Anthology of Arctic Reading: Russian

Albanov, Valerian. *In the Land of White Death: an Epic Story of Survival in the Siberian Arctic.* Preface by Jon Krakauer…. New York, Modern Library, 2000.

p. 17: I have already mentioned that there were no maps on board that were of any use to us, and that I had copied our only existing map out of Nansen's book. Other than that volume and Kolchak's *The Ice of the Siberian Sea*, we had no other relevant works. Although Lieutenant Brusilov had bought a small library for hundreds of rubles before our departure, it contained only novels, stories, and old journals—not a single book of any use to us except Nansen's *Farthest North*. Nansen was our only guide, and provided everything we knew about Franz Josef Land…. Drawing all our knowledge from Nansen's experiences, we treated his book like a precious treasure. I had reread it so often that I could cite entire passages from memory. [Albanov also mentions an English technical journal that had charts for the altitude of the sun and astronomy charts for the period (p. 18).]

p. 118: I did not know much English, but with the help of a little dictionary I had brought with me, and Nilsen's assistance, we were able to translate the message.

p. 155, for a kayak voyage there: was not a great deal to carry: compass, binoculars, chronometer, sextant, ax, two books, sails….

p. 189: Mr Skobelev himself came to greet us and brought us a big pile of newspapers with the latest news of the war…. Among the news items in the newspapers, we read that the Russian government had organized two expeditions to look for Brusilov and Sedov.

Andrews, Clarence L. "The Historical Russian Library of Alaska," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 29 (April 1938) p. 201-04.

Describes a collection of about 1200 volumes, mostly in Russian, sent from the Russian ship *Nadezhda* in 1803 and following years to "Our Colonies in America." It was first at Kodiak, and then in Sitka

before removal to the Mercantile Library of San Francisco in 1871, and eventual disposition. By 1825 it was described by Kyril Khlebnikof, chief of the counting house at Sitka: "The library in Sitka consists in more than one thousand two hundred volumes, which are held at 7500 rubles, in the number which are more than 600 Russian, 300 French, 130 German, 35 English, 30 Latin, and the remainder in Swedish, Dutch, Spanish and Italian languages." How it was eventually found abandoned in San Francisco is not known, nor how it escaped the Great Fire. By 1869 Sitka had another library, its post library, but connected to the earlier one as far as the author can see.

Armstrong, Terence. The *Russians in the Arctic: Aspects of Soviet Exploration and Exploitation of the Far North, 1937-57*. London: Methuen, 1958, p. 17-50.

Includes the remarkable story of the drift of the *Sedov*, 3800 miles and 800 days, covering some of the *Fram* route. In addition to schooling in engineering and navigation, there were also classes of ideological indoctrination. In its third year adrift members of the crew were nominated for political positions in Murmansk, and presumably as the only candidates were elected.

Campe, Joachim Heinrich. *Polar Scenes, Exhibited in the Voyages of Heemskirk and Barenz on the Northern Regions, and in the Adventures of Four Russian Sailors at the Island of Spitzbergen.* Trans. from the German. New York: S. Wood, 1823?.

A children's book with interesting early illustrations of Barents reading a map (opp. p. 77) and descriptions of Samoyards (88-92) and Laplanders (99-110) etc. Constant evocations to the benign will of Providence.

Cochrane, John Dundas. *Narrative of a Pedestrian Journey through Russia and Siberian Tartary, from the Frontiers of China to the Frozen Sea and Kamchatka.* Fourth Edition. London: Charles Knight, 1825.

p. 64-65, walking towards St. Petersburgh: A sigh escaped me as I ejaculated a last farewell, till, startling at the expression of my weakness, I resumed my journey with slow and melancholy steps. It was ten o'clock (for I had now a watch), and I had reached six miles. The night was beautifully clear, though rather cold from the effects of a northern breeze; while the moon was near her full. I looked at the beautiful luminary, and actually asked myself whether I were, as had been asserted, under the baneful influence of that planet. Smiling that I received no reply, I then considered my projects and intentions, and the conduct I ought to follow; and, sitting down at a fountain on the Poulkousky hill, I read to myself a few lessons, which the time and the occasion seemed to inspire. "Go," said I, "and wander with the illiterate and almost brutal savage—go and be the companion of the ferocious beast!—go and contemplate the human being in every element and climate, whether civilized or savage—of what ever tribe, nation, or religion. Make due allowance for the rusticity of their manners; nor be tempted to cope with them in those taunts, insults, and rudenesses to which the nature of thy enter prize will subject thee. Contemn those incidental circumstances which but too often surprise man kind from their good intentions, and deprive the world of much useful and interesting information. Avoid all political and military topics, and remember that

The proper study of mankind is man.

p. 158, at the fortress city of Omsk, at the junction of the Irtish and Om rivers: The military college is a noble foundation upon the Lancasterian system, and was established immediately on his Imperial Majesty's return from his visit to England. Wonderful proficiency has been attained by several of its pupils, now young men, and the general improvement reflects credit on all concerned in its management. The youth are instructed, besides reading, writing, and arithmetic, in drawing, mathematics, fortification, and algebra, and in some of the

oriental languages. The barracks for the boys, their food, clothing, bedding, &c., are in excellent order; and every praise is due to the attention and benevolence of the commandant, Colonel Ivanoff, who is considered by them as a father. They are composed of the children of the military forming the army of Siberia. The school for the children of the Cossacks is on a similarly benevolent plan, although not quite so forward from the want of good masters.

p. 215-16, in Irtutsk: The merchants, on the other hand, have as strong a feeling against the receiving of the military in private, as the latter can have against recognizing them in public. It is a serious evil that the sons and daughters of the merchants have received no better education. Many of them can scarcely read or write, yet they are, in point of opportunity, on a par with those who move in the same sphere in European Russia, owing to the assistance rendered by the Swedes and French, and other exiles, many of whom possess first-rate talents. These expatriated instructors have tended to improve and civilize Siberia, in a ratio surpassing that of central Russia. But many years must elapse before that happy union of society, so conspicuous in England, can be brought about in this part; before the swaddling cloak, and long beard, will be laid aside with the same avidity with which they are now guarded. Yet I do not think it a matter of speculation, nay, I do not think it a difficult task, to instil a spirit of literary emulation into the minds of even the lower orders of the Russian community.

p. 314-15, Among the Tchutchis: I could scarcely believe that in so small a number of individuals there could exist so great and general a jealousy, but so it was, and many quarrels ensued. That my readers may the better form an opinion of what materials the people of this part of the world are composed, I will briefly say, that there is scarcely an act or circumstance, either of a public or private nature, which takes place at Irkutsk, Yakutsk, or Okotsk, which is not immediately and indirectly made known to, and commented upon by, these worthy critics of the north east of Asia; nor is it more than an act of justice or truth, to say, that I believe them to be more generally and better educated than any other equally numerous settlement in Siberia, being of the same class of

Cossacks. I hardly know of an instance of the young lads not reading and writing tolerably well.

Coxe, William. *Account of the Russian Discoveries between Asia and America.* Second ed. London: J. Nichols for T. Cadell, 1780.

p. 30: at some distance from thence lies a great island called Sabya, of which the inhabitants are denominated Rogii: these inhabitants, as the Russians understood or thought they understood him, made crosses, had books and fire-arms, and navigated in baidars or leathern canoes.
p. 86, describing a Russian voyage in 1760 to islands of Umnak and Unalashka, where a sizable crew of Russians wintered and were murdered by the islanders, except for four who escaped: In the evening they returned to the haven, and found there an image of a saint and a prayer book; all the tackle and lading wwere taken away, excepting the sacks for provision.

[The only other reference to documents or books I have found here are to records of the voyages being described. E.g., see footnote on p. 314-15.]

De Jonge, Jan K. J. *Nova Zembla (1596-1597). The Barents Relics, Recovered in the Summer of 1876, by Charles L. W. Gardiner, Esq. and Presented to the Dutch Government.* Described and explained by J. K. J. de Jonge…. London: Trubner, 1877.

Preface by translator: The first discoveries of vestiges of the Barents Voyage were made by Capt. Elling Carlsen in 1871, the first to enter Ice Haven since Barents in 1596. Discoveries were made on Sept. 9 and 11, 1871. He found the Barents "Behouden-huis" or house of safety and some relics, but was intent on circumnavigating the island. The 80 items described in de Jonge's first report (see the 1873 Hakluyt volume on Barents' voyages) included some books bought by an English tourist, Ellis C. Lister Kay, but the Dutch government went after them, and obtained them for the same price. They were placed in the Naval

Department at the Hague where a replica of the house (with open front) houses the relics.

A second visit on 17 Aug 1875 by Norwegian captain Gundersen at ice harbor yielded a journal, two charts, a grapnel with broken hooks, and some charts in bad shape. The journal was a Dutch translation of Pet and Jackman [given by Hakluyt to Barents?].

Charles Gardiner's visit to Ice Harbor was July 29, 1876. The translator of this lengthy preface, S.R. Van Campen, May 14, 1877, saw this as a good moment for Holland to return to Arctic exploration into the breach left by the withdrawal of England which needed its navy for war, not peaceful research.

