

Barbara Smith, U of A, Anchorage Campus
Address to the Cook Inlet Historical Society
Sept., 1974, Anchorage Taped by Neville Jacobs
Russian Orthodox Church History

Dr. Smith discusses the history of the Russian Orthodox Church in Alaska from the arrival of the first priests on Kodiak Island, to the present day activity and distribution in Alaska.

Dr. Smith details problems of research on the church in Alaska, and considers the availability of documents, their location and distribution in various institutions in the main U.S., and especially the Smithsonian collection. She also discusses documents in collections of the churches in Sitka, Kodiak and Russian Mission on the Yukon; at the University of Alaska main campus; and various other little-known sources for research on the Russian Orthodox Church.

Professor Smith also suggests a number of projects which could be "spun off" from her first efforts. She says a great need exists to catalogue/existing material which is still quantities of "packed in cartons," and of totally unknown content. She points out that the impact of the Russian Church on Alaskan history has never been studied nor has the history of the church itself been explored in many ramifications.