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## From the President's desk

In this 71st issue we publish a very interesting history of speech-to-text techniques by Prof. Tsuguo Kaneko of Japan. He points out the importance to democracy of parliamentary proceedings and invites Intersteno to clarify the mission of the parliamentary reporter - this basic record creator, a "professional in speech-to-text technology".



In these days when our minds and hearts endure the pain of the tragic events in Paris and their echoes around the world it is right to bear in mind this important profile of the professional stenographer who provides a vital service for all of our citizens, judges, politicians and categories such as the hearing-impaired, all of whom benefit from such a provision. Our skills and knowledge are indispensable in enabling the publication of parliamentary debates as well as court testimony and public events or TV programmes, thus meeting a public need that was not previously fulfilled. The experts of communication processing, the reporters, accomplish this crucial task of rendering in a faithful and complete way the thoughts and the views of speakers or witnesses with the aim of informing the large community of people, to whom the final power (*kratos*) belongs. This theme was dealt with recently at a meeting in Rome (at the Senate Library), where the 200th anniversary of the birth of the inventor of the stenotype machine, Antonio Michela Zucco, was celebrated: Giulia Torregrossa and Fabrizio Verruso were part of the authoritative panel.

In his survey Tsuguo Kaneko, stresses another aspect: when we look at the history of our professional tools (notes, signs, machines, voice), we should not forget the importance of building a model of basic skills and competences, and evaluating them in a certification programme that can be adopted in various countries. Education and training are two of the main aims of our Federation and our competitions and projects are designed to define the state-of-the-art technologies, techniques and skills used in our work.

We care about the future of our professions as is demonstrated by the constant update of our competencies. The Budapest Congress described a remarkable goal towards which we are working: the proposal for an Intersteno Set of Professional Competencies and Skills: in the coming months we will cooperate in producing further developments and details, with the contribution of countries and members, with a view to providing an Intersteno certification programme, as soon and as far as is possible.

Our contacts with Worldskills (read the report on page 14) seek to move in the same direction. The conversations (stimulated by an initiative of the Intersteno Chinese National Group) were fruitful and stimulating. Worldskills has been encouraging excellence and vocational training on a global scale since the 1950s. Intersteno is willing to participate in the programmed actions: one important idea is that of selecting Intersteno's own "heroes" for participation in the worldwide competition that Worldskills organizes every other year (the next one will be held in 2017). We want to co-operate on a local and global level, with the aim of emphasising the role of the "speech-to-text" professions, as we deserve a valuable place in world skills.

This promotion of knowledge about the evolution of our tools - which will likely continue in the future - is assisted in this 71st issue by the presentation of two "speech-to- text" museums. Jan Den Holder, Jury leader of the Summary Competition and former parliamentary reporter at the Dutch Parliament, introduces us to the Hermann's Typewriting machines collection, in a bookstore in Ghent (Belgium); Dominick Tursi, dear friend of our Association and brilliant expert of the NCRA, takes us on a visit to the Gallery of Shorthand, hosted at the US District Court House. You will be amazed by the many curiosities you can find there.

The Croatian Stenographic Society reports on the 37th Keyboard Days. The Intersteno Croatian Group is preparing to welcome the Intersteno Council and IPRS meeting to Zagreb on October 5th-8th 2016. The programme will be produced shortly, but you can already flag the dates on the calendar. It will be the occasion for fresh growth of our Federation: members and countries are heartily invited to produce projects and proposals to be discussed and undertaken at those meetings dealing with, for example, the rules of our competitions, the progress of the ISPC (Intersteno Set of Professional Skills and Competencies), the future of our professions and the activities to be provided for the benefit of our community. The programme is enriched with a special tourist attraction - an excursion to the National Park of Plitvice Lake. The Board hopes that all National Groups and members can gather in Zagreb and bring their valuable contribution to Intersteno activities.

Let me take this opportunity on behalf of the Board to send the season's greetings to all Intersteno members and to e-news readers. May 2016 be a time of good health and business success.

Happy reading!

