

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

by Susana Greiss

We're back from another wonderful ATA Conference and fairly recovered from all the excitement. Our sessions were lively and well attended, and we have acquired some new members. Our panel discussion involved plans for the future; several interesting topics were suggested for next year's Conference in Colorado Springs, one on translation word count for billing purposes, and the other on transliteration. As could be expected (since we are mostly Russian or of Russian descent), there were three opinions for every two people. Therefore, we decided to expand on these two subjects at next year's Conference. We also have a promise from our new member Marina Tarlinskaya to conduct a literary session. The Division is growing fast and we need all sorts of people to help out.

As you know, Christina Sever has resigned as editor of the *SlavFile* for health reasons, but we were fortunate to be able to recruit a new editor who, I think, will do us proud: Lydia Razran Stone. Thomas West agreed to serve as assistant editor; his primary job will be to look out and solicit interesting material for the newsletter. So, thanks, guys, we knew you would come through for us!

Lydia's phone and fax number in Alexandria, Virginia is (703)768-5441. Tom's numbers in Atlanta, Georgia are phone (770)333-9911 and fax (770)330-0397. They are both looking forward to hearing from SlavFile readers, especially those with contributions to the newsletter.

Because the card shop in the mall adjacent to the hotel was closed, an original get-well card was obtained for Christina comprised of two hand-painted wood tablets the size of a small tray. With the help of the ATA staff, we taped the two together, pasted a folder inside, and everyone signed it. Marina Tarlinskaya wrote a poem in Russian, Lydia Stone wrote a poem in English, and Mila Bonnichsen hand-delivered the whole thing to Christina, since they both live in Corvallis, Oregon. It's almost worth getting sick! (I said almost). I just talked to Christina; she got a big kick out of the card. She is doing fine and is back at work.

We held our first elections, and the **Slavic Language Division** won by a slim margin. (See the Election Inspector's report in this issue.) The change is subject to final approval by the ATA Board to make it official, but we do not foresee any problems. So now you must get used to thinking in terms of **Slavic Language Division**. However, our goals and policies remain the same, we continue to accept anyone who is interested in the

concerns of translators, interpreters and instructors of all Slavic languages as well as the languages of the former Soviet bloc. The petition to ATA will be submitted for consideration at the next meeting of the Board, which will be held some time in March 1996. I will continue to be your Administrator for the next two years, at which time I would like to pass the torch on to someone else. Ann Macfarlane also agreed to serve for the next two years (What would I do without her?)

I personally attended a couple of meetings of the Board in Nashville where, I suspect, some Board members watched me with some trepidation. (I have a reputation for speaking my mind.) One of the reasons I was there was the Treasurer's recommendation that every Division be charged a certain amount per member in order to cover expenses that the ATA incurs in serving us. This assessment covered not only direct expenses but also our share of the ATA's administration. The share to each member of the SLD, according to him, came to \$6. Prior to the Conference I had contacted all Division heads (except the Japanese, whom I was unable to reach), and we all agreed that this was not acceptable. When a member pays ATA dues, that amount should cover ATA operations; Division dues should cover Division expenses. After some deliberation, and with the support of my trusted aide Ann Macfarlane and two other Division administrators, the Board decided that only our direct expenses (postage, telephone), averaging \$2 per member, would be charged to the Division. Six dollars/year may not seem like very much, but it adds up to \$2,500 for us, and I can think of quite a few things we could do with \$2,500. As a result, our dues will not be increased at any foreseeable time, and this makes me especially happy at this time, when ATA's dues have just gone up from \$75 to \$95. *(continued on page 2)*

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Membership

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

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Affiliate membership \$15 per year provides a subscription to the newsletter and participation in regional and national activities.

Write to Susana Greiss at above address.

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Display ad: \$25 per issue for up to

¼ page. Send artwork to editor and payment to Susana Greiss.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR (continued from page 1)

Speaking of which, please don't forget to pay your Division dues together with your ATA dues. If you have paid previously for ATA membership for multiple years, you still must send in your \$15 for the SLD **now**. Affiliates should pay by check or money order made out to Susana Greiss marked Slavic Division dues and mail it directly to me. It is very time-consuming to remove names and then add them back on again in May or June; last year we had to send over 100 reminders because people had unintentionally forgotten to pay.

We are also planning to conduct a survey in our next issue of the *SlavFile* to see how our members are faring and how we can best serve them. So please watch for it and return it to the indicated address.

