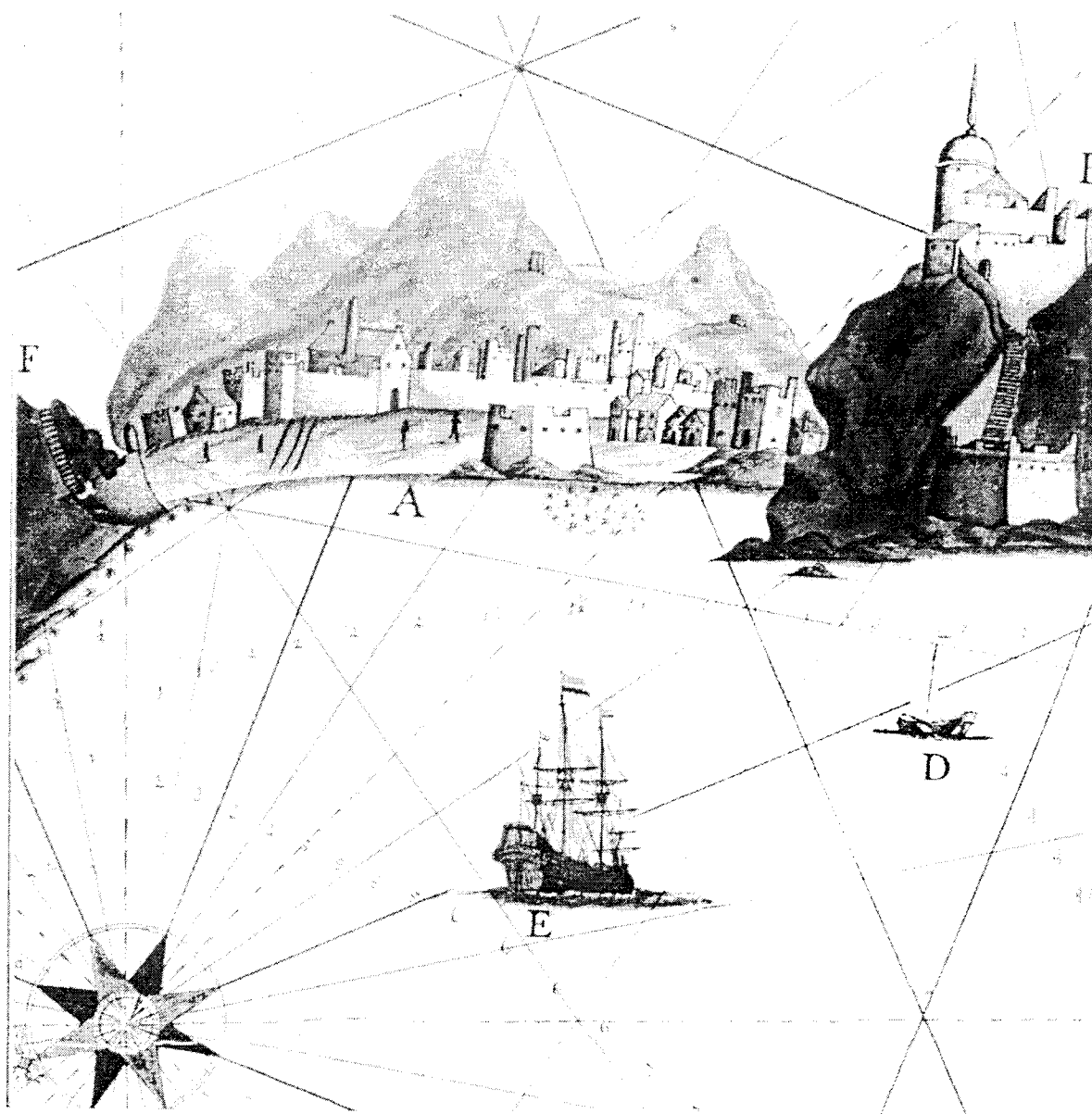


News from the West

Letters from Oman to Batavia, 1798-1806



Published at the occasion of the visit to Leiden University Library
by H.E. the Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs of the Sultanate of
Oman, Shaikh Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Abdullah al Salimi,
on Friday 11 July 2003

Presented by Jan Just Witkam

News from the West. Letters from Oman to Batavia, 1798-1806

*Presented by Jan Just Witkam**

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1. The collection of letters

From the numerous letters which in course of time arrived in Batavia from all over the Indonesian archipelago many must have been stored in archives and should, ideally speaking, now still be kept in the Indonesian Arsip Nasional. But it also must be assumed that a considerable number was lost, for all sorts of reasons. Other archival materials may have been sent to Holland, if deemed important enough, and now form an Oriental treasure trove in the General State Archive in The Hague. There is, however, a relatively small portion of letters and documents, which was sent to Holland, not to be kept in any archive, but in order to serve as educational material for the training of Dutch civil servants to be sent out to the colony. The originals finally came into the holdings of Leiden's University Library. For the use of students, lithograph editions were produced from representative selections of such letters and one may imagine that several generations of aspirant governmental employees have broken their eyes trying to decipher such documents.

Recently, a large collection of such letters in Malay has, now for the first time, been individually described.¹ Most of these documents date from the periods of office of Governors-General Alting, van Overstraten, Siberg and Wiese, from the period between 1780 and 1808. How exactly these documents were selected is not known, but so much is evident that they cover almost all areas which were under control of the Dutch East India Company or with which the Company had a regular relationship, including areas which are now part of Malaysia. They range from very simply made letters in Latin script (e.g. from the Moluccas and from Kupang and surroundings) to evidently royal documents written in impressive Arabic calligraphy and provided with magnificent and impressive ornamentation, truly golden letters. Apart from a selection by area, the educational collection as it is now must have been brought together in a haphazard way. It may have been a privately made collection possibly by one of the members of the Indian Council,² but any concrete information is lacking. Most probably, part of the static archive in Batavia was just raided at the request of a professor of either of the Delft or Leiden academies by one of his former students.

Among the letters which originate from the library of the Government Training College for Indian Civil Servants³ there are a few which did not come from the archipelago. A few Arabic

* Professor of Paleography and Codicology of the Islamic World, University of Leiden. Address: University Library, P.O. Box 9501, NL-2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands (witkam@library.leidenuniv.nl). This is an expanded version of the paper, presented by the author under the same title in the 17th KITLV International Workshop on South-East Asian Studies 'Manuscripts from insular South-East Asia: Epistolography'. Leiden, 21-25 January 2002. The illustration on the cover is part of a View of the Bay of Muscat, drawn by Dirk van der Velden on 20 August 1682 (Leiden University Library, Collection Bodel Nijenhuis No. 006-14-007), see Dirk de Vries, *Uit de kaartenwinkel van de VOC. Catalogus van zeekaarten van de Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie in de Collectie Bodel Nijenhuis*. Alphen aan den Rijn 1996, p. 62, No. 78.

¹ In E.P. Wieringa, *Catalogue of Malay and Minangkabau manuscripts in the Library of Leiden University and other collections in the Netherlands*. Vol. 1, Leiden 1998, edited by Joan de Lijster-Streef and Jan Just Witkam.

