

Л. Ф. Шитова

PROPER NAME IDIOMS
and Their Origins

СЛОВАРЬ ИМЕННЫХ ИДИОМ

Anthology
PUBLISHERS
Санкт-Петербург

ББК 81.2Англ
Ш55

По вопросам приобретения продукции издательства обращайтесь:

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Шитова Л. Ф.

Ш55 Proper Name Idioms and Their Origins = Словарь именных
идиом. – СПб. : Антология, 2013. – 192 с.

ISBN 978-5-94962-217-9

Последняя из тематического цикла книга идиом, содержащая на сей раз имена собственные, заимствованные из Библии, мифологии, истории, литературы и реальной жизни. Богатый справочный материал, сопровождающий устойчивые выражения, призван удовлетворить читательский интерес и помочь активному использованию идиом в речи.

ББК 81.2Англ

ISBN 978-5-94962-217-9

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What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet.
(*W. Shakespeare, "Romeo and Juliet",
Act II, Scene 2*)

Что в имени? Как розу ни зови —
В ней аромат останется всё тот же.
(*В. Шекспир, «Ромео и Джульетта»,
действие 2, сцена 2*)

Что в имени тебе моем?
(*романс Н. А. Римского-Корсакова
на слова А. С. Пушкина*)

ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

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При наличии идиоматического эквивалента в русском языке он приводится после английского выражения; при отсутствии эквивалента предлагается подробное объяснение выражения для успешного употребления идиомы говорящим, что непременно сделает его речь более богатой и запоминающейся. Не секрет, что уместное использование в речи библейских, литературных или мифологических аллюзий несомненно повышает рейтинг говорящего, свидетельствует о его интеллектуальном уровне и может способствовать его карьерному росту. Кроме того, новые знания станут вашим личным багажом, приобретённым, надеемся, без больших усилий.

Book24
КНИЖНЫЙ
ИНТЕРНЕТ-МАГАЗИН

Abbreviations

a.k.a. – also known as
Am – American
Austr – Australian
Br – British
c./ca. – circa (around)
disappr – disapproving
facet – facetious

humil – humiliating
inf – informal
Lat – Latin
New Zeal – New Zealand
sl – slang
usu – usually

Сокращения

амер. – американский
астр. – астрономия
архит. – архитектурный
библ. – библейский
бот. – ботанический
букв. – буквально
воен. – военный
жарг. – жаргон
ирон. – иронично
искаж. – искажённый
ист. – исторический
карт. – карточный
книжн. – книжный
миф. – мифологический
мор. – морской
неполиткор. – неполиткорректный
обыкн. – обыкновенно
особ. – особенно

первонач. – первоначально
посл. – пословица
презр. – презрительный
пренебр. – пренебрежительный
прил. – прилагательное
проф. – профессиональный
разг. – разговорный
редк. – редко
собир. – собирательный
ср. – сравните
сущ. – существительное
устар. – устаревшее
фольк. – фольклорное
фр. – французский
шутл. – шуточный
экон. – экономика
юр. – юридический

/ – слово-синоним

// – синонимичное выражение

(...) – пояснения, дополнения

A

Aaron's rod – жезл Аарона; символ власти; страсть к обогащению

In the culture of the Israelites, the rod would be a natural symbol of authority, as the tool used by the shepherd to correct and guide his flock. The rods of both Moses and Aaron, the older brother of Moses and a prophet of God, were endowed with miraculous power during the Plagues of Egypt. In Exodus 7 God sends Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh, instructing Aaron that when Pharaoh demands to see a miracle, he is to “cast down his rod” and it will become a serpent. When he does so, Pharaoh’s sorcerers counter by similarly casting down their own rods, which also become serpents, but Aaron’s rod/serpent swallows them all. Walt Whitman (1819–1892), an American poet, essayist and journalist, indicates the type of reference in modern times: “the magician’s serpent in the fable ate up all the other serpents, and money-making is our magician’s serpent, remaining sole master of the field.” D.H. Lawrence (1885–1930), an English novelist, poet, playwright, essayist, literary critic and painter entitled a novel, *Aaron's Rod*, in 1922. Also, the name given to various flowering plants.

Abelard and Heloise – Абельяр и Элоиза; символ бессмертной трагической любви

Pierre Abelard (1079–1142) was a brilliant French philosopher and scholastic theologian, and a very popular lecturer at Notre-Dame. He espoused Aristotelian logic over Platonic theory. But his popular fame rests in his tragic love affair with Heloise. They were secretly married, over

Heloise's objections, after the birth of their son. When the affair became known, Heloise became a nun and Abelard a monk. Their correspondence survives. Centuries after, in 1817, the lovers were buried in a single tomb. They are included today in references to immortal, tragic lovers.

