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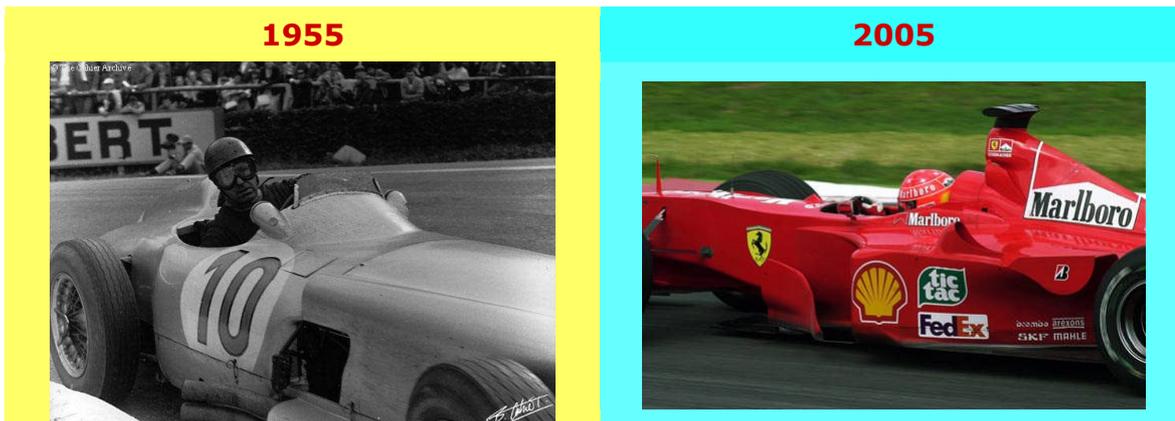
**The Board and Central Committee wish you a Happy New Year and a successful Congress in Wien.**

**Vienna - Wien 2005**

A show will open the 45th Congress in Wien and another wonderful show will close this important event when several hundred persons in festive dress (*Festliche Kleidung*) come to the Town Hall of Wien for the gala dinner and the so expected awardings. Who has never dreamed to dance the famous Strauss waltz "Wein, Weib und Gesang" (Wein, woman and song), in the historical halls of this everlasting building? The next morning only 114 lucky survivors will be able to take part in the final tour, full of cultural and culinary interests. The motto 'Weltkultur - Weinkultur' does not need to be translated.

In line with our 'steno' goals, this is a short summary report of what will happen in Wien and you can get full information on the [www.intersteno.at](http://www.intersteno.at) web site which has messages in 3 languages. Here you can register for the Congress and book your rooms at reasonable prices. Information in other languages will be available at [www.interinfo.org](http://www.interinfo.org) and [www.intersteno.it](http://www.intersteno.it). Do it now, tomorrow will be too late and we do not want to miss you!

**50 years of fair keyboarding competitions.**



**Lore Alt 544 c.p.m.**

**Zaigle Gabrielle 723 c.p.m.  
continuously writing a sentence.**



**Helena Matouskova 955 c.p.m  
(1993) -**

**> 1000 in 2005?**



### **Intersteno national Meetings**

#### **Hodonin, Czek Republic.**

On the occasion of the 10th edition of the **ZAV Hodonin competition**, a lot of competitors and international guests followed the Czech invitation to be present in Hodonin, a lovely Czech town near the Slovak border on 12-13 november 2004. Place to be was the Hodonin Commercial school where the very charming director Mr. Milos Procházka warmly received them.

Intersteno was largely represented by honorary president Ishan Yener (Turkey), president Marlis Kulb (Austria), Prof. dr. Boris Neubauer (Germany) from Intersteno scientific committee, Ms. Wawrzynek (Poland), Ms. Klemenz (Germany), Mr. Kartopu (Turkey), secretary-treasurer Danny Devriendt (Belgium) and of course our hosts Ms. Helena Matouskova and Mr. Jaroslav Zaviacic from Interinfo Czech Republic.



On Friday a training program was foreseen, where guests and teachers could follow the results of the typists on a big screen, updated every minute. Mikula Václav from Prague succeeded in typing **1006 strokes in one minute** in these training exercises.

The real competition on Saturday consisted of typing 3 times 10 minutes with penalty of 10 points/mistake in the first 10 minutes, 50 points/mistake in the second 10 minutes and 50 points/mistake in the third 10 minutes. The competition was won by Václav Mikula with more than 700 strokes/minutes net, followed by Emrah Kuyumcu (Turkey).

On an informal meeting, Ms. Wawrzynek put forward that she will officially reactivate Intersteno Poland.

An opening activity with cymbal music, a visit to the Turkish memorial at the Hodonin cemetery, a visit to a local brewery, a reception with the popular mayor of Hodonin at the townhall and the closing diner in the wine cellars of Cejkovice, where our honorary-president Ihsan Yener spoke wise words... contributed to the warm atmosphere of friendship that dominated these unforgettable days in Hodonin.

#### **Barneveld - Holland**

On 13 November 2004 the Dutch national group of Intersteno organized two events: the 23rd national keyboarding championships and a workshop about different ways to produce text. Both events were held in a large, modern and well equipped school in Barneveld, a nice little town in the centre of the country.

## The national keyboarding championships



There were three categories: **1.** pupils up to 13 years, **2.** pupils from 13 to 17 years and **3.** open category. The participants in the categories 1 and 2 were chosen out of those who took part in earlier held first rounds. In the open category also participants from Germany and Belgium took part. The task was to type two Dutch texts of 10 minutes. This had to be done with the Dutch system QMTT, which gives the lines to type at the top of the screen and counts automatically the produced number of strokes and the number of mistakes. The system doesn't allow the use of macros.

There were wonderful prizes to win and every participant got a scarf and a hat with Interinfo (the name of the Dutch group) embroidered on it. Dutch television attended the contests; highlights were broadcasted later on.

