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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,

What a fantastic conference we had! To my great regret, I was only able to be there for a few days due to personal circumstances, but that was enough to be able to conclude that the congress had been arranged down to the last detail. Thanks to all who made this possible. I would like to thank Russel Page, who replaced me as Chairman at the Council and General Assembly meetings and at the Price Giving Ceremony and also Carlo Eugeni, with whom I always co-chair the Diametic 7 Conferences and who now had to do it alone. In this e-news we look back at the competitions, the conferences, the excursions and everything else that happened.

Krystian Wawrzyniek, without whom this congress would not have been possible, has put together a video that gives a good impression of this very successful congress:

https://youtu.be/pu4JU_rd1vs?feature=shared

At the General Assembly, the current Board was re-elected. That shows confidence and I am happy about that. It is clear that there is work to be done, especially for those who were present at the Council and/or General Assembly. In the coming period, the focus will also be on the next Council/IPRS meetings in Córdoba and the congress in 2026. By the end of this year, it will be clear where this will be held.

The next e-news will appear in December 2024. The deadline for submitting articles is at the end of November, to be sent to marlenerijkse@intersteno.org.

Rian Schwarz-van Poppel
Intersteno president



From Jury's desk

The figures of our 2024-world championships

- 90 medals: 35 gold, 27 silver, 28 bronze.
- 1 junior got 7 medals; 1 senior and 1 junior, 5 ones!
- 185 competitors registered: more than the half of the 350 congress participants.
- 644 tests evaluated in a record time thanks to an efficient jury team and a lot of country assistants.



The competitions and the technologies

- TP - Text production is still counting the higher amount of competitors!

Competition	Competitors
Text Production	160
Audio Transcription	128
Text Correction	88
Speech Capturing	84
Real Time	70
Word Processing	57
Note Taking	57
	644



- The **standard keyboard** remains the main technology, not only for TP.

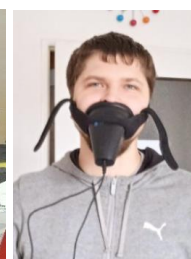
Technologies	TP	AT	SC	RT	NT
Standard keyboard	148	120	57	51	40
Chord keyboard	12	7	13	17	10
Voice writing	0	1	0	2	0
Graphic	0	0	14	0	7
	160	128	84	70	57



- **Chord keyboards** are generally used by people competing in English or Chinese. However, we can note that 2 competitors from Italy are using a chord keyboard: Daniela Busalacchi in her 5 competitions and Daniele Casarola for audio transcription.

- Two **voice writers** in RT – Real Time speech capturing:

- ✓ Daniele Casarola (Italy), world champion 2024, capturing 10 min. with only 6 mistakes,
- ✓ Tomáš Portych (Czech Rep.), classified at the 4th place, 10 min., with 10 mistakes.



The age categories

Age	TP	TC	AT	SC	RT	WP	NT
Seniors	64	43	58	45	35	24	33
Juniors	66	36	44	28	21	25	16
Pupils	30	9	26	11	14	8	8
	160	88	128	84	70	57	57



The competition room

- The tables were wide and spaced out: everyone was comfortable.
- The competitors could follow the progress of the competition on two very large screens equipped with excellent sound systems.
- The electricity supply provided was sufficient to support our event and qualified personnel was available on-site.
- The Wi-Fi network allowed for the simultaneous down- and uploading of important files.



ZAV-central server

The **ZAV-central server** was collecting and processing data in real-time, securely storing it, and displaying results instantly for 5 of the 7 competitions. Thank you to Helena Zaviačičová and Zdeňka Kundrátková (photo- from Czech Republic for all their work.

As jury president, I regret that the competitions leaders did not fully utilize this important feature, but I fully respect their freedom of choice.



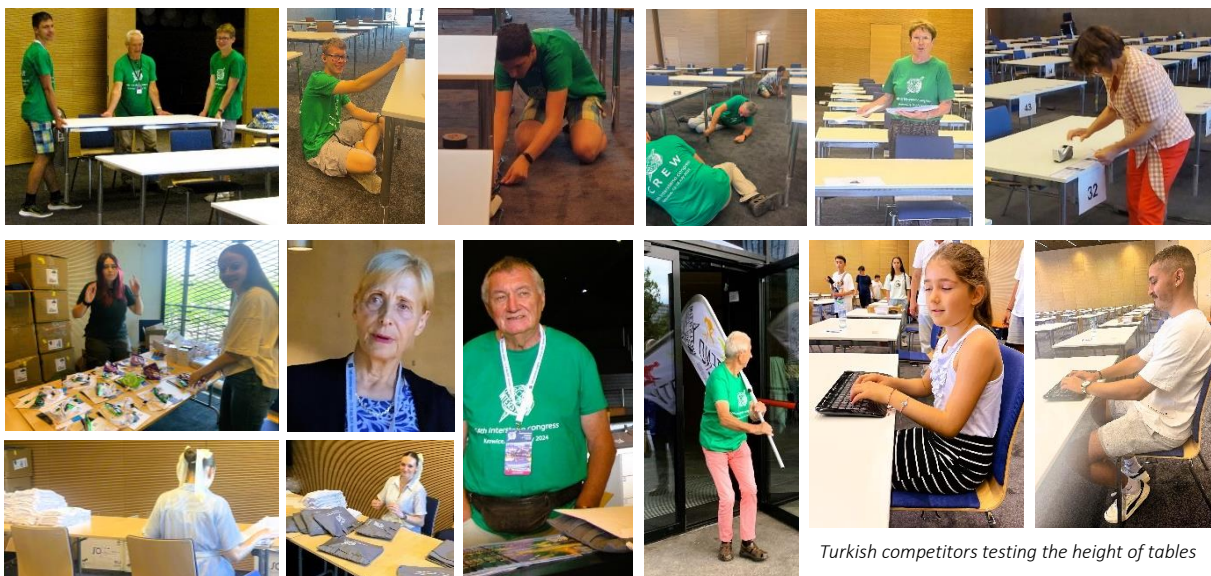
Dictations



All the dictations were broadcast using an infrared system. Thank you to Mr. Przemysław Danecki, from the company Lidex for his professionalism.

The "Crew"

Always ready to manage the technical tasks, they have contributed to the success of our event: *the Polish students, Agnes Coeckelberghs, Joseph Lepière, Etienne Sterkendries (Belgium), Jacqueline Bertin-Mahieux and Anne Rabot (France)*. With special thanks because they accepted the tedious and somewhat arduous task of lowering the height of the tables.



Turkish competitors testing the height of tables

The Jury leaders



- Jari Niittuinperä (Finland): Speech Capturing
- Sylvia Beckers (Germany): Text Correction
- Francesca Marchionne (Italy): Audio transcription
- Linda Drake (working from USA) with Russell Page on spot: Real Time Speech Capturing
- Helena Zaviačičová (Czech Rep.): Text Production
- Anita Dobos (Hungary): Note Taking and summary reporting
- Georgette Sante (Belgium): professional Word Processing and jury president

And we don't forget **Danny Devriendt**, doing a huge and efficient work not only in organizing the congress, but as well in managing the results lists, the diplomas, etc.



Training time

The national juries

Some begin their work very soon, to prepare, translate, count and dictate the competition texts. Most of them are working during the contests and the evaluation time as well. I hope not to have forgotten some names, but if I did, please tell me.

