

News of the Profession

Slavic Research Group, University of Ottawa, and Its Publications

This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the founding, in 1998, of the Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa. Its achievements are truly remarkable, and its contribution to Tolstoy studies, to the Slavic field, and, what is more, to literary studies generally, is enormous. It would be appropriate for the *Tolstoy Studies Journal* to survey the materials that are now available to us through the work of the Ottawa group and to note our debt of gratitude to our fellow scholars.

In fifteen years, a small group of dedicated scholars, headed by Professor Andrew Donskov of the University of Ottawa (the Group's founder and Director), has published a large number of carefully selected and meticulously prepared documents from the vast heritage of Lev Tolstoy, his family, and his circle. No fewer than fifteen books of materials and research related to Tolstoy have appeared in print, many of them, in cooperation with the State L. N. Tolstoi Museum in Moscow and other Russian academic institutions.

It would not be possible to speak of all of these editions, each outstanding in judicious choice of the material, meticulous preparation, and incisive, but unintrusive, commentary. Some, however, clearly stand out.

Especially noteworthy is the monumental edition of Tolstoy's complete correspondence with Nikolai Strakhov, one of the most important documents of Tolstoy's life and thought. In the words of Andrew Donskov, "the germ of almost all

the moral/religious principles [Tolstoy] expounded in the last three decades of his life can be found in his pre-1880 letters to Strakhov."¹

It was hard for us to imagine that, with all that has been published over the years by generations of scholars and faithful followers, new material could be uncovered. But we were proven wrong.

The correspondence between Tolstoy and Strakhov was first published in 1914 by B. L. Modzalevskii.² By now a rarity and accessible only in research libraries, the Modzalevskii edition is also incomplete. Many of Tolstoy's letters were excluded, apparently just to save space, especially if they had already been published somewhere else. Others had not yet come to light. Furthermore, Modzalevskii stops in 1894, two years before Strakhov's death. Finally, only a few letters from Strakhov to the Countess, or letters the two Tolstoy's wrote jointly, were included in that edition. These latter lacunae had already been filled by Professor Donskov and his distinguished Russian associates with the publication of another volume in this series.³ Now all the Tolstoy-Strakhov letters, plus the letters to Strakhov from Tolstoy and his wife, have been brought together in two convenient volumes. A fact that adds even greater excitement to this new edition is that it includes no fewer than nineteen previously unpublished letters from Strakhov to Tolstoy.

Donskov's interpretive study, "N. Tolstoy i Nikolai Strakhov: a personal and literary dialog / Л. Н. Толстой и Николай Страхоб: Эпистолярный диалог о жизни и литературе," illuminates the

meaning and significance of this body of documents, presenting a picture of an intellectual dialogue that evolved over a decade.⁴ It is an exemplary piece of scholarship: a careful, erudite, sober assessment of the intellectual preoccupations, attitudes and biases of both correspondents, scholarship that stands out for moral seriousness, clear vision, intellectual responsibility, and generosity.

It is well known that in his late years marital strife overshadowed Tolstoy's literary fame. It would not be an exaggeration to say that, in his lifetime and beyond, Tolstoy's family drama became a fact of Russian cultural history. Much has been published and written about it, but the wife's perspective had long remained overshadowed by the voices of Tolstoy and his ardent follows. The Ottawa group made it their project to translate and publish Sofia Andreevna Tolstaya's autobiographical work, *My Life* (*Моя жизнь*), an immensely detailed rehearsal of her days and years, running to more than a thousand pages. Her book was written over many years, almost up to her death in 1919. Beginning work in 1904, she only managed to carry her life as far as 1906. She died before finishing it. Partly because of its sheer bulk, this huge verbal monument has eluded publication for a century, resting silently in the archives. We now have at last this long lost work, published for the first time in its entirety in English translation under the auspices of the Slavic Research Group of the University of Ottawa.⁵ The Russian original followed, published in Moscow, in two volumes, in 2011. It is most gratifying to have all Sofia Andreevna's words before us at last. A criticism has been voiced of *My Life* that it is bogged down by too much detail, much of it trivial. Indeed, there is an enormous quantity of detail, and one suspects that few readers will have the stamina to read the thousand pages of *My Life* from beginning to end, as if it were *War and Peace*. For lay readers, this may be a book to be read intermittently, for specific moments in the family life of the Tolstoy, but even

the would-be selective reader may well be caught up in the vivid sequences of a very full and interesting life and simply keep on reading.

