## RICHARD SELTZER

33 Gould Street, West Roxbury, MA 02132
(617) 469-2269

I graduated from Yale in 1969 and went to graduate school in comparative literature at Yale for a year, before I was pulled out to go on active duty for training in the Army Reserves (Russian linguist). On getting out of the Army, I settled in Boston and took part-time jobs to support myself while I tried to write the great Russian historical novel. Unexpectedly, I ended up writing a satirical fantasy. The Lizard of Oz, which my wife Barbara and I later self-published. We also self-published a short collection of children’s stories, Now & Then and Other Tales from Ome..

I did eventually finish a Russian historical novel which told the first third of a much larger story I’ve been mulling over for some time. Tarcher/Houghton Mifflin published it as The Name of Hero in 1981.

Along the way I got a master’s in comparative literature from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, got a job as an editor of technical trade magazines, and then moved to Digital Equipment Corporation, where I’ve worked for the last fourteen years. Most of that time I wrote articles for the company’s 100,000 employees. Now I’m a communications consultant, specializing in Internet Marketing Communications.

Barbara and I have four children. Our oldest, Bobby, is now a freshman at Yale. He’s an excellent student and is also one of the top chess players in the country. (At the age of fourteen he won the U.S. under sixteen championship with a perfect 7-0 score.)

Heather, age sixteen, a junior at Newton Country Day School, is heavily involved in acting and has done some modeling as well. She works part-time at Blockbuster Video. (So we get to see all the latest videos for free.)

Michael, age thirteen, was born with a cleft lip/cleft palate. As a side effect, he developed some obscure learning disabilities which required physical therapy. He seems to have overcome or compensated for the physical part, but now has to work his way out of years of bad habits he built up by cleverly using the disability as an excuse. He’s in private school as well (St. Sebastian’s), which we hope will help bring out his true potential.

Our youngest, Timmy, at age three is a video addict, having memorized such recent classics as Beauty and the Beast, The Little Mermaid, and Fern Gully. He loves to act out the story and repeat the dialogue while he watches.

My father is a retired school superintendent and colonel in the Army Reserves. He and my mother now get various acting and modeling jobs in the Philadelphia and New York areas. They’ve been in crowd scenes in dozens of movies, and it’s rather spooky to be watching a late-night suspense thriller, and Dad suddenly appears as the elevator operator or cab driver and then see my mother in the background on a record commercial.

My sister Sallie (eighteen years younger than me) is finishing up a master’s in filmmaking at University of Southern California. She has at various times worked as a story editor for Flard Copy and a girl Friday at Paramount. She’s been encouraging me to write movie scripts, and I did recently complete one, Spit and Polish, which probably needs some more polish.

Years ago Robert Penn Warren told me that he thought I was a “brooder,” as opposed to the Thomas Wolfe variety of writer. At the time I didn’t see myself that way at all. But recently, taking a look at the writing projects I now have in the works, I realized that the ones I’m most attached to all originated around 1968-70, and I’ve been mulling them over all this time. That’s true of Sandcastles, Spit and Polish, The Lizard of Oz, and my Russian historical saga (The Name of Hero and its follow-ons).

At the same time, I feel that I have learned a lot in the last couple of years. In particular, the discipline of trying to tell a story in movie script form gave me a better grasp of how to visualize and create scenes, and, I believe, made a major difference when Sandcastles really started going. After years of brooding and many false starts, I wrote the final two hundred pages of that novel in about three weeks (in addition to my full-time job and full-time family). It was as if the characters were talking to me and I was taking dictation.

Another project I recently completed is a translation from Russian of a couple of books by Alexander Bulatovich (the hero of The Name of Hero) about his experiences in Ethiopia in the 1890s. Michigan State University is interested in publishing them. And I’m getting started again on the next Russian historical *novel*—From Man to God.

Now Barbara and I are reviving the little publishing company we started years ago to do The Lizard.