TUG@BachoT\TeX{} 2017\textsuperscript{*}

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It is always with great pleasure that I go to the annual conference of the Polish-speaking group GUST.\textsuperscript{1} We are in the countryside, bordered by the Bachotek\textsuperscript{2} lake, near to Brodnica. The small houses that accommodate us look like chalets in the Alps. The only drawback is that going there by train from Warsaw is rather lengthy, but the journey through the Polish countryside is scenic. BachoT\TeX{} conferences are very open and welcome many foreign visitors. If a presentation is given in Polish, either slides include an English version, or you will easily find someone who will translate it by word of mouth. BachoT\TeX{} has already welcomed EuroT\TeX{} conferences several times\textsuperscript{3} and this year the TUG conference took place there. So there were more foreign visitors — especially from the USA — than usual.

Following the conference theme of Premises, predictions, predictions, there was a rich variety of talks.\textsuperscript{4} Children of T\TeX{} was undoubtedly the talk most related to the theme: Hans Hagen gave us a personal vision of T\TeX{}'s evolution and future. How to solve tenacious errors and other vexations while processing \LaTeX{} files was brilliantly addressed by Barbara Beeton. Using \LaTeX{} within publishing activities was the subject of the talks of Paulo Ney de Souza, Marcin Borkowski and Lolita Tolené. In particular, some pearls of end-users were displayed during this last talk. The introduction of T\TeX{} into academic curricula was addressed by Petr Sokja and Vit Novotný as part of experiments conducted at the Masaryk University.\textsuperscript{5} In another talk, Jerzy Ludwichowski announced a project that aims to provide resources to students of a grammar school. Last, a very positive review of an introductory book for L\TeX{} was given by Przemysław Scherwentke.

The installation procedures of T\TeX{} Live’s programs are improved continually: this is what we could learn from the talks of Siep Kroonenberg, Mojca Miklavec and Norbert Preining. Various packs-

\textsuperscript{*} This text is a translation (by the author) of a report commissioned by the French-speaking group GUTenberg. The original French version will appear in La Lettre GUTenberg.

\textsuperscript{1} Grupa Użytkowników Systemu T\TeX{}, that is, group of T\TeX{} system users. The display of this group name at its Web site (http://www.gust.org.pl) reveals the boxes used by T\TeX{} to handle non-space characters’ dimensions and kerning applied to T\TeX{}’s logo.

\textsuperscript{2} So this BachoT\TeX{} conference’s name is a play on words.


\textsuperscript{4} In addition to the articles and abstracts in this TUGboat issue, you can get the slides of most talks at the conference’s Web site: http://www.gust.org.pl/bachotex/2017-en.

\textsuperscript{6} For several years, a prize for the best talk has been awarded at the end of a BachoT\TeX{} conference, on the basis of a vote of all participants. This year, Asakura won this prize.

\textsuperscript{7} MultiLingual BioT\TeX{}.

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organised by Willi Egger; a second workshop, more specialised, was connected to packages’ documentation by Damien Thiriet. Farther from TeX & Co., closer to manual work, Willi Egger’s second workshop prompted participants to make an artist’s portfolio. Finally, a fourth workshop, hosted by Michał Gasewicz, was labelled off-topic from the start: it was devoted to beer tasting!

I cannot forget the relaxation moments that punctuated this conference. Discussions at coffee breaks were very rich. Unfortunately, the traditional bonfire of BachoTeX conferences occurred during a rainy evening, so most participants took refuge under a shelter, except for those grilling sausages. However we sang Frère Jacques (Brother John) in many languages, as well as traditional Polish songs, accompanied on the guitar and accordion. Going on with musical attractions, we attended a talk by Piotr Bolek and Maciej Rychly about relationship between painting and music, followed by a concert with flutes and guitars. The second concert was supervised by Katarzyna Jackowska: four musicians—singing, playing the violin, the accordion, the clarinet—involved us in dances at the end of the conference’s dinner. To be exact, I should mention ‘at the end of the first part’, because after a menu composed of traditional Polish meals and ending with some imposing pastry showing the conference’s name, we again saw the arrival of salted meats, and it set out again for another turn.

To sum up, this was a vintage year for BachoTeX and TUG. Let me close with thanks to the French-speaking group GUTenberg once again, for their support making my participation possible.

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The accompanying photos were taken by Gyöngyi Bujdosó (first two) and Andrzej Odyńiec (second two). Thanks to them for their permission to include their pictures in this article.