

The way that this book allows the stories from a relatively small number of people to reach out and inform our understanding of the history of the western Canadian North places it in my mind amongst the best historical sources for the area—and reminds us of the value of listening to these stories in the first place.

Robert P. Wishart
Department of Anthropology
University of Aberdeen
Aberdeen, Scotland AB24 3QY, United Kingdom
r.p.wishart@abdn.ac.uk

ANÓOSHI LINGÍT AANÍ KÁ, RUSSIANS IN TLINGIT AMERICA: THE BATTLES OF SITKA, 1802 AND 1804. Edited by NORA MARKS DAUENHAUER, RICHARD DAUENHAUER and LYDIA BLACK. Seattle: University of Washington Press and Juneau: Sealaska Heritage Institute, 2008. 491 p., maps, b&w and colour illus., appendices, gazetteer, glossary, bib, index. Softbound. US\$30.00.

In 1799, Alexander Baranov, manager of the Russian American Company, had his workers construct a fort and settlement near present day Sitka, Alaska. In 1802, the Tlingit Indians destroyed the fort and killed many of the workers. Baranov returned to Sitka in 1804, along with the warship *Neva*. Meanwhile, the Tlingit had built their own fort, near the Indian River, close to the city center of modern-day Sitka. The Russians attacked the new fort, and although the Tlingit fought bravely, they ran out of gunpowder and were forced to retreat, beginning a long journey that eventually culminated in the construction of a new settlement and fort.

The book focuses on the two battles, but also includes background material about the relationship between the Russians and Natives of Alaska. Following a 26-page introduction are the stories of the first contact with the Tlingit in 1741 and the disappearance of several of Baranov's men, which are based on both Russian and Tlingit sources. Other background information on Native-Russian relationships and battles sets the scene for the conflicts of 1802 and 1804. Several articles describing the Tlingit retreat and the long march to the new settlement follow. The final portion of the book traces the family trees of participants in these battles and their descendants today. Twelve appendices cover a variety of topics related to battles, Tlingit armor, contemporary descendants of the Russian and Tlingit survivors of the battles, and recent findings from historical archaeology.

The work illustrates the strengths and weaknesses of both oral and written history. Some parts of the oral history are in error, while at the same time, the prejudice and misunderstanding of those writing reports and documents are equally obvious.

What makes this work impressive is that my colleagues, Nora and Richard Dauenhauer and Lydia Black, spent more than 20 years researching, translating, and writing in preparation for publication. Years ago, the Dauenhauers began translating a recording by a Tlingit elder, Sally Hopkins, describing the battles and people involved. She spoke an older form of the Tlingit language, so the Dauenhauers had to work through many linguistic problems to analyze and translate her story. In addition, they located old recordings of Tlingit elders describing the battles and subsequent events and family relationships. Meanwhile Lydia Black, a Russian-American professor, searched the archives for related Russian documents, letters, and accounts of the battles. The work includes many new translations of documents and Native stories never before available in English, with translations and interpretations across three languages. I think that it is the type of work that Franz Boas, the founder of American anthropology, dreamed of seeing one day.

Not only is this book a bi-cultural interpretation of two historical events, it is also filled with insights, explanations, and information that the rest of us, as anthropologists and historians, must stand back and admire.

Wallace M. Olson
Professor of Anthropology (Emeritus)
University of Alaska Southeast
Box 210961
Auke Bay, Alaska 99821, USA
wmolson@ptialaska.net

PAITARKIUTENKA: MY LEGACY TO YOU. By MIISAQ/FRANK ANDREW, Sr. Transcriptions and translations by ALICE REARDEN and MARIE MEADE. Edited by ANN FIENUP-RIORDAN. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2008. ISBN 978-0-295-98780-4. lix + 440 p., b&w illus., bib. Softbound. US\$25.00.

Paitarkiutenka: My Legacy To You, by Miisq/Frank Andrew, Sr., edited by Ann Fienup-Riordan, provides a wealth of information about all facets of Yupik life in the coastal area of the Kuskokwim Delta region of Alaska. Frank Andrew (1917–2006) generously shared his life of knowledge and stories, and his legacy will now reach a wider readership in this bilingual Yupik-English volume, with translations by Alice Rearden and Marie Meade. The information is easily accessible, as the content is organized around seasonal aspects. A separate section is devoted to traditional Yupik stories.

Frank Andrew had an extraordinary ability to provide detailed explanations of his vast experiences. The oral history, encyclopedic in nature and told with vivid descriptions, is a pleasure to read. *Paitarkiutenka: My Legacy to You* stands alone as an impressive documentation of Yupik life. One can easily agree with Fienup-Riordan's claim that this text is an equal partner to the book and