

# SlavFile

February 1995

Vol. 5, No. 1

RUSSIAN LANGUAGE DIVISION  
AMERICAN TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION

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## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

by Susana Greiss

How did you like our November '94 issue? Neat, isn't it? Congratulations to Christina Sever and Galina Raff, who are doing an excellent job! The *Slav File* is getting better and better!

Watch for the March issue of the *ATA Chronicle*, which is scheduled to feature Slavic languages. We are happy that we have this opportunity to bring the Russian Language Division to the attention of all members of the American Translators Association.

Our database project is in the works. We have the good fortune to have a member like Robert Welsh, who is willing to give hours of his time to this important task. We now need you to fill out the enclosed form for Bob and mail it to him as soon as possible. His address is: 1070 South Elizabeth Street, Denver, CO 80209. When the database is completed, you will each receive a draft of your entry in order to make sure we have the correct information. Please return it to Bob promptly. If you fail to return it within a reasonable time, we will assume that it is correct. You will then receive a copy of the complete directory, which will henceforth be updated on a regular basis and made available to the general public. Please write legibly and don't forget to give your name, address—including your city, state and zip code—as well as your telephone number and area code.

You may consider this reminder somewhat ridiculous, but you would be surprised at how many directory entries I receive without name or address! (Honest!) If you fail to fill out the database form, we will print whatever information is available to us—as a minimum your name, address and telephone number.

In choosing your areas of specialization, please use the list included on the entry blank. Make sure that you mark clearly whether you are an accredited (or active) member of ATA, associate member, or division affiliate. Also list any other languages you work with, and in which direction. When you indicate accreditation, please state in what language combination you are accredited; this is not a yes or no question! It is also helpful to give us the name of the institution from which you graduated, your degree, and your major. Other services may be useful information for "fill-in" jobs or part-time work. Also, please say whether you accept free-lance work, or do not want referrals. If you have already filled out this form, or if you are listed in our directory or supplement, and there are no substantial changes in

the data you gave us, there is no need to return the form.

There will be ATA accreditation sittings on both coasts this spring. Please consult the *ATA Chronicle* for dates. In New York, the sittings will be held on June 3 and June 10, 1995. They will be announced well in advance. You must be a member of ATA for at least one month before taking the exam, so if you are not a member, don't waste any time and join now! There are certain rules to follow, one of them being that you are now required to take a practice test before you can sit for an exam. This practice test can be requested directly from ATA (703 683-6100). You need to take only one passage, and you don't need to wait for the results before you take the exam, but you must allow a few weeks for ATA to process your records. The one alternative to the practice test is to attend a practice test workshop, for which you will be given a certificate to be returned to ATA at the time you sign up for an exam. Checks must be received by ATA no later than two weeks prior to the date of the exam. Again, please check with ATA for full details. The practice test workshop will be announced as soon as possible. The June 3 and 10 dates for sittings in New York are subject to confirmation. You must call the NYCT Continuing Education number (201-772-7182) to make sure there are no last-minute changes in schedule or location. If you go to the wrong address and show up late, no additional time will be allowed for you to complete the test, so make sure you have a confirmation and get there on time.

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Letters to the Editor,

short articles of interest, and information for the calendar are invited.

Submissions become the property of **SlavFile** and are subject to editing.

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### Membership

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

Write to ATA, 1800 Diagonal Rd., Ste. 220, Alexandria, VA 22314.

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

Write to Susana Greiss at above address.

### Advertising rates

Classified ad: \$5 per issue for up to 5 lines.

Display ad: \$25 per issue for up to

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

December 20, 1994

Dear Susana,

It is a big honor for me to be a member of the Russian Division. That's why I am very glad I received your questionnaire to which I decided to add a copy of my resumé.... It was so exciting to read about the Russian Division activities in Austin in the *Slav File*. How sorry I felt I had not been there! Also, it was very interesting for me to learn about your Russian background. And a translator profile was a great surprise for me.