² 'Raad van Indië', in the East India Company's time the highest governing body, presided over by the governor-general.

³ 'Rijks-Instelling tot Opleiding van Indische Ambtenaren'. It was founded in 1864 in Leiden. In 1877 it was replaced by a municipal college, but otherwise with the same purpose, and in 1891 it ceased to exist altogether.

and Persian documents from Oman and the Gulf were somehow included. These are the subject of the present publication.⁴

In view of the purpose of the constitution of the collection of documents and letters, it is obvious that they cannot, in any way, be a complete source for the history of the relationship between the Western Quarters of the Dutch East India Company and the central government in Batavia. Yet they are not entirely without value either. The few documents which are preserved here give us useful information on several levels.⁵ That they are in fact quite rare is borne out by information kindly supplied by B.J. Slot, formerly charter-master in the Dutch National Archive in The Hague.⁶ In that Archive there is not a special 'Oman-collection', but there are documents about Oman, dispersed over different related files. There is only one originally Arabic document, which is a letter from the *wakil* of Muscat, Khalfan, dating from 1778. The Dutch East India Company (VOC) had the habit to preserve Arabic letters in the archives of the addressees, which in this case were the Directorate for Persia and the Central Government itself in Batavia. Translations of these documents were sent to The Netherlands as enclosures with the reports of the Company's director in Gamron and of the Governor-General, and these are preserved where they should be. Answers from the Governor-General in Batavia are preserved as well, and all in all there is an exchange of letters preserved in probably less than twenty documents in Dutch. Among these are the oldest known epistolary exchanges between Dutch instances and the ruling dynasty in Oman. Slot has searched for letters from Oman in the Arsip Nasional, the National Archive, in Jakarta, but to no avail. He had conducted that research because of remarks by made by Count Gobineau on Muscat's relationship with East- and Southeast-Asia.⁷

After the discontinuation of the Company's activities in Persia, there has been a correspondence between the governor of the Malabar Coast in Cochin and Oman. Translations of these letters, some ten in all, have been sent to the Netherlands as enclosures in the Reports on the Malabar Coast. These are also available in the Dutch National Archive in The Hague. They comprise the period from c. 1778 onwards. Slot has not found the Arabic originals (but only translations) of this correspondence in Madras, where a considerable part of the Dutch archives from the Malabar Coast are presently preserved. Neither could he find Arabic originals in Colombo, where the only original Arabic correspondence available comes from the Maldives, written in a remarkable type of local calligraphy. As a parallel document may be mentioned here a letter from the Sultan of the Comores and which is preserved in Cape Town. It has the outward appearance of letters from Oman, which is not so amazing if one realizes the close relationship. The oldest published original documents come from French archives (Paris, Caen, Reunion) and have been published by Shaykh Sultan of Sharjah.⁸ The oldest Arabic letter from Oman (albeit a copy, not the original document), from around 1700, is preserved in the archive of the English East India Company. From Slot's exhaustive enumeration it is clear that Omani documents in European archives are rare items anyway. A more thorough investigation of Omani documents in the Leiden University Library seems therefore in place.

⁴ They have been first summarily described by H.C. Klinkert, 'Verzamelingen van Maleische brieven, voorhanden in de Rijksbibliotheek te Leiden', in *Tijdschrift voor Nederlandsch Indië*, August 1882, pp. 81-103. The documents here under discussion are described by Klinkert on p. 101.

⁵ Omani documents in the General State Archive in The Hague are rare items. It seems that they are less than ten.

⁶ Quoted, and translated, in length from a personal letter from B.J. Slot to the author, dated February 2, 2002.

⁷ A. de Gobineau, *Trois ans en Asie (de 1855-1858)*. Paris 1859. The chapter on Muscat is on pp. 89-109.

⁸ Sultan Muhammad Al-Qasimi, *Les relations entre Oman et la France, 1715-1905*. Paris 1995 (trad. de l'arabe par Abdeljelil et Mireille Temimi), not seen.

2. Historical context

On both sides of the correspondence there was, politically speaking, a highly volatile situation. In Europe and South-East Asia the consequences of the French conquest of the European continent made themselves felt. The economic blockade of England by the French cannot have been particularly favourable for trade. The quick succession of constitutions of the former Dutch Republic, which in 1795 had been successfully invaded by the French, the end of the Dutch East India Company, the French expedition to Egypt, and the continuous and increasing threat of English expansion in South-East Asia are but a few of the most important highlights. All these developments cannot but have been detrimental to the relationship between Batavia and the Western Quarters, which were never real profitable ventures anyway.

Nor was the situation on the Omani side very stable. The Wahhabi threat up north in the peninsula was very real. Medina was to be destroyed by the Sa'udi forces. In one of his letters, the Imam Sultan b. Ahmad (reigned 1792-1806) refers to a *jihad* which he is going to embark upon, and which is apparently directed against the Wahhabi's. In addition, he was the architect of Oman's expansion overseas, which reached under his reign as far as Bahrayn, Hormuz, Bandar Abbas and Kishm. But what is more: he had things to conceal for the Dutch. As a precaution against the Wahhabi threat he was developing a special relationship with the British, and in 1798, the very year of the first two documents in the present collection, he concluded his first treaty with the English East India Company.⁹ Part of the deal was that he promised not to allow the French and Dutch to establish factories in his territory as long as they were at war with the British.¹⁰ Hence, he must have been eager to know about the Dutch or Dutch-Indian reaction to this, and their continuous absence from Muscat, apparently for years, must have been slightly worrying to him.

One wonders whether the calling of Omani ships in the ports of Calcutta and Bombay, as is mentioned in the letters, was really for necessary repairs or for shelter against a typhoon. The Dutch may have come to know about their appearance in Indian ports, and the events are, therefore, explained before awkward questions could be asked and excuses be found. The intended trade, the buying of sugar, does not seem to be very impressive or urgent either. The dynamics of disruption within the Bu Sa'id family were another source of instability. The last letter in the collection completely changes the tone of the conversation. The new Imam, Badr b. Sayf, who had gained the ascendancy with Wahhabi support after the death of Sultan b. Ahmad in a sea battle in 1804, did not live long to enjoy his victory. In 1806 he was murdered by Sultan's son Sa'id. He did send a letter to Batavia, however. It is a document entirely different from the diplomatic letters which were sent by Sultan b. Ahmad. The ideological shift is clear from both form and contents.

A few words may be said about the making of the letters. To judge from the script, they were evidently written by professional secretaries, but it is at once clear that these were not indigenous Arabs. The language of the letters is full of formulaic niceties, but the overall syntax is weak. All sorts of faults are made against the rules of Arabic grammar, to such an extent that the letters cannot have been written by local scholars with a traditional education. These secretaries may have been Indians, a fact which could explain why two of the letters are in Persian, which was, till 1857, the lingua franca of the Indian subcontinent.

The seals on the documents are modest. Both Sultan b. Ahmad and Sayf b. Badr have chosen for a Qur'anic quotation, in which the word occurs which is also their name. The former's

⁹ See C.E. Bosworth, *The Islamic Dynasties*. Edinburgh 1967, pp. 78-80, with a short survey of the Al Bu-Sa'id dynasty.

