

EDITORIAL: GEEKS NOT CLIQUES

by Lydia Stone

It occurs to us that some readers, seeing the same smallish number of names repeated *ad nauseum* in this publication, on the ATA program, on the SLD website, in SLD-related articles in the Chronicle, etc. may get the idea that the SLD is run by a clique. In a sense, this is true – relatively few people do provide most of the labor, get most of the recognition, and, incidentally, have most of the fun. However, if the connotations of clique are considered to include enforced exclusivity and the intentional running of the organization in the interests and for the benefit of a minority of members, nothing could be farther from the truth. To use a metaphor from the arena where many of us first encountered the clique, high school, we are less like the in-group of popular kids who won all the elections, and more like the geeks who stayed after school to help decorate the hallways for parent-teacher conferences.

We bring up this conjecture because we wonder why, in spite of repeated invitations and cajolings, so few people do participate in an active way in SLD activities – write for publications, give presentations, help with the website, join the Russian Translators' Club or even respond to requests for reader responses on various issues. The truth of this was brought home to us when we got exactly 12 replies to the 400+ SLD Banquet surveys we sent out. Even more distressing than the absolute number was the fact that of these 12, one response was anonymous, and 10 were from people whom we know well or who have recently volunteered to perform some SLD-related task. We would like to thank Lori Scheiwe individually for taking the time to send back her survey, even though she had not yet participated in other SLD activities. After all, if we had wanted to have only the opinions of those we already know we could have contacted them and dispensed with the printing and distribution of the surveys. So, if you are not volunteering to work with the SLD “inner circle” because you think you would be unwelcome or would be treated as second class citizens until you had served some unspecified probationary period, forget it. We are a bunch of hyperfriendly geeks, committed, some of us old hippie types almost obsessively so, to participatory democracy, and when we invite you to participate we really mean it.

We suspect, however, that for everyone who does not participate out of a fear of not being accepted, there are two who do not do so because it seems like too much effort. Whether it is or not would depend on why you joined SLD in the first place. If you simply wanted membership as a credential on your resume,

you are right: participating is too much effort, you have gotten what you wanted. On the other hand, if your reasons were, for example, to increase the quantity/quality of the work you are offered while minimizing marketing effort, to meet and interact with those who share your professional interests, to have a mechanism for answering specific questions in or about your work, or to improve your level of professional skills and knowledge, if you are not participating actively you are not getting your fifteen-dollars' worth.

We particularly wonder about newcomers to SLD and our profession. Is the Division serving them adequately? We rarely hear from them so we do not know. However, there are plenty of ways to participate actively without having a 20-year career and the associated expertise under your belt. And people who are just starting out would benefit even more than others from the exposure, contacts, and learning that come from involvement. We would love to start a feature in this publication for, about, and, particularly, by newcomers. Anyone interested in contributing to or working on such a feature is invited to contact the editorial staff.

To address the social awkwardness of being a newcomer, SLD Assistant Administrator, Nora Favorov, and *SlavFile* editor Lydia Stone would like to invite all first timers at an ATA convention, as well as those who feel they do not know very many people, to meet us at 5:45 at the entrance to the opening session on Wednesday, September 20 (which is scheduled to begin at 6:00). This will allow us to introduce ourselves and will spare those who have just arrived from entering this crowd scene without knowing anyone. We will have a sign to identify ourselves.

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Riding the Rough Roads between Russian and English

Nora Favorov

Last year in St. Louis the Slavic Languages Division laughed, joked, argued and experienced collective inspiration at our *Idiom Savants* session (see *SlavFile*'s spring issue, page 5).

We hope to have an equally good time Saturday morning, September 23 in Orlando "riding the rough roads between Russian and English" (SL-4, 10:15-11:45).

This is a "roundtable" session that encourages (and expects) lots of audience participation.

Any R-E-R translation problem is fair game.

Bring your stumpers (or e-mail them to me in advance), your brains and your years of experience.

Together we ought to be able to find the best solution to any problem.

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DICTIONARY EXCHANGE

Yahoo! Клуб русских переводчиков has opened a Dictionary Exchange program. Its goal is to provide a mechanism whereby translators can exchange duplicate or otherwise superfluous dictionaries. To view the list of dictionaries available for exchange go to <http://briefcase.yahoo.com/bms36>, or from the Club (<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/russiantranslators>), click on Links and go to the Dictionary Exchange Master List.

ADVERTISING RATES AND SPECIFICATIONS

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Only one discount is allowed.

The Party Line

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

Jim Walker

Contrary to the title of this column, I do not think of the Slavic Languages Division primarily as a party or an opportunity to party. I think of it as a professional organization promoting better translation. Since we all work with words, let's look at some of the definitions of "professional" from the Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. Obviously, it means "1a : of, relating to, or characteristic of a profession." So what is a profession? "4a : a calling requiring specialized knowledge and often long and intensive academic preparation b : a principal calling, vocation, or employment." Back to "professional": "1c(1) : characterized by or conforming to the technical or ethical standards of a profession (2) : exhibiting a courteous, conscientious, and generally businesslike manner in the workplace." And here is a particularly interesting one: "2a : participating for gain or livelihood in an activity or field of endeavor often engaged in by amateurs." Lots to think about here.

I have seen far too much amateur or unprofessional translation, and I am sorry to say that much of it was written by members of the ATA. So I think that our primary goal in the SLD should be to raise the quality of translation. Many people starting out as translators (myself included, 15 years ago) are simply unaware of what is needed to produce good translations and how hard it is to translate well.

But I consider virtually all of the SLD members that I know to be true professionals. They have the required specialized knowledge, and long and intensive preparation. They conform to the technical and ethical standards of the profession. And they are courteous, conscientious, and generally businesslike. But, of course, all of this comes at a price. And that price is implicit in some of the words used in the definitions quoted above: "principal calling, vocation, or employment," "gain or livelihood." In other words, a profession is a two-way street; you get what you pay for. Jobs requiring specialized knowledge and intensive preparation are generally well-paid. In my opinion, raising the quality of translation requires raising the average level of pay.

But as employees, hired workers, there is nothing we can do about this, right? I'm not so sure. I know that we can at least think about it. I expect that almost all SLD members enthusiastically support better pay for high-quality translation, so why not make it an organizational goal, too? Surely we are not totally helpless; there must be something we can do in this direction. I have a few ideas, and maybe you do, too.

I realize that organizations are cowed by the threat of by the threat of antitrust prosecution for price-fixing. I personally am not. As I have said before, the idea that a group as diverse, dispersed, and underemployed as professional translators could efficiently fix prices is ludicrous. More likely, information about prices will be used to undercut the competition. Even so, I be-

lieve that information is beneficial, and I invite you to participate in a discussion at the Russian Translators Club about what the proper remuneration would be for high-quality translation.

An article by Chris Durban in the June issue of the Chronicle offered a suggestion that I have been considering for some time. "And that is *making signed work an industry standard*." For example, "Translated by Jim Walker, member of the Slavic Languages Division of the American Translators Association, accredited Russian>English," as a footer. If the client wants to delete it, fine; that is their business. But at least I let them know that I stand behind my work. Even if it was not adequately remunerated, and some of my work is not, I still have taken the trouble to satisfy myself that the translation was accurate and readable.

As I mentioned in the last issue of *SlavFile*, I think that the SLD web site is an important marketing tool. A quick look at some of the other divisions' web sites would show some of the possibilities. We want our web site to be the best, the leader, the one that others look to for ideas. No one has responded has to my request for volunteers to at least update the site. I ask qualified members to consider the possibility of volunteering.

