

シーボルトのロシア外交高官との文通(1852-53)

著者	フランツ エドガー, 吉田 忠, / ヨシダ, タダシ, FRANZ Edgar, YOSHIDA Tadashi
journal or publication title	東北アジア研究
number	7
page range	125-145
year	2003-03-31
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10097/41083

Philipp Franz von Siebold's Correspondence with Leading Russian Diplomats 1852 to 1853 in the Context of his Endeavors to Open Japan for Trade and Navigation

Edgar FRANZ*, Tadashi YOSHIDA**

**Keywords: Siebold, Brandenstein – Archives, Russian Diplomats,
Opening of Japan**

INTRODUCTION

In the year 2000 we had an opportunity to visit together the Brandenstein – Archives at Schlüchtern in Germany and to have detailed discussions with a descendant of Philipp Franz von Siebold, Constantin von Brandenstein – Zeppelin,¹ who is in charge of the Siebold – Family – Archives. During the following visits to the Brandenstein – Archives, one of us found various drafts of letters from Philipp Franz von Siebold to high – ranking Russian diplomats and original letters by these diplomats themselves to Siebold for the years 1852 to 1853, which have never been studied.

In this essay we will present some hitherto – unpublished examples of the correspondence between Philipp Franz von Siebold and high ranking Russian diplomats in the years 1852 to 1853 and analyse their importance in Russian politics with regard to the opening of Japan for trade and navigation.

Siebold's correspondence with Russian diplomats as well as the Russian Chancellor and the Governor – General of Irkutsk, will shed a new light on his endeavors to solicit the Russian government's interest in the opening of Japan. The above mentioned addressees were the Russian Ambassador to Prussia in Berlin, Baron Andreas Ludwig Karl Theodor von Budberg – Bönninghausen; the Russian Ambassador to Austria in Vienna, Baron Peter Leonhard Suidigerius von Meyendorff; the Russian Ambassador to the Netherlands in the Hague, Baron Friedrich – Franz von Maltitz; the Russian Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Count Karl Wassiljewitsch von Nesselrode and the Governor – General of Irkutsk, Jenisseisk Nikolaj Nikolajewitsch Murav'iev.

* Graduate School of Arts and Letters, Tohoku University

** Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University

SIEBOLD'S LETTER TO THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO PRUSSIA IN BERLIN – DOCUMENT MS 57

The draft of a letter by Siebold to the Russian Ambassador to Prussia in Berlin, Baron Andreas Ludwig Karl Theodor von Budberg–Bönninghausen (Document MS 57 in the Brandenstein Archives) is probably the first document in which he elaborated his ideas with regard to Russian endeavors to open Japan for trade and navigation. In this autographic draft, which comprises 20 pages, there is no mention of when and to whom Siebold wrote this letter. As proven earlier (Franz, 2002: 91), however, Siebold mentioned this letter in his *Authentic Report* on the endeavors of the Netherlands and Russia to open Japan for the navigation and the trade of all nations (Siebold, 1854: 20). In all likelihood, this letter had been sent in the summer of the year 1852 to the Russian Ambassador to Prussia in Berlin, Baron von Budberg–Bönninghausen, who was known in Russia as Baron Andreas Feodorowitsch Budberg (Franz, 2002: 82 – 85).

Baron von Budberg–Bönninghausen was born in Riga on January 1, 1817 and died on January 28, 1881 in St. Petersburg. His father Theodor Otto von Bönninghausen was a Russian colonel who married Helene Juliane von Budberg, daughter of the Baron Andreas Eberhard von Budberg, of an old Baltic family. Budberg–Bönninghausen studied at the University of St. Petersburg and started his diplomatic career in 1841. In 1850 he was appointed as charge d'affaires to Prussia in Berlin. From 1851 to 1856 he was Russian ambassador in Berlin. From 1856 to 1858 he was Russian ambassador in Vienna, from 1858 to 1862, again, Russian ambassador in Berlin, and from 1862 to 1868 Russian ambassador in Paris (Lenz, 1970: 150 – 151). Baron von Budberg–Bönninghausen was very interested in Japan, and was a highly influential Russian diplomat who had close connections with the Russian Chancellor, Count Karl Robert von Nesselrode and the Russian Grand Duke Constantin (Franz, 2002: 82 – 83).

The detailed comparison between Siebold's letter MS 57 and the instructions which the head of the Russian expedition to Japan, Admiral Efim Putjatin, received, from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in October 1852 (RGAVMF, f. 296, op. 1, d. 75a, 1. 45 – 62) will be published shortly.² Moreover this letter contributed to the invitation of Siebold by the Russian Chancellor Count von Nesselrode to visit St. Petersburg (Franz, 2002: 80).

SIEBOLD'S LETTER TO BARON VON MEYENDORFF – DOCUMENT MS 56

Let us discuss another document from the Brandenstein Archives, MS 56, which is an autographic draft of a letter by Siebold. Siebold addressed this letter to 'Hochwohlgeborener Herr'. The draft, dated December 18, 1852, was written at St. Martin, where Siebold lived in 1852. So far, only one letter of Siebold to Baron von Meyendorff, dated November 8, 1852, has been mentioned in publications on Siebold. Siebold quotes this letter in his 'Authentic Report' (Siebold, 1854: 22). In the draft of the letter MS 37,³ of twenty – three pages with many amendments and annotations, Siebold refers to a meeting with Baron von Meyendorff at Castle Stolzenfels. This castle is situated near St. Martin at the river Rhine, where Siebold was living with his family. In this document Siebold explains at length why the Russians should try to conclude a trade agreement with Japan. Moreover, it is in this document that Siebold submits proposals on how the Russian government should act to promote their interests in Japan. Many statements, ideas and proposals are taken from the above mentioned document, MS 57. However, several formulations are amended by Siebold.

The draft of a letter, MS 56, dated December 18, which refers to the letter, MS 37, of November 8, however, has not been mentioned in the literature on Siebold so far.

