

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

by Susana Greiss

One of my regrets is that we cannot be more helpful to our members and others who call here inquiring about employment opportunities in the translation field. As we all know, jobs for even the most seasoned translators are scarce, and this is true not only for Slavic languages, but throughout the entire industry. Employers are loath to spend on translations and by and large ill-equipped to comprehend the importance of interlingual communication, while at the same time spending millions on monolingual communication in the form of newspaper and television ads, seminars, handouts, full-color literature, and so forth. I once had a boss who told me that he could not give me a raise because my job was not "income producing." When I cited instances when the company would have lost a contract if they had not had an accurate and timely translation on hand, I was met by a blank stare. At a much later date, when I submitted my resignation, he dropped everything and called in a higher official to tell me that I could name my conditions if I would only stay on (I refused, because I knew that they would take their time to look for a replacement, then give me the pink slip).

While educating corporations is a great deal harder than educating consumers, this task falls upon us, translators, who must guide our reluctant clients through trial and error. Sometimes it seems like a losing battle, somewhat akin to taking a six-year old to the dentist, kicking and screaming. In the United States, the land of opportunity and prosperity, people tend to feel that America doesn't need anyone; if you want our product (and who doesn't?), then you must come and get it. Unless dealing with a highly technical matter or sensitive subject, the prevailing sentiment is: Why pay a high-priced translator when my secretary can do it?

Take for example, the ungrammatical, nearly unreadable Spanish translation recently distributed by a judge running for election in New York. I would like to show this misguided candidate the extent of the damage that such a translation could do, and probably did do, to her campaign, while, for a mere \$100 or so, she could have had a first-class promotional product. In a land where millions are spent on such campaigns, these examples are truly pathetic.

I must say, though, that bad as the current situation may sometimes seem, in my 17 years as a freelance translator, I have witnessed a marked improvement in translation standards as well as in the status of freelance translators. I encounter more and more clients, particularly lawyers, who

ask intelligent questions to assess a translator's competence, require accreditation or other credentials, listen to the translator's input and show greater willingness to pay fair fees. Translation agencies and bureaus in particular are willing to pay more and are eager to develop a good professional relationship with their translators.

How does one become a qualified translator and acquire experience in specialized fields in the United States? Academic courses are few, and with the exception of the Monterey Institute (and Georgetown University?), perhaps, nonexistent in Russian or other Slavic languages. One must either have arrived in the United States with this knowledge, or acquire it the hard way, through do-it-yourself effort. Another way is to take a few courses in specific fields in English, and then build up a glossary around the knowledge thus acquired. In recent years, the federal court certification program has expanded to cover a greater number of languages for which a certificate of proficiency is required. Many courts across the country have drawn up their own tests for interpreters (there were none when I was doing occasional interpreting for the New York courts years ago except for Spanish). In recent months I have seen a trend toward special training and screening of community, hospital and medical interpreters. Unfortunately, it is often the case that things happen only after a serious crisis covered by nationwide media brings it to the attention of the public. Then political figures step in, partly to take advantage of the free publicity, promising to correct the situation if we vote for them.

Therefore, if you think like a politician or an entrepreneur and you have followed my trend of thought, you

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SLAVFILE NOTES

Congratulations to the following members who have successfully passed the ATA accreditation test:

English/Russian

Ivan Burmaka, Gaithersburg, MD

Russian/English

Victor Lychyk, Arlington, VA

◆◆◆

The *SlavFile* solicits original artwork to be used as illustrations. We can work with black and white drawings and computer-generated designs. Please share your talents with your colleagues and give our pages the lift that only an original graphic can provide.

◆◆◆

Our layout editor Galina Raff confirms that *The Russian-English Collocational Dictionary of the Human Body* advertised on page 11 is fully functional on-line, though somewhat slower in use than when installed on your own computer. Native English speakers in particular may find it valuable. If you don't have a code page 1251 font for Windows or a Macintosh Cyrillic font to view the dictionary on-line, Cyrillic fonts (in regular, bold, italic and bold italic) are available when you access the dictionary and can be downloaded free. The fonts are of high quality.

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Many thanks to the contributors to the March issue of the *ATA Chronicle*, which includes some material "beyond Russian." Thanks also to Bob Taylor, who coordinated the submission of the articles.

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Many thanks to all the contributors to this issue of *SlavFile*. The deadline for the next issue is May 15.

SLAVFILE ADVERTISING POLICY

TO PLACE AN AD

All ads are payable in advance. To reserve an ad:

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 2. Send artwork by mail, and advertising copy in electronic format, to the Layout Editor, Galina Raff.
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Measurements for a quarter-page display ad may not exceed 95 mm width by 120 mm height. To place artwork with different space requirements (e.g., landscape layout) contact Ms. Raff directly to discuss specifics.

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE? PREPARING FOR THE ACCREDITATION EXAM

by Jonathan T. Hine Jr., CRA

Jonathan Hine of Charlottesville, Virginia, has proctored three ATA Accreditation Exams. He welcomes your experiences, questions and ideas about preparing for the Exam and test-taking strategies: scriptor@virginia.edu or scriptor@compuserve.com.