Intro. is followed by de Jonge's account of the relics, p. 33ff.
p. 36 discusses the journal of Lt. Beynen on *Glowworm*, July 29, 1876: After a hard day's work among the ruins we brought to light a good many relics, among which is a Bible in tolerable state of preservation. Many other writings we find, but they are merely pulp, and in a thousand pieces…. All these things are immensely interesting, having been lying here 280 years, exposed to all the vicissitudes of an Arctic climate.
p. 38ff, objects found by MR. Gardiner 29 July-Aug. 2 1876, included "Fragments of manuscript found in powder-horn—Chs. G.": In this letter-bag was found a folded, or, rather, pressed together, and crumpled piece of paper, the parts of which adhered together, turned to a yellowish green on the right hand by oxide of copper, the paper woolly, and on the folds entirely consumed, the whole presenting an unsightly appearance …. On holding up a bit of the paper one saw distinctly that it had been written upon. Alternately frozen and thawed during 279 years between the ice and the ruins of the narrowly-enclosed house, the folded leaf was stretched out on one side and shrunken in on the other; the upper part stuck to the under part, and the whole pressed into one solid mass.

With the aid of Mr. J. H. Hingman, chief assistant to the Royal Archivist in the department of charters…the work was undertaken. We together, by cautious management, succeeded in loosening the compressed paper, and in gradually unfolding it—thawing it, I should almost have said—after having held it alternately over the steam of boiling water and alcohol, and then between the folds of dampened

paper. Although naturally portions of the paper were consumed, still our efforts were rewarded beyond expectation, for after two days of patient working, the manuscript lay before us so far unfolded as to render it possible to decipher the greater part….
p. 49, concerning a printed hymn-book: I did after all intend trying to loosen the adhering pages when I was justly and opportunely reminded of what M. Flament, formerly librarian of the Royal Library, used to say of old books in such a state, but in a way only too plastic, 'Il vaut mieux les laissez toujours morveaux que leur arrocher le nez!' ["It is better to leave some mucous rather than to detach the nose."] I therefore left the little volume in the state in which it came back from the Ice Haven.
p. 53 notes the remains of a Dutch-French dictionary, and several other texts.

[De Jonge was Deputy Royal Archivist and he ends with a bit of jingoism, the pity that these sacred relics were found not by a Dutchman but by Mr. Gardiner]: p. 69: We owe the possession of these objects to the spirit of enterprise and the generosity of foreigners.

Golder, Frank Aldred. *Bering's Voyages An Account of the Efforts of the Russians to Determine the Relation of Asia and America.* Two Volumes. New York: Octogon Books, 1968. [First Published in 1922. American Geographical Society Research Series No. I.]

Covers the Log Books and Official Reports of the First and Second Expeditions 1725-1730 and 1733-1742. The reading reported in these volumes is mainly about the voyages themselves, not the kind of recreational reading we find elsewhere.
Volume I includes an account of the log books and reports of the navigators….
p. 49: After reading the various descriptions of Kamchatka and the log books of the navigators one is forced to conclude that there was a great deal of confusion on the subject. Strelechnaya Volcano was sometimes called Koryatskaya. Burnirig Volcano was also known as Avacha Volcano, and occasionally one of the last two names was given to the third volcano, which was not supposed to have a name. At the present

time the names given to these mountains are: Koryatskaya, Avacha, and Kozelskaya.

The term Isopa disappeared from the maps and the books soon after Bering‘s time. Isopa Cape, or Hook, judging from Steller's description …and from early charts is no other than Povorotni Cape of modern maps.

p. 350, a Bibliographical Note describes the resources on which these books are based:

In the archives of the Ministry of Marine at Paris there is a collection of valuable papers as yet unpublished. These are letters, copies of journals, charts, reports of conversation, newspaper clippings, and other such material collected by the members of the Delisle family—all of which throw interesting side lights on the period and the men. The papers which are of special importance for this study are those gathered by Joseph Nicolas Delisle during his twenty-one years’ (1726 1747) residence at the Russian capital as an officer of the Academy. Those of his papers which have recently come to light in the Bibliothéque Nationale have been discussed by Isnard.

The principal materials for the present work are the original log books and other naval papers of the navigators. They have all been preserved except the journal of the *St. Peter*, which was lost at the time of the wreck of the ship. The documents dealing with Bering's second expedition have never been published, not even in Russia, and have been used only once before—by Sokolov for his study. But even Sokolov was ignorant of the existence of some of the material. On his return from Petrograd in 1917 the author prided himself on having examined all the documents, but it seems that he was mistaken. His attention has recently been called to a reference by Eugen Buchner (“Die Abbildungen der Nordischen Seekuh,” St. Petersburg, I891, p. I) to “eine handsschriftliche Beschreibung der zweiten Bering’schen Expedition. . . die den Schiffs-Capitain Swen Waxell . . . zum Verfasser hat,” which is deposited in the Emperor’s private library in Tsarskoe Selo. Whether this is merely a copy of the document here published or something different it is difficult to say. It cannot be greatly different since the same man wrote both; however, that is an open question for the time being.

Volume II deals with the journal of Georg Wilhelm Steller, which throws much light on the second expedition and furnishes valuable scientific data. The beginning of this volume has a fascinating portrait of Steller, his part in the second expedition, and his eventual death from alcoholism in 1746 after alienating most of his colleagues.

p. vii-xi, Preface, very interesting account of the manuscript history of the Steller journal.

p. 2: Among the Steller papers in the archives of the Russian Academy of Sciences there is the following list of books which Muller and Gmelin gave Steller when he parted from them:

> Caspari Bauhini Pinax. [Gaspard Bauhin: Pinax theatri botanici, Basel, 1596, 1623.]
>
> Turnefortii Institutiones rei herbariae. cum corollario. [Joseph Pitton de Tournefort: Institutiones rei herbariae, 3 vols., Paris. 1700.]
>
> Thomae Willis Opera omnia. [Thomas Willis: Opera omnia, 2 vols., Geneva, 1680 (later imprints also)1]
>
> Ioann Ra_v Methodus emendata et aucta, I710. [John Ray: Methodus plantarum emendata et aucta, Leyden. 1703 (first publ. London, 1682).]
>
> De variis plantarum methodis dissertatio. [John Ray: De variis plantarum methodis dissertatio. London. 1696.]
>
> Stirpium Europearum extra Britannias nascentium sylloge. [John Ray: Stirpium europearum extra Britannias nascentium sylloge. London, 1694.]
>
> Synopsis methodica animalium quadripedium et serpentini generis. [John Ray: Synopsis methodica animalium quadrupedum et serpentini generis, London, 1693. 1696.]

p. 7: His cutting remarks about the officers of the *St. Peter* show what a poisonous pen he had; there is reason to believe that he had a sharp tongue as well. In describing to the Senate the scene that took place on board the ship, when he asked to be allowed to land on Kayak Island, Steller says: “Then I turned on Captain Commander Bering and in no gentle words told him what I thought of him and what I would do if he did not let me go.”

If Steller treated Bering in this manner we can easily guess what he did to Khitrov, Waxel, and to some of the smaller fry from whom he had no favors to expect. They hated him and he despised them, and their life on board was as disagreeable as can be imagined. It would be worse than a waste of time to sit in judgment and try to decide the rights and wrongs. In the first place, we have only one side of the story, Steller's; the other men have left no memoirs. In the second place, they were all living under abnormal conditions and were not altogether responsible. They all suffered from disease, vermin, cold, hunger, thirst, and despondency, and their actions and quarrels are psychologically interesting and nothing more, showing as they do how men will act under certain conditions. In reading of their voyage it would be much better to think less of their quarrels and more of their glorious deeds.
p. 85: p. 85: Of *Gentiana* several species are known from the Shumagins. The one referred to by Steller is probably *G. acuta* Michx. or *G. frigida*, of which specimens collected by Dr. Golder in the Shumagins are in the U. S. National Herbarium.

In this connection it is interesting to read the following explanation of the name *Herba britannica* for *Rumex aquaticus*, also known as water rhubarb, as given in "Allgemeines Polyglotten-Lexicon der Natur geschichte," Vol. 2, Hamburg, 1794, col. 1184: "The name *Britannica*, according to Munting, is said not to be derived from the island of that name, but to be compounded from the Frisian *brit*, to make fast*; tan*, a tooth; *ica* or *hica*, ejection, and consequently to denote the power of the plant to make loose or rickety teeth fast again."

