

ABHANDLUNGEN FÜR DIE KUNDE  
DES MORGENLANDES

Im Auftrag der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft  
herausgegeben von Florian C. Reiter

Band 84

2013

Harrassowitz Verlag · Wiesbaden

Rosane Rocher · Ludo Rocher

## Founders of Western Indology

August Wilhelm von Schlegel and Henry Thomas Colebrooke  
in Correspondence 1820–1837

2013

Harrassowitz Verlag · Wiesbaden

Bibliografische Information der Deutschen Nationalbibliothek  
Die Deutsche Nationalbibliothek verzeichnet diese Publikation in der Deutschen  
Nationalbibliografie; detaillierte bibliografische Daten sind im Internet  
über <http://dnb.dnb.de> abrufbar.

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek  
The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche  
Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available in the internet  
at <http://dnb.dnb.de>.

For further information about our publishing program consult our  
website <http://www.harrassowitz-verlag.de>

© Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft 2013  
This work, including all of its parts, is protected by copyright.  
Any use beyond the limits of copyright law without the permission  
of the publisher is forbidden and subject to penalty. This applies  
particularly to reproductions, translations, microfilms and storage  
and processing in electronic systems.  
Printed on permanent/durable paper.  
Printing and binding: Hubert & Co., Göttingen  
Printed in Germany  
ISSN 0567-4980  
ISBN 978-3-447-06878-9

## Contents

Preface and Acknowledgments .....	vii
Plates	
1. Schlegel to Colebrooke, 1 July 1823.....	x
2. Colebrooke to Schlegel, 10 July 1823.....	xiii
Introduction .....	1
1. First Contact and Queries (1820–1823).....	22
2. Schlegel in England (13 September–12 November 1823).....	80
3. Scholarship and Education (December 1823–May 1826) .....	90
4. Memories (1827–1837) .....	164
References .....	184
Index .....	200

## Preface and Acknowledgments

The purpose of this book is to present in high relief the orbit in which two scholars, one English, one German, played a leading role in establishing classical Indology in Europe. To document this formative period in the history of that discipline, we offer an extensively annotated edition of the heretofore unpublished correspondence of August Wilhelm von Schlegel and Henry Thomas Colebrooke. Colebrooke's letters to Schlegel and some draft letters from Schlegel to Colebrooke are part of a large archive of correspondence Schlegel had with colleagues, friends, and family, preserved at the Sächsische Landesbibliothek – Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, Dresden (SLUB: MS Dresd. e90/XIX/5, nos. 36–67), currently in the process of being digitized. Schlegel's letters to Colebrooke, to the contrary, are the only correspondence of Colebrooke with a colleague which appears to be extant. Long preserved in the Colebrooke family, they were gifted to the Asia, Pacific and Africa Collections of the British Library in 1998 (APAC: MSS EUR/C841).

The letters Schlegel and Colebrooke exchanged over a span of seventeen years – the last of Colebrooke's life – constitute a leading thread in a web of correspondence and activities in which European scholars engaged in the course of founding western Indology. In notes to the letters we pursue related discussions Schlegel and Colebrooke had with fellow scholars, friends, and family, and, in Schlegel's case, with Prussian officials in charge of education. We also point to parallel considerations they addressed in their works, published and unpublished. A companion to our recently released biography of Colebrooke, the present volume places a greater emphasis on Schlegel, who initiated the exchange and brought up most items for discussion.

As was the norm for Schlegel's communications beyond the German domain, his letters to Colebrooke were written in French and signed "de Schlegel," with the mark of nobility that had been revived for his family in 1813, and on which he insisted to the point of inserting a missing "de" on a copy he kept of an issue of the *Athenaeum* of 10 March 1832 that announced his visit to London. Colebrooke answered in English.

French spelling underwent changes during Schlegel's lifetime. His letters, the earlier ones in particular, tend to adhere to an older style. His use of accents – as that of some of his French contemporaries – is erratic, particularly in drafts. Older spellings and accents, or the lack thereof, are printed here as written, without notice. We reserve the marker [*sic*] for distinct oddities in spelling and syntax. Drafts, and occasionally letters, feature some erasures, which are indicated as such in this edition. In a few cases in which a letter is preserved in draft and final forms, the final text is printed, with significant erasures and changes from the draft in brackets.

Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, “Schlegel,” without first name, refers to August Wilhelm, “Colebrooke” to Henry Thomas, “Staël” to Auguste, “Johnston” to Alexander, “Humboldt” to Wilhelm, “Chézy” to Antoine Léonard, and “Burnouf” to Eugène.

We wish to acknowledge the helpfulness of the staff of the Asia, Pacific and Africa Collections of the British Library and of the manuscript division of the Sächsische Landesbibliothek – Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, Dresden, Ms Kerstin Schellbach in particular, during repeated visits. We also thank these institutions for providing us with scans of two letters, one of Schlegel, the other of Colebrooke, to serve as illustrations for this volume. The latter appears by permission of the SLUB, the former with the consent of Mr C. C. F. Naylor, to whom we are also indebted for granting us full access to the Colebrooke Family Papers and unrestricted permission to quote from them.

The manuscript divisions of the National Library of Scotland and of the Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek, Bonn responded promptly and fully to our requests for information and documents. We are also grateful to Mr Peter Wyzlic, of the South Asia library, University of Bonn, for help with archival data. Material collected during earlier visits to other collections in the course of research for our biography of Colebrooke, has been of value again for this volume, as will be evident from our list of References. As ever, we benefited from the unstinting support of staff in the South Asia and Rare Books divisions of the University of Pennsylvania library and its interlibrary network.

Rosane Rocher acknowledges with thanks a two-year grant to support an Emeritus Fellowship the Trustees of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded her for the completion of this work.

Throughout the composition of this volume, we derived immense benefit from exchanges with our colleagues, Prof. Roger Paulin, of Cambridge, and Prof. Jürgen Hanneder, of Marburg, who are in the process of writing books of their own about Schlegel, and who shared their insights with unbounded

generosity and grace. We also thank them for their warm hospitality during visits to Cambridge and to Marburg and Weimar.

We are additionally indebted to Prof. Hanneder in his capacity of editor for India of the *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes*, for inviting us to submit this volume for publication in this series, and thank the general editor of the series, Prof. Florian C. Reiter, for accepting it.

We wish to express our appreciation to Mr Reinhard Friedrich and Mr Michael Fröhlich of Harrassowitz Verlag for the attention they devoted to the production of this work.

As this volume goes to press, we learn of the recent publication of *Der Briefwechsel zwischen August Wilhelm von Schlegel und seiner Bonner Haushälterin Maria Löbel* edited by Ralf Georg Czapla and Franca Victoria Schankweiler (Bonn: Bernstein, October 2012), regrettably too late to have been used in our pages.

Rosane and Ludo Rocher  
Philadelphia, 5 December 2012