

## Kenneth Katzner (1930-2003)

Appreciation by Laura Wolfson

With the passing on May 25<sup>th</sup> of this year of Kenneth Katzner, author of the essential *English-Russian Russian-English Dictionary*, as well as *Languages of the World*, and *A Russian Review Text*,\* the Slavic Languages Division has lost a valued colleague and friend. Mr. Katzner died at the age of 72 after a long struggle with cancer.

In 1999, Mr. Katzner was the Slavic Languages Division's Susana Greiss Speaker at the ATA conference in St. Louis, an event he recalled with great pleasure for years afterward. A very modest person, he appeared to be amazed by the intensity of the appreciation expressed by those who use his dictionary. Speaking to a packed room, he described his work on the dictionary, a project that had taken him eighteen years to complete. In this lexicographic work, he took great pains to parse out the numerous meanings of each word, which, as he noted, are not always discrete, but sometimes blend into each other along a continuum. He was particularly concerned with demonstrating how to use specific words idiomatically in sentences. In his work, he consulted intensively with native speakers of Russian. His dictionary, while intended for native speakers of English, became popular with native Russian speakers, and, in a backhanded tribute, hundreds of thousands of copies were sold all across the former Soviet Union in pirated editions, one of which misspelled his name on the title page.

In a review of Mr. Katzner's presentation in *SlavFile* [winter/spring 2000], distinguished cognitive scientist, translator, polymath and author of *Gödel, Escher, Bach*, Douglas Hofstadter wrote, "[Kenneth Katzner] was the man whose wonderful dictionary had been my staunchest companion...as I translated *Eugene Onegin* into English. So taken had I been with Katzner's dictionary, and so dependent upon it, that I had purchased four different copies so as to have it on hand wherever I might find myself—my bedroom, my study, my office, my kitchen."

Hofstadter ended his review by noting, "...a remarkable event that occurred at the end of his talk, which was perhaps a first in world history: a long, warm, standing ovation for the compiler of a dictionary."

Mr. Katzner was descended from a long line of rabbi-scholars and his great-grandfather was a noted Torah scribe in Baltimore. A 1952 graduate of Cornell University, Mr. Katzner later served

in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in England for two years doing intelligence work. During his military service he received one year of intensive Russian language training at the Syracuse University US Air Force Institute of Technology in 1952-53. He was also proficient in Spanish and in French, which he studied at Middlebury College. He also knew Hebrew and was fascinated by American Indian languages. He spent the summer of 1950 studying Norwegian at the University of Oslo, one of a group of American students invited there as a token of thanks by the Norwegian government for the United States' intervention in World War II. A highlight of that summer visit was a July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration organized for the American students by a Norwegian whaling magnate, who invited the students onto two of his ships, where they viewed fireworks and then spent the night.

During a brief, informal foray into pedagogy while in high school, Mr. Katzner tutored a friend who was failing Spanish and got him through the course. This same friend later became so proficient in Korean (and also Japanese) that he was one of the interpreters at the signing of the peace treaty that ended the Korean War.

After completing his military service, Mr. Katzner worked as an editor for *Grolier Encyclopedia* and later for *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*. It was while working on the latter that he developed his methodology for defining words. In 1964, he took on the assignment of compiling a Russian<>English dictionary. The contact with the dictionary editor, Alfred Moorhead, the bridge editor of *The New York Times*, had resulted from Mr. Katzner's involvement with bridge (he was a Life Master and competed in numerous tournaments).

The dictionary project was expected to last one year. However eighteen years elapsed before the first edition came out, and when Mr. Katzner died this spring, he was in the process of making additions and improvements for a third edition. Until his retirement from his job as a Russia specialist for the Department of Defense, he worked on the dictionary in his spare time. "He worked nights and weekends, three, four, five hours at a time, after he finished his regular job," said his wife, Betty. "It was a tedious business. I never understood how he had the patience to keep at it for hours at a time. But he just loved it, he never looked on it as a chore, it was a joy, a wonderful hobby for him."

\* Published by John Wiley & Co., Random House, and Routledge, respectively.

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The Slavic Languages Division Presents  
Our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Susana Greiss  
Distinguished Guest Lecture

## The Trials and Tribulations Of Cataloging the Obvious

**Genevra Gerhart**

Saturday, November 8, at 10:15 am  
Point South Mountain Resort  
Phoenix, Arizona

This SLD is honored to have as its guest speaker this year Genevra Gerhart, author of the *The Russian's World* and co-editor of *Russian Context*, two works indispensable to the non-native student of Russian language, history and culture. These complementary works are literate and entertaining compendia of the basic "background" knowledge every native Russian or former-Soviet walks around with, knowledge that informs language, art, politics, history and humor.

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## Continuing Education Requirement for Accreditation: Finally Some Controversy in SlavFile

Note: This letter represents a postscript to a letter to Tom West written by SLD members Michael Ishenko, Igor Vesler, and Igor Bekman. The original that may be found in the August issue of the *ATA Chronicle* as well as in the expanded electronic version of this issue of *SlavFile* on the ATA web site.

### Postscript for SlavFile readers:

Some time has passed since we wrote our letter to Tom West. Since then, we have discussed the substance of this letter with some colleagues on several occasions. As a result, we feel some additional points need to be made to clarify our position.

1. We believe that the best way to improve one's professional qualifications is to *practice one's profession*. Those who wish to develop professionally through continuing education or other means are certainly welcome to do so, on a *voluntary* basis—not at the command of any administration.
2. Just imagine the following situation: A professional translator with over 25 years of professional experience and a post-graduate degree in translation passed his/her ATA accreditation exam many years ago and has been paying his/her membership dues ever since. He/she has an extensive client base and translates over a million words annually. During the 2004–2007 period, he/she does not attend any professional conferences, for various personal or job-related reasons, nor does he/she give or take any college classes, write books or articles, attend seminars or workshops, and so on. All he/she does is work hard in his/her primary profession—translation, and he/she does an excellent job. Demand for his/her services is very high and he/she is very busy.  
*Question:* Does this imaginary translator deserve to be stripped of his/her professional accreditation or certification in 2007? (Because this is exactly what is going to happen if he or she fails to meet the new “continuing education requirements.”)
3. *An altered situation.* In his column in the June 2003 issue of *The ATA Chronicle*, Walter Bacak writes, among other things, that “if you attend the Annual Conference two out of three years, you have met the continuing education requirement.” Doesn't this look like an “income qualification” of sorts? What if a member can't *afford* to attend an ATA conference? Attending an ATA conference is not an inexpensive proposition, considering an average translator's income in this country.
4. And finally, Mr. Bacak informs us in the same column that we will be voting in November on “changing the name of the credential in the ATA bylaws from accreditation to certification. This vote is completely separate from the new requirements.” Is that *all* we are going to vote for? Why is this? How can the ATA Board of Directors make changes to the ATA Bylaws without putting the matter to a vote first? **We urge SlavFile readers to read the ATA Bylaws carefully.** (We also urge you to visit this website:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ata\\_credential\\_amendment/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ata_credential_amendment/) and see what others think about the new certification requirements.) Introducing new accreditation/certification requirements means making an amendment to Article II, Purposes, items (a)(4) and (b)(3); and Article III, Membership, Section 2(a) of the ATA Bylaws. However, Article XIV of the Bylaws requires that any amendment to the Bylaws be made “only by a two-thirds vote of the voting members of the Association.” We can't remember any such vote being taken previously, yet the Board apparently intends to put the new requirements into effect as of January 2004.

Igor Bekman  
Michael Ishenko  
Igor Vesler

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*SlavFile* asked Terry Hanlen, ATA Accreditation Manager, and Deputy Executive Director to respond. Mr. Hanlen wished it to be made clear that “I'm an employee of the association, not a policy maker, and I'm not here to defend or promote. I just wanted to clarify the issue about the referenced bylaws.” His response reads:

Dear colleagues,

I'm writing in the interest of clarification, I want to point out what I believe is a misunderstanding.

Article III, Section 2(a) of the ATA Bylaws, which are located on page 457 of your Membership Directory, is strictly about membership and has nothing to do with accreditation/certification. It states that members who have active status will retain that status as long as their membership is not terminated and they continue to be a citizen or permanent resident of the US. Continuing education does not affect that membership status. If a member is already accredited and an active or corresponding member but does not accrue continuing education credits, that member would lose the credential, but this would not affect his/her membership status or ATA voting rights. That member would still remain an active or corresponding member.

It is also important to mention that passing the accreditation test is only one of two methods to gain active or corresponding membership. Members can get to that level by peer review as well, which does not require an examination. Just because someone is an active or corresponding member does not mean that he or she is accredited/certified.

*Continued on page 4*

**Mailbox** *Continued from page 3*

There is nothing in the continuing education changes that is addressed anywhere in the bylaws or would require a vote by membership. These decisions are a function of the Board of Directors elected by the membership to take on this leadership role.

Regards,  
Terry Hanlen

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*Ishenko, Vesler, and Bekman reply.*

Dear Terry,

Thank you for your response to the issues we have raised. As you are well aware, any legal document such as ATA's By-Laws, should be read and interpreted as a whole. With this in mind:

- 1) Article II a) 4) states that one of the objectives of the Association is ... "to STIMULATE AND SUPPORT [but not require] the training of translators and interpreters (emphasis added).
- 2) Article II b) 3) states that the Association shall strive to meet these objectives by (among other things) "supporting programs of accreditation and certification for translators and interpreters who MEET SPECIFIC STANDARDS OF COMPETENCE" (emphasis added).

In our opinion, this clearly means that accreditation should be granted to those who pass relevant tests and examinations, but has nothing to do with continuing education.

- 3) Article III 2) a) 1) states, among other things, that an accreditation exam is a prerequisite to becoming an active member; and clause 2) of the same section states that all members who have passed this exam will remain active members FOR AS LONG AS THEY REMAIN MEMBERS (i.e., unless they terminate their membership or terminate their US residence status).

In our opinion, this clearly means that the By-Laws' intent was that accreditation be earned once and be retained for life.

Of course, you may disagree with our opinion, just as we disagree with yours. It is exactly for this reason that this change must be discussed with the ATA membership and not enacted unilaterally without any membership input.

Sincerely,  
Igor Bekman  
Michael Ishenko  
Igor Vesler

## From the Assistant Administrator's laptop...

*Alex Lane*

I don't know how others fare on long-term translation/interpretation assignments, but as mine draws presently to a close, time and tasking are taking on some strange dimensions. It's been nearly two months since I've seen my family or the inside of my office, and between working, eating, sleeping, and doing all of those "maintenance" items that must be done, I've developed some unsolicited insights I'd like to share regarding the sharp edge I've honed on my "road warrior" skills.

First, if you travel with a laptop, don't split parts among cases; i.e., make sure that your laptop case is large enough to also store the power supply and associated cables, and that there is enough additional storage to accommodate the increasing number of gewgaws that are used with your machine. Take it from me, carrying the power supply (or a TRADOS dongle, or a wireless card) in a different bag is a misfortune waiting to happen.

Internet access is a must these days, and there are several reliable methods of accomplishing this while on the road. Many Starbucks Coffee locations are hooked into the T-Mobile wireless network, so if your laptop or PDA is equipped for wireless connectivity, the Web (and your e-mail) can be as close as your next cup of coffee. I signed up on a trial basis and found the service to be fast and not hard to set up at all. The cost is a bit high, though, in my opinion: 10 cents a minute, with a one-hour minimum (\$6) charge per session.

A more traditional alternative involving modems and phone cords that I've found useful is NetZero.com ([www.netzero.com](http://www.netzero.com)), which provides free access for dialup customers who don't mind being drowned in advertising, or less cumbersome (ad-free) dialup service for about \$10 per month for unlimited service. Most metropolitan areas have several numbers you can call (watch for hotel charges if you're dialing from your room), although if you're traveling to the sticks, your access may also involve a long-distance charge.

As far as web-based e-mail is concerned, I've found FastMail ([www.fastmail.fm](http://www.fastmail.fm)) to be a better alternative than hotmail.com or yahoo.com, if only because the domain name isn't commonly associated with spammers and other lowlifes. There is a free version of the service that provides 10 MB of storage and up to 40 MB of "bandwidth" (i.e., data coming in and out on your account), but "free" means "with advertising" and all your outgoing mail has a FastMail tagline attached to it. A one-time \$14.95 payment upgrades your membership to eliminate the ads and the taglines, and provides some additional bells and whistles, including virus checking of e-mail.

One of the best Web Russian and English dictionary resources I've found is Multitran ([www.multitran.ru](http://www.multitran.ru)), which continues to move its web interface in a positive direction. Until recently, entering an abbreviation in Multitran might well have resulted in no useful result, but now the output includes a link that will automatically send you to the Sokr.Ru ([www.sokr.ru](http://www.sokr.ru)) page with the appropriate query already submitted. Also I've begun to notice the links to the Ushakov, Chernov, Efremova, and Ozhegov dictionaries appearing at the bottom of the output page to a Multitran query.

One thing I've found frustrating about Multitran is the occasional periods when their Web server is malfunctioning. At times like these, having the standalone version of the Multitran tool installed on one's computer might be a good idea. I saw a copy of the software running on a client's system, and although the database is not as up-to-date as the one online, it's still excellent and, of course, always available. A template makes interactivity with Microsoft Word very (almost too) easy.

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# From the Administrator: SLD Matters

Nora Seligman Favorov



This fall ATA did something it had never done before: it called together all of its division administrators for a daylong meeting. The morning was devoted to accounting matters and in the afternoon several administrators gave presentations on some aspect of member services that their division was handling particularly well. The administrator of the Spanish Division gave a talk on organizing mid-year conferences, the Japanese Division administrator talked about their division's unique approach to organizing conference sessions, the French Division administrator talked about their listserv—and yours truly was asked to talk about our division newsletter. Evidently the publication you hold in your hands (or are reading on your screen) is considered worthy of emulation. I actually went into the presentation feeling a bit sheepish, knowing that there were other good newsletters out there and wondering if I really had anything informative to say. But it turned out that hearing about the *SlavFile* seemed to inspire and energize my counterparts to go back and make improvements in their own publications, just as their presentations had left me feeling there's more that can be done in the SLD. Of course they all understood the main reason that our publication is so readable and wondered out loud whether they might be able to clone the *SlavFile's* editor.

Some of the activities of other divisions probably don't make sense for ours. The Spanish and Portuguese divisions always organize a mid-year conference. I'm not sure that our division would be able to muster the attendance to justify the effort and expense of having a mid-year Slavic conference. Some time this coming year we will survey our membership and see whether there is any time or location that might work for such a gathering. The Japanese Division ends each conference with a forum of its membership. The membership discusses and critiques the conference that has just concluded and provides input on sessions for the following year. A presentation committee then works to realize the desires of the membership. Because the Game Show had to be canceled this year, a free slot has opened up in our schedule and we will be able to give this idea a try ourselves this year. Look for a Saturday afternoon SLD forum in your conference schedule.

I was intrigued to hear that within some ATA divisions the "members only" listserv is considered an important membership requisite. I'm not sure why this hasn't turned out to be the case for our division. Some of our membership uses the Yahoo Russian Translators Club—but this listserv is not limited to SLD members. Frankly, I don't understand the advantages of such a restriction. Why wouldn't we want the benefit of input from translators who aren't members? I hope that in our membership survey we will be able to find out where SLD members go on the internet to post their R-E-R translation inquiries.