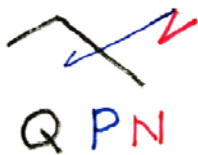
Fausto Ramondelli

## Cultivate the future! A mission to explore the speech-to-text domain

### Innovation in speech-to-text technology

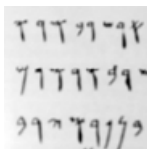
#### The first period:

The old speech-to-text technology was established in the form of Tironian notes to increase the speed of capturing speech in ancient times. Tironian notes were the early step in a functional letter progress. But Tironian notes had the weak point of being not so readable for anyone. According to Collier's Encyclopedia the ancient stenography was hieroglyphic and evolved later to Orthographic, Phonetic.

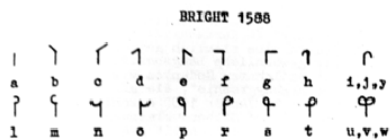


#### The second period:

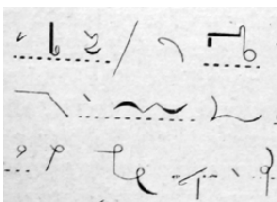
The stenographic renaissance was begun in 1588 by Dr. Timothe Bright in England. Graphic shorthand had developed a stenographic theory whose goal was phonetic theory using geometric lines and circles as well as cursive theory which evolved on the continent in the 1830s. Graphic stenography had acquired a monopolistic position in parliaments and the court house. The skill in this method involved the use of stenographic signs and reading written stenographic scripts correctly as well as orthography, knowledge and intelligence.



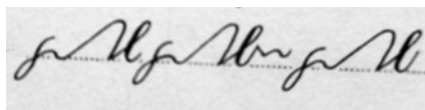
Phoenician  
alphabet



Bright's alphabet



Geometric script, Pho-  
nography, Isaac Pitman  
1837



Cursive script, Gabelsberger 1834



Half-cursive scripts by Gregg system, John  
Robert Gregg of Ireland 1882

#### The third period:

The mechanization age continued. Speech-to-text technology has two processes. One is to write down the spoken words by graphic stenography and the second is to transcribe

the stenographic file into longhand. The latter was assisted by the development of the typewriter, enabling the rapid production of a fair copy of stenographic translation. The typewriter established its position in the stenographic service as a high productivity tool in the second process of record-making. For a long time stenographic and typewriting skills were the basic requirements for secretaries in the U.S. and Europe. Also typists shared in the transcribing process with the official reporter dictating their steno notes, which shared the labour. Consequently typewriting was an indispensable skill in the shorthand writing process.

However, in a later development specially designed typewriters were invented to capture speech at a natural speaking speed. This is sometimes known as steno-type. This technology made possible very high speed capturing compared with graphic stenography.



**Michela machine,  
Antonio Michela Z,  
Italy, 1830-1863**

In former days STT meant only graphic shorthand. As long as stenography involved a physical input there was a limit to the ability to reduce costs and improve productivity. Provided there was no alternative method of speech capturing stenography kept its position in reporting.

In the third period graphic stenography theory was applied to machine stenography.

However, when the use of tape recorders spread after World War II voice recording to produce text without using stenographic signs became available. This method of transcription became popular, for example, in hospitals, for filling in medical sheets. Secretarial work diminished in value and administrators took over work in offices leading to a decline in the uses of the graphic stenographic secretary in the business world.

A further development was the respeaking Stenomask using a tape recorder that was introduced to U.S.Navy courts.

#### The fourth period

Here comes the introduction of machine stenography using computer-aided transcription in which the machine translated stenographic signs into text files. Machine shorthand enabled high productivity and raised cost performance. This was a key technology designed to meet the needs of stakeholders.

#### Fifth period

The CAT process progressed to computer-aided real-time transcription technology as natural consequence. This fifth period, CART – computer-aided real-time stenography - made it possible to provide simultaneous live captioning in a court room. At the same time, it made possible the captioning of live television news, note-taking in classrooms and the service providing interpretation for the hearing-impaired. This new field is called communication aid for audiences.

Stenography had achieved two goals of record production and aiding communication.



Japanese computer-aided real time transcribing system named Hayato-kun

#### Sixth period:

Stenography has gradually been declining because of the financial weaknesses of governments. Alternative techniques are spreading and the productivity of the stenographic process has been declining.

On the other hand, social needs for communication aids for handicapped people are growing. Technologies such as Writing Interpreter, Writing Translator are appearing in the advanced countries following ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Television broadcasting has been providing a growing percentage of programmed and live captions year by year in OECD countries in spite of increasing costs.