The translation of the letter, MS 56, reads as follows:

“Right Honourable Sir, I had the honour of sending to Your Excellency in Vienna the promised memorandum, dated November 8 of this year, concerning Japanese matters. I attached a private letter, in which I asked Your Honour to acknowledge receipt of the memorandum. As I did not receive any answer, I am afraid that this memorandum might have been left behind in Vienna and did not reach you at Petersburg, which is what I very much wished for. My news of the American expedition covers the situation up to November 20, when I received a letter from my correspondent on the US frigate Mississippi, which was under the command of Commodore Perry. The squadron was at that time in the latitude of Norfolk. My correspondent regrets that the American government did not approve Perry's proposal to appoint a scientific committee, and that in general, only few scientific resources would be available for this special voyage. An exception would be made for nautical books and maps.⁴ The US brig Vincent will make a survey of the northern coast of China, will visit Korea and Jezo, and if possible the mouth of the Amur. There is also a plan to undertake a voyage on the Amur. I am of the opinion that I have to inform Your Excellency of this

*news, because it supports the proposal in my memorandum for an actual Russian expedition. I request Your Excellency to acknowledge receipt of my many-sided memorandum and of this letter.”*⁵

Siebold refers in this draft of a letter, MS 56, to his memorandum (dated November 8, 1852) to Baron von Meyendorff. It can be assumed, therefore, that this letter had also been addressed to Baron von Meyendorff. Obviously, Siebold calls his letter (of Nov. 8, 1852) as a memorandum. This is the only document in the Brandenstein Archives which is dated November 8, 1852. The letter MS 56 reminds Baron von Meyendorff of Siebold's proposal for the Russian government to initiate activities with regard to the opening of Japan. It also contains further details of the American expedition. Siebold based the information of the American expedition in the document MS 56 on a letter of Wilhelm Heine dated November 20, 1852 (Document MS 33 in the Brandenstein Archives). Heine sent this letter to Siebold from the US-frigate *Mississippi*, which was anchored at Norfolk at that date (Miyasaka, Shiiboruto to Perii, 1997: 203 – 232). Together with Siebold's two letters, which are based on the drafts MS 57 and MS 37, the letter MS 56, in all likelihood, contributed to the invitation for Siebold to St. Petersburg by the Russian government.

Siebold wrote in his above mentioned *Authentic Report*, referring to his memorandum MS 37 dated November 8, 1852:

“As soon as I came to know that the Russian government intended to send a delegation and expedition to Japan, I sent a memorandum to a high ranking Russian statesman and principal of the sciences, in the interest of the sciences and general trade” (Siebold: 1854: 22).⁶

Siebold does not mention the name of the addressee, but as will be explained later, this letter was sent to Baron von Meyendorff. Shuzo Kure (Kure, 1926: 52) and Hans Körner (Körner, 1967: 443) quote this letter, without mentioning the name of the addressee. Based on the document MS 37, Masahide Miyasaka and Koichi Yasuda assume that this high ranking Russian statesman was Baron von Meyendorff, but they do not specify who he really was. Therefore, here follow some details on the career of Baron von Meyendorff:

Baron Peter Leonhard Suidigerius von Meyendorff was born in Riga on August 13, 1796, the son of Baron Kasimir von Meyendorff and Anna Katharina von Vegesack. In Russia he was known as Baron Peter Kasimirowitsch Meyendorff. (Frey 1997). In 1830, he married Sophie Countess Buol-Schauenstein in Vienna. In 1812 Baron von Meyendorff joined Russian civil service and from

1817 was a member of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He served as a Russian diplomat in various positions in the Netherlands (1820 – 1824), Spain (1824 – 1827), Vienna (1827 – 1832), Stuttgart (1832 – 1839) and from 1839 to 1850 in Berlin, where he was appointed Russian Ambassador to Prussia. From 1850 to 1854, he was the Russian Ambassador to Austria in Vienna. In 1854, Baron von Meyendorff became a member of the Federal Council in the Department for Political Economy of the Russian government in St. Petersburg. In 1857 he was appointed Lord Chamberlain and head of the Imperial Private Cabinet. (Lenz, 1970: 513 – 514). He was judged as one of the better Baltic diplomats of Nicolai I (Noelle, 1940: 172).

It is regrettable that we cannot find any letter from or to Siebold in the three volumes of Meyendorff's correspondence, edited by Otto Hoetzsch. Meyendorff's correspondence reveals, however, the importance and influence of this fascinating Baltic diplomat on Russian politics. Of special interest is his correspondence with the Russian Chancellor, Count Charles Robert von Nesselrode. For instance on April 21, 1852, Nesselrode wrote three letters to Meyendorff, calling him "cher baron" and "mon cher baron". (Nesselrode, 197–202). Baron von Meyendorff not only had friendly connections with the Russian chancellor and many other highranking politicians, but also with the Russian emperor and his family (Hoetzsch 1923: LXII to LXIII). He was highly educated and, like Siebold, he was interested in sciences. When he returned to Russia in 1854, his residence was on the "Island of Pharmacie" near St. Petersburg, which belonged to the botanic gardens of St. Petersburg, for which he was responsible as the chairman of the Cabinet for Imperial Property. (Petersburg, 1885: 16).

Siebold wrote in his letter MS 56 that "I am afraid that this memorandum (MS 37) might have been left behind in Vienna and did not reach you at St. Petersburg," for Baron von Meyendorff was the Russian Ambassador to Austria who visited St. Petersburg at that time. Moreover, in the introduction to his correspondence, it is mentioned that Meyendorff spent the six months of the winter of 1852/53 in St. Petersburg (Hoetzsch 1923: LXIII).

Judging from this evidence, both letters MS 56 and MS 37 were no doubt written by Siebold to the Russian Ambassador to Austria in Vienna, Baron Peter Leonhard Suidigerius von Meyendorff.

SIEBOLD'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE NETHERLANDS – DOCUMENTS MS 89 – 91 AND MS 103

After having analysed the relations of Philipp Franz von Siebold to the Russian Ambassador to Prussia in Berlin, Baron Andreas Ludwig Karl Theodor von Budberg – Bönninghausen and to the Russian Ambassador to Austria in Vienna, Baron Peter Leonhard Suidigerius von Meyendorff, we should like to discuss below the relations between Philipp Franz von Siebold and the Russian Ambassador to the Netherlands in the Hague, Baron Friedrich – Franz von Maltitz. This discussion is based on the correspondence in French between Siebold and Baron von Maltitz in the years 1851 to 1853, which are to be found in the Brandenstein Archives.

In the bundle B 16 – Fa – D there are nine letters by Baron von Maltitz sent from the Hague “à Monsieur le Colonel de Siebold,” six drafts of letters in French from Philipp Franz von Siebold to Baron von Maltitz⁷ and a copy of a receipt by Siebold. These sixteen documents were not filed in chronological order. Those who bundled them together with other documents obviously have not scrutinized them.