We hope that by the time you read these pages our Directory will be out. Everyone will get a copy free of charge. Please treat it with the utmost care and respect: it took an entire year of dedication on the part of Robert Welsh, plus scrutiny by many eyes to get it in shape. If you find any errors in your entry, please let us know so that we can add an *errata* page to the client. (Come to think of it, if you find any errors, we don't want to hear about them, no sir! The first member who complains will be regarded as having officially volunteered – and been appointed – to put together the next Directory of the Slavic Language Division. So be forewarned...)

Wishing you all a belated Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year,

Susana Greiss

Report on Elections

Held at the 1995 Russian Language Division Meeting

by William P. Keasbey, Inspector of Elections

In the elections for the Russian Language Division that took place at the Annual Conference of the American Translators Association on November 9, 1995 there were 52 proxy ballots submitted prior to the Conference and 21 actual ballots cast at the meeting of the Russian Language Division. In the balloting for the officers 18 of the proxy ballots were marked to be voted at the discretion of the person designated as proxy (in each case, William P. Keasbey, the Inspector of Elections) and 34 were marked for Susana Greiss and Ann G. MacFarlane. All of the actual ballots were cast for Susana Greiss and Ann G. MacFarlane, making their election unanimous.

With regard to the proposed amendment to change the name of the Division from the Russian Language Division to the Slavic Language Division, 15 of the proxy ballots gave the proxy holder discretion in voting the ballot, 17 voted for the amendment, 18 voted against it, and 2 failed to follow the instructions for marking the ballot. Of the actual ballots cast, 13 were for the amendment and 8 were against it. Thus the discretionary proxy votes could have decided the election. Since the Inspector of Elections did not feel, however, that his mandate was to decide the election on the basis of his personal inclination, but rather to count the ballots and determine the will of the members, he voted the proxy ballots in the ratio of votes cast, i.e. 8 for and 7 against. Total votes in favor of the amendment were thus 38 and votes opposed to it 33.

Resources

New Dictionaries Obtained and Recommended by Our Members

From: Robert Taylor

Русско-английский словарь делового человека в 2-х томах В.Н. Якушков, Т.П. Якушкова, А.А. Ченадо; Минск, АСАР, 1994, 80, 000 entries; very complete and accurate; full separate listing of abbreviations, countries of the world with their capitals and currencies, international and national organizations; loaded with up-to date financial usage; British and American usage.

Англо-русский словарь по экономике и финансам. А.Б. Аникин, Санкт-Петербург, Экономическая школа, 1993, 75, 000 terms; excellent detail; American and British equivalents; easy to use with numerous derived words for key entries.

From: Thomas L. West III, Atlanta Translation, Inc.

Dictionary of Business and Legal Terms. Russian-English, English-Russian. DeBeer, Shane R. New York: Hippocrene, 1995. ISBN 0-7818-0163-X. \$50. Contains 20,000 entries in each section. The author is a practicing attorney in Houston.

Random House Russian-English Dictionary of Idioms. Lubensky, Sophia. New York: Random House, 1995. ISBN 0-679-40580-1 \$75.00. Over 7,500 idioms and set expressions. Illustrative citations from 235 works of Russian literature. American English equivalents of Russian idioms. Grammatical and usage information. Complete alphabetical index of Russian terms. Bibliography of literary works used.

The Comparative Russian English Dictionary of Russian Proverbs and Sayings. Mertvago, Peter. New York: Hippocrene, 1995. ISBN 0-7818-0283-0. \$35.00. Contains 5543 entries. The 1900 most common proverbs are highlighted. Contains an English proverb index. Each translated proverb is translated literally and then followed by an English equivalent.

The Penguin Russian Dictionary. English-Russian, Russian-English. Ryan, W.F. and Norman, Peter. New York: Viking, 1995. ISBN 0-670-82836-X. \$50.00 Over 140,000 entries and derivatives. Literary words, including the more commonly found historical terms and obsolete meanings. Colloquial and slang usage. Terminology used in science, technology and the arts. Common and scientific abbreviations and acronyms. Proper names (historical, mythological, personal, geographical), ethnonyms and common phraseology.

Dictionary of Russian Slang. Shlyakhov, Vladimir and Adler, Eve. New York: Barrons, 1995. New York: Barrons, 1995. ISBN 0-8120-9085-3. \$11.95. Each term is used in an illustrative sentence in Russian and English. Includes street language, criminal jargon, teenagers slang and army and police expressions.

