first three baby steps had been accomplished and International life became a tradition. The mutual knowledge and appreciation generated by these events, improved strong bonds that grew, notwithstanding language and some political barriers and thus enabled the organisation to overcome even the serious problems created by the first (1915-1918) and second (1940-1945) world wars.

*Gian Paolo Trivulzio*

### **Noticeable activities and moments of the Congress in London**

It is not possible to mention or to acknowledge here all the many reports, discussions and comments presented during this important Congress so I have chosen only some moments and words which give an idea of the wide approach of our ancestors.



## Typewriting & Stenotype

During the Congress an exhibition was arranged, with books sent from many steno associations in different countries and other tools.

Remington began manufacturing typewriters conceived by Sholes - Glidden - Soule in the USA in 1873, and two of its models were presented - Remington (model 2 and 3) in addition to a Caligraph typewriter (first production 1880 in the USA) as well as a drop cabinet, i.e. an ordinary writing desk, but by raising the lid, the typewriter is brought into position.



Remington 2



Caligraph

A speech about typewriting was released by Mr. Howard, and at the end of this speech *"an experiment was made on a Remington machine. Miss Owen, the operator, wrote from dictation, with three very slight literal errors, 219 words in three minutes, or at the rate of 73 words per minute"* (page. 400). That is approximately 350 characters as we are today accustomed to count.

Miss Reynolds from the United States presented a report 'Paper on typewriting' in which she stressed the advantages of preparing a report with a typewriter instead of using longhand.

It is a bit curious to read *"In America the old-fashioned Shorthand is, in some slight measure, superseded by a machine which combines in a wonderful dexterous manner the arts of Typewriting and Shorthand writing, the shorthand characters being represented by short strokes printed in various position and at different angles on long narrow strips of paper."*

In a letter of Mr. Marzovati (Chief stenographer at the Italian Chamber of Deputies) is mentioned: *"In the Senate the Michela machine is used, and the corps is composed of five machinists and eleven transcribers. By turn two machinists, each with a machine, take a speech down together, and a transcriber, who is also present, after three minutes of the discussion withdraw the two sheets of notes from the machines and takes them to the transcribing room to make the transcripts, his place in the auditorium being taken by his companion in succession"*

## Investigations

In the reports many tables are included showing the wide variety of answers given to investigations on many domains of activity.



## Parliamentary shorthand writers and newspaper reporters

Summary tables from pages 40 to 60 are followed by detailed answers, from pages 61 to 73. Answers were given by Canada, United States, India, Australia, Ceylon, Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Italy

The tables from page 55 refer to newspaper reporters. The investigation covered questions about the activities of newspaper reporters in the parliaments. It is to be recalled, for example, that at that time and for many years, newspapers were the source of Parliamentary debates in the Westminster Parliament. Initially such reporting had to be covert since reporters were banned. It was not until 1803 that reporters were assigned seats in the House, in the Press Gallery, in which the Hansard reporters also sit and to which reference is made in the Congress report. You will find additional information about this matter later on in this issue.

Among the questions arising in these investigations we note:

- Is it required to be strictly verbatim, or may it be (a) condensed, or (b) edited for style etc.?
- What seats are provided for the Chamber?

## Shorthand writers in law courts

Summary from page 302 to 319 followed by detailed answers (319-310)

Nearly all of the original countries (plus Scotland) involved in the previous investigation answered, with the exception of Italy

Among the questions posed in this investigation we note:

- Does one shorthand writer take notes of the same case for several parties, or are note taken from different parties by different shorthand writers?
- Does the shorthand writer (a) condense his report, (b) or edit it, or (c) is he expected to give a strictly verbatim transcript?
- Is the shorthand writer sworn?

## Education and general

From page 327 to 331 followed by additional statements at page 332-333

Main questions:

- Is there any professorship of shorthand maintained at the expense of Government?
- Is shorthand generally taught in schools of all classes?

