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*All contributions to this e-news are published under the full responsibility of their authors only.*

## President's message



My dear Intersteno Friends,

This e-news focuses on the conference in Maastricht. For everyone who was there, it is a look back at a fantastic week. For those who were unable to attend, it is an impression of a congress that we have all been waiting for for so long. In retrospect, it turned out to be a good decision to let the congress go ahead, even though not all the usual participating countries could be represented.

During the congress, the entire Board was re-elected, a decision that I personally am very happy with. We are a good, close-knit team that will focus fully on the next two years. The council/IPRS meeting in October 2023 will take place in Bordeaux, the place where it would have taken place in 2021 but had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

There are two options for the next congress in 2024: Katowice (Poland) and Liverpool (England). The Board will provide further information about this once both options have been worked out in more detail and a choice can be made.

I wish you a lot of reading pleasure!

The next e-news will appear at the end of December 2022. The deadline for submitting articles and activities for the Event Calendar is the 15th of December, to be sent to [marlenerijkse@intersteno.org](mailto:marlenerijkse@intersteno.org).

*Rian Schwarz-van Poppel*  
*Intersteno president*



## Board and Jury of Intersteno 2022-2024



*Board*



*Jury*

*(Linda Drake is not in the picture, but has also been re-elected as a jury member)*

## From Jury's desk

The number of competitors of this 2022-Intersteno world championship, was a lot less than usual. But everyone was happy to be there and did his/her best to succeed and improve his/her personal records.

In total, 365 tests have been evaluated. Fifty-four participants have successfully competed in at least 3 competitions; 5 seniors and 2 juniors were successful in the 6 possible competitions (no longer 7 because in Maastricht, the professional word processing and the note taking and summary contests were organized simultaneously). As usual now, a special classification "combined list" have been calculated.

## The world championships



**Text production** remains the competition with the higher amount of competitors: 96% were using a standard keyboard, the remaining 4% using a chord keyboard. No competitor has registered in voice writing. 75% of the contestants have reached the minimum of characters per minute required according to their age category. So far, the world record of Helena's Zaviačičová (alias Matoušková) of 955,10 cpm (Rome 2003), has not yet been surpassed in the 30-minute world championship.

In the **text correction** test, the question is open: as far as I can check, the record in the number of corrections made is **345** (Václav Mikula – CZ - Prague 2007). Nevertheless, with his 321 corrections in 10 minutes (the higher number since that time), Krystian Wawrzynek (Interinfo Polska) gets a higher number of points (30 600 against 29 500) because he made fewer mistakes. He is followed by Franciszek Puchała (Poland as well) with 327 corrections but 29 700 points. A fine challenge for the next world championship?

With a 64%-success rate, despite the results of 100 and 99.9% for the first two places, the **professional word processing** championship remains difficult and, as its name suggests, it is reserved for those who consider it as important to use the text editing software in a very professional way.

Let's congratulate Jonáš Vala (CZ), the only successful "younger than 20" (for information, only 4 were registered).



**Audio transcription** is, according to me, a more professional version of the text production contest. Fast typing is a sport that requires training. This skill saves you a lot of time in your professional and private life. But what we most often type are audio texts (or simply our own ideas) which requires an additional competence: a good knowledge of the language, mainly spelling and punctuation. If the speed is important, AT-contest is easier than the speech capturing ones, because you may slow down or stop the dictation. Sixty-seven competitors and a 76% success rate.

Since 2007, Jari Niittuinperä has led the **speech capturing** competition with great professionalism and introduced several improvements to ensure a fair challenge. For the lambda-reader of this news, it is perhaps necessary to recall that the 15-minute dictation is split into three 5-minute sections (C-B-A) and that only the 3 last correct minutes are counted for the evaluation. You can see in the result list published on the website that only 2 competitors reached the level A with success!



Three technologies were represented: graphic (39%), standard keyboard (5%) and chord keyboard (11%). Once more, there were no competitors in voice writing. Juniors and pupils only competed with standard keyboards. Whatever the technology used, a long transcription time is granted to competitors but of course not always used. This year, like the previous ones, the success rate is about 80%.



Last but not the last, the real-time speech capturing contest is a very professional contest. If we observe competitors at work while listening to the dictation, we are blown away because they are able to take note at an incredible dictation speed. Thirty-six contestants, 28 successful ones and we're surprised that 2 very young keyboarders (14 and 16 years old) ranked for 5 and 3 minutes.

It's also important to state that the only voice writer registered (Daniele Casarola) is ranked in 2nd place: he noted the whole text. This means the entire 10-minute dictation.

This review would not be complete without speaking about the international contest: note taking and summary. So difficult to evaluate. Anyway, making a synthesis, only noting important words and ideas instead of making a verbatim report (word-for-word) is very often used in professional and student life. Thirty-four competitors, 29 successful ones.

This competition took place out of session, on Saturday afternoon, simultaneously with the professional word processing championship. We tried to time the two contests in a single PowerPoint to limit as much as possible the inconvenience of movements in the competition room (WP contest was longer than the NT one).

## Many thanks to ...

Before presenting you the winners, it is important for me to thank all those whose work, often tedious, made possible these championships!

## The jury leaders



**Helena  
Zaviačičová**  
Czech Republic

Text  
production



**Sylvia  
Beckers**  
Germany

Text  
correction



**Francesca  
Marchionne**  
Italy

Audio  
transcription



**Jari  
Niittuinperä**  
Finland

Speech  
capturing



Linda Drake  
working from  
United States



On spot:  
Russell Page  
United States

Real Time SC



**Anita  
Dobos**  
Hungary

Note taking  
& summary

## Danny Devriendt



He is not only the most active member of the congress organization committee but he also manages results lists and diplomas, and a lot of other jury tasks that would be too long to enumerate.

As word processing leader, I have to point out his essential help as well!



## All national juries

Some have worked at home, months before the congress, preparing the translations, organizing the tests, dictating the texts of the speech capturing contests. Others were in the competition room, to help, to assist, to control during training and contests. Just after each competition, correctors and evaluators have begun their huge work following a strict schedule.



I already apologize: I'm not sure I haven't forgotten anyone. If this is the case, do not hesitate to point it out to me: I will publish an erratum.

*Hermann-Josef Beckers (DE), Bernadett Berencsiné (HU), Virgene Biggers (US), Katalin Bónyai Mikes (HU), Uwe Brüdigam (DE), Nataša Cigetić (HR), Uwe Daneke (DE), Lylian Dehoux (BE), Jeannine Delange (BE), Jan den Holder (NL), Monika Disser (DE), Nurben Dönmez (TR), Hasan Erdoğan (TR), Carlo Eugeni (IT), Colette Fettweis (BE), Terezia Garaiova (SK), Andrijana Hajduković (HR), Regina Hofmann (DE), Flavio Inesmartins (BE), Ivana Kokot (HR), Magali Kairis (BE), Thorsten Kempermann (DE), Saynur Kılıçaslan (TR), Ivana Kokot (HR), Seçkin Köse (TR), Uda Kuhn (DE), Zdeňka Kunderátová (CZ), Riikka Kuronen (FI), Emrah Kuyumcu (TR), Alessandro la Donna (IT), Jean-Charles Le Masson (FR), Vlasta Martináková (CZ), Veronika Masling (DE), Susanne Mersch (DE), August Mersch (DE), Ivana Meštrić (HR), Pavla Mičková (CZ), Manuela Muha (IT), Katrien Muller (DE), Boris Neubauer (DE), Pieter-Jan Oste (BE), Selver Öztürk (TR), Antonio Pinese (IT), Anne Rabot (FR), Anna Škovierová (SK), Sabine Smolinski (DE), Sandra Stall (DE), Nikolina Vicković (HR), Andrea Wawrzynek (HR), Teresa Wawrzynek (PL), Walburga Yügrük (DE), Jaroslav Zaviačič (CZ).*

### The national Intersteno groups

Country delegates and members have motivated, trained and/or sponsored competitors: an essential work realized for many years.