Joke Bakker (NL), Wojciech Bartnik (PL), Ümit Başoğlu (TR), Herman-Josef Beckers (DE), Bernadett Berencsiné (HU), Virgene Biggers (US), Katalin Bónyainé Mikes (HU), Uwe Brüdigam (DE), Alessandra Checcarelli (IT), Mikyung Cho (KR), Agnes Coeckelberghs (BE), Anna Dawidziuk (PL), Laurence Defawe (BE), Danny Devriendt (BE), Monika Disser (DE), Marija Dušek (HR), Hasan Erdoğan (TR), Carlo & Rossella Eugeni (IT), Terezia Garaiova (SK), Susan Gosselink (NL), Elena Graziosi (IT), Wolfgang Groth (DE), Regina Groth (DE), Sevilay Gündoğdu Durmuş (TR), Andrijana Hajduković (HR), Regina Hofmann (DE), Lucija Ježovita (HR), Nataša Horvat Korent (HR), Thorsten Kempermann (DE), Sevil Keskin (TR), Markus Knehans (DE), Seçkin Köse (TR), Magdalena Królikowska (PL), Carmen Krüger (DE), Jana Krýzová (CZ), Taťána Kühnelová (CZ), Zdeňka Kunderátová (CZ), Riikka Kuronen (FI), Emrah Kuyumcu (TR), Juli LaBadia (US), Alessandro la Donna (IT), Jean-Charles Le Masson (FR), Renáta Lhoťanová (CZ), Vlasta Martináková (CZ), Veronika Masling (DE), August Mersch (DE), Susanne Mersch (DE), Ivana Meštrić (HR), Enrico Montanari (IT), Ladislav Novák (CZ), Boris Neubauer (DE), Pavla Mičková (CZ), Boris Neubauer (DE), Selver Öztürk (TR), Alessio Popoli (IT), Liao Qing (CN), Anne Rabot (FR), Marta Riccò (IT), Olaf Rörtgen (DE), Robert Sigmund (CZ); Andreja Šipek (HR), Celestina Škeljo (HR), Anna Škovierová (SK), Sabine Smolinski (DE), Karin Solná (CZ), Sandra Stall (DE), Teng Tang (CN), Fabrizio Verruso (IT), Eero Voutilainen (FI), Yvonne Wagner (DE), Teresa Wawrzynek (PL), Jaroslav Zaviačič (CZ).



Left: Jari Niittuinperä (FI) bringing some food to the jury assistants during the evaluation time. In the middle: (1) a new correction team for the word processing evaluation with Laurence Defawe (BE) & Anne Rabot (FR); (2) together with the usual German one: Regina Hoffmann & Susanne Mersch; (3) Alessio Popoli helping Francesca Marchionne (IT) for audio transcription. Right: (1) Susan Gosselink (NL) carefully following the timing of the competitions and (2) Andreja Šipek (HR).



Left – (1) Germany: Boris Neubauer & Auguste Mersch. (2) China, Liao Qing, Teng Tang & (3) Joke Bakker, Helena Zaviačičová, Danny Devriendt. (4) Czech Rep.: Robert Sigmund, Pavla Mičková, Vlasta Martináková. (5) Italy: Enrico Montanari, Carlo & Rossella Eugeni. (6) Georgette Sante & Jean-Charles Le Masson: the competitions are over: we have to clean up.

Right – (1) Türkiye: Hatice Mesci & Sevilay Gündoğdu (2) Hungary: Anita Dobos & Bernadett Berencsiné. Germany: Sylvia Beckers & Markus Knehans. (4) Helena Zaviačičová helping a competitor for the uploading. (5) Italy: Alessandro la Donna & Andrea Checcarelli.

Being efficient in all disciplines

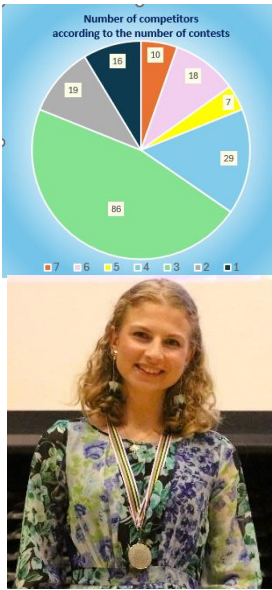
Thanks to a strict schedule, starting early morning the first day of the congress, each participant had the opportunity to participate in the 7 disciplines proposed.

Ten multit talented competitors have subscribed for 7 contests:

- 6 seniors: 5 succeeded in the 7 contests and one in 6,
- 3 juniors: all of them succeeded in the 7 contests,
- 1 pupil who succeeded in 6 of them.

During the price giving ceremony, we gave a special ovation to these multit talented competitors. It’s what we name the Combination list.

Warm congratulations to all the 2024-competitors classified in this list.



The Croatian group was very proud to applaud its leader, Andrea Wawrzynek, who received her fifth medal, the second gold!

Anyway, I would like to highlight the performance of the junior **Johana Valová** (Czech Rep.) for whom it was the 7th medal!

Pupils		Juniors		Seniors				
1	Eliška Vrzalová (Czech Rep.)	6 comp.	1	Tomáš Urban (Czech Rep.)	7 comp.	1	Andrea Wawrzynek (Croatia)	7 comp.
2	Michael Furlaga (Czech Rep.)	5 comp.	2	Viktor Matraković (Croatia)	7 comp.	2	Jonáš Vala (Czech Rep.)	7 comp.
3	Filip Kempný (Czech Rep.)	5 comp.	3	Johana Valová (Czech Rep.)	6 comp.	3	Petr Hais (Czech Rep.)	7 comp.

The world champions

Text production

Erdi Çiller (Turkiye) is the **2024-World champion** in text production. He was able to write **797,4 cpm** (characters per minute) for 30 minutes, with only 0,025 % of mistakes and so got **23323 points**. Although he greatly increased his typing speed and halved his number of faults, he unfortunately didn't succeed to surpass his compatriot's record: Celal Aşkın – Cagliari-2019 - 805;2 cpm, 23555 points. Helena Zaviačičová (2003 - 955,10 cpm) keeps the all-time record.

Text correction

After the 53rd congress in Maastricht, I had announced possible big challenge in this competition. Indeed, it was! Both Krystian Wawrzynek and Franciszek Puchala from Poland finished before the final whistle! Sylvia carefully noted the time to be able to determine who would be the champion in case of ex aequo. It was not a problem: one had more mistakes than the other!

But – SURPRISE – there was a challenger: less corrections done but less mistakes as well! For 1 mistake, competitors are losing 500 points! Two additional mistakes mean 1000 points less and even if the challenger has done 8 corrections less, the result is anyway 200 points higher!

Problem! Rules are clear: the points are the base for the classification. Moreover, they indicate the maximum of corrections to be prepared: 350! Why? Is it important? Could we agree with additional corrections prepared by the Polish group (but they have not asked this)? Should we calculate an average number of possible corrections and mistake? Should we decide to have 2 winners ex aequo?

Of course the leader didn't want to decide alone. After long discussions, the Jury members finally took their decision: we will stick to the rules, choose quality before quantity, considering that competitors could use the time to improve some corrections, and that in other contests, time is not considered!

Andrea Wawrzynek is **THE world-champion**.

For the story:

- with 345 corrections / 10 mistakes / 29 500 points, the Czech Václav Mikula held the world record, in points and number of corrections made since 2007;
- in 2022, Krystian Wawrzynek was world champion with 325 corrections and only 3 mistakes; so he reached the world record with 30 600 points;
- I'm sure he is proud of his wife who has surpassed these 2 world records!



Professional word processing



In 2022, it was somehow difficult to determine who was the winner: 2 first places were held by Katrin Muller with 100 % and Laurence Defawe with 99,9 % due to a very slight inaccuracy! The decision was taken to add some "advanced exercises" that should be mandatory to reach the higher places, but which would not be considered for competitors not used to these advance feature.

Markus Knehans (Germany) is the 2024-world-champion with 97 %, perhaps the same percentage as it was in 2022, but it was more challenging ... even if his last-congress-challengers didn't compete: Katrien Muller was absent, and Laurence Defawe agreed to be part of the evaluation team.

Please note this name: **Eliška Vrzalová** is the only competitor in the pupils category who successfully completed the professional word processing test. Moreover, she competed in 6 contests and won 4 gold medals!



Audio transcription

With 8469 points, **Sheri Smargon** (USA) becomes the World Champion for the second time, but she did not break her previous record.

Shorthand - Speech Capturing

Patricia Nilsen (United States) is the 2024-world champion transcribing 412 syllables for 15 minutes with 10 penalties.



Real time speech capturing

Daniele Casarola (Italy) and **Patricia Nilsen** (United States) share the first place and are therefore both world champions. For 10 minutes, they accurately transcribed a text in real-time Daniele using voice writing and Patricia a chord keyboard.



with only 6 errors,

Podiums and price giving ceremony

I'm writing here the words used by Emrah Kuyumcu to present the podium on the Intersteno website:

"If it's a great pleasure to be on the podium, it's not the final aim! Simply competing is already important, learning you a lot of things. If you succeed to be in the classification list, it is important. And if you try again, year after year, you can evaluate your progress. And it is really something!"