You can congratulate me on being hired, after a three-months trial period, as a full-time medical interpreter for Hennepin County Medical Center starting January first. I will go on free-lancing both as an interpreter and translator, a full-time position being 30 hours a week. That still leaves me plenty of time during the week.

If you or anybody else from the Division would like me to share any kind of information about interpreters' activities here in the Twin Cities, I would gladly do that.

Sincerely,

Natasha Geilman

November 14, 1994

Dear Susana,

Thank you for your warm and kind letter. It reminded me the marvelous time I have spent at the ATA conference. It has been extremely useful in both professional and personal respect. I have heard from many participants of our workshops that these were so well planned and organized and so informative. But, most of all, to me it has been a rare opportunity to compare my translation abilities with others'—and this is what professional communication is all about.

Inna and Sima still recall that amazing evening we spent together in the Castle Hill Cafe. For them, it was a unique opportunity to meet so many Americans deeply involved in Russian language and culture. They admitted to me that they have never expected to see and sense so much charm, intelligence and mutual understanding within purely professional group, and attributed this entirely to the sole nature of Russian culture. (To a certain extent, I agree!) So, as a result, my beloved ladies are eagerly looking forward to see you in Nashville, TN next year.

After having gotten rid of all super-urgent and simply urgent projects I will start working on the pro-Ukrainian campaign preparation. First of all, I am going to place an article in the *Slav File* outlining the entire concept of this campaign and urging all translators dealing with Ukrainian to send me their names and suggestions on how to proceed. Then, with Ann's and your help I will compile a brief summary to be discussed (again, through the *Slav File*) and then submitted to the ATA Accreditation Committee

I will keep you posted on all progress (if any) in these matters.

Very truly yours,

Igor Vesler

# Database Entry Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE/FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TRANSLATOR: yes/no    INTERPRETER: yes/no    INSTRUCTOR: yes/no

OTHER LANGUAGES: \_\_\_\_\_    NATIVE LANGUAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

DEGREE(S): \_\_\_\_\_

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION: [circle up to six]

Arts and Humanities  
Literature  
Business  
Law

Industry and Technology  
Engineering  
Agriculture  
Biology

Computer Science  
Earth Sciences  
Medicine  
Physical Sciences

MEMBER ATA: active \_\_\_\_\_ associate \_\_\_\_\_ division affiliate \_\_\_\_\_

ATA ACCREDITATION: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

FREE-LANCE: yes/no    REFERRALS: yes/no

EQUIPMENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

EXPERIENCE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OTHER SERVICES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please detach this page, fold in half, staple, and mail to the address on the back.**

## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

(continued from page 1)

Our next New York meeting will be held on March 4. No room has been assigned, but you will receive a separate mailing with further details. We have again invited Ms Krys Hall to speak to us about tax returns and give us useful pointers and advice. The rest of the program has not been worked out yet. In a departure from our usual practice, we will meet for half a day, from 1:00 to 4:00. We would like to hear from our members in the area whether this arrangement works better for them. The reason for this is that it seems to be easier to get rooms at NYU for Saturday afternoon rather than for the entire day. Our apologies for what happened at our last meeting, when apparently some wires were crossed and there was no room for us (we found one anyway, but we were sent from one building to another and we got a late start.) Very frustrating! If anyone not living in this area would like to attend, please let us know, and we will put you on the "RLD East" list. You can also call me at (718) 271-2110.

If anyone is interested in court interpreting workshops, call the Federal Court Interpreter Project, (602)621-3687. Workshops are conducted in various parts of the country. Keep in mind that you are now required to have *Otherwise Qualified Status* in order to interpret in Federal courts in Russian. I believe the going rate is now \$250/day. Why not acquire an additional skill?

The Continuing Education Committee of the New York Circle of Translators is going to be very active in 1995. Many of the workshops are non-language specific. The recent workshop on voiceovers was a great success. Because it was conducted in a working studio, capacity was limited to 30, and we had to turn down 16 people. This workshop is going to be repeated very soon (probably in March), so if anyone is interested, please call the ContEd number for up-to-date announcements (201-772-7182).

