

FORT ROSS - SALT POINT NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY THE FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

A CALIFORNIA STATE PARK COOPERATING ASSOCIATION

FALL 2007

WWW.FORTROSSINTERPRETIVE.ORG

Please visit our new website for up-to-date information about FRIA.

We have recently redesigned it and added much new information.

WINTER CELEBRATION & ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

REGULAR BOARD MEETING 10:30 TO 12:30

POTLUCK LUNCH 1:00 PM

BRING DISH TO SHARE - SALAD, HOT DISH OR DESSERT
(DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED)



FORT ROSS BELL BRIDGE WITH RUSSIA

Let the bells ring! The Fort Ross chapel bell was rung twice this summer, creating "bell bridges" with Irkutsk, Russia, the founding city of the Russian American Company, and Tot'ma, Russia, the home of the founder of Fort Ross, Ivan Kuskov. On Saturday, July 28, at 10 a.m., while park staff hurriedly prepared for CHD visitors, the chapel bell was rung by members of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association and the San Francisco Russian

Consulate. Church bells in the historic Russian city rang simultaneously. The event was orchestrated by Vladimir Kolychev, Chairman of Russian American Society. The bell was rung again on August 11 by FRIA Board members to align with international scholars visiting Irkutsk to participate in a Russian-American conference.

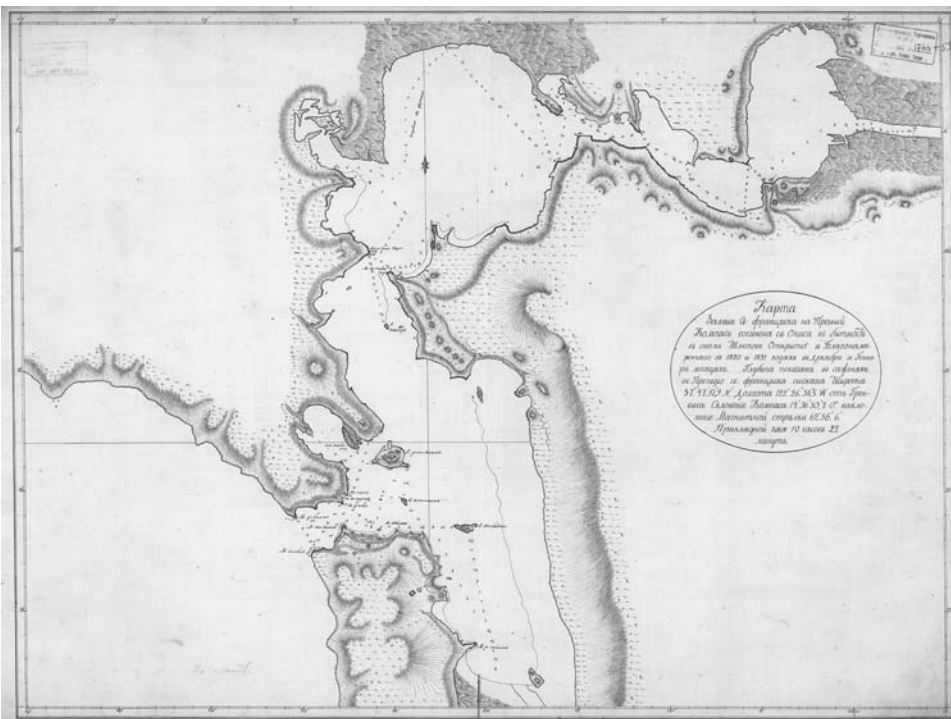
Over the last decade, synchronized ringing of bells between Fort Ross and historic cities in Russia has become a pleasant tradition, allowing us to note important anniversaries between our countries. On this occasion we had several events to celebrate: this year marks the 195th anniversary of the founding of Fort Ross, the 200th anniversary of Russian-California diplomatic relations, and it signals our upcoming bicentennial in 2012. The bell bridge is a symbolic gesture that reminds us of our shared history and the many connections between Russia and America. And to my mind, the bell's musical note reverberating towards the Pacific is far sweeter symbolism than any cannon or musket.

