

## Yegor Krehmer

Yegor (Georges) Ivanovich Krehmer (1805–1859) began his career in the Foreign Ministry in the 1820s. From 1827, he was a secretary in the Russian diplomatic mission in Washington, and subsequently chargé d'affaires. In 1841, he was appointed consul general in Egypt, and, in 1845, consul general in London. During the Crimean War, when diplomatic relations between Russia and Great Britain were broken off, he did his best to maintain trading relations. Appreciating the importance of trade between the two countries and the need to extend its range, he was among the first to press for the establishment of a Russian consular service in Australia. He died suddenly on 24 September 1859 at his home in London, and was buried in St George's Church, Hanover Square. Alexander Ivanovich Koshelev, his colleague in the Foreign Ministry, described him as 'a clever and extremely capable man'.<sup>1</sup> When writing in French, he signed his name 'Georges Krehmer'.

---

<sup>1</sup> Olga Kosheleva, *Zapiski Aleksandra Ivanovicha Kosheleva (1812–1883)*, Berlin, B. Behrs Verlag, 1884, p. 20.

# 1. Krehmer to Count M. Chreptowitch,<sup>2</sup> Russian Minister Plenipotentiary

London,  
22 (10) December 1856  
No. 23

[...] Since the restoration of trading relations with Great Britain, some London businessmen have several times approached the Consulate General to request, in the interests of imperial trade, that the Imperial Government establish a consular service at the Cape of Good Hope, in Melbourne for Australasia, and in Sydney for New South Wales.

Among the candidates recommended for these positions by commercial companies which merit the highest confidence are the following:

- (1) Mr James Damyon for the consular service in Melbourne. Mr Damyon served his apprenticeship in trade in St Petersburg, and Mr Robert von Glehn, a Russian subject established for many years as a merchant in London, who has known Mr Damyon since his youth, vouches for his integrity and honourable principles.
- (2) Mr Edmund Monson Paul, for the post of consul in Sydney, New South Wales, is recommended by several trading companies in London, including J. Henry Schroeder & Co., which has branches in St. Petersburg, Riga and Odessa.
- (3) Mr James Duncan Thomson, for the post of consul at Cape Town (Cape of Good Hope), is recommended by Mr John Mollett, a London merchant whose honourable reputation is widely acknowledged and who acts for Stieglitz & Co. in this capital.

If Your Excellency approves the establishment of these new consular services, I beg you to kindly permit me to present to the Imperial Ministry the nominations which I have had the honour to place before you in the above paragraphs of this dispatch. [...]

AVPRI 184-520-137, ff 1–2. In French. Previously unpublished.

---

2 Count Michel Chreptowitch (Mikhail Khreptovich) was accredited as Minister Plenipotentiary in London in August 1856.

## 2. Krehmer to Chreptowitch, Russian Minister Plenipotentiary

London,  
11 April (30 March) 1857  
No. 41

[...] As the Imperial Ministry has confirmed in a dispatch from the Department of Personnel and Accounting [...] the nominations for the vice-consular positions in Cape Town, Melbourne and Sydney, which I had the honour to submit for Your Excellency's approval in my dispatch No. 23,<sup>3</sup> I beg you to pass the following official nominations to the Foreign Office.

- (1) Mr James Duncan Thomson as Imperial Vice-Consul at Cape Town (Cape of Good Hope),
- (2) Mr James Damyon as Imperial Vice-Consul at Melbourne, for Australasia,<sup>4</sup>
- (3) Mr Edmund Monson Paul, as Imperial Vice-Consul at Sydney, for New South Wales.

[...]

AVPRI 184-520-137, f. 7. In French. Previously unpublished.

---

<sup>3</sup> See Document 1.

<sup>4</sup> Despite the recommendation that Damyon be appointed vice-consul for all of Australasia, in the end his jurisdiction was limited to the Colony of Victoria.

This text is taken from *A New Rival State?: Australia in Tsarist Diplomatic Communications*, edited by Alexander Massov, Marina Pollard and Kevin Windle, published 2018 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.