

FROM THE ADMINISTRATORS

*Elena Bogdanovich
Jen Guernsey*

It's fall, which means that the Division's big news all relates to the upcoming ATA Annual Conference in San Francisco October 31 – November 3. Check out the list of planned SLD sessions on page 4. We hope to see you there!

If this will be your first ATA conference, or if you will be attending for the first time after a long hiatus, allow us to welcome you at our planned newcomer events. Lucy Gunderson has kindly offered to serve as the SLD's Conference Newcomer Coordinator (and you thought SLD Assistant Administrator was a long title!). See her announcement below. If you are a conference veteran, please join us at the newcomer events to help our newcomers feel welcome and to make some new acquaintances.

For many years, we in the SLD clung to the notion of a Slavic-themed banquet at the annual conference, but we wisely abandoned that tradition last year in New Orleans—a city known for its culinary traditions, none of which are the least bit Slavic. This year, having learned that the Slavic food scene in San Francisco is a pale shadow of its former self, we are continuing the updated tradition of seeking out cuisine that best reflects our host city's culture and traditional specialties. Thus, our Slavic banquet this year will be held at Kan's Restaurant, a well-known Chinatown

restaurant that is within easy walking distance of our hotel. Very special thanks here are due to Mira Beerbaum, who lives in the San Francisco area and took it upon herself to find a suitable restaurant, negotiate the menu, and visit the restaurant in person to make all of the necessary arrangements. The diverse menu will accommodate carnivores, vegetarians, and everyone in between. Hopefully, by the time you read this, you will have already received e-mail notification of the planned SLD banquet, and better yet have already mailed off your check to Jen Guernsey. If not, you can find more details and a form on page 4.

Our year of interim service as your Administrator and Assistant Administrator is already drawing to a close, and this is the last column you will see from the two of us. We are excited and grateful to see the candidates put forth to fill the Administrator and Assistant Administrator positions, Becky Blackley and Elana Pick, both active SLD members who will undoubtedly serve us well over the next two years. Their candidate statements can be found on page 3. We look forward to supporting them in their new roles, and encourage you to do the same.

NEWCOMER ACTIVITIES

For several years the SLD has tried to hold activities at the conference targeted at making one's first conference less daunting. This year Lucy Gunderson has agreed to serve as Newcomer Coordinator. She writes:

As a first time attendee last year, I know how important it is to have a built-in group of friends at the conference. Members of the Slavic Division would be pleased to meet conference newcomers 15 minutes before the opening gala on Wednesday night. We are also planning to meet up for breakfast every morning and have lunch together on Thursday. I will also try to put people in need of roommates in touch with one another. If you need a roommate or have any suggestions for newcomer activities, please contact me at russophile@earthlink.net. I look forward to seeing everyone in San Francisco!

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DESPERATELY SEEKING DIVERSITY (IF WE HAD WANTED NOTHING BUT RUSSIAN WE WOULD HAVE CALLED IT *RUSSFILE*)

LOOKING FOR NON-RUSSIAN LANGUAGE EDITORS

We are once again in need of *SlavFile* editors for Slavic languages other than Russian. We currently have an excellent pair of co-editors for Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian (see page 20) but are in need of volunteers to coordinate contributions in all the other non-Russian Slavic languages. These positions **do not** require a large commitment of time or energy—all we ask is at least two articles a year pertaining to the language(s) you specialize in, which you can write, solicit or identify for reprinting. In exchange you will receive:

- Your name on the masthead
- The opportunity to air topics you consider important and to present your own point of view
- Heightened visibility among Slavic language professionals—including potential clients and sources of recommendation
- Enhanced contacts with others working in your language pair(s)
- A chance to work with the delightful and laid-back *SlavFile* staff
- If you are a non-native speaker of English, the benefit of editorial suggestions from experienced editors
- Our undying gratitude!

Reluctant to commit to an editorship? Simply send articles pertaining to languages other than Russian directly to the editors now on the masthead. Do not worry that your English is less than perfect; we will work with you on the text.

Of course, we are also actively soliciting articles from those who work with Russian, most especially from new contributors!

Lydia (lydiastone@verizon.net)
and Nora (norafavorov@bellsouth.net).

OFFERS OF WORK FROM EMPLOYERS
AND CLIENTS ARE PUBLISHED FREE

CONFERENCE PREVIEW

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

SlavFile is delighted to announce the candidacies of Becky Blackley and Elana Pick, running unopposed for the positions of SLD Administrator and Assistant Administrator, respectively. For those of you who did not see their candidate statements distributed recently to SLD members via email, we are reprinting them here.

Becky Blackley (beckyblackley@starband.net)

Candidate for Administrator

I am a Russian to English translator, specializing in law, business/finance, and the arts. I have an MA from the Russian Language School of Middlebury College and an Advanced Certificate in Translation Studies from the University of Chicago's Graham School of General Studies. My undergraduate studies were at the University of California, where I received my BA in Russian and Russian Area Studies many, many, years ago. I have been actively translating since 2000 and working as a full-time freelance translator since 2006.

I have been a member of ATA and the Slavic Language Division since 2004 and have found this to be my primary source for developing and maintaining professional contacts with other translators as well as with language service providers and other clients. During the 2005 and 2006 annual conferences, I took advantage of the networking opportunities provided by the SLD and discovered a warm and welcoming group of colleagues. Having personally benefited from the services provided by ATA and the SLD, I want to become more active and contribute some of my time to help out with the many SLD activities.

I have served on the boards of directors and as an officer of several associations (local, county, state, and international) and have had experience overseeing association activities. I have developed various computer keyboard commands for Cyrillic, as well as other shortcuts, some of which were included in "At Your Command: Creating Customized Keyboard Shortcuts" (*The ATA Chronicle*, January 2006). I am SDL Trados Certified for Translator's Workbench 2006 and 2007 and have dealt with and solved Cyrillic-specific issues. I will gladly help other SLD members who want assistance with computer-related Cyrillic questions in any way I can.

As the Slavic Language Division's Administrator, I hope to be able to share my personal experience with other SLD members. I look forward to serving the Slavic Language Division in any way possible.

I hope to see many of you in San Francisco!

P. Elana Pick, Ph.D. (creativeserv@att.net)

Candidate for Assistant Administrator

I am honored to accept the nomination for the SLD Assistant Administrator position and look forward to serving my term in this capacity.

I am a native Russian speaker, born and raised in the former Soviet Union. I came to this country 17 years ago. I have two master's degrees: in teaching English from Tbilisi Teacher's Training Institute and in journalism from Moscow State University. I also hold the degree of Candidate in Pedagogical Studies from the USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences. I have taught for over 40 years on both sides of the Atlantic. Currently, I am teaching Consecutive Medical Interpreting at the NYU School of Continuing and Professional Studies. I am an ATA-certified EN>RU translator and court-approved interpreter.

When I joined the ATA and SLD 8 years ago, I was very warmly welcomed by, among others, SLD's administrator at the time and the editor of *SlavFile*, whom I feel fortunate to call my friends. Over the years, I have made more friends within the division and the ATA, been a part of various translation teams, been an editor, and had my translations edited by my esteemed colleagues in ATA. Needless to say, this has helped me become a much better translator/interpreter than I was before joining. In short, I have benefited from both the ATA and the SLD, from the conferences and *SlavFile* and *ATA Chronicle*, as well as from personal networking and bumping heads and arguing over difficult or tricky terms with my colleagues.

I am now at a point where feel I should and can give back and put time and energy into strengthening the educational/professional growth component of the SLD. The SLD is an excellent vehicle for raising professional standards in the Slavic T/I community, and I would like to see its role in spreading knowledge, skills, and information expand. We can all benefit from this. I also feel ATA certification is a valuable asset and we should assist our membership in achieving and maintaining certification through educational sessions and *SlavFile* articles.

CONFERENCE POETRY READING

Once again ATA's Literary Division will sponsor its After Hours Café (aka poetry reading) at the conference, on Thursday at 9:00. Everyone who would like to read his or her original or translated poetry in and/or from any language is welcome to read here with no preliminary application. But to do so you must **remember to bring your work**. Absolutely everyone is invited to come and listen.

CONFERENCE PREVIEW

PRESENTATIONS

- SL-1 **Aid for the Imperfectly Articulate: Tips on English Article Usage**
Vladimir J. Kovner and Lydia Razran Stone
Thursday, 1:30-3:00pm - All Levels
- SL-2 **Translating Court Forms: Lessons Learned**
Emma A. Garkavi
Thursday, 3:30-5:00pm - All Levels
- SL-3 **Susanna Greiss Lecture: Lost in Translation—The Verbal Content of Visual Art**
James West
Friday, 10:00-11:30am - All Levels
- SL-4 **Translation and Corporate Governance in Russia**
Megan G. Lehmann
Friday, 1:30-3:00pm - All Levels
- SL-5 **1001 Ways of Translating Children's Poetry from Russian into English**
Elena S. McGivern
Friday, 3:30-5:00pm - All Levels
- SL-6 **Chemistry 1: Basic Nomenclature of Organic and Inorganic Compounds**
Dennis W. Wester
Saturday, 8:00-9:30am - Intermediate
- SL-7 **Slavic Languages Division Annual Meeting**
Elena E. Bogdanovich-Werner
Saturday, 10:00-11:30am - All Levels

SLD BANQUET

Come Join Us for the
Slavic Languages Division Annual Banquet!
Reserve now as there are only 60 spots available!

Date: Friday, November 2, 2007
Time: 7:30 PM
Location: Kan's Restaurant
708 Grant Avenue, San Francisco (eight blocks from the Hyatt)
(415) 362-5267

Price:
\$45.00 per person—includes appetizers, entrees, desserts, tea, tax, and tip. (Alcoholic beverages will be available at additional cost, Bottles of wine start at \$18; sake and other liquor will also be available.)

Menu:
Vegetarian Imperial Spring Roll • Vegetarian Village Style Pot Sticker • Golden Crispy Crab Claw • Egg Flower Soup • Honey Glazed Walnut Prawns • Sesame Chicken • Sweet and Sour Pork • Marinated Beef with Garden Fresh Broccoli • Vegetables Delight • Braised Tofu with Black Mushroom • Salt and Pepper Fish Fillets • Vegetables Fried Rice • Vegetables Chow Mein • Plain Rice • Mini Cheese Cake • Sesame Ball

To reserve your spot, send the form below along with a check payable to Jen Guernsey, 6722 Holford Lane, Springfield, VA 22152 by October 24. Your payment will be acknowledged by email.

Name(s) _____ E-mail address (for confirmation of receipt)

Number attending ____ X \$45.00 = Total enclosed _____

REQUEST FOR CORRESPONDENTS

Said Mahmudov



Warm greetings to you from Uzbekistan!

