



**The Following Pages are a collection of
translated letters written
between Russia and Russia-America in the
Years 1793—1795**

Baranov to Shelikhov: July 24, 1793

Shelikhov to Baranov: August 4, 1794

Barnov to Shelikhov: May 20, 1795

Archbishop Arkhimandrite Ioasaf to Shelikhov: May 18, 1795

As Translated by Pierce and Donnelly— A History of Russian America Co. Vol II*

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Dear Sir,

Grigorii Ivanovich,

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A1 My reports of my activities and plans for the future were sent from Kadiak on the vessel Mikhail a year ago, in early May, 1792. Now I can write you the following: The vessel Simeon arrived from Chugach Bay with complaints about the depravity of the men of the Lebedev company. I set forth myself in a baidara on May 7, after dispatching the ships. In Chiniak I made plans for a dock and named the proposed fortress "Paul's" in honor of His Imperial Highness the Heir. Afterwards, I reached Kinai Bay and was busy there with company affairs and settling the troubles with Lebedev's company.

A2 On May 23, I sailed to Chugach Bay in two baidaras with 30 Russians and a party of Koniags [Kodiak natives] in 150 baidarkas, for the hunting in Kinai Bay already does not amount to much. I went all around Chugach Bay pacifying, taking the census and hostages, all by humanitarian means and without the slightest bloodshed. I took a census of the population in the three principal villages in Chugach Bay, and took hostages, and the rest of the natives promised to come and visit the place where it was decided to establish a winter outpost.

A3 Here I encountered the English ship Phoenix, 2 masts, 85 feet long. This ship has sailed from East Indian to Canton, Manila, and then to Nootka in America, and from there followed the coast to Chugach Bay. On this voyage, trading with different people, they accumulated a big quantity of furs. During a storm, they lost two masts and now were replacing them in Chugach Bay. Their intention was to sail back to Canton. The captain, by the name of Moore, is an Englishman from Ireland. At first he was afraid of my fleet of baidarkas and the natives, but finally we became friends and during bad weather I spent five days on board his ship and had all my meals with him. Although it was difficult, as we didn't know one another's language, we talked about many things. German helped some; I could speak a little when I was a child, but have now forgotten in almost completely. Moore gave me an "East" Indian for a present. In winter time he is my attendant, and in summertime a good seaman. He speaks good English and has learned the Russian language also. I gave him very little in return. Only a kamlei of fox skins from Fox Island, of the best workmanship, and some of my curios gathered from the natives.

Here I found out about the notorious Cox. He died in Canton.

A4 Moore and I parted good friends and he gave me a salute from his cannons. During my sojourn he often came ashore to visit me in my tent.

A5 I sailed to the island of Nuchek, the one that Izmailov called Tkhalka, and there met the vessel Simeon on which Iz-

mailov was exploring but had not discovered anything of importance. Now on the way back (from Chugach to Kadiak) this ship was anchored in Konstantin Bay, about 4 versts from my camp. I sent one baidara with some men of my party to look over Siuklia {Montague} and the adjoining island, to see where we could get a supply of fish for wintertime, as the fishing was not good at Nuchek. That was on June 20th.

A6 The baidara started in the evening, and I had only 16 men [Russians?] left with me. I intended to go at daybreak to the island of Ochok to see some Chugach natives who were hiding from the Koliuzh tribe. I did not believe that there was any danger from the Chugach people as we had 20 hostages who told me that they were the children of these very same natives. I had with me in the boats, discarded by the English ship, a chevaux-d-frise, which I intended to use in building fortifications around my camp.

A7 During the darkest hours of the night, before daybreak, we were surrounded by a great number of armed men. They began to stab and cut down the natives who were with me. They also stabbed two of us when we jumped up from sleep. We had 5 sentries out, but the natives came up so stealthily in the darkness that we saw them only when they began to stab at our tents. They were about 10 paces from us, but we shot at them without any result because they had on thick armor made of three and four layers of hardwood and sinews, and on top of that had heavy mantles made of moose hides. On their heads they had thick helmets with the figures of monsters on them, and neither our buckshot nor our bullets could pierce their armor.

