

INTERSTENO Newsletter 51



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2012 - A year of anniversaries

Intersteno e-news 51



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Our President's message

By Fausto Ramondelli

A new release of the E-news to publish the latest news from the Intersteno world. But what is this Intersteno world? Many of you are wondering about the meaning of our Federation while we celebrate the 125th anniversary of its foundation. In 1887 some friends met in London at the Geological Museum and decided that sharing experiences and information is an opportunity and a stimulus for the advancement of the profession. Today, while we mourn the loss of some "fathers" - most recently our William Bonnet, who sustained us with his smile and his ideas at many of our Congresses - we confirm that choice. We live in the era of "clouds", of networks connections, of highly technical applications and social networks. Much has changed: we no longer need to collect, store or produce information as in the past. There is no need to own the material. We have total and detailed access. Nevertheless, we must worry, perhaps even more than in the past, about how to access that information promptly and effectively. Thus the reporter, the expert in the art of communication treatment, remains the crucial figure in the provision of the most appropriate tools for communication access.

In July 2013 the 49th Congress will be held in Ghent, Belgium. The Board have tabled a few topics of discussion that are intended to broaden the horizons of Intersteno, revealing new professions, new methods, new interactions. The Board has visited the venue where most of the Congress events will take place - buildings, competition halls, equipment, in a picturesque town that becomes a place of fable when night falls and that is filled with bright colors and scents at sunrise.

The Jury is already working to ensure even more exciting competitions, demanding and meaningful in terms of technique and skill development. We have taken concrete steps to solve the topic of comparison between languages in an environment now enriched by Oriental languages. A statistical study is to be made of the criteria used and of those that might be adopted.

In the meantime we all strive to give Intersteno the future it deserves, with ideas, projects and studies. Each of you is an important member of Intersteno and you can help. Intersteno will devote human and economic resources to support local or multinational projects directed to the pursuit the social aims. We have already achieved some results: in Argentina a historical National Group is very active in gathering shorthand experiences in South America and will resume an active participation in our organisation. Meanwhile the Internet competition is beginning, with thousands of young people becoming involved with Intersteno.

Happy reading.

Sad news - Honorary President William Bonnet is no longer with us

On 11th January last our community received the sad news of the passing away of our Honorary President William Bonnet, which happened unexpectedly following an accident during health care treatment.

William Bonnet was born on 24 August 1923: his mother died during the birth and his father also died when he was 7 years old. He was raised by two cousins.

After his studies at the commercial school, he attended teacher training school

and in 1949 began teaching in Vevey (the well-known Swiss village where, in 1954, the first Intersteno meeting after the second world war took place).

His ability to get on well with young people led to him being appointed to the chair of Dean of the commercial school.

From 1950 he took part in the training courses of the ISSD (Institut Sténographique Suisse Duployé), gaining the diploma of steno and typewriting teacher in 1961.

He also took an active part in the political life of his country as member of the Community Council and Member of the Conseil Vaudoise (the regional parliament of the Canton Vaud in Switzerland), where he introduced several proposals that were approved and put into effect, further enhancing his good reputation.

He was fond of music (he learned to play the violin) and mountain excursions: he climbed a 4000-metre mountain top.

For 30 years he was President of the Institut Sténographique Suisse Duployé, to which he made important contributions by including typewriting and later informatic in its studies. This institute organised many steno and typewriting competitions.

He took part in many activities of Intersteno and in 1995 he was named President of our Federation. With the help of Gabrielle Fasnacht and Mauro Panzera he arranged the very successful worldwide Congress and competition in Lausanne 1998.



The funeral ceremony was held in Vevey on 17th January: the S. Martin church was filled to capacity by persons who had the opportunity to know him and to appreciate his capacity for communication and making human contacts - his humanity coupled with authority and responsibility. Intersteno was represented by Gregor Keller from Germany, Gian Paolo Trivulzio and Marialuisa Corti from Italy.