This enormous edition, complete with commentary, reference materials, bibliography and indexes, appeared, on schedule, for the hundredth anniversary of Tolstoy's death in 2010 from the University of Ottawa Press. The work was translated under the editorship of the Group's head, Andrew Donskov, by John Woodsworth and Arkadi Klioutchanski, whose monumental work was recognized by the 2011 Lois Roth Award from the Modern Language Association of America for the best translation of a literary work into English. (*My Life* was included by the Canadian national paper, the *Globe and Mail*, in the top 100 non-fiction books of 2010; it was also listed as the runner-up for the best book in the biography category of that year by the Association of American Publishers.) Donskov's commentary is also a major achievement: every single person mentioned is clearly identified, as well as other proper names not easily recognizable by non-Russian readers. An enormous effort goes into such work, much time and energy is consumed in unearthing a single pesky little fact, like the birth and death dates of some obscure character who happened to cross Lev Nikolaevich's and Sofia Andreevna's path.

For scholars, this is an immensely valuable resource, which enables new research on the Tolstoy's remarkably complex and notoriously public family drama.

A follow-up volume from the Ottawa Group includes Sofia Andreevna Tolstaya's own literary works.⁶ Published in the original Russian, this set has been collected for the first time in a single volume. Accompanied by a substantial introductory essay by Andrew Donskov, this, too, is an important book. The Countess, of course, was far from being a writer of her husband's caliber, not even a first-rate one; but her works, which in themselves are by no means negligible, are

especially interesting as “feminist” echoes or revisions of some of Tolstoy’s stories. Donskov explains all this with clear vision and admirable balance, giving credit where credit is due, but never trying to oversell his heroine.

Many of the Group’s editions are a product of joint efforts by the University of Ottawa and the Tolstoy Museum in Moscow, as well as the Institute of Russian Literature (Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg) and the Institute of World Literature (Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow). Such collaboration offers a remarkable example of what can be achieved in an equal partnership with Russian academic institutions. These editions manifest a degree of friendly cooperation between Russian and Canadian scholars that would have been quite impossible in the Soviet times. Many of the Ottawa Group’s publications are bilingual. With this, the Canadian scholars have opened still unexplored, or long neglected, sources to a double audience of English- and Russian-speaking Tolstoy lovers, and to others around the world. In this and other senses, these editions are in themselves a form of dialogue that is worthy of the publishing ventures of the Tolstoy circle.

When Donna Orwin wrote about the Ottawa Group’s remarkable contributions in the *Tolstoy Studies Journal* in 2008, on the tenth anniversary of the Group, she described this as cooperation “truly in the spirit of Tolstoyan universal brotherhood.” Such moments of “brotherhood” are rare even in the academic community, and it is on this account, too, that these joint publications have won the admiration and gratitude of scholars around the world.

The theme of brotherhood itself, which played a large role in Tolstoy’s writings and teaching of his late years, has become a topic for research and publication.⁷

Many other publications deserve a special mention, not least those that have particular relevance to Canada, such as several editions that

tell the story of the Dukhobory in Canada and Tolstoy’s own as well as his son Sergei’s involvement in their emigration and resettlement.⁸

Continuing their research into Tolstoy’s involvement with Russian sectarians, in 2008 the Group issued a collection of Tolstoy’s correspondence with peasant sectarian writers, complete with Andrew Donskov’s critical articles on each of these writers, which bring out of oblivion remarkable, and hitherto little known figures: Timofei Bondarev, Fyodor Zheltov, Pyotr Verigin, and Mikhail Novikov.⁹

At the moment, yet another edition is approaching its final stages: V. F. Bulgakov’s autobiographical memoir *How a Life Is Lived* (*Как прожита жизнь*) (in Russian), together with Donskov’s critical introduction, annotations, chronology and exhaustive bibliography of Bulgakov’s archive and general criticism. The edition will be published for the first time in 2012.