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Saidabbos Mahmudov, but everyone calls me Said. I live in a town called Karshi, in the southern part of the Republic of Uzbekistan. I am a 20-year-old student, studying Modern Linguistics. I am in my third year at Karshi State University, studying English and French – these are my main working foreign languages. The Russian language is my mother tongue, but I am also fluent in Uzbek. I have already worked as an interpreter and translator for four years. I have worked mainly in the English-Russian and Russian-English language pairs. I can also translate and interpret English-Uzbek, Uzbek-English, but this is my secondary language pair. The demand for Uzbek-English or English-Uzbek translation is not very high.

I began loving languages when I worked on a USAF Air Base located at Karshi-Khanabad. I started learning English, Spanish, and Italian on the base. As I mentioned above, at the university I am studying French as well as English. Recently, I started learning German on my own. There are good teachers of German at my university who are helping me with advice and speech practice. My highest life-aspiration is to become fluent in ten separate languages that include English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Portuguese, Arabic, Farsi, Chinese and Japanese, in addition to Russian and Uzbek. I would ultimately love to become a world-renowned linguist and work with different people and global organizations. For example, working for the United Nations as an interpreter or translator focusing on international issues facing the United States, Western Europe, and the countries of Central Asia would be my idea of a dream job.

I worked with the organization World Wide Language Resources for about seven months. They hired me to serve as a translator, interpreter, and cultural advisor at the USAF Airbase in Karshi. My duties included translation of agreements, simultaneous interpretation, and serving as WWLR's main simultaneous conference interpreter for a conference between a Virginia senator and the local Uzbek command crew. I am very proud that WWLR named me the best interpreter of the Antiterrorist Coalition Uzbekistan-Afghanistan 2005.

This experience was a high point in my life. I loved communicating with people of other nationalities and working on a team. After this experience, I decided that I wanted to study to be a translator and interpreter in the United States. I have been trying to gain acceptance and financial aid at American universities but so far have not been successful.

And now, a little bit about my life in Uzbekistan. My mother, an ecologist, makes the equivalent of about \$1000 a year, as does my father, who is an engineer. Here in Uzbekistan this is not bad money, but we are aware that people still can live better. Working as a freelance translator is also not very profitable here in Uzbekistan. The agencies headquartered in the former USSR do not pay well and often pay freelancers even less than their regular employees. Working as a translator is not very easy here (by "here" I mean the town of Karshi and Uzbekistan in general). That is why people here prefer to work for foreign agencies and why I have the dream of going abroad to be educated and start my career.

No one in my family believes that it is possible for a young specialist to find a good job as an interpreter abroad. Only my mom tells me to do what my heart tells me to. I realize the task I have set myself is not easy, but I intend to continue trying. I have tried to apply to work with various language agencies but am told I am too young. One company did suggest that I try to correspond with experienced professionals in my chosen field. I have emailed many interpreters and translators whose names I have found on the Internet, but none have been willing to correspond with me and give me advice. Some of them have even answered me rudely. But I am still looking. I really believe I can meet my goals if I persist, and this is both the subject and the purpose of this article. If you have any comments or would like to correspond with me, I would be really delighted. Aside from practical advice or even help, I would just be pleased to meet others who share my passion for languages.

Respectfully and hopefully,

Said

Said Mahmudov

international.interpreter@yahoo.com

Editor's note: I do not know Said personally, of course, but I can testify that his English does not require significantly more editing than many of the Russians I correspond with, and that when he promises to do something, he does it exactly when he says he will. LRS

IDIOM SAVANTS (II)

Vladimir Kovner, Lydia Stone

Judging by audience feedback, this column is enjoyed by our readers. We intend to continue it. Reader discussion on the “brain” idioms we presented last time can be found below our new set of idioms—those that involve milk products. For readers who wish to “play along” with our next set, we disclose that our topic will be “bread products.” We are open to suggestions of themes for subsequent columns, as well as, of course, all comments and additions to this one.

Milk Products/Молочные продукты

IDIOMS EXISTING IN BOTH LANGUAGES

- Cream of society = Сливки общества
- Land of milk and honey = Реки, текущие молоком и мёдом
- Like a hot knife through butter = (Пройти) как нож сквозь масло
- No use crying over spilled milk = По пролитому молоку не плачут
- Skim off the cream = Снимать сливки
- Take in with one’s mother’s milk = Всосать с молоком матери

RUSSIAN IDIOMS

- Как маслом по сердцу (о чём-нибудь приятном, успокаивающем) = It does my heart good; Like music to my ears.
- (Идёт) как по маслу = Like a well-oiled machine, like clockwork.
- Как сыр в масле кататься = To live high on the hog, in the lap of luxury, in clover.
- Кровь с молоком (о здоровом/пышущим здоровьем человеке) = The picture of health.
- Маслом кашу не испортишь = You can’t have too much of a good thing.
- Молоко на губах не обсохло = Still wet behind the ears.
- Масло масляное (ничего не добавляющее, ничего не объясняющее повторение) = Are you telling me that sugar is sweet? What else is new? [Any better translation solutions, readers?]
- Обжегшись на молоке, на воду дуют = The burnt child fears the flame. Once bitten, twice shy.
- Подливать/лить масло в огонь (усиливать раздор, ссору, обострить неприятную ситуацию) = Throw oil on the fire; add fuel to the fire.
- Подмаслить (задобрить, дать взятку, подмазать) = To grease someone’s palm.
- (Потекут) молочные реки с кисельными берегами (о чём-то несбыточном, мечты о невероятном изобилии и т.п.) = And the streets are paved with gold.

- (Только) птичьего молока нет (есть всё, о чём можно мечтать) = Everything that anybody could possibly desire.
- Шиш с маслом (ничего нет) = Not a penny, diddly-squat.

ENGLISH IDIOMS

- Big cheese (big shot, important person; also the Cheese) = Важная персона, важная особа; главарь, заправила, “шишка или большая шишка.”
- Bread and butter (having to do with or affecting one’s basic means of support, mainstay) = Хлеб насущный; средства к существованию; жизненно важный.
- Bread and butter letter (a thank you letter especially to one’s host) = Благодарственное письмо; письмо, написанное после посещения кого-либо с благодарностью за гостеприимство.
- Butterfingers (someone who is always dropping something) = Тот, у кого всё валится из рук.
- Butter someone up (to flatter someone in order to gain some advantage) = Подлизываться к кому-то; подхалимничать.
- Butter wouldn’t melt in someone’s mouth (someone looks very cool and innocent with the implication that he is not) = Притворно скромный, деланно застенчивый.
- Casper Milquetoast (a very mild and timid person/man) = Необычайно мягкий и робкий человек; женоподобный мужчина.
- Cheesecake (provocative photographs of scantily dressed women, not reaching the pornographic) = Эротические, соблазнительные фото полураздетых женщин; “лакомый кусочек” (о полураздетой красоте на фотографии).
- Cheese-paring (cheap, stingy) = Скупой, скарденный.
- Cheesy (shoddy, of poor quality) = Дешёвка; нечто низкопробное, плохого качества.
- Come home with the milk (come home from an evening activity in the morning) = Возвращаться домой на рассвете.
- Cream of the crop (the best of the lot) = Наилучший; лучшие из лучших.
- Cream rises to the top (competent or worthy people naturally tend to be given positions of power or prominence) = Для наиболее способных, стоящих людей существует естественная тенденция оказаться на руководящих позициях, на главных ролях.
- Fine words butter no parsnips = Соловья баснями не кормят.

Continued on page 7

IDIOM SAVANTS

Continued from page 6

- **Hard cheese (tough luck)** = Невезение, невезуха, неудача; плохое дело; прискорбное положение; тяжёлый случай.
- **Know which side one's bread is buttered on (know exactly where one's interest lies)** = Знать, что к чему; (посл.) знать с какой стороны ветер дует; (посл.) знать в редьке вкус.
- **Milk of human kindness (natural kindness, from Shakespeare)** = Сердечность; сострадание; доброта.
- **Milk something for all it's worth (extract every bit of advantage out of something)** = Выжать всё, что возможно из чего-либо/из какой-либо ситуации; использовать все возможности, представленные кем-то или чем-то, до предела.
- **Not know chalk from cheese (not know even the most elementary things)** = Абсолютно ничего не понимать; не разбираться в самых простых вещах.
- **Peaches and cream (complexion) (bright and glowing complexion, with creamy skin and rosy cheeks)** = Свежая и румяная, как персик; как яблочко, румян.
- **Say cheese (instruction given by someone taking a photo to produce a smiling expression)** = Улыбнитесь! (при фотографировании)
- **Think the moon is made of green cheese (to be very credulous)** = Быть доверчивым, легковерным.
- **Ugly enough to sour milk** = Страшна/страшен, как смертный грех; страшней, чем атомная война; жуткая уродина.
- **Why buy a cow when the milk is free? (advice to a girl not to have premarital sex)** = (С мужской точки зрения) Зачем жениться, если можно иметь секс и так? (используется как предупреждение, совет наивным девушкам не заниматься сексом до замужества).

Reader Responses to Brain Idioms Printed in Summer SlavFile

The following contributions came from Elana Pick, who by the way is slated to become SLD's next Assistant Administrator (see page 3).

Все в мозгах перевернулось – when shocked or surprised as in *Я так испугалась, что у меня все в мозгах перевернулось.*

Засесть в мозгах (мозгу) = To get something into one's head. Like, it got into my head that I would like to travel to Moscow. *У меня засело в мозгах, хочу поехать в Москву.*

Мозги наперекосяк (or slang *сикось накось*) – meaning, not in the right order, criss-cross.

Мозги не на месте – When someone is nervous or tired OR as a negative description of someone's competence.

Мозги не работают – When one is very tired you can hear them say *My brain is not working* OR in *У тебя, что, мозги совсем не работают?* It's like "Are you stupid or what?"

Мозги отбило – Similar to the previous in the second meaning "Are you stupid?" OR "He is stupid, his brain is not working."

Мозговитый мужик – Brainy, smart guy.

С мозгами не в порядке – Can be very rude, as in *У тебя с мозгами не в порядке. Как ты могла сделать это?*

From Elena Morrow:

Dear Lydia and Vladimir,

I just wanted to thank you for your wonderful contribution to the latest issue of *SlavFile*! I really enjoyed your articles on children's poetry and especially on the idioms. I wonder if you have considered including such an idiom as "brain fart" in your list? I hear it frequently, and seem to be unable to come up with anything remotely similar in Russian. Best regards!