From Lydia Stone,

Rumpelstiltskin Translations

FOUND ON THE
STREETS OF MOSCOW

Англо-русский медицинский энциклопедический словарь (адаптированный перевод 26-го издания Стедмана) А.Г. Чучалин, Э.Г. Улумбеков, О.К. Поздеев, Москва, ГЕОТАР (endorsed and copyrighted by English publisher, Williams & Wilkins, and may exist in a U.S. produced version), 1995, ISBN 5-88816-001-6. About \$30.00 from a Moscow vendor in September. Steadman's in English was my bible when I was doing full time biomedical translation; this book appeared to be to be worth its considerable weight in gold, but, as if on purpose, I have had no difficult biomedical work since I acquired it so I cannot evaluate it from experience. I have, however, looked it over and have confirmed my first opinion; although surely it will be found to have some frustrating shortcomings. Number of terms not listed; 694 pages of text. Format is: English term, phonetic transcription of English term, and sometimes English derivation. Translation of word into Russian (tends to be fairly literal and may not be common Russian term). Translation of definition from original English edition into Russian. English synonyms, Russian synonyms (invaluable as these are likely to include the preferred Russian term). Cross reference. Lacks the illustrations of the original Steadman's but does contain a number of appendixes.

Новый словарь сокращений русского языка. Е.Г. Коваленко, Москва, ЭТС 1995. ISBN 5-86455-047-7. Edition size: 5000 copies. (I don't remember what I paid, so it must have been rather but not memorably little.) 32,000 terms. Entries include abbreviations and Russian expansion only. Among the papers on my desk I found several abbreviations that, I had a hunch, post-dated the Soviet Union - ГИЦ (state scientific center) and ГКО (short-term government bonds), КВН (popular tv show). Sure enough, none of these were found in my 1983 Soviet dictionary of abbreviations, they were all in the "New Dictionary."

FOUND AT KAMKIN (The Washington area Russian bookstore, 301- 881-5973, fax 301-881-1637)

Англо-русский словарь-минимум психологических терминов, В.В. Лучков, В.П. Рокитянский, Москва, Путь No ISBN number listed. Edition size 20, 000 copies. Number of terms 1200, Russian index included allowing use of dictionary in the reverse direction. \$4.00. In addition to its price, which reminds us of the

(continued on page 4)



NEW DICTIONARIES (continued from page 3)

good old days of Russian book purchase, this volume is notable in that, as far as I know, it is the first English-Russian dictionary of psychology ever published, and believe me I have been on the lookout for one for years. These two factors are enough to support a strong recommendation that any one who has to translate psychological terminology, even occasionally, ought to snap it up. However, there are a number of factors that would limit its usefulness for an American translator of Russian. First, it is very short (a mere 1200 terms). Secondly, although it is bidirectional, the terms were selected to be those central to the psychology of the English speaking world, and furthermore, judging by the psychologists listed in acknowledgment, predominantly the psychology of the early classical period of 20th century psychology, say ending in about 1960. Nevertheless, there remain more English psychological terms here than I have seen elsewhere and when I looked through the Russian equivalents, the majority of them were either terms I know to be the ones in use or very sensible, understandable Russian renderings of the English terms.

FOUND AROUND WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Oxford Russian Minidictionary. Russian-English, English-Russian. Thompson, Della, Oxford, New York, Oxford University Press, 1995. ISBN 0-19-864188-5, 45,000 terms, \$6.95. I am never at ease in a bilingual situation, no matter how informal, if I do not have a dictionary somewhere around, so I was particularly interested in this little pocket dictionary, billed as the most comprehensive and up-to-date of its size. With regard to size, it is almost exactly the size of a volume of the small *Библиотека поэта* series that many of us learned Pushkin from. It weighs about 9 oz. The print is small but readable to me without glasses, and I need them for such things as aspirin bottles. Stress is indicated, and some grammatical information, such as irregular inflection patterns, are provided but only for Russian words, making this most suitable for native speakers of English. To get some idea of scope of coverage I considered the first page of the English-Russian section. The Minidictionary has 27 entries on this page from "a" to "abort;" my full-size Katzen, which is what I usually carry around with me, contains 11 more words up to abort; on the other hand my pocket sized Soviet edition, which has print only minimally easier to read, contains 18 fewer entries between these terms. It is a shame that this issue of SlavFile will not come out until after Christmas, as I would recommend this book highly as a stocking stuffer.

A Dictionary of Russian Gesture. Monahan, Barbara, Hermitage. P.O. Box 410, Tenafly, N.J., 07670. 1983 ISBN 0-938920-38-3. \$10.50. I found this delightful book the other day by chance on the shelves of my local Borders

Book Store. For all I know, I have bought the only remaining copy on sale; nevertheless I am going to review it. The author describes 73 Russian gestures under 10 rubrics (Confusion, perplexity, frustration; Drinking; Mockery and self-mockery, Personal contact; Warning gestures, Expressions of personal needs and desires; Superstition; Sexual gestures; Approval and disapproval; Miscellaneous). A double page spread is devoted to each gesture; one of these contains a photograph of a native speaker (gesturer?) performing the gestures, with two photographs if the gesture is dynamic. Under the photo is the Russian rendering or words accompanying the gestures. On the facing page the author provides in English such information as origin, social and gender context, range, comparison with American gestures, and anecdotes. This book is a must for every Slav, Slavist, and Slavophile on your gift list.

