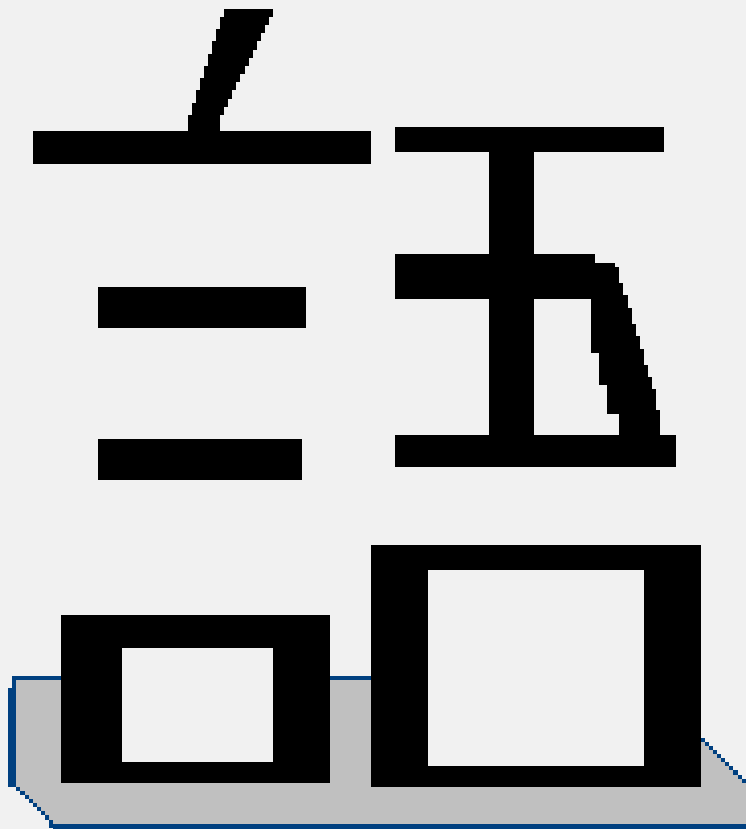


译风

THE ATA CHINESE LANGUAGE DIVISION NEWSLETTER

美国翻译协会中文翻译分会简报

Summer 2015



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FROM THE EDITORS

In this Summer issue, Alex Gao talks about the achievements he has made since becoming the CLD Administrator and the work that still needs to be done in the future.

Jim Jones reflects on the beginnings of his Chinese learning and tells us about the services he provides. He also contributes two drawings for this newsletter.

In the run-up to the 56th ATA Annual Conference, longtime Miami resident Feng Xiao provides a guide to his beloved city. We also list the conference sessions which CLD members may find interesting.

Eric Chiang went to Book Expo America in New York City this year and summarizes his impressions.

Pency Tsai writes about conference interpreting in her column “Bird’s Corner”.

Finally, we encourage more CLD members to contribute articles for future newsletters. The deadline for the next issue is December 1, 2015.

ABOUT THE EDITORS



Editor

Eric Chiang translates and edits legal, religious and other texts in Chinese and English.

E-mail: echiang@atecworld.com



Layout Editor

Tianlu Redmon is a legal, medical, and business interpreter and translator in the Research Triangle Area, North Carolina.

E-mail: tianlu.redmon@gmail.com

Special thanks to Jamie Padula for his help in producing this newsletter.

Newsletter published by
ATA Chinese Language Division
American Translators Association
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590
Alexandria, VA 22314

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Suggested lengths:

Articles: 800 to 1,500 words

Reviews: 600 words

Letters: 300 words

Include a brief bio and a photograph.

Illustrations and links, etc., are
encouraged.

Submissions may be edited.

Opinions expressed in this publication
are solely those of the authors.

Send submissions for future issues to
echiang@atecworld.com

Submissions deadline for the next
issue: December 1, 2015

Letter From the CLD Administrator



Huilin Gao, the current CLD Administrator, has been an interpreter and translator for 12 years specializing in medical, legal, multimedia, and gaming domains. He is an experienced conference and court interpreter.

Dear fellow CLD members,

My name is Huilin Gao, though some of you may know me as “Alex”. I’m the ATA CLD Administrator for the 2014-2016 term. I have been an active member of ATA and ATA CLD since 2009 and look forward to serving as your leader for the next fifteen months. We have a great team helping to give ATA CLD a new and improved look and direction: Bird Bird (Pency Tsai), the Administrator Assistant, Eric Chiang, the Newsletter Editor, and Tianlu Redmon, the Newsletter layout Editor. Our focus is to deliver this new face of ATA CLD to all past, present and future members of ATA as well as to make an impression for us all as professionals in the industry.

