

## WG in Russian translation

In the period 1993-95, six novels from WG's back-catalogue appeared in Russian translation: first were *Angell, Pearl and Little God*, translated by N. Vetoshkina and Eleonora Pitserskaya<sup>1</sup> (Panorama, 1993) followed by *Marnie* (as *I Can Do This*, translated by Maria Maksakova) from Ural Press, 1994:



Also in 1994, Art Design published *Fortune is a Woman + The Little Walls* in one volume and *Cordelia* (translation by A. V. Dymov), with *The Walking Stick + Angell, Pearl and Little God*, also in a single volume from Moscow's Centre Polygraph in 1995 completing this first tranche.

In the early years of the new century, further editions of *Marnie* surfaced from Terra Book Club (as *Eyes Wide Shut*) in 2001 and Centre Polygraph, who paired the novel with Jack Trevor Story's *The Trouble with Harry* in a Hitchcock-themed release in 2004.

A hiatus, then, until *Poldark* returned to TV screens in 2015.

*Angell, Pearl and Little God*  
(Panorama, 1993; rear)



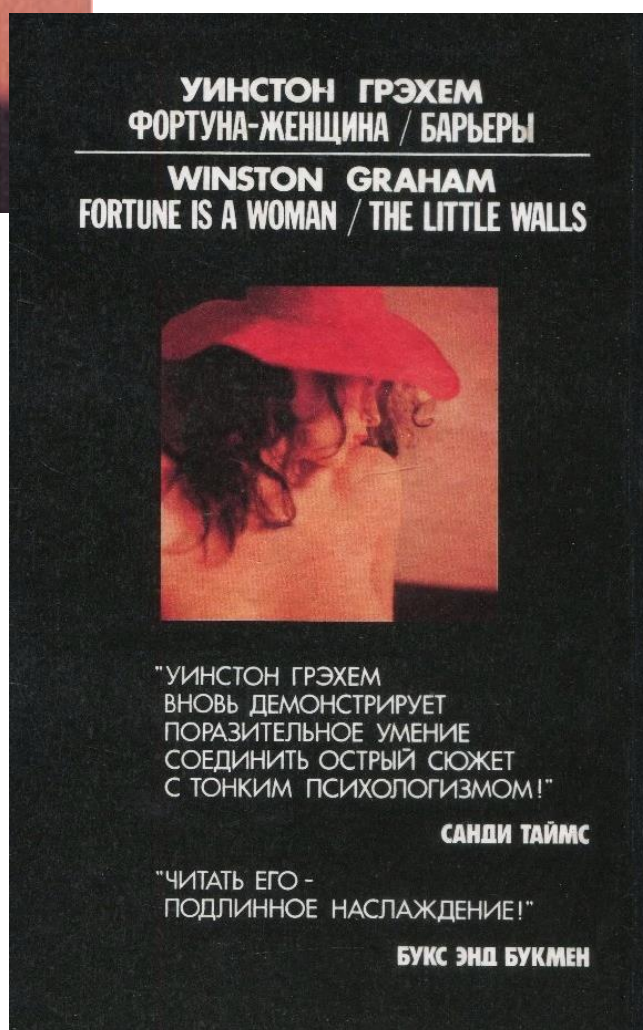
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Уинстон Грэхем  
Энджелл, Перл  
и  
Маленький  
Божок





