

News of the Profession

Galina Vasil'evna Alekseeva

Galina Vasil'evna Alekseeva, Head of Research at the State Tolstoy Museum at Yasnaya Polyana and Distinguished Cultural Scholar of the Russian Federation, is widely known as a highly qualified academic, an energetic leader, an authority on Russian and American cultures, as well as author and compiler of several unique publications—for example, *Американские диалоги Льва Толстого* (*Lev Tolstoy's dialogues with Americans*) (2010), a good number of scholarly articles, plus a series of Proceedings of international conferences devoted to “Tolstoy and World Literature” that she has organised regularly at Yasnaya Polyana since 1998.

Much could be said about Alekseeva's achievements, as well as the honors she has garnered both in Russia and abroad. Twice (in 1996 and 1999) she was awarded status as a Canadian Studies Scholar; she was a Kennan Scholar in America in 1998, and received a Fulbright Scholarship in 2002. Over the past decade, Alekseeva has been in considerable demand as a lecturer on Tolstoy at academic institutions worldwide. She has been given special recognition for her seminal work on Tolstoy's connections with American transcendentalists. She is also listed in *Кто есть кто в Российском литературоведении* (*Who's Who in Russian Literary Criticism*).

Slavic scholars in Canada, in particular, are appreciative of the research Alekseeva has undertaken on the Doukhobors—a religious sect Tolstoy helped relocate to that country at the close

of the nineteenth century. Alekseeva did more than study the Doukhobors from archival materials: She spent several years living among them in British Columbia, alternating her time between there and Yasnaya Polyana, thereby making her research even more valuable.

Tolstoy specialists in the West (as in other parts of the world) are grateful for Galina Alekseeva's exemplifying Tolstoy's vision of the unity of peoples by bringing to light—through her meticulous investigations, far-reaching dialogues and global publications—the intricate web of connections between that great writer and his many kindred spirits around the world. She has not only circulated Tolstoy's thoughts among a broader range of the general public, but, in particular, made valuable archival materials accessible to seasoned Tolstoy scholars as well as to those of future generations. She has thereby encouraged and paved the way for many to gain a better and more practicable understanding of his life and legacy for mankind.

Note: At the General Assembly of UNESCO-ICOM (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization-International Council of Museums in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil on August 11-18, 2013, Galina Alekseeva was elected President of ICLM (International Committee for Literary Museums).