

Finally, this book is badly written, and for this the editors must take part of the blame. The author is, I assume, not a native speaker of English. Articles and prepositions are frequently misused. There are such things as "akinness," "principleless," "conscience-struck," "mediatorship," "detailedly," "scientifize," and "cognize." Most serious of all is the awkward diction that frequently garbles meaning, such as "If one remembers, however, from what philosophical argument it [Shklovsky's slogan on form and content] derives, its meaningfulness is by all means surpassed by the less complicated statements about the necessity to study concrete linguistic forms." Or "They [the steps of Shklovsky's staircase structure] lead to no didactic end, however, but contain their own content, being the only possible form to say what is being said." Sentences like this are not unusual. Also, some key Formalist terms are translated badly. *Priem* is rendered as "strategy"—clearly wrong, too modish and chic; *ostranenie* is rendered as "defamiliarization," which is not a translation of the term but a definition; *zatrudnenie* is "defacilitation," several steps backward from Erlich's "impediment." All in all, it is good to have this book, but much work in this area remains to be done.

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THE OXFORD RUSSIAN-ENGLISH DICTIONARY. By *Marcus Wheeler*.  
Edited by *B. O. Unbegaun* with *D. P. Costello* and *W. F. Ryan*. Oxford:  
Clarendon Press, 1972. xiii, 918 pp. \$18.00.

The tradition of dictionary-making is so well established that almost any dictionary produced by reasonable people is bound to be a contribution. Wheeler's bilingual dictionary is that kind of reasonable and careful work, and, given the publication date of 1972, it automatically becomes a contender for the title of best available Russian-English dictionary. The principal rival is, of course, Smirnitsky's *Russko-angliiskii slovar'*, produced in the Soviet Union and now in its ninth edition (1971) under the editorship of Smirnitsky's widow, O. S. Akhmanova. In compiling his dictionary, Wheeler made use of the third edition (1958) of Smirnitsky's dictionary along with other lexicographical resources. Lexicography is a type of cannibalism, the later dictionary feeding on the earlier ones, and thus it is not surprising to find identical or nearly identical entries in both works; see, for example, *pomët*, for which the six meanings "dung, excrement, droppings, litter, brood, farrow" are given in both dictionaries and in the same order. Wheeler is sometimes more helpful with the English glosses and will tell us, for example, that *iaz'* is "ide (fish of carp family)," while Smirnitsky feels that "ide" is enough.

The Wheeler dictionary is superior in giving related forms, usually providing us with nonobvious oblique forms. Thus the user with an imperfect grasp of Russian will learn from Wheeler that the genitive singular form of *kotël*, "kettle," is *kotlá*, and that the key forms of *vestí*, "to lead," are present forms *vedú*, *vedësh'* with past forms *vël*, *velá*, a type of information which can sometimes be extracted from Smirnitsky's examples but oftentimes not. Obviously a dictionary is not a reference grammar, but it is not reasonable to expect, for example, that the average user would know that *melíú*, *mêlesh'* are present forms of the entry *molót'*, "to grind"; Wheeler provides this and similar information, Smirnitsky does not.

Both dictionaries attempt to present the basic Russian vocabulary along with colloquial expressions, idioms, and those technical words which might be encoun-

tered in the reading experience of an educated person. The Wheeler dictionary has some 70,000 entries, and Smirnitsky's about 50,000, though Smirnitsky is more generous with examples. Wheeler's work is in a smaller format (9¼-inch page) than Smirnitsky's, which has a bulky format (10-inch page); Wheeler is slightly smaller than *Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary* (1965). Wheeler has a double-column page; Smirnitsky has three columns. As one might expect from the Clarendon Press, the quality of the paper and the size and clarity of the type are superior. Smirnitsky wins out, however, in the price competition, selling for only \$7.50, while Wheeler costs \$18.00.

I tested the resources of both dictionaries (ninth edition of Smirnitsky) by using them to read a recent (July 1, 1972) issue of *Sovetskaia torgovlia*, painfully dull material for a noneconomist. Both performed well, though Wheeler, as mentioned above, is more helpful with oblique noun and verb forms. *Motoroller*, "(motor-)scooter," appeared in Wheeler but not in Smirnitsky. In a story about a visit of Fidel Castro to a training center for astronauts the word *stykovka* would give trouble to any non-Russian; Wheeler has it with the meaning "docking (of space vehicles)," while Smirnitsky lacks it. Neither dictionary has *trenazhër*, "trainer, flight simulator." General conclusion: if you are ever constrained to read *Sovetskaia torgovlia*, either dictionary will serve you well.

Part of the bulk of Smirnitsky's dictionary results from his inclusion of an excursus into Russian grammar and a similar summary of English grammar, inclusions which are useful both to English-speaking users and to Soviet users. The only additional material in Wheeler is an appendix (five pages) of official abbreviations. Wheeler's dictionary would have gained in value if he had emulated Smirnitsky, at least to the extent of including a few pages of Russian declensions and conjugations along with a few notes about Russian participles and gerunds. These forms seldom appear as entries in Russian-English dictionaries (though Wheeler does list some past passive participles), yet they are characteristic and frequent ingredients of written Russian. The space required for a grammatical sketch of Russian is not great, but it would be a great boon for nonspecialists (in the Russian language) who otherwise have to search through textbooks deciphering the participles (three) and the gerund in this not untypical sentence from the same issue of *Sovetskaia torgovlia*: "Po ustanovivsheisia traditsii, otmechaia svoi prazdnik, sovetskie kooperatory obozrevaiut proidennyi put', sosredotochivaiut vnimanie na nereshennykh zadachakh."

Taking all factors (completeness, up-to-dateness, clarity of presentation) except price into consideration, I not only recommend the acquisition of Wheeler's dictionary but consider it necessary for all who deal seriously with Russian texts.

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RUSSIAN FOR THE MATHEMATICIAN. By S. H. Gould. New York, Heidelberg, Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1972. xi, 211 pp. \$8.80, paper.

This little book is intended to teach mathematicians and students of mathematics exactly enough Russian to be able to read mathematical Russian. For this limited objective the book is completely successful. The author is uniquely qualified to write this textbook, since he is a mathematician and philologist who for many years directed the translation program of the American Mathematical Society.