



INTERSTENO ENEWS **115** | MARCH 2026

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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,

The new year is already a few months old. I am looking forward to the congress in Liverpool, which will be held from July 25 to 30. Another date was mentioned in an e-flash, but note, it is the last week of July. This e-news contains information about the congress. The message about the required ETA certificate to enter England is again included.

You will find a detailed report of the visit of an Intersteno delegation to the competition in Guangzhou, China. I also ask for attention to the request for information for a preliminary study in preparation for a broader research project into the socio-economic consequences in the Netherlands resulting from the fact that a large number of people who work at computers lack adequate typing skills.

Marcela Kobe pays attention to Woodrow Wilson, the twenty-eighth President of the United States and the role that shorthand played in his intellectual life.

In this e-news also the announcement from Russell Page that he will no longer be a member of the Board after Liverpool. We will certainly pay attention to that in Liverpool.

At the end of this month, the Board will meet in Liverpool to put the finishing touches on the congress in Liverpool. I hope to meet many of you in Liverpool this summer!

The next e-news will appear in July 2026. The deadline for submitting articles is at the end of June, to be sent to marlenerijkse@intersteno.org.

Rian Schwarz-van Poppel
Intersteno president



55th Intersteno congress Liverpool: register now!

Organization committee



Registrations for Intersteno Liverpool 2026 are open!

Don't wait too long to register. Several events and excursions have limited attendance. It's first come, first served. Registrations close at 15th of May 2026.

Consult all information and register on www.intersteno2026.org.

Tentative congress programme

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Friday 24 July 2026		
09.00-11.00	Intersteno Jury meeting	Adelphi - Executive
11.00-13.00	Intersteno Board meeting	Adelphi - Executive
17.30-20.30	Opening registration and information desk	Adelphi - Hypostyle
18.00-20.00	Training competitions TP TC AT (for those who already arrived in Liverpool)	Adelphi - Kensington
Saturday 25 July 2026		
08.00-16.00	Opening registration and information desk	Adelphi - Hypostyle
08.00-09.00	Training and testing - TP TC AT	Adelphi - Kensington
09.00-10.00	Testing - Infrared broadcasting - SC RT NT Attendance compulsory!	Adelphi - Kensington
10.30-12.00	Competition Note Taking (NT)	Adelphi - Kensington
13.30-15.30	Competition Word Processing (WP)	Adelphi - Kensington
17.30	Opening ceremony and welcome cocktail [Doors open at 17.10 h]	St George's Hall Concert Room
Sunday 26 July 2026		
07.30-16.00	Opening registration and information desk	Adelphi - Hypostyle
08.00	Competition Speech Capturing Doors will be open at 07.15 h .	Adelphi - Kensington
11.00	Competition Real Time (RT)	Adelphi - Kensington
12.30	Competition Text Production group 1 (TP1)	Adelphi - Kensington
14.30	Competition Text Production group 2 (TP2)	Adelphi - Kensington

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Venue</i>
16.00-18.00	Workshop on parliamentary reporting strategies	Adelphi - Sefton
16.30	Competition Text Corrections (TC)	Adelphi - Kensington
17.30	Competition Audio Transcription (AT) - group 1	Adelphi - Kensington
18.30	Competition Audio Transcription (AT) - group 2	Adelphi - Kensington
18.00-19.00	IPRS Social Club	Adelphi - Sefton
until late	Corrections all competitions	Adelphi - Pearce

Monday 27 July 2026

whole day	Corrections all competitions	Adelphi - Pearce
08.30-14.00	Opening registration and information desk	Adelphi - Hypostyle
08.00-09.00	Meeting Auditing Committee	Adelphi - Executive
09.00-12.30	Diamesic 9 Conference - 1	Adelphi - Sefton
13.00-14.00	Youth texting competition	Adelphi - Kensington
15.45-18.15	Excursion 1 - Visit Royal Liver Building Liverpool	Adelphi - Meeting point
21.00-23.00	Karaoke evening	???

Tuesday 28 July 2026

08.30-14.00	Opening registration and information desk	Adelphi - Hypostyle
09.00-12.00	Youth Event 08.50 h @ meeting point	Adelphi - Meeting point
09.00-12.00	Diamesic 9 Conference - 2	Adelphi - Sefton
13.15-15.15	Intersteno Council meeting 1	Adelphi - Sefton
16.30-18.00	Excursion 2 - Liverpool City and Beatles tour	Adelphi - Meeting point
20.00	Council dinner (on invitation) 19.45 h @ meeting point	Adelphi - Meeting point

Wednesday 29 July 2026

08.30-14.00	Opening registration and information desk	Adelphi - Hypostyle
09.00-11.00	Intersteno Council meeting 2	Adelphi - Sefton
12.00-13.00	Intersteno General Assembly	Adelphi - Banqueting Hall
13.00-15.00	Scientific committee meeting Tiro editorial committee meeting	Adelphi - Sefton
16.30	Prize-giving ceremony Doors open at 16.00 h.	Adelphi - Banqueting Hall
19.30	Farewell dinner and party	Adelphi - Banqueting Hall

Thursday 30 July 2026

09.30-17.30	North Wales day trip	Adelphi - Meeting point
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Sleeping at the Adelphi Hotel Liverpool



Adelphi hotel is our main congress venue: competitions, corrections, conferences, council meetings, general assembly and farewell dinner/party... all are at Adelphi.

