



Science-Fiction Fanzine

Vol. XV, No. 11; November, 2003

## Letter to the Editor

**Dear CyberCozen readers,**

Will anyone who still has some of my books please return them, or at least send me an e-mail telling me so, so that I can arrange to recover them. I expect that a fair number of them are still out there. **Bill Silverman**, [bill@wisdom.weizmann.ac.il](mailto:bill@wisdom.weizmann.ac.il), POB 5223, Gan Yavne, 70800

**Dear Bill**, I just looked through my stack of unread books and found six of yours. It wasn't my intention to keep them *forever*, I just never got around to reading them. I will return all six at once. Sorry.... **Aharon**

## Israeli SF in Russian: Is There Such a Thing? (Conclusion)

By **Daniel Kluger**

### Science Fiction Writers

#### **Pesach (Pavel) Amnuel**

Born in Baku (Azerbaijan) in 1944. Has Ph.D. in Astronomy.

His first short story "Ikaria alpha" was published in 1959 in "Technika molodezhi" ["Technics for youth"]. Many short stories and novels were published in "Technika molodezhi", "Ural'skij sledopyt", "Nauka i Religiya", "Knowledge is Force" magazines and more than in 20 sf anthologies. His first book "Segodnja, zavtra i vseгда" ["Today, tomorrow and always"] came out in 1984. Along with a main novel, the book included short stories. Another book "Drops of stellar light" came out in 1990.

In Israel Pesach has written more than in all the preceding years. He has published two books and more than 200 short stories. His books "Den' pervij – Den' poslednij" ["First day - last day"], 1993, and novel "Ljudi koda" ["The People of the Code"] (1997). "The People of the Code" tells about the Messiah's advent and the escape of humanity from Earth. Famous sf writer Boris Strugatsky said about this novel: "It is an unusual, strange, wild novel. I read it with great pleasure and recommend it to all." Two other books are about to be published in Russia: "Chto budet, to i budet" ["What Should Happen, Happens"] by AST, and "Chisto nauchnoe ubijstvo" ["Purely Scientific Murder"] by Moscow publishing house Veche.

Pesach's short stories include prognostic science fiction focused on XXI century Israel, and six volumes of "The Adventures of Iona Sheket" (Iona Sheket is a Jewish twin of Lem's Ion Tichy). In 1995 Pesach started to write crime stories and published several novels and more than 100 crime short stories united in the cycle "The Adventures of Sergeant Berkovich".

In 1982 Pavel received "The Great Circle" award of the Association of USSR sf clubs for the most popularity among sf readers. Short stories "Bow-shooting" and "I am not guilty" received awards in the 1980s. His short story "Twenty billion years after end of the World" was included in the sf anthology "Science fiction of XX Century", which came out in Russia in 1995. "Lyudi Koda" was nominated for Russian literary awards "Interpresskon" and "Bronzovaya ulitka" [the Bronze Snail].

Pesach was the founder and chairman of the Jerusalem Science Fiction club, from its start in 1991 as a section of Jerusalem Literature Seminar, and until the club closed its doors in 2002. Club activity moved online and can be found at <http://www.kulichki.com/antimiry>.

Pesach worked as an editor for many Israeli periodicals published in Russian. During his work as editor-in-chief in "Alef" (a Jewish youth magazine, with circulation in 47 countries), the magazine published not only articles on Jewish life, political commentaries, interviews, essays on Jewish history, but also mystery and science fiction stories.

## Alexander Rybalka

Born in Leningrad in 1966. From 1990 worked as a journalist and an editor in several Russian newspapers. In USSR published 3 books. In 1993 immigrated to Israel. Alexander works as a journalist in Russian-language periodicals and online press.

Alexander published the following sci-fi and fantasy novels: "Strazhi poslednego neba" ["Guardians of the Last Sky"] (1996), "Azazel" in 1997. In 1998 "Kniaz' Siyayushego Doma" ["The Prince of the Shining House"], "Hitchhiker in Time", "Horror Dreams of Cthulhu" (about Lovecraftian mysticism in modern Israel), "The Island of the three-legged Donkey" and a novel "Adam's Stick" (about connections between Zoroastrian, Jewish and Lovecraftian magic) were published in the Russian newspaper "Vesti". "Millennium on Loan" (in association with Daniel Kluger) and "Parting on the Waters" (about connections between Jewish and Lovecraftian Kabbalah – Rahav and Cthulhu) came out in 1999. "To Kill the Messiah", "Other side of the Earth" – a novel about Jewish, Chinese and Lovecraftian magic were published in 2000.

## Lev Vershinin

Lev Vershinin was born in 1957 in Odessa. He has a degree in history. Since 1989 he writes and publishes science fiction. Immigrated to Israel in 1999. He received Russian literary awards – "Strannik"-1997, "A Sword in the Mirror" – 1997, "Star Bridge" – 1999. In 1996 he received a Eurocon award. His latest book is "Dospekhi Boga" ["The God's Armor"] published in Moscow by AST in 2002.

