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From the President’s desk

This issue of Intersteno E-news on one hand seeks to provide readers and members with a rough balance of the activities carried out by the Board, and on the other hand to set out a vision for the future of our Federation. An article by Jorge Bravo on German shorthand is to be read as a tribute to the Congress in Berlin that will be opened in a few days.

On the occasion of the 51st Congress in Berlin (23-27 July) the mandate of the Board that has led the Federation in the past two years will expire and a new team will be elected.

After the 50th Congress held in Budapest in July 2015, which symbolically concluded a life cycle of Intersteno, our duty was that of drawing a path for the future. Unfortunately nearly all the limited resources at our disposal (time and energies) had to be devoted to the Congress of Berlin. Therefore, some activities had to be left behind, but they remain a goal for the new team of managers that will lead Intersteno in the following years.

It has only been in the last three months that we have been able to bring to our team a professional assistant (our well-known friend Patti Calabro), whose tasks for this limited time are: communication (social media, website linguistic maintenance, members, e-news), Congress (contact with press and authorities, exhibitors). Further developments of this cooperation will be defined after the Congress in Berlin: hopefully the Board will have a permanent assistant who can support the management with strategic tasks such as Intersteno marketing and internal and external communications.

A goal on which I place much importance is the agreement on the standard competences and skill for our professions. The Intersteno Set of Professional Competences and skills (ISPC) aims to specify the features of the reporting professions. It will be good if in the near future Intersteno will be able to launch a certification programme, based on that document, that can become a point of reference for members as well as for private companies, local and international agencies and authorities, thus contributing to spreading the authority of Intersteno itself.

In concluding its mandate the Board brings to the Congress some proposals aimed at adapting our Constitution: these proposals represent the completion of ideas and content that informed our work over these years including easier procedures for individual and associate membership, priority for the Board and Jury proposals and simplification of Assembly proceeding.

The 51st Congress in Berlin is also the concluding step of my personal role of President. I have been leading the Federation for the past 6 years. During this time I have had the privilege of carrying out my vision on this special and very old world professional organization that has been a big part of my professional life for more than 30 years. I am grateful to my beloved maestros, Gian Paolo Trivulzio and Ishan Yener, who encouraged me to assume a leading role, trusting - more than I did - in my capabilities and in my ideas. A special thank you to Danny Devriendt, historical Secretary Treasurer, with whom I cooperated with in
these years, with an enrichment of approaches, opinions and methods.

Special thanks also to Georgette Sante, who contributed greatly to the fairness and professionalism of the world Championships. My thanks to Board and Jury members, who have carried the heavier burden of the Intersteno activity, and to all members and friends of Intersteno, who in these years supported me with their ideas (even critical) and their passions. Personal thanks to my friend Peter Walker who helped us in the not always easy task of regularly publishing this e-news, by checking and revising the texts with extraordinary attention.

The advances and the difficulties I have mentioned are a typical balance for an association like ours, that tries to combine ideas and passions with limited voluntary energies and means. My wish is that the new management will be able to bring Intersteno even more to the fore, as it deserves. Intersteno should continue to be a point of reference and a vanguard for the future generations of reporting professionals. This will be possible if we look beyond the present, if we donate to Intersteno the moral efforts, the spirit of modernity and the open-minded attitude of Gian Paolo Trivulzio and Ishan Yener.

My wish is that a new generation of leaders comes forward in Intersteno, and takes on the honour and the burden of a leadership, and is able to look to the future. I will be happy if the time, the energies and the ideas that I devoted to this duty, have brought one more small but valuable brick to the building of the Intersteno life.

Happy reading!

Fausto Ramondelli
Consultant’s Report – Administrative Assistant/Marketing Coordinator

This report summarizes a three-month trial period of a new consultancy created by the Board of Intersteno.

The intention of the Board is to evaluate the use and effectiveness of hiring a consultant to field requests, answer communication, create social media marketing plans and develop more interest and participation within Intersteno with its members.