## Reporting by machinery

Mr Henry Richter in his report on this subject (page 373) mentions the need 'to provide written transcript of shorthand notes within a few minutes from the delivery of a speech'. To this effect he proposes "a team of one note-taker, six transcribers and one reporter, who may be described as the sub-editor distributing and arranging the work of his seven colleagues."

The use of a tool is foreseen (hence the word 'machinery') which assures a constant flow of the written paper.

Among the comments Mr Poknell said: "I would like to ask why this is called a 'Reporting machine?' I should call it a machine for facilitating the transcription of notes." followed by Mr Nankivell: 'This is more a toy than a practical machine'.

## Teaching shorthand

Many reports were devoted to teaching shorthand. The entire list of reports will be included in a more complete documentation, but I think it is worth mentioning the followings:

*"Phonography (i.e. the Pitman system) in elementary schools,"* by Arthur W. Croxton, Editor of the 'Shorthand monthly' which claims that it could be included in the so -called 'Specific subjects' which are not obligatory or optional in the schools, but can be taken by individual children in the upper classes of the schools. Among these 'individual subjects' were mentioned Mechanics, Physics, Botany, Latin etc.

*'Shorthand in the kindergarten* - by J. B. Rundell. The author suggests the use of shorthand symbols 'made in thin wood so that 'children can lay them out on their desks and build familiar words with them, long before they have acquired sufficient command of the pencil or pen to draw the forms on paper'

## Realism with an eye to the future

In a toast at the Congress dinner (which took place on Tuesday's evening at the Holborn Restaurant) Mr. Theodore R. Wright (member of the Council of the Institute of Shorthand writers) was entrusted to a toast for the inventors of shorthand.

I deem that some of his opinions, even if expressed with a bit of humour, are worth listening to again: 'Inventors, as a class, are very sanguine men, but shorthand inventors, if anything, exceed the average... A shorthand inventor wishes to produce a machine which will enable him to follow the most rapid speaker with accuracy and at the same time that what is produced shall be perfectly legible when he wishes to ascertain what has been written down... In fact, gentlemen, to get a really perfect system of Shorthand is an impossibility. The two things are not possible - extreme brevity and perfect legibility. We want legibility enough, but not too much... All practical shorthand writers will agree with me that no Shorthand system is as yet perfect, and though we may doubt the possibility of its ever being made so, I think we should none of us throw cold water on the efforts of those who endeavor to get nearer and nearer to perfection. Possibly the very beautiful instrument, the Phonograph, may ultimately come to our aid, since by its means every sound uttered into the mouthpiece is accurately recorded in a tracing, which, if we could only read it with facility, would go far to solve the problem."

The Phonograph was invented by Thomas Edison in 1877 and the dream of using it for transcribing speeches soon became true.



Transcribing using phonograph >

## A few historical notes about reporting at the English Parliament

(with a contribution by Peter Walker)

From the transactions of the first Congress in London we know that at that time (1887) reports were made by newspaper reporters, who had reserved seats in the so -called 'Hansard gallery'.



### The House of Lords chamber

The name Hansard (which is the name still used today by English-speaking parliaments to indicate reports) comes from the name of a printer: Mr. Thomas Curson Hansard.

Peter Walker writes about the work of the House of Commons Hansard:

“Hansard's history goes back to around 1803.

For many years newspapers were the source of parliamentary debates. In 1829 the best available reports were from Hansard's Parliamentary Debates but it was a small private affair. In 1855 the Chancellor of the Exchequer ordered that 100 sets of Hansard's Parliamentary Debates be purchased and distributed throughout Whitehall [that is the Government estate] and the colonies. In 1878 a grant of £3000 was made to enable four reporters to be engaged. This was still a private affair.

Eventually, after many inquiries and ups and downs in the affairs of the private Hansard company, the Hansard that we know today was established in 1909 with a staff of an editor, a deputy and 11 reporters.

Hansard used shorthand to report standing committees [those that examine bills] as well as the House proceedings until the early 1970s, when the weight of the legislative programme made it impossible to man all of the committees with reporters. We began recording committees then but continued reporting the House with shorthand reporters.

