Title: Tailoring Anarchy: The Place of Thomas Carlyle's Transcendentalism in Tolstoy's

The Forged Coupon

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## Abstract:

While critics have acknowledged Tolstoy's engagement with the writings of the Scottish philosopher and social critic Thomas Carlyle, especially in relation to the philosophy of history advanced in *War and Peace*, there is little attention to Carlyle's influence on Tolstoy's late writings. Tolstoy notes reading Carlyle in his diaries of the early 1900s, and cites him frequently in his essays and miscellanies of the period, which substantiates the clear ideological influence of the Victorian thinker on Tolstoy's developing social philosophy. Focusing on Tolstoy's late novella *The Forged Coupon*, this paper considers the work's allusions to Carlyle's experimental novel *Sartor Resartus*, focusing on the shared motif of the tailor. Tolstoy not only adapts this motif from Carlyle's novel, but transposes its metaphorical valences to the narrative structure of *The Forged Coupon*, as well as the text's discourse on social unity.