Abstracts

Die TEXnische Komödie
Contents of Some Past Issues

8. Jahrgang, Heft 1/1996 (Juni 1996)

Luzia DIETSCHE, Editorial; p. 3

A short statement commenting on the current issue, in particular, its newly developed layout, and a new section 'From the properties room' on selected material from CTAN.

○ *Hinter der Bühne : Vereinsinternes*
  [Backstage : Club matters]; pp. 4–19:

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

A short comment on club matters by the president of DANTE. In particular, DANTE will upgrade its CTAN server and offer TUG the predecessor (a SUN Sparc 10 workstation) as a replacement for the CTAN server in Houston, Texas (see page 24).

[Luzia DIETSCHE],
Protokoll der 14. Mitgliederversammlung von DANTE, Deutschsprachige Anwendervereinigung TEX e.V. [Protocol of the 14th assembly of members of DANTE]; pp. 5–15

This is the official report on the members' meeting held in Augsburg (March 28, 1996). As usual, it treats formal matters and includes 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). Two new books are mentioned: *LATEX-Vademecum. Ein Kompaktführer für Einsteiger und Fortgeschrittene* by Axel Heilmann (Springer, 1996) — see page 60 — and *Erste Arbeiten mit TEX* by Arnulf Liebing (Prentice Hall, 1996). Finally, a member proposes to create a new position (honorary president) and this proposal is discussed.

Friedhelm SOWA, Kassenbericht für Zeitraum 1.1.1993 – 31.12.1993 [Report of the treasurer for the year 1993]; pp. 16–17

Finally, after many problems, the treasurer's report for 1993 is available and published here.

Joachim LAMMARSCH, Ein Brief an die c't
[A letter to *c't*]; p. 18

This a short letter to the editor of *c't*, a German computer journal, which — in a survey of shareware — has published an article on TEX. The president of DANTE criticizes the article as 'slightly out of date' since "there are only rarely users which really apply TEX today. Without doubt and for several years now the actual trend has been in favour of LATEX which is much easier to apply." Moreover, he gives additional sources (CD-ROM) for TEX which he missed in the article. (Excerpts of this letter have been published in *c't* 7/96, page 11.)

Luzia DIETSCHE, Das CJK-Paket – Korrekturen [The CJK package – Errata]; p. 19

Three corrections of errors in the article by Werner Lemberg, *Das CJK-Paket für LATEX2ε* (issue 4/1995).

○ *TEX-Theatertage*
  [TEX theatre festival]; pp. 20–23:

Henning MATTHES, Bericht von der Frühjahrstagung in Augsburg [Report from the spring meeting in Augsburg]; pp. 20–23

A personal account of DANTE '96 (March 26–29, 1996). The author describes a successful and well organized meeting, but also notes that the number of participants decreases from year to year and that there are only few newcomers. Perhaps, he closes, the concept of the meeting needs fresh ideas.

○ *Von fremden Bühnen* [On other stages]; p. 24:

`ftp.shsu.edu`; p. 24

On June 20, 1996, the CTAN server at SHSU in Houston, Texas, stopped its services. This (bad) news is formatted as an announcement of death.

○ *Aus dem Fundus : Nützliches aus CTAN und anderen Quellen* [From the properties room : Useful tools from CTAN and other sources]; pp. 25–42:

Gerd NEUGEBAUER, Von "krakelig" bis "wie gemalt" [From "scrawled" to "like painted"]; pp. 25–42

A survey of fonts imitating text written by hand (with samples).

○ *TEX-Beiprogramm* [TEX co-features]; pp. 43–57:

Bericht des technischen Beirats
[Report of the technical council]; pp. 43–56

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). In particular, Jörg Knappen reports

on version 1.2 of the dc-fonts (including the tc(*text companion*)-fonts), and Christa Loeser on MeDoc (=*Multimedial Electronic Documents*) and MATH, an online publishing project.

Martin SCHRÖDER, TEXies, fahrt nach Heidelberg! [Go to Heidelberg, TEXies!]; pp. 56–57

Pointers to an exhibition in the library of the university in Heidelberg which presents old documents (beautiful handwriting!), its interesting (but badly formatted) catalogue, and a volume on the art of book printing in Germany 1951–1990 (Hans Peter Willberg: *40 Jahre Buchkunst*, Frankfurt am Main 1991).