Golder, F. A. *Russian Expansion on the Pacific 1641-1850. An Account of the Earliest and Later Expeditions Made by the Russians along the Pacific Coast of Asia and North America*.... Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark Company, 1914.

p. 86: After reading the different accounts of navigation in the Arctic, and the fact that all attempts to sail east of the Koluima have failed, one is almost forced to believe that the cold is greater east of the river than

west of it. It is, of course, impossible to prove or disprove this from the insufficient data at hand.

p. 153: In another chapter the history of Kamchatka has been traced and it was shown how all the energies of the Siberian government were for a time brought into play in order to retain that country. After the discovery of the Okhotsk-Kamchatka water route there followed a period of comparative peace and recuperation. Neither the government nor the restless and adventurous Siberians were quite at ease, however, so long as unsubdued natives were about them. Afanase Shestakof, a daring golova of the Cossacks, conceived the idea of conquering northeastern Siberia. He laid his plans in writing before the Russian Senate; but not satisfied with this he appeared in person before that body, bringing with him a map which now bears his name, although he probably had little to do in drawing it up, since he could neither read nor write. He was, however, a persuasive speaker, and as his projects coincided with the wishes of the government his petition was granted.

p. 183: On May 4 Bering summoned his officers, including Delisle de la Croyere, for consultation. He read his instructions to them, showed them Delisle's chart and asked their advice as to the course that ought to be followed. They were all, including the leader, of the opinion that by sailing between east and south to about the forty-sixth or forty-fifth parallels the Company Land of the Dutch would be met with, and not far from there they would come to Gama Land and later to the western coast of America.

p. 236: It may perhaps be of interest, although somewhat foreign to the subject, to read a part of the original instructions given to the officers in whose charge Prince Dolgorouki and two others were placed to be taken to Kamchatka. The prisoners were to be watched with all care “so as to prevent them from escaping. No one is to be allowed to approach them; ink and paper they are not to have ... no one is to talk to them, not even you officers and soldiers of the guard. Not only are you forbidden to talk to them, but you are not even to ask their names, mention them to no one, and allow no person to approach them for that purpose…. In Kamchatka put them in prison where there are no other such prisoners. Let their names not be heard nor be seen on paper,”

Műller, Gerhard Friedrich. *Voyages from Asia to America, for Completing the Discoveries of the North West Coast of* America*. To which is Prefixed, A Summary of the Voyages Made by the Russians on the Frozen Sea, in Search of a North East Passage.* London: Thomas Jefferys, 1761.

Sauer, Martin. *An Account of a Geographical and Astronomical Expedition to the Northern Parts of Russia…. Performed By command of Her Imperial Majesty Catherine the Second, Empress of All the Russias, by Commodore Joseph Billings, In the Years 1785,&c. to 1794.* London: T. Cadell, 1802.

p. 1: …the Admiralty confirmed the officers chosen by the commander, and supplied astronomical and nautical instruments, the charts and journals of all former navigators from the year 1724, and every other article considered as necessary.
p. 14: Irkutsk contains 2500 houses, chiefly of wood, 12 stone churches, a cathedral, and two monasteries; beside which, there are…a seminary for the study of divinity, a public school, a library and collection of curiosities; also a theatre, of which the performers are all young men and women native of Irkutsk.
p. 32, Appendix. No. V. Instructions of Her Imperil Majesty, from the Admiralty Collage, to Mr. Joseph Billings… Article I: For your information are hereunto annexed fourteen charts of former navigators on the Northern and Eastern Ocean, and along the coasts; as also of travels by land; to which are annexed short extracts of the journals of the travelers, from 1724 to 1799.
p. 271: During the winter, I had frequent opportunities of reading my vocabulary (taken in 1790 in the island Sithanak) to the natives, who understood every word; and, therefore, I think I may venture to pronounce it pretty correct: on all the Aleutan [*sic*] islands the *th* is pronounced exactly as in England.

Seebohm, Henry. *Siberia in Asia: A Visit to the Valley of the Yenesay in East Siberia….* London: John Murray, 1882.

Seebohm was a knowledgeable ornithologist who occasionally mentions books and reading on his long trips in Siberia. In his Preface he compares his earlier volume on *Siberia in Europe* (1876?) to these later travels in which he had no expert birder: It is possible, however, that the general reader may not regret the change, and may find the dash of commercial enterprise and Arctic exploration reflected from Captain Wiggins a pleasant relief from the monotony of the *toujours oiseaux* of my former volume. To some extent, however, 'Siberia in Asia' must be a repetition of 'Siberia in Europe.' Though the meridian of the Caspian is altered to the meridian of the Gulf of Bengal, the latitude remains the same, … (p. v).

p. 104: I was even more delighted to hear the unmistakable song of our common European Willow-Warbler, a bird I had never dreamt of meeting with so far east. I shot a pair, and thus satisfactorily demonstrated that our ornithological books were all wrong in giving the Ural range as the eastern limit of this well-known species, during the breeding season. It seems too bad to shoot these charming little birds, but, as the "Old Bushman" says, what is *hit* is *history*, and what is *missed* is *mystery*. My object was to study natural history, and one of the charms of the pursuit is to correct other ornithologists' blunders and to clear up the mysteries that they have left unsolved.

p. 139-40, on a scam dependent on ignorance of Russian: We bought sundry articles from him, paid for them, and got a receipt. These were of the value of seventy-three roubles, and were to be brought down by the steamer to our ship with other articles ordered. When the river became navigable, the goods were promptly delivered, and the account hurriedly presented for payment as the steamer was

We bought sundry articles from him [a corrupt local merchant], paid for them, and got a receipt. These were of the value of seventy-three roubles, and were to be brought down by the steamer to our ship with other articles ordered. When the river became navigable, the goods were promptly delivered, and the account hurriedly presented for

payment as the steamer was on the point of leaving to go farther down the river. Fortunately for us one of our party could read Russian. He found that the seventy-three roubles already paid down were included in the amount claimed, and their payment demanded a second time. Twenty odd casks of tallow, and about as many sacks of biscuits were also to be brought down to us by the steamer; in both cases one package less than the| proper quantity was delivered. The Captain promised to have these missing packages found, and left for us at Doo-din'-ka, but I felt certain that we might as well have at once written off the value to our already sufficiently large plunder account, for, needless to say, we never heard any more of them.

p. 208, in a chapter on the natives of eastern Siberia: We left Gol-cheek'-a on Tuesday the 24th of July. There were three persons on board with whom I could converse. Besides my aide-de-camp Glinski, I had Boiling's company as far as Yen-e-saisk'. Boiling was a well-read man who could talk sensibly on almost any subject, and who had lived many years in Siberia. As far as Vair-skin-sky we were to enjoy the society of Uleman, a native of Saxony, who had emigrated to Poland, and was exiled thirty years ago. He lived by himself at Vair'-skin-sky with no other companions than his dogs and his birds; at one time he had amused himself by rearing foxes, wolves, and birds of different kinds.

p. 223-24: The house we were in was far better than any we had visited between Yen-e-saisk' and the sea; the rooms were lofty, the windows large, well glazed and double; there was a large and well-built stove in it, and due provision made for ventilation. A special stove was erected to smoke out mosquitoes. A clock hung upon the wall, and there were positively books on a shelf! The carpenters' work was excellent, evidently planed, and not merely smoothed with an axe.

p. 249-50: The engineer of the telegraph-office here is a German, from Berlin, and he gave me some interesting information about the line, which is leased to a Danish company. It frequently happens when some of the Indian cables are out of order or overcrowded with messages, that from 500 to 1000 English telegrams pass through Kras-no-yarsk' in a week. The fact of my travelling companion being a telegraph official, and dressed in the government official uniform, gave us free access to all

the telegraph offices, and it was great fun chatting freely from time to time with the friends we had left behind us a thousand miles or more. I found in Kras-no-yarsk', in consequence of the quantity of baggage I was bringing home, that I should be short of money, so I wired to St. Petersburg for five hundred roubles, and forty-eight hours afterwards had the notes in my pocket.

I found in Professor Strebeloff a most interesting and highly educated man, and enjoyed his hospitality more than once. To find a scientific man who could read English and speak German was a treat. He gave me a small collection of Siberian spiders for an entomological friend.

p. 259: The monotony of the journey was, however, wonderfully relieved by the abundance of bird life. To lounge on deck with binocular at hand ready to be brought to bear on any interesting bird or group of birds was pleasant pastime. Birds of prey were very numerous.

p. 297, his conclusion: Dr. Dry-as-dust and Professor Red-tape have committed themselves in the pre-Darwinian dark ages of ornithology to a binomial system of nomenclature, which does not easily lend itself to the discrimination of subspecific forms; and although the American ornithologists have emancipated themselves from the fetters of an antiquated system, English ornithological nomenclators still groan under the bonds of this effete binomial system, and vex the souls of field naturalists with capricious change of names in their futile efforts to make their nomenclature subservient to a Utopian set of rules called the Stricklandian code—laws which are far more honoured in the breach than in the observance, and have done great harm to the true study of birds. It is devoutly to be wished that the rising generation of ornithologists would have the courage to throw the binomial system to the dogs, and trample the Stricklandian code under foot, and once for all study nature, and make their nomenclature harmonise with the facts of nature.

One of the great charms of the study of ornithology is pleasure which comes from labour of any kind is pretty much in proportion to its results, and there are very few, if any, countries in which ornithological field work is not amply repaid by interesting discoveries. I trust that

when the reader lays down my book he will agree with me that, in spite of its reputation for dreariness, there are few countries in the world more prolific of objects of interest than Siberia in Asia.

