

Title: Solovyovian Aesthetics and Tolstoy's *What Is Art?*
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Several years ago, my research led me to examine both Vladimir Solovyov's writings on aesthetics: *Critique of Abstract Principles*, including a discussion of the arts, and his articles, "Beauty in Nature", and "The Universal Meaning of Art" and Lev Tolstoy's *What Is Art?*. Then, I decided to pursue further study of this question and to present an essay on my findings at this upcoming AATSEEL meeting.

Both authors' works on aesthetics had an enormous impact on rival artistic movements in the late 19th and throughout the 20th century, through the Soviet period and the revival of interest in the "Silver Age" in contemporary Russia. It seemed to me as I was working on these texts, that there existed a debate/dialogue between the two writers on a number of questions pertaining to Solovyov's aesthetics. His articles preceded by several years the publication of Tolstoy's exposition of his own aesthetic principles. Tolstoy began writing his essay in the 1880s, but the bulk of it was accomplished in the 1890s.

Before entering upon my analysis and comparison/contrast of both authors' publications mentioned above, I intend to describe to what extent the two authors knew each other. Tolstoy's and Solovyov's lives intersected through many different familial, social, and professional connections. There is much material about their encounters in biographical studies of each man written by contemporaries, in the letters of each writer, as well as in those of their common acquaintances.

Then I shall provide examples of the differences in the viewpoints of each author. While it may be an issue of debate, I expect to provide clear evidence, that along with Tolstoy's references to many other philosophers' writings on aesthetics, he does not exclude Solovyov in his treatise *What Is Art?*