

Abstracts

Die T_EXnische Komödie Contents of Some Past Issues

9. Jahrgang, Heft 1/1997 (Mai 1997)

Luzia DIETSCHÉ, [Editorial]; p. 3

A short statement commenting on the current issue. In particular, she points out that articles on internal matters of DANTE occupy most of the pages. Moreover, she is no longer a member of the presidium, and has not written the protocol, but she is the editor responsible for the report of the technical council.

- *Hinter der Bühne : Vereinsinternes*
[Backstage : Club matters]; pp. 4–20:

Joachim LAMMARSCH, Grußwort
[Welcome message]; pp. 4–7

A short comment on club matters by the president of DANTE, mainly describing recent changes to the presidium of DANTE, and other organizational matters. Moreover, the case of unfounded bank transfers initiated by AOL is still not resolved.

[Ehrenfried JUST],
Protokoll der 16. Mitgliederversammlung von
DANTE, Deutschsprachige Anwendervereinigung
T_EX e.V. [Protocol of the 16th assembly of
members of DANTE]; pp. 7–18

This is the official report of the members' meeting held in München (February 27, 1997). As usual, it is concerned with various formal and organizational matters, and reports on the situation of DANTE. Among the topics treated are the funding of NTS (DM 30,000.–), the decreasing membership numbers, the DANTE-CTAN-CDROM, and the case of AOL. The general assembly appoints four new honorary members: Donald E. Knuth, Barbara Beeton, Eberhard Mattes, and Luzia Dietsche. (The other honorary members are Peter Sandner, Klaus Thull, and Yannis Haralambous.) Finally, a new presidium is elected: Joachim Lammarsch and Friedhelm Sowa are reelected, while Uwe Untermarzoner and Luzia Dietsche do not stand for office again. They are replaced by Marion Neubauer and Günter Partosch.

Marion NEUBAUER, Neue Software bei
DANTE e.V. [New software from DANTE e.V.];
pp. 19–20

A short description of the software packages distributed by DANTE.

- *T_EX-Theatertage*
[T_EX theatre festival]; pp. 21–24:

Martin SCHRÖDER, DANTE '97 in München
[DANTE '97 in Munich]; pp. 21–24

A personal account of DANTE '97 (February 26–28, 1997) in Munich, describing briefly the proceedings of the conference.

- *Bretter, die die Welt bedeuten*
[The stage is the world]; pp. 25–44:

Marion NEUBAUER, Feinheiten bei wissenschaftlichen Publikationen – Mikrotypographie-Regeln, Teil II [Fine points of scientific publishing – microtypographic rules, part II]; pp. 25–44

This is the second part of a (long and detailed) article which attempts a survey of the rules for German text (with some additional rules for foreign languages) and how they can be followed in L^AT_EX. This part deals with numbers and digits, braces, spaces, hyphenations (and overfull boxes). A bibliography concludes the article. (For the first part see Vol. 8, issue 4.)

- *Was Sie schon immer über T_EX wissen wollten ...* [What you always wanted to know about T_EX ...]; p. 45:

Bernd RAICHLE, Abkürzungspunkt am Satzende [Abbreviation point at the end of a sentence]; p. 45
`xpoint.sty`, a L^AT_EX-package by Bernd Raichle (similar to `xspace`), allows macros for abbreviations to end with a point which is suppressed if it occurs at the end of a sentence.

- *T_EX-Beiprogramm* [T_EX co-features]; pp. 46–63:

Dieter GLÖTZEL, Database-Publishing mit Oberon und L^AT_EX [Database publishing with Oberon and L^AT_EX]; pp. 46–54

This case study describes the (successful) production of an official directory for the (new) German ZIP codes using Oberon (as programming language) and T_EX (as typesetting engine). Finally, the author pleads for the use of public domain software in commercial environments: *Freeware is better software!*

Bericht des technischen Beirats
[Report of the technical council]; pp. 55–63

A collection of short reports (by the appointed coordinators) on the various hardware platforms and other special topics. In particular, e \TeX , version 1.1, the ec-fonts, version 1.0, and the (new) mailbox of DANTE are presented.