The Accreditation Examination of the American Translators Association is one of the rites of passage for professional translators in the United States. This article is for anyone who wonders if it is possible to prepare for the Accreditation Exam. These are my personal observations. If you have taken the Exam, write to me or the Editor and add your own.

Getting ready for any exam involves anxiety. In some ways, though, the Accreditation Exam carries particular stress. For one thing it is not familiar, like the SAT, the GRE or a test in school. It is not a certification test. It has no list of correct answers. Instead, it considers a collection of skills that differ in each translator. The mix of competencies varies, because the end product—the translation—is what counts. Passing or failing hangs on that simple fact.

The Accreditation Exam tests “minimum competency.” How do we know what *that* is unless we have been working in the field for a lot of years? Taking the Exam may look a gamble. The Exam and practice test can seem expensive, especially if our translation work is not already paying its own way.

We cannot “study” for this test. There are no Barron’s Guides for the Accreditation Exam. Translating for a long time is no assurance of success if we have translated in a very narrow field for a limited group of readers.

However, success is not all up to chance. You can do some things to prepare mentally and professionally.

Before you consider taking the exam, ask yourself: “Am I ready?”

You will be translating three passages in three hours. That means *hand-writing* about 250 words per hour. Are you translating accurately at least that fast? That includes time spent proof-reading and correcting, not just the first draft.

If you have not been in the habit of timing your work, you should start. Figure out your average speed. (You can use this information for other things, but that’s a different article.)

Ask yourself: “What do I translate well?” You will translate three of the following types of material: General, Scientific/Medical (you won’t know which until you get there), Semi-technical (sometimes more “technical” than “semi-”), Business/Legal (you won’t know which

until the exam), and Literary (fiction or essay: this may be a classic with dated language or a highly idiomatic text).

- ✧ Apply for the exam after you have translated enough material to feel confident that you can meet a tight deadline with a quality product. You should be comfortable with at least a couple of different fields.
- ✧ You may have to practice this yourself if the variety is not coming in your work. For example, if you are a staff translator or a technical translator, you may have to practice with some magazine articles or literary fiction.
- ✧ You may want to practice hand-writing. Many of us write poorly, and total strangers will read your test and exam. Copy out 750 words of something, and have someone critique the legibility.

Find a mentor. Someone who has passed the Exam, an Active or Corresponding ATA Member, could give you personal tips that suit your work habits and translation style. A mentor could critique your work or share their experiences with you. Sometimes you just need someone who has been where you are to listen to you.

- ✧ Choose someone who cares, but who will give you hard, pointed criticism you can use to improve. You and the mentor need to like each other, at least professionally. A good mentor can tell you things you might not want to hear from someone you do not respect completely.

✧ Mentors do not have to be older than you, though that is often the case.

✧ Be respectful of your mentor’s time. If you hit it off well, it may be easy to get into long conversations and digressions. Let the mentor do the digressing. If you initiate the contact, have your questions ready before you call. If the mentor is busy and suggests a different time, don’t take it personally. Be sure to call back when agreed. (Someday phone tag will replace baseball as the great American sport!)

When you take the practice test, try to duplicate the conditions of the Exam. Organize your work area and collect the references you would take to the Exam. Use a pencil. Work steadily, as quickly as you can.

- ✧ Time yourself. The test should be the typical length of a section of the Accreditation Exam, so it should take you about an hour.
- ✧ Don’t stop if it takes longer than an hour. It is important to finish the translation and to do your best on it. The grader needs that to provide you some feedback.

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MISSION IMPOSSIBLE (Continued from page 3)

✧ Before you mail the test back, count the words in the original and figure out your speed on the test. When you get feedback on the test, you will know if you would have passed the Exam. Continue to work on smoothness and speed while you wait for the results.

Go over the results of your practice test with your mentor. More comments from the grader can be better than fewer. The graders set profitable translation time aside to score your exam because they want you to succeed. Their comments are something for you to apply—not to depress you.

If the results of the practice test show that you would have passed that section and your speed on the practice test was close to or better than 250 words per hour, you should be ready to sign up for the Accreditation Exam itself. Choose the date carefully since exam sittings are limited. Look at your personal and family calendar, and what is going on at your day job or school. Consider vacations, peaks in the day-job workload, visiting relatives—anything that would interfere with the test date or load stress on you that week. Something may come up anyway, but why pick a weekend that you already know you might miss?

That said, remember that you can re-schedule your exam within reason. Stay ahead of the game and in touch with the ATA National Headquarters staff if things are changing for you.

Here are some tips to get ready for the examination itself. Let me emphasize that these are very personal, according to my own style and based only on my anecdotal experience. I have not conducted research to see if these tips work for other people. We are all unique and test-taking is something we do very individually. Take what works for you and I hope it helps.

Take good care of yourself the day before.