The majestic Adelphi Hotel stands proudly in the heart of Liverpool city centre, offering a unique blend of historic charm and modern luxury. This fabulous Edwardian style building is the perfect choice for an affordable stay in Liverpool.

- Adelphi offers rooms, standard English breakfast included, min. 2 nights stay at:
- **£ 79.00** per night – double for sole use
- **£ 99.00** per night – double or twin sharing
- **£ 109.00** per night – triple sharing
- Family rooms are also available.

A city tax of £ 2.40 per room per night, to pay on arrival at the reception desk, has to be added.

All rooms booked with the link on this page have been **recently renovated**.

Free cancellation prior to midnight on the day before the booking.

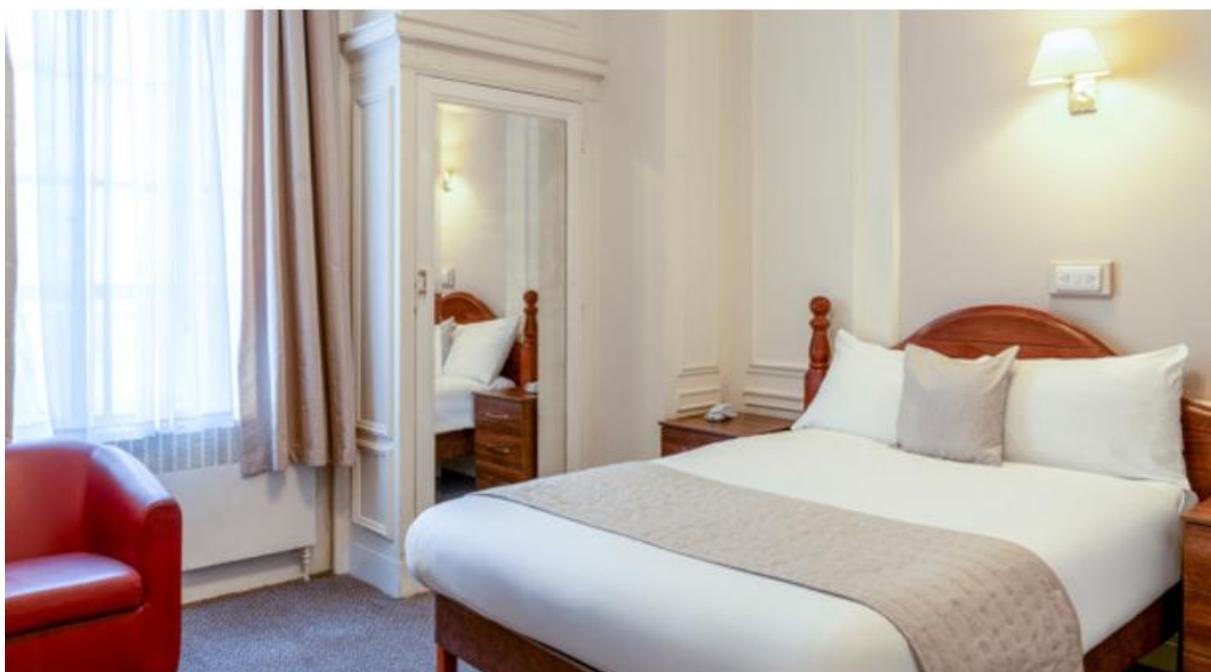
Payment can be done via the payment link, sent 3 or 2 days prior to arrival.

A direct link to book rooms at Adelphi will be available in our congress website quite soon.

All rooms have:

- tea & coffee making facilities
- hair dryer
- shower or bath with en suite
- TV with free view and radio

- fan
- iron board
- heaters and blankets (on request)



Private Intersteno Karaoke evening

Monday 27th July - 21.00-23.00 h - free event*

*Free for congress participants. Other guests pay € 15,00. 2 drinks included.

Liverpool has a lively and varied karaoke scene that's a big part of its nightlife and social culture — from dedicated karaoke bars with private rooms to pubs and themed nights where anyone can grab a mic and sing.