DICTIONARY EXCHANGE

By Lydia Stone

I would like to start a dictionary exchange, in which readers with duplicate or no longer needed dictionaries can make them available to others. For example, I, Lydia Stone, have the following dictionaries that I would be willing to sell for the best offer, exceeding postage, but would prefer to trade for dictionaries not in my collection (Xerox copies completely acceptable) or other Russian books.

Терминологический словарь по экологии, геоботанике и почвоведению (русско-англо-немецко-французский). Т.Г. Горышина и соавт. Ленинград, изд. Ленинградского университета, 1988, 39000 terms, 250 pages. Never used.

Словарь русского языка. С.И. Ожегов, Москва, Русский язык, 1986, 57,000 terms, 796 pages. Very good condition.

Биологический энциклопедический словарь. М.С. Гиляров, Москва, Советская энциклопедия 1986, 831 pages, illustrated. One page creased, otherwise very good condition.

Русско-английский медицинский словарь, Москва, Русский язык, 1975, over 50,000 terms, 647 pages. Fair condition.

The Concise Illustrated Russian-English Dictionary of Mechanical Engineering. Shvarts, V.V., Москва, Русский язык, 1980, 3795 terms, 224 pages. Poor, but completely usable condition.

Also: one Russian scrabble set, never used.

NOTE: Reader input is solicited as to whether "Slov R (or Я) Us" is an acceptable title for this feature.



SlavFile Lite or NOT BY WORD COUNT ALONE

by Lydia Stone

My name is Lydia Razran Stone and I have taken over editing this newsletter from Christina Sever who did a superb job for us for 2 years. Christina has been seriously ill, but, we are delighted to report, is well on her way to recovery. I am a translator working from Russian to English and living in Alexandria Virginia. I had my first job as a translator when I was 16 (birth certificates for Social Security) but did not become a full time translator until 1985 when I began working on biomedical material for NASA. For the last year or so I have been a full time free-lancer. My education was approximately equally divided between humanities and the social and life sciences and I have a Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology. My passion is for literature, especially poetry and humor.

I have always wanted to write a column. I propose to devote this one to the lighter side of our mutual Slavophilia, peripheral perhaps to our professional advancement, but good for the soul. I propose to include anecdotes in both in the English and Russian senses, translated poetry, recipes, restaurant reviews, recommendations of various kinds, and the like. My history as a slavophile has been long and rich and I have thus accumulated quite a backlog of such material. I can probably fill such a column from my files and head indefinitely. However, it will be a great deal more interesting for everyone if readers contribute materials - in either language.

Does anyone else collect Cyrillic license plates? Our Dodge Caravan used to be KAPABAH, before my husband decided he wanted a plate that reflected his own pursuits. A man in my Metro parking lot who used to write a grain report on the Soviet Union for a government agency had ЗЕPHO, and there is someone attending the Russian Orthodox Church in Washington who has BOT OH. Someone in my neighborhood has CTAPYXA. Please, readers, send in others.

In my admittedly limited experience, I find the following joke has the interesting property of distinguishing between Russians (and at least certain Slavophiles) who think it is funny and Americans who either don't get it or think it is stupid. Try it yourself and let me know.

A man is selling Flea Powder at an open air market. A potential customer comes up to him and asks how it should be used. The purveyor replies that what you have to do is find yourself a flea, hold it down your finger nail, and then sprinkle the powder on it. But, says the bemused customer, I can do that fine without the powder. Even better, answers the seller, just think of how much powder you'll have left.

As a holiday offering I am providing my translation of Lermontov's Cossack Lullaby (page 6), which, as most of you probably know, was set to music by Glinka.

I would like to heartily recommend the Russian Cookbook: "Please To The Table" by Anya von Bremzen and John Welchman, New York, Workman Publishing, 1990, \$18.95 in paperback. My copy has been thoroughly and enthusiastically taste-tested by both Russian and American dinner guests, not to mention my family. Procedures are not too arduous, and all ingredients are fairly readily obtainable in this hemisphere. There are a minimum number of ludicrously high fat dishes, but there has been no unwarranted capitulation to American foibles either (i.e., low-fat sour cream is not mentioned). Finally, although meat dishes are certainly not neglected, there are enough meatless recipes to make it suitable for vegetarians, I have almost as many cookbooks as dictionaries and there are few I like as much as this one.