- ✧ Get a good night's sleep. You already know everything you are going to know, so don't "cram."
- ✧ If you come from out of town, arrive the night before and sleep in a hotel or a friend's house. You have invested in this Exam: maximize your psychological and physical odds for success.
- ✧ Have a good breakfast.
- ✧ Pack some roll candy, a candy bar or something else to hold off hunger late in the exam. Don't bring something messy or noisy to eat since there are no official breaks.

Arrive early.

- ✧ Sometimes the parking is not what you thought, or you may go to the wrong site. Allow time to recover from that and still relax before the exam.

✧ If you smoke, prepare yourself for at least three hours in a no-smoking zone. You will give up exam time to go outside if you have to smoke during the exam.

✧ Sometimes the proctor will field questions and handle some administration before the official start time. You will miss that if you are late.

Once the Exam starts, read all five sections quickly and choose three to translate. Do not plan on doing only two. If you only do two, you cannot miss one section and still pass the Exam.

Work through all three sections. You need to take about an hour each, so write steadily but deliberately, for no more than 30 minutes on the first drafts. Review only once before going on to the next section. Allow yourself no more than 45 minutes per section for all three sections.

If you move steadily, you should have all three sections drafted and reviewed once with 45 minutes to spare. Go back to the two you think went best and carefully review them. If you are going to run out of time, let that happen while working on the third passage.

To review your work, place the original and translation side by side and use a pair of rulers or other straight-edge (two pencils?) to compare the translation to the source text line-by-line or paragraph-by-paragraph. If you don't have a pair of straight-edges, use your hands to guide your eyes slowly over the texts. Moving your lips as you read will slow down your eyes. Keep the sense of urgency: you should move steadily but not so fast that you rush over your mistakes. Exam grading is a proofreading exercise, so you are doing to your paper what the graders will do. The double-ruler technique is great for proof-reading your regular work, too.

Finally, remember to pick up everything you brought when you leave. Then put the whole experience behind you. Exam grading takes time and dwelling on it will only drive you nuts. Keep things in perspective and let the letter from ATA be a surprise in your mailbox, regardless of the results.

Special thanks to NCATA member Bonnie Fergusson for teaching me the double-rule technique.

This article is reprinted from the Capital Translator, newsletter of the National Capital Area Translator Association with kind permission of the author and Capital Translator editor, Cassandra Decker.

SLAVFILE LITE: NOT BY WORD COUNT ALONE

by Lydia Razran Stone

In response to my inquiry last month about the origin of the word **толмач** we received the following fascinating information from Boris Silvershteyn.

"As far as I know it originated from German *Dolmetscher* (interpreter). There are a few Russian words that originated from foreign language words as they were 'heard' at the time by a Russian speaker. For instance, the Russian *бить рынду* came from the British naval command *Ring the bell*, which was heard as *рынду бей* (in 14th-17th century Russia, the word *рында* meant a tsar's or prince's bodyguard). Another example, also from the navy—*камбуз*, from the English *caboose*. I am sure *SlavFile* readers can provide many more examples."

If you can, readers, please send them, we would love to publish them.

From Laura Wolfson: "A young American woman who wanted to perfect her Russian got a job working on an American exhibit demonstrating the wonders of capitalism to the Soviet masses. Her responsibilities included demonstrating a supermarket checkout scanner, which, in the interests of verisimilitude, was provided with props in the form of various grocery items made of plastic. The gaze of a Soviet visitor at the exhibit fell on a plastic sausage, and, leading the young woman to digress from the properties of the scanner, he asked what measures were taken in the U.S. to prolong the shelf-life of sausage. The young woman seized the somewhat phallic looking sausage, held it aloft and said, confident in her use of false cognates: "Они пользуются презевативами!" ["They use condoms!"]

Also from Laura: "A woman who worked at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in the seventies told me about a New Year's party she attended in that city at the residence of a Western diplomat. At midnight, one of the guests exclaimed, 'What a pity that some poor KGB agent has to see in the new year eavesdropping on us instead of having a good time with his friends and family!' A few seconds passed, the phone rang, and the sound of a champagne cork popping was clearly audible at the other end of the line."

Recently I, Lydia, have been contemplating various aspects of my mixed cultural identity, how in some ways I have taken on characteristics that are more like those of Russians than of homegrown Americans. This musing gave rise to the following list:

You know you are beginning to grow a Russian soul when...

- ◆ you will drive all the day across town to get fresh dill.
- ◆ you think fat-free sour cream is an abomination against nature.
- ◆ you take off your shoes the minute you get in the house.

- ◆ you think it is abnormal not to know, and at the drop of a hat recite, 1000s of lines of poetry.
- ◆ you cannot discuss religion without quoting Ivan Karamazov.
- ◆ you take it as a piece of good rather than bad fortune when your adult child announces that he/she is coming home to live for an indefinite period.
- ◆ there is no way you are going to allow anyone to come to your house on a social visit without at least attempting to feed them.
- ◆ you think of the mess in your office in terms of "artistic disorder."
- ◆ you would give anything to be able to read *War and Peace* for the first time again.
- ◆ when someone discusses the assassination of John Lennon, you think he means Vladimir Ilyich, and say, "You mean Trotsky!"
- ◆ you distinguish in your conversation between "friends" and "acquaintances."