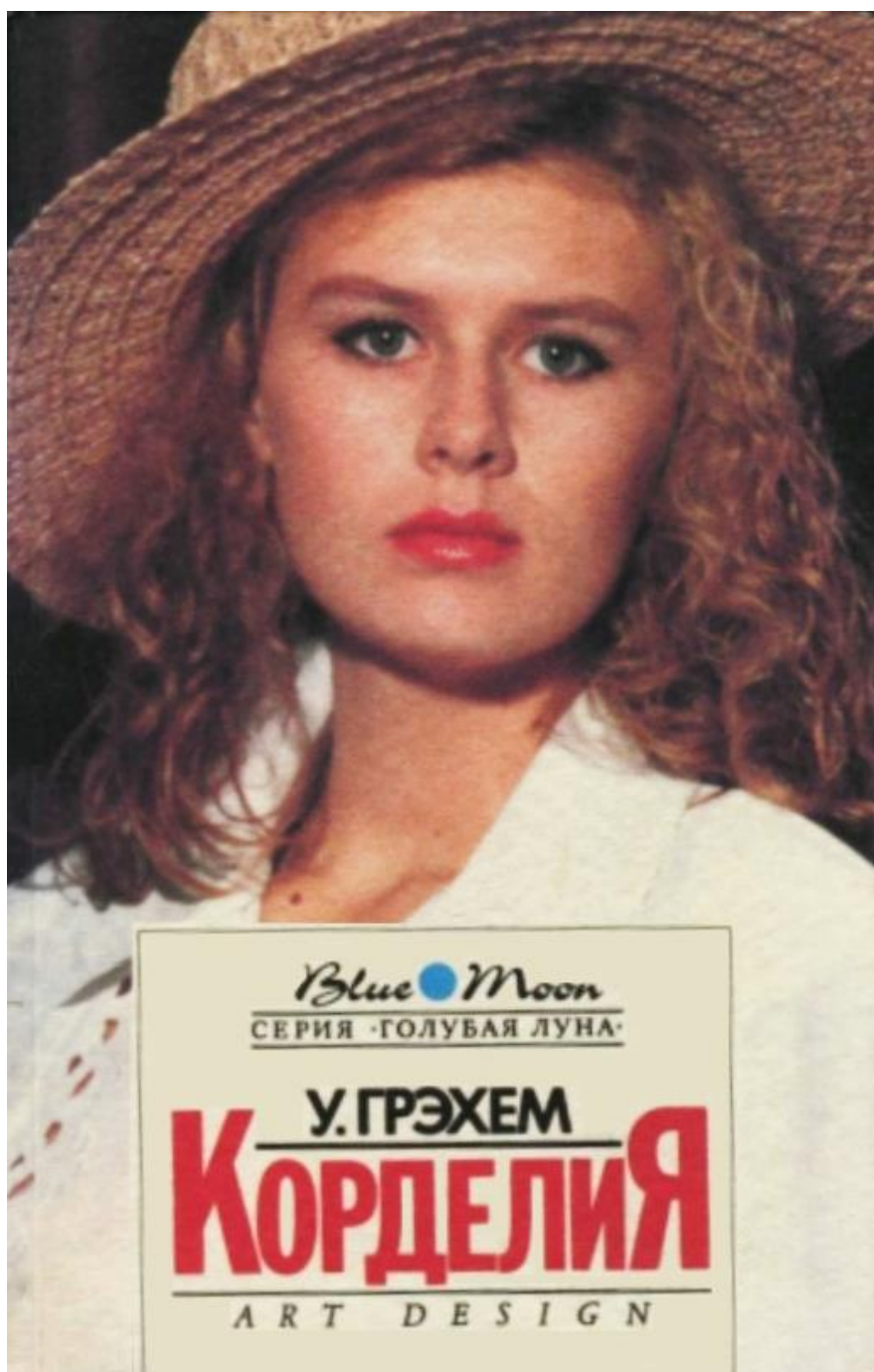
*Fortune is a Woman + The Little Walls, Art Design, 1994; front and back covers*



Blurb, loose translation:

WINSTON GRAHAM ONCE AGAIN SHOWS HIS AMAZING ABILITY TO INFUSE A GRIPPING STORY WITH SUBTLE PSYCHOLOGY! ("Sunday Times")

A PLEASURE TO READ! ("Books and Bookmen")



Above: *Cordelia*, the third WG title (see previous page) in Art Design's Blue Moon series, Minsk, 1994

Left: this OK Club audiobook version read in 192 parts by Lina Muzyr over almost fifteen and a half hours appeared online in 2009

Below: *Cordelia*, rear, plus blurb translation



**УИНСТОН ГРЭХЕМ  
КОРДЕЛИЯ**

**WINSTON GRAHAM  
CORDELIA**



ОДИН ИЗ ШЕСТЕРКИ ЛУЧШИХ  
РОМАНИСТОВ ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНИИ!

"ДЕЙЛИ МИРРОР"

УИНСТОН ГРЭХЕМ ПРЕУСПЕЛ  
В СОЗДАНИИ НЕОБЫЧАЙНО ЖИВЫХ,  
ВЫПУКЛЫХ ПЕРСОНАЖЕЙ

"БУКС ЭНД БУКМЕН"

РОМАНИСТ МИЛОСТЬЮ БОЖЬЕЙ!

"САНДИ ТАИМС"

ONE OF THE BEST HALF-DOZEN NOVELISTS IN GREAT BRITAIN! ("Daily Mirror")

WINSTON GRAHAM HAS SUCCEEDED IN CREATING EXTRAORDINARY, LIVING,  
ROUNDED CHARACTERS ("Books and Bookmen")

A BORN NOVELIST! ("Sunday Times")

МАС Т ЕРА  
ОС РОСЮЖЕТНОГО  
ДЕ ЕКТИВА

УИНСТОН ГРЭХЕМ  
ПРОГУЛОЧНАЯ  
ТРОСТЬ



This meaty hardback omnibus from Centre Polygraph in 1995 features *The Walking Stick* plus (though not mentioned on the front cover) *Angell*, *Pearl* and *Little God*. The legend at the top of the jacket reads "Masters of action-packed detective [novels]".