¹⁰ C.F. Beckingham, art. Bu Sa'id, in *EI*, new edition, vol. 1 (Leiden 1960), pp. 1281-1283.

seal reads: 'I come to you with a clear authority'¹¹. The latter's seal reads: 'God helped you at Badr'¹².

3. Partial translation of the letters.

The Omani and Oman-related documents preserved in Leiden University Library are given and summarized here in chronological order.¹³

No. 216.

Short note in Arabic, dated 29 August 1798, accompanying the gift of two horses.

'Sent in the way of friendship and gift on the vessel Sib Badam with captain Abdul Rahman, two horses. Please, accept these. Peace be upon you. Done on 17 Rabi' I 1213.'

No. 220.

Letter in Arabic, from Muscat, from the Imam to the Governor-General, dated 17 August 1798.

'To the friend, the adviser, the General of Batavia, may God safeguard him.

After offering the necessities of greetings and the accessories of respect, the musk odour spreads and the daisy flowers arise.

The good friend ...,¹⁴ may the Judging God guard him against the vicissitudes of fate by the right of Him Who put Jonah into the whale.¹⁵

When it occurs to the mind to ask and to investigate how things are going: we are, God be praised, in the best situation and the most agreeable state of mind. The news from our part is quiet in movements and increasing in blessings.

It is now two years that we have not seen someone from you visiting our parts as was your habit, earlier. We wish to know how you are doing and why you have for so long interrupted the road of friendship and love between the parties. Therefore we have directed our ship Sib Badam, on board of which is the skipper of our men, Abdur Rahman, and al-Mu'allim Wazir. We have sent the ship in order to find out the truth why you cut off from our port. We ask from God Almighty that it will safely arrive with you and that it will establish contact with you, as that is the purpose. And by way of friendship and unity we request to give them respect and care, as used to be done between the two parties, and as used to be the love between the two sides. That is why we have written the letter of friendship, and we have sent it through the munificence of God Almighty. We have put some cargo in the aforesaid ship, and we have ordered them to buy sugar and other commodities which they wish. For them we request that you take care of them concerning the purchased goods, and that you will grant us exclusive permission and care, since we and you are most special friends, and likewise, when your ships come (?) to our port they will experience exclusive care from our part. So not avert your eyes from them. Whatever good you do to them is our obligation. We request that you let the vessel quickly come back to us, and you do not let it be late, and that you never exclude us from your benevolent thoughts. Greeting is the best closure [...].

¹¹ *Qur'an* 43:19, in A.J. Arberry's translation. Here with a play with words between 'authority' and the proper name Sultan.

¹² *Qur'an* 3:119. A play with words between Badr, the locality of an early Muslim battle against the pagans and the proper named Badr.

¹³ The numbers of the documents are those given by the librarian of the Rijks-Instelling. When the documents were registered in Leiden University Library they received the class-mark Or. 2241-IV. Klinkert in his summary description uses yet another set of numbers.

¹⁴ Space left blank, name to be filled in later.

¹⁵ The image, at first sight unusual, is well-chosen in a maritime context.

Thus done on 17 Rabi` I of the year 1213.
Sincerely, Sultan b. al-Imam Ahmad b. Sa`d.'

No. 262.

Letter in Persian, from Muscat, from the Imam to the Governor-General, undated, received in Batavia on 23 May 1800. Most of the text is taken up by compliments and assurance of friendship, shaped in a flowery language. Mention is also made of the vessel Sib Badam, and of several persons: Ahmad Abdullah b. Hasan, Ibrahim b. Hasan,¹⁶ Sa`d `Abbasi, Skipper (*nakhoda*) `Uthman Abdullah.

No. 270.

Letter in Persian, from Muscat, from the Imam, dated 9 March 1800, to the Shabandar of Batavia, received in Batavia on 21 July 1800. Most of the text is taken up by compliments and assurance of friendship, shaped in a flowery language. Mention is made of several persons: Haji Hasan Shah, Shaykh Abdur Rahman. Mention is made of Muscat, and mention is made of a ship having gone to the port of Mumbai for shelter against the typhoon.

No. 273.

Letter in Arabic, from Muscat, from the imam Sultan b. Ahmad b. Sa`id, dated 14 August 1800, to the Shabandar of Batavia, received in Batavia on 21 October 1800.¹⁷

'Praise be to God alone.

To our most respected friend, the Shabandar of Batavia, may God safeguard him.

Greetings to our most respected friend, namely [...]'¹⁸, may God preserve him against evil and grant him success in his endeavors.

Whenever it comes to your mind to ask about us, we can tell you that we are, God be praised, doing well, and hopefully you are still prospering in these days and months. This letter is sent from Muscat.¹⁹ It gives us pleasure to mention that your letter has arrived here with Abdur Rahman, captain of the Sib Badam, and we were delighted to read that you are doing well, as that is what is wished for. We have understood what you have communicated and have received your esteemed present, for which you are thanked. Last year we sent a ship of one of our men, the Sib Badam, and we did so by way of friendship, as we felt that you were cut off from our port, and we thought that the communication should not be interrupted. That is why we sent the ship Ganjawar with one of our men, Haji Mahmud b. Mashkur, firstly in order to establish the connection and the intercourse, secondly in order to buy some sugar from your busy port. It is hoped that it receives the respect which is customary between us from old. It is not necessary to acquit the debt, because you are our friends from old, and since there has been no communication between us, we send the aforesaid ship in order to renew the old friendship. All the good you will do puts us under your obligation. You may consider the ship as your ship and the money your money.

With greetings.

From the sincere friend Sultan, son of the Imam Ahmad b. Sa`id. Written on 23 Rabi` I 1215.'

No. 275.

Letter in Arabic, from Muscat, from the imam Sultan b. Ahmad b. Sa`id, dated 14 August 1800, to the General of Batavia, received in Batavia on 21 October 1800. The text of the letter

¹⁶ Who is also mentioned in the letter from 1806, No. 516, below.

¹⁷ Here followed by free translations, in which part of the flowery language is skipped.

¹⁸ Space left open, for a name to be filled in later.

¹⁹ Here wrongly spelled Maskad instead of Masqat, apparently by a clerk of non-Omani origin.

is almost identical to that in No. 274, the difference being that this letter is directed to the Governor-General. Here too, space has been left open for the name of the addressee.

No. 244.

Letter in Arabic, from Muscat, from the imam Sultan b. Ahmad b. Sa'id, dated 27 August 1801, to the Governor-General of Batavia, received in Batavia on 14 October 1802.²⁰

'We send our warmest greetings to the commander of the Company of the Government of Holland, the General of Batavia, may God safeguard him.

We are doing fine, and we hope that you are doing fine as well in these times and years. Your letter has arrived here, which was sent through the vessel Ganjavar. We were glad when we were aware that you are doing fine, and that there is a bond of love between us. Whatever you told us is now known with us. Also has safely arrived our friend al-Hajj Mahmud on the said vessel. We remarked that he was full of praise about you and that he was grateful for the friendly treatment which you had given him.