## The SLD in Phoenix

Despite a couple of regrettable cancellations, we still have a full slate of marvelous sessions lined up for Phoenix. Abstracts can be found on line (in enhanced interactive, user-friendly format, for which I would like to ask for a round of applause for ATA's Information Systems Manager, Roshan Pokharel) and in your preliminary program.

### SL-1 Slavic Languages Division Annual Meeting

Our annual business meeting where the membership comes together to hear what we're up to, plan for the future, express concerns, lodge complaints and, this year, elect a new administrator. Thanks to simplified ATA rules and the fact that Alex Lane will be running uncontested, we will not need to go through the formalities of casting ballots this year. Yours truly is the lone candidate for Assistant Administrator.

### SL-3 Slavic Game Show: Double Jeopardy

Unfortunately, neither of our MCs will be able to make it to Phoenix this year and the session has been canceled. We hope this popular session will be back next year.

### SL-4 Thesaurus Techniques in Multilingual Terminological Project Support

Igor Vesler, a veteran SLD presenter, is never dull and always informative.

### SL-5 No Translation Needed!

Konstantin Lakshin takes a look at some English terms that have been "reinvented" by E-R translators, despite the fact that perfectly good Russian equivalents already exist.

### SL-6 Croatian<>English: Background, Experiences, and Resources

### SL-7 Initiative to Establish New South Slavic Language Pairs for Accreditation: An Update

Marijan A. Boskovic will provide historical background and translation resource tips for this South Slavic language whose place in the world has been dramatically reshaped by recent history. Paula Gordon will give an update on the effort to add new South Slavic language pairs to ATA's accreditation (soon to be certification) program. You may be surprised to learn which of the six possible language pairs (Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian into and out of English) has garnered the most interest from prospective test takers.

*Continued on page 25*

## Need a Roommate?

By now most of you who are coming to the conference are probably all set with hotel accommodations, but SLD administrator Nora Favorov would be happy to act as an information exchange for any of you still seeking a roommate (whether or not you have a room reserved). Contact Nora at [norafavorov@bellsouth.net](mailto:norafavorov@bellsouth.net) or 919-960-6871.

**Kenneth Katzner** *Continued from page 1*

When he began the project, he was living in New York City. After the editor died and the deadline passed unmet, Mr. Katzner continued working on the dictionary on weekends, in a small hotel room on Lexington Avenue which he rented to store the filing cabinets containing the index cards on which the dictionary entries were written. He used a specially designed Underwood typewriter that had Cyrillic as the upper case, and the Latin alphabet for the lower.

By the time he completed the first version of the dictionary, he was living in Washington, D.C. Before sending the index cards off to the typesetter, he and his wife xeroxed all of them so that there would be backups in case anything got lost. They spent evenings and weekends at Mrs. Katzner's office, where they had a contract with her employer for the use of the copy machine. Painstakingly, they hand-placed the cards, five or six at a time, in the copier and copied them all. The process took many months. He believed there were some 65,000 index cards, though his wife is quite sure that there were more than that. Because the first edition was typeset directly from these cards, when the time came to produce the second edition, Mr. Katzner was compelled to retype the entire thing, not merely the new material, which he did on his desktop MacIntosh.

Mr. Katzner also worked on a Russian thesaurus, which he never completed, choosing to concentrate on the dictionary instead.

Kenneth Katzner was a history buff (especially Russian and European history) and an avid traveler. He traveled through Eastern and Western Europe many times and all over the United States and Canada. He spent several months in Japan after getting out of the service and, over his lifetime, also visited the Middle East, Central America, Australia, New Zealand and parts of Africa. Wherever he traveled he would seek out bookstores looking for new books on language and was always delighted to find his own works on the shelves, particularly in small or remote locations. He took pleasure in maintaining contact with friends he had made in his travels and during different periods of his life.

He penned Op-Ed pieces, articles in scholarly journals and articles based on his travels and research. He was published in *The Washington Post*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The International Herald Tribune* and *The Christian Science Monitor*, among other periodicals. One newspaper article he wrote, a sort of glance back in history, concerned a meeting that had occurred years earlier between Alexander I and Napoleon that had taken place on two boats docked next to each other on the Niemen River facing the town of Tilsit. Shortly after this article was published, George Bush Senior and Gorbachev held a meeting on two boats side by side. Mr. Katzner never knew whether this was merely a coincidence, or whether someone in the White House had seen his article and decided it was a good idea. In any case, a terrible storm came up and both Bush, Sr., and Gorbachev became seasick.

Mr. Katzner was also a skilled photographer whose pictures appeared in a variety of encyclopedias and reference works. He began collecting stamps at the age of 7. An enthusiastic pianist, in his adult life he collected sheet music and song lyrics.

In 1999, working with Robert McNelly a computer programmer specializing in languages, he and his wife launched the on-line company *Wordfind*, which produced and sold the CD-ROM version of his dictionary.

Of his work on the dictionary, he said: "Even in the computer age, when some say everything can be recorded with mathematical precision, with a dictionary there is simply no substitute for slowly and methodically adding to it and improving it—one entry at a time, a little bit each day—as you read the language, listen to others as they speak it, and make note of each new usage as it comes along. I'll keep working on it as long as I am able, but neither I nor anyone else will ever really complete the task. Language is infinite, and just as certain evanescent things cannot be captured on film, so the words that make up a language cannot be fully captured by a dictionary. We do the best we can but sometimes, I think, we only scratch the surface."

**Plunging into a social mob scene  
when you don't know anyone  
is no fun in any language...**

**So Nora Favorov, SLD administrator, and Lydia Stone, *SlavFile* editor invite all first time conference attendees and relative newcomers, to meet with us at the door of the ATA Welcome Reception on Wednesday November 5, 15 minutes before the reception starts, to meet each other and us. We will have a sign for identification. Oldcomers (???) interested in welcoming new arrivals are enthusiastically invited as well.**

**From the Assistant Administrator's laptop...**

*Continued from page 4*

The computer I rely upon in my office to keep track of my e-mail (as well as some other applications) runs Linux behind a firewall, and I've found a Windows program called PuTTY (at [www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/](http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/)) that provides an excellent implementation of Telnet and SSH, which allow a person sitting at one computer (your laptop, in this case) to log into another computer over a network. I use the program to login to my Linux server from my VAIO using SSH, which is a high-security connection protocol that uses what is called "strong cryptography" to protect the connection against eavesdropping and other types of attacks.

By the way, for those of you who will be attending the conference in Phoenix this year (and if you haven't made plans yet to attend, you should), if you've been wondering why I'm running Linux (or what all the buzz is about with regard to Linux), I'll be making a presentation at the conference on how this operating system can be put to work today in the freelancer's office.

Don't miss the conference. I look forward to seeing everyone in Phoenix!

# BEGINNER'S LUCK

*Liv Bliss (perennially novice translator)  
Lakeside, Arizona*

When Chris Noth, in his Mike Logan character on TV's *Law & Order* (one of my guilty pleasures), said to his partner, "I'll tell you this: I'm never gonna pay for it" – I know for a fact that he didn't have the translation business in mind. But when I was unceremoniously downsized back into the world of freelance translation two years ago, I did have to turn my mind to setting myself up in business in a hurry and at the lowest reasonable cost. I didn't want to make huge initial outlays because: 1) I had no way of knowing if I was going to succeed and 2) Thrifty is my middle name; I was just raised that way.

Thrifty is all very well, but even the freshest beginner among us has a business to run and a reputation to build and maintain. So I thought I'd spend some time looking at what I'm happy I got for free, what I'm glad I paid for, and what I should have paid for and didn't (Though it's never too late.) As for things that I shelled out good money for and then wished I hadn't—as yet, there's nothing in that category that keeps me awake at night. Lucky me.

Fair warning, now. I am not a computer guru, cyberfreak, security adviser, attorney, CPA, insurance consultant, etc. I don't even play one on TV. What follows is drawn strictly from my own limited experience and from an extensive and scientific survey of two colleagues, but it may set you thinking along lines more relevant to you.

**1 Hardware.** Probably the most valuable not-for-free things in my office (aside from the computer and my fax/copier/printer) are my standby uninterruptible power supply (UPS) and a couple of additional surge protectors. I have yet to live anywhere that doesn't have unexpected power outages, brown-outs, and spikes from time to time, and the toll they take on the system (both my computer's and mine) can be great. I basically use my UPS to bridge brownouts and outages of a few seconds and for those precious minutes that it takes during longer black-outs to save, close, and power down gracefully. This is one \$100 or so that I have recouped time and again, and all I have to do is replace the (\$30) battery every two or three years. (There is some good background info on all this at: [www.howstuffworks.com/question28.htm](http://www.howstuffworks.com/question28.htm). The products themselves can be found all over the Web, but you might like to start somewhere like [www.dealtime.com](http://www.dealtime.com) or [www.bizrate.com](http://www.bizrate.com).)

One colleague also says he would not be in business without his scanner. The one time I needed something scanned and a PDF file created, I went to the local copy shop and, after some arm-wrestling, got what I needed. Still, if I had to do that more than once every couple of years, it would definitely be cheaper to buy a flatbed scanner. I just didn't consider it crucial to a start-up operation.

**2 Connection.** I shouldn't say much about this, because I am still on a clunky old dial-up modem. I don't (yet) have to deal with mega-downloads though if I did, DSL or a cable/satellite modem connection would obviously be indispensable. But I was interested in an announcement from Proxyconn ([www.proxyconn.com](http://www.proxyconn.com)), which promised "near broadband

speeds" with a regular dial-up modem. You don't have to change your ISP (important for those of us who have been "out there" for a while and do not relish the idea of missing that one prospect who finds our resume on some obscure and long-forgotten site). I'm not endorsing this service, because I haven't tried it. But they do offer a week's free trial, and charge \$8.95 a month—or \$4.99 a month on a pre-paid 12-month contract—after that. One of these days, Alice...

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*Free costs more than it used to.*

Paul F. Kisak

[http://paulfkisak.tripod.com/astute\\_aphorisms.html](http://paulfkisak.tripod.com/astute_aphorisms.html)

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**3 e-mail.** The free e-mail/paid e-mail controversy could well go on forever. But I have a pretty firm opinion on it. I have known clients who use free e-mail services that come replete with advertisements, chop off attachments (apparently randomly), and have miserly amounts of storage, resulting in numerous calls on the lines of "Would you send that job again, please? I forgot to download it yesterday, and it disappeared." That's their choice, bless 'em, but I wouldn't want my first interface with a new client or prospect to be dependent upon such a clearly penny-pinching vehicle. Depending on where you live, paid e-mail can be marvelously inexpensive, and I just think it's worth it.

That said, if you have really good free e-mail, even if it comes bundled with a paid service package, do let me know, and I'll pass it on. Even I have free accounts (with [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) and [www.hotmail.com](http://www.hotmail.com)), for ISP meltdowns that I won't bore you with. They're also a highly recommended way of keeping your "business" e-mail in-box a little more Spam-free. (If you order something or otherwise deal with an outfit that you suspect might be a Spam-generator, you should use your free e-mail address, so that any future nonsense from them will go there instead of clogging up your "real" e-mail in-box.)

**4 Security.** You simply cannot do without virus protection software, and some colleagues, especially those with DSL or any "always-on" system, also swear by their firewalls. [www.zonelabs.com](http://www.zonelabs.com) and [www.free-firewall.org](http://www.free-firewall.org), for instance, offer freebies. I have had no experience with either, so I can't venture an opinion on whether a firewall is another of those things that you can't afford not to pay for. Any advice out there?

I don't know a whole lot about the respective virtues of free/paid virus protection either. Gasp! No, don't worry—the reason is that the system I'm currently using came with paid VP pre-loaded. When that system eventually dies, so will my VP, and I'll be out shopping, most likely willing to pay whatever it costs for the best. (All advice on which is the best will be gratefully received.) The key is that whatever you get must be updatable and you must update it regularly. I have a colleague who downloaded a free VP that could not be updated (not without a fee,

*Continued on page 8*

## BEGINNER'S LUCK *Continued from page 7*

anyway), so he didn't. And somehow he's still up and running, apparently unscathed. But, kids, DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME, you hear?

**5 CAT.** With the kind of client base I have, I don't (yet) need it. But I have a colleague whose productivity would be slashed dramatically if she didn't have Trados. There are free CAT tools out there: OmegaT ([www.marcprior.de/OmegaT/OmegaT.html](http://www.marcprior.de/OmegaT/OmegaT.html)) and ForeignDesk (<http://sourceforge.net/projects/foreigndesk>), to name a couple, and you could also take a look at [www.translatum.gr/dics/translation-memory.htm](http://www.translatum.gr/dics/translation-memory.htm) for a bunch of free downloads, free trial/evaluation/demo versions, and reviews.

If you intend to use CAT as a glorified translation memory tool, just to speed up your output rate (a particularly worthwhile aim if you specialize in a relatively limited number of subject areas), it probably doesn't much matter what you use. You could certainly start out with a freebie, just to see if the CAT is compatible with your work habits and needs.

It seems to me, though, that for these things to pay off in terms of accelerated throughput and increased client satisfaction, you will probably need the fullest possible compatibility with Trados. And on that score I've heard only good things about Déjà Vu (free trial version available from [www.atril.com](http://www.atril.com) and the [translatum](http://www.translatum.gr) URL given above).

**6 Web Site.** There are those whose main workflow comes from their web sites and others who wouldn't have a site if it came free with a bag of chips... which brings me, almost inevitably, to [www.freewebsitehosting.com](http://www.freewebsitehosting.com) and, for free site design help, to <http://freesitetemplates.com> or [www.freelayouts.com](http://www.freelayouts.com). Worth a look, if you have an uncontrollable urge for a cyberpresence.

It's not much use having a killer web site if no one finds it, though. It helps if you have the right keywords prominently placed on your site, for the web crawlers to pick up on. But active submission to search engines is also a good idea, and that will cost you. You could start with <http://101worldpromote.com> (among gazillions of similar services) or read the article at [www.searchengineguide.com/krause/2002/1119\\_kk1.html](http://www.searchengineguide.com/krause/2002/1119_kk1.html), just to get a feel for what's involved.

**7 Insurance.** Business equipment insurance? Yes! Your homeowner's or renter's insurance does not cover equipment that is used for business purposes. For an affordable annual premium (mine happens to be \$35), you can have peace of mind *and* a new machine after the roof falls in. Make sure you know what you're buying, though. Ask every dumb question that occurs to you, before and after signing on the dotted line. There's nothing worse than confidently submitting a claim, only to hear those three dreaded little words: "Ah yes, but..."

Business liability / Errors and omissions insurance? Yes! Different companies call this coverage by different names: just be sure not to buy more protection than you need. Many liability policies cover things like people slipping and falling on your warehouse floor, which would be just dandy if you had a warehouse.... Also keep an eye on restrictions, since some companies have a cap on claims made per period (usually a year) and/or over the policy lifetime. My take on that is if I routinely exceeded any cap, it would probably be a sign that it was time for

me to get out the business. Still, you must be very clear on the coverage limits. When I researched this earlier in the year, I also discovered that many companies will not consider claims made outside the US, and some could not even tell me if work done inside the US for an entity outside the US would come under that exclusion. My two-cents' worth on that: I would think twice about signing up with an agent who didn't know exactly how his own policies work.

Shop around and get as many quotes as you can. Then good luck comparing all those apples to all those bananas.

