

## In Exchange

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A REPORT ON THE SOVIET-AMERICAN TOLSTOY CONFERENCE

Amy Mandelker, CUNY Graduate Center

Frank R. Silbajoris, Ohio State University

The US-USSR Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences, Subcommittee on Literature and Languages for the project "American Russian Literary Relations" met for its second working conference on January 20-21, 1988, in New York City. The first conference was held on January 6-7, 1987, at the Academy of Sciences Gorky Institute of World Literature in Moscow. Both conferences were sponsored by the American Council of Learned Societies-Soviet Academy of Sciences Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences, administered in the United States by the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX).

The Soviet participants were Professors Lydia D. Gromova-Opulskaia, Aleksei L. Nalepin, and Dmitrii M. Urov, all of the Gorky Institute; and Nikolai N. Skatov, Institute of Russian Literature (Pushkinskii dom). The American side was represented by Frank R. Silbajoris, The Ohio State University (Coordinator of the Subcommittee); Dr. Edward Kasinec, the New York Public Library Slavonic Division (Chair, AAASS Committee on Archives and Manuscripts); Dr. Richard Gustafson, Barnard College and Columbia University; Gary Saul Morson, Northwestern University; Amy Mandelker, CUNY Graduate Center; William B. Edgerton, Indiana University; Robert T. Whittaker, Lehman College, CUNY; Robert Karlovich, Pratt Institute; Vitaut Kippel, Hunter College; Nicholas Rzhnevsky, SUNY Stony Brook; and Thomas E. Bird, Queens College.

The first session was concerned with archival materials on Tolstoy available in the New York metropolitan area. Robert T. Whittaker reported on these materials [editor's note: see "The Tolstoy Archival and Manuscript Project" which follows] and distributed a manual summarizing the holdings in local collections; the manual offers brief descriptions, including 123 items by Tolstoy, 145 items by relatives of Tolstoy and 5 letters of V. G. Chertkov. Descriptions of these materials are also available in the database kept in the NYPL Slavonic Division. Thomas Bird then offered a brief account of the history of the "Frey Collection" at the New York Public Library. Robert Karlovich commented on the two presentations on archival materials. The Soviet representatives received copies of the documents and were impressed with the efficacy of computerized procedures in archival research.

The second portion of the meeting offered assessments of recent developments in American Tolstoy scholarship by the authors of two

major works on Tolstoy which have appeared in the last year. First, Richard Gustafson spoke on "Recent American Publications on Tolstoy," including a synopsis of his book Leo Tolstoy. Resident and Stranger. Saul Morson elaborated his theory of "prosaics" with special reference to Tolstoy's Anna Karenina, the subject of his next book. Amy Mandelker commented on this section.

The third section of the conference was devoted to a consideration of practical issues involved in joint Soviet-American production and preparation of archival and textological materials for publication. Antonia Glasse spoke on "Recent Soviet-American Archeographical and Textological Work," summarizing her experiences in working on a collaborative project to bring out a volume of Lermontov materials. William Edgerton then spoke on "The Experience of Publishing American Archival Materials in the Soviet Union," with special reference to his work with Literaturnoe nasledstvo. The section was concluded by Edward Kasinec who commented on archival matters.

During the fourth section of the conference, the Soviet delegation offered their contributions on the topic of "Recent Russian/Soviet and Eastern European Publications, Archeographic and Textological Work on Tolstoy." Lydia Gromova-Opulskaia spoke of the ongoing effort to document the extensive correspondence between Tolstoy and his American correspondents. Dmitrii Urnov made extensive comments on American visitors to Tolstoy's estate and on the American authors in Tolstoy's Yasnaya Polyana library. Aleksei Nalepin's report centered on the memoirs of American guests of Tolstoy as a source for studying the writer's creative biography. Nikolai Skatov discussed an open letter by N. Fedorov to Tolstoy, and then gave a general survey of the activities of the Gorky Institute. After comments and questions, a summary by Frank Silbajoris concluded the session. Participants reassembled at the New York Public Library, where the Slavonic Division had prepared an exhibit of archival materials. Edward Kasinec spoke about the history of the Slavonic collection as well as about the extent and variety of its holdings.

The second day of the conference was devoted to reports by the American side on ongoing activities of the Russian Classical Literature Group in America, on the Tolstoy Archival Materials session at the San Francisco AATSEEL conference, and a discussion of the prospects for publishing two discrete Soviet and American volumes on Tolstoy research prepared by the Tolstoy subcommission on both sides. Lydia Gromova-Opulskaia described opportunities for American contributions to the forthcoming new Academy edition of Tolstoy's complete works, and spoke of the next meeting of the subcommission in spring, 1989, in the Soviet Union. The meeting will be held either in Yasnaya Polyana or in Moscow.