By the way, did you read the book review in the January issue of the *ATA Chronicle of Lost in the Taiga*, translated by our very own Marion Schwartz? and her article on being a literary translator, in the same issue? Marion, we are proud of you!

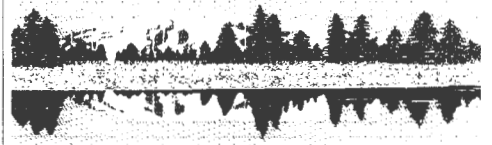
*Susana Greiss*

Reminder: If you are a member of ATA, you will have already received a reminder to renew your membership. If you are an affiliate, please remember that it is time to send us your check for \$15 to cover your 1995 membership. We must abide by ATA rules and cut you off as of the end of February unless we receive your check. It should be issued to Susana Greiss and mailed to 99-35 59th Avenue, #5-G, Flushing, New York 11368. If you joined late last year (October or later), you are paid up and don't need to do anything.

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### Proposed Division Name Change

Anyone with views on the proposal to change the name of the Division from "Russian Language Division" to "Slavic Language Division" is urged to send a letter to the *Slav File* editor for inclusion in the next issue. We hope to give a full range of views to our members and need your input to do so.



### THE VIEW FROM SEATTLE

by Ann G. Macfarlane  
Assistant Administrator

The big news from Seattle has been the surprising decision by the University of Washington to eliminate the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature (see related story). Many members of the ATA Russian Language Division have written to the University to express their concern about this step. A review committee has the decision under discussion at this time, and the results should be known by April or so. We will keep you informed.

Division members and colleagues working in Spanish and Japanese enjoyed an interesting evening on "The Terminology of Stocks and Bonds" in November. We first discussed in small groups the terminology for various aspects of accounting, stocks and bonds. Dan Reid, a local investment adviser with a flair for explaining complex matters simply, then took us through the steps of establishing a company and going public, answering many questions along the way.

That evening was so successful that we have scheduled a Saturday afternoon workshop on "Russian Financial Terminology: Accounting" for March 11 at the Shoreline Library from 1 to 4 pm.

Division members will also be meeting on the first Friday of each month for breakfast at Denny's Restaurant, Aurora Avenue and N. 155th St., from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. We hope those of you in the Puget Sound area will consider joining us if you will be in Seattle for the day.

## NORTHWEST REGION

### CALENDAR OF 1995 SPRING ACTIVITIES

NOTIS Slavic Special Interest Group and  
Russian Language Division of  
The American Translators Association

**Friday, March 3.** 9:00-10:30 a.m. Breakfast at  
Denny's, 904 N. 155th St., Seattle.

**Saturday, March 11.** 1:00-4:00 pm Russian  
Financial Terminology: Accounting.  
A workshop with Victoria Davidova-Stowe,  
Shoreline Library.

**Tuesday, March 28.** NOTIS general meeting to  
"Meet the Members." Details to be announced.

**Friday, April 7.** 9:00-10:30 a.m. Breakfast at  
Denny's, 904 N. 155th St., Seattle.

**Saturday, April 8.** ATA accreditation examination,  
University of Washington. You must be a  
member of ATA for four weeks prior to taking  
this examination. Contact:  
*American Translators Association*  
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 220  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Tel: 703-683-6100 Fax: 703-683-6122

**Friday, May 5.** 9:00-10:30 a.m. Breakfast at Denny's,  
904 N. 155th St., Seattle.

**The ATA examination requires advance  
registration.**

**All other events are open to anyone interested.  
Please join us!**

#### **DIRECTIONS TO DENNY'S AT N. 155th:**

Take I-5 to 145th St. (Exit#175). Drive WEST to  
Aurora Ave. (Hwy 99). Go NORTH to N. 155th St.  
Turn LEFT onto 155th, then RIGHT into the Denny's  
parking lot.

#### **DIRECTIONS TO THE SHORELINE LIBRARY:**

Take I-5 to 175th St. (Exit #176). Turn EAST on  
175th; go 2 blocks and turn RIGHT into the parking  
lot of the library.

