

For Immediate Release

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First-ever Oral History of Translators Heading to ATA Conference

Translator Tales Looking for Participants

Austin, TX (27 October 2009)—Translator Tales, a public oral history of translators and interpreters created by McElroy Translation and co-sponsored by the American Translators Association (ATA), will be recruiting more participants at the ATA 50th Annual Conference, 28–30 October 2009 in New York. The goal of Translator Tales is to establish a public record of translators and interpreters talking about their lives as recorders of history.

Translator Tales is designed to tell the stories of translators and interpreters who make their livings telling the stories of other people day in and day out. The project has found that translators and interpreters have very rich tales of their own—living around the world, speaking many tongues and talking to people from all walks of life. Translator Tales seeks to record and preserve their tales for posterity

Translator Tales was originally conceived by Patricia Bown, the former director of project management at McElroy Translation. The McElroy team tested it last year at ATA's 49th Annual Conference in Orlando, and then the oral history was formalized and re-introduced in May at an ATA Business Seminar in Washington, DC. Those recordings became the first of the project. They are now available on the websites of ATA and McElroy Translation. The recordings at the upcoming ATA 50th Annual Conference will be added to the collection.

The tales tell of interesting projects translators and interpreters have completed as well as the many diverse ways they came to translating and interpreting and what keeps them going. The tales recorded so far include:

- A New Zealander who helped Russian immigrants integrate into Australian society.
- The World Language Hall of Famer from Maryland who bought a Japanese dictionary at an antique store as a kid and never looked back.
- A German to English translator who learned his craft on the Czech border with the German Democratic Republic.
- A Jordanian translator who helped Iraqi refugees.

“The stories we are hearing are fascinating—we learn so much about the world through the voices of hard working translators and interpreters,” said Olga Pechenko-Kopp, CEO of McElroy Translation. “If you are a translator or interpreter with an interesting story, and you are attending ATA's 50th Annual Conference, do not miss this opportunity to be part of history!”

The process for the interviewee is simple. The Translator Tales administrator has the participant wear a headset that is connected to a laptop. The administrator asks the participant to answer a series of questions on his or her career, likes and dislikes and most memorable jobs. The entire session can take as little as five minutes—or as much as 30 minutes if the interviewee has a lot to say.

The Translator Tales team preserves the full interviews in a database and slices and dices the data to get a better understanding of the world of translating—from what translators and interpreters like about their jobs to what they do not like and how they keep themselves going year after year. For example, translators participating in the initial recording session indicated many trends in what they like and do not like about their jobs:

- Best part of job: setting one's own schedule, working independently, working with languages
- Worst part of job: explaining the job, dealing with deadlines, administrative tasks

The Translator Tales interviews will take place outside the main conference hall. Translators and interpreters can stop by there to see the list of questions and set a time to be interviewed.

About McElroy Translation (www.mcelroytranslation.com)

McElroy Translation places 40 years of experience, extensive linguistic resources, and advanced business processes to work for every client. From its home-base in Austin, Texas, McElroy offers translation and localization services in more than 100 languages to clients worldwide. The company specializes in the legal, pharmaceutical/medical, energy and software industries. McElroy prides itself in quality assurance and professional project management support.

About the American Translators Association (www.atanet.org)

The American Translators Association, founded in 1959, is the largest professional association of translators and interpreters in the U.S. with nearly 11,000 members in more than 90 countries. ATA's primary goals include fostering and supporting the professional development of translators and interpreters and promoting the translation and interpreting professions.

The Association offers programs, benefits, and support services to translators and interpreters, and works to educate the public about translation and interpreting professions.