

A NEW JOURNAL TO INTEREST FRENCH TEACHERS

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CIRCUIT

A quarterly begun this year by STQ, the Quebec Translators' Society

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Circuit will interest French teachers in anglo Canada who want to keep up with commercial and scientific language in Quebec. Perhaps these translators are our best technical writers; they compose, on highly professional levels, in both languages. Certainly their new journal offers a mine of information.

For example, the latest issue (Number 3, December) expresses some useful facts in English (90% of the content is, of course, in French):

The Federal Government Bureau of Translation's terminology bank "Terminum III" will come on stream in 1984 with a vastly expanded reservoir of references, extended access and some interesting translation aids; for example, assistance in finding the correct expression when the access term is not exact. It will also have capability in German and Spanish.

Did you know Terminum III existed?

Mentioned too are organizations like the Secretary of State's Translation Bureau, the Canadian Translators and Interpreters Council, the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario, and even La Société des traducteurs et interprètes de Colombie-Britannique. If you want a complete list of the people and companies translating and interpreting, you may obtain free the STQ's annual, Annuaire des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes indépendants et pigistes by writing the Montreal address.

Current books and journals useful to translators are reviewed in detail, for instance, Vocabulaire illustré des lignes aériennes de transport et de distribution d'électricité, published by Quebec Hydro, Montréal, 1982, 192 p.

However, Circuit's concern is more than merely establishing correct technical vocabulary. A full article discusses the rendering into French of English idioms involving "challenge" (noun), "to challenge" (verb), and "challenging" (adjective):

This decision was challenged at the last meeting.	On a contesté cette décision à la dernière réunion.
The translation of a poem is a special challenge.	La traduction d'un poème présente des difficultés particulières.
He was given a more challenging assignment	On lui a donné un poste qui exigera davantage de lui.

With similar care, another article explains the uses of word processors and computers in translation (do you know exactly what the Department of Linguistic Services in a company does?) and differentiates between computer translation and computer assisted translation.

Circuit typically establishes a theme for each issue. This time it's women as workers "dans la communication langagière." Five articles discuss topics like the way women perceive their roles, and the way they are treated socioeconomically (with statistics comparing the numbers of women and men hired, and salaries paid, by the Quebec and federal governments). The authors are not simply feminists. Robert Dubuc, for example, Directeur du Service de linguistique de Radio-Canada, analyses carefully how gender in the language discriminates against women. Masculine terminology is a problem in English, but even more of a one in French where a "writer" is either "rédacteur" or "rédactrice" and "translator" either "traducteur" or "traductrice." Dubuc offers 5 methods of writing neutrally, that is, without drawing attention to sex.

Colorful, glossy, serious and humorous (there's always a crossword puzzle), in every way Circuit lives up to its own subtitle: "Magazine d'information sur la langue et la communication."