TUG '93

July 26th–30th, Aston, Birmingham UK

Kees van der Laan

Highlights

- Announcement LaTeX2.9e; LaTeX companion book will be available in the fall, which contains among other items, the NFSS2 documentation
- NTS: organizational and technical issues were surveyed
- GUTenberg's PD PC set looks very promising
- Y&Y's scalable outline fonts
- Adobe's Acrobat, and PDF (portable document format), demoed by Doug Henderson (Blue Sky Research, and Adobe β-tester)
- Tutorials: What is LaTeX?, Flavours of TeX, Virtual fonts, all for free
- Greenwade's CTAN: Comprehensive TeX Archive Network, released
- The *TUGly Telegraph* spread the news (really nice this mini conference newspaper)

This report contains the main issues as perceived by the author. The idea is to get the flavor and my view of the good items across, at the expense of completeness.

1 Introduction

The meeting of the organized TeX Users of the year was TUG '93 at Aston. It attracted some 165 participants, with a few from financially diasadvantaged countries, thanks to the bursary fund. Aston campus is pleasantly located near the centre of Birmingham, Brum for short. A rich variety of courses was offered before and after the conference. In general the program offered nice presentations, workshops, panels and the like, with the vendor booths fewer in number than usual, with Blue Sky Research sadly absent, because of being informed too late. Despite this, to attend the conference was a real thrill. Much attention was paid to details, for example every badge contained a nice proverb, and not to forget the superb logo. In general all was done by creative and playful minds. Great, neat![1] Next to the lecture room there was a discussion lounge—with among others some computers with e-mail and FTP facilities, such that participants could read their e-mail and exchange files—and a vendor booth, alias lounge, for display of materials brought along by TUG and the various LUGs.[2]

2 Conference

For the most it was a one-stream schedule. Along with the program we obtained a copy of the pre-proceedings,[3] a compact BTA booklet about and around in Brum, a map with bus-lines. A sufficient and modest delegate pack. Well-done! And then we had our presents: those big black binders with the gold-coloured logo! The 'mug mats,' neat! Also thoughtful was that thick pad of paper, for taking notes. Superb!

Prior to the conference there were the free tutorials: What is LaTeX all about? Flavours of TeX, and Virtual fonts. During the conference we had the workshops about MakeIndex, BibTeX, and virtual fonts. And there were the ample course offerings before and after the conference!

In the next section attention is paid to the highlights neglecting the day-to-day sequence of events as well as the session titles.

2.1 Keynotes

The keynotes were: Jackowski and Ryćko—detailing what happens at the beginning and at the end of a paragraph[4]—Christina Thiele—about the future of TeX and TUG–and Joachim Lammarsch—presenting his view on the historical and organisational issues related to NTS, the New Typesetting System. Later Phil Taylor—the technical director of the project—aptly complemented this with the technical aspects. A nice example of international cooperation.

[1] And alas we all forget now and then some things, but the issue is how we cope with that, if not for improving the checklist about 'How to run a TeX conference.' In my opinion we should *not* fall hard on these things, we should *not* say 'Oh, I can do better!' No, we should contribute, support, and when we do it ourselves, all we can say is that we certainly will put some different accents here and there. Not to compete. Life is too short to bother about that. Look for the quality and the fun in there!

[2] NTG displayed its recent MAPS 93.1, and the MAPS specials: Salomon's courseware, and the PR set. During this conference Jon Radel and Yannis Haralambous joined NTG! CyrTUG showed quite a lot, if only I could read Russian, sigh...

[3] The proceedings will be in TUGboat 14.3.

[4] Bound to be incorporated within MAPS.

