

News of the Profession

Forthcoming Publication: *My Life: The Memoirs of Sofia Andreevna Tolstaya*

The University of Ottawa Press is pleased to announce the forthcoming publication of *My Life: The Memoirs of Sofia Andreevna Tolstaya* in May 2010. (The preparation of the manuscript was originally announced in Volume XIX (2007) of *Tolstoy Studies Journal*.)

My Life offers an intimate view of Tolstoy as both a writer and a human being. It offers a new and better understanding of Tolstoy's character, his failings as a husband and a father, and portrays the quintessential Tolstoyan character which underlies his fiction. It presents new factual details of his life and sheds new light on old ones. It sets forth important facts and commentaries concerning Tolstoy's life and work to which Tolstaya alone was privy, especially since her memoirs cover a period during which Tolstoy's diary entries were sparse.

It also reveals that Tolstaya was an accomplished author in her own right—as well as a translator, amateur artist, musician, photographer, and businesswoman—a rarity in the largely male-dominated world of the time. She was instrumental in the relief efforts for the 1891–92 famine, fundraising among Russia's cultural elite. She was a prolific correspondent, in touch with many prominent figures in Russian and Western society. Guests in her home ranged from peasants to princes, from anarchists to artists, from com-

posers to philosophers. Her descriptions of these personalities read as a chronicle of the times, affording a unique portrait of late-nineteenth-century Russian society, ranging from peasants to the Tsar himself.

My Life lay dormant for almost a century before it was considered ready to be offered to the world in its entirety, even in its original language. Now its first-time-ever appearance in Russia is complemented by a full English translation, the rights for which were granted by the State L. N. Tolstoy Museum in Moscow to the Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa in Canada.

My Life will be published in a single hardcover volume, including a critical introduction by Andrew Donskov and a series of practical appendices. The complete and unabridged English translation by John Woodsworth and Arkadi Klioutchanski is highlighted by useful annotations for Western readers. The publication date is scheduled for May 2010.

Publication details:

Tolstaya, Sofia. *My Life: The Memoirs of Sofia Andreevna Tolstaya*. Ed. Andrew Donskov. Trans. John Woodsworth and Arkadi Klioutchanski. U of Ottawa P, 2010. 1160 pages, 64 pages of color and black-and-white photographs. Hardcover. ISBN: 9780776630427. \$89.95.