Intersteno members who met him on various occasions and during the Lausanne Congress held him in high esteem, something which was expressed in the hundreds of messages to his family and to Gabrielle Fasnacht who assisted him during the last years when William Bonnet had to decide to retire to an old people's home.



Every year, on the occasion of an Assembly of the cited Association, several steno and Intersteno people coming from Italy and France, had the opportunity to meet him. The last time was November 2011 and notwithstanding his health problems he expressed the hope of being able to recover in time to attend the next Congress in Ghent!

Board meeting in Ghent - 10-12 February 2012

As previously announced, the Board members gathered in Ghent for their annual meeting. Unfortunately Mr. Jaroslav Zaviačič could not be there due to an illness which led to him being hospitalised from which he was discharged a week later. Gian Paolo Trivulzio also attended, on invitation.

Many topics were discussed. Naturally, the first was a brief review of the Congress in Paris which was a big success, notwithstanding some organizational and financial problems. About 600 persons from 36 countries were involved: more than 550 persons visited the opening ceremony. For the final banquet in the Paris town hall 515 persons subscribed and a total of 118 participants took part in the final Champagne excursion in the Champagne region.

The congress resulted in a loss which was offset by the generosity of the leading personalities Jacqueline Bertin-Mahieux and Jean Charles Le Masson, to whom the Board expressed warm thanks and appreciation for their huge work.

The visits to the proposed venues for the next Congress in Ghent was an important part of this meeting, since all members had had the opportunity to appreciate the big impact that they will have on the Congress organisation. The very modern, recently inaugurated campus of Kantienberg, has a comprehensive selection of competition rooms, meeting rooms and auditoriums enabling it to accommodate events involving from 99 to 400 persons. The campus has very good connections from the town centre, with a lot of parking space. In addition there are also bicycles that can be rented.

All competition rooms are very comfortable and are equipped with PCs that have a loudspeaker facilities, meaning that there is no problem for speech capturing competitions. Sufficient jury rooms are also available.



The Board, ready to welcome you in Belgium, Artevelde University College Ghent in 2013!

The campus does not have a big competition hall and the proposal of the organization committee to run the computer competitions in parallel in several rooms is accepted by the Board. Most probably, with the help of wifi cameras, the competition could be followed on big screen outside the rooms.

Discussions were held about several related issues including that of the fees. Complete information will be released at the next Council meeting in Prague together with a final programme.

A deep brainstorming session about the Conferences was held during the Congress.

A general theme, suggest by Fausto Ramondelli, could be New horizons of communication, under which New horizon of reporting would be dealt with during the IPRS sessions. It was stressed that care had to be taken to ensure that such proposals did not overlap the contributions presented during the IPRS meetings.

Our Constitution assigns the task of taking care of the conferences to the Scientific Committee: it was decided to nominate a dedicated group for helping Jean Charles Le Masson in this task. Members of this group are Rian Schwarz-van Poppel, Carlo Eugeni and Lida Horlings.

A report of Jean-Charles Le Masson was discussed dealing with the well known issue of the counting of syllables for our speech-capturing competitions. INTERSTENO has a lot of material (history, experience, data) on this matter, but scientific support and help from linguistic specialists and investigations on parallel corpora is needed. Some practical ideas were defined and will, it is hoped, be submitted to the next Council meeting.



Rian Schwarz-van Poppel gave a report on IPRS activity in 2011. A steering Committee was confirmed in Paris and a new website (www.iprs-info.org) was activated with the support of Danny Devriendt and two of his students. The intersteno.org website will include a link to the new one. A questionnaire for IPRS members will be worked out and they will be invited to register into a database. Other correspondence channels are the IPRS Facebook group and the IPRS e-newsletter.

Jan den Holder proposed the arrangement of a full competition in correspondence and summary reporting for IPRS members, to be held during the council meeting in Prague 2012: however, the limited time schedule does not allow this but during one of the meetings Mr. den Holder can give a short presentation on this competition.

