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(written after 1794)

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE AMERICAN ISLAND OF KAD'IAK, MADE BY THE ARCHIMANDRITE IOASAF, HEAD OF THE NORTHEASTERN AMERICAN RELIGIOUS MISSION THERE, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTIONAIRE SENT BY THE HOLY RULING SYNOD.

I. TOPOGRAPHICAL

1. What is the position of the main island of Kad'iak in degrees of latitude and longitude?

The island of Kad'iak lies at latitude 58 degrees and 8 minutes north, and between longitude 222 degrees and 5 minutes and 224 degrees 50 minutes east, calculated from the island of Ferro. The main Russian settlement, at St. Paul's Harbor, is at latitude 57 degrees 58 minutes north and longitude 224 degrees 30 minutes east.

2. What is its length and width, and how far is it from the mainland?

It is 160 Russian versts long from southwest to north. It varies in width according to the size of many bays and inlets. At its widest it is about 130 versts from east to west, and at its narrowest not more than 20 versts. It is separated from the American mainland, Cape Aliaksa, by a strait from 35 to 70 versts wide, extending from southwest to north.

3. If there are buildings on it built in Russian style, what are they, and how many are there? How many American ones are there?

At the main Russian settlement in St. Paul's Harbor, on a steep rock on the shore, a semi-circular wooden fort has been built. Within its walls are a large barracks for promyshlenniks, and buildings for offices, a school for seamen,

rigging, and hostages, stores with cellars, various workshops, a copper smelter, a metal-working shop, blacksmith shop and barns. Separated from the fort by an arm of the steep shore are a wooden church and belfry. On the other side of the fort on a low shore are the manager's house, and living quarters for the religious mission. Further beyond the fort are a guest house and hospital. Along the shore from the church, various families of the promyshlenniks have their houses.

There are wooden barracks for artels of the promyshlenniks in two places on Kad'iak, and on Afognak, and in various places forts and barracks with service buildings on the mainland of America such as at Cape Kinai, on Kinai Bay, on the river Katna, in two places on Chugatsh Bay, and at Yakutat Bay.

The Americans have yurts finished inside with planks, and covered with earth. They serve as bath houses when needed, with steam from heated stones. Nearly every family has its own yurt, and many have more than one in different places on the bays, near the seashore, and on the rivers, [but] mostly located separately.

4. <u>How far does Russian rule extend along the coast, by what borders is it divided, and how many versts does it extend inland from the coast?</u>

Besides the entire Aleutian chain, which has been under the Russian scepter for a long time, the American cape Aliaksa, the Shumagin Islands, Kad'iak and adjacent islands, Kinai and Chugatsh Bays and Bering and Iakutat Bays have been occupied by the company and order established among the natives for mutual benefit. The fur company also operates as far as Sitka island, on which [!] is the mountain the English call Edgecumbe. There is trade along the coasts to the north and east as far as the place where the expedition of the Russian

seafarer Chirikov touched in 1742 and left quartermaster Dement'ev and 12 men. From this point as far as Notka or the bay of King George, no sort of order has been established.

5. Are there any other European settlements on the island of Kad'iak and adjacent islands, and if so, are there any missions for converting the natives, and of what faith?

There are no European settlements on either the islands nor on the mainland of America as far as the above mentioned Notka. Although English trading vessels have visited this coast, we have not heard of any preaching by these people. The political aims of our company exceed those of the English. There is no indication that they have ever appeared west of Sitka.

6. How many Russians are there, and how many Americans?

There are not more than 225 Russian promyshlenniks and settlers in all the settlements on Kad'iak, in Kinai and Chugatsk bays, and in Yakutat Bay. On Kad'iak alone there are over 8,000 Americans of both sexes.

7. What other islands lie near Kad'iak, how big are they, and how far are they from Kad'iak?

South of Kad'iak are 1) Agaektalik Island, 15 versts long and 5 versts wide, separated from Kad'iak by a strait 5 versts wide; 2) Tugidok, a low island, about 30 versts long from east to west, and 17 versts wide from north to west; and 3) Sitkhinok, mountainous and 43 versts long from east to west and 15 versts wide from north to west; 4) Kuiak Island, 4 versts long from north to southwest, and 34 versts wide from east to west, separated from Kad'iak by a strait 5 to 30 versts wide; 5) Ugak Island, almost a triangle, with each side about 3 versts in length, 5 versts from Kad'iak.