We had decided to send him at your service in this season on board our ship Fath Islam, but we saw that the ship needed repair and we understood that the materials needed therefor were not available with you for some time. Therefor we directed him first to the port of Calcutta for the repairs on the ship, and we ordered him to proceed from there and to be place himself at your service. We hope that when he has arrived you will provide love and assistance in whatever they need, as you have done before. All the good with which you treat him will be our obligation to you.

It has come to our mind these days to go to the north, in order to wage a *jihad* against a people which has caused corruption to appear in the land²¹ and who block the road of the right guidance. We hope to vanquish them and victory comes from the Lord, because He is allpowerful.

We request that the epistolary relationship is established and that we can renew the friendly relationship between us.

From the sincere friend Sultan, son of the Imam Ahmad b. Sa'id al-Busa'idi. Written on 17 Rabi' II 1216.'

No. 245.

Letter in Arabic, from Muscat, from the imam Sultan b. Ahmad b. Sa'id, dated 27 August 1801, to the Director of the port of Batavia, received in Batavia on 14 October 1802. The content of the letter is almost identical to No. 244, the difference being the addressee.

No. 516.

Letter in Arabic, from Muscat, from al-Sayyid Badr b. al-Sayyid Sayf, son of the late imam Ahmad b. Sa'id al-Busa'idi, dated 4 May 1806, to the Governor-General Wiese,²² received in Batavia on 12 December 1806.

'Praise be to God, who gives support.

From *al-Mu'tasim billah wal-Muntasir bihi*²³ al-Sayyid Badr b. al-Sayyid Sayf, son of the late imam Ahmad b. Sa'id al-Busa'idi.

²⁰ The large period of time between sending and receiving may be explained from the detour via Calcutta, which is mentioned in the letter.

²¹ A Qur'anic expression, which in the *Qur'an* is used in several contexts. Here the reference is apparently to the Wahhabi threat from the Najd.

²² Albertus Henricus Wiese, who from 1804-1808 was in function as Governor-General.

²³ The pious title meaning 'He who adheres to God and who is granted victory by Him'. Al-Sayyid Badr had just won the struggle for succession with Wahhabi support, but was murdered shortly afterwards. The religious

To our brother and friend, between whom and our fathers there was a bond of love and friendship, the friend General Wiese, may God protect him against evil and disaster and grant him the fulfillment of his wishes, if God wills.

The vessel of Hajji Anbar Dawud Khalil, called al-Khalili with skipper Ibrahim b. Hasan²⁴ is a vessel which belongs to one of our subjects. You are requested to treat it with full respect and to act well, as used to be the case between our fathers and your fathers. All good what you will say and do with them, is as if you say and do that to us. We request from God that the renewal of the friendship and love between us and you is stable, as it used to be from our fathers to you, since the love between the fathers creates a bond between the sons. As you know what God has brought over al-Sayyid Sultan, after his demise we have assumed his position in the treaty. It is requested from us and from you that this remains as it is anyway and at anytime. The person whom you have sent to al-Sayyid Sultan has arrived here as already said. News will, God Almighty willing, arrive through another vessel so that it will not be hidden.

Thus done on 15 Safar 1221.'


correctness in the formulas in this letters is in striking contrast with the benevolent and diplomatic tone of the letters from Sultan b. Ahmad.

²⁴ Who is also mentioned in one of the Persian letters (No. 262), which arrived in 1800 in Batavia.

4. Edition of the letters and facsimiles

Or. 2241-IV(11). No.216 / Klinkert No.11. One sheet of paper. 19.5 x 13 cm, *naskh* script. Note without addressee. Text in Arabic. Document dated 17 Rabi' I 1213 (29 August 1798). See Catalogue Wieringa, vol. I, pp. 408-409. The text in the seal refers to Qur'an 44:19.

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هو
الصادر على سبيل الصداقة والهدية
في المركب المزبور سيب بادم صحبة القبطان
عبد الرحمن ناسين خيل تفضلوا
بقبول ذلك واللهم درو
في ربيع الاول ١٢١٣



هو

الصادر على سبيل الصداقة والهدية في المركب المزبور سيب بادم صحبة القبطان
عبد الرحمن ناسين (?) خيل تفضلوا بقبول ذلك والسلام في يوم ١٧ شهر ربيع
الاول سنة ١٢١٣

[seal: ١٢١١ بسم الله القوي المتين اني آيتكم بسلطان مبين ١٢١١]

Or. 2241-IV (2). No.220 / Klinkert No.2. One sheet of paper, folded once. 55.5 x 39 cm, *naskh* script. Letter from Sultan b. al-Imam Ahmad b. Sa'id, to the Governor-General. Text in Arabic on one side only. Document dated 17 Rabi' I 1213 (29 August 1798). Date in seal: 1211 AH. On verso side are three short texts in Dutch:

- Musquette van Sulthaan Ebnoe Imam Ahmad Ebnoe Said, Aan Zijn hoogedelheid.
ontt. batavia den 12. 8ber: 1798.

- den 16. 8ber 1798.

- de Translaat van deze Brief bevindt Zich onder de Bijlagen van den 16 octb. 1798.

‘(From) Muscat, from Sultan Ibn Imam Ahmad Ibn Sa'id, to His Excellency (the Governor-General), received in Batavia on 12 October 1798.

- On 16 October 1798.

- The translation of this letter is found among the enclosures of (the Report of) 16 October 1798.’

[seal: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الْقَوِيّ الْمَتِينِ اِنِّيْ اَيْنُكُمْ بِسُلْطٰنِ مَّبِيْنِ ١٢١١

حَضْرَتِ الصِّيقِ النَّاصِحِ جَنْدَرَالِ بَتَاوَهْ سَلْمَهْ اللّٰهْ تَعَالٰى

بَعْدَ اَهْدَاءِ جَزِيْلٍ لِّوَاظِمِ التَّسْلِيْمِ وَاِبْلَاغِ لِّوَاْحِقِ التَّعْظِيْمِ يَفْضَحُ دَقِيْقِ الْمَسْكِ نَشُوْرًا وَيَفُوْقِ الْاِقْحُوَانِ
زَهُوْرًا

الصِّيقِ الصُّوْقِ الْمَشَارِ اِلَيْهِ [blank space] حَرْسَهْ الْمَلِكِ الْبِيَانِ مِنْ طَوَارِقِ الْحَثِّانِ بِحَقِّ مَنْ
اَجْرًا دَالْنُوْنِ فِيْ بَطُوْنِ الْحِيْتَانِ

بَعْدَ اَنْ تَحْرَكَ خَاطِرُ السُّوَالِ وَالتَّفْحَصِ عَنْ هَذَا الْحَالِ فَاِنَّا وَلِلّٰهِ الْحَمْدُ فِيْ اِحْسَانِ حَالٍ وَاِنْعَمَ بِالْ
وَاِخْبَارِ اطْرَافِنَا سَاكِنَةِ الْحَرَكَاتِ نَامِيَةِ الْبِرَكَاتِ