As discussed at the 2014 ATA CLD meeting in Chicago last fall, our number one goal was to create a new CLD website by the beginning of 2015. If you have not done so already, please take a moment to check out our new website at: <http://www.ata-divisions.org/CLD>”. While the website may initially come across as plain and simple, it provides an impressive image for us as professionals in the industry as well as creates a nice portal to ATA CLD’s social media outlets such as our Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/atacltd>) and LinkedIn (“ATA Chinese Language Division”) pages. Through Facebook, we can interact with each other by sharing articles, photos, and thoughts about our profession. And, via LinkedIn, we can share and discuss job opportunities as well as employment concerns and profession trends. The website and our social media outlets provide a great way for us to maintain contact with each other as well as our professional status. We encourage ATA CLD members to use these modern technologies to share and discuss interests and perceptions in the translation and interpretation industry, so please log in and post a hello! We also always welcome feedback on what to improve or other directions that may be taken.

On a final note, if you have not marked your calendar already, the ATA Annual Conference will be held in Miami, Florida from November 4th to November 7th. During this time, ATA CLD will hold a members' meeting as well as gather for a members' dinner at a local restaurant. These are two great opportunities to connect or reconnect with friends and fellow professionals. During the annual meeting you will have the opportunity to share your thoughts and make contributions toward new ATA CLD goals. Likely topics of discussion this year will include increasing CLD session speaker participation and brainstorming CLD session topics for the 2016 ATA Annual Conference in San Francisco. The traditional members' dinner gathering is less formal, but a great opportunity to network, make new friends, and have a delicious meal. The annual meeting is scheduled on Friday November 6, from 12:30 pm to 1 pm. Please stay tuned for the details of other CLD events and activities. Information will be posted through our social media outlets as well as in ATA Annual Conference publications. As well, if you are not able to make it to the ATA Conference this fall, a recap of our meeting and the events will be shared via our social media outlets.

I look forward to seeing you this fall, and also online.

Huilin "Alex" Gao

A Guide to Miami



Feng Xiao lives in Weston, FL with his wife and two sons. He offers translation and IT services to his clients and loves making friends and helping others. His hobbies include golf, traveling, and reading.

I still remember the time I first learned that I was going to Miami, FL. It was a cold winter's day in Beijing when the visa officer gave me the approval to come and study at Florida International University. Back then, I had no idea where Miami was, what it was like, or that I would call it home for the next twenty plus years.

Miami is located at the southeast tip of Florida. It is surrounded by Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Mexico Gulf to the west. It is a three and a half hours' drive to Key West, the southernmost point of continental USA, and about the same distance to Orlando's Disney World, the Happiest Place on Earth. It is a city that is full of sunshine and energy. Sunny skies prevail almost every single day and sizzling night life animates every evening. With lots of places to see and even more things to do, Miami will surely mesmerize you with its warm hospitality, diversified culture, and dynamic recreational activities.

For those of you visiting Miami during this year's ATA Annual Conference, you will be happy to find that November usually has the best weather in Miami. If you are going to rent a car, I highly suggest a convertible and take it out for a spin on A1A at sunset. Feel the warm moist air breezing through your hair and you might just decide to move here permanently.

If you are interested in sightseeing, there are a few popular choices: South Beach, Fisher Island, Bayside, and the Everglades National Park. South Beach is well known for its "caliente" girls every night and the celebrities that can be spotted there. You can just go sit at a bar and people watch, day or night, or take a casual stroll on the beach. Fisher Island and Star Island are home to the rich and famous; Madonna, Sylvester Stallone, and Shaq O'Neal live here, just to name a few prominent residents. There are ferries that can take you around to see those magnificent mansions and give you a glimpse of the super luxury life style. Bayside is home to the Miami Heat and the Port of Miami, the largest port for cruise ships in the world. Book a Heat game and visit other sites in Bayside on the same day to save yourself some time. Further west is the Everglades National Park which offers airboat rides and alligator shows. They are also worth doing if you haven't tried them before.