All in all, lovers and students of Lev Tolstoy owe a profound debt of gratitude to the Slavic Research Group, its Director, Andrew Donskov, their Russian colleagues, and the University of Ottawa.

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Notes

1. From Andrew Donskov, “Leo Tolstoy and Nikolaj Strakhov: a personal and literary dialogue,” in L. N. Tolstoy-Nikolaj Strakhov: *Polnoe sobranie perepiski./ Leo Tolstoy and Nikolaj Strakhov: Complete Correspondence*. A. A. Donskov, ed. and intr., L. D. Gromova, T. G. Nikiforova, compilers. 2 vols. Ottawa: Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa and the State L. N. Tolstoy Museum, Moscow, 2003.
2. *Perepiska L. N. Tolstogo s N. N. Strakhovym, 1870–1894*, ed. B. L. Modzalevskii. SPb: Izdanie Obshchestva Tolstovstogo Muzeia, 1914.
3. A. A. Donskov, ed., *L. N. Tolstoy i S. A. Tolstaia. Perepiska s N. N. Strakhovym*. Ed. Andrew Donskov. Compiled by L. D. Gromova and T. G. Nikiforova.

Ottawa: Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa and the State L. N. Tolstoy Museum, Moscow, 2000.

4. The English text is included in the 2003 volumes of the correspondence, a revised Russian text appears in a separate edition: Ottawa: Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa and the State L. N. Tolstoy Museum, Moscow.

5. Sofia Andreevna Tolstaya, *My Life*. Ed. Andrew Donskov. Translated from the Russian by John Woodsworth and Arkadi Klioutchanski. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2010.

6. *Sofia Andreevna Tolstaya: Literary Works*. By Andrew Donskov. Author's text in English; Tolstaya's works in Russian. Ottawa: Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa and State L.N. Tolstoy Museum, Moscow, 2011. xvi+527 pp.

7. *Edinenie ljudej v tvorchestve L. N. Tolstogo: Fragmenty rukopisi/The unity of people in Leo Tolstoy's works: Extracts from manuscripts*. A. A. Donskov, G. Ja. Galagan, L. D. Gromova. Publication of Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa, Institute of Russian Literature (Russian Academy of Sciences, St-Petersburg) and Institute of World Literature (Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow), 2003.

8. *Sergej Tolstoy and the Doukhobors: a Journey to Canada (Diary and Correspondence)/Sergej Tolstoj i dukhobortsy: puteshestvie v Kanadu (Dnevnik i perepiska)*. A. A. Donskov, ed. Compiled by T. G. Nikiforova. With translation from the Russian by John Woodsworth. Ottawa: Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa and the State L. N. Tolstoy Museum Moscow, 1998. See also *Russian Roots and Canadian Wings: Russian Archival documents on the Doukhor Emigration to Canada*. Compiled, translated and annotated by John Woodsworth. With a Foreword by Vladimir Tolstoy. Manotick (Ont.): Penumbra Press, 1999; *The Doukhor Centenary in Canada: A Multi-disciplinary Perspective on their Unity and Diversity*. Andrew Donskov, John Woodsworth and Chad Gaffield, eds. Ottawa: Slavic Research Group and

Institute of Canadian Studies at the University of Ottawa, 2000. The latest addition to this series is: *Leo Tolstoy and the Canadian Doukhobors: An Historic Relationship*. Andrew Donskov. Ottawa: Centre for Research on Canadian-Russian Relations, Carleton University, 2005.

9. *Leo Tolstoy and Russian Peasant Sectarian Writers: Selected Correspondence*. Edited and with an Introduction by Andrew Donskov. Correspondence translated by John Woodsworth. Ottawa: Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa, 2008.

Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa: List of publications relating to L.N. Tolstoy

The annotations have been prepared by the members of the Group.

Tolstoy Series, vol. 1

Sergej Tolstoy and the Doukhobors: a journey to Canada (Diary and correspondence) / Sergej Tolstoj i dukhobortsy: puteshestvie v Kanadu (Dnevnik i perepiska). A. A. Donskov, ed. Compiled by T. G. Nikiforova. With translation from the Russian by John Woodsworth. Critical introduction in English; biographical note in Russian. Text of letters in Russian and English. Indexes. Published by the Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa and the State L. N. Tolstoy Museum Moscow, 1998. xiv+402 pp. ISBN 0-88927-039-2.