Volodia replies:

1. Dear Elena,

I would translate it as "провал в памяти," when you're trying to recall somebody's name which you know for sure and you can't; or "неожиданно идиотические действия," например, **насыпать соль в чай или снять галстук и положить его в холодильник, или "ляпнуть неожиданно какую-то чушь; что-то несусветное, неожиданно понести околесицу," maybe even "старческая забывчивость,"** если **речь идёт обо мне. (I am 70, but it is a huge secret, of course.)** I think we can add it to our list. This morning I found another expression, "Brain on a stick."

2. Dear Elena and Lida,

I'd like to add a couple of comments to my previous message. The noun for "ляпнуть неожиданно какую-то чушь" is "ляпсус" или просто "ляпа." Ожегов определяет "ляпсус" как обмолвка, оговорка*, *неожиданное опущение*, что очень близко к понятию **brain fart**. One of the synonyms of brain fart is "senior moment." "Brain on a stick" is an intelligent person who lacks emotion or social skills. I would translate it into Russian as "сухарь" или "учёный сухарь."

* **Note:** Copyeditor Jen Guernsey comments: Along these lines, my friends and I use the made-up word "одумка" for "brain fart."

Lydia can be reached at lydiastone@verizon.net and Vladimir at vkovner250696MI@comcast.net. All comments are invited.

SLAVFILE LITE: NOT BY WORD COUNT ALONE

Lydia Razran Stone

We have recently returned from a trip to St. Petersburg, Moscow and points in between on the inland waterway and I seem to be suffering from a case of severe, if intermittent, culture shock. It is not the differences between today's Russia and the United States that have me reaching for my inhaler, but the sharp contrast between the Russia of today and what I experienced during the other two periods I spent in that country—the early to mid-1960's (several trips with my father who was investigating Soviet psychophysiology) and the early to mid-1990s (several trips to work in Moscow on a joint book sponsored by NASA). Of course, I know that my first-hand acquaintance with my family's erstwhile homeland and thus my impressions have been laughably short-lived and superficial. Perhaps on each visit I have managed to see through only a very few chinks in the Potemkin façade presented to foreigners. I am also painfully aware that many, if not most, of my readers have a vastly more extensive and profound knowledge of the changes in Russia over this period. Nevertheless, with your indulgence, I will attempt to share some of my impressions here. Who knows? Every once in a while, the view through a chink may provide a new perspective.

The Moscow relative of a friend of mine visited New York and Washington about a decade ago and reported that one of the things that most struck her here were the ubiquitous delicious odors of cooking in urban streets. This does not seem to be true of the Russian capitals—perhaps, surprisingly, this is one advertising secret the new Russians have not yet learned. Or perhaps the smell of food is simply overpowered, especially in Moscow, by the smell of money, bargeloads of new, fresh (if not necessarily clean) money. Everything in the center of the city is well-tended (when I was last there in 1996, the grass around the Kremlin appeared not to have been mowed in at least a year). The stores (if that is not too plebeian a name for them) on central city streets are at least as forbiddingly pricey and elegant as those of any city I am familiar with. Our old friend GUM looks now like Georgetown Park (the most upscale of upscale malls in DC), filled with stores that are so elegant that they have only one item in the window, and only a couple more in the shop, and a like number of customers if that. Indeed, a Russian-born friend suggests that GUM may primarily be a money laundering operation. (Why carry more than three pairs of shoes, when what you are doing is selling the same \$600 pair over and over?)

The new houses we saw built and being built in the dacha region on the banks of the waterway we traveled are not the picturesque cottages the word evokes but McDachas—коттеджи, whose opulence overshadows vacation homes in Palm Springs, to pick a U.S. example. The boats and recreational water sports equipment to be seen are worthy of Nantucket.

It can still be reported that in the cities (especially the far outskirts of the capitals and smaller cities such as Yaroslavl) there are still Soviet-style exurban apartment complexes, crumbling masonry, balconies that look like they are in imminent danger of falling, and apartment houses where “normal people” live that have front entrances resembling the back doors of slum dwellings. On the other hand, upscale, modern and Western new construction and reconstruction is everywhere—stretching far, far beyond the tourist-oriented center of the cities. In the capitals at least, infrastructure, especially main roads, seems also to have been given at least a fraction of the attention it much needed the last time I visited here. The most striking infrastructure innovation we noted was a double-, or maybe even triple- or quadruple-, length toilet bus, parked outside the Hermitage and judging by appearances hooked up to the local sewer system.

At the risk of sounding downright un-American—and even though in general people seemed more cheerful than I had ever seen them in these climes and I saw many fewer signs of real poverty—I must admit that the sight of all this money being poured into the capitals made me uneasy. Where is it all coming from? Yes, I do know about petrorubles, but is that really all? We have learned that the Communists beggared the rest of the country for their own personal benefits and that of the capitals. But the benefits accruing to the capitals and the public and personal lives of at least some of their inhabitants is so much more startling now! Is the rest of the country becoming commensurately more impoverished? The only non-capital city not dependent on the tourist trade that we visited was Yaroslavl and, while it was in no way as opulent as Moscow or Petersburg, it seemed to me considerably more prosperous than the Moscow of 1996.

Perhaps, if someone had asked Marie Antoinette how to make a city look more beautiful and prosperous, she would have replied, “Get rid of all the ugly and poor people.” One can ask not only what has been added to the capitals to change them so much, but also what has been taken away. Here is a list of things I saw less of than I had before or would have expected.

- Diversity (чернокожие or at least a heavier sprinkling of obvious non-Northern Europeans); indeed if I had had the black hair of my youth and only a moderate suntan, I estimate I would have been in the top 1% of the racially exotic in most of the crowds I was in Russia (foreign tourists excepted). Ironically, the diversity of (non-Soviet) ethnic restaurants has increased a great deal.
- Drunks (compared to the 1990s): a really marked decline.

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- Obvious prostitutes: perhaps they are just dressing better or have adopted more subtle recognition cues.
- Beggars and shabby people selling household possessions or single cigarettes: none at all noted in the center of the capitals, though there were a few outside the cities e.g., at Peterhof, or in the smaller cities on the river. This is a general observation compared to the mid-90's and I would not venture to say that there were none to be seen throughout the city.
- The thuggish bodyguards one used to see standing outside certain types of establishment in the 1990s.
- The kinds of Soviet types (here I am talking appearance and demeanor rather than ideology) our memories of the Soviet Union are populated with (definitely still around in the 90s): stout and officious minor officials (mainly women), бабушки and бабы of all sorts—rural and urban, middle-aged to elderly men in caps with medals or even just значки in their lapels. There ought to be a *Red Book of Endangered Species* for them.
- Police presence: In two weeks, I only noticed traffic cops (looking to me as if they were up to their old tricks) and the one young policeman who told us relatively politely not to sit on the grass in front of St. Basil's.

The question arises, in my mind at least, as to what has happened to all these people. Many may have simply been gotten out of town: deported (but surely some of the чернокожие one used to see had residence permits), persuaded to leave through quasi-official harassment or other less than savory means of gentrification, or simply gone in search of somewhere cheaper to live. The police and the prostitutes and maybe the bodyguards are undoubtedly undercover. But still, can the populations of Moscow and St. Petersburg born before, say, 1960 have left in such large numbers, or have they miraculously been transformed into only slightly tarnished versions of New Russians? Why hasn't the experience of their formative years been imprinted on their appearance, demeanor, and service philosophy the way it seems to have been on those who emigrated to Brighton Beach?

Here are a few other things that I noticed were diminished compared to my previous visits or expectations.

- The number of birds (other than those used to living symbiotically with man) and insects (and remember we were on the river) was startlingly small compared to what one would expect in a healthy ecology. This is really frightening.
- Soldiers other than those who appeared to be about 17. In the 1960s, the streets were full of burly adult soldiers with multiple decorations, many of whom walked hand in hand.
- At some point in the 1990s, it appeared that every other apartment dweller in Moscow had a large dog. This trend has apparently normalized.

- The length of the line at the Red Square Mausoleum—but there is still a line.
- The quality and quantity of fish on offer (especially smoked fish and caviar) compared to the 1960s. My belief is that all the best kinds have simply been used up.
- Likewise the quality of the bread.
- Likewise the tea, which in all restaurants and other public places we visited came in bags.
- While the prices of books have not gone down, they were much lower than I expected after hearing that Moscow was the most expensive city in the world. Are they being subsidized? But having no desire to look a gift horse (or more precisely, edition of *Black Beauty*) in the mouth, I loaded up on children's poetry and reference books.

A few things that have increased in number or quality.

- Pretty girls. Remember the old stereotype of the Russian female as a maiden with potato shaped hips and a potato shaped nose? Well, forget it. My husband, a well-known expert on the subject, rates the girls of the Russian capitals only slightly below those of Rio de Janeiro, but adds that the Slavic beauties are much less interesting because of the low diversity.
- Fast food eateries. I suppose the actual number of McDonald's has increased, but they are attracting much less attention now, because there are so many rivals, imported—Sbarro, for example—and homegrown—one called Крошки Картошки, and another featuring a large selection of blini and kasha dishes.
- English. My impression is that a monolingual Russian speaker trying to read the signs on stores within, say a radius of 10 miles of the Kremlin, would have no less trouble than a monolingual speaker of English confronted with these same signs.
- Skill at advertising and PR. My memory of 1993-96 is that there were just as many advertisements (billboards, etc.) as there are now but that they were generally of very poor quality, unsubtle, and frequently (mis)translated from English. Now there is real evidence that Tverskoy Boulevard has mastered the skills of Madison Avenue. I saw some really clever ads. One that particularly sticks in my memory was for a product to treat traveler's diarrhea that was posted on the inside of the doors of stalls in the women's room at Sheremetyevo. An informal survey provided unambiguous results regarding the product most commonly advertised: cell phones and associated technology.
- Relative prevalence of efficient service with a smile (or at least not a scowl of enmity). Based on shopping trips to Brighton Beach (to be fair the last was several years ago), though, Soviet-style service has not died out everywhere in the world. Ironically, the only place I myself encountered old-style frustratingly inefficient

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service this trip was at a church products kiosk on Red Square.

- Quality and diversity of available produce. How many years ago was it that people lined up for hours for a couple of bananas? Now kiwis go unremarked in Yaroslavl. I am not speaking here solely of the fruit and vegetables in restaurants catering to tourists—but also street and central municipal markets. Prices, while probably high for the average Russian, seemed more than reasonable to me.
- Quality of musical performances that tourists are taken to. Evenings of opera and ballet selections and choral performances in churches. Astonishingly good, better than anything designed for tourists I have seen anywhere. (Though one would have preferred a whole opera or ballet.)