On Monday 27th July, we invite all congress participants at location will follow, very close to Adelphi Hotel, for the first Intersteno Karaoke evening and offer you two free drinks. Free entrance with your congress badge. The event is exclusive for the Intersteno congress. Accompanying people pay € 15,00.



Farewell dinner and party at Adelphi Liverpool

Wednesday 29th July - 19.30 - 01.00 h

The festivities in the Banqueting Hall of the Adelphi Hotel, will commence with a welcome drink, providing the perfect opportunity for lively conversations and the forging of lasting memories.

Following this, a three-course meal is served to table.

As the night progresses, transition seamlessly into a pulsating party atmosphere with a renowned house DJ, setting the stage for an electrifying dance floor. Alternatively, for those seeking a more relaxed ambiance, unwind in a cozy chill area amidst pleasant surroundings.

€ 69,00 (welcome drink, 3 course menu, 3 drinks, water, coffee, tea and DJ booth included).



Excursion 1 - Royal Liver building Liverpool

Monday 27th July - 16.30-18.30 h



Opened in 1911 as the headquarters to the Royal Liver Group, the Royal Liver Building holds significant historical and cultural importance to the city of Liverpool, not least as adorning its towers are the mythical Liver Birds, said to protect both the city and sailors coming in to port.

Throughout history the Liver Birds have been affectionately named Bella and Bertie. Legend says that if they were ever to fly away the city would cease to exist.

You'll get a tour of some of the building's hidden secrets, journeying to the 15th floor to get breathtaking panoramic views across Liverpool from the most iconic viewing point in the city, getting up close to the world famous Liver Birds.

See a world-class immersive audio visual experience set in the original mechanism room, telling the story of Liverpool's recent history exploring the building's significance and how a city full of culture, sport, history and music has made its mark across the world

Audio-guide in French, German, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Chinese Mandarin and Japanese.

€ 20,00 (guided tour in English or audio-guide included).

Excursion 2 - Liverpool City and Beatles tour

Tuesday 28th July - 16.30-18.00 h

A lively 90-minute journey through the heart of the city and the leafy suburbs. You don't have to be a Beatles fan to love it! This guided experience brings together Liverpool's iconic landmarks, rich history, and vibrant culture, while also sharing stories of how four local lads became world-famous.

You'll have the chance to hop off and explore unforgettable spots such as Penny Lane and Strawberry Field, take in views of the band members' childhood homes, and see the local places that inspired their music. Alongside the Beatles heritage, your guide will showcase Liverpool's stunning waterfront, historic architecture, and the character that makes the city one of the UK's most exciting destinations.

€ 22,00 (90 minutes bus tour with live English guide).



Excursion 3 - North Wales Adventure Day Trip

Thursday 30th July - 09.00-17.30 h



Exploring the sights and scenery of North Wales from Liverpool can be challenging without a rental car. Instead of stringing together train and bus journeys; choose this full-day tour that offers comfortable transportation and a knowledgeable guide to provide insight into the region's highlights. Walk Llandudno's pier, follow hidden roads through Snowdonia, visit the historic Conwy Castle, and so much more. Let us take care of the details while you relax and enjoy the beauty of this remarkable corner of Britain.