**8 Job Sites.** Back in the Winter 2003 issue, I mentioned some freebie job sites. They seem to be proliferating with the enthusiasm of rabbits, and I fear that many of them are worth exactly what you'll pay for them: nothing. Still, there's no harm in putting your name out there, provided that in doing so—and it can be time consuming—you're not stealing time from income-earning projects. It is a way of filling any down-time, though.

As for the paid services, I guess ProZ and Aquarius are among the best known. This is the point at which I agree 100% with Detective Logan, though I suppose if he ever got desperate enough, he would be only too willing to "pay for it." So would I. But I would also be quick to cancel any membership that hadn't at least paid for itself in the course of one subscription period. There's no point in flogging a dead horse.

InfoMarex ([www.infomarex.ie](http://www.infomarex.ie)) was recently offering quite a good deal for the tightwads among us who also happen to have a web site. InfoMarex normally charges \$19/year for a listing on its Panel of Translators, but that fee will be waived if the applicant places a link to IM on his/her site. (The code is `<a href="http://www.infomarex.ie">InfoMarex's Panel of Translators</a>`. Then you send IM your URL.)

Two words of warning about the "agencies" who post those "always looking for translators in all languages" notices on job sites. First, an agency that is "always" looking in "all" languages has a real problem (a legitimate start-up agency would pretty soon stop scouting for resources in its core languages). Second, if you do decide to sign up—"What can it hurt?"—be sure to read all the small print. Some of these outfits are upfront about charging a fee for a listing; others charge a commission on jobs won (which is fair enough, I suppose, so long as that's not against your religion); but yet others hide the fee deep—and I mean **deep**—in their Terms and Conditions. In this latter case, at best you'll have wasted your time entering copious amounts of detail before finding yourself staring at a page that demands your credit card info. At worst, you'll pay upfront with no guarantee of every seeing any work. If I'm ever that badly off, please smack me on the side of the head and hand me a job application for McDonald's.

**9 Dictionaries and reference materials.** The Web is awash with dictionaries, glossaries, etc. and all for free. Many people like [www.lexicool.com](http://www.lexicool.com), which is especially handy when you're working in a fairly standard subject specialty (not so great for help with the Postmodernist metatwaddle that I frequently have to deal with). And for the Russophones among us, I can't say enough about [www.multitran.ru](http://www.multitran.ru). But never forget: just because it's up there in pretty pixels doesn't mean that it's perfect. Multitran in particular is heavily context-sensitive,



meaning that many of the entries seem to reflect someone's translatorial ingenuity with respect to one particular phrase in one particular situation, and some are just plain wrong. (I was amused to recently find *здать тон* rendered as both "rule the roost" and "rule the roast.") And watch out for its Britishisms and outright inventions. Still, as a sort of linguistic "whack-pack," it's hard to beat.

But what do you do when the reference source you need (or a reasonable facsimile thereof) is not available online or you just have to feel the heft of a book in your hand? Well, you do everything to avoid paying retail, that's what. You go to a site such as [www.half.com](http://www.half.com) (which now belongs to E-bay) or [www.fetchbook.info](http://www.fetchbook.info) and have fun seeing how cheap you can be and still get a book with all the pages and a cover. Everything I have bought so far through both of those sites has been exactly as advertised, and I have been hugely satisfied with the giant markdowns and reasonable shipping charges (many of the sellers are individuals, with very low overhead). Word of caution about Fetchbook, though: this is not a browsable site, and if you don't have the exact title—or, better yet, the ISBN—you will be astounded by the pages and pages of irrelevant flotsam it presents you with. OK if you have a day or so to waste, but not generally recommended.

**10 Collateral Materials.** When I was last in the freelance translation business, in the 1980s, you could not do without business cards and stationery. Now that need is not quite so pressing, but there will still be an occasion when you have to send something out by Fedex or snail mail (don't laugh—it happens), and it would be nice to drop a professionally produced business card in there. Not to mention the ATA Conference. And, of course, interpreters go through life scattering business cards right and left.

When I was abruptly catapulted back into the freelance life, my urgent need for letterhead, invoices, and POs was met after an hour or so messing with various Word templates and swiping a "logo" from a Word clipart gallery. I now know I could have been a lot more fancy, but I am still comfortable with what I did. They look like a matched set and they're visually appealing. Well, I think so, anyway.

As for the business cards, I had those done cheaply but on good card stock at the local copy store. I probably still have 200 of the minimum 250 order, which cost me around \$30, if memory serves. A colleague of mine, though, makes her own when she needs them. You can go to [www.rkssoftware.com/visualbusinesscards/overview.html](http://www.rkssoftware.com/visualbusinesscards/overview.html), for instance, for a free trial of card-creation software. Of course, then you'll have to buy the card stock and hope that your printer is up to the challenge. It all sounds like too much trouble to me.

That same colleague, invited to speak at a community event not long ago, created a flashy little flyer for the occasion, in a surprisingly short time. She cobbled it together in Word, using color photos of her own that she had already scanned and free clipart from the Web. I looked around today, and found some designs at [www.free-software-download.com/Free\\_Make\\_Flyers\\_Invitations\\_Certificates/Certificates.htm](http://www.free-software-download.com/Free_Make_Flyers_Invitations_Certificates/Certificates.htm). I also found any number of free clipart sites, but most of the latter exhausted my patience in short order. When, after 10 minutes of

banging around in a site, I still hadn't seen anything actually downloadable, I left. However, [www.100000freecliparts.com](http://www.100000freecliparts.com) seemed OK. Of course, for any of this to work, you really will need a decent color printer (or a friend willing to share).

**11 Support Services.** Do you need an accountant or attorney on retainer? Gosh, I hope not—not at the outset, at least.

Some of us relish doing our own business finances, and for those who aren't so sure, there are free accounting software trial versions available from sites such as [www.2020software.com](http://www.2020software.com). QuickBooks also has a table comparing its various software packages that you might find helpful. You can access it at [http://quickbooks.intuit.com/commerce/compare/qbcom/compare\\_questions.jhtml?priorityCode=0273700000](http://quickbooks.intuit.com/commerce/compare/qbcom/compare_questions.jhtml?priorityCode=0273700000). (I have no particular brief for QuickBooks, by the way; that hit just happened to catch my eye.) Accounting software doesn't come cheap (although you can ease the pain a little with the discounts available at [http://shop.bookworms.org/aws.cgi/mode\\_software/search\\_accounting](http://shop.bookworms.org/aws.cgi/mode_software/search_accounting)), but it's still cheaper than visiting an accountant once a year or more. Provided that you know what you're doing, are a quick study, or just have a taste for that sort of thing... (Trust me: I have proofread accounting software textbooks and it's no walk in the park for the uninitiated.) And if you use an outside accountant, as I do, you might get a break on the fee if you keep well organized financial records. My CPA has a hidden surcharge for every shoe box crammed with jumbled receipts that is dumped on her desk.

Still on the financial front: should you have a separate business checking account? My accountant said I probably wouldn't need one at the beginning, and she was right. Some local banks do offer great deals on second accounts, though.

As for legal matters, you can find free legal information at sites such as the excellent [www.nolo.com](http://www.nolo.com) and <http://freeadvice.com>, but for any level of detail, you'll need to see a real live attorney, and preferably one with expertise in business and/or contract law. In my locality, one-hour consultations are priced between \$50 and \$85, and can be well worth it.

Incidentally, most attorneys will probably tell you not to draw up your own contracts, but in the next breath they will announce that their contract services start at... oh, \$500... Before you cough up that kind of money, check out the ATA Model Contract at [www.atanet.org/model\\_contract.htm](http://www.atanet.org/model_contract.htm), or, for a contract more focussed on literary projects, go to [www.pen.org/translation/modelcon.html](http://www.pen.org/translation/modelcon.html). A hybrid of the two has served me well. So far.

**12 And All the Rest.** This is a huge topic and I realize that I have barely scratched the surface. But there is one more big thing that you can do, at no out-of-pocket cost whatsoever, to grow your business. Get to know your colleagues, through discussion groups and message boards, in publications such as this one, at conferences. Cultivate connections. Network. If you have information or expertise, give it. Be helpful. Become known as the "go to" guy/gal. There is nothing more valuable than good word of mouth and the respect of your peers. If you believe nothing else I've said here, believe that.

I'll be happy to hear from you on key issues that I have blithely overlooked. You can reach me at [bliss@wmonline.com](mailto:bliss@wmonline.com).

# “KAKVA VAM JE JETRA?”

Paula Gordon

I was attracted by the question (“How’s your liver?”) more than by the pretty face and Hawaiian-style *frizura* of the model on the cover of *Zdravlje u kući* (*Health in the Home*), a “family magazine” published by Avaz in Sarajevo.

It was the last day of my recent visit to Bosnia, and I’d been so far unsuccessful in accomplishing one of my goals: collecting popular and professional publications about medicine and health. I’d heard of and even seen a few, but had trouble putting my hands on them, so I was thrilled to find this *Redbook*-type women’s magazine.

Since late last year I’ve been inadvertently carving out a niche for myself in back-translation of medical surveys (mainly Croatian and Bosnian into English). In this “quality-assurance” process, the translation of an English-original survey is translated back into English by a native English speaker and compared with the original so that discrepancies in register, terminology and meaning can be pinpointed and corrected in the target-language translated version (see [www.med.und.nodak.edu/depts/irgga/GENACISBackTranslationGuide.html](http://www.med.und.nodak.edu/depts/irgga/GENACISBackTranslationGuide.html) for a more thorough description of this method). I’m eager to find resources that will help me evaluate the forward (Croatian, Bosnian and Serbian) translations, because sometimes it is necessary to provide the client with comments and suggestions in addition to the back translation. Luckily, I already have excellent ‘connections’: I count a general practitioner, a neurosurgeon, a diabetic and a number of grandmas in my circle of Bosnian friends; I’m a member of the Yahoo group “Prelis” (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prelis/>), an active discussion group for translators of Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian; and, through the initiative to establish ATA accreditation for these languages, I have met a number of colleagues specializing in medical translation and interpretation, who have generously shared their knowledge and experience. As for publicly available resources, there are a

few bilingual medical dictionaries (but I don’t have any), and, of course, there is the Internet. But sometimes it’s nice to thumb through a magazine and see what ‘everybody’ is reading. The surveys I work on are for regular people who just happen to have a certain disease or condition. Thus the terminology used should be accessible as well as accurate. I feel I should be equally familiar with colloquial and technical expressions, and that I should be able to distinguish between them.

A recent example: **hot flashes** (also referred to as hot flushes).

This appeared in a survey as *valovi vrućine* (Croatian) and *talasi vrućine* (Bosnian). I knew what was meant, but to be sure, I looked up *val vrućine* in a general bilingual dictionary. There I found “heat wave,” and panicked. Obviously, the context (a survey about menopause) would indicate the meaning, but could there be a more accurate or more commonly used phrase for this symptom?

Dr. Anesa Smailbegović (family medicine, Zenica) advised that the medical term is *valung* (sing., from the German) or *valunzi* (pl.), but that *valovi* or *talasi vrućine* were medically and contextually appropriate. She added that, although most women would understand *valunzi*, some of her village patients simply call the phenomena *vrućine*.

So now I was sure about the high-register medical term, and confident about usage in central Bosnia, but what about Croatia? Lacking a ‘live’ contact there, I turned to the Internet... and found more than I bargained for: *valunzi* and *valovi vrućine*, yes, but also *navale vrućine* and *fumade*.

Ultimately, although I did alert the contracting agency to my uncertainty and therefore, research (and therefore time, and therefore money), these phrases were passed back to the end-client without comment. Thank goodness I didn’t just stop with the dictionary and translate “heat wave”—that would have raised everyone’s temperature!

## News from the Initiative to Establish ATA Accreditation for Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian

We are pleased to report that we have compiled lists of over 50 accreditation candidates for Croatian>English and for Serbian>English! Thanks to all who responded to our survey! We are still collecting expressions of interest in accreditation for all six language pairs. For information, contact Paula Gordon, [dbaPlanB@aol.com](mailto:dbaPlanB@aol.com), or see our article in the *Translation Journal*, [www accurapid.com/journal/25southslav.htm](http://www accurapid.com/journal/25southslav.htm).

Please note changes in the “working language” lists of the ATA Directory of Translation and Interpreter Services: Serbo-Croatian has been removed; Bosnian has been added. Serbo-Croatian has also been removed from the “native language” list. Although, if previously selected, Serbo-Croatian will appear in your profile, visitors can no longer use Serbo-Croatian as a keyword in their database search.

**Look for these South Slavic languages presentations at the 2003 Annual Conference:**  
*Croatian > English: Background, Experiences and Resources*, presented by Marijan Bošković; and  
*Initiative to Establish New South Slavic Language Pairs for Accreditation: An Update*, presented by members of the Volunteer Committee.

## RESOURCES FOR MEDICAL TRANSLATIONS

### Bilingual Dictionaries

Thanks to Svetolik Paul Dorđević and Tanja Abramović for citations and comments.

**Dr. Aleksandar Kostić, *Višejezični medicinski rečnik***, Izdavačko preduzeće RAD, Beograd, 1976; later published as *Medicinski rečnik (Lexicon Medicum Polyglotum)*, Savremena administracija, Beograd, 1996 (Latin–English–Russian–French–German–Italian–Serbian).

“This is the largest of the E–S–C medical dictionaries—so far. It has approx. 13,000 entries.” (SPĐ)

“Dr. Kostić’s dictionary may be a valuable tool if one is requested to translate Latin diagnoses, which are frequently encountered in Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian medical documents. It is also very practical and handy due to the fact that it is a ‘one-stop shop’ for many languages, so a translator may easily and quickly switch from one language to another. On the other hand, this is also its main disadvantage. It seems that because so many languages are included in the dictionary, there was not enough space to cover all the necessary words one may have to deal with when translating even the simplest medical form. Some frequently used medical words are missing from the dictionary, whereas the dictionary contains unnecessary everyday words, which can readily be found in any general bilingual dictionary.” (TA)

**Božena Pejković, *Lexicon Terminorum Anatomicorum Illustratum***

**Jelisaveta Arneri-Georgijev, *More Medical Words For You***

“Both of these were published by Savremena Medicina of Belgrade, the first one in 1994, and the second in 1998. Pocket-size, they contain approx. 5,000 words each.” (SPĐ)

**Vlasta Tanay, *Hrvatsko–engleski rječnik medicinskoga nazivlja***, Medicinska naklada, Zagreb, 1998; previously, *Englesko–hrvatski ili srpski glosarij*, and *Englesko–hrvatskosrpski rječnik medicinskih termina*.

“[The 1998 edition] has some 7,000 entries in both directions.” (SPĐ)

**Dr. Jelica Marković, *Medicinski rečnik englesko–srpski***, Tehnička knjiga, Beograd, 1998.

“Dr. Marković’s dictionary covers more medical terms than Dr. Kostić’s; however, the dictionary provides only one direction (into English), which is its main disadvantage.” (TA)

There do not seem to be any bilingual Bosnian–English medical dictionaries. However, there is a new monolingual dictionary of interest:

**Dr. Faruk Konjhodžić, *Rječnik medicinskih naziva u bosanskohercegovinskom jeziku***, Akademija nauka i umjetnosti Bosne i Hercegovine, Sarajevo, 1999 (586 pages). This book is arranged alphabetically according to the Bosnian term, and gives English and Latin equivalents, where appropriate, for each entry as well as definitions in Bosnian (and Croatian and Serbian).

