

## Abstracts

### *Die T<sub>E</sub>Xnische Komödie* Contents of Some Past Issues

#### 6. Jahrgang, Heft 1/1994 (Juli 1994)

Luzia DIETSCHÉ, Editorial; p. 3

Two short comments by the editor: The last editorial discussing spaces preceding punctuation marks have caused considerable reaction. The common view: Rules have not changed, additional inserted spaces are (at most) trendy. And in the process of phototypesetting the last issue a figure has been reproduced too small (change of resolution). Therefore, the whole article is reprinted (see pp. 29–33).

- *Hinter der Bühne : Vereinsinternes*  
[Backstage : Club matters]; pp. 4–22:

Joachim LAMMARSCH, Grußwort  
[Welcome message]; pp. 4–6

A short comment on club matters by the president of +DANTE+. In particular, he explains that the current issue has been delayed by a protest

issued against the members' assembly (the protocol of which is included on pp. 6–22). MicroPress has mailed p.r. material to all members of +DANTE+, obviously making (illegal) use of the list of members of +DANTE+.

[Luzia DIETSCHÉ],  
Protokoll der 10. Mitgliederversammlung von +DANTE+, Deutschsprachige Anwendervereinigung T<sub>E</sub>X e.V. [Protocol of the 10th assembly of members of +DANTE+]; pp. 6–22

This is the official report of the members' meeting held in Münster (Feb. 17, 1994). As usual, it contains short accounts on the various hardware platforms, `german.sty` and other special topics (as presented by the appointed coordinators), followed by a report on the situation of +DANTE+ (mainly organizational matters), and its activities (distribution of books and software, servers, including plans for the future, i.e., a +FAQ+ and a CD), on (partially difficult) contacts with publishing houses (Addison-Wesley, Springer, Vieweg) and the contacts with +TUG+. It is reported that *DANTE Ltd.*, a new European organization, has assured that their field of interest does not coincide with +DANTE+ e.V. Finally, the discussion on a protest claiming manipulation of an election (in Chemnitz) is summarized. (This discussion caused the protest against the assembly mentioned by Joachim Lammarsch, p. 5).

o *T<sub>E</sub>X-Theatertage*  
[T<sub>E</sub>X theatre festival]; pp. 23–27:

Volker THEWALT, +DANTE+'94 in Münster – Ein kurzer Tagungsbericht [+DANTE+'94 in Münster – A short meeting report]; pp. 23–27

A personal account of +DANTE+'94 (Feb. 16–18, 1994) in Münster.

o *Von fremden Bühnen* [On other stages]; p. 28:

Don HOSEK, Writers on type and typography needed (in English); p. 28

An advertisement calling for contributions for *Serif*, a new journal on all aspects of typography.

o *Bretter, die die Welt bedeuten*  
[The stage is the world]; pp. 29–45:

Andreas SCHERER, Graphiken mit *GnuPlot* und METAFONT-Korrektur [Graphics with *GnuPlot* and METAFONT-Correction]; pp. 29–33

This article was published in the previous issue (4/1993, pp. 26–30). It is reprinted because the figure was reproduced incorrectly (much too small):

The author briefly describes how GnuPlot can be used to produce METAFONT code for line graphics which then can be included in a T<sub>E</sub>X file as a font.

Michael BAAS, T<sub>E</sub>X-Makros für Fortgelaufene [T<sub>E</sub>X macros for the runaways]; pp. 34–40

A lively account of the author's efforts to develop (imperfect, but working) macros which simplify the use of active characters for easy input of accented characters (and similar macros). (See also the letter by David Kastrup (issue 6/3, 49–52) for comments and suggestions.)

Arne W. STEUER, Postkarten mit PasT<sub>E</sub>X auf dem Amiga [Doing postcards with PasT<sub>E</sub>X (on the Amiga)]; pp. 40–41

The author describes his `postcard.sty` which can be used to print postcards. (For the inclusion of graphics, PasT<sub>E</sub>X is used.)

