

Review of the Susana Greiss Lecture delivered by Kenneth Katzner: PROBLEMS AND PITFALLS IN COMPILING A BILINGUAL DICTIONARY

Douglas Hofstadter

While giving my own talk at the ATA meetings, a talk that featured various translations of a couple of stanzas of *Eugene Onegin*, I felt buoyed by the broadly smiling face of an unknown distinguished-looking gentleman sitting near the back of the room. After it was over, I was wandering around the hotel and heard someone address me. I turned around and saw it was the selfsame smiling gentleman, who simply wanted to tell me he had enjoyed my talk. As I thanked him, I noticed his name-tag – “Kenneth Katzner” – and was bowled over: this was the very person whose talk I had so much been looking forward to, ever since receiving the conference schedule. This was the man whose wonderful dictionary of Russian and English had been my staunchest companion throughout the previous year, during which I, with enormous excitement, had translated *Eugene Onegin* into English verse. So taken had I been with Katzner’s dictionary, and so dependent upon it, that I had purchased four different copies so as to have it on hand wherever I might find myself – my bedroom, my study, my office, my kitchen. What a delightful coincidence that Kenneth Katzner had attended and gotten a kick out of my talk!

Before I comment on the talk, let me echo what translator and interpreter Laura Wolfson, who introduced Katzner, said about his dictionary: there simply is no other work that comes close to bridging our two contemporary languages as well. Some of its virtues are: the inclusion of nearly all currently used words, the exclusion of nearly all archaic words, the inclusion of thousands of familiar idioms and stock phrases, the illustration of vast numbers of words and phrases by means of sample sentences, the careful listing of many shades of meaning for all high-frequency words, the painstakingly precise symmetry whereby any word listed on the Russian-English side of the dictionary can also be found in the English-Russian side and vice versa, and, last but not least, the fact that it reflects primarily American rather than British English.

Early in his talk, Katzner hypothesized that the earliest bilingual dictionaries probably consisted of mere lists of concrete nouns paired with other concrete nouns – *hand/рука, hat/ шляпа, horse/лошадь, house/дом*, and so forth – as if all that translation amounted to was the totally mechanistic act of word-for-word substitution. He pointed out that even today, very sadly, many dictionaries available in bookstores are of exactly this type. Although Katzner politely refrained from pointing an

accusatory finger anywhere, I cannot be as restrained as he; I hope that a mere mention of the brand name “Hippocrene” will evoke sighs of despair on the part of my readers.

But Katzner quickly shifted our attention from the lists of rather unchallenging words like *giraffe* and *geranium* to the main business of a lexicographer, which is how to handle words that possess a near-infinite range of shades of meaning, such as *point*. He told a fascinating story about his involvement, many years ago, with *The American Heritage Dictionary*, in which he and several co-workers were given thousands of slips of paper, each of which had a sentence containing the word *point*, and their task was to develop a core set of all the distinct senses of *point*, and then to sort all the slips into one pile or another. They began the task with enthusiasm, and soon had identified a dozen or so senses of the word, but then they ran into an unexpected and serious obstacle: the more carefully they looked at the sample sentences, the more they realized that they were constantly running into cases where *point* had a meaning midway between two established senses. It soon became clear that even if they were to subdivide a pile into several smaller piles, it would never be sufficient, because the senses of *point* simply are not discrete classes. Instead they form a multidimensional continuum, and the introduction of discrete boundaries in that continuum is always artificial and hence, in the end, misleading. From this, Katzner drew a lifelong lesson: that dictionary-making is not a science but an art form.

Continued on page 26

Inside:

St. Louis Conference	1,4-7,11,14-19, 23
Messages from our New Administration	3
«Вурдалак»	8
О транслитерации	20
Electronic dictionary review	24

SLAVIC LANGUAGES DIVISION

Officers

Administrator: Natalia S. Kissock
1015 West 4th Street
Morris, MN 56267

Tel: 320-589-3975 Fax: 320-589-3289
kissockn@infolink.morris.mn.us

Asst. Administrator: James E. Walker
376 Southern Road
Ellijay, GA 30540
Tel. & Fax: 706-273-3465
perevod@ellijay.com

Membership

\$15 addition to ATA membership fee and designation of Slavic Languages Division membership on application or renewal form provides full membership.

Write to ATA, 225 Reinekers Lane
Alexandria, VA 22314

SlavFile is published four times yearly. Letters to the Editor, short articles of interest, and information for the calendar are invited.

Submissions become the property of **SlavFile** and are subject to editing. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor or of the Division.

Editor: Lydia Razran Stone
1111 Westmoreland Road
Alexandria, VA 22308
Tel. & Fax: 703-768-5441
lydiastone@compuserve.com

Asst. Editor: Laura E. Wolfson
425 W. Sedgwick St., Apt. C
Philadelphia, PA 19119
Tel: 215-438-5697 Fax: 215-438-1877
LauraEsther@cs.com

Contributing Editor (Polish): Tomasz Popławski
Tel: 773-929-1341 Fax: 773-929-7520
TomekP@flash.net

Layout and typesetting: Galina Raff
1140 Ashley Creek Drive
Matthews, NC 28105
Tel: 704-849-8200 Fax: 704-841-2797
galina_raff@worldnet.att.net

Subscription to **SlavFile** without other membership benefits: \$10 in USA and Canada and \$15 elsewhere.
Write to Natalia S. Kissock at above address.

Cyrillic support for **SlavFile** is provided by **Fingertip Software** phone (800) 209-4063 fax (210) 659-8870 info@fingertipsoft.com http://www.cyrillic.com.

November 17, 1999

To the Editors:

Over the years, I have acquired a large number of dictionaries. In some cases, I own two copies of the same dictionary. On the other hand, there are many dictionaries that I don't have but would like to own.

There are undoubtedly other translators/interpreters in the SLD who have the same problem. I am sure somebody out there has two copies of a dictionary I would be happy to have, while somebody else would like to possess one or more of my duplicate dictionaries. It would be great to exchange dictionaries with such people.

So I propose to establish a Dictionary Exchange within SLD to let members know what dictionaries are available. Then people can get in touch with each other directly. I will start by making my list of duplicates available on the Yahoo Russian Translators Club described in Jim Walker's column in this issue of the Slavfile. I am also offering to serve as a sort of dictionary exchange clearing house. This will work as follows:

1. Those interested in participating in the dictionary exchange can e-mail me lists of their duplicate dictionaries.
2. I will compile the master list and e-mail it to each participant. Suggested master list format:

Title	Author/Editor	Publisher, year	No. of entries	Owner
Русско-английский политехнический словарь Russian-English Polytechnic Dictionary	Б.В. Кузнецов	Москва, «Русский язык», 1980	90,000	John Doe

(and so on)

3. Then participants can contact each other directly and arrange an exchange.
4. After completing the exchange, the parties involved will let me know, and I will delete from the master list the dictionaries thus exchanged.
5. Anybody can join at any time by e-mailing me a list of his/her duplicate dictionaries.
6. I will update the master list and e-mail the updated list back to that person, who can then go to steps 3 and 4. The other members of the dictionary exchange will also receive the updated list.

Sincerely yours,

Boris Silversteyn (bsilversteyn@home.com)

The editors of SlavFile enthusiastically endorse this idea and, on behalf of the Division, thank Boris for the amount of hassle he is willing to undertake for the good of all.

ADVERTISING RATES AND SPECIFICATIONS

(width and height not to exceed the following measurements in cm)

Full page (19 x 24)	\$75	2000 DEADLINE	
Half page (19 x 12 or 9.5 x 24)	\$50	Summer issue	May 1
Quarter page (9.5 x 12)	\$25	Fall issue	August 1
Small ad/Business card (9 x 6)	\$12	Winter 2001 issue	December 1
TO PLACE AN AD		DISCOUNTS	
All ads are payable in advance.		20% discount for SLD members	
Send artwork by mail, and advertising copy in electronic format to the Layout Editor, Galina Raff. Ad copy must be accompanied by payment in full. Make check payable to "ATA."		10% discount for second and each consecutive ad on calendar year basis.	
		Only one discount is allowed.	

OFFERS OF WORK FROM EMPLOYERS AND CLIENTS ARE PUBLISHED FREE

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Natalia Kissock

At last all the hype of the millennium celebrations is behind us, our computers seem to be working, and we have easily adjusted to the 21st century. Life is back to normal.

In this issue of the *SlavFile* we look back at the last ATA Conference, which was a great success. It is an excellent tradition for us to publish reviews of the SLD conference presentations. We can all benefit from the ideas and experiences of the presenters. On behalf of the Division I would like to thank all presenters for their wonderful sessions. Our second Susana Greiss Lecture (presenter: lexicographer Kenneth Katzner) was extremely interesting. I think that we should certainly continue having these lectures.

As you remember, SLD officers were elected this year. At our annual meeting Nora Favorov reported the results of the ballot count: 86 ballots were received, Jim Walker was elected Assistant Administrator, and Natalia Kissock was elected for a second term as the SLD Administrator. Unfortunately there was no competition as no other candidates for these offices had stepped forward. I hope that in future years we can find other volunteers to fill these offices so that we can have contested elections. I am sure this will also increase voter participation.

At the SLD annual meeting we discussed what the Division has done over the course of the past year, what needs to be done this year and what needs to be done in general. One thing we need to do is update our Web page, making it more attractive, current and sophisticated. I hereby call for volunteers to work on this task. Please let me or Jim know if you can help.

The idea of having a bulletin board was brought up again. There seems to be a consensus that division members would benefit from having a forum to discuss issues related to our work. It seems that Jim Walker and Galina Raff have found a very good way to create such a bulletin board. You'll find information about it in Jim's column on page 19 of this issue of *SlavFile*. As an alternative we could use ATA's List Serve as several other ATA Divisions are doing. This too would be free but we would need a volunteer to manage it. Any takers?

After all our hard work, we were unable to publish the *SLD Professional Services Directory* last year due to lack of funds. Our membership dues cover only the printing and mailing of *SlavFile* and a few other minor expenses. In my opinion the *ATA Professional Services Directory* on the Web renders publication of our Directory unnecessary. I encourage our members to consider using this tool.

At this year's meeting, it was again suggested that the *SlavFile* could be distributed in an electronic version. However, our research after the conference suggests that this would not be cost-effective, since most people would not want to give up receiving the hard copy. We have also explored the possibilities of using another print shop in order to cut the cost of printing. We have found a place with better prices and will be checking into the quality of their work.

The next ATA Conference will take place in Orlando, Florida in September. If you would like to present, please remember that the deadline for papers is March 1.

Enjoy the first issue of the *SlavFile* of the year 2000. And may this century bring all of us, among other good things, plenty of work!

The Party Line

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

Jim Walker

To me, the biggest drawback of being a freelance translator is working at home alone. (Of course, I understand that this may also be the biggest advantage.) The best antidote to this isolation is the ATA Annual Conference. The members of the SLD are my "friends at work," and I like to get together with them.

Of the three ATA conferences I have attended (San Francisco, Hilton Head, and St. Louis), I had the best time at the one in St. Louis! Why? Because each year I have the opportunity to make new friends, and my new friends from previous conferences have become old friends, so each year I can look forward to seeing more friends and closer friends.

I can hardly imagine how disheartening it would be to go to a conference and not get to know anyone. . Fortunately, at my first conference SLD members made me feel welcome immediately. I appreciate that. If I had not felt included in the group at my first conference, it would have been my last. Now, both personally and as SLD Assistant Administrator, I would like to make sure that every SLD member attending our conference for the first time receives an equally warm welcome. Are we still doing a good job of greeting newcomers, and how could we do better?

During my recent "campaign" for assistant administrator, I said that I wanted the SLD to be known as the party division. I think we made a pretty good effort in that direction in St. Louis. There were plenty of opportunities for dancing, and a group of SLD people could usually be found in one of the hotel bars. I wish everyone could have joined the large SLD excursion on Thursday night to "Zhivago's Vodka and Piano Bar," an excellent restaurant somewhere in the suburbs. The vodka was a little bit pricey, but very good, and the лисички were really fine! I hope that we can plan something similar for everyone this year in Orlando.

But the party-division goal may be overly ambitious, considering the Portuguese Division's late-night disco parties. In fact, most of the opportunities for dancing were at the Portuguese Division's late-night disco parties. Or maybe we just have our fun in a slightly different, less strenuous way. I'll bet no other division had presentations as entertaining as Lydia Stone's and Vadim Khazin's "Idiom Savants" or Igor Vesler's "Labels, Tags, Stickers, etc." (a real sleeper; the title gave no clue as to how hilarious it would be). And surely no one else can sing like Nancy Luetzow, Bill Keasbey, and the rest of the crowd at the Slavic Sing-along. We may not be the loudest, but I think we are certainly the most harmonious.

Continued on page 19

RUSSIAN TECHNICAL ABBREVIATIONS

James E. Walker

Editor's Note: Rather than recruiting a reviewer, Jim Walker chose to provide his own summary of his ATA talk given November 1999 in St. Louis.

An *abbreviation* is any shortened form of a word or phrase. An *initialism* is a set of initial letters or groups of letters representing a phrase, name, organization, etc.; it may be pronounced as a separate word or as a series of letters. An acronym is an *initialism* that is pronounced as a word rather than a series of letters. IBM and ROM are both *initialisms*, but of the two only ROM is an *acronym*. As one might expect, Russians distinguish even more categories of abbreviations. *Большой энциклопедический словарь, Языкознание* lists six types of abbreviations and three subtypes.

Shortened forms of names and terms are common in both Russian and English technical writing. Most of them are *initialisms*; some are *acronyms*. To avoid confusion and nit-picking, I will call them all abbreviations here; what they really are is the bane of the translators' existence.

The purpose of written abbreviations is to save space or ink. Their practical result, however, is to limit the audience of a piece of writing to those *cognoscenti* who understand the secret code. In the best of cases, a technical writer has a very good idea who his audience is and uses only those abbreviations that they will readily understand. In the worst of cases, abbreviations are used to demonstrate an author's knowledge of some minute specialty and outsiders' ignorance of it. Since the purpose of translation is to expand the audience of a document, undefined abbreviations are by their very nature inimical to translation.

Of course, many abbreviations do enter the common vocabulary, some to such an extent that they are readily understandable even to people who do not know how to expand them properly into a complete name or phrase. Abbreviations can be ranked on a scale of accessibility. Some are so obvious that the only person who could possibly fail to understand them is one who does not share the author's basic knowledge. Unfortunately, this may sometimes describe even the best translators. Other abbreviations are so obscure that the only person who could possibly understand them is someone who has already wasted his time reading (or translating) a previous article by the same author on exactly the same trivial subject.