While GUM has been turned into a clone of Georgetown Park, significant chunks of the Russian past seem to be in the process of turning into a huge theme park. This is not all spurious or tasteless, though I suppose it is all driven by the profit motive. The island of Kizhi, for example, is a wonderful, tasteful outdoor museum, diminished only slightly, if at all, by the accoutrements required for the tourist trade. Who among us, no matter how highbrow, in the course of a cultural afternoon might not want a WC, a bottle of water, a snack, or even a souvenir or two? On the other hand, there is no denying that there is a considerable kitschy and spurious element to it all, whatever its Disneyesque charm. To my mind the symbol of this aspect is the matryoshka. Does everyone know that: “Contrary to...popular belief, the matryoshka has no roots in Russian folk culture at all”? (Figes: *Natasha’s Dance*, pg. 267) This doll was dreamed up in 1891 at a workshop associated with the Russian “arts and crafts” movement on the model of a traditional Japanese nesting doll. Thus, by the way, it would seem equally valid (if the word can be used in this context) to have matryoshki decorated with Winnie the Pooh or Harry Potter as with females in Russian peasant dress, and I no longer have to feel guilty about purchasing the former two for my grandchildren.

The ironies of the “peasant past as theme park” phenomenon were brought home to me, when we got off the river boat at Uglich. There a souvenir торговый ряд of at least a mile in length had been set up for the benefit of boat tourists, complete with musicians, kiosks in the style of embellished huts, etc., etc. On the path, a stooped very old woman, of exactly the type whose absence I noted in the capitals, complete with headscarf, was attempting to sell postcards and roadside flowers. One of the tour directors, feeling that she was impeding the smooth flow of traffic off the several boats, said, and I quote verbatim, “Бабушка, уйдите отсюда, вам здесь нет места” [Grandma, go somewhere else, this is no place for you.] I guess the real thing is never welcome in the theme park.

If the Russian past has become a theme park, then its theme song is *Kalinka*. I was never much aware of *Kalinka* as anything other than one of many Russian folk songs, one that I rather liked. But with Soviet-style unanimity it seems to have been singled out by buskers, restaurant musicians, etc. I gradually got to feel about it as about some particularly annoying advertising jingle, and even, out of the kindness of my heart, tried to advise street musicians that they would get more tourist contributions if they were to play virtually anything else. It should be noted that the Soviet past is evidently too fresh and too raw to have yet undergone a similar process of theme-parkization. However, the profit motive being what it is, I would not rule such a development out. When you hear the first announcements that SovietLand is being built and will soon be open to the public, don’t say I didn’t warn you.

Well, I guess that’s all except for a couple of personal peak experiences that I would like to share. There are more, but I am not without mercy and will save the rest for another column.

Biggest Realization (call it a “duh moment”): That “Подмосковные вечера” (translated into English as *Moscow Suburban Evenings*) is not about the barren plots filled with huge depressing apartment complexes (as, against all reason, I had always thought) but about the dacha regions.

Favorite Purchase. A T-shirt that has written on it: “ВСЕ БАБЫ КАК БАБЫ...А Я БОГИНЯ.” (All other broads are just dames, but I am a goddess.)

Greatest Linguistic Triumph. Picture this scene: Peterhof. A beautiful August morning. Slightly disheveled lady tourist (SDLT) with binoculars slung around her neck is confronted by довольно нахальный молодой человек (ДНМЧ) (smart-ass young man) who attempts to get her to buy postcards.

SDLT (quite politely) Нет, спасибо—не надо. (Thank you, I don’t want any.)

ДНМЧ (evidently, irritated by SDLT’s presumptuous attempt to speak his language and determined to show her up.) Нахально. Тогда дайте мне ваши бинокли—сегодня как раз день моего рождения. (Well, then give me your binoculars—today just happens to be my birthday.)

SDLT (in a tone of astonishment). Почему, кем вы мне приходитеесь? (But why, who are you to me?)

ДНМЧ (inspired) Ведь, я ваш потерянный внук—разве не узнаете? (Actually, I am your long-lost grandson, don’t you know me?)

SDLT (after a pause to consider this information) Нет, это невозможно—все мои внуки очень красивые. (No, that is impossible, all my grandsons are very handsome.)

Loud laughter from friends of ДНМЧ standing around in the vicinity. SDLT exits smugly.

See you in San Francisco.

Upgrading to Microsoft Office 2007

A Saga of Hope, Despair, Salvation, and Moral Dilemma

by *Nora Seligman Favorov*

I suspect I am not the only SLD member who suffers from the conflicting desires to save money and behave like a true professional when it comes to the software I use. I hate to have to go out and pay full price for a product that happens to be available to me by semi-legitimate means, or at least means that do not entitle me to any tech support should the need for it arise. To take a purely hypothetical example, say a translator has a spouse who at one point had a company copy of Adobe Photoshop. Would such a translator really go out and purchase a copy when the software is lying around the house? Or let's say a translator who has a legitimate (preinstalled) copy of Microsoft Office Professional on her hard drive finds an upgrade has wandered into the house, again through a family member. Will said translator really go out and purchase another copy?

In my particular case, I did indeed upgrade my MS Office Professional at some point using a disk that rightfully belonged to one family member and then upgraded to MS Word 2002 using a disk that came with a computer featuring Microsoft Works purchased for another family member. That left me with Word 2002 cohabiting on my hard drive with PowerPoint, Excel, and Outlook Express from Office Professional 2000. Let's just say there was generational conflict, with the electronic equivalent of door slamming and voice raising. Occasionally the dysfunction reached the level of complete system shutdown.

Having wearied of the relentless cycle of crash and recovery and feeling not quite ready to switch allegiances to Mac (an option I seriously considered as a possible means of escaping the crashes, if not the Microsoft products, which seem to follow the translator wherever he or she might seek word processing solace), I took note when I saw that Microsoft had released a new generation of Office Professional. The fact that I was making a living using products that I had not purchased for my business and sneaking around the products' licensing agreements left me with a nagging sense that I wasn't a real pro. I decided it was time to take the plunge and shell out \$400 for the full, non-upgrade version of Microsoft Office Professional.

I eagerly uninstalled all of my old MS office products and installed the new ones. I hopefully (how rarely one gets to use that word correctly!) opened a Word document I was editing. My screen looked shiny and new. I observed a completely redesigned interface. But in the course of exploring the new menus I made a change to the document and got that all too familiar dialogue box apologizing for the fact that Word was forced to shut down. I was quickly offered a recovered document, but I couldn't make a single change without seeing that cursed apology again. After a bit of experimentation I discovered that documents that had nothing but English did not crash. A thought that had lurked in the back of my mind ever since I decided on the upgrade

made its way closer to the forefront of my consciousness: every Windows upgrade I have ever gone through has entailed hours on the phone with Microsoft tech support. After trying dozens of solutions, in the end Microsoft's conclusion had always been the same: my Cyrillic keyboard driver was not compatible with the new version of Windows.

At least I now had every right to at least 90 days of free tech support. I picked up the phone and was quickly put in touch with Satish, a pleasant and patient young man in Mumbai who was eager to help. Fairly early on in my interactions with Satish I shared my concerns about keyboard driver compatibility. Like a doctor not wishing to be prejudiced by unreliable patient conjecture, Satish pretty much ignored my concerns and took me through his standard diagnostic assessment. And indeed, after about six hours of experimentation and exploration he came to the conclusion that four programs on my hard drive were the source of the problem: two "add ins," Abbyy Finereader and Abbyy Lingvo, and two other programs, ParaWin XP and Orfo, my Cyrillic keyboard driver and spellchecker. I was advised to install Microsoft Office Language Pack for Russian (downloadable for \$24.99) and uninstall ParaWin and Orfo. These programs would become unnecessary once I had the language pack.

Feeling somewhat annoyed that Microsoft was taking business away from my old buddies at SmartLink Corporation (from whom I'd purchased ParaWin and Orfo) but relieved that they were offering me a replacement for just \$25, I started to explore my now fully-functioning new edition of Microsoft Word. (Finereader and Lingvo were not a problem once the language pack was installed.) The first thing that I discovered was that the Russian Language Pack does not include a homophonic keyboard, something I have been using for over 30 years. Oh, well, I thought. I had learned to type pretty quickly using a Russian keyboard in my youth; surely I could learn it again. It would be a good mental exercise. I printed out the keyboard layout and taped it to my monitor. Having to write the simplest message in Russian now took me forever. For the time being, I put this problem on the back burner.

The moral dilemma referred to in the title of this piece has to do with Microsoft. I was not eager to do anything to support Microsoft's Godzilla-like romp through the software industry. With its aggressive efforts to put competitors (often with superior products) out of business, Microsoft has become a company we love to hate. It is therefore not terribly gratifying to report that I really love Word 2007 (with the exception of Outlook, I have not yet put a lot of time into exploring the other programs in the package). What you figure out pretty quickly is, when in doubt, right click. Functions that I was used to searching for on the

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BEGINNER'S LUCK

Liv Bliss (perennially novice translator)

Lakeside, Arizona

They have been at a great feast of languages,
and stolen the scraps.
William Shakespeare
Love's Labors Lost, Act V, Scene I

When asked by Lydia Stone, *SlavFile's* inestimable editor, to produce an explanatory list of “phrases from movies, TV programs and songs that are used conversationally in English,” my first thought was “What fun!” and my second thought was “What?” Those collocations, I knew, fall into the general realm of catch phrases, but that was the full extent of my knowledge: I found that I had begun collecting catch phrases without the slightest idea what a catch phrase actually is.

So this column will explore that concept, from the viewpoint of a rank amateur with a lively interest in the cultural underpinnings of language.

The definition of “catch phrase” on Princeton University’s WordNet website is not exactly helpful: “A phrase that has become a catchword.” No kidding (or, to borrow a couple of clichés that may or may not qualify as catch phrases, “No s**t, Sherlock?” and “For this you went to college?”). Wikipedia calls it “a phrase or expression that is popularized, usually through repeated use, by a real person or fictional character.” That’s more like it. Then I turned to Sir Eric Partridge, the late author of *A Dictionary of Catch Phrases* (which covers the 1500s to the 1970s), only to find that he shamelessly, as only a truly erudite individual can, admits that his answer to “What the devil is a catch phrase?” is “I don’t know.” Still, he might well have added, like Justice Potter Stewart speaking of hard-core pornography, “I shall not today attempt further to define the kinds of material I understand to be embraced within that shorthand description; and perhaps I could never succeed in intelligibly doing so. But I know it when I see it.”

Catch phrases (which can be as long as a sentence or even a brief dialog, or as short as a single word) belong to the category of formulaic language that includes proverbs, clichés, quips, slogans, mottos, taglines, jingles, and even schoolyard taunts (“Liar, liar, pants on fire”). They have spread beyond their initial context and have rooted themselves in the language, sometimes so deeply that their origins are forgotten. They are normally not as profound or meaningful as the quotable quotes that have attained a similar status—as, for instance, when marriage is described as “The triumph of hope over experience” or patriotism as “The last refuge of the scoundrel.” Hands up, everyone who knew that these were both coined by Dr. Samuel Johnson. No, I didn’t either.

