

---

Hamond, D. L. 1994 *ATA Series - Professional Issues for Translators and Interpreters* volume VII. Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

---

*Professional Issues for Translators and Interpreters* is a significant and useful book in terms of orientation for those who are interested in the area of translation and interpretation. The book is a collection of articles on perceived issues regarding translating and interpreting as real professions. The

issues in question cover a variety of themes divided into six sections which go into detail about (1) Achieving Success as a Language Professional, (2) Challenges in a Global Economy, (3) Ethics and the Profession, (4) Challenges of Technology, (5) Current Economic and Legal Issues, and (6) Translator/ Interpreter Training in the U.S. Although this book principally refers to these themes in the U.S., it can serve as a starting point or reference for people in other countries as well.

Particularly prominent is the

message conveyed throughout the book concerning recommendations and advantages of joining translator groups. The groups are seen as a source of help in terms of economic factors, professional recognition, information exchange, and quality of work for their members. The American Translators Association (ATA), for instance offers: job contacts and referrals; information exchange on local economic conditions, markets, industries, resources; networking and collaboration; interaction with state and local governments; state certification; public relations; client education and professional recognition; recruitment, training, continuing education and technical support; mediation services; lobbying; collective advertising (p 24).

It seems evident that ATA's call for affiliation is well-grounded and we are reminded of its importance thoroughly.

Besides offering detailed descriptions of the above mentioned items, the editor also presents the contributors' suggestions and advice in very specific points. Very serious talk lies behind professional behavior towards clients. It considers personal appearance, attitudes, client-translator controversies, and even a Model Contract for Translator is included.

Not only has the editor presented valuable information in relation to client-translator transactions, but also concerning personal growing. She emphasizes the necessity of staying up-to-date, expanding knowledge of cultures and thought of another nation, maintaining good national and international public relations, and in terms of international business, having a good understanding of global trading. All the provided information is not groundless, on the contrary, a significant number of examples and reflections is presented. Moreover, codes of ethics for court and community interpreters as well as for translators and translation business are clearly exposed.

Not as clear as the codes of ethics, is the role of the university in translator/ interpreter training. The necessity of training courses is *sine qua non*, the expectation for them is always high, but what is offered by universities does not satisfy the market.

Another important issue raised in the book refers to machine translation (MT). Despite presenting controversial arguments, the 'for' arguments seem to overcome the 'against' ones, but in the sense of a helper, not as a substitute.

By commenting on the MT existence, it would be difficult not

to mention the translator workstation. It is extensively described through its components—the hardware/software system and the operating environment—and the importance and efficiency in the translators' work across the country and the world.

This book contains vast and important information for translators, however, it is not the same for interpreters, who are most informed in terms of court and commun-

ity issues.

*Professional Issues for Translators and Interpreters* serves not only as a starting point or reference book to the issues analyzed in it, but also as an alert of the hard and complex work for those who are eager to enter the world of translating and interpreting.

Thelma B. P. Xavier

UFSC

---