Everyone has his or her own scale of accessibility. In other words they draw the line differently between what should be common knowledge and what needs to be defined. For example, while translating a document in a field that was relatively new to me, I encountered the following undefined abbreviations, which I have placed in order of increasing obscurity to me: АЭС, ТЭК, ОЯТ, БОУ, СДЯВ. I suppose that everyone knows the first two. I recognized the third one also, but the fourth I had to look up. I struggled with the last one for some time before I finally got the answer by sending some e-mail to the Nuclear Safety Institute. So, for translators, abbreviations add insult to injury. Not only do they waste our valuable time, but they frequently make us keenly aware of our ignorance.

What is the solution? Very simple — all abbreviations should be defined the first time they are used in a document. On the other hand, when was the last time anyone asked your advice on how to write a document so that it could be translated with a maximum of ease and clarity? Given the hard reality that translators will always have to deal with undefined and unknown abbreviations, I have devised three important rules for deciphering them:

1. Don't guess.
2. It's all right to guess if you are sure that you are right.
3. You are probably wrong.

But seriously now, these simple rules do not save me any time or trouble. Being somewhat stubborn, I hate to give up and admit that I am beaten. I have had some slight success lying awake at night dreaming up possible ways to expand particularly worrisome abbreviations, but I do not recommend that method.

Essentially, abbreviations have no direct meaning of their own; they only stand for words that do have meaning. So you cannot figure out the meaning of an abbreviation by itself. Occasionally, even if a new abbreviation is not defined, it will be perfectly obvious from the context what it is supposed to mean. But more often the meaning of an abbreviation can only be known by prior experience or by definition. Therefore, if the author of a document is not kind enough to define an unknown abbreviation, you need a dictionary or glossary that will.

If the author is considerate enough to define a previously unknown abbreviation, or if it is absolutely, 100% clear from the context what it is supposed to mean, **WRITE IT DOWN!** I have compiled a list of several thousand abbreviations in this way, and it has been very helpful to me. While many of the abbreviations on my list are likely to be useless (so far down on the scale of obscurity that the chance of encountering them a second time ranges from minuscule to nonexistent), it is difficult to tell in advance which ones fit this description. So when I find a sure definition of a previously unknown abbreviation I always write it down.

Here is another suggestion that I wish I would follow myself. When you run into a troublesome abbreviation, do not spend 10, 15, or 20 minutes struggling with it, as I have too often done. Just continue translating. By the time you reach the end of the document the meaning may be clear. Sometimes (I have actually seen this happen more than once), instead of defining an obscure abbreviation the first time it is used, for some unknown reason the author may wait until the last time it is used to define it.

Sometimes abbreviations do not need to be expanded. For example, it may be acceptable or even preferable to use the abbreviated name of an organization rather than a translation of the expanded version. The same is true of model numbers — combinations of letters and numbers that often contain an abbreviation describing a machine or part, etc.

Continued on page 5

ИДИОМЫ, ИДИОМЫ ...

Борис Силверстейн

«Знаток идиом» (Idiom Savants) была, на мой взгляд, одной из интереснейших сессий Славянской секции АТА. Эту сессию задумал Раффи Олден, который, к сожалению, не смог приехать на конференцию и был заменен за столом «президиума» Вадимом Хазиным, проводившим дискуссию вместе с Лидией Разран-Стоун.

Интересной сессию сделало активное участие всех присутствующих (а их было более 30). Идиомы — и их эквиваленты на другом языке — предлагались как из «президиума», так и из зала. Почти каждая «вводная» идиома вызывала оживленное обсуждение, и далеко не каждый раз мы могли прийти к общему знаменателю. А иногда заходили в тупик и не могли предложить ни одного (хорошего) эквивалента; эти случаи отмечены ниже трехкратным вопросительным знаком. Вот некоторые примеры («вводные» фразы выделены жирным шрифтом).

Начали с разминки: **с нуля** — from scratch.

А кончили новым русским сленгом: **беспредел** — lawlessness.

Могли бы продолжать весь день — да нужно было уступить аудиторию для следующей сессии.

Boris Silversteyn (bsilversteyn@home.com) is a Russian - Ukrainian-English translator and interpreter with more years in this profession than he cares to count. After having worked concurrently as a mechanical engineer and as a language professional in the Chicago area for the last twenty years, he is now happily retired (from the former, but not from the latter) and living the good life in Venice, Florida.

Editors' Note: Readers are encouraged to send in additional suggestions for the translations in this list. New idioms with or without appropriate translations should be sent to Slovist Raffi Alden (RaffiAlden@aol.com), submitted to the SlavFile Lite column (lydiastone@compuserve.com), or submitted to Nora Favorov (norafavorov@earthlink.net) for next year's session.

TECHNICAL ABBREVIATIONS

Continued from page 4

Finally, it may happen that all efforts to determine the meaning of an abbreviation fail (dictionaries, glossaries and other reference materials, context, the Internet, consultation with colleagues and other experts, etc.). Try not to let it ruin your day. Words may be your friends, but abbreviations are inevitably your enemies. If you are well prepared, you may win some of the battles, but you cannot win them all. Sometimes you have to admit defeat. UAS

The abbreviations glossary can be downloaded from:

http://briefcase.yahoo.com/galina_raft

SLD Assistant Administrator James E. Walker is an R>E technical translator and party animal from Ellijay, Georgia. He can be reached at: perevod@ellijay.com.

сразу оговорил	stipulated up front
декларативный	lip service; pro forma
белая ворона	black sheep
дедовщина	hazing
до чего хороша!	get a load of her; check her out
морочить голову	to snow somebody
вряд ли	fat chance; in your dreams; don't bet the ranch on it
напасть на золотую жилу	hit paydirt; hit the jackpot
хлопот не оберешься	open a can of worms; too much hassle
сесть в калошу / лужу	put your foot in it; goof up
бес попутал	the devil made me do it
dibs on something	чур, мое!
grounding	домашний арест; наказание; не пускает; под замком
curfew (for a teenager)	???
get a life!	займись делом
middlebrow	???
drag one's feet	тянуть резину
работать с прохладцей	dogging it; slacking off
in one ear, out the other	в одно ухо влетает, из другого вылетает
cutting it close	впритык
close call	чуть не ...
bite the bullet	???
проглотить обиду	lump it
like it or lump it	хочешь — не хочешь
не форсируй события	don't push it
без зазрения совести	unscrupulously; without blinking an eye
put up or shut up	сделай что-нибудь или помолчи
domestic partners	сожители
to grandstand	выпендриваться; работать на публику
охладить чей-то пыл	throw cold water on somebody; burst somebody's balloon; rain on somebody's parade
steal somebody's thunder	опередить; сломать кайф
big frog in a small pond	первый парень на деревне; (большая) шишка на ровном месте
дырявая голова	mind like a sieve

But How Does He Sound In English?

Nineteen ninety-nine marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin, considered by most Russians to be their greatest writer. Despite the many epithets bestowed on him at home — prophet, embodiment of the Russian soul, the bridge between old and modern Russia — he is less revered abroad, where his fame pales by comparison with that of the holy trinity of Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, and Chekhov. “I read some stories by Pushkin,” a friend once told me. “I didn’t think they were anything special.” Russians and non-Russians are mutually baffled by the other’s criteria for great literature: Russians wonder how anyone could think of Dostoevsky or Tolstoy as Russia’s greatest writer, since neither of them wrote poetry, while in the West, where prose is favored, people are perplexed to a like degree at the elevation of Pushkin over other giants in Russia literature. After all, he’s only a poet.

Those who know both languages harbor the strong suspicion that the lack of enthusiasm over Pushkin outside Russia can be explained in one word: translation. For Russians, who honor poetry above all other forms of writing, Pushkin towers above the rest. But, as anyone realizes who has tried to translate poetry, it does not easily lend itself to translation. Vikram Seth and Ralph Fiennes notwithstanding, Pushkin’s acclaim in the West has been limited.

However, there have been numerous published attempts to translate Pushkin, in particular *Eugene Onegin*, into English. To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the great poet’s birth, SLD member Nora Favorov organized a panel at the ATA conference in St. Louis to examine and discuss Pushkin in English translation. The panel session was titled “Translating Pushkin: A Bicentennial Look at How Russia’s Greatest Poet Survives English.” In addition to Nora, the panelists were Elena Levintova, Lydia Razran Stone, and a featured guest speaker, Douglas Hofstadter.

Elena’s presentation was devoted to an incident involving Pushkin and the French poet, Prosper Mérimée. The latter, who was trying to scrape together money for a trip to Central Europe with a view to writing about that region’s myths and legends, came up with a plan to do so: he would write the book first (based on the his own ideas of what his reading public expected of Central European folk beliefs) and use the money he made to finance his trip. The resulting collection of poetry came to the attention of Pushkin, who translated it into Russian. Pushkin, who loved folklore, did not think to question Мѣримѣе’s claim and believed that the poems were in fact a record of legends of the South Slavs. One issue raised by this translation is the extent to which a translator can control his reader’s perception of a foreign literary genre. Is the translator an artist in his own right, or should the translator’s personality be subsumed by the original? Elena closed by reading her translation of Pushkin’s translation of Mérimée, “The Vampire”, which she wrote, appropriately enough, on Halloween.

Lydia Stone, a literary translator, spoke about her experience translating Pushkin’s poem «Черная шаль». Again, the issue of the extent to which the translator controls the reader’s perception of genre was raised. To many native speakers, Pushkin’s poem is taken at face value as a serious poem. However Lydia cited a USSR-born friend of hers who is absolutely certain that the poem is a parody. There was some discussion as to whether the original was meant seriously, but the translation is parodistic without a doubt. Lydia described this translation as an attempt to exorcise “parody demons” that make the translations she produces using her acquired 19th century Russian sensibility appear, when she reads them with her late 20th century American sensibility, to have elements of parody.

Continuing with this idea of how a translator necessarily interprets texts in order to translate, Nora Favorov discussed several different translations of stanza V.31 of *Eugene Onegin*, to wit, the translations of Johnston, Deutsch, Falen, Hofstadter,

Riding the Rough Roads between Russian and English

Nora Favorov

Faced with an expression beyond the ken of all known dictionaries, a business term that represents a concept existing in the source culture but not the target culture, a touchy legal or political situation in which you know a translation which is correct in certain other contexts would wreak havoc in this particular context, or a line of poetry that seems to be the exclusive property of some russophone (or anglophone) muse, shedding all its magic in the target language, haven’t you ever wished you had a roomful of bilingual minds to help you solve your problem? Whether or not you plan to attend the ATA conference in Orlando this September, send me your

stumpers and I will collect them for a roundtable discussion of possible solutions at a panel bearing the same title as this announcement. Of course, in most cases the problems presented will no longer be *актуальными* for the translators who submit them. The point is to have fun applying our collective brainpower to some interesting translation issues, and, as always, to learn something in the process. Don’t delay! Send them while they’re fresh! There’s no need to limit yourselves to terms you are actually hired to translate. Any idiom or term you come across is fair game.

Nora Favorov • 8364 Amber Oak Dr. • Orlando, FL 32817
norafavorov@earthlink.net

ATA PANEL LOOKS AT PUSHKIN IN TRANSLATION

and Arndt. By comparing how these translators rendered certain key words in this stanza; in particular words referring to the hero seeing, pouting or sulking, Nora demonstrated that one can see to what degree the translator, who chooses among alternative English renderings presented to the reader, sympathizes with Onegin. Ultimately, this places a great burden on the translator, for the reader's perception of all the characters in the novel hinges to a great extent on the translator's selection of words. Thus, perceptions of characters in translated literature may vary widely from reader to reader, depending on the translation read. .

The final presentation was made by featured guest speaker Douglas Hofstadter, whom many will know as the author of *Gödel, Escher, Bach: an Eternal Golden Braid*. In 1997 Hofstadter published *Le Ton Beau de Marot (1997)*, a wide-ranging work about general issues in translation that uses as its point of departure a short poem by the sixteenth-century French poet, Clement Marot. Hofstadter's own translation of *Eugene Onegin* was published in 1999 by Basic Books.

Hofstadter began his discussion with an account of how he came to translate *Eugene Onegin*. While teaching a seminar on verse translation, he decided to introduce his students to Russian, but having only rudimentary knowledge of Russian at the time he started practicing and eventually memorized part of Tatiana's letter. This experience eventually inspired him to work on his Russian and translate the entire work, the last stanza of

which he translated in St. Petersburg sitting alone at Pushkin's desk in the apartment on the Moika Canal where the poet had died.

Following this brief introduction, Hofstadter went on to discuss the various translations of *Eugene Onegin*, including his own. He focused on one stanza, VIII.44, from the six different translations, pointing out his views of their merits and flaws. Hofstadter's own favorite translation is by James Falen.

Inspired by the talks that day, I tried my own hand at an Onegin stanza.

Two hundred years ago, the poet
Who dreamed Tatyana had his birth.
Immortal now's his verse — we know it
By heart, though long he's left the earth.
So that alas there'll be no more of
His rhymes; but Nora (Ms. Favórov)
Suggested we should mark this day
With special talks at ATA
Her theme: "Eugene - changed in translation?"
Elena's was a Frenchman's ruse
And Lida's the ironic muse
Next came the session's culmination:
As Douglas, to no one's surprise,
Proved Falen wins the Pushkin prize.

Glenn Corey is a Russian>English ATA certified translator, with a keen interest in Russian literature and culture. He also owns and operates Corvus Translations in Alliance, Ohio. He can be reached at glenn@corvustranslations.com.

Новинка! Бесплатно!

Russian Translators

Клуб русских переводчиков

- 133 [Re: маикурт?](#)
- 132 [on-line dictionaries](#)
- 131 [МНГС](#)
- 130 [маикурт?](#)
- 129 [Re: рулевая колонка - steering column ?](#)
- 128 [Анекдот про Козлова](#)
- 127 [рулевая колонка - steering column ?](#)
- 126 [Re: Two questions in one oil sentence](#)
- 125 [Re: гайморит - highmoritis?](#)
- 124 [Re: гайморит - highmoritis?](#)
- 123 [Re: добавить еще одну страничку](#)
- 122 [Re: гайморит - highmoritis?](#)
- 120 [добавить еще одну страничку](#)
- 119 [Сонная песенка](#)
- 118 [гайморит - highmoritis?](#)
- 117 [Re: Two questions in one oil sentence](#)
- 116 [Re: Two questions in one oil sentence](#)

Шагайте в ногу с жизнью!