Seebohm, Henry. *Siberia in Europe: A Visit to the Valley of the Petchora in North-East Europe. …* London: John Murray, 1880.

p. 3-4: My friend Harvie-Brown had been collecting information about the river Petchora for some time, and it was finally arranged that we should spend the summer of 1875 there together. We were under the impression that, ornithologically speaking, it was virgin ground, but in this we afterwards discovered that we were mistaken. So far as we were able to ascertain, no Englishman had travelled from Archangel to the Petchora for 250 years. In that curious old book called 'Purchas his Pilgrimes,' published in 1625, may be found the narrative of divers merchants and mariners who visited this river between the years 1611 and 1615 for the purpose of establishing a trade there in furs and skins, especially beaver, for which Ust-Zylma on the Petchora was at that time celebrated.
p. 83: We had plenty to interest us however, in reading the letters and papers that had reached us from England. The steamer had arrived from Ust-Zylma the day before, bringing us tidings of home from April 4th to May 13th, inclusive. The post had reached Ust-Zylma on the 26th; the last letters had therefore been five weeks en route, and so far as we know they had not been delayed in Archangel. From Ust-Zylma to Alexievka they would have taken more than another week to travel, had it not been for the steamer. On the 13th of May the Consul at Archangel wrote that the ice on the Dvina was expected to break up in seven days. A letter dated the 26th described the Dvina as quite free from ice for some days past, showing that it and the Petchora broke up within a day or two of each other.

Lauridson, Peter. *Vitus Bering: The Discoverer of Bering Strait….* Revised by the Author, and Translated from the Danish by Julius E.

Olson… with an Introduction to the American Edition by Frederick Schwatka. Chicago: S. C. Griggs. 1889.

A defense of Baring and his achievements verging on hagiography, taking on his early critics quite convincingly.
p. xv, from the author's preface: …in the summer of 1883, I was enabled to spend some time among the archives and libraries in St. Petersburg, to prepare myself for undertaking this work on Vitus Bering. I very soon, however, encountered obstacles which unassisted I should not have been able to surmount; for, contrary to my expectations, all the original manuscripts and archives pertaining to the history of Bering were written in Russian, and the latter in such difficult language that none but native palaeographers could read them.

I should for this reason have been compelled to return without having accomplished anything, had I not in two gentlemen, Admiral Th. Wessalgo and Mr. August Thornam of the telegraph department, found all the assistance that I needed. The Admiral is director of the department of hydrography, and has charge of the magnificent archives of the Admiralty. He is very familiar with the history of the Russian fleet, and he gave me, not only excellent and exhaustive bibliographical information, besides putting at my disposal the library of the department, but also had made for me copies of various things that were not easily accessible.
p. 17-18: From the fort on the Anadyr, Kamchatka was conquered in the first years of the eighteenth century, and from here came the first information concerning America….

Czar Peter, however, soon laid his adjusting hand upon these groping efforts. By the aid of Swedish prisoners of war, he opened the navigation from Okhotsk to Kamchatka, and thus avoided the circuitous route by way of the Anadyr. A Cossack by the name of Ivan Kosyref-ski (the son of a Polish officer in Russian captivity) was ordered to explore the peninsula to its southern extremity, and also some of the Kurile Islands. In 1719 he officially despatched the surveyors Yevrinoff and Lushin to ascertain whether Asia and America were connected, but secretly he instructed them to go to the Kurile Islands to search for

precious metals, especially a white mineral which the Japanese were said to obtain in large quantities from the fifth or sixth islands. Through these various expeditions there was collected vast, although unscientific, materials for the more correct understanding of the geography of eastern Asia, the Sea of Okhotsk, Kamchatka, the Kuriles, and Yezo. Even concerning the Island of Nipon (Hondo), shipwrecked Japanese had given valuable information. Simultaneously, the northern coast about the mouth of the Kolyma, had been explored by the Cossacks Viligin and Amossoff. Through them the first information concerning the Bear Islands and Wrangel Island found its way to Yakutsk. The Cossack chief Shestakoff, who had traveled into the northeastern regions toward the land of the Chukchees, accepted the accounts of the former for his map, but as he could neither read nor write, matters were most bewilderingly confused.

p. 69: The Academic branch of the expedition, which thus came to consist of the astronomer La Croyere, the physicist Gmelin (the elder), and the historian Muller, was right luxuriously equipped. It was accompanied by two landscape painters, one surgeon, one interpreter, one instrument-maker, five surveyors, six scientific assistants, and fourteen body-guards. Moreover, this convoy grew like an avalanche, as it worked its way into Siberia. La Croyere had nine wagon-loads of instruments, among them telescopes thirteen and fifteen feet in length. These Academical gentlemen had at least thirty-six horses, and on the large rivers, they could demand boats with cabins. They carried with them a library of several hundred volumes, not only of scientific and historical works in their specialties, but also of the Latin classics and such light reading as Robinson Crusoe and Gulliver's Travels. Besides, they had seventy reams of writing paper and an enormous supply of artists' colors, draughting materials and apparatus.

p. 78: The necessary instruments and some provisions were obtained in St. Petersburg. The naval officers were supplied with quadrants, thermometers, and nocturnals, the surveyors with astrolabes and Gunter's-chains, and the Academists were authorized to take from the library of the Academy all the works they needed, and, at the expense of the crown, to purchase such as the library did not contain.

p. 98: "…The only fault of which the brave man [Baring] can be accused, is that his too great leniency was as detrimental as the spirited and oftentimes inconsiderate conduct of his subordinates." It is undoubtedly true that Bering was not fully equal to the task; but no one would have been equal to this task. It is possible that his humane conduct impaired the work of the expedition, but this allegation still lacks proof, and Sokoloff, who wrote his book as a vindication of Chirikoff against Von Baer's sympathetic view of Bering, must be read with this reservation. It is downright absurd to hold the leader responsible for the moral weaknesses of his officers, for he had not chosen them, and was as dependent upon them as they upon him. "It seems to me," says Von Baer, "that Bering has everywhere acted with the greatest circumspection and energy, and also with the greatest forbearance. The whole expedition was planned on such a monstrous scale that under many another chief it would have foundered without having accomplished any results whatever."

p. 113-14: Nor does Baron Nordenskjöld concede to the Great Northern Expedition a place in the history of the Northeast passage. The "Voyage of the Vega" is an imposing work, and was written for a large public, but even the author of this work has not been able to rise to an unbiased and just estimate of his most important predecessors. His presentation of the subject of Russian explorations in the Arctic regions, not alone Bering's work and that of the Great Northern Expedition, but also Wrangell's, Lütke's, and Von Baer's, is unfair, unsatisfactory, inaccurate, and hence misleading in many respects. Nordenskjöld's book comes with such overpowering authority, and has had such a large circulation, that it is one's plain duty to point out palpable errors. Nordenskjöld is not very familiar with the literature relating to this subject. He does not know Berch's, Stuckenberg's, or Sokoloff's works. Middendorff's and Von Baer's clever treatises he uses only incidentally. He has restricted himself to making extracts from Wrangell's account, which in many respects is more than incomplete, and does not put these expeditions in the right light. It is now a couple of generations since Wrangell's work was written, which is more a general survey than an historical presentation. While Nordenskjöld devotes page after page to an

Othere's, an Ivanoff's, and a Martinier's very indifferent or wholly imaginary voyages around northern Norway, he disposes of the Great Northern Expedition, without whose labors the voyage of the Vega would have been utterly impossible, in five unhappily written pages. One seeks in vain in his work for the principal object of the Northern Expedition,—for the leading idea that made these magnificent enterprises an organic whole, or for a full and just recognition of these able, and, in some respects, unfortunate men, whose labors have so long remained without due appreciation.

Taracouzio, T. A. *Soviets in the Arctic: An Historical, Economic and Political Study of the Soviet Advance into the Arctic***.** New York: Macmillan Co., 1938.

Chapter III (p. 73ff) spells out quite explicitly the purpose of this book: The Russian government must be completely Sovietized…. Politically, within the territory geographically located within the boundaries of the U.S.S.R., no tolerance can be shown toward any other form of government than that which was established by Lenin in 1917. The portion of the Arctic to be studied here is part of the Soviet Union.

Reliance upon the psychological effect of things spectacular is, in prosaic terms, nothing but a perfection of salesmanship. Despite the achievements of the past, the Soviet Arctic still affords the romance of the unknown, and the unveiling of its secrets is still an imposing undertaking. The repercussions of achieving the unachieved are still felt both in the U.S.S.R. and in the outside world. Hence the lure of publicity which, irrespective of its purpose, is quite understandable.

p. 245: For the development of trade among the population of the Extreme North 135,000,000 rubles worth of goods were brought in, i.e., 42,000,000 rubles worth more than in 1935. The value of the literary and cultural articles alone was 1,584,000 rubles. Thirty-two travelling libraries were organized, in addition to the four which existed heretofore.

