

Pozdrowienia z Warszawy

The Return of the Prodigal Translator

Interview with Jan Weinsberg conducted by Laura E. Wolfson

The keynote contribution to this Polish issue is an interview with ATA member and SLD friend Jan Weinsberg, previously of Ottawa, who recently returned to Warsaw, the city of his birth. The heir to a distinguished linguistic legacy, (his septa-lingual father was the chairman of linguistics at the University of Warsaw in the nineteen-seventies, his mother, a native Yiddish speaker, was a literary translator who polished (and Polished) novels from German and Rumanian, his sister holds a doctorate in Russian, his nephew has a thriving clientele of students learning English and even his brother-in-law is the principal of a specialized secondary school in Warsaw where German is the medium of instruction), Jan was catapulted out of Poland at age sixteen due to political turmoil in that country. After leading a peripatetic existence in Western Europe and Israel for several years, during which time he became a polyglot, fluent in five languages, he settled in Canada, where he lived for many years and perfected his translation skills. This year, for reasons both personal and professional, he sold nearly all of his possessions — minus his reference works and his office equipment - and repatriated after thirty years away. Below, this prodigal son fills us in on his experiences since returning to the scenes of his childhood, boyhood and part of his youth.

We wish to thank Jan for providing the interview below. In the midst of unpacking his dictionaries after a move halfway around the world, and while launching his career in a new venue, he graciously found the time to do the cyber-equivalent of sitting down over a cup of coffee for a long chat to catch us up on how he has been since he was last in North America. In the process, he did much to satisfy our curiosity about working conditions for translators in Poland.

You have lived in Canada for 25 years. Was moving back to Poland after all that time a big culture shock for you?

I had visited Poland a few times since the collapse of communism in 1989. I also spent the first 16 years of my life here, so I am not a complete stranger to the place. But, of course, it is very different from North America. I miss the space I was used to in Canada and I miss the ethnic mix of the North American population. But all in all, I can't say I've experienced culture shock.

How did you make your first professional contacts when you arrived in Warsaw?

For that I have to thank the ATA. Last year, when I was still living in Canada, I coordinated an article on translation in Po-

land for the ATA Chronicle. I called three Polish translation company owners and asked them to contribute their impressions to that piece. One of the responses struck me as particularly interesting, and soon after I arrived in Warsaw I visited the man who had written it. We struck up a friendship and I have been receiving freelance assignments from him ever since.

Oddly enough, my first job in Warsaw was a translation from French to English. This was doubly odd because in Canada I very rarely worked in that language combination, although, of course, it is the backbone of the Canadian translation industry.

What are some major differences between the translation markets in Poland and North America?

Do not forget that I have been living in Poland for only a few months and do not yet know the local translation market very well. For example, I haven't yet contacted the two national translators' associations, which, I believe, would be good sources of information. But I can tell you about my personal experiences to date: When I arrived in Warsaw I began calling local translation firms to offer my services. Since there aren't many experienced translators here working into English and there is a need for this service, and since I have a good resume, having been in the translation business in Canada for two decades, the reaction to my calls has always been positive. I am in the lucky position of not being faced with a lot of competition and as a result, I am busier now in Poland than I ever was in North America.

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To the Editor:

I enjoyed reading Laura Wolfson's insightful review of the *English-Russian Dictionary of American Criminal Law* in the Spring 1999 issue of the *SlavFile* and heartily agree with her positive assessment of the book. However, her sole criticism of the dictionary—that it is too expensive—prompted me to write this letter, because I have just finished writing and funding the publication of a bilingual legal dictionary myself. What Laura may not realize is that the market for a book of this sort is miniscule. One owner of a store that sells bilingual dictionaries reports that a bestseller for his company is a dictionary that sells 100 copies a year! This means that even with a tiny print run of 1,000 copies (and short runs of this size are very expensive), it could take ten years to sell all the copies of a best-selling dictionary (and much longer to sell all the copies of a non-bestseller). On top of that, some booksellers (e.g. Amazon.com) demand a discount of 55% off the cover price, before they are willing to sell a book. Given this situation, it is pretty clear that the authors of the *English-Russian Dictionary of American Criminal Law* are not getting rich from the publication of their book. On the contrary, it was probably a labor of love—one that we as translators and interpreters must support if we are continue to benefit from their efforts. As Laura herself points out, the bilingual versions of standard U.S. legal documents in the book in and of themselves make it valuable—and I believe that professionals must be willing to pay for the tools of their trade. Imagine refusing to purchase Katzner's invaluable Russian dictionary just because it sells for \$32.50 in paperback! As an occasional instructor at Georgia State University, I would also note that the two required textbooks for a class I taught several years ago sold for \$72.50 and \$59.00, respectively—and I would venture that the students who bought them got much less use from them than Laura will from the *English-Russian Dictionary of American Criminal Law*. I believe that arguing that a valuable dictionary is not worth \$89.50 is not far removed from arguing that an interpreter should be paid \$10 or so an hour. Just as professional interpreters demand and deserve to be paid a rate commensurate with their valuable contribution to international communication, so they should be willing to pay a rate for a book that is commensurate with its value to their profession.

Sincerely,

Tom West
Atlanta, Georgia

The editors wish to thank Tom for reminding us that translators and interpreters are not the only ones working with language who deserve to have their labor compensated at professional rates. To read more about Tom's experiences with dictionary compilation see the interview with him concerning his Spanish Dictionary of Business and Law in the May 1999 issue of the ATA Chronicle.

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A FEW WORDS ABOUT THIS SPECIAL POLISH ISSUE

Laura E. Wolfson

Readers, I will be frank: ever since the 1994 ATA conference in Nashville when our division members voted — somewhat impetuously, I believe — to replace the word “Russian” in the name of our division with the word “Slavic,” I have been pondering, in solitude and in the hearing of a few close colleagues, what this means for the SLD. I speak advisedly when I say that this vote was taken impetuously because, as far as I know, there was little discussion at the time about adding activities or broadening our scope so that the change in name would become a change in deed. When we were the Russian Language Division, life was simple and carefree: our only responsibilities were to those working in the one language mentioned in our title. At the same time, practitioners in other Slavic languages and languages of the former Soviet Union were free to take shelter under our commodious tent if they so chose, and no one could fault the division for not doing enough with those other languages, for we made no claim to serve them.

Since that vote in Nashville nearly five years ago, I think all will agree that we have been the *Slavic* Languages Division primarily in name. There is more that we could be doing to serve all of our constituents. Most of what we do is still aimed at practitioners of Russian. We continue to print articles in Russian in the newsletter without providing English translations, assuming that all of our readers know Russian. Some may say that since our membership is largely Russian-speaking, that is whom we should serve. But I say that others will come if we provide the relevant material and opportunities to participate and if we make everyone feel at home. And we must do so. Becoming more diverse and living up to the promise of our name is to the benefit of all.

There are signs of change. A few issues back, we found ourselves with three articles on Ukraine and Ukrainian, so, ex post facto, we dubbed that our special Ukrainian issue. Recently **Marie Hall**'s translations of the Polish poet Maria Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska came in over the transom, and that submission has served as the kernel around which this special Polish issue — my brainchild — has grown. We are confident that this issue will be of interest to all our regular readers, even those who do not know Polish.

Special thanks go to **Tomasz Popławski** for pitching in and actively recruiting his friends and colleagues **Ewa Godlewska** and **Mikołaj Korzistka** to write the three Polish-related articles for this issue after solicitations in the ATA Chronicle and the Slavfile brought in a near-zero response. As a pleasant and unexpected result of producing this issue (and as noted elsewhere in this issue), Tomasz has now become our regular contributing editor for all things Polish. We also wish to thank **Jan Weinsberg** of Warsaw for providing the interview on the front page.

