

- [17] Raymond Seroul. *Le petit Livre de T_EX*. Inter-Editions, 1989. ISBN 2-7296-0233-X.
- [18] Raymond Seroul and Silvio Levy. *A Beginner's Book of T_EX*. Springer-Verlag, 1991. ISBN 0-387-97562-4, 3-540-97562-4. This is a translation and adaption by Silvio Levy of [17].
- [19] Michael Vulis. V_T_EX enhancements to the T_EX language. *TUGboat*, 11(3):429–434, September 1990.

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Editorial Comments

Barbara Beeton

It will not escape your notice that there has been a considerable delay between the previous regular issue and the present one, with the result that some items are no longer “fresh”. This is regrettable, but I hope their usefulness is not affected by the delay.

Some of the news we have to offer is sad, but there are also some bright spots.

Cathy Booth, a remembrance

Cathy Booth, one of the most dedicated T_EX supporters in the U.K., was defeated by cancer last July.

I remember meeting Cathy first at the T_EX meeting in Strasbourg in 1986. She was cheery, outgoing, and always ready to help someone else.

With Malcolm Clark, Cathy organized the “T_EXeter” meeting in 1988. For me, the local arrangements for this meeting were the most successful of all the EuroT_EX meetings, with all the participants housed in a single Exeter University residence. Plenty of lounges and discussion areas and few distractions made it easy for everyone to really get to know one another. Cathy was the person to thank for this.

Our contact continued at TUG and other EuroT_EX meetings, and in between, through electronic mail. It was a real shock to learn that she

was ill, not from Cathy herself, but from a mutual friend.

I last saw Cathy in Cork, at EuroT_EX'90. As always, she spread cheer and caring, even when she was obviously very tired and just keeping up was a great effort.

Her friends in the UKT_EXug have established a fund in her memory, and the prize for the best paper at EuroT_EX meetings has been named in her honor. All her many friends will miss her. I am glad to have had the opportunity to know her.

Sam Whidden, a remembrance

Another T_EX stalwart lost to us was Sam Whidden. A more formal recollection follows this column. However, I can't omit saying what a good boss and friend he was for so many years. He helped mold the way my generation of AMS employees approach and solve problems. Sometimes he just didn't let on that he thought something couldn't be done, and was rewarded by seeing it done by his staff who didn't know any better.

The department Sam built was remarkably free of bureaucracy, and he always gave us opportunities to learn interesting new things. I hope that I pass on some of that enthusiasm to others. My world just isn't the same without Sam around.

Trip report: EuroT_EX, GUTenberg'91

The sixth European T_EX Conference took place on 23–25 September 1991 in Paris. Like previous editions, it was attended by a diverse collection of speakers and audience, on this occasion 121 people from 21 countries, including several in eastern Europe.

The spread of (I^A)T_EX in new geographic and language areas was a recurring theme throughout the conference. Reports were presented on activities and developments in Russia (and separately Siberia), Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Turkey, for African languages, for languages using Arabic scripts, and other topics related to linguistic and multilingual support. Several of the formal presentations on these topics appear in the proceedings, which form N^o 10–11 of the *Cahiers GUTenberg*, distributed as part of the registration materials.¹

Other presentations included updates on existing packages — Babel, MakeIndex, L^AM_S-T_EX, and of course L^AT_EX 3.0 — and reports on new work — database applications, SGML, windowing environments, tree structures, and color.

¹ See abstracts of this issue of the *Cahiers*, p. 101

Consistent with the interest in using the DC font arrangement agreed on in Cork, a lively BOF took place on the subject of 256-character math fonts; see below for more details. Other BOFs addressed L^AT_EX 3.0 and the future of T_EX.

As has become the custom at EuroT_EX meetings, a prize (a bottle of good Scotch) was awarded for the best paper. (With this year's presentation, this will become known as the Cathy Booth Prize.) The recipient of this year's award was Jiří Zlatuška, who spoke on automatic generation of fonts with accented letters, based on the existing Computer Modern fonts rather than on the extended layout.

By the end of the meeting, representatives of most of the European T_EX groups had conferred and agreed, and it was announced that the 1992 EuroT_EX meeting would be held in Prague.²

The following day, September 26, was devoted to the GUTenberg meeting. The program included several technical papers, panel discussions on matters of particular interest to French speakers, and GUTenberg business.

Throughout both meetings, the organizers made available terminals attached to an Internet connection, allowing participants to maintain connections to their home systems. Another welcome facility was simultaneous translation between French and English. The organizers deserve congratulations for a job well done.

256-character math fonts

The adoption of the 256-character DC fonts in Cork has addressed a number of problems in handling Western European languages that use the latin alphabet. However, some of the math capabilities of T_EX have been disabled, and some symbols "orphaned" because of it.