◦ *Leserbriefe* [Letters]; p. 64:

Walter SCHMIDT, Eine \TeX -Umgebung für OS/2, Heft 4/96 [A \TeX environment for OS/2, issue 4/96]; p. 64

The author comments that using the standard edition of EP \TeX is preferable since it is easier to install than the pro(fessional) version described in the cited article, but fully sufficient.

◦ *Rezensionen* [Reviews]; pp. 65–68:

Thomas KOCH, *Der L \TeX -Wegweiser*
[The L \TeX signpost]; pp. 65–66

A review of a book (by Christine Detig) with this title (International Thomson Publishing, Bonn 1997). It is a quick introduction to L \TeX 2 ϵ , written in question-and-answer style and using a concrete sample document. The book's message (according to the review): *L \TeX is not complicated!*

Andreas SCHLECHTE, *Das T \TeX ikon – Referenzhandbuch für T \TeX and L \TeX* [The T \TeX ikon—Reference handbook for T \TeX and L \TeX]; pp. 66–68

A review of a book (by Stefan Schwarz and Rudolf Potuček) with this title (Addison-Wesley, Bonn 1997). The book is a lexicon of T \TeX and L \TeX commands (in alphabetical order, with detailed description). The bottom line: A useful reference. However, possible side effects of mixing L \TeX with (plain) T \TeX commands are not sufficiently treated. In order to illustrate this, the reviewer presents an example (by Bernd Raichle), a short piece of (L \TeX) code, and asks the reader to predict (and explain) its result. (The solution is promised for the next issue.)

◦ *Spielplan* [Repertory]; pp. 69–71:

The international and national calendar, including the announcement of *TUG'97 – T \TeX Comes Home* in San Francisco (July 28 – August 1, 1997).

◦ *Adressen* [Addresses]; pp. 72–75:

Various addresses related to DANTE, the addresses of all persons who have contributed to this issue, and the addresses of the coordinators in charge of the various hardware platforms and other special topics.

9. Jahrgang, Heft 2/1997 (Juli 1997)

Luzia DIETSCHKE, [Editorial]; p. 3

A short statement commenting on the slightly modified layout of the current issue, announcing a DANTE Web page containing the table of contents of the *Komödie*, and announcing her resignation as editor (due to major differences of opinion with the presidium).

◦ *Hinter der Bühne : Vereinsinternes*
[Backstage : Club matters]; pp. 4–7:

Joachim LAMMARSCH, Grußwort

[Welcome message]; pp. 4–5

A short comment on club matters by the president of DANTE: The Update CD-ROM of CTAN is distributed with this issue. Member number and invoice number together are used to identify members. And T \TeX Live 2 is available from DANTE.

Marion NEUBAUER, Software bei DANTE e.V.
(Stand: Juli 1997) [Software from DANTE e.V.
(as of July 1997)]; pp. 5–7

A short description of the software packages distributed by DANTE, updating the data given in the previous issue.

◦ *Von fremden Bühnen* [On other stages]; p. 8:

Luzia DIETSCHKE, Drucken wie zu Omas Zeiten
[Printing as in grandmother's time]; p. 8

A former big (East German) printing shop in Leipzig has been converted to a (hands-on) museum of the art of printing.

◦ *Bretter, die die Welt bedeuten*
[The stage is the world]; pp. 9–36:

Gerd NEUGEBAUER, Überflüssiges? – Klammern um Makroargumente [Unnecessary?—Braces around macro arguments]; pp. 9–13

This article discusses in some detail when it is possible to omit the braces around arguments (as required by strict L \TeX syntax), and gives an application (a special user-defined environment).

Klaus BARTHELMANN, Zähler nicht zurücksetzen
[Avoiding the resetting of counters]; pp. 13–19

Using footnotes in `report` class as an example, this article discusses how resetting of L \TeX counters can be avoided.

Walter SCHMIDT, Absätze – einmal anders
[Paragraphs—done differently]; pp. 19–22

The author shows how non-zero `\parfillskip` can be used to indicate paragraphs when both `\parskip` and `\parindent` are set to zero.

Holm SIEBER, Russischer Textsatz mit L^AT_EX
[Russian typesetting with L^AT_EX]; pp. 22–31

The author describes the installation and use (with Russian) of the multilanguage package `babel` under `teX`.