Sarah Sweedler, FRIA Board President



Front row right to left: Mikhail I. Gorbunov, Consul; Nikolay V. Esaulov, Consul; Ludmila Ershow; Vladimir N. Vinokurov, SF Consul General, right of bell; Sarah Sweedler, left of the bell; Dmitry A. Beskurnikov; Lyn Kalani. Back row: John Middleton; Thomas Fujiyoshi

RESEARCH IN THE RUSSIAN STATE NAVAL ARCHIVES



From the Archive: "A Map of San Francisco Bay, According to a Corrected Compass, Compiled with a Description During the Stay There of the Sloops *OTKRYTIE* and *BLAGONAMERENNY* in 1820 and 1821 in the Months of December and January. Depths are Shown in Sazhens."

The Fort Ross Interpretive Association is working closely with Russian American scholars and the Russian State Naval Archive (RSNA) to research and translate documents produced on early 19th century voyages to California. The National Endowment for the Humanities has provided funding for this project. In the early 19th century, the Russian Navy made numerous voyages to the west coast of North America. Many of the naval ships carried highly-trained scientists and naturalists who created the earliest records of life in California. The records and documents relating to these voyages became the property of the Russian government, and are now stored in the Russian State Naval Archives in St. Petersburg, Russia. Very little historical data has been published in the English language relating to the majority of these Russian voyages.

Documents in the RSNA include a broad range of materials that will interest both laypeople and specialists across a variety of disciplines. The maps and sketches of early Californian topography are both visually delightful and highly informative to geographers and cartographers studying the progress of early map making. Translations of the observations recorded in scientific journals, notes, and logbooks will give voice to those early explorers, and from them we can recover their observations of Native Californians, as well as information about the cultural contact between European and Native people. The observations from Russian voyages often provide a different perspective of the Spanish, Mexican, and Russian colonial programs in California. For example, Russian visitors such as Kotzebue, Zavalishin, Litke, and Golovnin wrote about the Franciscan missions, and their accounts provide a unique and often contradictory perspective to those of the padres, or those of the Spanish or Mexican colonial administrators. Adding the Russian perspective is critical for presenting a broader and more balanced interpretation of California's colonial history.

Copies of the original Russian documents, transcriptions, and English translations unearthed will be stored in a variety of institutions in the United States and Canada. Once we have identified and translated the appropriate documents, we will create a book of first-hand accounts, arranged by voyage and accompanied by graphics and maps, of between five and ten of the most informative Russian voyages that explored early California. The book will be suitable for a scholarly audience as well as the general reader; it will bring to historians, anthropologists, and political analysts a greater understanding of the formative years of early California and the United States as a whole. In addition, this research will be used to create an exhibit which will illuminate the Russian contribution to Colonial California history.

The research specialists from the Russian State Archives of the Navy include: Dr. Vladimir Sobolev, director of the RSNA; Ludmila Spiridonova, researcher; and Kirill Kriukov, leading specialist in the publishing department. Project advisors include: Katherine Arndt, researcher and translator of 18th and 19th Russian American documents; Glenn Farris, advisor on the archaeology, ethnohistory, and sciences of Colonial California; James Gibson, project research director and a specialist in the historical geography of the Northwest coast and translation of related Russian documents into English; John Middleton, researcher of eighteenth and nineteenth century Russian and Russian American culture, and the role of the Russian Navy in Russian America at that time; and Alexander Petrov, researcher and translator of 18th and 19th century Russian documents. The project administrators/coordinators are Lyn Kalani and Sarah Sweedler. This team of Russian and American scholars is now searching the RSNA to identify and publish journals, maps, scientific notes, and illustrations that were produced during these voyages to early California.

WHALES ALONG THE CALIFORNIA COAST

In Sonoma County this late summer and early autumn, blue and humpback whales have been seen from our shores and fishing boats along the coast. This year, the blue has been in the news and the humpback has been mistaken for the coast-cruising gray whale, which usually passes by in November. Residents have seen 150-ton blues “tail slapping” sometimes up to 15-20 at a time. Do they do this to stun fish? To warn nearby aggressive males? No one knows for sure.

In other news, three blue whales died after being hit in separate incidents by large ships off the coast of southern California in August. (Though there might be a larger than usual bloom of krill in the area, this rare spate of collisions is a mystery.) And, humpbacks, which normally are near the Cordell Bank and the Farallone Islands feeding on bait fish, are this year being noticed unusually near shore. The humpbacks go on to inhabit traditional places in Baja, though their breeding and birthing sites are unknown.