Catch phrases, as Partridge’s dictionary makes eminently clear, do have a shelf life, and some die out faster than others. Who uses the 1980’s-vintage “Dy-no-mite!” or

“Where’s the beef?” these days? Yet 1939’s “I don’t think we’re in Kansas any more” seems to have years of wear left in it yet. So some that you’ll find in my catch phrase table elsewhere in this issue of *SlavFile* may seem shopworn to you; it’s just that to me they’re not. While essentially a broad sociocultural phenomenon, catch phrases can perform a similar function—as a reinforcement of identity—on the local, group, or even family level. I bet you and your friends/family members/significant others routinely exchange sayings from books, plays, movies, TV shows, comedy routines, or songs that hardly anyone else would remember or recognize. These are microcosmic catch phrases, and they add spice to life. They can also give you away: listen to a person’s favorite catch phrases and you’ll have an idea of the cultural context in which he or she functions most comfortably. My own selection, as it turns out, contains not one catch phrase from a song. I’m still trying to figure out what that says about me.

Once a catch phrase has inserted itself into the language and the culture, it cannot avoid change—it is transferred to any number of other spheres of use, mutates, modulates, takes on an ironic tinge, or becomes self-referential (serving no particular purpose other than just being or, at best, functioning as a kind of password exchanged between related entities). In other words, it suffers the deconstruction and reconstruction that are so often the fate of language in this (gulp!) post-post-modernist world.

But why are catch phrases such a pitfall for the non-native translator or interpreter? Because they are a form of stealth language. They sneak around and pop out in the most unexpected places, often not encased in quotes and posing as a perfectly innocent piece of literal language. Which they’re not. A while ago, translating a piece of literary criticism, I came across the phrase “all in white” [весь в белом], which my translator’s spider-sense (that uncomfortable feeling in the pit of the stomach) told me was not what it appeared to be. I called a language consultant who has rescued me from more translatorial missteps than I care to remember, and it took him mere moments to explain that what I had there was the punch-line of an old joke. I ended up rendering it “smelling like a rose,” and no, I’m not going to tell you the joke, because it’s more than a little scatological.

In the end, it’s all a matter of vigilance. No matter how simple and easily translatable a phrase may be, if it just doesn’t seem to sit quite right where the writer has put it, it’s worth querying. For me, Sophia Lubensky’s *Russian-English Dictionary of Idioms*, Piotr Borkowski’s Great (honestly, it’s not that Great) *Russian-English Dictionary of Idioms and Set Expressions*, and my monolingual Russian dictionaries of general, youth, and prison slang have

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sometimes proved useful, but they are not catch phrase-oriented and were, by definition, outdated before they hit the presses. Also, even if they do cover the phrase I'm looking for, they tend not to give the background I need to generate a good target-language equivalent. Next (or first, if you have a feeling that your possible catch phrase might be freshly minted), you could try a source-language search engine. The trouble with this is that, if the phrase has had the time to become deeply embedded in the language, you may spend forever trying to discover what it means, because every native speaker already knows that without being told. You could also, as a last e-resort, consult a really good online dictionary (I generally find Multitran unhelpful for collocations). But my most efficient solution is usually to contact a source-language speaker. A quick person-to-person consultation can save you precious time, especially if your problem collocation turns out not to be a catch phrase after all.

Which is where I could come in: we could make this a (semi-)regular *SlavFile* feature. Send me your huddled Anglophone catch phrases, yearning to breathe free. If you're

querying, I can respond rapidly, with as much information as I can muster, by e-mail (because, really, who can wait three months for an answer?). And then, unless you tell me not to, I will compile them into a table for an upcoming SlavFile. Or, assuming that I've omitted a whole bunch of your favorites in this issue (recalling how idiosyncratic each person's corpus of catch phrases is bound to be), send me those instead. I'll thank you later—and I mean that in a nice way.

In closing, one of the most engaging online sources I found on contemporary catch phrases and other formulaic language was at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/sgerber/trite.htm>. The tone is rather snooty and the list gives little or no background, but that's worth tolerating for the sake of confirming that these (currently) 85 words and phrases do indeed come with their own cultural baggage. I found that site after I'd selected my own table of catch phrases, and the small amount of overlap between its choices and mine was rather gratifying. Even if that does identify me as an uncultured schlub.

You will find me at my usual hangout: bliss@wmonline.com.

Catch Phrase	Source	Comments
All righty, then!	The movie <i>Ace Ventura, Pet Detective</i>	Spoken, with his usual manic enthusiasm, by Jim Carrey as "Ace Ventura." Possibly somewhat obsolete by now. Often used when completing an activity or proceeding from one activity to another.
Can I buy a vowel [,Pat]?	Contestants on the TV game show <i>Wheel of Fortune</i>	<i>WoF</i> contestants choose letters to try to solve a word puzzle, and have to pay from their current winnings if they want a vowel. Permission to buy is requested from Pat Sajak, the host. Often used when the speaker is uncertain about something or has answered a simple question in a stupid or irrelevant way.
Come on down!	The announcer on the TV game show <i>The Price Is Right</i>	Used (preceded by a person's name) to invite a contestant to leave his/her seat in the audience and join the game. Has apparently fixed itself so firmly in the culture that my hairstylist recently used it to let me know I should drop my magazine and come get my hair cut, but he didn't know where it came from.
D'oh!	"Homer Simpson" in the TV cartoon series <i>The Simpsons</i>	(Not to be confused with "Duh!" which belongs to a whole other semantic field.) This expression of mild physical or mental pain has probably been overused to the point of nausea by now, but still comes in handy when one has made a (relatively minor) mistake.
Deal or no deal?	The host of the TV game show <i>Deal Or No Deal</i>	Asked, with a dramatic flourish, to determine if the contestant prefers to take the money he or she has been offered and leave, or continue with the game. Used, with equal drama, when a decision of any kind needs to be made.
Don't hate me because I'm beautiful.	A TV commercial for Pantene shampoo	An "oldie but goody" favorite of mine, because it is apt to bring out the ironist in most of us. The spokesmodel, Kelly LeBrock, wasn't by any means hideous, but let's just say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. A handy phrase for defusing the awkward moment when one is seen exiting the shower or crawling out of bed looking a complete mess.
Don't have a cow [man]!	"Bart Simpson" in the cartoon series <i>The Simpsons</i>	Used to tell someone not to over-react. To anything.
Do you feel lucky?	Clint Eastwood as the title character in the movie <i>Dirty Harry</i>	The original wording in the movie was "You've got to ask yourself one question: 'Do I feel lucky?' Well, do ya... punk?" "Dirty Harry" has his gun in a criminal's face and explains that he can't remember how many bullets he expended in the recent shootout. If he pulls the trigger now and it turns out that he hadn't fired them all, this will be one <i>very</i> unlucky felon. Used, jokingly, to challenge anyone to push his or her luck.

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Eat my shorts!	"Bart Simpson" in the TV cartoon series <i>The Simpsons</i>	Dismissive phrase, used to tell someone to stop bothering you, get lost, etc. Some believe that it's a euphemism for eating even less savory items. Rather reminiscent of "Kiss my grits," spoken by the character "Flo," a café waitress in the late seventies/early eighties sitcoms <i>Alice</i> and <i>Flo</i> . (Grits are a grain dish, a culinary classic of the American South.)
Git-r-done!	The character "Larry the Cable Guy," seen on <i>The Jeff Foxworthy Show</i> and elsewhere	Pronounced "git-er-done"; means "Get her done," where "her" can be any upcoming or current project. Used to express enthusiasm (sincerely or sarcastically) for said project. This catch phrase has been labeled "redneck"; some find it unusually irritating. I recently saw a t-shirt with the slogan "Git <i>What</i> Done?" On the other hand, I have heard it used, without a hint of irony, by a CNN anchorman.
Hasta la vista, baby.	The movie <i>Terminator 2: Judgment Day</i>	Taught to Arnold Schwarzenegger's character, the cyborg "Terminator," as a colloquial way of dismissing someone. Not entirely obsolete yet. Has become closely associated with Schwarzenegger's accent and screen persona. Generally spoken with a menacing pause between the "vista" and the "baby."
Help! I've fallen and I can't get up!	A TV commercial for the Life Alert Emergency Response System	Life Alert customers can call for help wirelessly, using a pendant or bracelet, if they fall or become ill at home and cannot reach a phone. Used, mostly sarcastically, of or by anyone in a situation of minor distress. Has been around long enough to have gone through numerous mutations, such as "Help! I've fallen and I can't reach my beer!" and "Help! I'm talking and I can't shut up!"
Houston, we have a problem.	Originally the crew of the Apollo 13 moon mission, but now best known from the Tom Hanks movie <i>Apollo 13</i>	The Apollo 13 crew really did use a close variant of this phrase to report a serious technical problem with the spacecraft to NASA's Mission Control in Houston. But now the phrase is used, humorously, when anyone has a...well, a problem, and is intended to minimize the problem
I don't think we're in Kansas any more [Toto].	"Dorothy," the character played by Judy Garland in the 1939 movie <i>The Wizard of Oz</i>	Spoken by "Dorothy" as she emerges, holding her dog "Toto," into an unfamiliar landscape (the Land of Oz), having been carried there by a tornado. This is by far the oldest catch phrase in this table, but is routinely used today when finding oneself in unusual circumstances or witnessing any kind of oddity.
I see dead people.	The movie <i>The Sixth Sense</i>	The little boy—"Cole Sear," Haley Joel Osment's character—who first said this was deadly serious and terribly scared. But the phrase is used humorously, often to comment on someone who looks sick, hung over, or generally the worse for wear (<i>cf.</i> The Rolling Stones). This one has morphed, on bumper stickers, t-shirts, and coffee mugs, into "I See Dumb People."
I'll be back!	Arnold Schwarzenegger as the "Terminator" in the movie <i>The Terminator</i>	If spoken, must be said deadpan, and preferably with a mock-Germanic accent. Used to mean exactly what it says, whenever anyone is leaving a location temporarily (on the way to the bathroom, for instance). I would guess that in this respect it has mostly replaced "I shall return," as famously declared by General George Patton when forced to abandon the Philippines during World War II.
Is that your final answer?	The TV game show <i>Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?</i>	Asked, portentously, by Regis Philbin, the original host of <i>Millionaire</i> , to ensure that the contestant was not going to want to change his or her answer. Used, often sarcastically, when someone is having difficulty coming to a decision.
[Go ahead,] Make my day.	The movie <i>Sudden Impact</i>	Clint Eastwood's character, "Dirty Harry," is taunting a criminal to give him a reason to shoot. Has since mutated into an infinite combination of instructions; e.g., "Go ahead, make my toast."
No soup for you!	The TV sitcom <i>Seinfeld</i>	Spoken by the character "The Soup Nazi," who runs a soup eatery with an iron hand and refuses service to anyone who does not follow his strict procedures. Used to indicate that someone has broken an explicit or tacit rule.
Oh my God! They've killed Kenny!	The TV cartoon <i>South Park</i>	"Kenny McCormick" died in every episode of <i>South Park</i> over several seasons. And each time, either "Stan" or "Kyle," his elementary-school friends, would use this catch phrase and the other would respond "You bastards!" The cartoon itself has mutated the exchange; e.g., "Oh my God! We've killed Kenny!" – "We're...bastards?" Used, humorously, when anything has gone wrong.

