

Nr. 2.2.1.2.01

John MacVicar, Bürgermeister von Manchester und bisher Konsul der Hansestadt Hamburg in Kanton, an Johann Martin Lappenberg, Senatssyndikus der Hansestadt Hamburg, betr. sein Amt und die Entwicklung des europäischen Handels mit China, 9. Januar 1843

Brief

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Formalia: 3 Blätter, handschriftlich beidseitig beschrieben, Abschrift. Im englischsprachigen Dokument weicht die Groß- und Kleinschreibung stark von heute geltenden Regeln ab, was die Transkription unverändert wiedergibt; andere, vom heutigen Sprachgebrauch abweichende Schreibweisen wurden dagegen mit einer erläuterten Fußnote versehen; offenkundige Grammatik- und Rechtschreibfehler des Abschreibers wurden jeweils mit einer korrigierenden Fußnote kommentiert.

Regest:

John MacVicar, seit 1829 Konsul der Hansestadt Hamburg in Kanton, stellt mit dem hier in Abschrift vorliegenden Schreiben an den Senatssyndikus der Hansestadt Hamburg Dr. Johann Martin Lappenberg, wie zuvor an ihn herangetragen, sein schon länger nicht mehr persönlich ausgeübtes Amt zur Verfügung, erinnert an die Umstände seiner Ernennung und schlägt einen Nachfolger vor. Außerdem berichtet er über die Entwicklung des europäischen Handels mit China und legt seine Meinung über die Chancen deutscher Kaufleute dar, sich künftig stärker in diesen bisher noch immer von den Briten dominierten Handel einzuschalten.

[1. Blatt, Vorderseite]

Anlage N. 38 d. 30 Januar 1843¹

Abschrift²

Manchester 9th. January 1843.

Sir.

I have the Honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th. ulto. on my return from Scotland a few days ago and at the same time I received a letter from Mr. Colquhoun, the Hanseatic Consul in London informing me that he was instructed by the Senate of Hamburg to suggest the prosperity that I should tender to the Senate the resignation of my appointment as their Consul to the Emperor of China.

In reply I beg to state

My consular Déploma³ from the Senate of Hamburg was addressed to His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China.⁴ About the Month of November 1830 I presented the same to „Howqua“ an Hong Merchant at Canton the highest authority then approachable in China - who assured me that he would make the necessary

1 Zeitlich erst nach der Kennzeichnung des Dokuments als Abschrift eingefügter Vermerk von dritter Hand, mit dem die Abschrift offenkundig einer Sentasvorlage als Anlage Nr. 38 vom 30. Januar 1843 zugeordnet wurde.

2 Vermerk von zweiter Hand.

3 Abweichende Schreibweise für „Diploma“.

4 1829, im Jahr der Ernennung John MacVicar zum Konsul der Hansestadt Hamburg in Kanton, wurde China von dem der Qing-Dynastie angehörenden Kaiser Daoguang regiert.

communication to the higher authorities and that he would take upon himself to say that the Flag and Commerce and Citizens of Hamburg should at all times enjoy equal privileges⁵ with the most favored Foreign Powers⁶ I communicated this sometime in 1831 to Mr. Syndicus Sieveking at the same time stating that as my sejour in China was not at the time to be prolonged for any length of time that I considered it to be my Duty to appoint a Vice Consul until the pleasure of the Senate was known who would attend to the Interest of any Ship or Citizen of Hamburg who might require it & that I had indorsed⁷ even my Diploma to Alexander Matheson Esq. as Vice Consul. I have no instention⁸ of again returning to China. I have partners there, as well as at Bombay & Calcutta conducting my Mercantile establishment⁹ at their places. My own residence is now here when for a time I had the honor

[1. Blatt, Rückseite]

to fill the Office of Chieff¹⁰ Magistrate of the Town.