Ernst MOLITOR, Aufbereitung der Ergebnisse von Literatur-Recherchen für L^AT_EX und B_IB_TE_X
[Preparing the results of bibliographic researches for L^AT_EX and B_IB_TE_X]; pp. 31–36

The author describes how he has developed a tool which transforms the output of database searches (provided by library tools) into B_IB_TE_X format for use with L^AT_EX. The programs are written using `flex` and C++, and are available, but will have to be adapted to other record formats.

- *Aus dem Fundus : Nützliches aus CTAN und anderen Quellen* [From the properties room: Useful tools from CTAN and other sources]; pp. 37–39:

Rolf NIEPRASCHK, Das PSfrag-Paket
[The PSfrag package]; pp. 37–39

A short description of the L^AT_EX package `PSfrag`, which allows the substitution of text elements in `eps` graphics.

- *T_EX-Beiprogramm* [T_EX co-features]; p. 40:
- L^AT_EX-Rätsel [L^AT_EX puzzle]; p. 40
A small crossword puzzle based on L^AT_EX terms.

- *Leserbriefe* [Letters]; pp. 41–43:

Herbert F. DECKER, Protokoll der 16. Mitgliederversammlung, Heft 1/97 [Protocol of the 16th assembly of members, issue 1/97]; pp. 41–42

This letter comments on the decreasing membership numbers mentioned in the protocol. The author's advice: Go popular! Make it easier for non-computer scientists, like teachers!

Peter WILLADT, Mikrotypographie-Regeln, Teil II, Heft 1/97 [Microtypographic rules, part II, issue 1/97]; p. 43

This letter comments on two points of Marion Neubauer's article: The official standard (DIN) of the date format for office use is 1997-05-28, and according to the new German orthography, three consecutive letters will always be retained. Marion Neubauer responds.

- *Rezensionen* [Reviews]; pp. 44–45:

Luzia DIETSCHKE, *Lesetypographie*
[Typography for reading]; pp. 44–45

This is the review of the book *Lesetypographie* by Hans Peter Willberg and Friedrich Forssmann)

(Verlag Hermann Schmidt, Mainz 1997) which was given to the honorary members of DANTE. It is a handbook for the practitioner, which can be consulted in small pieces as needed. It is not only a valuable reference, but also a beautifully designed book. It is a good value, but unfortunately not cheap (DM 168,-).

- *Spielplan* [Repertory]; pp. 46–50:

The international and national calendar, including the preliminary program of *TUG'97 — T_EX Comes Home* in San Francisco (July 27–31, 1997).

- *Adressen* [Addresses]; pp. 52–55:

Various addresses related to DANTE, the addresses of all persons who have contributed to this issue, and the addresses of the coordinators in charge of the various hardware platforms and other special topics.

- *Distributed with this issue:*

CTAN Update, Stand Mai 1997, DANTE e.V.
[CTAN Update, as of May 1997]

9. Jahrgang, Heft 3/1997 (Oktober 1997)

Bernd RAICHLE, [Editorial]; pp. 3–4

The new (interim) editor comments on the resignations of members of the *Komödie* team, differences of opinion on the responsibilities between the redaction and the presidium. This issue is delayed only because they had to wait for the welcome message of the president.

- *Hinter der Bühne : Vereinsinternes*
[Backstage : Club matters]; pp. 5–10:

Joachim LAMMARSCH, Grußwort
[Welcome message]; pp. 5–8

This is the traditional comment on club matters by the president of DANTE. Besides the usual organizational matters (such as the installation of a closed mailing list DANTE-EV), the main issue is the resignation of Luzia Dietsche from her position as responsible editor of the *Komödie*. The reason for this unexpected step were major differences of opinion on editorial policy, in particular, concerning the editing of articles. Moreover, the president has ordered (“in the interest of DANTE”) the placement of an article (by Marion Neubauer), and the inclusion of software lists.