The good news is that fellow ATA member Svetolik Paul Dorđević is working on two comprehensive medical dictionaries: an English–Serbian Medical Dictionary and a Serbian and Croatian–English Medical Dictionary, both containing about 45,000 entries. They should be ready for publication by the end of this year; check this column and the ATA Chronicle for publication details. Svetolik Paul Dorđević is no newcomer—translating and interpreting for over 30 years, he has been working as a full-time translator of legal and medical evidence for the Social Security Administration since 1981, translating from 34 languages into English. His *Dictionary of Medicine (French–English with English–French Glossary)* was published by Schreiber in 2002.

But while I wait for these dictionaries to become available, I am making do with my newly purchased (post-*valung*) multiple-author edition of the classic ***Rječnik stranih riječi: Tuđice, posuđenice, izrazi, kratice i fraze*** (Domović, Anić, Klaić; Sani-plus, Zagreb, 2002). This 1,500-page tome comes in very handy for looking up medical and technical words with Latin or Greek roots because the etymology is given for each term as well as a ‘plain-language’ explanation in Croatian. The more common terms used for explanation can usually be found in a general dictionary. (There is also a Belgrade edition—same book, different publisher and, in Sarajevo at least, half the price.)

### Selected English-language medical resources on the Internet for translators of all languages

Again, thanks to Tanja Abramović.

**[www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/encyclopedia.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/encyclopedia.html)**  
The Medline plus Medical Encyclopedia. (TA)

**[www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/medlineplusdictionary.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/medlineplusdictionary.html)**

The excellent Merriam-Webster online medical dictionary, which replaced the former Medline dictionary. Also provides pronunciation. (TA)

**[www.4woman.gov/nwhic/references/dictionary.htm](http://www.4woman.gov/nwhic/references/dictionary.htm)**

This excellent site contains the links to a variety of medical dictionaries. (TA)

**[www.cdc.gov/nip/webutil/terms/acronyms.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/webutil/terms/acronyms.htm)**

**[www.media4u.com/abb/medical\\_abbreviations.htm](http://www.media4u.com/abb/medical_abbreviations.htm)**

Medical abbreviations. (TA)

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[www.surgical-tutor.org.uk](http://www.surgical-tutor.org.uk)

Original and valuable articles pertaining to many medical fields. (TA)

[www.medem.com/medlb/medlib\\_entry.cfm](http://www.medem.com/medlb/medlib_entry.cfm)

Voted one of the top ten consumer health sites by the Medical Library Association, the Medem Medical Library provides patients with health-care information from introductory to advanced texts. (PG)

[www.merck.com/pubs/](http://www.merck.com/pubs/)

The pharmaceutical company Merck publishes *The Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy* on a not-for-profit basis. This book is a widely used general medical text and is published in 14 languages. (A medical advisor for an aid program I managed in Bosnia called it her “Bible.”) Various editions are available on the Merck website free of charge. (PG)

[www.diversityrx.org/HTML/TOC.htm](http://www.diversityrx.org/HTML/TOC.htm)

A site for health-care policy makers, providers, advocates and interpreters. Translators may find it useful for social services information and terminology. See also

[www.diversityrx.org/HTML/NEHOT.htm](http://www.diversityrx.org/HTML/NEHOT.htm)

for a thorough set of links. (PG)

#### **Selected Internet medical resources in Croatian, Serbian and Bosnian**

[www.medicina.hr/rjecnik/index.htm](http://www.medicina.hr/rjecnik/index.htm)

A valuable Croatian monolingual medical dictionary. (TA)

[www.doktor-robert.com/prednja.ASP?NADREDJENA=0](http://www.doktor-robert.com/prednja.ASP?NADREDJENA=0)

An independent site that has articles on health topics and a glossary of medical terms in Croatian. (PG)

[www.hexalab.co.yu](http://www.hexalab.co.yu)

A bilingual site that contains the names of various medical tests both in English and Serbian. (TA)

<http://www.zcbor.com/>

The site of Zdravstveni centar Bor, Serbia, with articles and links. (PG)

[www.healthbosnia.com/](http://www.healthbosnia.com/)

A Bosnian ‘health portal,’ with information for patients as well as health professionals. (PG)

<http://217.199.128.100/index.html>

Website of the recently formed *Agencije za kvalitet i akreditaciju u zdravstvu FBiH*. Based on the address, I’d say the site is not yet officially ‘up,’ but it looks promising! (PG)

#### **Sites with English and translated texts relating to health and medicine**

Care should be taken when consulting and comparing texts on these and similar sites—many are inconsistent across documents (the translations being done over time and by many different—and possibly inexperienced—translators), and some use terminology and jargon specific to the sponsoring organization, that is, term translations that might not be appropriate for documents with a broad audience. Still, the sites are valuable sources of information. Pharmaceutical company sites should be among the most reliable, due to regulatory and legal considerations.

<http://mhcs.health.nsw.gov.au/health-public-affairs/mhcs/publications/langindex.html>

New South Wales, Australia, Department of Health, multilingual health information site.

[www.icbl.org/lm/2002/bosnia.html](http://www.icbl.org/lm/2002/bosnia.html) and

<http://www.icbl.org/lm/2002/bosnia.bs.html>

International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the 2002 report in English and Bosnian (none of the others appear to be translated).

#### **Periodicals**

*Doktor u kući, Revija za zdravlje i dug život* (published monthly by Europapress holding, Zagreb); contents of the latest issue can be found on the Pliva website:

[www.plivazdravlje.hr/?section=duk](http://www.plivazdravlje.hr/?section=duk)

*Zdravlje u kući, Porodična revija* (published monthly by Avaz, Sarajevo); unfortunately no information is available online and no E-mail address is given in the publication details, but I’ll be glad to send a photocopy of the article “Kakva vam je jetra” to anyone requesting it!

Regional medical associations, such as a county or cantonal “Medicinski komor,” publish bulletins and proceedings, as well as journals (usually semiannual) featuring research and technical articles by their members. See [www.mednal.com](http://www.mednal.com) for the Medical Journal of the *Institut za naučno istraživački rad i razvoj Kliničkog centra Univerziteta Sarajevo*.

Special thanks to Tanja Abramović for her inspiration for and contributions to this article! Responses and submissions to this column are welcome! Please send your inquiry to [dbaPlanB@aol.com](mailto:dbaPlanB@aol.com).

See you in Phoenix!

# ГЛОБ R Us

Lydia Razran Stone



We provide this feature in response to Ann Macfarlane's letter, published in our last issue, asking whether our Division had any Russian dictionary list or other dictionary suggestions for newcomers to the profession. Herein we present a compendium of dictionary advice from various sources. My own contributions are gleaned from decades and decades of dictionary addiction.

## From Lydia:

### Dictionaries for translators of Russian: Some pitfalls and desiderata

#### Avoid

1. If at all possible, avoid Russian dictionaries that are translations from English explanatory dictionaries. No matter how well these are translated they will be structured according to English terminology systems and are likely to leave out even common Russian terms. For example, the Oxford *Большой толковый медицинский словарь* (Москва: Вече, 1998) (original English title, *Concise English Dictionary*) has no entry for *обмен веществ*, which is the absolutely normal Russian term for *metabolism*. Information on metabolism is provided under the *метаболизм* entry, which also cites *обмен веществ*; however, you would have to know the latter term's translation to begin with in order to find this entry.

2. If you have a favorite dictionary and think that a new edition is coming out, make sure this is not what is called a *стереотипное издание*, before you buy it. This is a new printing of the identical book, not a new edition.

#### Seek

3. Unidirectional dictionaries with alphabetical indexes in back in the "to" language are almost as good as bidirectional ones. This is especially useful to know if you cannot find a decent dictionary in a subject area for the direction in which you work. I suppose this is obvious, but it took me a couple of years to catch on. Indexes are a pain to work with, but this pain is nothing compared to the agony of not finding a term. (Note: many multilanguage dictionaries rely on indexes to make them multidirectional.)

4. Russian unilingual Explanatory (*Толковые*) or Encyclopedic dictionaries can be very helpful; in addition to explanations (which keep you from wildly wrong translations) they often contain Latin spellings (sometimes even English equivalents) or Russian synonyms, which you can then look up in a bidirectional dictionary.

5. Never pass up a book sale, the reference or foreign language section of a used bookstore, or Russian bookstores in cities you are visiting (used Russian books are particularly plentiful and inexpensive in cities of the former Soviet Bloc or non-Russian ex-Soviet republics). I myself got the *R-E космический словарь* I relied on all through the decade I worked at NASA for \$0.75 at a sale at our local Unitarian Church. Of course cities and towns where there are many State Department personnel, Rus-

sian emigrants, or major Universities are likely to have richer pickings, but you never know. Used book sales are also a good source of English textbooks on subject areas. In most cases you do not have to have the absolutely latest edition. In some areas, medicine for example, a vintage English subject matter dictionary may even be an asset since Russian terminology may parallel older English usage.

6. Even if you are a dinosaur like me and prefer paper dictionaries, for abbreviations, nothing beats the [www.sokr.ru](http://www.sokr.ru) website.

7. If you are really stuck, try the Russian Translators Club on Yahoo. It has never failed me and answers usually come back within a few hours.

### On Beyond Callaham

(Sometimes my "big three" Katzner, Callaham, and Lubensky are just not equal to a specialized task. Here is a list of specialized dictionaries in my library I have found most useful over the years.)

1. *Большой русско-английский медицинский словарь* (Бенюмович и Ривкин).—М: РУССО; 2000. Not perfect but the best available.

2. *Англо-русский медицинский словарь* (Акжигитов и соавт.).—М: Русский язык; 1988. This was my mainstay for years, even though I was translating into English. (No index.)

3. *Англо-русский медицинский словарь по биотехнологии* (Дрыгин).—М: Русский язык; 1990. With Russian index and Russian explanations. See below.

4. *Англо-русский медицинский словарь по иммунологии и иммуногенетике* (Петрова).—М: Русский язык; 1990. With Russian index and Russian explanations. This book and the one above have been useful in areas far beyond the ones in their title, particularly for up-to-date medical technology and cytological terms. I have no idea whether either is still available.

5. *Russian-English Botanical Dictionary* (Macura). Columbus, Ohio: Slavica; 1981. Expensive, if indeed still obtainable, but if you need the English name for a plant given in Russian nothing else will do.

6. *Dictionary of Radiation Protection, Radiobiology and Nuclear Medicine*. English, German, French, Russian (Sube). Elsevier: 1986. Indexes for all languages. Kevin Hendzel highly recommends this one as well.

7. *Четырехязычный энциклопедический словарь терминов по физической географии* (Спиридонова). Москва: Советская энциклопедия; 1980. Indexes for all languages: English, French, German, Russian. I do not specialize in any of the fields covered, but regularly I find the term I need in this dictionary.

8. *Russian-English Social Science Dictionary* (Smith) Birmingham (Great Britain): 1990. Despite the fall of Communism it is remarkable how much of this terminology (this work was origi-

*Continued on page 14*



nally published in 1962) is still current. Various useful appendices but no index. I have seen this book sold on eBay for \$9.50. Highly recommended at this price.

9. *Русско-английский словарь газетной лексики* (Крупнов)—М: Русский язык; 1993. A useful supplement to older dictionaries for terms that came into currency in the 60's, 70's, and 80's.

10. *Русско-английский словарь междометий и релятивов* (interjections and response phrases). (Квеселевич, Сасина) М: Русский язык; 1990. I bought my copy in Europe more than 10 years ago but a more recent printing with identical content is currently available from ArgosyRus (see page 17). I find this book invaluable in translating conversation since it covers terms like *Ведь, ага; при том*, which are probably one of the last aspects of a language to fall under a foreigner's assault. Worth reading cover to cover. Probably not of much use if you are doing nothing but highly technical translation.

11. *Словарь иностранных слов* (Комарова). М: Русский язык; 1990. A dictionary of foreign words used in Russian can save you from tearing your hair over a term you cannot find anywhere. This one has been a good friend to me, but probably another large dictionary of foreignisms, especially a more recent one would be just as good or better.

I also, all too frequently, must resort to various dictionaries of legal, business, or financial terms. However, I do not feel qualified to recommend one over the others.

## From recent discussion on the Yahoo Russian Translators Club

Ray Cochrun, August 26

As it has been fairly slow around here recently, I thought I would try to encourage some dialog from the membership. To that end, I am listing five of my favorite dictionaries (or those I use most often) and a line or two about why. I encourage others to do the same, because I believe one or more of us might discover a gem to add to our collection. Of course, that assumes the dictionary still can be purchased somewhere.

So, here is my list.

Lingvo (Abby Software) – It's handy! It's always there on the desktop. It's so much easier to find a term than in a book. (I have version 8.0 installed, but actually preferred 7.0. Version 8.0 has a few new quirks that I don't like, including that when I uninstalled version 7, I lost my extensive personal dictionary. It just won't load into version 8.0. It won't convert.) There was an outstanding review of version 6, I believe, in the ATA Chronicle a year or two ago.

The two-volume Russian-English Aerospace Dictionary (Russo, 1999) - I use it almost every day for the aviation news I translate for my Web site and for the books from Russia that I read about aviation. (I reviewed this dictionary extensively here a couple years ago. The review also appeared in *SlavFile*.)

Russian-English Dictionary of Idioms (Random House, 1995) - for us native speakers of English who translate personal correspondence, this tome is invaluable. Highly recommended.

Dictionary of Russian Slang & Colloquial Expressions (Barron's, 1995) - not for the faint of heart, this dictionary has all those unusual words and also is recommended if one translates personal correspondence.

Kenneth Katzner's English-Russian, Russian-English Dictionary (John Wiley & Sons, 1984, 1994) - Indispensable. Has words and terms not included in Lingvo; in addition, his translations sometimes are more "American" than Lingvo, which seems to use more "British English."

And one more for good measure (I know, it's six, not five):

Romanov's Russian-English, English-Russian Dictionary (Washington Square Press, Pocket Books, 1964). This pocket dictionary is invaluable, THE one to take along on a trip to Russia or when carrying a Russian text away from your workspace. I'm on my second copy. Although the date is 1964, it is still printed and available at most good bookstores.

These are my top five (six). What are yours and why?

From Nora Favorov, August 26

Yes, it has been awfully quiet around here. I can say ditto to everything Roy said (except I'm not familiar with the aerospace dictionary and don't own Lingvo). I must say I've become increasingly reliant on Multitran ([www.multitran.ru](http://www.multitran.ru)), despite the fact that it is often wildly unreliable. Still, if you have an approximate idea of what a word means, but are not sure what the proper translation would be for the given context, it instantly gives you lots of different usages to choose from. Non-native English speakers should be aware (well, I'm sure everyone in this crowd already is) that some of the English translations that make it in there are howlers. Well, that's my 2 cents worth...Nora

From Kim Braithwaite, August 27

Thanks for the nudge, Roy. Although I check RTC every day I seldom have anything to contribute.

I don't translate at the computer myself or use online dictionaries. So, print dictionaries are my tools and (often exasperating) friends. I have well over a hundred, probably ought to give some extremely specialized ones away, but you never know.

Heartiest dittos re:

Katzner. I almost always reach for it first, only wish it were larger. Bless his memory. Lubensky's Random House idioms dictionary, a total gem and life-saver. I could do without all those bulky citations and academic punctilio, though. The English equivalents, with syntactic info, are sufficient and right on the mark. Barron's slang dictionary. Fun to browse in and sometimes useful for materials in the soft sciences. And see further below.