Twelve versts north of St. Paul's Harbor lies Afognak Island. There are many small islands and rocks in the strait between Kad'iak and Afognak. Afognak is 90 versts long from

north to southwest and from 10 to 50 versts wide, with many bays and inlets. Seven versts from Afognak is Evrashechei Island [Marmot Island], Mys Sviatogo Germogéna [Cape St. Hermogen] on earlier maps.

Two versts north of Afognak is Shuiak Island, 18 versts from northeast to southwest, 3 to 10 versts in width. Between Shuiak and the American mainland at Cape Kinai, called Cape Elisabeth on European maps, are three small, high, rocky islets, called Peregrebnye. Besides these islands there are many small uninhabited islets and rocks around Kad'iak.

Their positions.

8. What is the position of Kad'iak and the other islands, and do they incline more toward the north or south?

Kad'iak lies alongside the Aliaksa coast of the mainland [and inclining] from north to southwest.

9. Are the islands mountainous or level?

The coasts, not only of Kad'iak, but of the whole Aleutian chain, Cape Aliaksa and the adjacent islands, and also of the American mainland, are almost all rocky and mountainous. There are not two versts of level ground anywhere on Kad'iak.

10. How far are they from the Kurile and Aleutian islands and from the mainland of Kamchatka or America, and which is closest?

From Kad'iak to Okhotsk, following the Aleutian chain, the shortest route by open sea, is 4407 versts, to [Cape] Lopatka on Kamchatka is 3216 versts, to the Aleutian island of Unalashka is 913 versts, and to the American mainland at Cape Kinai (or Cape Elisabeth) is 140 versts.

11. At what season is it easiest to reach them, and why?

It was noted long ago that passage from Okhotsk to Kad'iak was easiest from August to October, for in those two

months there are mostly brisk fresh north and west winds, while at other times of the year they are changeable from north to southwest. At the same time passage from Iakutsk to Okhotsk is always slowed down until August. European vessels have always appeared at Kad'iak from May through July.

On trees and shrubs.

12. Are there fruit trees and other shrubs on Kad'iak and on other islands? What Russian trees and fruits grow there, which are more suitable to the climate, and which are the largest?

There are ample spruce for building on the northeast end of Kad'iak near St. Paul's Harbor, and also on Afognak. Elsewhere and on nearby islands there is nothing but alder and in some places poplar and birch. There is plenty of timber for shipbuilding on the American mainland at Chugatsk Bay where the company builds vessels. The Chugach timber is larch, of a different kind than the larch of Okhotsk, and better. Besides the common birch, spruce, poplar and alder, there is an aromatic wood called American cypress, [probably Chameae cyporis, nootkatensis, the Nootka Sound cypress or Alaska cedar], but it has a much poorer odor than the cypress of Europe, and has no pitch.

Rivers and lakes.

13. Are there rivers and lakes on these islands? How many are there? How big and how deep are they? What kind of water do they have? Do any have fish, and of what kind? Can they be used for food? Are there any other kinds than here, and of excellent taste?

There are no large rivers on Kad'iak and adjacent islands. There are many small lakes between the mountains and ravines, but although these contain many fish of small types the inhabitants have no need of them, for they can easily gain nourishment from the sea, from which at high tide

fish enter small streams in such abundance that they can be picked up with the hands. Although the water in the lakes is not salty it is not as good as in the small rivers. On the mainland of America, on Aliaska, and in the [Aliaska?] bay are large lakes on which there are native settlements. Almost all Russian types of fish are caught in them - pike [shuki], ling or burbot [nalimy], perch (okun'), chub, gólovli, and various types of roach [plotvá].

II. CLIMATE

1. What are the temperatures there during the four seasons?

During most of the year it is never really warm nor are there real frosts. The atmosphere is full of heavy sea fog most of the time.

