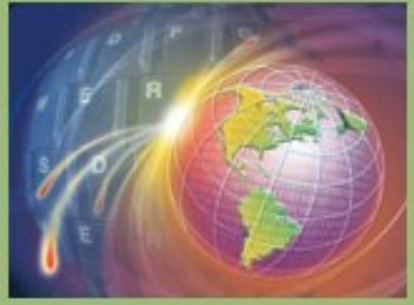


INTERSTENO Newsletter 59



September 2013





49th INTERSTENO congress Ghent (Belgium) 2013

Photos: Geert Bonte, Laurence Defawé, Jeannine Delange, Jean-Pierre Rensonnet



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From President's desk

Here we start again! We are still thinking of those mistakes we could have avoided during the competition and how good the presentations were at the Conference; we are recalling how special was the organization, how touching the opening ceremony and how tasty the welcome party; in our memories there is still the recollection of the tasty giant mussels and frites of Gent, as well as the many new and old friends with whom we discussed of our activities and shared impressions on the future of the profession. If you do not remember some details or the images have a look at the numerous pictures and videos shared on the websites (intersteno.org - intersteno213, iprs-info.org) and through Facebook.

I have one complaint, though: how can we now plan to organize our next Congress now that we know how the Gent Congress was perfect, well organized, brilliant and attracted so many participants? We can only try to emulate the performance of the efficient and smiling Belgian Organizing Committee!



Thank you, friends and colleagues, for choosing me as President once more, thank you for trusting the project that the Board members and I put forward for next two-year term. With your support and your ideas we will try to face the challenge and project the Federation into the future.

Apart from the Board members three consultants will give their support: Gian Paolo Trivulzio (e-news and general advices), Emrah Kuyumcu (youth and website), Linda Drake (associated members). The marketing and secretarial staff support will be confirmed, too.

The Board has begun to schedule further activities, continuing the work done so far and opening new avenues, for the benefit of the whole Intersteno Community. These include: the website to be restyled, the certification programme to be completed, the "scientific and research" projects to be defined, the competition rules to be adapted according to the most recent experience, the contacts with international agencies and associations to be followed up. By the end of the year the **"Call for projects"** will be released and all members will be able to propose actions and initiatives of general interest for our Community

to be co-financed by the contribution of Intersteno. The 13th Internet Keyboard Online Competition is already under way.

Join us

One of the moves that I appreciate greatly is the chance to join Intersteno as an individual associate member. If you are not representing a company, an association or a parliamentary reporting department you can subscribe as an individual and get all the benefits and the privileges reserved to Intersteno Associate members, included the right to vote in the General Assembly and the use of the Intersteno logo in your own working activity. Go now to intersteno.org, pay the annual fee (you can use your credit card supported by Paypal!) and fill in the form to become an associate individual member of Intersteno. You will be surprised at the many advantages you get.

50th Congress

The issue that concerns us the most is organizing the 50th Congress, in 2015. As many of you know, the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Council, decided that from now on the organization will be in charge of the Intersteno Congress and will not rely totally upon a local group. There are too many risks and too many uncertainties; the financial burden of a big event ought not to weigh upon the shoulders of few people. It is better to manage it directly from the center of the Federation: it is not an easy way but we think that it is the only possible method nowadays. Therefore, we must set ourselves in that direction, with the support of the whole Intersteno Community.

The fascinating idea of holding a Congress in the USA (New York) at the same time and venue as the Convention of the National Association of Court Reporters must be postponed due to the high costs involved in such a project, despite the efforts of our American friends. Intersteno will work on this idea with a view to making it possible in the near future.

The **City of Berlin has invited Intersteno to organize its 50th Congress** there. The proposal will be detailed in the coming weeks. Berlin is in the midst of Europe and very easily reached from all over the world. It is an attractive place, especially for youth, with modern services (transportations, hotels, venues) and interesting museums. In addition, the climate during the summer is warm and welcoming and professional conference organizers are eager to give their support to our plan. We expect that other (European) cities will advance their candidature too, so that we can take a final decision within the end of the year. Our decision must be based on a deep evaluation of costs and opportunities, of pros and cons. We hope that all Intersteno members would co-operate, guided by a spirit of openness and friendship; we hope that all of you are willing to share with us difficulties and success.

Meanwhile, thanks to the generous invitation of the **Chinese National Group, we are ready to schedule our next Council meeting in Shanghai or in another city of China, in September 2014**. Numerous members and IPRS colleagues have already announced their intention of being there.

Happy reading!