For further information contact:

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Assistant Administrator  
Russian Language Division of the ATA  
Chair, NOTIS Slavic Special Interest Group  
P.O. Box 60034, Seattle, WA 98160  
Tel: 206-542-8422, Fax: 206-542-9340  
E-mail: 72644.1133@compuserve.com



### RUSSIAN FINANCIAL TERMINOLOGY FOR TRANSLATORS:

## ACCOUNTING

**Shoreline Public Library  
345 N.E. 175th St.  
Saturday, March 11**

**1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Seattle**

◦ Victoria Davidova-Stowe, who has translated two textbooks on accounting and briefed bank officers under the aegis of the Central Bank of Russia in Vladivostok last year, will share her enthusiasm for accounting, "the core of any business."

◦ She believes that "collective wisdom is a shortcut for excellence." Please join us to pool our collective wisdom.

◦ Everyone is welcome, whatever the experience or skill level. It should be an interesting afternoon on a challenging subject, in a collaborative and friendly atmosphere.

### **Russian Language Computer Software**

Russian fonts, keyboard manager, spelling & hyphenation checker, electronic dictionaries, thesauri, Russian OCR and machine translation programs. Available for Windows and Macintosh. Most comprehensive collection of software for working in Russian.

### **Russian Language Services**

**☎206-783-5425**

**e-mail: rls@prostar.com**

## **"The Most Unkindest Cut of All": Dismemberment of University Slavic Department**

*by Marina Coachman-Tarlinskaya*

A press conference organized by the Slavic Department was held at the University of Washington on December 9. The news that the Slavic Department, one of the best of the 22 analogous departments in this country, is to be eliminated, attracted a wide audience. Faculty, students, graduates of the Department and of the Jackson School of International Studies, representatives of the off-campus community and the press packed the room and lined the walls.

Professor Galya Diment opened the conference. Among the speakers were Professor James Augerot, the acting chair, Professor Dan Waugh, director of the Russian, East European, and Central Asian Program of the Jackson School of International Studies, state representative Ken Jacobsen, Professor of Russian History Herb Ellison, Stewart Parker, president of a Seattle bio-technology firm and a graduate of the SlavZic Department, Seattle attorney Margaret Niles, who works with Russian clients, and Ann Macfarlane, representing both the American Translators Association (ATA) and the Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society (NOTIS). The key motif of all of the statements presented to the anxious audience was that the closing of the Slavic Department was nearsighted, untimely and damaging to the University and the entire Pacific Northwest.

Galya Diment emphasized the role the Department plays in international relations and trade: the very location of Seattle demands a healthy and fully functioning Slavic Department. She stressed its record of academic excellence as well as its unique regional character. To find a similar program, nationally, one would have to go to Berkeley, California or Madison, Wisconsin. (Perhaps, Vladivostok, Russia could also 2match the local offerings.)

Professor Augerot outlined the two possible scenarios. If the Slavic Department is shut down, its assistant professors and lecturers, all of them women, will have to leave; professors with tenure will either look for jobs elsewhere or will have to carry the full burden of teaching the Russian language and thus eliminate the opportunity to do research. Fellowships will be lost, and no new graduate students will apply. If the Department stays in a decimated form, faculty morale and the reputation of the Department will suffer. No graduate students will be admitted and it will be increasingly difficult to attract the best new students and faculty to Slavic studies.

Professor Herb Ellison pointed out that students needed more than just a command of language. They

must know the history and the culture of the target subject areas. With the Slavic Department diluted or dissolved this mission will be difficult if not impossible to accomplish. The demise of the Slavic Department will have a direct negative impact on the Jackson School of International Studies, the School of Business, the School of Fisheries, and the Departments of History, Political Science, Geography, Economics, Linguistics, and Comparative Literature.

Professor Dan Waugh also surveyed the damage the proposed cut will inflict on the Jackson School and on the University as a whole. The Jackson School of International Studies enjoys nationwide recognition and its enrollment is the highest in the country.