In category **1**, **Bianca Graafstra (age 12 years)** won the first price with 3350 strokes net (3450 gross and 1 mistake = 0,03%). In category 2 the first price went to **Coen Schipper (age 15 years)** with 4112 strokes net (4412 gross and 3 mistakes = 0,07%).



Champion in the open category was Andrea Schipper with 5474 strokes net (5574 gross and 1 mistake = 0,02%). Most of the participants took also part in the optional contest foreign language (an English text of 10 minutes). In this contest Leen Vandaele from Belgium won the first price with 4034 strokes net (4734 gross and 7 mistakes = 0,15%).

Next year the 24th Dutch championships will take place before the summer holidays.

## The workshop

Hans te Maarsse from Holland and Vineet Shankar from India showed their invention, **the YogiType keyboard**. This is an innovative keyboard that will prevent or significantly reduce the risk of RSI for computer users. It reduces muscular stress and improves efficiency and productivity. This has been confirmed by research carried out by three universities in the Netherlands. Persons practicing yoga, can sit motionless for prolonged periods of time without needing to adjust their posture. Their hands rest gently in the lap, palms upwards. The head is kept upright and centred over the spine. The shoulders are naturally pushed slightly backwards, keeping the spine straight. It was this observation that gave the inventors the idea to develop a transparent keyboard, standing in an upright position. The keys are struck from behind. It looks unfamiliar, but the inventors claim, that a touch typist needs only little practice to adjust to and become proficient in using this keyboard. The YogiType keyboard is patented all over the world. It is produced in India. It will be demonstrated during the Intersteno Congress in Vienna.

Margot de Vreede demonstrated **the Veyboard**. This is a Dutch stenomachine, invented years ago and at that time called the Velotype. After a flying start it didn't break through. But several years ago there was a restart. Dutch television uses the Veyboard with great success for live subtitling. It is also used in Sweden. At the highschool of Utrecht a course Veyboard is given by Margot de Vreede. This course is integrated in the education for "writing interpreter" at that highschool. This is a new profession in Holland and looks similar to the profession of courtreporters using stenomachines in the USA. Originally there was no system for using abbreviations on the Velotype, but Dutch television has developed its own system, called shortforms, which gives their velotypists

an incredible gain of speed. They have several databases of shortforms. Peculiar is that the same shortform in one database gives a different longform in another database. This enables Dutch television to limit the number of shortforms to be used (and learned) by the velotypists. In England there is also a service for subtitling, but in the English system a shortform leads always to the same longform. Therefore English subtitling specialists have to learn many thousands of abbreviations by heart.

Last but not least there was a very interesting demonstration of **speech recognition**. Hans Vergouwen of Kanteff Speech Processing, a Dutch partner of Scansoft, the company that is marketing **Dragon NaturallySpeaking** world wide, demonstrated the latest version of Dragon. Speechrecognition has been developed rapidly in the past few years. Nowadays Dragon NaturallySpeaking is the leader in the market of speechrecognition programmes. It sells programmes for a large number of languages and also adaptations for a specialized use of language, like medical and juridical language. In the juridical field it is so successful, that the government of Baden-Württemberg, one of the "Länder" of Germany, has decided that it has to be used in all courts, not only by secretaries but also by the judges and the lawyers. They all followed a course to learn how to dictate in the microphone. In former days the programme made a lot of spelling mistakes, but now a grammar programme controls if the dictated words are spelled correctly.

At the request of the Dutch group David Rogala from NVRA had arranged, that a **Stenomask** was shipped to Holland to give Hans Vergouwen the opportunity to practice the use of this device. This is a silencer with a built-in microphone, which enables voicereporters in the USA to dictate what is said in the courtroom without disturbing the environment. It was very interesting to see a man, holding a cap before his mouth and nose, to hear nothing of what he was saying while the dictated text appeared on the screen. Kanteff Speech Processing is considering to import the Stenomask if there is sufficient interest for this device.

## Bologna - Italy



The meeting of Italian National Group took place on 6th November in Bologna, where an exhibition of services for communications of Public Offices was held too

The Italian representative, **Maria Luisa Corti Crippa**, reported about the Intersteno road map after the Rome 44<sup>th</sup> Congress and the Central Committee held in Helsinki and stressed the early goals of the New Statute of the Federation. She also gave answers to many questions on specific aspects of the Helsinki meeting.

The main goals of the Italian group for the following months are:

- To participate to the Wien Congress
- To find sponsors for helping young people to attend and take part in the competitions
- To manage the 3rd edition of the Internet keyboarding competition

Many participants requested to be informed about Intersteno activities and about events happening in other countries, particularly new technologies and teaching activities.

The Intersteno "Newsletter" was announced and information was given on the work of the specific Committee devoted to follow the technologies' development. In the field of "teaching", was

stressed that "distance learning" is growing as a strategic tool also in Italy.

**Fabrizio Verruso** proposed a new method for evaluating the Intersteno competitions, considering the best results achieved by each country, in order to stimulate the interest for the success of National Group. The draft will be investigated and completed for a presentation to the Central Committee. Verruso informed also that a conference will be held in Palermo devoted to shorthand reporting in foreign languages. The date of this event will be timely announced.

**Paola Pilotti, Laura Batani and Morisi Maura** explained how they tried to involve teachers and schools for the Internet keyboarding contest in May 2004. The efforts produced successful results: 182 Italian competitors, compared with 87 participants in 2003. The experience will be useful for improving participation in the 2005 edition.

**Gian Paolo Trivulzio** showed how "digital technology" is affecting our lives and the reporting activity. He gave examples in this field and stressed the growing impact of more flexible jobs, thanks to distance reporting and teleworking, such as live subtitling of TV programs.

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