Fausto Ramondelli

Board 2013-2015 and nominations

The General Assembly in Ghent, by secret ballot, elected the following members of the Board from 2013 to 2015:

- **Dott. Fausto Ramondelli** (IT)- President
- **Rian Schwarz van Poppel** (NL) - Vice President and Chairwoman of IPRS
- **Danny Devriendt** (BE) - Secretary Treasurer
- **Jim Cudahy** (USA)- Member

Jim Cudahy, CAE, serves as executive director and CEO of the National Court Reporters Association in the Washington, DC Area of the United States.

Jim's email address is jcudahy@ncra.org

Jim Cudahy has more than 20 years' experience as an association executive and was appointed NCRA's executive director and CEO in June of 2012. Jim worked as NCRA's senior director of marketing and communications for two-plus years prior to his appointment as CEO. Earlier he spent nine years leading the marketing and communications functions at CFA Institute, a global non-profit association of investment professionals in Charlottesville, Virginia.

- **Tang Keliang** - (China) - Member

The assembly also ratified the nominations decided by the Council for:

- Jury President - **Georgette Sante** (BE)
- Scientific Committee Chairman - **Dr Carlo Eugeni**



Dr. Carlo Eugeni has a Ph.D. in English for Special Purposes. As a freelance, he is subtitler, respeaker, translator and interpreter and teaches audiovisual translation for several Italian universities and for professional associations. As a researcher he has been participating in several international projects and published extensively in the field of deafness, subtitling, subtitling for the deaf and the hard-of-hearing, language learning through subtitling, language simplification, and live subtitling through respeaking. He is the Human

Resources manager of the International Association on Respeaking on A.I.R.

No additional proposal came from countries for changes in the Scientific and Education memberships.

New assistants to the Board

The Board also decided to take advantage of the voluntary activity offered by:

Ms Linda Drake

To follow the activity and facilitate contacts with Associated Members

Linda Drake became a Certified Court Reporter in Georgia (USA) in 1982 and was awarded the designation of Certified Verbatim Reporter by National Verbatim Reporters Association (NVRA) in 1994. Linda is a member of Georgia Certified Court Reporters Association, Georgia Shorthand Reporters Association, National Verbatim Reporters Association, and Intersteno.

From 1999-2008, Linda served on the board of NVRA and was president of the organization 2004-2006. During her board service she chaired the Test Validation and Test-Writing Committees, and is currently the NVRA liaison to Intersteno. She also serves as a jury assistant for the Intersteno real-time competition.

Since 1997 Linda has used speech recognition to capture the spoken word and has provided information, education, and demonstrations of voice writing for various publications and organizations.

Linda has owned and operated a freelance reporting firm in Savannah, Georgia, since 1990. During her career, she has served as an official reporter in municipal, state, and federal courts. Her freelance reporting business services include depositions, hearings, and meetings for attorneys, governmental agencies, and private companies.



Mr Emrah Kuyumku

To advise on the improvement of support and projects for young people



Emrah Kuyumcu, born in 1986, graduated in Geological Engineering at Istanbul University and then BusinessAdministration (BS) at Anadolu University (2012). Served as Team Leader of Data Processing for several years in TransAtlantic Petroleum Ltd, a leading oil company in Turkey, working from the US. Earlier he served as educator for web and informatics in Şampiyon Computer Education Centre, a freelance webmaster and keyboarding reporter for various companies and as a trainee for data and word processing at Istanbul University

He has been working in his own digital agency, Grafela in the business of web services and solutions in Turkey since 2008. His services include serving and consulting for websites, digital services, designing, teaching web and informatics. He is also

a verbatim reporter with keyboarding for real-time audio-transcription.

He has entered Intersteno competitions since 2003, being mainly placed in top four and is still actively competing in the Turkish National Group. He managed the evaluation of Turkish keyboarding methods for use in the multilingual internet contests of Intersteno. In addition, he created the official website of the Intersteno Turkish Group in 2005, prepared a new visual layout of Intersteno.org website in 2009 and has been actively serving as web and digital media officer in the Turkish National Group since 2005.

New Council members

During the Council meetings in Ghent the following changes in country representatives took place.

Belgium - Mr Olivier Levrau



Olivier Levrau lives in the Flemish part of Belgium and graduated as an IT teacher. He is now working at the Artevelde University college as data manager. In addition, he is a freelance IT trainer as well as conducting training in enterprises.

Via Danny Devriendt, who was his professor at the university college in 1997, he discovered Intersteno and participated for the first time as a competitor at Lausanne in 1998. He also attended as a competitor in Hannover 2001. For

some years he has been one of the correctors of the word processing competition.

He is vice-president of ABW (Academie voor Bureauwetenschappen), the Flemish teachers' association.

