

**EuroT<sub>E</sub>X'94**

Julita Bolland (text)  
 Toni Walter (drawings)  
 Włodek Bzyl (the prize founder)

**Introduction.** What and where Sobieszewo is, probably only a few people in Gdańsk know without checking the map of Poland. The name of Gdańsk may or may not be more familiar. If not, then for all those who are not particularly good at geography I'll give some reference information, which cannot be as detailed as I would like it to be.

Gdańsk, an old Baltic seaport, is situated just at the mouth of the Wisła river (the longest river in Poland). Sometime in the past Gdańsk became a rich merchant city with an autonomous government. Merchants were rich enough to gain self-government and too wise to break relations with the Polish kingdom.

The incredible wealth of the merchants created the shape of the city with many granaries, magnificent houses and monumental churches. "Once upon a time" there was even the second Elizabethan Theatre in Europe; unfortunately nothing was left for us.

Knowing vaguely the approximate position of Gdańsk we can trace the path to Sobieszewo. Somewhere in the mouth of the Wisła river, in between its arms there is a piece of land where houses stand in groups—that's Sobieszewo, the very place where the Eighth European T<sub>E</sub>X Conference was held this year on 26–30 September. It may not sound as exciting as Hawaii or Malaysia, . . . , but here the world was typeset with thick northern forests, grey, cold Baltic sea and quick-dunes. Or even more, just imagine spotting unknown mushrooms among bushes near your foot like notes left by Nature and little, yellow, transparent dots of Baltic sea honey\* on the beach. But as the Chinese saying goes:

百闻不如一见。

The Conference started on Monday 26th September and ended on Friday 30th September; however, some of us came the day before. Approximately 60 participants from Western, Middle and Eastern Europe attended the Meeting together with special guests Barbara Beeton and Christina Thiele.

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\* In case of misunderstanding check The Oxford Dictionary under the entry 'amber'.



The organisers were GUST (DeGUSTibus non est disputandum) and Gdańsk University. The event was sponsored by grants from the Polish Ministry of Education, Addison-Wesley, Springer-Verlag, GUTenberg, DANTE, UKTug, NTG. Special thanks goes to Phil Taylor for his invaluable help.

**There was evening and there was morning, one day.** Although technically it was the first day (though not the very first one, since the official opening was celebrated the following day), nonetheless we were busy visiting Gdańsk in the afternoon, not to mention that some of us started this day file with 'a walk along an unguarded beach' in a group hunting for amber.

The more down-to-T<sub>E</sub>X part of the programme, supposed to begin on the 27th of September, was divided into three topics: Principles, Practice, Progress. The presented papers have been published in the Proceedings of the Eighth European T<sub>E</sub>X Conference.\* But let's not anticipate events which don't belong to this sequence or else we lose control.

**There was evening and there was morning, a second day.** The official opening took place in the morning starting with Phil Taylor's speech and with a few warm words said by Włodek Bzyl and Hanna Kołodziejska. At this very moment the programme of the Conference started to run interactively.

Although talks were planned as the main part of all activities, in a couple of days coffee breaks (or coffee joints?) took over the schedule. Exchanging

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\* The Proceedings are available at the bargain price of 15DM. If you want a copy please contact us at the address: [matwb@halina.univ.gda.pl](mailto:matwb@halina.univ.gda.pl)

views, chatting, etc. occurred just at the time of the coffee breaks (joints?). The organisers, in order to help us get acquainted with each other, gave a 'diplomatic' (standing) party. Champagne, (...), beer and a little something kept us alive for a few hours and probably no one was underfull or overfull. Bogusław 'Jacko' Jackowski and Phil Taylor gave a special treat whose 'specialité de la maison' were two guitars and the most popular songs.

Evening passed and morning came, that was the third day. Talks, talks and coffee breaks. The performers did their best to excite the audience. The subjects varied from L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X<sub>2</sub><sub>ε</sub> through Yannis Haralambous Ω to METAFONT. The end of the day was marked by the Babel discussion.



