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

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Presented by Jan Just Witkam
News from the West. Letters from Oman to Batavia, 1798-1806

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Contents:
1. The collection of letters.
2. Historical context.
3. Partial translation of the letters.

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. 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, 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 Servants there are a few which did not come from the archipelago. A few Arabic

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2. ‘Raad van Indië’, in the East India Company’s time the highest governing body, presided over by the gouvernor-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. 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. 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. 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 Giambar 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.

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. The 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 Maledives, 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. 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.

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4 They have been first summarily described by H.C. Klinkert, ‘Verzamelingen van Maleischte brieven, voorhanden in de Rijksbibliotheek te Leiden’, in Tijdschrift voor Nederlandsch Indie, 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. 
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 Bahrain, 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. 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. 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

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seal reads: ‘I come to you with a clear authority’. The latter’s seal reads: ‘God helped you at Badr’.  

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.

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 ..., may the Judging God guard him against the vicissitudes of fate by the right of Him Who put Jonah into the whale.
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 [...].

—Qur’an 43:19, in A.J. Arberrv’s translation. Here with a play with words between ‘authority’ and the proper name Sultan.

—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.

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.

Space left blank, name to be filled in later.

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, 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 [...] 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 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 it 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

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10 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 Ganjawar. 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. Therefore 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.

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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. Hasan\(^2\) 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.'

\(^2\)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


الصادر على سبيل الصدقة والهدية في المركب المزبور سيب بادم صحبة القبطان
عبد الرحمن ناصيف (؟) خليل تفضلوا بتنبؤ ذاك والسلام في يوم 17 شهر ربيع
العشرة 1213 سنة

(Seal: 1211)
From Muscat, from Sultan Ibn Imam Ahmad Ibn Sa'id, to His Excellency (the Governor-General), received in Batavia on 12 October 1798.

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

The translation of this letter is found among the enclosures of (the Report of) 16 October 1798.'
لا يمكنني قراءة النص الأصلي باللغة العربية من الصورة المقدمة.
or. 2241-IV (3). No.262 / Klinkert No.3. One sheet of paper, folded once 42 x 30 cm, nasta‘liq script (shikaste-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:


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

\[\text{Date: 10 Ramadan 1214} \]

[seal: ١٢١٤]
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 (Gandrál 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 Bataw’iya. 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 Shawrâl 1211 (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’an 44:19.

On the reverse the indication of the addressee:

ورد كاه سام جندرال

بسم الله القوي المتعين أني آتيكم Sultan مبين 1812

Sultan

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

[seal: 1812]

On the reverse the indication of the addressee:

يسر الله تعالى

Shahbandar Sahib

ับناه العزيز أين مراعله محبت يزج قيده يب بيتى ببطاويه بنتظر عاليهان رفع

مكان هو الفرد الامتنان دوست عقيدة مبان محمد الأعظم زيده الادنام العبودية

اعتقاد دوستمان شاه بندر صاحب من ظله العالي موصول باد

انت الدعاء

سود كاه سام جندرال

بسم الله القوي المتعين أني آتيكم Sultan مبين 1812

Sultan
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:
'(From) Muscat. From the Imam, received in Batavia on 21 October 1800.'

On the reverse the name of the sender and the date:
المحب المخلص سلطان بن الإمام أحمد بن سعيد حرح في 134 ربيع الأول سنة 1215

[Seal: ...]
الحمد لله وحده

حضرت الأكرم الاحمذ صديقنا الناصح شايندر بناء سلامة الله تعالى
سلام الله الامام ورضوانه الشامل الاعم وثناءه الأسني وتحيه الوافرة الحسنی يهدي
ویز (؟) الى جانب عالي الجناح الصديق الناصح والسفي المود المناصر
صلمه الله تعالى وابقاه ومن منكروا وقاه ووفقه لما فيه
رضاه بمحمد وآله وصحبه التقام وبعد ان حرك الخاطر بالسياح عنا فانا والله