2.2 Presentations

- Michael Doob's paper about the practical use of virtual fonts was very illuminating, and bound to be reproduced within MAPS.[5]
- It was rumoured that John Plaice's Ω-TEX is a nice extension of TEX. It is difficult to overlook its virtues or its impact. New it is for sure.
- Derick Wood's theoretical model of tables was very intriguing. The burning question in here is whether we can develop something like normal specification and transformation to the most clearest formatted represention (semi)automatically.
- Daniel Taupin surprised us all with a new aspect of his TEX work: TEX and Metafont working together to produce maps. Later, and separately, he also reported about new developments in MusicTEX. As well, he amply contributed to the discussions. Nice to have him around.
- Martin Bryan's Guide to DSSSL was a bit too theoretical. Upon request he assured us that this extension is there mainly to handle so-called active documents.
- Michel Lavaud preceded his AsTEX lecture by some analogies of the TEX language with natural language—both ambiguous and 'dangerous'—and with the FORTRAN language—both stable, but deficient. The latter has gained a firm place within the scientific work desk, despite its deficiences and other imperfections.
- Siebenmann in one of his papers proposed a new method for handling the spacing around in-line math. He also contributed much to the discussions. Nice again to have him around.
- Roger Hunter emphasized that the future of TEX has all to do with better user interfaces.[6]
- Włodek Bzyl lectured about the use of literate programming tools to build upon other work—TUGBoat styles customization via change files—pretty printing of TEX code, along with providing an index. By this approach the styles of the GUST bulletin make use of the experience embodied in the TUGboat sty files, with GUST's mods easily added. This approach can handle automatically the modifications on top of the basic sty files as provided and maintained by TUG. Really a sensible approach and worthy of being studied and followed by the editorial team of MAPS.
- Berthold Horn dwelled upon the paucity of math fonts ready for use with TEX, and a checklist to counteract this phenomenon. A very lucid and scholarly paper.
- George Greenwade made his CTAN—Comprehensive TEX Archive Network—go public. A quantum leap!
- At the macro writing level we had Jonathan Fine's Finite State Automata in TEX and my Syntactic Sugar, and Sorting within TEX. The syntactic sugar paper also touches upon the software engineering aspects of TEX macro writing.
- Very intriguing was Mary Dison's paper about teaching typography,[7] as a spin-off of the DIDOT project. It has all to do with getting your priorities right; don't sub-optimize! In essence the issues relevant to Electronic Publishing were presented in the right order.[8]
- Richard Southall elaborated on his 'buses and weirdness' effects when using TEX, naively.[9] I'm happy that this paper will finally be in print, and hopefully reproduced within MAPS.

3 LUGs

Only CyrTUG and Ukraine TUG[10] talked in public about their history and revealed their plans. Both will have a fall meeting, open for the TEX community at large to attend.[11]

4 Future of TEX and lxiii

Quite some attention was paid to these issues. Plans abound at the files server however. Remember that most if not all has to be done by volunteeers! LATEX2.9e[12] will be released in the fall, along with the LATEX companion book. The revenues from the latter will be devoted

[5] Related to this is the work of Allan Jeffrey for manipulating *vpl* files.

[6] It is fun to list all the various items people have prophesied to be essential for the future of TEX. At the user as well as the language level. Allan Reese commented that TEX allows for education as opposed to WYSIWYG click-on systems. The point Allan really made was that Scientific Word and similar systems go for the first gains along with average quality. But for real high-quality computer-assisted typography we need a craftsman-like tool—TEX, I don't know of a better one, and it will serve a life-time, so it is worth the investment—which one has to learn, to master, to handle at best. The counter-argument with driving a car and being a mechanic, is a false analogy: driving a car has nothing to do with high-quality computer-assisted typography. This does not say that WYSIWYG user interfaces don't have their place in the spectrum of EP tools.

A hot item, there are workshops on Teaching Electronic Publishing, for example in Darmstadt, next spring.

[7] See also her The curriculum as a hypertext, EP-ODD, 1992, 5, 63–72.

[8] Relevant to this are also the two book reviews which appeared in the conference *TUGly Telegraph*: Highman, N.J (1993): *Handbook on writing for the Mathematical Sciences*, SIAM (reviewed and recommended by Malcolm Clark), and Woodwark, J (1992): *How to run a paper mill—writing technical papers and getting them published*. ISBN 1-874728-00-3 xv + 111p (reviewed and recommended by Allan Reese).

[9] Earlier at SGML-TEX conference, 1990 Groningen.

[10] Officially to be founded in the fall.

[11] The CIS—Commonwealth of Independent States—is the growth market for organized TEX users for the near future!

[12] It will contain NFSS2, multicol, array, theorem, verbatim. Vital parts of any modern (La)TEX user's arsenal.

mostly to the lxiii project. So, if you are dying for lxiii to come out, buy this book.

5 Upcoming, or go where the action is

For next year the working idea is to have EuroTEX '94 organized by GUST. TUG '94 will be in Santa Barbara, TUG '95 in Florida, and TUG '96 in Europe again. And in the meantime the fall is crowded with meetings: Ukraine TUG,[13] CyrTuG (early October), the Nordic and NTG's November meetings,[14] next to DANTE's regular and cosy Stammtisch, ..., and GUST in the spring, watch out for the calendar in TUGboat.

6 Breakfast talk, and Brum's canals

During the very tasty and ample English breakfasts there is enough room for talking, meeting the people. One day I happened to join Norman Naugle from TEXas A&M. A very nice and kind fellow, and TEX-hobbyist from the beginning. He talked among other things, about his childhood and that his bad eyes went unnoticed for too long, so that he learned to memorize everthing which was spoken aloud and written on the blackboard. As such this is one of the nice chats in the morning, of how things go.