Additionally, since the Berlin congress is scheduled at the end of this three-month trial, it makes sense that I would work to expand the vendor participation and increase interest for attendance at the congress.

We agreed on a five-hour per week schedule. During the five hours, activities encompassed social media interaction and presence, contact with vendors and potential donors/underwriters, exploring possibilities to enhance the congress experience and initiating contact with local officials to educate about Intersteno and its activities.

At this writing, press releases are under construction to provide more information to media about the congress and its presence in Berlin during July.

A process such as this takes time, and I am happy to report there are successes in areas and challenges in other areas.

The development of the position is an evolution supported by communication, questionnaires, and the directive vision of the Board.

Please take the time to speak to a Board member or me and share your view(s).

I wish you a successful congress...

Patti Calabro
What does IPRS stand for?

Since the IPRS started meeting annually a wide variety of subjects has come up for discussion.

**Technological developments** that have a direct effect on the reporter’s work are an important recurring topic. Nowadays, live stream enables us to watch many live proceedings of debates and meetings. This makes the work of the reporters more transparent, but also limits their scope for editing. Haven’t Members of Parliament thanked reporters many times for ‘having taken down what they had meant to say, but had failed to express so nicely’? These days, it is unthinkable that a reporter would completely reformulate the words actually spoken in the debate, because journalists harbouring suspicion would immediately sound the alarm and ask why the report says something different from what the MP or minister has actually said.

IPRS offers the court reporting community an introduction to the global speech-capturing community, visits to the parliaments, meeting and networking with international professionals, examining quality and standards, cultural education and competitions.

**The tools** a reporter can use to draw up a report are another subject of continued discussion among IPRS participants due to ongoing developments in this field.

**Automatic speech recognition** is a subject that is frequently given attention to. It is also on the Berlin conference agenda. But why? Before long, automatic speech recognition will function so well that it really can be used as a tool for reporting.

**Editing rules** are a recurring topic as well. At the meetings of the IPRS the differences and similarities between the editing rules observed by various countries are therefore identified and discussed. At the latest conference we extensively discussed how to incorporate non-verbal communication into the report. Non-verbal communication proved to be recorded in very different ways.

Apart from gaining knowledge about the method of reporting in various countries, gaining knowledge about those countries’ culture adds value to IPRS meetings. In some countries, parliamentarians can be heard shouting and seen flying at each other’s throats. As in those circumstances microphones are no longer used, the inclination to fall back on shorthand can easily be explained. The fact that several countries already make use of automatic speech recognition can for the larger part be explained by the well-ordered manner of their debates, for which speakers hand in their texts beforehand.
Training a reporter-to-be is yet another recurring subject. As a result, the Dutch Parliamentary Reporting Office has decided to adopt parts of the British Official Report's training programme.

At the IPRS meeting in Zagreb, a lot of attention was given to **two-handed touch typing using all ten fingers**. This typing method not only improves an individual's typing speed but is an important subject in the context of sustainable employability and ever-increasing working hours.

IPRS is a platform for **information exchange**. The annual meetings make it easier for reporters to keep in touch with their fellow-reporters abroad. The theme of the **Berlin conference** is 'quality'. It goes without saying that every reporter strives for quality, but when it comes to how we can best achieve this, we can influence each other by discussing it.

Rian Schwarz,
Vice-president/co-ordinator
Berlin, here we come! (The Dutch delegation)

Stolpersteine in Berlin

Artist Gunter Demnig, born and bred in Berlin, has been involved with the so-called Stolpersteine (commemorative pavement plaques) since 1996. Stolpersteine are brass-plated cobblestones placed on the pavement leading up to the front doors of the last-known addresses of men, women and children, Berliners und Berlinerinnen, who were persecuted, deported and murdered by the National Socialists.

To the observant stroller, these stones form a network of commemorative spaces throughout the city of Berlin. Since 1996 more than 6,000 Stolpersteine have been laid in Berlin alone.

