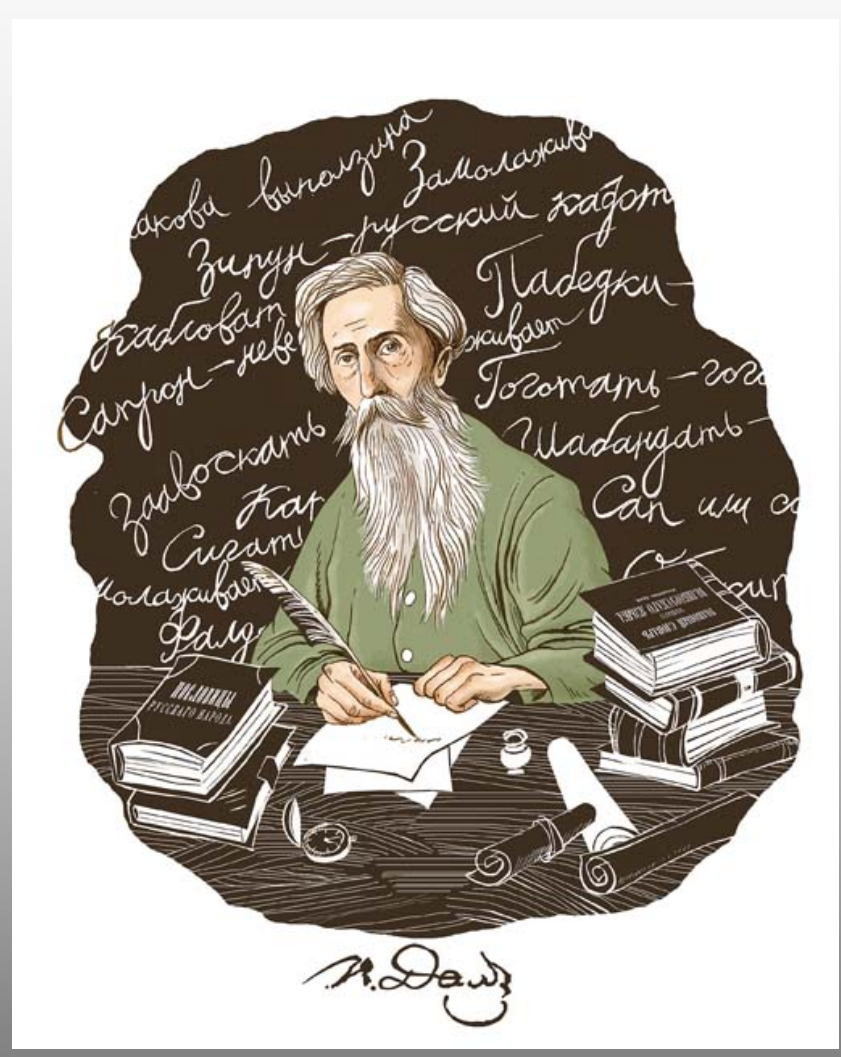


CORRESPONDENCES AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Swedenborg in the Age of Realism in Russia



VLADIMIR IVANOVICH DAL (1801-1872)

