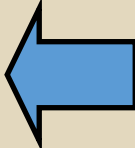


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1. Michael Anthony Oliver-Seminov (Mao) Has a New Book

Dear people what I know: editors, teachers, journos, cake bakers and assorted folk.

After three years of slaving away over a hot desk, I have finally completed my memoir 'Sunbathing in Siberia: a marriage of East and West in Post-Soviet Russia'. The book's blurb and cover have just been added to the publishers list of forthcoming works on their website, and in my excitement I thought to share the link with you.

While this is a form of shameless self-promotion, you should note that I am not asking you to buy the book (though you can pre-order it if you want to). I'm just sharing the link as proof positive that the giant project that has consumed me for so long is finally complete.

The cover was lovingly created by master of graphics and Welsh National Opera prop maker Torben Schacht, and I think you may agree that he has done a fine job.

There will be a series of launches in the UK from May 30th to June 12th 2014 and it would be nice to see some if not all of you there. When I arrive in the UK I will have gone 20 months without bacon, black pudding and fried bread, which is probably the world's greatest sacrifice in literary history. Please honour this sacrifice by clicking on the link and allowing yourself to be seduced by the lovely cover.

Update

Ely poet Michael A. Oliver-Semenov will launch and sign his much-anticipated new book Sunbathing in Siberia- part romance, part survival guide, part autobiography - in selected bars and bookshops around Wales this summer (2014)!

Told completely from the Trans-Siberian and a series of Russian jets, Sunbathing in Siberia is the story of a young British poet, who, after becoming engaged to his translator over 3500 miles east, embarks on a journey into the very heart of Siberia to marry his fiancée. However, in place of the desolate wasteland he expected to find, Michael discovers the side of Siberia little known outside of Russia. After thirty years of British rain, Michael has finally to learn the art of sunbathing, in the last place on Earth anyone would think to take a pair of flip-flops.

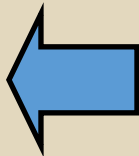
With little knowledge of post-Soviet Russia, Michael has to adapt to the Siberian way of life. As Russia struggles to find its new identity, Michael too is forced to recreate himself, while finding the tools needed to live with parading nuclear missiles, wild bears, and a host of extreme dangers.

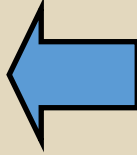
About Mao:

After his debut publication in 2009, Cardiff born Michael Oliver-Semenov served as the first poet in residence for Blown, the magazine of cultural intelligence, and has since published in a plethora of magazines and Journals worldwide, including The Morning Star, Orbis, Mandala Review and Ink Sweat and Tears, to name just a few. In 2011 Michael emigrated to Siberia to live with his wife Anastasia. When he is not growing vegetables at the family dacha in summer, or avoiding the wild Siberian hounds of Winter, Michael is also a freelance English teacher and occasionally contributes to The Siberian Times. He will be on tour promoting Sunbathing in Siberia (Parthian, June 2014) and previewing a selection from his forthcoming 2015 poetry collection The Elephant's Foot.

Aida Birch @ Thu, 10 Apr 14 22:56:05 +0000:

'Sunbathing in Siberia'. I can't wait to read it. Michael Anthony Oliver- Seminovy (Mao). Congratulations as the author of this exciting book.





2. Michael Anthony Oliver-Seminov (Mao) in Russia

Dear Friends, peoples what I know and literary associates,

As a bit of extra promotion for my two Parthian releases next year, 'Sunbathing in Siberia, a marriage of east and west in Post-Soviet Russia' and 'The Elephant's foot', I have joined forces with the Siberian Times to write a weekly blog on what it's like to be a Welshman in Russia.

This should, in theory, keep me from sending you these annoying emails where I update you on what life is like here in snowland.

The idea is that you check the Siberian Times website often enough to see my updated blogs and fall in love with Russia enough to want to visit me and bring giant boxes of chocolates. That's the idea anyway.

There is also the hope that you will like my writing enough to want to buy my two books next year, and love me so much that you won't be able to resist buying me a pint when I see you in Spring 2014.....

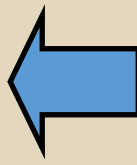
Click the following links to follow me on the Siberian Times:

[Before I came to siberia I had a pretty robust preconceived view of siberian life](#)

[My new life as a honorary Siberian](#)

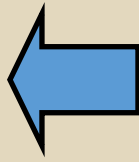
Enjoy, read more poetry and bla

Mao



3. Hereford&Worcester Festival 2013

This year's Ledbury poetry festival is Masefield's 'Reynard the Fox'. A modern version has been commissioned along with a digital photo commentary by rural media...Annual SLAM is open to entrants see john.marcus.moore@gmail.com (spiel unlimited) - it is very feisty!



4. Poems&Pints 06/12/2012

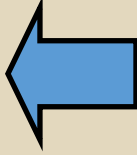
A very enjoyable night at our Christmas poems and pints , it was good to see every one and welcome so many new talented writers and readers to our monthly event. Please take a look at the photos in the Events Gallery.

We missed Alan and Jean and wish them a speedy recovery from their virus.

Happy Christmas to you all.
Amanda Davies

aida@aidatoscabirch59.plus.com @ Mon, 07 Jan 13 23:58:56 +0000:

Thank you to everyone who attended Poems and Pints 3.1.13 You all helped to make it a very entertaining evening. I look forward to seeing everyone again on 7.2.13

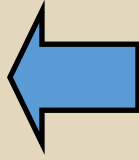


5. Story Grammer

Does a short story have to be gramatically correct or is it the content that captures you.

Aida Birch

amandalc65 @ Fri, 07 Dec 12 08:21:07 +0000:some ones grammar and spelling can always be corrected if needs be , but the imagination and expression of observation can only be expressed from the eyes of the writer and enjoyed by the reader. So for me the content is of far more value

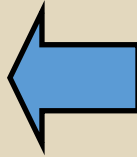


6. Spelling in Poetry

Do you think that spelling is important in writing poetry or should it be the content that is deeply felt.

Amanda Davies

aida@aidatoscabirch59.plus.com @ Sat, 08 Dec 2012 19:13:05 +0000: If a poem moves you deeply then I feel it is a good poem, spelling of words can always be corrected, as is the presentation of imagery, for example; 'But now an intruder, a man with a stick,/the crazy cambered road tilting him/unwelcome to my mind./The knee bent gait, forever climbing hills/even on flat market towns./And his blackthorn extra limb..' from Terry Hetherington's poem 'The Cry,



7. Siôn Tomos Owen & Natalie Holborow Visit To India

Siôn Tomos Owen and Natalie Ann Holborow attended the Kolkata Literature Festival 2017 in India. It involved appearances in Delhi, Varanasi, Kolkata and Bolpur.

Click below to read a report that appeared in the South Wales Evening Post on 28/02/17:



Click below to see videos of their visit:



Siôn Tomos Owen



Natalie Ann Holborow