
This newsletter is published under the responsibility of the Board of the International Federation for Information Processing - Intersteno - and sent to all e-mail addresses of persons participating in the work of the members of Intersteno known to the Board. Contributions to the newsletter can be sent using the form on the web site www.intersteno.org. Publication will take place at the discretion of the Board.

◆ **In memoriam Ing. Judita Sehnalová (Slovakia)** ◆

Tuesday 13th November 2007 was a very sad day for our international INTERSTENO family. On that day our dear colleague and friend, Ms. Judita Sehnalová from Bratislava passed away at the age of only 48 years.

I met Judita for the first time in 1994 on the occasion of the INTERSTENO Central Committee in Prague, one year after the separation of the former country to form the Czech and Slovak Republics.

Since then she has represented the Slovak Republic in the Central Committee of INTERSTENO and she was member in the Jury of our world competitions.

Unfortunately the Stenographic Institute in Bratislava, where she worked, closed some years ago and this reduced the (financial) means available to the Slovak competitors.

To discuss this situation I visited Judita two years ago in Bratislava. For a whole day we talked and walked together. She showed me the old centre of Bratislava with the *hrad* (castle) which we visited, as well as the area of Petržalka close to the city centre where she lived. We talked about the Slovak situation, about our children, about life...

In the beginning of this year she subscribed to participate at the 46th INTERSTENO congress in Prague, but finally health problems did not allow her to be with us last summer.

We will remember Judita as a warm and gentle colleague and friend. To her children and her family we can only offer our deepest condolences. Thank you Judita for who and what you were for us and our federation!

Danny Devriendt



◆ Honorary members ◆



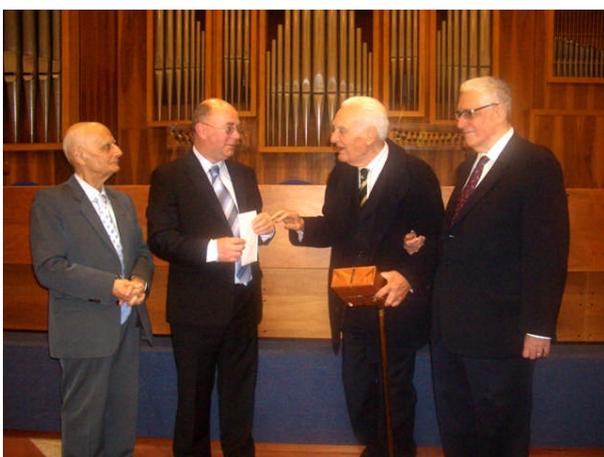
On the occasion of the meeting of ISSD - (Institute Sténographique Suisse Duployè) held in Lucerna on 17th November, a diploma was presented by the Intersteno President, to Ms **Gabrielle Fasnacht** and **Mr Mauro Panzera** who were appointed Honorary Members of Intersteno by the General Assembly in Prague in July 2007.

Also taking part in this meeting were **Ms Jeannette Luck** and **Mr Erich Werner** who are SSV members of Interinfo Swiss. This entity is now composed of **3 Associations: SSV - ISSD and Veloscrittura Ti-Lo. Swiss** members at Intersteno are by turn, the representatives of these Associations. Therefore until the Congress in Beijing Mauro Panzera will hold this position.

On this occasion Ms Jacqueline Bertin-Maieux - Paris - displayed the results of automatic transcript of Grandjean Stenotype, and informed the meeting about the improvements that are under development in France, Canada and United States aimed at achieving better results and therefore permitting higher accuracy in realtime-time reporting, both with stenotype and speech recognition.

A pleasant lunch took place on Sunday 18th with the Honorary President, Mr William Bonnet, who was eager to get the latest news about Intersteno activity, about which he is regularly informed, courtesy of Ms. Gabrielle Fasnacht who visits him nearly every day.

◆ Flaviano Rodriguez - 90th Anniversary ◆



On 1st and 2nd December about 150 persons met in Florence to celebrate the 90th birthday of Intersteno Honorary President, Prof. Flaviano Rodriguez.

This date coincides also with the 50th Anniversary of IDI (The Teaching Institute founded by Flaviano Rodriguez) as well as the 25th Anniversary of the appointment of Accademia Aliprandi as a State-approved no-profit entity.

The gala dinner took place in Villa Viviani, near Florence, and during this dinner Mr. Ihsan Yener who met Flaviano Rodriguez for the first time at the Milano Congress in 1957, officially represented Intersteno and delivered a message and a gift.

At the end of his speech a moving melody was broadcasted, which pointed out the relationships between young and old people.

Also present were Dr Prof Boris Neubauer and Ms Georgette Sante. The Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Danny Devriendt could be in Florence only on Sunday due to the death of his mother.

