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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: **September 16, 2008**

NORA AND RICHARD DAUENHAUER TO SPEAK AT THE ASM “THE RUSSIANS IN TLINGIT AMERICA”

Nora Marks Dauenhauer and Richard Dauenhauer, the internationally acclaimed authors of numerous publications on Tlingit language and culture, will present a lecture and book signing at the Alaska State Museum in Juneau on Friday, October 3, from 7 to 9 pm.

The presentation will focus on the subject of their most recent book, entitled “Anóoshi Lingít Aaní Ká: Russians in Tlingit America—The Battles of Sitka 1802 and 1804,” which they edited with the late Dr. Lydia Black. Both Nora and Richard Dauenhauer serve as professors at the University of Alaska Southeast.

Steve Henrikson, Curator of Collections, will also present an overview of early illustrations and artifacts relating to the interactions between the Tlingits and Russians.

The book, which took over two decades of research and translation, is the latest volume in the highly regarded Classics of Tlingit Oral Literature series published by the Sealaska Heritage Institute and the University of Washington Press. Copies of the book will be available for sale at the Museum Store, operated by the Friends of the Museum.

Nora was one of sixteen children of noted artist Emma Marks of Yakutat and fisherman and carver Willie Marks of Juneau. Nora's Tlingit name at birth was Keixwnéi, and she is a member of the Raven moiety of the Tlingit nation, Lukaax.ádi clan, Shaka Hít or Canoe Prow House, from the Alsek River. She earned a degree in anthropology from Alaska Methodist University in Anchorage, and has worked tirelessly for over thirty years to teach and document the Tlingit language and to record Tlingit history. In 2005, she won a Community Spirit Award from the First Peoples Fund, a Native American organization that supports the arts.

Richard received a B.A. in Russian and Slavic languages from Syracuse University, an M.A. in German from the University of Texas, and a Ph.D. in comparative literature from the University of Wisconsin. He came to Alaska in the late 1960s to teach at Alaska Methodist University (now Alaska Pacific University), and has since been involved in studying and teaching the Tlingit language, oral tradition, and ethnohistory.

The Dauenhauers are also poets. In 1981 Richard Dauenhauer was named to a four-year term as Poet Laureate of Alaska, and has published several volumes of poetry including “Glacier Bay Concerto,” “Phenologies,” and “Frames of Reference.” Nora is a poet and playwright, with work published in *The Droning Shaman*, *Life Woven with Song*, and many anthologies.

The lecture is sponsored by the Friends of the Alaska State Museum. The event is open to the public and free of charge.

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