Friedhelm SOWA, Kassenbericht 1995
[Treasurer's report for 1995]; pp. 9–10

- *TEX-Beiprogramm* [TEX co-features]; pp. 11–25:

Walter SCHMIDT, TEX-kompatible Rechtschreibprüfung für den Editor EPM unter OS/2 Warp [TEX compatible spelling checker for the editor EPM under OS/2 Warp]; pp. 11–13

How to install (for the the editor of OS/2) a spelling checker for use in a TEX environment.

Martin GERCKE, TEXWord für Windows [TEXWord for Windows]; pp. 13–15

Despite TEX's high quality, for the average computer user it has some decisive disadvantages (in comparison with Word and similar text processors). Under the motto 'Nightmare or vision?', the author describes his idea of a program TEXWord that would unite the advantages of both approaches.

Andreas SCHLECHTE, Die neue Rächtschraibrehform [The new orthography (spelled with three mistakes!); pp. 15–22

A summary of the new (and much disputed) German orthography (transition period August 1, 1998, to July 31, 2005), the adaptations necessary for TEX users, and some personal (critical) comments on the reform. "When will there be the reform of the reform?"

Bernd RAICHEL, *Das TEXikon*, Heft 1/97: Auflösung [The TEXikon, issue 1/97: solution]; pp. 23–24

This is the explanation of the code presented in the review of the *TEXikon*.

L^ATEX-Rätsel, Heft 2/97: Auflösung [L^ATEX puzzle, issue 2/97: solution]; p. 25

The solution of the crossword puzzle in the last issue.

- *Aus dem Fundus : Nützliches aus CTAN und anderen Quellen* [From the properties room: Useful tools from CTAN and other sources]; pp. 26–36:

Gerd NEUGEBAUER, Vor Gebrauch schütteln [Shake before use]; pp. 26–36

This article discusses outline variants of fonts — how they can be generated with METAFONT, and how they can (and how they should) be used.

- *Leserbriefe* [Letters]; pp. 37–46:

Henning BÖKE, Absätze – einmal anders, Heft 2/97 [Paragraphs—done differently, issue 2/97]; pp. 37–40

Commenting on the article cited, the author, a typographer, argues that it is best to mark paragraphs by `\parindent`. The main reason: "Not the end, the beginning of a new thought should be

indicated." Moreover, he explains how paragraph indentation has developed from space reserved for the paragraph sign, ¶.

Walter SCHMIDT, Antwort auf den Leserbrief von Henning Böke [Response to the letter from Henning Böke]; pp. 40–41

The author of the article on unusual paragraph forms responds to the previous letter: He did not discuss the pros and cons of various paragraph shapes. He only wanted to show how an alternative effect can be obtained. However, he knows examples where the lack of paragraph indentation looks fine.

Andreas HIRSCH, Zum Leserbrief von Herbert F. Decker, Heft 2/97 [On the letter by Herbert F. Decker, issue 2/97]; p. 41

This letter confirms the views of the letter cited. The problem posed by using TEX at school is not with the program itself, but with its installation: Pupils can work with TEX, but they have problems when they want to install it properly at home.

Horst GIERHARDT, Zum Leserbrief von Herbert F. Decker, Heft 2/97 [On the letter by Herbert F. Decker, issue 2/97]; pp. 42–44

The author (a teacher at the German school in Istanbul) also stresses the need for tools which allow easy installation and maintenance of TEX systems (unlike the trouble caused by frequent updates to L^ATEX). It is mainly installation problems (in spite of Eberhard Mattes' emTEX) which prevent the use of TEX at school, or make it difficult.

Rolf NIEPRASCHK, Zähler nicht zurücksetzen, Heft 2/97 [Avoiding the resetting of counters, issue 2/97]; p. 44

A pointer is given to two L^ATEX packages (by Donald Arseneau and by David Carlisle) designed to remove a counter from the list of resets. (This remark supplements the article cited.)

Wolfgang SCHÖBEL, Ich hätt' da mal 'ne Frage ... [Well, I happen to have a question ...]; pp. 45–46

Another letter addressing the problems of unsophisticated L^ATEX users. Why should one upgrade to L^ATEX2_ε? It makes things more difficult. And the documentation of L^ATEX packages is not helpful enough. "Much too complicated!" — that is the most common argument used against L^ATEX.

