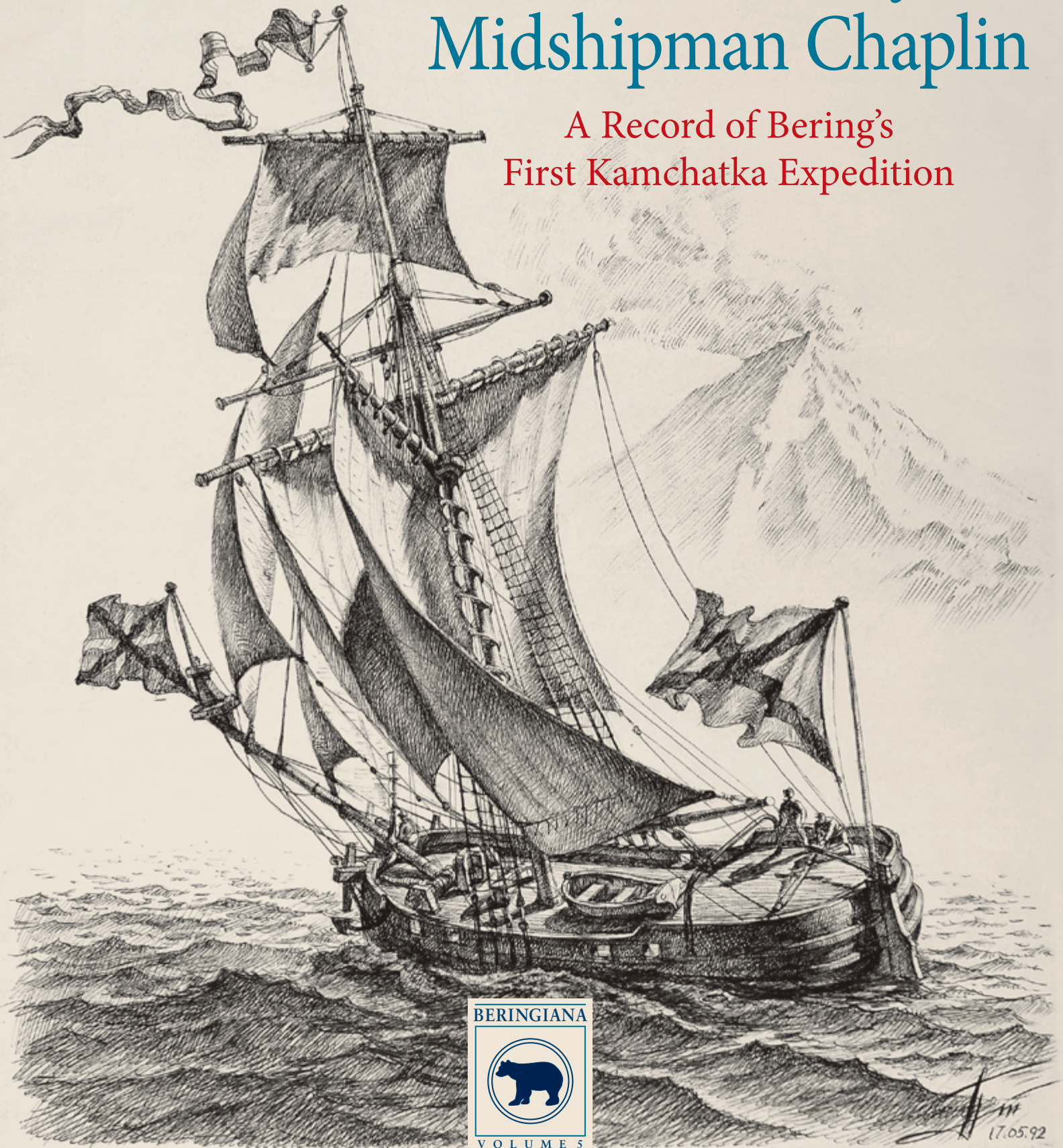


The Journal of Midshipman Chaplin

A Record of Bering's
First Kamchatka Expedition



Edited by

TATIANA S. FEDOROVA · PETER ULF MØLLER · VIKTOR G. SEDOV · CAROL L. URNESS

The Journal of Midshipman Chaplin



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The Journal of Midshipman Chaplin

A RECORD OF BERING'S
FIRST KAMCHATKA EXPEDITION

Edited and translated from the Russian
by Tatiana S. Fedorova, Peter Ulf Møller,
Viktor G. Sedov, and Carol L. Urness

With a foreword by Vladimir S. Sobolev,
Director of the Russian State Naval Archives

The Journal of Midshipman Chaplin
A Record of Bering's First Kamchatka Expedition
(Beringiana, Volume 5)

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Finally and yet importantly, the editors wish to express their gratitude to The Carlsberg Foundation and The Aarhus University Research Foundation for generously funding this volume.