China - Mr Tang Keliang



In 1993 he developed Yawei Sulu (Chinese Steno Machine) which was invented by his father Tang Yawei, who is the father of Chinese shorthand and stenography, and in 1994 succeeded in manufacturing Yawei Sulu, which is the first and the only Chinese steno machine which is used in the Chinese court system in 199. The National Congress of China began to use this machine in 2000.

In 2004 Tang Keliang became president of the Beijing Stenography Association and in 2006 he gained first prize in the Beijing

Science and Technology awards as well as taking the first prize in the Chinese Information Process Science and Technology awards. In 2007 he became the chairman responsible for organizing the successful Beijing 47th Intersteno Congress 2009. Afterward he was named Chairman of the Intersteno Educational Committee. He is also: President of the Stenography Professional Society of CIPSC and President of Beijing Xiaojun Office Equipment Co.

Croatia - Ms Kristina Zlodi



Kristina Zlodi is a member of the Steering Committee and the Assembly of the Croatian Stenographic Society, and president of the IT section.

She is employed at Croatian Chamber of Trade and Crafts in the Department of Economics and International Relations.

Poland - Mr Krystian Wawrzynek

"I learned quick writing at the age of 12 using the ZAV programme, which at that time was an innovation in Poland. In 2004, when Interinfo Polska Association was formed, I immediately became a member. I started to take part in different competitions, first at a local level, then at international level in the Polish Championships (organized by our federation) and in 2007 for the first time I took part in the World Championships in Prague. At present I am a Polish vice-champion in typewriting. In spring 2013 the board of Interinfo Polska selected me as an official Polish delegate to the Intersteno Congress in Ghent and the subsequent Council Meeting as well as the next Congress. My intention is to be an active member of Interinfo Polska and Intersteno Group. At the moment I am studying at the Silesian University of Technology in the faculty of Automatic Control and Electronics."



Switzerland - Mr Erich Werner



Born in 1940 in St. Gallen, Switzerland (German speaking).

Married, two daughters.

School graduation classical type (old languages).

Commercial apprenticeship in St. Gallen. Language studies in England. Worked in Geneva for two years. Three years' banking experience. Swiss real estate Diploma. Professional activity as Manager, Advisory Services at pwc Switzerland.

Owner of the Swiss diploma of Business stenographers. Long-time treasurer and honorary member of Swiss Stenographers' Association.

Special interest: Planned languages (Interlingue-Occidental) steno competitions and singing.

Associate Members - individuals can now apply

Following the discussions during the Council meeting in Prague in September 2012, the Council and the Assembly in Ghent decided to accept the possibility that an individual person could also be an associate member of Intersteno.

Before this decision Associate membership was limited to companies, associations or other organizations and parliamentary reporting services, whose membership is of importance for the enlargement of the working field of the Federation. The annual contribution is 175,00 EUR.

In addition, private persons are welcome to support Intersteno activity as **individual members**. The annual contribution is 45,00 EUR.

Both associate members and individual members are entitled to vote in the **INTERSTENO General Assembly**, which takes final decisions on many important aspects of the life of Intersteno.

Associate members are listed in the INTERSTENO website with their name, contact information, short description of activities and logo. They are entitled to have their logo in a rotating banner (300px × 120px) which is shown in the home page of www.intersteno.org website.

Individual members are listed in the INTERSTENO website with their name and country.

Both associate and individual members are entitled to use the description of 'Associate member of Intersteno' or 'Individual member of Intersteno' and use the dedicated Intersteno logo in their communications. Both logos can be downloaded at the menu **Leaflet and Logo** of www.intersteno.org

Associate and individual members can benefit from special discounts or benefits when attending Intersteno events.

Subscriptions as associate or individual member must be sent in using the form available at the submenu menu 'Join us' (Structure) of our .org web site.

Payment can immediately be made using your credit card, via Paypal. No additional charge is added using this procedure. Alternatively, a bank transfer to the Intersteno account can be used..

PayPal



Ghent 2013: a multimedia Congress!

All who attended this year's Congress cannot but positively report on the many events, the well-planned programmes and the attention paid to the smallest of details that ensured the smooth running of the complex activities which form part of one of the most long lasting international Congresses.

In addition, a huge quantity of photos were taken, a video was produced in nearly real-time and information about events, meetings and conferences was released on the Facebook pages of Intersteno communities in various countries.

This provides a useful set of memories for those who were in Ghent and provides an opportunity for those who could not attend to have a view on what happened.