2. What winds blow most, and are any of them harmful to people or livestock?

No winds harmful to man or beast are known, but it has been noted that on the rare occasions when the north and west winds blow, there is always clear weather. Those from northeast and southwest at all times of the year bring rain.

3. When exactly do spring, summer, fall and winter begin, and how long do they last?

It is hard to say exactly when spring begins, for during the whole year snow is rarely seen on the foothills and does not melt on the mountain tops, but it is evident in greenery which appears in the middle of May when the sun warms up (and in January is not often to be found). New snow appears on the mountains in early September, but on the foothills almost never before November, and even then depends on north and west winds (other winds carry rain), which always washes away the snow.

Animals and birds.

4. Are there animals and birds in the forests of these islands? Of what types are they, and are there any which are altogether unknown here?

Forest animals on Kad'iak include red bears, red foxes, cross foxes, and chernoburye [black brown], vydry [land otters] and gornostai [ermine]. Forest birds include two types of eagles, large and small, ravens, magpies and other predatory birds, and several types of small birds like European ones.

On the mainland of America, on Aliaska, in Kinai and Chugach, are red and black bears, wolves, foxes of various

types, wolverines, lynx, deer, wild sheep, marmots [evrashki], squirrels [belki], raccoons, porcupines or American hedgehogs, land otters, river beavers, mink and martens. The birds are the same as on Kad'iak.

Mineral deposits.

5. Are there any mineral deposits in those regions, if so which ones, and to what extent are they used by the natives?

There are iron deposits in many places on Kad'iak, but the natives have never worked the iron, except to burn it for painting their faces. The Russians in experiments have not found this iron very useful; in the small amount worked the iron appeared brittle. On the Copper River, on the mainland near Cape St. Elias, the natives find pieces of native copper natural plates, which works very well raw but is brittle when smelted. Where the vein is from which the natives take out those pieces of copper will someday be discovered. Considerable coal is found on the mainland at Kinai Bay. To the north near the volcanoes, masses of purest transparent sulpher like amber is gathered. On the west coast of Kad'iak amber itself is sometimes thrown up from the sea. The natives use it for decoration, fasten it to their ears, and regard it as a precious stone, but do not believe it to be a pitch substance.

6. With what do the islands most abound for the maintenance of the natives?

The natives get both food and clothing from the sea. They kill quite a few whales, using their meat and fat for food, they mix the fat with different berries -- black berries, crowberry, blackberry, and raspberry, making burduk from roots of wild lily [saranā] and squaw lily [makarsha], they mix it with the same fat, also dip fish in the same fat. They use sea animals, seals, or sea lions and various sorts of hair

seals in the same way, and make baidarkas from their skins! For clothes they catch great numbers of sea birds - shag [urila], puffin [toporki], diver [ara] and others like them - and from their skins sew parkas like priests robes, [also] with shoulder straps and aprons.

7. Is there cedar or cypress pitch which could be used in churches?

There is not pitch suitable for use in churches.

8. Could grape vines be grown there?

There is not the slightest hope of that.

On grain growing.

9. Is there agriculture on the island of Kad'iak and other islands? How much is sown and what kind of wheat? What is the yield of wheat and vegetables, and what is the amount of threshed wheat in comparison with seeds?

10. If agriculture is not started is it possible to do so?

Agriculture has been tried, but in spite of many attempts is impossible. All sown wheat always started but nowhere ripened because it is too cool, because of fog, and because the Russians having more important tasks of hunting sea animals ceased to work in agriculture and the natives can support themselves more easily from the sea. Having no need of bread, they showed no interest for this, and even if wheat ripened it might not create a desire. Agriculture would necessitate horses and tools. Of vegetables, only potatoes, turnips and radishes could be raised. Although others sprouted they disappeared without a trace.

Cattle raising.

11. Are there cattle and other livestock? Were they there before or were they introduced now from Russia, and are the islands suitable for livestock raising?

Cattle were introduced on Kad'iak in Shelikhov's time and increased well. There are quite a few goats, and horses were introduced in 1794. Previously the natives had no

domestic animals except dogs, which they did not use for food, however. Although the islands are suitable for livestock raising, it will be difficult to lead the natives to it at the present time or in the near future because of their laziness and indifference.