○ *Leserbriefe* [Letters]; pp. 58–59:

Peter WILLADT, Orale Spielereien – Teil III, Heft 4/95 [Oral games – part III, issue 4/95]; pp. 58–59

In his comment on Bernd Raichle's article (cited in the title) the author gives a short piece of code that compares two numbers and will never produce a `\relax`, but is not fully expandable. Bernd Raichle comments on this letter and corrects an error in his article.

○ *Rezensionen* [Reviews]; pp. 60–61:

Klaus HÖPPNER, LATEX-Vademecum – Ein Kompaktführer für Einsteiger und Fortgeschrittene [LATEX vademecum – A compact guide for new and advanced users]; pp. 60–61

A review of a book (by Axel Heilmann) with this title (Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 1996). The bottom line: In spite of some weaknesses concerning details, the book is a reference on LATEX 2$_\varepsilon$ suitable for advanced users or those changing over from LATEX 2.09.

○ *Spielplan* [Repertory]; pp. 62–63:
The international and national calendar.

○ *Adressen* [Addresses]; pp. 64–67:
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.

8. Jahrgang, Heft 2/1996 (August 1996)

Luzia DIETSCHE, Editorial; p. 3

A short statement by the editor commenting on the current issue. In particular, she mentions the crossword puzzle (page 69) and the reprint of an article by Donald E. Knuth copied from the WWW. The reaction to the journal's new layout has been essentially positive.

○ *Hinter der Bühne : Vereinsinternes* [Backstage : Club matters]; pp. 4–9:

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

A short comment on club matters by the president of DANTE: Due to technical reasons, there has been a delay in performing the bank invoice of the membership dues. The new CTAN server has been installed, its predecessor will be presented to TUG and probably be operated by Karl Berry in Boston. Publishers of TEX CD-ROMs have shown little interest in replacing distributions which contain the bad version of the Slackware-Linux distribution with the damaged font files (cf. the article on page 10).

Friedhelm SOWA, Kassenbericht für Zeitraum 1.1.1994 – 31.12.1994 [Report of the treasurer for the year 1994]; pp. 6–9

Following the report for 1993, the treasurer's report for 1994 is also available and published here.

○ *Von fremden Bühnen* [On other stages]; pp. 10–13:

Donald E. KNUTH, Important Message to all Users of TEX (in English); pp. 10–13

(This article is copied from Knuth's WWW page.) Some versions of the Slackware Linux distribution (around 1995 and 1996) contain CM fonts with changed font metrics. They can be recognized (for cmr10 `\rm`) by checking
`\setbox0=\hbox{ho}\showbox0`.
TEX must show a `\hbox` of width 10.55559 (not 10.31947, as with the bad fonts). Moreover, in the spring of 1992 Knuth made some important corrections (without changes in the font metrics) to the Computer Modern fonts which can be recognized from the improved shape of the `\delta` symbol. Bad or obsolete fonts should be replaced!

○ *Bretter, die die Welt bedeuten* [The stage is the world]; pp. 14–43:

Markus KOHM, *Koma-Script* – Eine Alternative zu den Standardklassen? [*Koma-Script*—An alternative to the standard classes?]; pp. 14–33

Koma-Script is based on the document style family *Script* developed 1992 for LATEX 2.09 by Frank Neukam. Since 1994 Markus Kohm has been (re)implementing (and extending) it for use

with LaTeX2ε. It offers replacements for the four main classes of LaTeX (`article`, `report`, `book`, and `letter`) which are better suited for German (European) typography and are more flexible, as well. In this article Markus Kohm describes the main features of his package and the design principles: The page format is computed from prescribed parameters by typographical rules (mainly following advice by Tschichold). There are also tools for customizing the title page and the table of contents. Default headings are smaller than in the standard classes, headlines and footlines are changed and offer more options. Moreover, additional flexibility has been added for sectioning commands (unnumbered sections, `\minisec`, i.e., a command for auxiliary headings, and a `labeling` environment).

Bernd RAICHLE, Orale Spielereien – Teil III (Addendum) [Oral games – part III (addendum)]; pp. 33–37

Following a suggestion by David Kastrup, Bernd Raichle shows how the macro `\CheckFor-Relax` (described in part III) can be used to implement a fully expandable and generally applicable comparison test for numbers that does not have the flaws of the solutions discussed earlier (issue 7/4, pp. 15–29).