While Siebold's letters to the Russian Ambassador to Prussia (MS 57) and to the Russian Ambassador to Austria, Baron von Meyendorff, (MS 37 and MS 56) concentrate upon Siebold's ideas and advices with regard to Russian activities to open Japan, this topic is not treated in the correspondence with Baron von Maltitz, except for a small paragraph in the document MS 103 as mentioned below. Nevertheless, this correspondence concerns us as it illustrates the relations of Siebold with Russia and documents the appreciation of Siebold by the Russian Emperor. The six documents from March 5/17, 1851 refer to the Russian order for 10 copies of each of Siebold's works *Flora Japonica*, *Nippon* and *Fauna Japonica*. In 1834, Siebold had visited Russia and the Imperial family to procure funds for the publication of his works: *Flora Japonica* and *Nippon*. Siebold was granted an audience with Nicolai I, probably introduced by Anna Pawlowna (Yasuda: 1995). In a letter by Baron von Maltitz, dated 5/17, 1851, Siebold's '*Flora Japonica*' is mentioned. This book had been published in 1835, one year after Siebold's visit to Russia. On the title page of this book is the following dedication: “A.S.A. (A Sa Altesse) Imperiale Royale Madame la Princesse d'Orange Anna Pawlowna Grande Duchesse de Russie.”⁹ As we can see from Siebold's correspondence with Baron von Maltitz, Siebold's visit to St.

Petersburg in 1834 resulted in orders by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for consignments of ten copies of each of Siebold's principal works, *Nippon*, *Flora Japonica* and *Fauna Japonica*. These orders continued for more than twenty years. It can be assumed that this important Russian order for consignments of Siebold's works was vital to the publication of Siebold's masterpieces and contributed in making Siebold well-known in Russia.

The five documents MS 98, MS 102, MS 103, MS 109 and MS 108b, which were written between May and July 1852, refer to Siebold's two new works published in 1851 and 1852: his '*Atlas of the Japanese Empire*' and his '*History of the discoveries in the waters of Japan*'. Siebold wanted to dedicate these to His Majesty the Emperor of Russia and asked for the advice of the ambassador. These are the same books that Siebold sent to the Russian government through the Russian Ambassadors to Prussia and Austria, later in 1852. In the draft of a letter by Siebold to Baron von Maltitz (MS 103) we can find the only hint to the political situation in the correspondence between the two. The translation reads as follows:

*"Considering political and commercial events, however, that pass at present in the region of the Pacific Ocean and which are probably influenced by maritime difficulties at the coasts of the Japanese Empire, I hope to add to my Atlas an hydrographic and nautic illustration. This will augment the utility of the Atlas for navigation."*¹⁰

The remaining four documents of the correspondence between Siebold and Baron von Maltitz in the Brandenstein Archives, MS 89, MS 90, MS 94 and MS 91 illustrate the high esteem in which Philipp Franz von Siebold was held by the Russian Emperor. The letter by Baron von Maltitz to Siebold (dated December 11/23, 1852, MS 90) proves that the Russian Emperor approved the proposal of Baron von Maltitz to decorate Siebold with the cross of the commandant enriched by diamonds of the Order of St. Anna. In the draft of his letter MS 94, Siebold thanks the ambassador for the honorable decoration. In his letter (dated February 3/15, 1853) the Russian ambassador Baron von Maltitz invites Siebold to receive the patent and the insignia enriched by diamonds of the Order of St. Anna second class and congratulates him. He wrote:

"I profit, dear Colonel, by this opportunity to reiterate the expression of my sincere satisfaction that you have been honoured with such a flattering proof of the high benevolence of the Emperor, my august master." (MS 89).¹¹

The translation of the confirmation of receipt of this high decoration by Philipp Franz von Siebold (MS 91, dated February 24/March 8, 1853) reads as follows:

*“The undersigned Philipp Franz von Siebold recognizes by this letter to have received at the Chancellery of the Imperial legation of Russia at The Hague, the patent and the insignia, enriched by diamonds, of the order of St. Anna 2nd class. St. Petersburg, February 24/March 8, 1853.”*¹²

Thus the documents in the bundle B 16 – Fa – D in the Brandenstein Archives show the amicable relations of Siebold to the Russian Ambassador to the Netherlands Baron Friedrich – Franz von Maltitz and the high opinion of Siebold held by the Russian Emperor. This correspondence very likely contributed to the invitation of Siebold to St. Petersburg by the Russian Chancellor Count von Nesselrode, dated December 25, 1852, where Siebold had the chance to give his expert counsel with regard to Russian efforts towards the opening of Japan.

THE INVITATION OF SIEBOLD TO ST. PETERSBURG BY THE RUSSIAN CHANCELLOR – DOCUMENT MS 39

The draft of a letter, MS 39 in the Brandenstein Archives, records the invitation of Siebold by the Russian Chancellor Nesselrode to come to St. Petersburg to advise the Russian government on Japanese matters. It is a draft of a letter Siebold addressed to “His Excellency.” It is not known to whom Siebold sent this letter and the date is open. Probably, the letter was sent sometime in the spring of 1855. In the first sentence, Siebold refers to a small essay which he attached to the letter. He mentioned that the title and the content was noteworthy. Very likely, Siebold sent his “*Authentic Report*” which had been published in the year 1854 (Siebold, 1854). Moreover, Siebold wrote:

“Meanwhile the treaty between Russia and Japan and the corrections of the boundaries have been agreed upon on the basis of my proposals to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.”

As the Treaty of Shimoda¹³ was concluded between Admiral Jevfimij Putjatin and Tsutsui Hizen no Kami and Kawaji Saemon no Jô on February 7, 1855, this letter must have been written after this date. In the document MS 39, Siebold quotes the invitation of the Russian government to come to St. Petersburg. The invitation is written in French. The translation reads as follows:

*“The memoir and the letter which you have sent to me, have been an honour for me. They have been examined carefully. This has created the desire to obtain from you, verbally, further explanations and supplements on matters which no other European knows as well as you.”*¹⁴

This invitation, which is signed by His Excellency the Russian Chancellor Count von Nesselrode,¹⁵ was sent to Siebold on December 25, 1852.

