



# Edmund Paul and James Damyon

## Edmund Paul

Edmund Monson Paul, who served as honorary Russian consul in Sydney, was born in 1826 or 1827 in Norwich, England, in the county of Norfolk, in the family of a silversmith. In the early 1850s, he arrived in Australia with his brother, William Sheffield Paul, settled in Sydney and established a small wholesaling business. Even before he was appointed vice-consul in 1857, Edmund had had an unexpected brush with the distant northern empire. During the years of the Crimean War, Australia had feared attacks on its port cities by the Russian Navy. These fears were, of course, groundless, but they led to the formation of volunteer detachments in the settler colonies. In 1854, Edmund Paul was one of the first to enlist in Sydney.<sup>1</sup>

After his appointment, in 1860, Paul sailed to England for two years to deal with personal matters, leaving his brother in charge of consular affairs.<sup>2</sup> Then, for some years, the brothers owned a cattle-grazing property called Glendariwell in central Queensland. In 1866, Edmund married Rosalie Purdie in Brisbane,<sup>3</sup> and the couple later had a son and three daughters. A terrible drought, which began in Queensland in 1867–1868, finally

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1 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 April 1911, p. 11.

2 AVPRI: 256-555a-1147, f. 2; *Sydney Morning Herald*, 13 February 1860, p. 5.

3 *Brisbane Courier*, 15 February 1866, p. 1.

forced him to abandon the land and return to his wholesale business in Sydney. There, in 1870, he became the sole agent in Australia of the British firm J. Schwebbe & Co., the producer of mineral water.

Edmund Paul clearly disliked writing dispatches – very few of them have survived. He found his representative duties far more enjoyable. However, as in the case of James Damyon, the commanders of Russian vessels remarked gratefully on his ‘making every effort to meet all our needs’, and ‘valuable assistance and advice in dealing with the local authorities’.<sup>4</sup> In April 1902, his forty-five years as honorary Russian consul were celebrated in the Sydney hotel ‘Australia’. At that event, Nikolai Pompeyevich Passek, the then Russian consul general in Melbourne, solemnly announced that he had received a telegram from St Petersburg informing him that Paul had been awarded a personal gift from Tsar Nicholas II. For his years in the Russian consular service, Paul was also awarded the Order of St Stanislav, Third and Second Class.<sup>5</sup>

Paul was known for being the very model of an English gentleman of the old school, with a kindly and gentle nature. He was widely respected, had a broad circle of acquaintances and kept open house in the prestigious Darling Point area. There he received the crews of Russian ships, as well as all notable Russian visitors to Sydney. The renowned anthropologist Nikolai Miklouho-Maclay stayed with him for a while in 1878. However, as the years caught up with him, it became increasingly difficult for him to perform his consular duties. In March 1913, after fifty-six years of service, he requested permission to resign his office, and retired in April of that year.<sup>6</sup> The following year, on 27 November 1914, the longest-serving consul died.<sup>7</sup> He was buried in Sydney’s famous Waverley Cemetery.

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4 From a report by Rear-Admiral M. Fedorovsky, commander of Pacific squadron, 25 August 1872 (OS). See Russian State Naval Archive (hereafter RGA VMF): 410-2-3207, f. 521.

5 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 April 1902, p. 7; 10 March 1913, p. 8.

6 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 March 1913, p. 8; *Ezhegodnik Ministerstva inostrannykh del Rossii*, 1914, St Petersburg, 1914, p. 8.

7 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 November 1914, p. 8.

## James Damyon

James Payne Damyon, the first Russian consul in Melbourne, was born in Stepney, East London, on 17 December 1812. In the early nineteenth century, Stepney had not yet become synonymous with crime; it was a commercial quarter of Dockland, where the poorer working classes lived, so there are good grounds for assuming that Damyon came from a poor family. In his youth, before settling in Australia, he had lived for a number of years in Russia, working for a variety of commercial companies. The experience not only left him with a love for Russia and the Russians, he came away the richer for his knowledge of the language. Eduard Romanovich Zimmermann, the Russian traveller and writer who visited Melbourne in 1881, established friendly relations with him and wrote that he could not only speak Russian, but write it correctly as well. In Russia, the young Englishman had made a special study of the language, staying for several months as a paying guest with a village priest who taught Russian to foreigners.<sup>8</sup>