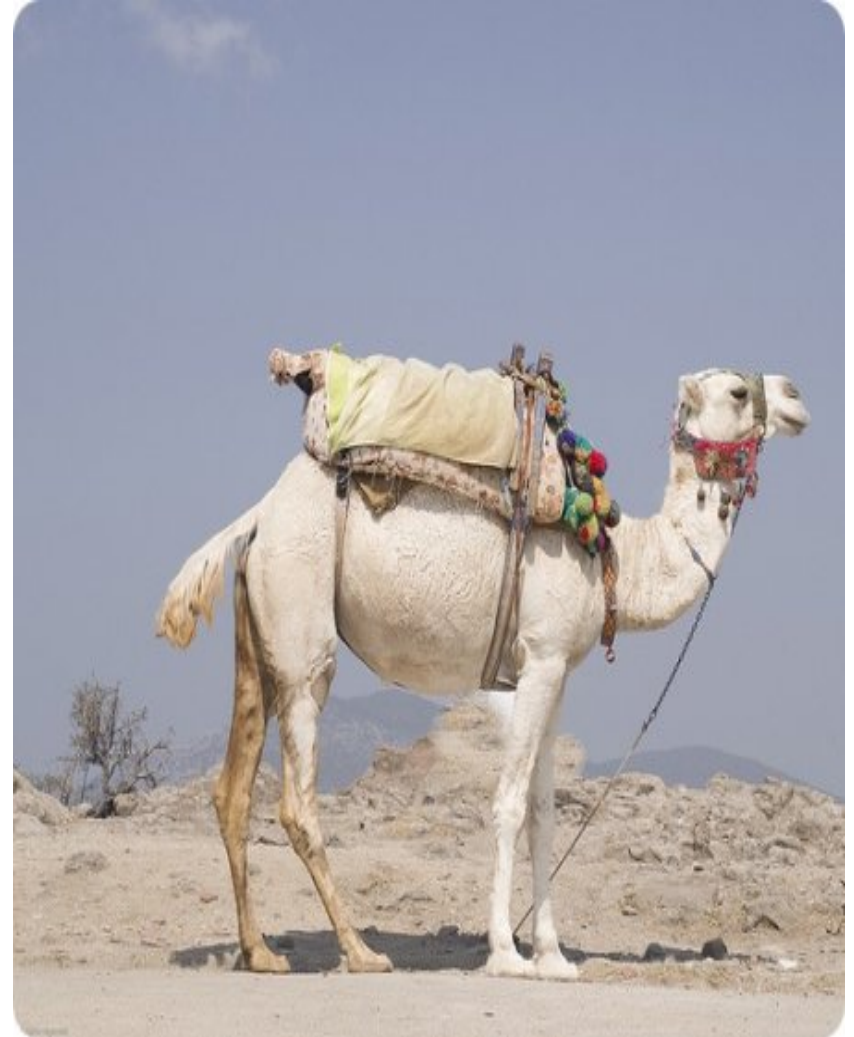
- Born in Luhansk; half Danish, half German, married a French woman
- Graduated from the Naval Cadet Corp
- 1826-29: studied at Dorpat University; defended the dissertation «Об успешном методе трепанации черепа и о скрытом изъязвлении почек».
- 1829-32 гг.: military surgeon; participated in Turkish and Polish campaigns
- 1830 – beginning of literary activities (pseudonym Владимир, Казак Луганский). Author of popular fairy tales and stories
- 1830-50s – administrative activities
- 1833-1837 – friendship with Pushkin; at the deathbed of the poet
- Author of textbooks of botany, zoology; amateur musician; traveler
- Mystic, translator of Swedenborg, spiritualist (asked the spirits: “Do I have time to complete my dictionary before death?” They confirmed and he did).

The Sense of Mission

I vividly recall the disappearance of my pack-camel during the military campaign of 1829 two legs out from Adrianople. ... I was orphaned with the loss of my notes [and] cared little about suitcases with clothes.

Conversation with soldiers from all localities of broad Rus' had supplied me with abundant stock for the study of language, and this all was lost.

Fortunately, the Cossacks chanced upon the camel with [...] notes somewhere along the way, and a week later brought him to Adrianople. My former batman, who had been attending to [that camel], disappeared without a trace. (Напутное слово, 1862).



Russian Explanatory Dictionaries Before Dal

- 1789-94 - “Словарь Академии Российской”: 43,257 words (2nd edition: 1806–1822: 51,288 words; examples from church books, historical chronicles, and literary works).
- 1847 - “Словарь церковнославянского и русского языка” (114,749 words; collective project)
- 1852 - “Опыт областного великорусского слова” (eds., Vostokov and Korkunov)

КЪ 25-ЛѢТІЮ ИЗДАТЕЛЬСКОЙ ДѢЯТЕЛЬНОСТИ МАВРІКІЯ ОСИПОВИЧА ВОЛЬФА.

ТОЛКОВЫЙ СЛОВАРЬ
ЖИВАГО
ВЕЛИКОРУСКАГО ЯЗЫКА.

Владимира Даля.

Словарь назван толковым, потому что онъ не только соединяетъ одно слово другимъ, но толкуеть, объясняетъ подробности значенія слова и полагаетъ, имъ принадлежующія. Слова живого великорускаго языка, употребляющагося въ области и нараздѣлахъ всего края.

Прим. автора.

ТОМЪ ПЕРВЫЙ.

А—З.