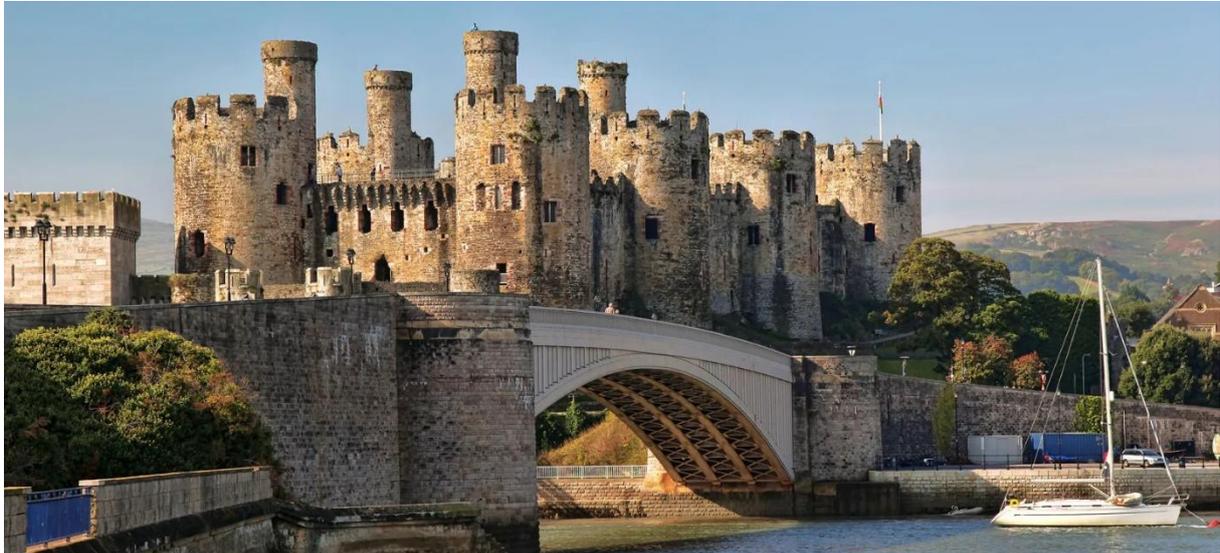
Llandudno

Start your adventure with a scenic drive from Liverpool to the Victorian seaside town of Llandudno. Stroll along its sand and pebbled beaches, wander its famous pier, and take in the stunning coastal views.

Conwy Suspension Bridge

Next, cross the iconic Conwy Suspension Bridge into the walled town of Conwy, one of Britain's best-preserved medieval towns.

Conwy Castle and Town



Your journey continues to the historic walled town of Conwy, where you'll have free time to explore. You may choose to visit Conwy Castle (additional cost), see the Smallest House in Britain on the marina, or walk along the medieval castle walls. This stop is also the perfect chance to enjoy a traditional Welsh lunch, and we recommend Fisherman's Fish & Chips on the main high street.

Ogwen Valley, Snowdonia National Park

The adventure continues as you journey into Snowdonia National Park, the second largest national park in the UK. You'll go off the beaten path and have the chance to spot native sheep and wild ponies before taking a short walk up the Ogwen Valley to capture some memorable photos. Many guests consider this the highlight of the day!

Betws-Y-Coed



The tour then continues to the picturesque village of Betws-y-Coed, a perfect place to stretch your legs and explore. Here you can browse traditional shops, pick up souvenirs, and take a look at the old train station that adds to the village's charm.

The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

The tour makes a stop at the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, one of Britain's most remarkable feats of engineering and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This true icon of Welsh industrial heritage offers a chance for those feeling brave to walk across the aqueduct alongside kayaks and canal boats. Don't miss the opportunity to capture a photo from the middle, with the River Dee flowing far beneath your feet.

€ 69,00 (air-conditioned bus tour with stops at described hotspots. No catering included.)

Exhibition and sponsoring

The 55th Intersteno congress Liverpool 2026 is the excellent occasion to show, demonstrate, promote your products and services to the world of professional reporters, typists/keyboarders, speech captionners, shorthand writers, word processing users, to everyone who is dealing with words and characters.



The exhibitor fee of **850 EUR** includes one congress card (value € 230), compulsory for all congress participants.

In the exhibition fee is included:

- exhibition space in the reception desk area (Hypostyle) of the Adelphi Hotel center of about 4-5 m² (table with chairs, electricity supply, wireless internet connection)
- possibility to distribute information to interested persons
- possibility to distribute information/gadgets to all congress participants in the congress bag
- name and logo listed in the official congress program and congress website
- compulsory congress card for one person (value: € 230).

Mail to exhibit@intersteno2026.org for any further information.

Don't miss the occasion to be prominent visible as exhibitor and/or sponsor of this **world wide event** and don't wait too long: the number of exhibitors is limited!

Time schedule of exhibition

- Friday 24th July, afternoon: building up your stand
- Saturday 25th July – Wednesday 29th July noon: exhibition is open
- Wednesday 29th afternoon: break down of exhibition stands

Sponsoring possibilities

- Sponsoring of material and products like congress bag, congress t-shirts, printed matters...
- Sponsoring of events like opening ceremony, prize giving ceremony, competitions, youth event
- Sponsoring of catering like welcome cocktail, council dinner...

Return

- Publication of your logo in the program leaflet and on the congress website
- Publication of your logo on sponsored products like congress bag, congress t-shirts...
- Possibility to place your banner(s) during congress events
- Possibility to have a (demo) booth in the congress venue
- Possibility to spread information on your product/services
- ...

Mail to sponsor@intersteno2026.org for any further information on sponsoring the congress and putting your product or service in the picture.

Participation fees

Congress card

Compulsory for all congress participants!

Price includes:

- Congress bag and badge, congress programme
- Access to congress venues
- Access to competition training
- Access to exhibition area
- Access to conferences on Tuesday
- Youth event (up to 26 years)*
- Access to prize giving ceremony

**Participation to the youth event is charged at € 10,00. This fee is given back in goodies to those who effectively participate in the youth event.*

Fee congress card

- € 230,00 (reduced tariff of € 185,00 for young persons, born in 2001 or later)
Registrations are open until 15th of May 2026.

Accompanying parents

Young competitors - up to the age of 18 - can be accompanied by 1 or 2 parents, paying a contribution as *accompanying parent* (€ 50,00/person), which gives access to both the opening and the prize giving ceremony.

