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Fort Ross and Salt Point parks have benefited greatly from many dedicated volunteers and staff who have given generously to these parks. Board of directors from FRIA and FRC have fundraised, organized events, overseen volunteers, spearheaded interpretation and restoration projects, and offered substantial support to California State Parks across many decades.

These digitized newsletters capture the activities over the following historic periods:

- Fort Ross Interpretive Association (FRIA): 1976 - 2012
- Fort Ross Conservancy (FRC is the same legal entity as FRIA but the organization changed its name): 2012 - present

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Fort Ross Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) and California State Park cooperating association, connects people to the history and beauty of Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks. © Fort Ross Conservancy, 19005 Coast Highway One, Jenner, CA 95450, [707-847-3437](tel:707-847-3437) [www.fortross.org](http://www.fortross.org)



**FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION  
JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1993  
NEWSLETTER**

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

1993 FRIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

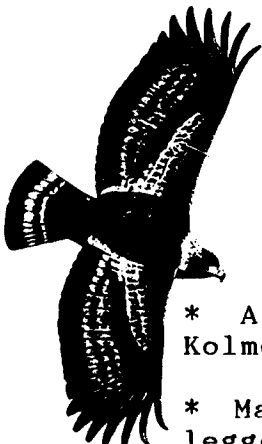
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Thank you KENT LIGHTFOOT and ELIZABETH SIDOROV for serving on the Board. We will miss you. And welcome to new Board members, LAURIE HORN and MARIA SAKOVICH.

The following volunteers received a Certificate of Appreciation from the 1992 FRIA Board for DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEER SERVICE: TROY DUNHAM, MOSES and JACI HALLETT, ALEXEI ISTOMIN, SHERRY MADRONE, JOHN AND ALICE MCKENZIE, JOHN AND MARGARET SMITH, JOSEPH WETCH and STEPHEN WATROUS. THANK YOU!



## NATURE NOTES FROM RANGER WALTON

\* A **GOLDEN EAGLE** was spotted in the Park at the headwaters of Kolmer Gulch on Saturday, December 5.

\* Many **RAPTORS**, birds of prey, including red-tailed hawks, rough-legged hawks and black-shouldered kites are frequently seen on rocky outcrops and in trees along the coast. **GOLDEN EAGLE**  
*Aquila chrysaetos*

\* **GREAT BLUE HERONS** have been spotted on the marine terrace.

\* The annual southerly migration of **GREY WHALES** has begun.

\* **SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF RAIN** (normal rainfall) has opened the streams so that fish can migrate.

\* **ABUNDANT MUSHROOM FRUITING** this year has brought out many mushroom gatherers who have illegally been taking large amounts of mushrooms from Fort Ross State Park. Gathering is permitted at Salt Point State Park (five pounds per person), but not at Fort Ross. Rangers are studying the impact of mushroom gathering and making a statistical comparison between areas where gathering is allowed, and where it is not. At Fort Ross it has been found that gatherers destroy inedible mushrooms (which denies photographers the opportunity to photograph them), and they leave much litter and broken fences.

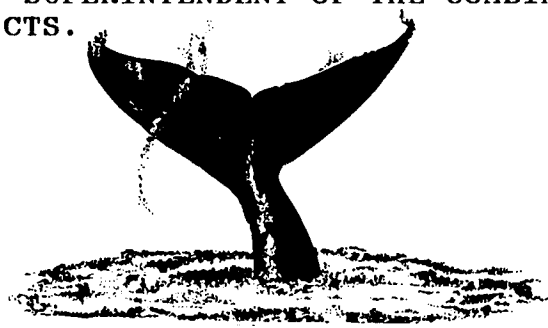
\* **PIG POACHERS** have also been found on State Park property.

\* **GEOLOGISTS** from all over the world (including Russia) recently hiked around Fort Ross with Kazuya Fujita, professor from Michigan State University, and Caerleon Safford, Fort Ross Interpretive Specialist. They viewed earthquake surface features--escarpments, sag ponds, earthquake damaged trees, and the fence line offset left from the 1906 earthquake.

\* A **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MEETING**, organized by Sarah Gould-Ginessi, Park Aide, was recently held in the Fort Ross Visitor Center. Community organizers are working on local disaster preparedness procedures.

