

Российская академия наук
Институт восточных рукописей
Казанский (Приволжский) федеральный университет
ГБУ РТ «Редакция «Книга Памяти»



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Миргасимовича Валеева

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Сборник посвящен 70-летию доктора исторических наук, профессора Рамиля Миргасимовича Валеева — историка, преподавателя, крупнейшего в Татарстане специалиста по истории российского востоковедения, архивов и книжных собраний. В сборник вошли статьи его коллег, посвященные истории китаистики, маньчжуроведения, истории Ближнего и Среднего Востока, музейных и книжных коллекций, биографиям и переписке известных ученых, связанных с востоковедением в Казани. Кроме того, в сборнике затронуты вопросы взаимоотношения России и Востока, включая сюжеты, касающиеся истории, культуры и науки Татарстана.

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LETTERS FROM SAMUEL BUTLER (1774–1839) TO JULIUS KLAPROTH (1782–1835)

Summary. Julius Klaproth, one of the founders of modern East Asian Studies and member (adjunct) of the Russian Academy of Sciences, entertained contacts with many contemporary Orientalists. Only a small part of his correspondence has been preserved; especially noteworthy is a collection held by the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg (Klaproth papers, Fond 783). Among the little known correspondents was Samuel Butler (1774–1839), a British clergyman and educator of renown (Fond 738, Op. 2, No. 14). Their common interest seems to have been the development and history of scripts and writing; possibly Baron Merian, of the Russian Foreign Service, may have forged the acquaintance. The introduction dwells on Klaproth's role as a scholar in St. Petersburg and the reasons for his leaving the Academy.

In recent years, a series of letters from and to the orientalist Julius Klaproth have come to light¹, which allow a more accurate assessment of his personality. There are also a number of biographical sketches, so only a few things need be repeated here.

¹ H. Walravens. *Julius Klaproths (1783–1835) Briefe an den Orientalisten und Erfinder Paul Ludwig Schilling von Canstadt (1786–1837). Samt Schreiben an den Sinologus Berolinensis sowie Ergänzungen zum Schriftenverzeichnis Klaproths.* Norderstedt: BoD2020. 100 pp. Stanislas Julien (1797–1873): *Wissenschaftliche Korrespondenz über China mit Schilling von Canstadt, Klaproth, Endlicher, Gabelentz, und A. von Humboldt.* Norderstedt: BoD2021. 110 pp. *Briefe an den Orientalisten Julius Klaproth (1783–1835) von britischen Gelehrten: George Thomas Staunton, Viscount Kingsborough und William Huttman.* Norderstedt: BoD2021. 95 pp. *Gelehrtenbriefe an J.P.A. Rémusat und J. Klaproth.* Aus der Geschichte der Orientalistik am Anfang des 19. Jh. Herausgegeben und übersetzt. Norderstedt: BoD2022. 154 pp. Briefe des Indologen Graves C. Haughton (1788–1849) an den Orientalisten Julius Klaproth, 1825–1833. *Orientierungen* 33.2021–22, pp. 103–138. Philipp Franz von Siebold and Julius Klaproth — their relationship and cooperation. *ZDMG* 2022, pp. 199–225.

Julius Klaproth² came from a privileged Berlin family — his father, the apothecary Zum Weißen Schwan, Martin Heinrich Klaproth (1743–1817) was a respected scientist and member of the Prussian Academy of Sciences, who discovered several chemical elements, including uranium in 1789. Naturally, young Klaproth was supposed to become a scientist as well, but he vigorously opposed these plans: while still at school, he studied the Chinese manuscripts in the Royal Library and was remarkably successful at it. He attracted the attention of Count Jan Potocki (1761–1815), who became known as an explorer and historian, and who recommended him as a lecturer in Chinese for an Oriental Academy planned for 1804 in Vilnius. Instead, Klaproth accompanied the (unsuccessful) 1805 embassy of Count Jurij Aleksandrovič Golovkin (1762–1846) to China, which had to be broken off in Urga.³ Klaproth used the return journey from Irkutsk for research along the Russian-Chinese border. Subsequently, in 1807–1808, the Petersburg Academy, of which he had become an adjunct, sent him on a journey to explore the Caucasus, which he described in a two-volume work.⁴ His next project was to catalogue the Chinese and Manchu books in the library of the Petersburg Academy; the catalogue was to be printed, but no Chinese fonts were available. So Klaproth was sent to Berlin to have them engraved. A sample sheet of the wooden types has been preserved.⁵ So far, the events are known and understandable. We do

² *Julius Klaproth (1783–1835). Leben und Werk.* Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz 1999. X, 230 S. (Orientalistik Bibliographien und Dokumentationen 3.)