- *Von der Theaterkasse* [From the theatre box office]; pp. 48–50:

Marion NEUBAUER, Ältere Ausgaben von TEX-Büchern bei DANTE e.V. [Old editions of TEX books from DANTE e.V.]; pp. 48–50

A list of sale books offered by DANTE (mostly non-current editions).

◦ *Spielplan* [Repertory]; pp. 52–60:

The international and national calendar, including the announcements of conferences in St. Malo (Euro \TeX '98, March 29–31, and WEPT'98, March 29–April 3, 1998), and TUG'98, August 17–21, 1998, in Torun (Poland).

Announcement of the *Second Week on Electronic Documents*, March 29–April 3, 1998, in St. Malo (France).

Call for Papers for the European \TeX conference, March 29–31, 1998, in St. Malo (France).

Call for Papers for the TUG \TeX conference, August 17–21, 1998, in Torun (Poland),

◦ *Adressen* [Addresses]; pp. 60–63:

Various addresses related to DANTE, the addresses of all persons who have contributed to this issue, and the addresses of the coordinators in charge of the various hardware platforms and other special topics.

9. Jahrgang, Heft 4/1997 (Februar 1998)

Gerd NEUGEBAUER, [Editorial]; pp. 3–4

The (new) editor comments on the current situation: Because of major differences with the presidium of DANTE, many members of the redaction team have resigned. While the presidium considers the “Komödie” as newsletter of DANTE, the members of the redaction want to make it a “high quality journal”. As a consequence, several authors have withdrawn their articles. Moreover, due (only) to decisions of the president, the current issue could not be published on schedule.

◦ *Hinter der Bühne : Vereinsinternes*
[Backstage : Club matters]; pp. 5–28:

Joachim LAMMARSCH, Grußwort
[Welcome message]; pp. 5–12

The president of DANTE starts his traditional comments on club matters by explaining the delayed publication of this issue: It was caused by a delay in the production of the CD-ROM set (delivered with this issue) which had been postponed until the L^A \TeX update was available. After various organizational matters (software distribution, membership fees, etc.) he comments on the current situation of DANTE (resignation of members, open letter). “It is always a minority which causes troubles.”

Joachim LAMMARSCH, Fonds zur Unterstützung von Mitgliedern [Funds for support of members]; p. 12

DANTE is able to support members who are not able to pay their membership fees.

Marion NEUBAUER, Belichtungsservice
[Service for photo typesetting]; pp. 12–14

Members can take advantage of a photo typesetting service organized by DANTE.

Thomas HAFNER, Protokoll der Sitzung AK Weiterentwicklung [Protocol of the meeting of the WG development]; pp. 15–16

A meeting discussing a reorganization of various services offered by DANTE.

Klaus BRAUNE, Protokoll der Sitzung AK Software-Distribution [Protocol of the meeting of the WG software distribution]; pp. 17–18

A meeting discussing the various forms of software distribution offered by DANTE.

Uwe MÜNCH, Protokoll der Sitzung AK Öffentlichkeitsarbeit [Protocol of the meeting of the WG public relations]; pp. 18–24

A meeting discussing various aspects of promoting \TeX and DANTE (merchandising, WWW, mailing lists, etc.). The main topic, however, is the purpose of the *Komödie* and the rights and duties of the redaction team.

Bericht des technischen Beirats
[Report of the technical council]; pp. 24–28

A collection of short reports (by the appointed coordinators) on the various hardware platforms and other special topics. In particular, Jörg Knappen reports on the ec-fonts (including the *tc(text companion)*-fonts).

◦ *Bretter, die die Welt bedeuten*
[The stage is the world]; pp. 29–39:

Peter WILLADT, Das verflixte achte Bit
[This damned eighth bit]; pp. 29–39

The author describes how 8-bit input and 8-bit fonts change ‘daily work’ with \TeX and L^A \TeX .

◦ *TEX-Beiprogramm* [\TeX co-features]; pp. 40–42:

Matthias ECKERMANN, \TeX nische Qualen
[\TeX nical pains]; pp. 40–42

On a frustrating day, the author has a nightmare concerning future costs of \TeX .

Markus KOHM, Jung gewohnt, alt getan
[Trained in youth, done when old]; p. 42

A short poem: Teach children Linux and L^A \TeX !