Early in 1840, at a mature age, Damyon emigrated to Australia. He opened a second-hand shop and soon prospered. In 1852, he became sole proprietor of Glenferrie Farm, sixty acres of land on the outskirts of Melbourne. In 1843, he started a family. His bride, Mary Anne Philpott, also from England, gave him nine children.<sup>9</sup>

Damyon was thrilled to be appointed Russian vice-consul in 1857 and took great pride in holding that office. On the Melbourne stock exchange building, where for a time he took rooms for his consular premises, he erected a flagpole at his own expense in order to fly the Russian flag.<sup>10</sup> He was extremely conscientious in the discharge of his duties as consul, sending regular dispatches to the Russian Consulate General in London. A favourable attitude to Russia was not simply a function of his status as consul: he genuinely loved Russia. He gave Russian names to two of his six daughters, Yekaterina Olga and Rosa Nadia. In 1870, his elder daughter Agnes Susanna married Edward Constantine Schiele, who had been born in St Petersburg, the son of the renowned Petersburg physician

8 E. R. Tsimmerman, 'Puteshestvie po Avstralii i Okeanii', *Otechestvennye zapiski*, Vol. 265, No. 12, 1882, p. 482.

9 Damyon's date of birth and other biographical facts are taken from the following genealogical site: [www.gschneidinger.com/dat195.htm#4](http://www.gschneidinger.com/dat195.htm#4) (accessed 4 April 2018).

10 *The Argus*, 19 August 1858, p. 5.

E. I. Schiele.<sup>11</sup> In his declining years, in 1825, Damyon's son-in-law would write of him in his memoirs with unconcealed warmth, stressing the 'unforgettable' atmosphere of 'wonderful family life', which surrounded him whenever he stayed in Damyon's home.<sup>12</sup>

The sailors of the Russian navy who had dealings with Damyon when their ships called at Australian ports spoke very warmly of him. In 1862, the commander of the frigate *Svetlana*, Captain Second Class Ivan Ivanovich Butakov, observed that 'his zeal in the discharge of his duties knew no bounds'.<sup>13</sup> In 1871, Captain-Lieutenant Mitrofan Yegorovich Koltovsky, commander of the *Gaidamak*, made special mention of him in his official report: 'In Melbourne I met Mr Damyon, our consul, whom I cannot pass over in my dispatch. In all my service abroad I have never had occasion to meet such a worthy and estimable consul ... We may indeed take pride in having such a consul as Mr Damyon.'<sup>14</sup> Others who spoke equally highly of his work include Captain-Lieutenant Alexander Mikhailovich Linden, an officer on the corvette *Bogatyr*; Captain Second Class Mikhail Nikolayevich Kumani, commander of the clipper *Izumrud*; and Captain Second Class Vladimir Ivanovich Lang, commander of the clipper *Vestnik*.<sup>15</sup> Damyon was able to rebut the charge of espionage, levelled against Russian mariners in the Australian press during a visit to Australia by a Russian squadron under the command of Rear-Admiral Avramy Bogdanovich Aslanbegov in 1882.<sup>16</sup> He was mentioned with gratitude by Eduard Zimmerman and Mikhail Aleksandrovich Shostak, a mining engineer dispatched on assignment to Australia in 1884.<sup>17</sup>

In 1883, Damyon was awarded the Order of St Stanislav, Third Class, for his devoted service.<sup>18</sup> However, in the 1890s, when Australia suffered a deep financial crisis, disaster struck. In 1892, when already advanced in years (he had passed his eightieth birthday), he went bankrupt and

11 *The Argus*, 11 January 1870, p. 4.

12 E. C. Schiele, 'A Short History of My Life', Stonnington History Centre (Melbourne), Local History Catalogue MH 7363, pp. 15, 39.

13 I. I. Butakov, 'Raport komandira fregata "Svetlana" kapitana 2-ogo ranga Butakova. Mel'burn, 10 ianvaria 1862 gg.', *Morskoj sbornik*, No. 4, 1862, p. 181.

