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## Presidents message

My dear Intersteno Friends,

I started my previous e-news with 'Intersteno unites many people from many countries'. That feeling has only intensified in the recent period. Where in one country there was relief, because numbers of infections with the virus COVID-19 decreased, that number increased in other countries. In Europe, measures have been relaxed in many countries, but there are also countries where measures had to be reversed in part. I see your faces behind all those countries and figures. It is a difficult period that has not yet come to an end.

The former "normal" now feels like a long time ago. There is a lot of work from home and fortunately that is technically possible. You can also read about this in this newsletter. What remains, however, is the need to get together, work together, compete together and relax together.

The council meeting 2020 is turned into an online meeting on Friday 9th of October 2020, from 14.00-17.00 h (CEST, UTC+2), due to Covid-19, unfortunately.

The following e-news will appear at the end of October. The deadline for submitting articles and activities for the Event Calendar for the October e-news is the 15th of October (to be sent to [m.rijkse@tweedekamer.nl](mailto:m.rijkse@tweedekamer.nl)).

I wish you a good holiday.

*Rian Schwarz van Poppel*  
*Intersteno president*



## Meeting of the AATP by video conference COVID-19 new working modalities

*By Victor Gonzalez*

On June 5, 2020, the Argentine Association of Parliamentary Stenographers held a videoconference through the Zoom platform, a space in which stenotypists and stenographers from different parliamentary areas were able to share how the coronavirus pandemic has impacted on their work.

Representing the Argentina's House of Representatives, stenotypist Débora Loreley Fernández told us that they had to take reports of meetings of parliamentary committees and plenary meetings, both remotely.

The stenographers' work in the committees was carried out from their homes with three options to watch to the meeting: the House of Representatives' official channel, DiputadosTV; the YouTube channel broadcasting the DiputadosTV contents, and thirdly, a link on the House of Representatives webpage. In this way, the whole meeting could be watched, as we were present, or work in previously assigned shifts. The Electronic Systems Office sent them a complete MP3 file, which stenographers used to check the connections between each shift.

The transcript of committees' meetings was done at the time they were held. After the MP3 was received and the stenographer's job was done, the transcription was sent by email within a maximum period of 24 hours so that an auxiliary stenographer could combine each transcription into a single document and then refer that document to the reviewers for greater work agility. The final work was ready approximately four hours later on the same day. Through the Computing Department, the committee's authorities upload the final document to the web.

Committee for the Modernization of Parliamentary Issues defined a protocol so that committees could approve their resolutions and also a voting system during the plenary meeting. Each representative had to process their digital signature via VPN, which is a way to provide computer security. Before the first remote plenary meeting, there was a test meeting to test all systems. In the plenary meetings, the final transcript is delivered two hours after the end of the meeting.

The director of the Stenographers Office, Guillermo Castellano, together with the directors of other offices, such as Committees, Electronic Systems, Informatics, and the Legislative and Administrative Secretariats, was able to create a specific page for the stenographers where a digital clock was added to guide them because the other channels did not included it. Besides, there were three stereotypists on the House chamber, transcribing the meeting with the Eclipse software, and then sent that transcription as a backup to the other colleagues working from home. At the stenographers table, there were the director, keeping proper distance, and a stenotypist, who were relieved every twenty minutes. The director registered changes in presidency, because this situation is not always broadcast in the official video. At the same time, in the office two auxiliary stenographers and a reviewer also provided support to the other colleagues.

The experience was positive, since the work went very well and could be delivered within two hours and was uploaded to the internet. Thus it was clearly revealed that stenographers were fulfilling our task, which is very important and allows us to publicize the record of government acts as notaries of what is happening in the chamber.



Representing the Argentina's Senate, the stenotypist Leandro Iezzi told us that the work dynamic is similar to that carried out in the House of Representatives.

The Stenographers Office is divided into two teams, one to record the plenary meetings and the other to record the parliamentary committees. In plenary meetings, the Senate's authorities were present as well as senators who may preside over the meeting; the other senators were remotely connected, with the same platform used by the House of Representatives, from their homes or from the parliamentary buildings of their city of residence, either a City Council or a province Legislature. Senators had to log in to the system to give notice of their presence and to vote, based on a system created by the National Registry of Persons.

Specifically with regard to shorthand work, a list of shifts was drawn up for both teams, with two review instances so the transcription is done simultaneously. They kept the same criteria used when working in the office so that they may deliver the work as quickly as possible and thus the final transcription is performed. The first issue to take into consideration was the time synchronization between each stenographer to properly coordinate the relays. Work was done through the Senate YouTube channel and the clock was coordinated. Relays were made every five minutes and the stenographers used WhatsApp to unify their transcription.

For committee meetings, everyone works on a home office basis. For plenary meetings, the office's director were present in the chamber and the rest worked from home.

Representing the Senate of the Province of Buenos Aires, the Chief Stenographer Fabián Rivelli told us that their way of working, given the situation of COVID-19, does not differ much from that mentioned by colleagues from the Argentina's Senate and House of Representatives. In relation to internal dynamics, he intended not to modify too much the ordinary work scheme.