In about 1996 the supply of shorthand reporters had almost completely dried up and training schemes had not been able to meet the demand. As a result we began a process of introducing recording into the chamber of the Commons. This

was phased in as shorthand reporters retired and is now the method of reporting in the Commons and its committees.”

Peter Walker

As our readers know well, Peter Walker revises the texts of our e-news, but not everyone knows who he is. Here a short biography, with many thanks to Peter for his important help and voluntary contribution:

*I trained and worked as a journalist in the North-East of England and in London before moving to House of Commons Hansard in 1964. I worked for many years as a House and committee reporter before becoming a sub-editor and eventually deputy editor of the Official Report.*

*I took a great interest in training and was responsible for the reporter training operations at the Commons for many years. I introduced the Stenograph machine to the training system. The schemes bore some fruit but the rise of the tape recorder eventually killed shorthand reporting in the Commons, as it has done elsewhere.*

*I became involved with Intersteno, taking part in the shorthand speed competitions and helping to found the IPRS.*

## **A dying art: Most adults don't write more than scribbles in the average day: perhaps the writings of the next generation will be almost entirely keyboard-based.**

An article published by the online edition of Daily Mail (UK) on June 22nd comments on the results of a survey showing that today the simple tasks of creating a shopping list, taking notes in a meeting or even wishing someone a happy birthday are more often than not done via electronic means.

Moreover, four in ten mobile phone users in Britain rely on predictive text, increasingly so for their spelling, with one in four regularly using abbreviations or 'text talk.'

One third said when they do write something down they often struggle to read their own writing when coming back to it later on and nearly half (44 per cent) said that their writing is neither nice nor easy to read.

One sixth of Brits don't even think handwriting should still be taught in schools. One in three Brits describe handwriting as 'nice' but not something they would want to do every day.

This article drew 55 comments and you can read them at the following link:

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2163175/Could-forget-WRITE-The-typical-adult-scribbled-hand-weeks.html#ixzz20i7cmlZe>





In issue no. 50 of our e-news, full documentation about this topic dealing with experiences and activities in the USA was made available. This subject was also reported by the BBC. You can read from page 7 of issue 50 and on our website (e-news menu) where nearly all previous issues are released in .pdf format, or at this link: <http://issuu.com/trivulzio/docs/enews50/1>

## Training and education using the Intersteno competition texts

Since the Congress in Prague our Federation has made available at no charge the competition texts, not only in the written version but with the relevant sound files.

The table below gives an overview of the quantity of these files

	Qty Files	Weight in MB
Praga 2007	123	289
Beijing 2009	126	352
Paris 2011	184	510
Total	433	1151

You can read, listen and download them at our [intersteno.org](http://intersteno.org) web site - Competitions menu.

Since this material is available at any time on any computer connected to Internet everybody can gain a clear picture of what to expect when taking part in our competitions and can better evaluate the formulae and their challenges. The texts are available for all languages in which competitors took part, so it is also possible to check their results in the classifications list, which are available at the same page.

By using the files in a creative manner the documents can also be useful to teachers and tutors in planning their work, helping them to think about ideas for overcoming difficulties and to motivate their students even if they are not going to our World Championships.

We would like to emphasize that preparing, translating, counting, dictating, checking and evaluating competition texts in many languages is a huge job which involves many resources.

Intersteno is glad to give the opportunity to competitors to access the text and sound files of its competitions and we take this opportunity to thank again the coordinators of the Jury and their assistants for these efforts which were supervised and coordinated by Ms. Georgette Sante, Jury President.

We remind you that keyboarding training exercises of 5 and 10 minute lengths are offered free of charge on our [intersteno.org](http://intersteno.org) web site - Internet contest.

On the same page it is possible to examine the progressive results of all previous editions of this contest.

According to the statistics on our web site, over 3,5 million training exercises are undertaken annually. This can also be a didactic tool: some teachers allow 10 minutes of free time to their students before the end of lesson in order to practice using this material.

## Designing the future classroom - iTech webinar on 21st century skills



We have a new generation of learners who could be called a "net gener@tion" through having access to new technologies and applying new ways of learning. The iTec is about them and the teachers who are teaching them.

