

An Interview with SLD's 2014 Greiss Lecturer, Sophia Lubensky,

Author of *Russian-English Dictionary of Idioms*

(Random House, 1995; Revised Edition, Yale University Press, 2013)

Interview conducted by Nora Seligman Favorov

The main focus of this interview will be your idioms dictionary, but I think our readers would like to know something about your background. Tell us a little about your education and your early career.

My educational background is typical for a lexicographer: I have degrees in English and linguistics, and in Classics. Quirks of fate brought me for one semester to the Department of Russian Philology where I was lucky to take a course in Old Church Slavonic. Together, these areas of expertise formed a solid foundation for lexicographic work.

I have to say, though, that I was not born with a burning desire to become a lexicographer, and even if I had been, there were no programs offering a degree in lexicography. Actually, I became a humanist by pure chance. In high school, I loved math, especially algebra, and my high school teacher convinced me that I had abilities in that area. I fully intended to pursue a career in math, but in order for a Jew to be accepted to the Math & Physics Department at Kharkov University at that time, one had to have either an outstanding talent or a powerful friend in court. I had neither, so I became a student in the Classics Program of the Philology Department. It took very little time for me to realize that this was where I belonged. But my happiness was short-lived. Nikita Khrushchev, the supreme ruler of the time, loved to indulge in whims.

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ATA 55TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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Articles of interest to Slavic translators and interpreters are invited.

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Just as he satisfied the whim of giving Crimea to Ukraine as a gift, he and his “enlightened” advisers had a sudden urge to close down all Classics departments in the USSR except for those in Moscow and Leningrad Universities. Obviously, the latter decision had fewer political repercussions than the former, but at the time, it was a tragedy for those of us who by then had fallen in love with classical education. I was one of them, and after moving heaven and earth, I got transferred to Leningrad University. My mentors there were world-renowned scholars, and I learned from them, among many other things, what objective, in-depth, painstaking analysis entails.

All in all, my knowledge of Latin and Greek, along with my now very rusty Old Church Slavonic, proved invaluable for the work on the dictionary, as did degrees in English and linguistics. My diverse experience as a translator and interpreter was likewise beneficial. True, all of this was extremely important, yet I would have never been able to produce a dictionary of that scope had I not emigrated to the United States.

What inspired you to produce the first edition? Did you have any idea what an enormous undertaking it would be?

As a river begins from a small stream, this dictionary traces its beginnings to a small card file in a shoe box. When I came to the US in 1976, my command of English idioms lagged behind my knowledge of Russian. I felt that there was an imbalance between Russian and English idioms coexisting in my mind. Looking for appropriate equivalents, I would turn to dictionaries only to experience continual disappointment: for the most part, dictionaries did not oblige — they provided the bare minimum, just one equivalent, two at best. More often than not, I couldn’t stick those equivalents into contexts where I needed them. So I started writing down English idioms along with their specific contexts on 3x5 cards. I picked idioms from books, from newspapers and magazines, from what I heard on TV or on the street. Ideally, I wanted equivalents for every Russian idiom in my lexicon — ready for use in every context imaginable when needed.

At that early time, I did not have anything more serious in mind than using my file to make my English more idiomatic. However, very soon I needed more shoe boxes. And more. And more. Little by little, the idea of compiling a dictionary began to take shape. Friends and colleagues who were aware of the shoe boxes’ existence (and who occasionally asked for help with this or that idiom) supported the idea. At that point, I began seriously thinking about the underlying principles for a potential bilingual dictionary. As a user myself, I knew very well what kind of information I repeatedly failed to find in dictionaries, and I wanted to compile a dictionary that would offer users all sorts of information that might be needed. In addition to traditionally represented characteristics, such as stylistic labels, I considered every possible parameter that translators might find handy: definitions, usage notes, multiple equivalents in different contexts, and many more.

Market research showed that there were no dictionaries that could satisfy the needs of an inquisitive and demanding user.

From the very start I realized that I could not do it alone. It was an enormous undertaking, and I needed a lot of highly qualified help to check many things, especially every potential equivalent in different contexts. In other words, I needed the very best graduate students my department had to offer. I put together sample entries, conducted more extensive market research, and began applying for grants. To make a long story short, I received a generous grant from the Department of Defense. That grant included a number of assistantships, and for a few years I was able to fund several graduate students who worked with me on the dictionary. It was a pleasure and privilege to work with them, and I'd like to mention two of them: Marjorie McShane, now a professor at RPI, who worked with me for several years as developmental editor, and Judith Hehir, who worked with me on the original edition and was my editor for the revised edition.

It took me thirteen years to produce the dictionary. It was a road less travelled, and there were questions and doubts, ups and downs, joys and frustrations. And yet I fully agree with Erin McKean, the editor of *Verbatim: The Language Quarterly* and formerly the editor in chief of US Dictionaries for Oxford University Press, who said: "However accidental the beginning of their careers as lexicographers, once well dug in, most never want to do anything else."

Can you say something about the role your teaching of language and translation played in shaping or contributing to the dictionary?

When working on a dictionary, everything language-related comes in handy. Teaching advanced language courses helped me better understand what my advanced students wanted and needed from a dictionary, of course. But it was teaching translation courses that put into focus many of the parameters I considered for the dictionary. Let me give you an example or two. My students — the best of them, at any rate — used not only bilingual, but also monolingual dictionaries, and their experience with the latter influenced my decision to include definitions. Their work with bilingual dictionaries brought to my attention those characteristics that are an absolute must for a dictionary.

A certain amount of class time in my translation courses was devoted to review and analysis of the students' translation assignments. Typically, a few of the best translations were read aloud in class. In order

to select the best translations, I would collect the assignments and correct them at home, comparing one translation against another to determine which should be read in class. This approach helped me see very clearly that syntactically challenging sentences, i.e., sentences that needed to be completely taken apart and reassembled in the target language in order to be translated idiomatically, were particularly problematic for students. Ultimately, my experience with student translations helped me decide against the traditional presentation of verbal equivalents as infinitives. Instead, I used variables and presented verbal idioms with several complements as sentences, thus offering considerably more options than traditional bilingual dictionaries. (See page 28 for a sample definition.)

What was the impetus for the revised edition?

Actually, I cannot claim that the impetus was mine. After the original edition came out in 1995, the dictionary was published twice in Russia. I was perfectly happy with all three editions. In 2007, I retired to New York City and was quietly working on an advanced Russian textbook while enjoying the cultural riches New York has to offer. But I couldn't part with idioms — to paraphrase a set phrase, I loved them and couldn't leave them.

I think infatuation with idioms has something in common with love for the bottle: just as a chronic alcoholic can't resist a drink, I couldn't resist taking notes when I saw or heard an English idiom that should have been included in the original edition, but was overlooked. Or a Russian idiom I had failed to include. Or a good context for a particular entry. Or a better translation of a citation. Or... I did not even dream of a revised edition — I did it simply because I couldn't help doing it. When I received an offer to prepare a revised edition, I realized that I had already collected part of the material I needed for it. Just as the original edition grew out of a shoe box, the 150 new entries that I initially intended to add mushroomed into 550.

One day my telephone rang. The caller introduced himself as Vadim Staklo, an editor from Yale University Press. He was well familiar with my dictionary. He asked me, "Don't you think your dictionary should be published again — a revised edition?" True, the dictionary had been out of print since 2004, yet being acutely aware of how hard it was to find a good publisher, I considered it unrealistic even to think of another edition, whether original or revised. This call came as a total — and most pleasant — surprise, and I promised to call back after my work on the textbook was completed. I did, and the rest is history.

HOW TO SUCCEED AT YOUR FIRST ATA CONFERENCE!

Jennifer Guernsey, Newcomer Coordinator, SLD Leadership Council

If you are an SLD member planning to attend the upcoming conference for the first time, we have some suggestions and some special newcomer events to offer you.

Before the conference:

- Register for the conference, obviously, but also for any pre-conference sessions that are of interest.
- Download the Conference app. The app that ATA offers is easy to use and very handy for managing your schedule and for identifying fellow translators who will be in attendance. If you're not an app person, then just use the printed program.
- Read through the preliminary program (available via the ATA website) and identify sessions of interest. While there will be some changes by the time of the conference, you will find it helpful to have an idea of what's out there.
- Register for Newbies and Buddies at www.atanet.org/events/newbies.php. This program pairs first-timers with experienced conference-goers to make things a bit less overwhelming.
- Sign up for the **SLD banquet** (see information on page 5). It's a fun time and will give you the opportunity to get to know some more of your fellow SLD members.
- Print up resumes and especially business cards to bring along.
- If you translate or write poetry or literary prose, prepare and bring something to read at the **Literary Division's After Hours Café** on Friday (9:00 pm to 11:00 pm). Just show up at this event and put your name on the reader sign-up sheet — no need to commit in advance.

OUR APOLOGIES:

WE LEFT ONE CAT OUT OF THE BAG

SEE THE SLD BLOG FOR SLAVIC CAT TOOLS REVIEW

We try to cover all of the SLD-relevant fall conference presentations in *SlavFile* during the next year. But occasionally one manages to escape. It happened this year with Jen Guernsey's excellent review of Konstantin Lakshin's fine presentation, "A CAT Breed for the Slavic Soul." Rather than waiting until our winter issue, we have enlisted the help of SLD blogmaster Fred Grasso and it has been posted at <http://atasld.org/blog-entry/better-cat-breed-slavic-soul>. We highly recommend it. Enjoy!

At the conference:

- Attend the **Newbies and Buddies** intro session on Wednesday, 5:15-6:00 (right before the Welcome Reception session). If you have not already registered, you can still be matched with a buddy there.
- Attend the Welcome Reception from 6:00-7:00 on Wednesday. Particularly if you are not fond of large crowds of strangers, from 5:40-6:15, look for the **SLD sign** just outside the doors, and come say hello. We'll see to it that you have some fellow Slavists to talk to.
- Visit the **SLD table at the Division Open House** from 7:00-8:00 on Wednesday. You don't have to stick with SLD if there are other divisions you would like to check out as well. Again, it's just another way to start meeting people.
- Attend the session on the ATA Mentoring Program on Thursday 11:00-12:00.
- Attend the **SLD Newcomers' Lunch** at Emilio's Tapas, 215 E. Ohio Street, on Thursday; meet in the lobby immediately after the 11:00 session ends.
- Network, network, network. Ask people questions: how they got started, what CAT tools they use, what fields they work in. (The most valuable thing I personally have gained from attending conferences is a network of colleagues, who are a source of information, advice, referrals, and, best of all, friendship.)
- If you are seeking clients, attend the Resume Exchange from 6:00-7:00 on Friday.
- Attend the ATA Opening Session, the Presentation of Candidates, and Election, and the Annual Meeting of All Members. Even if you aren't a voting member, these events will give you an idea of what the ATA is all about.
- Attend educational sessions. You should be able to find something of interest in nearly every time slot. The breaks between sessions provide further networking opportunities with your fellow session attendees.
- Offer to write a review of a Slavic session, or write an article providing the newcomer's perspective. This is a great way to get involved on a small scale and to get your name out there in the *SlavFile*.
- Attend the **SLD Division Meeting**. This is a good way to learn more about the SLD, see what opportunities there are to get involved, and network some more. At the end of the meeting, time permitting, we give newcomers the opportunity to introduce themselves.



SLD 2014 Banquet

Thursday, November 6, 7:00 PM at
SAYAT NOVA (www.sayatnovachicago.com)

157 East Ohio Street, Chicago, IL 60611

312-644-9159

“Chicago’s original Armenian restaurant”

M E N U

- ***Appetizers served family style:***

- **Hummus** — A special chick pea dip, a delicate blend of tahini, fresh lemon juice and garlic, garnished with a splash of olive oil and parsley,
- **Jajic** — Creamy garlic yogurt mixed with crisp cucumbers and mint.