Gray whales are typically the familiar whale of the eastern Pacific. They spend the spring and summer months feeding on benthic (bottom dwelling) amphipods in the deep cold waters of the Bering, Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, and along the coasts of Siberia and Alaska. As the ice recedes, they press northward, and as the ice advances at summer's end, the whales start their southward journey, most commonly in twos or threes or singles, but often in groups of twelve to sixteen. They follow the continent, rarely straying into waters deeper than 100 fathoms, to their destinations along Baja California, the four lagoons called San Ignacio, Magdalena Bay, Laguna Ojo de Liembre (Scammons Lagoon) and Guerrero Negro, which adjoins Scammons. Once at the mouths of the lagoons, “with groups of ten, twenty, thirty or more whales unabashedly sharing partners, some animals are sure to get pregnant . . . there is no rivalry or aggression among mating bulls vying for the affections of estrous females.”

From around the end of December to early March, gravid females give birth to a single calf (gestation is twelve months). The cow-calf pairs lounge and play in the warm lagoons, in depths of 4 to 5 meters, the calf ingesting the 53% fat-rich milk to grow a meter and double its birth weight before they leave for the north. Surreptitious observation gives more details of the relationship: “While playing, the little ones often climb all over their resting mothers. They swim onto her rotund back and slide off, roll across her massive tail stock, and pummel her with their leaping back flops and belly flops. Mothers appear very tolerant of all this and frequently join in, repeatedly lifting the calf out of the water . . . Calves also appear to frolic in Jacuzzi-like ‘bubble-bursts’ created when their mothers release explosions of air underwater which boil to the surface.”

A recently published study based on DNA evidence indicates that there could have been at least 100,000 gray whales, not the previous estimate of 25,000, before the advent of commercial harvesting in the Pacific in the 1800s. The current population of 22,000 whales shows that there has not been the recovery in numbers . . . By 1946, the gray whale was near extinction. Fortunately, the dwindling population was given official protection under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, a coalition of 14 nations agreeing to halt the commercial exploitation of California gray whales. All of the gray whales in the Atlantic were wiped out in the 17th Century. Few, if any, remain on the western margin of the Pacific Ocean. (Look for “A Brief History of Pacific Coast Whaling” by Nicholas J. Lee in a future issue of the newsletter.)

Today, the gray whale is challenged to adapt to serious environmental changes wrought by global warming. These changes are wreaking havoc in the Bering Sea summer krill feeding grounds. Warming temperatures and retreating ice in the Bering Sea has diminished the growth of algae and plankton needed for the amphipods (krill) to thrive. The consequences could be serious for the Bering Sea, which accounts for almost half of U.S. fishery production (by weight) and is habitat for most of its larger sea mammals and 80 percent of American seabirds, from albatrosses to storm petrels. Studies at the National Marine Fisheries Service by a team headed by researcher Steven Swartz, in conjunction with the Autonomous University of Baja Sur, Mexico, estimate that 10% of the gray whale population is seriously skinny. Signs of emaciation and abnormally low reproduction rates, as well as an overall reduction in the total whale population are results of food chain disruption caused ultimately by human activities. One researcher, Susan Moore, calls gray whales “sentinels of the sea” (canaries in the coal mine?) because they are early indicators of ecological crisis as they sample and respond to the marine environment from Alaska to Mexico. Though they have lived in the oceans for 30 million years, “they are having a tough go of it right now.”

September 2007 by Lake Perry

SELECTED RESOURCES

The National Wildlife Federation: www.nwf.org
International Whaling Commission: www.iwcoffice.org
Marine Mammal Center: www.marinemammalcenter.org



Gray Whale *Eschrichtius robustus*
Maximum Measurements: length 49'; weight 80,000 lb.
Mottled gray body; many barnacles; low, bushy, heart-shaped blow; frequently raises flukes when diving; life span more than 40 years.