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Say hello to my little friend!	The movie <i>Scarface</i>	Yelled by Al Pacino's character, "Tony Montana," just before he rakes the room and everyone in it with a machine gun. The "little friend" is the gun, of course. If spoken, is best pronounced in a fake Cuban accent ("shay" "leedle" "fren"). Is used, with due consideration for the social niceties, to introduce anyone to just about anyone or anything.
The Truth Is Out There...	The science fiction TV drama <i>The X-Files</i>	Never spoken in the show, I believe, but appears at the end of the opening sequence. Used seriously by UFO and government-conspiracy buffs and humorously by everyone else, in situations relating to a real or perceived mystery.
What we have here is a failure to communicate.	The movie <i>Cool Hand Luke</i>	Spoken, softly and ominously, by Strother Martin's "Captain, Road Prison 36" character, after brutally knocking Paul Newman's character "Luke"—who has just been returned to the prison following an escape attempt—to the ground. Used, humorously, to point up any misunderstanding.
You can't handle the truth!	The movie <i>A Few Good Men</i>	Spoken by Jack Nicholson's character, "Colonel Jessep," after having been told in a courtroom by Tom Cruise's character that he wants "The truth!" from him. Adopted, briefly and for no apparent reason, by "George Costanza" in the <i>Seinfeld</i> sitcom. Can be used in any (preferably light-hearted) situation involving the concept of "truth."
You'll thank me later.	The TV sitcom <i>Monk</i>	Spoken, often, by Tony Shalhoub's character, the obsessive-compulsive private detective "Adrian Monk." It was a retort much favored by his late mother. Generally used humorously, when doing or having recently done something that you know someone is not going to like and is unlikely to thank you for, ever.

Editor's note: SlavFile would love to publish personal lists of catchphrases from Slavic languages; use Liv's format or invent your own. Send to lydiastone@verizon.net. To whet your appetite, here are a few Russian catch phrases (модные словечки) culled from two terrific reference books, Мой несистематический словарь (Палаж-

ченко; P. Валенг; 2007) and The Russian Context (Eds: Boyle and Gerhart, Chapter on Popular Entertainment by Lyudmila Pruner, SLAVICA, 2002), and from the brain of my partner, Vladimir Kovner, without whose advice I do not put a Cyrillic word down on paper.

Catchphrase	Source	Approximate translation in context or explanation
А вы не пробовали мочу молодого поросёнка?	Фильм "Деловые люди"	A jocular answer to somebody's complaints that he has tried everything possible with no results.
А платить кто будет, Пушкин?	Фильм "Веселые ребята"	And who is going to pick up the tab for all that?
Боливар не выдержит двоих.	Фильм "Деловые люди"	There is no room for two of us in this business; so you are out of this game. The Russian film is based on O. Henry's story "The Roads We Take," where the line is "Bolivar, he's plenty tired, and he can't carry double," (Bolivar being a horse). (Possible outmoded English catchphrase equivalent: This town ain't big enough for the both of us.)
В греческом зале, в греческом зале...	Аркадий Райкин "Люди и манекены"	Jocular parody of someone's high-flown, pompous, pseudo-intellectual speech.
Видел я его в гробу, в белых тапочках.	Много источников, включая фильм "Бриллиантовая рука"	An expression of contempt.
Восток – дело тонкое.	Фильм "Белое солнце пустыни"	A comment in reference to some difficult situation, a problem which can be solved only with some careful diplomatic effort, especially involving Asia.
Ведь я же, Зин, не пью один.	Владимир Высоцкий	Expression of dislike or inability to do anything by oneself, especially with reference to drinking alcohol.
Где бы ни работать, лишь бы не работать.	Фильм "Весна"	It doesn't matter where you work as long as you don't have to do any.
Гюльчатай, открой личико.	"Белое солнце пустыни"	Please look at me, don't be shy.
За державу обидно!	"Белое солнце пустыни"	Used ironically to express a wounded sense of national pride.
Лучше гор могут быть только горы.	Владимир Высоцкий	A standard expression meaning that some people simply cannot live without mountain climbing.

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Нам такой хоккей не нужен.	Знаменитый спортивный комментатор Николай Озеров	We don't need this kind of behavior (unsportsmanlike playing).
Полный хоккей.	Геннадий Хазанов	Literally: Completely hockey, jocular way to say everything is okay.
Ребята, давайте жить дружно!	Мультфильм "Приключения кота Леопольда"	Come on guys, let's try to get along.
Ты как здесь оказался? - Стреляли.	"Белое солнце пустыни"	A jocular remark to someone encountered unexpectedly. English equivalent (old fashioned)—Fancy meeting you here.
Таможня даёт добро.	"Белое солнце пустыни"	Everything is fine, everything has been settled.
Шутки шутками, но могут быть и дети.	Аркадий Райкин "Люди и манекены"	A comment that even if everything seems OK, one has to think about consequences.

TRANSLATING CHILDREN'S POETRY:

THE WAR BETWEEN CHILDREN AND PARENTS

Lydia Stone and Vladimir Kovner

In our last issue, we presented some of our translations of children's poetry on a theme far removed from the saccharine topics that abound in this literature—the war between girls and boys. In case you have not noticed, there is another war that goes on in the lives of these innocents—that between children and grown-ups, particularly their parents.

ENGLISH POEMS TRANSLATED BY VLADIMIR, RUSSIAN POEMS TRANSLATED BY LYDIA

1. General principles: Obedience	
Ogden Nash	
The Parent Children aren't happy with nothing to ignore, And that's what parents were created for.	Родители Детям досадно, если не нужно Чей-то совет игнорировать дружно. Кого же не слушают дети упрямо? Для этого есть у них папа и мама.
A.A.Milne	
Independence I never did, I never did, I never <i>did</i> like "Now take care, dear!" I never did, I never did, I never <i>did</i> want "Hold-my-hand"; I never did, I never did, I never <i>did</i> think much of "Not up there, dear!" It's no good saying it. They don't understand.	Независимость Я никогда, никогда, никогда не любил "Осторожно, сынок, осторожно!" Я никогда, никогда, никогда не хотел "Дай руку, под ноги гляди!" Я никогда, никогда и не думал слушать "Куда ты? Туда не ходи!" Но что говорить? Им не понять! Им объяснить невозможно.
2. The Rules of War	
Grigoriy Oster	
Начиная драку с папой, Затевая с мамой бой, Постарайся сдать маме, Папа пленных не берет. Кстати, выясни у мамы: Не забыла ли она – Пленных бить ремнем по попе Запрещает Красный Крест.	When you're fighting with your parents, And surrender's in the cards. Don't surrender to your Papa, You will not get out alive. Try instead to cede to Mama Making sure that she remembers: Using straps on prisoners' bottoms Is against the Rules of War.
Если вы окно разбили, Не спешите признаваться. Погодите не начнется ль Вдруг гражданская война. Артиллерия ударит, Стекла вылетят повсюду, И никто ругать не станет За разбитое окно.	If you chance to break a window Do not hurry to confess Wait, perhaps a Civil War Will break out once again. Guns will shoot and bombs explode Glass will shatter everywhere No adult will have the heart to Bawl you out for just one pane.

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<p>Требуют тебя к ответу? Что ж, умей держать ответ. Не трясись, не хнычь, не мямли, Никогда не прячь глаза. Например спросила мама : - Кто игрушки разбросал? Отвечай, что это папа Приводил своих друзей. Ты подрался с младшим братом? Говори, что первый он Бил тебя ногой по шее И ругался как бандит. Если спросят: - Кто на кухне Все котлеты искусал? Говори, что кот соседский, А возможно сам сосед. В чем бы ты не провинился, Научись держать ответ. За свои поступки каждый Должен смело отвечать.</p>	<p>Called to answer for your actions, You must learn to answer well. Never tremble, whine or mumble Do not hide your eyes in shame. For example if your mama Asks, "Who scattered toys around?" Answer firmly, "It was Papa, Showing off before his friends." If you've hit your baby brother, Say that he attacked you first, That he cursed you like a sailor. If she asks who in the kitchen. Took a bite out of each cutlet, Say it was your neighbor's cat, Or the man himself perhaps. Learn to give a proper answer When you find yourself accused.</p>
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3. Misbehavior

Jack Prelutsky

<p>I Wonder Why Dad Is So Thoroughly Mad I wonder why Dad is so thoroughly mad, I can't understand it at all, Unless it's a bee still afloat in his tea, Or his underwear, pinned to the wall.</p> <p>Perhaps it's a dye on his favorite tie, Or the mousetrap that snapped in his shoe, Or the pipeful of gum that he found with his thumb, Or the toilet, sealed tightly with glue. It can't be the bread crumbled up in his bed, Or the slugs someone left in the hall, I wonder why Dad is so thoroughly mad, I can't understand it at all.</p>	<p>Мне не понять, почему же опять мой папа так страшно сердит Мне никак не понять, почему же опять Мой папа так страшно сердит. Оттого, что пчела в его чае была, И халат его к стенке прибит?</p> <p>Может краски пятно? Но всего лишь одно! Папин галстук не новый теперь? В сапоге мышеловка захлопнулась ловко. Странно! Папа взревел, как зверь.</p> <p>В трубке папы табак склеен жвачкой— пустяк! Папа шлёпнул меня слегка, В ванной папу ждал шок—заклеен горшок, Не открыть—прилипают рука.</p> <p>Крошки хлеба в постели налипли на теле, В прихожей жаба сидит... <i>Мне никак не понять, почему же опять Мой папа так страшно сердит.</i></p>
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Boris Zakhoder