- ***Your choice of either:***

- **Red Lentil Soup** — A hearty mixture of red lentils, onions, carrots and celery served piping hot); or
- **House Green Salad**

- ***Choice of entrée (Please note: Most of the selections can be made gluten free; ask your server):***

- **Lulla Kebab** — Combination of lean ground beef and lamb mixed with parsley, onions and aromatic spices, then charbroiled.
- **Chicken Kebab** — Marinated boneless skinless chicken breast charbroiled until tender.
- **Kebab Combo** — A tasty combination of charbroiled beef, chicken and lulla kebabs.
- **Vegetarian Combo** — A delicious combination of spinach boereg, taboule, rice, hot plaki and Armenian spinach.
- **Vegetarian Cous Cous** — Assorted fresh vegetables and steamed semolina gently cooked in a light tomato sauce.
- **Lamb Cous Cous** — Tender lamb, fresh vegetables and steamed semolina, cooked in a light tomato broth.

- Tea, coffee or a soft drink included in the dinner price.

Price: \$35 per person, including tax and gratuity

Guests make the main course menu selection at the event; alcoholic beverages are available for purchase. Vegetarian options are included in the menu selections. Please coordinate any other special dietary requirements with Fred Grasso (frdgrasso@satx.rr.com) by 10/23/2014.

Transportation: A 10 minute walk (0.4 mi.) from the conference hotel to the restaurant.

Payment of \$35.00 should be made by PayPal (***preferred***) or check received ***on or before Thursday, 10/23/2013.***

- ***Pay via PayPal:*** Go to the PayPal website (www.paypal.com) and select the “***Send money to a friend***” tab. Enter the amount (\$35.00). In Step 2, use the following e-mail address:
frdgrasso@yahoo.com.
- ***Pay by check:*** Mail a check made out to ***Fred Grasso*** addressed as follows:

***Fred Grasso
14414 Indian Woods
San Antonio, TX 78249-2054***

Diary of an Administrator

Lucy Gunderson, SLD Administrator



My Low-Tech Summer

Regular readers of this column will know that I am lucky enough to be able to spend summers at my family's house in the Adirondacks. This area of the world has it all — mountains, lakes, rivers, wildlife, cool nights, and no clouds but the ones in the sky. Really the only thing missing is — brace yourselves — Wi-Fi. Yes, that's right, I survived six weeks without Wi-Fi. Well, not totally without Wi-Fi, but without Wi-Fi in or anywhere near the house. And I actually managed to earn money at the same time.

I wasn't planning on doing much work while I was away, but I received a request from my absolute favorite client to translate a 30-page human rights report. There was no way I could turn this job down, even though I was very concerned about how I would handle that volume of work away from my desk.

Here's how I did it. I received the file on a Sunday evening, when the local library was closed. I downloaded the file to my phone and then transferred it to my laptop via a USB connection. Voilà! I was able to start work right away. With reliable Katzner, trusty Lubensky, and stalwart Ozhegov by my side, along with my grandmother's complete OED standing ready on a nearby bookshelf, I felt like I could take on anything. As I translated, I highlighted terms I wanted to look up later using the library's network. I found that I did most of my work at home and only had to lug my laptop into town every couple of days for some extra research.

Even though this process was cumbersome and stressful, I actually found it refreshing not to feel like I had to look up every single little thing online, and I think the change in my thought process engendered by this supposed hardship was beneficial to my work. When I'm in a hurry at home, I find myself frantically reading through the list of definitions spewed out by Multitran in desperate search of the right word instead of calmly using my well-trained brain to come up with the best word choice. I also found that I had to spend less time than usual revising my work because the slower translation process meant that my writing flowed better.

I know it's hard to slow down in an environment where anyone can contact you at anytime from anywhere in the world, but it's important to remember that the Internet hasn't actually been around for that long in comparison to our profession and that we would do well to give ourselves a break from it once in a while.

Low-Tech PR

Anyone on ATA's Business Practices list probably followed this summer's discussion about PR with interest. This discussion was sparked by an [article](#) featuring several ATA members.

Obviously this is the kind of coverage we need to see much, much more of, but it's also important to remember that PR can occur at any level.

I had several opportunities to educate friends and acquaintances this summer about my work and what it involves. One day, when I was at the above-mentioned library, a friend of mine started reading my laptop screen over my shoulder. I had the Russian document and the English document open at the same time. She watched me for a few minutes and then said, "Oh, so you just type in the Russian and then the English comes out." While I couldn't really understand how she had reached this conclusion, I took this as an opportunity to show her how I work rather than to snort at her ignorance or berate her for peeking at my screen. She was very interested to hear me describe the process of translating a document, and I went away from the conversation feeling like there was one more person in the world who understands what we do.

Another time, a lawyer friend asked me about the kinds of documents I translate. She was fascinated to hear about the range of documents we work on and to learn about all the diverse purposes of translation. She ended the conversation by saying that she had never realized how complex translation is.

So take any opportunity you can to give people a better appreciation of translation and the industry, even if it's just a casual conversation in a parking lot. You never know, the person you're talking to could become your next big client.

Conference

See page 7 for the list of SLD and SLD-related sessions, page 4 for information on newcomer activities including a lunch, and page 5 for information about the banquet. Also, please remember that our annual meeting will be held at 4:45 pm on Thursday, November 6th. I encourage everyone to attend and get involved in our wonderful division.

SlavFile Recommends

A Preview of 2014 ATA Conference Events and Talks of Interest

(Event and presentation descriptions taken from the ATA website. Check that site or the Conference app for schedule updates.)

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Division Open House

Meet and mingle with your fellow Division members. This event allows members of all Divisions to catch up with old friends and introduce themselves to newcomers. Attendees who are not members of a Division can also take this opportunity to get to know the different Divisions and learn more about them.

Wednesday, 7:00pm–8:00pm.

Open to registered attendees.

THURSDAY

SLD Newcomers' Lunch at Emilio's Tapas, 215 E. Ohio Street, on Thursday; meet in the lobby immediately after the 11:00 session ends.

SL-1

Recent Trends in Contemporary Written Russian

Elizabeth Macheret

Thursday, 2:00pm–3:00pm; All Levels
Presented in: English and Russian

The Russian language is undergoing considerable change due to social, economic, and technological developments. The speaker will review major trends in the language “usage and abuse” by contemporary educated Russians. Grammar, punctuation, and syntax errors in Russian documents, mass media publications, advertisements, and translation works will be analyzed. Recommendations will be offered with regard to rules and standards of Russian relevant for translators. Analysis and examples from various texts, ranging from scientific publications to billboards to Internet chat, will be used as a starting point for the discussion on effective translation strategies.

SL-2

Cut It Out: Improving Readability in Russian>English Technical Translations

Jennifer Guernsey and John Riedl

Thursday, 3:30pm–4:30pm; All Levels
Presented in: English

As translators, our first duty is to be faithful to the source text. But slavish faithfulness, particularly when translating technical and medical documents from

Russian into English, can result in a text that is awkward and verbose. It seems counterintuitive, but often the best way to improve the text is to omit words. The speakers will describe various types of necessary omissions, with examples from their own work, and then take participants through relevant practice exercises. Knowledge of Russian is not required, as literal English translations of the passages will be provided.

Slavic Languages Division Meeting

Thursday, 4:45pm–5:45pm in Erie

THURSDAY EVENING

SLAVIC LANGUAGES DIVISION BANQUET

See page 5 for details.

FRIDAY

L-2

Odd Couple Collaboration in Poetic Translation

Lydia Stone

Friday, 10:00am–11:00am; All Levels
Presented in: English w/Russian examples

The speaker will describe the process of translating a Russian poem in collaboration with a poet whose approach to poetry is completely different from her own. The poet favors the emotional and dramatic, while the translator prefers the understated and ironic. The poet thinks in images, the translator needs a rational story line. Nevertheless, they worked together amicably and produced a poetic translation with which they were both delighted. A literal English translation of the original, the final poetic one, and partial English versions will be discussed, as will quotations from the Internet correspondence through which the author and translator collaborated.

SL-3

This, That, and the Other: Translating Articles and Demonstratives between English and Slavic Languages

Larisa Zlatic, Laurence Bogoslaw, Emilia Balke, Olga Shostachuk, and Christine Pawlowski

Friday, 11:30am–12:30pm; All Levels
Presented in: English

English distinguishes between definite and indefinite articles (“a” versus “the”), and between proximal and distal demonstratives (“this” versus “that”).

Although Slavic languages have demonstratives, most of them do not have articles. This session will explore strategies for how to translate articles into languages that do not have them, and how to decide what types of articles and demonstratives to use when translating into English. This session is designed as a panel discussion, allowing experts from several Slavic languages to provide a concise but substantive 10-minute talk based on research and/or experience. Questions will be fielded at the end of the session.

SL-4

Susana Greiss Lecture: The Translator and the Dictionary

Sophia Lubensky

Friday, 2:30pm—3:30pm; Advanced
Presented in: English and Russian

In the age of Google, the National Russian Corpus, and the online availability of everything, the relationship between translator and dictionary has changed. Topics will include: when translators should turn to dictionaries; what kind of information they can hope, ideally, to find in them; where and why dictionaries often fall short of translators' expectations; why dictionaries have the capacity to constrict translators' creativity; and how to use dictionaries to one's best advantage. The speaker will also address the challenges faced by lexicographers and share her own frequently painful, often rewarding, yet always memorable experiences in dictionary-making.

SL-5

Son of Sound Effects

Lydia Stone and Svetlana Beloshapkina

Friday, 4:00pm-5:00pm; All Levels
Presented in: English and Russian

At the 2013 ATA Annual Conference, the speaker reported on a project addressing Russian and English "sound verbs" (e.g., shriek, crackle). She analyzed similarities and differences between the two sets of verbs and their unique features, developed desiderata for a bilingual dictionary of such verbs, and produced sample pages. With the participation of two native Russian speakers, this session will focus on what problems and discoveries were encountered while working on this dictionary. The results of "sound verb" surveys from Russian and English native speakers will be compared.

FRIDAY EVENING

Literary Division After Hours Café

Drink in poetry and prose!

ATA's Literary Division hosts this coffeehouse "open mic" reading. Read your original or translated excerpt, listen to readings from your multitalented peers, or both. If reading, don't forget to bring your works with you.

Friday, 9:00pm—11:00pm;
Open to registered attendees

SATURDAY

SL-6

Interpreting for International Visitors: Hot Pursuit of Happiness

Irina Jesionowski

Saturday, 8:30am—9:30am; All Levels
Presented in: English and Russian

Every year dozens of interpreters facilitate communication between hundreds of Russian-speaking visitors and their American counterparts, grappling with multiple popular quotes, one-liners, and aphorisms in both languages while working in the simultaneous mode. To render these expressions skillfully and daintily, interpreters need to enhance their professional "playbooks" (i.e., collections of ready-to-use equivalents that can be easily pulled from their memory). During this session, participants will practice interpreting frequently cited Russian and English iconic texts, humorous expressions, slogans, and catch phrases, thereby expanding their linguistic toolbox.

SL-7

The Visibility Dilemma: Translating Women's Job Titles

Laurence Bogoslaw

Saturday, 10:00am—11:00am; All Levels
Presented in: English

Style guides for English encourage writers to use gender-inclusive terms for professions (e.g., "police officer" versus "policeman" or "policewoman"). However, most European languages still differentiate job titles by gender (e.g., the Russian "полицейский/полицейская"). This fact presents special problems for translators. When translating into English, how do we handle a gender-marked term? When translating out of English, how do we "find" a gender-neutral term? This session will offer examples of how our decisions affect the visibility of women. Such choices hinge not just on stylistic rules of a language, but on power relations, societal roles, stereotypes, and values that operate within a culture.

L-4

What's in a Name? On Translating (or Not) Titles, Character Names, Place Names, and Cultural Referents in Literary Texts

Mercedes Guhl, Paula Gordon, Faiza Sultan, and Abe Haak

Saturday, 10:00am—11:00am; All Levels
Presented in: English

The speakers will discuss the challenges posed by the translation of names in literary texts. Do translators stick to the original names or substitute them with domesticated or newly concocted versions? What do they leave out or add to the text in doing so? The speakers will discuss how the options for translating names will vary depending on language combination and direction, the attitude of a certain culture to another, or book industry practices.