14 RGA VMF: 410-2-3063, f. 515.

15 A. M. Linden, 'Zametki iz Avstralii (iz zapisok o plavanii) v 1863 g.', *Morskoj sbornik*, No. 4, 3, 1864, p. 170; RGA VMF: 410-2-3207, f. 521; RGA VMF: 417-1-119, f. 29.

16 For more detail, see A. Ia. Massov, 'Vizit dobroj voli ili sekretnaia missiia? (Prebyvanie v Avstralii eskadry kontr-admirala A.V. Aslanbegova v 1881–1882 godakh)', *Gangut*, 1993, 5, pp. 70–76.

17 RGIA: 468-21-1114, f. 49.

18 AVPRI: 159-464-1083, ff 1–2.

his possessions were sold to pay his debts. Despite being reduced to penury and having lost most of his hearing, he nevertheless continued to perform his duties until 1894, when Alexis Dmitriyevich Poutiata, the first permanent Russian consul, arrived in Melbourne. In 1896, out of respect for his services, the then Russian consul in Melbourne, Robert Robertovich Ungern-Sternberg, wrote to the Foreign Ministry to endorse Damyon's request to the Emperor for a financial allowance. However, instead of an allowance, Damyon received only a single payment of £120.<sup>19</sup> He died in dire poverty on 5 February 1898.<sup>20</sup> His grave has been located in St Kilda cemetery in Melbourne.

### 3. Paul to F. Grote, Russian Consul General in London<sup>21</sup>

Sydney,  
16 (4) December 1859

[...] I received your letter of 26<sup>th</sup> September with the deepest sorrow, as I had great respect for Mr Krehmer, and if anything can provide consolation it is the belief inspired by the tone of your letter that I may continue to enjoy relations with you which will be just as agreeable as those with my previous superior.

I can assure you [...] that there will be no want of zeal or dedication in the performance of my duties, and from the flattering expressions which you are so kind as to honour me with I judge that I will find in you one who appreciates fairly my efforts to carry out my duties. [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1147, f. 5. In French.

19 AVPRI: 184-520-820, ff 104–105; 184-520-820-859, f. 10.

20 *The Argus*, 7 February 1898, p. 1.

21 Friedrich Grote: Russian consul general in London 1859–1862.

## 4. Damyon to Grote, Russian Consul General in London

Melbourne,  
25 (13) January 1862  
No. 18

[...] I have the honor to report the arrival here on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. of the Imperial Russian Frigate *Svetlana* from Batavia.<sup>22</sup> She left this port on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> (the day before yesterday).<sup>23</sup> During her stay in this port some provisions and coals have been furnished. Enclosed you will find all the accounts as also an account of Messrs. Wilkinson Bros. of this city,<sup>24</sup> to whom the Commander (Capt. Boutakoff) was accredited. I enclose also a summary of accounts; but in this are not included the pilotage and a supplementary account marked Y amounting to £16 – 15 – 11. You will also please to observe that in the account marked C there is an amount of £17 – 10 – 0 against which I have put a cross. This is an error – it ought to be £12 – 10 – 0. The difference £5 – 0 – 0 was handed over to the Purser at the last moment after all the accounts were signed and sealed and after the Frigate had actually weighed anchor. It was thought advisable not to alter the account, but I deemed that it would be sufficient to make the explanation.

I trust that Capt. Boutakoff and his officers have been well pleased with their stay in this port. Their society has been sought, and each and every one has been gratified with their urbanity and courtesy. Many have witnessed the departure of the Frigate with regret and hope that she may have a prosperous and safe voyage.

Many merchants of this place were desirous of shipping gold to England on board the Frigate, but Captain Boutakoff declined. I think she might have had a large quantity as the insurance is tremendously high by merchant vessels. I have no doubt the *Pelorus* – the English Frigate now here – leaving here next week, will take a quantity. She will very easily make £700 or 800. [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1191, ff 7–8. In English. Author's copy.

22 Jakarta was known as Batavia until 1942.

23 The *Svetlana* weighed anchor on 22 January but departed Port Phillip Bay on 23 January. Commanded by Captain Second Class Ivan Butakov, she stayed for three weeks in Melbourne on the return voyage to the Baltic after completing a series of assignments in the North Pacific.