Something else I think the SLD should do is expand contacts with translators in Russia and other countries. I know that many residents of this country consider foreign competition a dire threat, but the simple fact is that if someone in Russia can translate as well as I can for less money, like it or not, they will take my work, as global capitalism says they should. Our goal here is to raise quality standards worldwide, and higher pay for all truly professional translators should follow.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to help implement any of these ideas. Regretfully, family commitments force me to resign as assistant administrator of the Slavic Languages Division. I realize that with our administrator Natalia Kissock presently unavailable, this leaves the SLD short of leaders, but I hope that some of you will see this as an opportunity to step forward and take up the slack. The SLD has been extremely beneficial to me, and what little I have done in return has been very rewarding.

EDITORS' NOTE: We very much regret losing Jim Walker as Assistant Administrator. He has been one of SLD's stalwarts since he first introduced himself to us in these pages. We hope that the next is the only ATA conference at which he will not be present. We are happy to report, however, that another of our stalwarts, Nora Favorov, has agreed to complete his term and has been appointed to this position by the ATA Board.

SEATTLE SLAVIC SIG TERMINOLOGY TRANSLATION II

Larissa Kulinich

This is the second article describing the translation workshop held by The NOTIS Slavic SIG, January 23, 2000 meeting. After translating the word “community” in different contexts and meanings, participants turned to translating some commonly-occurring and yet difficult-to-translate word combinations and phrases relating to legal and paralegal issues and also to social services. The goal was to provide the best possible translations in order to establish a more or less unified and standardized basis for some frequently used terms; this might help translators and interpreters who work in court and social services, provided, of course, that they find these translation options applicable for their purposes.

I would like to start off by acknowledging the time and effort of seminar participants, who demonstrated real interest and commitment. Special gratitude is due Ms. Emma Garkavi, a certified court interpreter with many years of experience who was recently elected President of the Washington State Court Interpreters and Translators Society. She contributed almost all the terms which were discussed.

The group translated 18 terms. The procedure was as follows — each member suggested his or her version of the translation and then a discussion ensued. Each term was given thorough consideration before the final version was worked out.

The first on the list was, perhaps, the most common term — **Department of Health and Social Services**. We did not have to rack our brains for a long time over this term, the only problem being whether the first word should be translated as **Департамент** or **Отдел**. Finally we settled on **Департамент**. Thus, the whole phrase would be **Департамент здравоохранения и социального обслуживания**. The second word combination was **to be committed to each other** (said of spouses). The first version proposed was **быть преданными друг другу**. Since this phrase was used as a legal term, the participants of the workshop reached a unanimous decision that the legal aspect should be reflected in the translation as well, and the suggested version was **иметь обязательства друг перед другом**.

The third term was **Responsible Parent**. The feeling was that the word **юридический** should somehow figure in the translation. One of the intermediate options was **родитель, ответственный за ребёнка**. Finally, it was translated as **родитель, несущий ответственность за ребёнка**. The next term, No. 4, was Russian Authorities. This term did not cause any problems or doubts. The suggested version was **Российские власти**. Word combination No. 5 was **Case Manager**. The translation was worked out relatively quickly — **ведущий дела**. The next two terms, Nos. 6 and 7, did not cause much disagreement either. **Employment Security Office** was translated as **отдел по трудоустройству**, and **legal terminology** as **юридическая терминология**.

The next term, which was eighth on our list, took quite a bit of time and effort. It was **Victims Panel**. The starting point for the translation was a description of the notion itself. The partici-

pants of the workshop, familiar with this notion because of their extensive interpretation in the court setting, described vividly all the ins and outs of this phenomenon. It provoked real brainstorming and resulted in a lengthy list of options — **встреча с пострадавшими, класс по профилактике, семинар с участием пострадавших (потерпевших) от пьяных водителей**. Eventually, what the group agreed on was — **семинар с участием пострадавших от водителей в нетрезвом состоянии**. Term No. 9 was **Chemical Dependency**. The participants of the workshop suggested without hesitation — **алкогольная или наркотическая зависимость**.

The next phrase, No. 10, was **Review Hearing**. It did not cause problems, and was translated as **слушание по пересмотру**. The next on the list, No. 11, was the following question — **Did you receive alcohol (mental, etc.) counseling?** The participants of the workshop suggested that in Russian this question should sound like this — **Вы пользовались консультативными услугами по поводу алкоголизма (психических нарушений и т.д.) ?**

Word combinations No. 12 and No. 13 were **Negligent driving and Reckless Driving**. To provide proper translations, the group decided first to figure out the degree of danger these kinds of driving pose. As a result of discussion we determined that Negligent Driving is probably not as dangerous as Reckless Driving, and, guided by this distinction, we arrived at the following translations—**небрежное вождение and опасное вождение**, respectively.

Phrase No. 14 was — **Implied Consent Warning**. The translation option was — **предупреждение о предполагаемом согласии**. Term No. 15, **Revocation Hearing**, caused a short terminological discussion. The first option was **слушание по поводу отмены решения суда**, but the final version was **слушание по аннулированию решения суда**. Term No. 16 was **Maritime Lien**, the first version of its translation was **наложение ареста**, the final one - **право ареста по морскому праву**. The next phrase the translators dealt with (No. 17) was **Public Disclosure Committee**. The unanimous decision was to translate it as **комитет по гласности**. And the final term, No. 18, was **Facilitator (of groups)**. It was rather difficult to provide an adequate translation of this particular term, probably because of cultural differences. So, the workshop participants suggested two options without giving preference to either of them — **ведущий and организатор**.

In conclusion, once again, I would like to acknowledge the members of the Slavic SIG who contributed their time and expertise to make this workshop truly interesting and productive.

Larissa Kulinich is a free-lance English->Russian translator and interpreter working in the areas of medicine, business and jurisprudence. She also teaches Russian. Larissa can be reached at: tel.: (206) 236-0286 fax: (206) 275-0231 E-mail: larajim@earthlink.net

HELP WANTED

The Russian language services business must be doing well lately, as we have two new job advertisements in this issue. Remember, potential employers and clients, SlavFile will print all employment ads gratis as a service to our readers.

First from **Michael Launer, RussTech**, Tallahassee Florida:

We are looking for a translator and an editor (two people, although we may end up hiring them with a time interval in between) to work on Russian source documents going into English. Each person would do a little bit of the other's job, plus there are always "tasks as assigned" in a small business. But the jobs are real language jobs.

The most important qualifications are writing ability in English plus a thorough understanding of the Russian syntax that shows up in scientific and technical literature. A general knowledge of science is very useful, but not mandatory. The obscure stuff we do forces us to train people on the peculiar jargon we encounter.

We will offer a competitive salary plus benefits package. We are casual, but we work hard. People can check us out on the web—www.russtechinc.com

We would need a resume, a work and salary history ("salary commensurate with experience" as they say), and an English

language prose writing sample—not necessarily or even preferentially a translation. We will take an eager beginner who otherwise meets our requirements.

Our offices are situated in Tallahassee, and that's where the jobs are. We live on the web, but we want our staff in the office.