According to Cocker – «согласно Кокеру»; правильно, точно, по всем правилам

Edward Cocker (1631–1676) was an English engraver, who also taught writing and arithmetic. Cocker was the reputed author of the famous *Arithmetick*, the popularity of which has added a phrase (“according to Cocker”) to the list of English proverbialisms. Cocker's *Arithmetick*, the fifty-second edition of which appeared in 1748, and which passed through over 100 editions in all, was not published during the lifetime of its reputed author, the first impression being dated 1678.

According to Hoyle – «согласно Хойлу»; согласно строгим правилам

In accord with the highest authority; in accord with a strict set of rules. The life and views of the celebrated but controversial English astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle has led many to suggest that this phrase refers to him. Although Fred Hoyle might be a plausible initial guess when tracing the origin of this phrase, the Hoyle in question here is Edmond Hoyle (1672–1769), the English barrister and writer who was the author of several works on card-games. He was, and still is, cited as the final authority when disputes on the rules of card games arose: *His divinely inspired plan had gone exactly according to Hoyle. He'd fooled them.*

Achilles' heel – (*миф.*) ахиллесова пята; слабое, легко уязвимое место

A person's weak spot is their *Achilles' heel*. It is a deadly weakness in spite of overall strength that can actually or potentially lead to downfall. In Greek mythology, when Achilles was a baby, it was foretold that he would die in battle

Adam style

from an arrow in the foot. To prevent his death, his mother took Achilles to the River Styx which was supposed to offer powers of invincibility and dipped his body into the water. But as she held Achilles by the heel, his heel was not washed over by the water of the magical river. Achilles grew up to be a man of war who survived many great battles. But one day, a poisonous arrow shot at him was lodged in his heel, killing him shortly after. Still, Achilles is remembered as one of the greatest fighters who ever lived. The use of *Achilles' heel* as an expression used for “area of weakness, vulnerable spot” dates only to 1840.

Adam style – (*архит.*) «стиль Адама», английская неоклассика

Adamesque and *Style of the Brothers Adam* is an 18th century neoclassical style of interior design and architecture, as practiced by the three Adam brothers from Scotland. The Adam brothers were the first to advocate an integrated style for architecture and interiors. Commonly and mistakenly known as “Adams Style,” the proper term for this style of architecture and furniture is the “Style of the Brothers Adam.” *The Adam style* found its niche from the late 1760s in upper-class and middle-class residences in 18th-century England, Scotland, Russia (where it was introduced by Scottish architect Charles Cameron), and post-Revolutionary War United States.

Adam's ale/wine – (*шутл.*) вода

A cant phrase for water as a beverage. *Adam's ale* is a jokey reference to the only drink available to Adam – the first man, in the biblical and koranic traditions. It alludes to the simplicity and purity of life in the biblical Eden before the fall. This is in contrast to the association of strong drink with evil and the devil. “The demon drink” was a metaphor frequently used by supporters of the Temperance Movement. The term is now used less than previously, although it was in common use until the mid- to late 20th century. Also known as *Adam's wine*.

Adam's apple — адамово яблоко; кадык

The Adam's apple is a bulge in the throat, mostly seen in men.

Adam's rib — (ирон.) женщина; адамово ребро

“And the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh; And the rib which the Lord God had taken from the man, made He a woman. And Adam said, *This is now the bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man.*” (Genesis 2:21-23). This story is the origin of the false notion that men have one rib fewer than women. Today, a lightly ironic term for woman.

Aladdin's lamp — волшебная лампа Аладдина (талисман, выполняющий желания своего владельца); символ богатства и власти

Aladdin, meaning “glory of religion” is a Middle Eastern folk tale. It is one of the most famous tales in “The Book of One Thousand and One Nights (Arabian Nights)”. The hero of the tale gets hold of a magic lamp that contains a genie who will do Aladdin's bidding. Through the genie Aladdin amasses great wealth and in the end marries the sultan's daughter. *Aladdin's lamp* is symbolic of any vehicle that will bring instant power and fortune: *To people of the time an electric light was a blazing miracle — “a little globe of sunshine, a veritable Aladdin's lamp”, as a journalist reported.*

Alice band — лента Алисы; цветная головная повязка или лента; обруч, ободок

Headbands are a clothing accessory worn in the hair or around the forehead, usually to hold hair away from the face or eyes. They are used for both fashion and practical/utilitarian purposes. Horseshoe-shaped headbands are sometimes called *Alice bands* after the headbands that Alice is often depicted wearing in “Through the Looking-Glass”.

Alice in Wonderland – Алиса в стране чудес

The book “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” (commonly shortened to “Alice in Wonderland”) is an 1865 novel written by English author Charles Lutwidge Dodgson who invented the pen name “Lewis Carroll” by translating his first two names “Charles Lutwidge” into Latin as “Carolus Ludovicus”, then anglicising and reversing their order. It tells of a girl named Alice who falls down a rabbit hole into a fantasy world (Wonderland) populated by peculiar creatures. It is considered to be one of the best examples of the literary nonsense genre. Although he was a mathematician, he is best known as the author of “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” (1865) and “Through the Looking Glass” (1872), children’s books that are among the most popular of all time. Dodgson wrote mathematical works under his own name but for his children’s books he used his pen name Lewis Carroll.