"There's a new generation around the world that is the first to grow up digital. These kids are different and there is no more helpful force to change business and society than these hundreds of millions of media savvy youngsters." (Tapscott, 1999)

This webinar took place on 14 June 2012: among others, the following topics were presented and discussed.

- Demystifying digital natives and digital immigrants concepts
- Updated news about how today's students' brains function: recent development in neurosciences about learning on Google
- Today's reality in yesterday's school: how well are schools and teachers prepared to deal with today's students' ways of learning and knowledge building?
- 21st century teachers: what does it mean and how to get there?

The presenters who both work closely with the iTEC project, are: Neuza Pedro, Professor at the Institute of Education at the University of Lisbon and Lars Ingelman, Senior consultant at UNI-C, Denmark.

iTEC (Innovative Technologies for an Engaging Classroom) is a four-year, pan-European project focused on the design of the future classroom.

You can download and listen the recording of seminar using this link  
<https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/jwsdetect/playback.jnlp?psid=2012-06-14.0720.M.CB506C3B2FBB116617BA460CCCCCBF.vcr&sid=2010141>

## Awards ceremonies in Croatia, Belgium, Turkey, Italy

### 10th May - National competitions and prize-giving ceremony in Croatia



*Competitors and teachers at the Croatian event*

The State competition for jobs in secretarial and business administration and as administrative officers was held in Vinkovci on 10th May and was organized by the Agency for Vocational Education and Training Adult Education. Those competitors interested in secretarial work and who had taken part in the international competition INTERSTENO 2012 for the third time were able to enjoy their achievements by checking their typing results online.

### 12th May - APSB - Belgium 2012



In Belgium the APSB (The French Association of Teachers in Secretariat and Burotica) organizes an annual school championship in typewriting, word-processing and other secretarial skills. On May 12th an official prize-giving ceremony rewarded the competitors with the best results receiving some very worthwhile gifts.

This year, in anticipation of the 49th Intersteno Congress 2013 in Ghent, APSB has proposed a 30-minute test by Internet (with Java Software) in order to reveal and motivate the future "champions" for the world championship. The test is proposed in the three mother languages of Belgium: French, Dutch and German. Unfortunately, up to the present, no competitor has registered in German.

Danny Devriendt, our Secretary Treasurer, was on the spot to congratulate the competitors, together with Therèse Librecht and Agnes Coeckelberghs, members of the ABW association (the same as APSB, in Dutch) and of the Organisation Committee of Intersteno 2013. Notwithstanding the distance, some competitors from North Belgium travelled south to Rochefort to receive their diplomas.

Jeannine Delange, APSB president, was proud to welcome a number of official representatives and to offer, after the ceremony, a "friendship" drink.

*Georgette Sante, Vice-President APSB*

**9th June - TTNET conference salon in Istanbul crowded for the prize-giving ceremony of the national and international competitions by Internet.**



A total of 238 entrants participated in the Internet contest this year , with 599 taking part in the national contest. These numbers explain the success of the preparation work in keyboarding inaugurated by Ihsan Yener many decades ago and now followed with enthusiasm by his colleagues.

It is to be noted that interest in keyboarding begins at elementary schools and continues through to university. The very young Turkish people were an astonishing success both in speed and the quantity of written languages. As a result they were an important part of the prize-giving ceremony, of which a colourful documentation is available at the Turkish website: [www.interstenoturk.com](http://www.interstenoturk.com).





*One of the very young competitors showing his ability during the ceremony*

### **16th June - Italian prize-giving ceremony in the Council room of Ravenna**

Notwithstanding the problems created by the earthquake which caused (and is still causing) problems in Emilia-Romagna (one of the main regions of Italy's north) it was possible to hold in Ravenna the ceremony celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Internet contest, which, by the way, had its beginnings in Italy, thanks to the cooperation and activity of prof. Paola Pilotti who was at that time a teacher at the Olivetti Institute.