Вступайте в **КЛУБ РУССКИХ ПЕРЕВОДЧИКОВ!**

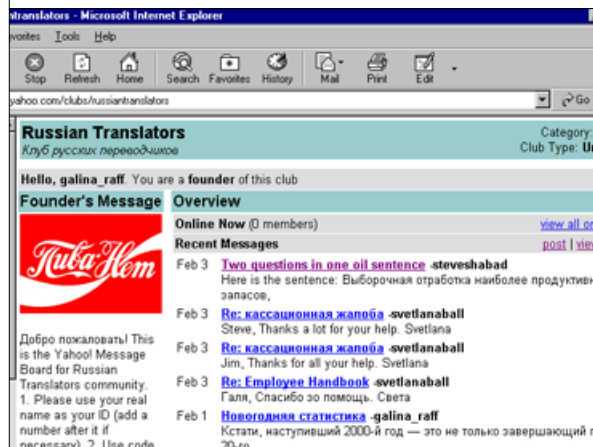
Самый крутой сайт на Yahoo!

Как вступить? — Только по приглашению.

За приглашениями обращаться:

Jim Walker

perevod@ellijay.com



*The Vampire, the Dog and the Camel**

How Lena Levintova Inspired Collaboration Between Mérimée, Pushkin, Shevelyov, Stone and Favorov

by Nora Seligman Favorov

Well, okay. Perhaps Lena was not around to inspire Prosper Mérimée's poetic love affair with Central European folklore or Alexander Pushkin's translation of some of the resulting verse into Russian (see article by Glenn Corey page 6), but by publicly challenging her audience at this year's ATA conference in St. Louis to attempt a translation of Pushkin's *Вурдалак*, she precipitated a flurry of activity all up and down the eastern seaboard as soon as the conference ended.

First, the muse of poetic translation paid a visit to Brookline, Massachusetts, disturbing the sleep of Viktor Shevelyov. She would not be put off by Viktor's protestations that only native speakers of English should undertake a translation of poetry into that language, despite the brilliant rhetorical flair of his arguments («Не в свои сани не садись»). In the end, he succumbed.

To mitigate the "sin" of translating poetry into a language other than his own, Viktor sent off the fruits of his labor to a couple of native English speakers. As it turned out, one of them, the author of this article, had already made several fruitless attempts to meet Lena's challenge. But just as Viktor's translation hit my in-box, the muse stormed into my room (perhaps the warmth of Florida seemed a welcome change after Massachusetts' frigid January) and demanded that immediate attention be paid to poor Vanya. Viktor's labors had suddenly made the poem look rhymable in English.



It seemed that the hardest thing for Viktor, as a non-native speaker of English, was to sense the rhythm of the trochees, a skill that requires a good intuitive feel for how English tends to stress single-syllable words in combination. So in my revision of Viktor's translation "Vanya was quite a coward" became "Vanya, known as quite a coward"; "bound homeward" became "heading homeward"; "Poor Vanya is hardly breathing" became "Barely breathing as he's prowling."

The third stanza seemed to present quite a challenge. In my opinion, the word "vampire" has a strong enough stress on the first syllable that no line of trochees should begin with "a vampire" or "the vampire" — and if a line were to end with this word, a rhyme would have to be found for it. I devoted some time to the endeavor of finding just such a rhyme. At first I was very pleased with my "dire-vampire" rhyme (Version 3, Stanza 3). In my attachment to the choice of "dire", which was a good semantic fit for the stanza, I didn't want to face the fact that drawing vampire out to 3 syllables (to make the line scan — vam-pi-er) destroyed the rhyme.

One other thing concerned me about my initial reworking of Viktor's translation. In the final stanza I had felt compelled to make explicit something that Pushkin only implies. Was I being too bold in adding "mouth full" to the last stanza? Clearly, the «злость» that Vanya feels must be due to the fact that he's eaten dirt for no reason, but it seemed to me that this was not one of those literary moments where subtlety is a virtue. I sent

Version 1 (Pushkin's)

Трусоват был Ваня бедный:
Раз он позднею порой,
Весь в поту, от страха бледный,
Чрез кладбище шел домой.

Бедный Ваня еле дышит,
Спотыкаясь, чуть бредет
По могилам: вдруг он слышит, —
Кто-то кость, ворча, грызет.

Ваня стал; — шагнуть не может.
Боже! думает бедняк,
Это, верно, кости гложет
Красногубый вурдалак.

Горе! малый я не сильный;
Съест упырь меня совсем,
Если сам земли могильной
Я с молитвою не съем.

Что же? вместо вурдалака —
(Вы представьте Вани злость!) —
В темноте пред ним собака
На могиле гложет кость.

Version 2 (Viktor's)

Poor Vanya was a coward:
Once, atremble and in fear,
Through a graveyard, bound homeward,
He was sneaking, close to tears.

Poor Vanya is hardly breathing...
O'er the graves he's stumbling on.
Suddenly, his body freezing,
He hears someone crunching a bone.

Vanya's fear is swiftly growing.
"Lord," he thinks, his face ash-gray,
"A vampire is probably gnawing
Bones he dug out of a grave.

Woe is me! I'm not a strong boy:
The vampire will eat me alive
If I do not eat some grave soil
Praying God that I survive.

But what's that?!" He sees his error,
Feeling fooled, but very safe:
A stray dog is in greedy fervor
Gnawing a big bone on a grave.

Version 3 (Nora's)

Vanya, known as quite a coward,
Once atremble and in fear,
Crossed a graveyard heading homeward,
Praying for his life so dear.

Barely breathing as he's prowling,
Staggering o'er the mounds alone,
Vanya freezes — snorting, growling,
Someone's gnawing on a bone!

"Lord!" Now Vanya's fancy's drawing
Nightmare scenes extremely dire.
"That can only be the gnawing
Of the red-lipped vampire!

"Woe is me! I'm just a weakling,
No match for the fierce undead.
But a prayer and quickly eating
Graveyard dirt may save my head."

Wait! Mouth full, he sees his error;
Anger mingles with relief.
Seems the cause of all this terror
Is a canine graveyard thief.

my reworking off to Lydia Stone, the other recipient of Viktor's translation, without mentioning my concern about the *dire-vampire* rhyme, hoping that it wouldn't be too conspicuous.

Well, it seems the muse managed to get from Orlando, Florida to Alexandria, Virginia as quickly as my e-mail. Lydia, a vegetarian, and therefore completely uninspired by the rather gruesome subject matter of the poem, was suddenly interested. My "mouth full" was praised, while my *dire-vampire* rhyme was rightly slashed. Lydia's improvements can be seen below in Version 4. The element of internal dialogue introduced with "Why'd he come here all alone?" was instantly popular with Viktor and me. The "I've heard" in the 4th stanza appropriately conveys the idea of a pre-existing folk belief and thus eliminates the possible inference that Vanya has just come up with this crazy idea on his own. Lydia also nicely simplified the poem's first line by taking Vanya's reputation out of the discussion and merely describing him.

Still, Viktor and I had a few objections, and over the next few days all of our electronic in-boxes were filled to brimming with arguments, defenses, praise, criticism, sudden inspirations, admissions of defeat, points of grammar, aesthetic concerns and numerous just-one-last-tries at this or that line. "Who says poetry can't be done by committee?" was Lydia's expression of enthusiasm. We were all having a grand time.

Viktor had two main points of dissatisfaction. He did not feel that "devour" was the right word to describe what dogs do to bones. He also objected (not without reason) to the scene-fiend rhyme in the 3rd stanza. While I shared his opinion about dogs devouring bones (and changed "devouring" to "attacking"), Lydia and I were both too enamored of the new and improved Stanza 3 to let a little "d" get in the way of it all.

My main concerns had to do with the first and last stanzas. Lydia had objected to my "Praying for his life so dear" on the grounds that it smacked of mediocre 19th century poetry. To my mind, it was still the lesser of two evils, with the alternative being "Wishing he was never born." Regretting one's entire life seems a bit extreme in the situation described in this poem. Vanya could, after all, have taken the long way home and avoided the graveyard altogether. Also, neither "wishing he *was* never born" nor "wishing he *were* never born" sounded quite right in this context. "Praying for his life so dear" seemed to go nicely with the «чуть бредет» of the Stanza 2.

The problem I saw in our translations of the final stanza was the lack of a properly delivered punch line. I had a strong desire to save the revelation of the dog for the last word, and to have the final line untainted by any imperfect stresses or rhymes. I worked on this stanza for hours — trying to rhyme mound-hound, what-mutt (Lydia and I disagreed on the merits of a stressed-rhymed "what") and was even tempted to invent meteorological conditions that would have allowed for fog-dog. Version 5 reflects our best collective effort so far.

Well, there you have it, readers, poetry by committee! It may be a camel, but it is our own newborn camel, and all three of us love it. However, who are we to set limits on the number of eccentric Slavist godparents a baby camel can have? So if you have just the suggestion for a line or stanza, send it along.

Nora Seligman Favorov is a freelance commercial and literary translator living in Orlando, Florida. She can be reached at norafavorov@earthlink.net or 407-679-8151.

* A camel is a horse designed by a committee. Anonymous.

Version 4 (Lydia's)

Vanya, who was quite a coward,
Once, atremble and forlorn,
Crossed a graveyard heading homeward,
Wishing he was never born.

Barely breathing, he keeps tripping.
(Why'd he come here all alone?)
Vanya freezes - Growling, ripping -
Sounds of teeth devouring bone.

"Lord!" Our Vanya's fancy's drawing
Nightmare pictures of the scene.
"That can only be the gnawing
Of the red-lipped vampire fiend.

"Woe is me! I'm just a weakling.
No match for the fierce undead.
But I've heard, if you pray eating
Graveyard dirt, you'll save your head.

Wait! Mouth full, he sees his error.
Anger mingles with relief.
Seems the cause of all this terror
Is just a mutt - a graveyard thief.



Version 5 (Consensus)

Vanya, who was quite a coward,
Once upon a moonless night,
Crossed a graveyard heading homeward,
Sweating, trembling, pale with fright.

Barely breathing, he keeps tripping.
(Why'd he come here all alone?)
Vanya freezes - Growling, ripping -
Sounds of teeth attacking bone.

"Lord!" Our Vanya's fancy's drawing
Nightmare pictures of the scene.
"That can only be the gnawing
Of the red-lipped vampire fiend.

"Woe is me! I'm just a weakling,
No match for the fierce undead.
But I've heard a prayer while eating
Graveyard dirt will save your head.

Wait! Mouth full, he sees his error.
There upon a fresh-dug mound,
Crunching bones and causing terror,
Sits a mangy graveyard hound.



ПЕРЕВОДЧИК В РОССИИ

Леонид Лойтерштейн

В одном из выпусков *SlavFile* (Vol.8, No.2, 1998) была помещена моя статья: «Кому на Руси жить хорошо». Изначально предполагалось, что она будет посвящена жизни переводчиков в России. К сожалению, выпуск периодической литературы для переводчиков упал тогда практически до нуля, а деятельность профессиональных объединений замерла.

Получить представление о жизни переводчиков во всей России не представлялось возможным, поэтому я ограничился описанием своего собственного опыта и опыта некоторых моих коллег в С-Петербурге.

За два года, которые прошли с тех пор, многое изменилось, и я снова решил попробовать узнать и рассказать вам о жизни переводчиков в России. Был проведен небольшой опрос переводчиков в электронных конференциях Fido7.Ru.English и Fido7.Ru.Linguist. Практически все переводчики, участвовавшие в опросе, живут на территории России, и делают переводы как минимум с английского языка на русский или наоборот.

Всего было тридцать девять вопросов. Десять из них требовали развернутого ответа, остальные подразумевали просто «да»/«нет». В опросе приняло участие 41 человек, в основном жители России.

«Сколько вам лет?»

Всего — 1367. Средний возраст опрошенных переводчиков составляет 33 года. Пожалуйста, не думайте, что это средняя продолжительность жизни переводчика в России. Дело в том, что с переводчиками старшего поколения практически невозможно связаться по Сети. Проблема эта гораздо глубже, чем может показаться на первый взгляд: у меня самого есть несколько знакомых переводчиков, которые не только значительно старше тридцати трех — у них и опыт богаче, и словарей накоплено больше моего. К сожалению, переводов они почти не делают: у них нет *компьютера*. В какой-то момент главным критерием отбора оказался не профессионализм, а обладание домашним компьютером: заказчики просто перестали принимать переводы, сделанные на пишущей машинке.

Вероятно, по этой же причине подавляющее большинство участников опроса занимаются письменным переводом: среди переводчиков, занимающихся исключительно устным переводом, обладателей компьютеров меньше.

«Как долго вы уже работаете переводчиком?»

Распределение опыта работы среди опрошенных: от 3 до 5 лет работают 18 человек, от 6 до 10 лет — 16, у шести переводчиков стаж работы от 11 до 23 лет. Могу добавить, что средний переводческий стаж участников опроса — 8 лет.

«Какая специальность указана у вас в дипломе (если у вас два высших образования, укажите “первую” и “вторую” специальности?)»

Филологическим образованием смогли похвастаться лишь 17 из 41! У остальных в дипломах стоят самые разные специальности, от бухгалтера до инженера-физика. Интересно, в Америке тоже так?

«Перевод — ваша основная работа? Если нет, то какая ваша основная работа?»

На работе занимаются переводом только четыре участника опроса. Это означает, что остальные работают в две смены — с утра основная работа, после пяти вечера — переводы. У двоих нет компьютера дома — они делают переводы прямо на работе.

В России до сих пор работа и заработок — вещи разные. Люди ездят в свои НИИ, «чтобы не потерять квалификацию», как они сами говорят. По-моему, многим просто не хочется терять чувство принадлежности к научной элите. Типичный пример — преподаватели ВУЗов, которые за нищенскую зарплату преподают студентам, практически бесплатно пишут научные работы, а по вечерам занимаются репетиторством. Час занятий с преподавателем престижного ВУЗа может достигать \$10-\$15, в то время как его месячная зарплата часто не превышает \$80 в месяц.

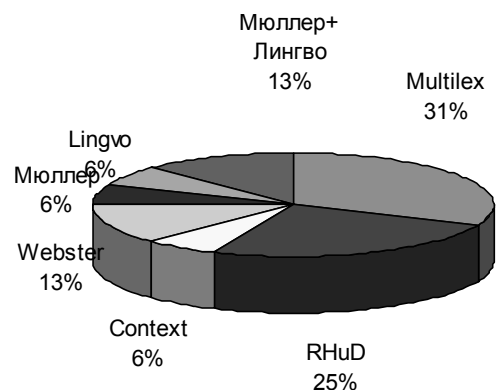
«Какими словарями вы пользуетесь чаще: бумажными или электронными?»