In the present position of affair in China it is impossible to say on what footing Foreign States will be received and acknowledged by the Chinese.¹¹ The Policy of the Britisch¹² Government cannot be to claime¹³ for themselves any privileges¹⁴ which other European powers shall not equally enjoy. To England & to America a free commercial intercourse with China is of greater actual importance than to any other Powers in as much as the Trade between China & these Countries is of vastly greater importance (at present at all want) than with continental Europe. The interchange of commodities between the former and China is large & with all others comperatively¹⁵ small.

The leading articles of Import into China are Raw Cotton Opium, & Manufactured Goods & Metals and the Exports are Teas, Raw Silk, Silk Piece goods & some minor articles.

Raw Cotton has hitherto been almost exclusively supplied by British India. But America may compete in that article and is even now making some Shippments¹⁶ there.

Opium is supplied from British India from Malwa through the Portugue¹⁷ settlement of Damann¹⁸ and a little from Turkey, some has also gone from Egypt. -

In Manufactured Goods the Treade is of a more limited extent than is generally supposed. I send you herewith a list of the actual Exports from Great Britain of the leading articles of British Manufacture & Metal exported to China direct¹⁹ for the last four years²⁰, indirect²¹ the Treade in those articles is not great. Of Foreign Manufactures

5 Abweichende Schreibweise für „privileges“.

6 Das Prinzip der Meistbegünstigung galt seit den 1820er Jahren in bilateralen Handelsverträgen als erstrebenswert, hatte sich zur Zeit der Ernennung John MacVicar zum Konsul der Hansestadt Hamburg in Kanton aber noch nicht allgemein durchgesetzt. Nach dem Ersten Opiumkrieg (1839–1842) drangen die Briten gegenüber China allerdings erfolgreich darauf, es in einem Zusatzabkommen zum Vertrag von Nanjing (29. August 1842), dem Vertrag von Humen (8. Oktober 1843), fest zu verankern. Diesem Beispiel folgen alle weiteren Handelsverträge, die China im langen 19. Jahrhundert mit europäischen Staaten abschloss. Vgl. *Nord*, Handelsverträge Chinas.

7 Es muss heißen „indossed“.

8 Es muss heißen „intention“.

9 Es muss heißen „establishment“.

10 Abweichende Schreibweise für „Chief“.

11 MacVicar spielt hier darauf an, dass mit der Unterzeichnung des Vertrages von Nanjing (29. August 1842) viele rechtliche Fragen des künftigen Handels zwischen China und Großbritannien sowie anderen Staaten noch offen geblieben waren; sie wurden für Großbritannien erst mit dem Vertrag von Humen (8. Oktober 1843) geklärt.

12 Es muss heißen „British“.

13 Es muss heißen „claim“.

14 Abweichende Schreibweise für „privileges“.

15 Muss heißen „comparatively“.

16 Es muss heißen „shipments“.

17 Es muss heißen „Portuguese“.

18 Es muss heißen „Daman“.

19 Es muss heißen „directly“.

20 Die erwähnte Liste liegt dem Dokument nicht bei.

21 Es muss heißen „indirectly“.

the Export through England (and of late year it has been almost confined to what has gone through this Country) is not great and is compized in some Woolen Goods, some [...(?)]

[2. Blatt, Vorderseite] Dutch (Belgian) [absichtlich freigelassener Wortzwischenraum, der nicht gefüllt wurde] a considerable value of Watches, Musical Snuff Boxes, Eau de Coulogne²² & some small articles of Bigouterie²³.

America Exports to China some Cotton Manufactured Goods but I do not think successfully as the Trade does not appear to increase.

In the present state of the Manufacturing Industry of the World & the ascertained want of China, I do not think that any other country continent²⁴ or American can successfully compete with Great Britain in the market of China in Cotton Goods. The Chines²⁵ are utilitarian in their tastes and fashion they are strongly wedded to old customs & slow of change, plain useful and not fancy articles find meet²⁶ acceptance with them.