They worked with only one stenographer registering within the chamber, in this case himself, together with authorities and six senators; the remaining 40 senators were remotely connected. There were two meetings held in this way. There were no committee meetings. Everything was developed in this new modality since May 14.

The stenographers' work dynamic was similar to that performed during office working, but this time from their homes. They could watch the YouTube channel of SenadoBA, considering the PC clock as a relay reference and with shifts of five minutes. Fabián Rivelli stressed the importance of being present in the chamber, to take note of the legislators who were sitting in the chamber at that time, as well as changes of presidency, or anything that was not broadcast by the official channel, to differentiate the situation within the chamber from that taking place remotely. In this way, both situations were stated in the final transcription.

The first special plenary meeting was decided by decree of the presidency, authorizing remote meetings, provided that six senators were present in the chamber, together with the president, the legislative and administrative secretaries, a stenographer, two or three photographers, and two or three IT people providing technical support.

Time is an important issue. In their case, they used the clock of the computer as a reference, together with a list of shifts indicating the order of stenographers. Each transcription was sent by email and then merged in the office. The next day, the final document was already available.

He emphasized that at least one stenographer must be in person, so that in situations such as this pandemic and social isolation, he or she may take note of everything happening within the chamber that may not be captured by video, since it only focuses on speakers and not situations such as change of presidency. Thus stenographers contribute to a proficient final document of the meeting.

He stated that the remote modality is useful under these circumstances, but in his opinion, he insisted on the fact that stenographers must be present in the chamber, and in this way they can assert our profession and show their skills against the appearance of new technologies.

Representing the Honorable Deliberative Council of Corrientes, stenographer Graciela Fernández told us that during this quarantine they had two special meetings at the request of the mayor. The Council is made up of 19 councilors, and as for the stenographic service, there were not many changes since they had to be present in person, but only half of the staff, in compliance complying with all the safety protocols regarding social distancing, hygiene, and preventive measures against COVID-19 in the Legislature, which is in the same building where colleagues from the House of Representatives and Senate of the Province of Corrientes work. They held meetings every 15 days.

Representing the Honorable House of Representatives of Corrientes, stenographer Sergio Valenzuela told us that 12 stenographers work there, but due to the coronavirus restriction, the staff was reduced to six. They had to be present in person. Before entering, COVID-19 preventive measures are met; there was a disinfection booth through which all personnel must pass and there were also two nurses who measure temperature. The Chamber is completely disinfected. All protocols are followed.

The presence of the deputies was almost total, and they discussed the draft of the new Civil and Commercial Procedural Code of the Province of Corrientes. Each stenographer took note of the meeting for 10 minutes, as usual. Then they work at home and send their transcription by email to the proofreaders. That meeting was very positive since each representative at the end of the meeting thanked stenographers for their work.

He explains that the same chamber is used by the House of Representatives, Senate and Deliberative Council. Listening was difficult since speakers were wearing a mask.

Representing the Senate of the Province of Corrientes, stenographer Omar Tróccoli told us that the working modality is similar to that of the House of Representatives. The only difference is that senators are older than representatives; therefore, due to the COVID-19 restrictions protocol, 7 out of 15 senators were not present due to age or medical reasons.



As we entered Phase V as of last Monday, the whole staff are attending, except for those who have restrictions. In the case of the stenographers office, only two are exempted from being present. As Sergio Valenzuela mentioned, all hygiene and prevention protocols are followed. Personnel had to wear face masks. The work modality was totally in office. The chance of remote meetings was not even considered. At the moment it is not included in the Regulations.



Representing the Córdoba Legislature, stenographers Nancy Escobal and Víctor González mentioned that the work in committees has been different from that of plenary meetings. Plenary meetings are held by Zoom or YouTube, with the presence of Deputy Governor, Mr. Manuel Calvo, and the legislative secretary, Mr. Guillermo Arias. In the case of committees, they are only broadcast by Zoom.



For access to videoconferences, like legislators, stenographers must log in with the ID and password provided, with the restriction that only four stenographers can log in for plenary meetings and only two for committees. They are also given the official audio sent by the Legislature's technical audio office. Shift rotation is every five minutes in both cases. For merging each transcription, they communicate through WhatsApp Web to speed up time.

The work begins when the meeting ends. When stenographers receive the official audio, they review the transcription previously done by watching the video. As there are no proofreaders, each transcription is sent by email to the deputy directors, who merge all documents and review them. The final document is delivered within 24 hours as usual.

Committee meetings are held three times per week and plenary meetings on the usual days and time. This is not the case with the Cordoba Deliberative Council, where plenary meetings are held on a monthly basis through the Zoom platform and with the same criteria: two stenographers are appointed to log in. The final document in that case, as the number of stenographers is less, is delivered after 48 hours. For comparison, two moments are mentioned: moment "0" before the pandemic and moment "1" during the pandemic. Before the work was done in office, but now it is done on a home-office basis. Productivity is highlighted in the latter case. At time 0, there were 4 plenary meetings per month, and there were no committee meetings. At this time 1, measured as of May, there were 3 plenary meetings and 18 committee meetings, which is why a higher labor demand is observed.

