

General Delivery

Opening words

Christina Thiele
President, T_EX Users Group

Welcome to 1994, our 15th anniversary year. Nice to see all of you who have renewed your TUG memberships; and it's also nice to welcome new members who are seeing what TUG and *TUGboat* are all about. Hope you enjoy the issue!

1 Board news

Some changes in the board should be noted here — they were too late for inclusion in *TTN* 3,1.

For last fall's board election, as reported in *TTN* 2,4:21, there were only 11 valid nominations for the 15 positions available on the board. By acclamation, these eleven people were named to the board, and it became my task to fill the remaining four positions. I'd like to welcome three new members to our board: Michael Doob, Michel Goossens, and Tom Rokicki have graciously accepted to join TUG's board for a term of one and a half years.

The board then had to select two new officers, Vice President and Treasurer: these are Michel Goossens and George Greenwade, respectively. Peter Flynn will continue on as Secretary.

As well, Chris Rowley takes over from Peter Abbott as chair of the UK T_EX Users Group, and hence as their representative on TUG's board.

2 The annual meeting

The annual meeting in Santa Barbara promises to be as big as any we've had yet. The focus is on innovations, and colour certainly is a big one. A preliminary program has now been mailed to all members, and also appears later in this issue. Updates on the meeting will be appearing over the next several months, so keep an eye out.

Check out the program. Check out your funds. Start saving! And plan to come out to the west coast to find out about some very interesting T_EX applications. Come to renew old acquaintances, and to meet new members. Not to mention the fact that you'll also find some sun, some sand, some ocean, and some very mild temperatures. At this time of year, it all sounds just too hard to resist!

3 T_EX in new places

In my last column (*TUGboat* 14, no. 4, p. 371) I mentioned the Linguistic Society of America's an-

nual meeting in Boston, for January 1994, where I'd be doing a poster session on T_EX and linguistics. Just before the meeting, in late December, I also started up a new discussion list, *ling-tex*, and the response was tremendous. Much of what was posted to the list ended up being reported and shown at the LSA meeting: macros, fonts, archives, information on user groups around the world, and so on. There were over 1,000 people in attendance for the 4-day meeting, in spite of a severe snowstorm that delayed travel for hours. I must confess to having been surprised at the wide-spread familiarity with T_EX in general, even if its application to linguistics was not as well-known. Many of us who had met via the *ling-tex* list were delighted to meet one another in person.

I was fortunate in having considerable assistance from Ed Baker of EBTS, who helped make the two-hour poster session very informative for everyone who stopped by. If anyone is considering presenting such a demonstration session, you really do need two people to do it properly!

As well, Robert Harris of MicroSystems Inc., a long-time member of TUG and an active vendor at our own meetings, had a booth in the massive book-display hall. Here again, there was a lot of interest shown during the meeting, as people stopped to ask about T_EX, about books and software, about user groups and archives, and just to find out more about how T_EX might be a useful means of preparing linguistics documentation.

In all, the exposure which T_EX received at the LSA meeting via the poster session and the vendor's booth was tremendous. I'd like to thank Ed and Bob for their contributions to the effort. Next year's meeting, in New Orleans, will hopefully again see a display or demonstration of T_EX and linguistics, with perhaps some of the *ling-tex* readers participating. Hint, hint!

And now to look forward ... coming up very shortly (April 11-15) is the massive 4-way joint conference of RIDT94, EP94, TEP94, and PODP94 in Darmstadt. If any of you are going to attend, please consider writing up a short report for us: get in touch with either Barbara or myself.

A little later on, the annual Society for Scholarly Publishing (SSP) meeting is in San Francisco this year (June 8-10). If there's anyone in the San Francisco area who is planning to attend this meeting on scholarly publishing, or who would be willing to lend a hand in case we get a TUG booth there, please get in touch with me.

And if you know of any conferences where a T_EX or TUG presence would be useful, do let us know.

4 Announcing Euro \TeX '94

This September, on an island off the coast of Gdansk in Poland, the 1994 Euro \TeX meeting will be held, hosted by the Polish \TeX Users Group, GUST.¹ Abstracts should be sent by May 1st, final papers by August 15; the meeting will take place September 26–30. Information appears elsewhere in this issue of *TUGboat* with the details.

5 Office updates

By this time you should have received the first announcements regarding the annual meeting in Santa Barbara. Included in that packet was — **your membership ID number!** This will be your number for as long as you're a TUG member. Please have it handy when you call the office for technical support, and of course include it whenever you write to us, or when you order something from the product store — it guarantees your 10% discount as a TUG member.

The office is also pleased to announce that the following new publications are now available:

- *The L \TeX Companion*, by Goossens, Mittelbach and Samarin
- *\TeX in Practice*, by Stephan von Bechtolsheim
- *\TeX and L \TeX : Drawing and Literate Programming*, by Eitan Gurari
- *A User's Guide for \TeX Help; The On-Line \TeX Handbook*, by Borde and Rokicki

They expect also to have Norm Walsh's new book, *Making \TeX Work*, very shortly. If you plan on coming to the meeting this summer, better bring an extra strong book bag! Which reminds me ... I'm also going to be looking for a replacement mug for the one I broke last year. Pat says there are lots of mugs from past meetings — check your collection to see if you need any new ones too!

◊ Christina Thiele
5 Homestead Street
Nepean, Ontario
K2E 7N9 Canada
cthiele@ccs.carleton.ca

¹ Note that the last Euro \TeX meeting was held in 1992 in Prague, reported in TTN 1,3:22–23.

Editorial Comments

Barbara Beeton

Welcome to a new year of TUG and *TUGboat*. With the end of the old year, there have been some changes in faces on the TUG Board of Directors. Christina has already mentioned this in her "Opening words". I'd just like to add that the Board members are your representatives, and need your input to do their job properly. All the members of the Board are listed on the inside front cover of every issue of *TUGboat*, and their addresses appear in the address list at the beginning of every regular issue (not the annual Proceedings). Make yourselves known; let us know about your concerns for TUG.

1 *TUGboat* wish list

The "wish list" published in *TUGboat* 14, no. 4, p. 372, has yielded some additional suggestions and some new volunteers, but by no means as many as one might have hoped. Perhaps that's because it arrived around the end of the year, always a busy time.

Okay, readers! You've had enough time to think about this — now's the time to act! Go back and read the list again, and if you have any comments or suggestions, no matter how grand or trivial, send them in!

One suggestion that is being investigated is to have occasional "theme" issues, edited by a volunteer with recognized experience in that area. Suggestions for topics and editors are welcome — send them to me in care of TUGboat@math.ams.org, or to the postal address that appears at the end of this column.

2 Another award for DEK

I received the following note from Don Knuth on February 24:

Yesterday's mail brought the good news that the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences decided to award me the Adelsköld Medal for my work on *The Art of Computer Programming* and \TeX . This medal is presented only once every 10 years, for "an innovation within technical sciences."

They say I will receive the medal "from the hands of H. M. King Carl XVI Gustaf" at the academy's annual meeting on March 24. (He is the pleasant gentleman who can be seen on TV these days escorting Sweden's magnificent Queen at the Olympics.)

As with previous awards, this is certainly well deserved. Congratulations, Don!