Contact Mike at: RussTech 1338 Vickers Road, Tallahassee FLA 32303-3041

Phone: (850) 562-9811

Fax: (850) 562-9815

Email: RussTech@compuserve.com

Next, **Kevin Hendzel, of ASET**, Arlington Virginia:

ASET International Services Corp. is the designated translation services provider supporting the U.S. Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. Due to expanded activities and contracts in the nuclear weapons dismantlement and nuclear material control and accountability field, ASET is seeking to expand its pool of translators and editors in the Russian to English and Ukrainian to English language pairs. Successful candidates will be native speakers of English with a technical degree from a U.S. institution or demonstrated hands-on professional experience in a technical field (engineering, electronics, physics, etc.) and at least 10 years professional-level experience in sci-

entific and technical translation. Strong preference will be given to translators with experience in a publication-oriented environment that includes editing and feedback (such as the American Institute of Physics translation program) or with on-site program experience in weapons dismantlement and disposition, MPC&A, site security and upgrades. Please note that at present ASET has no need for additional native-Russian-speaking translators working in the English to Russian direction. Should such a need materialize in the future, it will be announced in this same venue.

Interested candidates are invited to submit a comprehensive resume by e-mail that includes years of experience, record of published technical translations, program-specific experience, educational background and volume capacity (words per week). In addition, sample translations (both source and target languages) in any of the subject areas outlined above (nuclear weapons dismantlement and disposition; nuclear material protection, control and accountability; site security upgrades, etc.) must be submitted with the resume. Please submit your resume, samples and any other supporting information to KHendzel@asetquality.com. Information about ASET can be found on the Web at www.asetquality.com.

Attention lexicography lovers, technical translators, terminologists and dictionary devotees!

The Slavic Languages Division will be holding its 3rd annual Susana Greiss Distinguished Guest Lecture on Friday, September 22nd, 2000, at the American Translators Association conference in Orlando. This year's guest speaker will be **Patricia Newman**, past president, honorary member and secretary of the ATA, founder of the Science and Technology Division, Gode Medal laureate and co-author of the 4th edition of *The Callahan Russian-English Dictionary of Science and Technology*.

Her presentation, entitled "**The Good, the Bad and the Beautiful**," will have two parts. The first will describe the lexicographical process and the work involved in compiling *The Callahan Russian-English Dictionary of Science and Technology*. During the second part, listeners will hear a long-time user of translation and interpretation services discuss the good, the bad and the incredibly beautiful aspects of our work from the customer's perspective.

The Slavic Languages Division encourages all interested parties to attend. Further details of time and place will be published in the conference program. Please direct all questions concerning this event to Laura Wolfson, at LauraEsther@cs.com.

В 1996 году мне попала статья из журнала *The Economist*, в которой менеджер по продажам Netscape Navigator компании Netscape рассказывала про свой распорядок дня. Все деловое общение Джулии Херендин происходило через электронную почту и Интернет. Между этим она пила кофе и что-то покупала, опять же с помощью Интернета. Меня поразили «их нравы» — тогда я подумала, что я сама до такой жизни никогда не доживу, хотя я уже работала, пользуясь Интернетом, но в основном с одним работодателем, и в плане использования современных технологий он скорее был исключением. Правилom были такие клиенты, как расположенная на соседней улице мебельная фабрика.

Однажды мне позвонили оттуда и попросили перевести полстраницы текста, после чего начались хождения по мукам. Подготовка договора, подписи сторон, копия паспорта — все это для того, чтобы бухгалтерия могла выплатить мне деньги. И все это предполагалось носить от меня к ним и обратно. Я решила подарить фабрике перевод, поскольку хождения стоили дороже, чем полчаса, затраченных на перевод. Бухгалтер оказалась очень порядочной и совершенно не осведомленной в технологии женщиной: она честно выходила эту эпопею, находясь в счастливом неведении относительно того, что можно с помощью сканера, факса и электронной почты, не выходя из помещения, уладить весь наш документооборот за десять минут. Полчаса работы и три дня беготни.

Я уже давно завтракаю и одновременно принимаю электронную почту, просматривая комментарии клиентов по поводу сданной накануне вечером работы и заказы на новые переводы, и не завидую при этом Джулии Херендин. Мой рабочий день часто состоит из двух смен: первая смена, состоящая из нескольких уроков английского местной малышне — по местному времени, вторая, когда я делаю переводы для ASUS или National Instruments — по тайваньскому или американскому.

Любая технологическая революция происходит на одних этапах общества быстрее, чем на других. Меня не удивляют в этом отношении люди далекие от образования или современных технологий. Меня очень удивили мои коллеги-переводчики. В «Известиях» от 18 марта 2000 г., №50 (25642) была опубликована моя статья «Мой начальник живет в Интернете» о том, как технология изменила профессию переводчика и рабочие отношения. За месяц мне пришло около двух сотен откликов. Практически все откликнувшиеся — переводчики с высшим образованием, компьютером и Интернет-подключением дома или на работе. Три письма из Казахстана, три из Украины, остальные из России. Все просили о помощи — как найти работу, как пользоваться Интернетом в переводческой работе, как через Интернет можно попасть на международный рынок переводчиков. Отклики идут до сих пор. Самый большой стереотип мышления, который мне пришлось преодолеть в окружающих за последние десять лет — на работу надо

ходить физически и присутствовать там тоже физически. Начальствующая сторона думает, что если человек работает дома, то он работает плохо. А исполняющая сторона думает, что если найти окошко, где раздадут работу, то сразу утрясутся все проблемы. Вот, например, несколько очень красноречивых откликов на мою публикацию:

«Уважаемая Ольга, я владею английским, достаточно глубокими техническими знаниями, компьютером с программами, позволяющими редактировать текстовые и видео материалы, навыками работы с такими программами, выходом в Интернет, а также некоторым свободным временем. Мне бы хотелось попробовать свои силы в том роде деятельности, который Вы описали в Вашей заметке в "Известиях", но я не знаю, с чего начать. Не могли бы Вы помочь и указать конкретные шаги, как это сделать. Может быть, и Вам пора подумать об организации своего агентства. Думаю, что агентство, организованное по такому принципу, могло бы выполнять не только простые переводы технических текстов. Со своей стороны, готов работать под Вашим чутким руководством, желательно не в качестве дурака. И.»

«Уважаемая госпожа Антимонова, с интересом прочитал Вашу статью, рад успехам коллеги. Буду благодарен, если Вы сообщите адреса ресурсов сети, упомянутые в статье или аналогичных им. Д.»

«Уважаемая Ольга! Прочитал вашу заметку в газете. Не смогли бы вы кратко проконсультировать меня или дать ссылки, где можно было бы подработать в Вебе. Я - д.ф.-м.н., пишу статьи, в том числе на английском, имею Web страничку, немного разбираюсь в электронике, etc. Заранее благодарен, с уважением, В.»

Сегодня никому не надо объяснять, что такое домашний офис. Но домашний офис — это как не подключенный телефон. Подключив домашний офис к Интернету, вы получите подключенный телефон, но опять же без справочника. Люди, обладающие знаниями, умением и желанием все равно сидят и ждут, что работа придет к ним сама. Теперь уже через Интернет. А получив в руки справочник, и набрав номер переводческого подразделения «Майкрософт», IBM или Intel, получите ли ищущий работу радостный отклик на свое «Здравствуйте, я переводчик, хочу у вас работать.»?