This progress in the development of the Northern Sea Route also guarantees the further economic, political, and cultural development of

the nationalities in the Extreme North, who are showing more and more growth in the number of their national cadres. In the Glavsevmorput' 12% of the natives of the North are already working, among them 152 women. For the first time the Arctic was visited by artists of the Bol'shoi and Malyi State Theaters, as well as of the Moscow Conservatory of Music. Their art greatly enriched the life of the Arctic workers and of the native population. . . .

p. 299-300: What has been the actual Soviet achievement in regard to public instruction in the Arctic may best be seen from an analysis of the situation prevailing in some of the Arctic regions. Prior to proceeding with this, however, a brief account of the work done in this direction up to 1933 may well be given by way of introductory summary. This account is found in a report submitted by the Committee of the North to the XVII All-Union Party Congress:

> In regard to cultural progress: among the nationalities which formerly had no literacy whatsoever, now 286 schools are open, 55 per cent. of all children of school age attending. Only since 1930 [i.e., during the previous three years], the number of schools has increased from 123 to 286, and the percentage of children attending school from 20 to 55. In 1933, 2,614,000 rubles were appropriated for the building of schools in various Northern Regions and Districts (with a total population of less than one million).
>
> A network of pre-school facilities and kindergartens was organized. In the field of political education, in 1933, 53 native clubs, 186 reading rooms, and 87 transportable moving picture units were functioning. In the most remote and isolated corners of the North twelve cultural bases were established and continue to function, while six new ones are being built. . . . Script has been composed in sixteen languages. Dictionaries of fourteen different languages have been published, while textbooks for the first school year have been provided in ten languages.
>
> [p. 299, footnote 116: There are numerous other minor institutions where corps of qualified workers in various walks of life receive their education. In fact, as already mentioned, almost every

industry is meeting the problem of cadres by resorting to some kind of schools of their own. Of other technicums especially interested in the educational problem in the North, however, mention must be made of those at Ostiak-Vogul'sk, Obdorsk, Kolpashevo, Murmansk.]

p. 300: The work toward the liquidation of illiteracy involves every minority, 3,668 persons having ceased to be illiterate in 1933 in the Far Eastern Region alone. All national regions are supplied with type for the publication of papers in the languages of the nationalities living therein. Some of the regional newspapers already have columns in these languages. . . . In the Institute of Peoples of the North, 394 students have matriculated, 65 per cent, being either members of the Communist Party or of the Communist Youth. Some of the graduating students belong to various nationalities of the North. From the Hertzen Institute at Leningrad, 82 teachers have already graduated and are now teaching in the languages of the various northern peoples. . . .

Whatever weight can be attached to the above statement, proceeding to the analysis of the situation by regions, it may be admitted *a priori* that the attention paid by the Soviets to the education of the peoples in the North has been much more intensive than ever before, even if the statistical data on the results can be accepted only with an allowance for exaggeration of the figures submitted.

p. 412, functions of the Northern Regions Chief of the Islands:

II. In the field of cultural and economic life of the trading population:

(a) Organizes reading rooms and libraries, takes measures for receiving and distribution of papers, magazines, books, etc., among the population.

In the Field of Cultural Development

1. They organize reading rooms, "Red Corners," and libraries, and take measures for acquisition and distribution among the population of newspapers, magazines, books, etc.

2. By inviting all literate persons to participate, they organize reading aloud of newspapers, magazines and books, and conduct lectures on

such topics as collectivization, Soviet construction, anti-religious propaganda, etc.
3. They organize the work for liquidation of illiteracy among the Russian workers and among the Nentsy, and supervise the timely education of the children.
4. They organize the arrival of traveling libraries and the picture shows with subsequent discussion of the same.

Unwin, Rayner. *A Winter Away from Home: William Barents and the North-East Passage.* London: Seafarer Books, 1995.

A rather homey account of Berents 3rd voyage, its wintering in ice haven, and its eventual discovery. Last chapter on Berent's successors is particularly well done.
p. 113: Others who had sufficient learning, gathered near the lamp to read the few books that Barents had brought with him—Medina on navigation, Mendoza's *History of China* and the account of Pet and Jackman's voyage. Or they would turn the pages of the exquisitely bound *Chronicles of Holland, Zeeland and Friesland* that would never now, as they had intended, be presented to the potentates of Cathay." They also had a simple song book.

Barents referred to by Francis Bacon, *Novum Organum* Bk II p. 12 (1620). *Twelfth Night* also refers to him: You are now sailed into the north of my lady's opinion, where you will hang like an icicle on a Dutchmen's beard.

Veer, Gerrit de. *A True Description of Three Voyages by the North-East towards Cathay and China, Undertaken by the Dutch in the Years 1594, 1595, and 1596. ...* Translated into English by William Phillip. Edited by Charles T. Beke. London: Hakluyt Society, 1853. [1st ser, no. 13; a second edition appeared in 1876 as 1st series, no. 54]

p. lix-lxii: The introduction has an inventory of the many relics found at the final site of Barents fatal expedition. No 75 includes the following items: A great number of prints from copper engravings, completely

frozen together, including some of Goltzius; Pallas, Juno, and Venus, with Bosscher excudit; scenes from the Bible. “The manner of engraving the names of the engravers proves that all these must have been the work of the sixteenth century. It may seem strange that Arctic navigators had prints or engravings on board, but it is not at all so, for Heemskerck and Barendsz intended to go as far as China, when they sailed to the North-East. For that purpose they had merchandise on board, and prints or engravings were often used as such.
Item 76: a folio book bound in leather, and with copper clasps. Two volumes: first is *Cronycke van Hollant, Zeelad ende Vrieslant, tot den jare 1517*. The second volume, of which the title is intact, runs: ‘Short and true account of the Government, and the most remarkable facts that occurred in the Country of Holland, Zeeland, and Friesland, by Albert Hendrcksz, anno 1585.” Item 77 is “The Navigation, or the Art of Sailing, by the excellent piote, Pieter de Medina, a Spaniard, etc; with still another new Instruction on the Principal Points of Navigation, by Michel Coignet. ‘t Hantwerpen, anno 1580.” Item 78: “A little book, with parchment cover, in octavo, having the fom of a pocket-book, entitled, ‘The History or Description of the great Empire of China.’ ”
p. 150-51: That euening the sicke man that was amongst vs was very weake, and felt himselfe to be extreame sick, for he had laine long time, and we comforted him as well as we might, and gaue him the best admonition y" we could," but he died not long after midnight.

The 27 of Januarie it was faire cleere weather, with a south-west winde; then in the morning we digd a hole in the snowe, hard by the house, but it was still so extreame cold that we could not stay long at worke, and so we digd by turnes euery a litle while, and then went to the fire, and an other went and supplyed his place, till at last we digd scauen foote depth, where we went to burie the dead man; after that, when we had read certaine chapters and sung some psalmes, we all went out and buried the man; which done, we went in and brake our fasts
p. 151-52: The 28 of January it was faire [clear] weather, with a west wind; then we went out many tymes to exercise our selues, by going, running, casting of the ball (for then we might see a good way from vs),

and to refresh our ioynts, for we had long time sitten dull, whereby many of vs were very losse.
p. 155: The 13 of February it was faire cleare weather with a hard west wind, at which time we had more light in our house by burning of lamps, whereby we had meancs to passe the time away by reading and other exercises, which before (when we could not distinguish day from night by reason of the darknesse, and had not lamps continually burning) we could not do,--The 14th of February it was faire cleere weather with a hard west wind before noone, but after noone it was still weather. Then fiue of vs went to the ship to see how it laie, and found the water to encrease in it, but not much.
p. 155: The 13 of February [1597] it was faire cleare weather with a hard west wind, at which time we had more light in our house by burning of lamps, whereby we had meanes to passe the time away by reading and other exercises, which before (when we could not distinguish day from night by reason of the darknesse, and had not lamps continually burning) we could not doe.
p. 198: Claes Adrianson began to be extreme sicke, whereby we percciued that he would not liue long, and the boateson came into our scute and told vs in what case he was, and that he could not long continue aliue; whereupon William Barents spake and said, I thinke I shal not liue long after him; and yet we did not ivdge William Barents to be so sicke, for we sat talking one with the other, and spake of many things, and William lBarents read in my card which I had made touching our voiage, [and we had some discussion about it]; at last he laid away the card and spake vnto me, saying, Gerrit, give me some drinke; and he had no sooner drunke but he was taken with so sodain a qualme, that he turned his eies in his head and died presently, and we had no time to call the maister out of the [other] scute to speake vnto him, and so he died before Claes Adrianson [who died shortly after him]. The death of William Barents put vs in no small discomfort, as being the chiefe guide and onely pilot on whom wc reposed our selues next vnder God; but we could not striue against God, and therefore we must of force be content.

1741-42 Russian Voyage of Bering to the Pacific

Steller, Georg Wilhelm. *Journal of a Voyage with Bering, 1741-1742.* Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1988.

p. 189: Footnote: Among the essential items [on Bering's expedition] were three quadrants, one chronometer, one compass, one spyglass, eleven books of navigation, one bundle of charts, two bundles of calculations, and seven maps. [See Bancroft 90: *n*14.]

1870? US Overland Siberian Journey of George Kennan

Kennan, George. *Tent Life in Siberia and Adventures among the Koraks and Other Tribes in Kamchatka and Northern Asia.* New York: Putnam's; London, S. Low & Marston, 1871. [Available electronically from the Library of Congress American Memory at http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mtfrb&file]

Kennan traveled by ship over Northern Pacific in abortive attempt to plan a trans-Pacific telegraph cable; covers his encounters with seasickness, native culture, and everything else.
p. 15, describes books, papers, telegraph materials etc. rolling around cabin.
p. 19: In reading, playing checkers, fencing, and climbing about the rigging when the weather permits, we pass away the day, as we have already passed away twenty and must pass twenty more before we can hope to see land.
p. 32, at the home of a German merchant in Petropavlovski: I noticed, among other books lying upon Mr. F.'s table, "Life Thoughts,"by Beecher, and "The Schönberg-Cotta Family," and wondered that the latter had already found its way to the far distant shores of Kamtchatka [sic].
p. 82, on use of *Illustrated London News* as wallpaper.
p. 114, singing an American song ("Oh Susannah") in Kamchatka: I was waked early on the following morning by the jubilant music of "Oh, Su-sán-na-a-a, don't ye cry for me," and crawling out of the tent I surprised

one of our native boatmen in the very act of drumming on a frying-pam and yelling out joyously

"Litenin' struck de telegraf,
Killed two thousand niggers;
Shut my eyes to hole my breff,
Su-sán-na-a-a, don't ye cry!"