In 2014 the Verband der Parlaments- und Verhandlungsstenografen initiated the laying of a Stolperstein for stenographer Paul Arenberg, born on May 12, 1878 in Berlin. He worked in Berlin as a parliamentary stenographer at the Prussian Landtag. In 1933 he was given a Berufsverbot because of his Jewish ancestry. After having suffered through years of forced labour, he was eventually deported to Auschwitz, where in March 1943 he was murdered.

On November 22, 2014, I was present in Berlin when Paul Arenberg’s Stolperstein was laid, on a cold and grey Saturday afternoon in the Bastianstrasse 11 in Berlin-Wedding. Lest we forget ...

Henk-Jan Eras, quality assurance assistant, Parliamentary Reporting Department.

Berlin 2017 is going to be my first Intersteno Congress. Two colleagues and I will give a presentation in keeping with the topic of quality assurance. In addition to this, I will compete in the Text Corrections Competition. I look forward to meeting colleagues from all over the globe and exchanging ideas about our unique profession.

Fyke Goorden, reporter at the Parliamentary Reporting Department.

For me, nothing is more fun than talking shop with my colleagues, but usually there are only 40 of those close by: the grand total of parliamentary reporters in the Netherlands. That’s why I look forward to meeting colleagues from all across the world in Berlin.

This will be my first IPRS Congress, but I have heard enthusiastic reports about previous meetings. In Berlin, I will give a presentation together with two colleagues about the quality assurance instrument we have been using for the past few years. I am excited to find out how other reporting offices monitor the quality of their output!

Ingeborg Mulders, reporter at the Parliamentary Reporting Department.

Berlin 2017 will be my first Intersteno Congress. I have been part of the working group on
quality assurance of the Dutch Parliamentary Reporting Department for some years now and I quite enjoy it. This makes a perfect match with the topic of the 51st Intersteno Congress!

During Sunday’s IPRS meeting, Fyke Goorden, Ingeborg Mulders and I will introduce our fellow stenographers to the quality assurance instrument we devised, after which we hope to exchange ideas about our work and about quality assurance in other reporting offices in workshops. I look forward to meeting my fellow stenographers from other parliaments!

See you all in July,

Susanne Parren, reporter at the Parliamentary Reporting Department.

"Quality qualified": some thoughts about the quality of reporting

As the title suggests, in this presentation we will try to get a grip on some factors that determine the quality of parliamentary records. Ideally it will be some kind of thinking-out-loud session, preferably as interactive as possible.

As professionals, we probably will all be able to tell a good parliamentary report from a bad one. This implies that we all have intuitions and ideas about what good parliamentary reporting entails. This presentation aims at making these intuitions and ideas explicit, in the firm belief that this will facilitate discussion and mutual understanding. In this presentation the point of departure will be professional reporting in the context of the National Parliament of the Netherlands, but findings will be presented in such a way that they will be of interest to parliamentary reporting professionals of any background.

Roberto la Rocca, reporter at the Parliamentary Reporting Department.

The common denominator of all the congresses I have had the privilege to attend has been the opportunity to connect with fellow reporters from a host of countries as well as with colleagues from my own reporting office with whom I spend a whole week.

I always look at the young participants in the competitions with admiration tinged with amazement. It is important for a reporter to be highly proficient in typing. It is, however, never as apparent as during the Intersteno Congress competitions that this proficiency can turn into a hobby or even a passion.

As usual, the Dutch deputation will be active on many fronts. A few members are going to participate in the competitions and a lot of them will provide short summaries of the presentations given during the IPRS meetings and the General Conference Day. Also, if necessary they will lend a helping hand during the competitions.

During last year’s IPRS meeting in Zagreb I prepared a quiz for all IPRS participants. They were presented with a set of Intersteno-related questions as well as general knowledge questions that they had to answer quickly by mobile phone. The Finns scored very well: Varisto Niklas answered most questions correctly. It has been quite a challenge to devise a
set of questions to which all participants should know the answers for this year’s competition. I often describe Intersteno as one big family scattered across many continents!