Text production - Standard keyboard - Seniors	Text production - Chord keyboard - Seniors	Text production - Standard keyboard - Juniors	Text production - Standard keyboard - Pupils
1. Erdi Ciller (TR) 797,4 cpm { 0,03% } 23323 pts	1. Daniela Busalacchi (IT) 526,8 cpm { 0,06% } 14803 pts	1. Massimiliano Polilli (IT) 578,9 cpm { 0,08% } 15967 pts	1. Nisan Maya Tunçoğlu (TR) 683,9 cpm { 0,09% } 18716 pts
2. Jonaš Vala (CZ) 797,7 cpm { 0,04% } 22930 pts		2. Johana Valová (CZ) 537,0 cpm { 0,03% } 15609 pts	2. Wojciech Sadowski (PL) 453,8 cpm { 0,04% } 13115 pts
3. Andrea Wawrzyniak (HR) 718,8 cpm { 0,03% } 20863 pts		3. Viktor Matraković (HR) 539,0 cpm { 0,06% } 15169 pts	3. Merve Mutlu (TR) 507,9 cpm { 0,19% } 12337 pts



Text production – Seniors - China				Text production – Juniors - China				Text production - Standard keyboard – Pupils						
1	Dan Liu	9538 char.	98,69%	9413 pts	1	Sikai Hu	8404 char.	89,76%	7543 pts	1	Bosong Zhang	5490 char.	94,17%	5170 pts
2	Dongsheng Li	9049 char.	97,83%	8853 pts	2	Jiaxin Tao	7801 char.	88,30%	6888 pts	2	Yinglu Liu	4374 char.	93,69%	4098 pts
3	Yi-meng Li	6895 char.	95,58%	6590 pts	3	Fan Ke	6548 char.	85,72%	5613 pts	3	Yani Zhao	3844 char.	90,66%	3485 pts



Text correction – Seniors				Text correction – Juniors				Text correction – Pupils						
1	Andrea Wawrzyniek (HR)	345 cor.	1 mist.	34000 pts	1	Johana Valová (CZ)	242 cor.	7 mist.	20700 pts	1	Eliška Vrzalová (CZ)	201 cor.	2 mist.	19100 pts
2	Krystian Wawrzyniek (PL)	353 cor.	3 mist.	33800 pts	2	Ellen Němečková (CZ)	222 cor.	7 mist.	18700 pts	2	Sebastian Rabinský (CZ)	216 cor.	7 mist.	18100 pts
3	Franciszek Puchała (PL)	353 cor.	8 mist.	31300 pts	3	Lukáš Janošík (CZ)	210 cor.	6 mist.	18000 pts	3	Michael Furlaga (CZ)	191 cor.	3 mist.	17600 pts



Professional word processing – Seniors			Professional word processing – Seniors			Professional word processing – Seniors		
1	Markus Knehans (DE)	97.0 %	1	Elen Sztruhárová (CZ)	84.5 %	1	Eliška Vrzalová (CZ)	70.0 %
2	Petr Hais (CZ)	94.0 %	2	Marek Kubiček (CZ)	81.5 %			
3	Roman Hoos (DE)	92.0 %	3	Šimon Vrzala (CZ)	80.0 %			
			3	Lukáš Janošík (CZ)	80.0 %			



Audio transcription – Seniors					Audio transcription – Juniors					Audio transcription – Pupils							
1	Sheri Smargon (USA)	972,9 cpm	0,27%	8429 pts	CK	1	Massimiliano Polilli (IT)	617,1 cpm	0,13%	5771 pts	Kb	1	Nisan Maya Tunçoğlu (TR)	724,1 cpm	0,73%	5891 pts	Kb
2	Daniele Casarola (IT)	913,4 cpm	0,32%	7684 pts	CK	2	Johana Valová (CZ)	554,8 cpm	0,11%	5248 pts	Kb	2	Wojciech Sadowski (PL)	459,8 cpm	0,15%	4248 pts	Kb
3	Andrea Wawrzyniek (HR)	756,0 cpm	0,03%	7460 pts	Kb	3	Nikol Klementová (CZ)	536,2 cpm	0,09%	5112 pts	Kb	3	Filip Kempný (CZ)	402,2 cpm	0,10%	3822 pts	Kb



Speech capturing – Graphic – Seniors				Speech capturing – Standard keyboard – Seniors				Speech capturing – Chord keyboard – Seniors			
1	Erika Vicai (Hungary)	A13	45 penalties : 415 syl.	1	Andrea Akhlaghi Farsi (IT)	B11	6 penalties : 393 syl.	1	Patricia Nilsen (USA)	A15	10 penalties : 412 syl.
2	Zsuzsanna Ferenc (Hungary)	B11	18 penalties : 367 syl.	2	Andrea Wawrzyniek (HR)	B10	8 penalties : 331 syl.	2	Traci Mertens (USA)	A14	12 penalties : 391 syl.
3	Wolfgang Groth (DE)	B11	39 penalties : 354 syl.	3	Jonáš Vala (CZ)	B9	11 penalties : 299 syl.	3	Laura Axelsen (Armenia)	A13	19 penalties : 370 syl.



Speech capturing – Graphic – Juniors					Speech capturing – Standard keyboard – Juniors					Speech capturing – Chord keyboard – Pupils					
1	Giulio Bettazzoni (IT)	Absent	C3	5 penalties	205 syl.	1	Massimiliano Polilli (IT)	C7	22 penalties	295 syl.	1	Yinglu Liu (China)	C3	24 penalties	180 syl.
Speech capturing – Chord keyboard – Juniors						Speech capturing – Standard keyboard – Pupils									
1	Sikai Hu (China)		C7	31 penalties	250 syl.	2	Johana Valová (CZ)	C7	30 penalties	259 syl.	1	Nisan Maya Tunçoğlu (TR)	C7	2 penalties	268 syl.
2	Jiaxin Tao (China)		C3	10 penalties	180 syl.	3	Nikol Klementová (CZ)	C6	2 penalties	239 syl.	2	Eliška Vrzalová (CZ)	C4	9 penalties	202 syl.
											3	Michael Furlaga (CZ)	C3	0 penalty	185 syl.
											3	Filip Kempný (CZ)	C3	0 penalty	185 syl.



Real Time – Seniors				Real Time – Juniors				Real Time – Pupils						
1	Daniele Casarola (IT)	10 min.	6 penalties	VW	1	Massimiliano Polilli (IT)	5 min.	3 penalties	Kb	1	Nisan Maya Tunçoğlu (TR)	6 min.	5 penalty	Kb
1	Patricia Nilsen (USA)	10 min.	6 penalties	CK	2	Johana Valová (CZ)	5 min.	9 penalties	Kb					
3	Sheri Smargon (USA)	10 min.	8 penalties	CK	3	Nikol Klementová (CZ)	4 min.	7 penalties	Kb					



Note taking & reporting – Seniors			Note taking & reporting – Juniors			Note taking & reporting – Pupils		
1	Petra Konečná (CZ)	99,50%	1	Johana Valová (CZ)	93,50%	1	Eliška Vrzalová (CZ)	91,00%
2	Jonáš Vala (CZ)	99,00%	2	Tomáš Urban (CZ)	88,50%	2	Michael Furlaga (CZ)	86,00%
3	Tomáš Portych (CZ)	97,50%	3	Šimon Vrzala (CZ)	84,00%	3	Filip Kempný (CZ)	85,00%



Miscellaneous

- Shorthand is our heritage but is slowly disappearing due to new technologies. So we are surprised to discover an "under 20s" competent in this discipline: Giulio Bettazzoni (Italy) who was not able to assist at the prize giving ceremony.
- Another competitor was absent while 4 gold medals awaited him... I was surprised because during the opening cocktail, he requested me to give him personally his Internet contest medal: Massimiliano Polilli.



- Coming from Belgium with some material like flags, banners, printers, leaflets and printed copies, maps and T-shirts ... requires hiring a van!
- Krystian Wawrzyniek is on spot to welcome us.
- And our work began immediately to fix the last details with the technical manager and the catering company



- Thank you to Jacqueline Bertin-Mahieux, Agnes Coeckelberghs and Laurence Defawe for doing their best to immortalize in picture, some of the many special moments of the congress, and for trying to highlight its unique features.
- Thank you to everybody for your huge work and for the conviviality during the congress and for the conviviality during the congress!

Georgette Sante
Jury president



Youth Day

By Anna Dawidziuk

This year, just like last time, Youth Day at Intersteno was divided into two parts. The first part kicked off on Monday. That's when the youths met up in the MCK hall for a texting competition. Participants had to retype a text in Silesian dialect as quickly and accurately as they could. It was a tough challenge for everyone since they weren't familiar with the language. We kept the winner a secret until the next day.