On www.intersteno.org - Latest news of June- July and August 2013 you will be able to see:

- 23 minutes of video of all moments of the Congress by Jérôme Derèze
- 12 Albums with photos by Laurence Defawe (1289 photos)
- Album with 569 photos by Jeannine Delange
- Album Ghent photos of Jean-Pierre Renssonet (827 photos)
- video presentation of the Intersteno Ensemble
- 4 videos of the IPRS meeting 14th July
- 3 videos of the IPRS meeting 15th July
- 5 videos of the Conference Day (16th July) - morning session
- 7 videos of the Conference Day (16th July) - afternoon session
- 4 videos and a full report of the Web session released before the Conference day.

The videos of the IPRS meetings are also available on www.iprs-info.org together with a full report prepared by professional reporters attending these meetings.

Texts and presentation slides of the Conferences are also available in the Archive - Scientific Committee.

Many thanks to those already mentioned above for their contribution, as well as to Tiziana Trapani and Francesca Marchionne for shooting and preparing the videos of the IPRS meeting and conferences, as well as to Kimberly Turnage and Daniël Tuijnman for their voluntary activity in subtitling the speeches in Ghent. The subtitles produced in English will shortly be incorporated in the videos on web with the support of PerVoice software.

***** for the Congress restaurants and catering

Ghent is a city with 620 historical monuments and many interesting views. There are also plenty of restaurants and bistros for accommodating every kind of visitor as well as the thousands of students who attend the universities colleges.

The quality of the kitchen is always of the highest and the Organizing Committee organized buffets for jury and competitors that included refreshments with many kinds of candies and cakes.



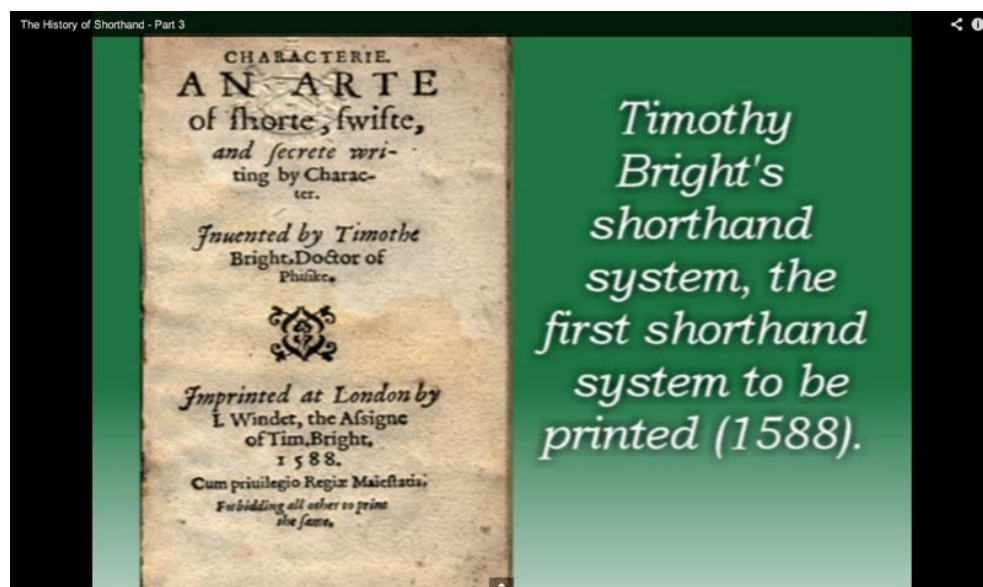
The quality offered was more than superb and the presentation was sumptuous as you can see from the many photos available on our websites, but we have to mention that at the top of this special organization there was a group of voluntary (but very expert) persons under the direction of Ms Magali Kairis who is (by the way) the daughter of our

Jury President, Ms Georgette Sante. Ms Magali was helped also by her husband David Corbesier, as well as by the very nice, smiling and always helpful young girls, Fanny and Juliette.

To all of them our compliments and congratulations. Everybody agrees that a 5-stars diploma should be awarded to all of them. gpt



Prof. Waldir Cury released the third installment of the History of Shorthand



The video prepared by prof. Waldir Cury, who is a very active member of the Scientific Committee, can be seen by surfing the Archive menu of our web site.

It covers the history of the art from the new discovery of the Tironian Notes presented by Trithemius at the end of the 15th century to the modern shorthand systems originated in England in the 1800s. It also includes notes about the different techniques of writing used for steno systems and a list of books from which information and pictures were taken.

Further, this part of his huge work, like the previous ones, is released in six languages (English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese).

We congratulate and thank prof Cury for this very interesting and attractive contribution which can be appreciated by everybody.