In the registration procedure, young competitors can enter the names of their parents, as far as they are accompanying them.

Competition fee

Basic fee gives access to max. 3 competitions. Competitors in more competitions pay € 10,00/competition extra.

E.g.: a competitor with 5 competitions pays $50,00+(2*10,00) = € 70,00$.

Congress card is compulsory! No registrations for competitions after 15th of May, 2026.

- Basic competition fee (1-3 competitions): € 50,00
- Extra competitions: € 10,00 per extra competition

How to pay?

People with EU-currency

All payments can be done by bank transfer at the INTERSTENO 2026 bank account:

IBAN: BE23 0688 9987 5491

BIC/Swift: GKCC BE BB

Belfius Bank - Brugsestraat 4, BE-8020 Oostkamp (Belgium)

People without EU-currency

People without EU-currency can use PayPal: www.paypal.me/intersteno.



Contact

For any questions on payments, please contact us at register@intersteno2026.org.

Organizing committee

The organizing committee is composed of board members of Intersteno and BIVR, the British Institute of Verbatim Reporters.



Rian Schwarz-van Poppel



Danny Devriendt



Georgette Sante



Carlo Eugeni



Ian Roberts (BIVR)



Georgina Ford (BIVR)



Mary Sorene (BIVR)

Workshop on parliamentary reporting strategies in the Liverpool Congress

By Eero Voutilainen

In the next Intersteno Congress in Liverpool, IPRS and Intersteno Scientific Committee will host a workshop on parliamentary reporting strategies. The workshop is open for all congress participants and will take place on **Sunday 26 July 2026, 16.00 – 18.00**, at the **Adelphi hotel**.

The workshop explores several practical approaches to parliamentary reporting. The topics cover, for example, the nature of parliamentary report, professionals and workflow, linguistic and editorial choices, and the impact of new technologies. The workshop consists of both brief introductions as well as free discussion where all participants can share their views and experiences about the topics.

The themes and presenters of the workshop are pre-selected and related to an on-going book project about parliamentary reporting which is being prepared within Intersteno. However, you can suggest ideas to the workshop organizer Eero Voutilainen by email at eero.voutilainen@eduskunta.fi before 30 June.



Report on Intersteno Participation in the Belt and Road & BRICS Competition of Skills Development and Technology Innovation, Guangzhou (China)

By Carlo Eugeni, with input from Yeonhwan Choi, Štěpán Kratochvíl, Cesar Saloma, Teng Tang, Andrea Wawrzynek and Krystian Wawrzynek.

From 19 to 23 January 2026, the 2025 Belt and Road & BRICS Competition of Skills Development and Technology Innovation was held at the Guangdong Justice Police Vocational College in Guangzhou, China. The competition focused on the development of skills related to digital technologies. Its main objective was to establish an international platform for technical skills and knowledge exchange, with the threefold aim of

- showcasing and developing existing skills,
- strengthening the relationship between Intersteno and the Chinese delegation,
- and selecting the best candidates for the 55th Intersteno Congress competitions.



The Organizing Committee, represented locally by Mr Teng Tang (China), invited Intersteno to participate in the event. Intersteno responded positively with the following:

- **Board members:** Carlo Eugeni (UK) and Krystian Wawrzynek (Poland)
- **Council members:** Andrea Wawrzynek (Croatia) and Ji Teng (China)
- **General Assembly members:** Jonaš Vala and Štěpán Kratochvíl (Czechia), Yeonhwan Choi, Son Euijin, Joung Youngdo, Go Juhyeon, Lee Yujin, and Kim Rakhyun (Korea), Cesar Saloma, Ronalyn Almarvez, Jhasmine Diamse, and Agnes Saloma (Philippines), Teng Tang, Ji Tang, Yimeng Li, and Yi Sun (China).

Opening Ceremony

On 20 January, Carlo Eugeni, Krystian Wawrzynek, Andrea Wawrzynek, Jonaš Vala, Cesar Saloma, and Yeonhwan Choi delivered ceremonial speeches during the opening ceremony. Their interventions celebrated the strong friendship between Intersteno and the Chinese delegation, and highlighted the leading role of the Belt and Road & BRICS Competition in the field of Information and Communication Processing.



Academic Forum

On 21 January, the Academic Forum was held with the aim of fostering discussions on education and future skills. Carlo Eugeni delivered a keynote speech on the changing role of speech-to-text professionals in light of technological developments in the field of Human-Machine Interaction. The topic generated significant interest, with questions focusing on how to bridge the technological gap between available technologies and the Chinese educational context.



International Competition

The international competitions of text production and note taking followed, with 59 competitors, including 54 competitors from China, Go Juhyeon, Lee Yujin, and Kim Rakhyun from Korea, and Jonaš Vala and Štěpán Kratochvíl from Czechia.

