



British Embassy
Moscow

Future Culture Literature and Publishing Study Visit to the UK

26 January – 3 February 2019

Participants

RUSSIAN DELEGATES

SATENIK ANASTASIAN

Head of Content at Bookmate e-reading service. Editor-in-Chief at Popcorn Books



Satenik is a graduate of the Moscow State University of Printing Arts. During her publishing career she worked as a senior editor at *Rosman* (children's literature), managing editor at *UMKA* (children's literature) and managing editor at *AST* (children's and YA literature), and has published around 300 titles for children and young adults. At *Popcorn Books*, Satenik publishes YA and Adult titles with a focus on diversity. At *Bookmate*, she is responsible for cooperation with publishers and aggregators and manages a team of content executives.

Most of the books published at *Popcorn Books* are acquired from US publishers. Satenik is keen to use this visit to expand her UK list too. *Bookmate* are looking to sign more UK publishers and will bring more British content to users of the *Bookmate* app. Therefore, she is eager to meet more UK publishers and literary agents.

DENIS BEZNOV

Head of Cultural Project Department at Russian State Children's Library (RSCL, Moscow).
Member of the Jury of H. C. Andersen Award in 2018 and 2019. Poet, critic, translator



Denis manages and coordinates large-scale library projects focused on encouraging reading among children and teenagers. He develops interactive exhibitions, based on works of prominent Russian children's authors and designed for children implementing innovative technologies. He organises annual cultural events and book fairs at prominent venues in Moscow, including the *Moscow International Book Fair* and the *Red Square Book Festival*. He is currently on the steering committee for the upcoming *International Congress of IBBY* (Moscow 2020).

Denis is also a poet and a literary translator. He is an author of the poetry collection *Creature* (Moscow, OGI, 2018). His translation works include poetry by D. Gascoyne, M. Ford, P. Waugh, P. Muldoon, Sh. Morrissey, F. Ormsby, published in literary journals *Translit*, *Homo Legens*, *Vozdukh*, *Deti Ra*, *Novaya Yunost* and *Novy Mir*. He also translates from Spanish.

Denis works as a literary editor and critic. He has co-

edited a two-volume edition of Tykhon Churilin's poetry (Moscow, *Gileia Publishing House*, 2012) and edited and translated a poetry volume by Virgilio Piñera (Moscow, *OGI Publishing House*, 2014). His literary reviews have been published in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, the online edition of *Chastniy Korrespondent* and in journals such as *Noviy Mir*, *Volga* and *Literaturnaya Ucheba*.

ALEXANDRA BORISENKO

Translator and Associate Professor at Moscow State University, Faculty of Philology,
Department of Discourse and Communication Studies



Alexandra is involved in several publishing and educational projects with young translators and editors. She leads a translation workshop which has prepared a number of annotated anthologies. These include *Not Just Holmes* (a selection of Victorian crime stories), *Not the Butler!* (translations of some of the best British crime fiction writers), a third anthology dedicated to American crime literature of the 1920s — 1950s and an anthology of British children's literature. She also works with a new Moscow-based translation organisation called *Creative Writing School*. More recently, Alexandra has worked with the Anglo-Russian Culture Club on seminars about translation from Russian into English, which aim to present British readers with a selection of Russian literature that is virtually unknown outside of Russia. Alexandra would like to use the visit to the UK to find out what styles of contemporary Russian literature might be interesting for British readers and publishers, and to find a way to introduce younger British authors to Russian readership. She'd like to use this opportunity to strengthen ties that link translation and research work in Russia with the UK.

MARIA-ANNA GUSHCHINA

Manager at Klaudberri publishing house



Maria-Anna has a Bachelor degree in History of Art and a Masters degree in Editing and Literary Criticism. She started working at *Klaudberri* publishing house after completing her studies and has been doing it for the last 4 years.

Klaudberri is a small independent publishing house founded by two people, and Maria-Anna is responsible for rights acquisition, production and PR (focusing on SMM promotion). She also works as an editor and has edited several books for other Russian publishers.

Klaudberri primarily focuses on non-fiction photography and visual arts literature, but they aim at widening their catalogue and profile. For example, in 2016 they published *The Ongoing Moment* by Geoff Dyer, with the Russian publication supported by the British Council.

Maria-Anna hopes to use the UK visit to learn how

publishing processes work in the UK, and is keen to meet fellow publishers and other workers of the literary field who share her interest in books on photography and visual arts.

EKATERINA KASHIRSKAYA

Founder and Managing Director at *A Walk Through History* publishing house



Ekaterina Kashirskaya was educated at Moscow State University, received her MSc at the University of Essex (UK) and further training at the European Graduate School of Child Neuropsychology in the Netherlands. She established and managed a private consultancy centre in Moscow that provides different services for children with learning difficulties. She was a director of this centre from 1999–2014.

