

MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

Leo Tolstoy's Personal Library and
Manuscripts, Photo and Film Collection

Russian Federation

Ref N° 2010-78

PART A – ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

1 SUMMARY

Leo Tolstoy's personal library, which numbers 22,000 volumes in 40 languages, is one of the largest writer's libraries in the world. The library was founded by three generations of the Volkonskys-Tolstoys families: by Tolstoy's grandfather Prince Nikolai Volkonsky, by his parents Maria and Nikolai Tolstoy, and of course the greater part of the library was collected by Tolstoy himself. When Tolstoy's wife, Sophia Tolstaya, arrived at Yasnaya Polyana in 1862, after their marriage, she found only 2 bookcases there. Now, as it was in 1910, there are 25 bookcases and one big coffer. So, most of the books came to the library in the last 50 years of Tolstoy's life. The oldest book in the library was published in 1613, the latest books – published in 1910, the last year of Tolstoy's life. There are about 600 books of the XVII-early XIX centuries, most of them belonged to Tolstoy's father, Count Nikolai Tolstoy. Tolstoy's library is very rich in subjects. The choice of books Tolstoy was buying was defined by his activities as writer, thinker, and religious prophet. Among the books of Tolstoy's library there are editions of books and magazines, which were used as sources for *War and Peace*, *Khadzhi-Murat*, for the unfinished novels from the epoch of Peter the Great and history of Decembrists, for his books of wisdom *Circle of Reading*, *For Every Day*, *Path of Life*. There are many editions of the Bible in different languages; many Bible volumes are with Leo Tolstoy's marginal inscriptions. Books with Tolstoy's marginalia, his penciled notes, are of special significance as they may be treated like Tolstoy's manuscripts. Some books like *Lao-Tzū*. The Light of China... Philadelphia: Research publ. Co: Peter Reilly, 1903, or: *Scheffler, Johann. Des Angelus Silesius Cherubinischer Wandersmann.* Jena; Leipzig: Eugen Diederichs, 1905 - could demonstrate Tolstoy as a translator: he did his penciled translations just on the book pages. Among the books and periodicals there are many editions signed by famous contemporaries of Tolstoy. There are many books signed by A. M. Gorki, A. A. Fet, I. A. Bunin, L. N. Andreev, I. I. Mechnikov, V. S. Solov'ev, N. Ya. Groth, Bernard Shaw, Romain Rolland, John Galsworthy, Björnstjerne Björnson, William Stead and many others. Tolstoy used to receive books and periodicals from all over the world, sometimes with editions in his library which could not be found elsewhere. Tolstoy's private doctor D. P. Makovitsky remarked that Tolstoy's library had been collected by the whole world. The library could be divided into two equal parts. Books and periodicals in Russian and books and periodicals in foreign languages.

Tolstoy was one of the greatest intellectuals of his time as demonstrated through the books of his library. All his life he was a dedicated reader and used to keep the contents of the books in his memory for a long time.

1.1. The Collection of Manuscripts, Photos and Films related to Leo Tolstoy includes over 300000 items, i.e.:

- 71487 manuscripts by Leo Tolstoy;
- 50000 letters to Leo Tolstoy from all over the world;

- 74 collections of manuscripts of the personalities close to Leo Tolstoy (Countess Sophia Tolstoy, his wife, all their children, V.G. Chertkov and P. I. Biriukov – his close friends, N. N. Gusev – his secretaries);
- Photo collection counts over 25000 photos;
- Collection of films taken during the lifespan of Leo Tolstoy is over 60 minutes long.

2 DETAILS OF THE NOMINATOR

2.1 Name (person or organisation)

Federal Institution of Culture “State Museum-Estate of Leo Tolstoy *Yasnaya Polyana*”, Shchekinsky Rayon, Tul’skaya oblast’, Russia.

2.1.1. Name (person or organisation)

Federal Institution of Culture “The State Leo Tolstoy Museum, Moscow, Russia.