Richard HIRSCH, Dezimalkomma beim T<sub>E</sub>Xsatz in deutsch [The decimal comma with German T<sub>E</sub>X typesetting]; pp. 42–45

The German replacement for the decimal point is the decimal comma. However, if one writes `$3,14$` the spacing is wrong while the correct input `$3{,}14$` is inconvenient to use. The author describes in detail how to define two types of commas (with `\mathchardef`) and set up an 'intelligent comma' in mathematics mode (with `\mathcode'="8000` which, however, is misprinted as `\mathchardef'="8000`) which inserts an ordinary comma if followed by a space, and a decimal comma if not.

o *Was Sie schon immer über T<sub>E</sub>X wissen wollten* ... [What you always wanted to know about T<sub>E</sub>X ...]; pp. 46–47:

Luzia DIETSCHÉ, Seitenzahlen  
[Page numbers]; pp. 46–47

Three short hints for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X users: centered page numbers, the total number of pages, and page numbers together with the total number of pages, by redefinition of `\thepage`. (Cf. the comments in the next issue 2/94, 50–52.)

o *T<sub>E</sub>X-Beiprogramm* [T<sub>E</sub>X co-features]; pp. 48–51:

Jörg LEHRKE, LinuX – ein freies \*nix für PCs  
[LinuX – a free \*nix for PCs]; pp. 48–51

A pointer to and a short description of LinuX 1.0, a full implementation of Unix for PCs, initiated by Linus Torvalds in 1991 — well suited for T<sub>E</sub>X, but not only for T<sub>E</sub>X.

- *Rezensionen* [Reviews]; pp. 52–53:

Oliver HANSEN, Mut zur Typographie [Dare typography]; pp. 52–53

A review of *Mut zur Typographie* by J. Gulbins and C. Kahrman (Springer 1993), a book explaining the basics of typography and layout. The bottom line: ‘Whoever wants to do serious +DTP+, or to do a thesis with a word processor, should take a thorough glimpse (at least) into this book.’

- *Leserbrief(e)* [Letter(s)]; pp. 54–55:

Two short letters to the editor. The first (by Martin Schröder) points out two more sources for the permille symbol not mentioned in the article by Andreas Scherer (issue 3/93). The second (from Philipp Wolfrum jr.) asks for help to find some tools for T<sub>E</sub>X under OS/2.

- *Spielplan* [Repertory]; pp. 56–63:

The international and national calendar, and an announcement of a conference (EuroT<sub>E</sub>X ’94).

- *Adressen* [Addresses]; pp. 64–67:

Various addresses related to +DANTE+ and +TUG+, 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.

## 6. Jahrgang, Heft 2/1994 (September 1994)

Luzia DIETSCH, Editorial; p. 3

The editor hopes that in the future the delay in publication of issues will be reduced.

- *Hinter der Bühne : Vereinsinternes* [Backstage : Club matters]; pp. 4–10:

Joachim LAMMARSCH, Grußwort [Welcome message]; pp. 4–5

A short comment on club matters by the president of +DANTE+. In particular, he explains that the presidium has decided to terminate participation in the +TUG+ Board of Directors.

Jürgen GÜNTHER, Aus der Verwaltungsküche [From the administrative kitchen]; pp. 5–7

The article explains how orders are processed and why delivery takes 4–6 weeks on average.

Joachim LAMMARSCH, Fonds zur Unterstützung von Mitgliedern [Funds for the support of members]; pp. 7–8

How to apply for exemption from membership dues.

Andreas SCHRELL, Der Stammtisch in Wuppertal [The local meetings in Wuppertal]; pp. 8–10

An account on the the local meetings in Wuppertal (Aug. 92–Dec. 93) by their initiator and organizer. A yearbook of the proceedings is available.

- *Von fremden Bühnen* [On other stages]; pp. 11–13:

Hermann ZAPF, Has type design any future? (in English); pp. 11–13

This is a widely circulated protest (revised version by Hermann Zapf and Charles Bigelow, +RIDT+’94) against piracy of typefaces.

- *Bretter, die die Welt bedeuten* [The stage is the world]; pp. 14–36:

Bernd RAICHLE, T<sub>E</sub>X 3 von Version 3.0 bis 3.1415 [T<sub>E</sub>X 3 from version 3.0 to 3.1415]; pp. 14–26

A description of the changes and the major bug fixes implemented in T<sub>E</sub>X and plain versions 3.0–3.1415, and how these versions can be identified by macros.

