

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO



# TOLSTOY

*Edited by  
Donna Tussing Orwin*

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## The Cambridge Companion to Tolstoy

Best known for his great novels, *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*, Tolstoy remains one of the most important nineteenth-century writers; throughout his career, which spanned nearly three-quarters of a century, he wrote fiction, journalistic essays, and educational textbooks. The specially commissioned essays in *The Cambridge Companion to Tolstoy* do justice to the sheer volume of Tolstoy's writing. Key dimensions of his writing and life are explored in essays focusing on his relationship to popular writing, the issue of gender and sexuality in his fiction, and his aesthetics. The introduction provides a brief, unified account of the man, for whom art was only one activity among many. The volume is well supported by supplementary material including a detailed guide to further reading and a chronology of Tolstoy's life, the most comprehensive compiled in English to date. Altogether the volume provides an invaluable resource for students and scholars alike.



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EDITED BY  
DONNA TUSSING ORWIN  
*University of Toronto*



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## CONTRIBUTORS

GEORGE R. CLAY is a fiction writer, literary essayist, and reviewer whose work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Best American Short Stories*, and *The International Fiction Review*, among other publications. In 1998, Northwestern University Press published his monograph: *Tolstoy's Phoenix: From Method to Meaning in "War and Peace."*

EDWINA CRUISE is Professor of Russian and Chair of the Department of Russian and Eurasian Studies at Mount Holyoke College. Her special teaching interests include elementary Russian language, the novel, Tolstoy, and Chekhov and the drama. Her current research, on the horse in Russian culture, with a special emphasis on Tolstoy, is reflected in her recent publications. Professor Cruise is Business Manager for the *Tolstoy Studies Journal*.

CARYL EMERSON is A. Watson Armour III University Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Princeton University, with a co-appointment in Comparative Literature. She is a translator and critic of the Russian literary critic and philosopher, Mikhail Bakhtin, and has published widely on nineteenth-century Russian literature (Pushkin, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and Chekhov), the history of literary criticism, and Russian opera and vocal music. Most recently she is the author of *The First Hundred Years of Mikhail Bakhtin* and a biography of Modest Mussorgsky.

RICHARD FREEBORN is Professor Emeritus of Russian Literature, University of London. He is the author of monographs on Turgenev, Russian history, the Russian nineteenth-century novel, and the Russian revolutionary novel; a translator of Turgenev (*Sketches from a Hunter's Album*, *Rudin*, *Home of the Gentry*, *Fathers and Sons*, *First Love and Other Stories*, and others) and Dostoevsky (*An Accidental Family*). Professor Freeborn is also an editor and novelist.

GARY R. JAHN teaches Russian language and literature at the University of Minnesota. He is the author of numerous essays and papers on Tolstoy and other Russian writers and has written a critical monograph and edited an anthology of essays on *The Death of Ivan Ilich*. He has also developed three major computer-assisted language-learning projects, and more recently has been working on the development of a model for the implementation of electronically enhanced scholarly editions of Russian literary masterworks.

W. GARETH JONES is Professor Emeritus, the University of Wales, Bangor. He has written extensively on aspects of the Russian eighteenth-century enlightenment including *Nikolay Novikov: Enlightener of Russia*. Among his publications on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Russian literature are editions of Tolstoy's *What is Art?*, *I Cannot be Silent: Writings on Politics, Art and Religion by Leo Tolstoy* and the collection *Tolstoi and Britain*.

LIZA KNAPP teaches Russian literature at the University of California at Berkeley. She is the author of *The Annihilation of Inertia: Dostoevsky and Metaphysics*, the editor of Dostoevsky's *The Idiot: A Critical Companion*, and the co-editor, with Amy Mandelker, of *Approaches to Teaching Anna Karenina*, which is in preparation for the Modern Languages Association "Approaches to Teaching World Literature" series.

BARBARA LÖNNQVIST is Professor of Russian Language and Literature at Abo Akademi, the Swedish-language university in Turku (Abo), Finland. She has written extensively on Russian Modernism (Khlebnikov, Pasternak, Tsvetaeva, Akhmatova) but has lately devoted herself to a close reading of Tolstoy. Her special interest is the relationship between folklore and literature.