\* Many **BOY SCOUTS** have been working on **SERVICE PROJECTS** at Fort Ross. These projects include orchard maintenance, litter pick-up, firewood gathering, and reconstructing the Environmental Living Program garden fence.

\* **EXCELLENT NEWS, BOB LA BELL'S ASSIGNMENT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED! HE WILL BE THE DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COMBINED RUSSIAN RIVER AND MENDOCINO DISTRICTS.**



## ACCOUNT OF A VISIT TO BODEGA BAY AND FORT ROSS, SEPTEMBER 1818

EXCERPTS FROM FRIEDRICH LUETKE'S DIARY  
FROM A VOYAGE ON THE SLOOP KAMCHATKA  
TRANSLATED BY S. WATROUS, SEPTEMBER 1992  
PART II

[September] 22 (*Continued - Account of the visit to an Indian village near Bodega*) ...Despite the fact that they have dwellings, their life is almost nomadic, for there are hardly ever more than 50 of them in a settlement, and sometimes no more than ten. This is indeed not surprising, for whatever they possess here they can find anywhere. Nowhere are there twigs and dry grass lacking for housing. Their food consists only of acorns and wild-rye, and in summer whatever the sea provides. They roast the acorns, as we do coffee, and then grind and mix them with water and heat. This sweet porridge serves as their main diet. Instead of a sauce pan, they use baskets made of reeds or grasses, and they toss incandescent rocks into them. Along with these baskets and their own mouths, they have no utensils other than their fingers, which they dip into the porridge. Then they lick them clean and thereby satisfy their hunger. Although this way of eating is not likely to arouse an appetite among others, I decided nevertheless to have a taste and found that this food is none other than a bitter, unpleasant mash. We had no chance to see how they prepare wild rye. At this time of year there probably isn't any, for we saw no one doing it. The fields, however, were burned over in many places, probably for the same reason spoken of above.

Besides this, they eat all kinds of shellfish and fish, although not so much of the latter, for they lack means of catching them. We saw, however, one family eating some small, broad fish about two inches long, which they probably get right along the shore. All of their food preparation consists of burying these items in hot ashes and, after leaving them awhile, eating them all together, along with the skin and the ashes left on it. Although this does not make a very splendid meal for them,; so that they, however, may not go lacking, they always set up their dwellings along the shoreline. The settlement we saw was located along the lagoon, or rather the lake that joins up with the bay. They drink only the water which they get from a hole about four feet deep; this water is dirty and tastes bad.

The productivity of these Indians is still in its complete infancy; indeed it is altogether non-existent. They go around completely naked. Some of them make for themselves a kind of shirt out of the blankets they get from the Spanish or the Russians. However, these do not even cover their shameful body parts. But there is no need to wear these garments, for the Spanish don't like to give them away, and there are few Russians here. Among them we also saw a certain kind of cape made from the skins of sea-gulls, which covered no more than half their back. Since they try more to cover their back than any other body part with this garment, one may conclude that they lack the slightest idea of shame. This is in regard to the men only; women wear the skins of wild sheep, which they tie around their waist and let hang below the knees. Very rarely did we see objects of their own handiwork in their midst. I have already mentioned their grass cooking baskets. Among all their things, these deserve the most attention, for they are woven so tightly that water cannot pass through. All their weaponry consists of bow and arrows, quite crudely fashioned. [Luetke's footnote comment: They willingly sold us a full set of these for a few needles and metal sheets or for two tobaccos.]

Although they live for the most part by the sea, they have no boats at all. On the shoreline near their settlement there lay something like a raft, i.e. several bunches of reeds bound together once again. They use this object, which cannot support over two men at a time, and which can truly be called fragile, when they need to cross a river or something similar. Small nets, coarsely woven out of weeds, must conclude this list of their handmade objects.

These Indians are dark copper in color. Their hair is completely black, and they all wear it in top knots. In height they are less than average and are generally awkward in body frame. Their eyes, however, are animated. Besides, one can say that the women are quite handsome. Their round, full features, rather regularly set, their small mouth, small nose and live eyes are quite agreeable. They get their above-mentioned body color, it seems, more from the dirt in which they live than from nature, for they convinced us that when they wash themselves they become quite white.