الحمد والمنة في احسن الاحوال لا زن الامام في خير وعافته وسرور مدة الأم
والشهر وقد صدرت الأحرف من المعروف بندر مسكي واعلامنا من فض ال
 تعالى سارة وحركات اطرافنا قارة وبينما نترقب اخبار سلامتكم اذا في ابرك
الساعات واشرف الافوات ورد كتابكم الكريم صحبة عبد الرحمن قبطان ساب
نادم فاضر الخاطر واقف الناس من حيث اشرب بسلامتكم التي في القصد والمراد
وكتافة ناذكروا صار معلوم فانفصلتم بمهمه القدوة السنية وصل بموجب
التفصيل والتقرير انعم الله عليكم وازادكم من واصع فضلكم ولا زلتكم آخذين بيد
الفضل وفي العام الماضي ارسلنا مركز أحد أصحابنا الذي هو سيب بادم على
سبيل المحبة والصداقة حيث وجدناكم انقطعتم من بندرنا وليحث ان تكون
المواصلة غير متقطعة فيما بيننا واباكم وعلى رحم الانجاح والصداقة السابقة
ارسلنا مرتكبا جنحوا ورد به رجالنا الحاجب محمود بن مشكور اولا الغاية في
ارساله على سبيل الامان والخليفة وثانيا لشراء بعض السكر من بندركم
الم�وم قلمرجو والتأمل لهم العزة والحشمة والمراعاة كما هو المعتاد منا
ومنكم في السابق والأسن (؟) وذالك فيما بين الطرفين لا يحتاج الى ابدا حيث
انتم اصدقاء من قديم الزمان وسبب عدم اتصالكم بندا ارسلنا مرتكبا المشار عليه
لتجديد الصحة والصداقة القديمة وكل معروف عملوه مع محسن علينا والله
الله (؟) بالتحية وعدم رفع النظر عنه وجيتكم لا تحتاج الى توصية فيهم
هو من طرفنا وتعين ان المركب مرتكبا والمال مالكم والسلام علىكم وباقی اعلامنا على
السنة الواصلين اليك والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته والسلام خير ختماً

Transcription of Or. 2241-IV (7), No. 273.
لا يمكنني قراءة النص النسبي الذي تم جلبه من الصورة. إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مساعدة مع شيء آخر، فلا تتردد في طرحه.

‘(From) Muscat. From the Imam. To His Excellency, received in Batavia on 21 October 1800’
الحمد لله وحده
حضرت الأجل الأكمل الصديق الناصح جندل بِتَّاو سلمه الله تعالى
حسن ما يهاداه أهل الوداد الأخلاق ما يتعاطاه أهل الشفاءة الاتحاد هو من الله
سلام عبد ودعوهم ليس عليه فريد يهدى ويزف (؟) ويحيى ويتفج إلى جانب
عالي الجناب عمة الكرام الابناء المحسوس بعين عناية الملك الوهاب المشارك
سلمه الله تعالى وأباهه ومن المكاره والمخافه وفوقه لما
فنه رضاه والباعة لتحريذ ذريعة الوداد وصحيفة الاتحاد هو السؤال عن صحة
ذاتكم واعتدال أوقاتكم اللتان هما غاية القصد والمراد وبينما تترقب اخبار
سلامكم إذ في ابرك الساعات وأشرف الأوقات ورد كتابكم صحة قبطان مركب
ساب بادم محببا عبد الرحمن وجميع ما ارسلتموه من الهديه السنية بموجب
التقرير والتفصيل فضل وانعم الله عليكم وازادكم من واسع فضله ونحن في العام
المافي أرسلنا ذلك المركب لأحد من أصحابنا على طريق الصداقة والمحبة
حيث وجدناكم انقطعتم من بندرنا ونحن ان تكون التواصل غير منطقية بيننا
واياكم وعلى رسم الاتحاد والصداقة السابقة الآن أرسلنا رجلا من بندرنا جانجاو ورد به
رجالنا الحاجي محمود بن مشكور أولا على سبيل الانصاف والخلطة وثانيا لشراء
بعض السكر من بندركم فالمجرة والتأمل لهم العزة والحشمة والمراعاة كما
هو المعتاد منا ونكم في السابق واللاحق ونرجوا ونأمل ما هو مذكور بدون
الأبراء حيث نتم اصدقاء من تدين الزمان وبسبب عدم اتصالكم بينا أرسلنا
مركبنا المشتر البه لتجديد الصداقة والصداقة القديمة ولا ترقوا نظركم العالي
عن رجلا من المشتر البه صدر الكتاب وكل معروف تحمله مع محسوب علينا
والله الله بالالتزامات وعدم رفع النظر عن المشتر البه فيما يبداوى والواصل على
يده بعض الهديه راسين خيل عناها يكوونا قدم مبارك وبباقي أعلامنا على السنة
الواصلين الليم كفتاية والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