On the second day, we had the main event of Youth Day. Despite the cloudy and rainy weather, we had a fantastic time together. We started the day with a surprise – we announced the winner of the texting competition. This year, the winner was Iva Antolović from Croatia! She was incredibly fast and accurate, and she earned an amazing prize and a diploma for her impressive victory.

After a group photo, we jumped on a tram and headed to a bowling alley called MK Bowling in Galeria Libero. It was a total surprise, so no one had any idea where we were going. The tram ride was a fun bonus, especially since trams are a popular way of transport in Katowice.

We had exclusive use of the bowling alley, so we could play any game we liked. Some people bowled, some played billiard, and others just relaxed and chatted with youths from different countries. The bowling teams were mixed up to encourage everyone to meet new people and make new friends. We also ordered pizza and drinks to keep everyone energized. The whole event was a big fun!

A few people had to leave early for a trip to Auschwitz, but some of us stayed and continued a fun time playing games and hanging out. The tradition of Intersteno Youth Day will definitely continue!

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Impression of the 54th Intersteno congress in Katowice

By Marlene Rijkse

For the organizing committee, the congress started days before its opening. The Board met on Friday 12 July to put the finishing touches on the matter. Thanks to the good preparations, there were few things that had to be arranged at the last minute. The opening ceremony, which can only be attended by participants with a conference card, was discussed. It has been agreed that after the congress, the Board will discuss whether this policy will be relaxed. This also applies to the topic future of Intersteno/how to program the conference. The conditions for the next congress, possibly in Liverpool, were also discussed. Only after the congress, at the end of the year, will it be clear where the next congress will be held. The next Council-IPRS meeting will be in Córdoba.

On the Friday before and Saturday of the congress there was saying hello, meeting, arranging and rehearsing.





On Saturday were the first competitions, namely Note Taking and Word Processing.



The **opening ceremony** started a bit hesitantly (the choir had suddenly disappeared just before the performance), but that was quickly forgotten with their performance. Georgette handed out medals and certificates for the 2024 online championships. Helena did this for the ZAV competition. Then there was the flag parade, as always a beautiful moment. A mime artist closed the opening with a captivating act. Afterwards there was a Welcome cocktail.



Rian Schwarz, President, at the opening of the congress



The choir



Winners of the online championships



Helena Zaviacičová



The flag parade

Sunday was all about the competitions Speech Capturing, Real Time, Text Production, Text Correction and Audio Transcription.

At the beginning of the evening there was **IPRS Social Club**, an informal gathering of those involved in the conferences. Many people already know each other from previous conferences, but there are always new faces.



Diamesic 7 Conference 1, Shorthand and Research

Monday started with the Diamesic 7 Conference. Andrew Hill, Journalist at Financial Times kicked off with a speech about the use of shorthand in his work as a journalist.



Andrew Hill



Kadriye Aktay



Boris Neubauer

Kadriye Aktay, Head of the Turkish Parliamentary Reporting Office, discussed the process of producing the Presidency minutes services in Turkey. Her remark that only people under the age of 30 can apply for a job as a stenographer, because parliament needs active and dynamic stenographers, was regularly referenced!

Boris Neubauer, Professor at FH Aachen, spoke about 'Shorthand for the first nations and other indigenous peoples'. He collected examples of shorthand inspired writing systems.



*Eero Voutilainen and
Riikka Kuronen*



Julia Matzenberger



Cho Jeong goo



He Danqing

Eero Voutilainen and **Riikka Kuronen**, reporters at the Finnish Parliament, researched the question how parliaments in Europe have implemented the directive of the European Union to offer a text alternative to all audio and video on websites and apps (web accessibility directive (2016/2102)).

Julia Matzenberger, graduate at the University of Vienna, gave a presentation on her master's thesis, an eye-tracking study during speech-to-text interpreting. She is a certified speech-to-text interpreter herself. Eye-tracking studies can provide valuable insights into the challenges of speech-to-text interpreting.

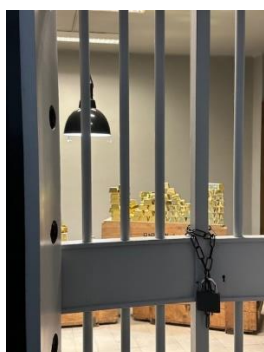
Zhao Weike, Vice President of Jiangxi Justice Police Vocational College, and **He Danqing**, Associate professor at Mianyang Polytechnic, spoke about the Chinese stenography training, with the focus on court reporting and coaching technology. At the Jiangxi Justice Police Vocational College, court secretaries, who act as assistants to judges and lawyers, complete their training. The college sets the learning objectives and specifications regarding the skills to be developed. It has conducted research for the purpose of improving the shorthand skills of court secretaries. At the Jiangxi Justice Police Vocational College, court secretaries, who act as assistants to judges and lawyers, complete their training. The college sets the learning objectives and specifications regarding the skills to be developed. It has conducted research for the purpose of improving the shorthand skills of court secretaries.

Cho Jeong goo, President of the Korean Stenographers Association, gave a presentation about the enactment of the Stenographer Act in Korea. The KSA is concerned with improving the rights and interests of shorthand practitioners. It is necessary to enact a separate law to transform the current KSA into the Korean Stenographer Society, which is to improve the quality of stenographic services through research and development and by expanding exchanges with other countries.

IPRS visit Silesian Parliament

In the afternoon the IPRS visited the Silesian Parliament. The guides told about the rich history of the building, designed by architect Ludwik Wojtyczko and built in 1925–1929. It hosts the offices of the Silesian Voivodship.

The visit ended with juices and biscuits.



Diamesic 7 Conference 2, Workflows and Accessibility

Henk-Jan Eras and **Deru Schelhaas**, Parliamentary Reporting Office of the House of Representatives in the Netherlands, gave a speech on taking stock of AI in 2024, suggestions and facts. Fortunately, they found that the impact of political deepfakes is not disruptive. Deru Schelhaas talks about his experiment with ChatGPT in creating short web reports. The PRO will conduct an experiment with the Open AI tool Whisper for parliamentary reporting.

Dan Kerr, Manager at British Columbia's Parliament, Canada, seamlessly connects with the previous speakers with his input on Harnessing whisper: a user driven approach to AI-supported parliamentary reporting. The Hansard Office figured-out how to make Whisper part of their workflow. They are now working with an internally developed implementation of Whisper.

Anneke Faaij-Nulle, team manager at the Dutch Parliamentary Reporting Office, spoke about video reports and podcasts: how to offer debates in accessible language levels, in order to make the debates in the parliament more transparent. A next step is possibly to address the language level that is often used in debates. To tackle the issue of complex language, the PRO has done some pilots in video and audio.

Carlo Eugeni, Associate professor at the University of Leeds, follows on from the presentation of the previous speaker, with his contribution on access for people with intellectual disabilities to the deliberative process, the iDEM project. The project aims to create access to the deliberative process in a democracy through easy language for people with reading difficulties. It is important to understand the linguistic barriers and to implement NLP and AI tools to simplify difficult texts for people with reading difficulties to empower them to participate in democracy.

Tatsuya Kawahara, Professor at Kyoto University, spoke about a multi-media portal for meetings of Japanese local assemblies based on ASR technology. In Japan official transcripts are produced with the

help of ASR (automatic speech recognition) since 2011. ASR performance improved significantly with the introduction of deep learning. The word error rate has been decreased from 10% to 5%. However, in Parliament the video and text are not aligned, so no captions are provided with the video. Text and video can be aligned with the help of ASR. The output is post-edited by reporters to make an official transcript.

Alice Pagano, Post-doc researcher at the University of Trieste, giving in haar presentative in op verbatim vs. Sensatim live parliamentary subtitling and live editing. She presents her research on live subtitled parliamentary sessions with the use of two modes of live subtitling, respeaking and ASR. Both modes allow for live editing. These live editors add interpunction, correct mistakes, and so on. In the pilot, the use of both modes was quite balanced. Generally speaking, the respeaking mode is considered more sensitim, and the ASR mode is more verbatim.



Henk-Jan Eras and Deru Schelhaas



Anneke Faaij-Nulle



Carlo Eugeni



Tatsuya Kawahara

I would like to thank the staff of the Reporting and Editing Service of the Dutch Parliament, who have made summaries of all the contributions of the speakers. These can be found at: [IPRS Meetings & Diamesic Conference of the 54th Congress - Intersteno](#)

In the afternoon we visited **Auschwitz-Birkenau**.

