GUTenberg Meeting Report
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(EARN: UCR001 at FRORSI)
A meeting of the Group of French Users of T\TeX\ (named of course GUTenberg — Groupe franco-
phone des Utilisateurs de \TeX\) was held in Paris
April 26, at IRESCO.*
First, let me recall a few historical facts:
GUTenberg, for those of you who are not
familiar with it, was born in 1984. His christening
was a "secret ceremony" attended by less than ten
persons. In spite of his very young age, his fame
grew rapidly among scientific research communities:
he graduated in humanities last year. A great feast
was organized in his honor with almost 160 guests.
He obtained a Master of Arts in Typography a few
months ago and agreed to give his name to a group of
publishers and scientific authors. This talented
child is now very anxious to get married . . . !
But let us turn to more serious matters:
When I decided, early in February, to or-
organize a meeting for \TeX\ users, I wrote to Ray
Goucher asking for TUG support. My request
was transmitted to the TUG executive board who
unanimously agreed 'in principle', but felt that a
request for support had to be submitted at least
6 months in advance! I answered that, although
such a delay may consolidate the position of well es-
established organizations, it would hardly encourage
small, informal, and recently created groups (like
GUTenberg) to expand and acquire financing.
In spite of this, THE meeting was held in
April as originally announced. I wish to express
my acknowledgements to all the people who con-
tributed to the success of this little congress, and
particularly to J. André, P.O. Flavigny, L. Carnes,
D. Collin, and their respective companies/or-
organizations: IRISA, IRESCO-LASMAS, Personal \TeX
Inc., and TRÉMA. The congress room was full
with more than 120 invited persons.
Quite a number of lectures were on the agenda
and some time was to be devoted to further debate,
especially concerning GUTenberg's future.
I opened the meeting by explaining the goals
which had been set for the day: exchange experi-
ences, inquire about the future of \TeX, and find
volunteers who agree to dedicate a little of their
time to GUTenberg.
The day started with a talk by Michael Fergus-
on about multilingual ML\TeX\ and INRST\TeX\ used

* Institut de REcherche du CNRS sur les Sociétés COntemporai  ```
Members of the first French \TeX{} printing company (Louis-Jean) attended the meeting and M. Laugier gave us the reasons why he uses \TeX{}: reduced cost, typographic quality, and ability to produce new fonts with METAFONT. He insisted on the fact that \TeX{} should be used exclusively for what it was designed: mathematical and literary books. Other styles he called “fancies” should be produced by other technical and traditional means.

Victor Ostromoukhov, who has implemented METAFONT and other tools on Mac and contributed to the start of \TeX{} printing at Louis-Jean, told us about his developments. A discussion took place about printing resolutions. Three ideas were expressed: according to one member of the audience, 1200dpi is not necessary, another said he was able to distinguish two dots at 600, and the last explained that laser printing can not be fully satisfactory at any resolution, laser impact not being clean enough.

A great deal of the time supposedly devoted to the debate on \GUT{}'s future had unfortunately already fed by and we only decided that all people who are interested in regular meetings, willing to contribute to number 1 of “Cahiers \GUT{}” (number 0 was handed out at the congress) or eager to exchange macros and \TeX{}niques would get in touch via the above electronic mail address.

The congress ended with a cocktail offered by Personal \TeX{}, Inc.

After all the encouraging contacts I had during the meeting, I feel entitled to say that \GUT{} is growing steadily and should soon become an “adult”.

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**Late-Breaking News**

**Knuth Scholarship Winner**

The third annual Knuth Scholarship has been awarded to Larry Sharlow, a Technical Writer at Orban Associates Inc. of San Francisco. Orban Associates designs and manufactures audio processing equipment for broadcast, recording, and sound reinforcement. This year’s scholarship is sponsored by ArborText, Ann Arbor, Michigan, and will enable Larry to attend the Annual Meeting in Montreal and a two-day \TeX{} short course.

Sharlow’s responsibilities include researching, editing, and writing technical manuals, bulletins, and instruction sheets. In addition to implementing the software used to produce these materials, he coordinates their review and production. Over a period of a year and a half, he developed his own macro package, ORBTeX, to facilitate typesetting at Orban Associates.

The judges were impressed with the simplicity, appropriateness, and effectiveness of the macros, as well as the completeness of documentation. Special attention was taken to place these macros in context not only with \TeX{} but with the total working environment, which included various hardware and software. Larry’s work is a good example of the independent mastery of \TeX{}. This is one important function of the \TeX{} Users Group—to foster the communication between people working independently with \TeX{}. 