# Personal details

Name: Richard Ernest Coombes

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Nationality: British; native language English

Translation language pairs: Russian to English; Ukrainian to English

Translation specialisations: Prose (novels, short stories, literary non-fiction)

Verse

Song Lyrics

Additional experience & qualifications: business,

*creative* writing

Education: MA in Classics, Corpus Christi College Cambridge,

1976 to 1979 (Core elements: language, literature,

history, translation)

Other qualifications: IoLET Level 7 Diploma in Translation

# **Publication Record:**

### 2019 - present:

# Published physical paper books, as contributor to collections:

- 'Retribution', a novella by the Kazakh author Akim Tarazi's novella Cambridge University Press, 2019)
- Poetry in the bilingual World War II poetry collection 'Frontovaya Lira' ('Poems from the Front', 2021)
- Poetry of witness to, and protest against, Russia's invasion of Ukraine:
  'Disbelief' (Smokestack Books, 2023); 'Dislocation' (Three String Books, 2024)

## Published physical, paper books: as sole translator:

- Elena Dolgopyat's short story collection 'Someone Else's Life' ('Chuzhaya Zhizn'), published in May 2023 by Glagoslav Publications
- Alexei Ivanov's novel 'The Food Block', Glagoslav Publications, 2025 (entered by the publisher for the Oxford-Weidenfeld Translation Prize and the John Calder Translation Prize - no results yet)

Work published in literary journals (paper and electronic), as sole translator:

## *Short stories and poetry in the following magazines:*

- The Los Angeles Review (multiple publications, multiple authors)
- The Continental Literary Magazine
- BODY magazine
- Book of Matches
- Right Hand Pointing
- Steam Ticket
- The Temz Review
- InTranslation

### Awaiting publication, as sole translator:

• 'Liza's Waterfall' (Pavel Basinsky's documentary-thriller 'Posmotrite Na Menya'), to be published by Glagoslav Publications in 2025

Other work, completed and either not yet placed with a publisher, or published on informal (social media) platforms

(All undertaken by arrangement and agreement with the authors/rights owners)

- 'A Will with Simple Conditions' (novel, cosy mystery for women) by Isabella Krotkova
- Poetry by a large number of poets from Ukraine and other countries protesting Russia's war against Ukraine; this work undertaken as part of the Kopilka project (which produced 'Disbelief' and 'Dislocation')
- Poetry by Marina Ponomarenko, Andriy Kostinskyy, Milena Makarova
- Prose by Anna Bugayeva, Andrey Filimonov, Anna Ignatova, Grigory Sluzhitel, others
- Song lyrics by Scriabin, Shumei, Fiolet

# Pre-translation career:

For thirteen years, I worked with the consulting firm Deloitte and its predecessor Arthur Andersen, as an International Tax Specialist. My areas of expertise included:

- Transfer pricing technical and operational issues
- Risk assessment

- Strategy and management of HMRC audits
- Dispute resolution
- Interface between clients and HMRC
- Intellectual Property
- Design & delivery of training
- Public speaking

For 16 years I worked in HMRC, nine of which I spent as an International Tax Specialist. My core International Tax functions included:

### Operational:

- Offering consultancy services, strategic direction and technical support on business model optimisation, transfer pricing, and Permanent Establishment enquiry cases across a range of industries
- Developing transfer pricing approaches to intangibles planning arrangements and avoidance schemes
- Leading for HMRC in the conduct of litigation cases
- Acting as Competent Authority (an official authorised to deal on behalf of HMRC with counterparts in overseas tax authorities)

# Training:

Devising & delivering national programmes of training in transfer pricing and business model optimisation for HMRC officers

OECD secondments, delivering training programmes to tax officials from other countries in tax treaties and all aspects of international tax

#### Policy:

• Advising Ministers on two Finance Acts

#### Other activities:

Teaching English to Ukrainians living in my area

Leading online conversations and conversation clubs in English and Ukrainian with Ukrainians in the UK, Ukraine, and elsewhere

#### Other interests:

Music (listening, writing), literature (English, Ukrainian, Russian)

#### Family:

Partner, four adult children