Now that the Slavic Languages Division is starting to live up to its name, we ask you, our readers, to help us continue moving in that direction. Without participation from you, the members, we cannot keep our readers informed about late-breaking developments in Ruthenian, Macedonian, Belarussian, Slovak and all the other languages in the large, warm and contentious Slavic family. Write to us with your ideas and suggestions. The floor is open, the microphones are on, our operators are standing by at the switchboard, ready to take your call.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR SLAVIC LANGUAGE DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR AND ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

Nominations are now open for the Administrator and Assistant Administrator of the Slavic Language Division. All enthusiastic, qualified applicants are invited to throw their hats into the ring. This is your opportunity to have a greater voice in your organization, and to improve your visibility among your peers and potential clients. Nomination Committee recommendations must be made by the second week in August, so contact Committee members as soon as possible.

As well put by Paul Gallagher for the article analogous to this one two years ago, successful candidates will have the following characteristics:

1. **Commitment, dedication, a willingness to get the job done** (if you are here against your will, you won't be effective).
2. **Vision, a sense of what should be done, a sense of direction** (this is essential to any leader).
3. **The ability to involve others and to delegate responsibilities** (the SLD Administrator and Assistant Administrator can be most effective by involving others and creating a sense that this division belongs to all its members).

4. **The ability to listen** (to accept good advice from all sources and balance it against one's own judgment and vision for the good of the Division).

5. **And maybe more...** (fill in the blank with what you think will make a good SLD Administrator or Assistant Administrator).

Job descriptions follow. If you decide run for one of these positions, or would like to suggest another qualified nominee, please contact any member of the **SLD Nominating Committee**:

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WHEN IN ROME DO AS THE ROMANS DO

OR HOW TO INTERPRET A LANGUAGE THAT DOES NOT EXIST

Ewa Godlewska

When I boarded a Polish Airlines Boeing 767 in Warsaw nearly two years ago and set off for the United States, I already had a few years of translation experience. I had worked as an in-house translator and interpreter for a Polish newspaper, and had also done quite a bit of freelance work for a number of translation companies in Poland. In Chicago I soon started working as an interpreter in a Polish community with which I was somewhat familiar from previous short visits. I expected this to be a challenge, as all new things are, but I was quite confident that I would manage easily. However, when one of the first clients I interpreted for at a meeting with an American attorney confessed that he had a problem with a “*mister-meaner*” (but, thank God! no felonies) — I realized I would be in for a surprise more often than I had originally thought.

It is well-known that the language of the Polish-American community has its own unique flavor. In a new linguistic environment people inevitably acquire certain phrases or words they come across on a daily basis. The tricky part of it is, however, that in the course of it these words are often altered to the point of distortion and fixed in that form. This is done either in an attempt to simplify the pronunciation of English phrases or in the firm conviction that the new usage is, in fact how given phrases or words are pronounced and/or function in the original. Whatever the reasons for these strange borrowings, an interpreter is often forced to convey the meaning of words that exist in neither the source nor the target language. He or she has to restore the words to their original shapes in order to uncover the true meaning. In the process, the interpreter discovers some general tendencies governing the speech of the Polish-American community and gains experience that makes the decoding process easier.

In short, Poles attempt to make the English words look and sound as Polish as possible. They pick up a word in its basic form and apply to it the grammatical rules governing Polish. This tendency is common for both nouns and verbs. That is, nouns decline and verbs conjugate, just as they do in Polish. And as a result, a weird register is formed, which may be relatively easily understood by those who have been here for a while, but which leaves relatives in Poland (or first-time visitors from Poland) confused. And so, a Pole *keszuje* his check in a bank, *orderuje* his pizza for lunch, and calls airlines in order to *zabukować* (to book) his ticket to go on a vacation. Should it turn out that his plans have changed, he has the right to *skanselować* (to cancel) his reservation within a certain period of time. Otherwise, he may assume that the deal is clinched and can make a note of it in his calendar or *zasejwować* (to save) it in his electronic organizer.

Construction industry terms are handled in a similar manner. You need to *sandować* (to sand) the floors to make them look smooth and *zapejntować* (to paint) over a smudge on the wall. The latter may be done either in the traditional way, or you can choose to *posprejować* (to spray the paint) here and there if it just needs a cosmetic touch-up.

Nouns are just as much fun. A woman once explained to her attorney that she was caught crossing the Canadian border *na fał-*

szywych plejtach (on false plates). No wonder she ended up being stopped by the *kapy* (cops), and eventually had to appear *w karcie* (in court) at the Circuit Court of Cook County (pronounced *country*, which gives a new exciting meaning to the term *country music*).

Fortunately, not all people come into conflict with law-enforcement agencies and are generally involved in more mundane tasks. They work hard *w ofisach* (in offices) or *w szapach* (in shops). They go shopping in their spare time and, like all of us, feel fortunate if they find a real bargain *na sejlę* (on sale). They don't want to be placed in the position of having to spend weeks or months *na leżofie* (being laid off) and they worry about whether or not their *inśiura* (insurance) will cover all the medical expenses incurred as a result of a car accident.

The field of construction, again, has made a significant contribution to the speech of Polish immigrants with words like *kantertapy* (countertops), *karpety* (carpets), *flory* (floors) and *tubajfory* (two-by-fours). In order to do a job properly, a contractor needs *tulce* (tools). But first and foremost, he should get his *lajznes* (license), otherwise he may have a brush with the law. The word *lajznes* comes in handy in a variety of other contexts, too. For example, you are definitely required to have a *drajwer lajznes* or, better still, *lajznes drajwer* in order to drive a vehicle. Which reminds me of another commonly used word, which, I have to confess, beat me for days. That word is ... *TAJLO*. *Tajlo* is nothing more than a title, a document evidencing ownership. Interestingly, its usage in that particular form is so common that even if you translate it into Polish, you will most likely hear a client double check: “You mean *tajlo*, right?”.

This type of new-speak is a well-known phenomenon in the Polish-American community in Chicago and an easy target for criticism, mockery and jokes. However, for us, the interpreters, it is first of all a significant communication problem. It requires the interpreter to respond quickly to the most unexpected and unusual phrases uttered by Polish speakers. There is no time or place for laughter and amusement when you are interpreting in a courtroom and you don't understand what your client is telling you in what is supposed to be your native language.

On the other hand, I am quite sure that this is not something confined to the Polish-American environment and that translators and interpreters serving other communities here in the United States have similar stories to share. In fact, this is what makes our work exciting and each assignment unpredictable. Before you experience this phenomenon first-hand, you don't fully realize why it is easier to interpret for someone who has had no contact whatsoever with English. But maybe I should just take the rough with the smooth, as an old saying has it. Or, as my Polish friends suggested to me, why don't I just *kikirizi*. That is “take it easy” (in case you haven't guessed).

Ewa Godlewska works as an in-house translator and interpreter in a Chicago-based law office specializing in immigration and family law. She translates articles for a legal advice column published in the Polish weekly Alfa in addition to working as a free-lance translator and interpreter in the Polish, English and Russian languages. She can be reached at 773-631-0555 or e-mail: egodl@ix.netcom.com

RELATIVE UNTRANSLATABILITY: NO JOKE TO THE CONSCIENTIOUS TRANSLATOR

Mikołaj Korzistka

“I got a new car for my wife” — says Joe.

“Well, I think you got a very good deal” — responds his friend.

What Joe had in mind was that he bought a new car for his wife; his friend jokingly implied that the wife was the payment for the car. A poor joke, but a good illustration of the concept of *relative untranslatability*.

