



Workshop leader Jost Zetsche

## Tech tools boost your productivity

A TWO-PART WORKSHOP, presented by translator Jost Zetsche on September 6, will offer expert advice on

which software tools you'll need to save time and boost your productivity, the best way to use these tools, and which popular tools you can do without.

The morning session will cover computer basics, including fine-tuning your operating system for translation purposes, translation-related tips and tricks with Office programs, and freeware and shareware programs for translators.

The afternoon session will focus on specific translation tools, including computer-assisted translation tools, formatting tools, databases and terminology maintenance tools, and quality assurance procedures and tools.

Participants will have the option of signing up for one or both sessions.

Watch the AATIA blog at [aatia.net](http://aatia.net) for registration information.

Don't miss this chance to learn how to get the most out of your computer! ★

### July member meeting

## Introducing: Austin's sister cities

MARIANNE MARTINEZ of the Austin Sister Cities program will be one of the featured speakers at AATIA's next member meeting at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 12.

The broad goals of the program are to foster friendly relations and promote understanding between the people of Austin and the citizens of our sister cities around the world.

This program is designed to contribute to the educational, cultural, social, and economic presence of the City of Austin in the international community of nations.

The meeting, held at the [Austin History Center](#) (9th & Guadalupe), will have the usual high-quality networking, top-notch refreshments, and other meeting segments, which will be announced here as the details surface. ★

## Sweet sorrow

AS USUAL, Shakespeare expressed it beautifully: "Parting is such sweet sorrow."

*The AATIA Letter*, in its print format, has served us long and well. Like many members, I have appreciated receiving it, reading it, and keeping it (my personal collection goes back to the May 1993 issue—and that's just the latest fifteen years of continuous publication!)

Each one of those issues was lovingly assembled by Editor Mike Conner, to whom we are forever indebted for his years of dedication and hard work. Fortunately for us he is not retiring along with his publication; he is merely exchanging his Editor hat for a Blogmaster one, and will continue to pilot us

into our electronic future.

*The Letter* has, in a very real sense, helped to bind the membership together and keep us connected to the association and to each other. Many of us wonder what happens now? How will we keep that connection and communication alive without the newsletter arriving every two months?

It may help to think of what has happened to the regular mail over time. The motto, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds," is intimately associated with the postal service. But the oracle Google tells us that it originally appeared in the works of Herodotus that describe the expedition of the Greeks against the Persians under Cyrus in about 500

B.C. The Persians operated a system of mounted postal couriers, and the sentence refers to the reliability of their work. It follows that the mail has been getting through for the last 2500 years, and electronic communication is merely the latest incarnation of a service that we could not, would not, be without.

The blog, at [AATIA.net](http://AATIA.net), now takes over from where *The Letter* leaves off. Please come visit, and use the RSS feed function to get the headlines delivered directly and automatically to your computer. The blog will keep us all connected, and the instant bulletins will keep us abreast of the news that affects us professionally as translators and interpreters.

Shakespeare may weep, but wouldn't Herodotus be proud?

—Tony Beckwith ★

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## AATIA's new gateway: [www.aatia.net](http://www.aatia.net)

THE RETIREMENT of *The AATIA Letter* coincides with the semi-retirement of aatia.org. Except for the Linguist Locator, all news and announcements will appear on [aatia.net](http://aatia.net), and visitors who type aatia.org into their browser's address bar will be redirected automatically to the new site.

Unlike the old site, where announcements disappeared into the ether, [aatia.net](http://aatia.net) preserves a record of previous items for future review.

During the last two months (since the publication of the May issue of *The Letter*) the following topics made news at [aatia.net](http://aatia.net), among other items:

- **May 1:** Eighth edition of Hank Phillips's "Stupid Interpreter Tricks," this one on "Cramming"
- **May 5:** For the office: translations trashcan
- **May 7:** Free poster download from ALTA
- **May 8:** PEN American Center's translation prize goes to Margaret Jull Costa
- **May 8:** New search engine Red Zee: not very practical, but fun
- **May 12:** Pointer to online currency conversion tools
- **May 14:** The New York Moon online publication focuses on translation
- **May 17:** Belgian author/translator donates prize money to ACLU
- **May 19:** AATIA members act as hosts for Hong Kong Trade conference in Austin
- **May 22:** Martyn Hitchcock's translation of Krez poem published
- **May 26:** UT's Harry Ransom Center acquires rare polyglot bible
- **May 29:** "Calligraphy Lesson" translation by Marian Schwartz
- **May 31:** McElroy/Asia Online partnership reported

- **May 31:** LitSIG readings at BookPeople announced
- **June 4:** AATIA members get discounted concert tickets
- **June 6:** Pointer to a gold mine of free multilingual manuals for all sorts of appliances and equipment
- **June 9:** Translation pricing report cites stability over a four-year period
- **June 14:** Portuguese spelling reforms
- **June 16:** UNESCO updates its *Index Translatorium* on its 75th anniversary, now containing some 1.8 million items
- **June 19:** Online French lexicographic materials
- **June 20:** July classes in San Antonio taught by Margaret Sayers Peden
- **June 23:** Seeking hosts for visiting ESL teachers from Mexico
- **June 25:** "English evolving toward global language?" examines the future of English—is it moving toward a single global tongue or ramifying into dozens of dialects? ★