12. Which diseases afflict people and livestock to the greatest degree? Is it the same as in other places?

Because of their slovenliness, most of the natives are afflicted with venereal disease, other types of epidemics, pain in the chest [tuberculosis?] and special kind of large carbuncles, from which both natives and Russians frequently die. Many suffer from eye trouble, also many frequently become blind because of reflection of the sun's rays from snowy mountains and the smudge from burning fats also affects vision.

III. STATISTICAL

The Natives

1. Are the local natives named after the islands [they inhabit] or by any different original name?

Why the Kad'iak natives are called Kaniagas is hard to explain. Other tribes - the Aliaksans, Kinais, and Chugaches-take their names from places they have settled.

Government

2. How long ago did they settle on the island of Kad'iak? Have they any conception of other inhabitants in the world, at least in adjacent lands, and from what direction does their conception point more, to Asia or to America, and from what direction can it be concluded that they came to those islands?

The natives of Kad'iak think that all people living around them originated from them. Their language is similar to that of the Aliaksans and even in [those] places across from Chukotskii Nos. It would seem that the Kinai people must have come from the interior of America, becuase their language is closer to that of natives in the interior of the country. Their way of life and customs are also similar.

3. Have they some form of government and laws by which they honor elders, or the strongest, and if they commit offenses, on what basis are they judged? How are they most inclined to subordination?

4. If they have chiefs, or rulers, of what type are they and what are they called? How were the inhabitants governed formerly, and how are they governed now? How far does the chief's power extend, and in what manner, and is this title or position inherited or [received by] election?

Although they have councils of elders and experienced persons, it is most of all people distinguishing themselves

in war who have an effect on the hearts of the inhabitants; but of subordination they have no conception. Their taions, although they are called chiefs, are always family men and distinguish themselves in previous wars, and besides those who have many kalgas or slaves, with which they act independently, and either give to whoever wants them, or sell them or leave them to heirs; but they cannot be judges over their neighbors or punish for crime.

5. How do they investigate crimes? Is there any punishment for crimes, of what kind and who decides it?

No one sets any kind of punishment for crime. If those injured are strong enough they themselves get revenge with death openly, and if unable to do it openly they await an opportunity to do it by stealth. If unable to gain revenge they pass on the task to future generations. A dying father will bequeath to his son [the obligation] to revenge his insult, and so forth.

Food

6. What do the islanders eat? What meat from which animals do they eat? Which eat fish, and which do not?

They live on sea fish, various sorts of sea clams and snails which they generally eat raw. They eat meat of various sea and land animals indiscriminately.

7. Do they have domestic vessels? If so, which?

They have very few vessels. They keep fat in seal bladders, which hold from 5 to 10 buckets full, and for daily use they put things in halibut bladders. They keep berries in wooden baskets made by slaves, and in containers made from roots. They are now learning to make dishes and spoons, but by habit eat with their fingers.

8. How do they prepare food now, and how did they prepare it before?

Those who have Russian kettles boil meat and fish in them; and those who haven't them still boil food in woven

baskets of grass with heated stones, but mostly they eat everything raw.

9. At what time do they now dine? When did they dine before?

They eat very often and in small amounts, but have no set time for dinner. They are satisfied with clams and snails, which they get when the tide is out, usually twice in 24 hours, by day or by night.

Clothing

10. What kind of clothing and shoes do they wear? Is there any different clothing for men and women, and how do they differ?

As stated above, both men and women wear clothes sown from bird skins like priests robes except that women have dresses down to their ankles. They model clothes from woolen and cotton fabric obtained from the Russians in the same way.

Habitations

11. Where do most of the islanders have their buildings, how distant are they from one another, how many families are there in each village? Do they have houses and what are they made of? What are they in appearance, size and interior arrangement, and is there any decoration, and how many families live in each house?

As said above in the topographical section, the natives have their settlements by the sea shore, in bays and harbors and near small streams, and very often change places and houses according to the seasons. In spring they usually live where fish first come from the ocean, and in winter on beaches from which they can obtain food.