The Intersteno website intersteno.org will be updated in lay-out and structure: the main goal is to attract people to INTERSTENO and to make the website more transparent/simple for new visitors. Several comments and suggestions were worked out and a possible solution will be brought to the attention of the Board in the next few months.

Georgette Sante, Jury President, informed the meeting about the proposals and suggestions for competitions which were submitted, in limited quantities, from some countries.

All proposals were carefully evaluated and the Board expressed its opinion: the Jury Presidents will release a document on this topic as a guideline for the final decisions to be taken by the Council.

The names and tasks of the persons involved in the management of the competition must be clearly defined, and the persons proposed by the country representatives must be aware of the work they will have to do on site.

Further statistical investigations must be made for a better evaluation of text production works written in non-Latin characters.

It is important that the preparation of competition tests and relevant tasks are fulfilled within a precise time frame: everybody knows the problems of sticking to this but additional efforts must be made in order to ensure the smooth operation of the complex activity that is so important for the success of this event.

The Internet competition will shortly begin, for some countries (Poland, Russia, Slovak Republic, Switzerland). Intersteno will again sponsor 50% of participants' fees, which will be granted only if the country takes the duty of distributing the diplomas in their country. Consequently all diplomas will be sent to only one address.

In future an evaluation will be made as to the viability of sending the diplomas in PDF-format so as to lower the high costs of postage. In this way the distribution of the diplomas will be done by the national group, or the schools/associations by themselves. An alternative solution would be to have an increased fee for who wanted printed and shipped diplomas.

The Czech Group submitted a tentative programme with fees relating to the Council meeting in Prague and confirmed that the visit to the Parliament of IPRS members could also take place on Monday. However it was felt that several participants would need to be back to work on Tuesday, so some revision would be needed. The Secretary will take care of this and contact the Czech organizers for a final version.

(This has been already done and you will find the complete program immediately after this report).

On the occasion of the Council meeting there will be a moment during the gala dinner for recalling the 125th Anniversary of our Federation. So as to involve all other Intersteno members in this occasion, other will be held in 2013.

Gian Paolo Trivulzio is collecting documents about the history of our Federation which will be distributed.

A further brainstorming session was held relating to the location of the 2015 Congress, together with the question of our competitions in the States. A factor to be taken into account in the latter respect is that Mr. Mark Golden will leave NCRA and have duties outside that Association.

For this reason an investigation about alternative venues must be made.

Council and IPRS meeting in Prague: 29th September - 2nd October 2012



As announced in the report of the Board Meeting in Ghent, the programme of the Council meeting in Prague has been finalised and we give herewith the necessary information.

We thank very much the Czech Group of Intersteno and specifically Mr. Jaroslav Zaviačič and Ms Helena Matoušková for taking charge of the organisation of this important event.

Please be aware that early registration and payments of fees are needed, and certainly by 15th of June 2012.

Proposals on competitions and other matters to be dealt with during the meeting in Prague can be sent to jury@intersteno.org before the end of May 2012.

Registration must be made at www.intersteno.info which offers full information about the costs as well as about Hotel Duo Prague, where the meetings will be arranged.

Programme

Saturday 29th September 2012

09.00 - 12.00 h	Board meeting
12.00 - 13.00 h	Lunch (for those already arrived)
13.30 - 15.45 h	IPRS-meeting 1 for IPRS-group Jury-meeting (for jury members)
16.00 - 19.30 h	Council meeting - first session
19.45 h	Welcome dinner in Hotel DUO

Sunday 30th September 2012

09.00 - 12.00 h	IPRS meeting 2 for IPRS-group Council meeting: second session
12.00 - 13.00 h	Lunch
13.30 - 17.30 h	Council meeting: third session
18.30 h	Dinner 'Celebration of 125 years of INTERSTENO' in the Castle Mělník.