If there are any birdwatchers among the membership planning a trip to Russia in the spring who would like information about birding in the environs of Moscow, please contact me. - LRS

Finally, I would like to share my husband's recipe for a first order approximation of Russian bread in a recipe devised for a bread machine. The secret, ingredient malt (солод), can be obtained in the homebrewers shops that are proliferating like yeast throughout the country.

BLACK MALT BREAD

Recipe designed for 1½ pound round-type bread maker, but may be adapted to other sizes or hand methods. All amounts are ad lib, to taste; there is plenty of latitude for variation.

Add to bread maker:

- ½ Tbsp baking yeast (1 packet)
- 1 cup bread (or white or unbleached) flour
- ¼ cup medium rye flour
- ¾ cup whole wheat flour
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1 heaping Tbsp caraway seeds
- 1 heaping Tbsp onion flakes
- 1 tsp salt

Grind to flour in blender or food processor, and add to bread maker:

- 2 Tbsp "roasted" or "chocolate" barley malt (from home beer maker's supply store)
- 2 Tbsp pale barley malt (ditto)
- ¼ cup oats, quick or "old-fashioned"

Add to bread maker:

- splash of cooking oil (1 Tbsp to ¼ cup)
- 10 oz leftover coffee, room temperature

Start bread machine, and gradually add additional white (bread) flour until dough is the right consistency. You know what that is.

Take a nap, go to a movie, or mow the lawn

Казачья колыбельная песня

Спи, младенец мой прекрасный,
Баюшки-баю.
Тихо смотрит месяц ясный
В колыбель твою.
Буду сказывать я сказки,
Песенку спою;
Ты ж дремли, закрывши глазки,
Баюшки-баю.

По камням струится Терек,
Плещет мутный вал;
Злой чечен ползет на берег,
Точит свой кинжал;
Но отец твой старый воин,
Закален в бою:
Спи, малютка, будь спокоен,
Баюшки-баю.

Сам узнаешь, будет время,
Бранное житье;
Смело взденешь ногу в стремя
И возьмешь ружье.
Я седельце боевое
Шелком разошью...
Спи, дитя мое родное,
Баюшки-баю.

Богатырь ты будешь с виду
И казак душой.
Провожать тебя я выйду —
Ты махнешь рукой...
Сколько горьких слез украдкой
Я в ту ночь пролью!..
Спи, мой ангел, тихо, сладко,
Баюшки-баю.

Стану я тоской томиться,
Безутешно ждать;
Стану целый день молиться,
По ночам гадать;
Стану думать, что скучаешь
Ты в чужом краю...
Спи ж, пока забот не знаешь,
Баюшки-баю.

Дам тебе я на дорогу
Образок святой:
Ты его, моляся богу,
Ставь перед собой;
Да готовясь в бой опасный,
Помни мать свою...
Спи, младенец мой прекрасный,
Баюшки-баю.

(1838)

Cossack Lullaby

Sleep my child, my pretty fellow
Lully lullaby
The moon is shining bright and yellow
Lighting up the sky.
I will tell you tales and stories
Songs I'll sing for you
Close your eyes and have no worries
Lully lully loo.

In the night the Chechen swaggers
On the river wall
Waiting there with sharpened daggers
To kill us one and all.
But your daddy won't desert you
Long he's fought the foe.
He won't let them near to hurt you
Lully lully low.

Soon enough you'll be a soldier—
Off to war you'll ride
With your rifle on your shoulder
Dagger at your side.
Mounted on a cossack saddle
I've sewn with silken thread
Sleep while you know naught of battle,
Rest your little head.

You'll look like an ancient hero
Valor in your eye.
We will all come out to cheer you
You will wave good-bye.
Oh what bitter tears of sorrow
On that night I'll cry.
Sleep my babe, until tomorrow,
Lully, lullaby.

I will pine and I will languish
Long for news of you.
Go to church and pray in anguish,
Conjure when I'm through.
I will fret that you are lonely,
That you miss me too.
Close your eyes, my one and only.
Lully, lully, loo.

A holy icon I will give you
Wear it night and day,
Then you'll always have it with you
When it's time to pray.
And you'll see my face before you
When you gird to fight
Don't forget me, I implore you
Lullaby, good-night.

Translated by L.R.Stone (1995)

Business Terminology Workshop

by Paul Kennedy with William Keasbey

For the 1995 ATA Conference, the Russian Language Division held a hands-on workshop on business terminology. The participants divided up into small groups to discuss two passages. One was a report in Russian concerning the Ministry of Finances figures for the first quarter of 1995. The other was a newspaper report in English on unemployment data for the state of Illinois. Areas of difficulty involved in translating each passage from the original into the other language generated some animated discussion. A few illustrative examples follow.