Lev Vershinin is an author of the following sf books published in Ukraine and Russia:

"Uschel'e Trekh Kamnei" ["Canyon of Three Stones"], 1993, "Hroniki nepravilnogo zavtra" ["The Chronicles of the Wrong Tomorrow"], novels and stories, 1996, "Dvoe na krayu vechnosti" ["The Two Beneath Eternity"] – a novel and stories, 1996, "Velikij Satang" ["Satang the Great"], 1998, "Evil Destiny of Ecumene"- historical

novel. Moscow, EKSMO, 1998, dilogy “Selva ne lyubit chuzhikh” and “Selva umeet zhdat” [“Selva do not like Strangers”] and [“Selva can wait”], 1998, “Na krayu vechnosti” [“Beneath Eternity”], Moscow, AST, 2000.

Lev also published two books of poetry - “Strana, kotoruyu ukrali” [“The country that was stolen”], 1994 and “Neaktual’nye ballady” [“Ballads out of date”], 2001, and a historical novel “Vremia korolei” [“The Time of the Kings”], Moscow, EKSMO, 1998.

## Alex Lurie

Alex was born in Odessa in 1966. There he got a higher education and lived till the age of 25. In association with Lev Vershinin wrote a novel "Hroniki nepravil'nogo zavtra" ["Chronicles of Wrong Tomorrow"] and a couple of sf stories. In 1991 Alex emigrated to Israel; since then he has been living in Jerusalem. During his Israeli period of life he wrote several stories for both the Israeli and American press. Since 1995 he has been busy with criticism and journalism, his works are constantly published in Israeli, US and Ukrainian periodicals and the online press. His writings about the developments in science fiction fandom in Russia were followed by emotional feedback from Russian fans. You can find all of Alex's works and articles at [http://zhurnal.lib.ru/l/lurxe\\_a/](http://zhurnal.lib.ru/l/lurxe_a/).

## Daniel Kluger

Daniel Kluger was born in 1951. A physicist by education and the author of several inventions, Daniel headed the Crimean division of the *Tekst* publishing house in the early 1990s. Since 1994 lives in Israel. His detective and fantasy stories, as well as articles on aesthetics of genres are published in the Israeli and Russian press.

His first publication came out in the USSR in 1979. Daniel is the author of the following books published in the USSR, Russia and Israel: "Zhestkoe Solntse" [The Harsh Sun], "Molchalivyi Gost' [The Silent guest], 1991, "Zapadnya dlya syshchika" [A Trap for the Detective], "Pereshedshie Reky" [Those Who Have Crossed the River], "Smert' v Kesarii" [Death in Caesaria], "Ubiistvennyi Maskarad' [Murderous Masquerade], "Tysyacha Let v Dolg" [Millennium on Loan], co-authored with Alexander Rybalka, "Pobeg iz shkoly iskusstv" [Escape from Art School].

Daniel also published several detective and fantasy novels and stories in the Russian magazines *Iskatel* (Moscow), *Den I Noch'* (Krasnoyarsk), as well as in anthologies and collections put out by Russian publishing houses *AST*, *Armada*, *Eksmo*, and *Ripol-Klassic*.

His stories "Lebedinaya Pesnya" [Swan song] and "Sataninskaya Pristan'" were nominated for the "Interpresskon" award.

Daniel also wrote a collection of brilliant Jewish horror stories “Letayuschaya v temnyx pokoyax” [“She's That Flying in Dark Chambers”] and the mystery novel *The Dybbuk Heist* -- about an Israeli detective conducting an investigation in a Middle-ages Jewish ghetto. His new book “Dela Magicheskie” [“A Case of Magic Affairs”]

is soon to be published in Moscow by AST-Astrel. The book contains fantasy crime stories set in a world based on ancient Sumerian mythology.

### Illustrators

#### Dany Shubik (www.shubik.com)

Dany Shubik is an illustrator and artist. He was born in 1967 in Kharkov, Ukraine. He studied illustration in the Kharkov Institute of Applied Arts. Since 1992 Dany lives and works in Israel. Since then he has created illustrations for books, comics, computer games, puzzles, posters, layouts for animated movies, and graphics for the World Wide Web.

His science fiction works include illustrations for *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, and cover art for Henry Lion Oldie's *I'll Take It Myself* [\*Ya voz'mu sam\*]. Dany employs classic painting techniques such as watercolor, oils and pencils as well as computer graphics. Many of his recent works were created on Macs using Fractal Design Painter and Macromedia Flash. Dany works in the advertisement industry.

#### Irina Golub

Born in 1970 in Leningrad, now St. Petersburg. Has been painting since the age of 2. Irina studied painting and other genres of art from 1975 to 1998, first in Russia, then in Israel, where she graduated from the Jerusalem Academy of Arts (Bezalel). Since 1991 she lives in Jerusalem. For several years Ira taught stained-glass art courses at the Jerusalem Center of Arts. She worked as an illustrator in 'Vesti' – an Israeli newspaper published in Russian. She painted in the style of Judaic art and created a cycle of graphics and paintings on Biblical motifs. She has carried out two personal exhibitions and participated in nine associated ones in Russia and Israel.