The link to the English version is
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwVqLJZXfak>

News from countries

Argentina

XXI ARGENTINE SHORTHAND CONGRESS

On 16th and 17th November 2013, the Parliamentary Reporters Association of Argentina (AATP) will hold in the city of Rosario, Argentina, the XXI Argentine Congress Shorthand and the III Argentine Shorthand and Stenotype Championship. The activities will be in the city council building, with the support of the municipal authorities.

SHORTHAND LIBRARIES NETWORK

The Parliamentary Reporters Association of Argentina is working with the Library of Shorthand "Miguel Palant", which depends on the Library of Congress of the Nation, to complete the digitalization process. As you may recall, this project was introduced at the Intersteno Congress in Ghent, and the goal is to connect the different library catalogues world's shorthand. Since the Ghent congress we have had conversations with colleagues from other countries involved in the project. For example, we visited the Library Aliprandi-Rodríguez Florence where we agreed to start working together.





Sergio Salinas, a member of our Association, visited the Spanish Senate and the Senate Library of Congress after INTERSTENO

SUCCESS OF SHORTHAND AND STENOTYPE COURSES

In recent years the Parliamentary Reporters Association of Argentina has taught courses in various parts of the country. Fortunately, it has met with much success, with many students enrolled, most of them young. We can mention the examples of the local Parliaments of Salta, Rosario de Lerma, Viedma, the Senate of the Nation and the local Parliament of Olavarria. Some graduates of

these courses are already working as stenographers in various parliaments of the Argentine. In the case of the local Parliament of Olavarria, shorthand students are practising in parliamentary debates.

The success of these courses means that local parliaments will be guaranteed a supply of stenographers in the future.



RELEASE OF SHORTHAND - SHORTHAND STUDENTS PRACTICE

In recent years the Argentine Association of Parliamentary Stenographers has undertaken a task aimed at spreading the work of stenographers. In this connection the association was involved in the 8th edition of "Model United Nations" (Model UN) at the National University of Quilmes. This programme encompassed school and college students from members countries of the United Nations. As a result of an agreement with the organizers of this event, the Argentine Association assisted shorthand students who recorded the proceedings of the sessions. This was an interesting experience for both the organizers and the participants of the "Model United Nations" as well as for shorthand students generally.



Finally, the Argentine Association of Parliamentarians has created Stenographers INTERSTENOAR page on Facebook. It has been a great success, as the site received over 10,000 hits a month.

Model United Nations (also Model UN or MUN) is an academic simulation of the United Nations that aims to educate participants about current events, topics in international relations, diplomacy and the United Nations agenda.

The participants role-play as diplomats representing a country or NGO in a simulated session of a committee of the United Nations, such as the Security Council or the General Assembly. Participants research a country, take on roles as diplomats, investigate international issues, debate, deliberate, consult, and then develop solutions to world problems. More recently, simulation of other deliberative bodies, such as the United Nations Security Council, has been included in Model United Nations, even if they are completely unrelated to the UN or international affairs as a whole. In general, the participants that the executive panel considers to be most contributing are given awards, such as 'Best Delegate award'.

QUALITY CERTIFICATION - STENOGRAPHERS WORKING IN THE SENATE OF ARGENTINA.

The reporters of the Senate of the Nation of Argentina have obtained quality certification ISO 9001 (the International Organization for Standardization) in conducting shorthand versions of the plenary sessions of the Senate and the Senate committee meetings.

China

Yawei Cup: Professional Secretarial Steno Skills Competition Held in Tianjin



From June 26 to 27, 2013, 188 contestants of 47 teams from 23 Chinese provinces and municipalities realised their dream, using their typing fingers at the Yawei Cup Professional Secretarial Steno Skills Competition. This competition is held

under the skill categories for higher vocational colleges of the 2013 National Vocational Students Skills Competition. The steno competition had four steps: creating text, proofreading the script, typing real-time information and typing with eyes masked.

The ranking was team-based, using the total scores of each team's contestants; the competition awarded five first prizes, nine second prizes and 14 third prizes. It was the first national competition for professional secretarial steno skills. The competition was held under the auspices of the Chinese Information Processing Society of China's Steno Committee, which was also the organizer of the competition's expert panel, executive committee, referee group and arbitrator group. The Tianjin Vocational Institute was the host for the competition and Beijing Xiaojun Office Equipment Co., Ltd. was the supplier of the competition's designated equipment, the Yawei Chinese steno machine.



This competition demonstrated the importance of steno skills to secretarial work, covered the most important basic professional abilities of secretarial work, reflected this information era's requirement of high efficiency in secretarial work, and highlighted the achievements of China's secretarial vocational education.