Other indispensables that I keep right at hand so I don't have to get up out of my work chair:

Oxford full-sized, 3rd edition 2000. Nearly as good as Katzner for most things. I keep the 2nd edition handy too, for occasional old-timey items the later edition has dropped. For easier hoisting I paid a local craftsman \$40 to remove the E>R section, which I practically never use, and bind the R>E part separately. Half as bulky and so much handier!



Smith's R>E Social Science Dictionary, second edition 1990 (first edition 1962). Still often comes through after all these years.

Ozhegov R>R. Ought to be better, but still.

For sci-tech but also, very often, useful general terms that the general dics don't quite pinpoint:

Callaham & Newman. Need I say more?

Carpovich 1988 R>E Science and Engineering Dictionary.

In a class by itself:

Marder Supplementary R>E Dictionary, 1992. You can never tell in advance whether it will please or disappoint, but I'll give it a try when others fail. I heard a rumor that the author disappeared in Chechnya (!).

I have several other slang/jargon/argot/criminal compilations, the most useful (comparatively) being:

Kveselevich *Russko-angliiskii slovar' nenormativnoi leksiki*, 2002. Mostly just to browse in but it has helped me a few times.

And finally:

Prokhorov (ed) *Bol'shoi entsiklopedicheskii slovar'*, 1998. Surprisingly comprehensive for a one-volume reference.

### A Low Cost Equivalent to Lubensky?

Those of you who have been paying attention may well have noticed that *The Random House Russian-English Dictionary of Idioms* by Sophia Lubensky (New York, 1995) makes every "must have" list including mine. Now this book, which was pricey to begin with at \$75, seems to be out of print, or at least is not directly available through Amazon.com. Amazon refers the searcher to two copies available through their affiliate Half.com, one new for about \$130 and the other used in good condition for sixty something. Now even if these were wonderful buys, two copies are not going to supply very many new or expanding translators. Thus when I saw that the *Russian-English Phraseological Dictionary* by D.I. Kveselevich (*Russkiy Yazyk*, 2000) being sold by ArgosyRus on eBay at a price that ultimately amounted to \$27 including postage, I ordered one to see if this volume offered an acceptable lower cost alternative. Lubensky, for those of you who have never seen one, is a large, physically heavy volume on excellent paper with exemplary readability. It claims to contain 6900 idioms, though my estimate is several hundred below that. More important, over the years I have found it virtually always contains not one but several acceptable American English translations of the Russian idiom I have looked up. It has an excellent Russian index in the back,

which allows the reader to readily ascertain if an unfound idiom is filed under some other key word or to search rapidly for a slightly variant phrasing. It provides descriptors, e.g., highly colloquial or derogatory, and grammatical information, variants, restrictions on English (and Russian) usage, etc. When the meaning of a negative phrase does not equal the negation of the meaning of the corresponding affirmative, this is stipulated and the appropriate translations given for each form. I tend to agree with Kim Braithwaite (see above) that too much space is devoted to relatively lengthy illustrative quotations from literature and their translations. I would rather see this space devoted to including more idioms, or, alternatively, eliminated to make a volume that is easier to handle. Still I suppose these quotes are useful in some situations. My only other quibble with Lubensky is that she fails to provide literal translations for the idioms. I realize that exactly what kind of a bush a *бузина* is not highly relevant to the idiomatic meaning of *в огороде бузина, а в Киеве дядька*, but when I do not know such things I want to and it is extra trouble to have to look in a conventional dictionary.

Now for Kveselevich. It is a smaller volume, making it easier to handle, printed on lower quality but still acceptable paper. The readability (print size and spaces between entry) is slightly worse than that of Lubensky but also completely satisfactory. The work actually contains a few hundred more terms, but according to my unsystematic research coverage can be considered virtually identical for all practical purposes. A glaring difference is that Kveselevich has no index and, although terms are arranged alphabetically according to a rigid scheme stipulated in the preface, by noun, if there is no noun by verb, etc., I still foresee time spent searching for alternative listings if one's first search is not successful. Usage descriptors are given for Russian but not for English, but useful grammatical information is lacking. Literal translations are sometimes, if unpredictably, given, e.g. *If you call yourself a mushroom, into the basket you go*. At times the English included is slightly substandard or contains a minor typo. The most distressing feature of this work is that, while some English definitions are perfectly acceptable American English, others I myself have never heard of and fear they will convey no meaning to your typical American reader, e.g., for the mushroom example above "over shoes, over boots." Or for *ни гроша за душой*, "not to have a silver in the locker." I assume some of these translations are perfectly

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### A New Russian Bookstore in Boston

(from an email message, see also [www.panrus.com](http://www.panrus.com))

Until now Panorama of Russia was a strictly mail order house. On June 1st we opened our first retail store in Allston/Boston, Massachusetts. In addition to scholarly and reference publications we will display the best of fiction and books on other popular subjects. Please come to visit our store. Please visit us when you are in the Boston area.

Location: 1217 A Commonwealth, under the Russian food store Berezka. This at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Harvard Street, on the MBTA B Green line. From Storrow Drive inbound take the Boston College exit; turn right on Common-

wealth Avenue and follow it to Harvard Street. You can turn right one block before Harvard Street at Linden Street then left on the side strip for meter parking.

The store cannot possibly house all our titles (we now have about 20,000 titles), so if you want specific titles from our weekly mailings, web site, or printed catalogs, or if you are looking for specific subjects or titles, please send us your list before you come and set up an appointment with us.

Our hours are from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12 to 6 p.m. on Sundays.



common British English and/or antiquated forms. I suspect that some of the definitions I find acceptable may be unfamiliar to British ears. The point is that variants are not labeled as British, American, old-fashioned or anything else. Thus, this volume would need to be used with extreme care by non-native speakers of English translating for the American, and I suspect also British and other English markets. In the box below I have included both Lubensky and Kvesevich's translations of various Russian idioms discussed at an ATA presentation on idioms, so that readers can judge the importance of differences for themselves. My bottom line recommendation is that the Lubensky is clearly superior, but for native speakers of English unable to find a copy or very strapped for funds the Kvesevich would be a viable option and one which is far superior to any of the other idiom dictionaries on the market. Non-native speakers of English in the U.S. should use options provided by Kvesevich only after checking that they are indeed familiar to North Americans.

### Late Breaking News – Russian Online Bookstore

While attempting to ascertain the Russian spelling of various transliterated author names, I found what appears to be a wonderful site – [www.bookler.ru](http://www.bookler.ru). This site seems to be a kind of Russian Amazon.com and claims to list and sell more than 146,000 Russian books. Even if you never buy a book, the alphabetical list of all authors is invaluable. Anyone with experience with this site is encouraged to review it more thoroughly in our next *SlavFile*.

Russian	ATA Session consensus	Lubensky	Kvesevich
Вряд ли	Fat chance, in your dreams, don't bet the ranch on it	It is doubtful (unlikely, hardly likely), probably not, I doubt it, I doubt if, [in limited contexts] hardly, scarcely	Absent
Белая ворона	Black sheep	Odd man out, seemed out of place, stuck out like a sore thumb	White crow (raven), rara avis, rare bird, outsider
Напасть на золотую жилу	Hit pay dirt, hit the jackpot, strike it rich	Absent	Absent
Сесть в калошу/лужу	Put your foot in it, goof up	Found in index to be listed under лужу Fall flat on your face, make a fool of yourself, end up with egg all over your face, put your foot in it, come a cropper, look ridiculous, look pretty stupid, lay an egg, get yourself into a mess	Cross referenced under <i>калоша</i> to <i>лужа</i> Lit. sit down in a puddle, make a fool of oneself, make oneself look silly, come a cropper (howler, mucker), get into a mess (fix) pull a boner, put one's foot into it
Морочить голову	To snow somebody	1. To pull the wool over somebody's eyes, to lead someone up the garden path, to try to put something over on someone, to play games with someone, [in limited contexts] to make a fool of someone. Negative imperative: Don't take me for a fool 2. To drive someone crazy, to make someone's head spin, to make someone dizzy, to pester someone	Not listed, but here are the equivalents for synonymous <i>дурить голову</i> Dupe somebody, make a fool of somebody, try to pull somebody's leg
Хлопот не оберешься	Open a can of worms, too much hassle	Absent	It gives somebody endless trouble, somebody is or will be involved in endless trouble
Бес попутал	The devil made me do it	Found in index to be listed under <i>черт</i> The devil tripped me up, led me astray, must have been at my elbow, made me do it, misled me, it was the devil's work, the devil had a hand in this, [in limited contexts] the devil got there first	Cross referenced under <i>бес</i> to <i>черт</i> The devil has tempted somebody, the devil has led somebody astray, the devil confounded somebody
Чур, мое	Dibs on something	Absent	(детск.) Finders, keepers
Тянуть резину	To drag one's feet	(Highly colloquial) To drag things out, to drag one's feet (heels), to stall, to hold it (things) up	(прост., неодобр.) Delay things, mark time, waste one's time, dawdle, mess about, drag out
Дырявая голова	Head like a sieve	A person who has a very bad memory, is absentminded, forgetful, scatterbrain; featherbrain, has a brain (head) like a sieve	Literally: head full of holes (of an absent minded, forgetful, or careless person)



The pages that follow represent the dictionary stock of a company I ran into on eBay. I have found this company to be reliable and efficient, with books arriving within a month of ordering. The dictionaries I have ordered have been of decent quality and one, at least, *The Dictionary of Interjections*, I recommend very highly. One caveat: do not be misled by the publication dates provided in the table; many, and for all I know all, of these books are stereotype reprints of previous editions. Olga, my contact at ArgosyRus, tells me that shipping and handling is \$10 per book, but if multiple books are ordered, they will try to pro-

vide a volume shipping discount. Olga asks that you contact her at [argosyrus@yahoo.com](mailto:argosyrus@yahoo.com) for further information or to place an order. Her English is fine. Yes, I realize that I am providing this company with free advertising, but this sin pales before the virtue of providing readers with a source of varied dictionaries at what seem to be very reasonable prices. We will eagerly publish at no charge any other such list of translator materials of any company vouched for by at least one *SlavFile* reader.



Happy thumbing!

Название, Title	Год, Year	Автор, Author	Кол-во терминов, Terms	Страниц, Pages	Цена, Price (without s/h).	№
Англо-русский биологический словарь; With Russian Index; Stereotype edition	00	Чибисова	70000	736	\$25.00	1001
Англо-русский геологический словарь; Stereotype edition	02	Тимофеев	52000	544	\$30.00	1002
Англо-русский и русско-английский автомобильный словарь	01	Тверитнев	25000	496	\$15.00	1003
Англо-русский и русско-английский лесотехнический словарь	01	Можаев	50000	824	\$30.00	1004
Англо-русский и русско-английский медицинский словарь.	01	Болотина	24000	544	\$15.00	1005
Англо-русский и русско-английский словарь по солнечной энергетике	95	Стребков	12000	304	\$5.00	1006
Англо-русский медицинский словарь	00	Акжигитов	70000	608	\$15.00	1007
Англо-русский металлургический словарь	02	Перлов	66000	841	\$30.00	1008
Англо-русский словарь по пищевой промышленности	02	Ковальская	42000	672	\$30.00	1009
Англо-русский словарь по рекламе и маркетингу; Russian index	01	Бобров		752	\$30.00	1010
Англо-русский словарь по химии и переработке нефти	01	Кедринский	60000	768	\$30.00	1011
Англо-русский словарь по электротехнике и электроэнергетике	99	Лугинский	45000	616	\$20.00	1012
Англо-русский словарь сокращений по телекоммуникациям;	01	Александров	5500	288	\$5.00	1013
Англо-русский юридический словарь	00	Андрианов	50000	512	\$15.00	1014
Большой русско-английский медицинский словарь	01	Бенюмович	70000	704	\$25.00	1015
Русско-английский словарь по нефти и газу	00	Булатов	35000	424	\$15.00	1016
Русско-английский словарь религиозной лексики; English index	02	Азаров	14000	768	\$25.00	1017
Словарь английского сленга (особенности употребления сленга в Северной Америке, Великобритании и Австралии). In English with Russian preface; Soft cover	02	Матюшенков		176	\$6.00	2001
Словарь по науке и технике (английский, русский, немецкий)	03	Галевский	5000	320	\$7.00	2002
Русско-английский фразеологический словарь переводчика	01	Кузьмин		776	\$20.00	2003
Русские писатели XX века. Словарь-справочник; In Russian; Soft cover	03	Романова	36 lexical articles	256	\$5.00	2004
Англо-русский словарь музыкальных терминов; Preface in Russian; Soft cover	99	Барченкова	5000	160	\$3.00	2005
Русская деревня. Культурологический словарь; In Russian; Soft cover	03	Андреева	1300	304	\$5.00	2006
Фразеологизмы в русской речи. Словарь-справочник; In Russian; Soft cover	02	Баско	600 colloquialisms	272	\$5.00	2007
Англо-русский словарь особенностей английского языка в Северной Америке, Великобритании и Австралии; Preface in Russian	02	Матюшенков	10000	520	\$7.00	2008

Практическая рыночная экономика. Толковый словарь; in Russian	99	Новиков	4000	376	\$5.00	2009
Краткий англо-русский лингвострановедческий словарь. Великобритания, США, Канада, Новая Зеландия. Preface in Russian; Soft cover	01	Ощепкова	2000	176	\$5.00	2010
Словарь этнолингвистических понятий и терминов; Soft cover	03	Исаев		200	\$3.00	2011
Латинское наследие в русском языке; Словарь-справочник; In Russian; Soft cover	02	Воронков	4300	432	\$5.00	2012
Грамматический словарь. Грамматические и лингвистические термины; In Russian; Soft cover	01	Дурново	273 terms	184	\$5.00	2013
Эмоционально – экспрессивные обороты живой речи. Словарь; In Russian; Soft cover	01	Меликян	650 colloquialisms	240	\$5.00	2014
Русско-английский карманный словарь переводчика-практика; Preface and addenda in Russian; Soft cover	03	Бражников	8000	185	\$3.00	2015
Англо-русский Фразеологический словарь	02	Кунин	About 5000 idioms	502	\$6.00	3001
Русско-английский фразеологический словарь	01	Квеселевич	7000 idioms	705	\$17.00	3002
Современный русско-английский словарь	02	Таубе	130 000	774	\$14.00	3003
Толковый словарь ненормативной лексики русского языка	03	Квеселевич	About 16 000	1022	\$25.00	3004
Словарь редких и забытых слов; In Russian	02	Сомов		607	\$9.00	3005
Англо-русский словарь наиболее употребимой лексики	02	Хидекель	15000	240	\$6.00	3006
Англо-русский словарь сокращений	02	Волкова	About 10 000	464	\$6.00	3007
Словарь трудностей произношения русского языка		Каленчук	Over 15 000	465	\$7.00	3008
Большой русско-английский словарь	03	Смирницкий	160,000	760	\$15.00	3009
Русско-английский словарь крылатых слов	02	Уолш	About 2 000	320	\$7.00	3010
Русско-английский словарь междометий	01	Квеселевич	1,000	510	\$7.00	3011
Словарь русского языка	03	Ожегов	About 53 000	896	\$19.00	3012
Толковый словарь русского языка	03	Ожегов	About 80 000	940	\$19.00	3013
Орфографический словарь русского языка	02	Татьянченко	About 20 000	575	\$5.00	3014
Новый англо-русский словарь	02	Мюллер	160,000	880	\$19.00	3015
Русско-английский культурологический словарь	02	Бурак	1,200	127	\$4.00	3016
Русско-английский экономический словарь	02	Жданова	80,000	880	\$15.00	3017
Русско-английский разговорник по внешнеэкономическим связям	02	Памухина		680	\$11.00	3018
Русско-английский словарь. Финансы, налоги, аудит	03	Жданова		464	\$8.00	3019
Новый русский лексикон. Русско-английский словарь с пояснениями	01	Бенюх	3000	208	\$3.00	3020
Англо-русский, русско-английский словарь	03	Дубровин	20,000	479	\$3.00	3021
Русские и английские идиомы; Soft cover	01	Дубровин	200	220	\$4.00	3022
Англо-русский словарь	02	Аракин	100,000	590	\$11.00	3023

## Dictionaries on the Web

ЕBay, the Internet auction, has some surprisingly interesting and inexpensive dictionaries and bidding is often less than cut-throat to obtain Slavic materials. If you are not put off by the trappings of auctions, go to [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com), register, and search for Russian (or whatever) dictionaries, or if your interests are broader search for Russian within the category Books. Sellers appear to be Russian companies with stocks of new books (see ArgosyRus above), predominantly U.S. used book dealers who have obtained Russian books in estate sales, and former students selling dictionaries bundled with texts of various kinds at ridiculously low prices. Go back for a couple of weeks to check on what is available before giving up.