After finishing a long series of illustrations to Tolkien's books, Irina was nicknamed *Svetoch Kultury Sredizemija* ["Lantern of Middle-Earth Culture"]. Her literary activities are also connected to Tolkien's world.

Irina Golub is one of the most famous figures in the role-playing movement in Israel. As costume designer and art director she has participated in the organization of many role-playing games and events.

### Credits

The text was translated and prepared by Dina "Kelly" Bromberg, Elana Gomel and Oleg Sverdlov.

### Short Book Review by Aharon Sheer:

*At the Eye of the Ocean* by Hilbert Schenck (1981), 224 pages.

Recommended by Shmuel Kahn. If Shmuel had not recommended this, I would never have read it. It's actually a historical novel taking place in the 1800s, with a fantasy flavor. And I have little interest in historical novels, and less in fantasy. This was the first novel of this author, who is new to me (even though he was born in 1924). He later wrote some sf novels, but this is not one of them.

When I read novels actually written in the 1800s, one of the things I notice is how alien many of the characters' thought processes are. People of those early years often think (and thus behave) radically differently from people of today. Some of them are more alien than the typical Star Trek alien. In this respect this book fails as a historical novel, for the thought processes of the heroes seem quite modern. This book is written

to be read by people today, and to speak to people today. The book is written as if written in the 1800s, and in terms of an 1800s style of writing it seems quite convincing. The description of the technology of that time and the daily life, of the difficulties and problems for many people then, seems accurate (although I am far from expert on those times, it has the ring of truth). The story takes place on the sea coast of New England, and even includes some whaling scenes. (I did not like *Moby Dick* either.) But the main character also has fantastical powers. He can sense the sea and the life of the sea. He can focus the weather and feel the actions of the sea beings. This is not something that he does consciously, it is an ability that comes out of circumstances, and it can save his life, and that of others. At the same time, he is intelligent and hard-working, studies and plans and prepares. He is a real hero. And there is a heroine who sees the hero as a kind of very powerful, and very dangerous, god. And as a modern heroine, she later on successfully emasculates him, fearing that his powers will lead him to (perhaps necessary) acts of violence and killing. This is a thoughtful book, and a thrilling book. The heroine, in her great success as a scholarly woman, even meets the Queen of England, Queen Victoria. But as a modern book, there is more emphasis on sexual feelings

than I would expect for a book pretending to belong to that earlier time. Well, the reader can judge for himself. The book kept me reading, unable to put it down.

And if I was disappointed by some of the later events in the book, it does at least end majestically, as fit for a god, with a storm in which "over one hundred vessels were lost along the North American coast." (p. 219) Now that's a deity's way to die!

**Note:** Who is Hilbert Schenck? I had never heard of this author before receiving the above book on loan from Shmuel Kahn. Schenck is an engineer with a great interest in oceanography, who in his younger years wrote much non-fiction about the ocean (on Diving, Spearfishing), and also a little bit of sf. Suddenly in the late 1970s, when he was over 50 years old, he began writing a fair amount of science fiction and fantasy (much of it connected with the ocean). In the next years his short stories were *nominated* four times for a Hugo award, and two times for a Nebula award, although he never actually won an award. He published his first novel (*At the Eye of the Ocean* – reviewed above) when he was 55 years old. He continued to publish novels until 1988 and short stories until 1993.

For Comments: POB 84, Rehovot 76108. Email: [asheer@netvision.net.il](mailto:asheer@netvision.net.il). Tel: Aharon Sheer 08-947-1225

Editor: Aharon Sheer. Logo by: Miriam Ben-Loulu

For mail delivery of *CyberCozen*, please donate 30 shekels per YEAR; For airmail to US \$15; If Aharon Sheer can hand-deliver it, 15 shekels. For **free email delivery** write to [asheer@netvision.net.il](mailto:asheer@netvision.net.il) (specify XP Word format, or RTF format).

Copyright © 2003

.All rights reserved to specified authors and artists  
כל הזכויות שמורות למחברים וליוצרים, כפי שצוינו.

### Quote of the Month:

"... how many specimens of *Tyrannosaurus rex*, the most famous dinosaur of all, do you think that the world's universities and museums have between them? Not copies, but originals, dug from the rock by paleontologists?

"Hundreds ... surely?

"No. Until *Jurassic Park*, there were precisely *three*, and the times when those particular animals lived have a spread of five million years. Three more fossilized *T. rexes* have been found since, because *Jurassic Park* gave dinosaurs a lot of favorable publicity, making it possible to drum up enough money to go out and find some more. With that rate of success, the chance of a future race finding any fossil humanoids, over the whole period of our and our ancestors' existence, would be negligible."

From *The Science of Discworld* by Terry Pratchett, Ian Stewart and Jack Cohen, p. 269