A8 In the dark, they seemed to us worse than devils. The majority of them kept a perfect order, advancing toward us and listening to commands given by one voice [one man?] and only part of them ran back and forth doing damage to us [Russians] and to the natives in our party. We had one cannon with us, and after three shots things began to go better. We did not hit anything but they began to retreat. The natives who were with us, seeing that their arrows and spears could not pierce the clumsy but strong armor, started to run. Some ran to the baidaras and were trying to get out to sea, the enemy stabbing them. Some deserted and went to the ship, and some stayed in our camp and just caused commotion. The enemy besieged us for two hours, and we shot at them till daybreak. (I am sending two complete outfits of armor, one to you and the other to the commandant of Okhotsk).

A9 At daybreak they retreated a little, and were preparing another attack when help came. Some of the deserters and wounded reached the ship, and Izmailov sent a boat to our rescue. The besiegers fled to their baidaras, of which they had six big ones made of wood, full of a choice lot of barbarians.

A10 One of their wounded told us that these were Koliuzh from Yakutat Bay, and Ugaliagmiuts from Cape St. Elias who came to avenge a wrong done to them last year, 1791, by Chugach natives who made a raid and killed many of them.

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Coming to our camp they first took us for Chugach, but finding out that we were Russians attacked us hoping for rich booty. We found 12 dead. The wounded they carried away with them and we could see a trail of blood for two versts all the way to where they had their boats. At the very start they killed Kotovshikov, from Barnaul, and two weeks later Paspelov, from Tiumen, died from a wound. One of the natives who were with us were killed and about 5 [?] were wounded. God shielded me, for although a spear ripped my shirt and arrows fell around me, I was unhurt jumping up from my sleep and with no time to dress, I dashed about encouraging the men and directing the cannon fire to the points of greatest danger. I must acknowledge the bravery of the men who were with me. More than half of them were new to the country. Especially good were Theodor Ostrogin and Zakhmilin. The barbarians carried off four Chugach hostages who we had with us. They, thinking that the attackers were their tribesmen, ran right up to them. On account of rain, and not having enough men, we did not pursue them. They wounded man, two later died, also told us that they were expecting ten more baidaras from the Copper River and that they intended after exterminating the Chugach tribe to sail to Kinai Bay.

A11 We gathered all our boats, and decided to sail to Kinai Bay and from there to Kadiak. The season was getting late, there was insufficient prepared food, we had not yet found a suitable place for settlement and if the barbarians went to Kinai Bay, as they intended, they would endanger Kadiak. I dispatched the ship for further exploration and returned by way of Kinai to Kadiak. During this journey, I received word of the arrival of the ship Orel from Kamchatka. Finally, on July 17, I reached Paul's Harbor, experiencing during this trip many other inconveniences and dangers besides those I have described. But here they are very common. The ship Simeon returned ahead of me, and the Orel arrived on the evening of July 21. From it, I received all of your papers [letters?] of September, 1791, because they were kept all winter in Kamchatka and did not arrive in time to permit departure to Canton.

A12 I was astonished by your instructions to send a ship back with Iakov Egorovich [Shields] and to build a new ship. These instructions reached us at a time when we were busy building a blacksmith shop, a warehouse, a store with living quarters, and a place to store the rigging. Furthermore, there are no larch trees at Kadiak, Afognak, and Kinai, and the local fir has too many knots and is too brittle for shipbuilding. Iakov Egorovich says that there are no good logs available. We could not start the construction at Chugach last winter through not have a supply of food there ready, and not have time to build living quarters. Such an important affair as building a ship cannot be left to careless hunters without the supervision of an experienced man. If I had to send him to Okhotsk I would also have to send some of the men with him, at a time when we do not have enough hand, as not a few of the men are sick, unfit to work, or old. And so I left this undertaking till next summer, in order this summer and the coming winter to have him supervise the building of the ship. We are short of the needed materials, but I hope to receive them with the transport this summer. We have only half a flask of pitch, not a pound of caulking, not a single nail, and not enough iron for such a big vessel. He laid it out 66 feet long at the keel. The iron that we have we must use for axes and a great many other things. All the old supply brought by the Vasilii had to be used. My predecessor left me very little of it, as you can see from the enclosed inventory. There won't be