It is obvious that the invitation to Siebold by Count von Nesselrode is a direct result of the ideas expressed in the three above mentioned letters, which Siebold sent to the Russian ambassadors to Prussia and Austria, in the year 1852 (MS 57, 37, and 56 discussed above). The Russian ambassadors to Prussia and Austria had the authority to accept letters for the Russian government. Siebold followed this invitation to St. Petersburg on January 10, 1853. In Russia, Siebold met the Russian Emperor Nicolai I, the son of the Russian Emperor Alexander II and the younger brother of the Emperor Nicolai I the Grand Duke Constantin. Siebold writes on page 2 of this draft of a letter:

“His Excellency Count Nesselrode entrusted me in St. Petersburg with the task of drafting a concept for a letter from the Russian Emperor to the Japanese Emperor and with drafting a treaty for friendship and trade between Russia and Japan” (MS 39: 2).

Siebold had proposed in the draft of his letter MS 57, to visit St. Petersburg and to draft both a letter from the Russian Emperor to the Japanese Emperor, and a treaty for friendship and trade between Russia and Japan. The letter MS 39 clearly shows that Count Nesselrode accepted Siebold's proposals.

TWO LETTERS OF THE GOVERNOR – GENERAL OF IRKUTSK AND JENISSEISK MURAV'IEV TO SIEBOLD – DOCUMENTS MS 59 AND MS 60

Finally we want to introduce two letters from the Governor – General of Irkutsk and Jenisseisk, Murav'iev¹⁶ to Siebold, which are in the Brandenstein Archives (MS 59 and MS 60).

Murav'iev was convinced that Russia should develop good relations with Japan to build up a strong

position in East Asia. He was afraid that the British and the Americans would try to gain the same influence in Japan as in China. When he learned in February 1852 that the Americans were preparing an expedition to Japan, he informed the Russian Emperor accordingly and warned of this danger. This led to the decision of the Russian Emperor Nikolaj I. to send a Russian expedition to Japan (Krupinski, 1940: 21/22). In the beginning of 1853 Murav'iev visited St. Petersburg to get the personal approval of the Emperor for his East Asian activities (Krupinski, 1940: 23). Hans Körner mentions that one reason for Siebold's invitation to St. Petersburg, dated December 25, 1852, was that the Russian government expected Count Murav'iev for consultations at St. Petersburg at the beginning of 1853 (Körner, 1967: 443).

Neither in the literature on Siebold nor in the literature on Murav'iev is there any clear evidence of the relations of these two influential experts on East Asia. It is therefore interesting to find two letters by Nikolaj Nikolajewitsch Murav'iev to Siebold, in the Brandenstein Archives, which reveal the relations between these two (MS 59 and MS 60). They are the last documents in the bundle 12, fascicle f, 3rd department "Japanese Russian affairs" in the Brandenstein Archives. The translations of the first letter MS 59, which was written in French, reads as follows:

*"Due to the state of health of my wife I am obliged to stay at Marienbad¹⁷ longer than I thought. Due to the same reason, I have to take the direct route to Paris. Unfortunately for me, it is therefore impossible for me to come to St. Martin for the time being. But I will definitely profit from your amiable invitation on a later date. I should like to ask you to write to me in Marienbad whether I will find you at the Rhine still between the 20th and 30th of September. If by chance you have already left St. Martin by that date, please let me know in which country I would have the honour of paying you a visit during the above mentioned time. Please receive my assurance of the distinguished consideration of your very humble devoted servitor Nicolas Mouravieff, Marienbad, July 23. P.S.: If you do not receive this letter before July 26, please send your answer to Paris."*¹⁸

The letter MS 59, which is dated July 23, does not mention the year in which it was sent. However, this letter must have been sent in 1853 because the letter MS 60, which refers to Siebold's invitation, is dated August 6, 1853. The second letter by Nicolas Murav'iev dated August 6, 1853 (MS 60) refers to a letter by Siebold, dated July 27, which has not been found, so far. The translation of this letter reads as follows:

"Sir, I am very thankful for the amiable expectation, which you have raised for me by your letter dated July

27, to visit you at the end of September at St. Martin. Certainly I will hasten to profit from this invitation, although my wife is obliged to stay at Paris due to her health. Meanwhile we will depart for the annual sea water course of baths in France. My wife has asked me to present to you her full respect and to thank you for your amiable invitation to us. Dropping down on my knees before Madame I ask you to accept the expression of the distinguished consideration of your very humble and devoted servitor N. Muravieff. Paris, August 6, 1853.¹⁹

The two above mentioned letters by Murav'iev illustrate the good relations between Murav'iev and Siebold, which very likely originate from their common stay in St. Petersburg. Murav'iev writes not only on the health of his wife but points out as well that he is highly interested in meeting Siebold and wishes to visit him wherever possible. The letter MS 60 shows that Siebold has invited Mrs. Murav'iev as well to come to St. Martin. Both letters are not written in a diplomatic or business style, but create the impression that there exists a friendly sympathy between the two.

Following the visit of Murav'iev to St. Martin, Siebold sent him a draft for a treaty for navigation and trade between Russia and Japan which comprises 12 articles (MS 40). This undated draft was probably sent at the end of September or early in October 1853 as it was sent after the visit of Murav'iev to St. Martin and was to reach Murav'iev before October 10, 1853. It is addressed: *“General Muravieff, rue St. Florentine N 15 à Paris jusqu' an 10 Octobre.”²⁰*

The correspondence of Siebold and Murav'iev illustrates that there existed a friendly relation between these two influential advisors to the Russian government, who were collaborating on the issue of the opening of Japan.

CONCLUSIONS

The ten documents MS 39, 56, 57, 59, 60, 89, 90, 91, 94 and 103 found in the Brandenstein Archives, shed a new light on the efforts of Philipp Franz von Siebold in soliciting the Russian government's interest towards the opening of Japan.

The document MS 57 is probably the first document in which Siebold elaborates upon his ideas about Russian activities to open Japan for trade and navigation. This document illustrates Siebold's deep understanding and knowledge of Japanese feelings and attitudes. The draft of a letter by Siebold to Baron Meyendorff dated December 18, 1852 (MS 56) informs the Russian government on de-

tails of the American expedition to Japan. The correspondence between Siebold and Baron von Maltitz, especially documents MS 89, MS 90, MS 91, MS 94 and MS 103, shows the esteem for Siebold of the Russian Emperor, and probably contributed to Siebold's invitation to St. Petersburg by the Russian Chancellor. MS 39 documents this invitation of Siebold by the Russian Chancellor Karl Wasiljewitsch Count von Nesselrode, dated December 25, 1852, to come to St. Petersburg to advise the Russian government on Japanese matters. The correspondence of Siebold with Nikolaj Nikolajewitsch Murav'iev proves that Siebold not only liaised with the Russian ambassadors to important European countries and the Russian Chancellor, but also with the Russian Governor – General of East Siberia in his endeavors to open Japan for peaceful trade and navigation.