The event is seen as a test of comprehensive information-collecting and processing ability based on steno typing. Professional secretarial steno skills require an ability to demonstrate quick and accurate real-time typing of the information conveyed by speech, to sight type and arrange the script, and to continue steno typing normally despite facing electricity failure, blackout or other emergencies. In addition to an above basic typing ability, professional secretarial steno skills require the contestants to meet the normative requirements of language and characters, and to elevate their own comprehensive qualities, so as to meet the modern office environment's requirements of secretarial workers.

As this was steno's first appearance in a national competition the content of competition mainly involved steno typing skills. Future competitions will further mature the competition requirements and will cover the contents of secretarial information processing work, so as to more comprehensively reflect the qualities and abilities of the profession of secretarial steno and enable contestants to display their capabilities in an all-round fashion.

The competition ended on 17th June with a prize-giving ceremony for winning teams and their teachers. The competition also provided opportunities to experience steno typing and enabled participating schools to display their achievements in vocational education. It is understood that the Chinese Information Processing Society of China's Steno Committee will continue utilizing the support of steno experts and conducting in-depth cooperation with relevant schools. It will also use the competition as a platform to promote the aims of secretarial steno education, to strengthen graduates' vocational abilities and supply more excellent workers to society.





The 5th 'Yawei Steno Teacher-training Class for National Colleges was held in Hefei



The 5th Yawei steno teacher-training class for national colleges was held in Hefei during July 22nd-24th, 2013. This class was directed by the Stenography Professional Society of CIPSC, and hosted by Beijing Stenography Association. In addition, Anhui Vocational College of Police officers and Anhui Yashi Steno Company were the co-sponsors of this activity. About 60 teachers from 35 national colleges took part in the training class.



The content of the training class was informative and inspiring. It included Yawei steno teaching and training, a steno training system salon, the exchange of steno training experience and a school-enterprise cooperation forum. Those who participated in this class expressed great satisfaction with the activity.

During the course we also shared the wonderful performance and experience of the Chinese group in the 49th Intersteno Congress.

The Yawei steno teacher-training class for national colleges is held every year. This was the first time that it has been staged outside of Beijing. Many excellent teachers from the various colleges were invited to address the class.

Mr. Weihong, Chairman of Association of the Blind visits Yawei Steno Class for the blind

Li Weihong, the vice-president of China Blind People Association recently visited the training centre of the Beijing Stenography Association where he saw the work of blind and low-vision students.

The chairman showed interest in their daily life and study and brought them learning machines and tactile sticks.



Chairman Weihong was very happy that day and he recalled that several years ago he had, become aware of blind stenographers in Japan, where 40 such stenographers were typing for the government and the administrative institutions. Following his visit, he thought that we should carry out the same project. He was lavish in his praise for the Beijing Stenography Association in its efforts to train blind people to learn steno - a task it had been undertaking since 2010.

Czech Republic

Combination World Cup Winner Klára Odehnalová and her teacher Karin Solná from the Primary school in Opava (Czech Republic) interviewed by Moravian Regional Czech Television

It is very important to begin learning keyboard skills in primary school. For such young people, the ZAV e-learning program, as a single individual method of programmed lessons, is very effective and motivating.

Even if keyboard work is not a compulsory subject in Czech primary schools each school principal can arrange to have it since learning computer science without keyboard control is not efficient.



Klára trained for three hours a day before the Championship in Ghent, and eight hours per day during a training camp held in Litovel elementary school under the leadership of Helena and Jaroslav Zaviacic.

For Klára Helena Zaviáčičová is a shining example and it is her ambition to write 900 characters per minute.

During the 13 minutes of the interview diplomas and medals were shown and it was mentioned that the Championship in Ghent was particularly well organized. Klára (who is now 14 years old) had the opportunity to meet once more the young competitors who took part in the Paris Congress in 2011, when, for the first time, she attended this event.

USA

National Verbatim Reporters Association (NVRA) held its 2013 Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, on July 10-13.



Educational seminars included practical information for new professionals, applying strategic planning to one's career, preparing for CART, Internet security, using Dragon 12, ethics, trends in legislation affecting court reporters, and more.

The following members of NVRA's 2013-2014 Board of Directors were installed at the convention business meeting: Linda Winfrey, President; Jessie Coburn, President Elect; Becky Bazzle, Immediate Past President; Mike Ashcraft, Treasurer; Cathy Killingsworth, Secretary; Brenda Schmelz, Director; David Jester, Director; and Stacy Harlow, Director.

President's recognition awards, along with lapel stars, were conferred on these members for their outstanding service to National Verbatim Reporters Association: Caryn Broome, Chris Crosgrove, Rhonda Runnion Landsverk, Jimmie Jane McConnell, Mary Ann Pennington, and Cheryl Smith.

