

LETTERS

From the *Slavic Review* Editorial Board:

Slavic Review publishes signed letters to the editor by individuals with educational or research merit. Where the letter concerns a publication in *Slavic Review*, the author of the publication will be offered an opportunity to respond. Space limitations dictate that comment regarding a book review should be restricted to one paragraph of no more than 250 words; comment on an article or forum should not exceed 750 to 1,000 words. When we receive many letters on a topic, some letters will be published on the *Slavic Review* web site with opportunities for further discussion. Letters may be submitted by e-mail, but a signed copy on official letterhead or with a complete return address must follow. The editor reserves the right to refuse to print, or to publish with cuts, letters that contain personal abuse or otherwise fail to meet the standards of debate expected in a scholarly journal.

To the Editor:

We would like to register our surprise at the extremely one-sided and misleading treatment given to Andrei Grinev's book *The Tlingit Indians in Russian America, 1741–1867* in the review by Lydia Black (*Slavic Review*, vol. 66, no. 1). The review tells readers nothing about the content of the book, which provides an original analysis of Russian-Tlingit relations. The reviewer also fails to mention that the Russian edition (*Indeitsy tlinkity v period Russkoi Ameriki*, 1991) has already had a significant impact on specialists in Tlingit history such as Sergei Kan, who acknowledge Grinev's unparalleled familiarity with the pertinent documents in Russian archives. Grinev's work thus presents a valuable complement to that of North American scholars who have had the opportunity to do fieldwork among the contemporary Tlingit. Finally, although the review correctly points out that Grinev focuses on economic aspects of Russian-Tlingit interactions, his analysis extends to transformations of Tlingit social structure as well, and the theoretical framework of the book, drawing on the Soviet theoretician Iurii Semenov, cannot simply be dismissed as orthodox Marxism. One would expect reviews in *Slavic Review* to present more nuanced views of the merits of Russian and Soviet intellectual traditions.

SONJA LUEHRMANN

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

ILYA VINKOVETSKY

Simon Fraser University

Professor Black passed away in March 2007.