SL-8

Staying Trendy in Slavic: Translating Polish Constructions Expressing Changing Trends, Ratios, and Numerical Figures

Daniel Sax

Saturday, 11:30am—12:30pm; Advanced
Presented in: English

This session will examine some ways in which processes of change (trends) and numerical evaluations (ratios and figures) are conceptualized in Slavic. The speaker will focus on problematic trend- and ratio-related words in Polish, such as “coraz” (increasingly), “dynamika” (dynamics), “udzial” (share), and “struktura” (structure), surveying potential successful/unsuccessful routes of translation into English. Examples will predominately be drawn from Polish, but some analogous Slavic examples will also be discussed (e.g., the Russian “dinamika”). Participants will come away with a broader set of techniques at their fingertips for fielding such constructions in business- and science-related contexts.

LAW-8

Has Everything That Can Be Invented Been Invented?

Olga Shostachuk

Saturday, 2:30pm—3:30pm; All Levels
Presented in: English

In a global market driven by science and technology, inventions that cover a wide gamut of legal and technical matters require accurate patent translation. This session will provide an overview of the form and structure of a patent and dissect the standard clauses and terminology. The speaker will also provide tips

on how to keep patent clauses readable and clear and how to use definitions, bibliographic information, and the structure of a patent effectively for terminology research. Examples from Russian and U.S. patent terminology will be used.

I-9

Interpreting Profanity Over the Phone

Dariia Leshchuk Moss

Saturday, 4:00pm—5:00pm; Beginner
Presented in: English

The most interesting and difficult part of interpreting a telephonic conversation is that the interpreter is remote. The only way of passing information is through the professional's voice and intonation. This works well until the situation becomes a conflict over the phone involving aggressive conduct and profanity. The advantages and disadvantages of telephone conversations and detailed implementations of taboo vocabulary will be explored during this session. Russian, due to its culture's rich profanity, will be the main language discussed in this session, but examples in French, Spanish, and some other languages will be included.

TIP-12

Winning the Gold: Lessons and Best Practices from the Olympic Games

Sabina Metcalf

Saturday, 4:00pm—5:00pm; Advanced
Presented in: English

Language support and services have always played a vital role in the success of international events. This year's Olympic Games in Russia adopted some cutting-edge language technologies. In this session, a Russian>English translator and interpreter will evaluate the potential application of these technologies to future global events. The session will offer a unique perspective on the media coverage of the Games, including best “lost-in-translation” moments, linguistic scandals, and personal interviews with working interpreters and language volunteers. The session will close with an analysis of the lessons learned and best practices — the key message being that only professional translators and interpreters can always win the gold.

INTERVIEW WITH LIV BLISS, TRANSLATOR OF *THE PET HAWK OF THE HOUSE OF ABBAS* (RUSSIAN LIFE BOOKS, 2013)



From the editors: The Silk Road Trilogy by Dmitry Chen, of which Hawk is the first volume, was a runaway best seller in Russia. Our colleague and fellow SlavFile editor Liv Bliss spent the better part of a year translating this adventure novel of the 8th century, and, we suspect, losing her heart to its hero. Published and unpublished descriptions of her translation include words such as beautifully done, superb,

and masterful. We decided to interview Liv on this work and provide brief samples of her translated text juxtaposed with the original Russian so readers can see for themselves.

SF: *The Pet Hawk of the House of Abbas* seems an unusual title for a publishing house called Russian Information Services to take on. How did that come about?

LB: It is, as far as I know, a significant departure from the normal offerings from RIS Publications. I'm not actually privy to the back story — how Paul Richardson of RIS and Dmitry Chen, the author, first crossed paths — but I can tell you that RIS threw all its energies behind the project. There's a terrific web page (www.russianlife.com/books/fiction/silk-road-trilogy/) that has all the background anyone could want. It includes a three-part translator blog and a

video clip about the Sogdians, the ethnic group to which the hero of *Hawk* belongs.

SF: Are you primarily a translator of fiction?

LB: I wish! It's what I mostly did during my 18 months in Moscow as an in-house translator for Progress Publishers, but since I left, which is longer ago than I care to remember, I've done a few short stories and excerpts, a bit of poetry, and a whole lot of literary criticism, but exactly two novels that ended up being published. The one before *Hawk* came out a good six years ago. I'd love to do more; who wouldn't? But it's a tough market and a lot of top-class translators have already carved out their well-earned niches there.

SF: So how were you chosen for *Hawk*?

LB: By sheer, dumb luck, really. Paul Richardson of RIS had engaged me earlier for a few shorter pieces of fiction and must have thought I was a good match. It turned out to be the best fun I ever had without laughing.

SF: *The Pet Hawk* has been described as a challenging read. Do you think that's true, and if so, why?

LB: I think that comes from a combination of at least three factors. First, the book is set in a time and place that will be unfamiliar to most readers (and the



[pp. 47–48. Chapter 4: The Fourth Paradise]

The man charged with selling our house's silk in the Western lands, with furnishing it to Byzant by way of the market town of Lamos, had told me once that the Arabiya believe there to be four earthly paradises.

The first was where two rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates, converged, where the black soil known as sawad bore all the fruits and grains the soul could desire. And where to this day stand the ruins of prostrate Ctesiphon, capital of the unhappy, annihilated Kingdom of Iran. I had never been there, to the former Western territories of Iran whose name is Iraq, but the great round city of Ctesiphon with its huge-domed palaces was known and remembered by all.

The second paradise was the valley of Bavvan, which was also in Iran and of which, to my disgrace, I knew naught.

The third paradise was, of course, Damascus and its environs, so lush and green.

And the fourth paradise was the endless, flowering garden that lay between Samarkand and Bukhara—the Sogd river valley.

Which is exactly where I was.

Человек, который в нашем доме был занят сбытом шелка в западных землях — в Бизант через ярмарочный город Ламос — рассказал как-то, что по мнению людей народа арабийя в мире есть четыре рая.

Первый — это там, где сливаются две реки, Тигр и Евфрат, где черная земля — Савад — родит все фрукты и злаки, каких может пожелать душа. Где и сейчас стоят руины поверженного Ктесифона, столицы несчастного, уничтоженного иранского царства. Я не был там никогда, в этих бывших западных землях Ирана, носящих имя Ирак, но о круглом городе Ктесифоне, с его громадными куполами дворцов, знали и помнили все.

Вторым раем была долина Бавван в том же Иране — и, к моему стыду, я не знал о ней ничего.

Третий рай — это, конечно же, утопающий в зелени Дамаск и его окрестности.

А вот четвертый рай — это нескончаемый цветущий сад между Самаркандом и Бухарой. Долина Согда.

То есть как раз здесь.

few who claim expertise in the field will, of course, be able to search for factual infelicities, which should keep them happy). Also, we have here an author who has no interest in holding his readers' hands at every turn. (The marvelous map, family trees, and cast of characters at the beginning of the book and the glossary on the web page were definitely not his idea.) And finally, the book is a first-person narrative that has the narrator, and the readers with him, feeling his way through a confusing and turbulent time, figuring things out as he goes along.

It's an odd mixture — a rollicking good page-turner interlarded with that very Russian habit of suddenly dumping sizable amounts of information or speculation on the unsuspecting reader. But even when the pace of the story slowed, I could still feel the narrative energy. And it kept me wanting to know what was coming next.

SF: What was coming next? You didn't know?

LB: It's probably just an oddity of mine. I rarely read a piece of fiction too closely before diving into it. I want to be almost as surprised, puzzled, and delighted as I hope the reader will be. Which doesn't, of course, stop me from going back, shamefaced, and fixing things if I later discover I've been barking up the wrong tree.

SF: So you were emotionally invested in the text?

LB: Absolutely, from the first few pages. I quickly

fell in love with Nanidat Maniak, the hero, because he is so human: warm, flawed, braver than even he knew, more vulnerable than he expected to be. He has a great sense of humor and, for all his many talents, knows not to take himself too seriously. I wanted everything to work out for him.

SF: And does it?

LB: Maybe.

SF: What particular translation challenges did you face with *Hawk*?

LB: It's not as though every part of it wasn't some kind of challenge — which is the way it should be — but the key issue for me was to find an appropriate voice for this first-person account, something that would bring authenticity to the narrator and his story, a tale that unfolds a long, long time ago, in the mid-8th century C.E., and far, far away. Although the Russian is pretty standard, drawing its exoticism from the unfamiliarity of time and place, I felt that the English needed something more to make the impact I was looking for. So, since I couldn't (even if I'd wanted to) write the thing in 8th-century English, I developed a few basic rules for the style: no modernisms, no blatant Americanisms, but also nothing so esoteric as to over-burden the reader or sound ridiculous (you know, "Beshrew thee, sirrah!" — none of that sort of thing). It was all highly subjective, of course, although I did find invaluable support in the usage histories in my Compact Oxford English Dictionary, which is the entire OED in two hefty volumes and

[p. 133. Chapter 9: Tell Me True!]

I was resting, resting with great gusto and in great earnest, and gazing thoughtfully over a plane tree's broad crown at an evening sky that gleamed like burnished copper and teemed with the coal-black crosses that were kites on the wing.

Two weeks had passed since my unforgettable supper with Barmak. I was sitting on a rug spread over the firm wooden floor of the veranda in my new home. In truth, I was not even sitting, but reclining, rather, propped on a careless elbow in a heap of well-stuffed cushions whose one side was rough to the touch while the other offered the caress of satin. And from time to time, I idly surveyed the oval enclosure within the fortress of Merv, stretched out now beneath my feet, where I had but recently earned my livelihood with a kalam.

Separated from my residence by a respectful distance, the crowd below buzzed—the women with braids wound in ribbons and glinting with silver ornaments and the men whose red beards and locks rose above a sea of motley garments. Between myself and all that magnificence were the heads and shoulders, clad in chain mail as if swathed in gray shawls, of Abu Muslim's warriors. For I was now settled in that part of the square where the ruler of Khorasan held sway.

It was tranquil here, and it was good.

Я отдыхал, отдыхал со вкусом и всерьез, задумчиво поглядывая туда, где над широкой листвой чинар сияло вечернее небо цвета начищенной меди, все в угольных крестиках коршунов в вышине.

Происходило это через две недели после незабываемого ужина с Бармаком. Я сидел на ковре, расстеленном на твердом деревянном полу веранды моего нового дома. Нет, даже не сидел, а полулежал, небрежно облокотившись на целую кучу упругих, шершавых подушек, одна сторона которых, впрочем, ласкала ладонь нежностью атласа. И иногда лениво оглядывал расстилавшуюся у моих ног овальную площадь внутри мервской крепости — ту самую, где я недавно зарабатывал себе на жизнь каламом.

Толпа на площади гудела в почтительном отдалении от моего жилища: женские косы, перевитые лентами и поблескивающие серебром украшений, или красные бороды и шевелюры над морем разноцветных одежд. Но все это великолепие было отделено от меня накинутыми на головы и плечи, как серые шали, кольчугами воинов Абу Муслима. Я помещался теперь в охраняемой ими части площади, там, где вершилась власть в Хорасане.

Здесь было спокойно и хорошо.

"I have been more than twenty years at war," he said, with much effort in his rasping voice. "And, speaking with you, I have often thought that this is a man who, if he is spared can go where... Where... But I shall never see that place. And a pity it is."

"What place?" I urged him.

"The great Empire, sire," he sighed at last. "Its canals and rivers. Its palaces and their gardens. Chang'an. Its silk. What need have I to serve as commander in yet another army? Better to be a simple stable hand but to see even once that magical land..."

My ears filled then with the gentle sigh of strings plucked on the Imperial orchestra's multitude of qin, and I reclined on the cushions in a long silence. And then again I turned to my left.

"A simple stable hand? Tell me, Yukuk, could you learn maybe two hundred phrases in the language of the Han?"

"Not two hundred but more," he responded on the instant. "I know seven languages. In my youth I learned languages with ease. That's how I fell in with the berid, since they take ... they *took* people with particular talents."

Seven languages? I knew then that my small idea had come to me with a purpose. And I began to lay it out.