وَبَعْدَ فَمَنْ هَذِهِ سَنَتَيْنِ لَمْ نَرَا اَحَدًا مِنْكُمْ تَرْتَدُّ اِلَى اطْرَافِنَا كَعَادَتِكُمْ سَابِقًا فَاَحْبَبْنَا اَنْ نَكْشِفَ خَيْرِكُمْ
وَسَبَبَ انْقِطَاعِكُمْ هَذِهِ الْمُدَّةَ عَلَى سَبِيْلِ الصَّدَاقَةِ وَالْمَحَبَّةِ بَيْنِ الطَّرْفَيْنِ وَجَهْنَا مَرْكَبَنَا سَيْبَ بَادِمٍ وَبِهِ
نُوْخِدَا رَجَالِنَا عَبْدَ الرَّحْمَنِ وَالْمَعْلَمَ وَزَيْرَ وَجَهْنَا نَظْرًا لِكَشْفِ حَقِيْقَةِ حَالِ انْقِطَاعِكُمْ مِنْ بِنْدَرِنَا نَرْجُوْا
مِنْ اللّٰهِ تَعَالٰى وَصَوْلَهْ اِلَيْكُمْ بِالسَّلَامَةِ وَاتِّصَالَهْ بِكُمْ عَلَى حَسَبِ الْمَطْلَبِ وَالْمُرَادِ فَعَلَى سَبِيْلِ الصَّدَاقَةِ
وَالاِتِّحَادِ نَرْجُوْا لِهَمْ الْحَشْمَةَ وَالْمُرَاعَاةَ كَمَا جَرَتْ بِهِ الْعَادَةُ بَيْنِ الطَّرْفَيْنِ وَالْمُوْدَةَ بَيْنِ الْجَانِبَيْنِ فَعَلَى
ذٰلِكَ حَرَرْنَا كِتَابَ الصَّدَاقَةِ وَاَرْسَلْنَاهُ بِمَنْهٖ تَعَالٰى وَقَدْ حَمَلْنَا فِي الْمَرْكَبِ الْمَرْبُوْرَ بَعْضَ وَكَذٰلِكَ اَمْرُنَا هُمْ
بِشْرَاءِ سَكْرٍ وَغَيْرِهِ مِنْ الْبُضَايِعِ الْمُسْتَحْسَنَةِ لِهَمْ فَنَرْجُوْا لِهَمْ اَنْ تَرَاعَوْهُمْ فِي الْمَشْتَرَا وَاَنْ تَجْعَلُوْا لَنَا
الْمَسَامِحَةَ وَالْمُرَاعَاةَ نُوْنِ غَيْرِنَا حَيْثُ نَحْنُ وَاِيَّاكُمْ اِخْصَ الْاَصْدَقًا وَكَذٰلِكَ اَنْشَأَ اللّٰهُ مَتَى سَاعَرْتِ
مَرَآكِبِكُمْ بِنْدَرِنَا لِيُرُوْا مِنْهُ الْمُرَاعَاةَ نُوْنِ غَيْرِهِمْ وَلَا تَرْفَعُوْا نَظْرَكُمْ عَنْهُمْ وَمَا تَعْمَلُوْهُ مِنْ مَعْرُوْفٍ عَلَيْهِمْ
مَحْسُوْبٍ عَلَيْنَا وَنَرْجُوْا وَصَوْلَكُمْ وَلَا تَقْطَعُوْا الْعَادَةَ الْجَارِيَةَ فِي الْمَسَاعِرَةِ وَالتَّرْتَدُّ اِلَى اطْرَافِنَا

وَالْمَرْجُوْا اَنْ تَز... (?) الْمَرْكَبِ يَرْجِعُ اِلَيْنَا عَاجِلًا لَا يَكُوْنُ يَتَاخَّرُ وَاَنْ لَا تَخْرُجُوْنَا مِنْ الْخَاطِرِ الْعَاظِرِ
عَلَى الدَّوَامِ وَالسَّلَامِ خَيْرِ خَتَامٍ وَاَنْ نَسْنَحَ لَكُمْ غَرَضًا مِنْ هَذَا الطَّرْفِ فَهُوَ يَقْضَى بِحَسَبِ التَّعْرِيفِ حَرَرِ

فِي ١٧ شَهْرِ رَبِيْعِ الْاَوَّلِ سَنَةِ ١٢١٣

الْمَخْلَصِ سُلْطَانِ بِنِ الْاِمَامِ اَحْمَدِ بِنِ سَعِيْدِ

حضرة السيد تاج الدين صاحب كتاب التباؤة

بعدها هداً خبيل لما تم التسليم والبلغ لواحوا التعظيم بفضح دفتيق المسك نشورا ويفوق الاقحوان فهو

الصدوق المثار اليه

حس الملك الدين فطوارق كدنان بجوف فارج ادا التون في رطون

بعد ان تحرك خاطر السوال والتفحص عن هذا الخال فانادوا سلمه في احسن وانعم بالواهبنا راطا انما سالكه كما

نايته البركا وبعد فقهنا سنين لم نزل احدناكم تردد الى الطرافنا كما تلم سابقا فاحيينا ان كشفنا

وسبب انظا علم هذا المداع على سبيل الصداقة والمجيد بني الطيفين وجهنا وكنيا سيب يادوم وبيرون خذنا

عبد الرجا والمعلم وزير وجهنا ذلك ككشف حقيقة حالنا فقط علم من بدينا رجا ام اشعنا وضوله اليك يا

واتصا اليك على المطلب والمراد فعلى سبيل الصداقة والاتحاد رجا العلم كشمه والرعااه كما جرت بين العا

بني الطيفين والمودة بين الجانبين فعلى ذلك حرمنا كتاب الصداقة وارسلنا بعبدها ورجلنا في الرب

بعض وكذلك انما هم بنوا اشكر وعين في البضايح المستحسنة لهم فزجوا لهم ان تراعواهم في المزاوان

تعملوا لنا المشاخر والرعااه دون غيرنا حيث نخي ويا لم احض الا صداقا وكذلك اننا اء الله مني شلت

والكلم بدينا الرجا والمعلم دون غيرهم ولا ترفعوا نظركم عنهم وما تعلمون فمعرفة عليهم نحو علينا

ورجا وضولكم ولا تقطعوا العادة الجارية في السامع والورد الى الطرافنا والحوال ان تزتقوا الرب

الملك السلطان
الملك السلطان
الملك السلطان

Or. 2241-IV (3). No.262 / Klinkert No.3. One sheet of paper, folded once 42 x 30 cm, *nasta'liq* script (*shekaste-amiz*). Text in Persian, written on one side only. Not dated. Letter from Sultan b. al-Imam Ahmad b. Sa'id (because of the seal on the reverse side of the paper), addressed to the Governor-General in Batavia, dated 2 Ramadan [1214] / 28 February 1800). The text in the seal refers to Qur'an 44:19. On the reverse, in an inexpert hand (the captain's?), what may be a date of receipt in Persian, 'on 10 Ramadan 1214' (= 5 February 1800).

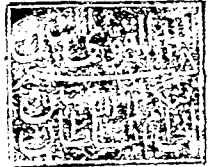
Also on the reverse an inscription in Dutch:

Musquette. Van den Imam. Aan Zijne Hoog Edelheid, ontvangen bat. den 23. Maij 1800.