Carlo served as President of the Jury, Krystian as a judge, and Andrea, Cesar, Jhasmine, Yeonhwan, Teng, and the local experts served as jury members.

The international competitors achieved excellent results:

- Jonaš Vala (Czechia), 5th position – Gold Medal

- Štěpán Kratochvíl (Czechia), 15th position – Silver Medal
- Kim Rakhyun (Korea), 17th position – Silver Medal
- Lee Yujin (Korea), 29th position – Bronze Medal
- Go Juhyeon (Korea), 53rd position – Excellence Award

After one day of marking, the Closing Ceremony on 23 January included the official prize-giving event, attended by high-ranking representatives of the Chinese Government.





Social and Cultural Program

The social program was rich and highly valuable for networking and cultural exchange. On the first day of our stay, we visited Hong Kong, where we experienced both the modern skyline and business district around Victoria Harbour and the traditional areas famous worldwide through Bruce Lee films. On the day of the competition, dinners in breathtaking restaurants provided opportunities to strengthen relationships in a relaxed environment, accompanied by excellent food from different local cuisines and many toasts. We also managed to see the Pandas in Guangzhou and the iconic Canton Tower, also called by the locals “the young lady waist” tower for its shape. On the final day, we visited The Seven Star Crags near Star Lake and the local market in Zhaoqing, where we explored local cuisine and culture. A tea ceremony was presented by Mr Ding, and we experienced the unique atmosphere of being the only visitors in the town.













Conclusions and Future Cooperation

This experience provided outstanding professional and personal memories, highlighting not only the high level of technical skills and organization, but above all a remarkable demonstration of international friendship and cooperation.

Future steps include strengthening collaboration between Intersteno and the Chinese delegation, particularly through:

- Comparative research on Chinese, Korean, and European languages
- Revival of the Intersteno Educational Committee
- Increased participation and involvement of the Chinese delegation in Intersteno Congress activities



Liverpool will be my last conference as a Board Member

Reflections from Russell Page, Intersteno Vice President



As I prepare for the upcoming Intersteno Congress in Liverpool, I do so with a mixture of excitement, gratitude, and satisfaction. This gathering will mark my final conference as a member of the Intersteno Board, a milestone that invites reflection on a journey that has shaped me in ways I hardly could have imagined when I first stepped into this role.

Serving on the Board has been one of the richest professional experiences of my life. It has allowed me to work within a global network of individuals who share an uncommon combination of precision, creativity, and passion for communication. Whether through stenography, keyboarding, speech-to-text, or the evolving technologies that connect human skill with digital tools, our community represents a remarkable

blend of tradition and innovation. To contribute in even a small way to this international effort has been an honor.

Over the past 11 years, my Board service has given me more than titles or responsibilities; it has given me perspective. I have watched the organization evolve, adapt, and grow while remaining grounded in values that have endured for more than a century. I have sat in Council meetings where differences in language, systems, and national customs were never obstacles but instead served as bridges to new ideas. I have seen competitors arrive at our congresses as first-time participants and return years later as leaders, mentors, and friends. I have witnessed how Intersteno's collegial, curious, and inclusive spirit continues to inspire professionals and students alike.

Intersteno has also given me a deeper appreciation for global collaboration. Being part of a Board composed of members from many countries is an education in itself. Each of us brings a unique lens through which we view our professions, yet we are united by shared goals: promoting excellence, supporting education, encouraging technological innovation, and strengthening the bonds among our national groups. Working within this international spectrum of perspectives has broadened my own thinking and reaffirmed my belief in the enduring value of our work.

Of course, our field is not without challenges. Technology continues to accelerate at a pace that forces all of us, professionals, educators, and organizations, to adapt. The expectations placed on reporters and communication specialists grow more demanding each year. Training needs change as quickly as the tools themselves. Yet these challenges are not cause for concern; they are opportunities. If Intersteno has shown anything over its long history, it is that we are at our best when responding to change with imagination rather than fear.

Looking toward the future, I see Intersteno positioned for continued strength. Our competitions remain a powerful draw for talented young people around the world. Our professional exchanges foster innovation and spread expertise across borders. Our Board and committees are increasingly diverse, blending experienced leaders with new voices and fresh ideas. Indeed, our mission to advance fast and accurate communication has never been more relevant in a world that depends so heavily on clear, immediate, and trustworthy information.

As I complete my term, I do so with deep gratitude. I am thankful for the colleagues who welcomed me, challenged me, worked alongside me, and offered friendship that extends well beyond our meetings. I am thankful for the trust placed in me to help guide this organization. And I am thankful for the countless individuals whose dedication keeps Intersteno vibrant.