We may say that something in the *source language* is *relatively untranslatable* when the meaning or the intent of the *original* cannot be rendered in the *target language*. Hence the difficulty in translating the joke above. In the English original, the double meaning of “got” is responsible for the humor, however weak, of the joke, and cannot be translated into Polish in a way that will create the same effect. To render the first meaning of “got for” you would have to use “dla”, as in “Dostałem nowy samochód dla mojej żony”; to translate the response you would have to use “za”, as in “Za swoją żonę dostałem nowy samochód”. As a result, not only is the underlying humor lost (*the intent*), but you also end up with two differently constructed sentences (each one bearing one of the two *meanings*). Dead-end, right?

Not necessarily. You can deal with the problem, if you can analyze why this joke is funny and find a way to create the same effect in the target language. It is not always easy and possible (hence the “relative” in the name), but a good translator should be able to cope with the problem in one way or another. A great deal will depend on what type of text you are working on and how much freedom, if any, you have to “shift” or “transfer” the meaning or the intent from one word, phrase or sentence in the source language to another word, phrase or sentence in the target language.

To understand how and if this can be done, let’s look for a moment at three different levels of a good translation. Generally, the translation should retain the *lexical* (word for word) and *syntactic* (grammatical) *equivalence* of the original. However, in many instances, we decide to use good sense and opt for *pragmatic equivalence instead*. Instead of adhering word for word and phrase for phrase to the original, we find the target language equivalent that best renders the original meaning and intent of the original, and this may sometimes mean having to forego lexical and/or syntactic equivalence.

The lexical equivalence is usually the most important type when you work on scientific, legal or business texts, in which omitting or inexactly translating even a single word may have enormous consequences. Simple lexical errors are also important as they can distort the meaning and make you the butt of jokes. One of the best translation stories I’ve heard was about an interpreter who translated the English original “The company applied for a revolver” into Polish “Firma złożyła podanie o broń” — “The company applied for a gun”. The poor fellow did not know that bankers use the colloquial term “revolver” when referring to “revolving loans”.

Lexical and syntactic equivalences are equally important when translating poems, songs, and texts where structure is as important as content. If you have ever tried to translate a poem, you know what I am talking about. Not only do you have to be able to retain the syntactic level — probably the most important in poetry (the flow, the melody of words), but you must also be able to render well the lexical level (the meaning of the words that comprise the flow).

Achieving pragmatic equivalence is probably the most difficult, because you, the translator, have to use your own judgment to weigh the possible benefits or limitations of your choices. This level of equivalence is most important in translations of literary works — you always try to find the right mix of words and structures that will convey not just the meaning, but also the author’s idiosyncrasies, and that will help you retain the flavor of the original. Ironically, though, pragmatic equivalence is also the one most naturally used by bilingual speakers. A good example here are idioms — the English “It is raining cats and dogs” automatically translates into Polish “Pierze żabami” (raining toads) and nobody questions the validity of the translation.

Back to our little joke, then. When I was a student, this joke was used in classes on the theory of translation as an example of relative untranslatability. We duly recorded it in our notes and filed it away in our memories to tell later as a joke at parties. Several months later, in a smartalecky mood, we threw it at another teacher. She taught a Practical Translation course, and as we later found out, was an accomplished translator of Polish Renaissance poets (an equivalent of Formula 1 in translation, at least for me). Imagine our surprise when she said that everything could be translated. We still doubted, but an hour later when the class was over she walked up to our little group and said, “I have it”

“Wymieniłem starą na nową Syrenkę” — powiedział Józek.

“No to zrobiłeś dobry interes” — rzucił jego kumpel.

“Stara” - “an old one” can both be understood as “my old car” and as “my old lady”, the colloquial term for a wife in Polish. Our professor analyzed the joke and found another Polish word that could render humor and ambiguity in the same way that “for” did in the English original. Thus she retained all the necessary elements of the original (the intent or the humor, and the meaning or the content), losing only the lexical equivalence of “got” (“wymieniłem” means “I traded”), secondary and expendable in this example. Simple, wasn’t it?

The lexical (purely linguistic) problem illustrated by the joke is only one of the reasons you come across the issue of relative untranslatability. There are cultural or social differences between the source and target languages that quite often prevent you from translating the original perfectly. The ones I have found in my free-lance work to be most dangerous are the ones I dubbed “*the hidden untranslatables*”. A good example here would be items in financial statements. (I happen to be doing a lot of that, lately, both ways — English to Polish and Polish to English.)

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TRANSLATIONS OF MARIA PAWLIKOWSKA-JASNORZEWSKA

Marie Hall

Maria Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska was born Maria Kossak in 1891 in Krakow. She died, a refugee, in 1945 in Manchester, England. In an introduction to her work, Krzysztof Cwikliński writes, "She so elegant, so attached to beauty, the creation of which was the reason for her existence, left the world in a hospital room smelling of carbolic acid, with smoking chimneys hiding the sun outside her window and cotton mill machinery drowning out the song of birds."

Maria was the privileged daughter of a famous family of artists, educated privately, brought up in a home that one writer described as "a great, slightly disintegrated ark." She was exposed to a circle of intellectuals which gave her a solid background in art and philosophy, but left her imagination free and uninhibited. Her poetry was first published in 1922 and made her the first woman-poet to win complete acceptance in the Skamander group of Polish poets, a group with a following and influence similar to that of the Bloomsbury circle of Virginia Woolf.

"Startling originality," a book-jacket phrase applied to Emily Dickinson, would apply just as well to this poet. Her work, which seems effortless and playful at times, is most serious in its juxtaposition of ideas. Her perceptive observation of nature and her use of color produce a forceful visual impact.

I discovered Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska through serendipity while I was browsing in a Warsaw bookstore.

Marie Hall lives on Mount Desert Island, Maine in an area she describes as "justifiably called Eden." She began her career as a Slavic translator working on Russian Biological Abstracts.

Several thousand articles and eight books later (articles from Polish and Russian on a wide variety of subjects, mainly bio-sciences, books from Russian mostly on educational and developmental psychology), she is now working with Alexei S. Eliseev, a Russian cosmonaut, on a translation of his memoirs. She can be reached electronically at: mjhall@acadia.net.

RELATIVE

Continued from page 5

With accounting in both countries done in slightly different ways, quite often, accounting terms in both languages, though cognates, refer to items differently defined in both accounting cultures. As a result, you sometimes end up with a translation, which, while ideal on the surface, is essentially wrong in meaning. And in most cases, you can't count on anybody to help you — most American accountants are not familiar with Polish accounting rules, and vice versa. The only solution to this problem I have found so far is to footnote anything I find suspicious, using the original terms. The alternative is to become a certified accountant in both countries.

There are many other examples of relative untranslatability - we could probably swap them all night long. What is important, though, is to keep the issue in mind and keep your eyes open during even the most innocuous translation jobs.

Mikolaj Korzistka graduated in 1987 from the Jagiellonian University with an MA degree in English. He has been a free-lance translator/interpreter for 12 years; in the last 5 years has specialized in translations of banking, financial and investments texts. He can be reached at mikolaj@interaccess.com.

Ad Hoc SLD Term Standardization Commission

Vadim Khazin and Michael Ishenko

In response to the letter from ATA President Elect Ann G. Macfarlane published in the Spring 1999 issue of SlavFile we invite members of the Slavic Division wishing to participate in the ad-hoc commission (group?) on Standardization of Russian/Ukrainian-English geographical and administrative terms and correspondence formats (a) express your willingness by writing to either of us (see our coordinates below); (b) share with us your ideas on how this commission should operate to obtain the best and most useful results. Please contact us as soon as possible so that we can inform the Division of the Group's composition in the next issue of *SlavFile*. Those unable to participate in the Commission are still encouraged to send ideas and input.

