

## EuroBachTeX 2007: Paths to the Future

The XVIIth European TeX conference was a double double—joint with the XVth BachTeX, the yearly GUST (the Polish TeX users group) conference, and co-organized by CSTUG (the Czechoslovak TeX users group). It took place in Bachotek, the traditional place for GUST conferences, from April 28 until May 2, 2007, hence its other name: EuroBachTeX 2007.

By publishing these proceedings we follow the “new tradition” started in 2005 by DANTE and Gutenberg with the Pont-à-Mousson EuroTeX proceedings, of trying to reach with the material presented the widest possible audience. The “Paths to the future” theme of this conference was coined to account for the flurry of recent developments: XeTeX, LuaTeX, TeX Gyre and Latin Modern fonts, continued efforts by the  $\epsilon\lambda$ TeX team, new versions of pdfTeX, METAPOST (the future MEGAPOST?), MiBibTeX (a prospective successor to BibTeX) as well as new efforts by the Arab-speaking TeXies to enhance their fonts and typesetting facilities. A special mention should go to the efforts of Jim Hefferon and the other members of the CTAN team who quietly and behind the scenes are working on enhancements to this TeX gold mine.

We think that these developments should become known all over the TeX world. Achieving this ambitious goal wouldn't be possible without extensive cooperation. First let us mention the authors—they replied favorably to the Calls for Papers so we had all the above-mentioned efforts presented at the conference. When we announced the intention to publish this volume, the authors further took the opportunity to revise their papers, and updated them with the most recent information. Then there was the effort of the marvelous *TUGboat* editing team, Barbara Beeton and Karl Berry, who took care of the proofreading and other editorial and typesetting chores. Bogusław Jackowski, supported by Karl, has done a splendid job of designing the cover and the photo pages (more on that below). Had not Karl Berry pushed the remaining members of the Editorial Board, we would not have been able to meet the December deadline. The printing itself and the complicated shipping logistics were arranged by Volker RW Schaa and Klaus Höppner from DANTE. Perhaps the most important factor in this undertaking is that so many user groups (DANTE, TUG, UK-TUG, GuIT, CSTUG, MaTeX and GUST) expressed their interest and ordered copies of this volume for their

members—the print run is in excess of 5000.

To stress that this volume originates in Europe, and to follow the “new tradition”, the cover colors are the same as the EuroTeX 2005 volume—(eu)blue and (eu)yellow from the Europe flag.

Now a little about the volume content and what was happening during the conference. We hope that thanks to the efforts of the authors (about 50 papers) the goal of giving an overview of what is happening in the TeX universe and what lurks in the future was achieved. We also wanted to give those who were not present at the venue a glimpse of the atmosphere, hence the color photo section. It was composed by Bogusław Jackowski, who chose a selection of photographs from shots taken by Jacek Kmiecik, Andrzej Odyniec, Volker RW Schaa, Ulrik Vieth and Jakub Zdroik. A far larger collection of photos is available at the GUST conference site, <http://www.gust.org.pl/BachTeX/EuroBachTeX2007>, in the *gallery* section. The *movies* section hosts movies taken by Jan Ryćko, and in the *presentations* section slides for some of the sessions are available.

Two workshops were held. A great success was the “Handmade paper: A mixture of handcraft, art and fun” workshop run by Grażyna Jackowska—a glimpse of it can be had by reading the color-illustrated report following. Andrzej Tomaszewski also gave an excellent workshop on designing graphical signs and logotypes—a smaller, self-selected group of interested participants picked Andrzej's brain to their benefit.

There were two surprise events. The presentation by Sam Guravage, the youngest ever presenter at a EuroTeX conference was distinguished as the best presentation of the conference and he received a special diploma—please read the report in this volume. A surprise even to the organizers was Janusz M. Nowacki's exhibition of his early photographs—a mirror of his artistic soul, so well expressed in his font achievements.

The hard conference work was interrupted by a day's outing to the not-so-far-away cities of Toruń and Chełmno. In Toruń the participants visited the District Public Library—Copernican Library with a special presentation of their incunabula collection (see the *gallery* section of the conference site), followed by a guided tour through the medieval city center, a monument listed by the UNESCO World Heritage. On to Chełmno, a nice, small city, spread out on seven hills—a quick stroll through the city

center with many medieval traces followed by the conference dinner at the local Karczma Chelmińska (Chelmno Hut). The highlights (see *gallery*) were good food, the conference cake and dancing to the performance of the “Schola Theatrum Węgajty” band led by Kasia Jackowska, Jacko’s daughter. This tiring day of rest ended in Bachotek at about 3 am.

A user’s report on the conference, written by Michael Guravage, was published in the recent issues of NTG’s MAPS, DANTE’s Technische Komödie, and TUG’s TUGboat, therefore it is not reprinted here.

A special mention should go to Kasia Jackowska for designing the conference logo (cf. the cover and the conference site for the color versions) and Andrzej Tomaszewski for the conference poster, which was prepared in the three conference languages: English, Czech and, of course, Polish.

Special thanks go to all the members of both the Program and Organizing Committees (the names are listed elsewhere in this volume), the IT team (Marek Czubenko and Janusz Gumkowski, who enjoyed the support by Harald Köenig), the session

chairs (their names are also listed elsewhere in this volume) for keeping us on track with a very tight schedule, the official Conference Still Photographers (Andrzej Odyniec, Jacek Kmiecik), the Conference Chief Cinematographer (Jan Ryćko) and even more special thanks to Jolanta Szelatyńska, the one-woman institution of GUST conferences, and all her helpers.

The conference would not be possible without the aid of the sponsors, as they made it financially viable. The list of sponsors is given elsewhere in the volume. Very many thanks!

Last but not least: the participants. They came in great number, brought their spouses and children and seemed to enjoy the conference despite some organizational slips and the not-so-good-as-usual weather.

Come back to future TeX conferences, with BachTeX 2008 being no exception. In the meantime: enjoy the volume and ... Happy TeXing!

*Jerzy Ludwichowski and Petr Sojka  
December 2007*

## TeX contra TeX—Is the future now?

➤ Invitation to BachTeX 2008 ◀

GUST—the Polish TeX users group  
invites you to the jubilee XVI<sup>th</sup> BachTeX conference  
to be held at the usual location in Bachotek  
near Brodnica, Poland, from April 30 to May 4, 2008.

<http://www.gust.org.pl/BachTeX/2008>

### **And an invitation to TUG 2008**

TUG invites you to its 2008 annual conference as well,  
celebrating TeX’s 30<sup>th</sup> birthday!

University College Cork • Cork, Ireland  
21–24 July 2008 • <http://tug.org/tug2008>