Obviously, this list is peculiar to me and my particular obsessions, which include, cooking and classical literature. I invite other American-born Slavists to contribute their own lists. Meanwhile, Inna Oslon has sent us her own list from the other side of our narrowing cultural divide.

You know you have begun to assimilate into American culture when...

- ◆ you first find the taste of peanut butter bearable.
- ◆ you first watch *I Love Lucy* for more than 2 minutes and find it *funny*.
- ◆ you start finding things *funny* or *enjoyable* (both are strange concepts to Russian culture).
- ◆ you stop asking about people who have been mentioned by another Russian "is he/she American?"
- ◆ you freely and willingly contribute to your neighborhood, church, synagogue, association, circle, etc.
- ◆ you don't try to correct the above to sentences starting with "One knows..."
- ◆ you experience *certain feelings* toward the IRS and lawyers.
- ◆ you give up your bad habit of using *whom* for objective case and *were* for subjunctive.
- ◆ you realize that the Dallas Cowboys *are* important and the abortion issue *is* a national problem.
- ◆ you first confuse *accept* and *except*.
- ◆ you stop referring to Americans as *they*.
- ◆ you change your attitude toward smoking and drinking.

(Continued on page 6)

SLAVFILE LITE (Continued from page 5)

- ◇ you start reading nutrition labels.
- ◇ you begin to believe in cholesterol slightly more than in ghosts.

It goes without saying that we invite all those in the throes of assimilating or (trying not to assimilate) to American culture to contribute their own lists.

SLAVFILE LITE RECOMMENDS

The film known in English as *Prisoner of the Mountains* (Russian «Кавказский пленник») directed by Sergei Bodrov, starring Oleg Menshikov and Sergei Bodrov, Jr. Wonderful acting, fine directing, beautiful scenery, and a plot of Tolstoy's story meets the Chechen conflict.

Portabella Mushrooms: currently available, at least in the Washington DC area, in virtually all supermarkets: A real boon for those of us who consider the typical American supermarket mushrooms (шампиньоны) to be the fungal equivalent of Wonder Bread. Not cheap but worth it.

The novel *A Suitable Boy* by Vikram Seth. Although set in India in the 1950s and dealing exclusively with Indian characters, this novel is the closest thing (other than the genuine article) to a novel by Tolstoy. Warning: even longer than *War and Peace*.

TWO LINES a journal of translation

TWO LINES publishes original translations into English of writing from around the world, with the aim of highlighting the translation process. Each translation is presented with a portion of the original text and an introduction by the translator which places the work in its cultural context and provides insight into the translator's craft. Our Spring 1997 issue is organized around the theme of "possession."

To order "possession," send a check or money order for \$11 plus postage (\$2 within the U.S., \$2.50 to Canada or Mexico, \$4 int'l) to:

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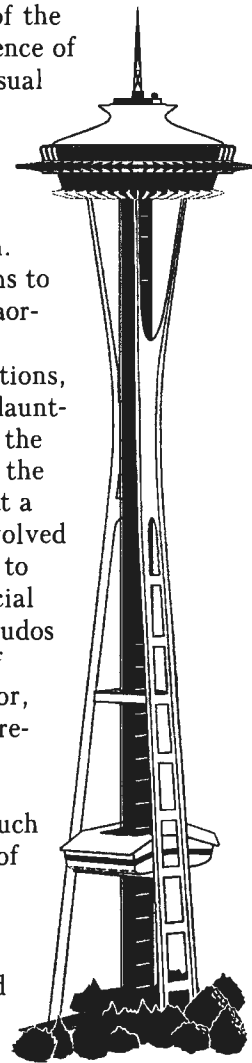
THE VIEW FROM SEATTLE

by Ann G. Macfarlane
Assistant Administrator

It has been a great pleasure for me, in the aftermath of our Colorado Springs conference, to receive communications from many of you expressing your own pleasure at the growth of the Slavic Language Division, and offering your support for our future activities. In the gentle spirit of our piece on "You know you are beginning to have a Russian soul...an American soul..." perhaps you know you are beginning to have an American soul when you find the idea of volunteering for the Slavic Language Division attractive. Many thanks to all of you, whatever the provenance or current direction of your soul's movement, for whom this is so.

Volunteering is easier, of course, when one knows the persons involved. Those of our members who have been able to attend a conference have an advantage, therefore, over those whom we know only by mail or telephone. I hope, however, that those of you who belong to the Division as "corresponding" members, so to speak, will also step forward and send us your profile, your article, or your comments. Learning of the interests, occupations and life experience of our members, as in Jim Walker's unusual story in this issue, is enriching to all of us.