— Я более двадцати лет на войне, - с усилием просипел, наконец, он. — И, говоря с вами, я часто думал: вот этот человек, если уцелеет, может уехать туда, где... Где... А я это место не увижу никогда. А жаль.

— Какое место? — подтолкнул его я.

— Великая империя, господин, - вздохнул он наконец. — Каналы и реки. Дворцы среди садов Чанъани. Шелк. Зачем мне быть генералом еще одной армии? Лучше я простым конюхом увижу хоть раз волшебную страну...

Тут в моих ушах зазвучал нежный вздох струн множества циней императорского оркестра, и я замолчал надолго, улегшись на подушки. А потом снова повернулся влево:

— Простым конюхом? Скажи, Юкук, а мог бы ты выучить пару сотен фраз на языке народа хань?

— Не пару сотен, а побольше, — мгновенно отозвался он.

— Я знаю семь языков. Когда был юношей, учил их вообще без труда. Потому и попал в барид — туда берут... брали людей с особыми способностями.

Семь языков? Тут я понял, что моя маленькая идея возникла не напрасно. И начал ее излагать:

requires a magnifying glass or a great deal of squinting to read. A lot of linguistic decisions were made on the fly, because the last thing I wanted to do was lose my momentum, but I became reasonably comfortable with the way it was coming out. And when I read an Amazon reader review that said: "After putting it down and sleeping on it for 12 hours, I realized that for most of those hours I was thinking and talking to myself in a new sort of English" —by which the kind reviewer meant, I think, not his usual idiom — I was hugely relieved to have pulled it off (for him, anyway). After that, by the way, I decided to quit while I was ahead and not read any more reviews. What's done is done, after all.

SF: What did the author think of your approach? What role did he play in your work?

LB: I think he was OK with it. At least, he never said he wasn't, and he was quite outspoken, so I'm sure he would have objected if it sat badly with him.

Other than that, he was always there for questions and to explain to me things I didn't know I didn't know. We had to find a middle way — and I think we did — between my inclination to gloss everything and his to gloss nothing. He took occasional exception when he thought I had rendered a scene with too little of the cinematic effect he was going for — the moment captured in freeze-frame — so I would rework those passages. Whether to his satisfaction or not, I don't know, but I suppose he placed my efforts somewhere between good and good enough. I'd enjoy working with him again.

SF: *Pet Hawk* has been billed as the first book in the Silk Road Trilogy. When can we expect to see volumes two and three?

LB: I don't know. There are never enough resources to go around for all the books that deserve to be translated, but when — let's say "when" — funds are found and the call comes, I'll be there with bells on.

LIVE TWEETING COMES TO THE SLD

New this year, we will be featuring live tweeting from SLD sessions. Leadership Council member Ekaterina Howard, who came up with the idea, has also offered to organize a group of volunteer Tweeters. We are excited about this initiative, which will be helpful for people unable to attend the conference and also for attendees unable to be present at a specific session. If you're interested in volunteering, please see Ekaterina's announcement on page 15.

JUST SAY NO!

A Response to Jim Shipp's article, *The Corporatization of Translation*

Jennifer Guernsey



I appreciated Jim's article very much (see [summer 2014 SlavFile](#), p. 7). Many of his points I agree with wholeheartedly, and I have additional concerns of a similar ilk that I will add to his. However, I have a somewhat different opinion on some of his points. I come from the perspective of 26 years of experience, so I suppose that makes me about half the translator Jim is.

Despite any differences of opinion, I fully agree with Jim's bottom-line advice: do not allow clients to bully you, and exercise your right to make your own decisions about your desired working methods and conditions. The best way to avoid pitfalls is to clarify such methods and conditions up front, and then just say no if you deem them unsuitable.

CAT Tools

In contrast to Jim, I love my CAT tool. It has saved me many an omitted sentence, as well as a great deal of time, and enabled me to be more consistent in my terminology and phraseology. I love being able to look up how I translated something months ago in a similar context. The first tool I tried (Trados of long ago) was indeed expensive, difficult to learn, and somewhat cumbersome to use. Trados was one of only three tools on the market in those days, and it was definitely the biggest name, so that's what I tried in hopes of enticing Trados clients (epic fail on that). Since then, the market has opened up a great deal. I currently use a lesser-known tool called Fluency, and while it was initially kind of buggy, the tech support was terrific, and I am now quite happy with it. It was WAY cheaper than Trados, is much easier to use, and has a more flexible translation memory structure that I like. It also runs an instant lookup of any word or phrase I highlight, simultaneously performing a concordance search, a search in its own dictionary, a search on Multitran, and a search in Google. I don't even need to leave the tool window to do any additional Internet research. This is a huge advantage that counterbalances the disadvantage of having to convert PDFs to Word before I enter the Fluency environment. I use ABBYY FineReader for this conversion, and, as a bonus, it enables me to easily replicate the graphics in the target document, to create tables easily, and to avoid having to type lots of numbers into said tables. I just incorporate the cost of the PDF conversion into my rates.

If the formatting is too hairy, I can translate the document without my CAT tool (rare) or JUST SAY NO to the whole job.

That said, though, I agree that clients use CAT tools to wrest exorbitant discounts out of their translators. I simply JUST SAY NO to discounts in most cases. (Exceptions are ridiculously repetitive text, clients who provide translation memory that is actually useful, and one longstanding high-volume client that brings me lots of the same types of documents while paying a very respectable rate.) I bought the tool, I invested the time into learning how to use it, and I should reap the rewards of this investment of time and money.

Circular Translation

I actually like the model where the translator and editor can work together. (In fact, my favorite jobs are the ones where I work directly with a colleague and we edit each other's translations.) I learn from seeing another's edits of my work, and I like being able to challenge the editor (very respectfully, of course) when I disagree with a change. I disagree with Jim's statement that he is a translator and not an editor. What professional translator does not proofread and edit his/her own work before sending it out? That said, though, I believe that agencies should be entirely transparent about their model of operations up front, so the translator knows in advance that this step will be part of the process and can decline the job (JUST SAY NO) or price it accordingly.

Workflow Systems

These don't bother me too much, as long as they are intuitive. I have a Word document containing the relevant passwords; keeping track of them is a minor issue. For me, the benefit of these systems is the one step Jim left out of his "time-tested system," namely the part that I hate the most: invoicing. I LOVE automated systems that enable me to generate my invoice with the click of a mouse. I HATE automated systems that don't, and worse yet, ones that contact me by robo-email after automatically assigning me a new job. I want to interact with a real person to iron out the details of the job.

Deadlines

Regarding impossible deadlines, I JUST SAY NO. I say no nicely, of course. Usually I say, I can't do this for you by X date, but I could complete it by Y date. And often, I will offer the contact information of fellow translators who might be able to complete the job sooner, or would give the client the option to split the job among several translators. Most of the deadlines I get are actually pretty reasonable, but I reserve the right to charge extra for a rush job.

Editing of source>target documents by target>source editors

I partially agree with Jim's point here: such an editor could almost never properly edit for style. (Though I must say, I once had my work edited by a very talented SLD member who was not a native English speaker, and it was marvelous. But she is most definitely the rare exception.) I myself would never, ever consider editing an English>Russian translation! However, a talented non-native editor could certainly proofread and identify gross errors such as chunks of omitted text, as well as formatting and typographical errors. The problem is that such editors do not seem to limit themselves to these types of errors. I had one particularly galling case in which the "circular translation" model was combined with this sort of editing model...PLUS I was not informed (!!) that the editor was not a native speaker of English, and thus that all of her myriad proposed edits were merely supposed to be suggestions. I took all of her comments seriously and spent considerable time explaining why I was not going to implement her suggested changes.

To Jim's point about non-native speakers, I would add one of my related pet peeves: being asked to edit source>target documents translated by native speakers of the source language. This is usually a case of translation agencies trying to do things on the cheap. Most of the time, I JUST SAY NO. The only time I accede to these requests is when they come directly from a professional colleague who I already know to have mind-blowingly good English. (And I always charge editing jobs by the hour.)

Payment

I don't care whether clients pay me by the source word or the target word. In some respects, paying by the source word makes more sense, because paying by the target word could encourage more verbose translations by less scrupulous translators. But because of the source/target word count differential that Jim alludes to, I most definitely have very different rates for source and target text. I always state both rates up

front, and I always clarify with clients whether I will be invoicing by source or target word. And if I don't like their rates — well, I JUST SAY NO.

The same goes for payment schedule. Thirty days, fine; 45 days, fine; 60 days, I start to get irritable; and 60 days EOM...well, let's just say that I don't decline clients outright based on their payment schedule, but I will decline all but the most enticing jobs from them. I have taken to informing clients upfront that MY payment terms are 30 days, so I make them aware that anything else is a generous exception on my part.

And while we are on the subject of payment... Most of my clients are in Europe. Many of them will pay only by PayPal (great for small jobs, pricey for large jobs), many only by wire transfer (ridiculously costly for small jobs, great for large jobs). The best clients will pay me by the method I request and will allow that to vary from invoice to invoice. Some clients seem completely oblivious to the costs of receiving their payment, particularly by wire transfer. I have learned the hard way to determine which payment methods a client uses in advance, and then to price accordingly or JUST SAY NO.

And now (drum roll please), for some additional concerns that Jim didn't mention:

PAPERWORK. I can often gauge how a company treats its translators based on the amount of paperwork pushed my way. Are we a disposable commodity, or respected professionals? To work with me, a company will need my resume, my languages and subject areas, my rates, and my contact and payment information. I have no problem with providing this information, or even with completing a short form to convey it. But I shudder in horror when I receive a 10-page "translator application" that I must complete in order to get on a company's rolls for the nebulous prospect of future work. Add to that a number of legal documents to sign and an accounting form to complete... I JUST SAY NO.

MORE PAPERWORK. Some NDAs and other agreements have provisions that I can't abide. One required me to scrub all related information off my computer after each job — not just delete it, but get the software to obliterate all electronic traces of it — as well as to keep anyone and everyone from ever accessing my computer (this, in my home-based office that I share with my husband). They stopped short of requiring me to post an armed guard at the door to my office. Yet the same client was planning to send me files by the oh-so-secure method of e-mail transmission or cloud-based file exchange. I JUST SAID NO. I also often ask for changes to such agreements. My

particular favorite are the clauses that say that I will not approach any of my client's end clients. That's all well and good, but I generally do not even know who the end clients are. (I ask clients to insert the word KNOWINGLY. I will not KNOWINGLY approach their clients.) It particularly troubles me when an agreement says X, and when I query the client, the response is, "Well, it really means Y." Or better yet, "Well, it says X, but you know, these things are never really enforced." Yes, but it doesn't SAY Y, and I have to presume the agreement is enforceable, so I JUST SAY NO and don't sign it.

AND MORE PAPERWORK. Translation-associated paperwork is also a concern. Again, I have no problem with agencies that require paperwork of this nature — a form to fill out with terminology queries for the client, for instance, or one to provide editorial feedback on a translator — provided the agencies are very clear up front about the nature of said paperwork and are prepared to pay my hourly rate to have it completed. Which, I'm sorry to say, is seldom the case.

CROWDSOURCING: Alas, this is no longer a model solely for cheapskates trying to get their company's entire website and operations manuals translated for free. It has also been incorporated into the "professional" translation realm. I speak of the agency that contacted me to register to become one of their stable of translators. Their model is a system in which translators receive notice of an available job, log in,

translate whatever portion of the document they wish to, and then get paid an abysmally low rate for the work they did. The only plus side of this model is that invoicing is automatic. The down side — well, you all are professional translators, so I don't need to describe for you the likely result of allowing anybody and his brother to jump in and translate a sentence or two, nor the difficulty of translating something starting in the middle of a half-translated document. Suffice it to say, I JUST SAID NO.

VOLUME DISCOUNTS: Some agencies seem to think that the more words we have to translate, the faster we get. While there are some time savings to doing one large job versus ten small ones — mainly at the correspondence and billing stages, and to some extent in terminology research — for the most part, 10,000 words will take me ten times as long as 1,000 words. So when it comes to volume discounts, or to offering a discounted rate for the prospect of additional future work, I JUST SAY NO.