Только треть опрошенных по-прежнему предпочитает пользоваться бумажными словарями. Пять человек ответили на этот вопрос вот так (*авторская пунктуация сохранена*): «Только бумажными!». Остальные предпочитают электронные словари.

«Какими электронными и бумажными словарями вы пользуетесь чаще всего?»

Среди бумажных словарей неизменный лидер — БАРС или НБАРС — у кого какой бюджет. Ваш покорный слуга может похвастаться только бумажным БАРСом, да и тем я практически перестал пользоваться с тех пор, как вышла электронная версия Апресяновского трехтомника.

Разброс в выборе наиболее употребительного электронного словаря значительно шире:



Забавно, что четверо привели в качестве ответа на этот вопрос названия *двух* словарей: «Мюллер и Лингво», при том, что словарь проф. В.К. Мюллера — печатное издание, а Лингво — известный электронный словарь. Я их так «вдвоем» в диаграмме и оставил, потому что не придумал, куда их еще поместить.

Continued on page 11

SLD SOCIAL EVENTS IN ST. LOUIS

Christina Sever

St. Louis, November 1999. The Slavic Division of ATA has a nine-year tradition of good partying, beginning in Philadelphia, 1990. At that conference we had the good fortune to find a Russian restaurant with excellent food and a staff who brought instruments and played and sang Russian folk songs with us. Perhaps that experience was one factor inspiring us to hold a session just for singing Russian folk songs. This year's songfest was exceptional in that both the new president of ATA, Ann Macfarlane, and the new president-elect, Tom West, joined us to sing and also expertly accompany our singing on the piano. Having Ann and Tom among us was not the exceptional event, as they have sung and played with us before, but that the Slavic Division now has the two highest office holders in the organization, and that they both took time out of their very busy schedules to contribute and participate was mentioned by many attendees and hugely appreciated. We also had the good fortune to have the lovely Nancy Luetzow, one of the local conference hosts with a strong beautiful voice, standing by the piano doing a great job leading the singing. A woman who had grown up in China was walking down the hall. She had been taught Russian songs as a child, and hearing the familiar melodies drew her in to sing with us for a while. Even though there were other exciting events going on, we had a moderate-size enthusiastic group, and every year we learn and sing the songs better.

We also had high hopes that we could continue our enjoyable tradition of Russian dinners with an in-hotel reception in St. Louis. Some members had complained that at several previous restaurant dinners, there was no way to mingle with the whole group as we had to stay at one small table the whole evening, so the decision was made to try a reception-type event where people could walk around and talk with a variety of people. Camaraderie was as high as usual; however, the amount of food was seriously disappointing. I think many of us came thinking we could save paying for a dinner that night. One cracker and one piece of cheese did not suffice. However, we must pay tribute to Jim Walker and Nancy Luetzow for adding a very thoughtful touch to the party—a bottle of Stolichnaya Vodka for each table.

We are considering continuing the reception setting, but arranging to cater our own food next time and encouraging people to bring their own beverages to share. Members please register your opinions by writing to the SlavFile or contacting an officer.

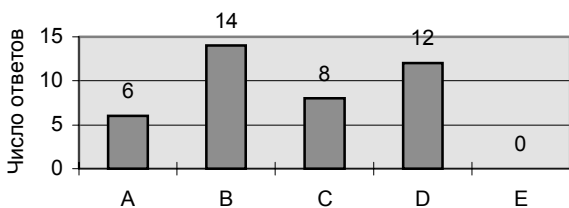
One of our favorite recurring events at the reception was Vadim Khazin's extemporaneous poetry composition. He solicited rhyming pairs from the gathered guests, in both Russian and English. He retired for a very few minutes and returned

Continued on page 14

«Как вы оцениваете профессиональные аспекты своей работы, включая условия труда: удовлетворительно, удовлетворительно до известной степени, ни хорошо, ни плохо, в чем-то неудовлетворительно, совершенно неудовлетворительно?»

«Порекомендовали бы вы своему ребенку учиться на переводчика?»

Странно, но факт: большинство тех, кто вполне доволен условиями своей работы, не хотели бы, чтобы их дети тоже стали переводчиками. Многие отвечали: «Вторым высшим». Вот как это выглядит на диаграммах:



Хотел бы я знать, сколько их детей на самом деле станут переводчиками.

Из письма одного моего знакомого, которое он отправил мне одновременно с ответами на опрос:

— Однозначно стоит изучать языки - и чем больше, тем лучше. А вот насчет того, стоит ли учиться на переводчика... Понимаешь, у тебя Питер, у меня Томск. Сибирь. До недавнего времени можно было заработать на нефтяных и газовых месторождениях вахтовым методом (месяц живешь там - переводишь, месяц отдыхаешь дома). Кризис все сожрал. А главное - у нас в городе нужно менять психологию людей. Они просто не понимают, что переводить должен квалифицированный специалист, а не девочка-секретарша, которая с горем пополам закончила иняз, или, еще хуже, какой-нибудь родственник знакомых, который вроде бы знает язык. Поэтому и возникают такие уродства, как магазин на главной улице города (!) с вывеской *Olimpic Shop*.

В следующей статье я расскажу немного о новом «канцелярусском языке» («за закрытыми дверями», «предлагается») и продолжу анализ результатов опроса — там гораздо больше цифр, чем можно за один раз вытряхнуть на читателей, не погружая их в глубокий сон. Вот несколько вопросов, ответы на которые еще ждут анализа:

- Есть ли у вас дома факс?

- Сколько у вас специализированных словарей?

Continued on page 13

SLAVFILE LITE: NOT BY WORD COUNT ALONE

Lydia Razran Stone

Just as we were leaving for the holidays, I realized that I had done nothing to hide the extra money I had withdrawn in order to avoid long lines at the bank during the last days of 1999, which I feared more than Y2K itself. Since the natives awaiting me in the car were getting restless, I had to think of a good hiding place fast. I remembered a story told to me by a college Russian professor from my alma mater, years after I graduated. We got to talking about the other member of the Russian department when I was a student, an erudite, multilingual and much beloved woman who was close to retirement age when Tom, the man I was talking with, was hired. Tom told me that when his colleague retired he visited her regularly and that after some years she became confused, complaining, among other things, that her money kept disappearing. Tom took this complaint seriously and, based on his deep understanding of how her mind worked and what had been important to her throughout her life, he was able to determine through the process of induction where in her apartment she was “depositing” her money. Inspired by his solution, I took my four \$100 bills and placed them between the pages of four different Russian dictionaries under *деньги*.

The other day my husband, who shares my email address, got some mail from one of the hundred or so wildlife organizations that receive contributions from us or think they are entitled to do so. Usually I pass such messages on without paying much attention to them, since a “don’t ask don’t tell” policy regarding such e-mail makes life a whole lot simpler. However, in this case I was so struck by the surname of the author of the message—“Mishalove”—that I violated my rule and said, “Do you know that this person’s name almost certainly means ‘mouse catcher?’” In his electronic answer, my husband passed this tidbit along and Mr. Mishalove, who turned out to be an affable fellow, wrote back to say that he was glad to get this confirmation of something a Russian woman had told his father 5 years ago. This reply immediately gave rise to two questions. First, how could an entire family carry the name Mishalove through life without making some active attempt to find out their names meaning until the issue was resolved by chance? And second, is it not likely that the beer called “Michelob” bears another variant of this name? Mousecatcher — what a name for a beer, even one that my family, a clan of microbrew aficionados, holds in low regard.

Speaking of Slavic names, the *Washington Post*, possibly in imitation of Gary Trudeau’s *Doonisbury* cartoon, has taken to referring to George W. Bush as “*Dubya*.” I immediately interpreted this as some kind of Slavic nickname, possibly referring to oak-like qualities such as mental density. No, I did not think this was a fairly far-fetched assumption. After all, we once inherited an enormous black cat from my husband’s sister who (the cat not my sister-in-law) was named *Grubar* after some college basketball player of legendary girth and Slavic origins.

It was only by chance that I found out that “*Dubya*” is supposed to be a phonetic rendering of the Texan pronunciation of the letter “W,” which distinguishes the younger Bush orthographically from his father.

There must be some of you out there who get as much of a charge from linguistic miscegenation as I do. This paragraph is for you. I work with a theater run by Russian emigres that produces plays in English. Recently they asked me to translate their adaptation of Beaumarchais’ *Figaro* (a play written in French and set in Spain) from Russian into English. My delight at the polyglot nature of this enterprise was enhanced when I realized that the play’s claim to fame is based on its having been turned into an opera with music by a German and libretto in Italian.

Stray words (and phrases). I gather from a rather tedious joke about dedicated computer users I read on a Russian анекдоты that Russians, at least of the hacker variety, refer to :) as смайлчики and on-line sobriquets as *ники*.

I don’t think I have ever had so much fun at a professional session as I did at the Idiom Savants sessions moderated by Vadim Khazin (who graciously stepped in for Raffi Alden, who could not make the conference) and me (see Boris Silversteyn’s session review elsewhere in this issue). As a result of this session, I am now far more attuned to the enormous number of idioms and semi-idiomatic expressions in both English and Russian, and to how difficult they are to translate. The first and at times trickiest step is to specify the literal meaning and implications of the idiom in the source language.

When the phrases «хлопот полон рот» and «под каждой крыши свои мыши» came up in conversation with Russian friends, I was delighted when we hit upon “up to one’s ass in alligators” and “there’s a skeleton in every closet” as English equivalents.

I, Lydia, join the other members of the *SlavFile* staff in wishing our readers a wonderful year 2000 and however much of the next millennium you care to stick around for.

Now for some serious, or at least more serious, business. SLD member Michael Conner, who edits the AATIA (Austin Area Translators and Interpreters) newsletter, chaired a session in St. Louis for ATA newsletter editors. I volunteered to help him in my capacity as representative of a division, as opposed to a chapter, newsletter. In preparation for that session, I drew up a list of SlavFile editorial guidelines that, I feel, implicitly inform our work on this publication. Perhaps readers will be interested in some of these:

- A. We have found people to produce the newsletter who love this kind of work
 - 1. We divide up the labor: Lydia and Laura recruit contributors, write, edit, and proof English. Galina does layout, proofs Russian, and writes articles on technology. The jobs no one could possibly love — printing and mailing — are done by ATA Headquarters.

2. We would not do this if we didn't enjoy it. We have a great time producing SlavFile and we hope that others will sense this enjoyment and be tempted to participate.
 3. With the exception of editing, which is essential, we are not too hard on ourselves.
 - a. We try to be flexible about deadlines and fit them in around staff members' lives and obligations. Though we have a general idea of schedules one year in advance.
 - b. We ask for electronic submissions.
 - c. We do not expect or demand perfection.
 - d. Conference presenters are asked to recruit (and nag) their own reviewers.
- B. We see our mission as being very simple: to provide professional benefit to members — both readers and contributors.
1. All the news that fits we print.
 2. We consider relevant any thing having to do with Slavic culture or life that has a heavy linguistic component.
 3. We consider relevant anything that touches upon the professional lives of our members or other Slavic language professionals.
 4. We will publish without charge anything likely to help our readers (e.g., job ads, news of new bookstores, notices about new dictionaries or new software). If this sometimes provides free advertising we do not mind, but will publish similar material from all competitors who ask.
 5. We encourage readers to demonstrate (rather than advertise) expertise in our pages as a means of becoming better known and thus obtaining jobs and referrals.
 6. Anyone who writes for us has the option of including at the end of his or her contribution a short blurb containing professional information and contact information.
- C. We believe that the SF should be a tool for inclusion of as many members (and potential new members) as active participants in SLD.
1. We encourage articles written in Russian and articles in other Slavic languages, (the latter, however, must have an accompanying translation).
 2. We have tried to use occasional SlavFile special language issues as a means to expand the scope of the division beyond a narrow focus on Russian only. .
 3. With the exception of regular columns and information that must be published we will always publish a contribution from a non- staff member over one from someone who is. We will likewise favor an article from a new contributor over one from someone who has contributed previously.
 4. We encourage people to come up with ideas for regular columns and write them — we do not insist that they be in every issue.
 5. We try to attend as many conferences and other functions as possible and constantly recruit contributors with something interesting to say. We have as many reader

participation features as we can think of and are not discouraged by low response (for example, contests, contributory features such as, You know you are beginning to develop a Russian soul when...).

6. We do not say no categorically to ideas for articles or articles themselves (unless they are vituperative or clearly irrelevant — and we have seen both kinds!) but rather we try to work with people to get their articles into acceptable form.

D. Editorial Policies *per se*

1. We welcome controversial material on relevant topics so long as it is civil. We do not publish diatribes.
2. Anything submitted (whether solicited or not) to us is subject to editing. To anyone who objects we explain that editing is necessary at any publication to maintain quality and clarity. Anyone who insists that his/her material not be edited will not find a home for it in the Slavfile. We try to submit all edited material back to authors for approval.
3. We do not reprint articles from other publications, but we allow any and all of our material to be reprinted in other publications, as long as the author agrees.
4. We have had great success with e-mail interviews. They are low-stress for interviewer and interviewee and produce interesting articles. They are a good way to get reluctant writers to produce an article.
5. We love humor, and so do our readers. Our readers also tell us that they like glossaries and dictionary reviews.
6. Within reason, we let the quality and quantity of what we have to publish determine the size of the issue.

We would love to hear members' opinions on any or all of these guidelines. Please send your reactions to this column.

Переводчик в России *Continued from page 11*

- *Работаете ли вы дома или ездите на работу?*
- *В каких профессиональных союзах переводчиков вы участвуете?*
- *За последние десять лет общение переводчиков и интенсивность обмена опытом изменилась к лучшему/худшему: ваше мнение?*
- *Вы получили специализацию только в результате практической деятельности или посещали специальные курсы/занимались дополнительно, чтобы приобрести необходимые навыки?*

Дорогие читатели! У меня к вам предложение: не могли бы вы сами ответить на все приведенные в статье вопросы? Было бы интересно сравнить условия работы и интенсивность общения переводчиков по обе стороны океана. Вот мой электронный адрес: leonid@loiterstein.spb.ru. Жду!

Leonid Loiterstein lives in St.Petersburg, Russia and is a regular contributor for SlavFile.