³ Władysław Kotwicz: *Die russische Gesandtschaftsreise nach China 1805.* Zu Leben und Werk des Grafen Jan Potocki [1761–1815]. Nebst Ergänzungen aus russischen und chinesischen Quellen. Berlin: Bell 1991. 119 pp. 4to (Han-pao tung-Ya shu-chi mu-lu 44.)

⁴ Julius Klaproth: *Reise in den Kaukasus und nach Georgien unternommen in den Jahren 1807 und 1808, auf Veranstaltung der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu St. Petersburg, enthaltend eine vollständige Beschreibung der kaukasischen Länder und ihrer Bewohner.* Halle and Berlin: Buchhandlung des Halleschen Waisenhauses 1812–1814. XVI, 740; XVIII, 626 S. — S. 403–480 of vol. 2 contain: Remarks on the Sino-Russian border. Collected on a journey in 1806.

⁵ *Specimen characterum sinicorum jussu Alexandri primi ligno excisorum.* Cura Julii de Klaproth, Cons. aulic. et academ. Petrop. Soc. Berlin, Febr. 1811.

not know Klaproth's reasons for not returning to St. Petersburg. His mentor, Count Sergei Semenovitch Uvarov (1786–1855), accused him of ingratitude, and in 1817 Klaproth was stripped of his Russian academic honours. The reasons for these measures were never made public; it is only said that a «rude letter» to the Academy [i.e. Uvarov] was one of the final impetuses. After Klaproth's death (1835), it became apparent that the estate included books from the Academy library that Klaproth had not returned. Some of these were eventually returned to St. Petersburg through negotiations with the heiress (Klaproth's landlady) by the director of the Asian Museum, Bernhard Dorn (1805–1881), including manuscripts by the translator Johann Jaehrig (1747–1795), which have only recently been published⁶.

The reasons for the rift between Klaproth and Uvarov have yet to be clarified. It would be desirable if the relevant material were to be looked for in Russian archives. Two reasons seem obvious: Klaproth did not have the impression that he could achieve his own ambitious research goals in St. Petersburg — for that, he had already identified Paris as the centre of Oriental studies, both in terms of the researchers present there and the materials (books and manuscripts). Secondly, the relationship of trust between Uvarov and Klaproth was permanently damaged, with personal vanities in particular likely to have been affected. This would also explain why the true reasons for the rift have not been uncovered to this day. In more recent accounts, the only thing emphasised is the «book theft», which hardly does justice to reality. The fact that Klaproth also took books from the Academy with him on his business trip to Berlin

2 S. 4°. *Katalog der chinesischen und mandjurischen Bücher der Bibliothek der Akademie der Wissenschaften in St. Petersburg von Julius Klaproth*. Zum ersten Mal aus dem Manuskript herausgegeben. Berlin: C. Bell 1988. V, 45 S. 4°

⁶ Jährg was originally a member of the Herrnhut settlement in Sarepta and spent a lot of time with the Kalmyks, from whom he learned Kalmyk and Tibetan. He was then an assistant to the explorer Peter Simon Pallas. See H. Walravens, Alla Sizova: *The Tibetan Basics of the Translator Johann Jährg (1793)*. ZAS47.2018, pp. 29–102. The «Anfangs-Gründe der Mongolischen und Öhletschen Schrift- und Sprach-Lehre» by Johann Jährg (1747–1795). ZAS48. 2020, pp. 7–103. Johannes Jährg: *Mongolische Lese-Übungen und Oiratisches [Jährg III]*. ZAS49. 2021, pp. 281–358.

could be motivated by both official and private research. The offence lies in the fact that he *did not return* the relevant books after the relationship was severed. He was by no means a bibliomaniac book thief like Aloys Pichler (1833–1874), who later became the curator of the St. Petersburg Academy Library and who, in 1871, stole several thousand volumes for resale in a book bag specially inserted into his coat.

It is also possible that Uvarov had counted on Klaproth for his *Projet d'une académie asiatique* (St. Petersburg 1810; *Ideen zu einer Asiatischen Akademie*. St. Petersburg 1811) (Klaproth had also worked on the preparation) and now felt abandoned...

As for his later life, it may be sufficient to say here that Klaproth was one of the most important scholars and feared critics of his time. His list of publications includes over 300 works, as well as numerous hand-drawn geographical maps.

The author of some surviving letters to Klaproth, Samuel Butler (1774–1839), was a clergyman, classical scholar, headmaster of Shrewsbury School and Bishop of Lichfield from 1836 to 1839.⁷ He is well known as one of the best headmasters of the 19th century, not as a scholar, let alone as an orientalist. So the question arises as to how he came into contact with Klaproth, who, it seems, even visited him at Shrewsbury. One common area of interest was probably the development of writing and writing materials, which Butler mentions in a letter. However, it was probably their mutual friend, Baron Merian⁸, who introduced them.