PRESERVING THE FUTURE HUNT:

THE RUSSIAN-AMERICAN COMPANY AND MARINE MAMMAL CONSERVATION POLICIES
BY KATHERINE L. ARNDT

From "Science Under Sail: Russian Exploration in the North Pacific, 1728-1867". Cook Inlet Historical Society Symposium, Anchorage, Alaska, October 13-14, 2000.

Two fur-bearing marine mammals, the fur seal and the sea otter, were threatened with extinction in Alaskan waters twice in the nineteenth century, once at its very beginning and once near its end. In the popular imagination, the two periods of endangerment are often run together into an entire century of peril, and the blame is laid squarely upon poor Russian stewardship. What is frequently forgotten is that for nearly fifty years in mid century (1819-1867), the Russian-American Company took very seriously its responsibility to keep its fur harvest within a range that could be sustained indefinitely. To be sure, it did so out of concern for its own economic viability; to claim that its primary concerns were ecological or environmental would be anachronistic. Nonetheless, under its monopoly the fur seal population rebounded and the sea otter population stabilized at levels that could support a modest annual hunt.

After Alaska was purchased by the United States in 1867, the territory was thrown open to "free enterprise." In a manner reminiscent of the Russian hunters' expansion into Alaska in the last half of the eighteenth century, American companies, large and small, raced to capture their share of the furs, particularly fur seals and sea otters. There was no incentive for conservation; if one company spared some breeding stock for the future, it might well be another company that reaped the rewards. Unsurprisingly, the two fur rushes, though a century apart, were also similar in their devastation of fur seal and sea otter populations. This time, however, it was not a commercial monopoly that saved the species, but governmental intervention: in the case of the fur seal, through an international treaty, and in the case of the sea otter, by a total ban on hunting.

The Russian-American Company's efforts to conserve the fur seal are well documented in the published proceedings of the tribunal of arbitration that laid the groundwork for the international fur seal treaty.⁽¹⁾ Consequently, here I summarize just a few important points before turning to the less familiar topic of sea otter conservation.

The first point is that the market for fur seal skins fluctuated much more than that for sea otter. On the one hand, this made the Company much more receptive to the idea of manipulating the supply by increasing or decreasing the fur seal hunting quota. On the other hand, given the slowness of communications and the rapidity with which the market could turn, it was a continual challenge to keep supply and demand in balance.

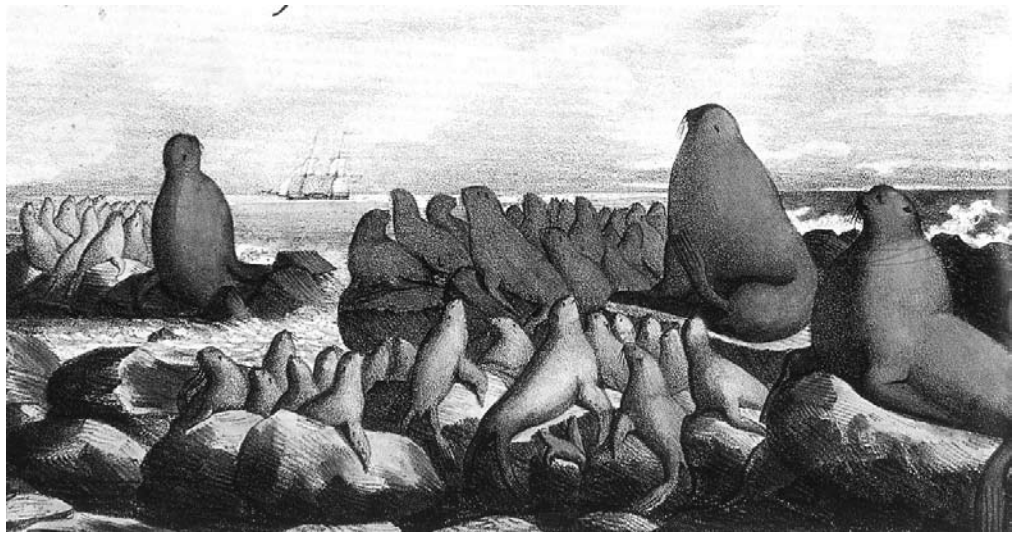
Second, there were times in the first several decades of the Company's history when fur seal skins served as the colonies' principal currency for purchasing vital supplies from American traders. The Americans were most likely to accept fur seals when the market for them was strong, the very times when the Main Office itself wanted more skins. In instances in which the colonial chief manager had to choose between meeting the demands of his superiors and supplying the needs of the colonies, the colonies had priority.

