

John Pickering an Wilhelm von Humboldt, 14.01.1828

Handschrift: Grundlage der Edition: Ehem. Preußische Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, gegenwärtig in der Jagiellonen-Bibliothek Krakau, Coll. ling. fol. 52, Bl. 37–40.
– Kopie: Boston, Public Library, MS q. 1900, No. 17, Courtesy of the Trustees of the Boston Public Library/Rare Books

Druck: Pickering 1887, S. 356f. (gekürzt); Mueller-Vollmer 1976, S. 325f. (Ausz.)

Nachweis: Mueller-Vollmer 1993, S. 208

Mattson 1980, Nr. 12036

[Boudinot, Elias Ellis, William Evarts, Jeremiah F. Niederstetter, Ludwig Sequoyah \(oder Georges Guess, oder George Gist\) Zeisberger, David Davies, John](#): A grammar of the Tahitian dialect of the Polynesian language (Tahiti: Mission Press 1823) [Ellis, William](#): A journal of a tour around Hawaii, the largest of the Sandwich Islands (Boston: Crocker & Brewster 1825) [[Evarts, Jeremiah](#)]: American Missionaries at the Sandwich Islands. In: North American Review 26, 1828, S. 59–111 [Humboldt, Wilhelm von](#): Lettre à Monsieur Abel Rémusat, sur la nature des formes grammaticales en général, et sur le génie de la langue Chinoise en particulier (Paris: Dondé & Dupré 1827) [Sandwich Islanders](#). In: The Quarterly Review (London), Vol. XXXV, No. LXX, March 1827, S. 419–445; Note on the Article on the Sandwich Islanders (p. 419). In: Ebenda, S. 609 [Tsa-la-gi tsu-le-hi-sa-no-hi. A Cherokee Phoenix](#). Edited by [Elias Boudinot](#) for the Cherokee Nation (1828–1834) [[Wright, Alfred](#)]: A Spelling Book Written in the Chahta Language, with an English Translation, Second Edition, revised (Cincinnati: Morgan, Lodge, and Fisher 1827) [[Wright, Alfred](#) / [Byington, Cyrus](#)]: Chahta holisso a tukla, or the second chahta book, containing translations of portions of the Scriptures, biographical notices of Henry Obokiah and Catherine Brown, a catechism, and dissertations on religious subjects (Cincinnati: Morgan 1827) [Zeisberger, David](#): Grammar of the Language of the Lenni Lenape or Delaware Indians. Translated from the German Manuscript of the Author by Peter Stephen du Ponceau. With a Preface and Notes by the Translator (Philadelphia: James Kay, Junior 1827)

[37r] Sir,

I did myself the honour to address a letter to you on the 27.th of November last, accompanied with a copy of [Zeisberger](#)'s Grammar; & on the 28.th of December I

wrote to you again^[a], & sent you two recent publications in the Chahta language, commonly, but incorrectly, called the Choctaw^[b]. I hope these two letters have reached you in safety.

The very day after I had written the last of those letters, I had the pleasure to receive yours of the 22.^d of September last, which I read with much interest; as well on account of the philological information communicated in it, as for the expressions of personal regard which you are pleased to use in respect to myself.

Your Dissertation on the Chinese Language, mentioned in that letter, did not however arrive till last night; but, by sitting up till a late hour, I read it once, though in too rapid a manner to enable me to give you any reflections upon it, if I were capable of doing it. Indeed I read it as I do every thing from your pen with the feelings of a pupil, who is listening to the instruction of his teacher. [37v] I could have wished to read it again before writing to you; but having an opportunity, which I was unwilling to lose, of acknowledging the receipt of your last letter, I am obliged to defer the farther perusal & study of it at this time.

It gives me great satisfaction to learn that you are studying the languages of the Islands in the Pacific Ocean, as I flatter myself that I may be able to furnish you with some materials for that study by means of the **Missionary Society** which is established in this city, & which has a regular correspondence with the Sandwich Islands. **This Society** receives copies of all the little publications made at Hawaii (Owhyhee); and I have just requested **their Secretary** to give me one copy of them all for you. In my own collection I have a manuscript Grammar of the Language of Hawaii and a very copious Vocabulary of the language, neither of which have been printed.

I have also a copy of a Tahitian Grammar, which was printed at Tahiti a few years ago & which you have probably seen.^[c] I have, too, a MS. Vocabulary of the language of the Feejee (Fidschi) Islands, which is the only specimen I have ever seen, & which I obtained from an intelligent supercargo of an American ship that visited those islands in the year 1811.