In sum, I communicate with my client and ask questions up front; I adjust my rates or add on fees based on the results; and if I don't like what I am being asked to do, I JUST SAY NO.

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Call for volunteers to participate in live tweeting from SLD events and sessions at the 55th Annual ATA Conference in Chicago

What is live tweeting? It is tweeting in real time from events or presentations.

How is live tweeting useful for SLD members? It will help attract new members or followers and showcase our division's activities at the ATA conference.

Our goal is to share useful information, highlight presenter expertise, and promote the Slavic Languages Division and the American Translators Association on social media.

If you are interested in participating in live tweeting for the Slavic Languages Division, please fill out the form at bit.ly/1qJhr6f. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Ekaterina Howard at ekaterinahoward@gmail.com.

Thank you!

SLAVFILE LITE: NOT BY WORD COUNT ALONE

Lydia Razran Stone

Dear Readers,

In my last column, I vowed to keep *SlavFile Lite* free of political pontification and the appearance of taking sides regarding the deplorable situation in the area of the world we are all concerned with. I must admit that as the situation has escalated and news reports have become increasingly grim, I find it very difficult to keep things light (or “lite”) without seeming to be ignoring serious matters that affect those of us with strong personal ties to the region, as well as all of us professionally. Nevertheless I will try. One thing that does seem to me appropriate for discussion in these pages is how the world situation is affecting the Slavic translation market for our members’ services. I invite members who have seen such effects to describe them for publication in these pages.

Last week the *Washington Post* blog, apparently as hard up for material as yours truly, published a list of all the official gifts President Obama received during 2009–2012. The 2013 list has not yet been published; evidently the President’s office has more important matters to think about. There were 274 gifts in all, and the blogger has rated them; I am sorry to say that the lowest-rated one comes from a Slavic country. In 2011, Poland gave POTUS a *Witcher 2* deluxe gift set (aka swag bag), including, aside from the game itself, stickers, three gold *Witcher* coins, and a bust of one of the characters, “Gwynbleidd” (misspelled in the blog with a final “oo”).

A comment on the Obama gifts blog from someone offended by this abysmal *Witcher 2* gift rating emphasizes the value of the coins and calls the game a “Polish icon.” At any rate, the game seems to be well-regarded by those who like that sort of thing. The player takes the role (becomes the avatar?) of one “Geralt of Riva, a stoic and distinctly un-heroic monster hunter with a few memory problems and a faintly inexplicable way with the ladies.” Obama’s gift acknowledgment message, which I found on the Internet, while polite, implied he was not intending to play this or any similar video game. I would think, however, that assuming the role of Geralt in his unambiguous universe would be a huge relief. There must be quite a lot our president would like to selectively forget. Perhaps, too, gaining Geralt’s “way with the ladies” would help him out in his dealings with Angela Merkel, Hillary, or even Ann Coulter.

The rankings were based not on market value but on subjective assessments by the blogger (Philip Bump). Even so, some may consider it significant that the highest-ranked Slavic gift was given by the Czech Republic (Number 5). This gift consisted primarily of a watch and a brooch, but received its high rating apparently because the rater was charmed by the fact that it also included a ceramic dog bowl for the first dog. Croatia in 2010 sent a three-piece black suit. Whether it was the right size is, I suppose, immaterial, since neither the president, nor the first dog, nor, I gather, anyone else who might use them, gets to keep any of these official gifts.



Russia, during more amicable times, sent 12 gifts over the three-year period. Of these, only two ranked in the first 100 (a “religious relic” and an antique samovar), five in the second 100, and 5 in the last 74. Among these is a book of photographs of the Medvedev presidency, a reproduction of a portrait of Natalia Pushkina (i.e., Goncharova), and a rug with Obama’s face on it (perhaps not as insulting as it seems, since many in Russia hang their prized rugs on the wall). Those of us who struggle to think of appropriate gifts for male relatives and friends know how difficult this task is and probably shouldn’t criticize.

My friend Liana Alaverdova, who emigrated from Baku to Brooklyn almost 20 years ago, besides being a poet, writes a weekly column for a Russian-language Chicago newspaper targeting Russian-speaking immigrants. She devoted last week’s column to trying to get her readers to adopt the American habit of smiling at people, or at the very least to stop condemning this habit as hypocritical or an attempt to conceal devious intentions. I myself only became aware of how much I smile during conversations when I was tutoring a visiting Russian scientist in English and he did not smile back. He was a perfectly nice man and it took me several lessons to understand the reason (non-return of a smile of benevolence) for the mild but repeated jolts I felt during my interactions with him. One has only to look at pictures of astronauts and cosmonauts side by side to become aware of cultural differences in the occasions for which smiles are appropriate. Perhaps the

smile gap is one reason that Moscow and Russia tend to be listed among the least friendly cities or countries to visit (NB: I certainly have not found this to be so).

In her article, Liana gives one reason that Russian immigrants to the U.S. may be reluctant to smile that I had never thought of: embarrassment over discolored or otherwise unsightly teeth, unfashionable (even if precious) metal front teeth, or possible mouth odors, compounded by lingering fear of all dental work occasioned by experiences with Soviet dentistry. She quotes a couplet, which could be some enterprising dentist's slogan: "Пока не привели в порядок рот — нечего и думать о карьерном взлете". My translation: "While your mouth is a mess — do not hope for success".

In my quest to steer clear of the current political situation I may have to break some other taboos. Perhaps I will be forgiven here, since I will be quoting *The New Yorker*, a publication with a high-class readership even larger than that of *SlavFile*. David Remnick's *Letter from Moscow* in a recent issue (August 11th and 18th) focusses on Michael McFaul, who was US ambassador to the Russian Federation from 2012 until he resigned last February (2014). (Interesting trivia fact: McFaul was born in a mining town in Montana to a father who was a saxophone player in a country and western band.) According to Remnick, some of the problems McFaul experienced were associated with his "sometimes shaky grasp of the Russian idiom, [which] could make him look both volatile and unconfident." Remnick cites the following (ellipses and paraphrases mine):

"Another time, McFaul went on Twitter to announce in Russian that he was headed to 'Yoberg' for an event. He intended to use a slangy way of saying Yekaterinburg. Unfortunately, the first syllable is the root of (a frequently used but taboo verb) and the tweet came off as 'I am headed to F---sVille.'"

Later Remnick quotes from an interview with Aleksandr Prokhanov, described as a far-right newspaper editor and novelist, previously nicknamed "The Nightingale of the General Staff."

"This is a great country with only arbitrary borders. People grabbed up our territory, chopped it up into bits. Some people got used to this state of affairs and didn't notice that their extremities had been chopped off — including the very pleasant extremity between your legs — ...Ukraine."

Yes, I have sworn off political commentary. I am interested here in the complex and contradictory linguistic denotative and connotative implications of the simile. We all know that, at least in European languages, likening someone to that appendage is an insult, implying he is worthless. Yet, we also know that many, if not all, of its possessors consider it a source of strength, energy, and, er, pleasure, and its forcible removal one of the worst calamities than can befall a man. Which of these contradictory connotations did Prokhanov intend, or given that the man is a novelist, is he playing a post-modernist literary trick and implying both simultaneously?

Finally, something relevant to translation. Recently, because of an emergency, my translation collaborator, Vladimir Kovner, asked me to complete a task he had promised to perform for a friend — editing a translation of a brief review of a Bolshoi performance at the Lincoln Center Festival for an English ballet magazine. Now, I know nothing whatsoever about ballet, but found that the dance terminology was no problem at all — it is all well-described and easy to find on the Web. What stumped me was how best to translate evaluative/descriptive subjectively based adjectives about the dancers, music, etc. What would you have done with the following?

"ярко, броско, темпераментно" (descriptions of how performers danced Don Quixote)

"пафосный характер музыки"

"эффектный, импозантный танцовщик, не более"

"умный, интеллигентный танцовщик"

"Но его Красс был скорее неврастеничен, чем темпераментен." (I could not accept the English "temperamental" as appropriate to the way a cruel, powerful Roman general should be portrayed.)

Hoping to see many of you in Chicago!

**READERS:
DO YOU FIND
OUR FILLERS
BORING?**

Sometimes we do too. We welcome any contributions of short items. Please give attribution where appropriate.

A DRAMA IN JERUSALEM — AND A MUSICAL DISCOVERY

SLAVFILMS

Reviewed by Susan Welsh

The Conductor (Дирижёр), 2012

86 minutes, DVD, Russian with English subtitles

Director: Pavel Lungin

Music: Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev

Your *SlavFilms* columnist, being far from an expert in cinematography, generally ignores soundtracks. How surprised I was, then, to find the music in this film the most fascinating thing about it!

Of course, it is not really a “soundtrack” at all, but selections from the 2006 “St. Matthew Passion” (“Страсти по Матфею”) by Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev, the chairman of the Department of External Church Relations of the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC). His oratorio is part of the story line and forms the musical underpinning of the film. Who knew that in the second decade of the 21st century, a superb, classically trained composer would emerge in Russia, working in the tradition of Bach? (He is quick to point out that his Passion is also in the tradition of the ROC.)

The idea for the film came from Hilarion, after director Pavel Lungin’s 2006 film *The Island* (“Остров”) was enthusiastically received by the ROC leadership. Hilarion asked Lungin to make a film about his “St. Matthew Passion” that would illustrate the life and Passion of Christ through appropriate frescoes, as a visual accompaniment to the musical performance. Lungin was uninterested, saying that he only makes fictional films; but eventually a screenplay emerged. Briefly, it tells the tale of a Moscow conductor, Vyacheslav Petrov (played powerfully by Vlaslas Bagdonas), who is taking his orchestra and chorus to Jerusalem to perform the Passion. He is a man driven by his art, to the detriment of his relations with people, notably his teenage son. Petrov and the three vocal soloists are all emotional wrecks by the time they arrive on stage, for reasons that I will not disclose here. Loneliness, suicide, marital infidelity, terrorism, mid-life crises, and love — they’re all there. And Hilarion’s oratorio weaves through the story of their lives, culminating in the beautiful performance of the Passion itself. It’s a grim, intense, very Russian story, leaving one American viewer

to wonder, “What exactly are we supposed to take away from this?”

This film is an unusual collaboration between two very different men. Lungin (b. 1949), son of the late screenwriter Semyon Lungin and translator Lilianna Lungina, was raised in a secular Jewish family, although he seems to have converted (spiritually, if not literally — I cannot ascertain which) to Russian Orthodoxy. He has lived in France since the 1990s and often looks as though he patronizes Yasser Arafat’s barber. Hilarion (born Grigoriy Alfeyev, 1966) studied violin and composition at the Gnessin Russian Academy of Music in Moscow from 1973 to 1984, destined for a musical career. But at the age of 21, after his military service, he decided to dedicate his life to God; he became a monk and abandoned music altogether. For 20 years he did not write, play, or listen to music, seeing it as a diversion from his religious devotion. To make a long story short, he changed his mind in 2006 and began composing again.

The Director and the Metropolitan talked about their work in a televised [program](#) on March 29th, 2012. Hilarion began with a discussion of repentance. “People often think,” he said, “that repentance means a person has sinned and so he has to repent. I think repentance is a much more complex process, because repentance should infuse his whole life.” The Russian word, *покаяние*, comes from the Greek (*μετάνοια*), he noted, which literally means “changing the mind.” This is, from Hilarion’s point of view, the principal subject of *The Conductor*.

How did the composition of the Passion come about? It emerged when Hilarion was serving simultaneously as Bishop of Vienna and Austria and administrator of the Diocese of Budapest and Hungary. “The idea came to me almost fully formed. I was driving from Vienna to Budapest, a route that I traveled very often. In six years of my service I drove that route 150 times. And



Unexpected collaborators: Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev and director Pavel Lungin. Note the body language (especially the hands).



suddenly the idea came to me to write a ‘St. Matthew Passion,’ that is, to take Gospel text, but to use as the libretto the liturgical texts of Passion Week, the texts of the Orthodox Church. I wanted this composition to reflect the Orthodox understanding of Christ’s passion, so I used both the contemporary and 19th-century musical styles of our Church and some elements of Russian liturgical chanting (знаменный распев), as well as some elements of Bach’s baroque style.” **Lungin:** “What was it, basically inspiration?” **Hilarion:** “I think it was inspiration. Ninety percent of the music was written in three weeks, during which time I continued my regular duties.... In my spare time, sometimes at odd moments — some of this music was even written at the airport or on a plane.”

