

SEPTEMBER 2018

# STIBC Voice

Society of Translators and Interpreters of BC

## A Message from the President and the Executive Director

The past year has been a tumultuous year for the Society due to its many staff changes. However, we were successful in hiring three excellent new staff members who will continue to support the Society and ensure smooth sailing with full steam ahead. In case you have not yet met them, here are their names:

- Tracey Block, Executive Director
- Luise Wagner, Coordinator: Events and Administration
- Cathleen Thomson, Coordinator: Membership and Certification

### Building on a Solid Foundation

2018 has been another busy year for the Society, its volunteers, board members, and staff. The Society continued to implement its previously developed strategic plan, with accomplishments in three key thematic areas:

**Solidify STIBC:** The Society continues to improve its financial position and has provided many new programs. This was accomplished by securing new sources of sponsorship and contracting revenues and increasing the number of workshops and seminars.

**Deliver More Value to Members & the Public:** The Society has drastically increased its member engagement activities and provided more professional development opportunities than ever before (32 workshops, 1 full-day seminar, networking events, an 8-week law course, and 2 webinars). Thousands of referrals from the public and other users of translation/interpretation services were sent to the Society's members, and advertisements were placed both to attract new members and to secure demand for our members' services. Renewed insurance and software tool affinity programs were added to deliver even more value to the membership. STIBC's membership grew for the third year in a row (363 Certified Members, 422 Associate Members).

**Increase STIBC's Influence:** Collaborations with post-secondary institutions continue to bear fruit. VCC has offered a simultaneous Court Interpreting course in addition to the new Community Interpreting program. SFU's Legal Translation & Interpretation students are joining the Society and doing well in the CTIC Court Interpreting written exams. Several of the translation/interpretation bodies of other provinces have started to adopt some of STIBC's best practices and have outsourced their admission/practice exams to STIBC. Participation at Word Vancouver, the STIBC-sponsored International Translation Day event, industry forums, orientation sessions, and participation in government studies supported the Society's goal of becoming the Hub for translation and interpretation in British Columbia. The Society continues to provide governance guidance and support to the national organisation (CTIC) and has championed the development of the Community & Medical Interpreting examinations.

To our members, staff, volunteers, and stakeholders, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for your support this past year and to ask for your continued support in the year ahead. British Columbia's translation and interpretation profession is stronger than ever — robust, thriving and focused on the future.

We're looking forward to the journey ahead!

Karin Reinhold  
President, STIBC

Tracey Block  
Executive Director, STIBC

# Scenes from the STIBC AGM, Van Dusen Garden Floral Hall, June 23, 2018



Cathleen & Members at the sign-in table



Masako Fujiwara's Trados 2017 workshop



David Warriner's "translating on the fly" workshop



Lunch at and around Floral Hall



Members lining up for lunch



Some 2017-2018 Board Members: Karin Reinhold, Masako Fujiwara, David Warriner, Stefanie Kennell, and Gerrie Wagner



Members voting at the AGM



The STIBC Office Team: Tracey, Luise, & Cathleen!



## Now that I'm a STIBC Associate Member, How do I Get Work?

*by Angela Fairbank, Certified Translator (Spanish to English)*

This was my question when I rejoined STIBC after many years away. My multifaceted freelance business constantly evolves, and in September 2017 I decided to make my translation and interpretation work more full-time. I certainly didn't get flooded with work on joining STIBC: no job referrals came from STIBC itself since I wasn't a Certified Member yet. And I didn't expect to write the certification exams until May 2018. So what was I to do in the meantime?

As one suggestion from STIBC was to apply to become an ICBC Approved Translator/Interpreter, I went to my local driver's licensing office and asked them what they needed besides a copy of my STIBC membership card. They gave me a form to fill out, an ethics code to sign, and asked for copies of my M.A. in translation (for approval in French) and my Community Interpreting certificate from VCC (for approval in Spanish). Then I waited for about a month for ICBC to add my name to the on-line approved list as they only update it periodically. Although they have different translation needs for driver's licences, marriage certificates, driving histories, and so on, it gets easier once you get the hang of it, and when your clients come in person to pick up the translation package, you get to meet them face to face!