### **Cutting into the Market**

Stewart Porter made clear that the role of Russia and its Far East affects Seattle's business activity in ways that would be hard to overestimate: market opportunities are bubbling lively, and new companies eager to do business with Russia keep springing up. Such enterprises provide new jobs locally.

Margaret Niles illustrated the importance of knowing the history and culture of Russia in order to communicate with Russian business people. Seattle needs well trained and qualified interpreters who understand the customs of the countries being dealt with. She stressed what damage the elimination of the Slavic Department will do to business and trade, starting with fishing and forestry and ending with Microsoft and the communications industry.

Ann Macfarlane emphasized the increasing demand for Russian and other Slavic language translators and interpreters. The number of Russian/English translators is growing in the American Translators Association and in the Northwest Translators and Interpreters Society. She pointedly remarked on the high level of competence of specialists who graduate from the Slavic Department.

Ken Jacobsen's main suggestion for saving the Department and other threatened humanities programs involved an increase in the cost of tuition: to maintain a quality education one must pay more.

During the question period other issues were raised. The cost of the political blindness in eliminating all Slavic language programs will be limitless. The University offers courses in Russian, Polish, Czech, Slovak, Serbo-Croatian, Bulgarian and many others.

*(continued on page 6)*

# Resources

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*Below is a list of places to obtain "things" Russian, which was posted on Compuserve. This source would also suggest that if you know the publisher and it's in the U.S. or U.K., that you probably should contact them directly. The public library should be able to give you the address of the publisher. But perhaps this list will be useful:*

- ❖ Znanie Bookstore 5237  
Geary Blvd, San Francisco CA 415/752-7555  
Russian Books, Records, and Magazines Cross street 17th Ave. Open till 6 p.m. on Saturdays.
- ❖ Szweide Slavic Books 2233 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA Mailing Address: P.O.Box 1214, Palo Alto CA 94302-1214, 415/851-0748  
415/327-5590. Russian & other Slavic language books and books on Russia etc. in English.  
Wonderful people, great place to browse.
- ❖ Slavica Publishers P.O. Box 14388, Columbus, OH 43214, 614/268-4002 Russian Language Dictionaries & Text Books
- ❖ Imported Publications – OUT OF BUSINESS – FEBRUARY 1991 320 W. Ohio St. REFERRED PEOPLE TO PROGRESS BOOKS Chicago, IL 60610, 800/345-2665 American distributors for Russian publishers. Have a catalog.
- ❖ Progress Books 72 Tecumseth Street Toronto, Ontario Canada M5V 2R8 416/368-5336  
416/363-3623 FAX
- ❖ Globus – Slavic Book Store 332 Balboa St. (Between 4th. & 5th. Avenues) San Francisco, CA 94118, 415/668-4723
- ❖ Victor Kamkin Bookstore Inc 4956 Boiling Brook Pkwy Rockville MD 20852 TEL: 301-881-5973  
Have a catalogue.
- ❖ Delta Systems Co., Inc. 570 Rock Road Dr., Unit H, Dundee, IL 60118 TEL: 800-323-8270 FAX: 312-551-9435 1989-90 Foreign Language Resource Catalog
- ❖ Schoenhof's Foreign Books 3160 "O" Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20007 TEL: 202-338-8963.  
FAX: 202-337-9221
- ❖ Russian and International Songs and Record Co. NY 201/906-5459
- ❖ The European Book Company 925 Larkin St San Francisco CA 94109, 415/474-0626 Have Teach-Yourself books galore.
- ❖ Mike's Productions (for Russian Movies) 718/934-2224
- ❖ Zwemmers (also have a shop in Moscow) London, England
- ❖ Top 1 Video (ask for Greg – Americanized name) 901 Fairfax West Hollywood, CA 90046, 213/654-0434 Sells all kinds of foreign films. Has catalogue for \$3.00
- ❖ The Russian House, 253 Fifth Ave., New York NY 10016, 212/685-1010
- ❖ Russian Information Services Vermont Catalogue of Russian related books. E-mail 73244,3372 Phone 800/639-4301 FAX 802/223-6105
- ❖ i.b.d. Ltd. 24 Hudson Street Kinderhook, NJ 12106, Phone 518/758-1411, FAX 518/758-1950

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## The Most Unkindest...