This is the second time that the prize-giving ceremony has taken place in the Council meeting room, thanks to the support given by the Municipality and the good connections established by prof. Pilotti with Dott Massimo Cameliani, head of the Department for productive activities.

Over 80 persons attended. The photograph shows a group of competitors who received the diploma and medals offered by the Italian group of Intersteno. Dott Cameliani is at the center and wears the band with the Italian flag.



## Events

### European Congress of Speech-to-text-reporters

ECOS means 'European Congress of Speech-to-text-reporters'.

This is a congress organised by some members of the NSV (the Dutch speech-to-text-association) for speech-to-text-reporters from as many countries as possible. The people organising this congress are Gea Duister, Annemieke Solleveld, Lolkje Timmerman and Joke Vring.



They hope they will get a lot of help from other volunteers. The ECOS congress will take place on 24-25-26 August 2012. Keep those dates free in your appointment book! The location of the congress will be in Regardz - Heerlickheid van Ermelo, Staringlaan 1, 3852 LA Ermelo, The Netherlands.

Among other activities, the Interinfo Group of The Netherlands is organizing a text production competition like the ones organized by Intersteno.

You can see the whole program at [www.intersteno.org](http://www.intersteno.org) or <http://www.ecos2012.nl/>

### World e-Parliament Conference - Rome 13-15 September 2012



The World e-Parliament Conference 2012 will last two and a half days, starting at 9a.m. on Thursday, 13 September 2012 and ending in the late morning of Saturday, 15 September 2012. The event is structured around policy and management-oriented plenary sessions and sessions of a more technical nature.

The policy and management-oriented plenary sessions will touch upon the following topics:

- The Status of ICT in Parliaments in 2012
- The impact of technology on parliamentary openness and accountability
- The challenges of today's participatory media for legislatures and members of Parliament
- Innovations in parliamentary communications
- Benefits and values of open data for fostering greater transparency in legislatures
- ICT strategic planning and implementation in Parliament: doing more with less
- Cloud services in Parliaments
- Delivering information and documents through tablets and mobile devices
- Protection of the ICT environment and minimization of external threats

Presenters will include Speakers and senior members and officials of Parliament, high-level representatives of Governments and international organizations, and world-renowned experts. In each session time will be set aside for open discussion from the floor.

In the conference agenda, sessions of a technical nature have been scheduled to run in parallel with the policy and management-oriented sessions from the afternoon of the first day. Each session will feature two to three presentations delivered by senior staff from different legislatures, followed by open discussions to foster exchanges of views among participants.

The technical sessions will focus on the following themes:

- Technology options for recording and reporting parliamentary proceedings
- Applications for federated searching in parliamentary libraries and research services
- Electronic voting systems in plenary and committee rooms
- XML applications and services
- Inter-parliamentary cooperation to achieve a legislative XML standard
- Joint open source projects to deliver quality information

The event is co-organized by the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union through the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament and hosted by the Chamber of Deputies of Italy.

**Japanese Shorthand Society celebrates its 130th anniversary on 13th October next**

Symposium on Japanese Shorthand 130 **Free**

## Storytelling Books and Osaka

13, Oct. 2012 Sat. 12:00  
Dojima river forum , Osaka University of Art

**First** 10 minutes Trad and Future Shorthand  
**Nanryo Kyokudo** teller  
With Pen shorthand Live Caption by Machine shorthand

It will be published in First Electronic book, Live story telling on the Japan Shorthand Association Site.

**Second**  
**Memorial Lecture** 定員 70 名  
**Story telling books by shorthand**  
**Dr. Nanryo Kyokudo** Osaka Univ. of Art  
Shorthanded books and Written books  
Mariko Sekiyama Meiji Univ.  
Books by Shorthand and reporters  
Tsutomu Mimaki JSA  
速記 130 年記念シンポジウム大阪実行委員会  
application : [bx06051@nifty.com](mailto:bx06051@nifty.com)

背景の絵は三遊亭円朝「怪談牡丹灯籠」から



## 18-20 May - Typewriter collectors meeting at the Mitterhofer museum in Parcines (Italy)

About 80 collectors of typewriters from Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Spain convened once more in this nice village in the German-speaking part of north Italy to exchange experiences and trade the latest discoveries in equipment.