Donald Scott, CVR-CM-M, is NVRA's 2013 recipient of the Horace Webb Award, which was established in 1990 to recognize members for their outstanding contribution to NVRA. Don has served on the board as Director, President-Elect, President (2008-2009), and Immediate Past President. In addition to other achievements, he has made great progress in moving NVRA forward with social media as well as establishing a relationship with military court reporters.

NVRA's 2014 Convention will be held July 23rd-26th at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina.



What's new

Cincinnati typewriting challenge - June 2013 - celebrating 125 years of QWERTY keyboard and touch typing technique.

1888 The birth of touch typing

In June 2013 a typewriting competition took place in Cincinnati (Ohio - USA) to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the first typewriting competition held in the same town.

It is interesting to read the report of this old event, as reported on the The Cincinnati Commercial Gazette, on July 26, 1888

Two young men sat yesterday morning before two white-keyed writing machines in a cool, breezy room way up in the Palace Hotel Building. The young men's fingers flew over the white-keyed instruments with the rapidity of a Hans Bulow improvising a staccato composition. The clicking of the two machines made a metallic chorus, the tinkling bell on each machine doing a solo before a line was finished. The rooms were crowded with stenographers, typewriter operators and reporters. For a long time there has been an intense rivalry between the expert operators who work upon the two standard types of writing machines, the Remington and the Caligraph. The rivalry culminated last fall in a challenge issued by Mr. F. E. McGurrin, a marvelously rapid operator on the Remington machine, to any typewriter operator in the world.

Mr. McGurrin is a celebrated stenographer from the breezy West, holding an official position in the Salt Lake City Courts. Mr. Traub accepted the challenge, and the stakes, \$500, were promptly posted. Yesterday morning the two young men met to fight their battle in a room in the Bradford Building. Mr. McGurrin operated a Remington machine, a brand new instrument, with glistening mountings that worked with the rapidity and precision of a chronograph. Mr. Traub worked on a Caligraph. Both young men removed their coats and sat down before their instruments. The test of speed was rapidity of writing from dictation and copying. The material used was a legal report of testimony. Dictation was the first test. At the word go, the young men started and the keys clicked at a marvellously rapid rate of speed, while their nimble fingers sped over the keyboards with bewildering rapidity. From dictation the two contestants wrote forty-five minutes each. Copying they each wrote forty-five minutes. Mr. McGurrin in copying did not look at his instrument at all, and his fingers flew over the keyboard with the precision of blind Tom at a piano. Mr. Traub worked rapidly also. In ninety minutes on the Remington machine Mr. McGurrin wrote 8,709 words, his average speed being ninety-seven words a minute. On the caligraph Mr. Traub wrote in the ninety minutes allotted, 6,938 words, his average speed per minute being seventy-seven words.

Mr. McGurrin's copy was clean and neat, there being but one or two letters struck wrongly. In the five minutes' rest allotted Mr. McGurrin swung a pair of Indian clubs merrily, and when he returned to his work it

was with renewed vigor and nimbleness of fingers. The judges, Messrs. Dean, Cook and Perin, stenographic Court reporters, awarded the contest to Mr. McGurrin. It was a very pretty test of speed, and the amount of work done was marvellous. The contest will settle once and for all a long-disputed question as to speed. Manuscript has never before been turned out from writing machines at such a rapid rate as yesterday, and the copy was clean and neat enough to satisfy the most exacting type-setter.

Just for completeness of information about this matter, it is to be recalled at the International Congress held in London in 1887 (i.e. 1 year before this event) and which marks the birth of Intersteno, two Remington machines were exhibited as well as a Caligraph. Mr. Howard made a presentation of typewriting, and at the end a demonstration was carried out by dictating for 3 minutes to Miss Owen, who wrote 73 words per minute (= 365 characters per minute), with only three faults.

The challenge of June 2013 - Sean Wrona at the top of the speed with 173 word per minute = 865 characters per minute

The competition of 2013 took place at the Museum Centre, where an exhibition of old typewriters was shown, and was arranged in two moments: the first one, with today's traditional writing by copying a text, was attended by 124 participants who were split into three categories (Keyboard, Typewriter, Texting on handy phones). The fastest typists in the area were separated from the hunt-and-peckers to qualify for The Finals.

A video of this event can be seen at this link

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=B3Ag3hAwlwQ

Results of this event, which decided the participants in the Finals, are as follows)

1.Sean Wrona	173 WPM
2.Robert Price	137 WPM
3.Steven Lim	128 WPM
4.Matthew Makepeace	126 WPM
5.Samuel Raptis	120 WPM
6.Stephen Jones	112 WPM



The name of Sean Wrona is well known in Intersteno family for his records at the Internet competition, although he has never had the chance to attend the worldwide competitions. The speed Mr Wrona attained in Chicago is greater than that which he achieved in Internet 2013 (801 character) per minute and proves his extreme ability to keep his records and compete in different situations. He deserves heartfelt congratulations. We hope to see him in action again in our competitions.