At the request of Michael Ferguson, TUG's coordinator for multilingual activities, and now the chair of the TUG Technical Council, I undertook work on the creation of a compatible 256-character math font, and was able to make a preliminary report at a EuroT_EX BOF in Paris last September.

The core principle expressed in this report was that `cmsy` and all "orphaned" cm symbols must be accommodated. Full upper- and lowercase greek alphabets are required, in both upright and italic postures. Blackboard bold is a strong candidate for inclusion, as are the most useful items from `msam`, `msbm`, `lasy`, `wasy`, and perhaps other existing meta-

² An announcement for EuroT_EX 92 can be found on p. 107

fonts. Suggestions and recommendations were solicited at the meeting.

I have since been in contact with Norbert Schwarz (who was largely responsible for the basic structure of the DC text fonts); he is constructing test versions of 256-character math fonts to begin experimentation. We are sharing the information that we have each collected, and I expect that Norbert will have a usable experimental layout by the time you read this. However, suggestions are still welcome; they should be accompanied, if possible, by supporting documentation of actual usage. Send them to me at the address printed at the end of this column, and I will make sure that they are forwarded to Norbert.

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Samuel Blackwell Whidden, 1930-1991

Sam Whidden, one of the founders of TUG, and its treasurer from 1980 through 1987, died unexpectedly on October 29, 1991. At the time of his death, he was a member of TUG's Long Range Planning Committee.

Trained as an astronomer at Harvard College, Sam spent a couple of years at a hill station in India tracking Sputnik. After his return to the U.S., he obtained an M.B.A. degree from Harvard Business School and joined a small company that was developing computerized warehousing, shipping, and other services for publishers. These services included some experimental projects in text processing for the American Mathematical Society, and in April 1968, Sam came to work for AMS as founding Director of the Information Systems Development Department (ISD).

Sam's new department was charged principally with two tasks. The first was relatively ordinary: to develop in-house computer procedures to replace manual procedures and contracted computer services for the Society's business functions — accounting, sales, warehousing and shipping. The second was certainly more interesting, and perhaps more important: to continue investigations begun nearly a



Sam Whidden, at a lighter (than air) moment

decade earlier into computer-based typesetting and other experimental areas of text processing.

Sam was a champion of the idea that the Society could accomplish the composition of its books and journals on its own computer. This was the logical outgrowth of several projects that had been adopted by ISD on his arrival. He oversaw investigations into several promising technologies and helped design and conduct the pilot projects for math composition that brought first the Science Typographers system and later $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ into everyday use at AMS.

The Society's annual Gibbs Lecture was presented in 1978 by Donald Knuth. Richard Palais, then Chair of the Society's Board of Trustees (and later the first Chair of TUG), drew Sam's attention to this work, and encouraged an investigation. The investigation led to sending a small group of mathematicians and Society employees to Stanford in the summer of 1979. They were instructed to learn $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$, develop some tools, and bring back a working system that AMS could use for all its publication needs, to replace the two widely differing systems in use at the time.

When it became clear that $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ wasn't exactly going to be a "black box" with strong vendor support, Sam was instrumental in arranging with the Stanford $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ Project a meeting, held in February 1980, of existing $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ users and others interested in computer typography for the purpose of organizing a users group. From this meeting emerged TUG. Richard Palais was the first Chairman of the governing body, then called the Steering Committee, and Sam became the first Treasurer.

For the first year or so, the TUG "office" was really a minor activity under Sam's direction at AMS. As it grew, however, more support was required, and Sam's administrative assistant, Ray Goucher, left his position at the Society to become TUG Business Manager. Sam continued to watch over the operation, both as Treasurer and in an advisory capacity, until more space was needed than was available at the AMS offices, and the TUG office moved to its own quarters.

Sam spread the word about $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ and TUG in other directions too. He was an active participant in DECUS, the Digital Equipment Corp. Users Society, chairing the Languages & Tools SIG for three years and making his presence felt in a number of other important areas. He encouraged the use of $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ for preparing DECUS documents, and assigned members of his staff to speak at DECUS about $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ and to develop macros for preparation of the DECUS proceedings. (These macros are still in use.) Sam's own contribution was a set of $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ macros for the "Sessions-at-a-Glance", a compact room-schedule chart that is part of every DECUS program.

In recognition of his work, Sam was the recipient of several of DECUS's highest awards. The 1991 Fall Symposium in Anaheim was dedicated to him.

Sam's final legacy to TUG was his outline for the direction of the Long Range Planning Committee. As long-time Treasurer, he was concerned for the financial health of the organization, but also for its less tangible qualities, such as the sense of community among its members. His foresight and advocacy spurred the creation of the committee, and his participation in its deliberations are now beginning to bear fruit in the form of a plan that will be able to guide TUG in the years to come.

Sam is survived by his mother, a sister, four children, and two grandchildren. He also leaves behind many appreciative friends and colleagues.

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