Я сотрудничаю с одним из московских агентств, которое обслуживает такие фирмы как Asus, Compaq, «Майкрософт». Требования к качеству перевода самые высокие. В агентстве постоянно не хватает переводчиков, это при отсутствии их дефицита на рынке рабочей силы. Очень трудно найти сочетание — переводчик-технар. Кандидат наук, хорошо знающий компьютеры, но не знающий русского языка, или филолог, блестяще владеющий языком, но ничего не смыслящий в технике — это не наши трудовые ресурсы. По предложению руководства агентства я воспользовалась возможностью и попробовала отобрать квалифицированных переводчиков из числа откликнувшихся на статью. Требований было три — хороший русский язык (знание английского предполагалось само собой разумеющимся), владение компьютерной тематикой на уровне профессионала и

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The Slovist

Raphy Alden

An interpreting teacher of mine once told me, "If you want to become a good interpreter, one of the things you can do is to interpret most of what you hear. Make it a habit." Good advice. I remembered it, and that's exactly what I have been doing on and off over the last few months. I would like to share with you some words, phrases and exchanges heard on the street, in a barbershop, at the supermarket and elsewhere, along with my interpretations of what I heard. As always, I look forward to your suggestions and comments.

-Развозить пиццу на почти новенькой - это **кощунство!** I am fairly certain about what **кощунство** stands for. But in this case *blasphemy* did not sound right to me. Can you think of a better word? Someone suggested *crime*.

-Доктор, я буду жить?

-А смысл?

I heard this joke from a very good translator, and I could not come up with anything satisfactory for **А смысл?** *What's the use? Why would you want to live?* And other similar renderings were what came to mind—not good enough. The *SlavFile* editors suggest: *Now, why would you want to do a thing like that?*

-Это он **назло** послал нам такую плохую копию. *He sent us a bad copy out of spite.* Not bad at all.

-Тяжела ты, шапка Мономаха. All I could come up with was *Heavy is the head that wears the crown.* I thought I knew the proper translation, but can't remember it now. Can you help?

- В эти тяжелые дни **банк держал глухую оборону.** (I heard this on Russian TV.)

- Это 6-этажное здание из серого кирпича, **без претензий...** *It's an unprepossessing 6-story gray brick building.* I had to talk to a native English speaker before I came up with *unprepossessing*.

- Ну вы закончили уборку?

- **Почти.** In this case an interpreter translated it as *Are you done with cleaning up? Almost.* But I thought that *Just about* would sound a little better than *almost*. What do you think?

- Работа эта **непыльная**, чего ж тебе еще? Can we interpret this as *It's a clean job, what else do you want?*

-Дедушка, ну почему люди так поступают?

-Обычная человеческая **вредность.** Here is the situation in which this exchange occurred. A car was parked between two other cars. The car in front and the one behind were parked so close to the one in the middle that it was impossible to get it out. So the driver of the car in the middle was stuck between these two cars unable to drive away.

Suggested interpretation *Why do people do things like that?*

They are just being mean. A little clumsy, perhaps, but to the point.

Вскоре все **благополучно** забыли про скандал. *Soon everybody happily forgot about the scandal.* I am not happy about suggested interpretation for **благополучно**, but at the moment I can't make any other suggestions.

Am I right, or am I right?

I was interpreting at negotiations when I heard this stupid phrase. The Russian party spoke little English but had good comprehension. However, he did not understand this expression and looked at me with puzzlement as he waited for the interpretation. I said, *Я прав или как?* Please send me your suggestions.

Here are some incredible utterances heard in the Russian community in Los Angeles:

Инджойте!- said a saleswoman in a Russian grocery store as she handed some food to a customer.

Кого нам **билловать?** Вас или компанию? I think what this person meant was *Whom should we bill? You or the company?*

Я такая **забизеная** - совершенно нет времени для себя. Interpretation: *I am so busy; I don't have a minute for myself.*

Some things are best left uninterpreted, don't you think?

When he is not eavesdropping, Raffi Alden can be reached at RaffiAlden@aol.com.

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умение пользоваться соответствующими прикладными программами, и Интернетом. Из почти двух сотен откликнувшихся нашим требованиям соответствовал только один человек.

У меня сложилось субъективное мнение, что все откликнувшиеся делились на три категории. Тех, кто хотел работать под моим началом или спрашивал адрес «окошка», где дают работу, т.е. людей не способных по определению быть фрилансер. Тех, кто мог и хотел работать фрилансер в новых технологических условиях, но совершенно не понимал, что такое **ВЫСКОКАЧЕСТВЕННЫЙ** перевод. И тех, кто считал, что перевод это что-то вроде катания на детском велосипеде. Как некий Вован, приславший мне следующее письмо. (Стилистика и пунктуация автора письма сохранены.)

«Прочел о тебе статью в Труде был в восторге. Хотелось бы заняться чем-то в этом роде, хотя моя специализация программирование. Не могла бы ты помочь мне и прислать адрес Международного компьютерного клуба, хотелось бы взглянуть на предлагаемые вакансии, за ранее благодарен, В.»

По всей видимости, следующим труднопреодолимым среди российских и украинских переводчиков стереотипом, порожденным технологической революцией, будет их собственное заблуждение о том, что некий адрес в Интернете — панацея от всех бед, а наличие диплома переводчика — гарантия качества получения и исполнения работы.

Olga Antimonova of Kiev, Ukraine, specializes in translating computer sciences, electronics, and telecommunications and in software localization. She has published widely in journals on computing and related subjects and has authored a monthly newsletter for the International Computer Club, Moscow. She can be reached at olga@baal.kiev.ua

SLAVFILE LITE: NOT BY WORD COUNT ALONE

Lydia Razran Stone

Well, we all knew it in our heart of hearts, but now it has been proven indisputably. I have been translating a series of articles on reproductive health (read, safe sex) and I now know from experience that Russian bureaucratise can make even reading about sex excruciatingly boring!

After publishing my suggestion that зануда was a good translation of “jerk,” I received the following message from the erudite Boris Silverstein: “I can’t accept зануда for ‘jerk.’ Katzner translates ‘jerk’ as болван. Galperin: тупица; ничтожество; чудака; дряни; подонок. Апресян sides with Galperin, but omits чудака. Webster Collegiate’s definition: ‘jerk - a stupid or foolish person.’ In other words, зануда, in my opinion, ‘doesn’t cut it.’ For зануда; there is a great term used by English speakers, which comes to English from Russian, via Yiddish, ‘nudnik.’ Incidentally, I first encountered this word in Ukrainian - there was a Professor Nudnik in one of Aleksandr Korneychuk’s later plays (I can’t remember the title). The character was a Marxist philosophy professor.” Thank you, Boris!

Well, all I can say to this extremely well-documented criticism is that, according to my linguistic intuition and the linguistic intuition of all the far from random sample of American English speakers whom I queried, the dictionaries are wrong. A jerk, while short of a really awful person, is more than a harmless fool, or even an irritating one; he is someone who has the defining characteristics of social obtuseness (and thus lack of consideration) and obnoxiousness. A jerk, to use an example all my informants agreed on, would be someone who notices that his coworker is getting a little heavy, and makes her a gift of some diet product, conspicuously presented at a large gathering. Now, however, I am beginning to doubt my own choice of зануда. All these dictionaries carry no weight with me, but my 13-year-old-cousin Alex does. Alex is a Russian-English bilingual, a documented math genius, and a bona fide New York street kid. If a student at a Brooklyn public middle school doesn’t know what a jerk is, no one does. To quote Alex (aka Sashenka): “А зануда is not a jerk, а зануда is a pest; I am а зануда, but I am not a jerk. No way!” He suggests гад, but in my view а гад is a great deal more full of malignant intent than a jerk. This topic is open for discussion.