2.2 Relationship to the documentary heritage nominated

Owner of the Collection of Books through the Ministry of Culture of Russia

2.2.1. Relationship to the documentary heritage nominated

Owner of the Collection of Books through the Ministry of Culture of Russia

2.3 Contact person (s)

Vladimir Tolstoy

2.3.1. Contact person (s)

Vitaly Remizov

2.4 Contact details (include address, phone, fax, email)

State Museum-Estate of Leo Tolstoy *Yasnaya Polyana*, Shchekinsky Rayon, Tul’skaya oblast’, Russia, 301214. Telephone: (4872)38-67-10, Fax: (4872)38-67-10, e-mail: yaspol@tula.net

2.4.1. Contact details (include address, phone, fax, email)

The State Leo Tolstoy Museum 11/8 Prechistenka Street, Moscow, Russia, 119034. Telephone: (00) 8-766-9328), Fax: (00) 8-766-9328),
e-mail: tolstoy@museum.comsat.ru

3 IDENTITY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

Leo Tolstoy’s Personal Library, State Museum-Estate of Leo Tolstoy *Yasnaya Polyana*, Shchekinsky Rayon, Tul’skaya oblast’, Russia

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

Leo Tolstoy’s Collection of Manuscripts, Photos and Films, The State Leo Tolstoy Museum , Moscow, Russia,

3.2 Description

Tolstoy's personal library is a unique collection of books and periodicals. Tolstoy's wife, daughters, friends understood precious value of all the items in the library. So in the 1880s Tolstoy's wife and his daughter Tatiana began the process of describing the library using special cards. In 1908 Sophia Tolstaya began to work on catalogue of the library and bought special library books for the books in Russia, French, English and German. Unfortunately the work was not completed but the catalogue books have been preserved in the Tolstoy House. Then in 1912-1916, a secretary of Leo Tolstoy Valentin Bulgakov under the guidance of Professor A. Gruzinsky began working on the catalogue. He prepared 5 manuscript catalogue books of the library description. When Aleksandra Tolstoy, Leo Tolstoy's daughter, was a director of Yasnaya Polyana, she resumed the catalogue work and invited specialists from the Historical Museum in Moscow. Under Professor Yefimov the card catalogue was completed in 1927-1928. Then, after emigration, Bulgakov returned to Yasnaya Polyana in 1952, and under his supervision academic bibliographical work was resumed.

In 1950-1960s, the Russian part of the library was completed and the first volume (in 2 books) was published: *Biblioteka L. N. Tolstogo v Yasnoi Polyane: Bibliographiceskoe Opisanie: Knigi na russkom yazyke. Moskva: Kniga, 1972 (In two parts)*. Then in the 1970s the second volume of the Russian part of the library was prepared: *Biblioteka L. N. Tolstogo v Yasnoi Polyane: Bibliographiceskoe Opisanie: Periodicheskie opisaniia na russkom yazyke. Moskva: Kniga, 1978*.

In 1999 the third volume (Books in Foreign Languages) of the Tolstoy Personal Library was prepared: *Biblioteka L. N. Tolstogo v Yasnoi Polyane: Bibliographiceskoe Opisanie: Knigi na inostrannykh yazykakh. Tula: Izdatel'skii Dom "Yasnaya Polyana", 1999. Pt. 1: A-L. 700 p. – Pt. 2: M-Z, A-Я. 670 p.*

Currently the work on Volume 4 "Periodicals in Foreign Languages" and on Volume 5 "Music, Manuscripts" has been continued. Editing process is taking place.

Referees: Nikolai Kotrelev, Institute of World Literature, Russian Academy of Sciences, Povarskaya St., 25-a, Moscow, Russia

Prof. Donna Orwin, University of Toronto, Department of Slavic languages and literatures, President, Tolstoy Society, Alumni Hall 415, 121 St. Joseph St., Toronto On., Canada M5S 1J4

3.2.1. Description

Leo Tolstoy's Collection of Manuscripts, Photos and Films is a unique literary and historical archive which belongs to the Leo Tolstoy State Museum in Moscow, founded in 1911, and entrusted with collecting and preserving all documentary materials related to Leo Tolstoy in accordance with the decree of Soviet Government # 1288 as of 27 August 1939.

The collection of manuscripts of the writer includes the manuscripts of the writer's works, diaries and notebooks, his correspondence, documents with his notes, documents related to Tolstoy's biography, his social activity, publications of his literary and drama works, memoirs, censor cases, works on Leo Tolstoy by his family members and close friends, documents related to his ancestors.

The manuscripts of Tolstoy's works start with literary compositions of the writer when he was seven years old and finish with his last article "A Radical Remedy". The collection includes the manuscripts of "War and Peace", "Anna Karenina", "The Resurrection", "The Childhood", "The Adolescence", "The Youth", the dramas "The Power of Darkness", "A Living Corpse".