There were some issues regarding the audios, because gaps that could not be transcribed in the committees' meetings, which is something that is recorded in the final document.

Representing the Río Negro Legislature, stenographer Norma Montenegro told us that the last two plenary meetings were held in person. All the stenographers, authorities (president and secretaries), legislators and party presidents attended. However, they all had to work according to the recommended prevention and hygiene measures, such as wearing face masks.

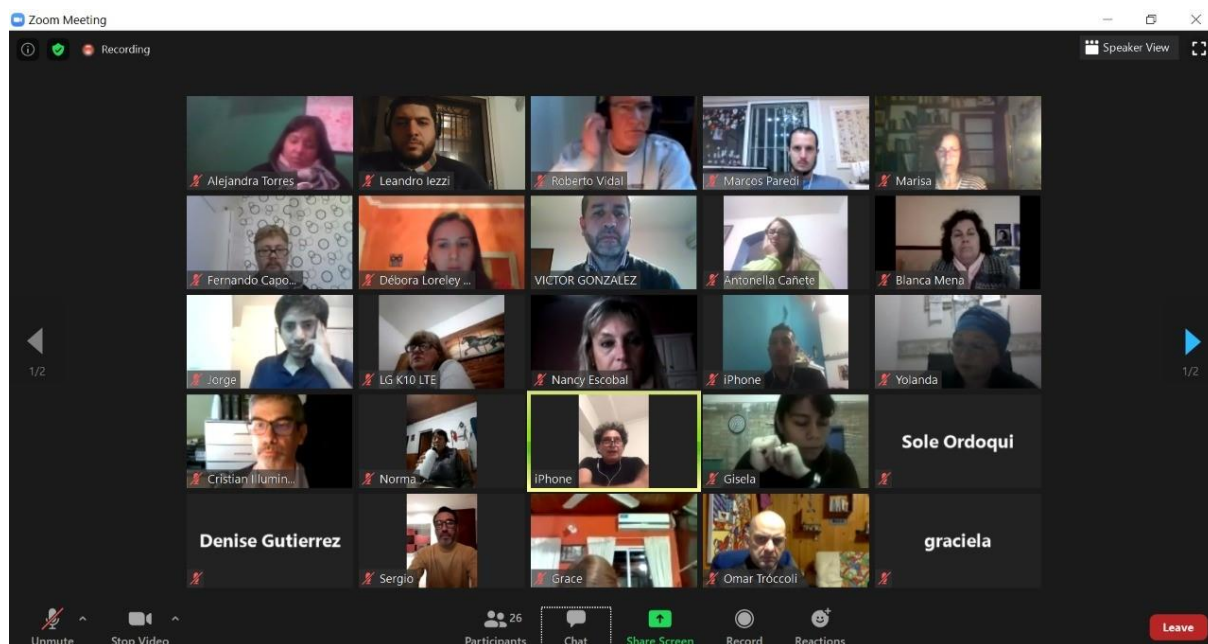
Representing the Honorable Deliberative Council of Rosario, stenographer Cristian Illuminati told us that the remote work modality was approved by a resolution, at the beginning of the quarantine when preventive and compulsory social isolation was ordered, enabling the possibility of videoconference meetings, whether they are ordinary or extraordinary meetings. The first remote plenary meeting took place on April 8, an extraordinary meeting, referring to the adherence of provincial laws related to the pandemic. It was carried out by Zoom with all councilors connected from their homes. In the chamber, the president and two stenographers were present. The distancing protocol was followed, each having a separate table. All the work was done by the two of them.





For the next meeting, the work was split between the office coordinator and another stenographer. After that, as meetings were longer than usual, it was requested that more stenographers come to the office to share the job. They decided not watch YouTube because the audio was quite poor. It was not actually streaming from the Zoom screen but from the camera that focused on the president's screen, so the audio was not of good quality. So they worked with the official audio provided by the technical staff. The audios were coordinated in this way between the stenographers who were in person and those who were at home. Then each one sent the coordinator their transcription to edit the final document.

At the third meeting during this quarantine, there were two councilors present, so it was already a mixed modality. On June 4, 2020 they had the last meeting with this modality. There were 10 councilors present in the chamber, together with the stenographers. In this case, the whole staff was present, so it was easier for them to do the work in person than remotely, especially for the length of the meetings and technical flaws due to the audio cuts, which required constant rewind for listening.



## 2020 Internet keyboarding competition

In the Internet Keyboard Championship 2020, 18th Edition, 1502 competitors from 31 countries participated. In this opportunity, 13 representatives competed for the Spanish language from Argentina - the only Latin American country. The AATP congratulates the Argentine colleagues who have classified in the Intersteno Keyboard World Championship 2020: Aldo Romero (CABA), Jose Angel Osses (Córdoba), Yolanda Son (El Calafate), Graciela Bobatto (Córdoba) and Lilia Noemí Maidana (Salta). Our congratulations to all participants, who are the pride of our country, and we appreciate their representation.