### An efficient Czech duo ...

Under the Board's suggestion, Helena made a huge contribution to introduce a technical improvement: the use of a secured central server to upload competitors works and download useful files (instead of USB-keys). Unfortunately, since the hotel wi-fi-connection was not as constant as it has been announced, we could not use this system and, at the very last moment, we turned back to USB-keys.

With Zdeňka Kunderátová, they immediately adapted by collecting and controlling the competition works given on USB-Keys. Then, they launched the automatic correction via the ZAV-software or gave the collected works to leaders who wanted to use another system.



### ... and software's to help our work!

ZAV-software has been improving for 20 years. It enables us to save a lot of time, particularly when evaluating text production and text correction. Not only that but the software is able to support the speech capturing contests as well, underlining the differences with the original text.

In Italy, Alessio Popoli had improved his "Emendo" software, tested in Cagliari, taking into account the suggestions of Jari Niittuimperä for the speech capturing contest.

### The "Crew"

A large delegation of Belgian workers - but not only - taking care of all the technical works (including the unexpected ones when problems occurred): room equipment, electrical connections, appointment of competitors' places, distribution of infrared receivers; printing of speech capturing tests (SC, RT, NT) for proofreaders, watching the access to the Ceramic room to prevent any untimely

intervention during a contest, ensuring the correct distribution of medals and certificates during the price giving ceremony, ...



Their work was not only for the jury: they have prepared bags, t-shirts and gifts for congress participants, welcoming them with a big smile at any time.

Moreover, they have immortalized (almost) all the events with photos, films and live publications on Facebook. The photos have been sorted, classified and grouped in a slideshow that constitutes an image report of the congress (soon available on the website).

*Agnès Coeckelberghs, Juliette Corbesier, Lylian Dehoux-Georges, Jeannine Delange, Laura Devriendt, Liesa Devriendt, Colette Fettweis, Flavio Inesmartins, Magali Kairis, Joseph Lepière, Jean-Pierre Rensonnet, Etienne Sterkendries, Niels Struyf, Jonathan Vandeputte, from Belgium.*

*Rolf Schwarz, from the Netherlands,*

*Jacqueline Bertin-Mahieux, Anne Rabot from France.*



Jacqueline Bertin-Mahieux  
Photos

## The professional helpers

- Nino, Houben Souren society, for the management of the infrared system.
- Bart Muller, Muco-Sportprijzen firm, for the engraving of medals.



## Podiums and price giving ceremony

A great moment for the competitors. The ceremony was organized in the same Crowne Plaza room where the world championships took place 4 days before. At 16 00, certificates and medals were ready and the doors could be opened as announced in the program. The room was immediately full of people watching a diaporama (made by Jeannine Delange), recalling the events of the last 5 days.



**Text production – Standard keyboard – Pupils**

1	Nisan M. Tunçoğlu (TR)	682.0 cpm	0.044%	19560 pts
2	Lukáš Janošik (CZ)	456.3 cpm	0.015%	13489 pts
3	Bağdağül Özkan (TR)	513.7 cpm	0.214%	12111 pts



**Text production – Standard keyboard – Juniors**

1	Jonáš Vala (CZ)	768.0 cpm	0.102%	21181 pts
2	Mete Özen (TR)	608.6 cpm	0.055%	17258 pts
3	Massimiliano Polilli (IT)	559.5 cpm	0.048%	15985 pts



**Text production – Chord keyboard – Seniors**

1	Wim Gerbecks (NL)	740.0 cpm	0.095%	20099 pts
2	Daniela Busalacchi (IT)	582.2 cpm	0.110%	17167 pts



**Text production – Standard keyboard – Seniors**

1	Erdi Çiller (TR)	785.1 cpm	0.061%	22353 pts
2	Ilyas Pamukçu (TR)	699.8 cpm	0.010%	20795 pts
3	Emrah Kuyumcu (TR)	724.9 cpm	0.055%	20546 pts



**Text correction – Pupils**

1	Lukáš Janošik (CZ)	139 cor.	6 mistakes
2	Šimon Vrzala (CZ)	126 cor.	6 mistakes



**Text correction – Juniors**

1	Jonáš Vala (CZ)	277 cor.	3 mistakes
2	Johana Valová (CZ)	211 cor.	10 mistakes
3	Eliška Šmetanová (CZ)	174 cor.	9 mistakes



**Text correction – Seniors**

1	Krzysztof Wawrzyniak (PL)	321 cor.	3 mistakes
2	Francoiszek Puchala (PL)	327 cor.	6 mistakes
3	Martina Kadláčková (CZ)	300 cor.	9 mistakes



Professional word processing – Juniors

1	Jonáš Vala (CZ)	94,5%
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Professional word processing – Seniors

1	Katrin Müller (DE)	100,0%
2	Laurence Defawe (BE)	99,5%
3	Markus Knehans (DE)	97,0%



Audio transcription – Pupils

1	Lukáš Mareš (CZ)	397,8 cpm	0,101%	3778 pts	standard
2	Nisan M. Tuncoglu (TR)	426,0 cpm	0,329%	3560 pts	standard
3	Lukáš Janošik (CZ)	354,3 cpm	0,058%	3443 pts	standard



Audio transcription – Juniors

1	Massimiliano Politi (IT)	560,0 cpm	0,071%	6400 pts	standard
2	Jonáš Vala (CZ)	581,2 cpm	0,155%	6362 pts	standard
3	Johana Valová (CZ)	478,3 cpm	0,125%	4483 pts	standard



Audio transcription – Seniors

1	Sheri Smargon (USA)	1026,2 cpm	0,273%	8862 pts	chord
2	Daniela Busalacchi (IT)	722,0 cpm	0,069%	6970 pts	chord
3	Hakan Kurt (TR)	670,2 cpm	0,060%	6502 pts	standard



Speech capturing – Graphic – Seniors

1	Zsuzsanna Ferenc (HU)	A13	38 penalties	415 syl.
2	Erika Vicai (HU)	B12	47 penalties	391 syl.
3	Niklas Varisto (FI)	B8	35 penalties	319 syl.



Speech capturing – Standard keyboard – Seniors

1	Andrea Akhlaghi Farsi (IT)	B9	3 penalties	343 syl.
2	Alessio Popoli (IT)	B8	12 penalties	319 syl.
3	Karin Cieslarová (CZ)	B8	14 penalties	299 syl.



Speech capturing – Chord keyboard – Seniors

1	Julianne LaBadia (USA)	A14	34 penalties	391 syl.
2	Traci Mertens (USA)	A13	24 penalties	370 syl.
3	Sheri Smargon (USA)	B12	11 penalties	349 syl.



Speech capturing – Standard keyboard – Pupils

1	Nisan Maya Tunçoğlu (TR)	C6	10 penalties	271 syl.
2	Simone Cerasa (IT)	C6	23 penalties	271 syl.



Speech capturing – Standard keyboard – Juniors

1	Jonáš Vala (CZ)	B8	27 penalties	299 syl.
2	Johana Valová (CZ)	C6	17 penalties	255 syl.
3	Massimiliano Polilli (IT)	C6	27 penalties	271 syl.



