FOREWORD

By the middle of the 1930's the history seminar conducted on the Berkeley campus by the late Professor Robert J. Kerner had attracted a sizable group of dedicated young scholars bent on launching upon their own voyages of discovery into what was a terra incognita in our American historiography. Here the early ties between Russia and her "colonies" in Alaska and California were studied, the background for the diplomatic relations between Russia and China during the seventeenth century were explored, the fundamentals of Russian expansion into the Pacific area were examined, and various aspects of the history of the Slavic world were assessed.

One of the outstanding members of this seminar was Andrew Malozemoff, whose all-consuming passion was the history of Siberia and Russian policy in the Far East, a subject that he virtually ate, dreamed, and breathed. The present monograph is the result of his investigations. In his book, Andrew Malozemoff coolly and objectively analyzes the events that culminated in the conflict; he reassesses and reëvaluates the data and in so doing brings the events into sharp focus and into a new light.

Unfortunately, Andrew Malozemoff did not live to receive the recognition to which his book will entitle him. After his death in 1952, his mother, Dr. Elizabeth Malozemoff, took upon herself the task of seeing that his manuscript was published. The resultant monograph is now not only a befitting memorial to her son's scholarship as a historian, it is also a tribute to Robert J. Kerner as a teacher. I feel sure my colleagues throughout the United States will join me in welcoming the present volume.

OLEG A. MASLENIKOV

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