## 95 years in 95 words

*By Anita Dobos*

Our Association MAGYOSZ celebrated the 95th anniversary of its foundation on 25th of April.

What does this anniversary mean?

First of all, it is a great professional organization. It has people committed to their job and great predecessors to learn from. Future generations can learn a lot from outstanding presidents. Unfortunately, many of them are not alive. There are role models for our competitors and not only colleagues but in some cases friends, too. There is an international professional life, too, which motivates us with new challenges. We have had four Intersteno congresses and also other international events which were also successful.

Happy birthday MAGYOSZ!



## History and development of shorthand in Argentina (Part III)

*By Jorge Bravo, Azat Ambartsoumian and Diana Campi*

### “Gabriel Larralde and the diffusion of the Pitman system in Argentina”

If we talk about diffusion and adaptation of the Pitman system to Spanish in Argentina, we must mention Gabriel Hilario Larralde, who created his own system - Larralde system - from the system created by Isaac Pitman.

The *Escritura Veloz* magazine, the official body of the Shorthand Studies Association founded by the stenographer Miguel Palant, highlights the importance of Gabriel Larralde in the shorthand scenario of Argentina due to the preponderance of his system, which soon began to be taught officially in schools.

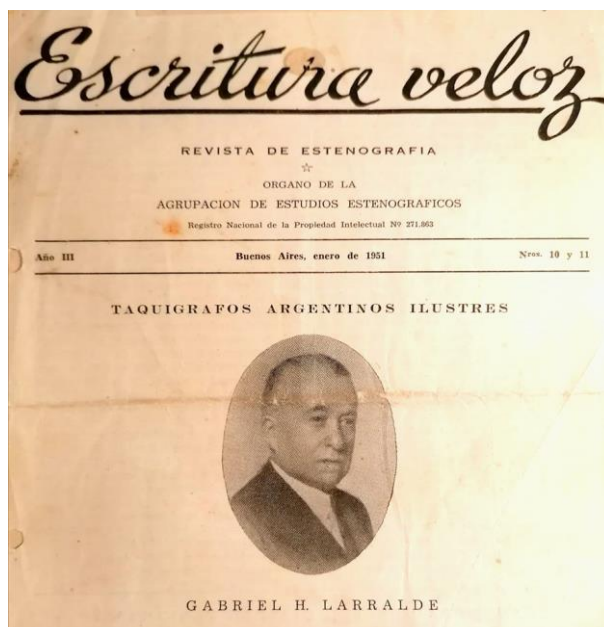
Although Gabriel Larralde made his professional career in Argentina, he had been born in Uruguay, as we have been able to verify in his birth certificate, which we were able to access thanks to his great-nephew, Alejo.

Larralde was the first professor certified by the National Institute of secondary teachers, on April 17, 1909, with the title of professor of secondary education in the specialty of Stenography, a position he held at the Carlos Pellegrini Superior School of Commerce (This is a recognized school that is under the control of the University of Buenos Aires, and high school diplomas are issued by that university).

Larralde was a stenographer in the Chamber of Deputies of Argentina, where he became director of Stenographers. From there, as given the aforementioned magazine *Escritura Veloz* (number 10 and 11, janvier 1935), "The training of an outstanding number of parliamentary stenographers, whose illustration and skill are recognized by all."

His performance as director of Stenographer was very important, especially for two achievements: The printing of the Journal of Sessions of the Chamber of Deputies to be distributed the day after the session, and the requirement to win a public contest to be a parliamentary stenographer.

Parody's disciple – Parody was a teacher in the first cathedra of Shorthand in Argentina - Larralde gave the greatest impetus to the new Pitmanian stage, which had been initiated by the Argentine president



Copy of the magazine *Escritura Veloz*, edited by the Shorthand Studies Association.