Later on while wandering along Brum's canals I pondered about the other side. How are things with extremely gifted children? Do they try to hide their talents in order not to be excluded from the group? Are we able nevertheless to recognize the gifted children?

> Fleetstreet bridge where am I? Ah, the science museum, nice area! What was I thinking about? Oh, yes back again, hmmmm.

What does this have to do with me, now? Aha, got it. The BoD is trapped similarly: we don't look innocently and positively to what each can contribute. We are too anxious about being taken over, people playing games. In thinking this way the child is thrown out with the bath water. The big challenge is to find out what each and every one can contribute, perhaps we even should awake and develop that. Accept it, be happy with it, even if you don't foresee completely the consequences. That is life! Needless to say I enjoyed my walkabout along the canals.

7 And further...

A contest for a robust approach for typesetting the A in LATEX..., (submission date has been extended to 31 December 1993)
No mug this year but the beer mat to put one of your previous mugs onto.
Belated T-shirts..., but they will come for sure.
I was told that the Poles will write their macros in Web, not in LATEX, nor in plain. They envision that not only can it be more generally used in this way, but will also be more easily maintained, with a log of the history of changes all there. Definitely something to ponder about... if not to adopt, because of its fundamental approach.
The Thursday *TUGly Telegraph* contained a nice overview of the Technical Council and Special Interest Working Groups written by the chair Michael Ferguson. A nice survey to be reproduced within MAPS.
Looking more closely at the list of participants I found that I knew more than half personally. It is a small world we live in!

8 Conclusion

I hope that the authors of the various papers will take notice of the comments made and enrich their proceeding versions with these useful thoughts and suggestions. Meeting the people and stimulating each other—that is what conferences are for. This one was a particularly good one.

Thanks to you all![15]

[13] At the moment of writing this report we heard about their leader Yuri has passed away, due to a heart attack.

[14] In the air is Doug Henderson coming over to enrich both meetings, if not for a demo of Acrobat, or a course about logo design. A nice cooperation effort in sharing the costs and getting the best out of it. Next to that info about Kinch's materials—CD ROM with all of the (Aston) Archive, and more—will be available as well as what Y&Y has to offer.

[15] And Christina Thiele in particular for improving my trip report, and suggesting en-passent better ways of cooperating with TUG people.

TUG Board of Directors

Aston, 1993

Kees van der Laan

Abstract

The following are the loosely formulated issues as perceived by me. For more preciseness the reader is referred to the (approved) minutes.

My last BoD meeting for some time to come, with some ample sessions, before, during and aft the conference; you really need to be in good condition to work that all through! I always feel that it is too much—also because of how we run NTG, but that is a much smaller group—certainly with respect to the outcome. More or less the same outcome can be obtained with less, much less energy and more joy, more fun, if only

> we dared to do less and trust the mandate style of working

giving people responsability to work things out appropriately. If you look at the BoD members, then you can't deny that they all have responsible positions in their everyday jobs, so they are certainly able to work out things appropriately, once there is the feeling that somebody is counting on you. Hmmmm, I hope when I ever return to serve this board it will be in this spirit. Enough about that for now. Some real issues were at stake.

1 The big issues

As usual for any X-UG the issues to take care of are

- organizing meetings (Conference Planning Committee),
- having your publications etc. out in time, in agreement with your standards (Publications and Documentation Committee),
- plan ahead of time (Long Range Planning Committee),
- maintain, or even better increase, the number of memberships (Promotions Committee),
- have TEXnical knowledge at the finger tips (Technical Council with its TWGs and SIGs)
- along with some other business, which can be easily approved by email once sensibly proposed[1]

And. . . there is no deficit this year! The office is in capable hands. Let us support Pat with all we can offer, and give her the feeling that we really appreciate what she is doing, despite the difficulties she has to face in paying attention to all those different personalities, and personalities we are for sure!

1.1 Conference planning

The committee got a big hand for their work on looking well ahead and their sensible plans: some rotation scheme for the TUG meetings. West coast USA, East Coast, and Europe, something like that. That was not the only point addressed, also the candidate sites have been solicited to make their intentions clear, again well ahead of time. So next year it will be Santa Barbara, California, and for '95 the working idea is Florida, and so on. Also attention was paid to protecting new and enthusiastic users from taking too much of a burden—when they volunteer for organizing a meeting—by providing a list of things which deserve attention, and will consume ample time. So the potential organizers will know what is likely to lay ahead of them. Know what will be expected from them. On the other hand the sites are supported by experience gained from the past via checklists about

> How to run a TUG conference,
> What to do When, by Whom,
> and Who to cooperate with.