Some of our promyshlenniki and Aleuts are married to these Indians. Our translator, who also has a wife from among this people, told us that she learned very quickly both the language and all the Aleut jobs, such as sewing raincoats out of intestines, etc. I saw a rather comely young woman preparing food at one of their huts. Approaching her, I was surprised when she began to invite me in pure Russian to eat her corn mash. Then she complained that it was going to rain, etc. In fact it turned out that she had lived for a while at Fort Ross with a promyshlennik and then returned to her home territory. Consequently, she could still do some of those things.

But these unfortunate creatures among their compatriots (as it is with nearly all uncivilized peoples), it seems, constitute the lowest class. They have no rights which would call them forth. An Indian man will take an Indian to wife who pleases him, keeps her as long as he wants, and forsakes her when he feels like it. They tend to all jobs. We saw only one man from the entire settlement who was busy mending nets - and then, perhaps, out of boredom; all the others either played or did nothing at all. It was a rare woman who was not busy with something.

These Indians use a certain kind of bath house, which is none other than an underground yurt. They make an opening on one side through which one can crawl. On top is an air hole. After heating this bath house, they get inside and play. Their play is just as it was among the Tlingits and Kodiak Aleuts. It consists of a few pointed sticks which some of them mix and hide, while others try to guess how many. Idleness causes these people, who have almost nothing [material] to lose, to give themselves over to gambling. It is both remarkable and astonishing that among the peoples who live all along the northwest coast of America, from Kodiak Island down to 38, the games of chance are one and the same. In all other respects, however, there is not the slightest similarity, and they lack even marginal communication among themselves... Their language is very pleasant to the ear, and this is all that we can say about it. It has no harsh nor heavy-sounding syllables at all; they speak very quickly.

Little Bodega Bay (or, as it is called by our settlers, Rumiantsev Bay, and by the indigenous inhabitants, Chok-liva)... It forms an inlet to the northwest and is bordered on the east by the mainland shore, extending southeast toward Greater Bodega [Tomales] Bay and westward to Cape Rumiantsev (so named by our settlers; it does not appear on Spanish maps with any name). To the north it is bordered by a low strip of land or knoll which forms the shoreline to the east. It extends toward the western shore, where, bending somewhat to the southeast, there is a narrow passage no more than 280 feet across that leads into an extensive bay facing northeast and about ten miles in circumference. An Indian village, which we mentioned earlier, is situated on the shoreline of the bay. This bay would be the most splendid harbor in the world if ships could enter, but the depth allows only small oared craft to pass through. Its larger part, which begins from the knoll and goes almost to the middle, dries up during low tide; thus it remains useless for navigation... TO BE CONTINUED

## CLOTHING AT FORT ROSS: A NEW LOOK PART I ADMINISTRATORS



ALEXANDER A. BARANOV  
Lithograph after an oil,  
Mikhail T. Tikhanov

Two portraits painted in Russian America give concrete evidence of types of clothing worn in the colonies during the first half of the nineteenth century. This is extremely fortunate for the researcher of Russian costume in America, for as noted before, very little pictorial evidence exists. The two portraits are of the most important figures in the founding of Fort Ross, Aleksandr A. Baranov, Chief Administrator of the Colonies, and Ivan A. Kuskov, Administrator of Fortress Ross.

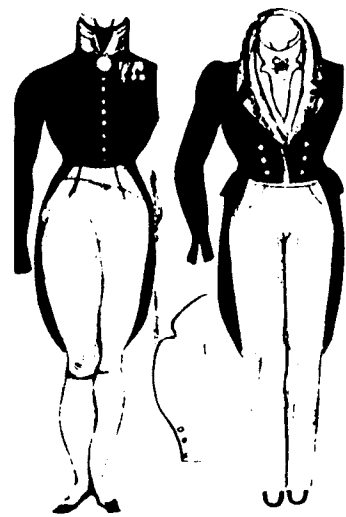
Both men are portrayed in uniform. In each case it is the uniform of the civil service of Imperial Russia. Baranov's portrait, painted in 1818 by Mikhail Tikhanov shows the Chief Administrator wearing the undress uniform (Ryndina;1961;98,102) with the Order of St. Anna, second class, at his neck. Baranov was initially sent a uniform in 1803, in recognition of his receiving the medal "For Zealous Service" (Zagoskin;1967;68,76). That uniform would have been the same as the uniform in which Kuskov is pictured, and reflects the status of a member of the Merchant Class. Upon receipt of the Order of St. Anna, Baranov was elevated to the ranks of the nobility, and received a position on the "Table of Ranks" of Peter the First. At that time the Order of St. Anna conferred upon its recipients hereditary nobility (Werlich 1981;15). Suspended from the button on the right side of Baranov's black-green coat is a medal for the campaign in 1812 against Napoleon (Fedorova, personal communication, 1991). Members of the Merchant Class could receive this medal for contributions to the patriotic cause. There was also a full dress and frock coat version available to civil servants, and strict regulations governing their use were published annually in the "Decrees and Laws of the Russian Empire" (Ryndina;1961;98).