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MESSAGE FROM VADIM KHAZIN

In the last issue of SlavFile some tables were published and a response sheet enclosed regarding the rendering of Russian/Ukrainian geographical names and administrative divisions in English and vice versa, with an appeal to send your choices, suggestions or ideas to me. Unfortunately, the percentage of respondents appeared to be ridiculously small, although some of them were quite valuable. For example, Ludmila Davis sent a copy of the official Ukrainian document (in the form of a resolution issued by a governmental commission) decreeing how Ukrainian proper names must be rendered in English. Although I already have enough responses (mainly from other sources, like the last ATA Conference and LANTRA) to produce statistically viable conclusions, I would like to give the members of SLD one last chance to cast their votes on this issue - say, till September. Otherwise I am planning to wrap this project up in the fall.

Vadim Khazin (fax 212-650-8097 or 732-866-4372;
e-mail VadKhazin@cs.com)

CZAS KRAWIEC KULAWY

Czas, jak to Czas, krawiec kulawy,
z chińskim wąsem, suchotnik żwawy,
coraz to inne skrawki przed oczy mi kładzie,
spoczywające w ponurej szufladzie.
Czarne, bure, zielone i wesołe w kratki,
to grzeźbne szare płótno, to znów atlas gładki.

Raz — coś błysło jak złotem,
zamigotało zielonym klejnotem,
zateńczyło na zgięciu,
zachrzęściło w dotknięciu...

Więc krzyknęłam: "Ach! z tego, z tego chcę mieć suknię!"
Lecz Czas, jak to Czas, zły krawiec, tak pod wąsem fuknie:
"To sprzedane do nieba — cała sztuka —
niech większego szczęścia nie szuka."

—To rzekłszy, schował prędko próbkę do szuflady,
a mnie pokazał sukno barwy — czekolady. —

BARWY

Oto jest fiolet — drzewa cień idący żwirem,
fiolet łączący miłość czerwieni z szafirem. —
Tam brzoź różowa kora i zieleń wesoła,
a w jej ruchliwej sukni nieb błękitne koła.
A we mnie biało, biało, cicho, jednostajnie —
bo noszę w sobie wszystkich barw skupioną tajemnicę, —
O, jakże się w białości mojej bieli męczą —
chcę barwą być — a któż mnie rozbije na tęczę?

ROBOTA ANIOŁA STRÓŻA

Gonił cię mój stróż anioł po świecie, o mój Drogi,
biegł wciąż za tobą przez lasy, przez łąki,
potrącał cię ku mnie, zapędzał cię do mnie,
ciągnął za obie ręce, spychał z prostej drogi —
o miłości coś szeptał, bredził nieprzytomnie,
pachniał jak wyteżone białe nikotiany...
Siedzący noc całą przy tobie na warcie
krzyczał głosem jak trąby złote i waltornie,
to znów o łaskę twoją modlił się pokornie
—zbawienie własne diabłom rzucał na pożarcie! —
Wreszcie ciebie ślepego, ciebie niechętnego
zawiódł przemocą do mojego pokoju,
gdzie siedziałam płacząca, Pan Bóg wie dlaczego,
jak to się zdarza czasami. —
Wpuścił cię naprzód, sam został za drzwiami,
zatańczył w triumfie jakiś taniec boski —
potem twarz zakrył szatą srebrnobiałą,
zamyślił się pełen troski —
i jęknął z przerażenia nad tym, co się stało —

RÓŻA

W tym parku pobladył, bez śmiechów i
gości,
przy róży rozkwitłej stoję.
Otośmy jedynymi świadkami piękności —
ja jej, a ona mojej.

TIME, THE LIMPING TAILOR

Time, as Time, a limping tailor
with Chinese whiskers, a lively consumptive,
keeps showing me more and more swatches
that lie in his dark closet.

Black, brown, green, bright plaid,
rough gray linen, then smooth velvet.

Once — something flashed, like gold,
flickered like a green jewel,
made rainbows when folded,
rustled when touched...

I cried: "Oh, this! this I want for my dress!"

But Time, Time the mean tailor, snorted in his whiskers,
"This was sold to heaven — the whole bolt —
one is lucky just to see such a piece — one mustn't
look for greater happiness."

Having said this, he quickly hid the swatch in the closet
And showed me woolen cloth the color of — chocolate. —

COLORS

Here is violet — the shadow of tree on gravel,
Violet, uniting crimson's love with sapphire.
There, rosy birch bark and airy greenery,
And in the birch's rustling dress, circles of heavenly blue.
But within me, white, white, changeless, silent —
For within me lies the dense secret of all colors.
Oh, how I suffer in the whiteness of my white —
I want to be color — but who will break me into a rainbow?

THE WORK OF MY GUARDIAN ANGEL

My guardian angel pursued you across the world,
ran after you always, through forests, over fields,
nudged you toward me, drove you toward me,
pulled you by both hands, pushed you off the straight and narrow
— whispered something about love, mumbled subconsciously,
smelled like concentrated white nicotiana...

Sitting with you on watch all night,
he called with the voice of a golden trumpet or French horn,
or prayed humbly for your favor,
—casting his own salvation to the devil!—
Finally he led you, blind and unwilling,
by force, to my chamber
where, as it sometimes happens, I sat crying,
God knows why.—
He let you enter first while he stayed behind the door,
danced some sort of heavenly triumphant dance —
then covered his face with his silver-white robe,
and fell to thinking, full of trepidation —
and gasped with dread at what had happened —

THE ROSE

In this quiet park, no visitors, no laughter,
I stand beside a full-blown rose.
We are the lone witnesses to beauty —
I to hers, she to mine.

SLAVFILE LITE: NOT BY WORD COUNT ALONE

Lydia Razran Stone

My mother has been visiting me. The other evening, after listening to my husband and me discussing the details of the mailbox made to look like Baba Yaga's hut he is making me for my birthday, she said to me, "I keep waiting for you to outgrow your 'Russian phase.'" I estimate she has been waiting somewhere between 35 and 40 years. I thought she sounded rather wistful.

I am visited by recurrent metaphors for the activities and phenomena that are important to me. For example, doing a relatively straightforward general translation or a technical translation in a familiar area tends to remind me of cross-country skiing. There I am whizzing along, and suddenly I see some danger or obstacle in the path, an exposed tree root for example; one second I am thinking to myself, "Gee, I wonder how I am going to get myself past that one." And often, if I am lucky, the next second I suddenly realize that I am past it. On the other hand, when I encounter one of those Russian sentences that can only be translated by laborious disassembly and then reassembly in English.) I see myself as a do-it-yourselfer who has just taken apart and then put back together an alarm clock and is just about to congratulate herself for a job well-done when she notices a small but significant pile of leftover gears and the like sitting on the work table.

When I am translating from Russian to English, I see the English language as an enormous hardware store that carries absolutely anything anybody would ever want or need, (as well as some things not in this category) but is extremely disorganized. The good translator, then, is a kind of old geezer salesclerk who has been working in the store for decades and is the only person who can immediately put his hands on the exact gizmo that someone needs for a repair or project. On the other hand, when I have to produce anything more than the most banal sentence in Russian, I see that language as a kind of elegant foreign children's tinker toy or the like (only purchasable, no doubt, for a great deal of money at high end toy stores). Even small children from the country of this toy's manufacture are able to assemble its brightly colored parts into graceful and elaborate structures. But whenever I, a foreigner who came to this game too late, make an attempt, the pieces just come apart in my hands, or at best, with great effort I am able to put together a rather misshapen and unattractive construction.