ИЗДАНИЕ КНИГОПРОДАВЦА-ТИПОГРАФА М. О. ВОЛЬФА.

С.-ПЕТЕРБУРГЪ,
Гостинный дворъ, №№ 17 и 18.

МОСКВА,
Кузнецкій мостъ, д. Третьяковъ.

1863

goldsite.ucoz.com

- 1819 – the origins of the collections
- 1840s - Ministry of Enlightenment's offer to sell the collection for 15 copecks per a word. Rejected: an individual's project, rather than state commissioned.
- 1861-67 – The Dictionary published (1863-66 on the front page)
- Includes 200,000 words and 30,000 proverbs
- April 21, 1862: «Напутное слово. Читано в Обществе Любителей Руской словесности в Москве»
- 1868 – Dal is elected an honorable member of the Russian Academy of Science

The Age of Great Dictionaries

- 1755 – Samuel Johnson's *A Dictionary of the English Language*; 42,773 words in the 1st edition)
- 1806-28 – Noah Webster's *An American Dictionary of the English Language*; 65000 words
- 1858 – 1st volume Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm's *Deutsches Wörterbuch* (through letter “F”; completed in 1961)
- 1861-1874 – Niccolò Tommaseo *Dizionario della lingua italiana*
- 1863-72 - Émile Littré's *Dictionnaire de la langue française*
- 1861-68 - ТОЛКОВЫЙ СЛОВАРЬ ЖИВОГО ВЕЛИКОРУССКОГО ЯЗЫКА

The Age of Great Reforms and Ideas (1860-70s)

- 1861 – Emancipation Manifesto; from the “peasant question” to the cult of common people
- 2nd half of the 1850-x – beginning of the 1860 – debates on Russian national identity, popular education, Russian way of development, native foundations of the Russian language and grammar
- 1862 – celebration of Russia’s Millennium
- 1863-64 – Polish uprising; debates on different branches of Slavdom
- 1860s – religious and occult awakening (Modern spiritualism)
- 1860-70s – the age of global ideas and “monumental forms”: “thick” journal; Russian epic novel; monumental historical painting; Russian historical opera

What Is the Word?

- One may not, with impunity, joke with language, with the human word, with speech; *the human language is a visible, tangible bond, a link connecting body and soul*: without words there is no conscious thought, but only sensations and grunting...
- Our carnal nature grants no power to the spiritual principle within us without language.
- The word existing in our world is *alive; it languishes, endures, and suffers* if one places it incorrectly in a dictionary or replaces it with a foreign word....
- Word and Language degrade and freeze in a deadly sleep under foreign influences: “In the case of our neighbors, brothers from the same root, the Slavic language has merged with Western languages and formed a new language, embracing an abundance of sources, but this violence has rendered it dead material, and it has fossilized, as is clear from the loss of its stresses, which have stopped dead once and for all on the penultimate syllable.”

