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The Khlebnikov Archive: Unpublished Journal (1800-1837) and Travel Notes (1820, 1822, and 1824). Edited, with introduction and notes, by Leonid Shur. Translated by John Bisk. The Rasmuson Library History Translation Series, volume 5. University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Press, 1990. 212 pages. \$ 17.50 paper.

The present work is an annotated, scholarly edition and translation of a travel journal and travel notes of Kirill T. Khlebnikov (1784-1838), who first arrived in Russian America in 1817 and served there till 1832 as the colony's second-in-command. During his service, he visited several Russian settlements and collected a large body of geographic, historic, and ethnographic data. He learned English and Spanish and became one of the leading authorities of his time on this part of North America. Upon his return to St. Petersburg, Khlebnikov continued laboring for the Russian-American Company and worked on preparing his data for publication. Much of his writing, particularly his most detailed and valuable "Notes on the Russian-American Colonies in America," was not published until long after his death. Thus part I, dealing with Novo-Arkhangel'sk (Sitka), and part VI, describing Russian California, were not published until 1861; in 1976, the Oregon Historical Society made them available in English. Three years later, two Soviet ethnographers, Liapunova and Fedorova, published parts II-V of this work, which cover Kodiak, the Aleutian Islands, and the Pribilof Islands. More recently, Fedorova produced a well-annotated edition of part I.

Although Khlebnikov's education and literary skill do not match those of other famous chroniclers of Russian America such as Fr. Ivan Veniaminov (St. Innocent) or F. P. Wrangel, his sixteen-year stay in the New World and his meticulous attention to detail contributed to the creation of a unique corpus of data on Russian America and its native and non-native populations.

The materials appearing in the present book were first discovered in several Soviet archives by Leonid Shur, a specialist in the history of Russian geography, and particularly Russian voyages to Latin America. When Shur emigrated from the Soviet Union in the early 1980s, he brought microfilm copies of the documents to the West and deposited them in the University of Alaska library.

From the point of view of this reviewer, whose primary concern is the ethnography and history of Russian America, Khlebnikov's journal is of relatively little interest, except as a log of this man's extensive travels through Russia and along the Pacific Coast of

North America. One important fact that it does establish is that, between 1820 and 1832, Khlebnikov went to California almost every year, staying at Fort Ross and visiting Monterey, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, San Pedro, and San Diego. He also obtained information on the other major Spanish missions in California.

His travel notes on three of these voyages to California, presented by Shur, are of greater value. Thus the 1820 "Travel Journal" describes Khlebnikov's five-month-long voyage from Novo-Arkhangel'sk via Bodega to Fort Ross and then to Monterey, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, and back. Journal entries from October to December 1822 recount a trip from Novo-Arkhangel'sk to Bodega, a journey to Fort Ross, and a voyage to Monterey and San Francisco. His 1824 trip was the longest, lasting from May to November, and involved visiting the same settlements once again. As Shur points out, these documents are a peculiar combination of personal and official journals intended for submission to the chief manager of the Russian-American Company as an accurate and detailed report of Khlebnikov's travels. Thus Khlebnikov carefully recounts all of the events that occurred during his voyages, records data on trade and his negotiations with the Spanish and Mexican authorities in California, inserts copies of letters, and so forth. Occasionally, the journal entries become much more personal; for example, Khlebnikov records his thoughts and feelings about the wreck of the Russian brig *Ilmen'* off Cape Barro de Arena in 1820.

