

BOOK REVIEW

Hartmut WALRAVENS and Agnes STACHE-WEISKE 2021. *Der Linguist Anton Schiefner (1817-1879) und sein Netzwerk. Briefe an Emil Schlagintweit, Leo Reinisch, Franz v. Miklosich, Vatroslav Jagić, K. S. Veselovskij, Eduard Pabst, Vilhelm Thomsen und andere.* [Philosophisch-historische Klasse, Sitzungsberichte, 908. Bd.; Beiträge zur Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens 105.] Wien: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. 937 pp. ISBN: 978-3-7001-8397-6.

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One of the most interesting personalities of Siberian Oriental studies in the Russian Empire in the middle and second half of the 19th century was undoubtedly the linguist, ethnographer, historian of religion, folklorist and narrative researcher Franz Anton Schiefner (18.7.1817–16.11.1879), who at the same time – apart from his importance for Indology and Uralistics – was one of the pioneers of several fields of research (the range here extends from Caucasiology through Tibetan and Buddhist studies to Mongolian studies). H. Walravens, the co-editor of the volume introduced here, has already dealt with his multifaceted and extensive work in a series of contributions.¹ Quite a few of Schiefner's correspondences with colleagues from the various disciplines in which he was active, or at least the remains of such correspondences, have been preserved for editing. Walravens (partly together with Agnes Stache-Weiske) has already presented a series of noteworthy editions of the correspondence of this versatile scholar in recent years.² In view

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¹ WALRAVENS, Hartmut 2005. 'Schiefner, Franz Anton.' In: *Neue Deutsche Biographie* (NDB). Duncker & Humblot 22. 2005, pp. 736–738; WALRAVENS, Hartmut: Anton Schiefner: *Übersetzungen aus dem tibetischen Kanjur. Beiträge zur Buddhismuskunde und zur zentralasiatischen Märchenforschung.* Wiesbaden 2007 etc. For Schiefner's list of publications, see n. 2.

² WALRAVENS, Hartmut 2013. *St. Petersburg und Livland – und die Entwicklung der estnischen Literatur. Anton Schiefner (1817-1879) und Friedrich Reinhold Kreutzwald (1803-1882) im Briefwechsel (1853-1879).* [Orientalistik Bibliographien und Dokumentationen 22.] Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz; WALRAVENS, Hartmut / STACHE-WEISKE, Agnes 2015. *Anton Schiefner (1817-1879) und seine indologischen Freunde Seine Briefe an die Indologen Albrecht Weber (1825-1901), Rudolf Roth (1821-1895) und William Dwight Whitney (1827-1894) sowie den Indogermanisten Adalbert Kuhn (1821-1881).* [ÖAW, Sb. der Phil.-hist. Kl. 868; Beiträge zur Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens 89.] Wien: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften; WALRAVENS, Hartmut / STACHE-WEISKE, Agnes 2017. *Anton Schiefner: Briefe und Schriftenverzeichnis. Briefe an Bernhard Jülg (1825-1886), Karl Ernst von Baer (1792-1876), Reinhold Köhler (1830-1892), Victor Hehn (1813-1890), August Friedrich Pott (1802-1887), Ernst Kuhn (1846-1920), Lorenz Diefenbach (1806-1883), Ernst Förstemann (1822-1906) und Karl Dziatzko (1842-1903).* [ÖAW, Sb. der Phil.-hist. Kl. 884; Beiträge zur Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens 94.] Wien: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.

of Schiefner's materials, which were still waiting to be discovered in archives and manuscript departments, it was no exaggeration to speak of a fundamental lack of editions, a shortcoming that has now been largely remedied by the impressive volume reviewed here, even though more documents from the once wide-ranging correspondence of the great scholar are likely to turn up here and there in the future.

Following a list of abbreviations (pp. 7–8), a portrait of Schiefner (p. 9) and a foreword by the editors (pp. 10–20), this comprehensive work consists of an edition of Schiefner's letters and the remains of correspondences with a total of eighteen different colleagues: (1.) the Tibetologist Emil Schlagintweit (pp. 21–135): 17 documents as well as three texts, given as facsimiles in the appendix; (2.) the Orientalist, Egyptologist and Americanist Leo Reinisch (pp. 136–200): 29 documents; (3.) the linguist and Slavist Franz von Miklosich (pp. 201–343): 70 documents; (4.) the linguist and Slavist Vatroslav Jagić (pp. 345–555): 101 documents; (5.) the Secretary of the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences Konstantin Stepanovič Veselovskij (pp. 557–683): 49 documents; (6.) the linguist and Slavist Jakov Karlovič Grot (pp. 685–693): five documents; (7.) the classical philologist and historian Eduard Pabst (pp. 695–821): 27 documents, (8.) the linguist and Turkologist Vilhelm Thomsen (pp. 823–835): four documents; (9.) the Indologist Hermann Brockhaus (pp. 837–848): one document; (10.) the cultural historian Ludwig Friedländer (pp. 849–853): one document; (11.) the classical philologist and librarian Karl Halm (pp. 855–860): one document; (12.) the librarian Robert Harrison (pp. 861–863): one document, (13.) the Germanist and Romanist Ludwig Holland (pp. 865–870): one document; (14.) the art historian Carl Justi (pp. 871–875): one document; (15.) the orientalist Marcus Joseph Müller (pp. 877–880): one document; (16.) the orientalist and librarian Reinhold Rost (pp. 881–884): one document; (17.) the Germanist Friedrich Zarncke (pp. 885–889): one document and (18.) the diplomat and historian Maximilian Wolfgang von Goethe (pp. 891–893): one document. The volume is concluded by an index of names (pp. 895–930) and an index of subjects (pp. 831–837).