Walter SCHMIDT, Umsteigen auf L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2<sub>ε</sub> [Changing to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2<sub>ε</sub>]; pp. 26–31

A short description of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2<sub>ε</sub> (distributed since June 1994), its installation, and its compatibility with L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2.09.

Walter SCHMIDT, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X für Techniker [L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X for technicians]; pp. 32–36

Standard L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X lacks some features needed for texts in physics and engineering. The author describes how they (italic greek letters, some symbols, boldface variables) can be implemented with L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2<sub>ε</sub>.

- *TEX-Beiprogramm* [T<sub>E</sub>X co-features]; pp. 37–46:

Horst SZILLAT, Internet-Anschluß – selbst gebastelt [Internet connection – do it yourself]; pp. 37–39

A brief overview on the options for private net access in Germany.

Michael SCHANK, T<sub>E</sub>X und OS/2 2.x [T<sub>E</sub>X and OS/2 2.x]; pp. 39–42

A short description of emT<sub>E</sub>X (tex386b11) and GNU emacs with AucT<sub>E</sub>X for OS/2 (in the implementation by Eberhard Mattes), updating and supplementing an earlier article (issue 5/4).

Markus PORTO, T<sub>E</sub>X-Service des +HRZ+ der Universität Gießen [T<sub>E</sub>X support by the computer centre of the University of Gießen]; pp. 43–46

At the address [www.uni-giessen.de](http://www.uni-giessen.de) the University of Gießen offers an +HTML+-based help and information system on T<sub>E</sub>X (mainly in German). It includes an interactive *L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X cookbook* containing code samples and facilities for testing them (or variants of them) online.

- *Rezensionen* [Reviews]; pp. 47–49:

[Dr.] Rainer SCHÖPF, Zwei neue Bücher  
[Two new books]; pp. 52–53

Short reviews of *L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X zum Loslegen* [*Get Going with L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X*] by Joachim Lammarsch and Luzia Dietsche, and *T<sub>E</sub>X, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X und Graphik* by Friedhelm Sowa (both published by Springer 1994).

- *Leserbrief(e)* [Letter(s)]; pp. 50–52:

Frank MITTELBACH, Seitenzahlen  
[Page numbers]; pp. 50–52

The author points out some side effects of the macros proposed by Luzia Dietsche in the previous issue (1/94, 46–47).

- *Spielplan* [Repertory]; pp. 53–55:

The international and national calendar, and the invitation to the autumn meeting of +DANTE+ in Katlenburg-Lindau (Oct. 13–14, 1994).

- *Adressen* [Addresses]; pp. 56–59:

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

## 6. Jahrgang, Heft 3/1994 (Januar 1995)

Luzia DIETSCHKE, Editorial; p. 3

Two remarks by the editor: Contributions submitted to the *Komödie* tend to form clusters of related material. Also she would like to install a ‘bulletin board’ for short questions, news, etc. — if she receives such material.

- *Hinter der Bühne : Vereinsinternes*  
[Backstage : Club matters]; pp. 4–17:

Joachim LAMMARSCH, Grußwort  
[Welcome message]; pp. 4–5

A short comment on club matters by the president of +DANTE+. In particular, he complains about raised bank fees for payments to +DANTE+.

*4AllT<sub>E</sub>X*, the plug&play +CD+ of +NTG+, can be obtained from Dante.

[Luzia DIETSCHKE],  
Protokoll der 11. Mitgliederversammlung von +DANTE+, Deutschsprachige Anwendervereinigung T<sub>E</sub>X e.V. [Protocol of the 11th assembly of members of +DANTE+]; pp. 6–17

This is the official report on the members’ meeting held in Katlenburg-Lindau (October 13, 1994). It starts with short accounts on the various hardware platforms, `german.sty` and other special topics (as presented by the appointed coordinators, supplementing a more detailed written report, see pp. 31–45), followed by a report on the situation of +DANTE+ (mainly organizational matters), and its activities. There are some difficulties in +DANTE+’s relation with +TUG+ (payment of membership dues). Joachim Lammarsch has resigned from the Board of Directors. Finally, the status of NTS and  $\varepsilon$ -T<sub>E</sub>X is described, and a letter of thanks from Philip Taylor (from the NTS group) is presented.