Monday 1st October 2012

09.00 - 12.00 h	Visit in Czech Parliament (all) IPRS meeting 3 (only IPRS-members)
11.00 - 14.00 h	Council meeting: fourth session
14.00 - 15.00 h	Lunch in Hotel DUO
15.00 h	Trip Prague Venice and Prague Castle
Evening	Free evening in city centre

Tuesday 2nd October 2012 - Optional excursion to northern Bohemia

09.00 h	Visiting the Glassworks and glass museum in Nový Bor (Those who do not resist temptation can even learn the art of glassmaking and - using the blowing pipe - manufacture their first exclusive glass piece) Gorges in Hřensko Pravčická brána (the largest natural stone bridge on our continent and a natural monument of our country) and Falcon's Nest
19.00-20.00 h	Arrival in the Hotel Duo



24 March - The methodological and didactic conception of teaching shorthand today



On Saturday, 24 March 2012 in Schwalmstadt-Treysa (Germany) a meeting of the working group of the German steno system took place. **Mr Ralf Groß**, who is well known to Intersteno people for his constant presence at our Congresses and competitions over many year, is President of this Committee and the organizer of this event.

The agenda of the meeting covered several topics of interest for German participants but the main focus was a presentation by **Professor Friedrich-Wilhelm Koßwig** (University of Bonn) which deeply analysed the methodological and didactic conception of teaching shorthand at the present time.

Prof. Koßwig has taught shorthand since 1970 at the Bonn University, where he has also taught statistics as well devoting attention to the methodics and didactics of shorthand.

In the last few years he set up a training course, which is open to students and other interested people, with the aim of giving participants a practical tool for conceiving and taking notes (in German: Notieren und Konzipieren).

The course includes a learning path lasting about 14 weeks (within a semester) with a total of 90 minutes of lessons per week.

He pointed out the new approach needed today in learning and teaching 'shorthand' which demanded a reduction in time and which produce practical results creating good motivation.

The course is not only a training and practising course; the aims are also to increase language mastering and language skills, with special attention to the current problems and changes arising from a multilinguistic environment and the influence of the English language.

Linguistic exercises are carried out with a motivating approach involving all participants, who are encouraged to train every day for about 20 minutes and to start immediately using the shorthand outlines for the words they have learned. All exercises done by the student are revised by the teacher.

The tools used for this teaching includes an instruction book presenting examples and exercises according to a linear structure, which simplifies learning and the rules of the Unified Shorthand for German language (Einheitshandschrift) are reduced to about one third of the traditional ones.

In Germany an alternative system could be Stolze-Schrey which has a simplified structure (and is prominent in Switzerland).

Monthly checks are done, so that students have a sound vision of their results.

The courses have achieved a good success rate, with about 30/60 persons attending each session.

According to Prof. Koßwig, a speed of about 60 syllables per minutes is enough for taking down good notes. This speed is easily attained by all participants.

The history of Intersteno

As mentioned in the report of the Board meeting, Gian Paolo Trivulzio has taken up the duty of updating the documents concerning the long history of Intersteno.

On the occasion of the meeting in Treysa he had the opportunity of visiting the library of the Association headed by Mr Ralf Gross where nearly all reports of the Congresses (starting from the first one in London 1887) are held.

With the valuable help of Mr Gross and that of **Ms Monika Suppkus**, it is hoped that Gian Paolo will be able to collect many important documents which will be

included in the document which, it is hoped, will be presented during the meeting in Prague.

The book containing the very interesting report of London 1887 was handed over to Gian Paolo Trivulzio, as had been done in 2003 for the Rome Congress. Comments and images from this report will be published also in the next issues of our e-newsletter.

We owe many thanks to Ralf Gross and Monika Suppkus for their support to this important event.

Next events

The events listed here below are announced on the web or we have been informed of them by their organizers. If you wish to have your event in our next issue please send the information at least one month in advance. The next issue will be released in June 2012, so the info must reach us not later than 15th May.

eLearning Africa 2012 - 23-25 March (www.elearning-africa.com)



eLearning Africa 2012 will take place from 23rd to 25th May in Cotonou, Benin, which has a rich cultural heritage and a significant record of achievement in education over the last decade.

eLearning Africa is the continent's largest gathering of high-level policy makers, decision makers and practitioners from education, business and government. It is the key networking event for developing eLearning capacities in Africa.