Marlene Rijkse, team co-ordinator at the Parliamentary Reporting Department.

I am anxiously awaiting this year’s Congress in Berlin. The Board has gone to great lengths to organize a congress by itself. If this goes well we can look to the future with increased confidence. So I check the number of new registrations every day and I am happy to say things are moving in the right direction, seeing that right now we are at 487 participants.

I am especially looking forward to the many interesting presentations from all corners of the globe during the IPRS meeting and the General Conference. In my capacity as head of the Parliamentary Reporting Office of the Dutch Parliament I also look forward to the visit to the German Parliament. Being granted a look behind the scenes always is a very special and educational experience. More generally, everyone always takes great pains to see that the week runs smoothly.

For my motivation to do this again and again I draw upon the pleasant informal contacts in between activities, during the meetings and at the farewell dinner. The enthusiasm during the opening and closing ceremony is something I am very much looking forward to!

Rian Schwarz, Head of the Parliamentary Reporting Department, vice-president/co-ordinator IPRS

Going to Berlin in midsummer to rub shoulders with a whole lot of colleagues for a week. For many people this may well be a terrifying prospect. But for me it’s a different story altogether. You see, the fact is that it’s a lot of fun to hang around with colleagues from across the world, to learn from the way they work, to be collectively proud of your work and, every now and then, to laugh about it uproariously.

During this year’s Congress I will give a short presentation about the importance of language in parliament as well as about the way we try to achieve unity in language use and reporting at the Dutch Parliament.

Wouter Zwijnenburg, co-ordinating editor concise web report/reporter at the Parliamentary Reporting Department.
The history of shorthand in Germany

To mark the occasion of the 51st INTERSTENO CONGRESS, to be held from 22 to 28 July in Berlin, on our radio programme called PALABRAS DIBUJADAS (Words Drawn) - part of the Library of the National Congress radio broadcast (www.bcnradio.com.ar) - we’ll be talking about the history of shorthand writing in Germany and the importance of INTERSTENO for all stenographers around the world. For this work we have consulted different books, mostly belonging to the Palant Collection, which is part of the Special Collections Department of the Library of National Congress, and have received and invaluable support from those we have asked.

This article is a summary of the research carried out, which we want to share with the INTERSTENO community.

Shorthand was introduced in Germany much later than in England and France, but from the moment it was adopted, it became of great importance.

Since then many authors have studied the history of German shorthand. One of them, Mr. Juan Cornejo Carvajal, says that the first time shorthand was practised in Germany was for the reproduction of Luther’s sermons. The authors were Greutziger and Röhre, although it is not known what shorthand system the Juan Cornejo Carvajal used.

Cornejo Carvajal (author of the Historical Review of Stenographic Art) says that Germany achieved great proficiency with its shorthand. In fact, the vast majority of its systems were adapted to a multitude of languages. He also highlights the large number of practitioners and widespread publications and the creation and continued existence of numerous associations and societies, all of great prestige.

The initiators of the shorthand movement in Germany were Daniel Schwenter and Georg Philipp Harsdörffer, who published their first works at the beginning of the seventeenth century. Later, a bookseller from Jena, named Bielcke, reproduced in 1684 the English Shelton system, awakening the public interest in the study and application of this beautiful art.

At the outset, a great number of translations and arrangements of the English systems were used. We can highlight the following

- It can be said that Ramsay began with the diffusion of shorthand in Germany. Its system (a derivation of the English system of Thomas Shelton) was published in Frankfurt in 1678 and was re-edited many times from 1679 in Lipsia.
Other authors who were inspired by the English geometric shorthand systems were:

- Daniel Morhof (1688)
- Augustinus Grishow (1705)
- Herman Hugo (1738)
- Karl Friedrich Buschendorf (1796)
- Federico Monsengeil (1796)
- Karl Gottlieb Horstig (1797)
- Gottlieb Horstig (1797)
- Federico Augusto Leo (1797)
- J.C. Danzer (1800)
- Reischl (1808)
- Berthold (1819)
- J. F. Stärk (1822)