*(continued from page 5)*

Without this background errors may eventually develop in our foreign policy. As an example, the changing demography and economic orientation of Seattle requires that more of its citizens know Russian. Closing down the Slavic Department will damage the University by making it extremely hard to attract quality faculty and students in the future.

By the end of the meeting it became most clear that the Slavic Department has tremendous support in the community and in the state legislature and the fight for survival with quality must and will continue.

*Reprinted with permission  
NOTIS News, Jan-Feb 1995*

## You Can Help!

Please write immediately in support of the University of Washington Slavic Department. A public hearing will be held on March 1, and all input received before that time will be most helpful. Alumni and anyone with specific ties to UW are especially urged to send their views to the University. For more information, contact Professor Galya Diment (206-543-7344, e-mail: [galya@u.washington.edu](mailto:galya@u.washington.edu)).  
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University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195  
e-mail: [slavic@u.washington.edu](mailto:slavic@u.washington.edu)

# Newcomers' Forum

Dear Susana,

I have been working as a free-lance translator for the past five years. Unfortunately my work is limited to a couple of local agencies. I have mailed my resume to all agencies around the country and received favorable replies from most of them. However that was all I received. There were no work assignments at all. The local agencies are forwarding all their Russian translations to me but it is a trickle. I don't know how to break into this business. I am convinced that it is not the quality of my work that keeps me from getting any assignments. The local companies are quite happy with my translations. If you have any suggestions for me I would appreciate it greatly!

Also, I am now working on a Macintosh computer. I understand that a PC is the computer of choice. I am in the process of buying a PC. I would appreciate your suggestions on what software to purchase for my new computer.

Thank you,  
Sincerely,  
Alla Toff

Dear Alla,

Thank you for your letter. Here are my suggestions. Have you tried court interpreting? community interpreting? Have you talked to other RLD members in your area who might give you some pointers? Did you try to contact lawyers? If you reach lawyers directly, this type of interpreting can be very well paid. Since you have a background in chemistry, why don't you try some of the big laboratories? Have you ever done any voice-overs? It is not easy to get into it, but if you have the right voice, it pays very well.

I would also suggest that you try to come to New York to some of our RLD meetings. You will be surprised how much you can learn from your colleagues. People come from CT, PA, DC, not to mention NJ, of course. Do you attend meetings of your local chapter?

As for your software, I understand that the Macintosh and PC people are working on interchangeable software. If so, you can save yourself the expense of buying a new system. But the main thing is to realize that breaking into the translation market is a slow and difficult process, and the economy is still sluggish. I hope you have another job to tide you over in the meantime.

Good luck.  
Susana Greiss

## Interpreter Profile

**Tanya Gesse**  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear colleagues, hello. My name is Tanya Gesse, and I am an interpreter based in Chicago. My interpreting experience began 17 years ago when, as a teenage Russian emigrant, I used the few English words I knew to buy ice cream for my little brother. These days, my brother buys ice cream himself, and I have gone on to new assignments. For the last 10 years, I have worked as interpreter in a booth, on stage, on camera and at a table during conferences, negotiations, discussions, and while working as escort interpreter. Recently, I interpreted for Mayor Sobchak of St. Petersburg during his visit to Chicago. I consider both Russian and English "A" languages, preferring to work into English.

I also work with German, which I perfected in Munich while studying at Ludwig-Maxmilians Universität. On a recent German job, I accompanied American attorneys to Germany, assisting with litigation involving investment scams. Perhaps due to my lineage (I am part German), I sound native in German and consider it a strong "B" language.

I worked in Paris for two years as a translator and interpreter for Radio Liberty, Voice of America, and BBC, as well as briefly working for CBS News during President Gorbachev's visit to France. While in France, I polished my French at the Sorbonne and on the job. French is my "C" language.

In order to keep my speaking voice trained, I sometimes volunteer at Blind Service Association reading and recording for the blind.