AFTER REACHING AN ACCORD with the Russian authorities for the Doukhobors to emigrate to Canada, writer Lev (Leo) Tolstoy asked his eldest son Sergej to accompany one of the first boatloads. On 4 January 1899 Sergej L. Tolstoy sailed from the Black Sea port of Batoum aboard the S. S. Lake Superior bound for Halifax, escorting some 2,300 Doukhobors to their promised new land. Here they attempted to fulfil their hopes for a freer life unencumbered by the surveillance and religious persecution of the past. It was a journey of hardship (more than 20 people died during the move) and endurance (weeks of waiting in

quarantine off the Nova Scotia coast). But it was also one of excitement—as the Doukhobors finally boarded the convoy of six special trains to the west, and began the adventure of opening up the Canadian prairie frontierland at the turn of the century. All this is vividly described by Sergej Tolstoy—along with his own experience of self-discovery in the process—in his Diary and letters home. These are published here in their original Russian and English translation (both for the first time), together with letters by friends and officials on either side of the Atlantic.

Tolstoy Series, vol. 2

L.N. Tolstoj i F.A. Zheltov: Perepiska [L.N. Tolstoy and F.A. Zheltov: Correspondence].

A. A. Donskov, ed. Compiled by L.V. Gladkova. Appendix: V. Bashkirov: «On vstrechalsja s Tolstym». Entire book in Russian (English translation published *hors série*, 2001—see below). Published by the Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa and the State L. N. Tolstoy Museum Moscow, 1999. x+155 pp. ISBN 0–88927–043–0.

THIS VOLUME comprises thirty-seven letters from Molokan sectarian writer Fëdor Alekseevich Zheltov to Leo Tolstoy, never before published, along with fourteen letters from Tolstoy to Zheltov (included in the Jubilee Edition of the Complete Collected Works of Tolstoy), all written between 1887 and 1909. The letters reveal a sharing of thoughts and experiences on the part of two religious thinkers who were both earnestly striving to discover the meaning of Christianity and biblical truth in their own lives, each contributing to the other's quest through their mutual correspondence.

Tolstoy Series, vol. 3

L. N. Tolstoj i S. A. Tolstaja: Perepiska s N. N. Strakhovym / The Tolstoys' Correspondence with

N. N. Strakhov. A. A. Donskov, ed. Compiled by L. D. Gromova and T. G. Nikiforova. Introduction and correspondence summaries in English; text of letters in Russian. Indexes. Published by the Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa and the State L. N. Tolstoy Museum, Moscow, 2000, xii+308 pp. ISBN 0–88927–282–4.

HERE PUBLISHED FOR THE FIRST TIME is the correspondence between the Tolstoys (Leo and his wife Sofia) and their editorial assistant—philosopher and literary critic Nikolaj Strakhov. These 125 letters (38 between Strakhov and Leo Tolstoy, 1894–96, as well as 87 between Strakhov and Sofia Tolstoy, 1872–95) offer new insights not only into the publication and republication during his lifetime of a number of Leo Tolstoy's writings, but also into the Tolstoys' personal lives, their thoughts on their family and their acquaintances which they willingly shared with one of their closest friends.

Tolstoy Series, vol. 4

Novye materialy o L. N. Tolstom: iz arkhiva N. N. Guseva / New Materials on Leo Tolstoy from the Archives of N. N. Gusev. A. A. Donskov, ed. Compiled by Z. N. Ivanova and L. D. Gromova. Introduction in English; text of letters in Russian. Indexes. Published by the Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa and the State L. N. Tolstoy Museum, Moscow, 2002. xii+282 pp. ISBN 0–88927–294–8.

LEO TOLSTOY'S PERSONAL SECRETARY for two years was Nikolaj Nikolaevich Gusev, before the latter's arrest and exile to Western Siberia in the summer of 1909. One of the great writer's most trusted associates, Gusev subsequently compiled a vast archive of correspondence and memoirs on Tolstoy. This volume contains eight of those memoirs, along with 45 personal letters Gusev wrote to his mentor from 1903 to 1910, mostly from exile,

including his attempts to carry on his secretarial duties from there, his perceptions on Tolstoy's works and Tolstoy's influence on his own self-examination.