WORDS FOR THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY: REVIEW OF KEVIN HENZDEL'S TERMINOLOGY SESSION AT THE RECENT ATA MEETINGS

Gordon Livermore

This year in St. Louis, Kevin Hendzel continued his tradition, once again conducting a terminology session in which he challenged Russian-English translators with a batch of problem Russian words and phrases that he often sees mistranslated or, as he put it, “translated less than perfectly” in work he receives at ASET, the language services firm in Arlington, Virginia, where he is Chief Operating Officer and Director of Language Services. Sometimes, he suggested charitably, these mistakes occur because normally reliable translators are stressed or fatigued at the end of a long working day, but in other cases they occur because translators plainly aren't persistent enough in thinking through what Russian words actually refer to in a particular context, and how that meaning can be expressed most efficiently in English. This year Kevin's focus was on legal, regulatory and licensing terminology.

Before turning to the translation exercises on his handouts, Kevin led the group through a list of 10 Russian words that he frequently finds mistranslated, often because they should be “omitted” from the English, or because translators get stuck on one or two of their many possible meanings, or just go for the first possibility that comes to mind. Many of these words showed up again in the handout exercises. The list that follows includes translations suggested by Kevin, in addition to some volunteered from the audience and endorsed by him.

Most of the examples in Kevin's “10 most awkward” lists and other translation exercises can be broadly seen as cases of what he calls “noncorrespondence” between Russian phrases and their

optimal English renderings. Many involve Russian words that need to be “omitted” from English translations (условно говоря, of course, since the *meaning* of these words is present if the English has been done right). «Нормативные документы» from the “Top 10, Regulatory and Licensing” list is a case in point. To an English speaker, “documents” are physical (or at least electronic) things. — unless that English speaker happens to be a Russian-English translator who has allowed himself to become dulled to the perceptions of a normal English reader and persuaded himself, that “regulatory documents” can refer to the range of intangible things, such as “directives,” “orders,” “procedures” and “instructions,” that the Bank of Russia, for example, subsumes under the category «нормативные документы.»

Naturally, the more complex cases of noncorrespondence between Russian and English occur in the longer phrases found in the “Terminology and Concepts” section of the handout. Often, as in examples # 1 and # 5, a good translation renders a lengthy Russian phrase in just two or three English words. (Alas, I note that English bureaucratise often achieves economy through a practice that my best English teachers repeatedly enjoined against: using nouns as modifiers, and not just using them but heaping one noun modifier upon another, as in “design and engineering construction code” (# 12, “Terminology and Concepts”). But then, this wasn't a literary translation session, and after years of struggling to wrestle Soviet Russian into readable English, I've long since put that old-fashioned injunction behind me.

SLD SOCIAL EVENTS *Continued from page 11*

with a poem written using the rhyming words provided, and, as before, the results were hilarious. He repeated the game at the final banquet.

Ah, the final banquet. I've never been to one that was not sort of odd. Many people have already left for home, and the result is a gathering with some gaping holes in it. There were some lively philosophical discussions at one of the Slavic tables, until the “music” started. We have to say the entertainment was creative and unusual, but one of the groups was so loud, not only was conversation impossible, but the sound caused physical pain, and many people left the room.

I know the word banquet implies formality and fanciness, but I for one feel that the final event of the conference could be more casual and relaxed, a tasty meal with perhaps a dance (you know, the old-fashioned ballroom kind) band for people who want to dance, but not so loud that the people who want to talk about the conference—and they are the majority by my count—could relax and do that in the same room.

Christina Sever has been in love with the Russian language for nigh on 35 years. She has worked as a freelance translator for the last 12. Since the Russian economy's collapse, she has spent about half of her workday writing, and editing translations, articles, newsletters, and books.

SEEING DOUBLE??

DON'T CALL YOUR OPTOMETRIST!

SOME THINGS ARE WORTH WAITING FOR!

Has something ineffable been missing from your life? Has it finally come but in an unfamiliar size, reminiscent of the Sunday NY Times? Don't worry: this time it's not you, it's us! **Just this once** (we think), we have published a **double winter/spring** issue of the *SlavFile* to accommodate the editors' schedule and the **giant economy** volume of material generated by the fabulous St. Louis Conference. The next issue of SlavFile (deadline May 1; approximate publication date early June) will return to the old slim, trim format.

GOOD GRIEF MORE CONFERENCE MATERIAL?!!

Despite the size of this issue, we have not covered nearly all the presentations and events of interest to Slavists that took place at the St. Louis ATA Conference.

Anyone who has something to say about an uncovered event, or something more to say about a covered one should contact the editors. We will be happy to publish additional reviews/comments in future issues.

	The list	Translations	Kevin's comments or caveats
1.	документы	See exercises.	"Number 1" on the list because it is often rendered as "documents" when it is best omitted, as in the first entry on the "Top 10, Regulatory and Licensing" list below.
2.	вопросы	"issues," "items," "matters"	Often should simply be left out, or recast.
3.	лицензия	"license"	Put on the list not because it inherently presents any translation problem, but because licensing terminology is one of the session's subject areas, and when used in combination with such words as подтверждение below, лицензия influences their translation.
4.	мероприятия	"activities," "events," "operations," "processes"	Most reference works and dictionaries give "measures" and leave it at that, whereas "measures" is actually one of the less common translations.
5.	подтверждение	"certify," "validate," "approve," in some cases "acknowledge"*	"Confirm, confirm, confirm!" is what Kevin keeps seeing. "But," he stresses, "you don't 'confirm' a certificate or a license."
6.	при		Otherwise terrific translators sometimes forget that при doesn't always mean "during." It frequently expresses a causal relationship between two clauses. Look at the context.
7.	с учетом	"allowing for," "adjusting for," "factoring in," "counting," "with due regard for"	"Accounting for," "taking into account" are common, but there are many others. Included on this list partially as a reminder that you usually don't need to write a long dependent clause, such as "while taking into account the fact that."
8.	проверка	"inspect" "evaluate," "verify" as in «проверка на наличие»: "verify the presence of"), "audit"*	Only in certain narrow cases does it mean "check" or "checking."
9.	средства	Sometimes "systems," "equipment," (in financial contexts) "assets," "resources"	Can be "means," for example, in treaties. But don't just grab for "means." Explore it, take a few steps back, whack it with a hammer, and try to figure out what it really is.
10.	устройство		How big is your устройство? You never really know how to translate it until you see it or get a sense of how big it is.

*Since this is just a list of words without context, I assume, and I suspect Kevin assumes as well, that the grammatical form the translator uses (chiefly, infinitive, gerund or other verbal noun) depends entirely on the well-constructed English clause or phrase in which the translated word is embedded. — G.L.)

Some of Kevin's examples involve not just a lack of correspondence between Russian and English, but also specialized American English terminology, such as the CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) standards included under the "Top 10, Regulatory and Licensing" list, or the treaty language that comes up under the "Top 10, Legal and Financial" list (e.g., "side letter to the agreement," for «сопроводительное письмо к Соглашению»), and in the longer full-text translations that Kevin also presented during this talk. In the case of treaty language, Kevin helpfully supplied the "answers in the back of the book" in the form of selections from ASET's "Russian-English Agreement Glossary." It's an especially useful glossary that gives big chunks of parallel Russian and English texts.

In his session, Kevin deftly fielded suggestions, answers, questions, grumbles, complaints and arguments from his "class" and steered the group toward good translation solutions. Like any good teacher, he seemed genuinely pleased when a class member came up with a better solution than he had thought of himself. Throughout, he kept coming back to such basic translation rules as: Don't cling to familiar English equivalents, espe-

cially the ones you find at the head of Russian-English dictionary entries, but rather explore the possibilities. Ask yourself what's really being talked about in the Russian context, and ask yourself how you can convey it properly in good, clear, concise English. They're rules that we doubtless all know full well but that I, for one, *well, occasionally*, catch myself breaking. What made this year's session, like last year's, so helpful and stimulating for me was to see these rules applied in solutions both to new translation problems and to some with which I've struggled with repeatedly. I took away not only some good new translation solutions but a fresh determination to steer clear of ruts, avoid translationese pitfalls, and keep exploring the possibilities.

Gordon Livermore is a Senior Editor at The Current Digest of the Post-Soviet Press, where he began work as a translator in 1974. He has been moonlighting as a freelance Russian-English translator since 1975. He can be reached at livermore.4@osu.edu.

Editors' Note: For the last several years we have been publishing the complete set of vocabulary materials provided by Kevin Hendzel for his terminology session at the ATA conference. This year we continue the tradition, only partially because we fear the ire of our readers if we were not to do so. Here they are folks, words for the twenty first century!

TOP 10 MOST AWKWARD LIST: LEGAL AND FINANCIAL

TERM	CONTEXT	IS NOT...	BUT IS:
Выделение финансирования	Milestone list	"assigning financing"	"allocation of funding"
Сопроводительное письмо к Соглашению	Treaty language	"accompanying letter"	"side letter to the agreement"
График проведения совещания	Agenda	"schedule for conduct of the meeting"	"meeting schedule"
Должностные лица (государственных органов управления)(субъектов хозяйственной деятельности)	Defined titles in contracts	"responsible individuals" ("government control organs") ("subjects of economic activity")	"officials" ("of government authorities")"officers"("of commercial entities")
Заказчик и исполнитель	Parties to a contract	"customer and executor"	"client and contractor" KH: Note that the «исполнитель» is whatever or whoever does it, so you have to find out what it refers to in the given context. For example, could be "author" or, at the bottom of a form, «Исполнитель _____» would be "By _____"
Порядок введения в действие	Legislative procedure	"procedure for introduction into action"	"Procedures for the enactment of legislation"
Должностная инструкция / Инструкция по технике безопасности	Manufacturing facility	"official instruction," "safety technology instruction"	"Workplace procedures""Workplace safety procedures"
Предпринимательская деятельность	Фонд не имеет права заниматься предпринимательской деятельностью	"entrepreneurial activity"	Term in context: "The foundation is not authorized to/ may not engage in business activity for a profit."
Продление срока действия С оглашения	Title of provision	"lengthening the term of the agreement"	"extension of the agreement"
Поправка к Соглашению	Contract provision	"Correction to the contract"	"Amendment to the contract/ agreement"

TEXT EXCERPTS (RUSSIAN ORIGINALS AND APPROVED ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS)

Russian original	English translation
Отмечая, что МО США имеет право проводить инспекции с целью проведения ревизии и проверки в отношении помощи, предоставляемой Российской Федерации согласно Статье XIII Соглашения между Российской Федерацией и Соединенными Штатами Америки относительно безопасных и надежных перевозки, хранения и уничтожения оружия и предотвращения распространения оружия от 17 июля 1992 года, с учетом продления и Поправок, внесенных Протоколом, подписанным 15 и 16 июня 1999 года и согласно условиям, установленным в исполнительных соглашениях между Минатомом России и МО США, предусмотренных в Статье II Соглашения от 17 июня 1992 года.	Recognizing DoD's right to conduct inspections for audit and examination of assistance provided to the Russian Federation pursuant to Article XIII of the Agreement between the United States of America and the Russian Federation Concerning the Safe and Secure Transportation, Storage and Destruction of Weapons and the Prevention of Weapons Proliferation dated 17 July 1992, including the extension and Amendments documented in the Protocol of 15 and 16 June 1999, and under the terms established in the Implementing Arrangements between Minatom and DoD as set forth in Article II of the 17 June 1992 Agreement.
МО США в течение 60 календарных дней после вступления настоящих Административных процедур в силу, а также до 1 декабря и 1 июня каждого года, предоставляет Минатому России список представителей МО США, включающий не более 100 граждан США (далее – список 100), которые могут проводить ревизии и проверки предоставляемой МО США помощи в соответствии с конкретным исполнительным соглашением.	Within 60 days of the effective date of the Administrative Procedures, and by 1 December and 1 June of each year, DoD shall provide Minatom with a list of DoD representatives containing a maximum of 100 U.S. citizens (hereinafter, the "list of 100") authorized to conduct audits and inspections of DoD-provided assistance pursuant to specific Implementing Arrangements.

TOP 10 MOST AWKWARD LIST: REGULATORY AND LICENSING

TERM	CONTEXT	IS NOT....	BUT IS:
Нормативные документы	Определение соответствующих нормативных документов, регулирующих уровни выбросов	"normative documents"	The term: "regulations" or "standards," depending on context. The term in context: "Defining the appropriate/ pertinent regulations governing emissions"
Внесение изменений в стандарт	Regulatory standard	"introduce changes in a standard"	"revise a standard"
Декларация о соответствии Декларация о намерениях	Title of form Title of form	"declaration on correspondence" "declaration on intentions"	"certificate of compliance" "declaration of intent"
Руководящие указания	In this particular case, used at industrial facility	"guiding instructions"	"guidelines"
Подтверждение соответствия	Подтверждение соответствия в данной системе сертификации установленным требованиям	"confirm correspondence"	"validate" or "certify" The term in context: "Validate/ Certify that the given system meets requirements"
«Основные национальные нормативы по качеству питьевой воды»	CFR standard	"Fundamental National Water Quality Normatives"	"National Primary Drinking Water Regulations"
«Нормативы охраны труда и производственной гигиены при выполнении строительных работ»	CFR standard	"Standards for labor protection and manufacturing hygiene in the conduct of construction operations"	"Occupational Safety and Health Regulations for the Construction/ Building Industry"
Грузоотправители – Общие требования к отгрузке и упаковке	CFR standard	"Cargo shippers – General requirements on unloading and packing"	"Shippers: General Shipping and Packing Requirements"
Железнодорожные перевозки	CFR standard	"Railroad shipments"	"Carriage by Rail"
Воздушные перевозки	CFR standard	"Air shipments"	"Carriage by Air"

TOP 10 MOST AWKWARD LIST: TECHNICAL

TERM	CONTEXT	IS NOT....	BUT IS:
Фильтрующий элемент в сборе	Parts list	Filter element in the assembly	"filter element assembly"
В диапазоне от 0* до 20*	Specifications	From 0 to 20*	"0* to 20*" ("from" is omitted)
Автомобиль	Procurement list	"automobile"	"vehicle" or "motor vehicle" covers the range of possibilities. Could be "truck" in a context where trucks are the only vehicles under discussion.
Профессия	Title for laborers	"profession"	"occupation" or "title"
Характеристика воздействия	Environmental report	"characteristics" or "details" or "types" of the "action"	"impact characterization" or "impact analysis"
Ускорение работ	Ускорение работ по созданию регионального пункта хранения радиоактивных отходов	"accelerating work"	"expedite work" or "prioritize work"
Проектное решение	Design documentation	"Design decision"	"design" or, in some specific contexts, "design solution" (the way something is handled or some problem is solved in a design)
Защита технического проекта	Site design	"Technical design defense"	"design review process"
Инженерные сети	Facility design	"Engineering networks"	"utilities"
Защита эскизного проекта		"Draft design defense"	"preliminary design review"