Words can't capture what goes through your mind when you walk through the places where so many people have been killed. Especially the photos, but also the suitcases, shoes, clothes are tangible memories that do not leave your retina quickly. The guide indicated that it is at the request of the survivors of the camps, that in this way attention is paid to something that should never happen again.



The **Council dinner** on Tuesday evening was mainly characterized by the relaxed atmosphere, the happy contacts and the usual small rain of gifts.



Part of the Dutch delegation

Council meeting

During this meeting, the regular topics were discussed, such as President's report, minutes, budget, election of the Jury President and the leader of the Scientific Committee and the nomination of the Jury leaders and the members of the Board, Internet contest, consolidation of the National Representatives, the next council/IPRS meeting and the next congress. Much attention was paid to the nomination of the Turkey country group. The report of the Council meeting will be sent shortly.

General Assembly

Most of the topics from the council meeting were discussed in the General Assembly. The nominated Jury leaders and members of the Board were all elected. The Board will try to facilitate a solution to the problems arising on the choice of a council member for the Turkish Country Group and submit it to the Council. The report of the General Assembly will be sent shortly.

During the General Assembly, Joke Bakker was said goodbye as delegate on behalf of the Dutch country group. She will continue to participate in Intersteno as an honorary member.



Farewell dinner and party

It was another unforgettable Intersteno evening, where there was delicious food, drink, conversation and dancing. It is always special to see all those people from so many countries, from all continents, together. World peace begins with Intersteno!





Hungarian results from Katowice

By Bernadett Berencsi and Anita Dobos

Our group was much bigger this year (after Maastricht congress), our small country has achieved very wonderful results!

Erika Vicai got 1st place in the Speech Capturing competition and Zsuzsánna Ferenc got 2nd place in the Speech Capturing competition!

Moreover, two of our competitors finished among the first ten competitors: Mária Madarász 4th place and Katalin Székely 7th place!

In the Note Taking and Reporting competition four of our senior competitors finished among the first twenty competitors: Erika Vicai, Beáta Eszlinger, Mária Madarász, Katalin Székely.

We also have beautiful results by juniors: three of our competitors finished among the first ten competitors: Roland Baranek, Mihály Szabolcs Kun, Attila Ádám Tamási. This year this young talents took part first time in the Intersteno congress. We were very happy! Their teachers – Eszter Lantos and Mária Csenkiné Bihal – who was also very strict in preparing for the Intersteno world championship.

As boy's results show, it was well worth it! Their goal in the future is to participate in as many national and international competitions as possible. We hope they will continue to achieve good results at Intersteno congresses and world championships as well!

Good luck everyone for the next time too!



After Opening ceremony



After Prize giving ceremony



Before General Assembly



Cheerful Hungarians



Cocktail party



Detti and Anita on work



Erika and Zsuzsanna again



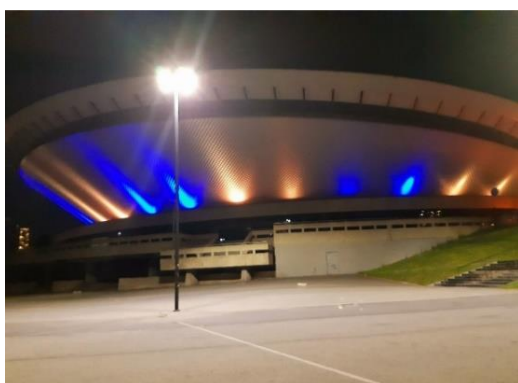
Great Hungarian success in SC



Hungarians by General Assembly



See you in 2026



UFO



Zsuzsanna come

Some thoughts about Katowice

By Anita Dobos

In the middle of July we arrived from almost 30 countries to Katowice.

I'm sure that several reports were posted (or will be posted), so I would like to write just a short article from my point of view about the 54th Intersteno congress.

Although I have been involved in Intersteno's work for more than a 'few years ago', as NT Jury leader is always a completely new challenge... Although I had some experience with NT competitions (previously as a competitor, later as an assistant to the work of the jury), the situation was obviously completely different. My responsibility was huge because I wanted to do the best. But I knew – and I was sure – that every colleague / friend helps with the work. And so it was!

I saw that a very good relationship had already developed with all NT assistants/ helpers during the preparatory work. The work in a pleasant atmosphere also continued in MCK/ICC (even if the situation was not always the most ideal, e.g., technical problems unfortunately during competition in the case of some German and Polish competitors..., but they reacted very calmly to the situation).

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

I'm very grateful to everyone who supported and gave me advice as regards my work in Katowice! Let me mention everyone in this great NT team: from China Liao Qing, from Croatia Andreja Sipek, Andrijana Hajduković, Marija Dusek and Celestina Skeljo, from Czech Republic Pavla Mičková and Vlasta Martináková, from Germany Wolfgang Groth and Olaf Rörtgen, from Hungary Bernadett Berencsi, from Italy Alessandro la Donna and Carlo Eugeni, from Poland Magdalena Królikowska and Teresa Wawrzynek, from USA (for the Philippines) Virgene Biggers and Russell Page. Special thanks to Virgene Biggers and Russel Page for all their advice and help with the basic English text! A very special thanks to Ivana Mestrić (Croatia) and Fabrizio Gaetano Verruso (Italy), who despite unfortunately not being able to participate in the congress, did a huge and very correct job of translating the competition text!

I would like to thank you all here, this way too for your huge work, with which you contributed to the success of the NT competition in Katowice!

As for me I just hope that I was able to solve everything well, at least more or less... If something didn't work out as expected, I'm sorry and I apologize! I will try to make it better next time! Fact that there are at least two sides to every thing/situation. There are good and bad choices. What is a good decision and what is a bad decision? Also, unfortunately, we cannot be there every minute for every situation (I wish we could!)... The technical problem also showed that perhaps it would really be worthwhile to create a 'crisis team' (although hopefully it will never happen again that the technology breaks down during a competition...).

Of course I will use all experiences in my work in the future! I'm very grateful to our amazing Intersteno president, Rian Schwarz-van Poppel; our secretary treasurer, Danny Devriendt; and our Jury president, Georgette Sante, who also trusted me!

Of course I'm most thankful to all helpers for their huge work and for their hospitality and kindness! Thank you very much to the family of Andrea and Krystian Wawrzynek and all the friends who worked for a succesful congress: Anna Dawidziuk, Magdalena Królikowska, Franciszek Puchała, Teresa Wawrzynek and all helpers!

Thank you very much to all of you! You made these days in wonderful Katowice truly memorable for us!

Thank you to all Jury leaders: Georgette Sante, Helena Zaviačičová, Sylvia Beckers, Francesca Marchionne, Jari Niittuinperä, Russell Page, and Linda Drake, who also helped the work from USA.

Thank you so much to the assistant / helper in TP Zdeňka Kunderátková, who also did a great job! Thank you very much to everyone for the kind feedback not only in Katowice, but also for the kind letters written to me after the congress!

Hopefully we can meet all colleagues and friends also at the next congress (even if we don't know where it will be)!



Alessandro and Anita



Anita on work



Argentina and Hungary



Virgin Mary church



Competition room



Council dinner



Council meeting



Farewell diner



Fun with Jari



Geo and Anita



Hungary and Philippines



Little angel



Ready to work



Welcome



With Polis friends



With Virgine & Russell



Work with Jari

Memories of Katowice 2024

By Victor Gonzalez

I experienced the meeting in Katowice for the 54th Intersteno 2024 Congress as a great experience. I found myself in a beautiful country, as well as its customs and people.