In woolen Goods of particular discriptions²⁷ I think it probable that the Manufactures of Germany may obtain a footing, but it is remarkable that whereas the Export of Woolen and Worsted Fabriecs²⁸ to China [absichtlich freigelassener Wortzwischenraum, der nicht gefüllt wurde] was to the expiry of the East India Company's Charter in 1834 amounted to about a Million Pounds sterling in annual value the Export since then has gradually decreased until now it amounts to only about one fourth part of that value - I am unable to account for this, or to obtain any imformation²⁹ in China to enable me to do so, but the fact is undoubted & does not from³⁰ any diffculty³¹ in supplying the articles, but because Sales can not profitably effected.

The export³² from China are principally Teas & Raw Silk; of Tea the Total quantity exported from China (exclusive of the overland Trade with Russia) is probably about 70 Millions of Pounds annually. Englishmen and their descendents are the largest consumers of Tea.³³ Great Britain consumes for Home on almost 37 Millions [of] Pounds. - The British Colonies, Australia, Canada, British India &c. almost 10 Millions [of] Pounds. The United States of America about 17 Millions [of] Pounds. France, Holland, Germany

[2. Blatt, Rückseite] to about 6 Millions [of] Pounds. The Exports³⁴ of Raw Silk from China is very unequal, varying from 2000 to 18000 Bales of almost 100 Pounds each annually, the avarage³⁵ of the last 10 years is from 6000 – 7000 Bales, this comes principally to England & is chiefly³⁶ consumed in the Country, but no doubt may be beneficially used at Berlin, Elberfeldt³⁷ and other part³⁸ of Germany.

I doubt not that a Trade to a moderate extent may be beneficially established between Hamburg & China and the known caution & circumspection of the German character will I am persuaded, not permit them to go rashly into the Trade or without that minute & critical knowledge of it which is indispensably necessary for the successful pursuit of any Trade and I can say from experience is greatly so in China.

22 Es muss heißen „Eau de Cologne“.

23 Es muss heißen „Bijouterie“.

24 Es muss heißen „continental“, gemeint ist Kontinentaleuropa.

25 Es muss heißen „Chines“.

26 Eines der beiden Verben - „find“ oder „meet“ - ist überflüssig.

27 Es muss heißen „descriptions“

28 Es muss heißen „worsted fabrics“ (zu deutsch: Kammgarngewebe).

29 Es muss heißen „information“.

30 Gemeint ist offenkundig „form“.

31 Abweichende Schreibweise für „difficulty“.

32 Es muss heißen „exports“.

33 Zum Teekonsum der Briten und der dadurch bewirkten Entfaltung des Welthandels mit Tee mit ihren Auswirkungen auf die Hauptproduzenten in China und Indien: *Gardella*, *Harvesting Mountains*; *LIU*, *Tea War*; *Rappaport*, *Thirst for Empire*.

34 Es muß heißen: „export“

35 Es muss heißen „average“.

36 Abweichende Schreibweise für „chiefly“.

37 Es muss heißen „Elberfeld“.

38 Es muss heißen „parts“.

I should think that for the present any Consular appointment from the Senate to the ports about to be opened in China would be quite unnecessary.³⁹ I⁴⁰ will in all probability be a considerable time before any mercantile⁴¹ establishment will be formed at other places than Canton or Hong Kong.

Hong Kong now a British settlement will be for some time the Empirum of the Foreign Trade of China and the Depot for Merchandize for the port⁴² about to be opened.⁴³ In little more than a year from having no population where ever on the island it has now upwards of 20000 inhabitants.

The Trade with the other ports will for some time be conducted from Hong Kong by fast sailing weatherly Vessels with a Super Cargo or intelligent Captain & bye & bye as the Trade extend⁴⁴ establishments will be formed at the other ports.

