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# ***FAMOUS ORIENTALISTS: LIFE AND ASSESSMENTS***

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## **A YOUNG SCHOLAR IN A HURRY — THE PROMOTION AND ACADEMIC LIFE OF FRIEDRICH WILHELM RADLOFF (1837—1918) IN 1858. A CONTRIBUTION TO SCHOLARLY RELATIONS IN THE 19TH CENTURY. PART I [1]**

Dedicated to my grandfather  
Joachim Ziethen (1898—1987)  
and my father Wolfram W. Ziethen  
who opened me a view to Berlin of the past.

Procedures and formalities of academic promotion usually are accompanied by stress, a minimum of candidate's self-confidence and a maximum of individual doubts. Only the hope to achieve academic honours of doctorate in order to become a serious scholar and academic "citizen" can motivate for courage and special activities. After the *acta promotionis* of Friedrich Wilhelm Radloff (Berlin 17.01.1837 — St. Petersburg 12.05.1918 [2] / 16.07.1919 [3]) were opened in the archive of Jena University by kind support of the staff, we can have a look at a cleverly managed procedure of promotion.

On occasion of the Friedrich Wilhelm Radloff memorial readings and lectures at MAE RAS (Kunstkamera) [4] in 2012, a new research on archival material was embedded into the memorial project connected with the doctoral thesis of Polina A. Matveeva [5]. It is worth to mention that there are also Turkish scholars researching about Radloff and his subjects, but unfortunately these studies are less known, except the study of A. Temir in 1955 [6].

A folder of documents preserved in the Archive of Friedrich-Schiller-Universität, Jena (Germany) contains correspondences and documents which inform about the promotion procedure and the management competences of the young candidate, aged 21, who later became one of the famous ethnographic researchers, specialists in Asian languages and museum organizers from German descent in St. Petersburg [7].

The inventory numbers are as following:

(i) *FSU*, Bestand M, No. 358, Bl. 71r. Letter of the faculty's director (dean) Dr. E[rnst]. E[rhard]. Schmid,

May 15th, 1858, addressed to the promotion committee concerning the opening of the promotion procedure of F. W. Radloff. The candidate's documents and testimonies are listed and proofed for being acceptable. German language.

(ii) *FSU*, Bestand M, No. 358, Bl. 71v. Committee's letter addressed to the dean. German language.

(iii) *FSU*, Bestand M, No. 358, Bl. 72. F. W. Radloff's letter (stud. philol.), April 9th, 1858, sent from his home / residence Alexandrinstraße 125, Berlin [8], addressed to Jena University. Content: Question about the regularities of promotion procedure. German language.

(iv) *FSU*, Bestand M, No. 358, Bl. 73rv. F. W. Radloff's letter (stud. phil.), April 19th, 1858, sent from his home / residence Alexandrinstraße [Berlin]. Details about structure of study and 3½ years special study with Dr. Pietraszewski, Berlin. German language.

(v) *FSU*, Bestand M. No. 358, Bl. 74rv, Bl. 75. F. W. Radloff's letter (stud. phil.), May 12th, 1858, sent from his home / residence Alexandrinstraße 125 [Berlin]. The official application for the promotion procedure. Details about the attachments, testimonies and recommendations (one of these mentions protection and recommendation by the Court, obviously by activities of Radloff's father and by using the promised correspondence with St. Petersburg). German language, handwriting hasty, underlining irregular, format with formal character (similar like juridical documents). Promotion fee differing from the Latin version.

(vi) *FSU*, Bestand M, No. 358, Bl. 76rv. F. W. Radloff's description of the dissertation and request for pro-