The addition in Malay: سود اين دان ساتو كفم شاه بندير سام اريث دغن اين
كود ساج تيايد دمس سويا

Transcription of Or. 2241-IV (6). No. 275.
لا حقق بل باداء الود وحاسمة شمطم في الشهداءbelt

لعله تمتعت برفق وجلية حلمياً بالهوية في الأراضي،

منهجة البالغة الأيدي.

وياً وحقيقاً يدرّ وماهاً تلود على غليلها الدور المحلي.

فتعجرت الدعوة وثوقها العضوية مثل الأدوات المطهرة

أزدّق الأسد، تسقط قراره بالقياس.

وبدأت السلم في المفاصلة، وتتمدّد إن فئتهم في المطرقة

ورفقت للأقدام، أعلاها، وانسلحت الغزاة، بينما عرفت

من كثر الحمد، وال идеальнاء، اليهود، والまとقة، ينزلون

تلياً وتلياً للفراق، وقد تبرضت الأيدي والموت، وتمارس

تسرير الأسلحة، والرياح، والمرحمة، والغزل، في جمال

الصلاب، ...
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:


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

نهدي جزيئ الاشواق والتحيات على ممر الازمة والوقات لجناب القائم مقام فيم الدولة الويلندية جنرال بناو سلمه الله تعالى.
أما بعد فاننا بحمد الله تعالى بخير وعافية ونعمة وفدية لا زالت كذلك سالمين
مدة الدهور والستين وقد وصلنا كتابكم المرسل في المركب المبارك كنجار
منه احمر عن صحة سلامكم وإتحاد النجحة بيننا وبينكم وجميع ما
عرزتم به فقد كانا معلوم ولدينا منهم وكذلك وصل محبنا الحاج محمود
في المركب المذكور بالسلام نودذم جشي عليكم بالجميل والاحسان ويشكر
حسن صنيع ما عملتم من الرعاية والمحبة وذلك هو العامول من جنابكم
نستيعكم عندنا مشكور وصبيعكم لدينا متبوع وقد عزتنا ان نوجيه لخدمكم
بما في هذا الموسم في مركبنا المسوم بفتح اسلام لكننا رأينا المركب يحتاج
لبعض الاصلاح وفهمنا قل الاشياء التي يحتاج لها تتاعذر في طرفكم في بعض
الاحيان فذلك وجهنا اولا الى بادر كلكته لأجل اصلاح المركب ثم من بعد
ذلك امرنا ان نتوجه من هناك الى خدمتك فاما مولمن منكم بعد وصوله الى تلك
الناحية ان تبدو لهم الجميل والمحبة والمساعدة في كل ما يحتاجون اليه كما
وفيهم بذلك كله اولا وكلما عملون معهم من الجميل والاحسان فهو راجع لنا
ومحبوب علينا وقد بدا لنا في هكذا الأيام الموقع لناجية الشمال لجهاد قوم
الله الفضل ونضدوا عن طريق الرشاد نحو النصر عليهم والظلفر
من رب العباد فانه قادر على ما اراد وهو حسننا ونعم الوكيل نعم الموالي ونعم
النصير والعامل اتصال هناكيات وتعريف لتجديد المحبة والاتحاد والباقي دوام
سلامكم في خير وعافية وسرور على ممر الازمة والدهور
من المحب سلطان بن الإمام أحمد بن سعيد البوسعيدي بتاريخ 17 من شهر
ربع الآخر سنة 1212

[seal: 1211]
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:

ontvangen bat. den 14 8ber 1802.
‘(From) Muscat. From the Imam. To the highly esteemed Director-General. Received in Batavia on 14 October 1802.’

