

Editorial notes: Sources, translations, transcription, dates, annotation, and naval and civil service ranks

The present collection contains 123 documents dealing with Australia from the Foreign Policy Archive of the Russian Empire (AVPRI). Not all the material held in that archive is published here, but all consuls in the sixty-year period 1857–1917 are represented. The compilers have sought to select the dispatches and other communications judged to be of greatest potential interest to the historian of Russian–Australian relations and the general reader alike. Those documents treat a broad range of topics, including the following: the economic development of the colonies, the gold rush and its demographic and social consequences, diplomatic (consular) relations between Russia and Australia, great power rivalry in the Pacific, fear of Russian expansion after the Crimean War, defensive measures to counter the ‘Russian threat’, the evolution of Australian foreign policy, social movements in Australia, the political and legislative structure of the colonies, progress towards federation, the Commonwealth of Australia and its legislative structure, the rise of the Labor Party, immigration and the beginnings of the White Australia policy, and consular services provided to Russian nationals in Australia.

The documents appear in the chronological order in which they were written. Not included here are the dispatches held in the Russian State Historical Archive (RGIA), most of them devoted to commercial and economic links between Russia and Australia.

The great majority of the consular dispatches in this volume appeared in Russian in the collection published by Alexander Massov and Marina Pollard in 2014, *Rossiiskaia konsul'skaia sluzhba v Avstralii 1857–1917 gg.*

(Moscow, *Mezhdunarodnye otnosheniia*). A small number, however, have not been published in any language; these are marked 'previously unpublished'. A few appeared in print, in full or in part, in Russian periodicals in the years 1894–1912. Where this is the case, it is indicated at the end of the documents concerned. Where there is no such indication, the reader may assume that the document was published in Russian in Massov and Pollard 2014.

Wherever possible, the translations have been made from the original documents, rather than copies of the originals. Where only a copy was available, this is indicated with the information on the source. The same applies to documents written in English.

For the most part, the documents are presented unabridged. However, the customary opening and closing salutations (e.g. 'Your Excellency', 'I have the honour to remain your humble servant ...' etc.) are omitted and marked [...]. Also omitted are the markings on the documents indicating which officials of the Foreign Ministry or other ministries were granted access to them. Exception is made only when this information is of clear contextual importance. Archive references are given at the end of each document in the standard format used by Russian archivists: e.g. 184-520-130, f. [folio] 5, standing for the original *Fond* 184, *opis* 520, *delo* 130, *list* 5. Following the catalogue reference, the language of the original (Russian, French, English) is indicated.

The biographical notes on all diplomatic personnel were prepared by Marina Pollard.

Many of the first translations from Russian were made by Dr Maria Kravchenko of the University of Queensland. All other translations, from Russian and French, are by Kevin Windle, who also checked and revised the first versions from Russian, and completed the annotation.

With few exceptions, the original documents are handwritten, and transcription often poses problems. Those written in English are for the most part reproduced as written, preserving inconsistencies of spelling (e.g. honor/honour, -ise/-ize) and irregularities in the use of capital letters. Some obvious minor slips have been corrected. Numbers in thousands or greater are given in a form which will not confuse the modern reader, rather than the style applied by some of the writers.

All underlining in the documents is by the original authors.

Some systematic errors are allowed to stand. In order to avoid a tedious repetition of an editorial '*sic*', these are pointed out on the first occasion only, in a note. Prominent among these is the repeated misuse by some writers of the title 'Sir' with surname only (e.g. 'Sir Dibbs' for 'Sir George' or 'Sir George Dibbs').

Where the consuls cite English-language sources (e.g. the Australian press and parliamentary debates) in Russian or French translation, wherever possible the quoted passages have been checked against the original publications. On occasion there are notable discrepancies between a quotation as it appears in the press or Hansard, and the translated version cited in a consular dispatch. Where this is the case, an editorial note draws attention to it and a reference to the English-language source is provided. In many cases, however, the quotations cannot be checked: when the consuls relate private conversations conducted in English, or cite speeches which have not survived, there is no record of the original wording. In such cases, it has been necessary to resort to back-translation from the Russian.