IVAN A. KUSKOV  
Oil on cardboard, artist unknown

Lavrentii Zagoskin, writing in Novoarkangelsk in 1842, described in some detail Baranov's use of his uniform. "If some pronouncement had to be made public as, for instance, the punishment of some person as an example to others, or new agreements with the natives or with the captains of ships from the United States, he would on such occasions array himself in the uniform which had been sent him in 1803, and come forth onto a platform which was no more than 3 sazhen square and which is still today called the Parade." It appears then, that the use of a uniform, civil or military, was practiced for official purposes from the very beginning.

The portraits of I. A. Kuskov and his wife are surrounded with some controversy. Some scholars believe that because of an inscription on the reverse of Kuskov's portrait it was painted at Fort Ross. The frames, supposedly made of California Redwood, supported this theory. More recently scholars believe this doubtful; indeed there may even be some doubt that the portraits are of the Kuskovs' (Fedorova 1979;243), (Pierce; 1990;285). The portraits show the couple in clothing typical for a merchant class family in the first quarter of the nineteenth century in Russia. "The single breasted coat of a commerce counsellor, almost black (such a shade was formerly called dark-green broadcloth) with a standing collar, small shoulder straps with gilded buttons, a buckle on a row of large gilt buttons, a golden sword knot at his waist; on his left arm is a sword, and on his chest, hanging on a short St. Vladimir's ribbon, is a gold medal." (Fedorova 1979;238) Ekaterina Kuskova is shown in a "cream colored, slightly low necked dress in the empire style, edged with lace and a blue belt which encloses her waistline (in the early 19th century fashion). On her shoulders is wrapped a cream colored shawl with a broad border (a large floral decoration on a dark red background); three strings of pearls and on her smooth neck,; and pearl earrings are on her ears." (Fedorova 1979;244) The portraits are particularly interesting for Fort Ross. If they were indeed painted in Russian America, they give strong evidence to the high standard of living mentioned by other eye witness accounts, and support the notion that the Russians retained the traditions of the homeland in dress and social structure as well as in architecture.



CIVIL SERVICE UNIFORMS  
Ink drawing, V. Kozlinskii



EKATERINA P. KUSKOVA  
Oil on cardboard, artist unknown



PORTRAIT OF ZH. LOVICH 1810'S  
Oil on cardboard, V.A. Tropinin



The wives and daughters of the administrators seemed to follow very closely the fashions of the motherland. The wife of a commerce counsellor of the merchant class, Ekaterina Prokhorovna appears wearing the fashion of Russian ladies in Russia of the same period. (Petinova; 1987;65,pl.33,37) Zagoskin also mentions this apparent social climbing with creole women. (Zagoskin 1967;68) Social distinctions between the merchant classes and the nobility were often blurred as concerns costume. Provincial merchants tended to prefer a more conservative look, whereas the merchants of the cities often dressed very much like ladies and gentlemen. Lest one think that these fashions applied only to the Russian American capital, Zagoskin writes that even at the Fort Kolmakov outpost a native named Kantelnuk dressed himself "in full European dress, that is, in shirt, breeches, and cap." (Zagoskin; 1967;233) The type of cloth (less expensive and perhaps more gaudy) and small details of construction were usually the only indications. (Malyshev; 1991; personal communication) Rules which forbade members of one estate wearing the clothing of a higher class seem only to have been applied in the most extreme cases (peasant - gentry) much as we now have laws for impersonating authority. This applies only in cases where the lower class wanted to appear in the clothing of an upper class. It was a popular pastime for members of the gentry to wear costumes "in the national style" (Petinova; 1987;pl.53) and often to dress their servants in peasant costume. The study of women's fashions in Russian America is not a difficult one as concerns the upper classes. They appear to be consistent with contemporary European style, as were those in Russia. They certainly seemed to be up to d , as in KuskoVA's painting.