Customs

12. What kind of customs exist among them?

13. What are their marriage customs? At what age do they marry? How many wives do men have? Are cases known of relationship between wife and husband? Under what conditions do they marry? Do they live together until death or leave each other of their

own free will or any other cause? How do they divorce?

They do not have marriage rites. The bride and groom, meeting alone several times, come to agreement, and after that declare to the girl's father, and from that time the groom must live with his father-in-law until children are born. Once children are born he is free to live wherever he wishes. Girls marry young, sometimes at not over 10 years. Rich men, that is, having prisoners or kalgas, have two and three wives, and poor men only one. Sometimes one well-to-do woman will have two or three husbands, who live peacefully together, without any jealousy. Some keep two sisters and others keep mother and daughter, not because they do not know the relationship, but because there is no punishment for the crime. Marriage is not firm because one or the other can dissolve it for the least small excuse. If the couple have children they divide them between themselves by mutual agreement.

Upbringing

14. Do they look after children, and give them any sort of upbringing?

They love children ardently, but neither the father nor mother can punish them except by words. They teach the boys to hunt animals, to make frames for baidarkas, and the girls to sew baidarkas, parkas, kamleikas, etc.

Handicrafts

15. What handicrafts do men and women practice? Are they talented at them and diligent?

Men and women are skilled at handiwork, but [undertake it] only in extreme need. They will never undertake anything except by necessity for they are very improvident and lazy.

Trade

16. What constitutes trade of the islanders? Do they catch animals, birds, and fish? What kind of tools do they use for this? What do they make from the furs and skins? To whom

do they sell them?

They hunt both land and sea animals. They kill whales with stone arrows, fur seals and hair seals with bone spears, bears with two pronged spears, sea otters with arrows with bone tips, birds with nets woven from whale tndons, and with snares. They catch whales, fur seals and hair seals as explained above. They use bear skins for beds and sometimes for parkas, and they trade sea otter and river beavers and otter and foxes with the Russians for different Russian wares.

Ship building

17. On what vessels do they go to sea and in rivers? What kind of timber do they build with? How do they look and what is their size? What are they called? How many men do they carry? How are they managed on the water?

The vessels used on the sea are called baidarkas. The frames are made of wooden lathes covered with sealskin, that is the skin of fur or hair seals without wool. They are large enough for a man to sit in. They wrap skin near the hatch around themselves and tie it. They row with small oars [carried on] the baidarkas. One-hatched baidarkas are up to seven arshin in length, two hatch ones up to nine arshins, and three hatched ones up to ten and eleven arshins. They are wide enough for a man to get in. Concerning this see the attached sketches.

Trade

18. Do the people there carry on trade among themselves, and with foreigners? With whom? For money or by means of barter? What sort of things are exchanged?

They do not trade among themselves. One who has something gives it, but with the understanding that he will receive a present in exchange. They trade animal products with the Russians.

19. Are goods brought to them from Russia, and if so what? Do they buy them for money or barter?

The Russians bring various iron wares, copper kettles, Chinese cloth, silk shawls, cotton and woolens of different kinds, also linen and deburety[?], and various other goods from the islanders to the Americans, with whom they exchange sea otter, foxes, land otter, and all manner of furs. The natives have no conception of money.

20. Are goods also brought there from other countries, and namely what?

When I was on Kad'iak there were no Europeans except Russians, but the English came to the mainland every year to trade with the Americans. They exchanged woolens, powder, rifles and different iron wares for sea otters. They also gave many of them clothes. The Kad'iak natives go to those shores under supervision of Russians, and trade parkas, gut threads, and other Kad'iak products with the Americans for various things.

21. What are the prices among them, of bread, meat and fish, for example?

Inasmuch as each family get all the animals, birds and fish, none of it is sold or purchased, but when one of those things is brought to the Russians and presented, in appreciation they present them with tobacco and shirts, and needles, earrings and beads, and whatever they consider worth the present brought to them.

Wealth

22. What constitutes wealth for the natives? What do they use for ornament for themselves and in their houses? Do they use money? If so, what kind, and do they know how to count it?