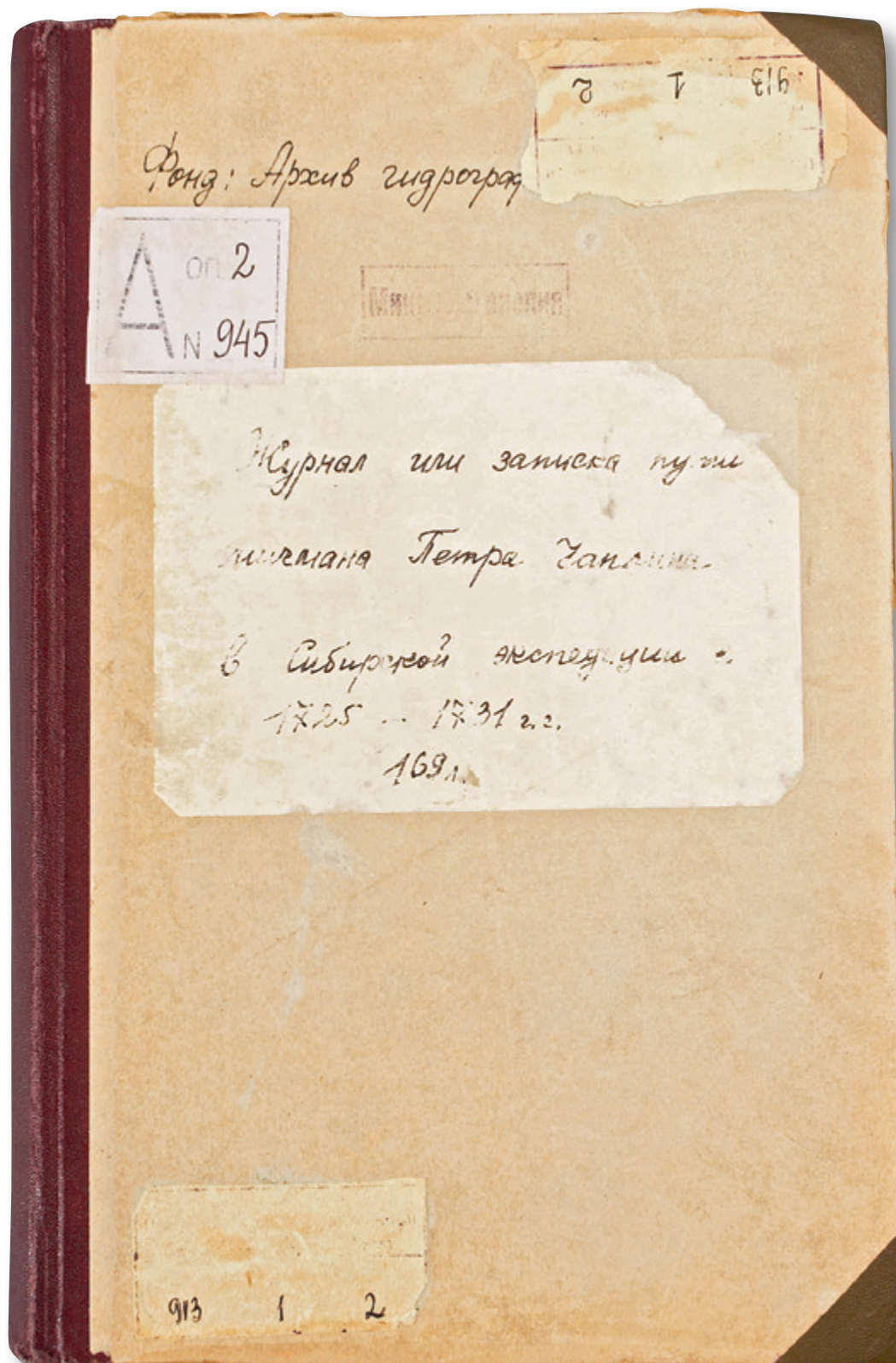


PLATE 1. Front cover of the journals of the First Kamchatka Expedition.