МАС Т ЕРА  
ОС РОСЮЖЕТНОГО  
ДЕ ЕКТИВА

УИНСТОН ГРЭХЕМ

Прогулочная трость



Энджелл, Перл  
и Маленький Божок

148493  
Р/Б 12000

This is the book's back cover, which does show the titles of both novels within, and below are the frontispieces of each of them. (Jacket and frontispiece artwork by V. Krupinin; *The Walking Stick* translation by O. Firsov.)

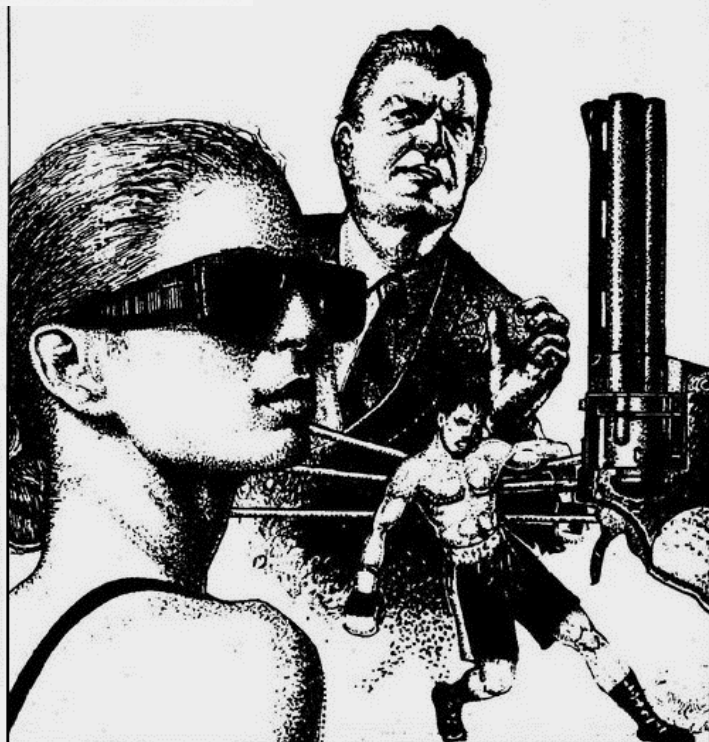
# ПРОГУЛОЧНАЯ ТРОСТЬ

РОМАН

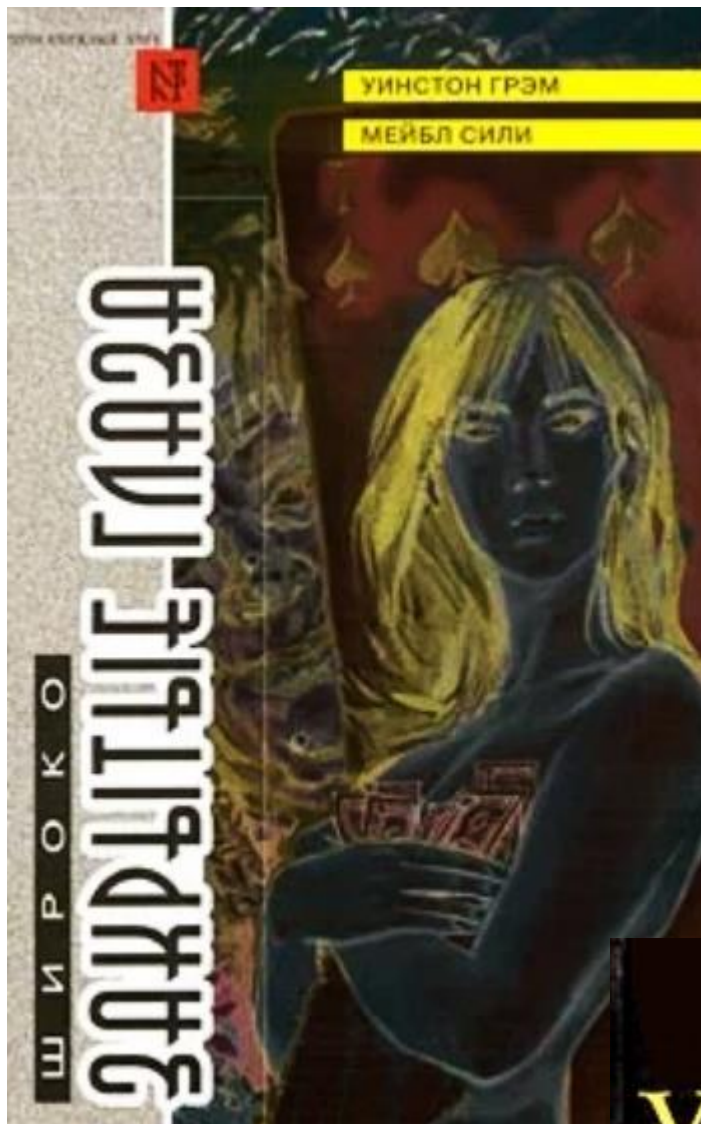


# ЗЕЛЛ, ПЕРЛ И ЬКИЙ БОЖОК

РОМАН







*Marnie (as Eyes Wide Shut),  
Terra Book Club, 2001*

Right: text reads

**Alfred Hitchcock**  
presents

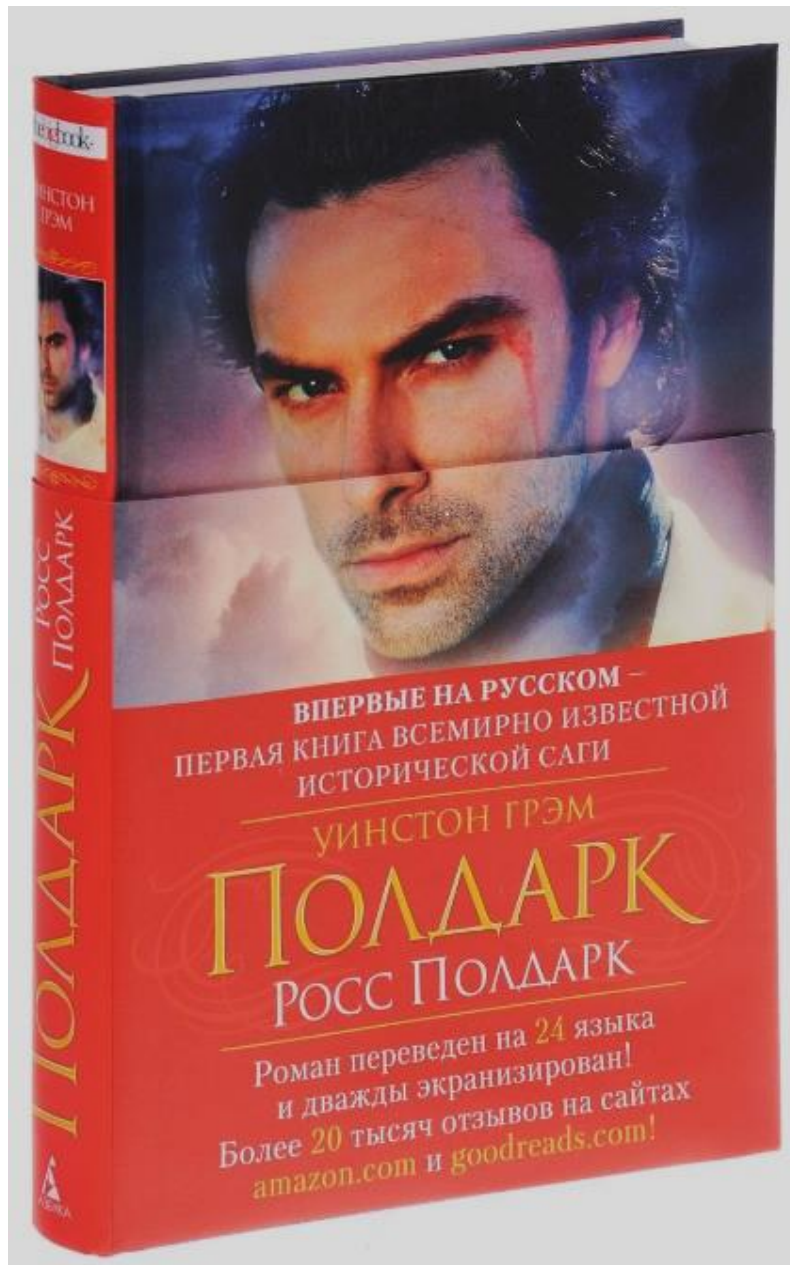
Jack Trevor Story  
*The Trouble with Harry*

Winston Graham  
*Marnie*

Centre Polygraph (2004)



As happened in the 1970s, so too in the 2010s – the TV serialisation of the first seven Poldark novels not only pleased viewers in countless countries but also sold a great many books. In Russia in 2017, Azbuka produced *Ross Poldark* and *Demelza*, translated by Ilona Rusakova, in both hardback (with paper wraparound) and softback editions. Shown below are *Ross Poldark* with wraparound and *Demelza* without:



The wraparound's text reads:

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RUSSIAN – THE FIRST BOOK OF  
THE WORLD-FAMOUS HISTORICAL SAGA



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WINSTON GRAHAM

# **POLDARK**

ROSS POLDARK

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The novel has been translated into 24 languages  
and filmed twice!

Over 20,000 reviews on amazon.com and  
goodreads.com!