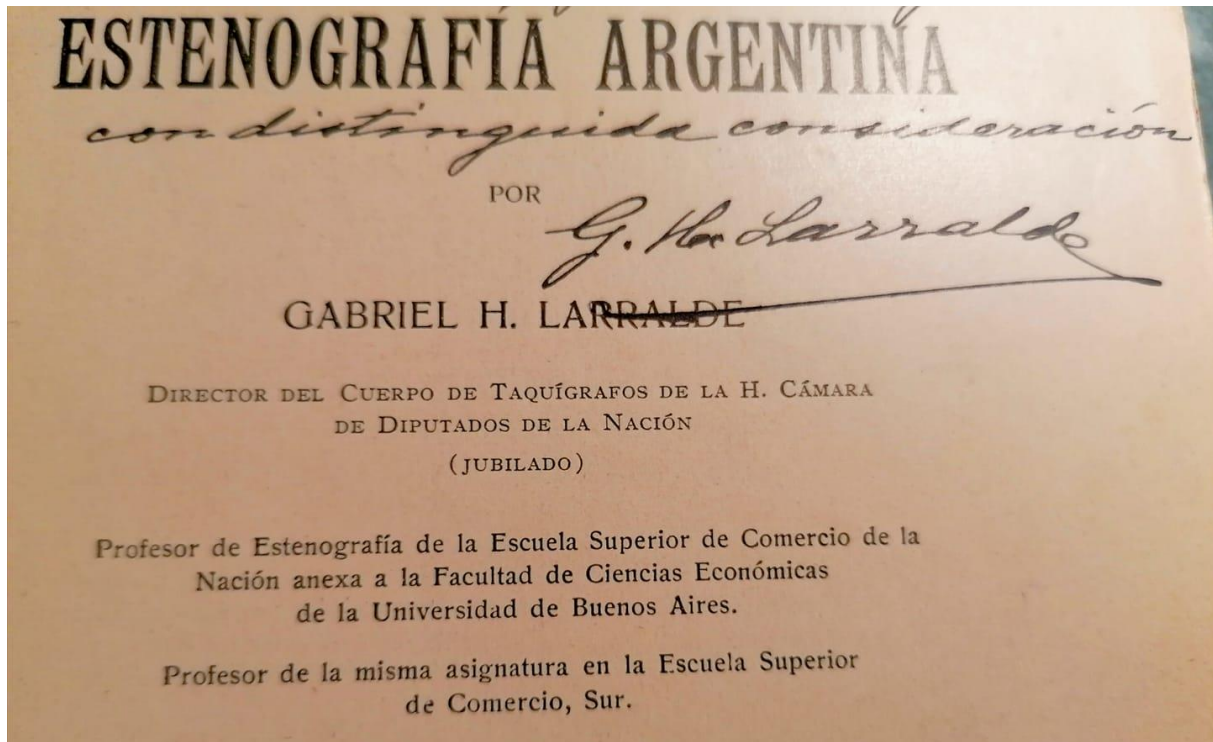


Mr. Gabriel Larralde



Domingo F. Sarmiento with the creation of that first cathedra of Shorthand and with the creation of the Stenographers Office of the Argentine Congress. In this way, after half a century of preponderance of the Martí system, created in Spain by Francisco de Paula Martí, its presence begins to lose strength.

Larralde's most recognized work is the *Estenografía Argentina* (1924), the product of years of study by the author, which "constitutes the most complete work of adaptation to Spanish of the basic principles that characterize the systematic organization of Pitman". (Magazine *Escritura Veloz*, number 10 and 11, year 1935).



The book *Estenografía Argentina* (Dedicated by the **autor**, Gabriel Larralde, 1924).

The Palant Collection of the Library of the National Congress has several of the books published by Larralde, standing out: *Catón de Taquigrafía* (1962), *La Estenografía Argentina* (1916), *La Estenografía Argentina nació en Buenos Aires* (1935).

We want to stop at that last book, because during the 1930s some controversies arose about the originality of the system created by Larralde. Proof of this is what Larralde says in this book, *La Estenografía Argentina nació en Buenos Aires*: "Two incidents without an importance, prompted me, some time ago, to write these words, with the object of demonstrating that Pitman's Stenography is not an original work due exclusively to the ingenuity of that author, since all his predecessors and successors form a chain that begins with Bright in 1588 and that has been developed to this day".

And in this little 21-page book, Larralde shows the obfuscation that he spent some years of his life through, and he goes so far as to say that for that he could not write for a year. The phrase that hurt him so much, perhaps spoken by a colleague, was the following: "There is some similarity between those books (those of Larralde) and those of Pitman" (Larralde, 1935). What was his response? That perhaps the author of that statement did not dare to use the word "plagiarism", although he has hinted at the desire to use it. And Larralde adds that that phrase had been "like a drop of subtle poison". However, Larralde kept going with his work, and his system ended up prevailing over the others, surely aided by the fact that it became the official system in business schools across the country.



On the other hand, Larralde strives to demonstrate that his system is the result of meticulous work and constant study. He understands that the systems that belong to the family of English stenographies are similar, in general, for their geometric traces and for having some elements in common, such as the position of the features, the reduction of the features to represent implicitly some syllables, or features of straight and curved lines to represent the consonant letters of the alphabet.

All these elements, says the author of *La Estenografía Argentina*, "are common to systems based on an alphabet of geometric lines." And he adds that Pitman has not invented anything and that he has done nothing but skillfully and wisely take advantage of what others did before him, as well as others will do after him. It is here when he points out that before 1837, when Pitman published his phonography system, 219 books of stenography had already been published in English and that in some of them Pitman perhaps found inspiration to develop his system.

Continuing with the historical development, Larralde mentions some referents of English shorthand such as Thomas Shelton, William Mason, Thomas Gurney, John Byrom, Samuel Taylor, among others, all of them outstanding English stenographers who have created shorthand systems and introduced notable improvements to the art of speedy writing, whom he mentions to reflect a continuous line regarding the evolution of shorthand.

And he continues his argument saying that none of the cited authors claimed to be the exclusive inventor of a Shorthand system and that the creations of the ancestors can be inspiration for future systems.

But he rescues the figure of Pitman and says, "The foregoing does not deprive Pitman of the merit of having applied with superior criteria - for the Englishman - the graphic elements that others created, used and not all of them knew how to take advantage of it" (Larralde, 1935).