However, the shorthand system that achieved the greatest recognition, both in Germany and in the world, is undoubtedly that of Franz Xavier Gabelsberger, who departed completely from other systems and created a system based exclusively on the graphic characteristics of writing in cursive style. In fact, his system is cursive, derived from the oval and the parallelogram. The signs of his shorthand alphabet are of an easy union, with a single inclination from left to right and various sizes. In this regard, author Concepcion Porcel, in his book Slight notions of the history of shorthand, says that the great acceptance of the Gabelsberger system was precisely due to the ease in which the hand is used for drawing the signs, using characters similar to those of common writing.

Francis Xavier Gabelsberger was born in Munich on February 8, 1789. The death of his father practically left the family in poverty. Mr Plinkhart, teacher of the church choir and later the Benedictines Brothers of Attel, took care of his education.

In 1809 he obtained a position in the general administration of charitable establishments and in 1823 he became the secretary of the Ministry of the Interior and later in the Ministry of Real Estate. Gabelsberger studied science, calligraphy and lithography.

Concerning the invention of his system, Gabelsberger himself says: “In 1817, when on my own initiative I began to be interested in the publication of a new Stenography, it had no other purpose than to be useful to senior public officials, shortening their work so that with this type of writing immediate fragments could be reproduced, and on some occasions only the main ideas so that I myself could complete the rest.”

And he added: “I had not entirely abandoned this idea, conceived provisionally, and continued with pleasure in my free times, when the new Bavarian Constitution of 26 May
1818 came into force, proceeding to the summoning of the first States for the year 1819. Then, I began to think that perhaps my system might be useful, for I knew - thanks to the newspapers - that in France and England the stenographers were employed for the reproduction of the debates of their Chambers. Since then I have been seriously involved in the practice of the system."

On April 15, 1829, the philosophical-philological section of the Academy of Sciences of Bavaria issued an opinion on the Gabelsberger system. Members of the Academy said: "The Academy recognizes that the method, as it was submitted for its consideration, requires great improvements in detail." They added that "the author, who knows the system, can do them over time, Taking advantage of the advice of his colleagues." As a result of this opinion Gabelsberger from July 28, 1829, commissioned by the ministry, began to teach the system to six people, a number that later grew to nine.

The favourable opinion obtained was very important and then, in 1834, after arduous work, he published his work "Anleitung zur deutschen Redezeichenkunst". The book has more than 600 pages and contains 105 pictures that were drawn by him. The system was very successful, both in Germany and many other countries. Four years later he made improvements thanks to his later studies. Given these improvements, he decided to carry out the second edition of his work, but unfortunately an apoplectic stroke in the middle of the street, in front of the Russian embassy in Berlin, ended his life on January 4, 1849. The occasion of his death was honoured by the German Chamber of Deputies in a public session and Deputy Müller defined Gabelsberger as "the man who invented the art of arranging words". The municipality of Munich also honoured Gabelsberger. It arranged for his tomb never to be removed and gave his name to the street where he lived until the end of his days. A monument commemorating Franz Xaver Gabelsberger is located in Munich.

In 1890 the Third International Congress of Stenography was held in Munich, where the qualities of the brilliant inventor were exalted by all the congressmen of the world.

In this regard, Henri Krieg said: "After twenty years of practice, I have been firmly convinced that the invention of this genius of Bavaria, the father of graphic systems, is the only system that meets the common needs of all are called to write a lot. Of all the systems that have appeared so far, there is not one that rests on a foundation as certain as that created by Gabelsberger."

The Gabelsberger system was adapted to many languages and extended to many countries, for example, in Australia, Poland, Russia, Hungary, Denmark, Romania, Bulgaria, Finland, Sweden, Greece, Serbia. In Italy is well known through the adaptation achieved by Enrico Noe and known as "Galberberger-Noe".

In Spain the work of Gabelsberger was known thanks to Juan Cornejo and his book Treaty of Universal Stenography.