Although Liverpool will be my last conference as a Board member, it will not be my last as a supporter or participant in this global family. I look forward to remaining actively engaged with the community, cheering on competitors, contributing where I can, and witnessing the continued evolution of an organization that has given me so much.

To all who have been part of this chapter in my life: thank you. I carry with me the memories, lessons, and friendships forged through Intersteno, and I am confident that the organization's future is not only secure but bright.

Photo: Georgette Sante



Woodrow Wilson, Twenty-Eighth President of the United States: Shorthand as an Intellectual and Political Working Tool

By Marcela Kobe, Tucumán, Argentina

This article is based on historical documentation preserved at the United States Library of Congress, as well as on a biographical source: the book written by **Ruth Cranston**, *The Story of Woodrow Wilson*.

Thomas Woodrow Wilson (Staunton, Virginia, December 28, 1856 – Washington, D.C., February 3, 1924) was the twenty-eighth President of the United States, serving from 1913 to 1921. A member of the Democratic Party, he was previously a professor and president of Princeton University and governor of the State of New Jersey. His academic background and intellectual activity had a significant influence on his approach to writing, political discourse, and organization of his ideas.

Wilson studied law at the University of Virginia with the expectation of beginning a political career. After a brief period of legal practice in Atlanta, he abandoned the profession to pursue graduate studies in government and history at Johns Hopkins University, where he earned his doctorate in 1886. This academic trajectory helps to explain his habit of personally drafting notes, outlines, and speeches, many of them written in shorthand.

Woodrow Wilson learned shorthand at a very young age and used it systematically throughout his life. This writing system served him in the preparation of official documents and presidential speeches, as well as in his academic work, university studies, and personal and family life. The documentation preserved in the Library of Congress provides direct evidence of this continuous use of shorthand as an intellectual and working tool.

The Woodrow Wilson papers preserved at the Library of Congress constitute the largest collection of original materials by the former president worldwide. The collection, housed in the Manuscript Division, includes personal, family, and official correspondence; records from the Executive Office of the White House; drafts of books and articles; speeches; academic lectures; scrapbooks; shorthand notes; and other documents, primarily covering the period between 1876 and 1924.

Among the most significant materials are the shorthand drafts of his inaugural address as president, delivered on March 4, 1913. These manuscripts, written entirely in shorthand by Wilson himself, display rigorous use of stenographic conventions, including marked pauses, system-specific symbols, and marks made during the process of transliteration (translation).

Shorthand in Woodrow Wilson's Intellectual Formation and Daily Practice

Biographical studies of **Woodrow Wilson** provide essential elements for understanding the role that shorthand played in his intellectual life from an early age. In her biography, *The Story of Woodrow Wilson*, **Ruth Cranston** describes a young Wilson deeply interested in politics, history, and the leading



figures of his time; according to this biographical reconstruction, shorthand very soon became a key tool for organizing his reading and thoughts.

Wilson read constantly and used this writing system to summarize texts, record ideas, and preserve what he considered relevant for his future public life. This habit reveals not only a writing technique, but also a method of intellectual work based on synthesis, reflection, and systematic preparation.

During his years as an educator and academic, **Wilson** continued to employ shorthand as a tool for intellectual elaboration. **Cranston** notes that he was accustomed to composing his lectures while walking, later fixing his ideas in shorthand notes that he subsequently transcribed on a typewriter. This method demonstrates a natural integration of thought, abbreviated writing, and final composition; a characteristic that would remain with him throughout his life.

During his presidency, this working procedure also remained in force. According to the biography, **Wilson** often jotted down his initial reflections in rapid shorthand notes before drafting final versions of speeches and official documents. His style was characterized by careful planning of content, which meant that once the final text was completed, he made very few corrections. Shorthand thus functioned as an essential preliminary stage in his writing process.

These biographical observations fully coincide with the manuscripts, drafts, and shorthand notes preserved in the Library of Congress, which document **Woodrow Wilson's** continuous use of shorthand in academic, political, and personal contexts. The convergence between the biographical source and the official historical documentation strengthens the evidence of the central role that this writing system played in his intellectual production and political practice.

The Fourteen Points: One of the Great Documents in United States History

In January 1918, **Wilson** also used shorthand to outline his initial reflections on the famous Fourteen Points, which he presented before Congress on January 8 of that year. These principles laid the foundations for his proposal for peace after the First World War and articulated a vision of a new international order based on justice, self-determination of peoples, arms limitation, and the creation of an association of nations intended to guarantee peace and the territorial integrity of states.

The existence of these shorthand documents, accessible through the digital holdings of the Library of Congress, constitutes concrete historical evidence of the central role that shorthand played in **Woodrow Wilson's** intellectual and political production.



Request for Information

By Dick Jan Albers

The CBT (Central Bureau for Typing Skills) is the only professional association of typing instructors in the Netherlands. Among other activities, it is engaged in maintaining and providing access to a knowledge database relating to typing skills and typing skills training.