This spring a Nominating Committee will be appointed to seek officers for the coming two-year term. As you may know, Susana Greiss plans to step down after several terms of extraordinary service as our Administrator. Please don't be shy with your suggestions, and if the idea of a formal office is daunting, please consider helping out with the other activities we have in hand. As the Division grows, I am struck with what a deeply human activity we are all involved in, and with how satisfying it can be to have the professional, intellectual, social and esthetic interests all engaged. (Kudos for this go to Susana, for her years of devoted service, as well as to our editor, Lydia Stone, who brings a lively awareness to every aspect of Russian or American culture with which she engages, and then is able to set so much down on paper for us to enjoy.) All of us involved in carrying out the Division's activities hope to see it continue to prosper, through these pages, in our conferences to come, and in the web of social and professional relations among our members.



RUSSIAN-ENGLISH GLOSSARY OF MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

by Lydia Razran Stone

Inspired by how helpful Tom West's list of legal terms (see the last issue of the *SlavFile*) was to me, I have decided to share with you some excerpts from a glossary of medical terms collected during the course of 10 years doing biomedical translation for NASA. These are terms that I found difficult or impossible to find in the available Russian-English medical dictionaries. Where standard dictionaries provide a translation of one of the terms I list that differs from mine, to the best of my belief, mine is more likely to be recognized by an American doctor or physiologist. On the other hand, if anyone has an objection to one or more of my translations, please let me, and our readers, know.

анализатор: the afferent portion of a sensory system
антропометрические измерения: body measurements
артериальная гипертензия: high blood pressure
аутомикрофлора(человека): (human) commensal microflora

биоптат: biopsied tissue (sample)
боязнь самоотравления: horror autotoxicus
быстрые (медленные) мышцы: fast (slow)-twitch muscles
быстрый (парадоксальный): сон REM sleep

вегетативная нервная система: autonomic nervous system
вегетативная реакция: involuntary reaction
внутренние органы: viscera

водно-солевой обмен: fluid-electrolyte metabolism

выведение с мочей: renal excretion
выраженность: (of disease, symptom) severity

вялотекущий: (of disease) indolent
гипертоническая болезнь: essential hypertension

гистологический препарат: tissue specimen
Грей, Гр.: Grey, Gy, unit of radiation exposure = 100 rad

деонтология: medical ethics, deontology
детренированность: deconditioning

динамическая электрокардиография: Holter monitoring

диагностическая операция: exploratory operation
длительный болевой синдром: chronic pain syndrome

дыхательный коэффициент: respiratory quotient
заболеваемость: incidence of disease, morbidity

закаливание, закалка: endurance training
закупорка артерий: thrombosis

изотопное иммунологическое обследование: radio immune assay

иммуноферментный анализ: ELISA (enzyme linked immunosorbent assay)

инкреторная деятельность: endocrine activity
инъекция склеры: bloodshot eyes

ионный состав крови: blood electrolytes
кейлон: chalone

клинический анализ крови: blood count
количество лейкоцитов, эритроцитов: white, red blood count

комплексон: chelating agent
коэффициент артерогенности: HDL/LDL ratio
КЧСМ (критическая частота слияния мельканий): CFFF (critical flicker fusion frequency)

кровообращение большого (малого) круга: systemic (pulmonary) circulation

лейкоцитарная формула: hemogram, differential blood count

лоскутная проба: patch test

максимальное (минимальное) артериальное давление: systolic (diastolic) blood pressure

местное поражение: focal lesion

микробиологическое повреждение: biodegradation

микробная обсеменность: microbial contamination

минутный объем крови сердца: cardiac output

моторика желудка: stomach motility

мощность дозы: dose rate e.g. of radiation

нейролептическое средство: neuroleptic, major tranquilizer

нейроциркуляторная дистония: neurocirculatory asthenia, effort syndrome, Da Costa's syndrome

образование костной мозоли: knitting (of bone)

общая доза: integral dose

общее облучение: whole body irradiation

одышка при физической нагрузке: DOE (dyspnea on exertion)

опорно-двигательная система: musculoskeletal system

отдаленные последствия: late, remote effects

паренхиматозные органы: solid organs

перекисное окисление липидов (ПОЛ): lipid peroxidation

периферический скелет: appendicular skeleton

плазматическая мембрана: cell membrane

пластический обмен: essentially, anabolic metabolism

поворотный стол: tilt table

повышенная чувствительность медленного типа: delayed hypersensitivity, cellular immunity

подсчет форменных элементов крови: blood count

позное равновесие: postural equilibrium

(основные) показатели жизнедеятельности: vital signs

полнокровие: hyperemia

порок развития: congenital abnormality

постельный режим: bed rest

почечные канальцы: renal tubules

практически здоровые люди: apparently healthy people

предвестник болезни: precursory symptom

предколлаптоидное состояние: imminent syncope

пресенильное слабоумие: Alzheimer's disease

места прикрепления: insertion sites (muscle in bone)

продвижение через ЖКТ: GI transit

противовращение глаз: ocular counterrolling

работоспособность: work capacity but in many contexts, performance

распад тканей: histolysis

расстройство дыхания: respiratory distress

растяжимость: (of blood vessels) compliance

рефлексотерапия: acupuncture and related treatments

рецепторы напряжения: proprioceptive receptors

-ритм (например алфа-ритм): wave (in brain)

