

T H E C H R I S T E N S E N F U N D

**To Whom It May Concern:****Re. Alistair Gainey**

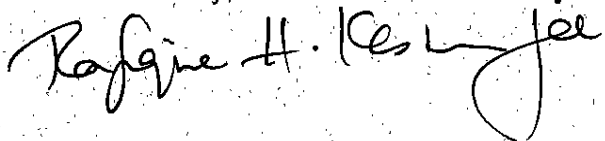
Alistair Gainey worked for me for four years in a highly demanding position translating complex texts in Russian into English. The texts were varied, primarily advanced texts, in philosophy and a variety of humanities and social science disciplines from five major world civilisations, as well as teachers' guides and introductions for students. He was based in Tajikistan, and worked for the Aga Khan Humanities Project, a major initiative, of which I was director, aimed at enabling critical reasoning among students in nine universities in three Central Asian countries. This project was funded internationally by the Aga Khan Development Network and other funders, including the US State Department.

Alistair's tasks were demanding in several respects. The material was often extraordinarily difficult and written in convoluted, highly academic Russian. Secondly, he had to work with scores of scholars and teachers. As the only translator, all their material, with attendant time pressure, was funneled to him. Thirdly the material contained references to arcane concepts drawn from a wide range of languages, and Alistair had to penetrate the meaning of these concepts through the filter of Russian thought. Finally, he often had to translate turgid into limpid prose.

How did he do? He performed superbly. His translations were supple, lucid and sensitive to the purpose of the translation. His relations with all people were warm, patient and collegial, and he was mature enough to inquire deeply into words and phrases that were difficult. He was timely and full of helpful suggestions on improving our procedures. He was also fun to be around, and open to local culture and local colour. I was sorry to see him go, but knew he had to grow in new directions.

I would recommend him without reservation, particularly for written translation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Faithfully,



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