<p>Никто Завелся озорник у нас. Горюет вся семья. В квартире от его проказ Буквально нет житья!</p> <p>Никто с ним, правда, не знаком, Но знают все зато, Что виноват всегда во всем Лишь он один—НИКТО!</p> <p>Кто, например, залез в буфет, Конфеты там нашел И все бумажки от конфет Кто побросал под стол?</p>	<p>Nobody A mischief maker's come to stay Our folks are in despair The stunts that he pulls every day Are more than they can bear.</p> <p>No one has ever seen his face, Though we all know his name For all the mischief in this place NOBODY is to blame.</p> <p>Who got the candy from the shelf We weren't meant to find? Then ate the whole box by himself And left a mess behind?</p>
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<p>Кто на обоях рисовал? Кто разорвал пальто? Кто в папин стол свой нос совал? НИКТО, НИКТО, НИКТО!</p> <p>НИКТО—ужасный сорванец!— Сказала строго мать.— Его должны мы наконец Примерно наказать!</p> <p>НИКТО сегодня не пойдет Ни в гости, ни в кино! Смеетесь вы? А нам с сестрой Ни капли не смешно!</p>	<p>Who drew with crayons on the walls? Who ripped his coat in two? Who listened in on papa's calls? NOBODY, that is who!</p> <p>Mom said, "No matter how we yell, NOBODY won't reform For once, let's try to treat him well; It can't do any harm.</p> <p>This weekend: who will watch TV Or go out to the zoo? And who'll have cookies with his tea? NOBODY, that is who!</p> <p>You think it's funny, I can see It's one big joke to you! It doesn't seem a joke to me Nor to my sister, Sue.</p>
<p>4. Issues of cleanliness and neatness Jack Prelutsky</p>	
<p>My Mama Says I'm Sickening My mother says I'm sickening, My mother says I'm crude, She says this when she sees me Playing Ping-Pong with my food, She doesn't seem to like it When I slurp a bowl of stew, And now she's got a list of things She says I mustn't do— Do not catapult the carrots! Do not juggle gobs of fat! Do not drop the mashed potatoes On the gerbil or the cat! Never punch the pumpkin pudding! Never tunnel through the bread! Put no peas into your pocket! Place no noodles on your head! Do not squeeze the steamed zucchini! Do not make the melon ooze! Never stuff vanilla yogurt In your little sister's shoes! Draw no faces in the ketchup! Make no little gravy pools! I wish my mother wouldn't make So many useless rules.</p>	<p>Мама сказала, что я отвратителен Мама сказала, что я отвратителен, Злая была не на шутку, Всё потому, что сосиской в пинг-понг Я поиграл минутку, Ещё потому, что я в рот еду Втягивал с шумом ужасным. Ругает за всякую ерунду— Всегда абсолютно напрасно. У мамы—я всегда виноват! И кто бы мне мозги вправил? Она повторила сто раз подряд Массу строжайших правил— Морковку оставь в покое! Не трогай рукой жаркое! Не смей пюре из картошки Обмазывать голову кошки! Соль мне не сыпь на раны! Не рой в хлебе туннель! Горох не клади в карманы! Не отжимай вермишель! Не бей кулаками дыню! Не делай, что я не прошу! Не жди, пока всё остынет! Не вешай на нос лапшу! В кетчуп не лезь руками! В горлышко палец не суй! Больно не делай маме! На скатерти не рисуй! В тупли йогурт не лей! Ну, кто бы вообще представил, Сколько есть у мамы моей Абсолютно ненужных правил.</p>

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CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

Don't forget to fill out and send in your reservation for the SLD banquet on page 4!

Yuna Moritz

<p>Носки Не надо грязные носки Забрасывать под шкаф! Они черствеют от тоски, В такую глушь попав: Там негде бегать, В мяч сыграть! Несчастные носки,— Потом нельзя их отстирать— Порвутся на куски! А надо грязные носки Бросать, ребята, в таз, Где скачут Мыла пузырьки, Как в лимонаде газ! А если таза нет— Под кран! Нет крана—пустяки! Ручей годится, океан, Чтоб выстирать носки! Годится озеро и пруд, Вода любой реки, Ведь благородный это труд— Стирать свои носки! И вам поэты не соврут, И скажут моряки, Что всенародный это труд— Стирать свои носки! И подтвердят вам знатоки Международных прав: Нет права грязные носки Забрасывать под шкаф! А за подобные броски Платить обязан штраф Любитель грязные носки Забрасывать под шкаф!</p>	<p>Socks Beneath the bed don't toss soiled socks, My children, it's not fair. From grief they'll turn as hard as rocks To find themselves stuck there. For in that narrow, dusty space, Untouched by mama's broom They can't kick balls or run a race. There simply isn't room! And you'll not get them clean again No matter how you scrub. Instead remove them one by one And plunge them in a tub. Fill it with water to the top Add soap and marinade. You'll see soap bubbles swell and pop Like fizzy lemonade. "But can I use the sink," you ask, "If there's no tub around?" No sink is worthy of this task A task that's so profound. A task like washing socks demands An ocean, lake or bay. "The noblest task for human hands," I heard a poet say. And legal experts all have said And precedents they cite To toss soiled socks beneath the bed There is no civil right. If this advice you should reject You would be out of line. So treat soiled socks with due respect. Or pay a giant fine.</p>
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menu toolbar now often appear without my having to move the mouse, just right clicking. If you're in a table, you'll get table functions by right clicking. If you're in a basic Word document, you'll get a menu that includes copy, paste, all the "paragraph" features (indentation, space above and below, line spacing), "font" features, styles, etc. I won't go into greater detail describing Word's new features—undoubtedly there are many reviews out there that do that better than I could—but in just a few hours I had learned to use my new product in a way that I believe saved me a little bit of time with every document.

In the end I got sick of hunting and pecking when I typed in Russian. A free homophonic keyboard was announced on the SEELANGS listserv and I jumped at the opportunity to give it a try, despite fears that Word would again start crashing. It didn't, and I'm happily typing away in rapid Russian (the "Russian for Gringos" keyboard is available at <http://shininghappypeople.net/deljlr/linux/xk-bkderussianforgringos.html>). As for the spellchecker that comes with the Microsoft language pack, it turns out to be the same one (Orfo) that I had been using before.

One last thing about Office 2007. You can still save any document in "Word 1997-2003 compatibility mode," but this is not the default. If you save it as a "regular" (i.e., what Microsoft hopes will become "regular") Word document, it has a new extension: docx. At first I tried submitting jobs and invoices in this format, but colleagues and clients quickly made it clear they didn't want to deal with this new extension, even though Microsoft makes it easy to download what they would need to open such documents. The same goes for Excel (xlsx) and PowerPoint (pptx).

Ten years from now will we all (or at least the vast majority of us) still be using Microsoft products in our daily work? Will some David come along to take on this Goliath? I don't know, but the improvements I see in Word 2007 lead me to think we'll be customers for a long time to come.

HRVATSKI PRAVOPIS

Janja Pravetic-Dickey, *SlavFile Editor for Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian*

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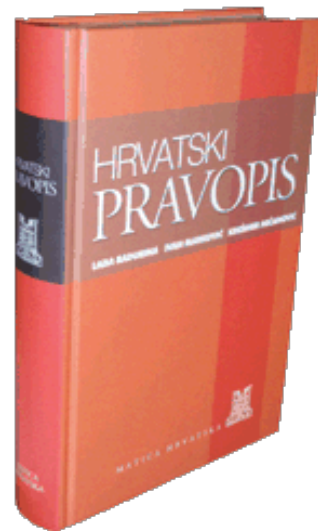
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One of the challenges in my work as a translator and editor working in the Croatian language has been identifying the (proper) Croatian orthographic standard to follow in my daily practice of writing/editing texts in Croatian. As all B/C/S translators know, the process of establishing a Croatian linguistic standard separate from what used to be Serbo-Croatian has been long and cumbersome; a number of mono- and bilingual dictionaries have appeared in past years, along with Croatian grammar books and stylistic guides, and yet the debate about what is and is not “proper” Croatian continues to this day. On one side are linguists whose goal has been to revive old Croatian traditions, and on the other are those who believe that it is better to follow contemporary common usage. The most recent addition to this controversy is the publication of the new *Hrvatski pravopis*, or Manual of Croatian Orthography, published by *Matica Hrvatska*.

Intended to put an end to the long-unresolved debate about how to write certain words in Croatian, which was reflected in the parallel existence of two manuals of Croatian orthography, one by Stjepan Babić, Božidar Finka and Milan Moguš and the other by Vladimir Anić and Božidar Silić, the new *Hrvatski pravopis* seems to have done exactly the opposite; the two linguistic camps are again at loggerheads, fighting their old wars. What is of course missing from both camps is the voice of reason and the wish to settle once and for all the issues that have been causing confusion among users of the Croatian language since 2001. When it first came out in 1990, the Babić *Pravopis* was a reprint of the 1971 edition, which had been banned in Croatia and later published in London. The 1990 edition was later revised and published in a total of five editions. The Anić and Silić *Pravopis* came out in 2001, and was more focused on contemporary Croatian usage. Thus, for a while Croatia had not one, but two manuals of orthographic rules existing side by side. Both ways of writing existed and were used by scholars, state institutions, and the media. Still, contemporary usage seemed to prevail and persist despite the introduction of old forms and the fact that the Babić-Finka-Moguš orthography manual had been approved by the Croatian Ministry for Culture and Science for use in elementary and secondary schools in Croatia. You are probably wondering how a translator or editor of Croatian decided what to do



in this unsettling situation.

What were university professors abroad supposed to teach their students of Croatian—the orthographic rules contained in one or the other *Hrvatski pravopis*?

In keeping with my firmly-held belief that language and politics do not mix well, I will spare the readers of this column the details of the politicized debate that has dominated the Croatian media this summer and over the past years. Instead, I will focus on the usefulness of the publication under review for translators and related language professionals. But first, for those eager to know, let me say that the new *Hrvatski pravopis* goes back to what used to be and still is contemporary standard Croatian usage. The three issues of contention that the two previous manuals were in disagreement about are resolved as follows: 1) The negative forms of the verb *htjeti* (to want) are to be written together rather than separately, i.e., *neću* instead of *ne ću* as proposed by Babić-Finka-Moguš; 2) in some words where a constant consonant cluster ending in *-r* is followed by the short reflex of the old “jat” vowel (ě), *-e-* is to be written instead of *-je-*, e.g., *pogreška* (error) and not *pogrješka*, (the latter alternative was proposed by Babić-Finka-Moguš); 3) *-d* and *-t* in the plural of nouns ending in *-dac*, *-tac*, *-dak* and *-tak* should be elided rather than preserved, e.g., *zadaci* instead of *zadatci* from *zadatak* (task) and *meci* instead of *metci* from *metak* (bullet).

