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## **The first scientific exploration of Russian America and the purchase of Alaska, (Northwestern University studies in the social sciences)**

*James Alton James*

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Primary interest in the preparation of the present volume has centered in the effort to ascertain the specific contributions made by these explorers, assistants in the Smithsonian Institution, to Senator Sumner's knowledge of Russian America. What, in other words, was their influence on the acquisition of Alaska by the United States? Solution of the problem has been made possibly, chiefly, through access of the journal which was kept by Kennicott during 1859-62, and the Journal by Bannister, in 1865-66. Includes original material including letters and testimonies, analyses by the authors, and illustrations.