There has been an important and well-arranged museum in Parcines since 1998, thanks to the donation by Dott Karl Ryba of his collection and subsequent purchases, so that a total of 1600 pieces are now well arranged and cover the period up to the invention of the computer.



On the occasion of this meeting, Prof. Dr. Klaus Mauersberger (Germany) presented a report on the Model TU manufactured by Mitterhofer and preserved in Dresda. The Model TU (as it is renamed) is now on loan from Dresda for two years to the museum of Parcines. Prof. Mauersberger submitted a report on the history and technicalities of this special model, which is a 'hybrid' since it was rebuilt using original pieces manufactured by Mitterhofer.

Peter Mitterhofer, to whom the Parcines museum is dedicated, was born in this village and among other inventions he prepared his first model in 1864. Since he was a carpenter his models were mainly manufactured in wood. At that time the territory of Parcines was a part of Austria and he went to Wien carrying his machine in a barrow to show his invention to the Imperial court. It is worth pointing out that the distance between Parcines and Wien is about 630 km. and he covered this distance on foot. It is certain that the streets at that time were not so well kept as now. The State officials did not understand his invention and he received only a small amount of money.





Since its inception the museum has been managed by Mr Ewald Lassnig, who is a competent and enthusiastic person. He has also written books dealing with the full history of Peter Mitterhofer. In this activity he has had the support of Ms Maria Mayr who has a wide knowledge of the the history of typewriting and is a friendly guide to visitors to the museum.

A visit to this museum is really worthwhile: Parcines is located 7 kilometers from Merano (a renowned health spa). Wine-making and apple growing play an important role in the economic life. Excellent food and a relaxing atmosphere are well appreciated by the many tourists visiting this region and the museum, such as this group (Veloscritture) from Switzerland.

## What's New

### Google speech recognition available with Chrome browser

In May Google released version 11 of its Chrome browser. This version, among other updates, includes a speech recognition feature, available free of charge when connecting to [google.com](http://google.com).

If you use this browser (which can be downloaded free of charge) you will see a microphone icon on the right hand side.

If you have a microphone connected to your computer (the internal ones are usually not so good for this purpose) you can click on the icon and begin dictating what it is you want to search on the web.

The language to be used is the one that is set in your computer (usually your native language).

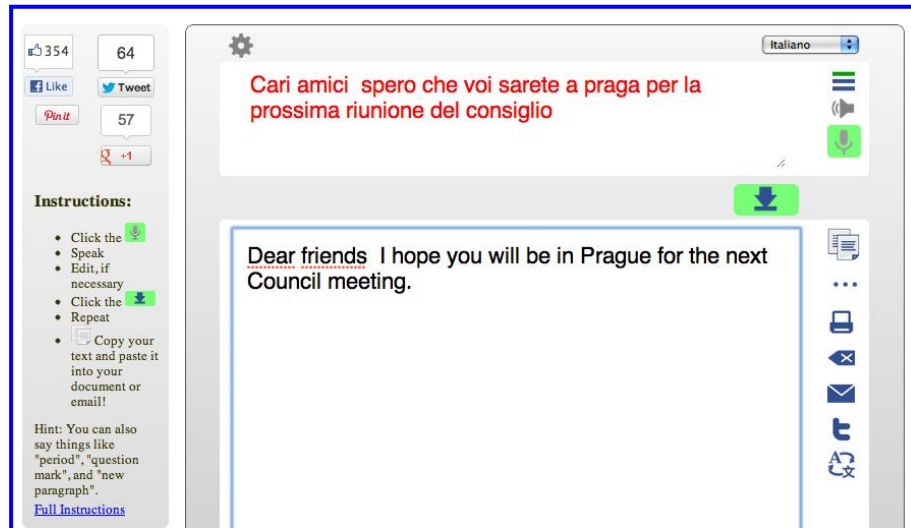
Your message is sent to a Google server which transform your voice into text and searches for the pages you have requested. You can continue using this tool for additional searches.