There is growing diversity in the speech-to-text field. The personal computer has advanced rapidly as a result of the progress of transistor and integration technology. Computer-aided transcription technology has assisted word processing. In other areas, speech recognition technology has been taking the place of stenography necessitating the introduction of a new skill. In the U.S. and E.U. so-called Respeak technology has been developed on the basis of the Stenomask method. Previously, the Stenomask operator listened to the speech and simultaneously repeated it into a tape recorder. The tape was then transcribed by typewriter or PC. Now a voice writer can directly produce the text using speech recognition software.

In Japan direct processing by natural speaking using automatic speech recognition technology is now in use.

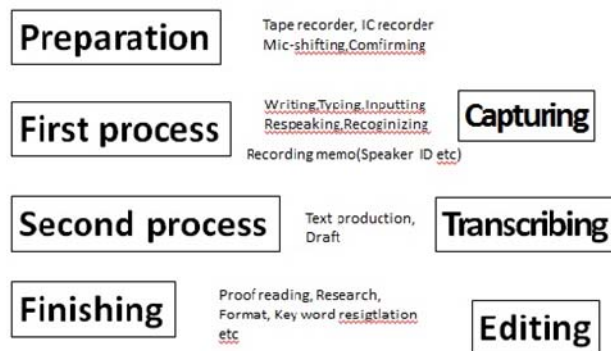
These technical trends in STT are in evidence in Japan and some other countries.

#### Possible technology and programs

Speech-to-text technology has been transferred from human skill to robots by invention, diversion and innovation. In addition to changing the method of recording speech, communication aid has become the new aim for speech-to-text technology. It can be seen that the technology has progressed from stenography, typewriting, tape recording, PC keyboard transcription, computer-aided transcription, computer-aided real-time transcription, Respeak, speech recognition and automatic speech recognition.

Diversity has created a new market for STT and it requires new skills. In stenography, speech capturing, converting signs to text, editing and sound recording are main skill items.

## Flow of Speech to text processing



High-speed capturing and transcribing accuracy are important skills in capturing and converting to text.

On other hand, in communication aid a no-delay time on monitor is vitally important in order to maintain synchronicity between voice and caption. Accuracy is also very important.

One theme is for Intersteno to re-define STT.. For historical, evidential purposes a perfect text file is needed. Interpreting does not require perfect accurate but does demand real-time transmission performance. At this point it seems that reporting and interpreting do not coexist. Will this lead to a change in the future?

We can work on the activities in each situation. Those are new skills, requiring efficient education and training programmes, together with qualification and certification standards, licensing systems and so on.



Intersteno can work to provide a definition of STT skills using its many experts and other tools including the systematization of element skills, a training curriculum, rating system and an authoritative empowerment system depending on each language culture. It will be important to maintain an international standard, compatible with individual country standards.

### World standard

The proceedings of parliaments will be recorded for as long as the history of the human race continues. They are the evidence of history. This is different from a document that is disposed of when its purpose is finished. The verbatim record should never change in any way.

The stenographic reporter has undertaken this task since the dawn of modern democracy..

It is necessary for Intersteno to clarify the mission of this basic record creator as a professional in speech-to-text technology.

The verbatim record of parliamentary proceedings has a vital role to play.

First, we would like to study the mission of verbatim reporting, the opinions of the experts and their part in Intersteno. Secondly, we would like to study the technical system of speech-to-text technology in Intersteno. We should define the specialized areas, such as the writing interpreter using stenography and steno type, electronic machine stenography, PC transcription, speech recognition, and PC note-taking. Thirdly, we would like to study whether the STT concept embraces the parliamentary reporter, the stenographic court

reporter, the television real-time captioner, and other occupations including the re-speaker.

Fourthly, we would like to study the skill factors that those experts should possess and understand the essential necessities, duties and performance that such experts should achieve, together with the fundamental skills that are expected as standard. Fifthly, we would like to study a standard model of STT which includes those skill development criteria, the goals of training, a method of evaluating skill and knowledge, and to consider minimum levels, a licensing system and the construction of a standard model. Sixthly, we would like to propose that Intersteno members participate as a professional group in developing a concept and ideology of STT. We would like to suggest activity to enable planning to take place so as to spread and develop STT in each country. We call upon Intersteno colleagues to assist in this aim.