The Russian report began: "Федеральный бюджет исполнен в 1-ом квартале 1995 года по доходам на 32,1 трлн. руб., по расходам на 39,7 трлн. руб., дефицит составил 7,6 трлн. руб..." The word *исполнен* already creates something of a problem for the translator. The Russians speak of planning their federal budget and then executing it, while English speakers would not use a term like *execute*. Alternative suggestions included: "the federal government operated with revenues of ..." and "The federal government took in revenues of..."

The report mentioned "ГКО", which in this case was expanded as *государственные краткосрочные облигации*. A suggested translation was *short-term government bonds*, and the question arose as to whether *бонды* was appropriate in view of the fact that the short-term borrowing instruments of the US Treasury were usually called *notes* or *bills* rather than *bonds*, which are usually long-term instruments. The economic experts at the session pointed out that when the word *облигации* is used in discussion Russian government borrowing, it is properly rendered as *bonds*. In any event, *obligations* would be a false cognate in this case. One participant pointed out the pitfalls in using glossaries of acronyms. The best dictionaries of abbreviations gave only *Государственный комитет обороны*, *State Committee for Defense* as the expansion of ГКО.

The phrase *основные макроэкономические показатели* also generated some debate. One group recommended *leading economic indicators*, which sounds very idiomatic in English. Another group pointed out, however, that this term is too specific, because it refers only to certain economic indicators that are believed to have predictive power. There is nothing in the Russian text to indicate that what are referred to in the original passage are anything more specific than *basic macro-economic indicators*, a straightforward translation of the Russian.

The English-Russian translation also contained similar subtleties. A major point of discussion was finding the most idiomatic way to render certain verbs of decrease or increase in Russian. In a number of places the article spoke of the unemployment rate having *crept*

up or *jumped*, or referred to a sector of the economy having been *strengthened*. In some cases, analogous Russian verbs are appropriate, if one has them in one's active vocabulary, for example, *подскокнуть* for *to jump*. In other instances, the use of such metaphorical verbs might better be abandoned. According to one suggestion, *crept up to 5.7 percent*, could best be rendered as *достигла 5,7 процента*.

Another interesting question involved how best to render the names of official government agencies of the U.S., specifically how to translate *Illinois Department of Employment Security*. There was some debate as to whether the Russian "департамент" would be suitable here.

These are but a few example of the questions that arose and were discussed with enthusiasm. The session provided an object lesson as to the variety of nuances that constantly come into play in our work.

Computerized Glossary and Ukrainian Translation Session

By Igor Vesler

Saturday morning, Igor Vesler presided over not one, but two sessions. The first was entitled English/Russian Glossary Compilation Technology Using dBASE DBMS. In it the speaker described a simple method of project glossary compilation and related procedures. Russian-English and English-Russian glossaries are very useful for medium- and long-range projects, since they help to ensure terminological consistency of documentation over the project life cycle, and foster development of a common understanding of project ideas and concepts. Such an understanding is extremely important in such areas as financial and legal support of highly technical projects, e.g., oil and gas field exploration and development, nuclear engineering, aerospace projects, etc.

Since, during the project life, the glossary would have to be updated at several different sites, including some in Russia, a simple DOS-based program was used. From time to time, updated copies of the glossaries received from different sites were merged into a master file, corrected, and the new updated merged file distributed back to the sites.

The glossary creation technology involved the following phases:

- ▶ re-processing of the source documents (deformatting and saving as plain ASCII files);
- ▶ processing of the source ASCII files using the POWRGLOS program, which extracts single word terms and terminological combinations from the text and thereby creates a list of potential glossary terms;
- ▶ editing and translation of the terms in this list;
- ▶ loading the list of terms and their translations into a database, sorting the database alphabetically in both languages, and producing Russian-English and English-Russian printouts as well as a master file for further distribution.

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The POWRGLOS program was coded in *Power-Basic* and uses a stop list of common words and standard text delimiters for term identification. All procedures were demonstrated at the conference session using a simple technical text as an example.

Igor's second session was a Ukrainian Translation Workshop in which participants discussed a sample Ukrainian translation (General Power of Attorney), identified incorrect renderings, discussed possible alternatives, and shared their opinions on various aspects of English to Ukrainian translation.

Translating Two "Killers"

by Marina Tarlinskaya

The session on literary translation of the Russian Language Division was indeed a feast for the mind and the soul. The material chosen by the two speakers was very different: one dealt with the translation of a contemporary Russian emigre thriller, and the second a nineteenth century poem, a literary imitation of a folk fairy tale. But both translations had something in common, the talent of the translators, and the quality of the final product.

