

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

émigré writers Nabokov, Gazdanov, and Varshavskii).

Stimulating as the scholarly exchange inside the conference room was, the non-academic events were every bit as inspiring. Along with a guided tour of Tolstoy's house, estate, and grave, the schedule included a trip to the family graveyard at Nikolo-Kochakovsky Cemetery, and a concert of Russian *romansy*. More informally, participants enjoyed spending their free time following the sessions on long evening walks around the estate, exchanging impressions of Yasnaya Polyana.

The last session of papers was followed by a presentation of recent publications, including proceedings from previous conferences, and two surprise speakers, writer Andrei Bitov and local artist Gennadii Oparin. Bitov, writer of the now-classic postmodern novel *Pushkin House*, spoke eloquently on the importance of literary study. He praised Oparin for his assistance in creating a commemoration of Tolstoy's *Hadji-Murat* in Yasnaya Polyana. Oparin personally drove a 30-plus-ton stone monument of Hadji-Murat's head from Dagestan, to the spot where Tolstoy was allegedly inspired to write his novel. Following his remarks on this venture, Oparin, a Cold War-era marine, presented participant Rick McPeak—himself a US Army Colonel and Professor at the United States Military Academy at West Point—with an authentic wool Russian Navy sweater as a gesture of friendship and hopes for future peace between Russia and the US. Later that evening, Bitov, Oparin, and numerous participants held a campfire at the site of Hadji-Murat's commemorative head, a fitting conclusion to a four-day celebration of Tolstoy's life and works. Following the bus ride back to Moscow the next day, the trip concluded with a tour of Tolstoy's Khamovniki estate before participants dispersed, perhaps to meet again at the ninth Yasnaya Polyana conference, which will be held in August 2014.

Alexander Burry
The Ohio State University

Program of the Eighth International Academic Conference, "Leo Tolstoy and World Literature," Yasnaya Polyana, August 11–15, 2012

Opening Remarks

Ekaterina Tolstaya (Yasnaya Polyana)

First Session

Donna Orwin (Canada). Where in *War and Peace* is Alexander Suvorov? (Где в «Войне и мире» Александр Суворов?).

Rick McPeak (Canada). The Concept of Honor in Tolstoy (Понятие чести по Толстому).

Mikhail Vaiskopf (Israel). Moscow, 1812: Toward the Question of the Sources of *War and Peace* (Москва-1812: к вопросу об источниках «Войны и мира»).

Anna Barker (USA). In Search of Peace in *War and Peace*: Tolstoy's Historical Journey (В поисках мира в «Войне и мире»: историческое путешествие Толстого).

Galina Alekseeva (Yasnaya Polyana). R.W. Emerson and L.N. Tolstoy's Appraisal of Napoleon (Наполеон в оценке Р. У. Эмерсона и Л. Н. Толстого).

Second Session

Eric Naiman (USA). The Method of *Close Reading* and its Application to the Epilogues of *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina* (Метод пристального чтения и его применение к эпилогам «Войны и Мира» и восьмой главе «Анны Карениной»).

Olga Slivitskaia (St. Petersburg). "Suddenly" in Tolstoy: The Unexpected in the Rational World («Вдруг» у Толстого: неожиданное в мире закономерного).

Eugenius Zhmuida (Lithuania). Tolstoy's Novel *Anna Karenina* and the Folk Tale of the Step-Daughter (Роман Л. Н. Толстого «Анна Каренина» и фольклорная сказка о падчерице)

Alexander Burry (USA) Eros and Vengeance: The Don Juan Theme in *Anna Karenina* (Эрос и возмездие: тема Дон Жуана в «Анне Карениной».)

Alexei Pavlenko (USA) Linkage in Tolstoy, or Where the Arches of *Anna Karenina* Close (Смычка по Толстому, или Где смыкаются своды романа «Анна Каренина»)

August 13, 2012**Third Session**

Yulia Krasnosel'skaia (Moscow). L.N. Tolstoy and E.P. Kovalevskii: Literary Ties in 1856 (Л. Н. Толстой и Е. П. Ковалевский: литературные связи в 1856 г).