Tsuguo Kaneko



ASR real-time note-taking service taking place at a Kyoto symposium

## Greetings to Intersteno members from the National Verbatim Reporters Association!

*Our association strives to advance the understanding, practice, education, and professional standards of verbatim reporting and related reporting professionals.*

*The 2015 NVRA Annual Convention was held in Chattanooga, Tennessee (during the same week as Intersteno's Congress in Budapest). New board members were elected at that time. As you can see, they come from all across the United States.*

*President Jessie Lee Coburn-Texas*

*President-Elect Brenda Schmelz-Missouri*

*Treasurer Jan McLeod-Arkansas*

*Secretary Caryn Broome-Georgia*

*Director Maranda Murphy-Indiana*

*Director Mike Ashcraft-Arkansas*

*Director Stacy Harlow-West Virginia*

*Director Maryann Nevers-South Carolina*

*Past-President Linda Winfrey-Washington*

*In July 2016 NVRA will hold its annual meeting in Greenville, South Carolina. Members will attend continuing education seminars, network with new and old friends, and visit the vendors for information on the latest technology and equipment.*

*What have NVRA members been talking about recently?*

*Question: Is anyone having good results with Dragon 14?*

- I use DNS14 and love it.*
- I use both closed and open mic for onsite and remote CART. I am back using 12.5.*
- I use DNS 14 with a mask (closed mic) and I love it. I was also getting great results with 13 pro, but can't resist trying new versions.*
- I've used 14 since just after it came out. In my view, it's the best version of Dragon ever, and I use it both with the mask (closed mic) and open mic and a CAT system. It's fantastic in my experience.*
- At first I thought 14 was great, and then it seemed to get progressively worse (recognition). 13 just seems more stable as far as recognition goes, but I only used 14 a couple weeks. Also, I am on open mic.*
- My experience: CAT systems work on all computers, all Windows versions, all Dragon versions, all masks, all external sound cards, and with all microphones, and all computers will do what we ask of them. Most issues we deal with are user issues. Either the user cannot find the right combination of tools or the user does not know Windows and/or CAT software well enough to configure their systems.*

## Overview of the Steno Gallery in the Court of New York

The Gallery of Shorthand – which opened in the federal courthouse on Long Island on September 30, 2010 – presents the history of one of mankind’s oldest professions. In this permanent exhibition, guests are guided through the evolution of shorthand as it traces its legacy 5,000 years, to the ancients, and through civilizations.



The Gallery displays some 50 shorthand books dating to 1668, more than 30 shorthand machines as early as 1879, artifacts and replicas, and 20 illustrations of other historic events including the Congressional Record and the Nuremberg and Lincoln Coconspirator prosecutions. The Gallery seeks to remind visitors what history has taken for granted: the role of shorthand in the preservation of thought.



This exhibit is located in the entry rotunda of the courthouse. Visitors include lawyers, judges, witnesses, visiting school groups, law enforcement and court personnel, and casual observers. Tours, large and small, receive are conducted by Gallery Director Dominick M. Tursi, and have included such notables as visiting judges from the Republic of Georgia, and the NCRA

Board of Directors. The Gallery was approved by the Board of Judges of the US District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Continuing the tradition followed by important shorthand historians, The Gallery of Shorthand uses ten epochs, or pivotal historical segments, to recount momentous events which helped define the origin and development of this timeless profession. Of course, with more years and a different perspective, shorthand epochs have been expanded beyond their four segments.

Thirty years of research by Dominick M. Tursi, Gallery creator, director, and shorthand historian, is at the heart of what is imparted by the displays. Dom is also one of the official court reporters in the very courthouse that is home to The Gallery. He has been a reporter for more than 50 years, in the New York State court system, then in the private sector of reporting depositions and meetings, and next year celebrates 20 years with the federal court. He credentials include being one of the first reporters in the East Coast of the US to use computer transcription and having reported proceedings from Hong Kong to Rome, from Athens to Cairo. He has held the world shorthand speed record of 300 wpm (2-voice Q&A) for five minutes since 1981, and scored a perfect paper at 280 wpm. Recently, he authored “The Legends of Shorthand.”