санация: course of prophylactic treatment

светлый период: period of remission, "honeymoon" period

серая пелена: gray-out

серологический иммунитет: humoral immunity

смыв: sample obtained by lavage, swab specimen

содружественные движения: synkinesis

стереотип движения: motor pattern, dynamic stereotype

тьнь: hematology: ghost

терренкур: Terrainkur (German) use of a program of increasingly strenuous walking along a specially laid out outdoor course for therapeutic purposes

(Continued on page 11)

Евгений Онегин у Золотых ворот

Мария Зарлинг

С раннего детства «Евгений Онегин» был одной из моих любимых книг. Я не помню, когда выучила роман наизусть. Во всяком случае, задолго до того, как его полагалось прочитать по обязательной школьной программе. С удовольствием вспоминаю чувство удовлетворенного честолюбия, когда одна в классе смогла прочесть наизусть «Сон Татьяны». Лидия Ивановна задала выучить одно из двух — или «Сон» или «Письмо Татьяны к Онегину» — до сих пор помню, как математически одаренные мальчики 15-16 лет из нашей специальной математической школы, запинаясь, бормотали признания девушки из прошлого века. Никто не замахнулся на «Сон» — он-то был гораздо длиннее!

Много лет спустя, на приеме у соседей в Денвере, американский профессор русской литературы спросил меня: «А вы читали «Золотые ворота», роман в стихах, вдохновленный «Онегиным»? На следующий же день я нашла книгу Викрама Сетха и прочла ее не отрываясь. Роман получил блестящие отзывы в Америке, но, по-моему, по достоинству оценить его могут только те, кому Пушкин с детства вошел в плоть и кровь. Роман также свидетельствует о том, как мы все одинаковы, люди Земли. Русский поэт, погибший в цвете лет, и юноша, родившийся в Калькутте и творивший в Америке, и мы, читатели, которые могут насладиться обоими шедеврами!

«Интересно было бы попробовать перевести роман Викрама Сетха на русский язык», — подумала я. И попробовала. Ниже следуют некоторые результаты этих попыток.

Итак, Евгений гулял в Летнем саду, а герой Сетха, Джон, — в парке у Золотых ворот.

To make a start more swift than weighty,
Hail Muse. Dear Reader, once upon
A time, say, circa 1980,
There lived a man. His name was John.
Successful in his field though only
Twenty-six, respected, lonely,
One evening as he walked across
Golden Gate Park, the ill-judged toss
Of a red frisbee almost brained him.
He thought: "If I died, who'd be sad?
Who'd weep? Who'd gloat? Who would be glad?
Would anybody?" As it pained him,
He turned from this dispiriting theme
To ruminations less extreme.

Тянуть не любит век двадцатый.
Муз поприветствовав, начнем.
В год, скажем так... восьмидесятый
Жил юноша. Он звался Джон.
Хоть двадцать шесть ему всего,
В его кругу все чтят его.
От Золотых ворот он как-то шел домой,
И фрисби, брошенный бездумною рукой,
Его едва ли жизни не лишил.
И он подумал: «Коль меня не станет,
Кто будет рад? А кто заплачет, зарыдает?»
«Наверное, никто», — он с грустью заключил
И, огорченный выводом печальным,
Предался мыслям менее отчаянным.

Они и внешне похожи друг на друга, герои двух произведений. Что мы помним про Евгения?

Вот мой Онегин на свободе;
Острижен по последней моде,
Как *dandy* лондонский одет —
И наконец увидел свет.

А как выглядит его двойник в Сан-Франциско полтора века спустя?

John's looks are good. His dress is formal.
His voice is low, his mind is sound.
His appetite for work's abnormal.
A plastic name tag hangs around
His collar like a votive necklace.
Though well-paid, he is far from reckless,
Pays his rent promptly, jogs, does not
Smoke cigarettes, and rarely pot,
Eschews both church and heavy drinking,
Enjoys his garden, likes to read
Eclectically from Mann to Bede.
(A surrogate, some say, for thinking.)
Friends claim he's grown aloof and prim.
(His boss, though, is well-pleased with him.)

Хорош собой, одет отлично,
Джон ненавязчив и умен,
К работе жаден необычно.
Почти не расстается он
С табличкой именной, что допуск
Ему дает в рабочий корпус.
Не беден он, но экономен;
Квартплату вносит, в жизни скромен
И обожает бег трусцой.
Табак не курит, травку — редко,
Пьет мало и не ходит в церковь,
Читает все подряд взапой.
Друзья его за чопорность корят.
(Но босс доволен им, как говорят.)

(Continued on page 9)

ОНЕГИН У ЗОЛОТЫХ ВОРОТ (Continued from page 8)

А вот моя любимая строфа в «Золотых воротах» — один из главных героев, Фил, страдая, ведет себя здесь совсем по-русски:

Phil downs vermouth and bourbon, sinking
Out of a world of loss and pain.
He drinks and he continues drinking
And having drunk he drinks again.
Inspired by a warm confusion
In a soft stratum of illusion,
The amber in his glass becomes
A gold elixir that benumbs,
That steadies as it sends him reeling.
A sunflower in a frame of chrome
Reminds him of his childhood home,
And in an access of swift feeling
He sees, with vision like a knife,
Into the very heart of life.