An important part of the collection is Tolstoy's correspondence with many literary, art, political personalities of the time: Herzen, Nekrasov, Senkevitch, Turgenev, Chernyshevski, Ghe, Taneev, Chaikovski, Ghandi and others.

The chronological span of the documents preserved: the end of the XVI century – the beginning of the XX century.

The major collection includes the collections of documents related to Tolstoy's family members and ancestors: prince N. Volkonsky, count I.Tolstoy, the parents of the writer, his brothers Nikolai, Serguei, Dmitri and sister Maria.

Many documents belong to Tolstoy's disciples and experts on the literary career of the writer. The Collection of Photos and Films contains over 25000 items. It is a monumental visual testimony of the life of the writer as well as of his dearest. Russia's landscapes of the time. The views of Yasnaia Poliana, Moscow and other places add to a feeling of being near the writer as well as an immense number of photos personally taken by Sofia Tolstoy and his close friend Vladimir Chertkov.

4 JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION/ ASSESSMENT AGAINST CRITERIA

4.1 Is authenticity established?

Authenticity has been established from the beginning as Leo Tolstoy's House, where his library has been preserved was never made up as a museum artificially. The House was always preserved as Tolstoy's House with all the interiors and artefacts, including his biggest treasure his personal library: after Tolstoy's death in 1910 his wife and some of his children and grandchildren lived in the House and his wife was trying to preserve it as a Museum. In 1921 the House finally became the State Museum-Estate of Leo Tolstoy. Since 1910 the House of Tolstoy has been preserved intact.

4.1.1. Is authenticity established?

Authenticity has been established from the fact that all items collected were owned by Tolstoy, his family, friends, and many others who donated them to the Museum. The Collection was always preserved as the most important part of the Leo Tolstoy State Museum. The Museum's collection was established in 1911 soon after Tolstoy's death in 1910. His wife and some of his children and grandchildren were particularly active in preserving all Tolstoy's legacy intact. For many years to come the collection became the source for scholars in Russia and other countries.

4.2 Is world significance, uniqueness and irreplaceability established? (see 4.2.4)

The world significance of the Library is immense: it is a part of Tolstoy's heritage, it is a source of his creations, there are rare editions of the XVII-early XX centuries preserved, there are first editions of Tolstoy's works in Russian and in 20 other languages preserved. There are books and periodicals with Tolstoy's marginal inscriptions, his pencilled notes, and – gifts of famous contemporaries of Tolstoy sent from different countries. Scholars from all over the world come to Yasnaya Polyana to work in Tolstoy's Library. Where books from his library in many exhibitions in many countries.

4.2.1. Is world significance, uniqueness and irreplaceability established?

The world significance of the Leo Tolstoy's Collection of Manuscripts, Photos and Films Library is immense: it is a part of Tolstoy's heritage, it is a source of inspiration for many generations of scholars. It is a unique collection with no other similar collection devoted to Tolstoy. Most items are irreplaceable.

4.3 Is one *or more* of the criteria of (a) time (b) place (c) people (d) subject and theme (e) form and style (f) social, spiritual and community significance satisfied? (see 4.2.5)

Provide an explanation against each criterion selected. Attach separate statement if space insufficient.

Criterian (a) – Time

The library originated in the XVIII century and contains books from 1613 to 1910.

Criterion (c) People:

The library belonged to Leo Tolstoy, the greatest writer and thinker of the world.

Criterion (d) – Subject and theme:

The library contains books and periodicals in all branches of knowledge, in 40 languages.

4.3.1. Is one *or more* of the criteria of (a) time (b) place (c) people (d) subject and theme (e) form and style (f) social, spiritual and community significance satisfied?

4.3.2. Criterion

The Collection of Manuscripts, Photos and Films dates to XVII – XX centuries. Early documents belonged to the ancestors of Tolstoy, most to Tolstoy , his family, friends and followers and serve as testimony of the time.

Criterion (c) People:

The Collection of Manuscripts, Photos and Films belonged to Leo Tolstoy, the greatest writer and thinker of the world.

Criterion (d) – Subject and theme:

The Collection of Manuscripts, Photos and Films cover the entire space of human history, philosophy, religion, social life.

4.4 Are there issues of rarity, integrity, threat and management that relate to this nomination?

The Collection of Manuscripts, Photos and Films completely preserved is unique. The items are in good state of preservation and in secure condition in the Tolstoy Museum, a solid mansion of the XIX century built of brick).