Having said all this, he concludes by saying that his objective was to work to give the Spanish language a good shorthand system, as Pitman did for English, rescuing the legacy of his predecessors, study and practice, all of which allowed creating a system of fast writing born "in our land so that we can have, without impairment and with pride, a true Argentine Stenography (Larralde, 1935).

We have just made reference to Larralde's little book *La Taquigrafía Argentina nació en Buenos Aires* in which he made considerations like the ones we have pointed out, including his mention of English authors of shorthand systems. The controversy, of course, continued. We can say, for example, that the book reaches the hands of the stenographer and doctor Miguel Palant. A copy of that book, which Palant had in his library, today is in the "Palant Collection" of the library of the Argentine Congress, and in a few pages we have discovered marginal notes written by Miguel Palant which show that he didn't share everything said by Larralde.

Palant says that Larralde refers to English stenographers until the 19th century and that "the author seems to ignore the evolutionary processes of the 20th century". And he makes a second observation and he says that Larralde does not take into account all the systems that are not of English origin but that had an important diffusion in Argentina.

In fact, Larralde does not even mention the Martinian current, to which we referred previously, very important in Argentine. Palant highlights this "forgetfulness" with a red pencil in the margin of page number 18 and writes: "Escobar, Inzaurraga, Ameghino, Neumeier, Hernández, all them Argentines, have not been consulted at all."

In this sense, we believe that although it is true that some of these authors were not born in Argentina despite the fact that they developed the shorthand profession in our country, they established the bases for the diffusion of shorthand, collaborated with its development, created new systems or

adapted adaptations of pre-existing systems. And we believe, like Palant, that their work was very enriching for Argentine shorthand.

### MIGUEL PALANT - Pitmanian stenographer and, later, creator of his own system

At this point, since we have just mentioned Miguel Palant, we think it is important to refer to his life and work, even if only briefly. First of all, we must highlight his work of compilation and his permanent contact and exchange of material with stenographers around the world, as evidenced by the 471 books and magazines of 22 countries in Latin languages and another languages in his shorthand collection, which today are part of the Palant Collection of the Library of the Argentine Congress.

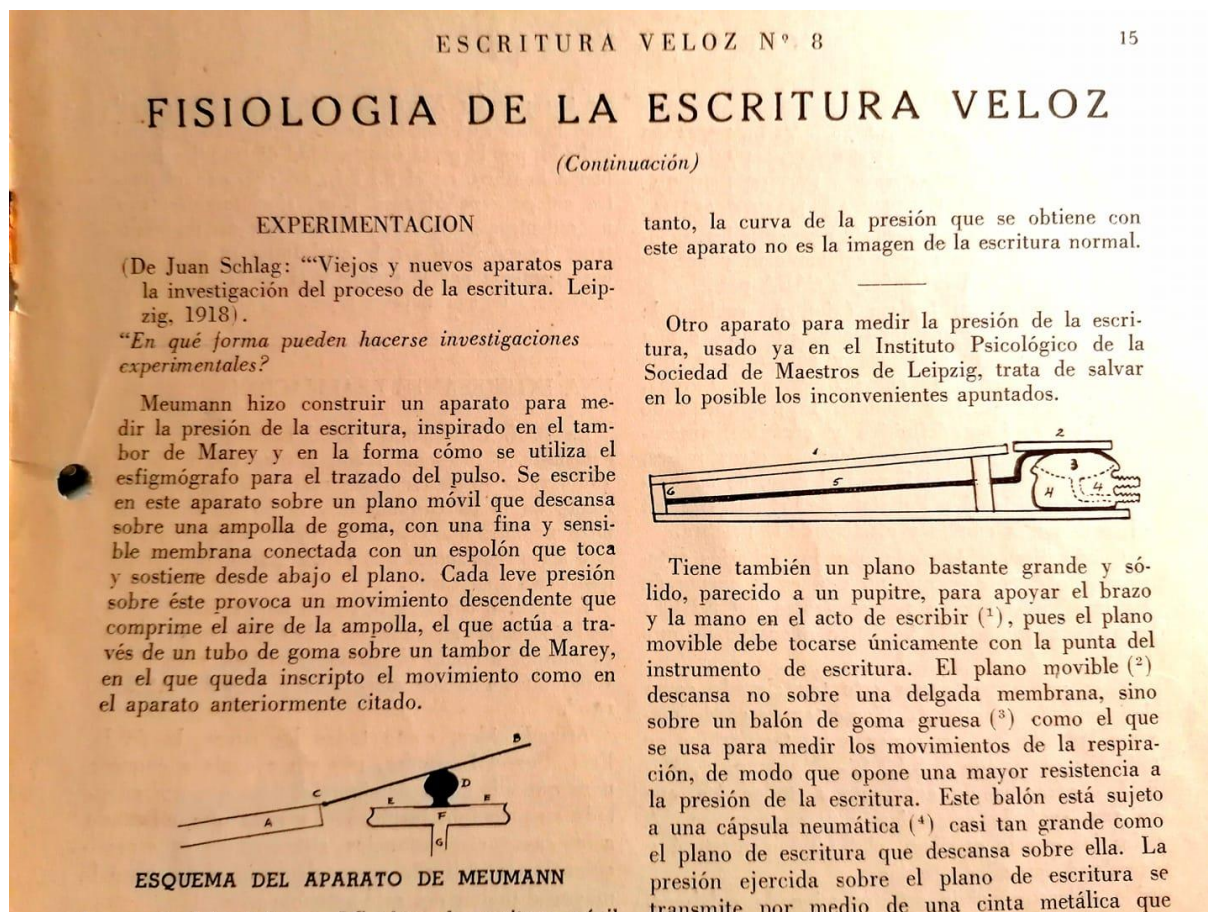
Thanks to this set of books and magazines, we have been able to reconstruct the history of shorthand in our country from its origins to the middle of the 20th century, the historical period that we developed in this research. His contribution to shorthand was extremely valuable: he was one of the founders of the Argentine Association of Parliamentary Stenographers; he was in charge of publishing the magazine "Boletín" of said Association; later he was the creator of the Shorthand Studies Association and created a shorthand system that he called "Fast Writing". Palant, who had been born in Russia and came to Argentina as a child, spread shorthand, gave free courses, participated in national and international conferences, and made an effort to show that shorthand was useful not only in the legislative field also for Elementary and Middle School.