But in 2015, well before those two hardbacks surfaced, the Poldark novels began appearing online in Russian translation, courtesy of "HP" (Historical Productions). With up to twelve credited translators per text, this was and is the work of the Historical Romance Translation Group, who describe themselves as

*... a group of like-minded translators who love to read their favourite authors in the original, who perform commercial and non-commercial translations. We prefer the adventure genre but are considering different options.*

*We translate from English, German, Spanish and French and will also take on the editing of already-translated works.*

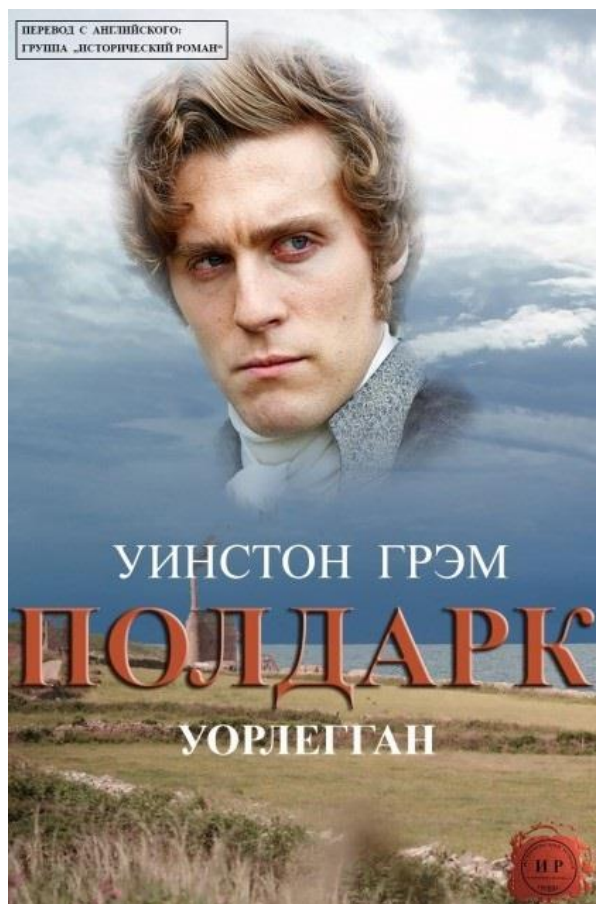
*The fact that we have different qualifications and favourite genres and follow different professions allows us to produce optimum results and by guiding and helping each other with interchangeability we work quickly. On average, the translation and editing of a standard 230-page text takes no more than a month.<sup>2</sup>*

After *Ross Poldark's* appearance on 2 July 2015, work on the series continued steadily through to completion, with *Bella* uploaded on 2 June 2019. *Nampara* by Susanne McCarthy was added later the same year, followed by *The Horse Dealer*, *The Grove of Eagles* and *The Forgotten Story* in 2020 – in sum, fourteen WG novels and one short story.

(Previously published only on her own web page, *Nampara* by Mills & Boon writer Susanne McCarthy is an unauthorised ten-chapter continuation of the Poldark saga from May 1836 to February 1838 whilst the fifty pages of HP's *The Horse Dealer* comprise (i) the eponymous story (ii) Book One, Chapter Six – cut from all later editions – of Ward, Lock's 1946 *Demelza* and (iii) *The Governess* – an original short story by an unnamed author in which Patience Teague becomes the governess of Ursula Warleggan.

As of March 2023, seventy HP titles are available online by (in addition to WG), Patrick O'Brien, Bernard Cornwell, Alberto Vasques-Figueroa, Arthur Mason, Robert Lowe, Julia Navarro, Karen Maitland and more.