There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day. On this day the first \bye-s appeared; however there were still many talks and at the end of the whole Conference the Cathy Booth prize was awarded. In Sobieszewo the best paper hasn't been chosen arbitrarily, but in democratic and secret voting.

The winners were Bogusław Jackowski and Marek Ryćko who got the prize twice before: Karlsruhe 1989, Praha 1992, and (a reminder) in Aston 1993 they gave the keynote talk.

There was evening and there was morning, fifth, sixth, seventh day. Tutorials and courses were organized after the Conference. It should be noted that the most popular one was 'Book Design and Typography' by Marek Ryćko and Phil Taylor.



**Conclusion.** In a last few words on atmosphere, I would like to quote Erik Frambach:

*You can think of a conference as a concert for a symphony orchestra. The quality of the concert depends on the individual skill of the players but even more on their ability to cooperate. There was much enthusiasm for any tune regardless of its significance. Because of this attitude the players were all at ease, which encouraged personal communication very much. Very soon social intercourses became a major occupation for many.*

In this way talks, tutorials, courses became headlines and footlines for the conference shape.

GOD BLESS YOU MR KNUTH.

**The Participants.** The conference gathered 59 people from all over Europe. Portraits of some of them are displayed below. Dear reader, do you recognize some of them? If yes, please drop an email to [matwb@halina.univ.gda.pl](mailto:matwb@halina.univ.gda.pl). The individual with the highest number of correct guesses will be given a bottle of *Gdańsk Gold Wasser* at the next EuroT<sub>E</sub>X meeting — to be held in the Netherlands.\*

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\* Editor's note: The editor regrets the delay in TUGboat publication that prevents most readers from participating in this contest. We will discuss with Włodek the possibility of a substitute contest.

Head 1.



Head 3.



Head 2.



Head 4.



Head 5.



Head 7.



Head 6.



Head 8.



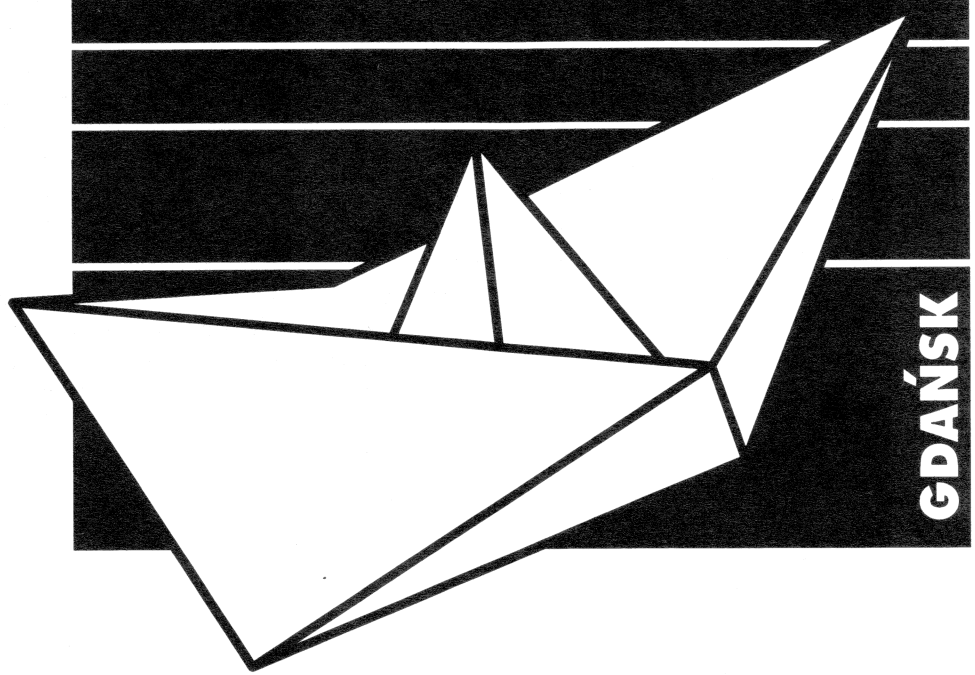
Head 9.



Head 10.



**EUROTEX'94**



**GDAŃSK**