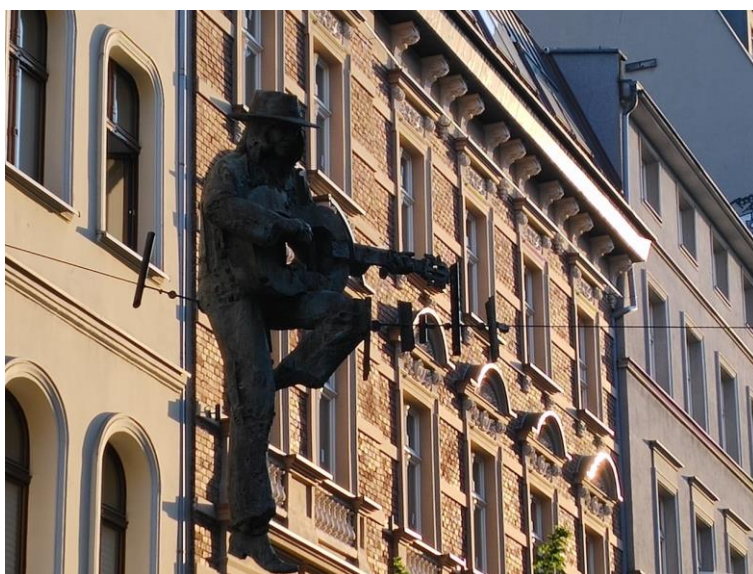
It was very pleasant and special to meet the entire Intersteno family, as well as to meet new colleagues from different latitudes, being able to share experiences, knowledge and customs.

As always, the turnout in the different competitions was incredible. Congratulations to everyone for their participation and achievements.

The different presentations were very interesting and educational, addressing current issues, including the impact of artificial intelligence on our activity, a reality that affects us all.

We were also able to tour the beautiful historic center of Katowice those days, discovering its streets and buildings. The visit to the parliament was also of great interest. And in the end we were surprised by the beauty of Krakow.

Thanks to Krystian, Andrea, Teresa and the entire team for the great work done, it was a wonderful meeting.



Córdoba is getting ready!

First of all, we would like to express our great joy that Córdoba has been chosen as the venue for the next Intersteno Delegates Meeting 2025. It will be a great honor to welcome all the representatives and colleagues. It is a great pride for us that such a prestigious institution is coming to South America for the first time.

Parliamentary authorities, legislators and colleagues from the Argentine Association of Parliamentary Stenographers are very enthusiastic about welcoming you next year. In this regard, I would like to highlight the collaboration of the Córdoba Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Thank you very much Intersteno for your trust and for this opportunity. We invite all delegates to participate in Council Meeting 2025 – Córdoba, Argentina. It will be an honor to welcome you and for you to discover and experience our beautiful city.

We are looking forward to welcoming you and making you feel at home. We look forward to seeing you, Córdoba, the heart of Argentina, opens its doors to you!



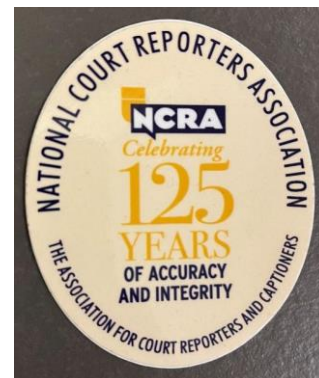
National Court Reporters Association, annual Convention and Expo, August 1st to 3rd in Louisville, Kentucky

By Krystian Wawrzynek

The National Court Reporters Association celebrating this year its 125 years held its annual Convention and Expo in Louisville, Kentucky, August 1st to 3rd. Hundreds of reporters from the U.S. and other countries gathered for three days of seminars, workshops, and events.

NCRA is the American “National Court Reporters Association” and has as members stenographers working for US courts (both federal and state) as well as freelance reporters and captioners.

An Intersteno representative was invited by the NCRA’s immediate past president Kristin Anderson. She welcomed me very warmly and introduced me to everybody during the NCRA Premier Session in the hall.



Among the highlights was keynote speaker Dan Meers, also known as KC Wolf, who has been the mascot of the Kansas City Chiefs for over 30 years. He is not only a mascot but also a motivational speaker, author, and family man. Meers is known for his contagious enthusiasm, optimism, and love for life, which inspire and motivate audiences of all ages. We all enjoyed the uplifting and positive message that Dan Meers shared with us.

With over 50 different seminars and workshops to choose from, it was a very busy time in Houston! The seminars and workshops were closer or further related to the court reporters work and everyone could have found something for themselves.

During lecture “NCRA Contests and Certification Exams: Similarities and Differences” except the information obviously resulting from the title, I learned how the texts for the American national contests are prepared and also that you must be a certified reporter in order to take part in the national competition.

There was a lecture “Mastering the Future: Court Reporters Harnessing AI Excellence”. Artificial intelligence recently is a hot topic and many people ask if reporters and captioners soon will lose their jobs. According to the lecture, they have nothing to worry about. How are Court Reporters better than AI?

- Able to instantly apply factors such as non-verbal context to aid in translating speech to text.
- Able to recognize when speech is lost due to adverse conditions.
- Able to quickly develop familiarity with new accents or dialogues or turns of phrase.
- Punctuation, period.

My personal favourite, however maybe not directly connected with reporting or captioning was the lecture “Let Me Hear Your Body Talk: Understanding Body Language” held by the NCRA Executive Director Dave Wenhold. Valuable tips and tricks about non-verbal communication explained on examples in an accessible and entertaining way. Fantastic!

A very interesting event was the Opening Reception in Expo Hall. Everyone was able to talk and find out more about wide range of services offered by almost 30 exhibitors.

2024 Jim Bouley Family Lifetime Award for Altruism received Debbie Dibble, freelance court reporter and broadcast captioner from Salt Lake City, Utah. The wide description of many reasons why she deserved such a reward you can find here.

Also, the results of the Speed and RealTime Contests were revealed at the luncheon. This year's champion in both categories: RealTime and Speed Contest is Patricia Nielsen with overall result of 97.25% at RealTime and 99.05% at Speed Contest.

Congratulation for such a great results! It is worth to say that Patricia's success at national championships should not be a surprise, since she is also a World Champion from Katowice in Speech Capturing and second in Real Time.

Also, congratulation to the new NCRA's president, Keith R. Lemons. We wish him a good, fruitful and calm year as a president.



Invitation for the celebration of the anniversary of the Italian Academy of Multimedia Writing and Communication

By Carlo Eugeni

Dear Intersteno friends,

the Italian Academy of Multimedia Writing and Communication will celebrate its 100th anniversary on February 15-16, 2024 in Florence (Italy).

The *Accademia Italiana di Multimedialità della Scrittura e della Comunicazione "G. Aliprandi – F. Rodriguez"* has been collaborating with Intersteno for many years. Among its members, past Intersteno presidents Gian Paolo Trivulzio and Fausto Ramondelli. I myself am a board member of the *Accademia*.

The celebrations include a conference about speech capturing, a social dinner, and a visit to the monumental *Uffizi* museum. Confirmed speakers also include the Italian representative of the European Parliament and the president of the *Accademia della Crusca*, the main authority on the Italian language.

With this message, I would like to invite you to the anniversary and/or to send written greetings on behalf of your national group, office, association, or company.

Thanks for your collaboration!

I look forward to receiving your greetings at carloeugeni@gmail.com

On behalf of the Organising Committee,

Dr Carlo Eugeni

Chairman of the Intersteno Scientific Committee

The Intersteno Congress in “Palabras Dibujadas” (“Drawn Words”)

(Jorge Bravo-Diana Campi-Azat Ambarsoumian)

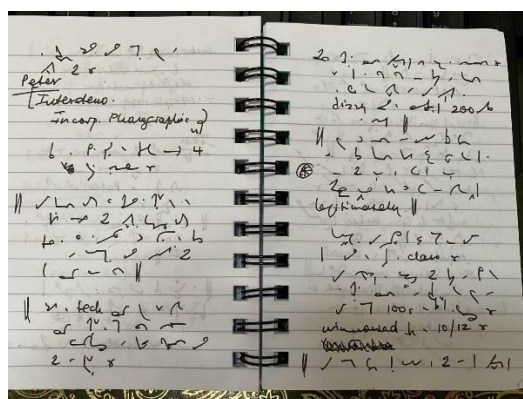
On the occasion of the Intersteno Congress, we dedicated two broadcasts of the radio program “Palabras Dibujadas” (“Drawn Words”) to this important event that took place in Katowice, Poland.

In the first of these programs we shared the interviews that we did with Carlo Eugeni and Krystian Wawrzyniek, who very cordially responded to our questions. In addition, we received some audios (in Spanish!!!) such as that of our colleague and friend Anita Dobos, from Hungary, and of some participants in the championships, such as Beáta Eszlinger and Stépan Kratóchuil. And we also received a message, in Spanish, from the president of the Scientific Committee, Carlo Eugeni, who highlighted the work that we do on the radio for 10 years, where we disseminate everything related to Shorthand and our International Intersteno Federation. And it filled us with joy that he declared a program of interest to “Palabras Dibujadas” (“Drawn Words”).