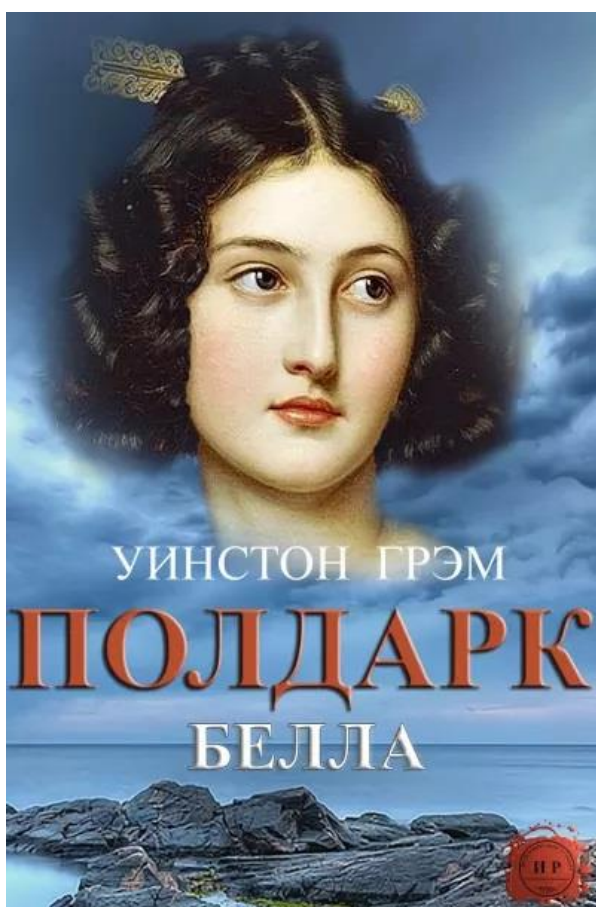




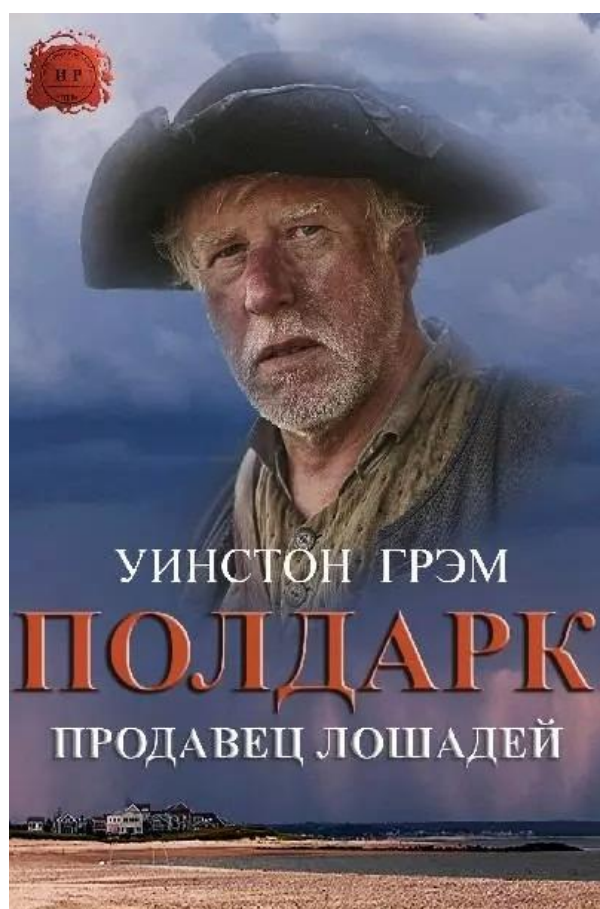
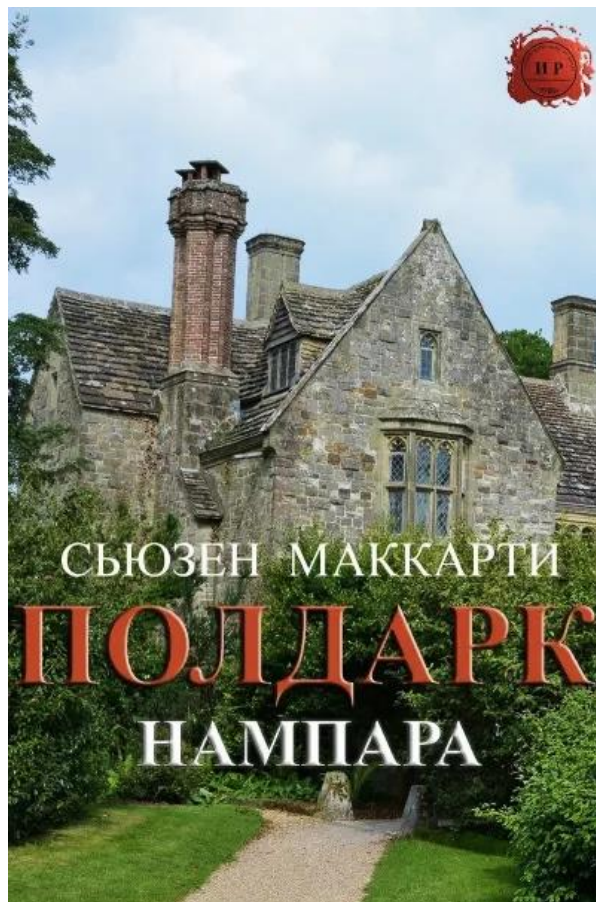




