

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

(U//~~FOUO~~) 8 December 2009 CLArion

1. CLA Membership Meeting
2. Books Everywhere You Looks (Complete List)
3. Presidential Language Trivia
4. Tuesday Fun Fillers
5. News Article

(U//~~REL~~)

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

CLArion Editor

(U//~~FOUO~~) 1. CLA Membership Meeting

REMINDER--Membership Meeting Wednesday 09 Dec 1100-1300 in the Canine Suites --

please stop by to offer congratulations to our newly elected officers (come on by if you don't know who they are) -- light foods/refreshments will be provided.

(U//~~FOUO~~) 2. Books Everywhere You Looks (Complete List)

(U//~~FOUO~~) Attached is the COMPLETE LIST of books left over from recent FANX 2 bookswap.

(U) CAVEAT 1: All of the books are used and dated but that does NOT mean that they are not in good shape and useful--trust me on this one.

(U) CAVEAT 2: Please also be aware that I did the best I could about the contents --there are errors I suspect--because I do not all of the languages mentioned.

Russian in particular was problematic (lots of stuff completely in Russian).

(U//~~FOUO~~) CAVEAT 3. I am going to the Fort tomorrow to attend the above meeting

(see item #1) and am willing to drop off books to whoever wants them. However,

let's be realistic and selective--I'm not going to lug a box full of books around

only to be told that you are not interested. I suggest that you ask for one or

two (so that I can lug them back without hurting my back!). At any rate, you now

Derived From: NSA/CSSM 1-52

Dated: 20070108

Declassify On: 20250101

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

have a real good idea what we have.

-----

(U) 3. Presidential Language Trivia

(U) An innocent comment by Jimmy Carter (39th President, 1977-1981) was mistranslated as indicating that the President of the United States had "left America never to return." What was the guilty language?

(U)

- A. Polish
- B. Japanese
- C. Korean
- D. Italian
- E. Danish

(U) Answer at the end (as always)

-----

(U) 4. Tuesday Fun Fillers

-----

(U) "--if a written symbol represents a sound, this is alphabetic (e.g., English), if a written symbol represents a concept/idea, this is logographic/pictographic (e.g., Chinese) and if a written symbol represents a syllable, this is syllabic (e.g., Cherokee)."

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

(~~C//REL~~) [redacted] points out that JAPANESE actually covers all three of these bases: pictographs - kanji; syllables - kana (two sets); and alphabetic - romaji -- all three are widely used in Japan today.

-----

(~~C//REL~~) (item and P.S. courtesy of [redacted])

(U)

--The Host (2006, Gwoelmul in Korean). Available on DVD at Blockbuster (or on

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

Amazon.com for purchase).

P.S. It was interesting to see all of the anti-American "jabs" that the movie took at the U.S.

-----  
(U//~~FOUO~~)

--at the "Defense Love Institute" in Monterey, California, it used to be (at least when I was a student there) that a "mixed marriage" was some things such as an Air Force [redacted] marrying an Army [redacted]--with the exception of FORT MEADE (that's us, folks), the chances of co-assignment were not very good.

(U) (Editor's Note--I am talking about the Defense Language Institute--I chose the services and languages to show that different services and different languages sometimes mean geographical problems. Here is hoping that nobody is offended by this one. [redacted])

-----  
(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

(U) 5. News Article

~~(C//REL)~~ (Item courtesy of [redacted])

(U//~~FOUO~~) When you absolutely need the right word; Do you understand both Farsi and nuclear technology? Specialty translation is growing.

Summary: (U//~~FOUO~~) Abigail Dahlberg realized she was a success a few years ago while explaining her unusual specialty -- translating documents about waste-management issues from German into English -- to a wide-eyed listener. 'I've heard of you!' the man exclaimed. 'You're Trash Girl!' .. In the burgeoning world of translators and interpreters (translators deal with written documents, interpreters with the spoken word) it's all about the niche. 'It's not just having the language skill. It's also having the expertise in the subject matter,' said

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

Dahlberg, whose story was striking enough that Nicholas Hartmann, president of the American Translators Assn., retold it during the group's 50th convention in New York last month.

When you absolutely need the right word; Do you understand both Farsi and nuclear technology? Specialty translation is growing.

Source: LATM - Los Angeles Times (Full Coverage, Daily)

Nov 16 12:15

---

Byline: Tina Susman

Section: Main News; National Desk

Page: A-1

NEW YORK

Abigail Dahlberg realized she was a success a few years ago while explaining her unusual specialty -- translating documents about waste- management issues from German into English -- to a wide-eyed listener.

"I've heard of you!" the man exclaimed. "You're Trash Girl!"

He may not have known her real name, but that didn't bother Dahlberg, whose cheery British accent belies her reputation as an expert in all things ekelhaft. That's German for "yucky."

In the burgeoning world of translators and interpreters (translators deal with

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

written documents, interpreters with the spoken word) it's all about the niche.

"It's not just having the language skill. It's also having the expertise in the subject matter," said Dahlberg, whose story was striking enough that Nicholas Hartmann, president of the American Translators Assn., retold it during the group's 50th convention in New York last month.