The analysis of the correspondence of Siebold in the years 1852 to 1853 with five leading Russian high – ranking officials (the ambassador to Prussia in Berlin, the ambassador to Austria in Vienna, the ambassador to the Netherlands in the Hague, the governor – general of Irkutsk and Jennisseisk, and the Russian chancellor), demonstrates the extraordinary efforts of Philipp Franz von Siebold to induce the Russian government to initiate activities towards the peaceful opening of Japan and to advise the Russians in their negotiations with Japan for the treaty for friendship, trade and navigation between those two empires.

The Russian documents (RGAVMF f. 296, op. 1, d. 75a, 1.), which we found in the Russian State Archives of the Navy in St. Petersburg, verify that the Russian government accepted Siebold's advice and followed it on very important points. In the instructions of the Russian Ministry for Foreign Affairs to Admiral Putjatin dated August 23, 1852 (RGAVMF, f. 296, op. 1, d. 75a 1.: 45 – 62 ob) and in the draft of a letter to the Japanese Emperor, dated August 23, 1852 (RGAVMF 296, op. 1, d 75a: 63 – 65 ob), Siebold's proposals in his letter to the Russian ambassador to Prussia in Berlin (MS 57) are taken into consideration. The additional instructions of the Russian Ministry for Foreign Affairs to Admiral Putjatin, dated February 24, 1853 (RGAVMF, f. 296, op. 1, d 75a: 138 – 158ob) are a result of Siebold's discussions with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in St. Petersburg at the beginning of 1853. As detailed above, this invitation to St. Petersburg by the Russian Chancellor Count von Nesselrode dated December 25, 1852 was very likely the result of Siebold's correspondence with the Russian ambassadors to Prussia, Austria and the Netherlands. The Russian Ministry for Foreign Affairs mentioned Siebold expressly nine times in these additional instructions to Admiral Putjatin, changing their original instructions due to Siebold's verbal advice in St. Petersburg.²¹

Comparing the above mentioned documents in the Brandenstein Archives in Germany with those

in the Russian Central State Archive of the Navy in St. Petersburg, it becomes evident that the Rhenisch aristocrat Count Nesselrode, the Baltic aristocrats, Baron von Budberg – Bönninghausen and Baron von Meyendorff, the Thuringian aristocrat Baron von Maltitz, the Russian aristocrat Count Murav'iev Amurski and the Bavarian aristocrat Philipp Franz von Siebold were working together towards the peaceful opening of Japan in the middle of the nineteenth century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Constantin von Brandenstein – Zeppelin for very useful information, which he gave us upon our various visits to the Brandenstein – Archives at Schlüchtern in Germany. We should also like to thank the relevant experts of the Central State Archive of the Navy in St. Petersburg, of the Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg, of the Russian Sources Library in Tokyo, of the Central Library at Tohoku University and of the German – Japanese Research Center in Tokyo for their valuable assistance. We are also grateful for Ms. Olga Slobko in helping us to translate the Russian documents into English.

REFERENCES

- Barsukov, Evan: *N.N. Murav'iev – Amurskij po ego pis'mam, official' nim dokumentam, raskazam sovremenikov i pecatnich istocnikam* (based on his letters, official documents, narratives of his contemporaries and published sources) Moscow 1891.
- Brockhaus Enzyklopädie, vol. 15, Mannheim 1991.
- Center for East Asian Cultural Studies (ed.): *The Meiji Japan through contemporary sources. Basic documents 1854 – 1889, vol. 1, Tokyo 1969.*
- Clyde, Paul Hilbert: *International Rivalries in Manchuria 1689 – 1922*, Ohio State University Press, 1928.
- Franz, Edgar: Siebold's endeavor's in the year 1852 to induce the Russian government to initiate activities for the opening of Japan, in: *Bunka*, No. 66. 1/2, Tohoku University, Sendai, September 2002, pp. 167 – 186.
- Frey, Axel (ed.): *Russisches Biografisches Archiv*, Munchen 1997.
- Golder, F.A.: *Russian Expansion on the Pacific 1641 – 1850*, Cleveland 1914.
- Hammitzsch, Horst (ed.): *Von der Landesöffnung bis zur Meiji – Restauration*, translated

from the Japanese by Klaus Kracht, Wiesbaden 1975.

- Hoetzsch, Otto (ed.) *Peter von Meyendorff; Ein russischer Diplomat an den Höfen von Berlin und Wien. Politischer und privater Briefwechsel 1826 – 1863*. Berlin and Leipzig 1923. Vol. III.
- Körner, Hans: *Die Wurzburger Siebold, Eine Gelehrtenfamilie des 18. und 19. Jahrhunderts*, Leipzig 1967.
- Krupinski, Kurt: *Die russisch – japanischen Beziehungen von ihren Anfängen bis zum Frieden von Portsmouth*, Diss., Berlin 1939.
- Krupinski, Kurt: *Rusland und Japan. Ihre Beziehungen bis zum Frieden von Portsmouth*, in: *Osteuropäische Forschungen*. Neue Folge, Vol. 27, Berlin 1940, pp. 1 – 126.
- Kure, Shūzō: *Shīboruto sensei. Sono shōgai oyobi kōgyō*. Vol. 2, Tokyo 1929, edition Tokyo 1968.
- Lensen, George Alexander: *The Russian Push Towards Japan. Russo – Japanese Relations 1697 – 1875*, Princeton 1959.
- Lenz, W.: *Deutschbaltisches Biographisches Lexikon 1710 – 1960*, Cologne and Vienna 1970.
- Mac Lean, John: *Philipp Franz von Siebold and the opening of Japan 1843 – 1866*, in: The Netherlands Association for Japanese studies (ed.): *Philipp Franz von Siebold. A Contribution to the Study of the Historical Relations between Japan and the Netherlands*, Leiden 1978, pp. 53 – 95.
- Miyasaka, Masahide: *Shīboruto to Roshia no tai – nichi kaikoku seisaku (1)*. *Burandenshutain – ke monjo chōsa hōkoku*, in: *Shīboruto kinenkan Narutaki kiyō*, No. 4, 1994, pp. 114 – 170.
- Miyasaka, Masahide/Ishikawa, Mitsunobu/Neumann, Bernd: *Shīboruto to Roshia no tai – nichi kaikoku seisaku (2)*, in: *Shīboruto kinenkan Narutaki kiyō*, No. 5, 1995, pp. 115 – 167.
- Miyasaka, Masahide/Ishikawa, Mitsunobu/Neumann, Bernd: *Shīboruto to Roshia no tai – nichi kaikoku seisaku (3)*, in: *Shūboruto kinenkan Narutaki kiyō*, No. 7, 1997, pp. 50 – 70.
- Miyasaka, Masahide: *Shīboruto to Perii no Amerika Nihon ensei kantai, Burandenshutain – ke monjo wo chūshin ni*, (Siebold and Perry's American Expedition to Japan, based on the documents in the Brandenstein – Archives), in: Miyazaki, Michio/Yanai, Kenji (ed.): *Shīboruto to Nihon no kaikoku kindai*, Tokyo 1997, pp. 203 – 232.
- Miyasaka, Masahide: *Kojō ni nemuru Shīboruto monjo. Fon Burandenshutain – Tsepperin –*