Focusing on eLearning and Sustainability, eLearning Africa 2012 will explore creative ways in which eLearning can support development and help to build a sustainable future. eLA 2012 will focus on the key themes of sustainable technologies and infrastructure; eLearning for sustainable communities; sustainable change management; eLearning and sustainable resources; and sustainable economy, culture and society.

eLA is a must for anyone involved in or wanting to find out more about ICT for development, education and training in Africa. As the largest gathering of eLearning and ICT-supported education and training professionals in Africa, participants are able to develop multinational and cross-industry contacts and enhance their knowledge, expertise and abilities.

The conference is held in English, French and Portuguese. It includes plenary sessions with world-class experts, presentation and special focus sessions, practical demonstrations, discussions and debates on specific topics, as well as various informal networking opportunities where participants can share their experiences, ideas, new information and perspectives.

The conference is accompanied by an exhibition and demonstration area, where exhibitors can showcase their latest products and services and hold meetings with important decision-makers within the African education community.

April 13, 2012 - competitions in Den Hague

The Dutch group of Intersteno has organised a competition in text production (30 minutes) and 'correspondence and minutes taking', following the Intersteno rules.

This event is restricted to Dutch-speaking persons and will be held in the rooms of the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament.

The competitions will take place in the afternoon, while a visit to the Parliament and a lunch are arranged, starting at 11.30 of the same day.

For any additional information please contact interinfo.nl.

Report and comments on this event will be published in our e-news 52.

Meetings of the Stolze-Schrey steno Association (Schweiz)

In a change from tradition this year the annual event of the Swiss association is split in two parts. The competitions will take place in Gossau on 28th April, while the General Assembly and related events will be in Winterthur on 19th May.

Additional information, and registration form at www.steno.ch.

What's new?

The info herewith is based upon reliable information gathered from various sources but it is not intended as an advertisement of products, services or producers.

New name: Accademia Francesco Aliprandi - Flaviano Rodriguez (Florence - Italy)

The assembly, which took place on 18th February, last, approved a new statute of this Accademia, of which many Intersteno persons are members or honorary members.

Apart from updating several articles of the original statute, the decision was taken to add the name of **Flaviano Rodriguez** to the one of **Francesco Aliprandi**, in this way acknowledging the significance of the important work done by him in taking care of the Accademia since 1982 and hosting it in the IDI Institute in Florence.

The library of Accademia has consistently grown up and now amounts to over 6000 texts, which are accurately recorded. The list of all books, which is already available on www.accademia-aliprandi.it, will be updated shortly.

On the occasion of this assembly a new Council was voted; three of the 'old members' left their position to give an opportunity for young people to enter it. They will in any case continue to support the activity of Accademia which is working in constant cooperation with Intersteno Italia.

As usual at the Assemblies of Accademia, one half-day is dedicated to reports on issues regarding technologies and education. This year the reports were presented by:

Prof. Valentina Ciriani of the Department of Information Technology of the Università degli Studi of Milano: Cloud teaching, an innovative method for didactics in the modern school

Prof. Carlo Eugeni - Teacher of multimedia translation at the University of Macerata - Distance vocational education with Moodle platform, its use and advancements in the future.

Dott Alexander Glowka - Researcher at the Oxford University - The limits of voice recognition systems. The role of the reporter. Improvements of language skills.

Dott Fausto Ramondelli - Stenographer at the Italian senate - Distance work: The mediation of communication for deaf people.

All reports were supported with practical demos and will be made available on the website of Accademia: www.accademia-aliprandi.it

Eduserv announced the launch of its Education Cloud for UK Universities

Eduserv, a non-profit IT service provider, has announced the launch of its Education Cloud, giving universities and colleges in the United Kingdom access to storage and processing power on demand.

