

of »MITROPOLITAN CHRYSANTHIOS» of New-Patra near Athens. In the year 1784 he left his place and went to Constantinople and Syria. In Aleppo he joined a company of English merchants, who travelled to India. His road takes him to the Euphrates, over the Persian Gulf to Maskat: in Surat he reached the Indian coast. From Bengal he made a trip to Lhasa in the company of some Greek salt merchants, who were allowed to enter Tibet. The journey went along the Brahmaputra, *viâ* Tarengas, Ong and Nichtay(?). After having left the Brahmaputra, which in its upper course was called Sampu, our traveller reached a town called Tunsior. Here he was stopped, as Christians, and especially a Christian Metropolitan, were not allowed to visit Lhasa itself. But against every expectation Dalai Lama issued an order that the foreigner should be brought before him, and thus the Metropolitan Chrysanthios reaches Lhasa, where he for 17 days enjoyed the hospitality of the 11 year old Dalai Lama, and received rich presents in money and clothes from him.¹

Our traveller exaggerates bravely in his description of Tibet. So for instance he estimates the population of Lhasa to 1½ million and calculates the army of the country, cavalry and infantry to be 300.000 men with 2000 elephants. In spite of the friendly reception he was not allowed to fulfil his wish and continue to China, and all he can do is to return to India. One of the ministers accompanied him the whole way to Patna. There he decided to go to Russia (1792—1795) and passed the following places on his way: Benares, Agra, Delhi, Kashmir, Kandahar, Ghasni, Kabul, Balkh, Bokhara, Khiva, where he was retained for a year. Thence he passed Mangyshlak, crossed the Caspian and reached Astrakhan. Ordered to St. Petersburg, in 1796, he delivered to Count Suboff, the chief of the troops which were sent against Persia, a manuscript in which he gave a detailed description of those Asiatic countries he had visited. Only in 1861 this manuscript was published, together with a short narrative of the journey, by W. W. GRIGORIEFF.²

In 1805 the Metropolitan delivered to Count Rumiantseff, the minister of commerce, a second manuscript, containing an answer to the question »Whether one could travel easily and unmolested from Russia to Tibet». It is in this second manuscript that he mentions his journey to Tibet. In the first one he had omitted it as he believed it could not be of any interest to Russia, being so far and out of the way.³

¹ This is impossible as the eighth Dalai Lama, bLo-bzang 'Jam-dpal rgya-mts'o was born 1758 or 1759 and died in 1805, and therefore was 33 or 34 years old at the time of the Metropolitan's visit. The Tashi Lama, on the other hand, whose name was bsTan-pai nyi-ma, was born in 1781 and was 11 years old in 1792, at the visit of the Metropolitan. Samuel Turner, Warren Hasting's Ambassador, saw him in 1783, in the monastery gTer-pa-gling. It, therefore, seems doubtful whether the Metropolitan ever reached Lhasa. Cf. G. Schulemann: *Die Geschichte der Dalailamas*. Heidelberg 1911, p. 205.

² *Sapiska: Khrisanfa Mitropolita Novopatrasskago, o stranakh Srednei Asij, posjeshtshonnikh im v 1790 godakh. Isdal s svedeniem i objasnenijami W. W. Grigorieff*. Moskva 1861.

³ It was published in 1884 by D. KOBOKO.