Third, it was the local managers, the men who lived closest to the fur seal rookeries, who held the line against overhunting on their islands, particularly on the Pribilofs. Based on years of personal observation, they proposed the conservation strategy that the Company ultimately adopted. By killing only the non-breeding male seals, the so-called bachelor seals, they could assure a respectable harvest while allowing the herd to increase.

That brings me to the last point I want to make about the Company's fur seal conservation policy. A review of Company correspondence on the topic reveals a distinct evolution in the attitude of its top administrators. Initially, its Main Office tried to ignore or deny the decline in fur seal populations. It was convinced that more intensive hunting, a search for new sources, and curtailment of waste would restore the catch to previous levels. Meanwhile, the local managers, the ones closest to the resource, insisted that the decline was real and would only worsen if the Main Office's orders were followed. They convinced the colonial chief manager who, acting as go-between, eventually swayed his superiors. Once truly convinced of the urgency of the situation, the Main Office wasted little time in adopting as policy the course of action recommended by those with local knowledge. A similar evolution in attitude is evidenced in correspondence concerning the sea otter hunt.

Before I describe that evolution, let me point out that the sea otter hunt was both more difficult to monitor and more difficult to control than the fur seal hunt. Fur seals congregated in only a few places on land, where a handful of observers could assess their numbers. Sea otters were found in waters all along the southern coasts of the colonies, from Alexander Archipelago through the Aleutian Islands and beyond to the Commanders, the Kuriles, and Kamchatka; assessment of the overall size and composition of the population was much less precise. Fur seals were at their Alaskan rookeries only during the summer months and were hunted in two concentrated drives, one soon after their arrival and one right before their departure. Sea Otters were present all year; though the main hunts

View of the fur seal rookeries of St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs. Detail, "Sea Lions at St. Paul Island," Louis Choris, 1826.



occurred in the summer, the animals could be taken opportunistically at any time, weather permitting. And, because the seal hunt was conducted on land, hunters could select their prey by age and sex, sparing the young, the females, and the breeding males while culling out the non-breeding males. Though sea otter hunters tried to spare females and the immature, it was often impossible to distinguish the animals' sex when pursuing them in water.

In addition to these biological factors, there were major economic differences between the fur seal and sea otter hunts. In the fur seal hunt, the amount of labor and resources needed, and thus the cost of the hunt, was directly proportional to the size of the take. The larger the number of seals to be killed in a concentrated drive, the larger the number of workers needed to do the killing and to process the catch, and the greater the amount of resources needed both to support those workers and for the actual processing. While the Company did have certain fixed costs in maintaining its stations on the Pribilofs, a large idle work force at times of low hunting quotas was not one of them. The workers on the Pribilofs were there at the behest of the Company, specifically for the hunt. Though some individuals had their families with them and spent much of their working life there, they were not "settled" there. They were considered residents of their home villages (primarily in the Fox Islands) and were returned to those villages if they so requested at the end of their three-year stint,(2) if they were disabled or had reached the age of retirement, or, most importantly, if the hunt decreased to the point that fewer workers were needed.

In contrast, the effort and resources needed for the sea otter hunt were in many ways inversely proportional to the size of the catch. If the catch was large, there was, of course, some additional effort in processing the skins and higher total payment to the hunters. But when sea otter populations were sparse, hunting parties had to travel to more remote locations and stay out longer to get what they considered to be a respectable number of animals. Hunts were organized at the district level, with recruits from many different villages participating. Though Company managers organized, outfitted, and sometimes

transported the hunts, many of the outfitting costs were passed onto the individual hunters, or to the party as a whole, as debt against their future catch. (3) The debts of those who returned empty-handed were not forgiven, but could accumulate year after year. The Company ultimately ended up absorbing most of those debts, but did cite them to pressure local managers into exhorting their hunters to greater efforts.(4) Consequently, despite the Company monopoly over the sea otter hunt from Prince William Sound westward, there always remained a potential for competition between districts at their shared borders and among parties within a district, competition that could undermine conservation efforts.