On Sunday a Congress took place in the magnificent Auditorium of Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze, with four reports focusing on the activity of Flaviano Rodriguez and his contribution to the development of fast writings techniques in Italy. Flaviano Rodriguez published 162 books on shorthand, typewriting, word processing and their didactic. He organised many competitions in Florence both for shorthand and typewriting. He hosted a meeting of the Central Committee in 1980, and the 37th Congress of Intersteno. He continued the activity of Accademia, of

which Giuseppe Aliprandi was President. The Accademia Aliprandi is now hosted in the prestigious headquarters in Piazza Duomo, together with a library of about 5000 books on shorthand, typewriting, wordprocessing and the like.

Dr Prof. Boris Neubauer made a presentation about the activity of [Forschungs- und Ausbildungsstätte für Kurzschrift und Textverarbeitung](#) in Beyreuth, and this gave the opportunity for several of the attendees to raise questions and gain a better idea about the connections between Accademia and Forshungstatte.

Prof. Rodriguez attended all of these events for their entire duration and greeted all participants. Someone asked him the secret of reaching his age in such a good mental shape and he said that **it was due to shorthand, which keeps the brain alive!** And with good humour he stated that he will do his best to celebrate his 100th birthday..

◆ Prague Congress - Final report - Comments about competition results ◆

* Final report of the Congress

The final report of the Congress was released by the Steering Committee on 20th November in digital format. It can be downloaded from www.intersteno.cz or www.intersteno.org - Prague2007.

The report contains translations in 4 languages and therefore everybody can easily evaluate its contents. Mr Jaroslav Polacek will be invited to attend the Board meeting in Sprimont and speak about the experience of preparing and managing this important event.

We are much indebted to our Czech colleagues for the prompt release of this report.

The texts and audio files of the conferences are available at www.intersteno.org - Prague2007 - Conferences.

* Comments about the results of the steno-speech capturing competition

Mr Jari Nittuinpeera, Jury coordinator for steno-speech capturing competitions, released a report about the preparation of the texts and audio recordings, as well as comments and statistical data. In addition, information about the winners is included. This is an interesting document which will be followed by similar reports by the other coordinators in the near future. It can be read (.pdf format) at www.intersteno.org - Competition - Competition texts.

gpt

* Czech Republic won crushingly

Prague 26th July 2007 – Celebrations on Thursday evening in the Žofín palace were held to mark the conclusion of the World Championship in Information Processing, by which the 46th Congress of the international federation Intersteno, arranged by Interinfo CR association, was ended. *"We achieved a unique success. Not only did we exceed the number of medals gained in Vienna but, moreover, we achieved it in the historically largest competition involving more than 30 countries from three continents. I am very proud of our competitors,"* said the Chairman of Interinfo CR Jaroslav Zaviacic, commenting on the results.

The next congress will be the first to take place outside of the European continent since the end of the Second World War and it is in that historic context that the Czech Republic made such an impact at this congress. A total of 45 medals were won and four world champions were clothed in the colours of the Czech Republic - **Hana Belicová, Miloš Cernilovský, Václav Mikula and Lucie Ševcovicová.** Petr Sekanina, Lukáš Adámek, Gabriela Novotná and Michal Ružicka won in their age groups in professional word processing and Petr Hais won the "Combination" competition.

Petr Sekanina is the International champion in Correspondence and Minute Taking.

In a very pleasant atmosphere at Žofín palace, the promulgation of results was completed by the performance of mimes from Theatro Pantomissimo. At the meeting it was clear that the Czech Republic, due to its methodology, leads the world in information processing. Thanks to fifty years' work by Jaroslav Zaviacic, in cooperation with many schools, and aided by scientific development, it was obvious that the world championship was more the championship of our republic within the world of international participation.

"I appreciate our success but also the training mentality of our representatives, without which it would not have been possible for so much gold to stay at home," nine-fold world champion, Helena Matoušková, who led competitions in text production this year, added.

The final ceremony was also moderated by the chief of the Steering Committee Jaroslav Poláček, who thanked all who shared in the preparations: *"This congress and world championships persuaded us that there is a lot to be proud of. Keyboard literacy – the ability to type on a keyboard – is important for the most effective, fast and mistake-free text record even at the beginning of 21st century. We hosted a very significant congress, I am glad that the media paid such attention to it. It was a successful congress but it would have not been so successful without our patrons and sponsors but especially without the many hundreds of hours of work on the part of those who helped us."*

Jaroslav Polacek

◆ Broadcast about shorthand at Czech Radio 2 ◆

On 27th September last **Dr. Jirí Novák**, gave an interesting lecture about shorthand history and developments at the Czech Radio 2. This lecture lasted about 30 minutes: he spoke about the birth of shorthand (Cicero) the improvements during Middle Ages and the important diffusion in the 19th Century following the social and political events of that time. He mentioned the important contribution of F.X. Gabelsberger to shorthand in Central Europe, as well as the spread of shorthand in the Czech Republic up to to-day. He made reference to steno machines, both with keyboarding chords and the Zav system. The last part of his speech was devoted to shorthand at the Czech Parliament. You can listen his speech by connecting to this link <http://www.zav.cz/indexcz.html>.

Dr. Jirí Novák is a member of the Czech Shorthand Association. He is a teacher at the middle schools and is a Parliamentary stenographer.