VILIAN JACKETS AND FROCK COATS  
k wash drawing, V. Kozlinski

Except for the two uniforms mentioned above, which were evidently worn for official occasions, there are several accounts of the type of civilian clothing worn in the colonies. Another passage on Baranov mentions him wearing "a raspberry colored frock coat of Utrecht velvet for "important holidays".



MERCHANT CLOTHING, PROVINCIAL, 1830'S  
Ink wash drawing, V. Kozlinski



TOWNSMAN  
Ink drawing (wash), V. Kozlinski

## PAGE 2

(Zagoskin; 1967;68) The frock coat at that period was worn by members of the townsmen (meshanin) estate as well as merchants and gentry. There were some minor details which distinguished the two, slight variations in construction and quality of cloth. (Malyshev; 1991; personal communication) There was a distinct difference in dress for those involved in colonial administration. Zagoskin mentions that it "has only been literacy that has made it possible for a member of the working class in Novoarkangelsk to effect the change from the long English jacket to the frock coat and the rank of clerk." (Zagoskin; 1967;102) V.M. Golovnin in 1818 remarked that in the Company settlements "You will not see a single official who would resemble a military man; all of them are clad in dress coats, jackets, and frock coats. S. G. Fedorova states that "In Nicholas I's time, when everyone in service in Russia went about in uniform, the Company personnel in Russian America wore "civil" clothing, and this peculiarity was striking to all observers." (Fedorova 1973;231) The discrepancy between the pictorial and written record can be explained. Golovnin mentions "military man" in his notes. Military uniforms were quite elaborate in 1818, compared to the civil service uniforms of the period. Except for the gilt brass buttons on the undress uniform worn in the Baranov portrait, there is nothing to distinguish it from a civilian tail coat, except for the official color. The cocked hats and caps undistinguished without braid and cockades were not unknown to civil dress. Without the shakos, gold braided epaulets and galloon embroidery, civil service uniforms were very un-military indeed. Whereas it seems that the majority of the employees in administrative positions did wear "civil dress", it is also clear that the executives of the settlements appeared in civil service uniform for official acts.

On February 1, 1818 Fleet Lieutenant L. A. Hagemeister of the Imperial Russian Navy replaced A. A. Baranov as the Chief Administrator of the Russian Colonies in America. Thereafter, all the governors of Russian America were serving naval





L. A. ZAGOSKIN  
Oil on canvas, artist unknown



ARVID A. ETHOLIN  
Oil on canvas, artist unknown

officers. During the reign of Nikolai I in Russia, officers in military service were required to wear the uniform at all times, even when off duty (Troyat;1979;121) All the governor's portraits prior to 1859 depict them in their naval uniform. It must be pointed out that none of these portraits were painted while the portrayed served in Russian America as governor. The only eye witness account from Sitka painted by a Japanese drifter (castaway) in 1842, depicts the governor in a uniform frock coat with epaulets. (Plummer; 1991;72,76) Given Jirokichi's unfamiliarity with western artistic and cultural traditions, it is surprising to note his accuracy in recalling details of costume some three years after observation. (Plummer; 1991;X1) The epaulets on the frock coat would indicate a military or naval uniform, as the civil service uniform never carried these. (Zlatic; 1963;letter) Later, in 1851, the Company was granted by Imperial decree the right to uniform its ship's officers. Considering this edict was issued some ten years after the sale of Fort Ross, it obviously has no bearing on this study. Accounts of L. A. Zagoskin and Jirokichi (both 1842) have been included because of the close proximity to the Fort Ross period.

Aside from the executives, colonial administrators were mostly clerks, (prikazhiki), foremen (artelschiki), team leaders (baidarschiki) and captains of Company ships. After Kuskov and Baranov the ranking of their positions rose so that by the time of Rotchev (1838-41) the position of administrator was held by a gentleman, his wife a princess. The clerks and foremen however, tended to remain within the townsman estate, and their clothing, while evidently of a type that would suggest a higher class, remained essentially the clothing of the lower middle class of other countries. Their attire will be more closely examined in PART II TOWNSMEN AND CREOLE. TO BE CONTINUED

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AT THE CASTLE; SERVANT ANNOUNCES THE ARRIVAL OF THE DRIFTERS  
Ink on paper, watercolor, Jirokichi, 1842