HUGH MCLEAN is Professor Emeritus at the University of California at Berkeley. He is the author of *Nikolai Leskov: The Man and His Art*. He edited the volume *In the Shade of the Giant: Essays on Tolstoy* and has also published articles on Pushkin, Gogol, Chekhov, and Mayakovsky as well as on Leskov and Tolstoy. He wrote the essay on "The Countryside" for the *Cambridge Companion to the Russian Novel*.

GARY SAUL MORSON is Frances Hooper Professor of the Arts and Humanities and McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence at Northwestern University, Illinois. He won the Rene Wellek award for *Narrative and Freedom: The Shadows of Time*, and has published, under the pseudonym

Alicia Chudo, *And Quiet Flows the Vodka: The Curmudgeon's Guide to Russian Literature and Culture*.

DONNA TUSSING ORWIN teaches Russian literature at the University of Toronto. She is the author of *Tolstoy's Art and Thought, 1847–1880*, co-editor (with Robin Feuer Miller) of Kathryn Feuer's posthumously published *Tolstoy and the Genesis of "War and Peace"*, and the editor of *Tolstoy Studies Journal*.

ANDREW WACHTEL is Herman and Beulah Pearce Miller Research Professor in Literature, Chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Director of the Program in Comparative Literary Studies at Northwestern University. His most recent book is *Making a Nation, Breaking a Nation: Literature and Cultural Politics in Yugoslavia*. Earlier books include *The Battle for Childhood: Creation of a Russian Myth, An Obsession with History: Russian Writers Confront the Past*, and *Petrushka: Sources and Contexts*. Professor Wachtel is editor of Northwestern University Press's acclaimed series "Writings from an Unbound Europe."

## EDITOR'S PREFACE

Leo Tolstoy presents special challenges to the editor of a single volume that seeks in any way to be comprehensive. He wrote steadily for six decades and for at least half that time he was acknowledged by almost everyone as the greatest living Russian writer. He was more than a writer of fiction. He was an indefatigable letter writer. His diaries alone take up many volumes of his collected works and constitute in themselves a unique product of his genius. In his old age he published a controversial book on aesthetics. He studied philosophy in his youth and wrote philosophical tracts in his old age. Later in life he became a social critic, a prophet of Old Testament intensity and doom, a creator of an influential if now largely forgotten social movement (Tolstoyanism), and even the founder of a new variety of Christianity. He rewrote the Gospels, and endorsed William Jennings Bryan in the 1904 American presidential elections. His life, exhaustively documented in his later years, was the stuff of daytime soaps.

Rather than mapping this entire vast terrain, the essays in *The Cambridge Companion to Tolstoy* focus on areas most accessible to the general reader while making brief excursions into more remote territory. Collectively the contributors do justice to the sheer number of works by Tolstoy and to the long time period over which they were written. They concentrate on the fiction, but provide some commentary on other kinds of writing as well. The widely divergent critical approaches of the individual essays help the reader break through the surface illusion of simplicity and “reality” to the complex and beautiful mysteries which dwell beneath the surface of Tolstoy’s texts. Each essay stands on its own, of course, but using the index readers can also follow a work horizontally, across chapters. In other words, the aim of this Companion is not to explain Tolstoy in a textbook format, but to introduce him to readers who, having read some or all of the essays in it, will return to the primary texts ready to engage with them on a deeper level.

The subject of the introduction is Tolstoy himself, as author of those ninety volumes within which we devoted scholars toil. In my Introduction I discuss

him from three different perspectives on human beings that intersect in his fiction: the psychological, the historico-cultural, and the philosophical. The volume also contains a chronology of Tolstoy's life that is longer and more detailed than any that has appeared before in English. Here the aim is not interpretation, but breadth, and as balanced a picture of the man as possible. Contradictions are allowed to stand and await explanation (or not) from others. Of course I am aware that any biographical material interprets, if only by what it leaves out. The chronology lists the most significant events in Tolstoy's life. It centres narrowly on Tolstoy himself – not, for instance, following the lives of even his closest relatives – but on a few occasions mentions an historical event which Tolstoy himself regarded as immensely important. The comments of or quotations from Tolstoy that supplement the events are characteristic or represent a pattern; throwaway remarks, of which there are very many in so well documented a life, are excluded. The chronology is intended to be comprehensive enough to provide background for the various chapters in this book, as well as starting points for discussion and more detailed investigations.