The CBT has taken the initiative to conduct a preliminary study in preparation for a broader research project into the socio-economic consequences in the Netherlands resulting from the fact that a large number of people who work at computers lack adequate typing skills.

Readers of this newsletter may have information about studies and/or research findings that are (partly) related to the above-mentioned research objective or may be aware of such studies. If this is the case, we would greatly appreciate it if you would be willing to share this knowledge with us. If so, please send your information to: d.albers@econet.nl.

Thank you in advance. I look forward to your response(s) with interest.

Dick Jan Albers, on behalf of the Board of CBT.



Tiro's Autumn 2025: A quick round-up of the latest issue

By Eero Voutilainen

Intersteno's journal *Tiro – The Journal of Professional Reporting and Transcription* published its twelfth issue in June. The articles in the issue deal with various topics of professional reporting and transcription.

The editorial of the issue emphasizes the human element in increasingly automated, AI-based reporting and transcription. Similarly, **D'Arcy McPherson** explores how Hansard Services at the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, Canada, have balanced innovation with continuity by developing Parrot, an in-house ASR tool. He shows that through a carefully organized process, AI can be used as a collaborative partner rather than a threat to professionals, reducing manual labor while preserving trust and human judgment.

Henk-Jan Eras revisits the theme of his previous *Tiro* article, discussing the increased use of AI-produced deep-fakes in politics, the threat of AI in replacing traditional jobs and the impact of AI on parliamentary reporting. He also outlines an ongoing pilot project in the reporting office of the Dutch Parliament, where the AI tools Whisper and ChatGPT are combined innovatively to produce an automatic draft for parliamentary reporters.

With a linguistic perspective, **Ana Rita Pereira** and **Paulo Granja** show that the use of ASR has had a considerable impact on how the reporters edit the reported speeches in the Portuguese parliament. **Ana Luisa Reis**, also from the Portuguese parliament, gives an enlightening tour of the humorous slip-ups that the ASR makes because it does not understand the content of the speeches. **Eero Voutilainen** discusses the impact of ASR on parliamentary editing practices in the Finnish Parliament and examines the different changes that the AI suggests to the report.

Next in the Autumn issue, **Yanou Van Gauwbergen** analyses results from a study that explores Flemish university students' perceptions of Flemish live subtitling of English lectures created by both manual respeaking and unedited ASR, illustrating the strengths and challenges of both techniques. **Ji Tang** presents how AI is rapidly changing the Chinese stenography industry. He claims, however, that stenography professions are not vanishing, but transforming, while still relying on human professionals for accuracy, confidentiality and nuanced interpretation.

Tiro is also a forum for dialogue and shared discoveries. **Elena Davitti**, **Daniela Eichmeyer-Hell**, **Carlo Eugeni**, **Judith Platter**, and **Pilar Orero** offer a conference report from the 16th International Conference on Live Subtitling and Speech-to-Text Interpreting, summarizing the key findings of the various panels and focusing on the role of humans in professions that have been deeply affected by the arrival of AI. **Johanna Mechler**, **Lilja Björk Stefansdottir** and **Anton Karl Ingason** have written a response to an earlier article by Kristján Sigurðsson (*Tiro* 1/2025) where he highlighted potential challenges in studying linguistic variation in written transcripts. In their response, the authors react to these concerns by explaining how they have met these challenges in their research. Finally, in his regular column, **Carlo Eugeni** shares his views on the para- and extra-verbal side of reporting: how to

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report phenomena like tone of voice, gestures, expressions and context in a report that consists of words.

You can read all these articles for free at Tiro's website tiro.intersteno.org!

Eero Voutilainen is Tiro's editor-in-chief. This round-up of Tiro's Autumn 2025 issue is re-published here with minor changes from his newest editorial.



ETA (Electronic Travel Authorization)-certification, required to visit England ((repeated message)

By Marlene Rijkse

<https://apply-for-an-eta.homeoffice.gov.uk/apply/electronic-travel-authorisation>



The congress in 2026 will take place in Liverpool. It is good to already take note of the following requirement to be admitted to England.

The ETA certification is a crucial step for travelers planning to visit the UK. It is mandatory for individuals who plan to stay for less than six months in the UK. The ETA is similar to a visa and is required for entry into the UK, including any onward travel. The application process is straightforward and can be completed online, with a fee of £16. The ETA is valid for multiple trips and allows for a maximum stay of six months in the UK at a time. It is important to apply for the ETA in advance to avoid any travel disruptions. You can complete the application entirely with your phone, including scanning your passport, taking a photo, and making the payment.

The ETA certificate is valid for 2 years and is linked to your passport. If it expires, you need to apply for the certificate again.