Really simple, but nevertheless a thrill, and I'm happy that this is in the open now, and perhaps something for other LUGs to borrow from. For example when organizing the European meetings.
Thanks Jackie, Anita, Robert, Mimi, and Mimi, and all those involved. A great job! Real leadership.

1.2 Long range planning

Joachim Lammarsch heads this committee and is therefore in a key position to come out with sensible things. Although not all the committee members could make it for Aston, we agreed upon—whatever the outcome—that there should be a report available next year, with at least attention paid to

> (All)TEX and its possible future,
> TUG and LUGs, how to cooperate and the total organizational structure.

Details such as the status of the special directors of TUG will hopefully be handled as a trivial consequence of the main ideas.

[1] We really should not waste our time on those trivia, where we all agree upon, because it does not really matter, or simply the proposals are as sensible as sensible could be. Of course now and then there are hot potatoes, but then they need to be prepared by some of us off-line. Such a waste to try for the end run in full BoD.

Furthermore, I think we should look after a structure which does not matter much, no matter how paradoxically that may sound. The whole organization and the contacts must not critically depend on it. If so, it is wrong. Make it simple and workable! Let it serve the purpose: we all love (All)TEX, that is at the heart.[2] The TUG mission statement might be too strong a requirement to fulfill by beginning LUGs, even NTG. You can't simply organize perfection, things will go wrong, that is not the issue. How we cope with things done differently from your style, that is the big deal—call it tolerance, respect, open-mindedness, non-discrimination. . .—and has all to do with human relationships. There is no other graceful way, I'm sure.

> As said earlier in 'Van de voorzitter. . .' I'm much in favour of the federation structure, leaving room for minorities to expose their creativity, with a more than honorary place for TUG in there.
> History has it that new groups discover dark corners, stress unnoticed aspects, and so on. It makes it all so colourful, creative, and captivating.

2 Public Relations

Apart from the usual nice things like T-shirts, mugs, and other gadgets, a great willingness was on the air to encourage the increase of the organized TEX users all over the globe, not least of which TUG members. This all by strategical means. One thing is especially captivating: low-budget courses, not to make money of course, but to invest in your membership, such that they can do their jobs at home more easily and of higher quality. If we really succeed in that, the membership will rise sky high, because that is what we are all after

> to do our job to live better, more easily, and of higher quality with more fun.

If only (All)TEX, and TUG/LUGs, could make this happen. . . It is all on the air, and things are going to happen for sure.

3 TEXnical Council

This council is active and works steadily behind the scenes. It started with the DC fonts (Stanford and finished at Cork), with now the multi-lingual issues at the heart to pay attention to. But there is more going on for sure, only God knows where. In the daily *TUGly Telegraph* during the conference Michael Ferguson outlined the organizational structure. Simple and sensible, see elsewhere in this MAPS, for that report.

4 Some other business

Next to the above highlights the 'Knuth Scholarship' procedures have been widened up to allow also non-TUG members, read all TEX users, to participate. Sensible! The election process for the BoD has been changed to be more in agreement with what we have adopted since we started

> gradual re-elections for neither too short nor too long a period of time: a three-year period of office. For the detailed rules see TTN.[3]

5 What can I do? What shall I say?

The *exchange of information* between TUG and emerging LUGs via for example exchanging TUGboat with the LUG's bulletin is a fact of late![4] This will make TUG the spider in the Web, the central organization. NTG is very grateful for having a complete set of TUGBoats available at the library of the University of Groningen, open for the community at large to profit from, thanks to TUG, especially Christina Thiele (and myself), being aware of the strategic importance.

> To participate in the meetings,
> to get the most out of it, to communicate,
> to share all the goodies with the folks at home.

Hang on, many good things are bound to happen; the priorities will fall into the right place.

> TUG, and the LUGs, are going up again, . . . together!

5.1 A helping hand. . .

With respect to TUGboat the big problem is the workload. Pondering about it, while realizing the availability of only a few volunteers,[5] we need to think of new and effective ways. Barbara indicated that the handling of the referee-author interaction was half of the work, next to coping with new challenges posed by authors in TEXnical typography. If so authors, what about the following?

> Before submitting an article consult a friend!

The articles submitted in this way are of higher quality to start with, they run to say the very least. More likely than not, they contain fewer typos, and at least one reader is pleased by it.

Acknowledgement

I'm pleased to acknowledge the help of Christina Thiele in adjusting the contents and improving the English. Thanks Christina!