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enough canvas to make all the sails. We had to use the canvas that we brought with us to make sails for baidaras, and tents, as the old ones became so worn out that it was difficult to make out of them 10 pairs of pants for the native workers, and even these pants fell to pieces after they had been used for two days. We are also short of trade goods, and are hardly able to pay the natives for the products of their hunting. They have almost quit taking beads and want clothes, and I have nothing to give them but kamlei [parkas] made from the same canvas. Come what may, hoping to receive the needed supplies from you this summer or autumn, we started to build the ship in Chugach Bay from where I am writing this letter, and where we have become settled little by little. The blacksmith shop is in operation, and the barracks will be ready this month if the weather permits. Rainy weather is frequent here, and lasts a long time. We brought about one-fifths of the lumber on ship from Greek's Island, and will get the remaining four-fifths here. We will start this work as soon as we finish building our living quarters.

A13 The question of food worries me. Our supplies are low, and we don't know if the fish will come in the fall or not. The natives assure us that there will be fish.

A14 I sent Mr. Shields on the Orel on April 21 to look for and to explore a land between Evrashka and Ukhak toward the Chugach islands. He was instructed to stay at sea till June, and then join me at Chugach. But because he and the English sailors with him were not very eager, I promised him, in case they should discover a new island with sea animals on it, two shares of the profits that might be realized from hunting on this island during the next two years. To the sailors I promised 20 sea otters a piece. However, they had no luck; the weather was stormy, the shrouds were broken, and finding themselves in danger of losing the masts, they came as per instructions to Chugach Bay.

A15 The Ship Simeon also arrived here from Kadiak with provisions and men, and I myself arrived in June. After making plans together, we started construction as mentioned above and both ships sailed again to Greek's Island to bring in addition to the local lumber logs of required size.

A16 On June 9 the Orel was sent to Yakutat Bay to protect a hunting party of four Russians—Purtov, Prianishnikov, Voroshilov, and Galaktionov—and natives in 170 baidarkas. The ship was delayed by weather at Cape St. Elias, but Purtov and his comrades went below this Cape. They saw sea otter in the vicinity of Yakutat Bay but took only 197 because they were not familiar with the new hunting grounds, and because they lost much time in looking for shelter from stormy weather on this unquiet shore, and providing themselves with food. The Koliuzh also gave them a fright on several occasions. I feel indebted to Purtov and to his obedience. Thanks to him, we made this experiment in hunting beyond Cape Elias to the glory of the Empire, for Kinai Bay is almost hunted out. During this summer there, and at Kamykshak, only 480 were taken. As the hunting crew was disbanded in the first part of June, we might count 700 sea otters, together with the skins that we got from the Koliuzh. I do not count skins that will come from Sutkhum way. After last year, it is not very promis-

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ing there. From the time the ship left, we acquired altogether only 2,000 sea otters, counting males, females, and young ones. With many partners in the company, this should be considered unsatisfactory. As to the foxes, otters and all other trifles, we gathered about 1,000 during the winter. I cannot give you the exact number, because I have no books here and am writing from Chugach where I am supervising the construction. I intend to stay here till late fall, or until the arrival of the ship with the transport requires my personal attention. I may even remain here all winter. As you know, we have no trading good here, only beads and even they are of the small size. The large beads are of the kind for which there is no demand. There are not enough to buy sea otters with, and even our native workers no longer take them in exchange for fox skins.