Tolstoy Series, vol. 5

Edinenie ljudej v tvorcestve L. N. Tolstogo: Fragmenty rukopisi / The Unity of People in Leo Tolstoy's Works: Extracts from Manuscripts. A. A. Donskov, G. Ja. Galagan, L. D. Gromova. Introduction and two critical articles in English and Russian; text of materials in Russian only. Published by the Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa, Institute of Russian Literature (Russian Academy of Sciences, St-Petersburg) and Institute of World Literature (Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow), 2003. x+299 pp. ISBN 0-88927-300-6.

THIS VOLUME PRESENTS a rare glimpse into Tolstoy's own draft variants of his works of fiction, treatises and articles—variants hitherto unpublished. The key passages selected for publication here offer characteristic examples of the great writer's reflections on the paths to unity among people. First-hand research of original manuscripts has also yielded detailed annotations along with two critical essays (presented in both Russian and English) on this vital concept which permeates nearly all Tolstoy's writings.

Tolstoy Series, vols. 6 and 7

L.N. Tolstoj—N.N. Strakhov: Polnoe sobranie perepiski / Leo Tolstoy—Nikolaj Strakhov: Complete Correspondence. 2 volumes. Volume I: Table of contents, Introduction, Bibliography, Letters 1870–1878; Volume II: Letters 1879–1896, Chronological listing of letters, Indexes. Published by the Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa and the State L. N. Tolstoy Museum, Moscow, 2003. lxx+1079 pp. ISBN 0-88927-310-3 (2-volume set, volumes not sold separately).

THE INTEGRATED CORRESPONDENCE of Leo Tolstoy and his friend and editorial

assistant Nikolaj Strakhov, now appearing for the first time in its entirety, offers a unique insight into the minds of two great thinkers as they engage in earnest dialogue on a wide spectrum of religious, philosophical, social and literary questions. The letters themselves are enhanced by an introductory essay by the editor (followed by a bibliography) and extensive annotations (many drawn from archival sources) prepared by two leading Tolstoy scholars in Moscow. The result is an indispensable tool for any future research into these two authors' views of life and literature, as well as the nature of their unique relationship. Volume II includes a summary chronological listing of all letters as well as two indexes: one of Tolstoy's works and the other of people's names mentioned in the letters, annotations or introduction.

Tolstoy Series, vol. 8

Leo Tolstoy and Russian Peasant Sectarian Writers: Selected Correspondence. Edited and with an Introduction by Andrew Donskov. Correspondence translated by John Woodsworth. Ottawa: Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa, 2008. x+298 pp. ISBN 978-0-88927-334-4.

The selected correspondence of Leo Tolstoy with four peasant sectarian writers: Timofej Mikhajlovich Bondarev (1820–1898), Fëdor Alekseevich Zheltov (1859–1938), Pëtr Vasil'evich Verigin (1859–1924) and Mikhail Petrovich Novikov (1871–1939), with a separate critical article (in English) on each writer, as well as an introduction to the book as a whole.

Tolstoy Series, vol. 9

Sofia Andreevna Tolstaya: Literary Works. By Andrew Donskov. Author's text in English; Tolstaya's works in Russian. Ottawa: Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa and Moscow, State L.N.

Tolstoy Museum, 2011. xvi+527 pp. ISBN 978-0-88927-419-8.

A critical look (in English) at the writing career of Sofia Andreevna Tolstaya, followed by the reproduction (in Russian) of her major literary works, presented for the first time in a single volume: *Natasha*, her contributions to Tolstoy's *Novaja azbuka* [A new primer], *Kukolki-skelettsy i drugie rasskazy* [The skeleton-dolls and other stories], *Babushkin klad: predanie* [Grandmother's treasure-trove: a fable], *Ch'ja vina: novella* [Who is to blame?], *Pesnja bez slov: povest'* [Song without words: narrative], excerpts from *Moja zhizn'* [My life], a selection of poems. Includes a chronology, bibliography and index.