- ke bunko no seiritsu to tokushoku, in: Josef Kreiner (ed.): *Tasogare no Tokugawa Japan. Shīboruto fushi no mita Nihon*, Tokyo 1998, pp. 129 – 146.
- Miyazaki, Michio: *Shīboruto to sakoku – kaikoku Nihon*, Kyoto 1997.
- Miyazaki, Michio; Yanai, Kenji (ed.): *Shīboruto to Nihon no kaikoku kindaiika*, Tokyo 1997.
- Nesselrode, Comte A. de (ed.): *Lettres et Papiers du Chancelier Comte de Nesselrode, Extraits de ses Archives*, Vol. X, 1850 – 1853, Paris.
- Noelle, Annelise: *Zur Wirksamkeit des baltischen Adels in Rusland unter Alexander I. und Nikolaus I.*, Diss., Munchen 1940.
- Petersburg und Gadebusch, Erinnerungen eines Verstorbenen, in: *Baltische Monatsschrift*, Reval 1885 pp. 1 – 40.
- Siebold, Philipp Franz von: *Atlas von Land- und Seekarten vom Japanischen Reiche Dai – Nippon und dessen Neben- und Schutzländern Jezo mit den sudlichen Kurilen, Krafto, Kōrai und den Liukiu – Inseln nach Originalkarten und astronomischen Beobachtungen der Japaner mit Hinweisung auf die Entdeckungen in älterer und neuerer Zeit. Nebst einer Seekarte von der Kuste von China und der Insel Formosa nach unausgegebenen holländischen Seekarten vom 17. Jahrhundert*, Berlin, Leiden, Amsterdam 1851.
- Siebold, Philipp Franz von: *Geschichte der Entdeckungen im Seegebiet von Japan nebst Erklärung des Atlas von Land- und Seekarten vom japanischen Reiche und dessen Neben- und Schutzländern*, Berlin, Leiden, Amsterdam, 1852.
- Siebold, Philipp Franz von: *Nippon. Archiv zur Beschreibung von Japan*, 5 vols., Berlin 1930.
- Siebold, Philipp Franz von: *Urkundliche Darstellung der Bestrebungen von Niederland und Rusland zur Eröffnung Japans für die Schiffahrt und den Seehandel aller Nationen*, Bonn, 1854.
- Verbitsky, S. I.: Russian Notions about Japan, in: *Contemporary European writing on Japan*, ed. by Ian Nish, Woodchurch: Norburg, 1988, pp. 38 – 44.
- Yasuda, Kōichi: *Bunkiyū – gannen no tai – Ro gaikō to Shīboruto*, Okayama University, 1995.
- Yasuda, Kōichi: Roshia no Nihon kaikoku kōshō to Shīboruto. In: Miyazaki, Michio; Yanai, Kenji (ed.): *Shīboruto to Nihon no kaikoku kindaiika*, Tokyo 1997, pp. 165 – 202.
- Yasuda, Kōichi: Shīboruto to Roshia – hakken sareta shokan kara, in: *Shīboruto kyūzō Nihon shokubutsu zufu korekushon*, Tokyo 1994.

DOCUMENTS

Documents in the Brandenstein Archives of the Castle Brandenstein in Schluchtern/Germany.

1. Bundle 12, fascicle f, 1st department:

MS 33: Letter from Wilhelm Heine to Philipp Franz von Siebold, dated November 20, 1852.

2. Bundle 12, fascicle f, 3rd department “Japanese – Russian Affairs” .

MS 37: Draft of a letter from Philipp Franz von Siebold to Baron von Meyendorff, dated November 8, 1852.

MS 39: Draft of a letter from Philipp Franz von Siebold to “His Excellency” , without date.

MS 40: Draft for a treaty for navigation and trade between Russia and Japan, without date, to “General Muravieff, rue St. Florentine N 15 à Paris jusqu’ an 10 Octobre.”

MS 56: Draft of a letter from Philipp Franz von Siebold to Baron von Meyendorff, dated St. Martin December 18, 1852.

MS 57: Draft of a letter from Philipp Franz von Siebold to the Russian Ambassador to Prussia in Berlin, Baron Andreas Ludwig Karl Theodor von Budberg – Bönninghausen, without date.

MS 59: Letter from the Governor – General of Irkutsk and Jenisseisk Nikolaj Nikolajewitsch Murav’iev to Philipp Franz von Siebold, dated July 23.

MS 60: Letter from the Governor – General of Irkutsk and Jenisseisk Nikolaj Nikolajewitsch Murav’iev to Philipp Franz von Siebold, dated August 6, 1853.

3. Bundle 16, fascicle d

MS 89: Letter from Baron Friedrich – Franz von Maltitz to Philipp Franz von Siebold, dated February 3/15, 1853.

MS 90: Letter from Baron Friedrich – Franz von Maltitz to Philipp Franz von Siebold, dated December 11/23, 1852.

MS 91: Copy of the confirmation of the receipt of the cross of the comandant enriched by diamonds of the Order of St. Anna by Philipp Franz von Siebold, dated February 24/

March 8, 1853.

MS 94: Draft of a letter from Philipp Franz von Siebold to Baron Friedrich – Franz von Maltitz.

MS 98: Letter from Baron von Maltitz to Philipp Franz von Siebold, dated The Hague, May 5/17, 1852.

MS 102: Letter from Baron von Maltitz to Philipp Franz von Siebold, dated The Hague, June 9/21, 1852.

MS 103: Draft of a letter from Philipp Franz von Siebold to Baron Friedrich – Franz von Maltitz, referring to MS 98, without date.

