Let's TEX together – EuroTEX 2005 Proceedings

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EuroTEX 2005 was a special conference, celebrating the 16th anniversary of both DANTE and GUTenberg, with the theme "Let's TEX together". It took place from March 7 to March 11, 2005, in the French-German border region at the Abbaye des Prémontrés, in Pont-à-Mousson.

This proceedings aim to give you an impression of the TEXnical contents of the conference. Though it's death is sometimes predicted, TEX and related typesetting tools are still alive. We are sure the following articles are a good evidence for it. On the other hand, the TEX community is a big family grown over decades. So please enjoy many color photos taken on the conference during the sessions, coffee breaks, meals and the banquet.

When DANTE and GUTenberg started to think about a place for the conference we were inspired by conferences like EuroTEX 2001 in Kerkrade, Netherlands, or BachoTEX in Poland. A conference with all participants at one place looked promising. Though the organization of accommodation for 128 persons wasn't easy and the versions of the Excel sheet with the occupations of rooms are uncounted, it was a success after all. The abbaye was a nice place—at least the renovated part—and the hotels where quite a lot of participants had to stay were nearby. France is famous for its food, and so even the daily meals were some kind of celebration.

We are glad that it was one of the largest and most fruitful TEX conference in the last years. We are thankful for contributions from user groups that made special conference rates and support for participants from Eastern Europe possible, namely TUG and GuIT for financial aid and NTG and GUST for organizing the bus from Poland to France.

Special renowned guests were Donald E. Knuth and Hermann Zapf. They volunteered to participate in a moderated panel discussion of about two hours. We thank Taco Hoekwater who supplied his notes of the session—unfortunately the reader has to imagine the visual part where Hermann Zapf drew several samples of glyphs on the blackboard, e.g. showing the improvements of Optima Nova against Optima.

Unforgotten is the social highlight of the conference, the banquet taking place in the old church of the abbeye. After a gala dinner, surrounded by some speeches of user groups representatives and house made music—a Polish chorus and David Kastrup's guitar play—it ended with two big cakes, with ornaments added by Hermann Zapf and served by Donald E. Knuth.

The content of the conference was equally wide-ranging, with research papers on multilingual typesetting and other areas, reports on current developments in the TEX world, and examinations of the TEX system in practice. Many well-known TEX luminaries contributed, and we were especially glad to welcome many relative newcomers as well.

Since the conference was special, we wanted the publication to also be special. Thus, this proceedings mark the first occasion of a single volume being simultaneously published by many of TEX user groups and distributed as a benefit for their respective memberships. This proceedings act both as issue 2/2006 of DANTE's journal *Die TEXnische Komödie* and issue 1/2006 of the TUGboat and are distributed by the following user groups: CervanTEX, GUST, GUTenberg, NTG and UKTUG.

We are all very happy to collaborate in this endeavor, and hope it will be the first of many. So while the title of the conference was «Let's TEX together», for this proceedings it should be read as:

Let's publish together!

The proceedings has been organized and edited by Volker RW Schaa of DANTE. Physically, it contains about 25 papers (some in slide form), and a large number of color pages. The logistics were considerable! The cover was prepared by Hans Hagen, who made valuable contributions to this proceedings.

We hope you find this special joint user group publication of the EuroTEX 2005 proceedings enjoyable and valuable.

We thank Karl Berry for help preparing these introductory remarks and for corrections.

With best regards

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main organizeres of the EuroTEX 2005 conference