- *Von fremden Bühnen*  
[On other stages]; pp. 18–20:

[The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X PROGRAMMING TEAM], L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X News,  
Issue 2, December 1994 (in English); pp. 18–20

This is the *Newsletter* accompanying the second release (Dec. 94) of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2 $\varepsilon$ . There are two new packages included: `inputenc` (which allows choosing an 8-bit input encoding), and +AMS+-L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.

- *Bretter, die die Welt bedeuten*  
[The stage is the world]; pp. 21–30:

Christian KAYSSNER, Handbücher  
[Manuals]; pp. 21–24

The author describes his program `double` that rearranges the pages of a dvi-file for easy 2-up printing of booklets.

Arne W. STEUER, Style-Files – leicht gemacht  
[Style files – made easy]; pp. 25–30

Taking labels for organizers as an example, the author shows in detail how (even) a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X beginner can develop simple style files.

- *T<sub>E</sub>X-Beiprogramm* [T<sub>E</sub>X co-features]; pp. 31–45:

Bericht des technischen Beirats  
[Report of the technical council]; pp. 31–45

A collection of short reports (by the appointed coordinators) on the various hardware platforms and other special topics, supplementing those of the

protocol (p. 5). One of them (by Joachim Schrod) concerns the working groups on driver standards and directory structure.

◦ *Leserbrief(e)* [Letter(s)]; pp. 46–55:

Andreas RINGHANDT, Von A4 zu A5? [From A4 to A5?]; pp. 46–47

This letter asks for advice on how to handle a document (a thesis) that will be printed both in A4 and A5. No answer is given.

Stefan BREUER, ftp-Server, +CD-ROM+ oder Disketten? Die Verteilermedien für T<sub>E</sub>X [ftp-server, +CD-ROM+ or floppy disks? Media for distributing T<sub>E</sub>X]; pp. 47–49

The writer argues that a +CD-ROM+ copy of +CTAN+ would be the best way to distribute T<sub>E</sub>X for users without net access. For information on the contents of +CTAN+ he offers a disk containing the +CTAN+ file FILES.byname in text and dBase format.

David KASTRUP, T<sub>E</sub>X-Makros für Fortgelaufene in *Die T<sub>E</sub>Xnische Komödie* 1/1994 [T<sub>E</sub>X macros for the runaways in *Die T<sub>E</sub>Xnische Komödie* 1/1994]; pp. 49–52

The author comments on the macros described in the article cited in the title (by Michael Baas, issue 6/1, 34–40) from an expert's point of view and suggests some improvements.

Heinz KUSZNIER, Aus der Verwaltungsküche in *Die T<sub>E</sub>Xnische Komödie* 2/1994 [From the administrative kitchen in *Die T<sub>E</sub>Xnische Komödie* 1/1994]; p. 53

In reaction to the article cited in the title (by Jürgen Günther, issue 6/2,5–7), the writer thanks the +DANTE+ team for their good services.

Martin SCHRÖDER, Gedanken zu Gedankenstrichen [Thoughts on dashes]; pp. 53–55

The writer points out that dashes are used differently in German and in English typography. A dash (= *Gedankenstrich*) in German text should be an en-dash between spaces. He criticizes that these differences often are neglected (e.g. in the article by Hermann Zapf as printed in issue 6/2, 11–13) and mainly blames Kopka as the source of this habit.

◦ *Spielplan* [Repertory]; pp. 56–58:

The international and national calendar, and invitation to a conference, +DANTE+'95 in Gießen (Feb. 28–March 3, 1995).

◦ *Adressen* [Addresses]; pp. 60–63:

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

## 6. Jahrgang, Heft 4/1994 (Februar 1995)

Luzia DIETSCHKE, Editorial; p. 3

This rather thin issue contains the first article of a new series by Bernd Raichle (*Oral games with T<sub>E</sub>X*).