CIVIL SERVICE UNIFORM 1836  
Ink drawing, Viktor Malyshev 1991

by John Middleton

## PLANS TO CLEARCUT IN SIBERIA

LEST WE THINK that L-P is the only timber giant eyeing Siberia, a story in the current *Sonoma County EIR* names Weyerhaeuser and Hyundai as the major players in Siberian logging. Weyerhaeuser plans to clearcut the Botcha River Basin upon completion of a joint venture with the local forest industry and is poised to build logging roads and other infrastructure into this wild roadless area in Siberia. "Their plan is to begin cutting near the Koppi River, continue cutting for a four or five year period and then move on to Botcha River...using the same clearcutting it [now uses] in the northwest. Russian environmentalists (yes, there is such a thing...) believe Weyerhaeuser will complete cutting along the Koppi River area within two to three years and begin cutting along the Botcha sooner than planned." In addition, Hyundai is currently illegally logging 500,000 cubic meters annually in the Sikhotealin Mountains, near the Pacific Coast. Hyundai's operations have twice failed to receive positive environmental impact assessments as required by Russian law. They plan to increase logging to 1,000,000 cubic meters annually and to clearcut 75% of the Bikin River watershed, more than 8,000 square miles. They have also received permission from the local forest service to log in Primorsky Krai's last native forests, habitat of the Siberian Tiger, and last remaining support for the indigenous Udege people who are protesting the logging. "Both Weyerhaeuser and Hyundai practice clearcutting techniques exclusively; followed by [attempted] reforestation of only a few species" in Siberia's fragile, tundraish soil. *Sonoma County EIR* recommends that concerned people write to ... John Creighton, Jr. CEO, Weyerhaeuser Corporation, Tacoma, Washington 98477, 206/924-2345 or 800/525-5440. demanding selection cuts rather than clearcutting and reminding him that environmental groups are poised to begin a worldwide boycott of Weyerhaeuser products if they cannot show evidence of responsible, sustainable logging practices in Siberia. (Also, Hyundai USA, 10550 Talbert Ave., Fountain Valley, Ca 92728). For more information contact Pacific Energy and Resources Center, 1005 Fort Cronkhite, Sausalito, Ca 94965.MS

From Anderson Valley Advertiser, Boonville  
October 7, 1992, Submitted by Sherry Madrone

## Aid for the Voznesensky Collection

GLENN FARRIS

During his time in California (1840-41), Russian ethnographer and naturalist Il'ya Voznesensky obtained a large number of artifacts from Pomo, Coast Miwok, Patwin, Plains Miwok and Nisenan Maidu peoples. For over a century and a half these have been cared for in the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnology (MAE) in St. Petersburg, Russia. Many Californians have visited this museum and seen these incredible objects. Writing about this collection, Craig Bates called it "most significant in terms of diversity and quantity." With the current financial difficulties in the

former Soviet Union, museums like the MAE have had to seek help elsewhere to sustain the expensive work of curation. In response, the Fort Ross Interpretive Association has voted to provide a grant of \$1500 for restoration of the Voznesensky California collection. More is needed. Donations to the fund for this restoration work would be sincerely appreciated by the museum. Consider it an investment in the heritage of California. If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation, send your check to the following address: Fort Ross Interpretive Association—MAE Account, 19005 North Coast Highway #1, Jenner, CA, 95450.



These dressed figures, on exhibit in St. Petersburg, Russia, are wearing regalia collected in central California—an entire condor skin on the left, and a cloak of crow feathers on the right. Photograph courtesy of the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, St. Petersburg.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 REGULAR \_\_\_\_\_ \$7.50 FAMILY

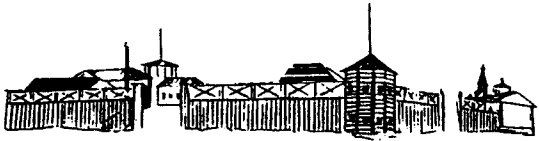
\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 ORGANIZATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.  
19005 COAST HIGHWAY 1  
JENNER, CA 95450

\_\_\_\_\_ I/WE WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER OUR TIME TO ASSIST THE  
ASSOCIATION. IF YES, IN WHAT CAPACITY? \_\_\_\_\_



**NEXT FRIA BOARD MEETING  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1993**



FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.  
19005 Coast Highway 1 • Jenner, California 95450