Real time speech capturing – Pupils

1	Nisan Maya Tunçoğlu (TR)	5 min.	1 penalty	Kb
2	Simone Cerasa (IT)	3 min.	7 penalties	Kb



Real time speech capturing – Juniors

1	Jonáš Vala (CZ)	6 min.	10 penalties	Kb
2	Metehan Özgen (TR)	4 min.	2 penalties	Kb
3	Massimiliano Polilli (IT)	4 min.	6 penalties	Kb



Real time speech capturing – Seniors

1	Julianne LaBadia (US)	10 min.	8 penalties	CK
2	Daniele Casarola (IT)	10 min	14 penalties	VW
3	Sheri Smargon (US)	10 min	21 penalties	CK



Note taking & reporting – Pupils

1	Simon Vrzala (CZ)	50 %	0 penalties
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Note taking & reporting – Juniors

1	Johana Valová (CZ)	83 %	0 penalties
2	Marcell István Muhel (HU)	72 %	0 penalties
3	Nikol Klementová (CZ)	75 %	5 penalties



Note taking & reporting – Seniors

1	Karin Cieslarová (CZ)	94 %	0 penalties
2	Tomáš Portych (CZ)	93 %	0 penalties
3	Štěpán Kratochvíl (CZ)	92 %	0 penalties

**Combination list – Pupils**

1) Nisan Maya Tunçoglu (TR)	4 competitions
2) Simone Cerasa (IT)	4 competitions
3) Šimon Vrzala (CZ)	4 competitions

**Combination list – Juniors**

1) Jonáš Vala (CZ)	6 competitions
2) Johana Valová (CZ)	6 competitions
3) Massimiliano Politi (IT)	5 competitions

**Combination list – Seniors**

1) Tomáš Portych (CZ)	6 competitions
2) Martina Kadláčková (CZ)	6 competitions
3) Andrea Wawrzyniek (HR)	6 competitions

These people had the pleasure of giving medals and diplomas to the winners

**Text production**

Seçkin Köse (TR)  
Zdeňka Kundrátková (CZ)  
Sandra Stall (DE)

**Text correction**

Sabine Smolinski (DE)  
Regina Hofmann (DE)  
Helena Zaviačičová (CZ)

**Word processing**

Jeannine Delange (BE)  
Regina Hofmann (DE)  
Agnes Coeckelberghs (BE)

**Audio transcription**

Nataša Cigetić (HR)  
Virgene Biggers (US)  
Carlo Eugeni (IT)

**Note taking & summary**

Bernadett Berensci (HU)  
Anita Dobos (HU)  
Alessandro la Donna (IT)

**Combined list**

Neil Holley (UK)  
Marlène Rijkse (NL)  
Manuela Muha (IT)



Speech capturing: Jari Niittuinperä and Anita Dobos

Real time: Russell Page

Both Jari Niittuinperä and Russell Page wanted to congratulate themselves the winners of "their" competitions while I was proclaiming the names, simultaneously displayed on the screen.

Jari was helped by Anita Dobos.

I want to congratulate all the competitors. It is great to be on the podium, but more important is to participate because it is an experience. If you succeed to be in the classification list, it is significant and, if you try again, year after year, you can evaluate your progress. And this is really something!

## Other challenges

Two additional races were organised during this congress:

- the European Certification and Qualification Association ([ECQA](#)): read Carlo Eugeni's report;
- the [texting competition](#) (WhatsApp): a challenge for the youngest during the Youth Day: see Krystian Wawrzyniek's report.

ECQA certification  
August 10, 2022

## Press



Monday morning 8 August, [Christianne Schreuder](#), from RTV-Maastricht, has interviewed some competitors. She mostly spoke with our the 14-year champion, Nisan Maya Tunçoğlu. She was also

very interested in Karen Peck's explanations concerning the use of her chord keyboard. Karen, a former stenographer; is now sales manager for Stenograph LLC (a market leader in providing technology solutions for the transcription). At the end, Danny Devriendt explained the several world championships and made a short recall of the Intersteno activities during congresses.

Thank you to [Anouk Maas](#) from the Maastricht Convention Bureau, for organising this meeting. Thank you to competitors for being there:

*Andrea Akhlaghi Farsi (IT), Stjepan Džalto (HR), Emrah Kuyumcu (TR), Alessio Popoli (IT), Nisan Maya Tunçoğlu (TR), Jonáš Vala (CZ), Niklas Varisto (FI), Andrea Wawrzynek (HR). Karen Peck, Stenograph LLC.*



## Age categories

In Intersteno, if you are already a senior when you are 21 years old, this doesn't mean that the championships are only dedicated to young people. In Belgium, we have a comics magazine whose motto is "for young people from 7 to 77 years old" ... Intersteno could have the same!

In Maastricht, the older competitor was an 89-year old woman who registered for 3 competitions. Unhappily, she didn't succeed. The next oldest successful competitor is 64 years old and competed in graphic speech capturing. The youngest one, from Turkey, was 10 years old. Though, unhappily, he didn't succeed as well, 3 Turkish participants, 10 years old, are classified in the text production result list and already reach the minimum speed required for ... seniors!



## How many medals ... & certificates?

Born in 2002, Jonáš Vala from Czech Republik is still classified within the Junior category. He got the higher amount of medals: 7 ... with 6 gold ones. He is followed by the young Nisan Maya Tunçoğlu, from Turkey, pupils category: she got 5 medals, with 4 gold ones. Then there were by two juniors who also got 5 medals: Johana Valová (CZ - Jonáš' sister) and Massimiliano Polilli (Italy).

Good work as well for 2 pupils with 3 medals: Šimon Vrzala (CZ) and Simone Cerasa (IT).

Five competitors left the price giving ceremony with 7 certificates, 8 with 5, etc. They deserve our respect.



## So happy!

I want to share with you some special photos: competitors expressing their pride, to be called on the podium.



*Georgette Sante  
Jury president*

## Impression of the congress in Maastricht

*By Marlene Rijkse*

How could it be otherwise? This e-news is almost entirely devoted to the conference in Maastricht. Congresses are important to our federation, and this year's congress was special because it was postponed for a year and there was only online contact for three years.

The conference took place at the Crown Plaza Hotel, an excellent location with good facilities. Of course there were setbacks. For example, during the test run for the matches on Saturday morning, it became clear that the Internet in the hotel was not functioning properly. That caused tension, but eventually the problems were solved.

As usual since the organization took responsibility for the organization of the congress, the Belgium team had already settled in Maastricht a few days in advance to carry out all the preparatory work. The team is completely integrated. Whenever possible, it tries to answer questions and solve problems. A big word of thanks is in order for this.

The [Jury](#) and the [Board](#) met on Friday 5 August. The Board mainly discussed the course of events at the opening ceremony and who would be responsible for which task. The proposals to the Council and General Assembly were also discussed. Friday it was also possible to train for TP, TC and AT.

Saturday morning there was also plenty of [training](#) before the WP and NT games were to take place that afternoon. Below are some photos taken during the training.



The [opening ceremony](#) took place on a boat. At the last minute it was decided to walk together from the hotel to the location, with the flag of each country in the banner. Coming over the bridge over the river Maas, the procession walked to the boat. It was a beautiful sight.



All country representatives addressed the attendees in a few words in their own language. Afterwards, the Chairman, Rian Schwarz, welcomed all present. Everyone was noticeably happy and elated that we had managed to hold another convention. The photos below speak for themselves.