(wikimedia commons)

⁷ *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Volume 8.2004. (J.H.C. Leach). cf. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/4205>

⁸ Baron Andreas Adolf von Merian (1772–1828) was in the service of the Russian Foreign Ministry. Linguistics was his hobby. Cf. *Biographie universelle* (Michaud) 28 (2nd ed.n.d.), 33–34 (Eyriès)

1

J'arrivais ici dimanche au son avec mon fils, & je vous ai envoyé mon adresse hier mais je suis oublié vous dire que je partirai Jeudi au grand matin—

Je vous prie donc, cher Mr. Klaproth, si je n'ai pas le bonheur de vous rencontrer, d'accepter les assurances de mon plus grande amitié et respect.

Je reste
Votre très fidèle Serviteur
S. Butler
Hotel Meurice
juillet 28

A Monsieur
Mons. Klaproth
5 Rue d'Amboise
à Paris

2

Cher M. Klaproth,

Je m'amuse à garnir une tabatière des pierres, pas précieuses, mais très intéressantes, c'est à dire de petits morceaux de montagnes les plus célèbres. Si vous avez un morceau du Caf⁹ ou de mont Elbours, vous me ferez grand plaisir en ayant la bonté d'enrichir mon trésor d'un don si important. Adieu, cher M. Klaproth. Agréez les assurances de mon amitié et respect. Je suis

Votre très humble Serviteur
S. Butler
Shrewsbury
ce 10 Juin 1831

3

London Jan 10 1832

Accept my best thanks, my dear M. Klaproth, for your kind wishes, and my reciprocal expression of the same towards you. —

⁹ Qāf, the world-encircling mountain range in Iranian mythology; the name of the Caucasus range, Qafqaz, is derived from it. See Daniel G. Prior: *Travels of Mount Qāf: From legend to 42°0'N79°51'E. Oriente Moderno, N.S.* 89. 2009: 2, pp. 425–444.

I address you in English, because you are an author in that language, & I therefore spare myself the labour of writing, & you the pain of reading much bad French — I duly received two volumes on the Geology of Asia. I have read the first with great interest — the second I have not yet looked into, owing to incessant engagement & long absence from home —

Whatever comes from your pen cannot but be interesting to me, but I hardly know a more interesting subject than the origin of writing — I shall be very thankful for it — I suppose stones afforded the first materials — I have recently purchased a considerable collection of Egyptian MSS which are now in the hands of a skilful artist to unroll — Two on linen, are in Greek — one is on leather — seven on papyrus, of which three are decidedly in the enctional character. I suspect that one, if not two of the others, will turn out to be Greek, but they are the most difficult to unroll, and I have been afraid to touch them myself — on re-inspection I think they are Coptic.

I have not seen Sir Wm Ouseley¹⁰ since I have been in London — in fact I have been ill with inflammation on the chest — and I must leave town in 3 or 4 days — Probably Sir Wm and I may have speaking of different works — he would have nothing from my remarks respecting your great unpublished one.

My advice with regard to caution in communicating any part of your important work arose principally from your own observations on the subject, joined also to a desire of preventing any person from unworthily anticipating or impeding your labours. But as my only object was to promote your welfare and reputation, I conceive that your communicating a few chapters to Lord Kingsborough¹¹ with whom you are already in active correspondence, would rather

¹⁰ Sir William Ouseley (1767–1842), a British orientalist who specialised in Persian.

¹¹ The patron Edward King, Lord Kingsborough (1795–1837) made a particular contribution to Mexican archaeology with the publication of the magnificent work *Antiquities of Mexico* (London 1830–1848), to which he sacrificed his fortune. See *Dictionary of national biography* 11.1921/22, pp. 130–131. See H. Walravens: *Briefe an den Orientalisten Julius Klaproth*

serve than impede your interests, but I think you should request his Lordship to consider the communication be confidential between yourselves and not to be generally known at present. When your work is so far in progress as to be ready for the press less reserve will be necessary.

I shall get the Asiatic Journal you allude to — The Sketch of Chinese Antiquity¹² will be most interesting — I am anxious to see whether you reduce years to days, which I believe has been done in the Indian Antiquities.