Фил пьет бурбон и вермут, он желает
Забуть о мире, полном боли и утрат.
Он пьет до дна, и снова наливает,
И, осушив стакан, он пьет опять.
И душу греет теплое смятение
И наполняет легкое забвенье.
В его бокале золотой янтарь
Как эликсир, что применялся встарь,
Его и ободряет и кружит.
В глуби зеркал подсолнечник из хрома
Напоминает ему детство дома,
И вот уже в приливе чувств он зрит:
Пред взором внутренним, мерцаая и маня,
Ему явилась сущность бытия.

И еще много сходного в этих двух романах. Ода Москве у Пушкина — вновь и вновь повторяющаяся тема Сан-Франциско у Сетха. В России собирают ягоды на варенье — в Америке консервируют оливки. И, конечно, всюду неизменная и вечная любовь.

“...Good night.” Ed fears to answer. Trembling,
He moves his hand across the space
— What terrifying miles — assembling
His courage, touches Philip’s face
And feels him tense up and go rigid.
“I’m sorry”, Ed says, in a frigid,
Half-choked voice, “I thought you might —
I didn’t mean — I mean — good night”.
Taut with a cataleptic tension
They lie, unspeaking. Phil thinks, “Why
Be so uptight? He’s a great guy.
I’ve never bothered with convention.
God! It’s a year that I’ve been chaste...”,
And puts his arm around Ed’s waist.

«Спокойной ночи», — Эд дрожит, трясется,
Не говоря ни слова, лишь рука
Через пространство простыни крадется
И к Филу прикасается слегка.
Фил, вздрогнув, застывает на мгновенье.
«О Боже, я был слишком откровенен,
Прости меня», — в смятении Эд бормочет:
«Я просто так, хотел спокойной ночи
Сказать...» и застывают молча оба.
Фил между делом размышлял:
«Ведь я всегда толпой пренебрегал,
Какое дело мне до мнения чужого?
Уж целый год я в одиночестве прожил...»
И Эда он в объятья заключил.

Не знаю, закончу ли я когда-нибудь этот перевод. Одно ясно — радость и удовольствие от общения с двумя жизнерадостными поэтами надолго украсят мою жизнь. Разрешите закончить еще одной строфой из «Золотых ворот».

Reader, enough of this apology;
But spare me if I think it best,
Before I tether my monologue,
To stake a stanza to suggest
You spend some unfilled day of leisure
By that original spring of pleasure:
Sweet-watered, fluent, clear, light, blithe
(This homage merely pays a tithe
Of what a joy and inspiration
It gave me once and does not cease
To give me) — Pushkin’s masterpiece
In Johnston’s luminous translation:
Eugene Onegin — like champagne,
Its effervescence stirs my brain.

Читатель, хватит извинений!
Но удержаться я не мог
Продлить на несколько мгновений
Сей бесконечный монолог
И вспомнить ключ отдохновенья:
Прозрачный, свежий, светлый, пенный —
Бессмертный Пушкина роман.
Я лишь отдать хотел бы дань
Той радости, что мне принес «Евгений»,
Всем тем наитиям, порывам, побужденьям,
Тому неповторимому творенью,
Что Джонстон перевел с блестящим вдохновеньем.
«Онегин» как шампанское искрит
И душу мне и сердце веселит.

Jim Walker
Ellijay, Georgia

The following profile from new member Jim Walker corroborates our contention that one reason our membership is so interesting is that so many of us have followed a complex and unique path to our current professional destination. Jim lives in Ellijay, Georgia and can be reached on e-mail at perevod@ellijay.com. He cites as areas of specialization: biochemistry, ecology, geology and geophysics, metallurgy and forestry—not bad for a “fruit tramp.”

CALLED TO TRANSLATE

Would it be too much to say that the Lord called me to translate? If so, maybe I should just say that it's a miracle that I became a translator. That way you can interpret “miracle” according to your own inclination, religious or otherwise. You be the judge.

In the summer of 1968, I visited Russia on a student program from Indiana University, and in 1970 I worked at the USIA «Народное образование» exhibit in Baku and Tashkent. But back then the times they were a changing, and I was hip. Someone said “Turn on, tune in, and drop out,” and I did. For the next 15 years I never heard or spoke a word of Russian and read very little.

My wife and I were fruit tramps for nine years, picking apples and pears in Hood River Valley each fall, and one or two of those years that was the only job we had all year. We bought some land in the mountains of north Georgia and built a log cabin. Living was easy off the fat of the land.

But gradually my *непутевая жизнь* began to catch up with me. Two children imposed certain financial needs, and the opportunities for decent-paying work in Southern Appalachia were limited to say the least, particularly for someone like myself with no obvious skills. I worked off and on by the hour on state parks building trails, rock walls, steps, and such. It was great fun, but after starting at a rate that was 10 cents an hour below the minimum wage (which did not apply to state employees) I progressed to an hourly wage that was barely sufficient if I worked 40 hours every week. But that was not possible, especially in the winter, so as the song says, “another day older and deeper in debt.” In desperation, I even began to consider returning to the big city (Atlanta).