The label on the cover reads: "Journal or Travel Notebook of Midshipman Piotr Chaplin from the Siberian expedition 1725-1731". Fund 913, inventory 1, unit 2 of the Russian State Naval Archives in St. Petersburg (RGAVMF). 19 × 31,5 cm.

Courtesy RGAVMF. Photo by Nikolai Turkin.

Foreword

The Kamchatka expedition 1725-1730, dispatched by order of Peter the Great, was the first voyage of discovery ever to be undertaken by the Russian Navy. The expedition faced a complicated task – to proceed from the Kamchatka River to the north along the Asian shore in order to define the north-eastern borders of the Russian Empire and lay them down on a map. For this special expedition, a team of shipwrights from the St. Petersburg Admiralty constructed a single-masted vessel on Kamchatka, in the shortest possible time. The vessel was named the *Holy Archangel Gabriel*, and it became the first ship under the ensign of the Russian Navy to sail on the Pacific Ocean.

Historians are aware of the fact that the number of surviving, original documents passed down to us from the First Kamchatka Expedition is extremely small. Today each of these documents is considered a unique historical source. One document, however, that is outstandingly worthy of such appraisal is the journal of one of the expedition members, Midshipman Piotr Chaplin. This document is in the custody of the Russian State Naval Archives in St. Petersburg.

The journal reflects the course of the entire expedition as it proceeded under Captain Vitus Bering's command. Chaplin kept his journal from the moment of the expedition's departure from St. Petersburg in January 1725 and through to its return to the Russian capital in March 1730. He recorded, systematically and thoroughly, all events in the exhausting life of the expedition. His entries reflect the long and strenuous road of the expedition members with their heavy loads across Siberia all the way to Okhotsk, and further by sea across to Kamchatka and overland on to Lower Kamchatsk. Daily records also describe the historical voyage of the *Holy Gabriel*.

During the voyage, many important geographical discoveries were made. Numerous hydrographical investigations were carried out, and contacts were made to the indigenous population.

Throughout the expedition Chaplin usually found himself in the proximity of the commander, Bering, carrying out his orders and managing the expedition's cash box. For that reason, his journal entries have pre-

served much information about the activities of Bering himself, the decisions made by him, and his methods for managing such a vast undertaking as the First Kamchatka Expedition.

The main task of the expedition was practically fulfilled. The *Holy Gabriel* succeeded in passing through the strait separating Asia from America.

Bering's expedition enriched the science of his day with precious information about the endless expanses of Siberia and its eastern coastline. In particular, the expedition's determination of the coordinates of many places on its long route through Siberia and along the Asian shore of the Strait was quite accurate for the time. Based on expedition records a "Catalogue" was made of towns and "conspicuous places" that had been mapped and, additionally, a "Table" with information about other settlements encountered by the expedition.

This information was presented to the Russian government and used when preparations for the Second Kamchatka Expedition began. The order to dispatch the new expedition was signed by Empress Anna Ioanovna in April 1732.

The present publication of the Journal of Midshipman Chaplin is the result of longstanding research cooperation between scholars from three countries: Denmark, Russia, and the United States of America. The publication was made possible by grants from The Carlsberg Foundation and The Aarhus University Research Foundation.

The present publication will be an important addition to the source material readily available to investigations into the history of the Kamchatka Expeditions and the opening up of Siberia.

In addition, it sets an example of contemporary significance: As an international project within the humanities, it serves the noble cause of mutual understanding and peaceful cooperation among nations.

V.S. Sobolev
Director of the Russian State Naval Archives,
Doctor of History

St. Petersburg, June 2008

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The Editors' Introduction

On Chaplin's journal and its author

The logbooks or “journals” of the *Holy Archangel Gabriel* (usually abbreviated to *Holy Gabriel*, in Russian: *Sviatoi Gavriil*) hold a special place among the documents of the First Kamchatka Expedition. They are the only official sources that preserve the history of the expedition in detail. Two logbooks were kept, by assistants to the leader of the expedition, Vitus Bering: Lieutenant Aleksei Chirikov and naval cadet, later midshipman, Piotr Chaplin both made daily or almost daily entries, each in his own volume. Their logbooks were later bound together in a single volume (shown in the adjacent illustration).