All my eye and Betty Martin (*sl*) – Суший вздор! Чепуха!

The origin of this dated phrase is unknown, but may be nautical, meaning rubbish, humbug. The phrase or saying, *all my eye and Betty Martin* means that something is total and complete nonsense. It is found in British English from the eighteenth century on, but is hardly known today. By the 1780s, the phrase was clearly well established. *All my eye*, with the same sense, is at least half a century older. As for *Betty Martin*, it was pretty obviously tacked on to the end of the existing *all my eye* some time later. In similar vein, Londoners created *all my eye and elbow*, *all my eye and grandmother*, and *all my eye and Tommy*, among others, as well as shortening it to the exclamation *my eye!*, which remained common, especially in the US, until comparatively recently.

All Sir Garnet (*inf dated*) – полный порядок

Highly satisfactory. Sir Garnet Wolseley (1833–1913), leader of several successful military expeditions, was associated with major reforms in the army. His reputation for efficiency led to the late 19th-century English phrase *everything’s all Sir Garnet*, meaning “all is in order”. He was

the model for the modern Major-General in Gilbert and Sullivan's¹ "The Pirates of Penzance".

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy (*saying*) – Мешай дело с бездельем, проживёшь век с весельем

It is a proverb meaning that without time off from work, a person becomes both bored and boring. Though the spirit of the proverb had been expressed previously, the modern saying appeared first in James Howell's *Proverbs in English, Italian, French and Spanish* (1659), and was included in later collections of proverbs. Some writers have added a second part to the proverb, as in *Harry and Lucy Concluded* (1825) by the Irish novelist Maria Edgeworth:

*All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy,
All play and no work makes Jack a mere toy.*

Alnaschar/Al-Naschar dream – пустые мечты, фантазии (по имени героя одной из сказок «Тысячи и одной ночи»); цыплят по осени считают

The phrase renders the idea of a parable about counting your chickens before they are hatched.

Alnaschar in the "Arabian Nights" daydreamt of the wealth he would make by selling his glassware. In the story, Alnaschar was lying at a high perch and daydreaming, with the basket containing glassware at his feet. He would sell his glassware to make profit, invest the money to buy more glassware and sell it to make more profit. This process would go on and on till he became rich enough to marry the Sultan's daughter. In his dream Alnaschar had a tiff with his wife and gave her a kick. Only in reality he kicked the basket containing glassware which fell from the high perch and the glassware tinkled into pieces: *Coleridge (1772–1834), an*

¹ *Gilbert and Sullivan* refers to the Victorian-era theatrical partnership of the librettist W. S. Gilbert (1836–1911) and the composer Arthur Sullivan (1842–1900). The two men collaborated on fourteen comic operas between 1871 and 1896, of which *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Mikado* are among the best known.

Andromeda nebula

English poet, Romantic, literary critic and philosopher has been called Alnaschar of Modern Literature, because he “dreamt” his “Kubla Khan”, and wrote it out next morning.

Andromeda nebula [ænˈdrɒmədə] – (*асмп.*) туманность Андромеды

The phrase may refer to:

- Andromeda Galaxy, a spiral galaxy in the Andromeda constellation
- “Andromeda”, a 1957 science fiction novel by Ivan Efremov
- “The Andromeda Nebula”, a 1967 Russian film based on the above novel.

Andromeda is a princess from Greek mythology who, as divine punishment for her mother’s bragging, the *Boast of Cassiopeia*, was chained to a rock as a sacrifice to a sea monster. She was saved from death by Perseus, her future husband.

Anna Kournikova – Анна Курникова, бывшая российская теннисистка и фотомодель, бывшая первая ракетка мира, ныне гражданка США; (*неполиткор.*) коктейль с обезжиренным молоком

A variation of a White Russian cocktail made with skim milk is known as *an Anna Kournikova*.

Annie Oakley – Анни Оукли, американская женщина-стрелок; (*устар.*) пригласительный билет или пропуск, контрамарка

Annie Oakley (1860–1926), born Phoebe Ann Moses, was an American sharpshooter. Oakley’s amazing talent and timely rise to fame led to a starring role in *Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show*, which propelled her to become the first American female superstar. Oakley’s most famous trick is perhaps being able to repeatedly split a playing card, edge-on, and put several more



holes in it before it could touch the ground, while using a .22 caliber rifle, at 90 feet. She would throw six glass balls and shoot them before they fell to the ground. She was phenomenal! A musical called *Annie, Get Your Gun*, the story of her life, was later produced on Broadway.