The Education Cloud enables higher education institutions to increase and decrease capacity throughout the academic year, to deal with peaks and troughs in demand.

The cloud platform is hosted from Eduserv's data centre in Swindon, which has direct connectivity to the Janet backbone that was recently tested for 100 Gigabits optical service, thus providing fast access to UK's education and research network.

The new solution is part of the University Modernisation Fund's Cloud Pilot which has been developed with funding from the Higher Education Funding Council and the Joint Information System Committee. The Cloud Pilot was originally developed to host the software-as-a-service (SaaS) projects being undertaken at several English higher education institutions.

Universities are starting to look at cloud computing as a way to deal with huge peaks in demand during certain times of the year, such as clearing and graduation. This is in contrast to the summer months, when most students are on holiday.

The Education Cloud has two pricing models: Pay-as-you-go and "Virtual Datacentre". The pay-as-you-go model allows institutions to pay for what they use, so if a university has periods of high demand followed by periods of low demand, then its monthly billing will peak and trough in response to that.

The Virtual Datacentre option, meanwhile, allows universities to pay a flat monthly rate. Those that are willing to commit upfront to a year's worth of a certain amount of computer resource and a certain amount of storage will get a discount on Eduserv's pay-as-you-go pricing for committing upfront.

While Eduserv's cloud platform is initially targeted at higher education in the UK, it is built on the organisation's community cloud infrastructure, which is much more broadly applicable. Eventually, Eduserv wants to offer community clouds in other areas, such as government, charity and health.

Mercedes to build Apple Siri into luxury cars

Mercedes will integrate Apple's Siri voice-assisted technology into future A-Class models of its cars.

This will be done via a special app that will also translate an iPhone's screen on to the in-car display, so you can listen to music, change radio stations or update your Facebook and Twitter status.

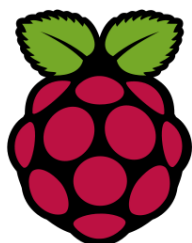
This is where Siri comes in: instead of having to memorise certain commands, the

iPhone personal assistant allows natural speech input for tasks such as sending messages, making appointments, playing music, getting directions or checking the weather forecast. Siri is a feature exclusive to the iPhone 4S so far. This would mark the first time Apple has allowed the technology to be used in conjunction with other hardware.

A separate Digital DriveStyle app will also give access to personalised radio stations, navigation directions with internet-based real-time traffic information, online points-of-interest searches and 3D map display from Garmin. A car finder feature will also store the vehicle's location, so you don't forget where you parked.

Mercedes said you will not need top of the line in-car entertainment system to get this kind of iPhone integration, as apparently the functions can be used even with the entry-level Audio 20 system.

Raspberry Pi, on board computer, launched on 29th February at the price of about 35 euro



A few minutes after the launch the 10.000 units available for shipment were sold out.

The Raspberry Pi is a single-board computer developed in the UK by the Raspberry Pi Foundation. The foundation plans to release two versions, priced at about 35 euros, plus delivery cost and sales tax. The Foundation started accepting orders for one model on 29 February 2012. The

Raspberry Pi is intended to stimulate the teaching of basic computer science in schools, but it can easily be used for basic activities like text processing, spreadsheets, agenda and so on.

The design is based around a Broadcom BCM2835 system on a chip , which includes an ARM1176JZF-S 700 MHz processor, VideoCore IV GPU, and 256 Megabytes of RAM. The design does not include a built-in hard disk or solid-state drive, instead relying on an SD card for booting and long-term storage.



This board is intended to run operating systems based on the Linux kernel, including, but not exclusive to Linux and to support the Python programming language, BBC BASIC, and Perl.

As can easily be understood, this board must be connected to a keyboard and a tv-set in order to be able to use it.

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

This newsletter is published under the responsibility of the Board of the International Federation for Information and Communication 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. Text with signature could not reflect the official position of the Board of Intersteno, but only the one of the writer.

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