[2] Without TEX there would not have been X-UGs!
[3] TTN 2, 3: 23–25.
[4] On my mind ever since Paris and Stanford '89.
[5] If you feel you can contribute, contact Barbara, or any BoD member, if not NTG's board. A helping hand is always welcome!

CyrTUG '93 and some more

Oct 4th–7th, Pereslav'-Zaleskiĭ, Russia

Kees van der Laan

Meeting the people

1 Introduction

This meeting of the Cyrillic TEX User Group was the third since their founding meeting in 1990 on the day of Slavonic writing, the day of Kirill and Mefodii. Previous accounts of the activities of CyrTUG have been done on EuroTEX '91 (Russian TEX, TEXniques in Siberia), EuroTEX '92 (On TEX experience in MIR Publishers, Russian TEX: new eight bit fonts and IBM PC equipment), TUG '93 (Russian TEX issues: looking about and outlook, TEX in the Ukraine report), and in TTN 0,0 (TEX in the Soviet Union), TTN 1,1 (CyrTUG, SibTUG), TTN 1,2 (Estonian User Group), TTN 2,1 (News about CyrTUG and Russian TEX users, uk → ue), TTN 2,2 (TEX waves from Estonia).

I became aware of this meeting at Aston, where Irina Makhovaya and Irina Gorbunova persuaded me to come by showing their beautifil booklet about Pereslav'-Zaleskiĭ, the conference site and a national reserve. They could not possibly know that I sympathize a lot with Russia and that I have been there twice. So, they caught me in the belief that I could go there by car and travel around a bit. Alas, not yet, because you still need a visa, and more importantly you must describe which route you will take, where and when you will stay at what place and so on. While being there and looking back it is not so much of a surprise, because for a foreigner who does not speak the language, it is next to impossible to get around or find places to stay.

When time passed by some email[1] reminded me of my promise, and I had not yet made any steps towards obtaining a visa.[2]

In spite of the political upheaval—and strengthened by Irina Gorbunova's soothing words—I was on my way on Sunday 3 October, armed with my Moscow guide book of 1968 and a trunk loaded with TEX-related material to give away next to some software to copy. The flight was easy and on arrivalpassing some time-consuming formalities—my host Irina Gorbunova and her husband were there to welcome me into Moscow under a beautiful blue sky. We had the usual chat about peculiarities of the city while their friend drove us in his Lada to their place. After some tea—'tsai' is the national folk drink next to Vodka, I presume—we went for a bird's eye view of the city to the closeby television broadcast tower. Arriving at the spot we found that anti-Yeltsin people had gathered and were about to occupy this vital communication plant. Telling this story over-and-over at the conference made the three of us the heroes of the day.

I enjoyed revisiting the city especially the Economic Achievements surroundings and the beautiful underground stations to name but two.[3]

The next morning we set off for Pereslav'.[4] The trip in a slightly old and smelly bus was ok, and I enjoyed the scenery. The conference site—a children's computer camp of the Program Systems Institute— was located by Lake Pletsjewo, to be reached only by a sandy road. Perfect to walk on but shaky when done by a truck-like and too small bus. The inroads to TEX are full of surprises!

2 Conference

The conference was attended by some 65 members and essentially about the Cyrillic aspects of using TEX.[5] It had a one-stream schedule. Next to that there was a LATEX course for beginners, and a workshop for those who just liked to demo and to discuss (La)TEX matters, or to exchange software.

[1] Please do remember and take note that email *to and from* Russia is expensive for them: inbound and outbound mail is charged by the kilobyte! Moreover they can't email easily because they have dial-up connections only from their working place at the moment.

[2] The other foreigner at the conference, John Roseman, from New York, who lives and works in St Petersburg explained to me that obtaining a visa is in reality a matter of tax, and you can get it faster if you pay more.

[3] At rush hours it is impossible to find your way in the underground. For travelling by (trolley) bus or tramway you really need to be a local. No maps!

[4] Because Moscow is such a huge city we needed 1.5 hours to get at the bus station. Yeltsin had already commanded to remove the parliament from the 'white house.' No discussions about that in the underground. People just went to their work and hoped for the best.

[5] The usual things: fonts, hyphenation, ligature-like issues, and with respect to LATEX the generic approach of reserved words.

The equipment consisted of some 386-based PCs with emTEX and AMS-TEX on it as basis.

At the opening, Christina Thiele's 'Greetings from the TUG president' was read aloud and well-received. A paper copy was taped to a pillar as well so that people could read it at leisure afterwards. The paper by Yannis Haralambous about the standardization of Cyrillic fonts was also taped to the pillar as was the message from the CyrTUG president. They all could not make it to attend.[6] With respect to Cyrillics I was told that there are three popular versions around. With the expected growth of the number of Russian TEX users it makes sense to standardize on one. It was therefore a great pity that Yannis was not there. It was also a pity that no delegate from the Ukraine was present,[7] nor from Estonia or Lithuania.