The story told by The Gallery begins in 3500 BC, when the Ancient Scribes of Sumeria invented the first system of written expression, cuneiform, in order to preserve important thought; followed closely



by the Ancient Scribes of Egypt, who invented Demotic and Hieratic script for parallel reasons.

In Epoch II, the story travels to the East, where Chinese Scribes used xigshu (“Running Script”) and caoshu (“Grass Script”) during the Han Dynasty (207 BC – 220 AD) of Imperial China to quickly capture confessions of perpetrators.

Epoch III relates that in 63BC it was the foresight of Cicero – statesman, lawyer, senator, great orator of Ancient Rome – who created the world’s first system of shorthand. He wanted to capture the great oratory taking place in the Roman Senate in 62 BC, anticipating that future generations and societies could benefit from these thinkers. In fact, those deliberations would become the cornerstone of other governments, notably the United States. He named his system Tironian Notes, for his slave, Marcus Tullius Tiro, who became Cicero’s own scribe. Other Roman Senators beseeched Cicero to teach their slaves, and so was formed the first corps of shorthand reporters.

The abolition of shorthand – believed to be cryptography – in the Middle Ages, and renewed interest sparked by Thomas Becket’s interest in preserving sermons in 1180 AD, comprise Epoch V.

The Vital 250 Years comprise Epoch VI. Beginning with Timothe Bright’s 1588 invention of the first useable English-language method, a flurry of writing systems, inventors and teachers were capped by perhaps the greatest of the early masters. Samuel Taylor invented the last of these, a system which became the most extensively used for the ensuing 60 years.

Epoch VI reveals the First Practical Systems, beginning in 1840. They were the pivotal inventions of 27-year-old Isaac Pitman and 21-year-old John Robert Gregg. These were the first phonetic shorthand systems, and the functionality of each led to enormous followings. They endured for decades and users demonstrated unparalleled records of speed and accuracy.

Epochs VII and VIII speak to the Proliferation of Shorthand in Europe and America during the 16th to 18th centuries. Fueled by the desire to preserve pulpit preachings and for reliable accounts of Parliamentary proceedings in England, and fired by the worldwide Industrial Revolution. Europe had some 3,000 systems by 1883. By 1865 shorthand was seen in US courtrooms, the US Congress and Senate were hiring shorthand writers by 1873, and by 1882 there were more than 12,000 shorthand students.



Epoch IX describes the evolution of mechanized shorthand – from Italy’s Michela and America’s Bartholomew, Anderson, and Ireland inventions – to today’s high-tech digital machines, capable of creating text from speech instantly and simultaneously transmitting it across the room and around the world.

The Gallery seeks to remind what history has taken for granted: The important role of shorthand in the preservation of thought. It seeks to personify shorthand writers, whether

their method is manual or machine shorthand, by showing the great accomplishments they have made within and outside of their profession.

The Gallery connects shorthand reporters with events that the world can relate to, such as the Nuremberg and Japanese War Crimes trials. Other exhibits show how their skills help others, using the example of writers who preserve oral histories for future generations.

As The Gallery of Shorthand celebrates its fifth year, it is with great pride that I can say the response, even of nonreporters, has been overwhelming. Judges and lawyers have been heard to declare such thoughts as, "I am fascinated to learn that shorthand was connected to a figure so significant as Cicero," and, "I did not know that your profession traces its roots so far into history."

I extend a warm welcome to all who reads these words – please make a special effort to visit The Gallery when you are in America. I would be honored to give you a personal tour and share with you the shorthand knowledge I possess. Thank you to all in Intersteno who work so hard to perpetuate the best that speech-capture professionals offer.

[Dominick M. Tursi](#)



## Visit to a collection of old typewriters

On Saturday, November 14, 2015, a few members of the Dutch national group Interinfo visited the typewriter collection of the Dutch writer W.F. Hermans. This collection of mechanical typewriters is housed in a space made available by bookstore “Limerick” in Ghent, Belgium. In a little room, in the back of the store, the walls are stacked from floor to ceiling with all kinds of mechanical typewriters, representing an overview of the development of the typewriter since the end of the 19th century.

As the former Dutch museum for written communication “Scription” had to close down some years ago, because of a lack of financial means, we now have to cross the border with Belgium to visit such a beautiful and inspiring collection! Of course, we are very grateful for the hospitality of our southern neighbors, and we thank Miche Van Lantschoot and Geert Bonte (from the Belgian typewriting group, the “Top-Typers”) for the preparation of our visit.