The difference in speed from 1888 (when only the very first mechanical machines were used) is of course important, and it is a result not only of the improvements in the hardware but in the training methods used to achieve high speed. These factors mean that such results are no longer the province of a limited number of persons but are attained by a vast number of people, as it is proved by the world championships which began in Monaco Monte Carlo in 1957.



The second stage of the competition in Cincinnati took place a week later and the competitors had to use a new kind of keyboard, called TREWGrip, on which it was necessary for the competitors to train.

Unfortunately Mr Rona could not attend, for several reasons (among which are financial ones), which were explained by him in several messages on Facebook.

The winner of this second event was Robert Price, of East Walnut Hills, Cincinnati, who achieved a speed of 115 words per minutes (575 characters per minute).

What is the TREWGrip keyboard?

A complete description of this tool, also with video, can be read at the following link: <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/trewgrip/trewgrip-mobile-qwerty-the-next-evolution-in-typin>

According to the description of the inventor, Mark Parker, and TREWGrip president, TREWGrip is a handheld “rear-type” keyboard that has tactile keys for typing, but on the rear side. The standard QWERTY key layout is split and rotated so the hands gripping TREWGrip can also do multi-finger text entry. By maintaining the QWERTY key layout, typists can quickly transfer competencies from a traditional keyboard to TREWGrip without having to learn an entirely new skill.

We call it “mobile QWERTY,” says Mr Parker.

TREWGrip also provides visual cues on the front which helps users with varying levels of typing expertise easily to locate the typing keys on the back using hand/eye coordination. And when a typing key is pressed the corresponding indicator key on the front is illuminated.

It is to be mentioned that the idea of a 'rear-type' keyboard was presented with a practical demo at the Intersteno Congress in Wien in 2005.

Here are further details:

“The curved shape is more about function than design. It allows the user to reach the innermost row of typing keys while gripping the device. The handgrips located on either side are also removable and can be replaced with different sizes and types of grips to accommodate various hand sizes and user preferences respectively. These two unique characteristics, and the split and rotated QWERTY key layout, are what make rear-typing possible

We started this project to research and develop a two-handed text entry device for mobile workers because the available mobile hardware was just inadequate for typing. Hunting and pecking with one finger and thumb typing were barely adequate for entering just a few sentences. Although voice dictation, handwriting recognition and gesture-based typing continue to show promise, we found the majority of mobile workers still preferred a traditional tactile keyboard for text entry. Unfortunately, typing with both hands on a traditional keyboard required mobile workers to be immobile. To fully realize the expected benefits of mobile technology, especially in remote work environments, we decided mobile workers needed a device that supports two-handed text entry while on the move.

The ultimate goal for TREWGrip is a mobile computer, but for this project the goal is to develop and manufacture a mobile dock that works with existing technology. By bringing the mobile dock to market first, we hope to introduce rear-typing and begin building support for the “mobile QWERTY” key layout. If we can succeed in introducing this new typing paradigm we believe TREWGrip can effectively improve the way people type and work with mobile technology



The TREWGrip Mobile Dock will offer smartphone and mini tablet users an alternative to on-screen hunt-and-peck typing and portable keyboards. By temporarily docking a mobile device onto TREWGrip using a suction mount and wireless Bluetooth connection, smartphone and mini tablet users can efficiently type using both hands while walking, standing or sitting comfortably.”

Parker said he hopes the TREWGrip will go into production in January 2014

We at Intersteno hope to see this tool working at our next Congress in 2015.

gpt

ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN - Dec 4-6, 2013

ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN is the largest global conference on technology supported learning and training for the corporate, education and public service sectors. Now in its 19th year, the conference will bring together over 400 speakers and more than 2000 participants from over 100 countries. In this environment which promotes international networking for all sectors ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN is the event for learning professionals to discover innovative solutions, absorb new thinking and bring home ideas in order to take action, implementing change in the field of technology and learning.

Learning is changing. Learning is also changing us. The world seems ever more complex, presenting education with new challenges. New technology can seem complicated too but it offers unparalleled opportunities, changing learning and enabling us to inspire others to learn. How is the world of learning changing? How does technology help us to change the world? With a particular emphasis on how Learning Moves, ONLINE EDUCA BERLIN 2013 will focus on change and the role of technology in promoting creativity and innovation.

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