Next, I Googled, then called Vancouver-area translation and interpreting agencies, sending out my CV to any who expressed interest. Truth be told, I was more successful with agencies in the USA and Europe. One agency in Vancouver turned me down flat (despite 35+ years of experience and STIBC and ATA affiliation), saying they only accepted Certified Translators/Interpreters in my language combination.

So, what next? Since I felt comfortable interpreting in health care situations, I sent my CV to the Provincial Language Services (PLS) of the Provincial Health Services Authority and waited. It took a few months to hear from them, as they only recruit when they are short of interpreters. They interviewed me and I had to fill out several forms, in addition to paying for a police check and buying WorkSafe BC insurance. Their contract is extremely long and they have many rules and regulations, but now that I've managed to figure out their system, I have been working pretty steadily for them. They only demand you be available 20 hours a month, so that leaves time to work for other agencies at perhaps slightly higher pay — if you are lucky and good at negotiating!

I began attending online free monthly sessions with [interpreterslab.org](http://interpreterslab.org). Through them I heard about the non-profit Abbotsford Community Services' Interpretation & Translation Services (ITS) and DiverseCity in Surrey, and signed up with both of them. Although the pay isn't great in any of these organisations, I've become more familiar with the healthcare system in the Lower Mainland. Working a few hours a week, mostly with new Canadians, is rewarding — people are all very friendly and very grateful for the linguistic help.

Now, after almost a year, with a mixture of work from these and other interpreting agencies, translation assignments from my long-term contacts in Europe, the USA, and Vancouver, plus direct clients through ICBC, along with the translations I do volunteering for Translators Without Borders and other non-profits, I kept fairly busy while I was awaiting the results of my certification exams.

If you've just joined STIBC as an Associate Member and haven't decided what to do next, I hope that these ideas will help you organise your freelancing better until you become certified. Once that happens, doors to more work (and hopefully higher income) should open for you!

## Chinese Names in Translation

*by Zhang HUI, Associate Member (Translator, English to Chinese)*

I have been using my English name for years, but I gave it up after I moved to Canada. Why? People stick to what they accustomed to. As a result, whenever people who are not native Chinese-speakers get my English name, they lose the impulse to know my Chinese name and thus give up the opportunity of demystifying China through an understanding of Chinese names.

Chinese names differ from English names in many ways. It seems arbitrary for English-speakers to say that we Chinese people put our last names first. The reason is self-evident: I would say that the structure of Chinese names is family name first, then the person's own name, which in English is the "first name."

This brings up the question: how to translate a Chinese name into English? Should you translate it in the English way, or keep it in Chinese-style? From the outset, translators have unanimously adopted the former. However, over the years, the trend switched imperceptibly. Though it is still early to conclude that the Chinese-style way is becoming the norm, both in formal settings and in some translations, Chinese names are no longer being switched to conform with Western naming customs. The change is noticeable. And the rationale behind this tendency is reasonable, especially for language professionals.

Firstly, names are an essential part of the culture that they are rooted in. If someone does not have any grasp of Chinese names, I believe this person has little or no interest in understanding China and its culture. Yet for translators, for whom the language combination is either Chinese to English or English to Chinese, gaining insight into the cultures where the languages belong is vital. Chinese family names come first because Chinese culture emphasizes collectivity over individualism. Good or bad, it is a solid fact that derives from Chinese culture.

Secondly, every Chinese name has its own unique meaning. The uniqueness of a name fades when family name and given name are switched. Even worse, the outcome can sometimes be ridiculous. Once there was a joke about a gentleman whose name was Gu Guangbi (顾光璧). It was a pretty good Chinese name: Guang (光) in this combination means "smooth" and bi (璧) means "jade." He was a fan of English, so he voluntarily switched his name to Guangbi Gu, which in spoken Chinese sounds very like "bare buttocks" (光屁股). Obviously, nobody would want to have such a name.

By now, I hope I have clearly explained my reasons for abandoning my English name. It appears that I am for the style of keeping names in their original form. Suppose we switched a Western name around according to the structure of Chinese names — wouldn't the result look foreign, not just in the context of a different language, but also to a Western eye?

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## International Translation Day and St. Jerome

by Carl Rosenberg, Certified Translator (Spanish to English)

International Translation Day—September 30—was created by the International Federation of Translators (FIT) in 1953. In 1991, the FIT launched a campaign for international recognition of the day. The UN formally established it on May 24, 2017, “to pay tribute to the work of language professionals, which plays an important role in bringing nations together, facilitating dialogue, understanding and cooperation, contributing to development and strengthening world peace and security” [www.un.org/en/events/translationday/](http://www.un.org/en/events/translationday/).