Since 2010, Ekaterina has been the founder and managing director of *A Walk Through History* publishing house, specializing in primarily non-fiction children's books (<http://www.peshkombooks.ru>). Her responsibilities include managing the process and overseeing the development of future books as a child psychologist and neuropsychologist.

More than 50 unique titles detail various periods of history (world and Russian) and explore diverse themes including the underground and railways, mathematics, football, biology and the natural world. All books and games are designed with the help of professional historians and child psychologists in order to provide children with a genuine feel for specific historical eras and give them an opportunity to understand and participate in the events of that time. About 50 non-fiction children's books on topics including science, math, palaeontology, ecology, and the environment were also translated into Russian.

KATERINA LIUBIMOVA

Research Associate of the Department for Communication and Research at the Museum Centre Ploshad Mira. Independent curator of the Krasnoyarsk Book Fair



Katerina works in the fields of contemporary art, children and YA literature and non-formal education with a focus on developing critical and visual thinking. Her aim is to find an appropriate way to make art and literature relevant to kids and youth.

As a Research Associate at the Museum Centre *Ploshad Mira*, Katerina develops and designs educational programmes and events, manages exhibitions, and forges partnerships with schools and education institutions. She has also been curator of the Cultural Program of *Krasnoyarsk Book Culture Fair* (KRYAKK). In addition, she designed and implemented the museum educational program *Knogoigry* (Book games), aimed both at children with their parents and at school pupils. Within the framework of the Krasnoyarsk Book Fair, she

has launched a game in the format of *The hero's journey*, aiming to engage teens and youth with events and books at the Book Fair.

During her visit to the UK, Katerina would like to learn from British colleagues on how to involve different audiences in debate, and how to reflect on controversial themes in YA/children's literature. Also, she is looking to collaborate with authors, illustrators or book event organizers to develop a partner exhibition or another literature event for youth at the Krasnoyarsk Museum or Krasnoyarsk Book Fair.

KONSTANTIN MILCHIN

Literary critic, festival curator. Editor-in-Chief of *Gorky media*



Konstantin has over 18 years of experience in cultural journalism. He was Sub-Editor of Culture in the weekly magazine *Russian Reporter*, Managing Editor of the weekly magazine *Time Out Moscow*, Editor-in-Chief of the monthly magazine *Historicum*, and is now Editor-in-Chief of *Gorky Media*, a Russian literary site which is updated daily. *Gorky* publishes more than 10 articles (reviews, interviews, essays, analytics) every week in addition to breaking news stories. He has also curated two new big literary festivals – in Irkutsk and Tobolsk, and one new literary prize for Science Fiction called *Future Tense*. He has collaborated with the British Council several times, moderating events with UK writers. In 2016, Konstantin was a member of the “Translit Trans-Siberian” travelling art residency. Konstantin would like to use the UK trip to create different literary projects, such as festivals and book fairs, under the *Gorky* banner.

ZHANNA NASUPKINA

Executive Director at the Book Institute



Zhanna graduated from the State University of Management (Faculty of Financial Management). For four years she worked as a PA to the producer Katerina von Gechmen-Waldeck (musicals *Metro*, *Notre Dame de Paris*, *Romeo and Juliette*, actor and singer Alexei Vorobyov).

Since 2010, she has been working as an executive director at the *Book Institute* non-profit organisation, where she oversees the non-fiction *Prosvetitel* (Enlightener) *Book Prize*, which promotes scientific knowledge, managing the launch of the season to the awarding ceremony of laureates.

Since 2017, Zhanna has also been organizing a full cycle of the *Lyceum* literary prize for young writers and poets.

In addition, she has worked with the *Book Institute's* team on the following projects:

- *Ambassadors of Poetry International* project, which aims to stimulate interest in modern poetry

and facilitate exchanges between Russian and European poets

- Annual literary program at one of the venues for the *Moscow International Open Book Festival* (which has now moved to the main square of the country and is known as the *Red Square Book Festival*);
- The full cycle of the Journalistic prize *PolitProsvet*
- Support and development of socio-cultural media Colta.ru.

By joining the delegation, Zhanna would like to expand her knowledge of the industry and in particular of the UK nonfiction book prizes.

OLGA RO

Feature Editor for the Moscow–based book trade magazine *Book Industry*. Editor-in-Chief of Interpub publishing



Olga has worked in the publishing industry since 1995. She started as a project manager before setting up an independent publishing house *PTS Publishers* in 2006. In 2008, Olga joined *Book Industry* magazine, where she covers book industry trends and developments. In 2017, Olga became Editor-in-Chief of *Interpub*, an imprint of *AST Publishers*. Since its foundation, *Interpub* has published a wide range of non-fiction titles on health and well-being, personal development, history, philosophy, humanities, and cook-books. *EKSMO–AST Group* is the largest general interest publisher in Russia, responsible for about 40% of the Russian book market.