Donna Tussing Orwin

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It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with the contributors to this volume. I owe a special thanks to Edwina Cruise and Caryl Emerson, who edited the work of the editor. Linda Bree and Rachel De Wachter of Cambridge University Press have been supportive and understanding as various glitches in the making of the volume confirmed the truth of Tolstoy's theory of the unpredictability of history. Penny Wheeler has done an excellent job as copy editor. The Tolstoy Museum at Iasnaia Poliana provided slides for the cover of this book, and I want to thank both the Museum Director, Vladimir Tolstoy, and Head of the Research Department, Galina Alexeeva, for this. I am grateful to Megan Swift for her assistance in preparing the chronology, and Jennifer Olson for her work on the index. I am especially indebted to Edith Klein, Production Editor at *Tolstoy Studies Journal*, who has advised me on all matters relating to form in this project. Finally, I want to thank my husband, Clifford Orwin, for his support and encouragement.

## NOTE ON EDITIONS, CITATIONS, AND TRANSLITERATIONS

There is no standard English edition of Tolstoy's works, so the contributors have been asked to refer, where possible, to editions in print and readily available. The standard Russian edition is the Academy, or Jubilee, in ninety volumes. Within each chapter of this Companion, contributors have keyed all references to Tolstoy's works, first to the specified English edition or editions and then to the Jubilee (abbreviated as *PSS*) by volume and page numbers. In a further complication, some English editions, especially of the long novels, alter chapter divisions. Chapter numbers, where indicated, refer to the specific English edition used by that contributor.

Throughout the volume we have used a modified version of the Library of Congress system to transliterate Russian from the Cyrillic into the Roman alphabet. Exceptions include established English spellings of Russian names (for instance, Tolstoy instead of Tolstoi, Herzen instead of Gertsen) and names like the Russian Marya (instead of Maria), where a "y" is used to indicate proper pronunciation. Where names occur in quotations from English sources, the spelling in the particular source is maintained.



# Chronology<sup>1</sup>

- 1828 Born August 28, son of Count Nikolai Ilich Tolstoy and Princess Marya Nikolaevich Volkonskaia, at Iasnaia Poliana (Clear, or Ash Tree Glade), an estate inherited from maternal grandfather in Tula Province about 130 miles south of Moscow. As a child known as Lyova-Ryova (Crybaby Lev) because he is so sensitive and cries so easily.
- 1830 Mother dies, leaving four sons – Nikolai (b. 1823), Sergei (b. 1826), Dmitrii (b. 1827); and Lev (b. 1828) – and younger sister Marya (b. 1830).
- 1836 Tolstoy family moves to Moscow to prepare eldest son Nikolai for university.
- 1837 Father dies; Tolstoy children placed under guardianship of his very pious sister, Countess Aleksandra Ilinichna Osten-Saken. Distant relative, T. A. Ergolskaia, Tolstoy's beloved "Aunty," assumes major role in raising the children. Family lives mostly in Moscow, summers at Iasnaia Poliana.
- 1841 Aunt Aleksandra dies, and Tolstoy children move to Kazan (an ancient river port with Tatar as well as Russian cultural influences about 400 miles east of Moscow on the Volga) to live with her sister Pelageia, married to an influential Kazan landowner.
- 1844 Enters Kazan University to study oriental languages intending to become a diplomat. Transfers next year to the Faculty of Law.
- 1847 Begins Franklin journal with daily schedules and records of actual adherence (and most often, non-adherence) to them. Begins diary which, in various forms and with some significant breaks, he keeps for the rest of his life. Daily routine includes physical exercise – riding and gymnastics. Physically active, strong, agile, and good at all sports for his whole life. Hospitalized more than once for venereal disease. Fragments survive of a commentary on the discourses of Jean-Jacques Rousseau and a comparison of Tsarina

Catherine the Great's *Instruction* with Montesquieu's *De L'Esprit des Lois*. Around this time he reads all of Rousseau, "including the dictionary of music," as he later told one commentator. Rousseau is the thinker who most influenced T (see note 1 at the end of this chronology for a list of abbreviations used), who returns to him many times over his life and once said there were many pages in Rousseau that he felt he could have written himself.

May: withdraws from university without graduating and returns to Iasnaia Poliana. Philanthropic work among his peasants with mixed results.