During the opening ceremony the winners of the Internet contest 2022 received their medal and certificate.





Johana Valova Zech Republic



Singing the Intersteno anthem



Even members of the Board, who still had a whole conference ahead of them, were visibly relaxed!



Saturday and Sunday were completely in the context of the [competitions](#), with familiar but also new faces.



Sunday ended with an [IPRS social club](#), an informal meeting where mainly participants with a parliamentary background meet informally.



Monday morning was the [IPRS meeting](#), with good presentations and an attentive audience. Summaries can be found at <https://www.intersteno.org/maastricht-2022/iprs-diametic-conferences/>, courtesy of the reporters of the Dutch parliament.





On Monday afternoon, the IPRS visited [the Provincial House](#), where the regional administration of the province of Limburg is housed and where the Maastricht Treaty has been signed.



There was also an excursion to the Zonnenberg Caves that day. A guide explained the tunnel system, the wall paintings and the history of the caves.





Late in the evening, the chairman signed certificates, under the watchful eye of some members of the Belgium team.



Tuesday morning was the Diamesic Conference, with fascinating and sometimes surprising presentations, which can be read in summary below.

<https://www.intersteno.org/maastricht-2022/iprs-diamesic-conferences/>





That day was also the [Youth Event](#), which is reported separately in this e-news, and there was an excursion to the Blegny Mine. The council met in the afternoon. Thanks to the Sander Pasveer devices, attendees could opt for subtitling in their own language. A report is made of the council meeting and sent to the members of the council.

The day ended with the [council dinner](#), during which people ate, sang and danced. I'll let the photos speak for themselves.



Welcome by Danny Devriendt and Rian Schwarz





Wednesday was the [General Assembly](#). Prior to the meeting, the deaths of several important intersteno persons, namely Dale Biggers, Manfred Dürhammer, Nora Berezina and Csilla Hegedüs, were commemorated. A report was made of the meeting and sent to the country groups.



public during the General Assembly

The meeting of the [Scientific Committee](#) and the Tiro Editorial Committee will be discussed separately in an e-news.

Last but not least, there was [the Prize giving ceremony](#). See the article by Georgette Sante in this e-news.

Finally, there was the [farewell dinner](#) and party. This was such an animated meeting that the author of this article only took a single photo!



*View of the river Maas*



Julia LaBadia and Georgina Ford, who did a perfect job by subtitling the General Assembly



The photos below show a satisfied president!



*President and Joke Bakker President and Badr Coucou President and Marlene Rijkse*

For most, this was the end of the congress, yet still a bus full of participants went to Aachen the next day. Maybe someone would like to report on this day in the next e-news!

## The Youth Day

*By Krystian Wawrzynek*

This year the Youth Day was divided into two parts and days. During the Congress, on Monday after the competitions, the Intersteno Youth gathered in the very same hall where the day before they were competing in World Championships, to compete in one, much less official category: Texting competition. Participants were supposed to retype a 160 characters message in a language foreign to everyone as fast and as accurately as possible. No results were revealed that day.

The second day and the main part of the Youth event started from announcing the winner of the Texting Competition. The fastest and the most accurate participant was Viktor Matraković from Croatia. He received an attractive prize and a diploma for his first congress win.

After a common picture in front of the congress hotel, the whole group moved to the city center to experience an adventure they did not expect. It was a total surprise. When we entered the XIX century detective office, it became clear. Today everyone will try to escape the room full of puzzles within 60 minutes! 5 groups of courageous youth entered 5 different rooms. What was happening during this time, what puzzles did they solve, what ideas did they have, what did they manage and where did they fail has been discussed for a long time in a place nearby where local snacks and drinks were served.

From comments afterwards, it looks like at least most of the people enjoyed their time. What is sure, the youth of Intersteno from around the globe had an opportunity to gather, to have fun together and to make new friendships. The tradition of the Intersteno Youth Day will be carried on.





## Looking back at Intersteno Maastricht 2022

*By Helena Zaviačičová*

After 33 years of being together at Intersteno congresses from Dresden 1989 to Cagliari 2019, I and our entire group missed Jaroslav Zaviačič in Maastricht. Intersteno awarded him the title of Honorary President in 2019, which he highly appreciates and considers as the culmination of his involvement at Intersteno. He has been a member of Intersteno throughout his active life. His application ZAV-JURY has been used for evaluation of the competitions since 1998. He came up with the idea of the Internet competition in 2003 and co-organized the World Championships and the Intersteno Congress in Prague in 2007. During his presidency, he visited China, where the idea of holding the first World Championship outside Europe in China was born. And more recently, after some inertia of the Internet competition, he offered Intersteno a new version of the competition with the online stream of results – ZAV-100. For the first time, he was not in person with our national group in Maastricht. However, his voice was heard by the competitors in the dictations, and we all did our best to continue to be active members of the Intersteno family in his spirit under the Czech flag, both in the competition and professional field.

After the covid break, there was a reduction in activities worldwide, thus all national groups were smaller this time and the total number of participants was also low. Our group, the ZAV family, was also smaller in number this time, which made us all that much closer, and together we experienced the joys and solved the problems.

We were very happy that in the end, after the initial intention not to run Note Taking and Word Processing competitions, all seven competitions were held. However, competitors had to choose between WP and NT. This was particularly disadvantageous for competitors in Combined Ranking, but the rules were the same for all. Our new Jury leader of the Note Taking competition, Anita Dobos, managed her role very well for the first time thanks to her precision.

Our competitors won 28 medals out of 70 given medals, but that was not the most important thing. The important thing was that they are an excellent team; they respect and support each other; they work together; and for most of them, typing is a hobby. Our best senior, Karin Cieslarová, is a doctor of medicine and uses keyboarding every day in her work. Martina Kadláčková will become a biochemist; she has finished her bachelor's degree with distinction and is continuing with her master's studies. Štěpán Kratochvíl will become a journalist, already with interesting foreign experiences and travel plans. The best junior in the championship, Jonáš Vala, is a medical student, and besides keyboarding, programming is also his great hobby. His sister Johana Valová enjoys playing the piano, singing and acting in her leisure time. And so I could go on with each of them. Even the youngest ones, who were at the World Championships for the first time, are growing into strong personalities who will definitely not be lost in their lives and their friendship with the keyboard is already for life. They know well how useful this skill is.

Based on the board decision, we have been working hard for more than half a year to extend the existing capabilities of ZAV-JURY software with a new feature, automatic file upload with file checking and instant pre-evaluation, followed only by revisions, so that the results are available very soon. Except – of course – for Note Taking and Word Processing, where manual evaluation is necessary. A big thank-you also goes to my co-worker Zdeňka Kundrátková, without whose help I can no longer imagine Intersteno. Especially in a situation where the whole event is a day shorter for economic reasons, this is very necessary. In addition, the server solution allows evaluation from any location in the world, which is also a considerable advantage with low on-site participation. Of course, we have carefully addressed security against misuse or data leakage. We have tested everything many times at our national competitions and camps. We've created instructional videos and manuals... When it

turned out onsite that the wi-fi, essential for this solution, was not working in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, our frustration was really high. However, ZAV-JURY at least served very well in its original form for the offline evaluation. Thanks to the practical use of real experts from the different national groups, a number of new ideas for adding functionalities, such as exporting detailed results to Excel spreadsheets for further processing with macros, were developed in Maastricht. We will also add filtering by language, synchronization of original files with changes to be done for Text Corrections with the specific location of the error and synchronization of audio recordings with the specific location of the error to re-listen for errors on the recording. This will be useful for all three dictation competitions.