If you are active, Miami is heaven for all sorts of water sports. Traditional ones such as jet skiing, parasailing, snorkeling, scuba diving, paddle boarding, deep-sea fishing, and kayaking are all available within minutes by car. If you have a group of six people or more, you may consider chartering a sailboat or yacht and go out cruising for a few hours. The best time to do that would be at sunset or in the evening. The latest and greatest addition to the list of water sports is called "jetpack" or "flyboard". Google it if you don't know what it means yet. I tried it a while back and it was quite a blast.

Active but don't want to get wet? Miami has some of the world's best golf courses and tennis courts. The Blue Monster in Trump Doral is probably the most famous golf course around here, and others such as Diplomat, Turnberry, Biltmore, Indian Creek, and Crandon Beach are also well known. A word of warning though: it can be expensive to play golf in Miami around November. You may also want to try one of those discovery flights where you ride in a small airplane and see the whole Miami from 2000 feet above ground.

Of course, you can't come to Miami without doing some shopping! Bal Harbour offers up-scale shopping for high-end luxury goods. Bayside Marketplace has many mainstream chain stores for everyone. Close to downtown hotels is a mega mall called Aventura Mall where you are sure to find anything you want to buy.

For those of you who want to experience the eclectic culture in Miami, I suggest that you take a walk through Little Havana. You will see and feel the contrast in life styles between pre-Castro Cuba and America. It would help greatly if you could learn some basic Spanish before you come because you might find that English doesn't go very far there. In fact, it would help almost everywhere you go in Miami!

Another one of my personal favorites is the food and the iconic restaurants. Seafood is always abundant and fresh here. One of the most famous restaurants is called "Joe's Stone Crab" in Miami Beach. Yes, it is very pricy, but worth every penny. It does not take reservations and the wait is often an hour, if not more. For your reference, please consider this: I have been here for over twenty years and only eaten there twice. For a more romantic atmosphere, the restaurant of choice would be Casa Tua. It offers exquisite Italian cuisine in a gated Mediterranean villa, hidden from the street and complete with lush landscaping, splendid garden, cozy dining room, intimate lounge and airy patio. Take your significant other there and you will both be happy. There is also a very exotic Chinese restaurant called Hakkasan which I have not tried yet, but from what I have heard, it is worth the money. If you really want to celebrate, go to Prime One Twelve, where everyone from Gorbachev and Clinton to Madonna and Beyoncé has dined there before you. Be prepared though for the \$25 hot dog.

Miami boasts a whole lot more interesting things than I can share with you here. If you don't have enough time, find a tour company which can usually recommend some activities tailored to your needs. Otherwise, take your time and you will certainly find something you like in Miami. After all, this is a city that never sleeps, and always ready for the next big thing. It is, in my humble opinion, the city of the future in America.

Please call me at 954-907-8818 if you have any questions about the sites I mentioned above.

A Partial List of Miami Conference Sessions

The schedule and description of all the sessions and events of the 56th ATA Annual conference in Miami can be found at:

<http://www.atanet.org/conf/2015/education.htm>

The following is a list of sessions which involve the Chinese language or CLD members:

| Code | Session name | Presenters |
|-------|---|--|
| ATA-1 | ATA Mentoring Program: Becoming a Happy and Prosperous Translator or Interpreter | Susanne van Eyl, Eric Chiang, Cathi Changanqui |
| C-1 | Translate Creatively: What Would Steve Jobs Do? | Evelyn Yang Garland |
| C-2 | English Translation of Classical Chinese Poems: Technical Issues and Implications | Zhesheng Cheng |
| C-3 | Translation: The Building Block for Interpreting (or Vice Versa) | Di Wu, Pency Tsai |
| L-2 | Beware of the Fallible Filter and Unreliable Narrator: Enhancing Professional Trust | Susan Xu |
| LT-12 | Using Bilingual Comparable Corpora to Assist Specialized Translation | Peng Wang |

A Mandarin-Speaking Experience



Jim Jones first learned Mandarin in the US Midwest 30 years ago in college. He is a 20-year and award-winning member of STC (Society for Technical Communication stc.org). He does translation, editing, writing, cartooning, and other things. Find him at [LinkedIn.com/in/jimxlat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jimxlat).

A few years ago I went to the office of a dental specialist for a certain kind of evaluation and procedure. I had an idea that the specialist would be Chinese because I had seen that he had a Chinese name. What I did not know was whether he spoke Mandarin.