Amazon.com can also be a decent source of Slavic dictionaries and every search on Amazon also gives you access to Half.com where small dealers and individuals are selling used and new titles, frequently at a large discount. A number of Russian dealers now participate in Half.com. The frustrating thing about using Amazon to browse for dictionaries is that, if you search for, say, Russian dictionaries, you will get a list of more than a 1000 titles, at least 80% of which are currently unavailable, but have been listed (probably in only a single copy) at some time in the past. Nevertheless, it is interesting to see what is out there, even if it cannot currently be obtained.



## Б for Борис Not to Mention Бардак: Latest Selection from Val Shcherbakov's Dictionary

*SlavFile* readers continue to be the beneficiaries of Valerie Shcherbakov's remarkable and useful lexicological endeavor, his dictionary, which is tentatively entitled *Obscure Russian Made Clear*.

The entire list of entries for number and letters А and Б of this work will soon be added to the Downloads section of the SLD website ([www.americantranslators.org/divisions/SLD/slavfile.html](http://www.americantranslators.org/divisions/SLD/slavfile.html)).

Meanwhile we are publishing a few selected excerpts to pique reader interest.

If you have anything to add or discuss, Val would like to hear from you. He is eager to enter into correspondence with U.S. translators between Russian and English. He can be reached at [val204@mail.ru](mailto:val204@mail.ru).

**бабки (башли, капуста)** Slang for money. *Сшибать бабки* or *рубить капусту* – “to earn big bucks.” *Подбивать бабки* – to summarize, to sum up, to draw conclusions.

**бантик** *Чёрт знает что и сбоку бантик.* – Said of something extremely absurd and incongruous. *Завязать на бантик* – used in reference to a man giving up sex.

**барбос** One of the most common names for dogs. It is so common that it's come to mean a dog in general, especially a mongrel. May mean a rude and ill-mannered man. Sometimes means an inordinately large cucumber or other vegetable.

**бардак, бардачный, бардачок** *Бардак* originally meant brothel. Currently a more common term for this institution is *бордель*. *Бардак* now means primarily chaos and disorder, poorly organized work or a place where things go from bad to worse through lack of organization. A multiple service establishment where one is unhappy about a service rendered will almost certainly be called a *бардак* by the dissatisfied customer. *Бардачок*, though a diminutive of *бардак* has little to do with it. This is an affectionate name for the glove compartment in a car, which comes from the disorder in which things are stored therein. One invariable item within the *бардачок*, especially in trucks working in the countryside, is a plastic cup or a glass wrapped up in a cloth, kept handy for the consumption of alcohol. *Бардачный* is an adjective meaning “badly organized, lacking a decent system and generally bad,”

**без вариантов** That's for sure. There's no other choice. *Победит, конечно, Спартак. Тут без вариантов.* (Spartak will surely win. No other outcome is at all likely.)

**белая зависть** Relatively benign envy mixed with joy over the success or good fortune of a friend or relation.

**белый нал** Legally obtained money in the form of cash, on the books and subject to taxation. (Compare to *чёрный нал*.)

**Берёшь чужие, отдаёшь свои.** An allusion to the psychological experience of borrowing and then returning money. What you receive is someone else's, but what you must return is your own (and that is why you are so reluctant to part with it).

**бить** *Жизнь бьёт ключом, и преимущественно по голове. А piece of a dialogue. Как жизнь? - Бьёт ключом... Преимущественно по голове.* A common punning wisecrack. *Ключ* means a key, a wrench or a spring, a source. *Бить ключом* can thus be both to flow at full force, i.e., be in full swing, and to hit with a wrench (less common than the first but literally absolutely correct and not an impossible event by any means).

**Ближе к делу!** Ближе к телу, как говорил Мопассан. *Ближе к делу!*: Talk business! Keep to the point! Omit unnecessary stuff! A more informal version is *Ближе к телу!* (stick closer to the body!), possibly with the addition of «как говорил Мопассан», based on the popular but mistaken belief that the French writer Guy de Maupassant wrote stories with a heavy sexual component.

**блюдо, дежурное блюдо** 1) A standard meal at a catering facility; 2) Something provided without choice and arousing no enthusiasm on the part of the recipient; something in common use, frequently repeated and hence not perceived as at all attractive.

**Бог не выдаст, свинья не съест.** Literally, God won't betray you, the pig won't eat you. Encouragement to do something without fear of consequences.

**болезнь зеркальная** A jocular reference to a man's expanding stomach that makes him unable to see his own private parts without standing in front of a mirror.

**Борис Федорович** Alcoholic drink (or rather concoction; as this can hardly be termed a legitimate beverage) made from BF brand (a mixture of butyral phenol-polyvinyl) synthetic glue. Hence the name, *Борис Федорович*, a mix of irony and contempt. However, those who are dying for a drink think nothing of consuming it even at the risk of death. The drink is made by pouring the sticky yellow mass into a container and then shaking it for quite some time till the substance solidifies and precipitates out and the lighter fluid fractions rise. This liquid is what is drunk. The process can be automated and quickened by a high-speed drill with a piece of cloth attached to it inserting into the container. The process for making this stuff has given it another name - *болтушка* which literally means “the shaken stuff,” and is, of course, also the word for a (female) chatterbox.

**бытовуха** An informal reference to domestic crime, as opposed to crimes against the state or society. This often involves a noisy row and the beating of family members and neighbors in a state of alcoholic intoxication.

**бэушный** An adjective derived from the abbreviation БУ (*бывший в употреблении*). *Сапоги хоть и бэушные, но вполне ещё крепкие. Их ещё сто лет носить можно.* (True, those are second hand boots, but they are still quite good. They will stand another century of wear.)

**бюджетник** Somebody working in the public sector financed by the national budget. These include medical workers, employees of cultural and public service institutions, schoolteachers, social workers, military servicemen and others.

# SLAVFILE LITE: NOT BY WORD COUNT ALONE

Lydia Razran Stone

As we prepared this issue for press, we received the very distressing news that William Keasbey had died after collapsing during a tennis game in Eugene, Oregon, to which he had recently moved. I and, I suspect, many of you considered it a privilege to have had Bill as a friend and colleague. I worked with him on a number of ATA projects over the course of more than a decade and was always struck by his competence, integrity, and delight in life, singing, dancing, and humor. We intend to publish a full appreciation of Bill in the next issue of *SlavFile*. Please contact Jim Walker, who is writing it, if you have anything you would like to see included.

Sadly, this seems to be an issue of obituaries. My own mother, Elna Razran, died this May at the "serious" age of 92. For the last four months of her life we had managed to move her from NY to a facility close to us in Virginia, so she was able to meet and spend time with her two great-grandsons, though not her great-granddaughter, born just a few days before her death. You will forgive me if I write a bit about her. She was born in 1910 on the Lower East Side of New York, the youngest of five children and one of the only two to have been born in this country. The family came from a little town near Lvov, called in translation Peter's Tail (I will not try to produce the original since I only recall it in my mother's pronunciation and do not even know whether it is Ukrainian or Polish) where her grandfather kept a tavern. She started High School at 12, and, although she was traumatically orphaned at 17 and these were the years of Depression, managed to go through college and obtain a master's degree in psychology at Columbia. It was here that my father caught sight of her and appropriated her (if you knew the whole story you would realize that this unusual verb is appropriate.) Somewhat eclipsed during his lifetime by my brilliant, eccentric and mercurial father, she was a strong and exceptional person in her own right. Her long life was filled with more than its share of tragedy, life-threatening illness, travel (which she adored) and what my father, in his nearly indecipherable French, called *joie de vivre*. After my father drowned she went back to work in New York. She retired as the Head of Guidance for Queens Borough Department of Education in New York City. Upon retirement she returned, after a hiatus of 50+ years, to writing poetry, joined a New York Poets' Circle and was pub-

lished and invited to participate in readings. I would like to publish one of these poems in remembrance of her. It is not one of her very best, but is the only one on a Russian theme and after all this is the *SlavFile*. The incident actually happened during the period when my father was spending every summer in Russia studying psychophysiology for the U.S. Government, with my mother (and I before my marriage) accompanying him.

Moscow, 1960

She let us in through the carved door  
centuries scarred  
The stooped watchwoman in babushka  
We stroll the ancient church turned  
art museum  
In cloth overshoes at her command

Portraits of muscular heroes brandish  
banners rakes hammers  
Triumphant farmwomen hold up brilliant grapes  
red purple  
Frolicking children circle a red flag

Comrade, she calls to a capped stranger  
Remove your hat! How uncultured!  
Nyet he replies Why should I  
I do not respect this art  
A Matisse poster catches his eye  
With a flourish he counters  
For this I shall remove my hat

Elna Razran, 1991

\*\*\*\*\*

I have not included an English rendition from the menu of a Russian restaurant since my very first column in 1995. I think I have felt they were too easy a target. But here is one from a menu I brought home from Brooklyn that I cannot resist sharing. The Russian is: *Фoрель a ля натюрель обжаренная до хрустящей корочки*. Aside from the rather perplexing gender shift of *au naturel*, this description is straightforward and actually quite appetizing. The English starts as a kind of translation and then goes on to describe what seems another dish alto-

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## Erratum or Why We Need a Czech/Slovak Editor

Lydia Razran Stone

In my *Lite* column in the winter issue of *SlavFile*, I made a grievous and simple error translating out of Czech. In conveying an anecdote told by Michael Heim, I erroneously translated the Czech word *proč* (= *why*) as *please*. I received exactly one correction – from Bill Keasbey, whose languages were Russian, German, and Finnish! This unfortunate incident emphasizes how little attention we have, up to now, paid to Czech and Slovak, and how much we would benefit by having a Czech/Slovak editor to prevent us from making such mishaps and to contribute and/or

solicit (occasionally or regularly) articles of particular interest to those who specialize in these important languages. Unfortunately, I am afraid that it also may emphasize how few speakers of Czech and/or Slovak read the *SlavFile*. If you are one of these select (and possibly disgruntled) few, I beg that you forgive me and demonstrate this by volunteering to serve as C/S editor. If you know someone, even if s/he is not now a member of our division, who might be interested in this editorial position, please ask him or her to contact me at [lydiastone@compuserve.com](mailto:lydiastone@compuserve.com).

gether, perhaps based on the owner's idea of the kind of culinary details English speakers are attracted by, to wit: *Ordinary Trout. Sappy baked lake-trout stuffed with vegetables slightly wet by lemon juice.*

Some time ago I evidently appalled some readers of this column by confessing that I actually found Brightonese creative much of the time. And I stand by that opinion. However, scholars' use of grammatically Russianized versions of English terms when perfectly good Russian ones exist is another matter entirely and causes me to see red as a translator. It is not so much the pretentiousness of such usages (though admittedly this is not pretty) as the fact that these English terms introduce needless ambiguity. I have just completed translating a set of six articles on the metatheory of educational psychology and this kind of thing was rampant. The worst example I came across is the use of the word *понимабельный* – it took me a while to figure that one out and when I did, my “aha experience” was not accompanied with the delight I felt when I got to the bottom of *однабедренная квартира*. To be fair I must admit that one of the six scholars I was translating wrote extremely lucid Russian without a single unwarranted use of an anglicism, and was a pleasure to translate. In the middle of working on his article, about the education of the deaf blind as an example of applied epistemology, he mentioned that he himself had been deaf and blind since infancy. Now clearly this fellow has an intellect that surpasses even Helen Keller's; on the other hand, when a deaf blind man writes so much more clearly than his sighted and hearing peers one cannot help draw various tentative conclusions about the general nature of current Russian scholarly writing.

This brings me to my quest for a term for a type of translation situation that is a kind of inverse of linguistic false friends. What shall we call a term in our source language that deceives us into believing that it is an obscure or abstruse (or just previously unencountered) usage in that tongue, when it is an only slightly disguised common term in the target language? Last month I spent at least an hour trying to track down what a *«тиарный урок»* was. I knew, of course, that this wasn't a Russian root, but evidently, unconsciously associating it with *Pyrrhic victory*, I kept looking for some classical reference to explain the term. Finally, I submitted an inquiry to the Yahoo Russian Translators Club and within an hour had learned that this was simply a lesson in public relations. Surely there is some reference in literature we can associate with such experiences – some story where grandma disguised as the wolf causes all sorts of consternation until her true identity becomes known. Does anyone have a literary allusion to suggest?

Another close call I had when translating recently involved some medical documents I was working on for an adoption agency. Mention kept being made of the fact that various children had been treated in infancy «по Luis». Now this «по» construction followed by a name is absolutely normal scientific usage indicating that something or someone is being treated according to a method developed by whoever is named. Furthermore, since I hang out with Hispanics, Luis is a common

name to me. I was just about to say that the babies had been treated according to Luis' method (although no search turned up any such doctor or biologist) when I decided that just to make sure I would call my Russian doctor friend. She immediately told me that Luis (in the Roman alphabet) is a perfectly standard way to refer to syphilis in Russian. She could not, however, tell me the origin of this mysterious reference. Can anyone?

**Perhaps it's not such a small world after all, or maybe, it's simply more constricted for some than others.** During my last ESL class of the semester I was chatting with one of my favorite students, Daisy. Although Daisy's very considerable intelligence may well be short of brilliant, her diligence and devotion to learning is worthy of any Harvard Ph.D. candidate. Sadly, the war in El Salvador put an end to her schooling after the fourth grade. She emigrated to this country about 7 or 8 years ago. At any rate, we were talking about human rights and I said something about the Russians under Communism. Daisy interrupted me in astonishment, “You mean the Russians were Communists.” I said that they were. “Communists like the Cubans?” she asked to make sure. You will forgive me if I do not derive a witty moral for what is, after all, an amusing anecdote. I am too busy cursing the people and circumstances that deprive a person who was born to be educated (trust me on this one) from knowledge of the world.

**Mea culpa еще раз.** In my review of our Russian game show published in the last issue of *SlavFile* I evidently misrendered both of the winning entries in the last line poetry context. Both authors, Boris Silversteyn and Paul Gallagher e-mailed to tell me so. In a message entitled AAARRGH! Paul writes, “For the record, my entry was : Which is “hers,” and which is “hearse.”