For four days, some 2,300 attendees networked, traded stories and listened in on workshops and seminars at a Times Square hotel.

That's 1,000 more than attended last year's conference -- evidence that even in this economy, the industry is healthy.

Hartmann said demand for translators and interpreters is expected to grow by 15% in the coming year as globalization, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the worldwide green movement spur demand for information in myriad languages.

E-mail, Skype and other technologies have opened the door to cross-cultural communications, but they alone cannot bridge the language gap.

"It's so easy to communicate, but once you find someone you want to communicate with, you find they don't speak your language," Hartmann said. And as Dahlberg's situation shows, it's not enough to simply speak another language.

"There is a wealth of knowledge and background you need in your area of specialty," said Dahlberg, who speaks French as well as German and English and found her niche while working for a publishing house in Germany that dealt in environmental and waste-management documents.

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

"Translation is far more than words," said Hartmann, who specializes in translating German patents. It requires him to understand not only the context of words and phrases, but also the technical and legal issues involved. And his spelling has to be impeccable.

The slightest error can cause extraordinary embarrassment.

During a March meeting in Geneva, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton presented a gag gift to her Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov. It was a red button with a word written in Russian that State Department translators thought meant "reset." The idea was to remind Russia of America's hopes for resetting the nations' tense relations. But when Lavrov opened the box and peered inside, he told Clinton the word on the button, peregruzka, translated to "overcharge" -- not the message the U.S. wanted to send.

Whether it was poor translation or a misspelling exacerbated by changing Russia's Cyrillic into Western lettering, the incident made headlines worldwide and was cited by conference attendees as one of the worst examples of a translation mistake.

It was also a reminder that if you're going to make a joke, make sure it translates well, said Kevin Hendzel, an ATA spokesman whose specialty is translating nuclear documents from Russian into English.

In the early 1980s, Hendzel was chief of the White House translation staff responsible for the top-secret hot line used for direct contact with the Kremlin.

He has little patience for high-level linguistic gaffes. If a leader makes a joke

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

that doesn't elicit laughs, Hendzel said, a good interpreter will say in the listening audience's language, "It's a joke that does not translate -- please laugh."

During the George W. Bush administration, Hendzel was involved in interpreting a presidential video message to China's Communist -- and officially atheist -- leaders. The message included the phrase "God bless you all."

"We took it right out, because it would have embarrassed him and made us look like idiots," Hendzel said.

His is a highly specialized niche -- Hendzel has degrees in electrical engineering, physics and Russian -- and one that will be even more in demand as countries such as Iran pursue nuclear programs.

"Trying to find someone who speaks Farsi and knows nuclear issues . . . it's nearly impossible," he said.

Despite the fact that niche translators and interpreters are, as Hendzel put it, "everybody's lifeline," they remain in short supply, particularly in U.S. government agencies.

The FBI said its translation workload had doubled since the Sept. 11 attacks. Hospitals, courts, schools and other institutions are struggling to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse population.

But few people have the training it takes to do what can be an excruciatingly difficult job. Hendzel, for instance, once had to translate about 275 pages of

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

Belarusian environmental laws into English in two days. He worked all 48 hours straight.

Some businesses try to save on translation fees by using free computer programs, but those don't offer the quality needed to avoid stilted and often nonsensical results.

"It might be amusing for some people, but I find it very embarrassing," said Katrin Rippel, whose Menu International firm provides translation for the food and hospitality industry.

The challenges are particularly acute for interpreters who must match the often long-winded speeches of politicians and diplomats.

When Libyan leader Moammar Kadafi spoke for 96 minutes to the United Nations' General Assembly in September, his personal interpreter had to be replaced by a U.N.-provided one after about 75 minutes. Hartmann said the usual limit for simultaneous interpretation is 20 minutes, followed by a break and then a return to duty.

Kadafi's interpreter, Fouad Zlitini, denied news reports that he exclaimed: "I just can't take it anymore!" and collapsed. But he has acknowledged he ran out of steam during his boss' speech. "I don't deny, I may have asked for someone to take over," he told the New York Post.

Dahlberg -- who has a master's degree in translation and interpretation from the University of Edinburgh -- worked in Germany before moving with her American husband to Missouri in 2005. Now she does freelance work for, among others,

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

companies that deal with battery recycling and sewage sludge.

"Because the environmental field is so hot right now, I've found new customers are coming to me," said Dahlberg, who nonetheless has a hard time explaining her specialty to laypeople.

"They kind of pause for a minute and then say: 'Hmm,'" she said.

A recent job involved translating a report on the state of Germany's waste plastics market.

Some words and phrases she frequently encounters include die deponie (the landfill), die abfalltonne (the trash can) and, more recently, something familiar to Americans -- die abwrackprämie, which means "cash for clunkers."

--

[tina.susman@latimes.com](mailto:tina.susman@latimes.com)

Copyright 2009 The Los Angeles Times

-----

(U) An innocent comment by Jimmy Carter (39th President, 1977-1981) was mistranslated as indicating that the President of the United States had "left America never to return." What was the guilty language?