In Chile, an adaptation of the Gabelsberger system was made by Carlos Muñoz Olave in his book *Manual of Shorthand* (1901).

In France, in 1830, *International Stenography Courses* was published and in 1863 A. Pouchkine edited *Stenography Workshop*.

Gabelsberger’s work also reached Austria, Poland, Russia, Denmark, Hungary, Holland, England and United States. The system was also adapted to Latin, Turkish, Greek, Armenian and Croatian.

Heinrich Wilhelm Stolze, who became stenographer director of the Chamber of Deputies of Prussia, created his own system in 1841 based on that of Gabelsberger as well as those of Monsengel, Horstig, Danzer and Nowk. Then, in 1867, taking into account the criticism received by the system created by Stolze, his son Franz, created “the new Stolze system”, as a replacement for the old system.

Undoubtedly, we can say that these two systems -Gabelsberger and Stolze- are the most important in the history of shorthand in Germany, both by the number of published works on such systems and their widespread use.

The aforementioned Cornejo Carvajal highlights in his work the importance and attention that the different governments of Germany assigned to the progressive development of art shorthand. He also emphasizes the existence of numerous societies or shorthand associations as well as the use of shorthand in commerce and even in the police. We can also mention that there were postcards with shorthand characters.

Among the great number of German shorthand societies we can mention the Royal Stenographic Institute of Dresden, founded on January 20, 1835, and the shorthand school. The Royal Institute offered two publications: "Literary Journal" and "Journal of Correspondence". In 1889 - a year in which Cornejo Carvajal published "Historical Review of the Shorthand Art" - the library of the Institute held 11,000 of books that comprised the shorthand literature of all the nations.

In 1846 the first shorthand society was founded in Leipzig. In Munich, after the death of Gabelsberger, on January 8, 1849. his students founded a Central Society of Shorthand. In 1861 another society was founded in Koenigsberg.

According to historians, in Germany there were up to 460 establishments teaching shorthand. There were 17,680 students and 16,356 members in various associations and educational establishments. We can also mention the Royal Bavarian Stenographic Institute of Munich, created in 1902.

In Germany, a device known as "telegraph" (a kind of gramophone) was created to collect...
speeches from speakers. In fact, several such devices were installed in the Berlin Chamber to replace the stenographers. In 1923 the experiment was performed and proved unsatisfactory, because only speeches pronounced slowly could be correctly recorded.

In 1918 a committee composed of those using the most widespread systems was created to establish a unique system. The committee proposed two projects: the first consisted of a simplification of the Stolze-Scherey system, and the second was the combination of the Gabelsberger and Stolze-Scherey systems. The number of people being taught Gabelsberger’s shorthand was more than 200,000. The system was replaced in 1924 by the German unified system (Deutsche Einheitskurzschrift), which was used since that date and was the only system allowed for teaching in schools at that time.

It is important to note that the Gabelsberger and Stolze-Scherey systems are considered the parents of the unified system of Germany.

After the fall of the Nazi regime freedom in the use of systems was restored.

Both systems (only two of probably more than 600 existing) were used in both West and East Germany and in Austria. In Switzerland, the system of Wilhelm Stolze and Ferdinand Scherey has been used since 1897 and is still in force.

Gabelsberger and his work are recognized throughout the country. For example, there is a statue in his home town, Munich, and his name was placed on many streets. The importance of shorthand in Germany is shown by the number of international congresses that took place there, namely:

- Munich (1890) – 3° International Congress of Stenography.
- Berlin (1891) – 4° International Congress.
- Darmstadt (1908) – 9° International Congress.
- Dresden (1922) – 13° International Congress.
- And in a few days, Berlin (2017), 51° International Congress.