A female assistant seated me in the dentist's chair and then, a few minutes later, the specialist entered the room and greeted me. He sat down and began reading my chart from the referring dentist.

After a few minutes, I asked in Mandarin, “Do you speak Mandarin?”

He turned his head quickly to look at me and then asked in his native English, “Did you just ask me if I could speak Mandarin, in Mandarin?” He had a quizzical air.

I said yes and that I'd spoken Mandarin for 30 years; then I explained the circumstances of my Mandarin knowledge.

“You have a very good accent,” he said. “Your Mandarin is better than that of any non-Chinese person I’ve ever heard. I’d have thought you were ethnically Chinese if I were not looking right at you. Do you have any relatives who are Chinese?”

“No,” I replied.

Pronunciation of course does not a translator make. It does help with my tutoring and coaching services.

I first learned spoken Mandarin Chinese in college in the early 1980s when China and the US were first developing relations. I would practice my new language skills with visiting scholars from China, with fellow classmates, with immigrants, with friends from church, and with travelers. I improved my skills in spoken Mandarin over the years, and I developed good translation skills too.

Last fall I joined ATA and the CLD, and in November I attended the 55th ATA Annual Conference in Chicago. I also attended the CLD dinner at a Thai restaurant.

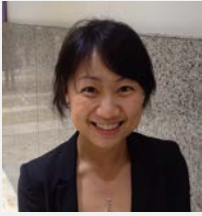
I do freelance translation into English from Chinese, Spanish, and German, and I translate technical as well as general texts. I do editing, cartooning and illustration too: [linkedin.com/in/jimxlat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jimxlat) is my Linked In page.

There is also a list of things that I do regarding spoken Mandarin, such as coaching, tutoring, course materials preparation and advising, and some voice-over. My accent is very mild Beijing; my first Chinese instructors long ago were people who originally were from Beijing.

Located in Chicago, Illinois, I am also a state court interpreter for Mandarin and English, and I am studying for an MA degree in Linguistics.

In July I'll be attending the Linguistic Society of America conference held on the campus of the University of Chicago, my alma mater, which is where I first began learning Mandarin nearly a generation ago.

Bird's Corner



Pency Tsai has been a community interpreter for the past 4 years, specializing in Canadian immigration and refugee tribunal hearings. She currently serves as the CLD Assistant Administrator.

Conference Interpreting

As someone who has worked mostly as a community interpreter, I can attest to the pressure that interpreters must endure, be it in a medical consultation, at a courtroom, or during a civil discovery. Community interpreters face scrutiny from all parties while on the job. Constant challenges to their abilities help them develop thick skins and strengthen their defense mechanisms. The need to be completely accurate creates internal processes that work like clockwork to produce faithful interpretation.

So what happens when interpreters are thrown into an environment where the flow of the interpretation is just as important as the content? In a conference setting, with no opportunities to seek clarification, how should they handle themselves? What problems can be expected? I'd like to share with you some of my observations and experiences. I would also like your feedback, as I'm new to this work and would appreciate my fellow colleagues' professional insights into the world of conference interpreting.

So how do you transform an interpreter who has been trained to regurgitate everything as faithfully and accurately as possible into an eloquent artist who can process spoken words into art forms which express ideas and facts seamlessly to all listeners? How do you go from community interpretation to conference interpretation?

I had thought that negotiating between the two was as easy as flicking a switch. I was wrong. The truth is, it takes a lot of work to change habits and thought processes that have been burned into our minds over the years. We are creatures of habit and our repetitive actions can become second nature. But the great thing is that all of us can change.

First of all, why should I go into conference interpreting when I'm perfectly content with community interpreting? We all have the ability to gain new skills and build upon them to enlarge our world. As a professional interpreter, I'm not satisfied with working in a field with one narrow focus. Only by acquiring new skills can we open up our minds to the possibilities of having other vocations. We are not limited by our current profession. The human race wants to be better than the animals who can only survive in their natural habitats. We want to thrive on Arctic ice and flourish in tropical forests. This is the reason I want to be a great community interpreter and a great conference interpreter.

This question is important because if you can't answer this question, you won't have the proper sense of direction in attaining your goal. Why is it so important to be able to change our mindset when interpreting in a conference or for our community?