1848 Moves to Moscow, where frequents high society and does little else.

1849 Moves to St. Petersburg, plans to enter civil service, then studies briefly in the Faculty of Law at the university there. Thinks of joining an élite guards unit. Returns to Iasnaia Poliana, where opens a school for peasant children. This year and the next spends much time thinking about music and playing piano. Fragmentary writings on music survive. Plays piano and loves music passionately his entire life. Favorite composers include Weber, Mozart, Haydn, Schubert, Schumann, Bach, Chopin, and early Beethoven; also folk and gypsy music. His Russian favorites are Glinka and then Tchaikovsky. Even in old age he never once speaks of abandoning music or music-making, although he claims at times that his tastes in music have changed. Applies to civil service and in 1850 is accepted at beginning rank in Tula province.

1851 More socializing in Moscow, and heavy gambling at cards. Various ideas for fiction recorded in diary. Writes the unfinished "History of Yesterday," first surviving artistic work.

April: returns with his artillery officer brother Nikolai to the Caucasus, Russia's southern frontier. Translates part of Laurence Sterne's *Sentimental Journey*, and begins to write *Childhood*.

July 3: conceives idea of never-completed novel called *Four Epochs of Life*. (The four stages are childhood, adolescence, youth, and young manhood.)

November: begins to read Plato's dialogues in French translation of Victor Cousin. Of these, *Symposium* and *Phaedo* are his favorites. He rereads these and other Platonic dialogues several times in his life.

1852 Hunting, gambling, and womanizing. Recurrent venereal disease. Reads Plato and various works by Rousseau, especially "The

Profession of Faith of the Savoyard Vicar” (from *Emile*). Finishes *Childhood* and works on *The Raid*. Conceives idea for *Novel of a Russian Landowner*.

January: takes an exam for the rank of cadet and joins the artillery as a “bombardier fourth class” stationed in the North Caucasus.

February: nearly killed in action by a shell that shatters the wheel of a cannon he is aiming.

August 3: “In my novel [*Novel of a Russian Landowner*] I will lay out the evil of the Russian government, and if I find that satisfactory, then I’ll devote the rest of my life to the construction of a plan for an electoral monarchic and aristocratic government based on existing elections. This is truly a goal for a virtuous life. Thank you, Lord, give me strength” (d).

September 2: reading Dickens’s *David Copperfield* for the second time, pronounces it “delightful” (d).

November 30: “Four epochs of life will be *my* novel up until Tiflis. I can write about it [that is, my own life], because it is far from me. And as the novel of an intelligent, sensitive and erring person, it will be instructive, though not dogmatic. The novel of a Russian landowner – that will be dogmatic” (d).

PUBLICATIONS: *Childhood*. Well received by both public and literati.

1853 Recommended for promotion to ensign. Sends in letter of resignation from army, but all leaves forbidden until the end of the Russo-Turkish War (declared on June 14). Gambles at cards and womanizes. Works intensively at times on *Novel of a Russian Landowner*, and comments frequently on writing by himself and others.

July 27: intimidated by Ivan Turgenev’s *Sportsman’s Sketches*: “It’s somehow hard to be writing after him” (d).

August 28–30: works on “The Fugitive,” the first, incomplete version of *The Cossacks*.

September 13–17: Writes and sends off story *Notes of a Billiard Marker* in a white heat, “so carried away that it’s even hard for me: I feel faint” (d).

October 6: Applies for active service against the Turks.

October 18: “don’t forget to look at it [each composition] from the point of view of the most narrow reader, who is seeking nothing in a book but entertainment” (n).

November 26: asks brother Sergei to send him *David Copperfield* in English.

December 1: “Literary success, satisfactory in and of itself, is achieved only by means of developing a subject from all angles. But the subject itself must be an elevated one if the labour is always to be pleasant” (d).

PUBLICATIONS: *The Raid*.

1854 Promoted to ensign for distinction in action in the Caucasus. Gambling and womanizing. Reads voraciously: Goethe, Schiller, Lermontov, Pushkin, Harriet Beecher Stowe, George Sand, contemporary Russian playwright Ostrovsky, and others. Reaches Bucharest in March, takes part in the siege of Silistria and the retreat, at the end of June, back to Bucharest.