My request in an earlier *Slavfile* for instances where a character in English/American literature is portrayed as influenced by Russian literature brought almost no response. The only person I heard from on this matter was my co-editor Laura Wolfson, who cited a reference to Dostoyevsky in Thomas Wolfe’s novel *Of Time and the River*. I have not yet tackled this mammoth work to find an appropriate quote. However, while I have no material from literature to cite in this issue, real life has supplied me instead. I was recently in St. Petersburg, Florida, helping my mother empty out the condo she and my father bought almost 30 years ago. Although my mother had done quite a bit of preliminary work, including discarding a large mildewed pile of my father’s Russian books which no one would

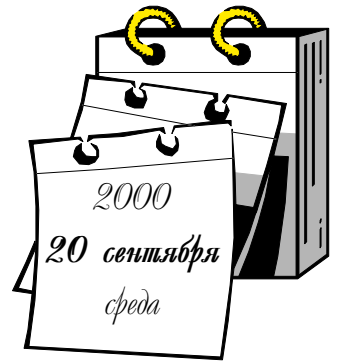
take, there still remained a great deal to clear out and throw away when I arrived. On one of the many trips I took to the dumpster, I encountered the trash man, a huge but friendly-looking fellow with a beard and a bandana, almost certainly, from the looks of him (since he was African-American), not of Slavic descent. After I had apologized for creating so much extra trash for him to haul, he asked if it was my family that had generated all the Russian books he had found on the previous pick-up. He told me that he had been fascinated with everything Russian ever since the first time he had seen *Dr. Zhivago*, his all-time favorite movie, and we proceeded to discuss Russian literature until his route schedule required him to leave.

Meanwhile, back in our nation’s capital, the *Washington Post* has a new comic strip called *Boondocks*, about a young black power advocate wannabe who is forced to move to a nearly lily-white suburb with his law-abiding grandfather. Last week, a man with the decidedly un-Slavic name of Francis X. Cunningham wrote to the *Post* to point out a striking resemblance between this character when viewed in profile and a well-known self-portrait of Alexander Pushkin. So though those of us who write for and read *SlavFile* sometimes feel like voices in the proverbial wilderness, interest in Russian literature is not totally extinct in our nation. LATE BREAKING NEWS: this morning, another non-Slav wrote to the *Post* claiming that it was not the previously mentioned character but the latter’s younger brother, a would-be gangsta rapper, who looked more like Pushkin. Perhaps a really vigorous debate will begin on the correspondence page. We haven’t had one since Monica. Stay tuned.

Life’s Little Ironies. I never had my name cited in a major newspaper as a translator until this spring, when the *Washington Post* reviewed (not terribly favorably) Classika Theater’s *A Month in the Country*, which I had translated for them. The reviewer accused me of mercilessly cutting the play and dramatis personae. Not only was I not guilty of this (all cuts were made by the director), but in addition to this indignity, my payment was commensurate with the abridged version actually staged and I received no rush pay although I had translated the entire thirty-thousand-word-play in a single week. Furthermore, while the sentence about my dastardly deed made up a very small part of the entire initial review, that sentence was chosen for inclusion in the encapsulated review appearing every Friday, so that I was unjustly and publicly accused of literary castration week after week for two months.

I have just finished translating a novel, *A Town in Texas*, by Olya Cherntsova, that may actually show up in bookstores sometime this millennium, if we are lucky. I have had a wonderful time translating the dialogue and the satirical picture of provincial Texas life and had no trouble coping with the sections about sex (much more interesting than that referred to in the first paragraph of this column) and philosophy. However, as

PREVIEW OF SLD CONFERENCE SESSIONS AND EVENTS



Olya is a graphic artist as well as a writer, she is endlessly fascinated with how exactly objects move in relation to each other, the play of light and other similar matters. I am oblivious to such aspects of the world, and had difficulty translating her physical descriptions. I had to look up words, particularly verbs, a great deal more often than usual.

This trouble kept reminding me of something lurking at the edge of my consciousness. Then I remembered. Almost 40 years ago, between my sophomore and junior years of college, I made a deal with my Russian professor. If I would promise to work on Russian for a couple of hours each day all summer, she would allow me to skip the advanced Russian language course and go directly into literary seminars. The procedure my father and I worked out was to read works of literature in Russian (one I remember clearly was Tolstoy's *Хозяин и Работник*), my translating them aloud as we went, and him supplying all the words I didn't know. Now, my father was perfectly fluent in both Russian and English, and had an enormous vocabulary in both; however, he, like me, was not particularly observant of physical details nor especially interested in what verbs of motion would be used to describe them. What I remember from those sessions with him was that a huge number of the verbs I didn't know (and even then I was aware that there were many, many different ones) he translated as either "gave a little kick" or "kept on swinging." Looking back, I realize that these were his renditions of virtually all descriptive verbs of motion in the perfective and imperfective, respectively.

I have just watched the new movie version of *Onegin*, now available on tape. I will not attempt to review it here, hoping that one of our readers will volunteer to do so. I must admit I found some of the innovations rather jarring, e.g. that Onegin and Tatiana met when she came to borrow books from his uncle's vast and elegantly maintained library and that Eugene proclaims over dinner at the Larins' his intention to rent to the peasants the estate which has just come into his possession. However, the one thing that really bothered me was the scene of Onegin in his St. Petersburg apartment going to bed with his hair in curling papers. I suppose that this can be taken as the cinematic equivalent of *Быть можно дельным человеком /И думать о красе ногтей*. But there's something in me that draws the line at Eugene in curling papers.

There are fewer official SLD sessions scheduled for September's ATA Conference in Orlando than in the last few years. However, judging from the summaries in the Preliminary Program, we have intriguing presentations to look forward to, not to mention additional precious time for informal SLD contacts. Again we will ask presenters to be in charge of finding reviewers for their own sessions. Anyone wishing to review a particular session please contact the presenter directly.

Scheduled session include:

Adventures in Cross-cultural Publication: Irina Ratushinskaya, Jesus People and Me, Lydia Razran Stone (lydiastone@cs.com), Thursday, 1:45-3:15.

Annual Susana Greiss Lecture, Patricia E. Newman: **The Good, the Bad and the Beautiful**, (Contact Laura Wolfson at lauraesther@cs.com.) Friday, 1:45-2:30.

Census 2000: A Pretext for Discussing Rendering U.S. Realia in Russian/Ukrainian, Vadim I. Khazin, (103405.120@compuserve.com), Friday, 2:30-3:15

Slavic Languages Division Annual Meeting, Administrator, Natalia S. Kissock (Natasha is temporary unavailable, contact Lydia at lydiastone@cs.com to review.) Saturday, 8:30-10:00.

Riding the Rough Roads Between Russian and English (an interactive workshop), Nora Favorov (norafavorov@earthlink.net), Saturday, 10:15-11:45.

The Dictionary: My Friend, My Enemy. Marina Aranovich (marina.aranovich@usa.conoco.com) and Boris Silversteyn (bsilversteyn@home.com), Saturday, 3:30-5:00

The Slavic Singalong is scheduled for 6:00-7:15 on Friday. Plans for the **SLD dinner/evening reception** are still in a state of flux and may be considerably more impromptu than in previous years. The event is tentatively planned for Thursday evening. Look for posted announcements at the conference.

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EXCERPTS FROM THE RUSSIAN TRANSLATORS CLUB ON YAHOO DURING MAY AND JUNE 2000

*Olga Antimonova
Kiev, Ukraine*

6/13/00 **Chemical problems plague Jim Walker:**

Для использования диспергентов необходимо выяснение ряд вопросов: 7. Состав нефти (количество ароматических и альфатических гидрокарбонов, асфальта и металлопорфирность) Now this document was rather obviously written not by a Russian, but by an Azerbaijani. It is full of misspellings, grammatical mistakes, and strange words (гидрокарбон!!) and phrases. But what in the world do you suppose they mean by металлопорфирность?