From the eighteenth century to the present this volume has been kept in the archives of the Russian navy. It makes up one separate unit in the Russian State Naval Archives in St. Petersburg (RGAVMF), among the papers of the Hydrographic Archives (RGAVMF, fund 913, inventory 1, unit 2).

Entries in the logbook by Chirikov were begun on 23 April 1725 and end abruptly on 9 November 1729. His journal was not signed, but the distinctive handwriting of Chirikov leaves no doubt about its authorship. The logbook by Chaplin starts with the departure from St. Petersburg on 24 January 1725 and continues until his return to the capital on 1 March 1730. It is in Chaplin's handwriting and signed by him.

For the present publication the logbook of Piotr Chaplin was chosen, since it covers the entire period of the First Kamchatka Expedition, and records it in detail. Besides, Chaplin was usually near the commander of the expedition, carrying out his instructions. He recorded when and where Bering went, and for what

purpose, and thus offers the closest view of Bering as the head of the expedition and as a man whose character is still a topic of discussion among historians.

Records in the two journals differ from each other for the time when the expedition was traveling by land and preparing for the voyages. Chirikov and Chaplin were often in different places, fulfilling different tasks, and consequently their journal entries were different on the overland journey. For instance, in 1725 Bering sent Chaplin ahead with a few men to prepare the way for the main body of the expedition. Chirikov spent the winter 1726-1727 in Yakutsk, while Bering and Chaplin were already in Okhotsk. Differences in contents between the journals are often due to the different tasks performed by a midshipman and a lieutenant. Chaplin was working under Bering's immediate instructions. On behalf of the expedition's leader, he would submit requisitions to the chancelleries of local authorities and press for their fulfillment. He was in charge of practical household matters, such as paying wages and handing out provisions to the expedition members. Chirikov was responsible for transportation of the expedition's heavy and bulky equipment and food supplies. Differences in personality and intellectual curiosity of the two men are also reflected in their journals. However, during the voyages at sea in 1728-1729 Chaplin and Chirikov were together and took turns on watch. Each recorded his own watch in his logbook, and then copied the missing information from the logbook of the other. Usually these entries are therefore completely identical. It is our hope that Chirikov's logbook will also eventually be published. Until that happens, the reader may get a preliminary impression of it in our notes to Chaplin's journal, where we cite some passages from Chirikov for comparison.

The historiographer of the Russian Navy V.N. Berkh was the first scholar who came upon the logbooks and used them in his book on Bering's First Kamchatka Expedition (Berkh 1823). Shortly thereafter, the Russian explorer Count F.P. Litke studied the logbooks while preparing for his circumnavigation of the globe on the navy sloop *Seniavin* (1826-1829). At the end of

◀ PLATE 2. Fund 913, inventory 1, unit 2, folio 1. The title reads: “Journal of Midshipman Piotr Chaplin from the Kamchatka expedition from 1725 to 1731 + a journal of similar contents [i.e., Lieutenant Chirikov's journal]”.

Courtesy Russian State Naval Archives (RGAVMF). Photo by Nikolai Turkin.

the nineteenth century, the American naturalist W.H. Dall gave a summary in English of Berk's rendering of Chaplin's journal (Dall 1890). In the same year, the Russian naval historian V. Vakhtin published excerpts from the journals of both Chaplin (70 pp.) and Chirikov (12 pp.) (Vakhtin 1890). Internal archival records show that more recently researchers have consulted the logbooks in 1936, 1946, 1968, and 1971.¹ Some fragments from Chaplin's logbook were published in *Russkie ekspeditsii* 1984. The present edition of Chaplin's journal is the first complete one in any language.

Piotr Avraamovich Chaplin was born in 1699 "in his patrimony", the village Rozhestvennoe, in the Dmitrovsk District of the Moscow Province where his father, a retired major, owned five peasant households.² On 13 January 1715, he was admitted to the School of Mathematical and Navigational Sciences in Moscow.³ By 1716, the number of peasant households belonging to his father had dropped to three. Young Piotr was therefore entitled to public "board money", 4 *den'ga* (2 kopecks) per day. At the end of 1716, he transferred to the Naval Academy in St. Petersburg, together with other pupils of the School.⁴ In 1718, Chaplin entered military service in the navy. In 1718-1724, he sailed as a corporal on various ships in the Gulf of Finland and the Baltic Sea, getting practical marine experience. In 1724, he graduated from the Academy in the rank of naval cadet (*gardemarin*). His diploma states that he knows the arts of navigation and gunnery, soldiers' drill and seamen's work, and – "in part" – how to turn a ship and other practical sailing skills.⁵

In January 1725, Naval Cadet Chaplin was assigned to the crew of the First Kamchatka Expedition, and on 24 January he set out from St. Petersburg on his long journey. In accordance with the Navy Regulations (*Morskoi ustav*) of 1720, created under the personal supervision and participation of Peter the Great, he kept a travel diary from the very first day, and, when sailing, a logbook.