July 11–12: reads Dickens’s *Bleak House*, published in translation in *The Contemporary*.

September 6: promoted to second lieutenant. Arrives in Kishiniev on September 9, and applies for transfer to the Crimea where allied siege in the Crimean War is taking place.

September–October: sale of main house at Iasnaia Poliana – it is dismantled and carted away – for 5,000 roubles to raise money after heavy gambling losses.

November: transferred to the Crimean front, and arrives at Sevastopol November 7.

November 21: receives rejection by Tsar Nikolas I of proposal submitted by group of artillery officers to publish a popular journal for soldiers.

PUBLICATIONS: *Boyhood*.

1855 Takes part in defense of Sevastopol, sees action on the notorious fourth bastion (in April), fights at fall of Sevastopol in August. Reads Goethe, Thackeray (*Vanity Fair*, *Henry Esmond*, *Pendennis*), Balzac, and others. Works on *Youth*, the continuation of *Childhood* and *Boyhood*.

January: gambles away all 5,000 roubles received for sale of house.

January–February: works on several plans for military reform.

March 4: records plan to found new religion: “in accordance with the development of humanity, the religion of Christ, but cleansed of faith and mystery, a practical religion, not promising future bliss, but giving bliss on earth [ . . . ] To act *consciously* to unite people by means of religion – here is the foundation of a thought that will, I hope, captivate me” (d).

March 11: “A military career is not for me, and the sooner I get out of it to give myself utterly to literature, the better” (d).

Mid-November: arrives in St. Petersburg, moves in with Turgenev. Makes friends with leading literati, all anxious to meet L. N. T., celebrated author of enormously popular war stories. Generally regarded as best young Russian writer, especially admired for gifts of psychological analysis and moral power. Carouses, gambles, loves gypsies and gypsy music.

Later November: meets distant, somewhat older relative A. A. Tolstaia, a lady-in-waiting at the Court, who becomes a lifelong friend and confidante. By mid-December is fighting bitterly with Turgenev, loves to *épater* his new, cultured friends by claiming to despise such cultural icons as George Sand, Homer, and Shakespeare.

December: introduced by friends to poetry of F. I. Tiutchev. Along with Pushkin and A. A. Fet (with whom he became friends in early 1856), Tiutchev becomes his favorite Russian poet.

PUBLICATIONS: *Notes of a Billiard Marker*, *Sevastopol in December*, *Sevastopol in May*, and *The Wood-felling*.

1856 Participates in both Petersburg Westernizer and Moscow Slavophile circles. Quarrels and reconciles with Turgenev, whom he sees frequently. Under influence of Petersburg friends, especially aesthete V. P. Botkin, indulges and explores all forms of sensuality, from physiological to aesthetic and musical. Attends theatre, concerts, and operas. Keeps a mistress for a few months. Reads Shakespeare, Pushkin, Dickens (*The Pickwick Papers*, *Little Dorrit*), Thackeray (*The Newcomes*), Goethe, Molière, and Homer. In literary polemics, chooses the side of sympathetic portrayal, which he associates with Pushkin and Dickens, over that of satire, associated with Gogol. Briefly courts neighbor Valeriia Arsenieva. Works intensively on and completes part one of *Youth*. Begins two comedies, *A Noble Family* and *A Practical Man* (which remain unfinished), continues *Novel of a Russian Landowner* and *The Cossacks* and begins the novel *The Decembrists*. Remains interested his entire life in the 1825 Decembrist revolt of gentry army officers. Conceives and works on a story called “The Distant Field,” never finished and related in subject matter to *War and Peace*.

February 2: hears of death from tuberculosis on January 18 of brother Dmitrii.

March: Poet N. Nekrasov, T’s editor, intervenes to prevent a duel between T and one Longinov.

March 26: Promoted to lieutenant for “outstanding bravery and courage” at Sevastopol.

May–June: responding to political ferment under new tsar Alexander II, presents a plan to his serfs to free them.

Fall: sends in his resignation from the army, which becomes effective in the following year.

December 15: attends performance of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.

PUBLICATIONS: *Sevastopol in August, 1855* (signing with his full name for the first time), *Meeting a Moscow Acquaintance in the Detachment (The Demoted Officer)*, *A Landowner's Morning* (the only part published from the unfinished *Novel of a Russian Landowner*), *Two Hussars*, *The Snowstorm*. Separate editions of *Childhood and Adolescence*, and *War Stories*.