On the subject of distortion, if the Brightonisms I cited in last month's column can indeed be considered linguistic distortions, I bent some of them even further out of shape; юзданный should have been юзанный and фудстэмпчик should have been фудстэмщик (in other words, not a dear little food stamp, but someone who uses or relies on the same). SLD member Natalia Geilman of Richfield, Minnesota clearly finds such bilingual neologisms deplorable. She writes, "The article you wrote in the last issue of Slavfile literally "задела меня за живое"! It's so frustrating to hear that terrible mixture, Ruslish, which so many

immigrants speak nowadays. I am strongly convinced that the proportion of "Russified" English words increases with the decrease of knowledge of either language. People who do speak English do not try to impress others with that terrible lingo. Here are some gems, frequently used in Minnesota Russian-speaking community: апплаивать (на субсидированную квартиру, бенефиты, вэлфер и т.д.), юзаные (не "юзданные") машины, либо кары, драйвер, нюрс (nurse) - и, конечно, аппойнтмент." See also the article in this issue written by Ewa Godlewska for a somewhat less negative discussion of the analogous phenomenon in the speech of the Polish community of Chicago.

As for me, I tend to see a large dollop of creativity in this phenomenon. Just as the child who says "I goed" is demonstrating a more profound and rule-governed attempt to master English than one who simply repeats "I went," the immigrants (ignorant of syntactic niceties as they may be) who coin some Ruslish phrase seem to me to be embodying a creative principle in human thought: the attempt at all costs to endow the environment with meaning. (Yes, I tend to find some graffiti creative too, although I realize I might well feel differently if it were my property serving as the canvas.) I see this phenomenon in action in the family of my friend Liana where I visit frequently. Her oldest daughter Irada is the main practitioner. In full command of both languages, she mixes and adapts them either as a form of punning, to import a nuance from one language to another, or to imply when speaking Russian that she is referring to an intrinsically American phenomenon. In one of my favorite uses, she declines the English verb "to miss" in Russian, saying, when her mother is away, "мис(с)ю." The beauty of it is that the grammatically regular though semantically barbarous Russian phrase is homonymous with the English phrase with the same meaning, "I miss you." Another of my favorite words used in this family is "бeбичный," meaning, of course, childish.

I was delighted to read the following quotation in the *Washington Post Book Review Section* (May 23, 1999) review of SLD member Marian Schwartz's recent translation of Nina Berberova's *The Book of Happiness* (New Directions, 1999): "As limpidly preserved by Marian Schwartz's translations, Berberova's is a prose of small gestures, pregnant moments and memories polished bright as sea pebbles by the constant tumbling of thought." Though I have not read this translation, I know enough about the nature of literary translation in general to say that a more accurate verb than "preserved" might have been "recreated."

As you will have noticed, this is our special Polish issue! This issue was conceived by our assistant editor Laura Wolfson, and it was only through her persistent and optimistic efforts that it came into being. Laura (and I) are very grateful to Tomasz Popławski, who not only wrote an article for us, but recruited two of his fellow Polish translators to do likewise. Tomasz's

name will now appear on the masthead in every edition, as his efforts on this issue have earned him the title of Contributing Editor (Polish). With his help, we hope to give Polish language services a more prominent place in our publication and our readers' attention. Even readers who know no Polish are advised to read this Polish issue attentively as the submissions are of considerable general interest. Laura and I were both struck by the high quality English prose submitted by all the native speakers of Polish who contributed to this issue.

As this column's contribution to the Polish theme, I offer the following witty poems and their translations. The English-language author, Stanley H. Barkan, is the editor of *Cross Cultural Review of World Literature and Art*. In 1991 he was named Poetry Teacher of the Year by the New York City Board of Education and Poets' House and is also the recipient of Poor Richard's Award by the Small Press Center for "a quarter century of high quality publishing." The Polish poet and translator of both his own poem (see back page of this *SlavFile* issue) and Barkan's is a recipient of a number of literary awards and has published nine poetry book (six in Polish, two in English and one bilingual).

First Birth

Covered with leaves
she rises out of the earth —
she first,
not Adam.
How much more likely
(more provable),
he from her pit
than she from his rib.
It was a man
who wrote the myth.

Stanley H. Barkan.

Pierwszy Poród

Pokryta liśćmi
podnosi się z ziemi —
ona pierwsza
a nie Adam.
O ile bardziej realny
(autentyczny)
on z jej łona
niż ona z jego żebra.
Mężczyzną był
który ten mit napisał.

Translated by Adam Szyper

From: *Under the Apple Tree/Pod Jabłonią* (Kraków, Poland: Oficyna Confraterni Poetów, 1998).

The following descriptions of responsibilities have been condensed and paraphrased somewhat from the ATA by-laws.

ADMINISTRATOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES -

1. maintain overall responsibility for keeping Division activities going; serve as a focal point and encourage others undertaking those activities.
2. write a column for the Division newsletter, and confer with the editor as to subject matter, layout etc. of the newsletter.
3. review and submit to headquarters all claims for financial reimbursement from members for costs incurred carrying out Division duties
4. prepare a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year for the ATA Treasurer in August, and an annual report for presentation to the Board of Directors and the Membership at the annual Conference. The financial statement itself is now prepared by ATA.
5. prepare an agenda for the Division Annual Meeting at the annual ATA Conference and chair that meeting.
6. represent the Division, to the general public, prospective and present members, and ATA leaders and membership.
7. answer inquiries, as time permits.
8. delegate specific tasks relating to the division and check to make sure they are done.

ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES -

1. assist the Administrator in performance of duties listed above.
2. coordinate presentations in the Division language/subject area at the annual conference.

Since the duties of both the Administrator and Assistant involve the annual conference, members who are not willing, at least in principle, to attend conferences during their tenure should not volunteer for these positions. Current Administrator, Natasha Kissock, says that the most time-consuming task has been answering inquiries. However, note that this responsibility is modified by the phrase, as time permits. Furthermore, current SLD staff are working on a series of form letters that can be e-mailed in answer to the majority of inquirers, thus cutting down the demands of this task. Natasha also reports that ATA Headquarters is very helpful with a number of the Administrator and Assistant Administrator's duties.

ATTENTION ACTIVE ATA MEMBERS: Fame and Fortune —Yours for the taking!

- ◆ BE A HERO;
- ◆ BE A ROLE MODEL;
- ◆ BE A CELEBRITY;
- ◆ BE A MENSCH;
- ◆ BE A SPORT;

BE AN SLD OFFICER (Administrator, or Assistant Administrator)!

Now that I think of it, I did have one unpleasant experience while prospecting for translation contracts: I went to a large translation agency to take a test. After a brief conversation with the company's manager I was told to sit down at a small table in a very noisy room full of women making telemarketing calls. There was a sign covering the front wall that said: "TLUMACZYMY Z KLASA" (We Translate with Class). I didn't like the noise and the little table but I was very concerned about getting work at that time so I decided to tough it out. The text I had to translate was on financial aspects of a retirement fund. It was difficult and I was glad I had thought of bringing a financial dictionary. I was plodding stoically along when suddenly I realized that the hubbub in the room had died down. I looked up and saw the owner of the company standing over me. He said: "Prawdziwy tłumacz obywa się bez słownika," [Real translators can do without dictionaries] and handed me back my resume. I was stunned. No dictionary? What was he talking about? I have always encouraged neophyte translators to consult dictionaries more than they are naturally inclined to and this man is telling me this?! I was so furious that I got up and left holding the resume in my shaking hand. However, on all other occasions I was treated very professionally.

Were you forced to change any aspects of the way you work as a result of the move?

Yes, I had to come to terms with several factors making the business of freelance translation more difficult here than in North America. One of the problems is that the rates paid to freelance translators here are terrible (approx. US\$ 0.03 per word), even after you take into account that the cost of living is slightly lower in Poland than in the West.

Why do you think that is?

There are too many translation brokers competing fiercely for the same work solely on the basis of price. And so they push down the rates they pay their freelancers. Quality seems secondary, at least in the into-English section of the market. I have been told here by many translation company managers that they do not edit English translations because they cannot afford the additional expense and because they cannot find anyone to do it properly.