A comical skin-clad native, in the heart of Kamtchatka, playing on a frying-pan and singing, "Oh, Susanna," like an arctic negro minstrel, was too much for my gravity, and I burst into a fit of laughter….
p. 279, lecturing on astronomy to relieve monotony and boredom.
p. 328, describes reading in front of natives with no written language, who laughed at him for his laughter at a text..
p. 344: We therefore rented ourselves a little log-house overlooking the valley of the Geezhega River, furnished it as comfortably as possible with a few plain wooden chairs and tables, hunt up our maps and charts over the rough log walls, displayed rur small library of two books—Shakespeare and the New Testament—as advantageously as possible in one corner, and prepared for at least a month of luxurious idleness.
p. 469-70—account of how he learned Russian, contrasted to a Russian telegrapher in Irkutsk who learned his English from a small dictionary and a volume of Shakespeare plays, mainly to increase his salary with an added language.

James, Alton James. *The First Scientific Exploration of Russian America and the Purchase of Alaska***.** Evanston, Northwestern University Press, 1942.

This volume chiefly contains the journals of Robert Kennicott and Henry Martyn Bannister, Smithsonian naturalists, concerning Alaska immediately before statehood, and relates to their advice to Seward and Sumner.
p. 40: Many times, Bannister, twenty-one years of age, had confided in his Journal: "This day has been as pleasant as the preceding one in respect to weather, but in other respects rather dull"; or 'nothing of interest occurred, did not go away from the fort", or "nothing of interest

outside today". His diversions on some of these dull days were: reading and playing chess—passed the time quite pleasantly."… "I wish that I had more books here, I can read one over and over again now, even newspaper advertisements are welcome."… "Quite a treat to read the broken stories in Harper's Weekly. Only the advertisements are complete and we relish them also." Many of his spare hours were devoted to the study of Russian and the acquisition of Eskimo words and phrases. [Punctuation and quotes exactly as in original]

Kotzebue, August von. *Count Benyowsky; Or The Conspiracy of Kamtschatka: A Tragic-Comedy.* Translated by Wilhelm Render. Second Edition. London: Printed for W.J. and J. Richardson, 1798.

Kotzebue, a German dramaist wrote this play about Benyovzky in 1798. In 1769, while fighting for the Polish armies under the Bar Confederation, he was captured by the Russians and exiled to Kamchatka. He subsequently escaped and returned to Europe via Macau and Mauritius, arriving in France.

p. 5, The daughters Theodora and Athanasia discuss the latter's books:

Theodora.

You speak like an orator. These detestable books1 your father should let them be used to warm the guard-room.

Athanasia.

The books he [her father] may burn, their contents remain in my heart.

p. 37-38, a dialogue between Benyowsky and Crustiew, both exiles in Siberia:

Benyowsky.

'Tis well! Shew me now the minuter parts of your great pln. [*Crustiew opens a small cupboard, takes out a boo and gives it to Benyowsky, who opens and reads.] 'Anson's voyage round the world. What is this for?*

Crustiew.

You have pronounced the name of a friend. At my arrival the barbarians ransacked all my pockets; the little money I had about me,

with other trifles, was a prey of their rapcity. I trembled—they laughed me to scorn—the fools did not know that I trembled for my books. Three friends have been the fraternal companions of my banishment; *Anson, Plato*, and *Plutarch*; to the second I owe my belief in a God and a better world to come; the third has described to me the heroes of Greece, and taught me to feel the power and dignity of man. But Anson—Ah, Benkowsky!— [*Pointing to the book*] 'Twas Anson taught me hope.

Benyowsky.

Ha! how so?

Crustiew.

[*With youthful energy, and an air of secrecy confidence*.]

To fly! To fly to the Isles of Marian! This great navigator has shewn me the possibility of it. The Island Tinian—a terrestrial paradise! free! a mild climate! a new created sun! less inhabitants, wholesome fruits—and tranquility!—Ah, Benkowsky, you and us!

[Apart from a passage on p. 54, where Athnasia chides Benyowsky on book learning,there is ot much more about books once the daughter falls in love with the married conspirator, the conspiracy succeeds, the governor and daughter are reunited. Seems to follow much of Benkowsky's journal.]

Litke, Frederic. *A Voyage Around the World 1826-1829.* Edited by Richard A. Pierce. Kingston, ONT: Limestone Press, 1987.

Trip on *Seniavin* to survey coast of Kamchatka, the Okhotsk Sea, and the Shantar Islands. Travels from Kronstadt to Portsmouth, Rio, Valparaiso, Sitka, & Kamchatka. Stop in Sitka to observe the Russian colonies there under the Russian-American Company in New Archangel. Baron Wrangell was governor and the fort itself had been rebuilt after being destroyed by the Americans.

p. 48: If I say that we passed our time in Sitka very pleasantly, it should not be assumed that we found it a place of charm…. The vast distance from Europe and thus the dearth and difficulty of communication is one of the inconveniences of the place. Mail arrives once a year in August-September on vessels which come from Okhotsk bringing letters, newspapers and new company employees…. The library founded by

Chamberlain Razanov, which is enlarged every year, is also a great resource.

Has quite a bit on the "savage American tribes" near Sitka.

1740? Russian Expedition to Svalbard

Roberts, David. *Four Against the Arctic. Shipwrecked for Six Years at the Top of the World.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003.

More an account of Roberts's search for the story of four Russian sailors stranded on Svalberg for six years in the 1740s, ending only with circumstantial speculations that they were likely to have spent almost seven years on small Halfmoon Island in southeast Svalberg. They were probably illiterate Mezeners (Pomori from Mezen, Russia) who had no books with them, and Roberts speculates on how then spent time fighting "cabin fever" and keeping healthy: endless knot tying, mending nets, repairing clothes, carving driftwood, some games, etc. (see p. 208-16 on the phenomenon of cabin fever). The title puns on the four who went to spend two weeks on Halfmoon Island, with the polar bears, etc., looking for the remains of the story.

1745-

Pallas, Peter Simon. *Bering's Successors, 1745-1780.* (eattle, WA: University of Washington, 1948.

1st Edition. Sub-title: Contribution of Peter Simon Pellas to the History of Russian Exploration toward Alaska.

1820-23 Russian Journey Exploring Siberia and the Northeast Passage (led by Baron Wrangell)

Wrangell, Ferdinand Petrovich, baron. *Narrative of an Expedition to the Polar Sea, in the Years 1820, 1821, 1822, & 1823. Commanded by*

Lieutenant, Now Admiral, Ferdinand von Wrangell… Edited by Major Edward Sabine. London: James Madden and Co., 1840.

Gives introductory summary of prior expeditions to Northeast and Siberia, before describing Wrangell's expedition across the entire Northern coast of Siberia, as based on Wrangell's journals, edited by Sabine, and translated from German by Mrs. Sabine. This journey takes place at the same time as Franklin's land journey. The travel route was St Petersburgh, Moscow, the Urals, Irkutsk, to the Lena and then by river both to the north, Siberia & Jakuzk, with a view to studying the inland fur trade. The work is a combination of geography, anthropology, and adventure.

Later in his life he led a world circumnavigation aboard *Krotky* (1815-27; from 1829to 1835 he was governor of Russian settlements in the Northwest; directed the Russian American Company through the 1840s; and retired in 1864.

p. cxxxvii: In publishing this narrative, I have had no other object in view, than to extend the geographical knowledge of those regions; to correct previously-existing errors; and by a plain statement of what we have done, to make ourselves useful to those who may come after.

p. 14, in St. Petersburgh: The inhabitants are not in an advanced state of intellectual cultivation: books are extremely rare; education is but little thought of; children usually pass the first years of their infancy with a Jakuti nurse, from whom they learn so much of her native language, that I often found the conversation of persons in the best society very difficult to understand. As the children grow up, they learn a little reading & writing from the priests. They are gradually initiated into the mysteries of the Siberian fur-trade, or obtain places under government. Their hospitality is proverbial, but as there are usually but few strangers, they can for the most part only exercise it towards each other.

p. 24, among the Jakuti: The Jakuti have almost all been baptized; a part of the New Testament, the Ten Commandments, and several of the Rules of the Church, have been translated into their language, but as yet the greater number have no idea of the principles and doctrines of

Christianity; and their Schamans, and the superstition of heathenism, retain their hold upon their minds.
p. 121-22, on the Tschukschi: A great number of Tschuktschi have been baptized, but it must be admitted that they are as complete heathens as ever, and have not the slightest idea of the doctrines or spirit of Christianity. A priest from Nishne Kolymsk attends the fair, and is ready to baptize those who present themselves, which they are induced to do solely to obtain the presents which it is customary to make them on the occasion. No instruction is given them, and it is scarcely possible that any should be, so long as their present wandering mode of life continues. Their language, which is not understood by the priests, offers a no less formidable difficulty. The St. Petersburgh Bible Society attempted the translation of the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and, if I am not mistaken, one of the Gospels, into the Tschukschi dialect, printed in Russian characters; but partly from the language being entirely deficient in words to express new and abstract ideas; and partly for want of letters to represent the strange and uncouth sounds of which the language itself consists, I was assured by all who could form an opinion on the subject, that the version was wholly unintelligible.
p. 386-87, towards the end of their return journey to St. Petersburgh: I staid at the house of M. Gorochow, a merchant; and my surprise and pleasure were great on seeing their a good-sized, neat, and clean room, with regular windows, a handsome fire-place, some prints, and a small book-case, containing a collection of our best authors. It was years since I had seen any book, except the very few that I had brought with me.