Up until the late 1830s, the Company had no official sea otter conservation policy. Instead, the Main Office in St. Petersburg clung to hopes that it could boost production through increased payments to the Aleut hunters, expansion into new areas such as the Kurile Islands, and reconsideration of old grounds previously abandoned as hopelessly overhunted. All these methods yielded positive results in the short term, but proved ineffective over time.

More attuned to the true state of the hunt were local managers in the colonies and the Aleut toynons (leaders) through whom they mustered sea otter parties and with whom they consulted as to the parties' destinations each year. They were well aware that the animals were more plentiful if they did not hunt the same area two or three years in succession, and tried to avoid doing so. They also recognized that a large party concentrating on a single area each year could be more effective than many smaller parties hunting in all areas of a district simultaneously or in quick succession.(5) Not only was a larger party more successful in the "surround" method of hunting, but in any given year it left many enclaves of sea otters to breed undisturbed until they, in turn, became the focus of future hunts.

These basic truths were incorporated into official policy in the Atka district in 1835 during an inspection tour by Chief Manager Wrangell's proxy, A. Adolph Etholen. When, four years later, the Company's Main Office finally

recognized that this was the best means toward sustaining, if not increasing, the hunt, Chief Manager Kupreianov had already extended the policy to the Unalaska and Kodiak districts.(6)

When the concept of hunting rotation was merely a locally recognized ideal, local managers and party leaders who violated it to increase their catch were praised as enterprising and were often financially rewarded. Administrators in Sitka and St. Petersburg did not question how that catch was obtained. When rotation became policy, however, infractions garnered reprimands and exhortations to increase vigilance. In the Company correspondence emanating from the chief manager's office in Sitka, one sees a real change in attitude. While any increase in a district's sea otter catch was still received with gratitude, there was close inquiry into whether that increase had been obtained at future expense. At the local level, such vigilance gave rise to an increasing number of complaints of district against district and of regions within a single district against each other. Dissolution of the Atka and Unalaska districts into smaller administrative units in 1846 and 1847, respectively, exacerbated the situation.

The colonial chief managers were expected to adjudicate such disputes, but had few sanctions at their disposal to punish those at fault. Within districts or former districts they tried to maintain peace by ordering that the disputed sea otter grounds be shared. The offended parties were not entirely satisfied with the solution, but accepted it. A long-standing dispute between Atka and Unalaska over hunting rights in the Islands of Four Mountains, however, resisted easy solution. In the Company's eyes, the islands were the preserve of the Unalaska party, but to the Atkans, whose own sea otter populations were sparse, the islands were a necessary stop in their hunting rotation. Colonial chief managers repeatedly ordered the Atkans not to hunt beyond Seguam Island, but were ignored. Finally, in frustration, Chief Manager Nikolai Rozenberg ordered that any sea otters captured by the Atkans within the disputed territory were to be confiscated without compensation. It was evidently meant as a bluff; he seemed genuinely surprised when the local manager seized the catch. Rozenberg's successor, Rudakov, restored payment to the Atka party for the furs in question, but repeated the plea for future restraint.

Though the Company's efforts at sea otter conservation were not perfectly implemented, they were overall successful at maintaining a steady, if unspectacular yield. The annual shipment from Alaska waters (i.e., excluding the Kuriles) between 1842 and 1860 ranged from 742 to 1678 skins, but generally fell somewhere between 1,000 and 1,100. (7) The most frequently cited reason for particularly good or poor catches was the state of the weather during the hunting season. For 1861 through 1863, the last years for which data are available, the Kurile furs are not

separately identified, but even then the largest single-year export was 2322 sea otter sent out in 1862.(8) There is no reason to doubt that a continuation of these hunting policies would have sustained a comparable catch indefinitely.

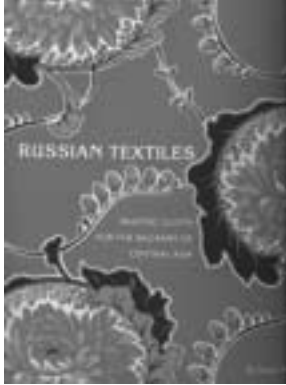
As I pointed out at the beginning of this paper, once the United States assumed ownership of the territory, the policies did change. Competing sea otter parties began to hunt year-round wherever the animal could be found. At first the annual catch increased spectacularly, but by the late 1880s and early 1890s sea otter populations were at alarmingly low levels.(9) It took an outright governmental ban on all such hunting—in a sense, reassertion of the powers of monopoly—to preserve the species from extinction.