On 25 October 1727, expedition leader Bering promoted Chaplin midshipman for his "hard and diligent service, in anticipation of approval by the Admiralty College".⁶ Bering's order was announced to the crew on 26 October.⁷ The decree of the Admiralty College on the promotion of Chaplin followed on 25 June 1728.⁸ With the expedition completed, nearly all participating officers received higher ranks, including Chaplin, who was promoted sublieutenant (*unter-leutenant*) on 23 October 1730.

Chaplin took part in the drawing up of the concluding map of the expedition. In 1731-1732, he was in

Moscow together with Bering, for the revision of the financial documents of the expedition. On 18 January 1733, in connection with the introduction of new staff categories in the navy, he was listed among "lieutenants in the rank of major". In 1734, he sailed on the ship *Peter II*. The following year he was sent to Kazan' to supervise the delivery of timber to the Admiralty in St. Petersburg, and returned to the capital only in September 1736. He then sailed on various ships in the Gulf of Finland and the Baltic Sea. In 1746, as commander of the frigate No. 2, he took this newly launched ship from the shipyard of Arkhangel'sk to Kronstadt. In 1749-1751, he was in command of the *Saint Nicholas* (*Sviatoi Nikolai*) and sailed to Danzig. On 5 September 1751, with the introduction of a new staff list, Chaplin was promoted captain of the third rank. In the years 1751-1755, he was in charge of the frigate *Selafail* and a squadron of training frigates under the Marine School for the Gentry (*Morskoi shliakhetnyi kadetskii korpus*). He went with the naval cadets on training voyages in the Baltic and the North Sea.

On 5 March 1756, Chaplin was promoted captain of the second rank. In 1757-1759, he commanded the *Saint Paul* (*Sviatoi Pavel*) and the *Archangel Michael* (*Arkhangel Mikhail*), and went with a fleet to Danzig and Copenhagen. In 1760 he commanded first the *Saint Clemens Romanus* (*Sviatoi Kliment papa rimskii*), and then again the *Saint Paul*, and took part in the blockade of Kolberg during the Seven Years' War. In 1760-1762, he was captain of the Port of Reval (present-day Tallinn).

On 21 December 1762, "due to old age and ill health", Chaplin was appointed captain of the Port of Arkhangel'sk. On 22 September 1763, he was promoted captain-commander. On 29 August 1765, he died in Arkhangel'sk.⁹

A cape in the Bering Sea has been named after Chaplin.

For biographical information on Chirikov, cf. note 6, pp. 291.

Editorial principles and notes on the translation

Chaplin wrote his journal in a tiny Cyrillic cursive (*skoropis'*), thus saving paper, but making reading quite difficult. For that reason, step one in the translation process was to produce an accurate typewritten transcription of the Russian manuscript. Tatiana Fedorova carried out this task. The transcription was then translated into English through the concerted efforts of Viktor Sedov, Carol L. Urness and Peter Ulf Møller. At the initial stage of this work, the late Janis Cers (of Minneapolis) made valuable contributions. Tatiana

Fedorova and Peter Ulf Møller annotated the text of the journal. Viktor Sedov made the modern maps.

In presenting the translated text, we have made scrupulous efforts to preserve the page layout of the original manuscript. As a rule, one printed page of the translation corresponds to one page – recto or verso – of a manuscript folio. However, in the parts of the journal that record the voyages of 1728 and 1729, we have had to divide the translation of one manuscript page over two or even three book pages. Still, we hope the continuous indication of manuscript folio numbers will help the reader preserve a sense of turning over pages in the original journal.

Dates are given in accordance with the Julian calendar, which in the eighteenth century was eleven days behind the Gregorian calendar. The Julian calendar was in official use in Russia from 1700 until 1918. We call attention to a peculiarity in the dating of navy documents of the time. In the eighteenth century, days at sea started at 12 o'clock noon, whereas days on land were reported according to the civil calendar. On the sea, the day began not from midnight but from noon. The first part of the “sea day” was the second half of the previous day of the civil calendar.