1896 Russian-Sponsored Overland Expedition by American W. V. Vanderlip in Search of Gold

Vanderlip, Washington V. *In Search of a Siberian Klondike as Narrated by Washington B. Vanderlip the Chief Actor and Herein Set Forth by Homer B. Hulbert.* New York: The Century Co., 1908.

Hard to know whether the charm of this book is to the narrator or amanensis, but it is a delight to read both for its human interactions and its elements of natural history and hunting. These exxcerpts give some

flavor of the book, and there are a few comments on language and literature.

p. 12-13, in addition to two Koreanmen: I engaged the services of a Russian secretary named Nicolai Andrev. He was an old man and not by any means satisfactory, but he was the only one I could get who knew the Russian mining laws and who could make out the necessary papers, in case I should have occasion to stake out claims. As it turned out, he hampered the movements of the party at every turn; he could not stand the hard knocks of the journey, and I was obliged to drop him later at the town of Ghijiga.

His lack of teeth rendered his pronunciation of Russian so peculiar that he was no help to me in acquiring the language, which is not easy to learn even under the best of circumstances. I was also accompanied by a young Russian naturalist named Alexander Michaelovitch Yankoffsky. As this name was quite too complicated for everyday use, I had my choice of paring it down to "Alek," "Mike," or "Yank," and while my loyalty to Uncle Sam would naturally prompt me to use the last of these I forbore and Alek he became. He did not take kindly to it at first, for it is 'de rigueur to address a Russian by both his first and second names, the latter being his father's name with *vitch* attached. This was out of the question, however, and he succumbed to the inevitable.

So our complete party consisted of five men, representing three languages. None of my men knew any English, and I knew neither Russian nor Korean, beyond a few words and phrases. But before two months had elapsed, I had, by the aid of a pocket dictionary, my little stock of Korean words, and a liberal use of pencil and paper, evolved a triglot jargon of English, Korean, and Russian that would have tried the patience of the most charitable philologist.

p. 17: Judging from my experiences in Australia, Burma, Siam, and Korea, as well as from my reading of Nansen, I thought it best not to encumber myself with any liquors excepting four bottles of brandy, which were carried in the medicine-chest and used for medicinal purposes only.

p. 162: Coming to the head of the river, we crossed over the summit of the ridge. The aneroid showed that we were seven thousand six hundred

feet above the sea level. When we reached the top, we found that a long, smooth stretch of snow swept down into the valley beyond. For a quarter of a mile the smooth, hard surface was unbroken by bush or stone. I asked Chrisoffsky how it would do to slide down, but he shook his head and replied that it would be dangerous for dogs and sledges alike. I had, however, conceived the foolish notion that it would relieve the monotony of life a little to slide down that incline, and I over-persuaded my driver to make the attempt. More over, it would save several miles of travel over a safer but more circuitous route.
p. 197: Strange is the effect of environment; a year previous, no inducement could have made me use those cups after seeing them cleansed in that fashion. Was I, after all, a savage, and civilization but a thin veneer? I found myself at times looking at life from the standpoint of these people. I was thinking, dreaming, and talking in my sleep in my polyglot language. At times I would talk to myself in English, just to enjoy the sound of it. I had with me no books, except a Bible, which was in my valise, but the print was too fine to read, except with a good light. Action was my only salvation. Had I been compelled to stay in one place I should have feared for my reason.

1906 British Hunting Trip to Alaska and Siberia

Niedieck, Paul. *Cruises in the Bering Sea: Being Records of Further Sport and Travel.* Camden, SC: John Culler, 1995. [First published in 1909.]

The author hunted bear and sheep in Alaska and Siberia and his book is now especially current as he hunted on the fabled Kamchaka Peninsula where hunting had
just opened. The author bagged many brown bears and snow sheep.

First published in London by Rowland Ward in 1909, in a translation from German, describing a hunting expedition in 1906, an account full of adventure, some anti-Semitic jokes (chiefly re the ship's captain), and needless killing of bears etc.

p. viii: While eminent explorers expand their best energies, and millions are squandered, in order to discover the North Pole, the regions which lie between the latter and the temperate zone remain neglected by Science….whilst the discovery of the North and South Poles of the early {twentieth century?] would only be of small value to Science and scarcely any to humanity at large.
p. 18, on the Kurile islanders: Their tradition relates that one day an Ainu god dined with a Japanese god, on which occasion the Ainu got drunk and fell asleep thereupon the Japanese stole his confrère's grammar and alphabet, and taught his faithful worshippers the art of reading and writing, while the Ainu to this day are unacquainted with written characters.
p. 100 makes allusion to Nansen's tales about the dangers of walruses.
p. 125 has an account of pederasty among Konjaks of Kodiack. "Acknutschik" are men dressed as women who were better respected, more than women were.
p. 135, Thlinkets customs and manners.

The second section of the book is on Alaska, mainly topographic and ethnographic with much less emphasis on hunting. Not the most sympathetic of authors but an interesting specimen of sporting literature.

1910-15 Russian Arctic Ocean Hydrographic Expedition

Starokadomskiy, Leonid Michailorich. *Charting the Russian Northern Sea Route: the Arctic Ocean Hydrographic Expedition 1910-1915.* Translated by William Barr. Montreal: Arctic Institute, McGill-Queens Univ. Press, 1976.

p. 38: Once or twice we called at uninhabited bays on the Bering Sea coast to shelter from strong winds and storms….It was strange and unexpected to recognize the names of four mountains scattered across the island [Ostrov Arakamchechen]; Athose, Porthos, Aramis, and D'Artagnan. They were put on the map in 1823 by F. P. Litke's colleagues, mapping the Asiatic coast of Bering Strait aboard *Senyavin*.

Obviously the hydrographers had been carried away by the newly published novel by A. Dumas, *The Three Musketeers*.

1928-29 Soviet Trading Voyage in Northwest Passage (aboard *Nanuk*)

Gleason, Robert J. *Icebound in the Siberian Arctic: The Story of the Last Cruise of the Fur Schooner* Nanuk *and the International Search for Famous Arctic Pilot Carl Ben Eielson*. Anchorage, AK: Alaska Northwest Pub. Co., 1982.

The story of a fur trading vessel that wintered over at North Cape near the Bering Straits among Chukchi Eskimos, together with an account of the rescue attempt by air of Carl Ben Eielson, founder of Alaskan Airlines. In 1929, Eielson died alongside his mechanic Earl Borland in an air crash while attempting to evacuate furs and personnel from the *Nanuk*, then trapped at North Cape.
p. 84: The Seamen's Library had provided a chest of old books and magazines, most of which were to be read and reread during the winter. Among the books were Stefansson's *The Friendly Arctic* and Amundsen's two volumes, *The South Pole*. Marion [Swenson] had a small portable phonograph and 40 records.

1928 Russian Rescue Operation for Nobile

Parijourire, Maurice. *The Krassin.* Trans. by Lawrence Brown. New York: Macaulay Co., 1929.

Russian ice-breaker involved in Nobile rescue in 1928. A romanticized and heavily pro-Soviet account.
p. 59: Off duty, the men were free to do as they pleased, and while some went to get a little extra sleep, many dropped into the saloon to browse through the 2,000 volume library, or pass the time away over a game of chess.

p. 64, reporters abroad the ship decided to publish a newspaper, *The Ice Breaker*, in fact a news sheet mounted on the saloon wall.
p. 67: The new man [a pilot] brought aboard a bundle of newspapers which we grabbed eagerly, partly to see the news, partly, I'm afraid, to read stories about ourselves. The newspaper Slavo had given us a story of several columns advising us not to go to Spitzbergen….

[Although the ship never rescued anyone, it is portrayed as the great hero of this story.]

1934 Russian Voyage of the *Cheluyshin* (commanded by Captain Schmidt)

Chelyuskin. *The Voyage of the Chelyuskin.* By Members of the Expedition. New York: Macmillan, 1935.

The *Chelyuskin* was beset and sank near the Bering Strait in 1934. The book has contributions by many of the crew, including captain Schmidt, and presents a most idealistic view of Bolshevik sacrifice.
p. 25. Chapter 2, the Departure, by Meteorologist Olga Komova:
… A bit choppy. The weaker ones keep their bunks; our brigate is very chirpy, gets through the onions, turns to organizing the library service. The red corner on the Chelyuskin is a trifle cramped, but very comfortably furnished—plenty of books and plenty of visitors.

"When will books be given out?"

"Any new writers?"

"Have anything on physics?"