The people enjoyed the conference very much[8] if only for the *two* magnificent sight-seeing trips to Pereslav'-Zaleskiĭ and Rostov, marvels of the necklace of historical places better known as the Golden Ring. They said it was great to meet TEX-active people who work in the same direction. Scientists working at universities are very underpaid and in relation to that they experience TEX as a hobby to dive into. I found it difficult to follow the lectures because they were done in an extemporaneous way: just spoken, and furthermore no transparencies (slides), and all in Russian. This in spite of my personal interpreter Irina Gorbunova, translating the main things. However, I was impressed by the implementation of yet another shell—QSH[9]—for the PC in the UNIX spirit, and influenced by TEX's flexible approach. A generic shell which can be customized. I 'presented' my 'What is TEX and METAFONT all about?' Later I could also talk about BLUe's bibliography. Both were simultaneously translated by Irina Gorbunova. The papers were well-received and in phase with the stage of development CyrTUG and its members are in. A year earlier Dean Guenther happened to be around in Moscow and had pointed out the relevance of various TEX issues already in 'teaching the teachers.'

The conference banquet had a cosy atmosphere. Typical Russian and friendly. Many toasts were given, for example one to the health of Don Knuth and one to the Ladies present. I toasted on the friendship of CyrTUG and NTG and on the cooperation with TUG. I drank friendship with at least three Irinas. After dinner we had our Russian round dance and those present at Stanford '89 would not be surprised to hear that I enjoyed it very much. I will assume that this was the reason for me being invited to become a honorary member of CyrTUG—number 190.[10]

The reading table contained many nice contributions: some publications in Russian like the translation of the Joy of TEX, and one of Martin Gardener's mathematical puzzles books. A proof of the *TEXbook in Russian!*[11] and an introduction to PostScript. From the other User Groups there were on display: TUGboat (and its supplementary resource guide), DANTE's Die TEXnische Komödie, GUTenberg's lettres, NTG's MAPS (and the two specials: PR Set and Salomon's Courseware). From MIR one could also buy the Joy of TEX and related books.

3 Corridors

An issue communicated to me by Irina G had to do with the sheer size of Russia. Within CyrTUG local groups will spawn[12], for example to start with the already existing group in Siberia and a new group to be founded in St Petersburg to facilitate that TEXies can meet each other in those remote areas.

With respect to TUGboat redistribution[13] Irina Gorbuna explained to me that reproducing TUGboat was not so much needed. The table of contents of each issue in electronic form is extremely useful. Given this table members can ask the CyrTUG office for a paper copy of what they want to peruse. Later Irina Makhovaya said that 'paper' is a problem in Russia, and that the (scientific) contents—read the articles—of TUGboat can better be redistributed in electronic form, read send the members disquettes with the files, of just that what they

[6] Other friends like Sosja Samarin and Tolja Urvantsev could not make it either, alas.

[7] Yuri Melnichuk had planned to attend but died suddenly from a heart attack while on tour in the UK after TUG '93.

[8] In spite of the cold, the difficulties in reaching the site, no showers (on Tuesday we had our Russian sauna however), no overhead projector, the limited number of computers, there was no complaint heard. Apparently each and every participant knows about the difficulties in organizing these kinds of meetings.

[9] This work was done by Edward Timoshenko and Yuri Kuznetsov of Moscow State University.

[10] More realistic is that they recognized that I was behind all the free exchange of information by secretaries of LUGs, to exchange bulletins. In Paris '89 I proposed that LUGs offer secretaries of other LUGs a membership, and to have organized exchange of information in this way. Ever since, NTG ships off the MAPS to known secretaris, the TUG office included.

[11] During the conference some 25 orders were made.

[12] It is not easy to start an association in Russia. It is said to me that recommendation letters will help a lot. People from St Petersburg therefore asked me to send a letter of recommendation for starting their chapter of CyrTUG. Of course I will do this with pleisure.

[13] A general issue which has kept the Europeans busy for quite some time in the past, despite that it was explained that it is *im*possible to have TUGboat in electronic from. I have heard that before and agree in principle with it when striving after its full generality. But when looking at it from the contents, let us say to scientific point of view it is possible to provide the functionality for let us to 80% or so. I have some disquettes of MAPS issues, so there is a way. The idea is to spread the good information whatever that may be, and if there comes an exception on your way, that can be easily settled.

want. Another possibility could be to allow for local advertising—that is by companies active in Russia—in the TUGboat version to be redistributed within Russia. This is prompted by the fact that people don't have computers at home, and use TEX at their work. Only half of the CyrTUG members have access to email. FTP is expensive because of that every kilobyte has to be paid for and salaries are still very modest, read low.