24 Wilkinson Bros.: an American shipping agency.

## 5. Damyon to A. de Berg,<sup>25</sup> Russian Consul General in London

Melbourne,  
25 (13) April 1862  
No. 24

[...] I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 24<sup>th</sup> January last informing me that the maps, forming part of the Geological Survey of Victoria, had been received, and that the Direction of the Mining Corps desires to express its thanks and to place at the disposal of said office ten copies of Geological works published in Russia.

I shall immediately transmit these works to the Geological Survey office here, following out your instructions – this would have been done ere this, but for a death occurring in my family. [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1191, f. 14. In English.

## 6. Damyon to Berg, Russian Consul General in London

Melbourne,  
25 (13) July 1862  
No. 31

[...] I have made a diligent search after the paper relating to John Finn,<sup>26</sup> the Russian sailor who died some time ago in the hospital – but in vain. I enquired at the latter place, but no one there appeared to have seen anything of the kind. The man's clothes were worth nothing – certainly not more than twenty shillings – so I gave them to the lodging house keeper with whom he resided prior to his entering the hospital and to whom he was indebted. [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1191, f. 20. In English.

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25 Alexander Fedorovich Berg was Russian consul general in London from 1862 to 1883.

26 No further information has been found concerning John Finn.

## 7. Damyon to Berg, Russian Consul General in London

Melbourne,  
25 (13) September 1863  
No. 25

[...] I have the honor to acquaint you that I have prepared a report, in French, on the system of defence adopted by the Government of Victoria, and which I enclose herewith.<sup>27</sup> I trust that it may prove of some interest to the Russian Government, and hoping such may prove the case. [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1264, f. 29. In English.

## 8. Damyon to Berg, Russian Consul General in London

Melbourne,  
26 (14) October 1863  
No. 27

[...] I have the honor to acquaint you that I have been applied to by a Russian, by name Ivan Sharin, to communicate with his father and mother, from whom he has not heard since he left Russia some twelve years ago. I have written the letter for him as, strange to say, he has nearly forgotten his own language. His parents live somewhere in the Government of Archangel and I have taken the liberty to enclose the epistle to you hoping that you will be kind enough to forward it. It appears that he was a sailor and left Russia on board a vessel called the *Troika* which ship was sold in Rio Janeiro. He holds a document to that effect signed by Russian Consul General Schmid dated 1/13 Sept. 1854 and that he was duly paid & discharged.<sup>28</sup>

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27 Report not included here.

28 Ferdinand Schmid, Austrian consul general in Rio de Janeiro, acted for the Russian consul general in his absence.

A person signing himself Capt. Rakowski, who applied to the Russian Imperial Government some time ago, through me for amnesty, has been advertising himself in the papers as agent for Poland.<sup>29</sup> I send enclosed the advertisement. [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1264, f. 45. In English.

## 9. Damyon to Berg, Russian Consul General in London

Melbourne,  
25 (13) November 1863  
No. 31

[...] I have the honor to inform you that on last Monday evening the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst. a meeting, got up by Mr Rakowski,<sup>30</sup> was held at one of the public houses of the city for the furtherance, as was stated, of the Polish cause. From all the information I can gather – for of course I was not there – there was scarcely a single respectable person in the room and certainly no one of note. A committee, I believe, was appointed to carry out their plans for procuring money, to be afterwards forwarded to Europe and, according to the papers £21 were promised, but I am convinced myself that all their exertions will end in vapour, for nothing of advantage could emanate from such an assemblage. Among the Committee was a man of the name of Goldberg – a Polish Jew,<sup>31</sup> and Mr Rakowski. I don't know if there were any other Poles – for there are so few here now – but there were one or two Austrians I think. Altogether it was a very foolish display and did not create the least sympathy. [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1279, f. 117. In English.

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29 In the margin of the original, next to this sentence, is a note in French 'To the Embassy', apparently written in the Russian Consulate General in London, saying that Seweryn Rakowski is a Polish emigrant, who after the outbreak of the Polish uprising of 1863–1864 declared himself the representative of the Polish National Committee in Australia and headed the Polish Society.

30 See Document 8.

31 Abraham Goldberg, born in Russia in 1829, was a resident of Melbourne from 1857. He sympathised with the Polish independence movement and was a member of the Polish Society, which raised funds in support of the Polish national cause at the time of the uprising against Russian rule.