Most of the enquirers are seamen or stokers. We receive every new face with real satisfaction, and it becomes obvious that we shall not lack a reading public. In comes a tall lad in a striped sweater with sleeves rolled up."Oho! That's fine, plenty of books. Something to live on in the next eighteen months…."

"And where do you get the eighteen months from?"

"And supposing we have to spend the winter in the. . ."

Immediately there is a chorus of cries: "Grouser!" "Shurrup!" "Who asked you to prophesy!" And so.

Stoker Kiselyov goes slowly but surely over all the books on the table. He has read a great deal, and our supply does not satisfy him.

"Bit on the lean side, eh?" he said. "Why, I've read pretty well all you've got !"

We console him, tell him that we shall be taking more books when we get to Mourman [Murmansk].

p. 61, concerning ice-wintering rules after hopes of rescue ended: The everyday life of every man and woman on board was squeezed as if into a straitjacket, into a strict collective routine. The most varied studies, sports, physical work, and organized recreation, were devised to fill the long polar night completely. During that long winter the *Chelyuskin* party knew nothing of nostalgic inactivity or vacant demoralizing hours. [Hard to know how they did this with so little coal available for power]

p. 62: Every [radio] reception of conference news was issued as soon as possible in the form of a numbered bulletin. One copy of the bulletin would be stuck up in the Red Corner [where the library apparently was] for general use, another handed to the party cell, while I [the expedition secretary] retained a third. I may add that my set of the bulletins have all been saved.

p. 69, Chapter X is by Able-seaman journalist Alexander Mironov: Among us we had a Y.C.L. [Young Communist League] political circle, but it was not only frequented by communist youth. Baievski's lectures, which were very interesting and attractive, drew many non-party men into the group—middle-aged carpenters, sailors, stokers, and even worthy Adam Dominikovitch Shousha [a 52-year old carpenter], and the old fellow took an enthusiastic part in discussions round the party conferences, and discussion of the differences between the Bolsheviks, Mensheviks, and social revolutionaries.

Besides the political circle we had a general educational carpenters' circle. At Mourman we had taken on board eight carpenters and three stove-masons. Most of these could only just get the general sense of small announcements in a newspaper, and only knew two rules of arithmetic. Six months' schooling on the *Chelyuskin* gave them a great deal: they went through courses of arithmetic, elementary algebra

and geometry, learned the rules of grammar, and obtained a smattering of history and geography.

In the evenings, by the light of paraffin lamps, members of the expedition…gathered together in the saloon of the expedition's command. Then Schmidt would expound to eager listeners the theory of Freud, the works of the philologist Marr, and about the Pamirs. That man's stock of knowledge and its depth seemed inexhaustible. He was able to answer any question you liked to put, and all attempts to stump him failed….

p.171-72: after abandoning ship to ice floes the members began a camp newspaper, a wall newspaper called *We Won't Give In.*

1938

Gruber, Ruth. *I Went to the Soviet Arctic.* New York: Simon and Schuster, 1939.

p. 16-17, for her journey north: Accordingly I packed into one pocket of the duffel bag the Compleat Explorer's Equipment…. The other pocket was filled with notebooks, typing paper, pencils and a little library of books and newspapers which I would leave with the people who were starving, I was sure, for culture.

p. 112-13, on the Igarka, Siberia, newspaper, the *Arctik Bolshevik* with its English supplement for foreign sailors: This remarkable article and all the others in the English section were set up in the print shop by a woman. For a young Arctic city, the print shop, divided from the city office by a vestibule, had more than fair-sized equipment: a cylinder press, several cases of type, a large paper cutter (at least Igarka had ample paper, even if the paper itself was bad) and a small linotype where you usually found the woman in printer's apron and smudged hands working over English mats….

The paper was distributed among the foreign seamen, who if they read it, must have done so in the privacy of the forecastle. I never saw anyone but the Russians reading it on the docksor in the street. And they read it avidly.

p.130, local performance of *Tartuffe.*
p. 213, about an old woman (100) who relished the changes from the old feudal society to modern Soviet society: She can read… Had the printed words become the new savior? Faust, pondering in his dark medieval study, had discovered that in the beginning was the Word. Now the once illiterate races of the Arctic were learning it too. They were discovering the terrific responsibility of the word—of education and culture which opened the way to a new life.
p. 249, visit to Dickson Island, a Soviet science station on an island first discovered by Nordenskiold: Study was considered part of their entertainment, and culture part of their relaxation. Every scientific worker held lectures in his special field, while the political organizer (or commissar) gave courses in Marxism-Leninism and Party History. There were regular classes in mechanics, biology, most of the sciences, and in foreign languages, especially English and German. The classes were open to anyone to join. The library had 3,000 books; newspapers were brought regularly by plane from Igarka.
p. 278, on the *Anadyr*, the freighter which opened the northeast passage for regular traffic, and while took her back to Murmansk: …the crew had better quarters on this Arctic ship than on many ships navigating in conventional southern waters…. There were no dormitories in the forecastle; two sailors shared a cabin equipped with radio earphones and a writing table. They had an astonishingly large library of Russian, English and German books. They had portable phonographs with Soviet and American records….

Papanin, Ivan Dmitrievich. *Life on an Icefloe.* Translated from the Russian by Fanny Smitham. London: Hutchinson, 1947?.

A Soviet paean to Stalin and the system, claiming Stalin's great interest in Arctic science. There is a heavy dose of communist Stalinism written by a rather pedestrian author but still there is some interest simply in seeing what they were reading.
p. 32: It was with profound emotion that we listened to the appreciation of our work pronounced by the greatest man of modern times, our

teacher, leader and inspirer, Comrade Stalin, when he spoke on May 17, 1938…. In his remarkable speech Comrade Stalin said that in our practical work on the drifting icefloe we had upset the old idea about the Arctic and created a new one conforming to the actual needs of science.
p. 29: We took a small library with us, which included works by Lenin, Stalin, Chernyshevsky, Gorky, Tolstoy, Balzac, Stendhal, Dreiser.
p. 68-69, July 20: It seems as if the modest parcel of books we brought with us is fated never to be opened—there just isn't any time for reading.

July 22: Still I manage to snatch time off for reading—I've nearly finished "The Test". How difficult, dreary, and hopeless is the lot of the working man in Hitlerite Germany.
p. 75, July 29: After turning in I stayed awake till 2.30 a.m. I was reading Alexei Tolstoy's "Peter I."
p. 81, Aug. 3: I am just completing my diary entries now, then I shall dive deep into my sleeping-bag, and finish reading Chernyshevsky's "What to do?"
p. 109: I started to build a kitchen. We were the first in the Arctic to use wet snow as a building material."—one wonders where such stuff comes from, or at least I suppose Inuit had been doing so for centuries.
p. 126: I am also thinking of making a small cupboard for the books, which also lie about the floor, and under the bunks.
p. 128: Ernst is still reading Pavlenko's "In the East." e read it all night; says he likes it very much. I read the book when I was on Rudolph Island.
p. 148: October 21. Today we received a request from *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, to tell them who was our favourite author and why; what we were now reading; what were our hopes for Soviet literature. Surely they don't think we can give an exhaustive reply to these questions in twenty or thirty words? And what is the sense of fobbing them off with a few general and meaningless phrases?
p. 150: Before going to sleep I mean to read Stalin's "Leninism." I have read it twice already, on the mainland; now I am reading it for the third time.

p. 151: October 27. My head ached so terribly that I didn't know what to do with myself…. I felt a bit better in towards evening. I finished reading Theodore Dreiser's "An American Tragedy."
p. 179: Dec 12. After dinner I read Henri Barbusse's book, "Stalin." Thoughts of our country, of Moscow, are inevitably linked with Stalin, the man who has devoted his entire life to the revolutionary cause. Though he is now 58 he does more work than any of us.
p. 199-200: Jan. 12. In the evening, as I sat reading a book, the hoar frost formed on the ceiling of the tent from the condensation of our breath, broke off and fell on top of me. My bunk and my sleeping-bag were soaked through….
p. 219: Feb 3, shortly before ending their icefloe trip: We neither worry about ourselves nor our families. I recall the tragic note written by Captain Scott who, returning from the South Pole, was tormented by anxiety as to who would take care of his family if he perished. We have no such anxieties; behind us stands the entire Soviet people, our Party and our Government; with us is our beloved Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin.

1988-95 Canadian-Russian Journeys to North Pole

Weber, Richard and Mikhail Malakhov. *Polar Attack.* Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1996.

On Soviet-Canadian treks to North Pole in 1988, 1992, and 1995, recounted by one of each of them.
p. 5: Misha was pondering his well-thumbed Russian-English dictionary. [Both were trying to learn the other's language.]
p. 42, on Ward Hunt Island, off Greenland, their stepping-off point where they found two abandoned huts used first for military purposes and then by Ranulph Fiennes. A storm kept them in: Richard skins through our local library—too elegant a word for a pile of outdated books and magazines. The hut has become, if not a prison, then very like a doctor's waiting room. Misha, our real-life physician, is broadening his vocabulary. He has discovered an issue of *Penthouse Forum*, but must

pause every other paragraph to check unfamiliar verbs in the dictionary. Then he tosses the learning tools aside and begins to brood on dire scenarios. What awaits us on the ice?

[No indication that they had any books on their 1995 venture, though they did have TUBSAT and other navigational gear.]