Their main wealth consists of kalgas or prisoners, which they leave to heirs. Formerly corals and beads were important items of wealth, but now they prefer European clothing, shawls, and iron tools. They have no money and

no knowledge of counting.

Illnesses and remedies

23. What illnesses beset the people? Have they doctors, and what remedies do they use?

The principal diseases as said above are venereal diseases, pain in teh chest, ailments and carbuncles of unusual size. They also have many eye ailments and many go blind. They treat venereal diseases with diet, pains and carbuncles with incisions, and let blood. They often operate successfully to take cataracts from the eyes by tying a hair on a living louse, of which they have plenty on their heads and clothing, and let it suck the sore, and when they notice that it has grasped the membrane with its legs, they pull it away and then repeating the same process many times they clear the eye of the cataract.

On war

24. Were there wars in former times between the natives of Kad'iak and adjacent islands, and how is it now? What were the main reasons for them? On whose counsel did they start them? What kind of weapons did they employ? How did they set out on campaigns? Did they go in special boats? Did they have special leaders? How did they attack enemies, and what did they use? Of what type were their battles, and did they occur also on water, and what vessels did they employ for that? What kind of weapons did they use in battle? Have they some form of battle formation? What did they do with prisoners?

War is the favorite diversion for the natives, but now the Russians have stopped that. The Kad'iak natives formerly waged continuous war with the Aleuts of Unalashka and with the Americans of Kinai and Chugach

Bays. Consequently there are many American war prisoners on Kad'iak and many Kad'iak islanders held as prisoners by the Americans. The company tries to free these and return them to their relatives, and to put those who have no relatives to work for the company, especially as interpreters with neighboring peoples. The reason for making war is to capture prisoners, clothing and food. They take children and women as prisoners. They kill all adults and elders, and torture mercilessly. One village makes war on another if someone is heard singing an abusive song about somebody, for example that so and so is not a warrior nor a hunter, or worst of all that someone is a woman. Then the insulted proclaims to all his relatives that he trying to persuade them to take revenge, and finally they select the time to fall upon their village unexpectedly, kill them and plunder their homes. Whole villages formerly went on campaign to America in great skin baidaras with all their families, and often none of them ever returned. In battle they used only spears and arrows.

25. Do they have rifles and powder, and from whom do they get them?

The Americans living beyond Cape St. Elias have rifles and powder. They buy them from English traders, but the Kad'iak islanders do not have them.

26. Do they have forts, and how are they built?

Hearing of attack by a strong enemy, they leave their villages and move from the shore to hills or rocks where there is a supply of water and dried fish. Thus protected they keep away the enemy with stones and arrows but they have no specially built forts.

27. Do they receive any special awards for bravery in battle, and if so, what kind and from who?

Bravery in war is rewarded by the respect of the [other] natives and acquiring of prisoners.

Holidays and games

28. What sort of holidays and games exist among the islanders, and on what occasions?

Their games usually are in November and December after harvest of various roots, berries and fats. They gather and dance, each to his taste and present plays, after which the host should bestow presents on all of his guests.

Burial of the dead

29. How do these people bury their dead and with what customs?

The Kad'iak natives usually place their dead in a sitting position, with wreaths and weapons used by them for hunting. On the death of near relations they paint their faces, cut their hair, and go for several days to the place where the dead are buried. They observe no other customs.

The various islanders, their way of life, facial appearance, language etc.

30. Do the islanders have one way of life, facial appearance, height, language, ways, customs and manners, food, clothing, crafts and trades? If they differ on each island, which of them are repeated and which are not and why?

The way of life of both the islanders and the people living on the mainland are almost the same. In facial appearance, only the Fox Island Aleuts differ from the others. The language of the Kad'iak islanders

is like that of the Chugaches and Aliaskans. The Kinais, Copper River people, Koliuzhi and Ugaliantsy are all different in their languages. The customs, food and clothing of all [these] peoples are the same.