'(From) Muscat. From the Imam. To His Excellency, received in Batavia on 23 May 1800.'

در ۱۰ رمضان سنة ۱۲۱۴

[seal: بسم الله القوي المتين اني آيتكم بسطان مبین ۱۲۱۲



Handwritten marginal notes in Persian script, including the name 'Musquette' and other administrative details.

Handwritten header in Persian: *بسم الله القوي المتين اني آيتكم بسطان مبین ۱۲۱۲*

Handwritten line in Persian: *ارشدت ستمی کرم ترسم هر کجند بقادرشغال کفهر و درین بوده برسدن عظمی و بنام در بر کرم درون بود*

Main body of handwritten Persian text, including a large circular seal impression on the right side.

Or. 2241-IV (4) No.270 / Klinkert No.4. One sheet of paper, folded once. 42 x 30 cm, *nasta`liq* script (*shekaste-amiz*). Text in Persian, written on one side only. Letter from Sultan b. al-Imam Ahmad b. Sa`id (because of the seal on the reverse side of the paper), to the Governor-General (Ġandrāl Sāhib), according to the text of the letter. On the reverse the addressee in Persian with many titles and referred to as Shahbandar Sāhib, with address Bandar Batawiya. On the reverse an inscription in Dutch:

1800.

‘(From) Muscat. From the Imam, to His Excellency, received in Batavia on 21 July 1800. Dated 12 Shawwal 1214 (9 March 1800).

Also on the reverse a note in an expert hand (the captain’s?), in Malay:

Over the beginning of the text is the seal, the text of which refers to *Qur’ān* 44:19.

[seal: بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الْقَوِي الْمَتِينِ اِنِّي اَيْتَكُمْ بِسُلْطٰنٍ مَّبِينٍ ١٢١٢

On the reverse the indication of the addressee:

انشا الله تعالى
شانه العزيز اين مراسله محبت پر قيمه در بند<ر> بطاويه بنظر عاليشان رفيع
مكان هو الفرد الامتنان دوست عقيد نشان عمد الاعاظم زبده الافاخم العبوديه
اعتقاد دوستان شاه بندر صاحب مد ظله العالي موصول باد

سوره طه اسم بسم

ان الله تعالى
شانه العزيز اين مراسله محبت پر قيمه در بند<ر> بطاويه بنظر عاليشان رفيع
مكان هو الفرد الامتنان دوست عقيد نشان عمد الاعاظم زبده الافاخم العبوديه
اعتقاد دوستان شاه بندر صاحب مد ظله العالي موصول باد

Or. 2241-IV (7) No.273 / Klinkert No.6. One sheet of paper, folded once. 41.5 x 30 cm, *naskh* script. Letter from Sultan b. al-Imam Ahmad b. Sa'id (because of the seal to the Shabandar of Batavia. Text in Arabic, written on one side only. The document is dated 23 Rabi' I 1215 (14 August 1800). The seal is the same as in the other documents, and it contains the year 1212.

On the reverse the sender in Arabic, and also on the reverse is an inscription in Dutch: Musquiette. Van den Imam. Aan den Sabandaar, ontv. bat. den 21 8ber 1800. '(From) Muscat. From the Imam, received in Batavia on 21 October 1800.'

المخلص سلطان بن الامام احمد بن سعيد
الملك المخلص سلطان بن الامام احمد بن سعيد
وربيع الاول سنة ١٢١٥

On the reverse the name of the sender and the date:

المحب المخلص سلطان بن الامام احمد بن سعيد حرر في ٢٣ ربيع الاول سنة
١٢١٥

[seal: باسم الله القوي المتين اني آيتكم بسلطان مبين ١٢١٢

الحمد لله وحده

حضرت الاكرم الاحشم صديقنا الناصح شابندر بتاو سلمه الله تعالى
سلام الله الاتم ورضوانه الشامل الاعم وثناءه الاسنى وتحيته الوافرة الحسنى يهدي
ويؤلف (?) الى جناب عالي الجناب الصديق الناصح والصفى المود المناصح
اعني به [blank space] سلمه الله تعالى وابقاه ومن المكاره وقاه ووفقه لما فيه
رضاه بمحمد وآله وصحبه التقاه وبعد ان تحرك الخاطر بالسؤال عنا فاننا والله
الحمد والمنة في احسن الاحوال لا زلتم في خير وعافية وسرور مدة الايام
والشهور وقد صدرت الاحرف من المحروس بندر مسكد واعلامنا من فضل الله
تعالى سارة وحركات اطرافنا قارة وبينما نترقب اخبار سلامتكم اذا في ابرك
الساعات واشرف الاوقات ورد كتابكم الكريم صحبة عبد الرحمن قبطان سيب
نادم فاسر الخاطر واقر الناظر حيث اشعر بسلامتكم التي هي القصد والمراد
وكافة فاذا كرتم صار معلوم فاتفضلتم به على رسم الهدية السنية وصل بموجب
التفضيل والتقرير انعم الله عليكم وازادكم من واسع فضله ولا زلتم آخذين بيد
الفضل وفي العام الماضي ارسلنا مركب احد اصحابنا الذي هو سيب بادم على
سبيل المحبة والصدقة حيث وجدناكم انقطعتم من بندرنا وبحيث ان تكون
المواصلة غير منقطعة فيما بيننا واياكم وعلى رسم الاتحاد والصدقة السابقة
ارسلنا مركبنا جنجاور ورد به رجالنا الحاجي محمود بن مشكور اولا الغاية في
ارساله على سبيل الاتصال والخلطة وثانيا لشراء بعض السكر من بندركم
المعمور فالمرجوا والمأمول لهم العزة والحشمة والمراعاة كما هو المعتاد منا
ومنكم في السابق والاص (?) وذلك فيما بين الطرفين لا يحتاج الى ابرا حيث
انتم اصدقانا من قديم الزمان وبسبب عدم اتصالكم بنا ارسلنا مركبنا المشار اليه
لتجديد الصحبة والصدقة القديمة وكل معروف تعملوه معه محسوب علينا والله
الله (?) بالالتفات وعدم رفع النظر عنه وجنابكم لا تحتاج الى توصية فيمن
هو من طرفنا ونتيقن ان المركب مركبكم والمال مالكم وباقي اعلامنا على
السنة الواصلين اليكم والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته والسلام خير ختام