This is no accident. As the *Matica* Presidency states in the introduction, their *Pravopis* “offers orthographic solutions that are in keeping with both the Croatian orthographic tradition and modern standard Croatian language.” Their manual is primarily intended to be “a useful and reliable tool for everyone using standard Croatian in writing.” In pursuit of this goal, the *Matica Pravopis* starts from the well-known premise that orthographic rules represent “nothing more than a set of conventions that need to be simple and user-friendly, and formulated in such a way as to resist change as much as possible.” As stated further in the introduction, the task of compiling the new *Hrvatski pravopis* was intentionally given to “linguists of a younger generation who are unencumbered by politics and attuned to the contemporary orthographic needs of the Croatian

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HRVATSKI PRAVOPIS *Continued from page 20*

public.” As such, it represents a move away from politics and a step forward in establishing an acceptable and reliable system of Croatian orthography.

Containing a total of 662 pages, the new *Hrvatski pravopis* consists of orthographic rules spelled out over 13 chapters, a dictionary that offers a wealth of orthographically interesting and unusual words on more than 300 pages, and an extensive appendix. The appendix includes the usual lists of countries of the world with their capitals, measurements, and Arabic and Roman numbers; a table of chemical elements; and templates for official Croatian correspondence, such as business letters addressed to individuals or institutions, requests, appeals, job applications, and resumes. All of these may be useful to translators, while the list of editor’s marks on the last two pages could be equally useful to editors and translators.

The useful information provided does not end here. In Chapter 13, the new *Hrvatski pravopis* provides a bibliographic style guide that has been sorely missing from Croatian scholarly literature. It offers a whole set of bibliographic guidelines, including instructions on how to list electronic sources accessed over the Internet or on a CD-ROM, as well as sections on the use of footnotes and endnotes. No doubt these will be very useful to students of Croatian interested in publishing their work in Croatian scholarly journals.

What else is there to say about the new *Hrvatski pravopis*? It is very up-to-date. For instance, the dictionary of Croatian and foreign acronyms on pages 185-201 includes many contemporary acronyms that now appear to be used with nearly the same frequency in Croatian as they do in English. Written in a simple and systematic manner, the *Matica Pravopis* nonetheless manages to be extremely thorough and detailed, with examples that are contemporary and simply make sense. It is packed with useful information that is neatly organized in easy-to-follow tables, e.g., a list of examples concerning when to use a comma (p. 68), foreign names and adjectives derived therefrom (p. 218), punctuation marks (p. 113), etc. In addition to the above-mentioned dictionary of Croatian and foreign acronyms, there is a long chapter on transliteration and transcription of foreign names from 49 different languages including Yoruba (!).

In summary, the new *Hrvatski pravopis* issued by Matica Hrvatska appears to be a very useful reference book that everybody using the Croatian language in writing—and that certainly includes us translators—should keep on his or her desk. The only thing that some speakers of English might have a potential problem with is the authors’ proposal to graphically adapt foreign words that have entered Croatian. This means that we are being asked to write *čizburger* instead of *cheeseburger*, *mejl* instead of *mail*, *atačment* instead of *attachment*, *apdejtati* instead of *updatati*, *daunloadati* instead of *downloadati*, and also

mizli instead of *müslü*, *cunami* instead of *tsunami*, *samit* instead of *summit*, etc. For educated English speakers, this might be hard to swallow; there is always something in us that makes us want to correct that spelling! Fortunately, the authors do not request that all foreign words be transcribed in this way; rather, the transcription is proposed as the best solution only in cases where this is possible and does not alter the message to be communicated. In all other cases, foreign words can be written in their original form but put in italics.

Finally, I would like to add that comparable orthographic manuals exist for Bosnian and Serbian. The one for Bosnian was published in 1995 in Sarajevo by the Bosnian Cultural Association *Preporod* under the title *Pravopis bosanskog jezika*. As the author Senahid Halilović states in the introduction, this is the first orthographic manual for the Bosnian language and is thus intended for use by all speakers of Bosnian, regardless of their nationality. For Serbian, there is *Pravopis srpskog jezika* by Mitar Pešikar, Jovan Jerković, and Mato Pižurica, which was published in 2002 by *Matica Srpska*. I hereby invite reviews of these manuals from our fellow Bosnian and Serbian translators and editors. Let us know what you think of them and how useful they are to you in your work. I am certain other B/C/S translators will appreciate your input.

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Англо-русский и русско-английский словарь религиозной и возвышенной лексики

English-Russian and Russian-English Religious and Spiritual Lexicon

Roy Cochrun, SlavFile Dictionary Editor

Compiler: D. I. Yermolovich

Publisher: R. Valent; **Publication date:** 2004

Price: \$29.95, plus shipping; **ISBN:** 5-93439-121-6

Available from: Eastview Publications

Number of pages: 263; **Number of entries:** About 5,000 terms and quotations

Not everything is taught in class when one studies Russian. Either that, or the student daydreams through part of the course and misses important tidbits of information.

This thought struck me when I realized certain gaps in my own knowledge as I translated my first article for a client that included Biblical references. Because of a dearth of Russian-to-English cultural or religious dictionaries at that time, I thought a reference to *4 Царств* was a typographical error when I found the passage being cited in *II Kings* in a **Revised Standard Edition** translation of the Bible. Either my instructors, native Russian speakers all, had never touched on the books of the Bible, or my brain was somewhere else the hour they did.

With the publication of D.I. Yermolovich's **Англо-русский и русско-английский словарь религиозной и возвышенной лексики**, translators finally have at least one source to which to turn when translating religious terms. With only about 5,000 terms (according to its own claim—more like 4,200 according to my estimate), the dictionary attempts to cover more than Christianity. There are terms from Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, and more, each indicated with an appropriate abbreviation, the expansions of which are found on pages 6 and 7 of the book. Even *мунисты* (the Moonies, followers of Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church) is included.

While the preceding paragraph makes it sound as if this dictionary is complete, bear in mind that the English-only **Zondervan's Pictorial Bible Dictionary**, for example, contains over 5,000 entries for Judaism and Christianity alone! Therefore, the dictionary reviewed here is by no means complete, but it is a very useful addition to one's reference collection.

Unlike some subjects we translate, where numerous cognates or transliterated names are used, religious terms and names are different. For example, *Навуходоносор* certainly doesn't resemble *Nebuchadnezzar*, and *Иисус Навин* might cause the novice translator to believe perhaps

the translation might be *Jesus the Nazarene*, rather than *Joshua*.

Terms that are not always so obvious, such as *возложение рук* (*laying on of hands*), *Антипасха* (*Low Sunday, Quasimodo*) and *неопалимая купина* (*burning bush*), and that do not appear in most other sources, are translated in this book. (Five generalist dictionaries ranging from compilation dates of 1994 through 2006 and Lubensky's *Russian-English Dictionary of Idioms* were searched, in addition to the computerized ABBYY *Lingvo* (release 8). The exception was Multitran (<http://www.multitran.ru/>), which had all three!)

The terms that can be found here include the titles of all Koranic sura, such as *Вьрывающие* (*The Soul-Snatchers*, title of sura 79), names of historic religious personalities such as *Блуа*, *Леон* (*Leon Bloy* who lived 1846-1917), and names and terms specific to Russia such as *Оптина Пустынь* (*Opta's Hermitage*, also known as *Optina Hermitage* or simply *Optina*, a monastery in Russia).

The book itself is hardbound with fairly large, legible print. The first part of the dictionary is English-to-Russian, which is discussed below. The second part, the Russian-to-English, the focus of this review, presents the entry followed by the correct religious translation. Complete head terms are at the top of each page and each main entry is in **bold**. Terms are easy to distinguish from one other and further explanations are provided within parentheses when the translation appears to make little sense or have no real connotation. Pronunciation of names is within brackets, while alternate translations are inside slant bars.

Yermolovich points out in the preface that because religion was ignored for years in the former Soviet Union, most of these terms were not included in dictionaries. This exclusion created a great need for the dictionary, as words

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RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LEXICON

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and terms often are mistranslated when encountered in a religious context. He has included the phonetic renditions of names in that horrid “phonetic alphabet” this reviewer has never learned so they may be pronounced correctly by interpreters and guides. But just how many tourist guides know the International Phonetic Alphabet remains unknown.

From time to time, boxed text provides detailed information about a translation. For example, the entry for *дванадцать праздники* (*Twelve Great Feasts* of the Eastern Orthodox Church) is followed by a boxed list of the 12 feasts in Russian, which are then translated into English.

The English-to-Russian part of the dictionary, not really reviewed here, makes a good cross-reference for the Russian-to-English pages. For example, the English-to-Russian entry for the Russian entry *Фатуха* (*Fatihah*), the first chapter of the Koran) has beneath it the text of the sura in English followed by two different Russian translations. Perhaps this is how the compilers reach approximately 5,000 words.

As a specialist dictionary, this dictionary is especially useful for anyone translating religious texts or histories. In addition, this work should not be overlooked by those who never know from day to day what type of job will land on their desk. The **Англо-русский и русско-английский словарь религиозной и возвышенной лексики** is most definitely one I have on my shelf.

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N.B. While doing some background research before writing this review, a large, free Russian-to-English dictionary was discovered on the Web that originally was printed in 1885. The dictionary, in *Adobe Acrobat* format, is nearly 1,100 pages long and in old spelling of course. As it is approximately 64 megabytes in size, it will take some time to download on a dial-up connection.

Of added interest are the appendices. Appearing in the following order, they are:

- a geographic dictionary (nearly 15 pages)
- an alphabetic list of Christian names with the date of the applicable saint’s day (about four pages)
- a list of abbreviations used in the history and mythological dictionaries that follow
- the history dictionary (four pages)
- the mythological dictionary (four pages)
- an alphabetic list of abbreviations used in the Russian language (including both Latin and Cyrillic abbreviations—one page)
- a comparison of weights, measures, and coins with English weights, measures, and coins (three pages)
- four pages of “missing words” from the original dictionary

- finally, four pages of corrections to errors in the main text.

Sadly, some pages were not scanned properly and several letters in the left column of those pages are missing. In addition, some words are difficult to read. Nonetheless, the 1885 **Complete Russian-English Dictionary** is available for download at <http://tinyurl.com/2u4k2c> and should be useful for anyone translating something written before spelling reform. (If the link provided does not work, please e-mail roy@royfc.com for the actual link which is 137 characters long.)

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A Wordy Request

Do you have “favorite” words you look up when trying to determine whether or not a new Russian-to-English generalist dictionary might suit you? How about new Russian words such as *нуар* or newer acronyms like *ЧНГ* or *холдинг*? Are there any words you think you should **not** find in a generalist dictionary? (Are there such words?) Regardless which classification of words you check, please send your qualifying words and terms to roy@royfc.com and they will be used in a review of several new generalist dictionaries that have been published the past few years.