◦ *Bretter, die die Welt bedeuten*

[The stage is the world]; pp. 4–27:

Gerd NEUGEBAUER, *BibTool* – Manipulation von *BibT<sub>E</sub>X*-Dateien [*BibTool* – manipulation of *BibT<sub>E</sub>X* files]; pp. 4–11

‘Once upon a time I had the urgent desire to use BIBT<sub>E</sub>X files from various sources in combination.’ This desire had consequences: *BibClean*, a program written in C and distributed as source only, is a highly configurable tool which can combine (and unify) BIBT<sub>E</sub>X databases, generate keys, sort them, and extract data using information from .aux-files, as well as perform some other manipulations— it is a ‘Swiss army knife for handling BIBT<sub>E</sub>X’, as the author expresses it. Bernd Raichle has added a pointer to *bibclean* by Nelson Beebe, a prettyprinting and syntax checking program for BIBT<sub>E</sub>X files.

Walter SCHMIDT, Computer Modern Bright; pp. 11–16

Computer Modern Sans Serif is well suited to emphasize single words or short pieces of text, but less so as the main text font. To fill this gap, the author has developed Computer Modern Bright. This font is obtained from the Computer Modern fonts by a new combination of the parameters and slight corrections to a few letters concerning the dots on the letters *i* and *j* and the accents for the German umlauts. The fonts can already be used, but are not yet finished.

Bernd RAICHLE, Orale Spielereien mit T<sub>E</sub>X – Teil I [Oral games with T<sub>E</sub>X – part I]; pp. 16–23

This new series will discuss various aspects of T<sub>E</sub>X's *mouth*, i.e., its macro processor. The first installment is devoted to the first problem in Appendix D (‘dirty tricks’) of *The T<sub>E</sub>Xbook*: Define a macro that takes an integer *n* as input and

expands to a string of  $n$  asterisks. First the two solutions described by Knuth and three solutions from *TUGboat* are discussed. Finally a new (December 1993 on `comp.text.tex`) solution based on `\romannumeral` by David Kastrup is presented.

Matthias ECKERMANN, Paralleles Setzen längerer Texte [Parallel typesetting of lengthy texts]; pp. 23–27

The author describes his (still fragmentary) L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X style `parallel.sty` which allows parallel text (e.g., a text and its translation) with automatic page breaks.

- *Was Sie schon immer über T<sub>E</sub>X wissen wollten* ... [What you always wanted to know about T<sub>E</sub>X ...]; pp. 28–30:

Luzia DIETSCHKE, Absatzformen [Paragraph shapes]; pp. 28–30

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X code centering the last line of a caption or a paragraph, based on setting `\leftskip=0pt plus 1fil`, `\rightskip=0pt plus -1fil`, and `\parfillskip=0pt plus 2fil`.

- *T<sub>E</sub>X-Beiprogramm* [T<sub>E</sub>X co-features]; pp. 31–36:

Horst PEIFFER, WinWord versus L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X; pp. 31–34

The author (who classifies himself as a ‘T<sub>E</sub>X-oholic’) argues that WinWord convinces beginners by first impressions, and that — though it is not at all easy to use for complex applications — difficulties must pile up considerably before a Word user thinks of switching to T<sub>E</sub>X.

Michael SCHANK, T<sub>E</sub>XIT! for OS/2; pp. 34–35

T<sub>E</sub>XIT! is the author’s OS/2 shell for emT<sub>E</sub>X (available as beta version).

Luzia DIETSCHKE, Rechtschreibreform [Orthography reform]; pp. 35–36

A parody on efforts to ‘simplify’ German spelling. (The article is taken from an unknown internet source.)

- *Rezensionen* [Reviews]; pp. 37–39:

Harald SCHOPPMANN, T<sub>E</sub>X für Heimwerker...

[Do it yourself T<sub>E</sub>X...]; pp. 37–39

A review of *Making T<sub>E</sub>X Work* by Norman Walsh (O’Reilly, 1994). The bottom line: This is not a book for *ordinary* users but for system managers (who have to maintain T<sub>E</sub>X on several platforms) or a PC user looking for special purpose software or special fonts.

- *Spielplan* [Repertory]; pp. 40–43:

The international and national calendar, and the invitation to a conference, the 16th Annual Meeting of T<sub>E</sub>X Users Group ‘Real World T<sub>E</sub>X’ in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida (July 24–28, 1995).

- *Adressen* [Addresses]; pp. 44–47:

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

(compiled by Peter Schmitt)