The institutions owning the documents are the Department of Manuscripts and Early Printed Books of the Bavarian State Library in Munich, the Collection of Manuscripts and Early Printed Books of the Austrian National Library in Vienna, the Manuscript Collection of the State Library in Berlin, the Russian National Library (Российская национальная библиотека) in St. Petersburg, the Royal Library (Det Kongelige Bibliotek) in Copenhagen, the City History Museum Leipzig, the Russian State Archive of Literature and Art (Государственный архив литературы искусства [РГАЛИ]) in Moscow, the University Library of Tübingen, the University and State Library of Bonn and the German Literature Archive in Marbach.

Each of the correspondences (actually collections of Schiefner's letters) is always preceded by a biographical sketch of the relevant correspondence partner of the St. Petersburg scholar, in most cases a portrait, and in the case of the more extensive correspondence remains, an overview of the respective letters and other documents. The introductory remarks on Emil Schlagintweit are particularly detailed. The editors have also included a brief history of the Schlagintweit family (pp. 24–42), a preliminary list of Emil Schlagintweit's writings (pp. 43–57), a compilation of the literature on Emil Schlagintweit (p. 57) and a description of Schiefner's relations with the Schlagintweit family (pp. 58–67).

A fundamental remark must be made here about the editing principles. The editors consistently refrain from providing exact information on the physical condition of the documents, i.e., regrettably, no information is provided on page references, states of preservation, possible text



losses, numbers of lines, etc. This may be regrettable, but this refrain is, at least in part, justified ‘da fast durchweg nicht nach Originalen, sondern Kopien oder Scans gearbeitet wurde’ (p. 18).

Beyond this well-founded approach, however, some minor corrections and additions can be made: for example, the philologist Adolphe Régnier (p. 58, note 2) died on 20.10.1884, the Lama Galsan Gomboev (p. 58, note 1) died on 11.6.1863, on p. 66, in note 31 read ‘l’Académie Impériale’ instead of ‘l’Academie impériale’ and ‘St.-Pétersbourg’ instead of ‘St.-Petersbourg’ (the latter also on p. 191, in note 137), on p. 209, in note 23 read ‘Rosdorf’ instead of ‘Roßdorf’, on p. 823, in note 1 read ‘Schaeeder’ instead of ‘Schrader’ and add ‘[...] Ein Nachruf’, on p. 829, in note 17 read ‘Pál’ instead of ‘Pal’ and in note 19 read ‘Ahlqvist’ instead of ‘Ahlquist’, on p. 839, in note 13 read ‘Pirkko’ instead of ‘Pirko’ (also in the index of names), on p. 847, in note 50 read ‘Ugalachmut’ instead of ‘Uglachmut’ etc.

In the case of the biographical references given on p. 230, in note 84, one could have simply referred to the brief vita in the volume (pp. 45–50) – at times, too, on p. 18, a ‘gestraffte Zitierweise’ is referred to; the same applies to the information on p. 253, in note 132 (cf. pp. 823–825). On Ignazio Guidi (p. 336 f., note 259), it should be added that he was above all the leading Italian Ethiopist of his time through editing of chronicles – including Ethiopian Imperial chronicles (*Annales Iohannis I, Iyāsu I, Bakāffā*. Parisiis 1903) – but also of the *Fāṭḥa Nāgāšt*. The following is noted about V. Thomsen: ‘Er gilt als Begründer der modernen Turkologie, indem er die mongolischen Orhon-Inschriften deutete und nachwies, dass sie in einem alttürkischen Dialekt geschrieben waren’ (p. 823). Of course, Thomsen is not the ‘founder of modern Turcology’ (a role that others would like to assign to W. Bang Kaup), at best a pioneer – just as his ‘competitor’ in the deciphering of the ‘Runic’-Turkic inscriptions, Friedrich Wilhelm Radloff, since the unravelling of these scriptural monuments brought the pre-Islamic heritage of the Turkic peoples to the attention of the world of Oriental studies. In contrast to Thomsen’s work, however, Radloff’s other work – above all on the Turkic peoples of Siberia, but also the collection of linguistic material or his comparative dictionary of Turkic languages (‘Türk-Dialecte’) – was certainly more influential for the development of Turkic studies than that of Thomsen. Of course, one could continue with additional remarks, but this would hardly do justice to the work.

Now, these few remarks should not cloud the picture, and every reader must realise, on the one hand, how small the weight of these corrections and additions is for such an enormous work as the one discussed here and, on the other hand, what an impressive work has actually been done by H. Walravens and A. Stache-Weiske. Aspects of the editing principles already mentioned are very much to be welcomed. Thus, on the one hand, the editors have dispensed with the abridgements which are sometimes more common today (p. 17: ‘Was heute unerheblich erscheint, mag morgen in anderem Kontext wichtig sein’) and, on the other hand, quotations from other languages and in other scripts / writing systems have been reproduced in the original. The rich commentary on the documents, through which the materials are often contextualised in the first place, should also be emphasised. H. Walravens and A. Stache-Weiske went so far as to compile lists of writings for several of the correspondence partners for the very first time (E. Schlagintweit and E. Pabst).

With this edition of some of Schiefner’s letters, the editors give the reader an excellent impression of the extensive network of correspondents from a variety of research fields in whose centre F. A. Schiefner found himself in St. Petersburg, and thus another really important contribution has now been made to the Schiefner-research, for which H. Walravens and A. Stache-Weiske have already rendered outstanding services on several occasions in the past. A rather general



remark on p. 19 leads us to hope for further editions: ‘War zu Beginn der Schiefner-Forschungen noch ein Mangel an Briefen zu beklagen, so haben sich im Laufe der Arbeiten sukzessive weitere Materialien gefunden, zuletzt in russischen Archiven, und es besteht Hoffnung, diese für eine zukünftige Edition zu erhalten.’