Fortunately, shorthand is still in force in Germany thanks to the activities of the non-profit associations that teach shorthand and send their members to regional, national and international competitions that take place both in German and other languages.
The Bayreuth National Institute for Shorthand Research (www.forschungsstaette.de), whose president is Mr Boris Neubayer, trains shorthand teachers for the state examination, which requires entrants to pass the system knowledge tests, shorthand history and methodology. The examination also includes teaching a class before a jury. This institute has a library of about 15,000 volumes on shorthand, and some on typewriting. Likewise, it publishes the quarterly magazine "Archiv for Stenographie". As we can see, the Bayreuth Institute is currently carrying out important research work on different aspects of shorthand and keeps the profession alive.

After World War II some other abridged systems were released (all cursive). They remained insignificant. The same happened with the stenotype.

As for most recent history, after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, East Germany joined West Germany and the East German subtype of the German Unified System was abolished. Since then, only the West German subtype is taught. Austria has the same system, with some additional abbreviations for the Austrian provinces.

Today there is a national organization of shorthand writers that publishes the "Neue Stenografische Praxis", a magazine published quarterly. There we can find information on professional practice as well as new abbreviations.

The bases for teaching are the shorthand associations, which still have slightly less than 10,000 members in Germany. They are organized in the German Association of Stenography (Deutscher Stenografenbund, www.stenografenbund.de). This association publishes the "Deutsche Stenografenzeitung" every two months. It also organizes German and other championships. The number of participants is very large each year.

Shorthand associations are the main reason why shorthand survived in Germany. Amateurs and professionals gather in these "clubs". In Hesse, shorthand championships are held every year in foreign languages, in which the maximum speed in Spanish is usually 200 syllables per minute. As far as teaching in schools is concerned, shorthand is an elective subject in the curricula of most provinces.

As we said before, teachers continue to be trained by the Forschungs - und Ausbildungsstaette für Kurzschrift und Textverarbeitung in Bayreuth every three or four years. At the moment, there is a group of about 15 candidates who are working to pass the state exam in September this year.

As Boris Neubayer has informed us, some books are still published in Germany, although sometimes associations have to do this themselves. In this sense, the libraries of Dresden and Bayreuth support them with everything necessary.

Fortunately, several researches are still being carried out today and are published in shorthand magazines.

Publication in social media is less frequent in Germany than in other countries. However,
the "Bayreuther Blätter" provides regular information on shorthand events in Germany.

Finally, we share the information given to us by Mrs Jana Kocourek, head of the Department "Manuscripts, rare books and civilization" of the State Library of Saxony - State and University Library (SLUB), one of the research libraries Germany. Mrs Kocourek says: “Our collection is based on the library of the royal-Saxon stenographic institute, founded in 1839 by Franz Jakob Wigard (1807-1885). From about 1850, on the other hand, one began to collect specific literature on shorthand. Julius Woldemar Zeibig was the first librarian, and he started acquiring and cataloguing the collection.

From 1906 the institute was called "Stenographisches Landesamt". It was dissolved in 1966 and the library came to the Saxonian Landesbibliothek. A total of 4,450 of more than 53,000 titles appeared before 1900. One of the oldest pieces is the "Tacheographia, Oder: Geschwind-Schreibekunst" by Charles Aloysius Ramsay (printed in Leipzig 1679 (http://katalogbeta.slub-dresden.de/id/0013314741/#detail). There is also foreign-language literature - about 600 titles on English shorthand form the largest group, but there are some in Spanish as well. The entire collection is electronically available in the catalogue. If you choose the "Systematik" on the Collection Site of our home page you will find the Spanish titles (http://www.slub-dresden.de/fileadmin/groups/slubsite/Sammlungen/PDF_Sammlungen/Systematik_Stenografie.pdf). In addition to printed books, we keep numerous magazines and manuscripts. You will find some selected pieces in our digital collections (http://digital.slub-dresden.de/listenansicht/).”

To conclude, we are not mistaken if we say that Germany has a rich history of shorthand, as we have tried to point out in this brief article. But that’s not all, because shorthand is still there. In Parliament, for example, the work of stenographers is very important and we can often see them on television or on the Internet.

We are also convinced that the Congress of the Federation that will take place in Berlin from the 22nd to the 28th of July will write a new page not only in the shorthand history of Germany but around the world.