الحمد لله وحده

حضرت الاجل الاكمل الصديق الناصح جندرال بتاو سلمه الله تعالى احسن ما يتهداه اهل الوداد واكمل ما يتعاطاه اهل الشفقة الاتحاد هو من الله سلام عديد ودعاء ليس عليه فريد يهدي ويزف (?) ويحلي ويتحف الى جناب عالي الجناب عمدة الكرام الانجاب المحروس بعين عناية الملك الوهاب المشار اليه [blank space] سلمه الله تعالى وابقاه ومن المكاره والمخاوف وقاه ووقفه لما فيه رضاه والباعث لتحرير ذريعة الوداد وصحيفة الاتحاد هو السؤال عن صحة ذاتكم واعتدال اوقاتكم اللتان هما غاية القصد والمراد وبينما نترقب اخبار سلامتكم اذ في ابرك الساعات واشرف الاوقات ورد كتابكم صحبة قبطان مركب سيب بادم محبنا عبد الرحمان وجميع ما ارسلتموه من الهدية السنوية بموجب التقرير والتفضيل فضل وانعم الله عليكم وازادكم من واسع فضله ونحن في العام الماضي ارسلنا ذلك المركب لاحد من اصحابنا على طريق الصداقة والمجبة حيث وجدناكم انقطعتم من بندرنا ونحب ان تكون المواصلة غير منقطعة بيننا واياكم وعلى رسم الاتحاد والصداقة السابقة الآن ارسلنا مركبنا جانجاور ورد به رجالنا الحاجي محمود بن مشكور اولاً على سبيل الاتصال والخلطة وثانياً لشراء بعض السكر من بندركم فالمرجوا والمأمول لهم العزة والحشمة والمراعاة كما هو المعتاد منا ومنكم في السابق واللاحق ونرجوا ونأمل ما هو مذكور بدون الابراء حيث انتم اصدقانا من قديم الزمان وبسبب عدم اتصالكم بنا ارسلنا مركبنا المشار اليه لتجديد الصحبة والصداقة القديمة ولا ترفقوا نظرکم العالي عن رجالنا المشار اليه صدر الكتاب وكل معروف تعملوه معه محسوب علينا والله الله بالالتفات وعدم رفع النظر عن المشار اليه فيما يبدو والواصل على يده بعض الهدية راسين خيل عناهم يكونوا قدم مبارك وباقي اعلامنا على السنة الواصلين اليكم كفاية والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

The addition in Malay: سود اين دان ساتو كفد شاه بندر سام ارتيڠ دغن اين
كود ساج تياد دسان سبوة

Or. 2241-IV (8), No.244 / Klinkert No.8. One sheet of paper, folded once. 37.5 x 28 cm, *naskh* script. Letter from Sultan b. al-Imam Ahmad b. Sa'id (because of the seal) to the Governor-General, dated 17 Rabi' II 1216 (27 August 1801). Text in Arabic, written on one side only. See Catalogue Wieringa, vol. I, p. 408. The text in the seal quotes from Qur'an 44:19. The present seal is dated 1211 AH, whereas the other seals contain the year 1212 AH. Also visible on the upper part of the text of the letter is an offset of a large, somewhat oval seal, the text of which is illegible, however. On the reverse an inscription in Dutch:

Musquette. Van den Imam. Aan Zijne Hoog Edelh., ontv. bat. den 14 8ber 1802.

'(From) Muscat. From the Imam. To His Excellency, received in Batavia on 14 October 1802'

نهدي جزيل الاشواق والتحيات على ممر الازمنة والاوقات لجناب القائم مقام
قپني الدولة الولنديية جندرال بتاو سلمه الله تعالى
اما بعد فانا بحمد الله تعالى بخير وعافية ونعمة وافية لا زلتم كذلك سالمين
مدة الدهور والسنين وقد وصلنا كتابكم المرسول في المركب المبارك كنجاور
فسرنا حيث اخبر عن صحة سلامتكم واتحاد المحبة بيننا وبينكم وجميع ما
عرفتم به فقد صار عندنا معلوم ولدينا مفهوم وكذلك وصل محبنا الحاج محمود
في المركب المذكور بالسلام فوجدناه يثني عليكم بالجميل والاحسان ويشكر
حسن صنيع ما عملتم معه من الرعاية والمحبة وذلك هو المأمول من جنابكم
فسعيكم عندنا مشكور وصنيعكم لدينا مقبول وقد عزمنا ان نوجه لخدمتكم
ايضا في هذا الموسم في مركبنا الموسوم بفتح اسلام لكننا رأينا المركب يحتاج
لبعض الاصلاح وفهمنا بان الاشياء التي يحتاج لها تتعذر في طرفكم في بعض
الاحيان فلذلك وجهناه اولاً الى بندر كلكتة لأجل اصلاح المركب ثم من بعد
ذلك امرنا ان يتوجه من هناك الى خدمتكم فالمأمول منكم بعد وصوله الى تلك
الناحية ان تبدوا لهم المحبة والرعاية والمساعدة في كل ما يحتاجون اليه كما
وفيتم بذلك كله اولاً وكلما تعملون معهم من الجميل والاحسان فهو راجع لنا
ومحسوب علينا وقد بدا لنا في هذه الايام التوجه لناحية الشمال لجهاد قوم
اظهروا في الارض الفساد وصدوا عن طريق الرشاد نرجو النصر عليهم والظفر
من رب العباد فانه قادر على ما اراد وهو حسبنا ونعم الوكيل نعم المولى ونعم
النصير والمأمول اتصال المكاتبة والتعريف لتجديد المحبة والاتحاد والباقي دوام
سلامتكم في خير وعافية وسرور على ممر الازمنة والدهور
من المحب سلطان بن الامام احمد بن سعيد البوسعيدي بتاريخ ١٧ من شهر
ربيع الاخر سنة ١٢١٦

بسم الله القوي المتين اني آيتكم بسلطان مبین ١٢١١ [seal:

الحمد لله
الذي هدانا لهذا
والذي كنا لنهتدي لولا
هدايتنا
والذي هدانا لهذا
والذي كنا لنهتدي لولا
هدايتنا

لهذا جزيل الشكر والثناء على ما عملتموه في هذا الحجاب

اما بعد فاننا بحمد الله تعالى وعافيه ونعمه وافيه ذكرنا لكم ذلك سلمين مدة الدهور والسنين



تكمالكم المرفوع الكبار كجوار فمنا حيث اجتمع سلامكم وانحاء الحجة بيننا وبينكم وجميع
فقد صاغنا معلوم ولا ينادينا منكم وكذلك صا حجابنا الجاه محمود في الكبر والساد فوجنا هذه
عليكم بالحج والاحسان ويكفون صنيع علمهم من الرعاية والحجة وذلك هو الامور من اجابكم فنعلم
شكرو وصنيعكم لدينا مقبول وقد عرفنا ان وجه خدمتكم ايضا في هذا الموسم في مكننا الموسم فنجي
تكمالنا الكبر الحجاج البغض والصلوة وهما بان الاشياء التي يحتاج لها استعداد في طرفة عين في بعض الاحوال فذلك
اولا اليه كلكم اوجلا صلوا الكبر في ثوبه ذلك لانه ان يتعجز عن هذا الخدمتكم فالما موافق
بعد وصوتك لنا ان تبدوا لهم الحجة والرعاية والمساعدة في كل ما يحتاجون اليه كما يفهم بذلك
اولا وكلما تعاون معهم من الجليل والاحسان فهو الحجة لنا ومحسوب علينا وهدانا في هذه الايام التي نتوجه
التمجيد في اظهر وفي الارض الفناء وصدوا عن نوازل الرضا نرجوا انظر عليهم والظفر من العضا فان تباد

الحمد لله الذي هدانا لهذا
والذي كنا لنهتدي لولا
هدايتنا
والذي هدانا لهذا
والذي كنا لنهتدي لولا
هدايتنا

Or. 2241-IV (9), No.245 / Klinkert No.9. One sheet of paper, folded once. 37 x 26.5 cm, *naskh* script. Letter from Sultan b. al-Imam Ahmad b. Sa'id (because of the seal) to the Director of the port of Batavia, dated 17 Rabi'II 1216 (27 August 1801). See Catalogue Wieringa, vol. I, p. 408. The text in the seal quotes from Qur'an 44:19, and contains the date 1211 AH. Text in Arabic, written on one side only. On the reverse is an inscription in Dutch:

Musquiette. Van den Imam. Aan den wel. Ed. Groot Agtb. heer Directeur Generaal.

ontvangen bat. den 14 8ber 1802.