This explains why an event in Chaplin's logbook and the same event in a report from Bering could occur on different dates. On 9 June 1728, Chaplin wrote: “At 4 p.m. we prayed and began to launch the ship.” (Cf. the present edition, folio 42). In Bering's report of 10 July 1728 to the Admiralty College, we read: “Today I humbly report: on 8 June the ship was launched...”¹⁰ Under 14 July 1728 we read in Chaplin's logbook: “At 7 p.m. having weighed anchor, we left with God's help from the mouth of the Kamchatka River” (folio 43). In Bering's report of 10 March 1730 to the Admiralty College, it says: “...13 July 1728, with God's help, we put out from the mouth of the Kamchatka River...”¹¹ In such cases, the difference in dates is not a mistake or a slip of the pen by the authors. Chaplin's logbook used “sea days,” Bering's reports used “civil days.” More examples of differences in dates between the logbook and other expedition records are likely to exist.

The reader should also note that Chaplin starts out using civil days, but shifts to sea days when the expedition puts out from the Port of Okhotsk. As he explains, “dates are reckoned from midnight to midnight until August 22, 1727, and after that date, from midday to midday” (folio 2).

Chaplin and Chirikov both used astronomical symbols for the days of the week. For practical reasons, we have replaced the symbols with more familiar abbreviations: Sun., Mon., etc. To familiarize themselves

with the symbols, readers are invited to compare the photograph of folio 2 of the original manuscript with the adjacent translation (pp. 18-19).

The expedition navigators measured *time of day* by sand glasses. Chaplin's logbook usually recorded events with reference to the hour during which they occurred, e.g., *at/ during the sixth hour*, in Russian *v 6-m chasu* (= between 5 and 6 o'clock). For readability, we usually translate these highly frequent indications of time as, e.g., *by 6 o'clock* or *at 6 o'clock*, even if this means abolishing in the translation the distinction between *during the sixth hour* and the less frequent indications of the precise hour, *at 6 o'clock (sharp)*, in Russian *v 6 chasov*. In most cases, the context will make it clear which is meant. We annotate the more ambiguous cases.

When Chaplin records events that took place *at, from* or *until the beginning of an hour*, e.g., *the sixth hour*, in Russian *v nachale/ s/ do 6-go chasa*, we translate by reference to the previous hour: *(just) after/ from/ to 5 o'clock*.

In *transliterating Russian words*, mostly names, into Roman alphabet we use the Library of Congress system, with a few slight modifications: We omit ligatures, transliterate Russian *ě* as “io”, and make no distinction between Russian *u* and *ũ*, rendering both as “i”.

Russian names in the translation are usually direct transliterations of the form used by Chaplin. However, if a Russian name has a well-established anglicized form, we use it (*Moscow, St. Petersburg, Peter the Great*). Names of non-Russian origin are rendered in their original form, when possible, rather than in transliteration from the Cyrillic. For instance, we give the name of Bering's Danish-born lieutenant as *Spanberch*, which is the obvious German form behind the Russian *Shpanberkh* (Шпанберх) that Chaplin used consistently. In editorial text, however, we refer to the same person by his more usual Danish name Spangberg.¹²

Geographical names in the text have been verified as far as possible. *Iudomskii krest* and *Krest* will be rendered as *Iudoma Cross* and *the Cross*. *Verkhonii Kamchadal'skii ostrog* and its synonyms *Verkhnekamchatskii ostrog* and *Verkhonii* will appear as *the Upper Kamchatsk outpost*, or just *Upper Kamchatsk*. Correspondingly, *Nizhnekamchadal'skii / Nizhnekamchatskii ostrog* will be translated as *the Lower Kamchatsk outpost*, or just *Lower Kamchatsk*. Various spellings by Chaplin of the same name, we usually reduce to one (e.g. *Okhotsk* and *Akhotsk* in the document will both be *Okhotsk* in the translation).

Whenever we found there was a point to citing the precise Russian wording of a passage, we have done so in notes to the translated text.

Square brackets in the text of the journal indicate editorial interpolations or comments. Thus, a few missing lines and characters in Chaplin have been re-established by comparison with the logbook of Chirikov and inserted in square brackets, e.g., *NbE½[E]*. In addition, we annotate some of these cases.