31. Are many Americans subject to Russia and converted to Christianity, and how many remain unconverted?

Including the Unalashkan Aleuts, nearly 12,000 have accepted Holy Baptism and submit to Russian rule. It is difficult to say how many are unconverted to Christianity, for the farther [one goes] toward Notka or Prince George Sound, the more numerous they are. Although numerous tribes live to the north of Aliaska, they have no intercourse with the Russians. Only those living near are yet [acquainted with the Russians].

32. Do they pay any kind of tax? To whom and in what amount?

In former times the Okhotsk government issued books to the skipper of each fur gathering vessel for collection of iasak from the islanders, but since 1794 the government has forbidden it, and now no one pays taxes of any sort.

33. Are there any missionaries from other countries on the islands, do they come there on ships or frigates, and toward whom are the islanders most inclined?

There are no missionaries of any sort from other countries, either on the islands nor on the mainland, nor have there been. As to what nation the natives are most inclined toward, it is hard to say, for by custom they always prefer the strongest.

IV. ESTHETIC

Faith

1. Have the natives, besides those already converted to Christianity, any conception of God? What do they call Him, and do they have any sort of religious service, or adhere to idolatry? What sort of idols have they? What do they call them? What kind of sacrifices do they make, and for what purpose? Are there any sects among them?

They recognize a supreme being called Agaiun, or the good spirit, who teaches people to make baidarkas, helps them to catch animals, and to satisfy all human needs, but they give him neither sacrifices nor worship, knowing that he never does evil [they recognize] a bad spirit, named Gak, who everwhere tries to harm people, and therefore try to please him, dress in strange guise, and some practice shamanism, but they have no idols.

2. Have they a conception of virtue and sins, and how are they set forth?

They understand virtue as all that is according to custom; everything contrary to custom they consider evil.

3. What do they think about a future, happy life beyond, and what is their idea of it?

They recognize a future life, new demands based on sensuality, believe that good people in future life will live by hunting, and the bad will be in poverty and languish in hunger, and therefore they bury with the best people all military and hunting tools, and in addition above his favorite prisoner was killed and buried with him for service in another life.

4. Are they hospitable and affectionate, and have they philanthropy?

5. What are the chief sins in their customs and behavior?

The chief sins among them are inhumanity and complete heedlessness.

6. Are they willing to turn to Christian faith? Do they respect the church services?

They accept holy baptism without reservation, but it is notable that in their errors older people look up to the younger, considering it dishonorable not to be baptised. Reverence for holy services and constancy in Christian virtue is noticeable in the young. The younger generation accept Christian ways, especially those who are exposed to Russian influence.

7. Do the unconverted feel aversion toward Christians, and if so, for what reason?

There is no emnity among them toward the newly baptised.

8. Are they inclined toward education, and is there hope of instilling in them necessary education?

There is reason to hope that in time they will be educated.

9. Are they inclined more toward art or letters?

The natives show ability for both letters and art, but measures should be taken against their natural characteristics of laziness.

10. How do they receive Russian missionaries, and what esteem do they now have for them?

As far as arrival of missionaries is concerned, these inhabitants have not been burdened and their life has be come easier because missionaries have helped them when they were in need, which has created in them good feeling about missionaries.

11. How do we treat them, and on what basis does our power over them exist?

Russia cannot rule such far flung and numerous peoples by strength alone [requiring allegiance], but only by the Company establishing a kindly

order, and displaying toward the people condescension, tenderness, and various political means to forestall their tendency toward barbarism and internal strife [which existed] before the Russians came. They will not endure any despotism and know how to kill oppressors, or if they are unable to do so they flee to the interior and collect enough forces will make raids.

12. Are they required to give labor or pay taxes for iasak?

Iasak has not been collected since 1794. Without compensation it is impossible to get native workers either on Kad'iak nor on the mainland. Without hostages no work could be done by the Company. Inasmuch as hostages are taken as a tax in fidelity, they learn the Russian customs but the other savages still retain their former barbarism. When their relations come to visit them they see the order in Russian harbors and trade and get acquainted and strengthen mutual ties. There are now very few amanats on Kad'iak and those are only for security. The toians usually supply workers and their women from among the unmarried. Many of the war prisoners ransomed by the Russians from their owners help the company in the preparation of foodstuffs, which are given to all arriving Americans without exception, and often on departure they are supplied if they are living somewhere with insufficient means. They perform many tasks necessary for the company, and they are given [foodstuffs] because of many errands on the islands and mainland gathering furs, performing sea voyages impossible to make with Russian promyshlenniki. However they need constant care and watchfulness in harbors, forts and labor parties, to be kept in readiness without layoff, for under the company's rule on Kad'iak and other islands and on the mainland there are more than ten thousand people, who have still not entirely forgotten their inborn barbarous customs and often under suitable circumstances unconsciously return to the old

