

## Journal des traducteurs Translators' Journal

### Le message fraternel de l'American Translators Association

American Translators Association

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## ¶ LE MESSAGE FRATERNEL DE L'AMERICAN TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION<sup>1</sup>:

Le secrétariat du 2e congrès a reçu, au cours de sa séance de l'après-midi, le télégramme suivant, qui confirmait éloquentement les déclarations du délégué officiel de l'ATA, Mr. Lewis Bertrand.

CN. Télécommunications

MOC325 SYA236 SYB178 SY ND323 CAN 25 PD = NEW YORK BY  
27 427P EST = CONGRESS OF CANADIAN TRANSLATORS, ATT  
PROF VINAY = UNIV OF MONTREAL MTL = HAVE BURDENED BER-  
TRAND WITH ALL THE GOOD WISHES HE COULD CARRY FOR THE  
SUCCESS OF YOUR CONGRESS BUT FIND THERE IS A CARLOAD  
LEFT = GODE ATA =

Bien que la première ligne soit difficilement déchiffrable, tout au moins par les non-initiés<sup>2</sup>, on pouvait modestement l'interpréter comme une fanfare amicale, précédant un texte dont le contenu a réjoui tous les congressistes. Quelques instants après, M. Vinay donnait effectivement la parole à Mr. Lewis Bertrand, bien connu des lecteurs du *Journal* pour ses rubriques bibliographiques raisonnées groupées sous le titre générique de "Ahoys" (*Castellano Aboy!* dans 7.2 (1962), *Old Gray* (Webster's) *Mare Aboy!* dans 6.4 (1961), *Po-Ruski Aboy!* dans 7.3 (1962) et la série n'est pas finie...). Mr. Bertrand s'exprime, selon ses propres termes, en ces termes :

"Dr. Gode appointed this reporter (c.-à-d. Mr. Bertrand) to attend the Second Canadian congress as ATA observer; and Bernard Bierman followed suit by appointing him for NYMCATA. Toward the end of the second plenary your reporter was able from the platform to extend greetings to the congress from ATA and NYMCATA and to give an outline of their history and development. Canadian ATA members Lise Laroque-Di-Virgilio and Mr. E. Dezo asked your reporter to be remembered to ATA. At Le Chalet, the presence of a New York observer was again pointed out and your reporter enjoyed a long chat with the Mayor's deputy.."

Quelque temps après son passage à Montréal, Mr. Bertrand nous faisait parvenir le premier compte rendu officiel qui ait paru sur le Congrès, à l'exception des articles de journaux. Nous avons donné (8.2 : 54-57) ce compte rendu in extenso : nous voudrions en répéter seulement les conclusions :

(1) Dont le président était alors Dr. Alexander Gode. L'adresse de l'A.T.A. est : P.O. Box 489, Madison Square Station, New York 10, N. Y.

(2) Le mot n'existe pas dans le *Petit Larousse* 1960, ni dans le dictionnaire de Marguerite Dubois. Le trait d'union est utilisé dans les deux ouvrages pour distinguer les noms (*non-agression*) des adjectifs (*non alcoolisé*).

¶ **Commentary**

- (1) Jean-Paul Vinay revealed himself as a model chairman both at the plenary and committee level. All who asked were given the floor, some repeatedly; and they all observed just bounds of time and discretion in the presentation of their views.
- (2) The congress stood for a uniformity of interest that contrasts markedly with the variegated pattern represented in ATA-NYMCATA. Except for references to outside languages made principally by this reporter in the committee on translator training, the only languages dealt with at the congress were English and French, the nation's official languages.

The bilingual situation that pervades much of Canada's daily life and thought makes it possible for a solid corps of language specialists to be employed on government, semi-governmental and corporation staffs, which in turn enables Canadian translator and interpreter organizations, located principally in Ottawa and Montreal, to enjoy, as some of them have done for decades, a vigorous existence based upon peculiarly similar concerns of the individual members.

This uniformity of interest which years ago caused provincial and specialized groups to organize can be taken as cue to point up in our own behalf the achievement of ATA, which, since as recently as 1960, has ingathered some 300 translators scattered over a wide geographical area, encompassing a spectrum of languages that includes, to mention a few, English, French, German, Russian, Greek, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, the Scandinavian, Hebrew, Arabic, Japanese, Tagalog and Swahili, with a vertical range that extends from commercial correspondence to the niceties of belles-lettres and the responsibilities of international diplomacy and space-age science.

- (3) Noticeably absent in the objectives currently set by the Canadian congress is the goal of a Translator House and Library such as that put forward by NYMCATA, the American Translators Association's New York Metropolitan Chapter which came into being in 1962 in campaign of just a few months that stressed the House and Library and attracted to it over one-third of ATA's total membership.



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