"Russian America: The Forgotten Frontier," the first-ever exhibition of the record of Russian activity in North America during the 18th and 19th centuries, will open at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art Nov. 18.

This major exhibit, which documents the Russian presence from Bering Strait to Baja California, will remain on view in Anchorage through Feb. 10, 1991, in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the North American discoveries for Russia by Vitus Bering.

"Russian America: The Forgotten Frontier" will occupy 4,000 square feet with 700 artifacts, illustrations, dioramas and audio-visual presentations. Items on loan for the exhibit are from more than 80 American institutions in New York, Colorado, Washington, D.C., California and Washington. Items are also from Alaska, numerous individuals and the countries of Canada, Finland and the USSR.

The exhibit includes documents, objects and art on loan from many major Soviet museums and archives. It is divided into six sections. Major subject areas include:

- "Finding Russian America," the discovery by Vitus Bering.
- "Settling In," the arrival of the Russian hunters, the promysledniki.
- "Running a Colony," the organization of the Russian America Co.
- "Living in Russian America," the cultural and social aspects of the colony.
- "The Legacy," the lasting influence of the Russians on the West Coast of the United States.

A print of Byron Birdsall's "Four Saints of Alaska" is included in the exhibit.