Steve Shabad easily resolves them:

6/13/00 Re: Say what?

Jim, Obviously I'm no expert, but based on a little dictionary and encyclopedia research, which turns up references to porphyry copper deposits and porphyry molybdenum, I don't think you'd be too far off saying "porphyry-metal content" (or possibly "metallic-porphyry content"). Cheers, Steve.

6/2/00 **From Ed Wright, How to translate old new phrases:**

I came across a new phrase today and would like any comments anyone may have on my solution. The phrase was "валютная житница России" and that translates literally as Russia's currency or foreign exchange or forex granary. I did not like that and substituted "Russia's cash cow." How does that grab you? It was a description of the new Ural Federal District that includes Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk, Kurgan and (presumably) Tyumen oblasts and the Khanty-Mansi and Yamal-Nenetsk autonomous okrugs. Ed W.

Other translators ask other questions dealing with Russian slang:

5/29/00 **Brand Frentz: мало не покажется?**

Colleagues! Things seem slow in the message arena lately, so I would like to try again to get responses to my query in Message No 255, regarding translation of the phrase "мало не покажется.." Let me know what you would do. Thanks.

5/29/00 **Vadim Khazin Re: мало не покажется**

Hi, Brand, I presume you understand the meaning but just cannot find the English equivalent of that phrase. But anyway let me first explain the meaning - if not for you, then for others who might be interested. It means something like "it will not seem like [too] little", and is being used to express a threat or warning of some disastrous event. As for the equivalents, I think there may be plenty of them, depending on the context. Here is an example taken from a dictionary: Если все шахтёры выйдут на рельсы, мало не покажется = If the miners block the railways, there'll be hell to pay. Hope this helps. Vadim

5/30/00 **Brand Frentz Re: мало не покажется**

Vadim, Thanks for your explanation, which is clearer than my local informant was able to give. I wonder if you could tell me what dictionary you have that contained the example of the phrase "мало не покажется." I do not find it in any of mine. Brand

5/30/00 **Vadim Khazin Re: мало не покажется**

Brand, Here it is: Dictionary of Russian Slang and Colloquial Expressions by V.Shlyakhov & E.Adler, Barron's, 2nd edition, 1999, ISBN 0-7641-1019-5. Vadim

Готовя этот материал, я подумала, что блатного жаргона в русском языке на всех уровнях становится все больше, и он приобретает статус официального языка. Я все чаще встречаю вопросы западных коллег по поводу жаргона.

7/5/00 **Brand Frentz: вечеринка у Децила**

Colleagues:

In an interview with Nezavisimaya Gazeta, political consultant Gleb Pavlovskiy concludes by saying that Putin's victory saved the country from disaster, "но это не значит, что элиты теперь опять могут толкаться на краю обрыва и приплясывать, как группа дебилов на вечеринке у Децила." Can anyone tell me who/what Децил is and where this phrase may come from? Thanks.

7/5/00 **Jim Walker Re: вечеринка у Децила**

It's all new and strange to me, so rather than trying to explain anything from my poor understanding of hip-hop, punk music, or whatever, I suggest you check out <http://mixup.maker.ru/cgi-bin/lineserv.pl?owner=hardcore&action=show&id=282>

7/5/00 **Re: вечеринка у Децила**

Jim, thanks for the references. I don't know anything about this music, but Yandex and Mixer are fascinating in themselves (I was not familiar with them). As for Децил, I take it for a proper noun, a name, probably symbolic as Mixer said. But that still allows the rendering "a party at Detsil's," and in context it's clear — they're crazy. Brand F.

Ольга Антимонова в качестве заключительного резюме

Вопрос о «вечеринке у Децила», заданный Brand Frentz заставил меня саму провести несколько часов в Интернете. Поиски в Интернете привели меня к неутешительному заключению, что Глеб Павловский, представитель интеллектуальной политической элиты России, пользуется весьма сомнительным для своего положения лексиконом. Лексиконом, который не сразу понимают западные и отечественные переводчики, профессионально хорошо знающие русский язык, зато очень хорошо восприняли бы разговаривающие матом и блатным жаргоном подростки.

Как я выяснила, Децил — реальное лицо, которое можно увидеть в рекламе, демонстрируемой по российскому телевидению, в которой звучат следующие слова:

«Пепси, Пейджер, MTV - ПОДКЛЮЧАЙСЯ-Я-Я!»

В среде молодых людей этот призыв трансформировался в следующий:

«Пепси, Пейджер, MTV - ПОДКЛЮЧАЙСЯ-Я-Я К И-ДИ-О-ТАМ!»

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THE SUBJECT WAS TRAINS

by Laura E. Wolfson

We humans, including the linguists among us, are given to thinking of terminologies in somewhat the same way we think of accents. That is to say, we note the presence of an accent when someone's speech differs from our own, rarely pondering the fact that, depending on the situation, absolutely everyone has an accent, because everyone's speech differs from someone else's. Even announcers on National Public Radio, whose English epitomizes the phrase, "received pronunciation," have accents when addressing an audience of New Zealanders, Jamaicans or Alabamians. Analogously, what we think of as terminology involves clusters of words from unfamiliar fields, while the terms from fields we know thoroughly and use frequently are simply words to us.

In the Russian interpreting market, terminologies may be divided into several categories. There are those, such as nuclear safety, oil production and banking that are in such high demand that anyone who has been working in this language pair for a minimal period of time uses them frequently and barely thinks of them as terminologies any longer. Because we work with them so often, we think of them as mere words, although the terms and their equivalents in the other language are clearly established and linked, with little room for alternative renderings. Then there are those terminologies that are still emerging in Russian—entrepreneurship, social work, the non-profit sector—and in these fields, the interpreter who is in the right place at the right time and has a grasp of the concepts is a participant, willy-nilly, in the historic creation of new terminology—call it terminological midwifery.

There is a third category of terminology, in which terms and their equivalents in the other language are as clearly established as they are in the first category—but are in less demand. This third category of terminology is the most difficult for an interpreter; due to lack of previous exposure, she may not be familiar with the terms when she accepts the assignment, but still she must get

*“За любовь, за дружбу,
за локомотивную службу!”*

- a toast popular with Russian-speaking locomotive-men

them right. There is in the interpreting industry—what shall I call it?... an expectation?... a hope?... a chimerical fantasy?—that the client will provide materials in advance, agendas, presentations, even glossaries, to help the interpreter prepare, or, if that is out of the question, as it often inscrutably is, one hopes that the client will at least describe what the assignment is about, so that she can consult her sources and work up her own prep materials. Maybe there is a place somewhere, over the rainbow, where interpreters are accurately informed about the nature of assignments on a regular basis. Perhaps this happens in certain small or inoffensive countries, Canada, say, or Switzerland, where many people are multilingual and where, because of these countries', er, less conspicuous role in the world order, people are forced to take note of the existence of the rest of the world. In my fantasy about these countries, even monolinguals are more sophisticated about language than they are in the empires and former empires we Russian-English practitioners generally deal with, and so interpreters are usually told the things they need to know.