I also understood that before formulating a proposal for a formal agreement between for example TUG and CyrTUG it is vital to have informal discussions and to judge the possibilities, simply because well-intended but non-appropriate proposals can hardly be refused.

> It is so useful to really understand the background of each other. To know and understand the context! That is why I was so interested to go, to stay at friends, to feel and experience the context, how Russians live.

Furthermore, if TUG hires people for composing TUGboat, for example, we might consider hiring people in financial disadvantaged countries, because it is a stimulus to them in using TEX if not financially, and certainly not more expensive for us.

Finally, Irina G told me that CyrTUG has been discussing the idea of starting their bulletin too.[14] Hopefully their bulletin will see the light of day next year, be it in electronic form (on disquettes) or on paper. Undoubtedly it will be released on a special date to commemorate a historical event in relation to publishing.

4 Social life

Although a bit out of place it might make sense to communicate some flavours of the social life in Moscow.

It is very difficult to find your way around on your own. The underground is not as clearly marked as I'm used to, and for using the ample bus lines or tramways one really has to be a Muscovite.[15]

The shopping is much different from what I'm used to. Here one first orders what one wants—for primary goods in Russian—then pays at the special casher the amount and finally collect your purchases.[16]

I was repeatedly told that inflation goes up by the hour. The Pushkin Fine Arts Museum and the Tretyakov Galleries have two entrance fees, one for Russian people and one for foreigners differing by a factor of thirty. Scientific workers at the universities have been promised that their salaries will be corrected because of the inflation. Not so! This is a factor in the emerging of private universities, which will attract gifted people at the danger of enlarging the gap with deprived people. I'm afraid there is no other way. So much has to be done to overcome the lagging behind.

5 The week after

Moscow is a huge city with nine million inhabitants. Much to see and to enjoy. I enjoyed especially the Russian circus, and was very touched by the service of the Russian Orthodox Church to commemorate the victims of the 'White House' upheaval.

Downtown is as usual like a village and can be strolled through. After the conference the guiding me through town was taken over by Sergeĭ, Irina's husband. Many details of who lived where, and what the buildings are used for now has been explained to me like a fall in a hot summer. I have the feeling that I know Moscow now like London or Paris.

During the evening my little knowledge of Russian culture—remember that we grew up with the iron curtain—was enlarged by miles. Sergeĭ with an art academy background was an irrepressible source, we paged through many an art book.

5.1 MIR Publishers

A visit to MIR publishers—the driving force behind CyrTUG—was of course on the agenda. After World War II this publishing house was founded with the task to translate literature from and into Russian. It employs a few hunderd people. MIR has many departments with Irina Makhovaya's one active in the translation of math-oriented scientific books. Her group is equipped with a dozen or so PC's, and a special (dial-up) email system.[17] There is no connecting LAN for sharing the files, programs or printers. Her staff consists of a few full-timers and there are some 10 to 15 part-timers. Some TEX translations are underway, for example, Concrete mathematics, and TEXing Math by example. Irina Makhovaya welcomes the cooperative attitude of authors. At the moment she is negotiating the translation of the LATEX book.

5.2 Meeting the CyrTUG board

For the evening I was invited to meet the CyrTUG board officially, at Irina Makhovaya's place. This meeting—quite informally though—was held while having a nice

[14] Actually along with the delegate pack I found CyrTUG Bulletin #1 (16p), which contained among others a survey of available tools, ordered according to functionality. Because they are all zip files I presume these can be obtained from the CyrTUG office.

[15] In spite of the fast underground typical commuting takes one hour and a half either way, because of the waiting time for bus connections.

[16] Primary goods such as food can be bought around the corner. For secondary things like books, kitchen machines, furniture, and luxury articles, it is much harder to find a shop. The best bet is the Arbat Street area, the Ukraine Hotel area, and the Economic Exhibition grounds. They have their price, and it is only hoped that the superfluous importing of goods won't kill the local industry, but will stimulate the Russians to produce similar things cost-effectively *for and by* themselves.

[17] A message takes some five hours to arrive!

Russian supper. Again many a toast was given.

After the main dish Irina as the executive director explained what we had talked about during the afternoon.[18]

This approach was welcomed as reasonable.

Also next year's meeting was discussed, several suggestions were made, and Irina was given again the freedom to make something out of this. In the meantime, supper continued and everybody felt satisfied.