Endnotes: (1) Bering Sea Tribunal of Arbitration, *Fur Seal Arbitration, Proceedings of the Tribunal of Arbitration, Convened at Paris...*, (Washington, D.C., 1895, 16 vols.). See particularly vol. 8 for translations of relevant Russian-American Co. documents. (2) If replacements were needed but unavailable, the request might be temporarily denied. (3) An individual always had the option of supplying his own equipment (baidarka, kamleika, etc.), but many could not afford to do so. (4) A promise of better sea otter hunting, and the chance to pay off debt, was used to recruit hunters (primarily from the Kodiak district) to go to the Kurile Islands. The lure of wages to pay off debt was also used to recruit workers for the fur seal hunt in the Pribilofs and for work around the various district ports. (5) The necessity of choosing between a single large party and multiple small ones reflected the fact that the number of available Aleut hunters had declined. Records of the Russian-American Co., *Correspondence of the Governors General, Communications Sent*, vol. 12, No. 50, folios 401v-402v. (6) *Ibid.*, vol. 12, No. 50, folios 401v-402v, and vol. 19, No. 1, folios 2-4; *ibid.*, *Communications Received*, vol. 12, No. 481, folios 401-402v. In the Kodiak district, at least, the policy was the direct result of the smallpox epidemic of 1837-38, which reduced the ranks of hunters and rendered it temporarily impossible to field multiple large parties. (7) P. N. Golovin, *The End of Russian America: Captain P. N. Golovin's Last Report, 1862*, tr. Basil Dmytryshyn and E. A. P. Crownhart-Vaughan (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1979), pp. 154-193. (8) *Otchet Rossiisko-amerikanskoi kompanii za 1861 god* [Annual report of the Russian-American Company for 1861] (St. Petersburg, 1862), Appendix 2; *ibid.* for 1862 (St. Petersburg, 1865), Appendix 2; *ibid.* for 1863 (St. Petersburg, 1865), Appendix 2. (9) C. L. Hooper, "Report on the Sea Otter Banks of Alaska," *Treasury Department Document* 1977 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1897).

BEAUTIFUL NEW BOOKS OF DISTINCTION

These books, and more, are featured on the website www.fortrossinterpretive.org. They may be ordered online or by calling Fort Ross at 707 847-3437.

Russian Textiles, Printed Cloth for the Bazaars of Central Asia
by Susan Meller

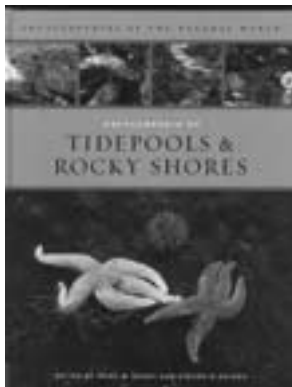


This history of fabric covers the geographical and cultural regions of current Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, together known as Turkestan, or “Land of the Turks.” As described in an edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*: “The historical significance of Central Asia to the world was that it served in the manner of a great inland sea, connecting China, India, Iran, and Europe by means of camel, ass,

and horse caravans that moved goods and peoples, permitted military invasions, and spread technology, religions, ideas, and science through and across its breadth.” As the author of this volume states, “Central Asia has always been a huge melting pot of peoples. They are, however, connected in two major ways: they share the same religion, Sunnite Islam, and they are a people whose lives have been intensely involved with textiles.” This is a history of production techniques and the influences of cultural changes on the peoples’ textiles as it relates to cloth printed in Russia in the 19th century. All of the many beautiful examples of these are in full color. 208 pp. Abrams. \$50.