Yes it is true, sometimes clients do not accurately inform interpreters, even in broad terms, as to what a meeting is about, as an experience from my own recent practice shows. The subject was trains, locomotives, to be precise. Before I arrived, I was provided—Fedex!—with a weighty report on the restructuring of the national railway company in one of the Central Asian countries, a report filled with relatively familiar economics terms and concepts, many of them (ah, yes!) cognates, and not even false ones. I studied the

Continued on page 12

TRANSLATORS CLUB *Continued from page 14*

Ниже я позволила себе привести несколько откликов о Децеле самих представителей молодежной культуры. Стилистику и правописание авторов я сохранила. Возможно мое исследование добавит моим западным коллегам insight по этому вопросу.

8/06/00 Visal написал

хипхэпом надо жить. децл к хэпу никакого отношения не имеет. это просто попса хоть и хорошо сработанная, захотел мальчик читать и папа ему купил текстовиков, диджеев, промоутеров, и далее по списку. какой к черту символ нигерской культуры? вы в своем уме? белое дите увешанное розовыми соплями родителей и телохранителями, парниковое растение? хватит, вы же все просто на поводу у супер грамотного промоушена. любая реклама все же

реклама. вот все мы тут сейчас дурью маемся а децл с папой делают на этом бабки, круто придуманно правда? ДЕЦЛ НЕ ИМЕЕТ ОТНОШЕНИЯ К ХИПХЭП КУЛЬТУРЕ!

24/01/00 jipru написал :

Сереза, это называется «Музыкальный бизнес» ха-ха!

05/07/00 zha написал:

и вообще, если бы мой отец был президентом (или кто он там) Медиа Стар, то щас бы я тоже был на первом месте во всех хитпарадах

Возможно я слишком большой консерватор, но мне не нравится, когда консультант Кремля разговаривает таким языком. И понятно откуда в лексиконе президента России такие выражения, как «мочить в сортире.»

report with due diligence, and mastered it, terms, concepts, cognates and finally, the entire report. But while the cognates in it were not false, the report itself turned out to be falsely representative of the nature of the assignment; it was nearly worthless for the purposes of my work, although some consultant had doubtless been paid lots of dollars—tax dollars, probably—to produce it. The client, an engineering and economics consulting company in our nation's capital, was unable to tell me much about the nature of its own project, apart from what was in the above-mentioned report. How can a company know so little about what it is doing? And pay so much to know so little? We are not talking about right hands and left hands here; we are talking about the very department that organized the meetings.

After my arrival at the assignment, and just after I had learned that the topic was not the one covered in the report I had received, but rather, the very narrow and technical area of locomotives, one of the Central Asian locomotive-men placed under my care asked me whether I had graduated from a “же-лезнодорожный институт.” Should I inform him that, as far as I knew, there *was* no such thing in this country? What's an interpreter to say in response to such a question, when what she has is a degree in Russian language and literature from a university respected in America but probably unknown in Central Asia, plus interpreting experience so diverse that it borders on the indescribable? What is she to say when before her stands the manager of a locomotive depot who probably served his apprenticeship while Stalin was still alive and people still sincerely believed that socialism equaled something-or-other plus electrification?

“I have thirteen years of experience in numerous technical fields,” I told him, swallowing hard and running down for him the fields I have interpreted, a list suddenly notable for the absence of locomotives anywhere on it. “I am a professional interpreter. One of my special qualifications is that I pick up new terms very quickly.” He turned to his colleague, spoke to him in their native tongue, a Turkic language I assume, and then they both glanced at me and laughed. I met their look squarely. And as I gazed at them I thought that the much-vaunted aspect of T+I—learning about many different fields—has a flip side. That flip side is the contempt of the rude and ignorant client at the start of the job, who scorns you because you do not already know everything about his field. The same client is usually not aware that T+I are professions in and of themselves.

“Well,” said the depot manager, “if you don't understand something, *we* will interpret for *you!*” More laughter, followed by more Turkic.

Some might say I should not have accepted this assignment, since I did not know the terminology. Do such people work for a living, I wonder, or do they have wealthy spouses and trust funds? And in fact, having received the restructuring report, I thought I *had* been told what the subject was, and I had studied it in good faith. Only, as happens so often in life, things did not turn out as planned. Why did the consulting firm know the subject was locomotives when I arrived to begin the assignment, but not when we talked on the phone a day or two earlier?

And then, as quickly as Alice going down the rabbit-hole, I found myself on factory shop floors in a different state every day of the week, from Pennsylvania to Idaho, and everywhere friendly hands reached out to equip me with standard-issue bright yellow safety helmet and goggles. (At some factories the goggles were not collected as we left and so, in addition to the job's other bonuses, I found four pairs at the bottom of my purse when the assignment was over.) I climbed up and down partially-constructed locomotives, struggling to make myself heard over the screech of machine tools and the roar of welding torches and men in greasy coveralls bellowing good-naturedly at each other down the assembly line. At the same time as I attempted to interpret sentences containing words like *humpyard*, *adhesion*, *flywheel*, *rectifier*, *torque converter*, *cooling hood*, *load box*, *boring* (the process, not the adjective), *throttle* (the noun, not the verb) and many more. The learning curve was steep indeed, but with people on opposite sides of the language barrier who had a common understanding of a subject matter, and with the factory floor and everything on it serving as one enormous visual aid, in less than a day and a half I had compiled a glossary which served me magnificently for the remaining ten days.

Toward the middle of the assignment the glossary and the invisible support it gave me caused an American who had joined the meeting late to ask me if I had been trained as an engineer. This was virtually the same question I had been asked at the beginning, but it was put this time in a completely different tone. And I gave precisely the same answer as I had given before: no, I said, I was not trained in the field, but I have lots of diverse terminological experience as an interpreter, and I learn terms quickly, and this time my answer, too, had a completely different tone.

Below is the glossary in question, presented so that the next Russian-English interpreter who takes on locomotives will have more to start with than I did (granted, of course, that that lucky person reads *SlavFile*). Many of these words you may have seen elsewhere, but their presence here means that these are the words the guys in the greasy coveralls actually bawl across the shop floor at each other. I was there; I heard them; I double-checked and immediately recorded what I was told. No pre-job preparation using the Internet and dictionaries or trade journals could be so real, so down-and-dirty, so nitty-gritty as what you now hold in your hands. It's a wonder the pages are not covered in diesel fuel and motor oil. If there are any mistakes in the list below, they are simply further testament to its authenticity; you can write them off to the deafening racket of machinery which caused me to mishear a word, or to the vibrating equipment which from time to time bumped against my writing arm, causing my pen to slip.

