**Die TeXnische Komödie 2–3/2012**

Die TeXnische Komödie is the journal of DANTE e.V., the German-language TeX user group ([http://www.dante.de](http://www.dante.de)). [Editorial items are omitted.]

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MARCO DANIEL, Das Paket `xpars` Dokumentenmakros auf Basis `exp13` [The `xpars` package — Documenting macros on the basis of `exp13`]; pp. 39–47

Writing bigger documents in TeX usually makes an author define his or her own macros and environments. The most common method for authors is to use the `\newcommand` or `\newenvironment` command. The `xpars` package provides functions for the definition of macros with various optional arguments, starred versions or combinations of macros.

DOMINIK WASSENHOVEN, `biblatex` mit `tufte-latex` verwenden [Using `biblatex` with `tufte-latex`]; pp. 51–53

Triggered by a question on `TeX.sx` (“Can I use `biblatex` with `Tufte` classes?” at [http://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/45934](http://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/45934)), I noticed some issues if the `biblatex` package is used with the `Tufte` document classes. Fortunately there is a solution which will be presented here.

DOMINIK WASSENHOVEN, Aufrechte Klammern in kursivem Text [Straight brackets in italic text]; pp. 54–60

In The Elements of Typographic Style Robert Bringhurst recommends typesetting brackets always straight even if they are placed inside italic text: “Use upright (i.e., ‘roman’) rather than sloped parentheses, brackets and braces, even if the context is italic.”

JÜRGEN HANNEDER, Der TeXnische Fortschritt und seine Tücken [TeXnical progress and its pitfalls]; pp. 54–60

The development of TeX in the last decades: fun and frustrations …

PATRICK GUNDLACH, Strichcodes erzeugen mit LuaTeX [Creating barcodes with LuaTeX]; pp. 61–71

(English version published in TUGboat 33:1.)

CHRISTINE RÖMER, Bücher schreiben mit der BTeX-Dokumentenklasse `memoir` [Writing books with the `memoir` document class]; pp. 72–82

`Memoir` is a modern and powerful document class, little known in the German TeX world. This may be due to the powerful competitor KOMA-Script, the sub-optimal documentation or the misleading name. In the presence of two modern document classes for typesetting complex publications (`scrbook` and `memoir`) it is not obvious why introductory BTEX books still recommend using the obsolete `book` class.

HERBERT VÖSS, Anwendung aktiver Zeichen [The usage of active characters]; pp. 83–87

It is common knowledge that TeX knows as basic elements primitives and — at the user level — macros, which consist after complete expansion only of primitives. Macros as well as primitives are used with a leading backslash. A special role is taken by active characters which — without the leading backslash — can behave like macros.

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MARKUS KOHM, KOMA-Script wird volljährig [KOMA-Script comes of age]; pp. 10–16

In 1994 not only BTEX2ε but also KOMA-Script was born, so in 2012 it will be 18 years old. Compared with BTEX2ε which was completely developed at birth KOMA-Script had to grow in the last 18 years. It started as a baby, not just complaining at each incident, but keeping its environment busy. His father, me, lost some nerves; he will take the opportunity to reflect on the last 18 years.

MARKUS KOHM, Kopfzeilentricks mit `scrlatex` [Headline tricks with `scrlatex`]; pp. 17–21

For the 4th edition of the KOMA-Script book I have used a special version of the headline, where the page number is separated from the column title by a small black bar. The page number goes far into the margin. This was created using the KOMA-Script package `scrlatex`.

CLEMENS NIEDERBERGER, Das `xtemplate` Paket [The `xtemplate` package]; pp. 22–30

One of the key steps in the development of BTEX3 is the separation of implementation, layout design and user interface. The `xtemplate` package stands between the first two, in the “designer interface foundation layer”. Based on a not necessarily real world example we show the ideas of the package and its usage.

CHRISTINE RÖMER, Lyrik mit BTEX [Lyric Poetry with BTEX]; pp. 31–39

Using the `verse` package and its extensions in `memoir`, poems can be typeset in an appealing way and interpretation aids for the textual analysis can be introduced. There are still some reservations about the visualisation of the metre.
In this article two packages, `ecv` and `europecv`, are introduced. Both allow typesetting CVs following the European europass template.

Letters can be stamped not only using common stamps but also via stamps bought on the Internet. In this article it is shown how envelopes can be stamped using digital stamps bought online.

Examples and motivation for occasional type-setting of marginal notes in a bibliography.

I will explain how I used LuaTEX to analyse and print results from external tables in an appealing way. I will describe a few issues with LuaTEX concerning special characters and locales that I encountered. In particular, I will mention an issue with a recently published article by Herbert Voß.

The `kantlipsum` package is used as an example to illustrate some programming techniques with the LuaTEX language.

Font e TEX, Fonts and TeX; pp. 30–31


[Received from Gianluca Pignalberi.]

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**ArsTeXnica #13 (April 2012)**

* ArsTeXnica is the journal of qIT, the Italian TeX user group ([http://www.quit.sssup.it/](http://www.quit.sssup.it/)).

GIANLUCA PIGNALBERI, Editoriale [From the editor]; p. 3

CLAUDIO FIANDRINO, Graphviz e TikZ [Graphviz and TikZ]; pp. 4–10

Graphviz is a very powerful tool for drawing graphs. This article tries to explain how to export such graphs as a TikZ picture in a very simple way.

GIANLUCA PIGNALBERI, SALVATORE SCHIRONE, JÉRÔNIMO LEAL, Ancora sugli strumenti per grecisti classici [Again on tools for hellenists]; pp. 11–16

This paper inspects two topics left unsolved in our previous article, namely the transliteration of Greek texts with XeTEX and the composition and the translation with parallel text into another language. One or more solutions to both topics will be given.

CLAUDIO BECCARI, TeX e le lingue romanze alpine [TeX and Romance Alpine languages]; pp. 17–24

TEX is used to typeset in a variety of languages: at the time of writing, it can handle 74 different languages (plus many variants), some of them used by very few people, some by millions. At the moment, there are no facilities for typesetting documents in the various more or less official Alpine Romance languages. This paper would be a first step in order to extend the TeX language capabilities to the various romance languages that are being used by large communities in the European Alps.

ENRICO GREGORIO, Scrivere un pacchetto per LATEX3. Il pacchetto kantlipsum [Writing a package for LATEX3. The package kantlipsum]; pp. 24–29

The `kantlipsum` package is used as an example to illustrate some programming techniques with the LATEX3 language.

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