TERMINOLOGY AND CONCEPTS

Phrase	Context	Hint	Translation(s)
Представление	Представление документов в отдел материально-технического обеспечения	Avoid "present" – can be translated in three words	"submission to procurement" Here, "documents" is omitted because it is understood in the context.
Подтвержденная лицензия	Индивидуальная подтвержденная лицензия	Not an "approved," license, but a _____ license	"validated license"
Предприятие, имеющее лицензию...	Regulatory provision	Avoid "having a license" – can be translated in two words	"licensed facility" Could be "licensee," in a contract.
Вопросы, которые предстоит решить	Power Point slides	Several possible translations – can be translated in two words.	KH: "remaining issues," "outstanding issues," "remaining challenges" From the audience: "pending issues," "issues," "TBD" (KH: "the best solution!")
Процесс оформления счетов-фактур на материально-техническое обеспечение	List of contract items	First three words in Russian phrase correspond to single English word	KH: "procurement invoicing process". Topped in brevity by Randy Morgan: "procurement invoicing"
Размещение комплекса	Facility planning	Involves a process, not "location"	"facility siting," "siting the facility"
Условия выполнения работ	Наиболее распространенные условия выполнения работ на предприятиях	Avoid "most common" translation and seek equivalent English expression	"work conditions" The phrase in context: "prevailing work conditions"
Обращение с радиоактивными отходами	Nuclear power plant process	Two possible conceptual equivalents in English that are often not distinguished in Russian	"waste handling" or "waste management," which aren't the same thing in English
Порядок представления финансовой отчетности	Информация о фактах нарушения установленных правовыми актами Российской Федерации порядка ведения бухгалтерского учета и представления финансовой отчетности	Avoid "presenting." Last word in Russian phrase is a process	The phrase: "financial reporting procedures" The phrase in context: "Information on any breaches (infractions) of Russian Federation (RF) statutory accounting and reporting procedures"
План соблюдения природоохранных нормативов	Facility	A specific plan developed by the facility (ignore last word in Russian)	"environmental-compliance plan"
Программный план обеспечения безопасности систем	Another facility plan	Try reversing order	"systems safety program plan" KH sees no alternative to the phrase "program plan" for the Russian
Строительные нормы и правила на проектно-технические работы	Regulatory standards	Once again, reverse the word order	"Design and engineering construction code" "Engineering construction standards and regulations" KH prefers "building codes," but there are cases in which it might not be specific enough.
Генеральный план испытаний и оценок	Site plan	Avoid "general" – there are several other options	"Test(ing) and assessment master plan" "Test(ing) and evaluation master plan"
Запасы химического оружия	Standard phrase in U.S. treaty language	Avoid "supplies"	"Chemical weapons stockpiles"
Исполнительный орган	Каждая Страна назначает Исполнительный орган для осуществления настоящего Соглашения	U.S. Treaty language; several possible options, depending on specific context	the "implementing authority"
Ликвидация стратегических наступательных вооружений	Ликвидация стратегических наступательных вооружений и объектов по производству химического оружия	Avoid "liquidation"	"strategic offensive arms elimination" The phrase in context: "Elimination of strategic offensive arms and chemical weapons production facilities"
Все виды деятельности, предпринимаемые в соответствии с Соглашением	Treaty language	Russian phrases often do not survive into English	"all activities under the agreement"

Исполнительная договоренность	Treaty language	Not a treaty, an agreement or a contract	"implementing arrangement""implementing agreement"
Акт входного контроля	Facility certification	Used for products accepted by the facility	"incoming inspection report" "acceptance inspection record"
Акт о выделении земельного участка	Never an "act" in commercial use	Often encountered in land-use and development	"land allocation record" "land allocation certificate" Omit "parcel," "plot," etc.
Согласование	Regulatory oversight, contract performance, meetings and conferences, international cooperation	Can be translated 5 or 6 different ways, but is often awkwardly rendered as "coordinated"	"clear with", "sign off", "get(ing) approval", "reach(ing) agreement" on KH's favorite: "approve in consultation with". In the case of regulatory authority, could be "subject to approval"
График основных этапов работ	Contract provision	Similar to terms discussed last year	"time line""milestone chart""milestone schedule"
Государственный пожарный надзор	Title	Institution	"Fire Inspectorate" KH: not "supervision," not "inspection," but an <i>institution</i>
Жилищно-гражданское строительство	Municipal development	Look for U.S. equivalent	"residential construction" (KH preference), "housing construction"
Контроль базовых требований	Type of facility management	Includes the word "management" in the translation	"baseline management"
Нормы и правила проектирования металлоконструкций	Facility construction	Can be translated in four words in English, count 'em!	"structural design code-steel" KH: CFR terminology
Нормы и правила проектирования трубной обвязки	Facility construction	Three words	"piping design code" KH: once again, CFR terminology
Проверка качества изготовления	Workshop process	Two words in English	"in-process inspection" "workmanship inspection" KH: in this specific context only
Проверка на наличие дефектов	Workshop process	Наличие is always an omitted word	"defect inspection"; KH: once again, in the "workshop process" context
Ревизия и проверка	США имеет право проводить инспекции с целью проведения ревизии и проверки	U.S. treaty provision	"audit and examination" KH: actual treaty terminology

THE PARTY LINE *Continued from page 3*

There is no substitute for personal contact, and it would be great if every SLD member could come to the conference. However, we now have a new way to get to know each other and stay in touch all year long, a wonderful opportunity for SLD members to benefit from our collective experience, resources, and knowledge. As you may know, we have been trying for some time to find a way to set up and maintain an Internet bulletin board. Now we have found a very neat solution, and it is absolutely free! This means that the SLD can afford to do it. The solution is Клуб русских переводчиков.

This is a private (unlisted) Yahoo! club that can be joined by invitation only. All that you need to join the club is Internet access. You do not have to subscribe to Yahoo! or pay anyone. In the process of joining, you will be given the opportunity to answer certain questions about yourself, but this is entirely optional. There is a box to check or uncheck if you do or do not wish to receive advertisements and announcements from Yahoo!

If you do not want to, you absolutely will not receive any junk e-mail, and your e-mail address will not be made public. We do ask that you use your real name, as nearly as possible, as your ID when joining the club, so that no one is a stranger.

Inviting a large number of members to join the club is a somewhat laborious and time-consuming process, so you may not have received an invitation yet, but we do want you to join. If you have not received an invitation yet, you can speed up the process by asking to be invited. Just send an e-mail to me or anyone else in the SLD whom you know to be a club member saying that you want to join.

I think the club is great, but the best way to form an opinion is to see for yourself. So join the club and think of original ways to use it. We may have to wait until September in Orlando to meet again, but we can all get together now at Клуб русских переводчиков and start planning the party!

ТРАНСЛИТЕРАЦИЯ КАК СОСТАВНАЯ ЧАСТЬ НАЦИОНАЛЬНОЙ ОРФОГРАФИИ, ИЛИ ЕЩЕ РАЗ ОБ ИСКУССТВЕННОЙ ИЗОЛЯЦИИ

А.С.Дьяков, г. Черновцы, Украина

Как известно, правила орфографии конкретного языка обычно не распространяются на иностранные имена собственные. Однако имена собственные из языков с кириллической основой неизвестно по какой причине не транслитерируются, а транскрибируются в соответствии с правилами конкретного языка. Отсутствие единых правил латинского написания восточнославянских собственных имен часто приводит к различного рода путаницам и неразберихам.

К тому же, разные варианты написания порой сильно затрудняют поиск нужной информации. Например, чтобы найти информацию на английском языке о *Петре Ильиче Чайковском*, необходимо пересмотреть несколько вариантов английского написания данного имени: *Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky*, *Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky*, *Peter Illich Tchaikowsky*, *Chaikowski*, *Chaikovsky*.

А поскольку русские или украинские собственные имена принято писать латинскими буквами в соответствии с правилами конкретного языка, то из-за расхождений в написании одного и того же имени его носитель превращается в некоего Мартына Борулю¹, имеющего сразу несколько фамилий. Возьмем хотя бы русскую фамилию *Шульгин*. По-английски она может писаться и как *Shulgin*, и как *Shoolgin*, и как *Shul'gin*. Во французском тексте она уже выглядит как *Choulguine*, в немецком — *Schulgin*, в итальянском — *Sciulghin*, в польском — *Szulgin*, в чешском — *Šulgin*, в хорватском или словенском — *Šuljgin*, в словацком — *Šul'gin*, в латышском — *Šulģins*, в венгерском — *Sulgin*, в румынском — *Șulghin*. И множатся варианты латинского написания одной и той же фамилии как дрозofiлы.

А ведь такая практика противоречит мировой традиции передавать латинское написание собственных имен одинаково, независимо от языка-реципиента. Ведь фамилия выдающегося немецкого драматурга *Шиллера* записывается как *Schiller* не только в немецком языке, но и во всех остальных европейских языках, и никому из англичан не придет в голову переписать ее как *Shiller*. В свою очередь *Шекспир* во всех европейских языках выглядит как *Shakespeare*, *Лист* — как *Liszt*, *Юлиус Фуцик* — как *Julius Fučík*, *Жорж Бизе* — как *Georges Bizet*.

Есть мнение о том, что те народы, которые пользуются латинской графикой, должны сохранять свое написание в других языках с латинской графической основой, а те народы, которые пользуются другими системами письма, должны приспособливаться к правилам орфографии других языков. Это мнение глубоко ошибочно. Ведь если посмотреть на страны Азии, то можно увидеть, что их собственные имена латинскими буквами пишутся тоже одинаково во всех языках. В одних странах (Китай, Япония, Израиль) существуют собственные латинизированные системы, в

других же (Индия, арабские страны) делается это через посредничество языка бывшей митрополии (английского или французского). Поэтому во всех европейских языках название китайских городов *Шанхай* и *Циндао* пишется, соответственно, как *Shanghai* и *Qindao*. То же касается и японских собственных имен: *Fujiyama*, *Hiroshima*, *Kyushu*... Индийская *Калькутта* всюду выглядит как *Calcutta*, а суданский *Хартум* — как *Khartoum*.

То есть, если для языка-продуцента используется собственная система письма, отличная от латиницы, то в таком случае должны быть четкие и однозначные правила воспроизведения национальной системы письма латиницей. Способами латинской азбуки должно отображаться написание национальной азбукой с гарантией недвусмысленного воспроизведения оригинального написания (правда, не всегда это гарантируется, но, по крайней мере, варианты написания не тиражируются). Ибо согласно международным требованиям приоритет должен отдаваться не практической транскрипции, а транслитерации, то есть не произношению, а написанию. Ведь западного человека интересует не столько произношение, сколько написание собственного имени.

В Сербии и Македонии, вообще, существуют два параллельных и взаимозаменяемых алфавита, которые, по сути, являются идеальным вариантом транслитерации. Поэтому на карте Сербии город *Крушевац* обозначен как *Kruševac*, *Милошевича* в всех западных газетах подаются как *Milošević* (кириллицей — *Милошевић*). Столица Македонии подается по-английски как *Skopje*, а не как *Skopye* или *Skopie*.

Почему же данная традиция не распространяется на Россию и другие страны бывшего СССР за исключением Прибалтики и Молдовы? Вопрос этот скорее политический, чем лингвистический. Всё дело в том, что в Советском Союзе действовал такой принцип: лишь бы не так, как во всём остальном мире. То есть, по словам Федора Бурлацкого, если на Западе всё вдоль, то у нас всё должно быть поперек. В данном случае это выглядит вот как: если на Западе приоритет отдается написанию, а на произношение почти никакого внимания не обращается, то мы — наоборот, приоритет будем отдавать именно произношению: не важно, как наши собственные имена будут писаться, важно то, чтобы их в других странах правильно произносили. Эта привычка, увы, оказалась весьма живучей, и не так-то просто с ней расстаться.

В настоящее время на Украине на официальном уровне принято считать, что украинские собственные имена должны писаться так, чтобы их смогли прочесть за границей. Это значит, что правила передачи украинских слов в английском языке, утвержденные совместно Минюстом и Институтом украинского языка НАН Украины, распространяются лишь на английский язык, а других языков они не касаются (см. в частности, официальную страницу Верховной Рады <http://www.rada.kiev.ua/translit.htm>).

¹ Герой одноименной пьесы украинского драматурга И.К.Карпенко-Карого, всё время изменявший свою фамилию: Боруля, Буруля, Беруля и т.д.

Противники единой украинской латиницы (Институт украинского языка Национальной Академии Наук и тому подобные) утверждают, что на Украине должны беспокоиться о том, смогут ли в других странах читать украинские собственные имена надлежащим образом. Однако, как было сказано раньше, приспособление латинского написания собственных имен к фонетическим и орфографическим особенностям конкретного языка противоречит международным требованиям сохранять единое латинское написание. Значит, и этот документ тоже противоречит мировым стандартам. И, вообще, здесь напрашивается риторический вопрос: почему никто в мире не задумывается над тем, как их собственные названия будут читать иностранцы, а мы, оказывается, должны беспокоиться об этом? Может быть, мы, вообще, запишем себя в нацию второго сорта, которая не имеет права показывать свое собственное лицо, а должна всё время обязательно под кого-то маскироваться?

А ведь в бывшем Советском Союзе существовала весьма неплохая система русской латиницы, утвержденная в 50-е годы Академией наук СССР [4]. Другое дело, что она не имела никакого практического применения, но это уже — из сугубо политических соображений, о которых говорил Федор Бурлацкий.

Нельзя сказать, что сейчас на постсоветском пространстве эту проблему никто не пытается решить. Создаются целые комиссии по разработке стандартной и универсальной системы транслитерации с кириллицы на латиницу и обратно. Лучшей из таких систем восточнославянской латиницы на данный момент является система, разработанная Терминологической комиссией по естественным наукам (Термінологічна комісія з природничих наук, ТКПН) Киевского университета имени Тараса Шевченко [1-3].

Кстати, эта система является компромиссом между «англофилами» и «славянофилами», ибо содержит элементы и английской орфографической традиции (шипящие согласные там передаются на английский манер), и западнославянской (буквы «й» и «ц» там передаются как в польской или чешской языках). Тем не менее, несмотря на такой компромисс, она остается целостной системой, которая четко и однозначно передает способами латиницы все тонкости русского, украинского и белорусского правописания (см. таблицу). А еще она гарантирует восстановление кириллического написания без каких-либо искажений и двусмысленности. А главное — эта система приспособлена к автоматической конверсии туда и обратно с помощью компьютера.