Palant was very young when he began studying shorthand. He learned the Pitman System with Parody's modifications. His shorthand knowledge enabled him to pay for the expenses of his university medical studies and to obtain a degree in medicine and surgery. He was a stenographer in the Legislature of the Province of Buenos Aires and in the Constitutional Provincial Convention of the province of Córdoba. Then he settled in Buenos Aires and managed to win in a contest that was held in the Stenographers office of the Senate of the Nation in 1927, where he had an outstanding performance until the day of his death.

He was the creator of a shorthand system called "Fast Writing" based on stenographic signs similar to cursive letters. His method became official in Peru, the country where his descendants currently live (Unfortunately, his daughter, María Esther, died a few days ago).

From the aforementioned Shorthand Studies Association, he published the quarterly magazine *Escritura Veloz*, the same name of his shorthand system. The magazine, whose complete collection can be consulted in the Palant Collection of the Argentine Library of Congress, develops different aspects of shorthand: history, adaptations, news, and congresses. It even has publications by stenographers from countries on different continents who sent extremely interesting articles to the magazine.

This magazine also published articles such as "Science and shorthand", where from his medical knowledge he develops his foundations of the physiology of fast writing, and "Speedy school writing", in which Palant develops her adapted system for teaching children and adolescents, and Physiology of Fast Writing, too.



Article *Physiology of Fast Writing*, by Miguel Palant. (Magazine *Escritura Veloz*, 1950)

As we see, at all times his two professions – stenographer and doctor - were present, even when in the Argentine Senate a fatal event took place during a session: Senator Enzo Bordabehere was assassinated on Juli 25, 1935. At that time Miguel Palant was a witness of the fact. As well as a stenographer, he was also a doctor, and so he was the first to attend to the wounded senator.

Both professions gave him many recognitions. For example, on the occasion of his participation in the International Stenographers Congress that took place in 1953 in São Paulo, Brazil, he not only gave master classes but was also declared an illustrious visitor.

The Argentine stenographer Miguel Palant at the Shorthand Congress in Brazil (1953).



He was stenographer of the Honorable Senate of the Nation for thirty consecutive years. He practiced both professions - doctor and stenographer - until his death.

Death surprised him in the full exercise of his professions on December 11, 1956 at the age of 58 years.

(To be continue in the next issue)

## Is it possible the distance-learning of shorthand?

*By Claudio Araujo and "Palabras Dibujadas"*

The distance-learning of shorthand, as well as Classroom-based education, can be done taking into account two factors: the teacher's follow-up and the student's perseverance and dedication.

As we all know, in these times of pandemic it is important to maintain physical distance between people and, of course, between students and teachers, and so face-to-face classes have been suspended at all levels.

For this reason, we are using other technological tools to transmit knowledge and have a different approach - a new one - with students. These tools can be, for example, WhatsApp, Zoom, YouTube, etc.



Through WhatsApp, students can consult and resolve doubts more individually; then we develop group classes with the Zoom platform, and with the YouTube channel students receive explanations from the different units of the shorthand system.

As for the study materials - the practical guides, for example - they are sent by email and the students must print them and then do the homework at home.

Through the platforms already specified – Zoom, for example - video calls are made once or twice a week to keep track of what the students are learning. Ideally, in one class the theory is developed and in the other class the practice is done, with dictations and translation, in order to progress correctly.

Students do the exercises and send them to the teacher for correction through a screenshot from their devices. In addition, the theory is reinforced with a review of the units, material that is uploaded to the YouTube channel.





