

## Alton Stewart Donnelly, 1920–2007

Alton S. Donnelly died on 2 January 2007 in Binghamton, New York, after years of declining health. Born in Springville, Utah, on 20 November 1920, Alton grew up in Wyoming. After briefly attending Brigham Young University and the University of Wyoming, he joined the navy with the coming of World War II and trained as a fighter pilot. He served in combat in the Pacific aboard the USS *Nehenta Bay*, remained active in the Naval Reserve, and was again called to active duty during the Korean War. When he retired from the Naval Reserve, he had attained the rank of captain.

Alton's Russian-language training in the military sparked his lifelong interest in the history of Siberia, the Russian-American Company, and Central Asia. As a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, he studied under Raymond Fisher. Selected as one of thirty Americans to participate in the first exchange with the Soviet Union in 1958, he stayed on in 1959 to serve as a guide at the American Exhibition in Moscow. After he returned to the United States, he completed his PhD at Berkeley in 1960 and then taught at both Northern Illinois University and Fairfield College before relocating to the State University of New York at Binghamton, where he would spend his career.

Alton's first major publication was *The Russian Conquest of Bashkiria, 1552–1740: A Case Study in Imperialism* (Yale, 1968). This was followed by a series of translations (often with Richard Pierce): S. G. Fedorova's *The Russian Population in Alaska and California* (1973), R. V. Makarova's *Russians on the Pacific, 1743–1799* (1975), and P. A. Tikhmenev's *History of the Russian-American Company* (2 vols., 1978–1979). *Canadian Slavonic Papers* published his research on Peter the Great and Central Asia in 1975. In 1985 he returned to translation with T. Tarakanov's *The Wreck of the Sv. Nikola*. His book on Bashkiria was published in Russia in 1995, and Alton received a gold medal and honorary membership in the Bashkortostan Academy of Sciences.

Always interested in topics few westerners studied, Alton nonetheless found time to devote attention to generations of students. His enthusiasm for his subject was infectious, and his classes were always relaxed but demanding. Ever the scholar and pioneer, even after retirement, Alton was gathering material for a history of Siberia.

The field has indeed suffered a loss with his passing. Alton is survived by his wife and soulmate, Kathleen, who often accompanied him during his lengthy stays in the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation. His warm personality, dedication to his work, and endless curiosity will be greatly missed by his students and colleagues.

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## Elliott D. Mossman, 1942–2007

Жизнь прожить—не поле перейти.

—Boris Pasternak, *Hamlet*

After a long and debilitating illness, Elliott D. Mossman, a former editor of *Slavic Review*, died in Princeton, New Jersey, on 16 March 2007. Elliott was a major force in the development of Slavic studies at the University of Pennsylvania as a teacher, administrator, and scholar. His editorship of *Slavic Review* from spring 1992 to spring 1996 left a deep and

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