A17 Now I will explain to you our troubles with Lebedev's company. After Konovalov was sent away, they with their two ships, the Ioann and Georgii tried to do as much harm to our company as possible. Trying to force us out, their first aim was to make us abandon Kinai Bay. They took possession of Kachikmat Bay, and settled a big crew there. They didn't let us trap foxes, even though our winter cabin [zimov'e] still stood there as proof that we were there first. I enclose a copy of an agreement in which Kolomin states that along with other ground, this bay is our territory. In their locality, they made real slaves of the natives and forbade them to have any communication with us. Then they sent an order to me at Kadiak signed by Kolomin, Konovalov, Balushin, skipper Zaikov, and a certain Samoilov to claim that according to some official document, of which I never saw either the original nor a copy, all Kinai Bay belonged to them. They ordered us to get out, and forbade us to get furs there. It is the same with Chugach Bay. Galaktionov, who is now going to Okhotsk with the papers, did nothing else but try to alarm the men, so that no one would dare go to Chugach Bay, claiming that they would not be permitted to settle and build boats there, and that they had already occupied all the food producing places. He tried to persuade the English sailors that they would die of hunger if they stayed there for [ship] building. On the way and in the harbor he secretly carried on forbidden trade with the hunters. Beside that I was told by Kinai natives who came with him that Balushin and Kolomin, with six baidaras, were awaiting Galaktionov's return from Kadiak for a chance to attack our Kinai crew, chase our men to Kadiak, and subjugate the Aliaksan and Kinai natives dependent on them. They were waiting only for his return to start hostilities with all their forces against our company.

A18 I finally received from Malakhov, at Kinai Bay, a confirmation of this bad news. Numbering 60 Russians and several natives, they actually are staying not far from our crew. They have already begun hostilities, beating men of two of our hunting parties, one under command of Kotelnikov, sent with 40 baidarkas to hunt sea otters, and the other under Larionov with 8 baidarkas. They took from the natives their baidarkas, hunting darts, and sea skins, and beat them up and crippled some of them. Those who could not flee they tied up, threw them in their baidaras, and took them along. They then tried to deny us Chugach Bay.

A19 Last autumn, with three or four baidaras Balushin went there after me when we had already returned to Kadiak, setting out at the end of September when he found out about the successful pacification of the natives and of their subju-

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gation to the Monarch, but returned without success in January of this year after all kind of misfortunes and hunger. He visited only places pacified by me, and although he demanded other hostages from them they refused, telling him they they had already given hostages to me. Nevertheless, he took a chance and left three men in one of the villages for the winter, so it would appear that they were in possession of this region. He felt pretty safe, because we are all Russians and the natives did not know their sly intentions. Still, when they scared him a little, he was afraid to visit other independent native settlements. They took 15 of our natives, kidnapped almost the entire population of the neighboring village, and took them all to Greek's Island where they repaired the old structure and fortified themselves. Keeping Chugach women and children under guard, they went with the men to persuade the natives of other villages to join them. But unless taken by surprise, they other natives wouldn't yield, and entire villages hid from them. I asked them many times through skippers and messengers to free at least one of the Chugach villages which I had annexed, so they could help me with the construction and getting food supplies, but they refused. Finally, I went in a baidara myself, but all I got from them was insults. On the north side of Aliaksa they committed the following dastardly deed: out of the four villages I had annexed in the name of the Empress, they plundered two and took the people prisoners. They took the crest of State which I had given to a toion and threw it on the ground and broke it. They said that this crest was a children's toy and that I was just fooling people. The chief who came from there told me all that in the presence of Galaktionov, who signed as a witness. The perpetrator of these crimes is a certain Irkutsk townsman, Aleksandr Ivanov.

A20 The company is getting very little profit from these natives, leaving them complete freedom. Only once in a while they bring a few otter and deer skins because they don't know how to hunt the sea animals and there isn't much game in the mountains. Still they should have protection. They are our allies, were annexed by us, and they thought that we were going to see to their safety. It hurts to see them robbed and made prisoners by men of our own race and creed. What's more, in time they could be useful for our business up north. I am forwarding to the commandant of Okhotsk the census of them together with the census of the Chugach native, and all the papers concerning the harmful activities of Lebedev's men. You can take copies of them there and look through them and ask for a decision.