'(From) Muscat. From the Imam. To the highly esteemed Director-General. Received in Batavia on 14 October 1802.'

نهدي جزيل الاشواق والتحيات على ممر الازمنة والاوقات لجناب محبنا وصديقنا
دريكتور بندر المعمور بندر بتاو سلمه الله تعالى
اما بعد فانا بحمد الله تعالى في خير عيم وحال مستقيم لا زلتم كذلك
سالمين ومما تكرهون آمنين آمين مدة الدهور والسنين وبعد فقد وصلنا
كتابكم المرسول في المركب المبارك كنجاور فسرنا حيث اخبر عن صحة
سلامتكم التي هي غاية قصدنا ومرادنا وجميع ما عرفتم فيه فقد صح عندنا
معلوم ولدينا مفهوم لا سيما عن اتحاد المحبة والصدقة بيننا وبينكم وكذلك
وصل محبنا الحاج محمود بن محمد بن مشكور في المركب المذكور بالسلام
فوجدناه يثني على جنابكم بالجميل والاحسان ويشكر حسن صنيع ما عملتم
معهم من الرعاية والمحبة وذلك هو المأمول من جنابكم فسعيكم عندنا مشكور
وصنيعكم لدينا مقبول وقد عزمنا على ان نوجه لخدمتكم ايضا في هذا الموسم
في مركبنا الموسوم فتح اسلام لكننا رأينا المركب يحتاج لبعض الاصلاح وفهنا
بان الاشياء التي تحتاج لها تتعذر في طرفكم في بعض الاوقات فلذلك وجهناه
اولا الى بندر كلكتة لأجل اصلاح المركب ثم بعده امرناه ان يتوجه من هناك
الى خدمتكم فالمأمول منكم بعد وصولهم الى تلك الناحية ان تبدوا لهم المحبة
والاحسان اليهم والمساعدة في كل ما يحتاجون اليه كما وفيتم بذلك أولا
وكلما تعملون معهم من الاحسان والجميل فهو راجع لنا ومحسوب علينا وقد
بدا لنا في هذه الايام التوجه لناحية قوم اظهروا في الارض الفساد وصدوا عن
طريق الرشاد نرجوا النصر عليهم والظفر من رب العباد فانه قادر على ما اراد
وهو حسبنا ونعم الوكيل
من المحب سلطان بن الامام احمد بن سعيد البوسعيدي بتاريخ ١٧ شهر ربيع
الآخِر سنة ١٢١٦

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الْقَوِيّ الْمَتِينِ اِنِّي آيْتِكُمْ بِسُلْطَانٍ مَّبِينٍ ١٢١١ [seal]

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
والصلاة والسلام على
سيدنا محمد وآله الطيبين
الطاهرين

هذه جزيلا اوشون والتجالي من الازمنة ولا وقتا الحجاب

اما بعد فانا بحمد الله تعالى في خير عظيم وحال مستقيم اولئك السلامين وما تذكرون



مما لا يور ولا ينين وبعد فقد وصلنا كتابكم المسمى بالكتاب الكبار والخاور فسرنا حجة

سلامتكم التي هي غاية قصدهم وانا جميع ما عرفتم فيه فقد صح عندنا معلوم ولدينا مفهوم لا يتعارض

المجته والصدف فينا وبينكم وكذلك وصلنا الحجاج محمود بن محمد بن شكور في الكتاب المذكور بالاسم

فوجدناه يتلوه على جبالكم بالجميل والوصف ويشكر حسن صنيع معلمهم من الرعايا المحبة وذلك هو

من جبالكم فنعيا عند مشكور وصنيعا لذي نامتو وادع مناء الى التوجه لخدمتكم ايضا وقد

الموسم في ربنا الموسوم فبنا سلاما لكارينا الكبر الحجاج لبعض الاصلاد ونحن انا بالاشياء التي

لها تعدد في طرفكم في بعض الاوقات فلذلك وجدنا اول اولنا كلكه لاجل اصد الكبر في من

كبارنا وان يوجه من هناك الى اخدمتكم فالما لموسنا بعد وصو الى ملك الناجين سبدا

Handwritten marginal notes in Arabic script, likely a commentary or additional correspondence related to the main text.

Or. 2241-IV (10), No.516 / Klinkert No.10. One sheet of paper, folded once. 37.5 x 28 cm, *naskh* script. Letter from Badr b. Sayf to Governor-General Wiese, dated 15 Safar 1221 (4 May 1806). See Catalogue Wieringa, vol. I, p. 408. Text in Arabic, written on one side only. On the reverse an inscription in Dutch:

Misquiette. Van den Imam. Aan Zijn Hoog Edelheid, ontv. bat. den 6. dec 1806.
'(From) Muscat. From the Imam, to His Excellency, received in Batavia on 6 December 1806'. And on top of that is written in Dutch: 'den 12. dec. 1806'.

الحمد لله كافي المهمات

[seal: ١٢١٥ بدر الله

من المعتصم بالله المنتصر به السيد بدر بن السيد سيف بن الامام المرحوم
احمد بن سيعد البوسعيدي لطف الله تعالى به آمين
الى اخينا ومحينا وسبق من بين ابائنا وبينه المودة والصحة والعقد المؤلف
والعمل المشرف الاكمل الاحشم المحب جندرال بيسي سلمه الله من الاسواء
وحماه من كل بلوى ووفقه لمراده في السير والماوى وصلكم ان شاء الله
مركب الحاجي عنبر داوود خنيل المسمى الخليلي نوخذة ابراهيم بن حسن
وهو مركب لنا يخص احد رعايانا فالمرجو منكم له العشرة التامة والفعل
الجميل كما قد سبق بين آباءنا وبين آباءكم وبينكم وما عملتموه معه من
جميل القول والعمل فكما عملتموه معنا هذا ونرجو الله ان تجديد الصحة
والمودة بيننا وبينكم ثابتة كما سبق من آباءنا معكم لان مودة الآباء صلة في
الابناء ونحن كما علمتم مما جرى الله على الامام السيد سلطان بعد وفاته
متولين منزلته في العقد والعهد والامان فالمرجو منا ومنكم تمام ذلك في كل
حال واوان والذي ارسلتموه للسيد سلطان وصل الينا كما هو مذكور والاخبار
ان شاء الله تعالى تصل اليكم في غير هذا المركب حتى لا يخفى حرر في ١٥
من شهر صفر من سنة ١٢٢١

COLOPHON

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