(Dah dit “dah,” dit dah dit “dah.”)

Four neat feet conforming to the four feet in each of the three lines above it.

I hereby disclaim all responsibility for and association with “the difference between ‘hers’ and ‘hearse.’”

Boris simply says: my “winning entry” is *Бездельники* [not *Бездельушки*] - ну, что ни [not не] говори.

I'm really sorry, fellows. This story does have a moral: if you are giving a presentation at ATA, be sure to line up a *SlavFile* reviewer beforehand, so s/he can take accurate notes, and the task will not be left to the aging and unreliable memory of the editor.

**Big and large.** I had not planned to write about *big and large* in this column (see discussion of *small and little* in the last issue). However, I received such interesting feedback from readers, that I cannot resist. Liv Bliss writes: “Unable to sleep last night, I was (briefly) mulling over big vs. large. I got as far as a large pizza and a mocha grande and Seinfeld's big salad and the big sandwich on Wings (some people call it wasting time watching sitcoms, but I know that I'm actually keeping a finger on the lively pulse of Americana), and decided I was hungry, and that was the end of that.”

*Continued on page 22*

Liv seems to have hit on a very good venue (or perhaps I should say menu) for considering whether *big* and *large* follow the same rules as *little* and *small*. This would mean that *big* suggests membership in a class of things of more than average size (import, etc.), while *large* refers to being more sizable than something else in the same category. A corollary of this, which seems intuitive though I can not quite say why logically, is that *big and little* generally have more emotive meaning than their counterparts. Thus, a *Big Mac* is in another category from an ordinary hamburger, while a *large* pizza or order of fries is just more of what you get in a small one. Indeed, it might be asserted that, in fast food at least, the opposite of *big* is *ordinary*, while the opposite of *large* is *small*. Indeed, it is easy to imagine a world where one could ask for either a large Big Mac, or, if on a diet, a small one. {I will not get into the complicating factor here involving the reluctance of merchandizers to call anything they are charging money for by any name that might suggest diminutive value.}

Our new contributor Val Shcherbakov sent me two counterexamples of *small/little* usage that perplexed him. 1) As a small comment I would like to add just a little. In one of my books I came upon “when our LITTLEST one was only three years old, I embarked upon a full-time career.” This is rather an unusual treatment of “a little one,” isn’t it? 2) “And even with the littlest miscalculation, 90 tons of steel will demolish any interior obstruction, causing expensive rework.” The first one is easy to deal with: the youngest child in the family is the baby—a special category if ever there was one, and thus not unnaturally described by *littlest*. The second example, indeed, seems strange to my ears. I can only conjecture that by selecting the word *littlest* rather than *smallest*, the author is attempting to emphasize that even the most piddling or insignificant mistake could be catastrophic, once more invoking the more emotive connotation of *little*.

From *Translating History* by Igor Korchilov (Scribner, 1997): “An interpreter at a major international conference got some notice when he heard the Soviet delegates solemnly say in Russian in his speech, “В огороде бузина, а в Киеве дядька” (literally: There’s an elderberry in the garden and my uncle lives in Kiev). This Russian saying means that something is incompatible with something else and is akin to the American idiom mixing apples and oranges. But the interpreter in question didn’t know the word *бузина* (elderberry) and hadn’t the foggiest notion what the idiom meant and, besides, the speaker was already on his next sentence. With no time to think or to look it up in the dictionary and with no one to ask, the interpreter gambled. The delegates whose earphones were tuned to the English interpretation channel heard, “Something is rotten in the kingdom of Denmark.” The interpreter was quite pleased with what he thought was a serendipitous translation until the delegate of Denmark grabbed the floor to lecture him on the virtues of democracy in his country, which, he said was “a paragon compared to the inhuman, totalitarian system in the country which the Soviet delegate represented... We do not deserve this kind of treatment,” concluded the Danish delegate. The Soviet

delegate sat dumbfounded. He had never mentioned Denmark. So he interrupted the Danish delegate to express his resentment at what he called “a provocation.” I (Lydia) value this anecdote both for itself, as an illustration of what might be called the “domino effect” of a mistranslation, and for the benevolent, nonjudgmental tone the author takes when describing the mistake of a less expert interpreter.

I have just returned from a Baltic cruise, which culminated in two days in St. Petersburg. Because of a last-minute and extremely frustrating mix-up, I did not receive an individual visa allowing me to explore the city on my own and so had to take the English language tours arranged by the ship. From this experience I learned that a large number of St. Petersburg’s Russian English-language guides (although, perhaps, only those working for the tour company contracted by the ship) end their spiels by offering to teach their groups how to say *I love you* in Russian with three English words *yellow blue bus*. The guides we had were knowledgeable and pleasant but, in comparison to the *Intourist* guides we had had when I was touring Russia with my father in the 1960’s, they seemed considerably less adept in English. Perhaps, this is just the result of a change in my standards, or the fact that during Petersburg’s centennial month, the bottom of the English language barrel was being scraped. However, I wonder if these days the cream of the English speakers do not find it more profitable to go to work for international business, while 40 years ago guiding was one of the better options.

At any rate, during these tours I amused myself by noting down instances where small improvements in English could lead to major improvements in comprehensibility. Examples included saying that the cupolas were covered in *gold leaf* rather than *shits of gold*, replacing *sleepy region* with *bedroom community*, saying that a tsar was *deposed* rather than *dismissed*, etc. I made my suggestions privately and, I hope, tactfully, and the guides seemed pleased rather than offended. This gave me an idea for how some of us could finance trips to Russia. Wouldn’t it benefit Russian tour companies to hire some of us Anglonates for a month or so to ride around in their vehicles and improve the English of their guides, not to mention eliminating all references to yellow blue buses? I myself would take this on for the cost of passage and living expenses. What a deal for some visionary tourist company!

If you like the SlavFile,  
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# THE STATUS OF POLISH COURT TRANSLATORS IN 2003

*Danuta Kierzkowska*

*Translated from Polish by Urszula Klingenberg*

In Poland, as in other countries, the subset of translators with the longest “documented” history are those working in literary translation. In past decades literary translators became members of the Polish Writers Association and many of them remain in this organization today. The history of Polish nonliterary translators is shorter and more dramatic because of their efforts to establish their own professional association during times of political hardship. They were greatly aided by the International Federation of Translators (FIT), which decided to hold the Federation’s 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Warsaw. Shortly before the opening of the congress, which took place in May 1981, the Polish authorities granted permission for the establishment of the Polish Translators Association (STP) in order to show the FIT guests how “democratic” the country they were coming to visit was. After 1990, in the newly liberated Poland, the Polish Society of Economic, Legal and Court Translators (PT TEPIS) came into being without a great deal of bureaucratic opposition. Thus, there are now two translator organizations in Poland: STP and PT TEPIS, both members of FIT.

## **The establishment and activities of TEPIS**

TEPIS was created on the initiative of sworn translators, who had been a part of the Polish Translators Association since 1981\*. There was a need for decisive action to benefit court translators and interpreters in particular, as well as other translators and interpreters working in legal, business, and other specialized settings. Additionally, there was an urgent need to train legal and specialized translators as a result of the unexpected changes that were taking place in the political system. After the fall of the Iron Curtain and the lifting of travel restrictions, there was an increase in the number of crimes committed by foreigners in Poland and, consequently, in the need for court translators. At the same time, preparations were being made for Poland to join the European Union (EU), and this necessitated the urgent translation of a great many EU legislative texts from English, French, and German into Polish. Thus the founders of TEPIS were highly motivated to take action, and such motivation remains a hallmark of this organization today.

As part of its statutory activity, TEPIS petitions the Ministry of Finance for tax relief for translators and the Ministry of Culture with regard to authorship laws; it also negotiates with the Ministry of Justice concerning details of the new law governing the institution of court translators. Additionally, the TEPIS Publishing Company was founded under the auspices of the society, and for the last 13 years has been involved in producing and publishing literature for translators, such as works on the theory and practice of translation, glossaries, parallel texts, and high quality translations of Polish legal texts.

\* A sworn translator is someone who has graduated from a university with a language major, and has been appointed for life by the head of a district court to perform the duties of court translator/interpreter.

TEPIS also organizes national conferences to provide translators with opportunities for continuing education. On the last weekend of September of this year we are planning to hold the 15<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Legal and Specialized Translation, which will take place, as usual, on International Translator’s Day at the National Library in Warsaw. In Warsaw, Szczecin, and Krakow monthly workshops are organized for different language divisions. At these sessions, terminology and related issues in specific types of legal and business texts are discussed. The demand for such workshops is extremely high, so we are constantly striving to increase our range of continuing education opportunities.

TEPIS is also active in the international arena. From the very beginning we have been aware of the urgent need to join international efforts to improve the professional and social status of court translators, share diverse experiences, and work toward creating uniform work conditions in this difficult profession.

In 1992, TEPIS, under the auspices of FIT organized the 1st International Forum on Legal Translation in Warsaw as the first event in the biennial cycle. A 2nd Forum took place in 1994, also in Warsaw, while the 3rd Forum was organized in 1996 collaboratively with Poland’s oldest university, the Jagiellonian University of Krakow. In 1998, at the instigation of the “Regional Centre Europe,” TEPIS began cooperating in organizing events of this type. The 4<sup>th</sup> Forum took place in the Austrian university town of Graz; while the next one—the 5<sup>th</sup>—in 2000 again took place in Poland, this time in association with Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznan. In 2002 the Forum traveled to Paris and the 2004 forum is to take place in Magdeburg (Germany).

In 1997, on the initiative of the European Commission, the “EU Grotius” was set up with the aim of promoting uniformity in the appointment and training of court translators and interpreters in EU countries. In 2003, the work of “Grotius” was taken over by the “Agis” program. The president of TEPIS represents Poland on the program’s steering committee.

## **Training for Translators**

Poland still has few specialized schools that, unlike regular language departments, focus on the practical training of professional translators. Although the latest trend is for every university language department to offer classes in translation, the Council of Polish Translators (comprised of representatives of the two professional translators organizations—STP and TEPIS—and the four schools of translation) maintains that only training received at the post graduate level is sufficient preparation for this profession. The curricula of language departments do not generally provide the systematic training necessary to prepare translators. The schools that actually do provide professional level translation and interpretation training are the post-graduate departments at four Polish universities: Krakow, Poznan, Jodz, and Warsaw.

*Continued on page 24*

## **POLISH COURT TRANSLATORS** *Continued from page 23*

At present the number of translators who have graduated from these programs is small, and it might be surmised that Polish translators are, for the most part, self-taught. A questionnaire sent out in 2002 showed that 76 % of translators are graduates of language studies programs, 18% hold degrees in other fields of study, and 6% are graduates of applied linguistics programs. Yet there are indications that the *status quo* might soon change.

This year, with the encouragement and collaboration of TEPIS, the Warsaw Institute of Applied Linguistics initiated a specialized training program in legal and court translation. This pioneering program is, to date, the only one of its kind in our country, but it is a safe assumption that, in light of proposed changes in legal regulations, postgraduate translation studies will soon gain popularity.

### **The Legal Status of Polish Court Translators**

A “sworn” translator is appointed for life by the head of a district court. By decree of the Justice Minister, to qualify as a sworn translator individuals must complete a course of university studies in a foreign language or a postgraduate translator training program. STP and TEPIS have always argued that those criteria are too low and that translators and interpreters should also be tested on their ability to work in legal and court settings before appointment.

Sworn translators work on court and business documents, and the latter makes up the bulk of their translation load. Jobs from courts and the police comprise only about 10% of the work, as compared with jobs from private parties and institutions. Despite this, the sworn translator has been required to charge the rates officially set by the Ministry of Justice for all assignments. These official rates are approximately 30% lower than the recommended minimum open market rates. For this reason, Poland’s translator organizations have been engaged in a continuous struggle with the Ministry of Justice to require the official rates only for translation jobs performed for courts and the police. A new draft law regarding public translators finally adopts this proposal, resulting in fair market rates for the 90% of non-court work translators receive.

Representatives of PT TEPIS and STP spearheaded the movement to change the rules governing the appointment of court translators starting in 1994. In 1999 a first draft of the new public translator law was produced. The rationale for replacing the old title of “sworn translator” with the new one, “public translator,” is the following: first, 90% of the jobs such translators perform are commissioned not by courts or police, but by the public at large. Second, the sworn translator has always been officially considered to be what is called “an individual of public trust.” Because of this, in accordance with Article 17 of the Constitution of the Polish Republic, translators officially can claim the right to establish a so-called “professional self-governing organization,” analogous to such organizations of lawyers, doctors, court officers, and many other professions. Despite a great deal of argument from translators and others, the latest draft law does not make provisions for a self-

governing body that is empowered to test new candidates, resolve debates over the quality of translations, or impose penalties. Sadly, despite pressure exerted by the Council of Polish Translators, such functions as testing and deciding on matters of professional ethics will not be performed by the translators themselves. The draft law stipulates that translator certification examinations will be administered by a State Examination Board appointed by the Ministry of Higher Education; resolution of complaints and conflicts pertaining to professional ethics will be the domain of the Professional Responsibility Committee, appointed by the same ministry. While both bodies are to consist exclusively of translators and interpreters, only two out of ten members will be named by Poland’s translator organizations. The other eight will be appointed by the Ministries of Justice and Higher Education.

Translators continue to have many serious objections to the draft law. However, all the power to influence the content of the law and present it to the Polish Sejm (Legislature) rests with the Legislative Legal Department operating at the behest of the Ministry of Justice. The legal status of translators allows them to participate only in an advisory capacity, and their voice is rarely heeded. The new draft law is to be presented to the Sejm for deliberation in the fall of 2003. If the law is passed in the form currently proposed, the status of the Polish public translator would be as follows: a public translator may be either a Polish citizen or a citizen of another EU country with a command of the Polish language. He or she should have the legal capacity to perform the functions of the public translator, have no criminal record, hold an MA degree from a university language department, and pass a specialized exam for public translators administered by the State Examination Board. University graduates majoring in subjects other than language studies would be required to complete a course of postgraduate translation studies. The exemption from postgraduate training for language majors has met with vehement objections by the translation community, but to no avail. Translators generally feel that the state exam should be the final test for all. After all there are now graduates of medical, technical, or business schools who function very well as translators, and very poor translators with language department diplomas. Once he or she has passed the state exam, a candidate has the right to work as a public translator, is issued a certificate by the Ministry of Higher Education, and his or her name and other data are entered in a registry of public translators. This registry will be made available online to the public.

A public translator will be able to charge market rates for his or her work, except for jobs commissioned by the court, the public prosecutor, the police, and other institutions of public administration, the rates for which will be specified by the Ministry of Justice. This is a major victory for translators since it means they will receive market rates for about 90% of their jobs.

The most controversial aspect of the new law pertains to the disciplinary measures that public translators could be subject to. First, they will not be permitted to turn down jobs from the courts, the public prosecutor, or the police without giving a



valid reason; second, a record of previously completed jobs, which they are legally required to maintain, must be made available for review by provincial governors; third, if a complaint about the quality of a translation is judged to be valid, a penalty will be imposed at the discretion of the Professional Responsibility Committee. This penalty could range from an admonition or reprimand, up to the suspension of the right to practice the profession for a period of from 3 months to 1 year, or complete revocation of that right with the possibility of applying for reinstatement after 2 years have elapsed and the translator examination is retaken.