We have also received a greeting from journalist Andrew Hill, from the Financial Times, who also sent us a photo of the Pitman shorthand system that he uses in his work.

(You can listen and watch this program at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFwpugcv9Kk&list=PLjAFdSeUqItlv-AKVSQERzc60Q-Gdqbki&index=4>



(Journalist Andrew Hill's notebook written in Pitman shorthand)

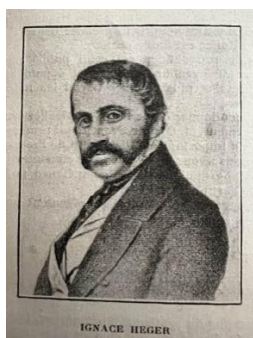
Then in another program we read the research we did about the history of shorthand in Poland. The result of our research has been the following:

History of shorthand in Poland

As we have said previously, we have carried out research on the history of shorthand in Poland. It has not been an easy job but fortunately we have been "discovering" information that reconstructs that history. And we have been surprised by the large number of books that exist, by different authors, with history, theory and practice of shorthand in Polish.

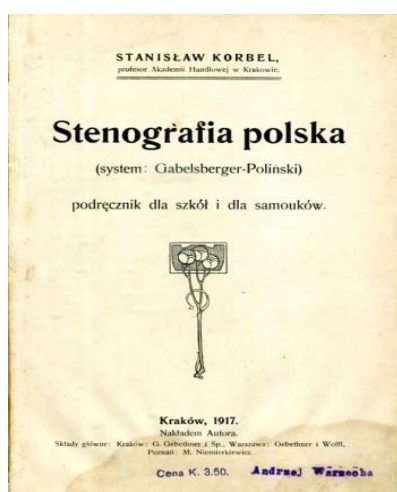
We can begin by saying that according to F. Gómez and J. Velasco in “Historia Universal de la Taquigrafía” (“Universal History of Shorthand”) Ignace-Jacob Heger was one of the most intelligent

professionals in the history of shorthand in Poland. And Albert Navarre in *Histoire Général de la Sténographie* notes that in 1849 Hynek Jakub Heger published his *Manual of Shorthand for the Czech, Polish, Illyric and Russian languages*. [This is what Navarre says, although in the *BOLLETTINO DELLA ACCADEMIA ITALIANA DI STENOGRAFIA* it is said that there was a previous edition, from the year 1844. This work assured him a place in the history of Slavic shorthand because it presented for the first time the idea of a shorthand unique for all Slavic languages and because his work was the first attempt at realization in that sense. In 1854, he prepared for a Munich printing press the publication of an even more important book on a unique shorthand for the Slavic languages, but it was never printed due to his death.]



In addition to Heger, we can say that in 1861 Josef Polinski made an adaptation of the German Gabelsberger system, with which he gained numerous followers. This work was published in Lemberg, and a second edition was made in 1868, with the title *Tesnopis Cesky*. Polinski gained numerous followers. And he was followed by professors such as Borjarski, Wojnar, Karbel, Dadok, Massure and Olewinski. In turn, Rudolf directed the *Magazine of History and Shorthand* until 1905.

Other adaptations of the Gabelsberger were those made by Lubin Olewinski, published in Wiedmin in 1864; by Mirosława Suheckiego (known as Suhecki), in 1866, published in Prague; by von Jakowski, in 1868, with his work published in Lemberg; and by S. Srednich, in 1872, with his work published in Lwow. All of these names constitute the names that marked, so to speak, the beginning of shorthand in Poland, since they were the precursors of the art in that country. We can also mention P. Kin, with his work published in Lodz in 1919, and S. Korbel, with his work published in 1929 in Kakan.



We just mentioned Mirosław Suhecki, who did some experiments with an original Polish system, moving too far away from the original Gabelsberger system, but he was not very successful and did not manage to implement the system in his country.

Likewise, there was also an essay adapting Wilhelm Stolze's German system to the Polish language by Kwasniewski, who published it in 1857 in Professor Michaelis's magazine: *Zeitung für Stenogr. Und orthogr.* However, he did not have much success with his initiative, as he was concerned with spelling issues more than shorthand, a discipline in which he was not a consummate professional. The publication was not successful, and then left the ground free for Polinski's adaptation - mentioned before - which was the one that predominated until the dawn of the 20th century.

A ratification of what we said just now about the development of the Gabelsberger system adapted to the Polish language is found in the *BOLLETTINO DELLA ACCADEMIA ITALIANA DI STENOGRAFIA*, where we can read that the "*Encyclopedja Powszechna (Universal Encyclopedia)*" by Orgelbrand, published in Warsaw in 1903, states that shorthand in Poland developed weakly through an adaptation of the Gabelsberger system, citing authors such as Krupinski, Varsavia, the aforementioned Josef Polinski and Olewinski and Wieden.

And the "*Wielka Ilustrowana Encyclopedja Powszechna*" (Great Illustrated Universal Encyclopedia), published in Krakow in 1932, says that Polish shorthand was initially based on geometric systems, such as that of Krupski, manuscript of 1828 and printed in 1858; that of Saxe, in 1863; that of Pysz, in 1866, that of Pyrek.

And once again Gabelsberger is mentioned again when he says: "But the cursive systems introduced with the adaptation of Gabelsberger made by Josef Polinski in 1861 were soon developed. That system was the most used in the applications of Korbel, Wojnar, Sekulowicz and Olszewski, while other systems such as those of Guminski, Ozaarowski and Balczyńska were of little importance.



Other authors are Johnen, Bobrowska and Szymon Taub. The latter is the author, for example, of "theory and history of Polish shorthand" and "Instructions for shorthand in foreign languages (Ukrainian, Russian, Czech, German, English, French, Italian, Swedish, Esperanto, Latin, Ancient Greek) according to the Modern System of Polish Shorthand, published in 1936, a book that was published after a lot of patience and extensive linguistic competence. Indeed, before editing his work, Taub examined and studied the shorthand texts of different languages in order to examine their phonetic and graphic particularities, and also studied the essays that scholars published in different journals. For example, Noah's Manual, for the Italian language, and the studies of Giulietti and [Augusto] Occhetti for Esperanto and Greek. He is the author of A Modern System of Polish Shorthand - Textbook for Schools and Self-Taught Students.

Only after the war of 1914, given the political transformations that ensured the country's complete emancipation, a cultural development took place and shorthand became a common learning subject in schools.

The Duployé Shorthand System in Poland:

Gracjan Pyprek, who had studied the Pitman system in Paris, learned about Émile Duployé's French shorthand system and worked on the adaptation of this system into the Polish language. Strong criticism from professionals and constant research by the authors finally led him to the conclusion that geometric systems were not suitable for the shorthand of the Polish language, and in 1924 he began teaching the Gabelsberger-Poliński system.

As far as parliament is concerned, the stenographic service was organized since 1919. According to what we have investigated, in 1939 the stenographers' office was headed by Mr. A. Rutkowski. So says the REVISTA TAQUIGRAFICA (Brazil). In this magazine it is also said that the same stenographers who worked in the House of Representatives also recorded the debates in the Senate. There were 12 in total - 8 were permanent and 4 were hired per day during the session period. The review of the debates was entrusted to the four most senior stenographers. We can also say that admission was done by competition.

At the beginning of the 19th century, to fulfill their function, stenographers had special and comfortable places next to the parliament meeting room. When the complete transcription of the speeches was delayed, a summary of the debate was immediately published. In addition, there were ten typists for machine work.

As we see, the organization of the stenographer's office in Poland was not very different from what existed and exists in other countries.

Finally, we do not want to end this article without saying that Poland always has had an active participation since its incorporation into the Federation was approved in 1957, at the Congress that took place in Milan (Italy); and we also want to remember that the Congress that has just ended in Katowice is added to the one that took place in Warsaw in 1969, in which the president of the organizing committee was Zigmund Bötcher.

Congratulations, Polish colleagues, for your rich history and for the work done in Katowice!



New shorthand courses in Argentina

By Jorge Bravo

The stenographer Rubén Pinochi, from Olavarría (province of Buenos Aires), started two courses: one for officials of the municipal parliament and another for older people. The first of these courses aims to prepare candidates to fill vacancies for stenographers in said local parliament.