Once the theoretical part of the shorthand system is finished, the student begins with practice to begin to gain speed. How is the methodology for this part of the process? The teacher sends audios to the student, via email, with dictations at faster and faster speeds. At the beginning, the average is 50 words per minute. And from there, the speed gradually increases

At this point, beyond the distance mode or the face-to-face modality, the constancy and dedication of each student is essential to reach the speed that is set in each class.

At the end of each class, students must write in shorthand a text that the teacher dictates and then carry out the translation at home and send it by email to the teacher, who will make the corresponding corrections and then return it to the student.

It's very important to know that the only secret to writing faster and faster is consistent training. That is the only way to become a fast and professional stenographer.

From my experience, the new way of teaching in these times of pandemic does not leave behind the dynamics of the classes. The doubts are clarified together and human contact continues to prevail, even at a distance, as well as the camaraderie between the students and the teacher.

So, everyone, teachers and students, we must adapt to the new times and know that with study and perseverance, everything is possible regardless of the type of teaching used. Let's take the challenge!





## Joke Bakker, still going strong!

### Interview on the occasion of her 75th birthday

*By Marlene Rijkse*

#### **How did you come into contact with Intersteno?**

My first Intersteno convention was in Belgrade in 1979. In 1971 I had made the transition from business to the working field of education, I became a vocational education in the administrative sector. Therefore I needed a teaching qualification and started a course to qualify as a state graduate machine writing teacher. Shortly hereafter I enrolled in a “teach-the-teacher” programme. Through this route I came into contact with Intersteno. I went to the aforementioned convention there and immediately liked it, especially since it was so international.

#### **What are the reasons for you being involved with Intersteno for so long?**

The friendship and international character, the wide variety of people; you name it.

#### **What are the highlights for you over the years?**

One of the highlights was the Intersteno conference in Amsterdam in 1995. It was a great success. The question then was: will we still make it to the year 2000? And look how it is still in development; with new inspiration and young people participating.

#### **How would you describe the development that Intersteno has undergone?**

It all goes very fast. Who would have thought that everyone would work from home? Our professional field is changing enormously. If people will keep on working from home more, they will interact in a different way. Workplaces will become more like “contact” places because as a rule people are working from home. The entire social field will change. The professional field is also developing further. People of Sardinia and Turkey jointly set up projects. After the corona pandemic our habits in tourism, meetings, congresses, education will have changed indefinitely.

#### **What perspective do you see for Intersteno?**

As their core business: facilitating. We can contribute to democratization that is still in its infancy in many places around the world. Our field has made an important contribution to the emancipation of women. Typist was one of the first professions you could practice as a woman. It quickly became an independent profession. Management assistants will always be needed.

#### **Will you be there in October in Bordeaux and next year in Maastricht?**

Yes Yes. I hope so, insjallah.

I think it is very special that we have another contest in the Netherlands in 2021. Organizing a conference requires a lot of effort, and you do need to put in the energy . . . The fact that Intersteno has its own conference organization makes it easier for the country groups. Not every country group has to reinvent the wheel or is bearing the financial risks on its own. That is a good development. We were already talking about this in the 1990s: we are going to do it ourselves, because we cannot put the risk on a country group. That is an important development.

Last but not least:

I think it's fantastic to see everyone again and to re-establish mutual friendships. We share a large part of our lives, even from a distance. It is fantastic that many young people are enrolling. Since the organization started, Western European countries have been at the forefront of the technological developments in our field. Now we see a lot of countries catching up and progressing very rapidly.

From Intersteno we have observed that Turkey, for example, has made a huge leap from manual typewriters to computers. Those developments will continue. Countries like India, China, as well countries from South America have always been represented at Intersteno. IPRS is also important for following developments, new techniques such as speech recognition. It was already a topic at the Council in Palermo in the late 1990s. Then they were already a long way with speech recognition; developments that continue steadily.

I hope to see you all in good health!



Rome, 2019

## Intersteno Council meeting with Diamesic conference on 7-10 October 2020 - cancelled



The current Covid-19 situation brings us to the decision to **cancel the Intersteno council meeting and Diamesic conference in Bordeaux 2020**. Both the French group headed by Jean-Charles Le Masson and Jacqueline Bertin-Mahieux and the Intersteno Board regret this decision a lot, but we all think it's a correct one, given the circumstances.

Postponed is not lost. After our congress in Maastricht, it's our commitment to host the next council meeting with Diamesic conferences in Bordeaux, so in 2022.

The council meeting 2020 is turned into an online meeting on Friday 9th of October 2020, from 14.00-17.00 h (CEST, UTC+2). The online meeting will be preceded by discussions on our forum to better prepare for the meeting. Proposals from Board and national groups will be spread in the next days. Practical information will follow soon.

Looking forward to see you live in Maastricht 2021!.

## How are you, readers of *e-news*?

We are curious how our readers have experienced the recent period during the lock-down because of the Covid-19 pandemic. What has been the effect of the far-reaching measures on your way of working and living?

Hereby we call upon you to share your experiences, so that we can publish them in the next e-news. You can send an email to [m.rijkse@tweedekamer.nl](mailto:m.rijkse@tweedekamer.nl) **before the 15th of September**.