Transcription of Russian names: A flexible approach has been necessary, as rigorous consistency would produce its own anomalies and difficulties for the reader. Following convention, all names and titles in bibliographical references are given in standard Library of Congress (LC) transliteration. In the text, however, since LC often seems misleading or phonetically inaccurate to the general reader, a modified style of transcription is applied. Hard and soft signs are omitted; final *-y* replaces *-ii* and *-yi*, e.g. Rossiisky, Dmitry; *-iia-* is reduced to *-ia-* (Maria, Natalia); in initial position, and following a vowel or original soft sign, *ye*, *ya*, *yu* etc. appear, but elsewhere *e*, *ia* and *iu* are used. Hence, Yevfimy, Ilya, Alekseyev, Dmitriyevich, Nikolayevich, Boyarin, Nayechnik, Kriukov, Kliachko and the ending *-skaya*. As in standard LC, Russian *й* = /i/ (Nikolai, Kreiser, Gromoboi).

The following exceptions should be noted: German names of Russian subjects (e.g. Hagemeister, Hedenstrom, Ungern-Sternberg, Krehmer) are given in their German form, rather than in transliteration from the Cyrillic, which would yield Gagemeister, Gedenshtrom, Ungern-Shternberg and Kremer. These apart, some diplomatic staff had their own views on the Latinised forms of their names, e.g. Alexis Poutiata and Chreptowitch (rather than Aleksei Putiata or Putyata and Khreptovich), and their choice has been respected. Damyon and Paul, writing in English

of Russian personalities, used forms of transcription common in their day, often influenced by French—thus Boutakoff (Butakov) and Swetlana (Svetlana)—and not always consistently. The editors have not adjusted these forms, and have adhered to spellings preferred by later writers for their own names: e.g. Peter Simonoff, Constantine Hotimsky and Elena Govor. ‘Alexander’ will appear when an individual’s preference dictates it, and in some other cases, but the surname and patronymic will be Aleksandrov and Aleksandrovich.

Following accepted practice, the names of Russian emperors, dukes and princes are given in Anglicised form (Alexander III, Nicholas II).

The spellings *rouble* and *copeck*, the forms most commonly used in the nineteenth century, are retained.

Dates: Before the revolution of 1917, Russia used the Julian calendar, which in the nineteenth century was twelve days behind the Gregorian calendar used in the West and thirteen days behind in the twentieth century. When, as is usually the case, the dispatches bear dates according to the Julian calendar or ‘Old Style’ (OS), the corresponding dates by the Gregorian calendar (‘New Style’, NS) have been inserted before the Old Style date. Russian diplomatic staff serving abroad in general preferred the Old Style, but often indicated both. Honorary consuls, who were usually not Russian, used only the New Style. If a date appears in one form only, that form is New Style (Gregorian calendar) unless otherwise indicated.

Inconsistencies of various kinds may be noticed, particularly in the style in which dates and times are given in the text of some dispatches. These are often due to differences in the original documents. The editors have not attempted to impose complete uniformity in matters of this nature.

Annotation: Some of the consuls appended their own notes to their dispatches. These have been retained and authorship indicated in brackets. All other notes have been added by the editors, to supply bibliographical details and cross-references, or to provide context and background information on events, personalities and circumstances with which readers may be unfamiliar.

Naval and civil service ranks: Some ranks in the Imperial Russian Navy have no exact counterpart in the Royal Navy or the navies of other English-speaking countries. Rather than attempt to impose inexact near-equivalents, we have followed the widespread practice of translating the

Russian terms, e.g. ‘captain first class’, ‘captain second class’, ‘captain-lieutenant’ (roughly equivalent to RN lieutenant-commander) and ‘senior/junior lieutenant’ (rather than lieutenant and sub-lieutenant).

Ranks in the imperial civil service also have no equivalent, but standard translations are used (state counsellor, privy counsellor, collegiate assessor etc.).

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Canberra
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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.