Translators object not so much to the harsh penalties, which, if too severe, could detract from the dignity of the profession, but rather to the membership of the Committee. In the draft law, only two members of the Committee will be appointed from among organized translators; the other eight members are officially described as individuals “with substantial knowledge of foreign languages and translation techniques,” and this does not necessarily mean that they will be translators. As many as four out of the total of ten Committee members will be “academic teachers employed at language departments of universities,” two of whom will be appointed by the Ministry of Higher Education, and two by the Ministry of Justice.

Despite these objections, there is another victory for translator organizations here: all those who aspire to become public translators—whatever their undergraduate majors—will soon be required to take a highly specialized state examination to test their ability to translate and interpret court documents and legal texts.

Another success will be achieved if PT TEPIS, as a professional organization of translators, finds a worthy place for itself in the environment created by the new law. It is clear today that, if it is not permitted to be a self-governing body established in accordance with Article 17 of the Constitution, TEPIS could perform the function of a guild, i.e., set up standards of professional conduct for its members, and have a voice in how these standards are followed. With this in mind, the organization is working on an amended version of the Code of the Polish Court Translator, which was first passed by the TEPIS Supreme Council in 1991. The new code, which is a collection of principles of professional ethics, is to come out at the end of 2003 or beginning 2004.

Additionally, the new law requires translators to continue to improve their professional qualifications and it seems clear that such opportunities for continuing education can be provided only by a “guild” type organization. We can thus rest assured that the translator organization TEPIS will continue to have great tasks to perform.

**Danuta Kierzkowska** has a Ph.D. in linguistics and is a legal, and court translator of English. She was Deputy President of the Polish Translators Association, and is chairperson of the Sworn Translators Division STP, founder of the Polish Association of Business, Legal and Court Translators (TEPIS), President of PT TEPIS. Editor-in-chief of TEPIS Publishing House, an author and University lecturer. She can be reached at [tepis@tepis.org.pl](mailto:tepis@tepis.org.pl). The TEPIS websites are [www.tepis.org.pl](http://www.tepis.org.pl) and [www.polishlaw.org.pl](http://www.polishlaw.org.pl)

The original Polish version of this article may be found in the *SlavFile* area of the SLD website:  
[www.americantranslators.org/division/SLD/slavfile.html](http://www.americantranslators.org/division/SLD/slavfile.html)

## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

*Continued from page 5*

### SL-8 From the Ground Up:

#### Translating and Editing Complex Structures in Russian Texts

This panel presentation (by Michael K. Launer, Michele L. Pedro, and Nancy Gorman Luetzow) will look at syntactic differences between Russian and English and, using excerpts from actual documents, identify some fundamental principles for translation of complex Russian sentence structures.

### SL-9 Annual Susana Greiss Lecture: The Trials and Tribulations of Cataloguing the Obvious

Our Susana Greiss lecture this year has special significance for those of us Anglonates who used Genevra Gerhart's books to guide our first forays into the world of Russian language and culture, but everyone will surely enjoy this year's talk and getting to know our speaker. Our speaker's book *The Russian's World*, which I used in college to supplement my classroom training in Russian, provides a kind of “cheat sheet” for dealing with the language, the people and the culture for those of us fascinated by all things Russian, but baffled by the differentness of Soviet/Russian society and manners. Her more recent book, edited along with Eloise Boyle, is aptly entitled *Russian Context*. It provides exactly that: the context, or background knowledge, behind expressive Russian speech. It catalogues the basic knowledge—about literature, politics, film, opera, ballet, geography, science, history—that everyone who grew up in the Soviet Union (and to a lesser extent, the former Soviet Union) walks around with in their heads. It also provides examples of how this basic knowledge is used in daily speech, jokes, advertisements and newspaper headlines. Not to be missed!

### SL-10 A Crash Course in Inferential Statistics and Experimental Design for Russian Translators

Lydia Stone will help the uninitiated among us make sense of the difficult (but clearly defined) terminology used in inferential statistics and experimental design. Examples from Russian scientific texts will be used and Russian-English equivalencies will be clarified.

Please see the back page of the *SlavFile* for information on what promised to be a unique and marvelous SLD banquet in Phoenix. I hope to see many of you there.

Nora Favorov has served as SLD administrator since 2000. She is a freelance literary and commercial translator living in Chapel Hill, NC, and can be reached at 919-960-6871 or [norafavorov@bellsouth.net](mailto:norafavorov@bellsouth.net).

## RUSSIAN ELECTRONIC REFERENCE SOURCES

Galina Raff

Many Russian reference titles are now available in electronic form at relatively low cost if purchased in Russia. To run Russian software you do not need the newest hardware. I tested most of the programs reviewed here on a 5 year old Pentium 266 with 192 MB RAM. It was somewhat slow, but functional. However, having Windows XP is essential. Most Russian software can be installed and run smoothly only in a Windows XP environment, provided that advanced Cyrillic support has been enabled. (See the article on page 27 on Cyrillic support in Windows XP.)

It can be hard to find Russian reference software, even in Russia. On my last visit about a month ago, only the *Lingvo* dictionary and *KM Encyclopedias* could be found in the retail stores and CD kiosks. A good place to look for software is [www.ozon.ru](http://www.ozon.ru). You can call or order on-line and a courier will deliver it within Moscow or you can call your order in and in a day or two go to a warehouse to pick it up. I do not have any experience in mail-order purchases from Russia. There are several US-based Internet stores that occasionally sell Russian reference software, but not always the latest versions and the price is very high, e.g. *Lingvo* might be priced at about \$150 versus less than \$20 in Russia. It makes sense to purchase these dictionaries on your next trip to Russia or to ask a friend to get them for you.

Several software packages can be installed on the same computer and opened at the same time. Once I had five or six electronic dictionaries running together on my computer and they didn't interfere with each other.

In my opinion, the main advantages of using electronic dictionaries and encyclopedias are their compactness and the search capabilities they provide. You can store a multi-volume set in about one inch of space and perform a global text search in an instant.

### Monolingual software

**Большая энциклопедия Кирилла и Мефодия (КМ)** was first published in 1996. It is easy to install and a joy to use. The latest version, *КМ 2003*, is a replacement for the *КМ 2000* that I have had for several years. Defined by the publisher as «современная универсальная российская энциклопедия», the current edition contains 81,000 general articles, 26,000 biographical articles, *Толковый словарь Ожегова и Шведовой*, *Словарь иностранных слов*, *Краткий словарь иностранных слов в оригинальном написании*, *Сборник афоризмов*, *Пословицы русского народа В. И. Даля* и *Тексты законов РФ* (over 100). A variety of statistical and general cultural and historical information is also included, some of it geared toward Russian high-school students. Global text search is available for all included dictionaries. The installation process, program interface and user manual are in Russian only. The software is relatively easy to find in Moscow, and for a 2-CD jewel box I paid under \$20. The program comes packaged in two ways: in a jewel box and in a big cardboard box. The 10-disk boxed edition includes multimedia presentations and music- and video-clips.

In my opinion, the big box version, which is more expensive, fails to offer any additional benefit as a reference source. I have only one minor negative comment: during installation the home page of your browser is changed to [www.km.ru](http://www.km.ru), and you thus have to change it back to whatever it was before.

**Большая советская энциклопедия** was recently published in CD-ROM format. The three-disk edition contains the full text of a 30 volume (almost 100,000 articles) encyclopedia published in 1970-77. It is an impressive undertaking with illustrations, maps and global text search capabilities. The program interface is attractive and easy to use. The software is copy-protected, has a long registration number and must be rebooted twice to be used for the first time. The encyclopedia can be installed to run from the disks or, and this is recommended if your hard drive has sufficient free space, the full content can be installed on a hard drive. Even when the full content is installed on a hard drive, to use this software you must have the first CD in the CD-ROM drive as a copy protection measure. The installation process, program interface and a tiny user manual are in Russian. I paid about \$20 for a jewel-box version that was ordered from [www.ozon.ru](http://www.ozon.ru) and delivered in Moscow.

**Толковый словарь под редакцией Ушакова.** The Ushakov Dictionary is based on the 4-volume *Толковый словарь русского языка* published in 1935-40. It contains 88,700 entries.

**Толковый словарь живого великорусского языка (В.И. Даль).** The Dal' dictionary also includes *Пословицы и поговорки русского народа* and *О поверьях, суеверьях и предрассудках русского народа* by the same author.

These two dictionaries are published by IDDK ([www.iddk.ru](http://www.iddk.ru)) and I bought them from a software store in St. Petersburg for about \$10 each. From a technical point of view, both software packages are nearly identical. The installation routine and program interface are in Russian. There is no user manual but the program interface is simple and user-friendly. There are no installation options offered and, to my amusement, no shortcuts are installed on the desktop, so just to figure out how to start the program can be a challenge. The disk must be in the CD-ROM drive for the program to be operational.

### Bilingual Electronic Dictionaries

**Lingvo 8.0** ([www.lingvo.ru](http://www.lingvo.ru)) is a well-known electronic dictionary. The current English-Russian version does not offer any substantial improvement over version 7.0; both include general, economic, computer, scientific, polytechnic, oil and gas, medical and legal dictionaries that can be searched in both directions. During installation a user can select either English or Russian for the interface. The user manual is in Russian. I have heard about problems during installations, but they were resolved, and, in my opinion, the installation, while not easy, is not very difficult. The software is attractively packaged and is available from many retail outlets in Moscow and St. Petersburg for less than \$20.

*Continued on page 27*

## CYRILLIC SUPPORT IN WINDOWS XP

Galina Raff

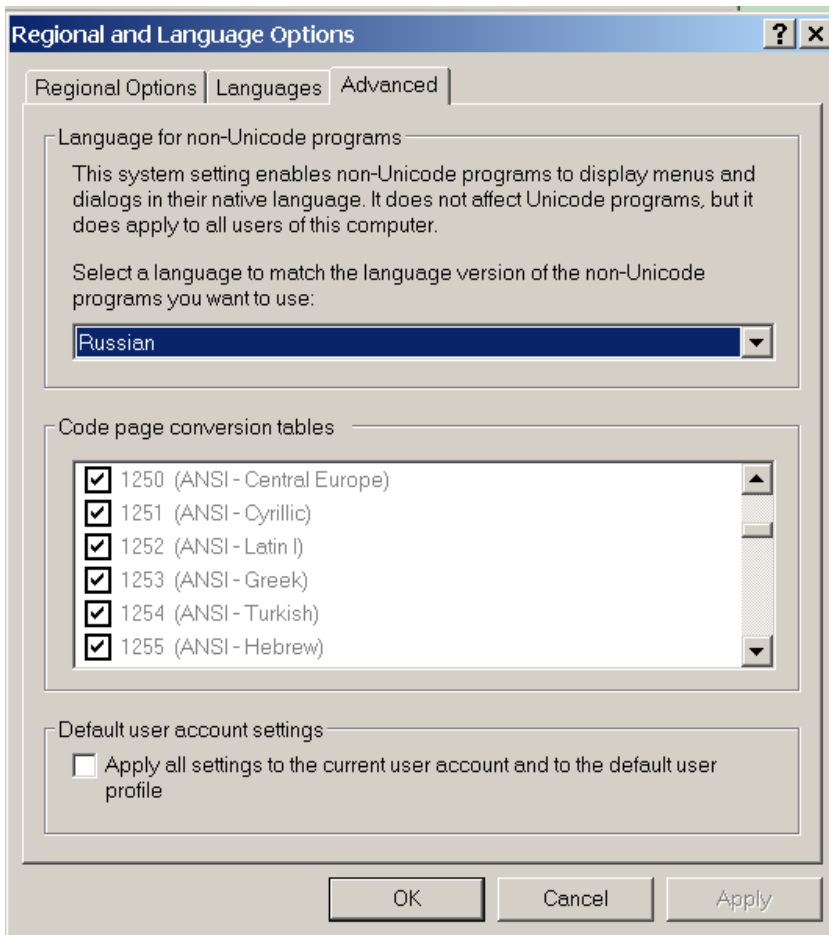
If you purchased your computer a year or two ago, you are likely to have Windows XP already. If you do not plan to upgrade your hardware soon, you might want to consider upgrading your operating system to Windows XP to take advantage of many enhancements including advanced support for Cyrillic.

To install advanced Cyrillic support, use the following steps:

1. Open **Control Panel**
2. Open **Regional and Language Options**
3. Click the **Advanced** tab
4. Under **Language for non-Unicode Programs**, click **Russian** (see illustration)

This procedure installs necessary fonts and settings that allow the computer to display menus and dialog boxes in Russian. Russian file names and folder names can be displayed and software created for the Russian localized versions of Windows can be installed and used. I noticed a major improvement in the readability of Russian web sites. Cyrillic characters are properly displayed in all browsers' (I use Internet Explorer) windows, dialog boxes and drop-down menus. The problem that is still unsolved is an occasional e-mail message that is garbled beyond repair.

Help and Support Center of Windows XP features the **Multilingual Document Consultant**, which contains solutions to the problems you might encounter while viewing or creating documents containing multiple languages. **On-Screen Keyboard** (Start > Programs > Accessories > Accessibility), included with Windows XP, allows you to type a word or two in various languages just by clicking on the letters with a mouse.



### ELECTRONIC REFERENCE SOURCES *Continued from page 26*

**Multilex** ([www.multilex.ru](http://www.multilex.ru)) dictionaries have been reviewed in the *SlavFile* several times. The latest advertised version *Multilex 4.0 English for Professionals* contains 16 general and specialized dictionaries and has a list price of \$80. On my last trip to Russia I wasn't able to obtain *Multilex 4.0*. The previous versions had multi-level copy protection and were extremely difficult to install, so I recommend *Multilex* only to computer-savvy users.

The dictionary **Context** was originally developed by Informatic in Moscow. It is adapted for the western market, and published and distributed out of California by the SmartLink Corp. ([www.smartlinkcorp.com](http://www.smartlinkcorp.com), 1-800-256-4814).

While the retail price \$495 for the *Entire Context English-Russian* might seem high, it is much less than a ticket to Moscow and SmartLink offers discounts for translators and good technical support. *Context* has an attractive interface and contains 37 specialized dictionaries. It can translate single words, common phrases and idiomatic expressions and performs quick search in all available dictionaries simultaneously. I have been using it for many years and can't recall any technical problems. The installation is very easy. *Context* has a useful feature not available in other electronic dictionaries: it offers suggestions when a user misspells a word.

Galina Raff is an ATA-accredited (E>R) translator and interpreter. She lives in Charlotte, NC and can be reached at [galina\\_raff@att.net](mailto:galina_raff@att.net)

# SlavFile

Newsletter of the Slavic Languages Division  
of the American Translators Association  
225 Reinke's Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22314

## SLD Annual Banquet

8:15 PM

November 7, 2003



Cost of the evening will be \$35, including transportation. To reserve your spot send a check for \$35 (made out to Nora): Nora S. Favorov, 100 Village Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Hope to see you there!

This year we are doing something a little different. A local Russian Club has graciously offered to host our group and provide an evening of Slavic cuisine and music. We will have a private room for our dinner and for conversation throughout the evening, while in another room we will have music, dancing and an opportunity to mingle with each other and local club members. The late start is due to ATA's "National Forum: Language and Healthcare in Crisis," which ends at 7:30. Transportation will be provided to the banquet site (7:45 departure from the hotel lobby).

For more information on the group hosting our evening, go to:

<http://gecko.gc.maricopa.edu/clubs/russian/index.htm>