A21 I enclose with my communications this copy of the Lebedev document in which the origin of these acts is explained. You must add your views and explain to the commandant there. As for sending Izmailov on the Simeon, which you have ordered to accompany [the Orel] it is incapable of continuing voyages here. Izmailov refuses to sail on it. But the Orel, the new one, I will try to send off according to the circumstances, either next summer or again without furs—the former if Iakov Egorovich will hurry and not wait for the division, to which we would like also to add the furs next year, if God wills it. I have decided not to send copies of all these papers, knowing that you can get these when they reach Okhotsk or the end of July. Kuskov is almost the only literate person here in Chugach, and we also lack paper. You sent us four stacks on the Orel but it is almost all gone, used for accounts and notebooks in the harbor and in the crews, for various communications with the Lebedev men, and especially for correspondence, as well as on the formal office books, so that in general nothing of this remains, whereas as I wrote to you before I expected about ten [stacks] or more. But even now everything is in order, receipts and bills would be made out correctly everywhere if things were sent from Kadiak and if I was not in such a hurry, burdened with so much work and papers. I am also sending a report to the commandant at Okhotsk about various matters, one of which is secret, and thirdly the report of the actions of the Lebedev men on which I have used up a great deal of pa-

per. You can get the copies and judge for yourself.

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A22 On their return voyage Purto and his comrades again saw a three-masted English vessel in Chugach Bay. It was sailing from Boston to Nootka. They had been in Macao for trading, and it seems they decided to follow the coast on their way to Nootka. The captain, James [James], gave them a cordial reception and questioned them as to how far the establishments of the company extend. Purto told him they stretched from Kadiak up L'tua Bay. The Englishmen were surprised at seeing a such a big fleet of native baidarkas with Purto. Purto's party left Chugach Bay on July 10th, but didn't see our ship Orel although this ship was a t sea close to them. Recently the Orel returned from Cape St. Elias, and sailed to Kadiak to bring food supplies, of which we are expecting to be short. Probably they will spend some time looking for the supposed new land. This is what Shields is instructed to do.

A23 He foresees that we will be short of caulking material for the ship. From the supply that we have, some was used for other ships and some is rotten. Our activities at Kadiak are progressing satisfactorily. The men are doing their work, but there are not enough of them. After we dispatched the ship three men arrived on the Orel but ten men died from different causes. Out of this number, 2 were killed by the Koliuzh and 8 were drowned. Ten men were sent with the ship. I am enclosing the list of workers. I have only 152 men left here and out of this number about 15 are sick and old. With the rest, I am doing the required work. Izmailov will deliver you the plans of a new building constructed in the harbor. The fort and harbor will in time be completed in fine shape.

A24 I sent word to Unalashka with the Sutkhum crew that I will send a ship and the cargo next summer as I had no opportunity to do so now. Izmailov will stop only in case of a emergency; otherwise, he will sail to Unalashka. I wrote also to Fomich about sending with him the products of our hunting and trade. Time will not permit him though, to visit the New Islands and Unalashka. Your instructions sent with Mr. Polevoi must be discussed by both of us, as to the local conditions and time. It is a difficult and tricky business not having a contract to procure goods from various companies. Besides taking this job as a friendly accommodation on my part, I never supposed that I would have to take orders from clerks and perhaps clerks' helpers. Please deliver me from this if you find it possible. You can let the contents of my papers be known to the partners of the company, but I do not consent to depend upon or to be ruled by the crew. As it is, I am tired of managing the business for partners whose opinions differ so much. You know that I had the same experience in my life before, and that all my labors and worries were wasted *{Business matters, of no interest PT}*

A25 If Mr. Poevoi will make a contract at Canton, and will come here this summer, we will do what is necessary, but I will not do so prematurely. Besides, April and May will be the time for him to arrive.