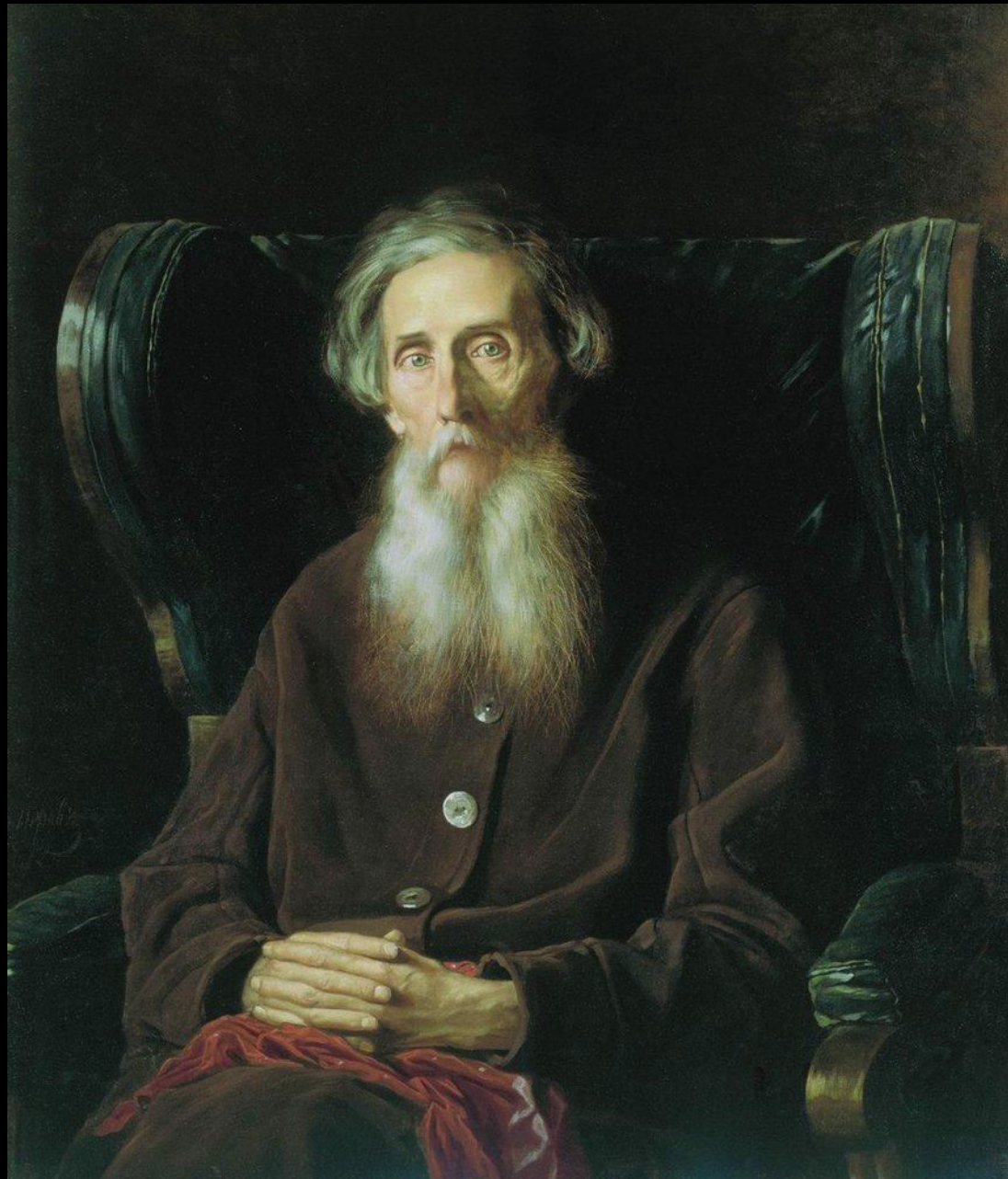
The Last Word of the Dictionary (from Octoechos 5)

“Велие чудо, / невидимых
Содетель, за
человеколюбие плотию
пострадав, / воскресе
Безсмертный. / **Приидите**
отечества язык, Тому
поклонимся: /
благоутробием бо Его от
прелести избавльшеся, / **в**
Триех Ипостасех Единого
Бога пети навыхом.”

O great wonder! / Having
suffered in the flesh through
his love for mankind, / the
Creator of all things visible and
invisible, / hath arisen
immortal. / **Come O ye**
descendants of the native
tongues, / let us worship Him;
for delivered from error by his
compassion, / **we have learned**
to hymn [sing out] one God
In three Hypostases.

WHO ARE YOU, MISTER DAL?

- an outstanding lexicographer?
- anthropologist?
- enlightener?
- collector of words?
- “подносчик” of the material for the future architect of the Russian language?
- creator of the “linguistic diary” (Плуцер-Сарно)?
- Slavophile-utopianist, “creator of an imaginary lexicography”?
- Medium or visionary (“духослов”), who reveals the form of words’ life in national language – numerous verbal “families,” that form in their entirety the spirit of the nation which in turn reflects the Divine Spirit. Dahl’s Dictionary as *explanatory* (lexicographic revelation) description of the *living* language



The Icon of Saints Cosma and Damian (=Pushkin and Dahl), 1872



THE DICTIONARY IN RUSSIA IS MORE THAN A DICTIONARY!

Echoes of Dahl's Dictionary in Russian Culture

- Russian classical literature
- Russian avant-garde of the 1910-20s
- Patriotic (nationalist) journalism
- Solzhenitsyn's «Русский словарь языкового расширения»
- «Центр творческого развития русского языка» by Mikhail Epstein
- State's actions
- Scholarly disputes on lexical development of the Russian Language