The picture shows the visitors from the Netherlands and our two Belgian friends, Miche Van Lantschoot and Geert Bonte. Geert (bottom left) told us many interesting facts about the W.F. Hermans typewriter collection. For example, you can adopt one of the typewriters and in this way contribute to paying the costs of the restoration of the collection. In this collection you not only find all kinds of mechanisms that were used to get the imprint of a letter on paper, but there are also several kinds of keyboards among which our qwerty keyboard is only just one example.

On an old worktable of Hermans one of the last typewriters he used was installed for the benefit of the visitors, so that they could type something for themselves. This electric IBM typewriter (with a “typeball”) was overhauled and made ready for use by a typewriter mechanic from Rotterdam - one of the very few that are left... Miche gladly made use of this opportunity to get hold, once again, of the old and noisy “typewriting experience” only a mechanical (electric) machine can give you!

You can see and hear Miche typing on: [https://youtu.be/IBtx\\_YVEHZA](https://youtu.be/IBtx_YVEHZA)

Jan den Holder



## Update on the cooperation World Skills-Intersteno

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, I had an interesting conversation with Alexander Amiri, Sponsorship and Partnership Director of WorldSkills. The website (<https://www.worldskills.org/about/worldskills/>) presents the "global hub for skills excellence and development" in vocational, technological and service oriented careers around the globe.

The mission of WorldSkills is to promote the benefits of and need for skilled professionals through international cooperation and development between industry, government, organizations, and institutions. Alexander explains me that this unique worldwide Association was founded in 1950 from an original idea of MrFrancisco Albert-Vidal, whose aim was to motivate youth to compete and to encourage vocational training. Now WorldSkills has 75 Member countries and regions. Apart from Members, WorldSkills is supported by commercial sponsors (big companies) and non-profit organizations, such as NGO (UNIDO, ILO, UNESCO, etc.). Alexander stresses that the rare advantage of WorldSkills is to access the Education and Training systems of such a large amount of countries, as the authorities representing most Members are directly related to the Ministries of Education or the Ministry directly related to skilled development.



**The first Organising Council, 1954**



**Board of Directors in 2015**

On the occasion of the latest biennial Competition (São Paulo, Brazil, August 2015), approximately 1200 young professionals competed; the competitions involved 50 skills and follow rules provided by a jury of experts, with the support of a skill advisory committee - that checks the coherence with the evolution of professions - that ensures the skills are meeting

industry's and market standards. The debates dealt with themes related with vocational education and training and technology. During the year when the Competition is not held the General Assembly takes place, as well as local and continental competitions, organized in a way that takes into account the geographical, economic and social differences among the various zones of the world. A special focus is now on the development of skills in African countries. The WorldSkills Foundation carries on projects for helping countries or people who needs special support.

Mr. Amiri expressed interest for a possible future cooperation with Intersteno, whose history reminds in many aspects that of WorldSkills. We agreed on four specific fields to explore further:

- 1) To introduce one or more skills related to Intersteno domains of activities in the WorldSkills list;
- 2) To have Intersteno being non-profit partner of WorldSkills
- 3) To have Intersteno champions competing in local or continental WorldSkills competitions
- 4) To have Intesteno supporting WorldSkills activities by the participation of its skilled members, such as, for instance, helping in reporting (in various languages?) the news from the Competition.

You can know more about WorldSkills visiting the website or following on Facebook and Twitter.

[Fausto Ramondelli](#)

## 37<sup>th</sup> Croatian Championship in Computer Typing

As part of this year's international book fair Interliber in Zagreb, the Croatian Stenographic Society organized a traditional event - 37th Keyboard Days, Croatian championship in computer typing. The event was held in the offices of the Society on November 14, 2015, and gathered 54 contestants, of which 9 competed in the category of 30-minute text production, 45 were students of vocational secondary schools from Zagreb, Pula, Koprivnica, Požega, Pitomača, Vinkovci, Otočac and Dubrovnik, as well young members of the Croatian Stenographic Society.