The first speaker, Laura Wolfson, translated a short novella by a prolific Russian emigre author, Eduard Topol, whose works are hot stuff with the Russians both in Brighton Beach and the ex-Soviet Union. The story develops against the rich background of Brighton Beach with its fortune-seeking and frequently criminal inhabitants. It is, in Laura's words, a picaresque, pornographic, post-perestroika tale about a KGB agent, Nikolai, who, in the spirit of the times, leaves the state sector and becomes a private hit-man (*киллер*, a new Russian word) for his former KGB bosses, now running a private security firm. He is sent to America on an assignment, decides to shake off his criminal past, and is murdered in the attempt. At first the book seemed "cheap trash" to the translator, but then she found that it was rich in linguistic and cultural challenges, and reflected the painful processes of contemporary Russia: trying to change and be reborn, and sometimes failing and perishing.

The story is a translator's nightmare. Not only is it full of Russian slang, but it also contains several kinds of bilingualism: the new-born Brightonese, a mixture of Russian and English, not understandable outside the emigre community; English with a Russian accent; Russian rendered into English; and English understood by the Russians. Topol widely uses English transliterated phonetically, the way it is pronounced by his Russian speakers; *velfair*, *inshurance*, *'garbidj*. He reproduces accented English or English spoken by Americans, but understood by Russians in Cyrillic. The translator decided to render most of such utterances into transliterated English: "Sory, Ai hev to gou." Sometimes she finds English equivalents of Topol's English-Russian

collages. In Topol's original: "Но мани. Ай вок. Пешком. ногами, понимаешь, сука? Ай вок ту Бостон пешком." In Laura's rendering; "No money," said Nikolai. "I walk." In Russian, he added, "On foot. With my feet, understand, pig?"

Rendering slang seemed an easier problem, though Laura had to use consultants – her Russian Brighton Beach friends. *What are you farting about?* for *Фуфлы ты время тянешь?* *What a wimp!* for *Ну, слабаку!* and *I'm up shit creek* for *Я влун!*

The lively presentation left the audience breathless and laughing alternatively.

The other speaker, Lydia Stone, translated several thousand lines of a folk-style fairy tale in verse by Petr Ershov (1815-1869). The poem *Конек-горбунок* (*The Little Hump-Backed Horse*) was published in 1834 when Ershov was only 19. Later he wrote other poems, but was known and remembered in Russia as the author of *Конек*. All Russian children grew up reading the tale, though originally it had not been meant for children.

The poem, folk in style and tradition, emphasizes the number three, both in its composition and plot, and has the folk motive of a fool changed into a prince. An old peasant had three sons. *The oldest was a clever lad. The second neither smart nor dumb, The third a hopeless, simpleton.* The fool, of course, turns out to be the most successful of them all. The fool, Ivanushka, catches a miraculous mare, who has three foals, two beautiful but ultimately uninteresting, and the third a magic hump-backed horse. The tsar gives Ivanushka three hard tasks, etc. At the tsar's bidding, Ivan catches and brings to the palace a *scrawny* Maiden-Tsar, accomplishes three tasks she assigns him, and finally jumps into three boiling pots, which were supposed to make the tsar young again and ready to marry the Maiden-Tsar. The tsar wanted Ivan to test the procedure first. Ivan, with the help of his magic horse, jumps in and turns into a handsome prince, while the tsar perishes in the boiling liquid. So Ivan eventually becomes the tsar and marries the Maiden.

The translation problems start with the title. *Конек-горбунок* has two diminutive suffixes that rhyme. The translator had to sacrifice the rhyme and add the word *Little*. The main thing, however, was preserved in the translation of the text, its easy flow, its folk style and its conversational lexicon. *Ты, Гаврило, молодец!* – *Good job, Gavriilo, atta boy!* So translating thousands of verse lines in the style of the original is indeed a tour de force.

As I said earlier, the translation reads as easily and is as lively as the original and Lydia has come up with many suitable equivalents of the Russian folk-style vocabulary. I hope she will find a publisher who will agree to enrich the experience of American kids with this colorful fairy tale.

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Translator Profiles

Laura Wolfson
Philadelphia, PA

Larisa G. Ellis
Fort Worth, Texas

I have recently joined the ATA as an associate member and as a member of the Russian Language Division. The SlavFile for me is a long-awaited edition and a life-line, which I hope, will be able to help me in re-establishing contacts with colleagues and potential clients. I would like to tell you about myself, because it is always good to know "who is who."