A small portion of these two MS Vocabularies was published, from my copies,

a) [Editor] Der an Humboldt abgeschickte Brief ist auf den 29. Dezember 1827 datiert (Krakau, Coll. ling. fol. 52, Bl. 35–36), während Pickering's eigenhändige Kopie des Briefes das Datum vom 28. Dezember 1827 trägt (Boston, Public Library, MS q. 1900, No. 14). [FZ]

b) [Editor] Bei den beiden genannten Büchern handelt es sich um: *A Spelling Book Written in the Chahta Language* und *Chahta holisso a tukla*. [FZ]

c) [Editor] Die Tahiti-Grammatik von Davies lag in Humboldts Bibliothek in zwei Exemplaren vor; Schwarz 1993, Nr. 449 und Nr. 450, 1. [FZ]

in a little work [38r] (which I now send you) entitled " A Journal of a Tour round Hawaii" &^c printed by our **Missionary Society** in 1825. You will find the words in the Appendix of the volume, p. 244 and 254. You will see (by the preface, p. IV, and the Appendix, p. 243) that our Missionaries have adopted the systematic Orthography which I recommended for our American Languages; & the missionaries have remarked, that the native children, by means of this orthography, learn to read their language in a much shorter time than our children in the United States learn to read English. This Journal, I would observe, has been republished in England, & you may perhaps have seen it. The author, the **Reverend William Ellis**, is now in England, his native country.

As connected with this subject I send you also a Reply to the London Quarterly Review, N.^o LXX, which had made some scandalous & unfounded charges against our Missionaries in the Sandwich Islands. This Reply is written by **M.^r Evarts**, who is the Secretary of the **American Board of Foreign Missions** in **this place**; & it has fully & ably exposed the calumnies & unfairness of that English Journal; particularly in regard to a forged letter, published by that journal as a genuine letter from a native of the Islands.^[d] This Reply will be reprinted in **London**, where I think the public voice will compel the Editor of [38v] the Quarterly Review (if he has any regard to his own reputation) to produce the author of the forgery, or take the responsibility of it upon himself.^[e]

I hope, too, that the Reply will be published in Germany, so that the antidote to the poison may follow as soon as possible, and justice be done to the American character, so far as respects this transaction.

You will be pleased to hear, that a line of regular packet ships is to be established, by the merchants in **New York**, between that city & **Hamburgh**, which will greatly facilitate your communication with this country. The first ship is announced to sail on the **15.th of February**. I hope the projectors of it will meet with success; but whether the commercial gain shall be on our side or not, I am sure we shall derive much intellectual profit from this intercourse. If, too, this facility of travelling should induce you to honour our country with a visit, we should feel under additional obligations to the enterprising spirit of our commercial citizens.

d) [Editor] Evarts setzt sich in seinem Artikel auf S. 107–111 mit dem angeblich von dem Hawaiianer Boki stammenden Brief auseinander. [FZ]

e) [Editor] Der Aufsatz aus dem *North American Review* wurde 1828 auch als Monographie unter dem Titel *American Missionaries at the Sandwich Islands* bei F. T. Gray in Boston verlegt. [FZ]

[Die folgende Auflistung verteilt sich auf drei Spalten (Nr. 1–28, Nr. 29–56, Nr. 57–84)]

N.° 1 = a

2 – aw

3 – la

4 – tsi

5 – na

6 – wu

7 – w#

8 – li

9 – n#

10 – mu

11 – gi or ki

12 – yi

13 – si

14 – klunh

15 – ah

16 – l# (as in b#t, English)

17 – l#

18 – ha

19 – w# (as in n#t, Engl.)

20 – kl# (—— " ——)

21 – ta

22 – l#n (as in b#t, Engl.)

23 – y#n (—— " ——)

24 – hi

25 – ss (sibilant)

26 – y# (as in n#t, Engl.)

27 – hu

28 – g# (—— " ——)

29 – tsu

30 – mugh

31 – s#

32 – saw

33 – kli

34 – kwi

- 35 – kw#
- 36 – sa
- 37 – kwa
- 38 – n# (as in n#t, Engl. and nasal)
- 39 – ka
- 40 – ts#n
- 41 – s#n
- 42 – ni
- 43 – t# or d# (as in n#t Engl.)
- 44 – k# or g#
- 45 – ta
- 46 – k#n
- 47 – wi
- 48 – i
- 49 – u (something like the French u)
- 50 – y#
- 51 – k#n
- 52 – t#n
- 53 – ku
- 54 – ts#
- 55 – kw#
- 56 – nu
- 57 – na
- 58 – l#
- 59 – yu
- 60 – ts#
- 61 – ti
- 62 – w#n
- 63 – tu or du
- 64 – t#
- 65 – tsa
- 66 – u# (nasal)
- 67 – n## (nasal)
- 68 – ta
- 69 – su
- 70 – ma
- 71 – tlu or dlu

72 – ha

73 – h#

74 – mi

75 – tlah

76 – ya

77 – wa

78 – ti

79 – tl#

80 – hna (HNA)

81 – kwu (something like French u)

82 – dlah

83 – m#

84 – kw#n or kw##.

NB. The vowels & consonants here all have the Continental sounds, except where they are said to be English; the cedilla under a vowel denotes that the vowel sound is nasalized.

|40v vacat|