We would welcome further comments from all of you because this is the only way we can work together in the future to build a professional and comprehensive assistant that will save us all time, work accurately, safely, and to everyone's satisfaction, as befits INTERSTENO, the federation of information processing professionals.

On behalf of the Czech national group, I would like to thank two people without whom our championships would no longer take place. Danny and Geo are humble, smiling and helpful, always ready to help. And not only during the event itself, but throughout the two years leading up to it when they prepared everything with their families and friends. Thank you, our friends!

And now I am looking forward to the next meeting of the whole Intersteno family, whether it be in Katowice or Liverpool ...



## Hungarian results from Maastricht

*By Bernadett Berencsi and Anita Dobos*

Although our group was much smaller this year, our small country has achieved very wonderful results!

Zsuzsánna Ferenc got 1st place in the Speech Capturing competition and Erika Vicai got 2nd place in the Speech Capturing competition! Moreover, two of our competitors finished among the first ten competitors: Mária Madarász 5th place and Katalin Székely 10th place!

In the Note Taking and Reporting competition, we also have beautiful results: three of our competitors finished among the first ten competitors: Erika Vicai 4th place, Mária Madarász 5th place, and Beáta Eszlinger 9th place!

This year a young talent also took part in the Intersteno congress. He is Marcell István Muhel, who achieved a really excellent result! He got 2nd place in the Note Taking and Reporting competition!

We were very happy!

Marci's kind teacher is Imréné Krizbai (Ildikó), who was also very strict in preparing for the Intersteno world championship. As Marci's results show, it was well worth it!

Their goal in the future is to participate in as many national and international competitions as possible.

We hope Marcell will continue to achieve good results at Intersteno congresses and world championships as well!

Good luck to everyone for the next time too!



*Beautiful SC results*



*Finally...*



*Helpoort*



*Kind SC workers*



*NT Jury leader on the floor*



Marcell is also on the podium



Opening ceremony



Prize-giving ceremony

## Some experiences of a 'rookie'

*By Anita Dobos*

In the middle of August we arrived from 24 countries to Maastricht.

I'm sure that several reports were posted (or will be posted), so I would like to write just a short article from my point of view about the 53rd Intersteno congress.

Although I have been involved in Intersteno's work for more than a 'few years ago', I attended the Maastricht congress as a 'rookie', because being there as NT Jury leader was a completely new challenge...

Although I had some experience with NT competitions (previously as a competitor, later as an assistant to the work of the jury), the situation was obviously completely different. My responsibility was huge because I wanted to do the best. But I knew – and I was sure – that every colleague / friend helps with the work. And so it was!

I saw that a very good relationship had already developed with all NT assistants/ helpers during the preparatory work. The work in a pleasant atmosphere also continued in Crowne Plaza (even if the situation was not always the most ideal, e.g., technical problems unfortunately arose during training).

I did of course everything what I could, but we needed also an incredible amount of patience, calmness, tolerance, flexibility. Mostly flexibility – at least as I saw it!

I'm very grateful to everyone who supported and gave me advice as regards my work in Maastricht! Let me mention everyone in this great NT team: from Croatia Andrea Wawrzynek and Andrijana Hajduković, from Czech Republic Pavla Mičková and Vlasta Martináková, from Germany Sandra Stall and Katrin Müller, from Hungary Bernadett Berencsi, from Italy Manuela Muha, Alessandro la Donna and Carlo Eugeni, from Slovak Republic Terézia Garaiová and Anna Škovierová, from USA Virgene Biggers and Russell Page. I would like to thank you here, this way too for your huge work, with which you contributed to the success of the NT competition in Maastricht! As for me – as a "rookie" – I just hope that I was able to solve everything well, at least more or less... If something didn't work out as expected, I'm sorry and I apologize! I will try to make it better next time! Of course I will use all experiences in my work in the future!

I'm very grateful to our amazing Intersteno president, Rian Schwarz-van Poppel; our secretary treasurer, Danny Devriendt; and our Jury president, Georgette Sante, who also trusted me!

Of course I'm most thankful to all helpers for their huge work and for their hospitality and kindness! Thank you very much to the families of Georgette and Danny and all the friends who worked for a succesful congress! Thank you very much to all of you! You made these days in wonderful Maastricht truly memorable for us!

And last but of course not least, a very special thanks to Uda Kuhn and Jan den Holder, who also helped the NT work!

Thank you to all Jury leaders: Georgette Sante, Helena Zaviačičová, Sylvia Beckers, Francesca Marchionne, Jari Niittuinperä, Russell Page, and Linda Drake, who also helped the work from USA. Thank you so much to the assistants / helpers in TP Zdeňka Kundrátková and in AT Antonio Pinese, who also did a great job!

Thank you very much to everyone for the kind feedback not only in Maastricht, but also for the kind letters written to me after the congress!

Hopefully we can meet all colleagues and friends also at the next congress (even if we don't know where it will be) or maybe sooner than that. Who knows?! 😊



*Cheerful Hungarians*



*Good colleagues & friends*



*Hungary by General Assembly*



*Monument d'Artagnan*



*NT training*



*Valkenburg*



*Welcome*



*With Alessandro*



*With Pavla*



*With Sandra*



*With Virgene*

# Proposal to change the conversion rate of Japanese text and its Roman text

By Tatsuya Kawahara and Tsuguo Kaneko

## Summary

For typing contests in the Japanese language, text using the Japanese kana-kanji characters and its Roman transliterated text are prepared. As the number of characters is different between the two texts, a conversion rate is used. We observe that the current conversion rate of **2.2607** favors contestants typing Roman text so much that even Japanese native contestants get much better scores by using Roman text than using Japanese text. Based on the analysis of the texts and experiments by nine skilled Japanese typists typing both texts, we propose to use a conversion rate of **2.95**.

## 1 Background

For the typing competition of the Japanese language, both Japanese orthographic kana-kanji text and its Roman transliterated text have been used. The former is commonly used in Japan, but its typing requires the knowledge of kana and kanji characters and their input methods. To increase the number of international participants, Roman transliterated text is also prepared. In order to make fair comparisons between those using the original Japanese text and those using the Roman text, a “conversion rate” is defined, which means how many Roman characters one Japanese character is comparable to. Conventionally, it has been set to **2.2607**.

In the previous contests, Japanese native participants found the rate is so small that taking Roman text is more advantageous. In the Internet Contest 2022, the average score of those (8 contestants) taking the Roman text is higher by 35% than those (8 contestants) taking the Japanese text among Japanese native participants.

## 2 Basic knowledge of Japanese typing methods

Japanese text is composed of kana and kanji characters. One kana character generally corresponds to two Roman characters, and one kanji character generally corresponds to two to four Roman characters. Moreover, when we input kanji characters, we first type in Roman characters or kana characters, and then convert them into kanji with extra keystrokes and visual checking. This sometimes involves correction when the conversion is not done smoothly. For example, to input “兼子”, we first type in “kaneko” and then press the conversion key once or twice before pressing the completion key. Thus, typing these two kanji characters requires six Roman character inputs plus two or three keystrokes. On the other hand, Japanese text does not have a space between words. If the kana-to-kanji conversion is done word by word, the conversion keystrokes correspond to a space, but the conversion keystrokes are not counted, whereas space is counted as a character. Commas and periods are used similarly in Japanese and other languages.

An example is given for a sentence with Roman text and Japanese kana-kanji text.

