

BachoT_EX'97 — T_EX from inside

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Abstract

A report of GUST's 5th conference in Bachotek, Poland.

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GUST has matured as Bogusław Jackowski observed during this meeting, because lectures dealt with general aspects instead of personal (solved) problems, and because significant contributions were done by young GUSTies, such as Piotr Strzelcyk, Joanna Marszałkowska and Marcin Woliński.

Of course we had our 'guitars at night,' but also a banquet à la Polonaise, because of GUST's first lustrum. The bonfire with roasted sausages goes extremely well with a shared Vodka or a beer or two, so ... come, join, contribute and convince yourself next time.¹

More seriously, let us concentrate on the contents of this meeting, although we were as usual hampered by the fact that most presentations were in Polish, except for the few by the foreigners.

1 Conference

Janusz Nowacki was the hero of this conference, not in the least because of his work on transforming the Polish version of the CM fonts into PostScript Type 1.

»AŚŹŹ Łąęśćł«”

Piotr Pianowski reported about his CMYK package. Colour separation of both outline and bitmap EPS graphics is now possible.

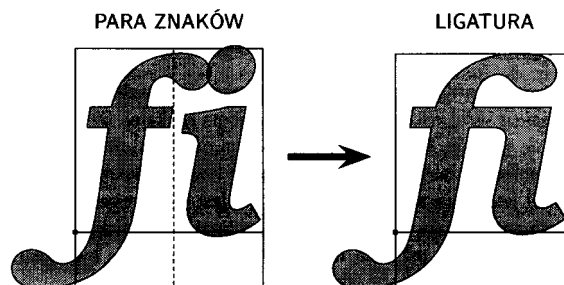
Janusz rehearsed on his Poligraf macro package, emphasizing practical applications.

Andrzej Tomaszewski once again drew attention to typographer's experience, problems and points of view.

Mariusz Olko talked about the benefits of SGML in his tutorial. Aleksander Słomiński reported about the Euromath editor tailored to the SGML-L^AT_EX integration.

Jacko, of course, had several contributions. One was about 'PostScript and T_EX' biased by the Polish language.

Włodek Bzyl had an interesting contribution about his adaptation of Knuth's spell-checking approach to Polish.



Rys. 3. Przykład ligatury.

Marek Ryćko showed us nice features of his Bounding Box macros in T_EX. But, ... alas it was in Polish.

Włodek Martin detailed with Polish (T_EXnical) language considerations.

Julita Bolland introduced us to a commercial package for typesetting Chinese. Nice pictograms for sure.

2 From abroad

From the foreigners present Phil Taylor and Kees van der Laan had their contributions in public.

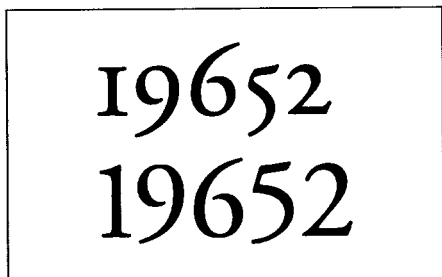
The return of the ligature The return of the ligature

Phil gave a survey of the e-T_EX activities and solicited for comments which seemed a bit misplaced because the proposed features lacked convincing examples for their practical need. He also had his advanced macro writing tutorial, which is really something special.

Apart from some ad hoc problems from the audience he addressed a macro for scanning a PS file for the BoundingBox, characterized by real advanced catcode hackery.

¹Take your shareware—a bottle of Slivowitz for example—with you.

Did you ever think of `\let\oundingBox\fi` within this context? Another issue dealt with on request was real arithmetic in T_EX. His last contribution was about his experience with Adobe's PDF.



Cyfry typu
renesan-
sowego
[nautyczne]
i cyfry «nor-
malne»
kroju pisma,
Adobe
Garamond

Kees reported about 'Just a little bit of PostScript,' and his views on whether we need to know T_EX from the inside or whether insight in T_EX is what we are really after, because we all need to simplify T_EX for personal use and then forget about it.

3 Younger generation

From the younger generation three nice contributions were done.

Piotr Strzelczyk reported about reduction of huge PS files by an order of magnitude. Marcin Woliński, inspired by Kees's FIFO and LIFO, reported about his implementation of stacks and queues in T_EX. Interesting, definitely. Joanna Marszałkowska reported about her translation into Polish of Hobby's Bell reports on MetaPost.

4 Workshops

As usual there were also various workshops for the newcomers. Jacko about PostScript. Staszek about the file server and so on.

5 Conclusions

All-in-all a thorough program. GUST meetings tend to become more and more a family affair. Some were accompanied by their mother, father, or spouse and children. Roughly 100 attendees were present, nearly outnumbering an EuroT_EX.

At home, promises were handled and contacts deepened by email.



Congratulations GUST, indeed you have matured with a very strong kernel of regulars who just come and face the music, next to a growing younger generation, guaranteeing a future for T_EX etc. in Poland.