This year's championship was special as it was implemented in line with the Taki program, the digitalized system that Mrs. Marica Piršlin and Mrs. Eva Horvath-Žaja, teachers at the Secondary administrative school Zagreb, have tirelessly worked on. The system was implemented in Croatia with the encouragement, friendly cooperation and wholehearted support from Mr. Gian Paolo Trivulzio and Mr. Marco Olivio from Italy. Thank you!



In the category of 30-minute text production, the winner was, for the third time in a row, **Andrea Muženić-Vidak**, student of political sciences from Zagreb, with a result of 536.47 net characters/min, while Pamela Katai, employee of the Association Imagine from Zagreb, took second place (400.43), and Nataša Cigetić, employee of the Croatian Chamber of Economy, took third place (380.43).



Students of secondary schools and contestants in the age group of 17-20 years of age competed in the 10-minute online transcription of text. **Žana Manenica**, student at the Economic and commerce secondary school from Dubrovnik again took first place with the result of 481 characters/min without a single mistake! Vinko Kovač, member



of the Croatian Stenographic Society, took second place with a result of 372 characters/min (8 mistakes), while Jasmina Garibović, student at the Secondary administrative school Zagreb took third place with a result of 376 characters/min (9 mistakes).

In the age group of 13-16 years of age, **Šimun Džalto**, student in his second year of Economic and commerce secondary school Ivan Domac from Vinkovci, took first place with a brilliant result of 509 characters/min (14 mistakes). Stjepan Puškarić, contestant and member of Croatian Stenographic Society, took second place with a result of 459 characters/min (12 mistakes), while Marin Ferić, student of the Stjepan Sulimanac secondary school from Pitomača, took third place with a result of 457 characters/min (12 mistakes).



For the first time, audiotranscription was introduced as a discipline in the championship, in trial form and out of competition, where a positive result was achieved by Nataša Cigetić (389.60 characters/min), Kristina Zlodi (372.20) and Pamela Katai (349.40). The discipline of audiotranscription will be included in the official competition program as of next year.

The traditional Computer Forum was also held on the same day, with a special review of the 50th Intersteno congress in Budapest. The award ceremony was held in late afternoon, where all ranked contestants were awarded with diplomas, while top three ranking contestants, according to categories and age groups, were also awarded with trophies.

[Josip Hanjš](#)



## The meeting of Argentinean Association in Buenos Aires

The 23rd "Jornadas Argentinas de Estenografía Parlamentaria", organized by the Argentinean Association of Parliamentary Stenographers (AATP) was held from 13-15 November in Buenos Aires.

This meeting, which takes place every year in Argentina, was a great opportunity for the training of colleagues, not only from Argentina but from Chile, Brazil and Uruguay. There were more than 100 participants and, very importantly, these included a large number of young colleagues



We received many greetings including for example, a video from Fausto Ramondelli, President of INTERSTENO. Others came from our colleague Javier Nunez Hidalgo, of the Spanish Senate; the President of the National Union of Reporters of Brazil and President of the Latin American Federation of Reporters, Marcus Fernández; Hugo Arbietto, from Peru, and Johnny Román Martínez, from Puerto Rico, as well as the President of the Sarmatiniano Institute of Peru, Mr. Adolph Sobrevilla Guzman.

Several conferences were held, all of a high standard, by stenographers and other professionals. For example, Dr. Mazza, a renowned economist and managing director of the publications department of the Argentine Senate talked about the future of parliamentary recording and the quality factor. Other conferences were: "The legislative training", "The Palant shorthand collection", "Teaching shorthand and stenotype in the Argentine Senate", "Teaching shorthand at the University of Acre, Brazil", "Language, immediacy and politics", "The AATP at the 50th Congress of the INTERSTENO", "The work of stenographers and stenotypists in the Senate of Italy", "Enunciation, orality and translatability." In addition, our colleague Carlo Eugeni, president of the Scientific Committee of Intersteno, talked about speech recognition in reporting and on television.

Carlo was also presented with the book "Taquígrafos y Estenotipistas de Aquí y de Allá".

Our colleagues at the Palant Shorthand Library of Congress of Argentina, spoke about their work and what they are doing in conjunction with Mr. Sergio Salinas (member of Scientific Committee of Intersteno) on the project to digitize books and shorthand catalogues of various libraries of the world.

The fifth Argentine Championship and Shorthand Shorthand (First Level Student-categories and Professional) and third Argentine Championship of correction, comprehension and interpretation of texts also took place.