Encyclopedia of Tidepools & Rocky Shores

Edited by Mark W. Denny and Steven D. Gaines



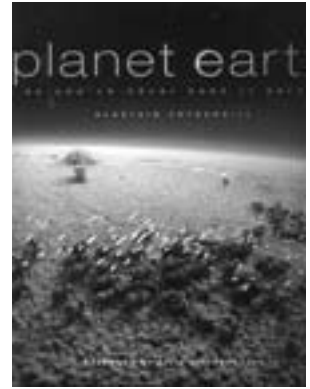
John Steinbeck is quoted in the preface: “The exposed rocks had looked rich with life under the lowering tide, but they were more than that: they were ferocious with life.” This large format book is a little over 700 pages of scientific information gathered about the inhabitants of the intertidal realm. It boasts the most recent research by over a hundred specialists in such areas including geology,

oceanography, weather and climatology, ecology and behavior, and invertebrate animals. Generally, this is not recreational reading material, being rich in the most scientific detail, but an overall view is taken often enough, as in the sections on Management and Regulation, Temperature Change, Maintenance of Biodiversity, and Water. 705 pp. U C Press. \$95.

Planet Earth, As You've Never Seen It Before

by Alastair Fothergill

This is definitely a volume to keep handy. The many glossy color photographs, including many from orbiting satellites, whet an appetite for the text. From “the whole earth” perspective we dip into all the bioregions, from frozen poles to the great sands to open ocean depths, with floral and faunal examples from each. In the preface we are reminded to take note with especial care:



“So this remarkable and beautiful book should stand not just as a revelation and celebration of the wonders that our planet still retains at the beginning of the twenty-first century. It surely must also be seen as an eloquent rallying call to all of us who care for the earth’s welfare to redouble our efforts to protect those wonders that still survive.” 310 pp. U C Press. \$39.95.

Earth Under Fire, How Global Warming is Changing the World
by Gary Braasch



The evidence in this one book can scour away any residual apathy about global warming. The author began this as a “photographic project I called ‘World View of Global Warming’” in 1999. He writes, “Because the story is only half told by describing the problem, the project has evolved to show the effect of climate change on people and what they can do about it.” As a result, a section is devoted to “Choosing a Safer, Cleaner, and Cooler World.” 267 pp. U C Press. \$34.95

One Planet, A Celebration of Biodiversity

by Nicolas Hulot Foundation

Who could resist a centerfold polar bear lazing on an ice floe, yellow paws dangling in turquoise water? Or the image of two pink eyes, the only color in the grey muck of a hippopotamus mud bath? These are enormous and fantastic photographs of Earth’s life, from zooplankton to humpback whales, including a few of human endeavors in the natural world and natural results of human folly. This is a big book in all aspects, from the physical (it weighs 22 kilograms) to the photography. An excellent compilation that all ages can enjoy. 384 pp. Abrams. \$55.



Membership Application

NAME _____ PHONE _____

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_____ \$10.00 Senior/Student _____ \$15.00 Regular _____ \$20.00 Family _____ \$25.00 Organization \$_____ Donation

Fria board meetings are scheduled for the second Saturday of every other month.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Saturday, December 8, at 10:30 AM

FRIA website: www.fortrossinterpretive.org

Fort Ross State Park web site: www.fortrossstatepark.org



Mission Statement

The mission of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association, Incorporated, is to promote for the benefit of the public the interpretive and educational activities of the Russian River Sector of California State Parks at Fort Ross State Historic Park and Salt Point State Park.

To enhance and conserve the cultural and natural historic, interpretive and educational resources of Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks.

To sponsor, publish, distribute, and sell appropriate items which increase visitor understanding and appreciation of this area.

To acquire materials and equipment to assist in the educational and interpretive programs at Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks.

To develop and maintain a library.

To preserve and archive historical material associated with Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks, and to provide and maintain adequate and secure storage facilities.

To sponsor, support, and assist scientific research and investigations relating to Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks, and presentation of these studies to the public.

To promote interpretation that reflects current research.

To plan, organize, and implement fund raising programs to support interpretive and educational activities at Fort Ross and Salt Point.

Board of Directors: President & Corresponding Secretary, Sarah Sweedler; Vice President, Bob Madrone; Treasurer, John Sperry; Recording Secretary, Thomas Fujiyoshi; Directors, Jim Allan; Carolyn Coryelle; Ludmila Ershow; Kent Lightfoot; Marion MacDonald

Staff: Lyn Kalani—Executive Director; Lake Perry & Sarjan Holt—Administrative Assistants; Susanna Barlow—membership secretary.

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