(U)

- ANSWER A. Polish  
B. Japanese  
C. Korean  
D. Italian  
E. Danish

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

(U) DETAILS: This was during a 1977 visit to Poland and his entire speech was badly mistranslated. The above "left America never to return" is just an example of this.

**Books Everywhere You Looks (Complete List)**

Arabic (MSA) LangNet tapes (lots of them—probably identical)  
 Arabic (Advanced Gulf Arabic) (big bok)  
 Cebuano LangNet tapes (lots of them—probably identical)  
 Croatian-English Dictionary (big one)  
 French-English dictionary (1 and 2—big ones)  
 French African LangNet tapes (11 of them—look to be identical)  
 French four grammar books (three from the Invitation series)  
 French le francais commercial  
 French le francais commercial textes d'etude 2  
 French (Lives of Fair and Gallant Ladies) (in English)  
 French (Autour de la Lettre de Gargantua a Pantagruel)  
 French (Stendhal)  
 French (something by Rousseau in French)  
 French (something by Diderot in French)  
 French (magazine about taxis apparently in French)  
 German (Americans from Germany) (in English)  
 German (three books by and/or about Nietzsche in German)  
 German (Bild-Worterbuch )  
 German (Died Deutschen und die Osterreicher)  
 German Phonologie des Kasachischen  
 German (book about Bismarck (in English)  
 German (basic grammar book)  
 Georgian-English Dictionary (one and two) (big one)  
 Italian (I grandi classic Disney-Donald Duck)  
 Japanese 2003 new words encyc  
 Japanese LangNet tapes (lots of them—probably identical)  
 Korean Beyond magazine and four Korean books (look like they are higher level and donated by LLC instructor [redacted])  
 Korean LangNet tapes (ten of them—look to be identical)  
 Linguistics (Dictionary of Linguistics)  
 Linguistics (Linguistics and Your Language)  
 Linguistics (Language Testing)  
 Linguistics (Reading and Understanding)  
 Linguistics (Developing Prototypic Measures of Cross-Cultural Pragmatics)  
 Linguistics (Intro to Descriptive Linguists)  
 Linguistics (Psycholinguistics)  
 Linguistics (Grammatcial Basis of Linguistic Performance)  
 Russian LangNet tapes (ten of them—look to be identical)  
 Russian (Letter to the Soviet Leaders)book written by Solzhenitsyn (in English)

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

Russian (Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR) (in English)  
 Russian (Minerals of the Ukraine) (in Russian)  
 Russian (The Prophet Armed and Unarmed, I and II—Trotsky) (in English)  
 Russian (The Soviet War Machine—encyclopedic) (in English)  
 Russian-English Dictionary (big one)  
 Russian-English Idioms (big one)  
 Russian (about Ukraine) (in Russian)  
 Russian book (looks higher level) (in Russian)  
 Russian (dictionary probably—written completely in Russian)  
 Russian (Nomenklatura: The Ruling Class in the Soviet Union) (in Russian)  
 Russian (Lexicon of Soviet Political Terms) (in English)  
 Russian (Dictionary of Basic Military Terms) and R-E, E-R Military Dictionary  
 Russian eight books (in Russian) (one maybe about Castro)  
 Russian constitution dictionary (in Russian)  
 Russian (Essential R-E Dictionary)  
 Russian (201 verbs)  
 Russian (As We Speak It)  
 Russian grammar book  
 Russian (book about or by Lenin) (in Russian)  
 Russian-English Dictionary of Sports Terms and Phrases  
 Russian-English Dictionary (two of them)  
 Russian-English and English-Russian Dictionary  
 Russian (looks like it might be part of Encyclo) (in Russian)  
 Serbo-Croat-English dictionary (big one)  
 Sinhala-English dictionary (big one)  
 Spanish-English Dictionary  
 Spanish LangNet tapes (lots of them—not identical)  
 Swahili (DLI Basic course book)  
 Tagalog (definitely Filipino) (Nebelang Tagalog 1905-1975 Tradisyon at Modernismo)  
 and (Ang Pilipino: Sa Isip, Sa Salita at Sa Gawa (grammar book apparently)  
 Thai Reader  
 Thai Vocabulary  
 Thai Cultural Reader  
 Thai Reference Grammar  
 Thai Military Handbook (looks like might be from DLI)  
 Turkish (English-Turkish Dictionary)  
 Turkish 1: A Communicative Approach (big book)  
 Turkish (Basic Turkish: Volume II)  
 Turkish (Islam Political Development in Turkey) (in English)  
 Turkish (The Dark Moment) (in English)  
 Turkish (Political Parties in Turkey: The Role of Islam) (in English)  
 Turkish (the Land and People of Turkey) (in English)  
 Turkish (Turkey and the West (in English)  
 Turkish (State and Class in Turkey: A Study in Capitalist Development) (in English)  
 Turkish (The Political, Economic, and Labor Climate in Turkey) (in English)  
 Turkish (Area Handbook for the Republic of Turkey

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~

Turkish (The Middle East in Turkish-American Relations) (in English)  
Turkish (Turkey: A Country Study)

Miscellaneous

Six copies of the Journal of Asian Studies (2005-2006)

US Navy Fleet ID sheet (in English—courtesy of



(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL~~