1857 Mixed relations with Turgenev; close to Botkin. Reads Balzac, Tocqueville (*L'Ancien Régime*), Goethe, and *Don Quixote*.

January: Attends musical evenings, and especially enamored of Beethoven; meets an itinerant musician, Georg Kizevetter, gets idea for story *Albert*. Leaving in late January, travels to France, Switzerland, northern Italy, and Germany; returns at the end of July. While abroad writes *Lucerne* in the form of a letter to Botkin, works on *Albert*, part two of *Youth* (never completed), and *The Cossacks*.

March 25: witnesses a guillotining in Paris: "A strong impression that will leave its mark. I am not a political man. Morality and art. [These] I know, love, and can do" (d). On same day writes to Botkin that "Human law is nonsense! The truth is that government is a conspiracy not only to exploit, but mainly to corrupt citizens. [. . .] I will never serve *any* government anywhere."

April–May: idyllic two months in Switzerland: "I am gasping from love, both physical and ideal. [. . .] I am taking a very great interest in myself. And I even love myself for the fact that there is so much love of others in me" (d, May 12).

Friendship with AA intensifies.

July 12–20: loses heavily at roulette in Baden-Baden.

July 24: on way home, sees and admires Raphael's painting of the Madonna in Dresden. (AA later gives him a copy, which hangs first in his bedroom at Iasnaia Poliana and then in his study.)

August: having reread *Iliad*, vows to completely rewrite *The Cossacks*. Two weeks later rereads the Gospels "which I had not done for a long time."

Fall: distressed by declining reputation. In December or January 1858, drafts project to found a musical society in Moscow.

PUBLICATIONS: *Youth* and *From the Notes of Prince D. Nekhludov*. *Lucerne*, both poorly received, the latter soon rejected by T himself.

- 1858 Continues to oppose satirical, politically motivated literature. Proposal to friends, eventually rejected but seriously discussed, for a new journal with one goal only: to make people weep and laugh.  
 January: begins friendship, close until 1861, with B. N. Chicherin, jurist and liberal philosopher.  
 March: reads Gospels, starts unfinished story "The Bright Resurrection of Christ."  
 March 21: "the political excludes the artistic, because the former, in order to prove [its point], must be one-sided" (d). Follows debates in his district about emancipation of serfs, with other landowners signs a manifesto declaring that peasants should be freed with land, and that landowners should be compensated for this. Finishes *Albert*, writes *Three Deaths*, works on *The Cossacks*, begins *Family Happiness*. Starting December, 1857, tentatively courts E. F. Tiutcheva, the poet's daughter. (Interest persists, with significant doubts and also other possible choices, through 1861.)  
 May: begins passionate affair with married peasant Aksinia Bazykina from Iasnaia Poliana: "I'm in love as never before." Spends summer on estate absorbed in Aksinia and farm life rather than literature. (The affair lasts until his marriage in 1862, and Aksinia bears T one son, Timofei, later a coachman on the estate.) In 1860 he wrote of this affair that "it's no longer the feelings of a stag, but those of a husband for a wife" (d).  
 August: reads published letters of Schellingian philosopher N. V. Stankevich from the 1830s. August 23: "Never has any other book made such an impression on me. I have never loved anyone as much as this man whom I have never seen" (letter to AA).  
 December 23: mauled and nearly killed by a she-bear on bear hunt.  
 PUBLICATIONS: *Albert*, poorly received.
- 1859 Relations with Turgenev worsen. Reads and admires George Eliot's *Scenes of Clerical Life* and *Adam Bede*. Works intensively on and finishes *Family Happiness*, mostly disliked by friends, and rejected by him after its publication. Subsequently – from April on – withdraws from literary life, writes little, lives at Iasnaia Poliana, farming and hunting.  
 February 4: first public address, given after joining the Society of Lovers of Russian Philology at Moscow University. Praises politically engaged "exposé" literature, but says that "the literature of a people is its full, many-sided consciousness, in which both the national love of the good and true and the national contemplation of beauty in a given epoch of development should be reflected."

Besides the “temporal interests of society,” literature should reflect “eternal human interests, the ones that are most valuable and of greatest spiritual worth, in the consciousness of the nation.”