A26 Most of the blubber and laftak [hair seal] skins are used right here, the first for food for the Russian and native work-

ers. It's not like it used to be in the first years here, when scraps were enough. The seal skins are used for baidaras, baidarkas, boots and pants for the native workers, and for the natives who are trapping foxes in wintertime. As there are about 500 men, it's easy to see that we cannot sell these articles in big quantities. The building of another ship at such a great distance from Kadiak is a difficult matter, and against the wishes of the men. They grumbled, and many of them, accustomed to quiet and monotonous lives, want to go back. Besides, we are short of materials and men. We have only one blacksmith and even he is in poor health [*Business matters PT*]... Our old harbor has become hopeless as a place for men to live in. After the earthquakes, the ground settled and became so low that there are regular straits between the buildings, and during extremely high tides there is very little dry ground left. This summer I decided to move the crew to the place near a creek which flows into the bay after looking over the shore on my trip around Kadiak in March. I left a sufficient number of skilled men, but a misfortune occurred. In April, men were sent to Alitok after provisions in a new baidara that was in good shape. On the way back, the baidara was thrown on a reef at Cape Iakhtash by a strong current. It is unknown if the baidara capsized or was broken up, but not a single person survived. There were 8 Russians and 7 native workers, their girls, two hostages, passengers, and the furs accumulated during the winter. A little of it was cast out, but the biggest part was carried out to sea by the current. None of the drowned people were cast ashore. On account of this misfortune, we did not move, but I have ordered Misnikov to move the goods as fast as the opportunity will allow, and have ordered a place cleared on the hill so we will have a place of safety in case of emergency.

A27 You sent very little twine, and we are short again. We owe Lebedev's company 9 or 10 puds, I don't remember exactly know much, and 3 puds of tobacco. Upon the arrival of the Orel I sent what we owed them to Kinai, but after they started their villainous actions, I ordered it retained until they return the natives what they robbed them of, and pay for the baidaras and baidarkas of the company's provisions given to Konolalov and Balushin when they left for Okhotsk.

A28 beg you to clothe and feed well the school pupils who are sailing on the Samson, also the interpreters and the natives who are employed by the company, so that others will be willing to go to Okhotsk when I have to sent them.

A29 The newly baptized Karluk native Aleksei Chumovitskii, is sent to testify that what he saw and heard. So that he will not forget what he has to testify, I am enclosing a memorandum of what he told us. Please refresh his memory in Okhotsk by reading and explaining this memorandum to him several times.

A30 The Russians on board the ship are being sent on company business. When in Okhotski or on Kamchatka, they should not be charged for board.

A31 In sending my letter, I hope that you will pardon me if I missed something, and I also hope that you will ship everything required.

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I pay my respects to your family, and am your obedient servant,

Aleksandr Baranov

My respects to all my friends; tell them that I am still alive

A32 Please ship all the chain mail or armor you can. Guns with bayonets are very useful in time of danger, also we need more grenades for the cannons and more cannons. Two of the old ones cannot be used. One burst when we tested it.

Dear Sir: Aleksandr Andreevich

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B1... We have received your letter of April 28, 1792, from Kadiak, on the ship Mikhail, and another of July 24, 1793 from Chugach. With the fit letter we have received the shipment of furs, for which we are deeply grateful. We beg you not to forget us with your letters and furs in the future. We hoped that the ship Simeon sent by you, even if it would not bring us something cheerful, at least would not cause any troubles, but the opposite happened because the above mentioned ship arrived at a time when we had to put up the rigging and armament on two new ships. You know how hard it is here to have such work done on account of the usual drunkenness, laziness, and other vices.....

B2.... The circumstances that made you send the ship in such a hurry could not be called critical because you with your skill and resources and can be compared to a lion who became afraid of mice, and very silly mice at that , according to your own description.....

B3... Your strength now is in your right to build settlements anywhere that you find an unoccupied territory. You can build settlements even on Kinai, and have 500 square versts of land in which nobody else has the right to set foot..... you will show better judgment and act more carefully than you did when you because frightened by mice,....

B4... We have to thank you for moving to another harbor. Pray God that this new place will be quiet and more profitable than the old....It remains now, after finding a good location on the mainland, to build a well planned settlement, one that will look like a town instead of a village.....Please dear friend, for your own pleasure and satisfaction, plan the new settlement to be beautiful and pleasant to live in.... The streets must not be very long but wide and must radiate from the squares ... Leave trees on the streets in front of the houses and in garden.... For God's Sake, don't do things in the small village style. The houses must be of uniform type and size. ... Have the boys trained to play musical instruments beat the drums at daybreak and at sunset and sometimes have music in the fortress and on the battery..... In time, this small settlement will become a big city....