Ulrich BREYMANN, Dokumentation von C-Programmen [Documentation of C programs]; pp. 37–43

The author describes his `c.sty`, a simple tool that allows to include a C program file into LaTeX files. The code is typeset `verbatim` and the comments are typeset as LaTeX input (which has to follow some minor restrictions). (The TeX code of `c.sty` is reprinted but not commented.)

○ *Aus dem Fundus : Nützliches aus CTAN und anderen Quellen* [From the properties room : Useful tools from CTAN and other sources]; pp. 44–53:

Gerd NEUGEBAUER, Tafel-Fett [Blackboard bold]; pp. 44–53

In mathematical texts, very often uppercase letters with an additional vertical stroke are used for sets of numbers (like natural numbers, real numbers, etc.). Originally, this convention was derived from a way used to represent boldface on a blackboard but it is now widely used in print, too. Answering a FAQ, this article surveys how to represent such sets in TeX, either by macro solutions or, in particular, with the help of suitable fonts (AMSFonts, `bbold`

by Alan Jeffrey, `doublestroke` by Olaf Kummer, `bbm` by Gilles F. Robert). (Font samples are given.)

○ *Was Sie schon immer über TeX wissen wollten ...* [What you always wanted to know about TeX ...]; pp. 54–55:

Bernd RAICHLE, Roman statt Italic in mathematischen Formeln [Roman instead of italics in mathematical formulas]; pp. 54–55

It is a frequently asked question how to replace math italics by roman letters for use in chemical formulas. The author shows how this should be done in LaTeX2ε.

○ *TeX-Beiprogramm* [TeX co-features]; pp. 56–69:

Ulrik VIETH, TeX Live – Die erste TDS-konforme ready-to-run [TeX Live – The first ready-to-run TeX-CD-ROM based on TDS (for Unix systems and other platforms)]; pp. 56–63

'TeX Live' offers a ready-to-run installation of TeX based on `teTeX` by Thomas Esser, including binaries for 23 Unix platforms, which implements TDS — the new TeX directory structure. For platforms other than Unix it can be used as a well-organized source for fonts, macros, and documentation complying with this standard. It will also help to maintain TeX on servers of networks (e.g., universities). It is the result of a joint project by TUG, UK TUG, and GUTenberg.

Peter NÜCHTER, Beschleunigung eines LaTeX-Durchlaufs [Accelerating the LaTeX cycle]; pp. 64–66

LaTeX has a large overhead caused by loading various packages before `\begin{document}` can be executed. This overhead is annoying, in particular when compiling short documents. But it can be avoided by generating a format file containing all the standard material which is never changed. Bernd Raichle has added a remark in which he points to `mylatex.ltx`, a macro package by David Carlisle, which helps to do this right and avoid some mistakes.

Klaus LAGALLY, Das alternative (LA)TeX-Glossar – Addendum [The alternative (LA)TeX glossary – addendum]; pp. 67–68

More 'definitions' of TeX and LaTeX commands (cf. also the first part, issue 7/4, pp. 43–47).

(LA)TeX-Rätsel [(LA)TeX puzzle]; p. 69

A crossword puzzle of TeX terms.

○ *Spielplan* [Repertory]; pp. 70–71:

The international and national calendar.

○ *Adressen* [Addresses]; pp. 72–75:

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.

8. Jahrgang, Heft 3/1996 (Dezember 1996)

Luzia DIETSCHE, Editorial; p. 3

A short statement commenting on the current issue. Together with it two CD-ROMs containing an (almost) complete copy of CTAN are distributed to the members of DANTE.

○ *Hinter der Bühne : Vereinsinternes*
   [Backstage : Club matters]; pp. 4–25:

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

A short comment on club matters by the president of DANTE: Due to technical reasons, the bank invoice of the membership dues has still not been performed. As a special offer for members, back volumes of the *Komödie* are available at a special reduced rate.

[Luzia DIETSCHE],
Protokoll der 15. Mitgliederversammlung von DANTE, Deutschsprachige Anwendervereinigung TEX e.V. [Protocol of the 15th assembly of members of DANTE]; pp. 6–21

This is the official report on the members' meeting held in Hamburg (October 10, 1996). As usual, it treats formal matters and includes 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). Some of the items treated are the following: Cooperation with TUG has improved (CTAN server, CD-ROM 'TEX Live'). Since the number of members of DANTE decreases, new strategies have to be considered. Joachim Lammarsch has visited Donald E. Knuth. ε-TEX version 1.1 is available.