Nihongo no nyuuryoku wa muzukashii desu. (40 characters+1 capital=41 strokes)

日本語の入力は難しいです。 (13 characters)

To input this Japanese text, we need the following keystrokes, though there may be other ways.

Nihongono<SP><ENT>nyuuryokuha<SP><ENT>muzukasiidesu<SP><ENT>。 <ENT>  
(34 character keystrokes + 4 <ENT> keys + 3 <SP> keys = 41 strokes)

Here, <SP> represents a conversion key, and <ENT> represents an ENTER key. In this example, <ENT> is used after every phrase, which consists of one content word (usually having kanji words) and some function words (usually only kana). As shown in the above example, the number of keystrokes necessary for inputting Japanese text is comparable to the number of characters in Roman text. However, we need to consider the process for kana-to-kanji conversion. Although pressing the <SP> key can be done quickly, it takes considerable time to check visually if the conversion to kanji is correct. Sometimes it does not present the correct kanji; then, we need to try another conversion. For example, “kaneko” can be converted to not only “兼子” but also “金子”, and we need to select the correct one. Therefore, the conversion <SP> needs to be weighed more than other keystrokes. We need the same conversion for katakana words.

### 3 Data analysis

We prepared texts both in Japanese kana-kanji characters and Roman characters for the INTERSTENO Internet Contest (IC) in 2021 and 2022. The Roman texts were automatically generated by transliterating the Japanese text, so the content of both texts is the same. The Japanese text does not contain difficult kanji words such as named entities. Their statistics are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Statistics of the Japanese texts used in the Internet Contest

	IC-2021	IC-2022
1. Japanese characters	4000	3413
(2)kanji characters	1341	1090
(3)katakana characters	298	546
(4)kanji/katakana words	879	845
0. Roman characters	11120	9054
(6)spaces	2051	1536
(5)/(1) Roman char./Japanese char.	2.78	2.65
((5)+(4))/(1) Roman char. + kanji words / Japanese char.	3.00	2.90

The simple ratio of the number of characters between the Roman and Japanese texts shows a value larger than 2.65, which is much larger than the current conversion rate of 2.2607. Moreover, when we consider the extra step necessary for converting kana to kanji characters, we expect the ratio would be 2.90-3.00, as shown in the last row.

### 4 Experiment

Then, we conducted an experiment using these texts by asking skilled Japanese typists, who participated in past INTERSTENO contests. The objective is to compare the score for Japanese texts and for their Roman transliterated texts by the same typists. To offset the effect of memorizing the text of the same content and make a fair comparison, we divided the participants into two groups, who engaged in typing four texts in a different order as below.

Group 1: IC-2021 Roman -> IC-2022 Japanese -> IC-2021 Japanese -> IC-2022 Roman

Group 2: IC-2021 Japanese -> IC-2022 Roman -> IC-2021 Roman -> IC-2022 Japanese

All trials were conducted in five minutes, and their scores were calculated using Practical Type software (<http://www.second-way.com/>).

Table 2: Scores for Japanese text and its Roman text

Typist ID	Group	IC-2021			IC-2022		
		Roman	Japanese kana-kanji	Ratio	Roman	Japanese kana-kanji	Ratio
A	2	2673	997	2.68	2696	897	3.01
C	1	1880	843	2.23	1819	780	2.33
D	2	2316	785	2.95	1980	732	2.70
E	2	1316	609	2.16	1265	418	3.03
F	1	2825	930	3.04	2827	1018	2.78
G	2	2156	765	2.82	2087	765	2.73
H	1	2879	874	3.29	2921	793	3.68
I	1	1795	594	3.02	2065	644	3.21
J	2	2164	579	3.74	2370	586	4.04
Mean	1	2345	810	2.90	2408	809	3.00
	2	2125	747	2.87	2080	680	3.10
	1&2	2223	775	2.88	2226	737	3.06
Stdev	1	508	129	0.40	475	134	0.50
	2	446	149	0.51	477	164	0.49
	1&2	487	144	0.46	503	165	0.50

Participant ID B did the test in the wrong order, so his score was not counted.

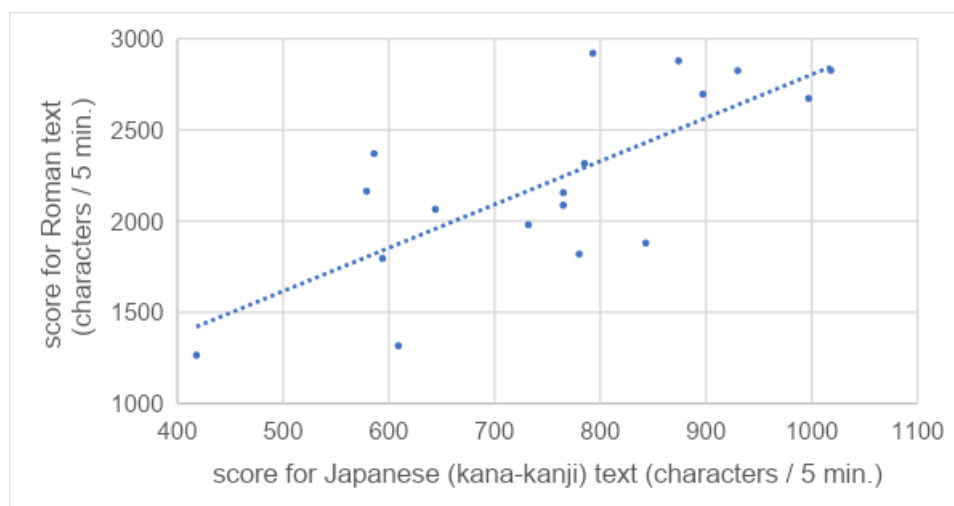


Figure 1: Correlation of scores for Japanese (kana-kanji) text and Roman text

The average ratio between the score for the Roman texts and that for the Japanese kana-kanji texts is consistent between the two groups and ranges from 2.87 to 3.10. The overall mean is 2.97. This value is almost comparable to the ratio of the number of Roman characters plus the Japanese words and the number of Japanese characters shown in the last row of Table 1. The correlation between the two scores is confirmed in Figure 1, in which the scores of the nine participants are plotted, and the gradient of the approximate straight line is 2.92.

## Conclusions

We have analyzed the Japanese texts used in the past Internet Contests and computed the ratio of the original kana-kanji characters and their Roman transliterated characters. The result gives a conversion rate much larger than the current value and suggests a value around 2.90-3.00. Moreover, typing experiments by skilled Japanese typists demonstrate that the conversion rate is 2.88-3.06. Based on these results, we propose a new conversion rate of **2.95**.

This increase from the current rate by 30% is consistent with the fact that the contestant taking the Roman text got a higher score by 35% on average than those taking the Japanese text. With this amendment, we expect that the score for the Japanese orthographic texts is fairly compared and thus taken by much more contestants.

**This proposal was discussed in a meeting held on 10 August 2022. The Scientific Committee proposes to use the new conversion rate of 2.95 in the next Internet Contest.**

## Report NCRA Convention

*By Krystian Wawrzynek*

The National Court Reporters Association held its annual Convention and Expo in Orlando, Florida, July 20th to 24th. Hundreds of reporters from the U.S. and other countries around the world gathered for five days of seminars, workshops, and events.

NCRA is the American “National Court Reporters Association” and has as members stenographers working for US courts (both federal and state) as well as freelance reporters and captioners. It is the most important federation of speech-capturing professionals, with more than 3,000 members.