MS 108b: Draft of a letter from Philipp Franz von Siebold to Baron Friedrich – Franz von Maltitz, referring to document MS 109, without date.

MS 109: Letter from Baron Friedrich – Franz von Maltitz to Philipp Franz von Siebold, dated The Hague, June 19/July 1, 1852.

Documents in the Russian State Archive of the Navy in St. Petersburg :

RGAVMF, f. 296, op. 1, d. 75a, 1. 45 – 62.: Letter of instructions from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Admiral Efim Putjatin, dated August 23, 1852.

RGAVMF, f. 296, op. 1, d. 75a, 1. 63 – 65ob: Draft of a letter to the Japanese Emperor, dated August 23, 1852.

RGAVMF, f. 296, op. 1, d. 75a, 1. 138 – 158 ob: Additional Instructions from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Admiral Efim Putjatin, dated February 24, 1853.

ENDNOTES

¹ Constantin von Brandenstein – Zeppelin is the grandson of Alexander Graf von Brandenstein – Zeppelin, himself the grandson of Philipp Franz von Siebold.

² An English translation of the 33 pages of the instructions to Admiral Putjatin (RGAVMF, f. 296, op. 1, d. 75a, 1. 45 – 62) and a detailed comparison with Siebold's letter MS 57 to the Russian Ambassador to Prussia in Berlin Baron von Budberg – Bonninghausen will be presented by Edgar Franz in

an essay, to be published in Bunka Vol. 67, Tohoku University, Sendai 2003. This is the partial result of our visits in the years 2001 and 2002 to the Central State Archive of the Navy in St. Petersburg, where we found various unpublished documents of the years 1852 to 1853 which illustrate the influence of Philipp Franz von Siebold on the Russian endeavors to open Japan for trade and navigation.

³ The document MS 37 has been transcribed, translated into Japanese and published by Masahide Miyasaka in his essay “Shiiboruto to Roshia no tai – Nichi kaikoku seisaku (1).”

⁴ These books and maps are partly published by Philipp Franz von Siebold.

⁵The German transcription of MS 56 reads as follows: “*Hochwohlgeborener Herr. Ich hatte die Ehre, unter Dat. 8. Nov. d. J. an Euer Exzellenz die versprochene Note im Betreffe der Jap. Angelegenheit nach Wien zu ubersenden und mit einem Privatschreiben zu begleiten, worin ich Euer Hochwohlgeboren gebethen, mir den richtigen Empfang melden zu lassen. Da ich ohne Bescheidt geblieben mache ich mich besorgt, dass vielleicht die Note in Wien liegen geblieben und nicht in Ihre Hand wahrend derselben Aufenthalt in Petersburg gekommen ist, was ich mir so sehr gewünscht hatte. Meine Nachrichten von der amerik. Expedition gehen bis genau 20. v.m., wo ich einen Brief von Bord der US Dampffregatte Mississippi, worauf sich Commodore Perry befindet, erhalten habe. Das Geschwader befand sich damals auf der Hohe von Norfolk. Mein Correspondent bedauert, dass die amerikanische Regierung Perrys Vorschlag ein wissenschaftliches Comite zu ernennen, nicht genehmigt habe und dass sich überhaupt wenig wissenschaftliche Hilfsmittel mit Ausnahme nautischer Bucher und Kartenmaterial fur diese Reise vorhanden seien. Die U.S. brig. Vincent wird die nordliche Kuste von China aufnehmen und Korai und Jezu und moglichst die Mundung des Amur besuchen. Auch geht man mit dem Plane noch eine Reise auf dem Amur zu unternehmen. Ich glaube diese Nachrichten Euer Excellenz mittheilen zu müssen, da sie den in meiner Note gemachten Vorschlag zu einer aktuellen Expedition von Seiten Russlands unterstützen. Indem ich Euer Excellenz ersuche mich über den richtigen Empfang der mehrseitigen Note und dieser Zeilen mich zu benachrichtigen.*”

⁶ The German text reads as follows: “*Sobald ich in Erfahrung gebracht hatte, dass die russische Regierung eine Gesandtschafts – und Entdeckungsreise nach Japan beabsichtige, habe ich mich im Interesse der Wissenschaften und des allgemeinen Handelsverkehrs in einer Note, (d.d. 8. November 1852) an einen hochgestellten russischen Staatsmann und Vorsteher der Wissenschaften gewendet.*”

⁷ The Russian Ambassador to the Netherlands in the Hague, Baron Friedrich – Franz von Maltitz was born in 1794 and died in 1857. Baron von Maltitz belongs to a famous aristocratic family from Thuringia, known since the time of Hedenreich von Maltes (1223 – 1256). Peter Friedrich von Maltitz auf Dursuppen received the Russian baronate on December 21, 1796. He was Imperial Chamberlain and Russian Ambassador in Stuttgart. (Adelslexikon, 204). Before becoming Russian Ambas-

sador to the Netherlands in the Hague, Baron von Maltitz had been known in Russia as a poet. Baron Friedrich–Franz von Maltitz is not to be confused with the poet Gotthilf August von Maltitz, who was also born in 1794, but died already in 1837 (Brockhaus, 1994: 616). In 1817, at the age of 23 years, Friedrich–Franz Baron von Maltitz completed Friedrich von Schiller’s fragmentary drama Demetrius, which had been published in 1815, ten years after Schiller’s death. It is the story of Dimitry, who claimed in the year 1603 to be the son of the Russian Emperor Ivan (Kindler, 1982: 2489). From 1817 to 1829 Baron Friedrich–Franz von Maltitz published his poems and in 1834 his book “Fantasy.” It is astonishing that the relations between Philipp Franz von Siebold and Baron von Maltitz have never been mentioned in the works of Siebold or in the literature on Siebold.

⁸ The two dates in the letters by Baron von Maltitz show that the Russian ambassador always used both the western and Russian calendar. In the 19th century the Russian calendar was always 12 days ahead.

⁹ Anna Pawlowna was the sister of the Russian Emperor Alexander I. She married the Dutch Prince Willem Frederik George Lodewijk, later King William II of the Netherlands (1792 – 1849). To honour the Duchesse Anna Pawlowna, Siebold called the Kiri–tree “Pawlownia Imperialis” (Kure, 1926, Vol. 1, page 327).