My education includes a Bachelor's degree in International Business from Schiller International University in Paris and extensive coursework in the working languages at various institutions.

I am deeply touched by Russia's recent, albeit turbulent, move toward democracy, which only five years ago seemed improbable. It is a different world since the collapse of the Berlin Wall, and I believe that we, as translators and interpreters, have a special role to play in the new understanding between the East and the West.



# Наши в Америке

Николай Солдатенков  
Из газеты «Аргументы и факты»  
№ 4, 1995 г.

*«Вась, ты чего за ребенком не смотришь? Он у меня сейчас чуть на дороге не выбежал!» Если бы этот истошный женский крик раздался из окна какой-нибудь московской коммуналки — куда ни шло, но стоило ли лететь за восемь тысяч километров, затем почти час трястись в метро, чтобы на окраине Нью-Йорка среди однотипных двухэтажных домов с припаркованными «Фордами» и «Доджами» стать невольным свидетелем семейной разборки на чистейшем русском языке! Хотя, в общем-то, ничего удивительного, поскольку находился я на подходе к широко известному району Бруклина — Маленькой Одессе, как называют его американцы.*

Сходство с матушкой Россией еще больше усилилось, когда меня провели в зал знаменитого эмигрантского ресторана «Распутин» и усадили за стол, который минутой позже заставили — чем бы вы думали? — тарелками с белой и красной рыбой, картошкой в мундире, чесночным салатиком под майонезом и конечно же селедкой. Да, я еще забыл о водке. Короче, как будто никуда и не уезжал...

Публика в зале была пестрой, рядом друг с другом и вполне мирно отдыхали и веселились лица еврейской, русской, украинской и кавказской национальностей. За одним столом праздновали юбилей, за другим — вели деловые переговоры, по залу носились престарелые деды, пытаюсь поймать расшалившихся внуков и внучек, бандитского вида молодые люди приглашали на танец своих длинноногих подруг. Однако пришел я... чтобы поговорить о заморском жите-бытье с двумя музыкантами, играющими в этом ресторане — Владимиром Козаком (экс — «На-на», «Динамик» Владимира Кузьмина) и Игорем Луцевым (экс — «Веселые ребята», «А-студио»).

Как, спросите вы, играть в таких популярных группах и после этого упасть до ресторана?! Но в Америке работать в подобных заведениях отнюдь не считается зазорным. «Наоборот, ведь тут мы занимаемся любимым делом и еще получаем за это деньги», — говорит Игорь Луцев.

«К тому же, — продолжает Володя Козак, — мы всегда мечтали увидеть страну, где родился рок-н-ролл. Ведь раньше, когда нас от него ограждали, нам приходилось все на слух «снимать с магнитофона». А здесь пришел в магазин — там любая информация, ноты, видеозаписи с техникой. Мало тебе этого — пришел в клуб, где эти звезды выступают, грифом гитары тебе в тарелку упираются. Надо — смотри, даже спрашивай, тебе все расскажут, хотя и суперзвезды».

По их словам, за океан в разное время перебрались очень многие известные в музыкальном мире люди... Кто-то из них тоже выступает по русскоязычным ресторанам, кто-то открыл еще и собственное дело, кому-то удастся... музицировать совместно с американскими музыкантами. В целом же дела у всех идут неплохо, как и у многих выходцев из России.

«Нас жизнь всегда заставляла крутиться, поэтому у нашего народа так круто с фантазией, что деньги вытаскиваются буквально из всего. Американцы просто не в состоянии так зарабатывать деньги, как наши. Они всю жизнь на средних машинах проездают, а тут смотришь — только приехал, а уже последний «Мерс» купил».

А что нашим не нравится и раздражает в американцах, и наоборот? Продолжает Козак: «В любом обществе есть все. И гадость, и талант. Американцам не нравится, что многие русские сидят на пособии и все жалуются, что денег не хватает. И они правы, потому что Америка — это такая страна, где, если хочешь — работай, а не хочешь — прозябай. Тут что ты заслуживаешь, то и получаешь».