I was invited by Debra Dibble, who (until the convention) was NCRA’s President. She welcomed me very warmly and put a huge effort to pronounce my name and surname correctly during the NCRA Premier Session. She did it perfectly and impressed not only me, but everyone in the hall, getting a huge applause.

Among the highlights was keynote speaker Jim Davidson, a resilience expert, an expedition leader, and a New York Times best-selling author. From his 39 years of adventure and survival, Jim distilled compelling stories and uplifting lessons about how to overcome change, challenge, and uncertainty through resilience.

With over 50 different seminars and workshops to choose from, it was a very busy time in Orlando! The seminars and workshops were closer or further related to the court reporter's work. Among topics like “Captioning Boot Camp Workshop” or “How to Keep Your Body Healthy with a Busy Schedule” everyone could find something for themselves.

A very interesting event was the Opening Reception in Expo Hall. Everyone was able to talk and find out more about the wide range of services offered by over 30 exhibitors. By wide range I mean range starting from litigation services, through videography for depositions, steno machines, software, up to body therapy and NCRA Political Action. A very interesting event highlight during the Opening Reception, but I used to visit the Expo Hall every day to talk with exhibitors and vendors to find out more, to see what is new in the industry. Very, very interesting!

Also an exciting and very positive point of the Awards Luncheon was the part “Awards and scholarships”. Among many scholarships I would like to highlight the one funded by the National Court Reporters Foundation. The inaugural Carl Saucedo Grant in the amount of \$1,000 was awarded to Margary Rogers in a unanimous vote by NCRF Trustees in recognition of her promotion of the profession to others, the influence she has had in the lives of rising court reporters, and her continuous commitment to supporting the stenographic court reporting and captioning professions. The full description and a long list of her achievements you can find here: <https://www.thejcr.com/2022/07/23/margary-rogers-awarded-first-carl-sauceda-grant/>.

During the Awards Luncheon the National Court Reporters Association bestowed its highest honor, the 2022 Distinguished Service Award, on Sue A. Terry, a court reporter, captioner, and CART provider. The NCRA DSA recognizes the distinguished work and service by an individual member for the benefit of the court reporting and captioning professions, including service to NCRA as a member, a committee member, a director, or an officer of the Association. The full description of her achievements you can find here: <https://www.thejcr.com/2022/07/22/sue-a-terry-honored-with-ncra-2022-distinguished-service-award/>. Sue Terry was also honored with the 2022 Jim Bouley Family Lifetime Award for Altruism.

A very valuable feature at the convention was the NCRA app. It was a valuable tool for everyone and provided useful information on the schedule of seminars, locations, speakers, exhibitors, etc. It even had an option to mark the events that a participant is interested in and to create a personalized schedule. Also, a possibility of writing messages directly to other participants made networking even easier.

The Awards Luncheon on Saturday is a favorite event. While having a three-course lunch, attendees have a chance to become acquainted with reporters from all over the U.S. and share professional experiences. The results of the Speed and RealTime Contests are revealed at the luncheon. This year's champion is Doug Zweizig who won both: Speed and the RealTime category with 99.66% and 99.1165% respectively!

NCRA's new president, Jason T. Meadors, gave an inspiring speech about the adaptability to changes in our professions and how to get the best of them. He shared personal experiences that taught him the value of change, something that the court reporting field has seen many times over the years. One more thing I can say about the new president is that he had an amazing hairstyle during the farewell rock'n'roll party!

Finally, let me express my very positive impression about NCRA's convention, their training sessions, their vendors' exposition, their desire to know more and more about any aspect of the profession, and last but not least, the fantastic results at the competitions.



## Shorthand courses in Argentina

*By Jorge Bravo – Diana Campi and Azat Ambartsoumian ("Palabras Dibujadas team")*

In "PALABRAS DIBUJADAS" ("DRAWN WORDS" in English) every week we announce the Shorthand and Digital Shorthand courses that are being taught both in different provinces of Argentina and in other countries. Among them, we can mention the following:

### ARGENTINA

**AUTONOMOUS CITY OF BUENOS AIRES (CABA):** Stenographer Claudio Araujo, from the CABA Legislature, gives a course, Larralde system.

**SAN JUAN PROVINCE:** the stenographer Eduardo Lepez, of the Legislature of said province, gives a course, also with the Larralde system.

**PROVINCE OF SANTA FE:** the stenographer Delfor Castro, stenographer from the Municipal Council of Rosario, gives a shorthand course for students of the National University of Rosario, with the Larralde system.

**PROVINCE OF FORMOSA:** the stenographers Amelia Centurión and Ana Mabel Núñez and the Literature teacher Luz Escobar and the Psychologist Mauro Ruiz Díaz, from the Legislature of Formosa, have started the 2nd year of the Shorthand and Grammar course, with modality mixed (face-to-face and virtual). They also started a new shorthand course, level I, with virtual modality.

**PROVINCE OF LA RIOJA:** the stenographer Alicia Herrera, of the Municipal Council of the City of La Rioja, gives a Shorthand course, Larralde system, with face-to-face and virtual modality.

**ESCOBAR, PROVINCE OF BUENOS AIRES.** Stenographer Patricia López, from the Deliberative Council of said city, continues with the course of Digital Stenography and Parliamentary Drafting -face-to-face and virtual modality-. with this mode, Digital Shorthand, the stenographer (who must have a computer or a mobile phone) writes with a stylus on a Tablet. To know details about this new way of working, you can read the article "Stenography course with tablet and internships for shorthand students in Escobar, Argentine", written by Patricia López, at the ENEWS 88, March 2019. The way of working implemented by her is very important, because as she said: " We are adjusting ourselves to current technology and we have the obligation to adapt to the new tools".

**PROVINCE OF TUCUMÁN:** Stenographer Marcela Kobe, from the Legislature of said province, gives a Shorthand course, Larralde/Ternavasio system -virtual modality-.

**PROVINCE OF SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO.** The stenographer José Escobar Waldy, from the Legislature, is giving shorthand courses, Larralde system.

**AUTONOMOUS CITY OF BUENOS AIRES (CABA):** Stenographer Adriana Giraud, from the CABA Legislature, is giving a Shorthand course, Larralde system, at the Eduardo Mallea Institute.

### URUGUAY

**MONTEVIDEO:** professor Graciela Cabrera, on the one hand, and stenographer Patricia Sedes (from the House of Representatives), on the other, are giving shorthand courses with the Martí system.

## AUSTRALIA

**MELBOURNE:** Professor Carmel Taylor continues with the Pitman Shorthand course at the University of the Third Age, "Check your shorthand while training your brain", whose purpose is to contribute to mental stimulation. Fortunately, this year the course has the largest number of students since it began four years ago.

## BRAZIL

PIAUÍ: The stenographer and professor Fátima Damasceno will begin a shorthand course, Estenital system, at the Legislative School of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Piauí, a course that will consist of three modules: shorthand literacy, shorthand abbreviation and shorthand on Tablet with digital pen; In turn, the stenographer Corina López, from Piauí, continues with the classes of a stenography course, also with the Estenital system.

## Shorthand conferences at different congress

*By Diana Campi, member of "PALABRAS DIBUJADAS" radio program team*

\* From November 9 to 11, the XXV Conference of the National Union of Legislators will take place in Recife (Brazil), with the central theme "Towards the Parliament of the Future", an area in which the National Union of Stenographers of Brazil will debate on the relevance of shorthand in the courts and there will be a panel about shorthand in Argentina.