نعي جزيل الأشواق والمحبات على مسم الأزمة والأوقات لجناب محسنا وصديقا

دريكتور بندر المحموم بندر بناو سلمه الله تعالى

اما بعد فانا بحمد الله تعالى في خير عامهم وحال مستقيم لا زلت كذلك

سألين وما تكرهون آمين آمين مدة الدهور والسنين وبعد فقد وصلنا

كتابكم المرسل في المركب المبارك كنجاوي فسرنا حيث خير عن صحة

سلامكم التي هي غاية قدنا ومنادينا جميع ما عرفنا فيه فقد صح عندنا

معلومات وليدينا مفهوم لا سيما عن اتحاد المحجة والصداقة بيننا وبينكم وكذلك

وصلى محسنا الحاج محمود بن محمد بن مشكور في المركب المذكور بالسلام

فوجدناه يكتب على جنابكم بالجميل والأحسان ويذكر حسن صنيع ما عملتم

معهم من الرعاية والمحبة وذلك هو المأمول من جنابكم فنعتكم عندنا مشكور

وصيعكم لدينا مقبول وقد عزمنا على ان نوجهه لخدمكم ايا في هذا الموسم

في مركبنا الموسم فنفع السلام لكننا رأينا المركب يحتاج لبعض الإصلاح وفهما

بان الأشياء التي تحتاج لها تتغير في طرفكم في بعض الواقت فلذاك وجهناء

اولا إلى بناو كلكتنا أجمل اصلاح المركب ثم بعد امرنا ان يتوجه من هناك

إلى خدماتكم فنأمور منكم بعد وصولهم الى تلك الناحية ان تبدأ لهم المحجة

والحسام اليهم والمساعدة في كل ما يحتاجون اليه كما وفيت بذلك أولا

وكلما تعملون معهم من الأحسان والجميل فهو راجع لنا ومحسوب علينا وقد

بدأ لنا في هذه الأيام التوجه لناحية تقوم أظهروا في الأرض النساو وصدوا عن

طريق الرشد نرجوا النصر عليهم وانفوج من رب العباد فانه قادر على ما اراد

وهوجنبنا ونعم الوكيل

من المحم سلطان بن الامام احمد بن سعيد البوعيسدي بتاريخ 17 شهر ربيع

لاخ سنة 1211

[seal: وي نه الصاوي المتين اني آتيكم بسلطان مبين 1211]
الحمد لله كافي المهمات

انصركم بدر الله 1215

الجواب:

أحمد بن سعيد البوسعيد يذكى الله تعالى به أمين
الإخوة ومحبنا وبيننا وبينه السلم والصحة والوعود المخلوق
والعمل المشرف، لا يطمث المحب جندى، ينسى السيسي، سلمه الله من الأسواه
وحماه من كل بلوى ووفاته، مدرك في السير والناوى، وصلكم أن شاء الله
مركبه الحاكي عن دروود شهيد الأنسى الخليلي نوخذه إبراهيم بن حسن
وهذه ورق ذكر لنا الخضات، فانصرجو منكم له الحشمة العامة والفعل
الحب، كما قد سبق، بين إباني وبين إباني، وبينكم وما عملتموه معه من
جميل القول والعمل، اهتموا به، هذا وترجو الله ان تجدون الصحة
والعودة بيننا وبينكم ثابتة، كما سبق من آبائي منكم، لأن مودة الإباء صلة في
الاندماج، ونحن حكى، أقام، شهيد، على الإمام السيد سلطان بعد وفاته
مولى مولى، في العقد والعهد، والمان، فالسروج، ومنكم، تمام ذلك في كل
حال والوان، الذي ارسلتموه للسيد سلطان، وصل إببنا، كما هو مذكور، والأخبار
أن شاء الله تعالى تصل اليميد في غير، هذا المركب، حتى لا يخلى حرر في 15
من شهر صفر، من سنة 1221.
لا يستطيع أن يصبح ابن الله المولى الصديق والمختار لعالم الجد.
وقد كان له من السمعبنً في جملةmajlis القائد:
لدينا جملةً في حروف العنقين من مجهولين.
وصلى الله عليه وسلم
COLOPHON

This annotated presentation of letters sent from Oman to Batavia in the period between 1798 and 1806 was published on 11 July 2003 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, in a printrun of twenty-five copies.