Разработчики данной системы ясно осознают, что компромисс компромиссом, но есть некоторые границы, которые переступать нельзя. И среди тех границ можно, прежде всего, назвать требования к транслитерации, сформулированные А.А.Реформатским [4]. Во-первых, передавать латиницей надо написания, а не произношение. Во-вторых, каждой букве кириллического алфавита должен соответствовать ее латинский эквивалент. И, в-третьих, необходима стопроцентная гарантия восстановления транслитерированного текста назад кириллицей без какой-либо двусмыслен-

Системы русской, украинской, белорусской и болгарской латиницы по системе ТКПН²

Русский	Украинский	Белорусский	Болгарский
а — a	а — a	а — a	а — a
б — b	б — b	б — b	б — b
в — v	в — v	в — v	в — v
	г — gh		
г — g	г — g	г — g	г — g
д — d	д — d	д — d	д — d
		дж — dzh	
		дз — dz	
е — e	е — e	е — je	е — e
	є — je		
ё — jo		ё — jo	
ж — zh	ж — zh	ж — zh	ж — zh
з — z	з — z	з — z	з — z
и — i	и — y		и — i
й — j			й — j
	i — i	i — i	
	ї — ji		
	й — j	й — j	
к — k	к — k	к — k	к — k
л — l	л — l	л — l	л — l
м — m	м — m	м — m	м — m
н — n	н — n	н — n	н — n
о — o	о — o	о — o	о — o
п — p	п — p	п — p	п — p
р — r	р — r	р — r	р — r
с — s	с — s	с — s	с — s
т — t	т — t	т — t	т — t
у — u	у — u	у — u	у — ou
		ў — w	
ф — f	ф — f	ф — f	ф — f
х — kh (x)	х — kh (x)	х — kh (x)	х — kh (x)
ц — c	ц — c	ц — c	ц — c
ч — ch	ч — ch	ч — ch	ч — ch
ш — sh	ш — sh	ш — sh	ш — sh
щ — shh	щ — shh		шт — sht
ъ — '			ь — u
ы — y		ы — y	
ь — j (после согласных)	ь — j (после согласных)	ь — j (после согласных)	ь — j (после согласных)
э — eh		э — e	
ю — ju	ю — ju	ю — ju	ю — ju
я — ja	я — ja	я — ja	я — ja

Примечание: в украинском языке апостроф сохраняет свое законное место и в латинице: *burjak*, но *bur'jan*.

² Курсивом выделены расхождения с русским вариантом.

ности. Благодаря тому, что авторы предложенной системы старались вообще избегать употребления диакритических знаков, эта система является незаменимой в международном телеграфе, в электронной почте и в других случаях, где дополнительные латинские буквы с диакритическими знаками не предусмотрены. Для избежания двусмысленности разработчики данной системы, прежде всего, лишили букву *h* самостоятельного значения и оставили за ней функцию своего рода диакритического знака. Следовательно, украинская буква *Г*, обозначающая фарингальный звук, в этой системе выглядит как *GH*, а не так, как этот звук принято изображать по традиции, то есть *Н*. А взрывное украинское *Г* изображается, соответственно, как *С*. Буква *Щ* везде кроме болгарского варианта выглядит как *SHH*, ибо это буква *SH* с диакритическим знаком в виде вспомогательной буквы *Н*.

Конечно, система ТКПН не лишена некоторых недостатков, но их можно просто устранить. Во всяком случае, на наш взгляд, необходимо руководствоваться известным китайским принципом: не имеет значения, какой будет кошка, важно то, сможет ли она ловить мышь. Следовательно, перефразируя ее, можно сказать: не имеет значения, которой будет кириллическая латиница. Главное — будут ли основы ее построения и практического применения соответствовать мировым требованиям.

Во всяком случае, русская, украинская и белорусская системы транслитерации должны быть приняты как общенациональные универсальные стандарты, которые должны иметь практическое применение в всех случаях употребления латинской графики. Необходимо, прежде всего, внести правила транслитерации кириллицы на латиницу в новые редакции орфографических нормативных документов отдельными разделами.

Фактически как русское, так и украинское и белорусское правописание должны иметь как бы два лица — оригинальное (для внутренних потребностей) и латинизированное (для международного общения). Поэтому с этой системой необходимо ознакомить всех граждан восточнославянских государств (прежде всего школьников и студентов) и мировую общественность. В средней школе изучение латиницы необходимо включить в курс не иностранного, а родного языка, как это делается в Китае и Японии. Наши соотечественники должны научиться правильно записывать слова родного языка латиницей.

Кроме того, следует помнить, что транслитерация предназначена не только для написания собственных названий (например, фамилий в паспортах и удостоверениях водителя, или названий на географических картах), но и для латинизированного написания связных текстов на любом из восточнославянских языков (например, в научной литературе или в библиографии, в международном телеграфе, в электронной почте). Случаи применения практической транскрипции надо свести к минимуму, а в официально-деловой документации, научной литературе и в компьютерных базах данных ее вообще надо исключить из употребления.

Наших соотечественников следует раз и навсегда переубедить в том, что правила конкретного языка на иностранные собственные имена не распространяются. И дать понять, что собственная латинизированная азбука — это один из атрибутов интеграции России, Украины и Белоруссии в мировое (прежде всего, в европейское) сообщество. Ибо открытость, цивилизованность общества, его интеграция начинается вот с таких мелочей. Не случайно такие стандартизированные системы передачи национальной письменности существуют во многих странах мира с нелатинской системой письма. Так же не случайно все больше народов мира хотят иметь латинскую азбуку в качестве основной системы письма (взять хотя бы ту же Турцию или Малайзию, где латиница пришла на смену арабской графике, оставшейся, преимущественно, в качестве культового письма).

Речь здесь, конечно, не идет о полном отказе от нашей традиционной графики на основе кириллицы. Ибо мы кириллицу используем уже свыше тысячи лет, она полностью приспособлена к особенностям славянской фонетики и поэтому нет оснований заменять ее латиницей полностью. Точно так же от своих традиционных систем письма не собираются отказываться ни китайцы, ни японцы, ни арабы. Но это совсем не означает, что они отказываются от употребления латинской графики вообще и маскируются под европейские народы и языки, искажая свое лицо, дабы угодить каким-нибудь «старшим братьям», или просто народам «высшего сорта» (в крайнем случае они «маскируются» под своих бывших колонизаторов, но какие колонизаторы были в России?). Сейчас фактически для каждого языка должна быть создана латинизированная азбука. Другое дело, для одних языков она должна использоваться как основной алфавит, а для других — как вспомогательный.

Поэтому безосновательны и бессмысленны суждения типа: „Зачем нам латиница, если мы имеем кириллицу?“, или: „Мы не на Западе, у нас другие традиции и стандарты!“, или даже „Незачем нам латиница, ведь мы православные!“ (последнее суждение наиболее абсурдно хотя бы потому, что православная Румыния и даже мусульманская Турция используют латиницу как основную систему письма). Ортодоксальное славянофильство хоть и отдает теплым романтизмом, но по отношению к национальным стандартам оно абсолютно неприемлемо. Всё это хуторянство и хомяковщина только дальше будут углублять искусственную изоляцию восточнославянских стран от мирового сообщества, и дальше будут воспитывать комплекс неполноценности русских, украинцев и белорусов, которые, дабы угодить Америке или Германии, дальше будут искажать свое собственное лицо «только чтобы нас правильно прочитали».

Почему-то западного человека не интересует, как правильно прочитать иноязычное собственное имя; их больше интересует **НАПИСАНИЕ**, а не произношение. Все равно, мы не можем принудить иностранцев произносить наши собственные имена так, как делаем это мы. Этому нам не удастся, хотим мы этого или не хотим. Но рано или поздно

вынуждены будем признать международные стандарты и смириться с ними. Иначе нас и дальше не будут воспринимать всерьез как цивилизованные государства. Настало время осознать, что прошла та пора, когда наши национальные стандарты создавались вопреки международным нормам. Мы должны помнить, что создаем эту систему, прежде всего, для себя. Другим народам остается только ознакомиться с ней постфактум. А на Западе на большее и не претендуют: там твердо знают, что русская, украинская или белорусская латиница — это внутреннее дело самих россиян, украинцев, или белорусов; им в это дело нельзя вмешиваться. Можно спорить сколько угодно по поводу, скажем, правописания иностранных слов в русском или украинском языке: здесь каждая сторона найдет свои весомые аргументы, которые невозможно опровергнуть, и каждая сторона будет по-своему права. Но по поводу транслитерации двух правильных мнений быть не может. Здесь или мы признаем международные требования, или не признаем, дальше оставаясь исключением из правил. Так, может быть, хватит запереться в собственную скорлупу?

Литература:

1. Білодід О.І., Корнілов М.Ю., Вакуленко О.М. Комп'ютерна програма "Українська латиниця" // Проблеми української науково-технічної термінології. Тези доповідей 4-ї Міжнародної наукової конференції. — Львів: Вид-во Державного Університету "Львівська політехніка", 1996. — П. 75.
2. Вакуленко О.М. Українська латинка: Відтворення без спотворення // Відтворення українських власних назв (антропонімів і топонімів) іноземними мовами. Міжнародна наукова конференція, Київ 7-8 грудня 1993 р. Доповіді та повідомлення. — К., 1995. — С.48-52.
3. Вакуленко М.О. Про «складні» проблеми українського правопису. — Київ, 1996.
4. Реформатский А.А. Транслитерация русских текстов латинскими буквами // Вопросы языкознания. — 1960. — №5. — С.96-103.

Кандидат филологических наук Андрей Дьяков преподает на кафедре английской филологии в Черновицком университете. Андрей опубликовал свыше 30 работ по вопросам терминологии, терминологической лексикографии, языкового планирования и языковой политики; он принимал участие в разработке многоязычных отраслевых терминологических словарей (в частности, словаря экономических терминов).
E-mail: valkha@chdu.cv.ua или engl@chdu.cv.ua

BOUTS RIMES – БУРИМЕ at the Slavic Division's “Dinner” on November 5, 1999 in St. Louis

Here for the edification and entertainment of our readers is Vadim Khazin's now famous bouts rimes poem produced at our notorious Slavic Division “Dinner” in St. Louis. See Christina Sever's article on page 10 for description of the conditions under which Vadim's feat was performed. Given those conditions (improvisation to order, too little food and plentiful vodka) it is no surprise that there were a few rough spots in the original, these were subsequently smoothed by Vadim with a little help from the staff members.

**ОБИДЕЛИ СЛАВЯНСКУЮ ДИВИЗИЮ —
НЕ ДАЛИ ВДОВОЛЬ СТУЛЬЕВ И ПРОВИЗИИ!**

[the title came later]

Пришли сюда сегодня мы голодные,
Но водку предложили нам холодную,
This certainly did much to raise our mood
Which suffered from a paucity of food.
Неважно, сколько выпили здесь водки;
Мы понимаем, что в одной сидим мы лодке,
And even though we chat, or eat, or drink,
We all keep doing what we must – we think –
Of how translations really can be true
Without replacing yellow birds with blue;
How to retain a poem's native melody
Without imposing on it some quite dreadful malady?
И если должен перевод представить срочно,
Насколько может перевод тот быть неточным?
А если переводишь ты кантату,
Как не взорвать себя последнею гранатой?
And even if the text is quite a mess,
How to petition God your work to bless,
And finally to win this dreadful battle
Without expiring with an awful rattle?
We may be white, or black, or even brown,
But all of us enjoyed St.Louis town
Well known for its ball team and soaring Arch,
Although perhaps it's even warmer here in March...
May all our ladies wear the finest silk,
And may us gentlemen drink liquor, never milk!

Dr. Vadim Khazin is an accredited translator of English into Russian, who lives in Colts Neck, New Jersey. He is also an interpreter and translator of Ukrainian and some other languages. He is known to SLD members for his delightful bout rimes tours de force and his passionate interest in the transliteration of East Slavic place names. As a translator, he specializes in engineering, business, law and construction.

REMINDER

SlavFile will publish
free of charge
all ads
advertising work
for translators and interpreters

We encourage unsolicited contributions
from our readers.
Especially welcome are
Newcomer Profiles,
introducing new
members to our readers.

MULTILEX 2.0 COMPREHENSIVE DICTIONARY OF ECONOMICS

Robert Taylor

Type of dictionary: Monolingual Russian dictionary specializing in accountancy, banking, finance, insurance, labor relations, civil, administrative, criminal and employment law, management theory, mathematical economics, natural resources, statistics, the stock market, commerce, trade, etc.

Number of terms: Approximately 19,000

Format: CD-ROM

Price: \$20.00 directly from MediaLingua, Russia through "Russian Shopping Club" (see below)

Review:

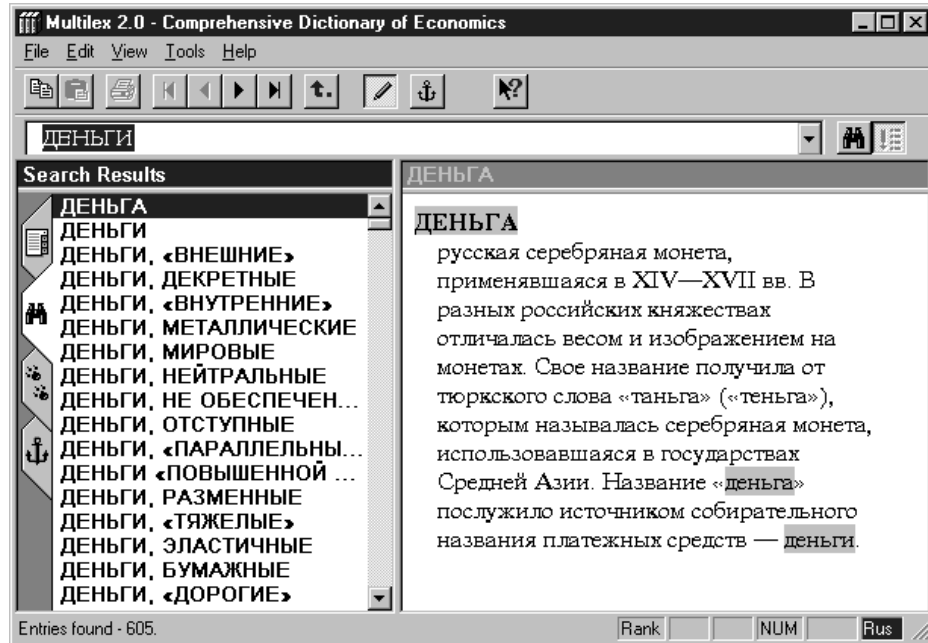
There is both good news and bad news about this dictionary, which I have now used since November 1999: the good news is that it is very helpful, easy to use, and has wide coverage of both traditional and modern business and financial terms. The bad news is that it may be a bit difficult to purchase.