Laura Wolfson is the assistant editor of SlavFile. She can be reached at LauraEsther@cs.com or be found on the web at www.wso.net/lauraewolfson. If you need a free pair of industrial safety goggles, feel free to contact her, but act now, as supplies are limited. If any other interpreter (or translators) have compiled analogous lists, we invite you to submit them to the *SlavFile*, with or without introductions.v

LOCOMOTIVES FOR BEGINNERS

AC	асинхронный ток/переменный ток	intake valve	впускной клапан
adhesion	касательная сила/коэффициент сцепления	liner	гильза
air cushion	воздушная подушка	LNG	жидкостный природный газ
availability [of a train]	выход [поезда] на линию	load box	реостатный исправитель
axis	ось	load factor	характеристика нагрузки
bearing	подшипник	locomotive fleet	локомотивный парк
bogey/truck	тележка	mainline locomotive	магистральный локомотив
bore	диаметр цилиндра	oil gauge/dipstick	щуп
boring	сверление	oil pan	поддон/масленный резервуар
cab	кабина	operator	машинист
caboose	хвостовой вагон	oven	сушка
camshaft	газораспределительный вал	overhaul	детальный ремонт
carburetor	смеситель	piston	поршень
coal mine [open pit]	угольный разрез	power assembly [cylinder package]	поршневая группа
coil	обмотка	primer [as in paint]	грунтовка
commutator	коллектор	railroad tie	шпала
converter	преобразователь	rectifier	выпрямитель
cooling hood	шахта холодильника	remanufacturing	восстановление
core engine	блок цилиндров	repowering	модернизация
coupler	автосцепка	retention tank	отстойник
coupling	соединение	rod	шатун
crankshaft	коленчатый вал	roundhouse	паровозное депо
DC	постоянный ток	rubber biscuit	резиновая подушка
derailment	сход с рельса	shaft-driven	валоприводной
diesel locomotive	тепловоз	sheet metal	листовка/обшивка
dip and bake	пропитка	sheet metal worker	металлист
displacement	объем	shot [used for paint removal]	стальной порошок
efficiency	коэффициент полезного действия /КПЗ	shunter/switcher	маневровый локомотив [?]
emissions	выбросы	slippage	буксование
equipment blower	вентилятор охлаждения тяговых систем	sparkplug	свеча
excitement	возбуждение	start	запуск
exhaust valve	выпускной клапан	stoker	кочегар
fin	лист	suspension	подвеска
flagman	сигналист	stroke	ход поршня
flange	фланец/гребень	test cell	испытательный стенд
flywheel	маховик	throttle	дроссель
fouling	отложение масел	toe cap [protective gear]	набалдашник
four-stroke [two-stroke]	четырехтактный [двухтактный]	torque	момент затяжки
fuel consumption	расход топлива	torque converter	гидромеханическая передача
gas turbine	газотурбина	train master	начальник депо
haul	тянуть	turbocharger	турбокомпрессор
heat exchanger	теплообменник	turn over	перекантовать/кантовка
high-voltage chamber	высоковольтная камера	traction generator	тяговой генератор
horsepower	лошадиная сила	traction motor	тяговой мотор
humpyard	горка	traction	тяговая сила
injector	форсунка	wiring [process]	монтаж проводов

REMINDER

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Newcomer Profiles,
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FROM RUSSIAN INTO ENGLISH, AN INTRODUCTION TO SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION.

Second Edition. By Lynn Visson. Focus Publishing, 1999. 213 pp.
ISBN 0-941051-88-9. Price: \$29.95.

To order copies, or for additional information, call 1-800-848-7236.

Reviewed by the editors of SlavFile.

Holding this book in her hands, the Russian interpreter feels something very difficult to describe, akin to homecoming after an arduous journey. The very existence of a book bearing the title From Russian Into English, An Introduction to Simultaneous Interpreting is a long-overdue acknowledgement that, yes, we are serious professionals and we do valuable work deserving of substantive study materials and informational support. And finally we have it. We have a book which discusses in detail subjects we have all had to translate and interpret and some we haven't yet, but probably will soon. It provides authoritative glossaries in over a dozen fields (disarmament, women's issues, outer space, medicine, religion, the Russian and American political systems, to name just a few) containing words whose renderings we have puzzled over at length without satisfactory resolution. It guides us through rough spots in our work. This addition to the Russian specialist's shelf serves to nudge Russian-English interpreting further in the direction of a precise and systematic activity, as it removes some of interpreting's improvisatory aspect (although some of that will inevitably remain, since the utterances and thoughts we interpret originate with human beings).

It is very lucky for all of us in the field that author Lynn Visson, a UN interpreter, made the time to write this book. How did she do it? Did she write it in twenty-minute shifts while her booth-partner was at the microphone? During layovers in third-world airports while travelling on UN missions? Certainly it does not read as if she wrote it this way, but it seems a miracle that she was able to produce something so thorough, well-foot-noted and sourced about a subject so scantily written about while also working at the United Nations. She has now revised it for a second edition, and even more recently has put out yet another book for Russian interpreters accompanied by practice tapes. (Watch future issues of the *SlavFile* for a review of the latter.)

This book is not just for interpreters. The sections on what the interpreter does and how her work and personality differ from those of the translator will be of interest to all those who read this publication regularly, as will Visson's comments on how Russian style has changed since the advent of glasnost and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Her discussions of the unregulated American language market, the problematic and widespread assumption that anyone who is bilingual can interpret, and the absence of serious interest in or understanding of interpreting and translation in American academic institutions will be familiar notions to any regular reader of the *ATA Chronicle*, but they are explored here with exceptional depth and clarity.

Another issue which this reviewer loves to ponder at length, the pros and cons of interpreting out of your native language versus into it, is examined in this book from every conceivable angle. The fact that Visson comes strongly down on one side of this issue (against interpretation into a non-native language) almost without regard for the realities of the freelance language

services market shrinks to a minor quibble when set next to the refreshing fact that she discusses the issue knowledgeably and at length. Furthermore, we understand that in her more recent work, she has softened her view on this issue considerably, recognizing that there are very few native-English interpreters in Russia and that in the United States the market requires that interpreters go both ways, for a variety of reasons.

One of the most valuable aspects of this book (and we feel that it is worth several times its price at least) is the way it deals with the nitty-gritty of the Russian language. Much of the book is devoted to the rather poor fit between Russian and English and ways of making the twain dovetail a little more smoothly than seems possible at first or even second glance. This is yet another reason why this book will prove indispensable not only to interpreters, but to their colleagues in the allied professions of translation and teaching. For example, Visson provides a variety of graceful options for coping with the word **собеседник**, often awkwardly rendered in English as **interlocutor**. In a chapter entitled "Small and Slippery Words: Conjunctions, Prepositions and Articles," she discusses the numerous meanings assumed by the Russian word **и**, usually translated as **and**, but which, depending on context, can mean **also**, **even**, and a host of other things. This chapter also effectively undoes much of what is taught or implied in undergraduate Russian classes, i.e., that most words have only one or perhaps two renderings; this book provides a wealth of examples to prove that, depending on the context, words such as **от**, **с**, **до**, and **у** have more varied renderings in English than we were taught or thought possible.

In addition to what we generally think of as specialized terminology, the book contains a useful section of phrases relating to the types of informal, auxiliary conversations which always take place along with the more formal talks at events where interpreters work: greetings, requests, hotel registration, toasts, condolences and farewells. There is a separate chapter on verbs, another one on what to do about syntax when you don't know how a sentence will end, a short section on booth etiquette (how interpreters should behave in work situations) and a chapter on intonation and delivery, in which Visson discusses the differing ways that intonation is perceived in Russian and English. In short, From Russian Into English contains everything a working interpreter may have wondered about, struggled over and not known whom to ask, as well as some things which may not even have occurred to her, and all are illustrated with copious examples.

Holding this book in her hands, the Russian interpreter, who spends so much of her time and effort helping people to understand each other, feels that to the extent that she is congruent with her work, she, too, has at last been understood.



Newsletter of the Slavic Languages Division
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FIRE AND ICE

Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favor fire.
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

Robert Frost

ОГОНЬ И ЛЕД

Кто говорит, мир от огня
Погибнет, кто от льда.
А что касается меня,
Я за огонь стою всегда.
Но если дважды гибель ждет
Наш мир земной,—ну что ж,
Тогда для разрушенья лед
Хорош,
И тоже подойдет.

*Роберт Фрост
Перевод М. Зенкевича*

Из сборника «Американская поэзия в
русских переводах XIX-XX века»
(Москва, «Радуга», 1983)