◦ *Rezensionen* [Reviews]; pp. 43–47:

Christa POST, *Erstes Arbeiten mit \TeX* , von Arnulf Liebig [“Starting to work with \TeX ”, by Arnulf Liebig]; pp. 43–44

A review of the book (Prentice-Hall, 1996) cited in the title. The bottom line: In spite of a

few flaws, it is a good introduction and a valuable reference (with an emphasis on mathematics).

Ulrik VIETH, *Schnell ans Ziel mit L^AT_EX_{2 ϵ}* , von Jörg Knappen [“Quick success with L^AT_EX_{2 ϵ} ”, by Jörg Knappen]; pp. 44–47

A review of the book (Oldenbourg München-Wien, 1997) cited in the title. According to the review, it is a “respectable” introduction to L^AT_EX which offers some unusual features, has positive and negative aspects, and sometimes is rather sloppy.

◦ *Von fremden Bühnen*

[On other stages]; pp. 48–49:

Martin SCHRÖDER, T_EX Merchandising — An Announcement (in English); pp. 48–49

The proposal of a project aiming at the production of T_EX merchandising products like mugs, bags, T-shirts, etc.

◦ *Leserbriefe* [Letters]; pp. 50–69:

Peter SCHMITT, “Dezimalkomma beim T_EXsatz in deutsch”, Heft 1/94 [“The decimal comma with German T_EX typesetting”, issue 1/94]; p. 50

A small mistake in the cited article is corrected.

Peter SCHMITT, “Orale Spielereien mit T_EX — Teil III (Addendum)”, Heft 2/96 [“Oral games — part III (addendum)”, issue 2/96]; pp. 50–53

A discussion of some points concerned with a sample macro used in the article cited.

Offener Brief an das Präsidium von DANTE e.V. [Open letter to the presidium of DANTE e.V.]; pp. 53–56

A group of members (many of them founding members) criticizes the working style of the presidium. In their opinion, ‘active’ members who want to work for T_EX and DANTE are hindered and demotivated. In particular, the bad relations between the presidium and the redaction team of the *Komödie* are discussed.

Schriftliche Antwort auf den “Offenen Brief” [Written answer to the “Open Letter”]; pp. 56–60

According to the presidium, the opinion expressed in the open letter is only that of a small group of members. The achievements of the presidium (various projects) are stressed. There is no valid reason for complaints, and the *Komödie* is ‘neither a *newsletter of a club* nor a *journal of high quality content*’.

Ernst MOLITOR, Brief an den Präsidenten [Letter to the president]; pp. 61–63

The author criticizes the attitude of the president (as expressed in the welcome message of

issue 3). The president has to *serve*, not to *order*. The president has to respect the independence of the redaction team of the *Komödie*.

Joachim LAMMARSCH, Kommentar zum Offenen Brief [Comment on the Open Letter]; pp. 63–65

In his personal answer the president regrets that active members have resigned. However, all the points raised in the open letter are without a real basis.

Jan BRAUN, Ein etwas anderer Wetterbericht [A slightly different weather report]; pp. 66–68

The author (who has compiled a database of all articles published in the *Komödie*) describes how he sees the situation, why he has signed the open letter, and why (in reaction to attitude of the presidium) he has stopped contributing to DANTE (i.e., he is no longer an active member).

Matthias ECKERMANN, Rücktritt [Resignation]; pp. 68–69

The author explains the reasons for his resignation from the *Komödie* redaction team.

◦ *Von der Theaterkasse*

[From the theatre box office]; pp. 70–73:

Marion NEUBAUER, Bücher bei DANTE e.V. [Books from DANTE e.V.]; pp. 70–73

A (partial) list of books on T_EX and related topics, available from DANTE.

◦ *Spielplan* [Repertory]; pp. 75–76:

The international and national calendar.

◦ *Adressen* [Addresses]; pp. 77–79:

Various addresses related to DANTE, and the addresses of all persons who have contributed to this issue.

◦ *Distributed with this issue:*

CTAN, Comprehensive T_EX Archive Network. The whole collection of L^AT_EX, T_EX, et al.

A three CD-ROM set (archived January 1998).

(compiled by Peter Schmitt)