October: starts another school for peasant children at Iasnaia Poliana.

PUBLICATIONS: *Three Deaths, Family Happiness*.

1860 Continues to declare himself no longer a professional writer, but an educator.

March 12: writes to brother of Minister of Education suggesting the foundation of a society to promote public education because “the most essential need of the Russian people is for public education,” which as of now does not exist, and never will if it is left to the state.

In July goes abroad, returning to Russia only in April 1861, travels to Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, and England studying modern educational methods. In September brother Nikolai, who has accompanied him abroad, dies of tuberculosis.

A month later T writes: “It will soon be a month since Nikolenka died. It’s horrifying how this event ripped me from life. Again the question: Why? It’s not long before I go there. Where? Nowhere. I’m trying to write, I’m forcing myself, and it’s not working only because I can’t ascribe to my work that meaning that I must have to have the strength and patience to work. Right during the funeral services I had the idea of writing a materialist Gospel, a life of Christ as materialist [. . .] Nikolenka’s death has been the strongest impression of my life” (d).

After Nikolai’s death, a trickle of interest in writing turns into an underground river, works on *The Cossacks*, writes several chapters of *The Decembrists* (published in unfinished form only in 1884), and begins writing stories of peasant life, none finished, that draw upon his passion for Bazykina (“Idyll,” “Tikhon and Malanya”).

December: In Florence meets second cousin S. G. Volkonskii, a Decembrist recently pardoned by Alexander II after over thirty years’ exile in Siberia.

1861 January: visits Naples and Rome, where feels “a return to art” (d).

February 18–March 5: in London, visits Alexander Herzen several times, and perhaps attends a lecture by Dickens on education. (Subsequently reads Herzen’s journalism and corresponds with him about it.) Meets Matthew Arnold, who writes a letter of introduction for him asking London teachers to allow him to visit their schools.

- March: in Brussels begins *Polikushka*.
- Mid-March: writes Turgenev that he has returned to fiction, and is reading Goethe's *Faust*, which he highly praises.
- March 16: writes that public education is the most important, unifying task of society (n).
- March 31–April 6: in Weimar, visits Goethe's house, studies schools. Back in Russia on April 12, continues work on education. Now and throughout the 1860s spends much time hunting, sometimes going off for days with his friend D. D. Obolensky.
- April 20: applies for permission from the Ministry of Education to publish a journal called *Iasnaia Poliana* on practical pedagogy.
- May 16: over the objections of many neighboring landowners, is appointed Arbiter of the Peace to resolve disputes between peasants and their former masters. Landowners mistrust T because of his generous settlements with his own peasants both before and after the Emancipation Proclamation of February 19. (T resigns position in 1862, citing "sickness" as his reason.)
- May: challenges Turgenev to a duel following a quarrel, and the two break off relations until 1878.
- 1862 Works intensely on pedagogy, and especially the journal *Iasnaia Poliana*. In response to this, many schools for peasants founded nearby. T follows reaction to journal and his publications in it, and worries about perceived lack of interest (letter to Katkov, April 11). His pedagogical theories evoke mixed reaction in the press, but the journal itself, as well as his efforts to promote literacy, are widely praised.
- February: loses badly at cards (the last such episode), and finishes *The Cossacks* to pay debt. Reads and admires Dostoevsky's *Notes from a Dead House*.
- May–June: goes to drink *kumys* (fermented mare's milk) for his health in Samara province.
- July 6–7: in his absence secret police search *Iasnaia Poliana* looking for evidence of radical political agitation among the peasants by teachers at school. They find nothing, and T so infuriated that he considers immigration.
- September 16: proposes to eighteen-year-old Sofya Andreevna Behrs, daughter of a former playmate only two years his senior, and a prominent Moscow doctor. Marries her on September 23. Before he does so, he shows her his early diaries. Although the marriage is tumultuous from the beginning, the couple is very happy for the first twenty years, until T's religious conversion takes him in a direction

that his wife cannot follow. Even after they begin to quarrel, the bond between the two is deep and endures until T's death.

October 1: writes E. A. Behrs (SA's sister) that his pedagogical journal is beginning to seem a burden. "[I'm] drawn now to free work *de longue haleine* [on a grand scale] – a novel or something like it."