To understand this, an illustration of the two situations is needed to provide a contrast. Let me give an example of a typical day of my work. At immigration hearings, everything is recorded. Details are important and the expectation is that my interpretation is as faithful and complete as possible. We are not to exaggerate or omit anything, nor are we to embellish or change the meaning of what is said, including the register. In this type of environment, I must assert myself and interject when something is unclear or when my task is hindered by someone who refuses to work with me, to ensure that my interpretation is up to professional standards. You can imagine how powerless I would feel if I couldn't exercise this freedom.

Conference interpreting is a different kind of beast altogether. I still remember my first attempt at conference interpreting and how all the experience that I had accumulated up to that point went out the window the moment the microphones were turned on. Sitting in that booth was nerve-wracking and I couldn't keep up with the speakers. I blanked out. Thankfully I was saved by my colleague who jumped in and took control of the situation. I am forever grateful for his presence that day as his skills were shown to be vastly superior to mine. It was a humbling experience and, to this day, I am still shaky when approaching the interpreter's booth, remembering how traumatized I was in that previous event. I had been overcome by a sense of helplessness as I struggled to understand everything that was said: all the details, all the jargon, all the jokes. I realized on that day how much work I needed to do in order to survive in conference interpreting. I knew very well that I needed to improve my simultaneous interpretation skills.

Since much of what I interpret is recorded, I am familiar with the consecutive interpreting format. This is the first hurdle that I encountered when I waded into the world of conference interpreting. I did not have the confidence that my skills at simultaneous interpretation were as good as my skills at consecutive interpretation. To overcome this lack of confidence, I took on every opportunity to work on my simultaneous skills. I familiarized myself with this type of interpreting but still found myself intimidated when I went into a conference interpreting setting.

I recall attending a seminar where the guest speaker was a renowned conference interpreter. She had a magnetic presence and spoke effusively of the experiences that shaped her into the respected professional that she was. She said two things that stood out that day. One was her comment that interpreters were better known as interrupters -- never has a truer statement been made. The second was her suggestion for those who wanted to follow her footsteps. Budding conference interpreters should keep working at it and be creative -- never be afraid to fake it. It was something that I had heard from other successful conference

interpreters. However, tried as I had, I just couldn't grasp the concept. It always came back to the same problem. One of my personal rules for interpreting was that faithfulness and completeness were always paramount. That little voice in my head always reminded me not to stray from my rules. I created these rules and couldn't change them even if I wanted to. That crazy little bird inside my head kept reinforcing these unconscious habits that refused to die.

A couple of years ago, I stepped back into the booth and was prepared to work the floor again, eager to prove to myself that I could do it. As the clock ticked closer to the starting time, bad news arrived -- my assigned partner would not be coming. Thankfully, the organizers had the foresight to bring in a local interpreter who turned out to be a godsend. As we discussed about divvying up the workload, I suggested that she took on the English-to-Mandarin part, as I had spent much of my time preparing for the Mandarin-to-English part. Karma has a funny way of showing how fair the universe is. My relief at her presence quickly turned into despair when my suggestion was rebuffed. She was an escort interpreter that day and would not partake in the simultaneous interpretation. I was on my own.

You never know how great the human mind can be until it faces a crisis. To be honest, I wasn't aware that seconds became minutes and minutes became hours. Switching back and forth between two languages and controlling the switchboard became increasingly easy. Truth be told, I forgot to switch the board a few times. I'll also say that my interpretation wasn't exactly a work of art, but I survived it and at the end of the day, the client was happy with my work. The greatest relief was that nobody complained that I lacked knowledge of the subject matter. This gave me the confidence to continue working as a conference interpreter, even though the word "conference" still jangles nerves.

More recently, I made a small breakthrough in conference interpreting. But I'm going to leave everyone hanging and stop now as this column is getting a bit too long. I'll continue in the next newsletter. By then, many of us will have met and chatted in Miami at ATA's 56th Annual Conference. I'll share insights from my more capable colleagues and maybe some of my new blunders too.

The following are some of the topics that I have found difficult in my journey from community interpreting to conference interpreting:

- * simultaneous vs consecutive
- * trying to capture every detail
- * getting stuck on a word or phrase
- * preparation

* bias or no bias

* note-taking

Comments and suggestions are welcome (pencys@pencys.com). I need them if I am to keep this ship from sinking.

I hope to see everyone at the CLD dinner in Miami!