See you in Berlin!

Jorge Bravo, Azat Ambartsoumian and Diana Campi, from Argentine

(Correction done by the public translator Carlos Fava Castro)
The mission of the Scientific Committee

Four years have passed since my first appointment in Ghent as chairman of the Scientific Committee. As such, I am also a member of the International Board. As a board member I have had the chance to gain special insight into the organisation of the Federation. Moreover, I am able to work in an enthusiastic environment with highly skilled people, each of them dealing with a specific task, but with aspects to discuss with the rest of us. All these activities have been carried out magnificently by Board members. Above all, the last two years have been particularly intense since the organisation of the Congress in Berlin has been especially challenging for many reasons. However, this has allowed us to meet more often and to discover how efficient can be a team of people who share the same objective. I think this was the key of our success.

As President of the Board, Fausto did a fantastic job in stimulating us to do more than the daily routine. He promoted the progress of the Federation and introduced many new aspects, some of which still need to be properly understood.

As Secretary General Danny has always demonstrated passion and involvement, by coordinating the work of us all in a unique way. Without him, Intersteno would not work.

As Jury leader, Georgette has managed to fantastically coordinate all competition leaders, support Danny in his tasks, and listen to the advice she asked for from us in order to better organise the competitions.

As IPRS coordinator, Rian managed to enhance the value of the section and to adapt it to the needs of every single Congress. As members, Russell Page and Keliang Tang managed to enthusiastically bring us contributions and the points of view of two worlds that are more and more easily merging into what was, until recently, a European reality.

Again, the rationale was a common goal, that of the progress of Intersteno. And, looking at the programme of the Berlin Congress, I cannot but be thankful for the result that was made possible only by hard work and a common view. However, a common view is something very delicate, something that can be easily spoiled, by personal interests and fear of progress.

As our beloved past Presidents Ihsan Yener and Gian Paolo Trivulzio taught us, the future is a continuous challenge that it is only possible to face with courage, enthusiasm, and collaboration. I really hope to continue making my contribution to this Intersteno Family, with courage, enthusiasm, and collaboration among many courageous, enthusiastic, and collaborative friends.

As chairman of the Scientific Committee, let me focus on the organisational and operational changes we have undergone. Organisationally, the Scientific Committee is composed of 14 members coming from 10 different countries in Asia, America and Europe. Every member has a high scientific profile and their appointment is not related at all to the importance of the National Group to which they belong. This is one of its strengths, which make the Scientific Committee operational and highly fruitful.
Operationally, the Scientific Committee is not bound to time constraints, and this is another of its strengths. As a result, every member can work at his/her pace without the risk of having to abandon a project because of a lack of time.

Current activities include the creation of ISA (International Shorthand Archive), a digital archive of books on shorthand and related topics (Sergio Salinas); recognition of shorthand as a UNESCO intangible masterpiece (Carlo Eugeni and Marianne Van Gool); international certificate of recognition of professional competences (Fausto Ramondelli); implementation of Asiatic languages into the Intersteno Internet competition (Takahiro Sumino), phonetics-based language comparison (Jean-Charles Lemasson).

As for the upcoming Congress in Berlin, the Scientific Committee has already worked in conjunction with the IPRS in order to update the Congress formula by amalgamating the IPRS session and the scientific conference into a General Conference, during which both professional and scientific issues will be dealt with (for further information, please visit http://www.intersteno2017.org/conferences.php). In addition, both bodies will continue holding their own meetings to discuss internal and programme issues. For the next Scientific Committee meeting, a new aspect will be what can be temporarily called “Communication Project”. This aims at facilitating communication within Intersteno people by making use of technology, competence, common sense, and mutual trust. These are the ingredients of one of the topics that will be discussed in Berlin among not only Scientific Committee members, but all those who are interested in joining our work.

I really look forward to meeting you in Berlin.

Carlo Eugeni
Many thanks to Peter Walker for linguistic revision, and to Daniela Bertolini for the layout.