Also classes for the Shorthand course by stenographers Claudio Araujo and Edgardo Beretta also began in the Parliament of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

We remember that many other courses continue, such as those of the stenographers Eduardo Lepez (province of San Juan), Alicia Herrera (province of La Rioja), Patricia López (Escobar, province of Buenos Aires), Marcela Kobe (province of Tucumán), Delfor Castro (Rosario, province of Santa Fe), Amelia Centurión (Province of Formosa), Adriana Giraud (at the Mallea Institute, Autonomous City of Buenos Aires), and Daniel D'Alessandro (Province of Buenos Aires)

August 13: San Cassiano's day, patron saint of stenographers

By Jorge Bravo

Saint Cassian was a teacher of grammar and shorthand. He was born in what is currently the city of Imola (Italy) and died in the year 303 of the Christian era. He suffered persecution and was arrested for being a Christian and for refusing to offer sacrifices to pagan gods. He was taken prisoner and for his refusal to offer sacrifices to the gods, a cruel sentence was imposed on him as punishment: that his own students killed him with their styluses or steel pens with which they wrote.

As Albert Navarre says in *Histoire Générale de la Sténographie*, everything that is known about Saint Cassian comes from the Spanish-Latin poet Prudentius, who on his way to Rome visited the tomb of Saint Cassian and thanks to the narration of a guardian of the Basilica of Imola and the painting representing the saint on the tomb learned what had happened.

As we said previously, Saint Cassian taught grammar and shorthand classes in a school in Imola. After being crowned bishop he was expelled by the faithful. He returned to Rome and then to Imola, where he opened a public school. His severity provoked the irritation of the students and generated their reaction when he was arrested for being a Christian.

The judge sentenced him to cruel torture and [as we said] authorized the students to torment him until his death. With resentment and malice, some broke their tablets on the old master's forehead, others stuck the pencil in his gut or used it to crisscross his skin with bloody characters. Cassian expired after this long and painful torment.

The Christians buried his body and later built a mausoleum for him.

Prudencio's hymn to Saint Cassian is one of the most vivid and personal that the poet has written. For example, he says that "he stood out because he could write many words with few short signs and for writing at the speed of the spoken word with those quick "signs." And he recounts in his verses the cruel death of the martyr in the following way:

"Some students throw the tablets at him and break them on his head; the wood jumps and causes wounds on his forehead. They hit his bloody cheeks with the waxed tablets, and the small page is moistened with blood with the blow".

For these reasons, in the middle of the 20th century he was declared Patron of Stenographers. We can say that in one article published in August 1953 in the magazine *LA TAQUIGRAFÍA*, organ of the Academy of Shorthand of Barcelona (Spain), the Italian Giuseppe Quitadamo he says:

"The so-called Brief or Pontifical Document issued on December 23, 1952, S.S. Pius XII has declared Saint Cassian of Imola a martyr, Celeste Patron of Italian stenographers.

Then, Giuseppe Quitadamo points out how the Pontifical Document was obtained. In this regard, he says the following: "It was in 1921 when I wrote the first article about Saint Casiano, which was published in *La Propaganda Stenografica*, of Palermo (Italy), in a special issue that appeared in the month of August, on the occasion of the National Shorthand Congress of the Gabelsberger-Noe School, held in Trieste. In this article, they proposed that Saint Cassian of Imola, the first teacher of stenography, martyred by the work of his own students, be recognized as protector of stenographers throughout the world.



Giuseppe Quitadamo goes on to say: "Other colleagues became interested in the matter, through various publications, and I myself published a pamphlet, insisting on the request."

In 1949, prof. Achille Pezzi, who had a small chapel in Pizzolo di Teviggio, instituted the Sagra (pilgrimage) of the stenographers and dedicated the small chapel to Saint Cassian. From that moment on, the Sagra is celebrated every year at the end of August with the participation of stenographers from all stenographic systems.

Giuseppe Quitadamo adds: "Meanwhile, in 1951, the XII National Congress of Shorthand of the Gabelsberger-Noe School was going to be held in Naples. And since I was president of the organizing committee of the congress, I proposed the presentation of a paper about Saint Cassian, which was done by Prof. Francesco Pisanti, vice president of the Unione Stenografica Napoletana Enrico Noe. The Congress agreed and a request was approved for the Holy See to issue a Pontifical Decree for Saint Cassian to be recognized and venerated by stenographers as their Protector.

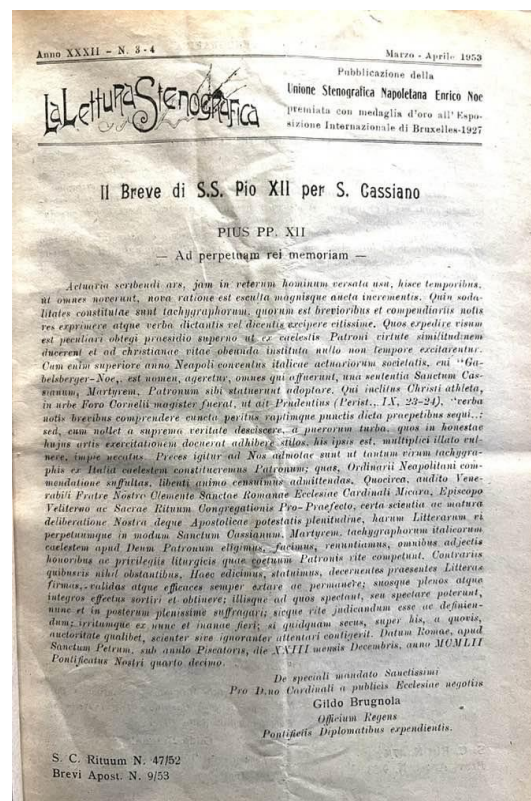
When the Congress ended, Giuseppe Quitadamo was interested in sending the motion to the Holy Father. For this reason he turned to the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Naples, Monsignor Luigi Rinaldi, who became interested in the matter and obtained the support of Cardinal Alessio Ascalesi, Archbishop of Naples, and the Coadjutor Archbishop, Monsignor Alfonso Castaldo.

The management, supported with great enthusiasm, was successful. The result that His Holiness accepted the request formulated by the Shorthand Congress that had taken place in Naples.

This is detailed, for example, by the magazine Studi Grafici, Bollettino della Accademia Italiana di Stenografia e del Primo Centro Italiano di Studi Dattilografici, directed by Giuseppe Aliprandi, in the January-April 1953 issue. Specifically it says: "The Holy Congregation dei Riti communicates (Rome, January 8, 1953) to prof. Quitadamo, that the Holy Father has designated Saint Casiano celestial patron of Italian stenographers. And this magazine adds: "The vote formulated in Naples by the XII National Congress has happily come to fruition. We salute Giuseppe Quitadamo, for the tenacious work carried out; and to prof. Pisanti for the monograph presented to Congress, which has generated the recognition of the Holy Father.

The Pontifical document of Pope Pius 12 is from December 23, 1952 and was published, in Latin and Italian in the magazine *La Lettura Stenografica*, March-April 1953. There it is said that Saint Cassian, "was a teacher of Shorthand in the city of Forum Corelli - today Imola (Italy) -" and that "the martyr Saint Cassian is proclaimed, forever, the Celestial Patron of Italian stenographers, with all the corresponding liturgical honors and privileges, according to the rite."

However, the Pontifical Document has a limitation, since it says that Saint Cassian is proclaimed Celestial Patron of Italian stenographers, despite the fact that in all the requests they always spoke of "stenographers", in general, without specifying the nationality.



Why did Pope Pius XII only mention Saint Cassian as Patron of Italian stenographers? Perhaps because the request he took into account was the one made, precisely, by the Italian stenographers and by the Shorthand Congress that had taken place in Naples.

That is why the magazine *La Lettura Stenografica*, directed by Giuseppe Quitadamo, bimonthly publication of the Neapolitan Shorthand Union “Enrico Noe”, reports that the Spanish magazine *El Mundo Taquigráfico* of March 1954 reported that in the III Hispanic-American-Filipino Congress of Shorthand held in Madrid in October 1953 was approved addressing the Holy See so that the celestial patronage of Saint Cassian of Imola, “recently decreed by H.S. Pio XII for Italian stenographers, be extended to Spanish and Latin American stenographers.”

And Professor Aristide Isotta, on behalf of the Swiss stenographers, submitted a request to the Holy See to extend the Patronage of Saint Cassian. This was specifically reported by the magazine *L'Unité Sténographique*, organ of the “Prévost Delaunay” system



Church of Saint Cassian in Imola, Italy