Another problem I did not confront in the West has to do with the low standards of Polish telecommunications. It is sometimes very difficult to get through to an e-mail server. In addition, Internet services are very expensive because here one pays for the length of a telephone call, even when it is a local one.

Also, it is very expensive to rent office space. There is simply no way I could afford even the smallest office in central Warsaw. And since apartment rentals are very expensive too, for the time being I am living in and working out of my sister's tiny apartment together with three other people and two large dogs. We get along well, so nobody minds, but I keep my printer between my feet under the desk and some of

my less frequently consulted dictionaries are stashed away in the kitchen cupboard. I have to admit that I do miss my spacious Canadian office.

Has the Polish language changed significantly while you were away?

That's a very interesting question. Under communism, Polish language specialists were very concerned about Russicisms seeping into everyday speech. But the 45 years of Soviet influence on the Polish language cannot compare even remotely with the influence exerted by English in the past 10. Just yesterday I came across the infinitive "implementować" in the newspaper. A few years ago only Poles who spoke English would know what that word meant. Many other examples jump out at the newspaper reader, particularly in advertisements: "Ten krem nie zostawia po sobie filmu" (This cream does not leave any film) — the noun "film" has never in the past been used in the sense of "layer." Or "Czy chciałbyś pracować w młodym i agresywnym zespole?" (Would you like to be part of a young and aggressive team?) — in Poland, aggressiveness was not heretofore considered a virtue.

Is there anything in particular which strikes you about the new Poland?

What I find particularly interesting is the young age of those who are driving the new Polish economy. Today's Poland seems to be run by yuppies. I have been getting contracts from two firms not directly associated with translation but requiring linguistic services. One produces fancy multilingual promotional folders for the thriving construction industry, the other is a market-research firm. No one in these companies is over 35 years old. In fact, it is common to see employment ads that specify not only the desired sex of the applicant (Polish has genders, and men would not think of applying for positions advertised as 'asystentka' or 'recepjonistka') but also the age limit. The logic behind it is that anyone over 40 has already had time to acquire "communist" work habits under the previous system and would not fit into today's fast-paced and "aggressive" workplace. I don't know whether that is true, but it certainly makes me old at 47.

Anything else you would like to tell our readers?

Only that I believe in change as a positive life force. I had a good life in Canada and I love that country very much. I also love my profession and here in Poland I can exercise it to the fullest. If you feel you need a change in your life, you should go ahead and make it. But if you ask me again in a year from now I may be singing a different tune altogether. Things may change.

The Slovist

Raphael Alden

Idioms, idioms, idioms. Communicating without the use of idioms may not be easy, but, on the other hand, translating them is no piece of cake.

Here are some for you:

“**Share the pain, share the gain**” — with these words the VP of a joint venture began a toast.

Most American movies shown on TV in Moscow these days do not have subtitles, but are dubbed. I happened to be at a friend's house when an old Clint Eastwood movie was on TV. Although I had seen the movie before, I started paying attention to it in order to listen to the interpreter. I was waiting for the well-known episode in which Eastwood says: “Go ahead, **make my day**.” I wanted to hear how the interpreter would render this phrase. And when I heard him say, “**Ну давай, сделай мне приятное**,” I felt I had wasted my time. Please give me your suggestions. I will make sure to pass them on to the interpreter in Moscow.

He was expected to be **a man for all seasons**.

American and Russian partners assembled for a JV meeting. Both parties approached the conference room. It was locked. Someone was sent to fetch the key. The person returned in 30 minutes with the key. “**Тебя только за смертью посылать**,” — commented one of the Russian bosses.

Father: “Is he taking good care of you?”

Daughter: “Yes, father.”

Father: “**He'd better**”.

Доедете до города Печора, а дальше **на перекладных**.

“Why was he [a recently hired corporate attorney] laid off?”
“He had very **poor judgment**”.

And while you are at it, try this:

“I will agree to this although **it is against my better judgment**.”
At the time it was translated “хотя это против моих принципов”.

I interpreted a speech by the newly appointed director general of the joint venture. Here are some sentences from his speech that gave me a hard time:

Один поручил другому, другой перепоручил третьему, тот еще кому-то и получился **испорченный телефон**. *Editor suggests: “It was like a game of ‘telephone.’”*

В изощренности при решении арбитражных споров **им не откажешь**.

Все эти разговоры ведутся **на пустом месте**.

Я не сторонник **кадровой чехарды**, но в данном случае именно так и придется поступить.

I translated this as “**personnel reshuffling**,” but I would be happy to hear something from you.

Я **все-таки** 25 лет проработал в нефтяной индустрии.

*Editor suggests: After all, I **have** worked in the oil industry for 25 years.*

Будете плохо себя вести — **не взъимите** — уволю.

В работе я требую полной **самоотдачи** от всех подчиненных. Сложилась ситуация, при которой **третий — совсем даже не лишний**.

Editor suggests: A situation arose in which the third person was in no way the odd man out (or perhaps a fifth wheel).

That was some speech, wasn't it?

“**We'll be right back**,” - the phrase used before a commercial on TV, turned out to be a problem for Russian TV interpreters. Often in Russia it is translated as: “**А сейчас - реклама**.” What do you think?

With regard to the idioms published in the last issue, a number of readers sent suggestions.

These came from Masha Entchevitch:

... to face the music — ты натворил, тебе и ответ держать, тебе и отвечать

quaking in my boots — у меня поджилки затряслись от страха

Let's go kick some butt — пойдем покажем им/ему, пойдем зададим им жару, разнесем в прах

злые языки — nasty gossips. *Editor suggests: evil tongues.*

не доросла до этого — our country is not there yet, hasn't gotten there yet

getting such a sector on its feet — поставить такую отрасль на ноги

bake sales — благотворительная продажа булочек, благотворительные чаепития

Vanda Voytkevych provides a definition for “... **группа наворотила такого ...**”

Согласно электронному словарю LINGVO 5.0 перевод на русский глагола “наворотить (наворачивать)” (что-л.; чего-л.) в прямом и переносном смысле - hear up; pile up. Однако, по контексту я бы перевела как “to make mess of...”

Send suggestions to the Slovist, Raffi Alden, at raffialden@aol.com, phone and fax: (661)665-7703.

ATTENTION ALL SLOVIST FANS: Share Your (Linguistic) Wealth! Idiom Savants Session at St. Louis ATA Conference!

Is the Slovist column the first thing you read in *SlavFile*? Is there some Russian (English) idiom you are dying to find the English (Russian) equivalent of? Are you the only person in the world who knows the true ideal translation of some English or Russian idiom? Do you love to stump the experts? Well, do we have a session for you! Slovist, Raffi Alden, and SlavFile Editor, Lydia R. Stone, are planning an interactive session on R<>E idiom translation. We conceive of this session as half workshop and half game show. If you are planning to be in St. Louis and would like to join us, we invite you to pack your idioms along with your toothbrush. If you do not know or are not planning to attend the conference, we invite you to send candidate idioms on their own to Lydia or Raffi. We promise to give you full credit and to let you know what the session at large had to say about your contribution. Lydia's coordinates can be found on the masthead. Raffi can be reached at: 661-665-7703 (phone and fax) or: raffialden@aol.com.

THE THIN RED LINE, OR ADVENTURES IN COMMUNITY INTERPRETING

Tomasz Popławski

In the rarified world of the UN or high-level business interpreting, it is clear what is expected from a language professional. Sure, there are the horror stories about drunk delegates needing to be reminded about the difference between a call girl and an interpreter, but generally, if you know your job, if you are discreet, and if you know how to keep your ego on a short leash, you meet or exceed your clients' expectations.