Both men seem pleased with the result of their collaboration. Lungin said that the living presence of the music “achieved an unusually strong effect in my view; the music gave this simple story a surprising emotional depth and power.” Hilarion told Lungin that when he first saw the film, he was particularly struck by the tension that builds immediately from the opening scene. “The conductor is still asleep, and a fax arrives. Without the music, that tension would not have been created.... From the very beginning, the music creates a kind of expectation: What is going to happen now? What does the fax say? The whole time, you are filming the face of the hero, the conductor. He has a very expressive face, even though he speaks very little. It is the image of a man who expresses himself through music.”

Returning to the theme of repentance, Hilarion refers to the film of that name made by the Soviet Georgian director Tengiz Abuladze 30 years ago, “which had the effect of a bomb exploding. Perhaps he somehow helped to bring about the changes that began in the country, because he was part of a wave; people were rethinking their past, and particularly the Soviet past. It was a time when people’s eyes were opened to what they previously had not been able to see.”

“I think that our film is a continuation of that kind of deep cinema, cinema that is oriented to the deepest stirrings of the human soul.”

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Vladas Bagdonas, as the conductor Vyacheslav Petrov, conducts the “St. Matthew Passion” in the film.



Asked what books he would take to a desert island, Hilarion replied: “I would take the Bible and *Winnie the Pooh*.... I have one favorite poet, Federico García Lorca, whom I have loved since childhood; I wrote music to his poems even in my youth, and for me he has always been poet number one.”

— Reply to a question during a lecture at the State Library of Foreign Literature in Moscow, Aug. 25th, 2012.

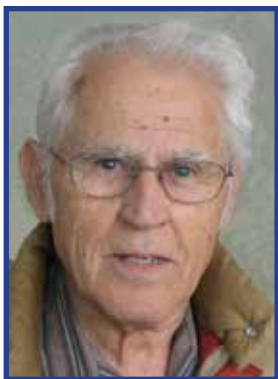
More Information on Metropolitan Hilarion

Videos of many of Metropolitan Hilarion’s compositions are available on YouTube, but I have been unable to find DVDs for sale. An audio CD of the “St. Matthew Passion,” performed by the Choir of the State Tretyakov Gallery and the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra of Moscow Radio under the baton of Vladimir Fedosseyev, can be purchased from MusicaRussica.com and Amazon.com.

“Music and Faith in My Life and Vision,” by Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev, lecture in English at The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., Feb. 9th, 2011, <http://president.cua.edu/inauguration/videos-embed.cfm#Hilarion>.

“An Interview with Metropolitan Hilarion Alfeyev,” by Joseph Susanka, *Crisis Magazine*, Feb. 28, 2012, in English, <http://www.crisismagazine.com/2012/an-interview-with-metropolitan-hilarion-alfeyev>.

“On Death, the Internet, and Nominal Christianity,” in Russian, video of a lecture and lengthy discussion period with Metropolitan Hilarion at the State Library of Foreign Literature in Moscow, Aug. 25th, 2012, <http://www.pravmir.ru/mitropolit-ilarion-alfeyev-smert-internet-nominalnoe-hristianstvo/> Of particular interest to *SlavFile* readers is the dialogue on the importance of learning foreign languages and reading foreign literature.



The Birth of a Medical Dictionary:

English–Serbian Medical Dictionary

Englesko–srpski medicinski rečnik

On the occasion of the publication of his new English into Serbian medical dictionary, we asked Svetolik Paul Djordjević to say a few words about the length of time it took him to produce this new resource and the process involved.

Before I can answer the question about how long it took me to compile the English into Serbian Medical Dictionary, we need to put things in perspective and in context.

When I started to work as a translator in the 1960s while still in graduate school, I worked exclusively with Russian—the Cold War was in full swing. Early in the 1970s, documents in Serbo-Croatian (that is what we called the language at the time, as you know) started coming in, predominantly medical evidence. And most of it, I would say over 90 percent of it, was handwritten. Since my background was in Slavic studies, I was desperate. In addition to the fact that a preponderance of the documents were handwritten and I knew nothing about medicine, I also had no reference material—no medical dictionaries to speak of.

The only available source I had was a multilingual medical dictionary (German, Latin, French, English, Russian, Italian and Serbo-Croatian) by Dr. Aleksandar Kostić, containing some 15,000 Serbo-Croatian into English terms, practically all of which were Latin terms used in Serbo-Croatian. So it did not help much. (As an aside, currently there are three or four dictionaries on the market, but they are half the size of mine, with only 20,000 to 30,000 terms in one direction. One of them has 50,000 terms in both directions.)

This forced me to learn as I went along: Not only did I have to learn basic anatomy, pathology and physiology in both languages, but I also needed a fair-sized medical dictionary in that particular language pair. So what I did was to collect as many medical textbooks in Serbo-Croatian as I could. That meant that every time I went to Yugoslavia, I would go to bookstores in Belgrade and Zagreb and buy as many books as I could, especially those that were translations of corresponding textbooks in English. (We used to go to Yugoslavia every couple of years in the '70s and '80s, as my parents were getting older and older.) Then I would sit down with the medical texts on a particular topic side-by-side and go through chapter by chapter and line by line picking up corresponding

terms in both languages. Using this process, it took me the equivalent of 12½ years of full-time work to come up with the 58,000 terms as they appear in the Serbian and Croatian–English Medical Dictionary, first published in 2009.

I mention all this to make sure people understand when I answer questions about the length of time it took me to do the English into Serbian Medical Dictionary—and the answer is that it took me approximately 2½ years—that this dictionary is based almost entirely on its “birth” parent—that is, the initial Serbian and Croatian into English volume. So for the current volume, all I had to do was go from term to term in the Serbian and Croatian–English dictionary and reverse the direction, leaving out the Croatian terms.

Considering that I compiled this latest dictionary after I retired at the end of 2005, I worked on it daily for approximately 12 hours per day. To accommodate the request for Serbian-only terms, I left out of this tome some purely Croatian terms, such as *stanica* (for *ćelija*), *histokemija* (for *histohemija*), and so on. (I must admit I may not have done an impeccable job on this particular score, since all my life, except for the last few years, I understood the two languages to be one.) In addition, the English–Serbian dictionary has approximately 1,000 new terms, that is, terms not in the Serbian and Croatian–English dictionary.

Just by looking at the sample entries below, one can see that my dictionary differs in approach from other English–Serbian dictionaries currently on the market. For instance, other dictionaries (the ones I have seen, anyway), give simple, straight equivalents, usually just one meaning, in Serbian. My dictionary, by contrast, contains the following:

- Separate numbered entries for multiple meanings (as in **Babinski(s) syndrome** and **yersiniosis**);
- Synonyms (e.g., for the entries **baby**, **ICH** [intracerebral hemorrhage] and **rachicentesis**);
- Hyperlinks in the CD-ROM to related terms ([Vidi takode....], as in **date** and **lability**);
- Context and usage notes given in square brackets (e.g., for the entries **Ichthyol**, **labioplasty** and **narcoleptic 2**); and
- Medical dictionary definitions of certain terms given in angled brackets (e.g., **narcobhypnosis** and **vagotomy**).

@ [at] \abbr\ a; na; po [recept]

a [atto; one quintillionth] \abbr\ a [atto]; 10^{-18}

a [acceleration] \abbr\ Vidi **acceleration**

a [anterior] \abbr\ Vidi **anterior**

a; A [acid] \abbr\ Vidi **acid**

a; A [accommodation] \abbr\ Vidi **accommodation**

a; A [ampere] \abbr\ Vidi **ampere**

a; A [anode] \abbr\ Vidi **anode**

a; A [artery] \abbr\ Vidi **artery**

A [atomic mass] \abbr\ A [atomska težina]; maseni broj; relativna atomska masa

A [atrium (of heart)] \abbr\ Vidi **atrium**

Babinski('s) syndrome \epo\ 1. skup aneurizme aorte, tabes dorsalis i Argyll-Rogertsonovog fenomena/ znaka; 2. Babinski-Nageotteov sindrom; hemibulbarni sindrom; 3.

Vidi **Babinski-Froehlich disease**

Babinski-Vaquez syndrome \epo\ Vidi **Babinski('s) syndrome 1**

babbling \n\ lalovanje

baby \n\ beba; dete; novorođenče; odojče

~, **floppy/ hypotonic**: hipotonično dete

~, **large**: veliko odojče

~, **test-tube**: beba/ dete iz epruvete

~ **formula**: formula <tečna hrana za bebe ili dojenčad>

calcium \n\ Ca [kalcijum]; krečna so

~ **caseinate**: kalcijum kazeinat

~, **cell**: intracelularni kalcijum

~, **ionized**: jonizovani kalcijum

~, **serum**: kalcijum u serumu

~, **urine**: kalcijum u urinu

~ **bisulfite**: kalcijum-bisulfit

~ **bromide**: kalcijum-bromid

~ **carbide**: kalcijum-karbid

~ **carbonate**: kalcijum-karbonat

~ **chloride**: kalcijum-hlorid

~ **disodium edetate**: kalcijum-

dinatrijum edetat

~ **EDTA**: Ca-Na₂-EDTA [kalcijum-

dinatrijum-etilen-diaminotetraacetat]

~ **fluoride**: kalcijum-fluorid

~ **gluceptate**: kalcijum-glukoheptonat

~ **gluconate**: kalcijum-glukonat

~ **gout**: kalcinoza

~ **hydroxide**: gašeni kreč; kalcijum-hidroksid

~ **hypochlorite**: kalcijum-hipohlorid

~ **lactate**: kalcijum-laktat

~ **nitrate**: kalcijum-nitrat

~ **of bronchus or trachea**: kalcifikacija pluća

~ **oxide**: kalcijum-oksidi

~ **phosphate**: kalcijum-fostat

~ **sulfate**: gips; kalcijum-sulfat

~ **sulfide**: kalcijum sulfid

~ **sulfide, crude**: hlorni kreč

date \n\ datum [Vidi takođe **day**]

~, **referral**: datum otpreme/ uputa

~ **of admission**: datum prijema

~ **of referral**: Vidi ~, **referral**

~ **of testing/ work-up**: datum obrade

~ **specimen taken**: datum uzimanja (uzorka)

datum \n\ činjenica; podatak

data, clinical: klinički podaci

~, **diagnostic**: dijagnostički podaci

~, **personal**: lični podaci

daturine \n\ hiosciamin; C₁₇H₂₃NO₃ [alkaloid]

eating \n\ hrana; hranjenje; ingestija; jedenje; prehrana

~, **excessive**: hiperalimentacija; polifagija

~, **hasty/ rapid**: tahifagija

Eaton agent \epo\ Mikoplazma pneumonije; Mycoplasma pneumoniae

Eaton-Lambert syndrome \epo\ Eaton-Lambertov sindrom; karcinomska miopatija; mijastenični sindrom <mijasteni-formna slabost mišića u toku oboljenja od sitnoćelijskog karcinoma bronha>

EAVER [European Association for Vision and Eye Research] \abbr\ Evropsko udruženje za istraživanje oka i vida

eavesdrop, to \v\ oslušivati; prislušivati

eavesdropping \n\ osluškivanje; prisluškivanje

ICH [intracerebral hematoma] \abbr\ intracerebralni hematom

ICH [intracerebral hemorrhage] \abbr\ cerebralna hemoragija; (intra)cerebralno krvarenje; izliv krvi u mozak; moždano krvarenje

ICH [intracranial hemorrhage] \abbr\ intrakranijalna hemoragija; intrakranijalno krvarenje

ichor \n\ ihor

ichthyism \n\ ihtijizam <trovanje ribom>

Ichthyol®: Ihtiol [antiinfektiv za kožu]

ichthyophobia \n\ ihtiofobija <strah od riba>

ichthyosarcotoxism \n\ ihtiosarkotoksizam <trovanje toksičkim supstancijama koje se nalaze u ribi>

lability \n\ labilnost; nestabilnost [Psihijatrija] [Vidi takođe **instability**]