I think the interest of the State of Hamburg is to watch events as they develope⁴⁵ themselves, for which purpose a resident Consul in their Interest who will from time to time communicate to them what is going forward & who will if an occassion⁴⁶ presents itself present such claims on the part of the Senate as may be just & proper, would no doubt be[3. Blatt, Vorderseite] useful. The immediate advantages to be derived by a⁴⁷ extension of Trade will not in my opinion be great but that in the course of time great changes will take place in the relations of civilized Europe with that Country. I cannot doubt & I should humbly conceive it to be the Policy of the State of Hamburg to be on the alirt⁴⁸ & with that circumspection which has maintained their independence for a thousand years quietly but firmly & steadily to claime⁴⁹ for themselfe⁵⁰ their advantages of peaceful Commerce which other independent States may obtain & in which I do not think they will experience any diffculty⁵¹.

Whether the appointment of any Special or permanently paid Envoy or Consul for such purpose may be deemed necessary it is not for me to presume to offer any opinion upon.

The Senate of Hamburg very kindly granted my Solicitation & appointed me their Consul to China – at that Time which was during the exertence of the East India Company's Charter which expired in 1834. I could not as a British subject either perend to or remain in China but as Consul for some foreign State, which through Courtesy the East India Company under these circumstances permitted.

I now beg most respectfully & greatly⁵² to tender my resignation and request you will be assured that I will at all time be glad to render any services that may be in my power or these of my establishment in the East to the Flag & citizens of Hamburg.

My Brother in law & partner at Hong-Kong M^r. David Laing Burn⁵³ has resided several years in China and is very intimatly⁵⁴ acquainted with all proceedings there. He will I am sure if it is desired by the Senate be most

39 Mit dem Vertrag von Nanjing (29. August 1842) war das im Ersten Opiumkrieg (1839–1842) unterlegene Kaiserreich China von Großbritannien gezwungen worden, neben Kanton künftig auch die Häfen von Xiamen, Fuzhou, Ningbo und Shanghai zu öffnen und hier einen weitgehend freien Handel zu dulden.

40 Es muss heißen „It“

41 Es muss heißen „mercantile“.

42 Es muss heißen „ports“

43 Mit dem Vertrag von Nanjing (29. August 1842) war das im Ersten Opiumkrieg (1839–1842) unterlegene Kaiserreich China von Großbritannien gezwungen worden, neben Kanton künftig auch die Häfen von Xiamen, Fuzhou, Ningbo und Shanghai zu öffnen und hier einen weitgehend freien Handel zu dulden.

44 Es muss heißen „expands“.

45 Es muss heißen „develop“.

46 Es muss heißen „occasion“.

47 Es muss heißen „an“.

48 Es muss heißen „alirt“.

49 Es muss heißen „claim“.

50 Es muss heißen „themselves“.

51 Abweichende Schreibweise für „diffculty“.

52 Der Buchstabe „e“ vor dem „a“ wurde zur Korrektur der Schreibweise nachträglich gestrichen. Es muss allerdings heißen „gratefully“.

53 David Laing Burn wurde nicht wie vorgeschlagen zum Konsul der Hansestadt Hamburg in Kanton berufen. Stattdessen kam es zwischen Preußen, den drei norddeutschen Hansestädten und anderen deutschen Staaten zu einem Streit über die Berufung eines gemeinsamen deutschen Konsuls für Kanton. Erst 1852 wurde mit Georg Theodor Siemssen dann erneut ein Konsul der Hansestadt Hamburg in Kanton berufen..

happy to correspond with you to afford you information & to give answer to any question you may proponed⁵⁵ and to show every attention to any Hamburg Ship or Citizen going to China who may carry a Recommendation to him from you.

[3. Blatt, Rückseite]

Those now to apologize for the length of this letter & with assurances of my great respect and esteem for the Honor of the Senate & for yourself in particular

I have the Honor to be

Sir

Your faithful & obedient

Humble Servant

(sig:) John Macvicar

To His Excellency

Mr. Dr. Lappenberg

Syndicus

Hamburg

54 Es muss heißen „intimately“.

55 Es muss heißen „propone“.