> It was not difficult to be open-minded under these circumstances, and to listen carefully to what was said and taste everything that was offered.

Sergeĭ Strelkov was interested whether there was a version of emTEX which runs without errors under OS/2. He also liked to work with `WEB` under C but did not know of a public domain C compiler for the PC, and especially did not know how to get it. I whispered something about LINUX. . . He also was interested in cooperation for Russian people with people in the West. I pointed to the LATEX call for volunteers, and to the list of TUG working groups.

After some photographs and the inevitable evening tsai the meeting ended at roughly nine o'clock and everybody went home, feeling happy! Very pleasant indeed this meeting à la Russe.

In the night after dreaming it all through I composed the opening sentences of my Publishing with TEX book, and I decided definitely about its approach and scope.

5.3 Sergeĭ Posad

At the meeting Irina G was approached by Andreĭ Slepouchin. He lives at the monastary of St Sergeĭ, at the place which was named Zagorsk by the Soviets. Recently the name was changed back into its old name Sergeĭ Posad.[19] This place is the religious centre of the Russian Orthodox Church, and has several cathedrals within its walls. It also has a Theological Academy where Andreĭ studies.

I had been there already in 1968, but now I could see it from the other side, from the inside. And I saw it from the inside indeed. First we were guided to the holy wells, and drank some of the water. No tourist was to be seen there. Then I got a magnificient guided tour by one of his 'colleagues,' a student who spoke English perfectly.[20] Finally Andreĭ showed us his working place, a tower with in every niche some advanced computer.[21] He loves to work with computers and this is the only way he can do so, in the Theological Academy via a so-called free study program. His background is computer algebra and obeject oriented programming. He whispered also something about (picture) data compressing via fractals?!?

The idea is that this religious centre will in future be the publishing house of all Russian Orthodox Churches, taking care of all of the publications to be made. Impressive, and bound to become important.

When leaving us at the train he made the suggestion that it might be possible to have a CyrTUG meeting here. He also welcomed cooperation on the fonts issues, for example with Yannis Haralambous. I understood the hint and promised that I would in some way communicate this to Yannis.

5.4 Parting gift

My hosts organized a party for me leaving. A la Russe as can be guessed. From Olga Lapko (MIR publishers) I got their Cyrillic fonts, and from Irina Makhovaya their Call for Membership.[22] I enjoyed it very much and I offered my guests my gratitude. I hope they can have a PC at their home next week.[23] Thank you Sergeĭ and Irina for the hospitality received and the friendship shared!

6 Conclusion

The program was well-done. The attendees enjoyed the meeting. It was a success. Absolutely spoken it can be improved as always.

Next year the meeting will be held in summer and probably in the same place. It was decided that CyrTUG will reserve some funds to buy an overhead projector. If you plan to attend next year's meeting take your walking boots with you next to your morning slippers. Contribute a nice paper if not for some software to share (or hardware to give away). And don't forget your Cyrillic

[18] TUGboat in Russia via redistributing the articles for non-commercial use either in printed form but then only feasonable when Russian advertisements can be added, or in electronic form.

Can TUG (or users) help in getting the files from the archives? Starting from the CD ROM and the TUGboat articles on disquettes. Then only the most recent additions have to surface-mailed once in a while. A call for volunteers will be made—loud and clearly—in for example TTN. NTG's files of MAPS will be sent as will be 4(all)TEX, let us say with X-mas.

[19] This changing of names is also a difficulty for a foreigner to get around, as I also had experienced at Prague.

[20] My question about the main difference between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church was well-taken and very clearly answered. The main difference comes down to that the Patriarch is the 'primus inter pares' that is the first under equals, while the Pope is infallible.

[21] He works on fonts. En-passant he showed 3B2 a 'WSYIWYG' TEX system. The source and the result each in a window, with editting from the *result* as well! I have seen a similar functionality before in the GRIF project, but then two data files were maintained, and Andreĭ assured me that here there was only one.

[22] As said my trunk was loaded on arrival. On departure it was even heavier! So many souvenirs were given to me.

[23] I decided to 'pay' my host for my stay. Enough for a second-hand 286 machine at their home; that will help them a lot.

font charts! To know the Cyrillic alphabet is an absolute necessity in order to move around.

As a member I will join next year's meeting and in order to walkabout easier I decided to give my learning of Russian a retry.

I can only congratulate CyrTUG for this successful meeting and thank them and MIR[24] for having invited me, and having made me a honorary member. And I like to thank Irina Gorbunova for translating so much for me and being my inseparable help. I like to thank NTG for reimbursing the trip costs.

Let's go for a double number of attendees next year.

[24] MIR means world and also peace. And peaceful the meeting was for sure.