## 10. Damyon to Berg, Russian Consul General in London

Melbourne,  
26 (14) December 1863  
No. 33

[...] I have the honor to enclose herewith a portion of the *Victoria Government Gazette*, setting forth some changes which are about to take place with reference to Lights, Beacons and Buoys in the Colony.

Before closing this I wish to mention that about a week ago another attempt was made in Melbourne to get up what they call a meeting for the Poles.<sup>32</sup> I have no doubt by the same parties as on the former occasion. Very few people were there as far as I could learn. In fact the thinness of the attendance was commented on in the local journals. The papers further stated that a resolution was passed, in consequence of so few being then present, to hold a meeting at some future period – and that fifty pounds were collected, or rather promised; (which amounts to nothing) for transmission to Europe. [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1279, f. 115. In English.

## 11. Damyon to Berg, Russian Consul General in London

Melbourne,  
25 (13) February 1864  
No. 4

[...] As regards the few Poles here, they have been very quiet lately – that is to say they have had no public meetings. I believe first efforts are being made to collect money. A Mr Sumner of the firm of Grice, Sumner and Co. here acts as treasurer and a Mr Shillinglaw – the shipping master of this port – is secretary.<sup>33</sup> I know also from good authority that a very short

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32 See Document 9.

33 Grice, Sumner & Co.: one of the longest-established trading companies in the Australian colonies. Theodates John Sumner, one of the proprietors, was prominent in Melbourne's social life.

time back a meeting took place (a private one) at Rakowsky's office.<sup>34</sup> I don't know how many were there – the doors were closed. I will collect all the information I can. Indeed I should esteem myself unworthy of the post I have the honor to fill did I not do so. I am now trying to find out the name of a Finn who attended one of the public meetings, and who was very loud in his denunciations. I have just ascertained that he is employed at one of the theatres. I am obliged to be a little careful or perhaps I should not learn anything. Of course all I learn I will transmit.

I purpose, if possible, to send you by next mail a full account of the volunteer movement in this Colony. Some £15,000 have just been voted by parliament for the purchase in England of some heavy guns for the Bay,<sup>35</sup> and it is noted that a block ship is to be sent for to act as a floating battery, whereupon the guns are to be mounted. All this is not quite fixed yet, but I think it may be looked upon as almost certain. [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1279, f. 123. In English.

## 12. Damyon to Berg, Russian Consul General in London

Melbourne,  
26 (14) March (1864)  
No. 5

[...] I have the honor to confirm my last of the 25<sup>th</sup> ultimo and to acknowledge the receipt of your valued communications of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> January N 25 and 38 – the Box of Plants by the *Hurricane* has been duly forwarded to Dr Mueller;<sup>36</sup> and since your last came to hand I have addressed him regarding the freight and charges of same from S. Petersburg to London amounting to £2 – 4 – 1. He has promised to pay me the money next week, so that I shall be enabled to remit it by next mail.

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He sympathised with the Polish independence movement and was treasurer of the Polish-Australian Solidarity Committee. John Joseph Shillinglaw: historian and public figure; in 1856–1859 shipping-master for the Port of Melbourne and registrar of seamen.

<sup>34</sup> See Documents 8, 9 and 10.

<sup>35</sup> The Bay: Port Phillip Bay.

<sup>36</sup> Ferdinand Jakob Heinrich von Mueller: a renowned Australian botanist of German origin, Director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens and Vice-President of the Victorian Acclimatisation Society. He advocated increased cooperation in biological research with Russian scientific institutions, in particular the St Petersburg Botanic Gardens.

Dr Mueller informed me by letter on the 5<sup>th</sup> of this month of his having sent by *Wave of Life* under the charge of Dr Robertson,<sup>37</sup> 4 Black Swans, 4 Mountain Ducks, 2 Swan Geese,<sup>38</sup> 3 pairs native Black Ducks, 1 pair native Teal,<sup>39</sup> and 1 pair native Widgeon<sup>40</sup> – all for the Acclimatisation Society of Moscow with the exception of two swans destined for the Imperial Botanic Gardens in S. Petersburg. Dr Mueller begged me to acquaint you with this matter. The shipment was made in a great hurry, otherwise he states he would have sent them through me. Dr Robertson is health officer at Port Phillip Heads and will, as Dr Mueller states to me in his letter, wait upon His Excellency Baron Brunnow on his arrival in London.<sup>41</sup> The *Wave of Life* had already sailed before I received any notification on the subject. [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1279, ff 124–125. In English.