But then there is the strange borderland where interpreting meets community service. For a lack of a better name, let us call it "community interpreting." Rules are few, expectations are ill-defined, and there are surprises aplenty. In seven years of working in such a setting in Chicago, I have been asked to be a lawyer, a baby-sitter, a marital counselor, a private eye, a document forger, and a pimp, to name a few. I chose to forego most of these opportunities, usually to the dismay of my clients.

This article contains several war stories, and of course any of my colleagues could probably match them with something just as juicy. But my main goal is to initiate a discussion on a subject of no little importance to practitioners of community interpreting: where is the thin red line you should not cross if you want to think of yourself as a professional interpreter? I have no clear-cut answers, and would greatly appreciate your thoughts on the subject. I do not think such stories are unique to Chicago Poles. But size matters: even if statistics about Chicago being the second-largest Polish city in the world are a bit exaggerated, it is a large community.

Making him look good

"Sir, I've applied for my wife so that she can become a permanent resident. But I'm worried now because they say that if you stay in the country without a visa for over six months, you can be deported when you show up for the interview. Is this true?"

"Well, I had this friend in law school, whose father, by the way, was the previous State Attorney before my father got the job," Mr. G. began his answer during a "call-an-immigration-lawyer" live radio program. The audience was Polish, Mr. G. was American, I was his interpreter. Had it been our first time, I'd have certainly gone with him into a five-minute rambling discourse not even remotely pertinent to the question. But I had been doing it for a year, so I asked the sound engineer to turn down Mr. G's microphone and said in Polish: "Well, sir, nothing is certain at the moment, but it is likely that the new rule will not apply to wife-and-husband situations. It seems that the INS realizes the humanitarian ramifications of splitting up millions of marriages." Did I commit the ultimate professional crime? I do not know, even now. The program was supposed to bring some clients to Mr. G's ailing (do you wonder why?) immigration-law practice. Making his answers understandable was in my job description; he paid me to do just that. And I knew the answer very well, we had spoken about it just before the program. On the other hand, was I not supposed to "just say what he says?" This happened two years ago, and even now I am not sure that I should have gone so far. How about all those clients that did come to his office after hearing the show and then were badly served?

"It is all in your hands"

"You know, I have this problem, you know, I would like to drive to work, but they say no, can you help me, I didn't know what to say, you were there before, you know what I should say." Translation: "I have a DUI conviction. I applied for a permit to drive to work but they turned me down because I did not know how to answer their questions. You've been there before, so go with me and no matter what I say, tell them what they want to hear." Clients very often expect you to improve on what they are saying in court or during an immigration interview.

I have never been tempted to help a guy with three drunk-driving convictions get back his license to kill. This is a clear-cut situation: I am sworn to interpret "truthfully and faithfully," I am taped, I have no business taking upon myself the responsibility of putting this guy back on the road, I am not his attorney. And yet, you would be surprised if you knew how many "ethnic interpreters" make a good living breaking all those rules. I do not. Yet even such situations are not all black-and-white, for a practical reason. How far should I go to make a client sound coherent? What do I do with his grammar and usage errors? I tend not to interpret into bad English in order to imitate a client's bad Polish. In my opinion, trying to find similar errors in other language, especially while interpreting, can be dicey, not to mention the fact that if one has an accent in English (I do), such mistakes may leave the American audience wondering whether the interpreter knows what he or she is doing.

Here is an interesting variation on the subject. A few years ago I heard the following comment from a personal injury lawyer: "I like to hire you because you always make my clients sound literate and educated, even though many of them are not." Should I be proud? This is truly a gray area. There is no doubt that a court-appointed interpreter should refrain from smoothing the language, etc. How about an interpreter hired by a personal injury lawyer for the specific purpose of helping him "look good" in the eyes of the jury? I do not mean changing his testimony, but of course one can interpret a sentence to sound more or less convincing without breaking the oath to "interpret faithfully and to the best of my ability." Should we be on the side of blind justice, or become involved in the adversary system?

Sisters of Mercy?

The phone rang at 3 a.m. Shaken badly, expecting some terrible news (what else?) I picked up the receiver.

"Sir, this is the Northwestern Hospital emergency room. We have a man here, he's pretty drunk, badly beaten up, and doesn't speak any English. Could you help us?"

Would you? How would you balance your willingness to help a compatriot, or just any human being, with the proud principle of providing services only for a fee, as other professionals do? Is this a case similar to a doctor's refusal to help an accident victim on the street, or more like an attorney's withdrawal from a case when a client does not pay? I helped the first time. I

Continued on page 14

НОВЫЕ СОКРАЩЕНИЯ В РУССКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ 1996-1999

Около 10,000 терминов. Под ред. И.В.Фаградянца. - М.: ЭТС - 1999, 160с.
ISBN 5-93386-001-8

Галина Рафф

На днях я заглянула на сервер издательства «ЭТС» по адресу <www.ets.ru/home-g.htm>. «ЭТС» специализируется на выпуске и продаже словарей, а также их электронных версий. Одной из новинок издательства является словарь «Новые сокращения в русском языке 1996-1999». Словарь стоит \$7, включая международную авиа-доставку.

В соответствии с описанием «настоящее издание содержит около 10000 новых сокращений и состоит из двух частей. Первая часть включает сокращения, не вошедшие в «Новый словарь сокращений русского языка», а также появившиеся в русском языке в период 1996-1999 годов. Во второй части приводятся сокращенные и полные названия федеральных органов исполнительной власти и органов при Правительстве Российской Федерации по состоянию на 01.04.99 и правила их написания. Словарь рассчитан на самые широкие круги пользователей.»

На сервере также предлагается онлайн-версия этого словаря. Онлайн-словарем очень просто и удобно пользоваться. Поиск может производиться по аббревиатурам или всему тексту словаря. Используя несколько ключевых слов, я буквально за несколько минут смогла собрать приводимую ниже выборку.



АБСТ автоматизированный банк стандартизованных терминов

АГНЦ академический государственный научный центр

АДС американский депозитный сертификат

АзБР Азиатский банк развития

АЗПАК (англ. Asian and Pacific Council - ASPAC) Азиатско-Тихоокеанский совет

АИК аналитический информационный комплекс

АИЦ административно-информационный центр

АКАСТ (англ. Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development - ACAST)

Консультативный комитет по применению достижений науки и техники в целях развития (США)

АКИБ акционерный коммерческий инвестиционный банк

АКК (ACC, Administrative committee on coordination)

Административный комитет (ООН) по координации

АКСб Акционерный коммерческий Сберегательный банк (РФ)

АНО автономная некоммерческая организация

АНПП аграрное научно-производственное предприятие

АРЦ адаптационно-реабилитационный центр

АСИС автоматизированная статистическая информационная система

АТЦ антитеррористический центр

АУВД автоматизированное управление воздушным движением

БД банк данных

БМС банк международных стандартов

БФК бюджетно-финансовый комитет

ВКЦ временный координационный центр

ВОКА (VOKA, Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance)

Добровольная организация содействия фермерскому и кооперативному движению за рубежом

ВОПГ Всемирная организация породненных городов

ВСО военно-строительная организация

ВТК валютно-тарифный комитет

ВФУ валютно-финансовое управление

ВЦ ветеринарный центр, выставочный центр, вычислительный центр

ВШК Военно-штабной комитет (ООН)

ВЭБ Внешнеторговый экономический банк (РФ)

ВЭФ Всемирный экономический форум

ГАСН государственный архитектурно-строительный надзор

ГГПУ Главное государственно-правовое управление

ГДО государственное долговое обязательство

ГЖС государственный жилищный сертификат (РФ)

ГИА государственное имущество-агентство

ГИВЦ государственный информационно-вычислительный центр

ГИФ Глобальный информационный фонд

ГКК Государственный комитет по космонавтике,

Государственный контрольный комитет

ГКРП Государственный комитет по поддержке и развитию малого предпринимательства (РФ)