\* On November 21 and 22, the II International Meeting on Administration and Integral Parliamentary Management will be held in Bolivia, organized by the Association of Legislative Administration of the Argentine Republic, in which a panel on Shorthand will be held, with an conference and coordination of Jorge Bravo and the presence in said panel of the stenographer Delfor Castro, of the Municipal Council of Rosario, and of Ezequiel Ángeles de Soto, stenographer/stenotypist of the Argentina Senate.

\* In the same city, from November 22 to 25, 2022, the International Congress of the Latin American Center for Development Administration will be held, in which Jorge Bravo, from Argentina, and Marilánja dos Santos Pereira, from Brazil, will present.

## New stenographers in provincial parliaments of Argentina

*By Jorge Bravo – Diana Campi and Azat Ambartsoumian ("Palabras Dibujadas team")*

In the previous issue of E-NEWS magazine, we reported that the Legislature of the province of Santa Cruz, in Argentine Patagonia, has a new stenographer -very young, since he is 19 years old. As we said at the time, he is Alejo Dalessandro, who won the contest that was called to fill the position of stenographer.

Today we are very happy to report that in the Legislature of the province of Neuquén, also in Argentine Patagonia, there has also been a contest to elect three new stenographers. The winners are Micaela Bravo, Antonella Guíñez y Matías Ortiz, also very young.

## Miscellany I

*By Jorge Bravo – Diana Campi and Azat Ambartsoumian ("Palabras Dibujadas team")*

In one of the "PALABRAS DIBUJADAS" programs in August, we read an interesting article about "How to become a good stenographer." There arose the question of whether shorthand is an art or if it is a skill, a technique, a science, etc. That is why we asked the question and many listeners answered -both from Argentina and from Chile, Brazil, Australia, etc. And we consulted the president of our Federation INTERSTENO, Rian Schwarz-van Poppel, who sent us this interesting message, which we greatly appreciated. Of course, all the messages were read on the radio and even today there are listeners who continue to answer the question. The text that our president sent us is as follows:

*"Dear friends from Argentina,*

*Stenography was the beginning and the original foundation of our federation Intersteno. Stenography has been the system for recording spoken word in meetings for many, many decades. There are various systems of stenography in the various countries, all of which have their own history. In my opinion it is important that this history is recorded for posterity. It is important that generations that come after us realize that people in the past have been able to develop techniques of fast writing with which people themselves were able to keep track of and record the spoken word. It is also important that they realize that stenography has created a new secretarial skill that has offered many opportunities to a lot of people, especially women.*

*So for me, the history of stenography in a broad sense is cultural heritage. Various other technologies have been developed over the years to record the spoken word. As a result, stenography is used to a lesser extent. But the cultural heritage must be cherished forever."*

*Rian Schwarz-van Poppel  
President Intersteno*

## Miscellany II

At the National University of La Plata (Buenos Aires, Argentina), the book "Wikipedia: education and human rights – Pedagogical uses in the classroom" has just been presented, in which the stenographer Delfor Castro, from the Municipal Council of Rosario (Santa Fe, Argentina), is co-author of the article Women in Wikipedia, together with Pablo Divita, Carolina Díaz, Eugenia Lanatti and Guillermo Max Murray.

## Day of the librarian in Argentina

*By Jorge Bravo, Diana Campi and Azat Ambartsoumian ("Palabras Dibujadas" team)*

On September 13, the Librarian's Day was celebrated in Argentina. That date was chosen because on September 13, 1810, Dr. Mariano Moreno created the Buenos Aires Public Library. That is why later, in the first National Congress of Librarians in 1942, that date was chosen institutionally. However, Librarian's Day was established by national decree in 1954. There are many existing libraries in Argentina, including the National Congress, which has the Palant collection that belonged to the stenographer Miguel Palant, which we presented on the occasion of the INTERSTENO Congress that took place in Ghent, Belgium, in 2013.

## Shorthand in Eisteddfods and exhibitions in Australia

*By Carmel Taylor, from Australia, for the Argentine radio program "PALABRAS DIBUJADAS"*

In Australia there is a connection between the early Welsh immigrants, mining and shorthand. Although the first Welsh migrants traveled to Australia as convicts, the majority of the Welsh were miners who made the journey to Australia attempting to find their fortune during the Gold Rush in the 1850s. It was on the gold fields that the first "Eisteddfods" took place in Australia. In Welsh culture, an Eisteddfod is a festival of poetry, music and singing. Eisteddfods were celebrated across the world wherever Welsh communities settled. Over the years the festivals evolved to include other literary skills. In a number of cases this also included shorthand.

Early Welsh settlers in the Argentinian part of Patagonia had attempted to establish Eisteddfod competitions in their new homeland. It seems to be part of their cultural heritage which they take with them when they relocate to a new country. A bilingual Eisteddfod, the Chubut Eisteddfod is still held annually in Trelew in Argentina. Unfortunately, the Chubut Eisteddfod does not include shorthand as a category.

Prior to the 1888 Eisteddfod which was held in the Melbourne suburb of Williamstown, one persistent shorthand writer wrote to both the organizing committee and the local newspapers in an attempt to have shorthand writing included in the upcoming Eisteddfod program. The lady who wrote the letters included information to support her request. She wrote of the importance of shorthand to society, the increased popularity of the art and she also included persuasive reports about how shorthand had been successfully included in the literary section of Eisteddfods in Wales. She told a story about a 72-year-old man who had learned shorthand for less than one year and who was successful in a Welsh Eisteddfod. In spite of the lady's enthusiasm, her local Eisteddfod already had received 300 entries for music and singing, so the program had no room for shorthand to be included.

Shorthand eventually became included in Australian Eisteddfods. In 1905, in the State of New South Wales, the government Public Schools Eisteddfods included shorthand in the arts sections, together with elocution and writing. The shorthand competitions were not conducted as speed tests. Instead, they were based on the precision of shorthand penmanship, which included accuracy of outlines. The shorthand passages submitted were often based on a news item from a newspaper, in which case the news article was required to be submitted with the shorthand.

In 1907 at the Balmain Eisteddfod, also in the State of New South Wales, shorthand was not a category of the competition. However, it did play a major role in what became a judging dispute. Following the choral competition, the judge read to the audience the notes he wrote on each performance as he carried out his judgment and the reason for subtracting points from each performance. The judge was unaware that there were two shorthand writers in the audience and that they were recording his remarks. According to the shorthand writers' notes, the judge had failed to deduct points from the winning choir's performance for the same fault he deducted marks from the second place-getter.

This caused quite a lot of anxiety in the community, with protests and letters to the newspapers. All discussions ceased, however, when the judge simply explained that both shorthand writers had recorded his judgment incorrectly. The judge must have considered that both of the shorthand writers had incorrectly recorded his comments even though they had independently made their notes!

In 1888, the City of Melbourne, which is the capital city of the State of Victoria, celebrated the centenary of European settlement in Australia with a grand Centennial Exhibition. This event provided another opportunity for the display of shorthand. The Exhibition lasted for six months and thousands of visitors eagerly attended the event. As an indication of the importance of shorthand in the colony, a prominent shorthand writer, teacher and author of one of the first shorthand magazines in Australia

was invited to display his shorthand. His name was Mr. Ralph Christie. He asked one of his students to write a passage in shorthand to include in the display. The young student was so enthusiastic about this opportunity that she decided that rather than write shorthand, she would embroider the shorthand on silk fabric. Her work was so impressive that it was reported in the American shorthand journal, "Browne's Phonographic Monthly."