YURY SAPRYKIN

Editor in Chief of *Polka* online educational project



Yury Saprykin is a journalist, columnist and specialist in cultural studies. He is the former Editor-in-Chief of *Afisha* magazine, the leading Russian publication on modern culture, and the co-founder of *Afisha Picnic* summer festival. He worked as an editorial director for the *Rambler Afisha* media company, the *Slon.ru* (now *Republic*) online magazine and *The Moscow Times*, the oldest English-language newspaper in Russia. In addition, he has written courses on Russian culture for the *Open University*, *Strelka Institute* and the *InLiberty* educational project. He is the author of the popular column *On the Spirit of Time* for *Afisha* magazine, which were collated in the book *The Observing Points* (2016). He now works as the editor-in-chief of *Polka*, an online educational project focusing on classic Russian literature Website: <https://polka.academy/>.

GEORGY URUSHADZE

General Director of the Big Book literary award. Organiser of the Kniguru literary award



Georgy Urushadze is the director general of the *Big Book*, Russia's most high-profile prize for literature. He is responsible for organising the *Kniguru* award recognising the best books for children and YA, the international Kniguru in the world literary review contest (which has taken place in the US, UK, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Spain and Canada) and the *Pushkin Lyceum*, a competition for writers aged 35 and under. In all, Georgy has managed various literary prizes for more than 30 seasons.

He is a graduate of Saint Petersburg State University (Sociology of Journalism Department). He has over a thousand published works to his name. Georgy is the author of *Selected Passages from Correspondence with Enemies: Seven Days Behind the Scenes of Power*, a nonfiction investigation into Soviet-era archives and interviews with USSR President, Mikhail Gorbachev. In 2002, Georgy founded the publishing house *Palmyra*, which is renowned for putting the works of Alexei Ivanov and Svetlana Alexievich in print. Georgy belongs to the Big Book prize's *Literary Academy* and is a member of the *Association of Internet Publishers*. He is a winner of Russia's most prestigious prize in public relations, the *Silver Archer*.

MAKSIM ZHUK

Associate Professor at Far Eastern Federal University. Founder of The Cultural Intervention educational project



Maksim Zhuk lives in Vladivostok where he works as an Associate Professor at Far Eastern Federal University in Department of Romance and Germanic Philology. Maksim has been teaching English, European and American Literature for fourteen years.

Nine years ago he founded an educational project *The Cultural Intervention*, a series of online and offline lectures on literature and reading culture. He is a main speaker there, with an average audience of approximately 150 people per talk.

Maksim also works as a literary scholar. This year he launched a book series *Modernism from Franz Kafka to Samuel Beckett*, based on his lectures on modernism. The series is focused on the life and works of modernist novelists including Franz Kafka, James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, William Faulkner, Marcel Proust, poet T.S. Eliot and playwright Samuel Beckett.

The main objective of this book series is to break down the barriers between readers and modernist prose, poetry, and drama. It includes philological research written for non-specialist readers and equipped with simple, witty and vivid examples and analogies to help

navigate modernist literature.

In June 2018, the first book of the series was published: *The Way to Castle or The Lecture Course on Franz Kafka* (Vladivostok, St. Petersburg: *Publishing Decisions*). Now Maksim is working on the second book devoted to the life and work of James Joyce.

PROGRAMME CURATOR

BHAVIT MEHTA

Independent curator



Bhavit is a creative freelance practitioner with expertise in curating and managing international literature and arts projects, building relationships with partners and stakeholders, and providing opportunities to promote the arts to new and diverse audiences. He studied Biological Sciences and worked in a research environment at UCL before entering the world of children's books in 2009. Between 2010 and 2014 Bhavit co-directed the *South Asian Literature Festival*, which took place in London and across the UK.

Since then, he has worked closely with the *International Board on Books for Young People*, the *Society of Young Publishers*, *Eastside Educational Trust* and *English PEN*, mainly on translation and creative writing projects, and has been an adviser to the *British Centre for Literary Translation*. In recent years Bhavit has worked with UK and international writers and collaborated with literature partners while working for the *British Council* and the *Commonwealth Foundation*. He is currently a Trustee-Director of *Wasafiri Magazine for International Literature*. Bhavit has a personal interest in stories from around the world and their impact on cultural relations.

Twitter: [@bhavitmehta](https://twitter.com/bhavitmehta)