## 13. Damyon to Berg, Russian Consul General in London

Melbourne,  
25 (13) April 1864  
No. 9

[...] I duly received from Dr Mueller £2.4.1 for sundry expenses on account of a box of plants ex *Hurricane*<sup>42</sup> and I have the honor to enclose herewith first of [*sic*] a bill of exchange for £2.9.1 on Dalgety of your city,<sup>43</sup> for which sum I give you a short résumé on the other side.

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37 *Wave of Life*: a wooden ship built in 1856, then carrying freight on the England–Australia route. Dr James Robertson was a doctor practising in Melbourne Hospital from 1860. In 1864, he became one of the first lecturers in medicine at Melbourne University.

38 Swan goose: a name in use in the nineteenth century for the Magpie goose (*Anseranas semipalmata*).

39 Native teal: this may refer to either the Grey teal (*Anas gracilis*) or the Chestnut teal (*Anas castanea*).

40 Native Widgeon: a name sometimes used in the nineteenth century for the Pink-eared duck (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*).

41 Baron Filipp Ivanovich Brunnow was Russian Minister Plenipotentiary, later Ambassador in London, in 1840–1854 and 1858–1874.

42 See Document 12.

43 Dalgety & Co. was founded in Melbourne in 1846 to supply sheep graziers. It later became a major international trading and finance conglomerate with branches in many cities of the world and its head office in London.

I am sorry that I am not able to send you by this mail, as I intended, an account of the volunteer movement in this Colony but hope to do so next month.

The war in New Zealand still goes on with unabated vigor.<sup>44</sup> The Maories declaring that they will fight forever. It will take some time ere they will be finally subdued.

Just after the closing of last mail I heard from good authority that the Committee, who are collecting money here for the Polish cause, as it is termed, remitted to the Earl of Harrowby £59.<sup>45</sup> This money was sent last month; and is all, I think, that has been subscribed. There have been no more meetings. [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1279, ff 121–122. In English.

## 14. Damyon to Berg, Russian Consul General in London

Melbourne,  
25 (13) May 1864  
No. 11

[...] I have the honor to inform you that since last mail the news from New Zealand has been very discouraging.<sup>46</sup> The British troops have been twice repulsed with fearful loss. It appears the Maories were lying in ambush so that the English were not aware of their whereabouts. Several officers of rank have been killed. One captain who led a forlorn hope was immediately shot dead on mounting a parapet. [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1279, f. 147. In English.

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44 The sporadic conflicts known as the Maori wars lasted from 1843 to 1872. This refers to the 'Taranaki Wars' in the North Island.

45 Sir Dudley Ryder, the Second Earl of Harrowby, backed the Polish insurrection of 1863–1864.

46 See Document 13.

## 15. Damyon to Berg, Russian Consul General in London

Melbourne,  
25 (13) June 1864  
No. 13

[...] I have the honor to inform you that I have this day forwarded to your address 14 maps, which I have received from the Geological Survey office of Victoria, with the request that they may be sent to the Imperial Government.

Mr Rakowski is still busying himself. A few days ago there appeared in the local papers the following – ‘At the instigation of Mr Rakowski, the representative of Polish Nationalities, a lecture will shortly be delivered by Mr Edwards on Poland; more especially since his connection with Russia’.<sup>47</sup> This lecture no doubt is to be a means of raising some money, as everyone who attends will have to pay. I shall watch the papers as there is sure to be a full and detailed account of the proceedings and if there be anything worth communicating, will let you know. [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1279, f. 151. In English.

## 16. Damyon to Berg, Russian Consul General in London

Melbourne,  
26 (14) September 1864  
No. 17

[...] I have the honor to inform you that the lecture on Poland, about which I wrote some short time ago as being got up by Mr Rakowski,<sup>48</sup> has at length come off. Nothing however worth noticing transpired. The papers did not think is worthwhile to go into the affair. They merely state that such lecture was delivered and that very few people were there. The truth is it was a failure.