ГКУ Главное контрольное управление (при Президенте РФ)

ГМУ Главное медицинское управление, государственный музей-усадьба

ГНИИ государственное научно-исследовательское предприятие

ГНИЦ Главный научно-информационный центр

ГНС государственная налоговая служба

ГОМУ Главная организационно-мобилизационное управление (Генерального штаба Министерства обороны РФ)

ГПВО государственное производственное внешнеторговое объединение

ГПУ Главное правовое управление (РФ)

ГПЭУ Главное планово-экономическое управление

ГСМО государственное строительно-монтажное управление

ГСУ Главное строительное управление (Минобороны)

ГУВБиФ Главное управление военного бюджета и финансирования (МО РФ)

ГУВС Главное управление внешних связей

ГУПЧС Главное управление государственной пограничной службы (РФ), Главное управление государственной противопожарной службы (РФ)

ГУЗГИ Главное управление защиты государственных интересов

ГУП государственное унитарное предприятие

ДКБ депозитарно-клиринговый банк

ДКО депозитарно-клиринговая организация

ДНЗ денежно-налоговый зачёт

ДЭП дорожно-эксплуатационное предприятие

ЕЦБ Европейский центральный банк

ЕЭП Европейское экономическое пространство

ЖРЭП жилищное ремонтно-эксплуатационное предприятие

ЖТС жилищное товарищество собственников
ЖЭО жилищно-эксплуатационная организация
ЗДП золотодобывающее предприятие
ЗИЦ зональный информационный центр (ГУВД)
ИАБ ипотечный акционерный банк
ИБ информационный бюллетень
ИИТ измерительно-информационная техника
ИКАО Международная организация гражданской авиации
ИКС информационная коммерческая система
ИМО Международная морская организация (ИМО, International Maritime Organization)
ИСО Международная организация по стандартизации (англ. International Standardization Organization - ISO)
ИТСО (англ. International Telecommunication Satellite Organization - ITSO) Международная организация спутниковой связи
КБ кооперативный банк
КБСР Коммерческий банк социального развития
КИБ коммерческий инвестиционный банк
КИКБ коммерческий инвестиционно-кредитный банк
КИПБ коммерческий инвестиционный промышленный банк
КК координационный комитет
КНИЦ ВКС Координационный научно-информационный центр Военно-космических сил России
КС консультативный совет
МБО международная благотворительная организация
МИСОД Международная информационная система по опубликованным документам
МИЦ Международный информационный центр (Париж, ЮНЕСКО)
МКАБ Международный коммерческий акционерный банк
МКБ Межотраслевой коммерческий банк
МКЗБ Московский коммерческий земельный банк
МЭК Межгосударственный экономический комитет (СНГ)
МЭС Международное экономическое сотрудничество (фонд)
НК налоговый кодекс
НМЭП новый международный экономический порядок
ОЭК объединенный экономический комитет
ПЭО планово-экономический отдел
РКЗ районный комитет по землепользованию
РОСТЭК Российская таможенная экономическая компания
РСКБ Республиканский социальный коммерческий банк
РТС районная телефонная станция
РУ районная управа
РЭО районный эксплуатационный отдел
РЭС районная электросеть, региональный экономический союз
САКБ совместный акционерный коммерческий банк
СИУ справочно-информационный узел
СЭЗ специальная свободная экономическая зона
СЭЗ специальная экономическая зона
ТАИС телевизионная автоматическая информационная система
ТОФЭС Территориально-отраслевой финансово-экономический союз
ТЭП технико-экономическое планирование
УНБИС (UNBIS, United Nations bibliographic information system) Библиографическая информационная система ООН
ФИЦ Федеральный информационный центр
ФЭС Финансово-экономический союз
ЦЭР Центральный экономический район (Россия)
ЧЭБ чистое экономическое благосостояние
ЭОС экономическое обоснование создания

Notice to Pushkin Lovers

Alexander Sergeevich's 200th birthday has come and gone. If you feel that you did an inadequate job of celebrating it, it's not too late to make amends! Between now and our gathering in St. Louis take some time to ponder various successes and failures at English-language Pushkin translation - or perhaps take a stab at it yourself. Bring your thoughts/attempts to the SLD's celebration of the Pushkin Bicentennial. (Preparation is not, of course, a requirement for audience participation.) In addition to some short presentations on Pushkiniana by our panelists, we, as a group, will take a comparative look at the evolution of Pushkin in English. Comments, suggestions or contributions? Contact Nora Favorov at 919-967-4203 or HopaF@aol.com. The phone number will change in July, but the e-mail will remain the same.

NEW DICTIONARIES

KATZNER DICTIONARY NOW AVAILABLE ON CD-ROM

A CD-ROM version of Kenneth Katzner's English-Russian Russian-English Dictionary has just come on the market. It contains everything in the "Revised and Expanded Edition" of 1994, plus a great deal of new material that the author has added in preparation for a future third edition. It works on a PC with Windows 95, Windows 98, and Windows NT. To order, send \$45 plus \$3 for shipping and handling to Wordfind, Box 5707, Washington, D.C. 20016, though it can also be ordered online <www.wordfind.com>.

From CASH COWS to DOGS to STARS:

English/Russian- Russian/English Glossary of Marketing Terms.

The Glossary edited and translated by Dasha C. Nisula was published this year by the American Council for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS. The Glossary may be ordered for \$10.00. Call Elizabeth Allin at (202) 833-7522 or contact her electronically at books@actr.org.

Note: Compiler Dasha Nisula has promised SlavFile an excerpt from this work for our next issue.

THE THIN RED LINE *Continued from page 12*

adamantly refused the second time, suggesting a proper fee arrangement, seeing it otherwise as an open invitation to wake me up every other night. But while I have explained to myself many times that I was right and they were wrong, I still have lingering doubts.

I would like to finish my article with a call to discuss these and similar issues. I believe this is not a mere lofty moral issue: after all, feeling that you are doing the right thing is important to your professional success.

Tomasz Poplawski lives in Chicago. He is a member of ATA and SLD, accredited English > Polish. He specializes in conference interpreting and technical translation, but also goes to court and does the other things described in this article. He can be contacted at 773-929-1341 or at tomekp@flash.net.

The URLs were valid at press time. You may require a browser upgrade, additional Cyrillic utilities or fine-tuning of your software to view these sites properly.

SLAVFILE

Newsletter of the Slavic Languages Division
of the American Translators Association
1800 Diagonal Rd
Alexandria, VA 22314

Nie Narzekaj Wobec Tych, Którzy Są Daleko

Napisałem kiedyś do dalekiego przyjaciela
O moim cierpieniu TUTAJ, a on odpowiedział:
“Nie masz pojęcia, jak ja cierpię TUTAJ.”

Tak więc, ja mu opowiedziałem o plamach na Księżycu
I o kanałach na planecie Mars, a on mnie
O czarnej Dziurze w kosmosie I o nagłej
Zagładzie dinozaurów.

Nasze oczy są zanurzone w mętnych kałużach
I każdy w swoim własnym błocie
Widzi tylko swojego potwora.

by Adam Szyper

Do Not Complain to Distant Friends

Once I wrote to a distant friend
About my suffering HERE and he replied:
“You have no idea how I suffer HERE.”

Thus I told him about spots on the moon
And canals on the planet Mars and he told me about
Black holes in space and the disappearance of dinosaurs.

Our eyes are immersed in slushy puddles
And everyone in his own puddle
Sees only his own monster.

From: *And Suddenly Spring* (Merrick NY, Cross-Cultural Communications, 1992).

(The poem was written in Polish by Adam Szyper and then translated into English by him.)