~, **affective/ emotional**: afektivna labilnost; afektivna/ emocionalna inkontinencija; psihički instabilitet

labiodental \adj\ labiodentalan <koji pripada usnama i zubima>

labioplasty \n\ 1. heiloplastika; plastika usana; 2. plastika stidnih usana [Intimna hirurgija]

labium \n\ labijum [1. usna; usnica [Vidi takođe **lip**]; 2. usmina]

labia majora et minora pudenda: velike i male stidne usne

narco [narcotic] \abbr\ Vidi **narcotic** [n]

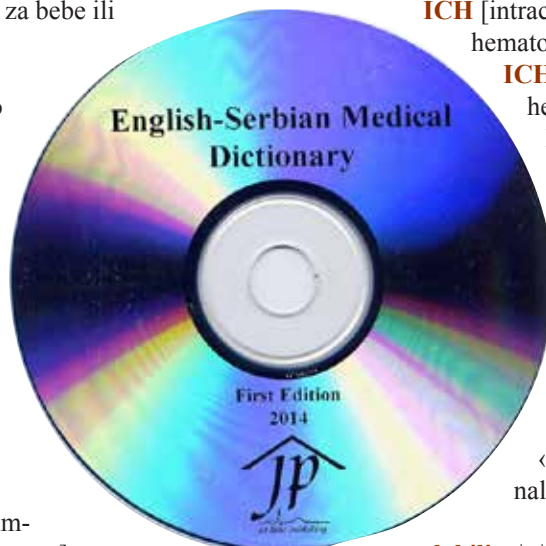
narcoanalysis \n\ narkoanaliza <psihoanaliza pod narkoticima>

narcophypnosis \n\ narkohipnoza <hipnoza pri kojoj se upotrebljava neko narkotičko sredstvo za uvođenje u hipnotički san>

narcolepsy \n\ narkolepsija; paroksizmalni san

narcoleptic \adj\ narkoleptički

narcoleptic \n\ 1. narkoleptičar; 2. narkoleptik [hipnotičko sredstvo]



narcomania \n\; narkomanija <ludilo za narkoticima>

Petit('s) lumbar triangle \epo\; Petitov trougao; trigonum lumbale

Petit's sinus \epo\; sinus aortae; Valsava sinus

Petri dish \epo\; Petrijeva šolja <plitka staklena posuda, koja služi za izolovanje i kultivisanje bakterija na čvrstim podlogama>

petrification \n\; okamenjavanje; petrifikacija; skamenjavanje

pétrissage \n – Fr\; gnječenje [Masaža]

petroleum \n\; petrol

~ **ether**: petrol-etar

petrolization \n\; petrolizacija

petrosal \adj\; hridni; petrozan <koji pripada petroznom delu slepoočne kosti>

racemization \n\; racemizacija <pretvaranje nekog optički aktivnog jedinjenja u svoj racemski, tj. optički neaktivan oblik, koji se sastoji od jednakih količina levogirnog i dekstro-girnog oblika optičkih izomera>

rachialgia \n\; rahialgija; rahiodinija; spinalgija <bolovi u kičmi>

rachicentesis \n\; lumbalna punktata; punctio lumbalis; rahicenteza; rahicenteza <punkcija subarahnoidnog prostora između IV i V lumbalnog pršljena>

rachigraph \n\; rahigraf <instrument za obeležavanje konture kičmenog stuba i leđa>

rachiodynia \n\; Vidi **rachialgia**

rachimeter \n\; rahiometar <instrument za merenje krivina kičmenog stuba>

sacrocoxitis \n\; sakroiliitis; sakrokoksitis <zapaljenje sakroilijskog zgloba>

sacrodynia \n\; Vidi **sacralgia**

sacroiliac \adj\; krsno-bedreni; sakroilijski; sakroilijski

sacroiliitis \n\; Vidi **sacrocoxitis**

sacrolumbar \adj\; sakrolumbalan; sakrolumbalni <koji pripada krsnoj i slabinskoj oblasti>

sacrolysthesis \n\; sakrolisteza <stanje u kome se krstačna kost nalazi ispred petog slabinskog pršljena>

sacroperineal \adj\; sakroperinealni <koji se odnosi na sakrum i perineum>

sacrospinal \adj\; sakrospinalni <koji pripada krstačnoj kosti i kičmenom stubu>

sacrum \n\; krsna kost; krstača; (os) sacrum; sakrum

sad \adj\; potišten; tužan; žalostan

TSH [thyroid-stimulating hormone] \abbr\; TSH [thyroid-stimulating hormone; tireostimulativni hormon]

~, **serum**: TSH u serumu

tsp [teaspoon] \abbr\; Vidi **teaspoon**

TSP [tropic spastic paraparesis] \abbr\; TSP [tropska spastična parapareza]

TSPK [Thygeson('s) superficial punctuate keratopathy] \abbr\; TPTK [Thygesonova površinska tačkasta keratopatija]

TSS [toxic shock syndrome] \abbr\; TŠS [toksični šok sindrom]

vagotomy \n\; vagotomija <operacija koja se sastoji od presecanja oba vagusa ili samo njihovih grana namenjenih oživčavanju želuca>

~, **bilateral**: bilateralna vagotomija

~, **complete**: kompletna vagotomija

~, **medical**: medikalna vagotomija

~, **selective**: selektivna vagotomija

vagotonia \n\; vagotonija <stanje povišenog tonusa parasimpatičkog nervnog sistema>

vagotonic \adj\; vagotoničan

vagotomy \n\; Vidi **vagotonia**

vagotropic \n\; vagotropan

vague \adj\; maglovit; mutan; nejasan; neodređen

vagus \n\; plućno-želudačni živac; vagus [nerv]; živac lutilica

YE [yellow enzyme] \abbr\; žut disajni enzim

yeast \n\; kvasac

~, **brewer('s)**: (osušeni) kvasac USP

yellow \adj\; žut

Yersinia pestis \n\; Yersinov bacil; Pasteurella/ Yersinia pestis

yersiniosis \n\; 1. jerezinoza; 2. pseudotuberkuloza

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Editor's note: More details about Svetolik P. Djordjević's medical dictionaries, including sample pages and ordering information, can be found at his medical dictionary website: <http://www.jordanapublishing.com>.

Another list of sample entries from this dictionary (eponyms) can be found in the summer 2014 issue of Caduceus: <https://sites.google.com/site/caduceusnewsletter/glossaries/english-serbian-glossary-eponyms---by-paula-gordon>.

Svetolik Paul Djordjević was born and raised in the former Yugoslavia. He studied theology in Belgrade and then in Bracknell, England, before immigrating to the United States, where he received an MA in Systematic Theology in 1966 from the Seminary of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI. In 1970, Svetolik received an MA in Russian from American University in Washington, D.C., and by 1972 he had completed the required class work and comprehensives for a PhD in Russian Literature at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA. Svetolik has worked as a language teacher, translator, and interpreter for over 40 years. From 1981 until his retirement in 2005, he was an in-house medical translator for Slavic languages and French for the Social Security Administration in Woodlawn, MD. He is the author of 5 dictionaries published by Jordana Publishing, which he founded. The company is named for his parents and he calls it "A thank you to a couple who though illiterate—he virtually, she completely—raised a family of eight, all of them decent and productive members of the human family." In 2005 he was SLD's invited Greiss lecturer.

MENTORING A UN ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

Yuliya Baldwin



Lauren (Lara) Klein, one of my second-year Russian students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte, was recently selected as a Russian language winner of the “Many Languages, One World” Essay Contest, organized by ELS Educational Services, Inc., and the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) initiative. The “Many Languages, One World” competition commemorated the 70th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations charter. This contest received an impressive response — more than 4,000 talented people from 128 countries participated in some phase of the contest, and close to 1,500 essays were submitted. Contestants ranged from college freshmen to doctoral candidates in diverse fields of study at universities all over the world. The contest invited students to compose an essay on multilingualism and global citizenship. The finalists had to take part in a Skype interview for the designated languages. The essay was to be written in one of the six official languages of the United Nations — Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, or Spanish — that was neither the student’s native language nor the language of instruction in the student’s pre-university study. Sixty winners — ten for each UN language — were selected and invited to participate in the Global Youth Forum, hosted by Adelphi University. On June 27th, 2014, all of the contest winners convened at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and made presentations based on the principles of the United Nations Academic Impact initiative.

Lauren Klein, a 20-year-old rising sophomore, was one of ten college students worldwide chosen to participate on the basis of her essay written in Russian.

When I first learned about this unique contest, I encouraged three of my best students to enter, making it clear that the goal would not be victory but the excitement and challenge of participating. Lauren was the only one who took this opportunity seriously, telling me that she was ready to work hard since she had been dreaming of eventually working for the UN. At the present time, Lara has completed only four semesters of Russian study, with her first year taken as a non-matriculated student at the University of Toronto. When we first heard of the UN contest, I had been her instructor for a semester and a half. She is one of those rare people who has not only an amazing

talent for languages but also an inquisitive mind and a strong commitment to learning.

My coaching of Lara was based on the four techniques I try to use with all my students:

- *Motivation and encouragement.* “You have the same chance to win as everybody else in the contest”; “Indeed, you have a better chance to win because you will work harder than everyone else towards this goal”; “I will help you at every stage.” Discussing Lara’s work, I would comment, “This is excellent”; “This is an award-winning idea/sentence/phrase,” or ask, “Do you feel how brilliant this passage is?” or “I can see the judges wanting to read further.” Needless to say, she was very skeptical at first, but gradually became more and more excited and positive about her essay and her abilities and chances.
- *Setting very rigid deadlines.* I had many other responsibilities and almost no spare time, so I made it clear that she had to put in a significant effort and have the planned amount of work done by the time we agreed upon. I was not going to waste my time. We met once a week face to face and once or twice a week on Skype for almost eight weeks, discussing what she wrote and future plans. She never missed a meeting. In between meetings, Lara would send me drafts for review, which I sometimes didn’t have time to read until we met.
- *Doing research for the project.* I asked Lara to read the main columns of the United Nations website in Russian, and to compare the Russian wording with the wording on the English website for purposes of vocabulary acquisition and general understanding of the organization’s mission and goals. Knowing that her family had, generations earlier, emigrated from Russian territory, I also insisted that she contact and interview her parents and relatives and look for old family photographs in order to give her essay a personal touch.
- *Minimizing stress.* Finalists had to undergo a face-to-face 30–40-minute Skype interview in the language of the essay. The interview was to be conducted by a representative from the ELS Educational Services, a native Russian speaker. When we heard by email that Lara had made the final cut, I told her that we were adding a new component to our strategy. To prepare her for the interview, I involved my friends in Russia — several professors and students — and terminated our meetings outside the classroom. I knew that to minimize the stress she had to have exposure

not only to a voice and personality different from mine, but, most important, the different types of questions a Russian native speaker might ask. For almost two weeks, three to four times a week, Lara practiced conversing via Skype with Russian native speakers who engaged with her in conversations about the environment, politics, education, and life on Mars. By the day of the interview, she was confident and ready. She passed it with flying colors.

- *Having fun.* Projects like this bring teachers and students closer to each other. I got to know Lara and her family story very intimately. Often, instead of sitting in my office, we went to the campus Starbucks for tea, and while working on stubborn Russian words, she would make a witty comment or a joke that I would never have suspected this shy girl was capable of. We would discuss the advantages or disadvantages of having boyfriends, or her sister reading my favorite Paolo Coelho. These conversations were all in Russian, of course.

I must confess that progress on the essay was slow. The first drafts were close to a complete disaster: random ideas translated from English and clumsily ‘dressed’ in Russian words, sentences filled with pompous expressions, awkward transitions, and absolutely no personal touch. It took me a while to warm her up to this project, to get her to abandon grandiose ideas and pronouncements and concentrate on what I had learned was the very personal and unusual story she had to tell — her unwavering desire to learn Russian, in spite of her parents’ and grandparents’ objections to her learning the language.