Historians of Russian America and other readers interested in California history would find in these journals good descriptions of the area's geography, climate, flora, and fauna as well as a good account of its European inhabitant subsistence activities. Khlebnikov provides detailed information about the history of shipbuilding at Fort Ross and especially about Russian trade in California (listing goods, prices, and details of transactions). There is also interesting information here about Russian relations with the Spanish and Mexican authorities, including a discussion of the Mexican officials' demands that the Russian settlement at Fort Ross be abandoned. Khlebnikov's visits to numerous Spanish settlements and missions in California and his conversations with their secular and ecclesiastical officials and residents enabled him to present rather specific information on the social history of Spanish/Mexican California in the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

Some interesting, though less detailed, pieces of ethnographic data on the diverse population of Russian California can also be found in these journals, such as valuable information about the Aleut hunting of marine fur bearers along the California coast. Names and duties of Russian, Creole, Aleut, Tlingit, and even native Hawaiian employees of the Russian-American Company are also given. One of the most interesting actors in this colonial social drama, whose activities are detailed by Khlebnikov, is Osip Volcof [Volkov?], a sailor employed by the Russian-American Company who jumped ship in 1815 and remained in Monterey, where he converted to Catholicism, married a local woman, acquired some land, and served as a translator and broker between the Spanish and the Russians. The fact that Khlebnikov mentions other Russian runaways suggests that, unlike Alaska, the more hospitable California tempted at least some of the lower-level employees of the Russian-American Company whose lot was not very enviable.

Rather disappointing are Khlebnikov's infrequent and rather sketchy descriptions of California Indians, both the neighbors of the Russians at Fort Ross and the inhabitants of the Catholic missions. The paucity of information on Native Californians may have three explanations: the limited extent of Russian-Indian contacts, Khlebnikov's few opportunities to observe native life, and/or his lack of interest in the "savages" (as he called them). One interesting indicator of the lack of Russian success in involving the Pomo and other northern native Californians in the economic life of Fort Ross is a reference to the Indian theft of company sheep and of their poor performance as sheep-herders (p. 141). Some interesting information is also provided in these journals about the Indian uprisings at the Spanish missions in the 1820s (pp. 153-54, *passim*).

At the very end of his 1824 journal, Khlebnikov assesses Fort Ross's relationship with the local native inhabitants, painting a rather bleak picture (pp. 193-94). He describes all of the native groups, with the exception of the one living in the Bodega region and headed by a "friendly chief Valenila," as hostile and not trustworthy. He also mentions that all of the Aleut men living at Fort Ross had liaisons with the local Indian women but characterizes these ties as unstable. This suggests that, unlike parts of Alaska, where the Russians managed to establish rather friendly or at least cooperative relations with the local native population, the situation in northern California was quite different. Khlebnikov's pessimistic view of the California Indians as poten-

tial Russian allies and employees of the Russian-American company might explain his unflattering description of their appearance, lifestyle, and behavior. Antinative prejudice, shared by some, though not all, of the Russian-American company employees, may also lie behind these harsh words.

The scholarly apparatus accompanying this publication is adequate, although it could have been more detailed. Shur provides a brief introduction, summarizing Khlebnikov's biography and evaluating his contribution to our understanding of the history and ethnography of Russian America. Shur's notes and glossary contain some important information as well. However, the value of this publication as a source of data for scholarly research would have been increased if more information on Khlebnikov himself, his contemporaries, and the history of the Russian exploration of California had been provided. This is precisely what the two Soviet publications of Khlebnikov's writings have done.

Although this publication has a somewhat limited scope as a separate historical and ethnographic document, it does represent an important addition to the Khlebnikov corpus and the first attempt to provide an annotated, scholarly translation of his work into English. Leonid Shur, John Bisk, and Marvin Falk (the editor of the Rasmuson Library Historical Translation Series) must be commended for their efforts in making this important body of writing available to us.

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View from the Shore: American Indian Perspectives on the Quincentenary. Edited by Jose Barreiro. *Northeast Indian Quarterly*, volume 7, number 3, Fall 1990. Columbus Quincentenary Edition. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University, 1990. 108 pages. \$10.00 paper.

Every once in a while, a book appears that captures the essence of ideas that have been percolating and swirling around Indian Country for a while and also, in a clear and straightforward way, presents these thoughts so that they are accessible and useful to a broad audience, both scholarly and general, Indian and non-Indian. In a way not so different from the dynamic found in Indian communities in which thoughts and words emerge, are shared