B5...We are very much astonished at your unconcern about the visit of the English ship (Phoenix, Capt Hugh Moore). You knew, even before you got the new regulations, that visits by foreign vessels cannot be tolerated. ... The ship you met was in serious danger from natives, but you warned them. I don't think that would have had such friendly assistance if you happened to be at Nootka or California. Probably we would have had to say farewell to you, and would never have seen you again..... In the future....be bold enough to tell the foreigners that they have no right to trade.

B6...We are very much astonished to hear that Mr. Shield's has grievances against you. This is too deep for us, and we don't understand how it could have happened.... You should get along with him without insulting him...

B7... After writing all this, we wish you sincerely good health, luck and happiness. God's blessings on all your exploits... We remain, Dear Sir, your obedient servants.

Grigorii Shelikhov Alexksei Polevoi

Dear Sirs:

(Bold Italic added for clarification)

C1... I read (your letter) with extreme politeness, in spit of the fact you consider me not as a friend, but as a lowly slave who serves only for his own interest and gain.....If you think that I do not know the difference between sending a boat across a river and a ship to Okhotsk, and so on and so forth, I am going to answer every part of your letter following my rules of righteousness to which I have always adhered without fear of the strong and the powerful of this world....

In regards to the shipping of sea otter and building the ship

C2 At Sutkhum and at Kenai Bay the hunting has been getting constantly poorer, and now amounts to nothing as the experiences of last summer and of this spring demonstrated. Without speaking of other places the route to Yakutat alone is hard on the natives. Imagine the poor natives making this journey both ways, 2,000 versts in narrow baidarkas without sails— using only paddles. They have to endure hunger on the way and often perish in stormy seas because this coast offers no adequate shelter. In places where the natives are not subjugated they are always in constant danger of attack by the bloodthirsty inhabitants of these regions.... I would certainly send you the furs if I had enough when the Simeon sailed, and if I could as I said, scoop them up as they do the hump-back salmon. But I had then no more than 10 skins for each share, and now I have only a little over 16. Would it make any difference if I had shipped 10 then 6 now, or perhaps it would be better not to send this transport at all. But I have to send it because of the new ship being built and a shortage of rigging—pitch, iron, “pick,” and the rest of it.... I have only 152 men. Of this number more than have have been busy in Chugach Bay first with preparing the lumber and later with the construction of the ship.

In regards to an attempted mutiny

C3...they held secret meetings and wrote resolutions. During my absence in wintertime, the situation became dangerous. I straightened things out on my return, but the scoundrels made an attempt on my life. However, I will not speak of that. I would not deserve the position of manager if I could not stop troubles in my company. With the use of some writing paper everything was stopped, but the memory is sad.

(In regards to materials to build the ship)

C4... With the Orel you sent me orders to build a ship, promising to send everything needed. With great difficulties I made preparations, by necessary more than 400 versts from Kadiak in Chugach Bay, because there are no larch trees good enough for construction closer. I was short of steel, iron, help, caulking material, and even pitch and “pick”. I flattered myself that you would help me out as you promised.... What could I do? Put myself to

shame by forcing the hunters to start the construction without any materials...?

NOTES

In regards to expenses

C5 All misappropriation has stopped. I do not give a single hair or thread away to my favorite Russians, native workers or hostages, and I think that you have no reason to complain about big expenses. ... I hope that you will release me of all my duties with the arrival of the next transport... provided I am still alive then.

In regards to excessive drinking

C6 It is not true that we drink vodka all the time. Nobody with the exception of myself and Izmailov make it or at least if the hunters make it too, it is done in such secrecy that I never hear of it. But when I make it I do so only once or twice per year; first when I return from a tour of inspection And second on my birthday I make a bucket of vodka and treat everybody to it.... Making wine from mercury, I have rescued from death many who were perishing from venereal diseases. But I never make it more than two or three times per year, and now that I remember it, when we were laying out and launching a ship in Chugach I made twice a bucket of vodka out of berries and roots. The second time, I added six puds of the company's flour in your honor, and we all had drinks and I was drunk....

