

It is only in 1856 he is able to go back to France to rejoin Pauline Viardot who unfortunately did not favour him anymore. Then he becomes melancholic, he travels, he quarrels with the critics of his country and decides, in 1864, to settle abroad definitively first in Baden-Baden in Germany and then in Bougival. A close friendship binds him to Gustave Flaubert and Guy de Maupassant, which he will make known in Russia. He protects Zola by getting him a regular column on a page in *the Messenger of Europe*. He supplies information on the campaign of Napoleon in Russia to Jules Michelet and helps Emile Littré to include Russian terms in his *Dictionary*.

His celebrity is henceforth established. He wrote 6 novels and 33 short stories which depict the Russian society. He is a master of at landscapes, a subtle painter of the young pure and idealistic Russian girl, and the wicked woman, a psychologist and a leading stylist.

He is elected vice-president at the International Congress of Literature of Paris to discuss copyright, beside Victor Hugo, in 1878, and received next year a doctorate "honoris causa" from the Oxford University and is received in triumph in Russia.

Aged and sick, Tourgueniev died in his chalet in Bougival in 1883, surrounded by the affection of Pauline Viardot.

## IVAN TOURGUENIEV'S MUSEUM

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[www.tourgueniev.fr](http://www.tourgueniev.fr)

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#### GETTING THERE

métro Grande Arche de la Défense, then autobus n°258, stop La Chaussée/Musée Tourguéniev

D113 ou A86 (Rueil)

### Tourist Information Office

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Ivan Tourgueniev's museum



### The DATCHA

On the property "Les Frênes" in Bougival, positioned on the hillsides above the bend of the Seine, two houses nestle in a large park. A beautiful white house in Palladian style where lived the Viardot family and at a higher up what incorrectly we call the "Datcha", actually the chalet was built by Tourgueniev and was where he died on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1883 as a result of a spinal cord cancer.

Tourguenev called the property "Les Frênes" and lived there from 1875 up until his death on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1883.

This historic place which had such a strong influence on events and renowned men had to be transformed into a Museum.

An important collection of memorabilia is put on display. Books and autographical letters of Tourgueniev to Russian friends, but primarily to French writers (mainly to his friends of the "Group of the authors": Flaubert, Zola, Daudet, E. de Goncourt, as well as his followers Maupassant and George Sand) who were rather numerous.

We will also find the answers from the correspondents of Tourgueniev and Pauline Viardot : Mérimée, Sand, Goncourt, Daudet, Zola, Flaubert, Maupassant and Renan.

In the hall, a big painting from a Russian painter formerly exhibited in the Museum of the Ermitage showing Tourgueniev during a pheasant hunt in Chambaudouin near Pithiviers.

There are 4 big rooms: 2 on the ground floor and 2 on the first floor (the study and the death chamber recreated by the Boule school). On the ground floor, there is a permanent exhibition :

Room of the Human Rights (Françoise Sabatié's room) : Tourgueniev fought all his life against unfairness and the attack on human rights. He was above all a social reformer. His big book "A Hunter's Sketches" (1852) which prepared the reform on the abolition of the serfdom in Russia (1861).

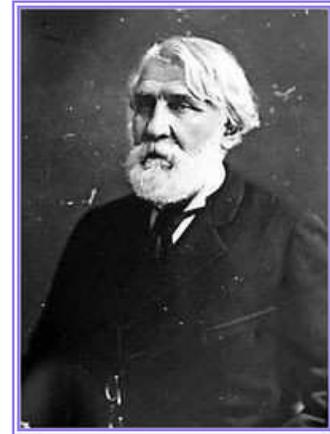
Tourgueniev tackled also the slavery of the Blacks in America, anti-Semitism in Russia, the dangers of the Russian revolution, the death penalty in France, the torture and the Russian-Turkish war in Serbia.

Western room : life of the writer in Europe, during the Second Empire and the 3rd Republic, in Paris, in Baden-Baden, and in Bougival. Westerner or European, Tourgueniev wanted to pass on to his country the values born in the Age of Enlightenment : democracy, law, justice and freedom. It is necessary to read his novel "Smoke" (1867), a beautiful love story and a political and prophetic plea for a civilized Russia. The relations of Tourgueniev with the French in particular with the family Viardot-Garcia, with the already quoted writers and the composers Gounod, Berlioz, Saint-Saens, Fauré, and Massenet are highlighted. The square pianoforte belonging to Tourgueniev is also on display, and was once played by Brahms in Baden-Baden. It's a classified instrument.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mumu  
First love  
Fathers and Sons  
A Hunter's Sketches  
Smoke  
Virgin Soil  
Poems in Prose

## IVAN TOURGUENIEV



Born in 1818, Ivan Sergueevich Tourgueniev had a strict education within a rich family. At fifteen, he entered a boarding school in Moscow and began studies of literature and philosophy that he continued in Saint Petersburg and in Berlin. He met Pushkin and started to write poetry.

He fell madly in love with Pauline Viardot, the famous opera singer, the sister of the Malibran. In 1847, he decided to expatriate to live by her. But he is forced to return to Russia in 1850.



PAULINE VIARDOT