New York, New York or Postcard From Book Expo America

By Eric Chiang

It has often been said that aspiring literary translators would do well to attend book fairs. For the uninitiated like myself, three questions sprang quickly to mind: what constitutes literary translation, to which book fair should one go, and what do translators do at a book fair?

I had always associated, incorrectly, literary translation solely with the translation of fiction until a seasoned literary translator pointed out to me that it included non-fiction translation as well. Much information about literary translation can be gleaned from the Internet. If you are lucky, someone may approach you directly for a book project. But generally speaking, translating a book into English involves choosing a book of interest and reasoned viability, preparing a “pitch” to the publishers, and waiting to see if one of them would be interested in publishing your translation, done after a contract is inked.

Of the many book fairs in the world, two stand out for translators based in the US: Book Expo America, and the London Book Fair. LBF is better known, friendlier to translators, and cheaper: about \$55 for a badge compared with BEA’s \$120. But it is also a transatlantic (and from my home in California, transcontinental) jaunt to an expensive city. Having experienced a slow-down in work at the beginning of the year, I was reluctant to make any travel plans at first. But China would send a large contingent of publishers to BEA, and I decided that I would fly to New York this year for my first book fair.

I didn’t have the slightest idea of what I would do there when I booked my flight. But as the date approached, it occurred to me that the book fair would be similar to the exhibitors’ hall at a typical ATA conference: I would shake hands, exchange business cards, and ask as many questions as I could think of.

A robust constitution and sensible shoes are in order for New York City. The compact subway map belies the long distance involved in going from point A to point B. The BEA venue was the Javits Center on the western edge of midtown Manhattan, in a neighborhood of auto repair shops, warehouses, and a depot for tour buses. The nearest subway station is more than three long blocks away. One day, my plan was to approach the Javits Center from two blocks north, not knowing that I would walk into chaotic traffic at the entrance to the Lincoln Tunnel and be forced to retrace my steps. Another day I walked to within twenty feet of my destination, only to realize that I had forgotten to bring my business cards. I turned around and walked back to the subway station in the sweltering heat, demoralized and drenched in sweat. It takes a lot of energy to get around Manhattan. Some well-known landmarks, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, entail surprisingly long walks if one takes the subway to get there. The night I

came home, relaxed and sleeping in my own bed for the first time in days, I woke up in the middle of the night with cramps in both legs.

Because China was the country of focus this year, BEA and other cultural institutions organized various events at locations throughout the city. Recent Chinese movies and literary symposia were on offer, all of them open to the public and free of charge. One such symposium took place in a stately Upper East Side brownstone where eight writers gathered to talk about literature and poetry, aided by a team of interpreters whose subject-matter expertise was on dazzling display. Another symposium was held in a huge Barnes and Noble bookstore on the Upper West Side. Two novelists who wrote about Beijing were invited to speak, and the interpreter was the poet and translator Canaan Morse. One of the novelists, perhaps forgetting about the bilingual nature of the evening, gave an opening speech that lasted about five minutes. Mr. Morse waited patiently for the speech to end before reading back from his notes and giving a perfectly thorough rendition in English. There was a polite though apparent rivalry between the two writers. Each disagreed with the other's assessment on certain topics, but both agreed on one point: compared with Shanghai, Beijing is more accepting of people who aren't native to the city.

Many speeches and events were on the agenda at the China Pavilion in the Javits Center. There was a forum on literary translation, but I missed it unfortunately. The Chinese publishers I talked to told me more or less the same story: the English translations of their books are done in China. Every year, they make a list of the books they wish to translate, and once the budget is approved, they hire translators in China to do the work. I didn't have the impression that they were actively seeking translators from outside China, though they invited interested translators to be part of their teams, and all the translators of a publisher would be subject to the same competitive environment and pay scale. The latter may seem low for translators based in the US, but the pitching process described above still applies. Before approaching American publishers, however, a translator has to make sure that the book in question doesn't appear on the list of books that the Chinese publisher plans to translate.

For out-of-English translators, the book fair offered networking opportunities with authors. The BEA app allowed participants to peruse potential partners for projects and make appointments to meet. We are in the age of self-publication, and pitching to the publishers is no longer a necessity for translators who want to be published. There are more options now for literary translators.

I didn't get as many leads as I would like. Perhaps I have myself to blame: in practicing the art of translation, I may have forgotten the art of schmoozing. Four days went by quickly, a reflection of the intensity of life in New York City; I was happy to return home to the tranquility of Northern California.