Alexander Volkovinskii (Ukraine). The Fall in the Interpretation of Tolstoy and Frazer (Грехопадение в толковании Л. Толстого и Дж. Фрэзера).

Muireann Maguire (UK). Mysticism or Madness? G.K. Chesterton and L.N. Tolstoy (Мистицизм или сумасшествие? Г. К. Честертон и Л. Н. Толстой).

Alexei Vdovin (Estonia). Bunin and Tolstoy: On One Source of "Light Breathing" (Бунин и Толстой: об одном источнике «Легкого дыхания»).

Tatiana Krasavchenko (Moscow). A Tolstoian Beginning in the Literature of the First Wave of Russian Emigration: V. Nabokov, G. Gazdanov, V. Varshavskii (Толстовское начало в литературе русской эмиграции первой волны: В. Набоков, Г. Газданов, В. Варшавский).

Fourth Session

Carol Apollonio (USA). Tolstoy in the Words of Constance Garnett (Толстой словами Констанс Гарнетт).

Ben Hellman (Finland). Tolstoy's Swedish Visitors (Шведские посетители у Толстого).

Elena Tolstaya (Israel). A Conversation with the Ocean: Akim Volynskii on His Visit to Yasnaya Polyana (Разговор с океаном: Аким Волынский о своем визите Ясную Поляну).

Oleg Kationov (Novosibirsk). Retreat and Captivity in Classic Russian Literature: L.N. Tolstoy, M.A. Sholokhov, A.I. Solzhenitsyn (Отступление и плен в русской классической литературе (Л. Н. Толстой, М. А. Шолохов, А. И. Солженицын)).

August 14, 2012**Fifth Session**

Vladimir Papernyi (Israel). Lev Tolstoy and the Mythology of *Resurrection* (Лев Толстой и мифология «Воскресения»).

Anna Grodetskaia (St. Petersburg). The Epilogues of *Resurrection*: A Field of Possibilities (Эпиплоги «Воскресения»: поле возможностей).

Inga Matveeva (St. Petersburg). A Conversation about Art in the Second Complete Edition of L.N. Tolstoy's Novel *Resurrection* (Разговор об искусстве во второй законченной редакции романа Л. Н. Толстого «Воскресение»).

Irina Gniusova (Tomsk). The Prison Finale of the Pastoral Plot: Traditions of the English Novel in Tolstoy's *Resurrection* (Тюремный финал пасторального сюжета: традиции английского романа в «Воскресении» Л. Н. Толстого).

Margarita Vaisman (UK). "To See Everything in its Entirety": Narrative Optics in Tolstoy's *Childhood* («Увидеть все целиком»: повествовательная оптика в повести Л. Н. Толстого «Детство»).

Sixth Session

Ksenia Nagina (Voronezh). The Philosophy of the Garden in L.N. Tolstoy's Work in Light of Literary Tradition (Философия сада в творчестве Л. Толстого на фоне литературной традиции).

Elena Belousova (Yasnaya Polyana). "We were born for inspiration": A.S. Pushkin in L.N. Tolstoy's Creative Destiny («Мы рождены для вдохновения»: А. С. Пушкин в творческой судьбе Л. Н. Толстого).

Koiti Itokava (Japan). The Separate Graves of the Tolstoy Spouses (Отдельные могилы супругов Толстых).

Michael Denner (USA). "A Proletarian Barin": L.N. Tolstoy among the Bolsheviks, 1917–1924 («Пролетарский барин», Л. Н. Толстой среди большевиков, 1917–1924).

Natalia Teplitskaia (USA). A Prophetic Vision of the "Cosmic Religion of the Future" (Пророческое видение «космической религии будущего»).