I suggested Lara research her family past and look for any connections to Russia. She found out that her mother’s great-grandparents were Jewish refugees who immigrated to Canada from a village in western Ukraine in the early twentieth century. Everything they had was taken from them when they were driven out of their homeland by the Tsarist gendarmes. They could never forgive “the Russians” and lived with the pain of this loss all their lives. Once when Lara had mentioned to her *baba* that she wanted to travel to Russia one day, her grandmother shouted bitterly that she never wanted to see anything in such a barbaric place as Russia. In her essay Lara wrote, “I believe that when a person decides to learn the language spoken by the oppressors of her ancestors, she makes the first step toward forgetting the past, living in the present, and changing the future.”

She made the next step during her UN presentation on the tenth UNAI principle: “A commitment to promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding, and

Lauren Klein receives her award from a UN official.



the ‘unlearning’ of intolerance, through education.” Lara focused her speech on the problem of lack of understanding. She made a commitment to write about her UN experience in Russian and English. She also plans to create a space on the Internet where students studying Russian can connect with native Russian college students to learn more about Russian culture from a first-hand perspective.

Lauren Klein has a big dream: she aspires to be an interpreter or a language specialist at the United Nations. She has a long way to go, but she courageously and successfully took the first step.

P.S. We just had a bittersweet cup of coffee together before Lara left for Canada to study at the University of Toronto, a school with free and better language education than UNC Charlotte. I know I gave her everything I could, and there is another, perhaps better, teacher waiting for her. But the truth is that while working on the essay and preparing for the interview, I became good friends with this bright and delicate young woman, and it was very hard to say “до свидания” to her. Fortunately, there is always a hope of ‘свидания’ in the Russian farewell.

To read Lauren’s essay in Russian <http://www.els.edu/assets/pdf/EssayWinners/Russian/Lauren-Klein.pdf>

To learn about the “Many Languages, One World” contest and the U.N. Global Youth Forum, visit www.els.edu/en/ManyLanguagesOneWorld

Yuliya Baldwin teaches Russian at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where she received an excellence in teaching award. Yuliya been writing regularly for SlavFile since 2010. She may be reached at: yuliya.baldwin@gmail.com

THE RETURN OF FALSE COGNATES

And Other Fine Points of Russian>English Translation: Part IV

Material from Steve Shabad's San Antonio ATA Presentation



This is the last installment of material from “The Return of False Cognates,” Steve Shabad’s presentation at last year’s ATA Annual Conference in San Antonio. Here Steve lists cognates with the same dictionary definitions in Russian and English but subtly different uses in the two languages. In many cases, following the suggestions here can make an adequate (one of Steve’s cognates) translation read more like an original. We hope that our reprinting of this material over the course of a year has been of significant help to translators who were unable to attend last year’s ATA conference. *SlavFile* will continue to publish conference material of this kind as it becomes available at conferences.

CATEGORY 3: SAME DEFINITIONS, DIFFERENT USAGE

Russian word	English word	Example of Russian term	Proposed solutions
агитация активная деятельность по распространению политических идей с целью оказать воздействие на широкие массы	agitation discussion meant to stir up people and produce changes	С 23 ноября начнется предвыборная агитация в средствах массовой информации.	campaigning
адекватный вполне соответствующий, совпадающий	adequate enough or good enough for what is required or needed; sufficient; suitable	Российская сторона примет адекватные шаги. Пострадают мирные жители... Таким образом, США рискуют предстать перед уже хорошо известными обстоятельствами, когда обвинять в несправедливости и неадекватности применения силы станут их самих. Мы стали признанным и равноправным членом группы сильных, политически адекватных государств.	appropriate; commensurate; equivalent
аналогичный сходный, подобный	analogous similar or comparable in certain respects	на аналогичных условиях Специалисты считают, что на завершение этих работ понадобятся сутки, после чего аналогичные работы будут проведены со вторым понтоном.	similar
атомный связанный с использованием внутренней энергии ядра атома. (НСРЗ)	atomic 1. Of, pertaining to, resulting from, or using atoms, atomic energy, or atomic bombs. 2. Propelled or driven by atomic energy.	атомная подлодка атомная энергия атомная электростанция	nuclear (submarine, energy, power plant, etc.).
вариант видоизменение, разновидность	variant anything that is variant, as a different spelling of the same word, a different version of a tale, myth, or literary passage, etc.	Коллегия советников губернатора обсудила варианты использования альтернативных видов топлива. Этот вариант не исключен.	option; version; variation; scenario; possibility; type
деградировать постепенно ухудшаясь, приходить к вырождению	degrade to lower or corrupt in quality, moral character, or value; debase	Одна часть населения... живет и процветает, в то время как основная часть и особенно «юг» деградирует , архаизируется и впадает в Средневековье. Плевать, что сериал на редкость глупый и детей почти ничему не учит, пусть деградируют .	deteriorate; decline

Russian word	English word	Example of Russian term	Proposed solutions
директор руководитель предприятия, учреждения или учебного заведения	director 1. A person or thing that directs. 2. One of a group of persons chosen to control or govern the affairs of a company or corporation.	директор школы	principal
инвалид человек, который полностью или частично лишен трудоспособности вследствие какой-нибудь аномалии, ранения, увечья, болезни	invalid a weak, sickly person; especially one who is chronically ill or disabled	Пенсий и компенсации, которые они получают, не хватает не только на лечение самих инвалидов и обучение их детей, но и «вообще на нормальную и достойную жизнь». Налоговая инспекция Нижнего Новгорода напоминает о льготах для ветеранов ВОВ, участников военных действий, инвалидов и членов их семей...	disabled person
информация 1. Сообщения, осведомляющие о положении дел, о состоянии чего-н.; 2. Сведения об окружающем мире.	information 1. Knowledge communicated or received concerning a particular fact or circumstance; news. 2. Knowledge gained through study, communication, research, instruction, etc.	В прессе прошла информация , что для г. Москвы эти правила были несколько изменены. В прессе прошла информация о решении Конституционного суда по поводу мировых соглашений с кредиторами банков «Российский кредит» и СБС-Агро — они были признаны законными.	report(s); news
катастрофа событие с трагическими последствиями	catastrophe any great and sudden calamity, disaster or misfortune	железнодорожная катастрофа авиакатастрофа	disaster; (plane or car) crash
колоссальный очень большой, огромный	colossal huge; gigantic; astonishingly great	Из России происходит колоссальная утечка капитала от сокрытия экспорта рыбы в Японию. Колоссальные усилия отечественных производителей наполнили этот рынок, но, как признают все, качество и разнообразие российских товаров не соответствует мировым стандартам.	huge; enormous; tremendous
масса множество, большое количество кого-чего-н.	mass a large quantity	масса вопросов	a lot of; a ton of; a great many; slew; spate
наркотики сильнодействующие вещества, вызывающие возбужденное состояние и парализующие центральную нервную систему	narcotic a drug, as opium or any of its derivatives, used to relieve pain and induce sleep; narcotics are often addictive and in excessive doses can cause stupor, coma or death	В ходе переговоров стороны обменялись мнениями по борьбе с терроризмом и незаконным оборотом наркотиков .	drugs
национальность (национальный) принадлежность к какой-нибудь нации, народности	nationality the status of belonging to a particular nation by birth or naturalization; identification as to national origin	национальная политика — nationalities policy национальные республики	nationality; ethnic group ethnic republic
нормальный соответствующий норме, обычный	normal conforming with or constituting an accepted standard, model or pattern	Как себя чувствуете? — Нормально . Платье нормального качества. Вести нормальную жизнь.	normal (in certain contexts); fine; nice; good

Russian word	English word	Example of Russian term	Proposed solutions
психология душевный склад, психика	psychology the sum or characteristics of the mental states and processes of a person or class of persons, or the mental states and processes involved in a field of activity.	детская психология А от рабской психологии надо избавляться. Надо бороться с такой негативной психологией .	psychology mentality
ракета беспилотный летательный аппарат с реактивным двигателем	rocket any of various tubelike devices containing combustibles that on being ignited liberate gases whose action propels the tube through the air	боевые ракеты крылатая ракета ракета -носитель	combat missiles cruise missile booster rocket; carrier rocket
регистрировать записывать, отмечать с целью учета, систематизации, придания законной силы чему-нибудь	register to enter in or as in a record or list; enroll or record officially	В течение последних 60 лет одиночные случаи заболевания скота сибирской язвой регистрировались практически во всех 16 районах Тувы, но люди заражались редко.	record; report
серьезный вдумчивый, строгий; существенный и важный по содержанию	serious earnest, grave, sober, solemn; concerned with grave, important or complex matters	Рабочая группа подвергла закон серьезной правке. ...нашей армией приняты серьезные меры по защите комплекса «Окно»	serious (in certain contexts); substantial
сумма определенное количество денег	sum an amount of money	Около 18 000 наименований товаров и услуг... Цены (минимальная сумма заказа 50 рублей)	amount (of money; total)
сфера 1. Область, пределы распространения чего-н. 2. Среда, общественное окружение.	sphere 1. A field of activity or operation. 2. A field of something specified.	сфера влияния сфера деятельности сфера услуг (или обслуживания) в своей сфере высшие сферы	sphere of influence area (or field) of endeavor (or activities) service sector in one's own element (or milieu) the upper strata
тендер конкурсная форма заказа на покупку оборудования или привлечения подрядчиков для сооружения комплексных объектов, реставрации и других работ. (<i>Толковый словарь русского языка конца XX в. Под редакцией Складневской. 1998.</i>)	tender An offer made in writing by one party to another to execute certain work, supply certain commodities, etc., at a given cost; bid.	В ближайшее время будет объявлен тендер на реконструкцию кронштадтских фортов. Тендеры и конкурсы на выполнение строительных работ и поставку материалов.	(round of) competitive bidding
факт действительное, вполне реальное событие, явление; то, что действительно произошло, происходит, существует	fact deed; act; now especially in the sense of "a criminal deed" in the phrases "after the fact" and "before the fact"; a thing that has actually happened or that is really true; thing that has been or is; reality ; truth	расследовать факты арестован по факту отмывания денег Даже если этот факт подтвердится, Россия не будет торопиться предавать его огласке.	incident; case; allegation arrested for alleged money-laundering report
фактический отражающий действительное состояние чего-н., соответствующий фактам	factual 1. of the nature of fact; real; 2. of or containing facts	(фактические) обстоятельства дела = facts of the case фактически (adv.) in effect, in essence, essentially, for all practical purposes	actual

Russian word	English word	Example of Russian term	Proposed solutions
фантастический совершенно неправдоподобный, невероятный, несбыточный	fantastic seemingly impossible; incredible	Вряд ли Альфред Кох, чей фантастический по сумме гонорар за книгу о приватизации в России уже был предметом скандала, не знал, о каких инвесторах он говорит. фантастический триллер	incredible; unbelievable; amazing; astounding science-fiction; fantasy
эффективный дающий эффект, действенный эффектный производящий впечатление, впечатляющий	effective having an effect; producing a definite or desired result	Дешевизна газа, скорее всего, является временным явлением. А значит, для Верхневолжья его использование не будет эффективным . В концовке поединка он дважды в течение короткого периода проводил эффектные комбинации, завершавшиеся акцентированными ударами ногой в туловище и голову соперника.	cost-effective; efficient impressive

Sample Definition from *Russian-English Dictionary of Idioms* by Sophia Lubensky (see interview starting on page 1)

Т-182 • (ХОТЬ) ТОПÓР ВÉШАЙ; МÓЖНО ТОПÓР ВÉШАТЬ *highly coll* [(хоть +) VP_{impers} used as impers predic (1st var.); impers predic with быть_o (2nd var.); fixed WO (with можно movable)] it is unbearably stuffy, it feels as if there is no air to breathe (in some lodging or room): **you could cut the air with a knife; you can hardly breathe.**
[author's usage] Я люблю набитые ребятами кузова машин, бараки и палатки, хоть там топор можно повесить (Аксёнов 1). What I like is trucks, barracks, tents, so jammed with guys you can hardly breathe (1a).