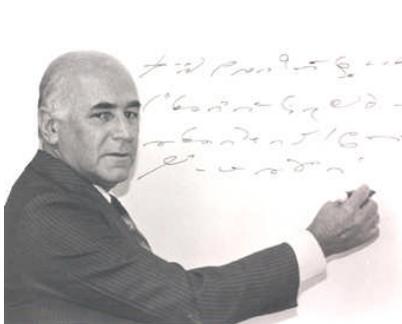
◆ Shorthand in Brazil ◆

It is well known that Brazil is the largest country in South America, and is a Federation of 26 States, with 189 millions of inhabitants. The official language is Brazilian Portuguese (which can be considered a dialect in respect to the Portuguese spoken in Europe, owing to differences in spelling and grammar).

This huge number of states and related administrative entities creates a considerable requirement for reporting and, thanks to tradition, culture and excellent teaching and learning paths, shorthand is still the most used technology for parliamentary as well as court reporting.

The shorthand systems used in Brazil are based on geometric signs due to the influence of Spain since from 1500 Brazil was a Spanish colony. You can gain an idea of these systems by following the links available at Useful links - Others - www.intersteno.org - Useful links - Others.

Visiting these websites one can see the integration of teaching shorthand with informatics. Demonstrations of shorthand outlines, with text, sound and videos are offered, aimed at motivating people to learn shorthand. The learning paths take into account the large travelling distances across the country and offer various formulae of learning in a blended environment.



Prof. Paulo Xavier



Prof. Waldier Cury



Prof. Rogério Mascarenhas

The main goal is to educate professional stenographers who can find work in the above- mentioned public environments, for which examinations are periodically held. This, in turn, creates the need for good teachers and, in turn, their education.

We suggest that you visit the website of Taquibrás, directed by Prof. Paulo V.B. Xavier. This teaching institute is based in Brasília, the capital town of Brazil where 2 locations are active.

Prof. Xavier has long experience both in professional and in teaching life. He prepared a report to the Intersteno Congress in Rome, but he was not able to attend, at the very last minute, due to health problems. His report was in

any case included in the printed book which contains all information about that Congress.

In this website you will find on the first page a link mentioning Intersteno, which brings you a full description (in English) of the structure, methodology and learning programme of this Institute. Due to its completeness and the fact that it is based on true, successful experiences, we deem it to be an important document to which one can make reference for similar experiences in other countries. The learning path is supported by motivational and technical aids. Software for counting words in any kind of text has been specifically prepared and 1500 texts are always available from 40 up to 135 words per minute (about 110 to 350 syllables). A list of 3500 professional abbreviations for frequently used expressions are progressively taught.

On the same website you will also find a complete description of how the reports at the Brazilian Parliament are prepared, both for plenary sittings and commissions.

◆ **IV Edition of keyboarding competition via Internet** ◆

This contest will take place from 21st April to 10th May 2008 . The rules in English, French and German are available at www.intersteno.org - Internet competition.

This year the number of participants was slightly below 1000. It is expected that this figure will be greater in 2008. This competition and the related training exercises, which are available in 20 language versions, are a good basis for preparation for the world-wide competitions and are also a good teaching tool.

We remind you that from 1st January 2008, the transfer of money through banks in Europe requires the compulsory use of IBAN indication, which also reduces bank fees. The IBAN number of Intersteno is:

INTERSTENO Bank Account

068-2318908-53

Intersteno, Kapellestraat 124, BE-20 Oostkamp, Belgium

IBAN: BE53-0682-3189-0853

BIC: GKCCBEBB



LangTech is an international language and speech technology conference. It is the 3rd event of this kind, following those held in Berlin and Paris.

The purpose of this conference is to present the latest development in automatic language processing and promote contacts between research centres, industries and users. Language and speech technology is influencing many kinds of activities among which are realtime transcripts and translations.

The focus will be upon several topics which are strictly related to our interests:

- linguistic analysis and web mining
- translation and multilinguality

- document engineering
- advanced speech and language technologies
- standards, solutions and emerging applications in speech and language technology

This event is supported by **Fondazione Ugo Bordini**, Ministero delle Comunicazioni, Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale CNR, Evaluations and Language resources Distribution Agency ELDA and all ForumTal members.

Fausto Ramondelli was asked to be a member of the Organising Committee of this event, and he succeeded in having a session devoted to reporting. In this session there will be 3 lectures:

Mark Golden (USA) - Technologies in assemblies and court reporting in USA.

Fausto Ramondelli (Italy)- Realtime subtitling of university lessons for helping hearing-impaired people.

A third speaker will shortly be announced.

The language of the Conference is English, but with a common effort between Intersteno and Accademia Aliprandi, a simultaneous translation service will be on duty.

Intersteno members get a special discount on the registration fee which includes: participation in all sessions of the conference and attendance at the exhibition, a copy of the proceedings (booklet and DVD), folder and documentation of the conference, two lunches, coffee breaks.

You can see the whole programme and additional information at <http://www.langtech.it/en/default.htm>

Many thanks to Peter Walker for the revision of these texts.

The Board of Intersteno wishes to you all, a brightful 2008

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