In regards to the native 'wife'

C7 I have for a long time now been keeping a girl, the daughter of Raskashchikov. I have taught her to sew and to be a good housekeeper. She can be trusted in business matters, but I found that during my absence she showed weakness. I sin too, sometime from weakness, and sometimes from necessity, as I did during my long stay at Chugach when the Chugach people gave me a girl for a hostage. On account of that, the Chugach became more attached to me and more confiding.

In regards to murders

C8 I had a report from the native that on an uninhabited island ten men had to camp together on account of bad weather. Six of them attacked four men, killed them, and divided their personal effects. This because known when the Greek [Delarov] was here. The relatives of the men who were killed made a complaint. Four of the murderers were found alive, two died. These four were brought to me, and confessed. They condemned themselves to death and their taions condemned them also. To spare their lives, I ordered the natives to beat them up without the aid of the Russians. One of them died the next day after the

beating, but three are alive and live now quietly and peacefully.

NOTES

And another reference to murders

C7 Last summer Dmitriev, a Russian, was killed by the native workers who were with him... I sent two Russians, who found the murderers but while bringing them here they became careless and one of the scoundrels slashed Eremen's head with an axe but did not kill him. I ordered that he be made to run the gauntlet four times between two rows of school pupils and native workers, and left him in iron to torture him by hard work but at night time he cut his throat with a shell and died. The second was lightly punished because he was trying to shield Eremin from the axe. This man ran away but is not in hiding. If anybody tells you a different story he is a liar.

In regards to the English Ship, the Phoenix

C8 Excuse me. I'm talking too much. I forgot to answer your accusations of being friendly with Captain Moore of the...[Phoenix]. Your rebuke astonished me. It shows greed and cupidity without limit. How can you hope that I would break the holy laws of hospitality and philanthropy....Perhaps you wanted to see me and Fomich hanged on the spot? Keep in mind, my Dear Sirs, that we have not received any information that the English are our enemies...

In Regards to relations with Shields

C9 As for my quarrel with Mister Shields, some idler who came with the last transport told you about that. He had no reason to be dissatisfied with me. Even now we are having our meals together. He became excited only when I retained him against his will to help with the construction of a ship.

Dear Sir: Grigorei Ivanovich

My dearest friend and benefactor!

D1 I can better feel than express in words the loyalty, respect and love that I feel towards you. My feelings, sincere as they are, do not require much proof and long words. Therefore, leaving aside empty flattery.....

In regards to Baranov's management

D2 *I see nothing good in his business management. There was starvation from the time of our arrival here and throughout the winter. We cleaned out iukola that was three years old and rotten. When we arrived there were still fish to be caught, but nobody cared to fish. In the spring there was a herring run but they fished only two or three times. They went to fish for halibut not more than two or three times. Baranov would not send the Aleuts to fish either, and said: "I am not a servant to provide food for the settler."*

D3 *....It is funny that during the entire year not a single block of firewood is laid by, even for the master [Baranov]. When he asks for tea, his servants will run out and chop the corner off a house or take a pole out of the warehouse roof.*

About the native children

D4 *...Only five children attend the school..... One of them [a former student] ran the gauntlet because of [an affair] with Baranov's mistress. His hair and eyebrows were shaved off, the front of his parka was cut off.*

In regards to the treatment of natives

D5 ... In one village, after I married an Aleut with a girl whom he kept, she was sent to me with an interpreter to explain that in former times when they used to carry on warfare between the settlements she was a war prisoner of one chief, then was captured by another chief, from whom she was taken by a Russian and after the Russian left her, became a mistress of the Aleut to whom I married her. Now I was questioned, "Why I had baptized and married the war prisoner of a certain chief. I explained that I did not know the situation. Yet they found some reasons [to reprove me] stating that as the chief who captured her owed the company a feather parka and kubik [seal skin filled with blubber] she, as his prisoner of war, or the Aleut that married her, must pay this debt...

D6 ...It often happens that immediately after we baptize [the natives] the hunters come and drag the girls from their homes to the barracks; they exchange them [girls] frequently too though some of the girls are less than ten years old.