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47 See Documents 8, 9 and 11. John Edwards: lawyer and member of the Victorian Parliament 1861–1867.

48 See Document 15.

We are in the midst of a general election – parliament is expected to meet about December next.

Commodore Sir William Wiseman has lately been here in command of HMS *Curacoa*.<sup>49</sup> He has been inspecting the defences and has I believe made various new suggestions which I think are to be adopted. The block ship coming out from England is to be a sort of floating battery with three or four 68 pounders. Since the rumours of war in Europe,<sup>50</sup> people here seem to be very keenly alive as to the protection of Victoria. It is a subject every now and then started and afterwards appears to be lost sight of. However a good deal has been done but nothing, as I can understand, that would prevent any heavy armed frigate from doing very considerable damage to the place. Anything new occurring I will communicate. [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1279, ff 153, 155. In English.

## 17. Damyon to Berg, Russian Consul General in London

Melbourne,  
28 (16) December 1864  
No. 12

[...] I have the honor to inform you that some few days ago I received a letter from Sir Redmond Barry, one of the Judges in Victoria, and also Chancellor of the University of Melbourne,<sup>51</sup> expressing his wish that I would forward the books and documents, which accompanied his epistle, to Russia for transmission to the several Universities mentioned therein. For your guidance I beg to enclose his communication to me, and which I will thank you to return at your earliest convenience.

49 Sir William Wiseman: British Rear-Admiral. As commodore in 1863–1866, commanded the Royal Navy station at Sydney. The *Curacoa* was a steam frigate of the Royal Navy.

50 Talk of war in 1863–1864 was linked with a recent and serious deterioration of the international situation in Europe, and in particular in Anglo–Russian relations over the suppression of the Polish insurrection.

51 Sir Redmond Barry: judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria, active in public life, the arts and education, one of the founders of Melbourne University, of which he was Chancellor from 1853 until his death in 1880.

I would here take leave to state that I have forwarded the books and letters, in a parcel, to your address by ship *Essex* which vessel sailed yesterday. Capt. Attwood had kindly promised to have this parcel conveyed to you.<sup>52</sup> I took this mode of transmission in order to save postage, as I did not conceive there was any very great necessity for hurry. Please let me know if the parcel arrives safely. [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1322, f. 3. In English.

## 18. Damyon to Berg, Russian Consul General in London

Melbourne,  
27 (15) August 1867  
No. 11

[...] I beg to enclose herewith two notices – one for Commanders of ships trading to South Australia, the other relating to beacons to guide ships over the Hokianga Bar in New Zealand, both of which I hope will prove useful.<sup>53</sup> I also enclose two extracts – one containing statistical information of the Colony of South Australia and the other, the like information of the Colony of New Zealand. These also I think contain matters of interest.

Everything in the Colony of Victoria is at present at a standstill – the Ministry have resigned and without an appropriation bill having been passed. Consequently there are no funds to pay the civil servants with. This has all been brought about in consequence of the coupling of a vote of £20,000 for the late Governor Sir Chs. Darling,<sup>54</sup> to the appropriation Bill. The upper house were displeased at, what they thought, such a waste of the public funds as £20,000 to a retired Governor and rejected it. This is the second time within the last two years and a half that there is a deadlock. All this is rather unfortunate for the colonists of Victoria just now, because the preparations which have to be made for the reception

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52 The barque *Essex* served the London–Melbourne route. In 1866, its master was J. S. Attwood.

53 The notices are not included here.

54 Sir Charles Henry Darling was Governor of Victoria in the years 1863–1865.

of the Duke of Edinburgh will have to be stayed unless some money be soon forthcoming.<sup>55</sup> No one knows, as yet, what the Governor means to do.<sup>56</sup> [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1322, ff 176, 180. In English.

## 19. Paul to Berg, Russian Consul General in London

Sydney,  
15 (3) May 1875

[...] I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt on the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst. of your letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> February, enclosing the English exequatur approving my appointment as Russian Consul in this Colony.<sup>57</sup>

On the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. I waited on H. E. the Governor Sir Hercules Robinson and exhibited the exequatur, and asked him to gazette my appointment which he did on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst.<sup>58</sup>

I beg you will convey to the Imperial Government my thanks for the honor they have conferred upon me and to assure them, my best efforts shall be used in furthering any interests entrusted to my charge.