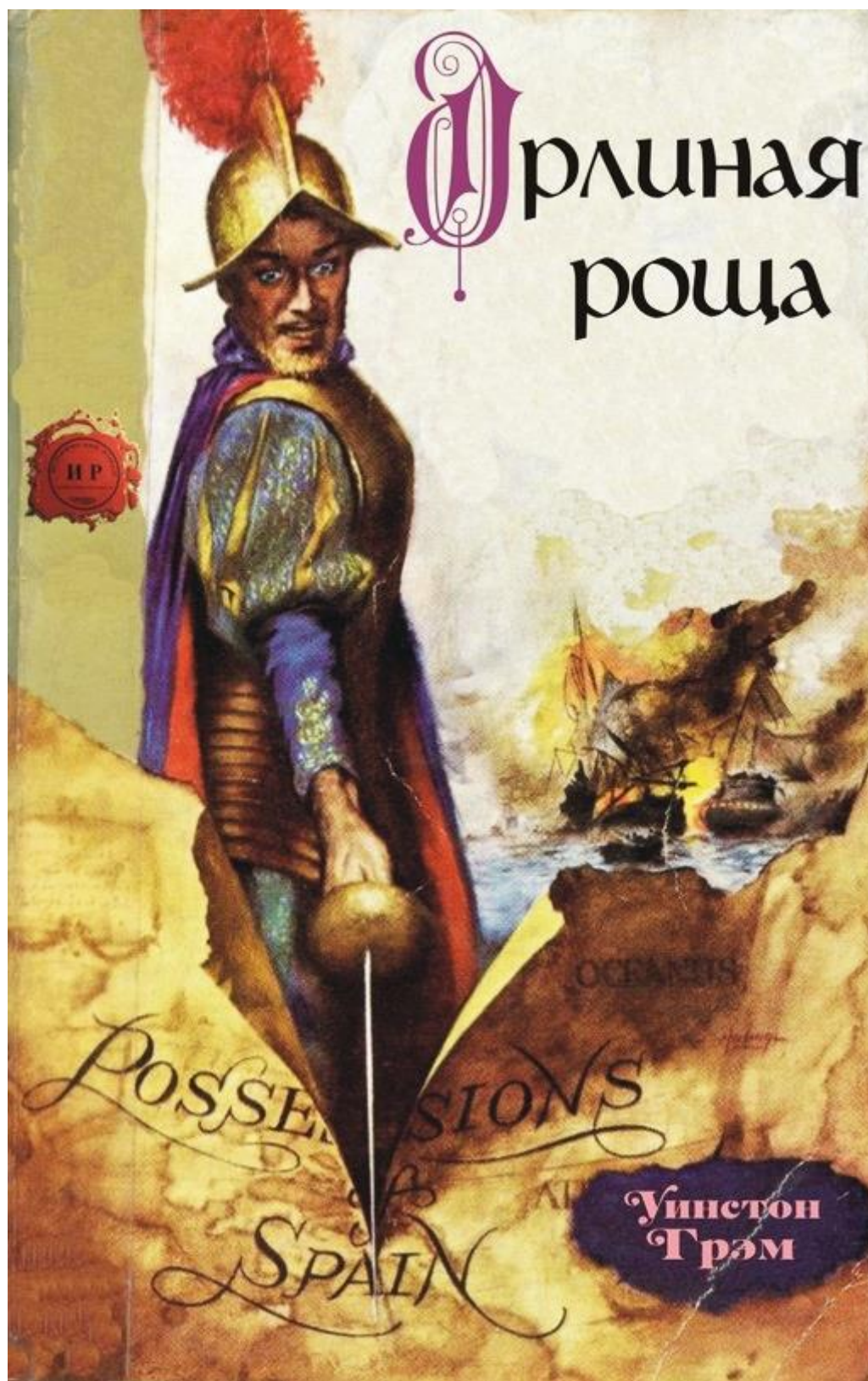






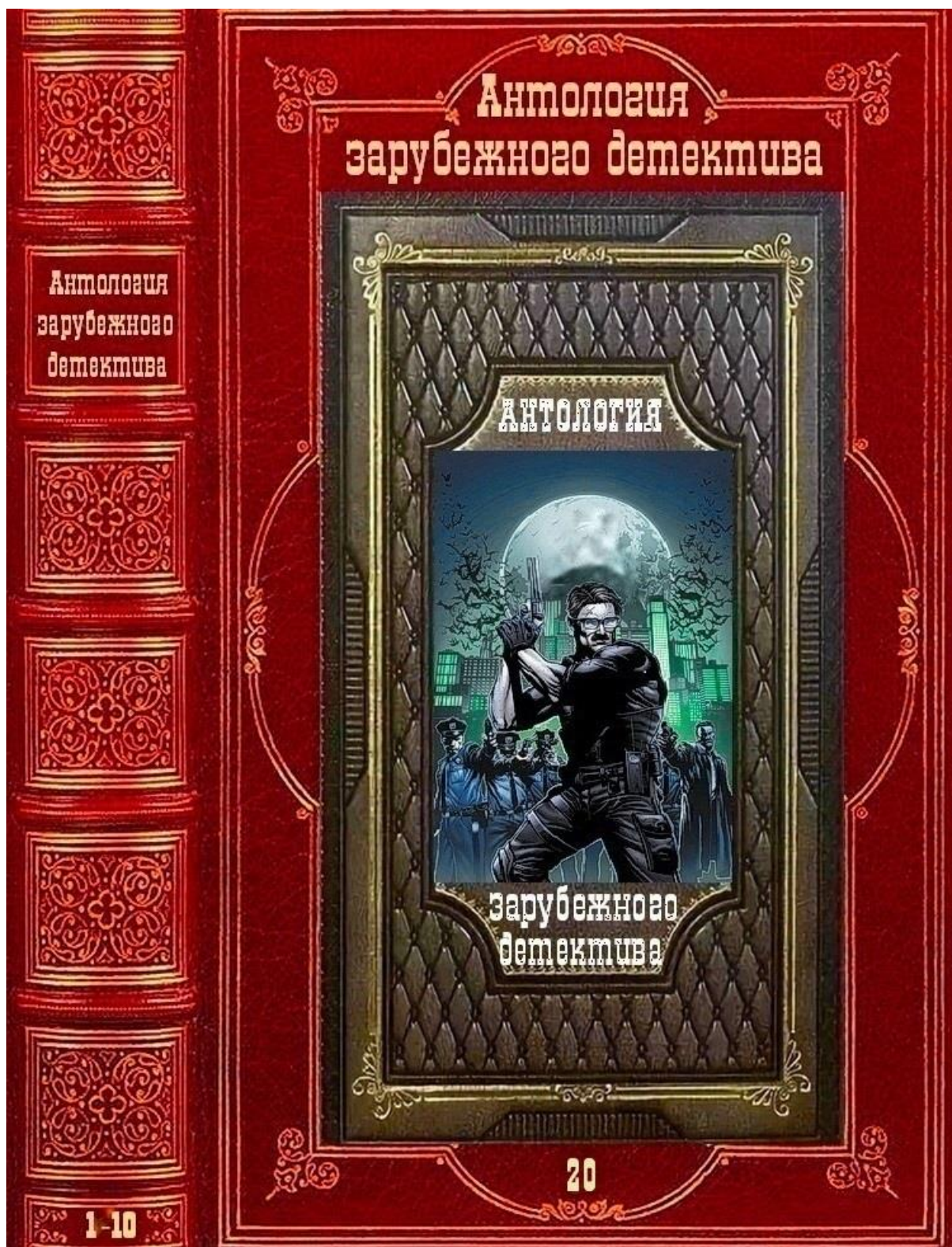






HP translation cover pages of: page 13: Poldarks I-IV; page 14: V-VIII, with V as *Eclipse*, VI as *The Four Doves* and VII as *Storm Wave*; page 15: IX-XII; page 16: The Poldark Saga I-XII omnibus; *Nampara*; *The Horse Dealer* and *The Forgotten Story*, and this page: *The Grove of Eagles*





Since 2020, internet publishing house Vitovt has uploaded well over 300 compilation volumes in the science fiction, fantasy, adventure, classic crime and detection and other genres "written by foreign authors unfamiliar to Russian-speaking readers ... whom we hope will give the reader pleasure when getting to know them."<sup>3</sup>

Shown above is the facsimile cover of *Foreign Detective Anthology, Volume 20* (of 41 to date), uploaded by Vitovt in 2021, which bundles together the following ten titles:

- *Dangerous Games* by Tess Diamond
- *Such a Pretty Girl* by Tess Diamond
- *Coq Rouge* by Jan Guillou
- *The Distance* by Helen Giltrow
- *Winterland* by Alan Glynn
- *Stump* by Niall Griffiths
- *Betrayal in Naples* by Neil Griffiths
- *The Cuckoo's Calling* by Robert Galbraith (*aka* J. K. Rowling)
- *The Silkworm* by Robert Galbraith (*aka* J. K. Rowling)
- *Angell, Pearl and Little God* by Winston Graham

The translation by N. Vetoshkina and Eleanora Piterskaya first published by Panorama in 1993 (see page one) is used again – with the fact that *Angell, Pearl ...* is hardly a "detective" novel neither here nor there. And so we come full circle, beginning and ending with Russian editions of *Angell, Pearl and Little God* whose radically different presentation and degree of accessibility reflect our changing times.<sup>4</sup>

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## NOTES AND SOURCES

<sup>1</sup> Literally "Eleanor of St. Petersburg"

<sup>2</sup> [vk.com/translators\\_historicalnovel](https://vk.com/translators_historicalnovel) (text slightly revised)

<sup>3</sup> [booktracker.org](https://booktracker.org)

<sup>4</sup> Of the twenty-one WG works (i.e. twenty novels and one short story) which may as of March 2023 be read in Russian translation, eight exist in physical form but the remainder as e-texts only. Has WG's literary estate earned even one kopek from any of them?

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