## Thanks for the memories

AS THE AATIA LETTER ends its long and successful run, I take the opportunity to thank the many members who have contributed toward this success, especially faithful contributors Tony Beckwith and Frank Dietz, who have graced almost every issue during my tenure as Editor. Thanks also to Ingrid Lansford, Hank Phillips, Marian Schwartz, Liliana Valenzuela, and Laura

Vlasman for frequent submissions and to a long line of board members (especially several stupendous Secretaries) for meeting reviews and highlights.

Howard Simms and Merry Wheaton deserve special thanks for complying with last-minute requests for proofreading over the years, as does Efrat Schwartz for faithful service readying the newsletter for mailing for many years. Many other members, too many to mention here specifically, have supplied material for articles and news reports, as well as suggestions and critiques. Thanks, one and all.

Publishing The Letter since 1992 (almost 100 issues!) has been a labor of love, as well as an opportunity to learn some of the finer points of desktop publishing, beginning with rudimentary layout in Word Perfect (which was not the

right tool for the job, but did yield acceptable results), then switching to PageMaker (much too powerful and complex for a small project like this), and finally to Publisher (a good fit for a small newsletter).

At several points along the way, the job veered dangerously close to drudgery, but the bimonthly schedule allowed just the right amount of down time between issues to recharge. My greatest regret stems from my inability to delegate more tasks and involve others in the process.

Looking ahead, the newsletter's virtual replacement, AATIA's blog at [aatia.net](http://aatia.net), offers a new way to reach out to members and to the general public. Not only will we be able to publish news without worrying about publication lead times and deadlines, more members will be able to participate directly, as readers, authors, and commenters.

So, thanks for the memories; it's now time to create new ones.

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## SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION EQUIPMENT

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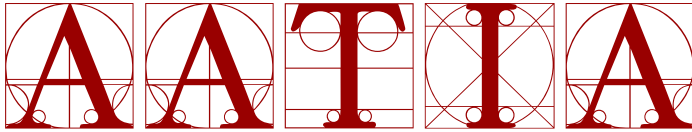
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**EVENTS IN AUSTIN**

July 12 1–4 p.m. AATIA member meeting\*  
July 26 Wordfast workshop ([aatia.net](http://aatia.net) for details)

Aug 9 10:15–12 noon. InterpreterSIG meeting\*  
1–4 p.m. AATIA board meeting\*

Sep 6 “Translators Toolbox” seminar ([aatia.net](http://aatia.net) for details)

Sep 13 10–noon SpanSIG meeting\*  
1–4 p.m. AATIA member meeting\*

*\*AATIA holds meetings at the Austin History Center, 9th & Guadalupe, unless otherwise indicated. Visitors are welcome.*

**BEYOND AUSTIN**

July 17–20 ATA Translation Company Division Annual Conference, Englewood, Colorado.

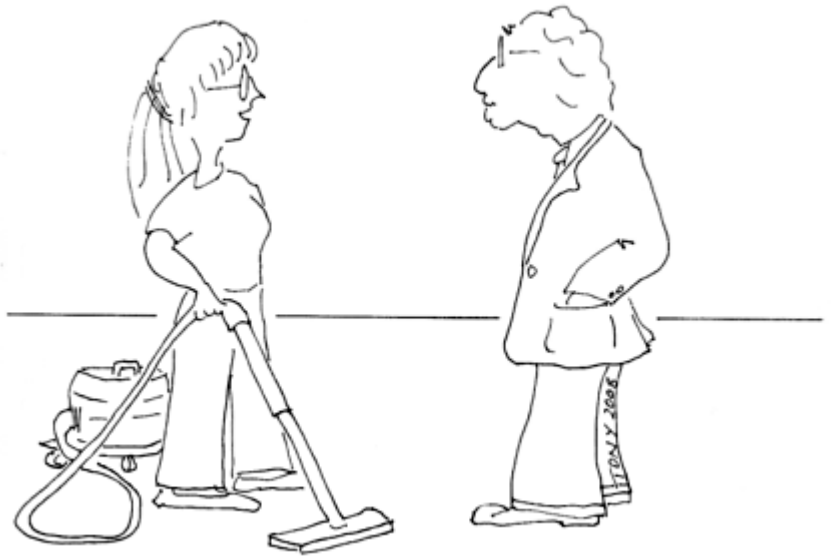
[ata-divisions.org](http://ata-divisions.org)

Nov 5–8 Annual ATA Conference. Orlando, FL. [atanet.org](http://atanet.org)



he sum of human wisdom is not contained in any one language, and no single language is capable of expressing all forms and degrees of human comprehension.

—Ezra Pound, poet  
(1885–1972)



Whenever I get a new translation project I'm overwhelmed by an urge to vacuum the house from top to bottom!