Here comes the miracle part. My wife and I are Catholic, and at that time the Catholic mission in town consisted of six families. Just before

Christmas 1984, a new couple showed up at church. The man, Jack, did not look old enough to be retired, so I asked what he did. “I translate scientific journals from Russian to English,” he replied.

“That’s interesting,” I said. “I used to know Russian.”

That winter was particularly harsh. At the park where I was working the temperature got down to -30°C (in north Georgia, believe it or not!), and snow lay on the ground for weeks. In January and February I worked only two days. At home, I got out my old Russian grammar book (Pulkina) and read it from cover to cover. I went to see Jack; he gave me a few old dictionaries and the address of a publisher. The test translation arrived in April; I passed it with Jack’s help and became a translator.

Miracle, good luck, or random event? Here’s how I figure it. The odds of any one American taken at random being a Russian scientific translator—approximately a million to one. The odds of a person moving to a specific small town in North Georgia—100,000 to one. The odds of my meeting this translator who has arrived—five hundred to one. So I figure the overall odds of this particular event are roughly 5×10^{60} to one; call it what you will. For me it was an answer to prayer.

Why would Jack think that some stranger he met at church could possibly translate? Why would I think that I could? I certainly had serious doubts, but was driven by desperation. At first I worked in a tiny camping trailer away from the house, writing out the translation by hand for my wife to type; soon I bought a computer and built an office. Every Friday evening for a couple of years, I would go to see Jack with a list of questions. I was constantly afraid that some editor would discover my ignorance—ignorance of Russian and, especially, ignorance of the scientific material. I felt like I was taking a final exam every day without ever seeing the results. The only indication I had that my work was satisfactory was that checks kept coming in the mail.

It took at least five years for me to gain even the slightest confidence in my ability to translate. Of course, I was aware of ATA, but afraid to spend the money and fail the test. Last year, after ten years of full-time nonstop translation, I was ready. After passing the accreditation exam, I finally considered myself a professional. And thanks to my membership in ATA, my income is now at a much more professional level. I love reading *SlavFile* because I feel that I understand and belong to this group of people whom I have never met.

That’s my story. It is not meant to be inspirational or instructive; it’s just my way of saying hello.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR (Continued from page 1)

might immediately see some possibilities on the not-too-distant horizon:

- ◇ Courts are beginning to hire Russian interpreters (and translators) in-house. The salary is not great, but the benefits are good and these are still secure jobs;
- ◇ Hospitals are hiring bilingual personnel; these jobs are not necessarily in the nursing field - they could be in personnel, admissions or even PR;
- ◇ Nursing homes need people who can communicate with residents and their families;
- ◇ Rabbis need to communicate with their faithful;
- ◇ Community centers, Social Security offices, medical clinics also need bilingual personnel;
- ◇ Insurance companies may want to reach an as yet untapped segment of the population;
- ◇ Schools need English-as-a-second language teachers, as well as bilingual teachers;
- ◇ Lawyers need paralegals who can pitch in as interpreters or translators.
- ◇ NAJIT is a good organization to join if you are a court interpreter, or would like to become one. If you get on the Federal Court roster, your name may be given to attorneys who often call when in need of an interpreter or translator.

I myself have received many referrals from the Federal Court. Federal Court Interpreter examinations are administered by the University of Arizona. For further information call (520)621-3687, or send a fax to (520)624-8130.

Most recently, I have been reading rather distressing reports regarding the adoption of children from Eastern Europe (and other areas). Adoption agencies charge high fees to arrange adoptions of children long-distance. In some cases the adoptive parents have limited resources and can afford just one trip to pick up their child, after all arrangements have been made, moneys exchanged and documents signed, only to find that the child suffered from severe damage and required far more attention and expense than they were prepared to give or could afford. It was revealed that the examining physician's report had not been translated, but merely summarized leaving out crucial information, or mistranslated. A perusal of your local telephone yellow pages will probably list adoption agencies and lawyers specializing in adoptions, who might be in need of your services.

If you expand your search into these or other related fields, your chances of finding employment can be significantly improved. Translation bureaus also hire in-house administrative and clerical personnel whose translation/interpreting skills can be used as part of their regular duties.

The January '97 issue of the ATA Chronicle contains a wealth of information particularly useful to new translators.

I hope that I have given you some ideas. In our next issue, I will discuss some ways in which you can acquire specialized knowledge in various fields to improve your competitive edge in the marketplace.

MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

(Continued from page 7)

Т-зубец: (on EKG) T-wave

тромбоцит: platelet

у него обнаружен: (of a patient) he presents

условно-патогенный микроорганизм: opportunistic pathogen

физиологический датчик: vital signs monitor

физиологический раствор: normal saline

формула крови: blood count

функциональная проба: provocative test

черная пелена: black out

щадящий режим: conservative treatment

эхограмма: sonogram

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