In 1971, I received a Master of Education degree in St. Petersburg, Russian. My major languages are English, Spanish, and, of course, Russian. I have extensive experience as a mediator and simultaneous translator, working with all three languages during international negotiations. I have considerable experience in translation of different manuals and other types of educational materials from Russian into Spanish and from English into Russian. I am a peace officer in the State of Texas and was a deputy sheriff for five years. I am, probably, the only translator and interpreter in the State of Texas who is qualified at the highest level in such extremely specialized areas of translation and interpretation as detention, corrections, interrogation and witness interviewing. I received a Medal of Merit for my work as a Russian speaking translator and interpreter in that field. I also have experience in translating fiction from Russian into English, from English into Russian, from Russian into Spanish and from Spanish into Russian. For seven years I worked in the shipping industry and have considerable experience in translation of maritime documents from English into Russian and from Russian into English.

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The translation is not literal, which is fine with me, as long as it preserves the meaning and the stylistic features of the original. Some choices, however, seem doubtful. First the change of the meter. The original is written in trochaic tetrameter, which Lydia has replaced by iambs. Now both in English and Russian literatures, the iamb has literary associations, while trochee has folk connotations. Besides English poems translated from Russian come out shorter than their originals, which calls for additions ("padding"). An extra syllable increased the amount of "padding" in the translation.

I also feel uneasy about some anachronisms. Thus, the father promises Ivan to buy him *любки*, primitive pictures sold at the market. The translator writes: "I'll treat you to a comic book." Comic books are far outside the Russian culture of the period. Books in general, even the Bible, were unlikely to be found in a peasant's home.

At the end of her fascinating presentation, Lydia read a hundred lines of her translation and the easy flow of the folk tale in her rendering left the audience spell-bound.

Hello, fellow Slavists. I do conference interpretation (simultaneous and consecutive, R<>E). My work has taken me from nuclear missile silos in the former USSR to the set of Oprah Winfrey Show, from the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana to Chernobyl. Recently I interpreted for Duma member Sergei Kovalev, human rights activist, opponent of the war in Chechnya and close associate of Sakharov. I also translate works of fiction, biography and history from Russian into English.

I graduated from Cornell with a B.A. in Russian language and literature just as "glasnost" and "perestroika" were becoming household words in the United States. My first job was as a Russian-speaking guide for a personal computer exhibit. This job took me to the Soviet outback, taught me how to speak Russian with Georgian and Uzbek accents and brought me into contact with thousands of diverse citizens of the then-Soviet Union. Next I worked in New York for an artist management firm, which represented and booked U.S. tours for the Bolshoi Ballet, the Kirov and numerous other Russian performing arts troupes. In this capacity I translated contracts, correspondence and program notes and interpreted for Russian orchestra conductors in rehearsals with American musicians, for ballerinas complaining to managers about their dressing rooms and at interviews and press conferences.

For the last four years I have been a freelancer. Clients include the U.S. Department of State, the federal courts, and a range of corporations, law firms, non-profits, and publishing houses. Lately I have felt work - and funds - shifting from the public sector to the private. It is too soon to tell what this will mean for work volume, but I tell people new to the field that it takes years to build a clientele and constant attention to maintain it. Newcomers to the field and in particular recent emigres should think hard about whether they are willing to handle the instability.

I, however, am delighted at the opportunity to be my own boss, pick and choose my jobs, and do intellectual work while meeting unusual people. I wish all my colleagues good luck and look forward to reading about you and your work experience in the Slavfile.

The Federal Court System offers certification for court interpreters in Spanish, Creole, and Navajo only. However, Federal Courts now require that interpreters take a proficiency test in most other languages, including Russian. The tests are developed by the University of Arizona, and there were plans to offer them some time in April 1996. The tests are held at many Federal Courts sites around the country.

For further information, please write to the Federal Court Interpreter Project, Modern Language Building Room 445, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, 85721.

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SLAVFIRE



**Иосиф
Бродский**

Рождественское

*В воздухе — сильный мороз и хвоя.
Наденем ватное и меховое.
Чтобы маяться в наших сугробах с торбой —
лучше олень, чем верблюды двугорбый.*

*На севере если и верят в Бога,
то как в коменданта того острога,
где всем нам вроде бока намяло,
но только и слышно, что дали мало.*

*На юге, где в редкость осадок белый,
верят в Христа, так как сам он — беглый:
родился в пустыне, песок-солома,
и умер, тоже, слышать, не дома.*

*Помянем нынче вином и хлебом
жизнь, прожитую под открытым небом,
чтоб в нем и потом избежать ареста
земли — поскольку там больше места.*

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