Diskussionsgruppe "BELICHTER", DANTE E.V., Eine eigene Lichtsatzanlage für DANTE e.V.? [Their own phototypesetter for DANTE e.V.?]; pp. 21–25

In September 1994 it was proposed that DANTE should buy a professional phototypesetter in order to make high-quality (high-resolution) printing available to members at a low price. In reaction to this proposal a discussion group was formed. In this final report the group comes to the conclusion that (due to financial reasons) this plan is not feasible.

○ *TEX-Theatertage*
   [TEX theatre festival]; pp. 26–30:

Volker RW SCHAA, Bericht von der 17. Tagung der TUG – (Cyr)TUG 96 in Dubna [Report on the 17th TUG meeting – (Cyr)TUG 96 in Dubna]; pp. 26–30

A report on TUG'96 on *'Polymath-Polytechnic-Polyglot'* held in Dubna (July 28–August 2, 1996), the first such meeting in a country using a non-Latin alphabet.

○ *Bretter, die die Welt bedeuten*
   [The stage is the world]; pp. 31–35:

Andreas SCHLECHTE, *Make-Index* – Dem Fehler auf der Spur [*Make-Index* – Tracing the error]; pp. 31–35

Make-Index with option `-g` may produce surprising output. The bug is caused by wrong string handling: After conversion a string may overwrite parts of another string. The author shows how to patch the program to remove this bug.

○ *Aus dem Fundus : Nützliches aus CTAN und
   anderen Quellen* [From the properties room :
   Useful tools from CTAN and other sources];
   pp. 36–56:

Gerd NEUGEBAUER, Das unentdeckte Land [The undiscovered country]; pp. 36–56

This article describes in detail how PostScript fonts found on the net can be installed for TEX. It is based on the `fontinst` package by Alan Jeffrey and uses fonts inspired by the StarTrek series as examples, thus also providing a survey of such fonts (with samples). However, a note added remarks that most of the URLs given are no longer valid due to the ever-changing nature of the WWW.

○ *TEX-Beiprogramm* [TEX co-features]; pp. 57–68:

Bericht des technischen Beirats
[Report of the technical council]; pp. 57–64

A collection of short reports (by the appointed coordinators) on the various hardware platforms and other special topics, supplementing those of the protocol (p. 6). Three new German TEX books are listed: *Einführung in LATEX2ε. Lehrbuch und Referenz* by Karsten Günther, *LATEX, Bd. 3: Erweiterungen* by Helmut Kopka, and *Das Vieweg LATEX2ε-Buch – Eine praxisortientierte Einführung*

by Rames Abdelhamid (third revised and extended edition).

Das Redaktionsteam, (LA)TEX-Rätsel: Die
Auflösung [(LA)TEX puzzle: the solution];
pp. 64–68
 The story of the crossword puzzle (issue 8/2, p. 69) and its solution.

○ *Leserbriefe* [Letters]; p. 69:

Jörg KNAPPEN, Tafel-Fett, Heft 2/96
[Blackboard bold, issue 2/96]; p. 69
 A short additional remark on the `mathbbol` package: How to obtain the uppercase Greek letters and the numbers of Alan Jeffrey's font.

○ *Rezensionen* [Reviews]; pp. 70–75:

Gerhard WILHELMS, Eine etwas andere
Buchrezension [A book review of another
kind]; pp. 70–75
 This is the review of the book *Die PostScript & Acrobat-Bible. Was Sie schon immer über PostScript und Acrobat/PDF wissen wollten* [*The PostScript & Acrobat bible. What you always wanted to know about PostScript and Acrobat/PDF*] by Thomas Merz (dpunkt.verlag 1996). The review is told in the style of the story of a sorcerer (or wizard) and highly recommends the book which tells not only *what* PostScript can do but also *how* it can be done and which comes with a CD-ROM that contains all the necessary tools. (An English translation of the book is available from Springer.)

○ *Spielplan* [Repertory]; pp. 76–79:
 The international and national calendar, and the announcement of DANTE'97 in Munich.

○ *Adressen* [Addresses]; pp. 80–83:
 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.

8. Jahrgang, Heft 4/1996 (Februar 1997)

Luzia DIETSCHE, Editorial; p. 3
 A short statement commenting on the current issue which contains a wide range of topics. Its production required 22 macro packages — a new record.