Italics in the text of the journal indicate that the italicized word is explained in the glossary, p. 16. Italics are used only the first time the word occurs in the journal.

Small things betray that Chaplin did not always make his entries immediately. For example, there is an entry in the logbook for 3 July 1727: “I received an order to distribute provisions to the soldiers that had arrived from the Cross, and reported on the distribution. This order I received on the 5 [July]” (folio 27). Sometimes Chaplin would leave small gaps in his entries to be filled in with details later – and then forget to return to them. Such cases are also annotated.

The journal (*zhurnal*) was an official genre of writing defined by certain guidelines in the Russian Navy Regulations. In book three, chapter 12, on the obligations of the navigator and the second mate, it says: “[The navigator or second mate] must keep an accurate journal, writing down the course, the distance covered, the leeway, various occurrences, the increase and decrease of winds and sails, compass variation, sea currents and sea bottom”. In addition, he must verify the compass, watch the sandglasses, keep track of coastlines and mark unknown shoals and submerged

rocks on the map. At the end of a voyage, he had to submit it to his commanding captain for examination in a conference of senior officers.¹³

Following these guidelines, Chaplin wrote much of his journal in tabular form. At this time, ship’s log entries on Russian navy vessels had not yet taken a definite, mandatory shape, and throughout his long journey, Chaplin tried in various ways to improve upon the layout of his tables and the order of presentation of the required information.

A considerable part of the journal is devoted to the description of weather conditions during the expedition. A universally recognized system for the recording of wind velocity, cloudiness, wave height etc. had not yet come into existence. Nevertheless, it is clear that Chaplin described *the force of the wind* in a systematic terminology that seems to make up a wind scale of 12 classes. His gradation of the 10 classes between *calm* (*tikho*) and *violent storm* (*shtorm velikoi*) relies on different adjectives to the same noun *wind* (*vetr*). A few times, *wind* is also used without an adjective (e.g., folios 12v, 33v). This presents a considerable challenge to the translation. Rather than recreating the entire range of adjectives in English, we have chosen to reduce the number of different adjectives by shifting some of the gradation to the noun. We have used the English terms for the first twelve classes of the modernized Beaufort wind force scale to render Chaplin’s wind descriptions. Below, we have tabulated the corresponding Russian and English terms, and added, for comparison, the

TABLE No. 1 · WIND SCALE

In the journal	In our translation	The Beaufort Scale	Mph
Tikho, shtil', bezvetrie (тихо, штиль, безветрие)	Calm, still	0. Calm	0
Vetr tikhoi, vetr ves'ma mal, vetr samoï maloï (ветр тихой, ветер весьма мал, ветер самой малой)	Light air	1. Light air	2
Malyi vetr, vetr mal, vetr maloï (малый ветер, ветер мал, ветер малой)	Light breeze	2. Light breeze	5
Vetr nebol'shoi, vetr nebol'shei (ветр небольшой, ветер небольшой)	Gentle breeze	3. Gentle breeze	10
Vetr nevelikoi, vetr nevelik (ветр невеликой, ветер невелик)	Moderate breeze	4. Moderate breeze	15
Vetr umerennoi (ветр умеренной)	Fresh breeze	5. Fresh breeze	22
Vetr srednei, vetr iz srednikh, vetr posredstvennoi (ветр средней, ветер из средних, ветер посредственной)	Strong breeze	6. Strong breeze	27
Vetr nemaloï, vetr nemal (ветр немалой, ветер немал)	Moderate gale	7. Moderate gale	35
Vetr bol'shei, vetr izriadno velik (ветр большей, ветер изрядно велик)	Fresh gale	8. Fresh gale	42
Vetr velikoi (ветр великой)	Strong gale	9. Strong gale	50
Zhestokoi vetr (жестокой ветер)	Whole gale	10. Whole gale	60
Shtorm velikoi (шторм великой)	Violent storm	11. Violent storm	70

first twelve classes of the Beaufort scale, including the mean wind speeds that now define them, in miles per hour. The reader should, however, keep in mind that Chaplin's observations were made a century before the Beaufort scale became a standard for Great Britain's Royal Navy. They are likely to be much more subjective than the modern measurable figures for wind speed.