Another Richmond in the field – «Ещё один Ричмонд на поле боя» (о неожиданно появившемся, нежданном человеке; иногда о конкуренте)

The phrase alludes to Henry of Richmond (later Henry VII of England), chronicled in Shakespeare's "Richard III" (Act V, Sc. 4): *I think there be six Richmonds in the field; five have I slain today*. Whatever the origin, today it simply refers to an unforeseen participant or attendant.

Any Tom, Dick or Harry – обычные, заурядные люди; первый встречный, всякий, каждый, все без разбора, каждый встречный и поперечный (*ср.* Иванов, Петров, Сидоров)

If something could be done by *any Tom, Dick or Harry*, it could be done by absolutely anyone.

The phrase *Tom, Dick and Harry* is a placeholder for multiple unspecified people or it plays the same role for one unspecified person. The phrase most commonly occurs as *every Tom, Dick and Harry*, meaning everyone, and *any Tom, Dick or Harry*, meaning anyone. Sometimes, the name *Harry* is replaced by the name of the person being spoken to, for the sake of implying that said person is not a cut above the rest or doesn't deserve something that is being talked about: *Football scholarships aren't awarded to just any Tom, Dick or Matthew* ("Matthew" being the person spoken to).

Appeal from Philip drunk to Philip sober – просить кого-л. о пересмотре принятого им необдуманного решения

When Philip became the king of Macedonia, he soon showed that he was a wise ruler. He treated his people with fairness, and they became very fond of him. One day, after he had been drinking, he was acting as a judge and gave a

Applejack

decision against a woman. His sentence seemed so unfair to her that she thought he was under the influence of liquor. “I appeal,” she cried. “I am the king. To whom do you appeal?” asked Philip. “I appeal from Philip drunk to Philip sober,” she replied. The next day Philip considered her case again and decided in her favor.

Applejack — яблочная водка, самогон

It is a strong alcoholic beverage produced from apples, popular in the American colonial period. *Applejack* was historically made by concentrating hard cider. The term derives from *jacking*, freeze distillation. The modern product sold as *applejack* is no longer produced using this traditional process: *Rick came up to us with a bottle of applejack that he claimed to have brewed himself with fruit from his grandfather's orchard.*

Archimedes' Law/Principle — закон Архимеда: на всякое тело, погружённое в жидкость, действует сила, равная весу вытесненной им жидкости

Archimedes of Syracuse (c. 287 BC – c. 212 BC) was a Greek mathematician, physicist, engineer, inventor, and astronomer. Although few details of his life are known, he is regarded as one of the leading scientists in classical antiquity. Law of buoyancy, discovered by Archimedes states that any object that is completely or partially submerged in a fluid at rest is acted on by an upward, or buoyant, force. The magnitude of this force is equal to the weight of the fluid displaced by the object. There was involved a bathtub and a crown in which gold had been replaced by silver and of course Archimedes himself behaving as a stalker and shouting “Eureka”.

Around Robin Hood's barn — вокруг амбара Робин Гуда; круглыми путями; обходной дорогой

All over the place; the long way around; a roundabout or circuitous route. Reference to Robin Hood, the legendary outlaw, whose barn was simply the fields and pastures

surrounding Sherwood forest, his home: *When Celia is the driver, we go all around Robin Hood's barn.*

As game as Ned Kelly (*Austr*) – отчаянный как Нед Келли

Very brave. Ned Kelly (1855–1880) was a famous Australian outlaw, the leader of a band of horse and cattle thieves and bank raiders operating in Victoria. He was so “game” or tenacious, that he impressed everyone in the country – rather like Robin Hood and became a folk hero. He was eventually hanged at Melbourne.



The Robin Hood Memorial in Nottingham

As old as Methuselah – стар как Мафусаил; долгожитель

Methuselah (“Man of the dart/spear”) is the oldest person whose age is mentioned in the Hebrew Bible. Extra-biblical tradition maintains that he died at the age of 969, seven days before the beginning of the Great Flood. According to the Bible (Genesis 7:4), God delayed the Flood specifically because of the seven days of mourning in honor of the righteous *Methuselah*. Methuselah was the son of Enoch and the grandfather of Noah. The name *Methuselah*, or the phrase *old as Methuselah*, is commonly used to refer to any living thing reaching great age. Now proverbial for longevity, this idiom is from W. Shakespeare.

As tight as Dick's hatband – тесный как лента/креп на шляпе Дика

Very tight: *I've got to lose some weight. My belt is as tight as Dick's hatband.* * *This window is stuck tight as Dick's hatband.*

Ask Paxton – «Спросите Пэкстона» (*ср.*: Спроси что-нибудь полегче)

This catchphrase arose for any problem that proved intractable. *Joseph Paxton* was the creator of the Crystal

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