Tolstoy Series, vol. 10

V.F. Bulgakov: Kak prozhita zhizn'. Andrew Donskov, ed. Compiled by Ljudmila Gladkova, Andrew Donskov, John Woodsworth and Arkadi Klioutchanski. Extensive selections (in Russian) from Valentin Bulgakov's autobiographical memoir dealing with Tolstoy. Ottawa: Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa and Moscow: Moscow State Archive of Literature and Art (RGALI), 2012.

Tolstoy Series, vol. 11

V.F. Bulgakov: V spore s Tolstym. Andrew Donskov, ed. Compiled by Ljudmila Gladkova, Andrew Donskov, John Woodsworth and Arkadi Klioutchanski. *Forthcoming*: Ottawa: Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa and Moscow: Moscow State Archive of Literature and Art (RGALI), 2013.

Canada-Russia Series, vol. 1

Russian Roots and Canadian Wings: Russian Archival Documents on the Doukhobor Emigration to Canada. Compiled, translated and annotated by John Woodsworth. With a Foreword by Vladimir Tolstoy. Manotick (Ont.): Penumbra Press, 1999. xxii+232 pp. ISBN 0-921254-89-X.

THIS VOLUME of 48 documents collected in 1895-1902 by the Department of Police of the Imperial Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs and recently made available by the State Archives of the Russian Federation (GARF), is here presented in English translation with informative annotations. These documents include: internal police memos on the Doukhobors and their supporters, the Tolstoyans; letters written by Doukhobors and Tolstoyans, intercepted by government agents; and two series of first-hand accounts of the journey from the Caucasus to the Canadian prairies published in Russian newspapers of the day. Copies of all these documents were procured in Russia by archivist George Bolotenko for Carleton University's Centre for Research on Canadian-Russian Relations. They are drawn from a catalogue compiled by the same author—*The Doukhobors: 1895-1943* (CRCR, 2^e édition, 1997)—which lists, with summaries and cross-references, more than 1,600 pages of documents acquired from GARF.

Canada-Russia Series, vol. 7

Leo Tolstoy and the Canadian Doukhobors: An Historic Relationship. Andrew Donskov. All text in English. Index. Ottawa: Centre for Research on Canadian-Russian Relations, Carleton University, 2005. xiv+473 pp. ISBN 0-88927-320-0.

THIS STUDY, based in good part on a variety of hitherto unpublished documents (government and official Orthodox Church reports, diaries and letters, as well as Tolstoy's treatises and works of fiction), and complemented by guest essays, oral interviews and questionnaires, seeks to trace (both historically and from literary sources), the nature of the evolving relationship between one of Russia's greatest writers (along with members of his family) and the people known as the Doukhobors, to whom he was a kindred

spirit, lending his moral and financial support to their emigration *en masse* to Canada in 1899... A pragmatist, Tolstoy was not content to confine his creative output to the philosophical plane. He was constantly searching for practical examples to illustrate his theories and ideas on the attainment of truth and on the meaning of life. He had for some time been looking to the simple peasant way of life to satisfy this need. It was in the Doukhobors' beliefs and especially in their lifestyle, their honest toil and living from the land, their communal sharing, their pacifist principles, the love of God they cherished within themselves and their endeavours to follow Christ's teachings in deed more than in word, that Tolstoy saw the practical embodiment of the ideals he himself would have liked to achieve.

In other words, Tolstoy needed the Doukhobors to provide a tangible illustration of the inseparability of the spiritual and the practical, and this endeared him to successive generations of the sect's members, especially in view of the close commonality of their outlook on life. Their symbiotic relationship is summed up in a statement from his letter to them of 1897: "You are taking the lead, and many are grateful to you for that.... There is so much I would like to tell you and so much to learn from you."

Hors-série (a):

The Doukhobor Centenary in Canada: A Multi-disciplinary Perspective on their Unity and Diversity. Andrew Donskov, John Woodsworth and Chad Gaffield, eds. Ottawa: Slavic Research Group and Institute of Canadian Studies at the University of Ottawa, 2000. xvi+365 pp. ISBN 0-88927-276-X.

