



Vasilii Mikhailovich Golovnin
Begebenheiten des Capitains von der Russisch-Kaiserlichen Marine,
Golownin, in der Gefangenschaft bei den Japanern
in den Jahren 1811, 1812 und 1813 :
nebst seinen Bemerkungen über das Japanische Reich und Volk und
einem Anhang des Capitains Rikord
Leipzig, 1817-1818
German version, originally published in St. Petersburg, 1816

In the closing days of the Edo Period a tense relationship existed between Russia, which wanted trade relations, and Japan, which rejected the progress. Amid that situation, in 1811 the Imperial Russian sloop *Diana* was undertaking a research voyage to the Kuril Islands when the captain and the crew were taken captive on Kunashir Island by Shogunate guards officers.

The captain of the sloop *Diana*, Vasilii Golovnin (1776-1831), spent two years and three months imprisoned in Matsumae and Hakodate, and in 1813 he was released in exchange for Kahee Takataya (1769-1827), who had been taken captive by Russia.

The literary work of two volumes contains the notes written by Golovnin of his imprisonment, and his insight into Japan and the Japanese people based on his experience and observations during that period. Upon being published in 1816 after he returned home, the book was highly regarded as the most reliable historical record concerning Japan and was translated into numerous European languages. In Japan, it was introduced in 1825 as *Soyaku Nihon Kiji*.

The work on display is the German version, which was published in Leipzig in 1817-1818. A Dutch version (1817-1818) and an English version (1818) are also held in the JFIC library.