customs. There are seldom more and almost always less than two hundred promyshlenniki in all the company, and therefore it is necessary to accept servants from those same peoples, and all the same as amanats so serving in the company are supported with company food, supplied with clothing and footgear. The more diligent and zealous of them are often given the same compensation as Russian promyshlenniki. The most able of the amanats are usually taken into the Kad'iak schools, not by force, but by their own free will.

13. What is more important, education of the savages or greed?

At first the Company was evidently attracted to these places by greed, and education of the savages came unintentionally. With greed gone, they will not think about education of the savages.

14. Are there churches on Kad'iak and on the mainland? How many of them and where?

On Kad'iak the local wooden church was consecrated in 1796, and for those living on the mainland there are two travelling [pokhodnye] churches [in tents?].

15. On what basis are churches and parishes established?

Churches must be considered as needed by the Company, as are built and all needs supplied by the Company, and the natives do not help the church in any way and because of their poverty receive aid from the church if possible.

16. How far along the coast does Christianity extend?

From the Aleutian Islands and Cape Aliaksa along the American mainland to Bering and Iakutat Bays and to Chilkhat quite a few of the inhabitants have received holy baptism.

17. Who carries out holy service and needs?

Holy mass and services are carried out by the mission of hieromonks there.

18. Are there Americans educated in Russian language who are able to do holy office?

Since arrival of the mission on Kad'iak, some have been trained under special supervision are able to conduct holy duties in church service, but all of them are still young, raised by the Company and educated in language and literacy. Before arrival of the mission the Americans served more at seafaring duties and therefore according to their ability are performing many tasks very useful to the company.

19. Can wine, incense and wax for candles needed for the Church be obtained and are they difficult to get?

Everything needed for the church, including flour for the host has to come from Russia via Okhotsk. If the vessel arrives safely all supplies needed for the church and for ourselves for allotments and support of our houses in Kad'iak at least three years in advance.

20. What and how many books are needed for education of children?

Although the Holy Ruling Synod prescribed that some of the American youths held by the Company as hostages should be sent to the Irkutsk seminary for education, this is accompanied by the greatest difficulties, for besides the difficulties of travel most of the Americans perish before reaching Iakutsk because of the change of climate, smallpox andoother diseases. It would be easier and less expensive to send teachers to Kad'iak instead, or to choose from the number selected by the Most Reverend Bishop Veniamin of Irkutsk and [Kolyvan?] for the Kad'iak bishop's (house) and choir, now instructed in the grammar school on Kad'iak. If an order of the Holy Ruling Synod is issued, it will be known what kind of books will be needed for school.

21. How and by what means can the spread of the Christian religion be strengthened on the islands, and what kind of government should be created

among them (the islands)?

To spread the Christian religion sincerely and not greedily it should have everything needed for ourselves and for the church, independently of the natives, until sincere desire of the natives for the church and Bible is strengthened and established and their sincerity proven. Preachers should have kindly attitudes toward the natives and if possible help them in need. But what kind of government should be established among the natives is still impossible to say. Time will tell how successful the education of the natives has been, and how they will make a livelihood.

22. How can the difficulties of the route from Iakutsk and Okhotsk be overcome?

Both the government and private persons have tired to overcome the difficulty of this route for a long time, but in spite of considerable expenditure it remains the same.

To give a better idea of the places mentioned above, I am enclosing a map of the northeastern [sic] American coast occupied by the Russians, and of the main Kad'iak settlement. Full detailed information about the local region can be sent with the first transport from Kad'iak.

Archimandrite Ioasaf, Kad'iak