¹⁰ The original French text reads as follows: “*Cependant les evenements politiques et commerciaux, qui se passent actuellement dans ce parages de Grand Ocean, et qui dirigent probablement sous les difficultes maritime, vue les cotes de l’empire de Japon, m’est espere de compagna mon Atlas d’une illustration hydrographique et nautique, afin d’en augmenter l’utilite pour la navigation.*”

¹¹ The original text reads as follows: “*Je profite, Monsieur le Colonel de cette occasion pour Vous reiterer l’expression de la satisfaction sincereres avec laquelle je Vous vois honore d’une preuve si flatteuse de la haute bienveillance de l’Empereur, mon Auguste Maitre.*”

¹² The French transcription reads as follows: “*Je soussigner Ihr Ph. Fr. de Siebold reconais par la presente d’avoir recu de la Chancellerie de la Legatione Imperiale de Russie a la Haye la patente et les insignes, enrichis de diamants, de l’ordre de Sainte Anne de la Seconde Classe. Fait St. Peter-sburg, le 24 Fevrier, 8 Mars, 1853.*”

¹³ The English translation was published in the Center for East Asian Cultural Studies (Center, 1969: 6–8) and the German translation was published by Horst Hammitzsch (Hammitzsch, 1975: 101–103).

¹⁴ The original text reads as follows: “*Le memoire et la lettre que vous m’avez fait le honeur de m’adresser, ayant dument examine s’ont fait naitre ici le desir de recueillir de Votre bouche des eclairissements et des domains supplementaires sur les questions que nul Europeen n’a ete a meme de connaitre ainsi exactement.*”

¹⁵ Karl Wassiljewitsch Count von Nesselrode was born in Lisboa on December 13, 1780 and died in St. Petersburg on March 23, 1862 (Brockhaus, 1991: 449). His father Maria Julius Franz Count von Nesselrode, who belonged to the old German aristocracy of the Rheinland, had already been in the Russian diplomatic service as Russian ambassador to Portugal and since 1797 as Russian ambassador to Prussia. Karl Robert Graf von Nesselrode, as he is called in German literature, was the Russian minister of foreign affairs from 1816 and Russian chancellor from 1844 to 1856. He was the most important Russian politician of that time (Hentzen, 1936: 369/370).

¹⁶ Nikolaj Nikolajewitsch Murav'iev was one of the outstanding Russian diplomats of the middle 19th century. He was born on August 23, 1809 and died in Paris on November 30, 1881 (Brockhaus, 1991: 214). He was a member of the famous Russian family of aristocrats Murav'iev, who maintained high military and political positions, especially in the 19th century. In his military career and in the civil service he showed at an early stage organizational and statesmanlike competence, efficiency and decisiveness (Krupinski, 1940: 18). On September 5, 1847 the Russian Emperor Nikolaj I. appointed Murav'iev as Governor – General of Irkutsk and Jenisseisk (Barsukov, 1891: 166), a position he held for fourteen years, until 1861. Murav'iev had the task of developing the East – Siberian region for Russia, and extending and strengthening the Russian position in the Far East. Due to missing infrastructure, it was not possible to exploit the rich natural resources of East Siberia. In the treaty of Nertschinsk between Russia and China, dated September 7, 1689, the Russians had abandoned the whole Amur – Region to China (The treaty of Nertschinsk is published in Golder's book: *Russian Expansion on the Pacific*, page 291). The Russians were prohibited from navigating the river Amur. The overland transport for Russian goods through the forests of East – Siberia to the Pacific Ocean was difficult, time – consuming and expensive. Trade with China was only possible via Kiachta by overland transport. The development of East Siberia and the extension of Russian power in this region was only possible by gaining control of the mouth of the Amur and by gaining right of navigation on the Amur. But this had been rejected by China (Clyde, 1928: 11). This problem gained in importance, economically and politically, when the French and the British became more active in East Asia. The Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Count von Nesselrode rejected any action against China, as he wanted to avoid damaging good relations with England. The Russian Emperor did not share Nesselrode's opinion. He instructed Murav'iev personally at Tula on September 6, 1847 hoping that Murav'iev would solve the Amur problem without the approval of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Krupinski, 1940: 19). Murav'iev was successful. Finally in the treaty of Aigun, in 1858, he obtained the Amur – region from the Chinese. In appreciation of this success he was appointed Count Murav'iev Amurskij by the Russian Emperor.

¹⁷ Marienbad, the Czech Mariánské Lázně, is a famous Czech spa, near the Kaiserwald (the forest of

the emperor). It was founded by the Abbot of Tepl in 1797 and became an official spa in 1818. In the nineteenth century it was one of the most famous spas (medicinal baths) for the Russian and German aristocracy (Brockhaus, 1991: 203/204).

¹⁸ The French letter reads as follows: “*Monsieur, Oblige de rester au lieu de Marienbad plus longtemps que J’ai pense, a cause de la sante de ma femme et de prendre apres la route directe de Paris pour la meme cause, je me trouve – bien malheureusement pour moi – dans l’impossibilite de venir a St. Martin dans ce moment, mais devient absolument profiter de Votre aimable invitation plus tard. Je vous pris de bien vouloir m’ecrier a Marienbad si je pourrais encore Vous trouver sur le Rhin entre le 20 et 30 de Septembre et si pour hazard Vous avez deja quitte St. Martin, alors dans quel pays je fait avoir l’honneur de Vous faire ma visite dans les jours sus mentionnes. Veuillez bien recevoir l’assurance de la concideration la plus distinguee de Votre tres humble et devoue. Serviteur Nicolas Mouravieff. Le 23 Juillet Marienbad. PS : Si Vous ne recevois cette lettre avant le 26 de Juillet alors veuillez bien me repondre a Paris.*”

¹⁹ The French letter reads as follows : “*Monsieur, Je vous suis bien reconnaissant pour l’aimable esperance, que Vous ma donne par Votre lettre de 27 Juillet de Vous visiter a la fin du Septembre a St. Martin et certainement je m’empresserai d’en profiter si meme ma femme a cause de sante sera oblige de rester a Paris ; en attendant nous partons pour les bains de mer annuels de la France. Ma femme me prie de Vous presenter ainsi qu’a Madame des respects de Vous remercier pour l’aimable invitation que vous nous faites. Je me mets aux genoux de Madame et je Vous prie d’agreer l’expression de la haute consideration de Votre tres humble et devoue Serviteur N. Muravieff. Paris, le Aout 1853.*”

²⁰ This document MS 40 has been transcribed, translated into Japanese and published by Miyasaka, Masahide/Ishikawa, Mitsunobu/Neumann, Bernd. (Miyasaka, 1997: 50 – 70).

²¹ The detailed analysis of these Russian documents will be published in due course.