5 **LEGAL INFORMATION**

5.1. Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Federal Institution of Culture “State Museum-Estate of Leo Tolstoy *Yasnaya Polyana*”, Ministry of Culture of Russia.

5.1. 1. Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Federal Institution of Culture “The State Leo Tolstoy Museum”, Ministry of Culture of Russia.

5.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details, if different to owner)

Vladimir Tolstoy (contact details as mentioned above 2.4)

5.2.1. Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details, if different to owner)

Vitaly Remizov (contact details as mentioned above 2.4)

5.3 Legal status:

(a) Category of ownership

Public

(b) Accessibility

Public access to the books and periodicals is restricted to scholars with a justified research interest (philologists, writers, historians) and upon application to the holding institution and to the Ministry of Culture of Russia. On some special occasions, the books are displayed in exhibitions to the general public. On the other hand, sometimes there are copies of the Yasnaya Polyana books available in the public and university libraries, and with the help of the Catalogue volumes, published by the Yasnaya Polyana Museum, the researchers could find out what part of the text was of special interest for Tolstoy and where he put his penciled notes.

(c) Copyright status

N/A

(d) Responsible administration

Safekeeping and handling of the Tolstoy Personal Library are under control of trained staff of the Tolstoy House (as a department of the State Museum-estate of Leo Tolstoy), where appropriate managerial procedures for the preservation of and access to the heritage in custody are established.

(e) Other factors

None

5.3.1. Legal status:

(a) Category of ownership

Public

(b) Accessibility

Public access to the Collection of Manuscripts, Photos and Films is restricted to scholars with a justified research interest (philologists, writers, historians) and upon application to the holding institution and to the Ministry of Culture of Russia. On some special occasions, Manuscripts, Photos and Films books are displayed in exhibitions to the general public.

(c) Copyright status

N/A

(d) Responsible administration

Safekeeping and handling of the Collection of Manuscripts, Photos and Films are under control of trained staff of the Museum's Collections department where appropriate managerial procedures for the preservation of and access to the heritage in custody are established.

(e) Other factors

None

6 MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1 Management plan for this documentary heritage?

The Personal library of Leo Tolstoy has been preserved as a part of all the holdings of the Tolstoy House. All books are in good and secure condition of preservation, including climate control, checking temperature and humidity. Recently the process of digitization of the books with Tolstoy's marginal inscriptions and notes have been started.

6.1.1. Management plan for this documentary heritage?

The Collection of Manuscripts, Photos and Films has been preserved as a part of all the holdings of the State Leo Tolstoy Museum. All items are in good and secure condition of preservation, including climate control, checking temperature and humidity. Recently the process of digitization of the items books has been started.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Provide details of consultation about this nomination with

(a) the owner of the heritage

Ministry of Culture of Russia

Vladimir Tolstoy

(b) ICLM

7.1.1. Provide details of consultation about this nomination with

(c) the owner of the heritage

Ministry of Culture of Russia

Vitaly Remizov

(d) ICLM

PART B – SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION

The following information will **not** be taken into account in deciding whether or not to inscribe documentary heritage on the *Register* but will be included in the database as additional information. Some of this information may be drawn from the management plan (item 6 above).

8 ASSESSMENT OF RISK

8.1 Detail the nature and scope of threats to this documentary heritage (see 5.5)

The Library is kept in a particularly secure and controlled environment.

8.1.1. Detail the nature and scope of threats to this documentary heritage (see 5.5)

The Collection of Manuscripts, Photos and Films is kept in a particularly secure and controlled environment.

9 ASSESSMENT OF PRESERVATION

9.1 Detail the preservation context of the documentary heritage (see 3.3)

All books and periodicals are in good state of preservation and in secure condition. The preservation and handling of the books and periodicals are in responsibility of trained professional staff of the Museum.

9.1.1. Detail the preservation context of the documentary heritage (see 3.3)

The Manuscripts, Photos and Films are in good state of preservation and in secure condition.

The preservation and handling of the collected items are in responsibility of trained professional staff of the Museum.

PART C - LODGEMENT

This nomination is lodged by:

(Please print name)...Vladimir Tolstoy, Director of the State Museum-Estate of Leo Tolstoy
“Yasnaya Polyana”.....

(Signature).....

(Date) March 30, 2010

(Please print name)...Vitaly Remizov, Director of “The State Leo Tolstoy
Museum”.....

(Signature).....

(Date) March 30, 2010