In a few cases, Chaplin describes the wind with reference to the spread of canvas on the ship, e.g., "the wind did not allow carrying the upper sails", in Russian *vetr rifmarsel'skut* (folio 31). Apart from the adjectives that graduate wind force, the wind may also be *gusty* (*poryvnyi*), *changeable* (*nepostoianen*) (that is, of varying strength), *variable* (*peremennyi*) (that is, from shifting directions), *contrary/adverse* (*protivnyi*), *fair* (*sposobnoi*) etc.

Chaplin's other meteorological observations also reflect his efforts towards a systematic description. Recording the *cloud coverage*, he used a terminology that seems to form a scale from bright to dark, in spite of some redoubling and overlapping. The basic terms are:

TABLE No. 2 · CLOUD COVERAGE

In the journal	In the translation
Svetlo (светло)	Bright, light
Iasno (ясно)	Fair weather, clear
Solntse (солнце)	Sun, sunny
Siianie (сияние)	Sunshine
Prosiianie (просияние)	Clearing up, sunny spells
Oblachno (облачно)	Cloudy, clouds
Pasmurno (пасмурно)	Gloomy, overcast
Primrachno (примрачно)	Dusky
Mrachno (мрачно)	Dark, murky

Each of these terms may be modified in several ways, to provide a more detailed description of the cloud ceiling. *Cloudy*, for instance, may form part of combinatory variants like *with few clouds* (*malooblachno*), *lightly cloudy* (*svetlooblachno*) and *with dark clouds* (*temnooblachno*), not to mention *cloudy with sunny spells/ cloudy with sun breaking through* (*oblachno s prosiianiem*) or even *cloudy with occasional breaks* (*oblachno s vremennym prosiianiem*). *Fair weather* (*iasno*) may be *with small/ light clouds* (*s malymi oblakami*), etc.

Rain may be described as a *downpour* (*dozhd' velikoi*) or a *drizzle* (*dozhd' maloi*), and it may be *intermittent* (*dozhd' s peremeshkoiu*). Snowfalls may be *heavy* (*sneg velikoi*) or *light* (*sneg maloi*) – or *not so big* (*sneg nebol'shei*). Snow and wind may combine to

blowing snow of various degrees, from *heavy snow-storm* (*metel' velikaia*) to *drifting snow* (*metel'*) and *snow-squalls* (*metel' vremenem*, *metel' malaia*).

Frost (*moroz*) also has its gradation, from *light* (*maloi*) through *moderate* (*nebol'shei*, *nevelik*) to *hard* (*velikoi*). Chaplin had no way of measuring temperatures. Thermometers were still at an experimental stage.

Glossary

Scholarly translations from Russian often abound in transliterations of culturally unique and presumably "untranslatable" Russian words, which the reader should subsequently look up in a special glossary. As a result, things Russian often appear stranger than they actually are. We try, as far as possible, to use English near-equivalents rather than transliterated Russian words. Rather than explaining in the glossary that a *iam* is a posting station, we prefer to translate the Russian word as *posting station*, and provide details on Russian posting stations in a note. *Ostrog*, the historical Russian word for a stronghold, wooden fortress or minor settlement in Siberia and Kamchatka, will be translated as *outpost*. Another frequent word in the journal is *iasak*, the fur tribute paid to the Russian state by the native peoples of Siberia. We translate it as *tribute*, with an annotation.

Consequently, our glossary below (table no. 3) is limited to a few recurring Russian terms that seem to lack a reasonably adequate English equivalent, and to some historical terminology.

Several of these terms, however, we render in existing anglicized versions rather than in direct transliteration, e.g., *verst*, plur. *versts* (rather than Russian *versta*, plur. *viorsty*); *sazhen*, plur. *sazhens* (rather than Russian *sazhen'*, plur. *sazheni*); *ruble* and *kopec* (rather than *rubl'* and *kopeika*); *kvass* rather than *kvas*; *yurt* rather than *iurta*.

Some of the terms explained in the glossary are actually in English, but their use in the Russian cultural context may nevertheless require some explanation, e.g., *boyar's son*, *dugout*, *seafarer*, *servitor*.

The terms explained in the glossary are in italics the first time they occur in the text of the journal.

Indication of compass bearings

The logbooks of the *Holy Gabriel* recorded the directions of wind and sea currents, ship's courses and compass bearings of coastal objects in the system of the Dutch navy. Table No. 4 shows the Dutch system, its conversion into English (as used in the translation) and into the modern circular system.