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55 Duke of Edinburgh: Queen Victoria's second son, Prince Alfred (1844–1900), then serving as a lieutenant in the Royal Navy. In 1868, he became the first member of the British royal family to visit Australia, in command of the frigate HMS *Galatea*. In 1874, he would marry Princess Maria, the only daughter of Tsar Alexander II.

56 The Governor of Victoria in 1867 was Sir John Manners-Sutton.

57 Exequatur: official recognition of a consul by the Government of the country to which he is accredited, granting authority to exercise consular functions. In this case, the exequatur confirmed Paul's appointment as honorary consul in New South Wales, in connection with the new permanent consulates, replacing honorary consulates, in Melbourne and Sydney (see preceding document).

58 Sir Hercules George Robinson: Governor of New South Wales 1872–1879.

I have much pleasure in informing you, that a scientific expedition to visit the island of New Guinea has been fitted out in this city at the sole expense of a private individual resident here William Macleay Esq. and it will leave in a few days.<sup>59</sup>

I have taken the opportunity to write to Mr Macleay and ask him to make enquiries of the natives if they can give him any tidings of M. Nicolas de Maclay a Russian savant, who was left on the island by the corvette *Vitiaz* in 1871 and rescued by the *Izumrud* in 1873 and taken to Batavia.<sup>60</sup> From there he wrote and informed me, he intended to revisit New Guinea and would leave Batavia about the 14<sup>th</sup> December 1873 and hoped to arrive in Australia in the early part of 1875.

From that time I have not heard anything of him.

The expedition will be absent from Sydney for six months. Should they obtain any tidings of M. Nicolas de Maclay I will communicate them to you. [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1445, ff 314–315. In English.

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59 Sir William John Macleay: prosperous pastoralist and political figure in New South Wales, who did much to promote scientific research in Australia; President of the Linnean Society of New South Wales; trustee of the Australian Museum. In 1875, he bought and fitted out the barque *Chevert*, on which a team of scientists set out for New Guinea to conduct research. Owing to dissensions within the team, the difficult climatic conditions, and the hostility of the indigenous population, the expedition was not a success. It secured only modest scientific results.

60 M. Nicolas de Maclay: Paul is referring to Nikolai Miklouho-Maclay, the eminent Russian traveller, natural scientist and humanist. In the course of his travels in 1871–1882, Miklouho-Maclay conducted biological and above all ethnographic research in New Guinea, the Dutch East Indies, the Malayan Peninsula, the Moluccas, Australia and Oceania. He gathered a great deal of anthropological and ethnographic material and argued forcefully against theories of the inferiority of ‘non-white’ races. At the end of 1873, he set out on his second expedition to New Guinea, the Moluccas and the Malayan Peninsula. This journey lasted until October 1875. Reports of his movements reached Russia at highly irregular intervals, and in the summer of 1874 concern for his welfare was mounting. The Russian Geographical Society sought to explore all available channels, including the consulate in Sydney, to obtain information about him. Paul corresponded with Miklouho-Maclay, and they subsequently met in person. Paul’s dispatch contains one error: Miklouho-Maclay completed his first expedition to New Guinea in 1872, not 1873, leaving the island on the Russian clipper *Izumrud*.

## 20. Damyon to Berg, Russian Consul General in London

Melbourne,  
11 June (30 May) 1880  
No. 7

[...] It was with unfeigned regret that I read in the telegrams of the demise of the Empress of Russia.<sup>61</sup> I sincerely sympathize with His Imperial Majesty in His sad bereavement, and hope that He may be sustained and supported in this sore affliction, and receive all the solace and consolation, which a Higher Power can bestow.

The flags at the various Consulates in Melbourne were all hoisted half mast for three days consecutively as a slight mark of respect and esteem for so illustrious and exalted a Personage. [...]

AVPRI 256 (Consulate General in London) -555a-1345, f. 524. In English.

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61 The Empress Maria, consort of Alexander II, died on 8 June 1880.

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