Игорь добавляет: «У американцев узконаправленное мышление, а нам и наука нравится, и искусство, и все-все. Нас жизнь заставляла интересоваться и разбираться во всем. А в Америке человек покупает машину и пользуется ею, пока она не остановится. Заглянуть под капот и поменять масло до них просто не доходит».

Между тем перерыв в развлекательной программе подходил к концу. «Конечно, мы живые люди, — сказал Игорь, — и нас тянет к прошлому, к тем местам, где родились. Но, повторяю, мы все здесь только ради работы. Нет ее — и мы никому не нужны. Вся Америка на этом держится»....

# Translator Profile

David A. Kachuk  
Raleigh, North Carolina

I started studying out of a book from the library when I was 15, filled with passion, fascination, and an unexplainable feeling that Russian was at once very exotic as well as terribly familiar. My dad was particularly proud of the ability to read, write, and speak Russian, which he achieved before he left Ukraine in 1912 at 16 years of age.

I majored in Russian in college, which left me with the ability to ask very intelligent questions without understanding the answers. I dropped the study of Russian in favor of a business career because of disgust over the communist world in general and the unfair treatment of Jews in particular. My business career has been prosperous and provided me with a wealth of experience in real estate and retailing.

In 1989 there was a program on American TV in which Mikhail Gorbachev spoke, and his Russian speech was not overdubbed. Gorbachev's Russian is very clear and bright, and despite my primitive and now rusty ability, I understood him. He spoke of the future and of hope and I was deeply moved. It occurred to me that an American with a broad business background who could speak Russian might have a role to play. As Prince Igor sang in the opera by Borodin— "Слава Слава Честь" — I envisioned a life of glory and honor.

Almost all my free time since then has been devoted to mastering Russian. I read, read, read, and translate, read aloud with native speakers, travel to Russia frequently, and work work on my computer dictionary (which now has over 6400 entries). I audited classes, took private lessons, and socialized regularly with the Russian immigrant community. I've

attended summer institutes in Moscow and St. Petersburg with morning classes in language, literature, and history, while afternoons and weekends were spent pursuing friendships and business opportunities. I renewed ties with relatives in Moscow and Odessa.

Acquiring new skills must have been intended by nature to be pleasurable. Imagine clouds clearing, mist rising, and the air left clear and bright. Almost suddenly, as if a veil were lifted, I could understand and answer. The result has been exciting. What a thrill to be a free man, a Jew, an American walking the streets in free Russia. All doors are open—I have currency and I speak the language. The surprising outsider is welcomed in because Russians are hungry for a taste of the outside world. I bring it to them in their language. I love the theater, the ballet, the philharmonic, and living in peoples' apartments.

I'm still waiting for honor and glory. However, I have passed the ATA Russian to English exam. Translators of written materials seem to be poorly paid and respected in the business world. I worked one day as interpreter for visiting business people and that was very well paid and extremely pleasant. Half the day was spent having lunch. Still, that is only one paid day out of almost six years of work. Business connections with Russia are not booming. None of my personal business connections have led to concrete results. Really, I'm not naive. I know what I'm up against. But I'm optimistic and looking for ideas. Russia has no choice but to develop a free market albeit at her own pace.

## **NASHVILLE IS COMING UP!**

While November seems a long way off, plans for the ATA Conference in Nashville are being made right now. If you have ideas for sessions, or suggestions as to who might be a good presenter, please contact the Assistant Administrator immediately. We would like to have a full and interesting program for all our members in the fall.

*Игорь Северянин  
1887 - 1941*

**ВСЕ ОНИ ГОВОРЯТ ОБ ОДНОМ...**

*Словы монастырского сада,  
Как и все на Земле словны,  
Говорят, что одна есть отрада  
И что эта отрада — в любви...*

*И цветы монастырского луга  
С лаской, свойственной только цветам,  
Говорят, что одна есть заслуга:  
Прикоснуться к любимым устами...*

*Монастырского леса озера,  
Перепаленные голубым,  
Говорят — нет лазурнее взора,  
Как у тех, кто влюблен и любим...*

# SlavFile

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