PUBLICATIONS: Commences monthly issues of *Iasnaia Poliana* (lasting into mid-1863) to which he contributes "Education for the People," "Methods for Learning Grammar," "The Spontaneous Founding and Development of Schools Among the People," "The Iasnaia Poliana School in the Months of November and December," "Project for a General Plan for the Construction of Public Schools," "Upbringing and Education," "Social Work in the Field of Popular Education," "Who Learns to Write from Whom: Peasant Children From Us or We from Them?," and "Progress and the Definition of Upbringing."

1863 In January announces cessation of *Iasnaia Poliana*. Works on *Strider* ("the story of a horse" first conceived in 1856) and begins comic drama *The Infected Family*. Rewrites a short story *The Dream*, and tries unsuccessfully to publish it. Begins *War and Peace*, which will occupy him for another six years. Selected comments related to novel from diary:

January 3: "The epic mode is becoming the only natural one for me."

January 23: "It's been a long time since I have felt such a strong and calmly self-conscious desire to write. I don't have subjects, that is, no one [subject] stands out urgently, but, whether I'm wrong or not, it seems to me I could do any one of them."

February 23: reads Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* – "Powerful"; "I went through my papers – a swarm of thoughts and a return, or an attempt to return to lyricism. Lyricism is good. I cannot write, so it seems, without a set intention and enthusiasm."

June 2: "I'm reading Goethe, and thoughts swarm."

October 6: "I'm happy with her [SA], but terribly dissatisfied with myself. I'm sliding down toward death and I barely feel the strength in myself to stop. I don't want death, though, I want and love immortality. There's no use choosing. The choice was made long ago. Literature, art, pedagogy and family."

Forms close bond with SA's beloved lively and pretty younger sister Tatiana, who spends much time on estate. (Brother Sergei and Tatiana fall in love, but Sergei eventually does the "right thing" by marrying his long time live-in gypsy mistress Marya, who has borne him three children.)

June 28: Sergei, the first of thirteen children, is born.

PUBLICATIONS: *The Cossacks*, which receives mixed reviews in the press, but is greeted ecstatically by friends, including AA, and F. It remains Turgenev's favorite work by T. *Polikusha*, less well-received.

- 1864 During entire writing of *War and Peace*, keeps diary only sporadically, and except for hunting trips leaves home rarely and for short periods. Four children are born by the time he finishes novel. Marriage is happy and very close. Much hunting now and throughout the 1860s and 1870s. Visitors numerous in the summer, almost exclusively old friends and family. Only the Fets are exceptions. F is one of T's closest friends in the 1860s and 1870s, and their correspondence is as lively, playful, and poetic as the one with AA. Loves devising home entertainments, balls, and masquerades during which sings gypsy songs and accompanies himself on guitar. Exercises every day. Long walks, riding, hare-hunting with borzoi dogs, gymnastics – keeps barbells in study. Reads English and Russian novels, histories and memoirs from the Napoleonic wars. SA acts as copyist: by the time the novel finished she has copied it the equivalent of several times. Arranges to publish *The Year 1805* (as *War and Peace* called at this point) in Mikhail Katkov's journal *The Russian Herald*. During this period (up until 1870), busy with various projects to improve his farm. Plants an apple orchard, and takes up beekeeping. Works to improve his stock of cattle, pigs, and poultry, with his childhood friend and neighbor D. A. Diakov his main advisor. Looks after the estate of his sister, who lives abroad.
- March 26: by chance sighting a hare while on the way to visit a neighbor, bolts after it, falls from his horse and seriously injures right arm. (It is incompetently set, and two operations are required to repair it.)

October 4: birth of daughter Tatiana.

December 9: in Moscow for operation on arm, reads part of novel to friends who praise it, writes SA that "I'm glad, and more cheerful about writing on. It's dangerous when people don't praise, or lie, but it's useful when you feel that you've made a strong impression."

PUBLICATIONS: two-volume set of collected works.

- 1865 Thinks sporadically about pedagogy. Sends out feelers to close friends about reception of novel. Asks F to report Turgenev's reaction: "He will understand." Rereads Goethe's *Faust*; reads Dickens's *Our Mutual Friend*, intimidated by Trollope's *The Bertrams*. Conceives idea of separate psychological novel about Alexander I and Napoleon.