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

Joachim LAMMARSCH, Grußwort
[Welcome message]; pp. 4–7
 A short comment on club matters by the president of DANTE: The bank invoice of the membership dues has been performed. The double CD-ROM included with the last issue was a great success, and the workstation donated to TUG will soon be operating as a server for CTAN. The letter of thanks by TUG president Michel Goossens is reprinted.

○ *Bretter, die die Welt bedeuten*
[The stage is the world]; pp. 8–40:

Jörg KNAPPEN, Ankündigung: Die ec-Schriften 1.0
sind da! [Announcement: The ec-fonts 1.0 are
ready!]; pp. 8–9
 A short note announcing the official release of version 1.0 of the Extended Computer Modern (ec-fonts) fonts.

Andreas SCHLECHTE, Theoremverzeichnisse
automatisch erstellen [Automatic generation of
theorem listings]; pp. 9–16
 This article describes `newthm`, an extension (developed by the author) of the `theorem` package by Frank Mittelbach. It provides tools for the convenient generation of lists of theorems, and commands which allow one to change the numbering of theorems. It may require up to four runs of LATEX to get all the references right! (The package can be found on CTAN in
`/macros/latex/contrib/other/newthm`.)

Herbert BERGER, Erfahrungen bei der Anwendung
von plain TEX und Edmac auf die Leibniz-Edition
[Experiences when applying plain TEX and Edmac
to the Leibniz edition]; pp. 16–22
 The Leibniz archive Hannover (in cooperation with other institutions) is preparing an edition of the *Collected Works* of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (philosopher and mathematician). 29 volumes have already been published. While some working groups are using TUSTEP, a program well-established in the humanities, it cannot be used for mathematical texts. Thus TEX (emTEX) with Edmac (a package for historical-critical editions developed by John Lavagnino and Dominik Wujastyk) was chosen, and has been used since 1993. However, Edmac was not sufficient to obey the strict formal requirements of the edition. Therefore, additional macros had to be developed (up to now about 60kB of files). In the

meantime, more than 1000 pages of text have been entered.

This is a report on the problems which were encountered and how they have been solved. Surprisingly, one of the problems was that Edmac is not well-suited for mathematics! The article includes a sample page of the edition.

Marion NEUBAUER,
Feinheiten bei wissenschaftlichen Publikationen
– Mikrotypographie-Regeln, Teil I [Fine points of scientific publishing – microtypographic rules, part I]; pp. 23–40

'Microtypography' means the fine-tuning of the text after its contents and layout have been finished: The contents — the idea — have highest priority, but: "An excellent publication is also marked by an elegant presentation!" There is no standard source for microtypography. Advice is scattered in many books, and is sometimes contradictory. This article attempts a survey of the rules for German text (with some additional rules for foreign languages) and how they can be followed in LaTeX. The present first part deals with abbreviations, acronyms, units, quotes, punctuation, special symbols, electronic mail addresses, and ligatures. 25 references — eight of which are suitable for further study — are given.

○ *Aus dem Fundus : Nützliches aus CTAN und anderen Quellen* [From the properties room : Useful tools from CTAN and other sources]; pp. 41–53:

Gerd NEUGEBAUER, Genealogisches
[Genealogic matters]; pp. 41–53

The DUDEN (the 'bible' of correct German) contains a list of genealogical symbols. The author describes his search for these symbols. This is used as an opportunity to survey and display various symbol fonts.

○ *Was Sie schon immer über TeX wissen wollten …* [What you always wanted to know about TeX …]; pp. 54–55:

Rainer SCHÖPF, Seitenumbrüche in Listen [Page breaks in lists]; pp. 54–55

The answer to a frequently asked question: How to prevent unwanted page breaks with the LaTeX2$_\varepsilon$ command `\@nobreaktrue`.

○ *TeX-Beiprogramm* [TeX co-features]; pp. 56–59:

Peter MISCHKE, Eine TeX-Umgebung für OS/2 [A TeX environment for OS/2]; pp. 56–59

Jürgen Hanneder has described the use of AucTeX as an OS/2 TeX shell (issue 7/2, pp. 38–41). This article suggests EPM*TeX* as an alternative. EPM*TeX* is an extension (by Jonathan Hacker and Rodney Korte) of the powerful (but little known) EPM OS/2-editor.

○ *Spielplan* [Repertory]; pp. 60–63:

The international and national calendar, with the announcement of DANTE'97 in Munich, and an advertisment for a book (*Das TeXikon* by Stefan Schwarz and Rudolf Potucek).

○ *Adressen* [Addresses]; pp. 64–67:

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)