FOR THREE DAYS in late October 1999 scholars from Russia, America, Britain and Canada, including a number of Canadian

Doukhobors, met at the University of Ottawa to discuss various aspects of the Doukhobors' first hundred years in their new homeland: the events leading up to their emigration in the winter and spring of 1899, the contribution to their cause of the part of Leo Tolstoy and his followers, as well as their language, literature and culture. On the second night of the conference the public was invited to attend an OPEN FORUM on the topic: Doukhobors at the threshold of the twenty-first century, exploring the prospects for this group's second century in Canada. The conference began with two keynote addresses given by: Dr Svetlana Inikova, an ethnographer with the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, and Doukhobor historian Eli A. Popoff from British Columbia. The remaining papers in this volume were contributed by six scholars from abroad along with fifteen host-country participants.

Hors-série (b):

A Molokan's Search for Truth: The Correspondence of Leo Tolstoy and Fëdor Zheltov. Andrew Donskov, ed. Translated by John Woodsworth (from Tolstoy Series, vol. 2— see above). English edition edited by Ethel Dunn. Berkeley (Calif.), USA: Highgate Road Social Science Research Station and Ottawa: Slavic Research Group at the University of Ottawa, 2001. xvi+155 pp. ISBN 0-88927-290-5.

The question still remains, why should an American Molokan in Los Angeles, say, be interested in these letters? Zheltov's letters seem to me to be an extraordinarily clear statement of belief (particular Letter 8), and one can only hope that his faith sustained him as we was taken out, at age 77, and shot on trumped-up charges by the Soviet regime in 1938. To Molokans who have transferred to other Protestant denominations, the exchanges between Tolstoy and Zheltov about the Christian life might awaken a response. With a

better understanding of their past and their place in Russian history, Molokans in America will help their Russian brothers and sisters, because this help is sorely needed—not just the building of churches and the provision of Bibles, but material aid as well.

Hors-série (c):

Sofia Andreevna Tolstaya: My life. Ed. Andrew Donskov. Translated from the Russian by John Woodsworth and Arkadi Klioutchanski. Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2010. lix + 1125 pp. + 64 pages of bandw and colour illustrations. ISBN 978-0-7766-3042-7.

Tolstaya's story takes us from her childhood through the early years of her marriage, the writing of *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina* and into the first year of the twentieth century. She paints an intimate and honest portrait of her husband's character, providing new details about his life to which she alone was privy. She offers a better understanding of Tolstoy's character, his qualities and failings as a husband and a father, and forms a picture of the quintessential Tolstoyan character which underlies his fiction... *My Life* 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 actively involved in the relief efforts for the 1891-92 famine and the emigration of the Doukhobors in 1899. 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 composers to philosophers. Her descriptions of these personalities read as a chronicle of the times, affording a unique portrait of late-19th- and early-20th-century Russian society, ranging from peasants to the Tsar himself... *My Life* is

the most important primary document about Tolstoy to be published in many years and a unique and intimate portrait of one of the greatest literary minds of all time.



Tolstoy and World Literature 2012, Yasnaya Polyana

The Eighth International Academic Conference, “Leo Tolstoy and World Literature,” organized by Galina Alekseeva of the Yasnaya Polyana Museum-Estate and Donna Orwin of the University of Toronto, took place August 11-15, 2012. As in the past, the conference featured a variety of scholarly perspectives on Tolstoy, explorations of the museum-estate and its environs, and the special type of camaraderie that results from four days of intensive, on-site discussion of a great writer's life and works.

The conference featured over 30 papers by scholars from Russia, the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Israel, Ukraine, Japan, Armenia, Finland, Estonia, and Lithuania. The papers themselves were equally varied, addressing *War and Peace*, *Anna Karenina*, *Resurrection*, and numerous smaller works, as well as Tolstoy's broader religious-philosophical ideas. Research topics ranged from such textual issues as Tolstoy's narrative style, epilogues, and source texts, to social questions including his views on noble-peasant relations and the concept of honor, to investigations of Tolstoy's estate and its visitors. Among the numerous perspectives explored, Tolstoy's intertextuality and influence on subsequent writers turned out to be especially frequent themes in the sessions, as papers confirmed Tolstoy's sources (English novelists, Emerson, Pushkin, Biblical and folkloric texts, and historical figures such as Alexander Suvorov) to be as numerous and varied as his influence on successors including Bunin, Chesterton, Sholokhov, Solzhenitsyn, the Bolsheviks, and