If you want to investigate how speech recognition has improved in your language, you can test Talktyper ([www.talktyper.com](http://www.talktyper.com)).

This is a web-browser application which permits dictation in an 18-language version.

Of course you cannot expect to have the same professional results of Nuance-Dragon or other speaker-dependent software, but everybody can see the important improvements in this technology over the last years. According to my test, in Italian and French, the commands for punctuation (comma, etc.) are not available, which is different from the English version in which they are recognized. There is no problem for the next Worldwide competitions - nobody can use this tool to take part in them!

Below you can see the result of a short dictation passage in Italian (red wordings): the word 'praga' is written without the capital letter. The phrase in black is my translation of the Italian wordings.



## Google glasses

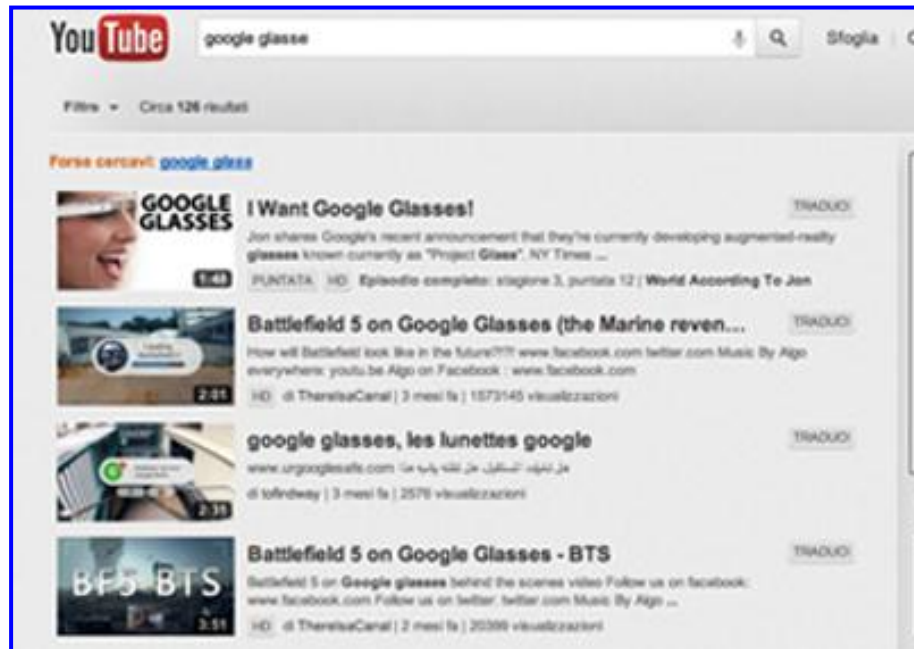
Google have officially revealed a project that will push them to their creative limits. It's called Project Glass, and it's a pair of glasses that layers digital information over the real world.

Google claims: "It's your smartphone, right in your eyes. You can read text messages. You can take photos. You can listen to music (thanks to some built-in ear buds). You can even be told that the subway is closed as you walk up to it, and be redirected to your destination by foot."



At the moment it is only in prototype form. Sales are expected by next year but only for developers and with a price around 1500 \$, since Google want to release a cheaper and complete version in 2014.

You can look at the features by connecting You Tube and searching for 'google glasses'.



### Microsoft announces cloud future for Office

Microsoft launched the public beta of Office's next version on 15th July, saying that from now on the suite's cloud-based edition, Office 365, will be its primary focus of development.

Microsoft will market a new version called Office 2013 that will be installed locally on devices, but the future of the suite lies online with the cloud-based version released in preview mode.

Microsoft said that the new version of Office has been designed to work best with Microsoft's new Windows 8 OS, in particular with its Metro interface, which is optimized for touch interfaces such as those in tablets.

We will follow progress in the next few months.

**Many thanks to Peter Walker for the revision of this text.**

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