Unfortunately, the end of this Congress was followed by a very sad event: the death of one of the participants, Roberto Nigro, who worked in the office of the Stenographers of the Senate of Argentina. Roberto Nigro was a great man who cared greatly about training. His departure leaves us an excellent example and the will to make progress and pursue continuous improvement.

Jorge Bravo

## RADIO PROGRAMME OF SHORTHAND

*For the second consecutive year, the radio programme, "PALABRAS DIBUJADAS", the first programme in Argentina dealing with shorthand took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was made by our colleagues Jorge Bravo and Sergio Salinas, with Diana Campi, Azat Ambartsouman and Noe Gerstener from the Miguel Palant Shorthand library, which is associated with the Library of Congress of the Nation. This programme can be heard every Friday, from 14:30 to 15:00 (Argentina time) thanks to the Library of Congress of the Nation: [www.bcnradio.com.ar](http://www.bcnradio.com.ar)*

*In the course of this year, many interviews were conducted and shorthand books discussed by the Argentina Association of Intersteno parliamentary stenographers. A wide area of activity relating to the profession of stenographers and parliamentary work was covered. For all of us it was a wonderful experience!*

## STENOGRAPHERS AT THE NIGHT OF THE MUSEUMS

*For the third consecutive year the Senate stenographers and the Publications of Senate have participated in the Night of the Museums in the National Congress. This year the event was outstanding: more than 15,000 people of all ages visited the Legislative Palace providing a great opportunity to publicise the work of stenographers in Parliament.*

## GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF PUBLICATIONS OF THE ARGENTINE SENATE WON THE NATIONAL AWARD FOR QUALITY 2015

*The General Directorate of Publications of the Argentine Senate, whose Director is Mr. Domingo Mazza, has received the 2015 National Award for Quality.*

*The goal of this award is the promotion, development and deployment of processes for improving the quality of services in the public sector.*

*The directorate has already won two honourable mentions at the 2014 National Award for Quality.*

*Spurred on by this award we want to play an active role in enabling public authorities to enhance their performance, thus providing an excellent service to society by working together and utilising resources in the pursuit of continuous improvement.*

*Jorge Bravo*



## INTERSTENO membership 2016

From 2016 on, the membership of the federation, both associated as individual, will start from 1st January to 31st December of the running year.

# Join Us

Become an active member!



People who paid during 2015, will be invited to pay a calculated reduced fee for 2016, based on the months in 2016 they already paid for.

Members in countries with Euro-currency will be invited to pay their fee to the INTERSTENO Bank account IBAN: BE53-0682-3189-0853 and BIC/Swift: GKCCBEBB.

Other members can pay by PayPal to INTERSTENO without costs. We recommend you to foresee the payment of your membership fee as recurring payment.

New members can join by filling out the form at [www.intersteno.org/join-us](http://www.intersteno.org/join-us).

	Associated membership	Individual membership
Welcome letter	X	X
Membership certificate & card	X	X
Use of Intersteno membership logo	X	X
eNews	X	X
Password-protected access to reports	X	X
Discount for Congress participation	€ 30,00	€ 10,00
Participation in Council meetings	By invitation	-
Voting rights at Council	Elected representative	Elected representative
Voting rights at General Assembly	May vote	May vote
Intersteno website presence	Name & logo in rotating banner	Name & country
Fee/year	<b>€ 175,00</b>	€ 45,00

For any additional information, please contact Ms. Linda Drake ([drake.linda317@gmail.com](mailto:drake.linda317@gmail.com) or [lucy3171@comcast.net](mailto:lucy3171@comcast.net)) who coordinates and facilitates relationships with Associated and Individual members.

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

*This newsletter is published under the responsibility of the Board of the International Federation for Information and Communication Processing - Intersteno - and sent to all email addresses of persons participating in the work of the members of Intersteno known to the Board. Contributions to the newsletter can be sent using the form on the web site. Publication will take place at the discretion of the Board. Text with signatures cannot reflect the official position of the Board of Intersteno, but only that of the authors. Please use [news@intersteno.org](mailto:news@intersteno.org) for any additional comments as well as names of persons and entities interested in receiving this message. If you do not want to receive this letter, please send an email stating only UNSUBSCRIBE in the object of the message.*

