

REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:

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TITLE: Russian America Binding Waste Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B2013.042

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: circa 1830s

Extent: 5 items

Language and Scripts: The collection is in Russian.

Name of creator(s): unknown

Administrative/Biographical History:

The provenance of the items is not clear, but they are possibly connected with a collection of texts found in an abandoned chapel on one of the Shumagin Islands and subsequently donated by Robert Reeve to the Cook Inlet Historical Society in 1966.

According to a history of the Islands written by the Shumagin Corporation,

Fifteen main and numerous smaller islands comprise the volcanic Shumagin group, which was once covered by a Pleistocene ice cap. Scouring and grinding of the ice fashioned a rugged landscape. Later weathering smoothed some of the ruggedness, especially on Popof Island, but the convoluted coastline remains today. This coastline and the islands' location on the route to fishing grounds for Pacific cod in Russia's Okhotsk Sea encouraged the first western commercial enterprise in the islands. Numerous settlements including a Russian post at Red Cove on Popof were scattered throughout the islands during Russian colonial times. In 1874 Thomas W. McCollam established a cod fishing station at Pirate Cove on Popof's north coast to fish local cod stocks.

Established as a trading post and cod fishing station, the city of Sand Point was founded in 1897. Aleuts from surrounding villages and Scandinavian fishermen began moving to the community. In the early 1900s gold mining dominated the economy, but was slowly eclipsed by fish processing in the 1930s.¹

¹ "Sand Point and the Shumagin Islands." Shumagin Corporation. Online. Viewed April 8, 2013.
<http://www.shumagin.com/Pages/History.html>

Scope and Content Description:

The collection consists of one printed and four manuscript pieces of binding waste. The printed pieces have been identified as portions of Supplement #100 of the *Sanktpetersburg Gazette* from Tuesday May 2, 1833. Of the manuscript pieces, one is identified as a letter from a missionary to the governor; one mentions the name Peter Egorovich Chistiakov; one appears to be a log of goods, dated January 1, 1831; and one is a portion of a ledger with dates of July 1, 1834.

Arrangement: Not applicable

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Original items in good condition.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

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Preferred Citation:

Russian America Binding Waste Collection, Anchorage Museum, B2013.042

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information

Found in collection in 2013.

SUBJECTS

Ruskaia pravoslavnaia tserkov'
Russians—Alaska—History—Sources
Bookbinding—Materials
Bookbinding—Russia
Alaska—History—To 1867—Sources
Shumagin Islands (Alaska)—History—Sources

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