September 30 was chosen for celebrating Translation Day because it is the feast day of St. Jerome, whom the Catholic Church recognizes as the patron of translators, archivists, librarians, and encyclopedists. Jerome is also a saint of the Eastern Orthodox and Lutheran Churches, and in the Anglican Communion.

Jerome (c. 342-420), born Eusebius Hieronymus Sophronius in Stridon (probably in present-day Slovenia or Croatia), was a priest, scholar, Biblical commentator, and translator, but is best known as the translator of the Bible into Latin. As Latin replaced Greek as the common language in the western part of the Roman Empire, need arose for a new Bible translation to replace existing inadequate Latin translations. Pope Damasus I chose Jerome for his knowledge of Greek, Hebrew, and Latin. Jerome translated the Old Testament for the most part directly from the Hebrew rather than (as had his predecessors) from the widely used Greek Septuagint translation.

Jerome did not translate the entire Bible into Latin. (From the New Testament, he translated only the Gospels from their Greek originals.) Nevertheless, his translations, reinforced by his scholarship and literary acumen, formed the core of what the Council of Trent recognized eleven centuries later as the official Latin version of the Bible—the Vulgate. The Latin he used is known as “Vulgate Latin”—the Latin of the “common edition”.

Jerome is also recognized as the patron saint of librarians, archivists and encyclopedists, partly because of his enormous personal library, which included both pagan and Christian works. He also established the Papal library in Rome.

Members of our field will be especially interested in Jerome’s views on translation. In response to critics who accused him of deviating from the source text, Jerome wrote that when translating, he “render[ed] sense for sense and not word for word.” He summed up the choices and dilemmas still faced by translators today when he wrote that if he translated “word for word, the result will sound uncouth, and if compelled by necessity [he alters] anything in the order or wording, [he] shall seem to have departed from the function of a translator.”

As we celebrate International Translation Day on September 30, translators of all backgrounds can take inspiration in Jerome’s dedication to translation and to the written word in all its forms.

Various sources were consulted for this piece. I found the following among the most useful:

<https://www.firstedit.co.uk/blog/2017/09/st-jerome-on-translation/>  
[justus.anglican.org/resources/bio/256.html](https://www.anglican.org/resources/bio/256.html) <https://www.luther.edu/library/about/history/40th/jerome/>  
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-jerome-the-bible-translator/>

I thank Dr. Paul Burns, Corpus Christi College, UBC, and Dr. Derek C. Carr, Associate Professor Emeritus, Department of French, Hispanic and Italian Studies, UBC, for their generous and invaluable help.

## Opportunities for STIBC Members!

*by Masako Fujiwara, Certified Translator (English to Japanese) and Director-at-Large, 2017-2018*

### Share Your Story!

STIBC Voice is your opportunity to share your views, experiences, stories, and knowledge. Did you learn something new in your job? Have you had a really challenging project? Did you attend a workshop or conference that might be of interest to other members? Share your thoughts and tell a story! Contribute an article and receive credit towards a STIBC workshop as well. Please submit your article to [secretary@stibc.org](mailto:secretary@stibc.org)

### Let Us Hear From You!

STIBC is committed to offer value to its members. The workshops the Society offers aim to provide industry-related practical information and count toward CE credits. Please let us know of any topics that are not currently offered that you would like to learn about. Would you like more language-specific workshops, or topics related to running your own business, such as how to deal with work-related stress, or what are vendors looking for? The more requests and proposals we get, the more chances we will have to offer what you are looking for. Please email your ideas and suggestions to [ExecutiveDirector@stibc.org](mailto:ExecutiveDirector@stibc.org)

### Become an Instructor!

Do you have experience in translating/interpreting in specific areas that you can share with fellow members? Or do you have some unusual interest or special knowledge? Have you been in the business for a while? Do you use a CAT tool? Many of our past workshops have been presented by STIBC's own members. You too can give a workshop on any topic or language combination! Giving back benefits to all our members helps us to become better at our jobs and provides an excellent opportunity for networking. Please contact [ExecutiveDirector@stibc.org](mailto:ExecutiveDirector@stibc.org)

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