Since this is a dictionary on CD-ROM, it has all the advantages of any searchable text. Unlike a regular printed dictionary, if you wish to look up an entry such as **деньги** in this dictionary, you merely type in the Russian word, and every article of the dictionary that contains the word **деньги** is made available (for this example, 605 entries were found, as shown above). This gives you broad spectrum of uses of the word(s) being searched.

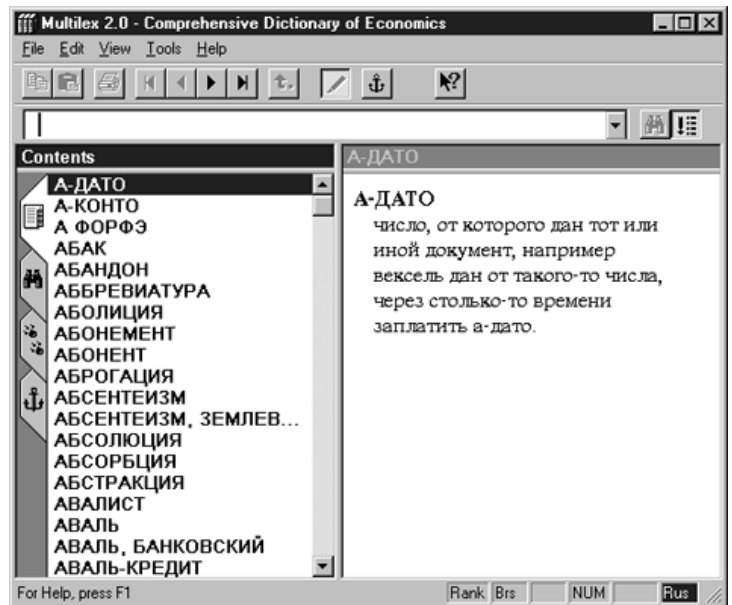
This CD-ROM is the electronic version of the *Comprehensive Dictionary of Economics, 2nd Edition* (A.N. Azriliyan editor, New Economics Institute, 1997, 864 pages). It uses an interface similar to that of the *MultiLex 2.0 English – Russian Professional Dictionary* that was reviewed in the *SlavFile* several months ago.

Installation is relatively straightforward, but does require a good working knowledge of Russian since the manual is written only in Russian. The **minimum** installation requirements are a 486 computer with 8 Mb of RAM and 2 Mb of hard disk space, a CD-ROM drive, mouse, and Windows 3.1, 95, 98 or NT. It is also necessary to have a Russian keyboard driver, because during installation, it is required, believe it or not, to enter a «ключевое слово» in Russian as a security measure to protect against illegal software copies. You will also be asked to enter the registration number, and to decide whether you want the interface in English or Russian. It is my understanding, however, that the Russian program interface will only run if the localized Russian version of Windows is installed.

You also have the option of several levels of program installation. I recommend the **полная установка** that installs the entire dictionary on your hard drive making it very fast to look up words. It also leaves your CD-ROM free for other uses. The **стандартная установка** requires leaving the CD-ROM in your drive, to be accessed during queries.



Using the program is extremely easy. It took me only a few minutes to figure out how to search for entries and use the button bars. The display layout uses the standard Windows format.



The illustration above shows the standard screen used for looking up entries. Words can be accessed in alphabetical order, or by performing a search. To search for a Russian term, it must be typed in Russian (using your Russian keyboard driver) in the search line. You can enter one or more words; for multi-word entries, the search engine finds all articles containing one or more of the words. However, the Boolean logic used by sophisticated search engines is not available. Nonetheless, I have never had any problem finding the word(s) desired. After entering the word(s), you press ENTER, and a list of headwords appears on

the left; the word(s) searched appear in the headword or definition of the words. A single click on any of the entries on the left brings up the full definition on the right hand panel with the target word(s) highlighted in the text. A third method for searching is to double click on any word in the text panel on the right hand side; this brings up all entries for the word(s) that have been double clicked.

One very convenient search feature is that the dictionary brings up all declined forms of nouns appearing in the text of definitions, and all conjugated forms of verbs. For instance, a search for the verb **оплатить** brings up a total of 140 terms including **оплаченный капитал, перевозка оплачена, провоз оплачен**, etc.

The program also includes a list of about 400 commonly used abbreviations in the HELP section, but unfortunately, these are not included in the searchable database.

The display has tabs for a history of searched terms and bookmarks for frequently accessed words. The button bar at the top of the display allows you to move forward or back in the list of entries found, print an entry, or copy and paste an entry into another application. The latter operation will only work with code page 1251 Cyrillic fonts. Unicode fonts are not supported. The menu bar has a useful option allowing you to insert an annotation in the definition for future reference. There is also a "help" feature, found in the usual location, that provides assistance for all major functions of the program **in Russian only**.

Terminology: Since most of the Russian-English translations I do are in the area of business and finance, I have been able to give this dictionary a fairly good test run over the last few months. It contains numerous entries for common financial terms: **учет (47 terms), касса (13), кредит (130), счет (200 including 112 entries for счет бухгалтерского учета), ценные бумаги (over 80), капитал (over 80), своп (24)**. Entries are included for common words such as **книга, день, флаг** and **час**, but only those with a business or economics context are included (e.g., **грузовая книга, день контанго, протекционизм в отношении национального флага, человеко-час**). There are numerous biographical sketches on international figures prominent in the area of business and economics (e.g. Frederick Winslow Taylor (no relation), Lenin, John Keynes, Aristotle), but surprisingly, there was no entry for Bill Gates, Alan Greenspan or Анатолий Чубайс.

The dictionary is fairly up to date with terms such as **американский опцион, бостонский опцион, рыночная капитализация, телемаркетинг, евро**, and **покупка на марже**, and has some interesting slang economic expressions such as **гастролер** (job-hopper) and **покупать с потрохами** (buy securities for cash). As you might expect, there were a number of terms it did not include, but should have (**широкие деньги-broad money, доначисление-write-up or appreciation, переоформленные ссуды-restructured debt**). My short experience with the dictionary found only a few filler words (e.g. **телеграмма, телеграф, гермес**).

In general, definitions are clear and succinct, and use of the double-click search feature of words in a given definition makes it easy to hop from one related definition to another. The dictionary also has a number of illustrations, charts and graphs to provide further clarification of terms.

Purchasing the dictionary: From information provided by Galina Raff and research done on the Internet, it appears that the only way to purchase this CD-ROM is directly from Russia on the *MediaLingua* website (<http://www.medialingua.ru/products/vshop/list.htm>). This site will link you to a site called "Russian Shopping Club" which can also be reached through Russian Story Inc. in Virginia (Tel: 800-952-5489 in English or 800-952-5295 in Russian, or 703-450-7049). I spoke to a representative of Russian Story who confirmed that it is necessary to purchase this product directly from Russia, and that they guarantee delivery within 8 weeks!! I also pulled up the Russian Story purchase agreement on this website and learned that shipping expenses for the dictionary may be extra, but the buyer would be advised of such charges and given the opportunity to cancel the order. Customs and import duties may also be added. All payments are by credit card. Goods are shipped from Russia, and most shipments take about 2-3 weeks to reach the local post office, with additional time required to clear customs. If anyone is aware of an easier way to purchase this dictionary in the U.S., please include this information in a future issue of *SlavFile*.

Conclusion: I enjoy having this dictionary on my computer and tend to keep the program as an open window for most translations. It saves search time, provides useful confirmation of current economic terms and expressions not typically found in bi-lingual business and economic dictionaries, and is extremely simple to install and use. I find it far more complete in both business and legal matters than a similar monolingual dictionary called *Юридическая энциклопедия (Юринформцентр; под редакцией М.Ю. Тихомирова, Москва 1997)*. If you are patient, try ordering the dictionary on-line from Russia as noted above. Otherwise pick up the CD-ROM-based dictionary on your next trip to Russia or ask a willing friend to do so.

Robert F. Taylor is an accredited Russian and Italian translator living in Sand Diego, CA. He specializes in banking, economics, finance and related subjects. He can be reached at robertftaylor@home.com

ANNOUNCEMENT

For Theater Lovers in the Washington D.C. Area

Turgenev's *A Month in the Country*
in a new adaptation
translated into English
by Lydia Razran Stone

May 5 - June 28, 2000
Classika Theater Arlington, VA.
(703) 824-6200

www.classika.org; classika4Y@aol.com
For details contact Lydia or Classika

In the case in point — namely, the case of *point* — he gave a lovely example. Take the sense in which that word means *essence* or *gist*, as in a phrase such as *come to the point, that's just the point*, and so forth. The closest Russian equivalent to *essence* or *gist* is *суть*, which in fact occurs in the phrase *дойму до сути*, meaning, more or less literally, *come to the point*. But what about *that's just the point*? The closest Russian equivalent would be *в том-то и дело*. And it turns out that there are several idioms in Russian where the role of the English word *point* is played by the Russian word *дело*. Is it fair to say, then, that *дело* actually means *point*, in the sense of *essence* or *gist*? Not really, because as a stand-alone word, it never has this meaning, which it acquires only in the context of certain stock phrases. There are other Russian stock phrases such as *то и дело (constantly)*, in which the exact function of the word *дело* is difficult to grasp, just as it is difficult to understand the specific use of *other* in the stock phrase *every other day*.

At about this point in his talk, Katzner presented a delightful list of words and phrases that are horribly hard to render in Russian, including *I don't get your point* and *He has a point there*, as well as *challenging assignment*, *close election*, and *anticlimax*. As he pointed out, this list is not short, neat, or even finite: it is messy and never-ending. He revealed that in the course of his daily life, he is constantly jotting down simple-sounding sentences that he cannot translate into flowing Russian, despite an intimate involvement with the Russian language over the course of decades. He poses these problems to native Russian speakers, who try to help him out. Sometimes a flash of clarity occurs; just as often, though, it comes to light that there simply is a mismatch between the two languages, and there is no truly suitable word or phrase.

Katzner then moved on to a critique of English-Russian lexicography as practiced by Russian linguists, who seem to believe that the measure of a dictionary's quality is the sheer number of entries. Thus, the main entries beginning with "hel" in the very recent English-Russian dictionary compiled by a team led by Yuri Apresyan include: *heldentenor*, *helenin*, *helenium*, *heliambulance*, *helianthus*, *heliarc welding*, *heliborne*, etc. By contrast, here is the full list of entries beginning with "hel" in Katzner's English-Russian section: *helicopter*, *heliograph*, *heliotrope*, *heliport*, *helium*, *hell*, *hellebore*, *Hellenic*, *hellish*, *hello*, *helm*, *helmet*, *helmsman*, *help*, *helper*, *helpful*, *helping*, *helpless*, *help-wanted ad*, *helter-skelter*. (I might also point out that under *hell*, there are some twelve idioms listed, such as *come hell or high water*, *for the hell of it*, *like hell*, and *raise hell*, all of which are standard lexical items in the mind of any adult native speaker of American English, as is the stock phrase *help-wanted ad*.) The art here lies in *knowing what to include*, but perhaps even more important, odd though this may seem at first, in *knowing what to leave out*. Being the fruit of three decades of thoughtful collecting and equally thoughtful winnowing, Katzner's dictionary really will help people learn, as opposed to one that gives an appearance of enormous erudition, but which,

in its indiscriminate bloatedness, really just hides its compilers' inability to focus on the point (the *суть*), of what a living language is all about.

If you don't agree with this harsh-sounding criticism, consider the following set of examples of supposed English idioms involving the verb *sink*, taken from the very same fat Apresyan dictionary: *to sink a river*; *to sink a fact*; *to sink shop*; *to sink one's own interests*; *night is sinking on the sea*; *to sink one's mind into everything*; *to sink someone in one's esteem*, and on and on. The façade of erudition just crumbles when one confronts these nonsensical, nonexistent phrases that are being held up for Russian speakers as standard elements of the English language.

The sad fact is that the aforementioned dictionary was compiled by people who were, by and large, out of touch with spoken English (not to mention American), some of whom had never even set foot in an English-speaking country, but who had made their reputations by acquiring ever more arcane and indeed obfuscatory examples of English. This is not good work; it is just bad art. Such a dictionary, though impressive at first, in the end is revealed to be nothing but kitsch.

I know no better way to tip my hat to Kenneth Katzner than to let him have the last word, by quoting verbatim the final paragraph of his talk:

"So that brings me to the end, but not really the end, of a story that began — I can hardly believe it — nearly 35 years ago. And therein, I believe, lies the key to the success of a dictionary of this scope. You just can't produce one in two or three years, even with a whole team of people working on it. Even in the computer age, when some say everything can be recorded with mathematical precision, with a dictionary there is simply no substitute for slowly and methodically adding to it and improving it — one entry at a time, a little each day — as you read the language, listen to others as they speak it, and make note of each new usage as it comes along. I'll keep working on it, I guess, as long as I am able, but neither I nor anyone else will ever really complete the task. Language is infinite, and just as certain evanescent things cannot be captured on film, so the words that make up a language cannot be fully captured by a dictionary. We do the best we can but sometimes, I think, we only scratch the surface."

I said that I would give Katzner the last word, but I forgot one thing: that I had intended to end my article by mentioning a remarkable event that occurred at the end of his talk, which was perhaps a first in world history: a long, warm, standing ovation for the compiler of a dictionary. Well earned!

Douglas Hofstadter is a professor of cognitive science and of comparative literature at Indiana University; he is also an author who is best known for his 1979 book *Gödel, Escher, Bach: an Eternal Golden Braid*. In 1997, Hofstadter came out with *Le Ton beau de Marot: In Praise of the Music of Language* (Basic Books), a lengthy exploration of translation in many guises, and more recently (Basic, 1999) he published a full verse translation into English of Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin*.



Newsletter of the Slavic Languages Division
of the American Translators Association
225 Reinke's Lane
Alexandria, VA 22314

The Perfectionist

I give you now, Professor Twist,
A conscientious scientist.
The trustees said, "He never bungles,"
And sent him off to distant jungles.
One day upon a river side
He missed, I fear, his charming bride.
She had, a guide informed him later,
Been eaten by an alligator.
Professor Twist could not but smile,
"You mean, of course, a crocodile!"

Ogden Nash

Педант

На свете жил во время оно
Профессор Твист — большой ученый.
Он как-то в джунгли послан был
Узнать про тамошних горилл.
Раз, пробираясь в топком месте,
Спросил вдруг: «Где моя невеста?»
И про свою узнал утрату:
Бедняжку скушал аллигатор.
Хихикнув, Твист проговорил:
«То был, конечно, крокодил!».

Viktor Shevelyov