The articles on which I have specimens of ancient writing are stone — lead — wood — bronze — leather — linen cloth — bark — leaves — papyrus — vellum — charta bombycina — then in more recent ages comes paper — your history of writing will be extremely interesting. I understand that both in China & on the Eastern coast of the red sea there are specimens of writing on the living rock, or rather of engraving in it — I presume the characters which Herodotus tell Themistocles employed on the rocks in order to remind the Ionians of their Athenian descent were merely painted for the purpose, just as walls are now-a-days scribbled with the effusions of popular feeling on political occasions — Wishing you much enjoyment of health & happiness and all the success you can desire in your important & interesting literary pursuits I remain with very great respect & regard,
Dear Mr. Klaproth,

Your very faithful and attached friend
S. Butler

A Mons.
Monsieur Klaproth
5 Rue d'Amboise
Paris

(1783–1835) von britischen Gelehrten: George Thomas Staunton, Viscount Kingsborough und William Huttman. Norderstedt: BoD2021. 95 pp.

¹² Sketch of Chinese antiquity — presumably: A sketch of the early history of China. Condensed from M. Klaproth's «Asia polyglotta» and the 1st no. of his «Tableaux historiques de l'Asie depuis la monarchie de Cyrus jusqu'à nos jours.» *Asiatic Journal* 18. 1824, pp. 556–560.

4

Shrewsbury Feb. 3, 1835

Dear Mr. Klaproth

Your most obliging letter found me, near 3 weeks ago, on a journey, & on my return here four days ago I receive the pithy apophthegma of a dear & lamented friend and your interesting edition of Mr. Titsingh's translation of the annals of the emperors of Japan¹³.

With regard to the former of these, they present an interesting picture of the mind of a man whom I shall always revere & love, the latter place me in a new position, by giving me information about a country which is almost unknown here.

I am sorry to hear you have been so great an invalid, though I trust your health is now reestablished I have suffered myself very severely, both in my eyes & general health, through nearly the whole of last year — In consequence I have done nothing besides undertaking the discharge of my official duties, which are in themselves sufficiently onerous, and I am by no means equal at present to greater exertion.

Permit me to ask what countries you suppose to be meant by that passage in Kings XVII.6 יִדְםָ יִרְעֹן וְזֹנֶג רִהָן רִיבְהָן חִלְהָן

That it must be somewhere in the North is evident from Jeremiah Ch. III & XXXI. I have two countries in view whose etymologies I seem to trace in those quoted in the Hebrew, but I wish to have your judgment unbiassed by any preconceived opinion, & therefore I am silent till I hear from you.¹⁴

¹³ *Nipon o dai itsi ran, ou Annales des empereurs du Japon*, traduites par M. Isaac Titsingh avec l'aide de plusieurs interprètes attachés au comptoir hollandais de Nangasaki; ouvrage revu, complété et corrigé sur l'original japonais-chinois, accompagné des notes, et précédé d'un aperçu de l'histoire du Japon par M.J. Klaproth. Paris: Printed for the Oriental Translation Fund; sold by Parberry, Allen & Co., London. 1834. VIII, XXXVI, 460 pp. 4°.

¹⁴ Cf. *Die Bibel: Altes und Neues Testament. Einheitsübersetzung*. Freiburg, Basel, Wien: Herder (1980): II Könige XVII,6: «Im neunten Jahr Hoscheas eroberte er [der König von Assur] die Stadt, verschleppte die Israeliten nach Assur und siedelte sie in Halach, am Habor, einem Fluß von Gosan, und in den Städten der Meder an.» [In the ninth year of Hoshea he [the king of Assyria] captured the city, deported the Israelites to Assyria and settled

I have no literary news to send you, and therefore you must excuse a very short & stupid letter. Believe me to be, with the greatest regard, Dear M. Klaproth,

Your much obliged & faithful friend & Servt.
S. Butler

A Monsieur
Monsieur Klaproth
5 Rue d'Amboise
Paris

Письма Самуэля Батлера (1774–1839) Юлиусу Клапроту (1782–1835)

Аннотация. Юлиус Клапрот, один из основателей современных исследований Востока и член (адъют) Российской Академии наук, поддерживал связи со многими востоковедами. Сохранилась только небольшая часть его эпистолярного наследия; наиболее полно оно представлено в Российской Академии наук (дела Клапрота, фонд 783). Среди наименее известных корреспондентов Клапрота был Самуэль Батлер (1774–1839), известный британский священник и просветитель (Фонд 738, опись 2, № 14). Видимо, их общим интересом была история развития шрифтов и письменности. Их познакомил барон Мериан из Российского Министерства внешних сношений. Поводом для знакомства было представление Клапрота как видного ученого из Петербурга и причины его выхода из Академии наук.

them in Halach, on the Habor, a river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes]. — Note: Samaria was conquered in the late autumn of 722 BC. The deportation of the population did not take place until 720 under Sargon. The areas mentioned are in northern Mesopotamia. Media is the mountainous region south-west of the Caspian Sea.