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**Adam Johann von Krusenstern’s legacy in the exploration and research of the Arctic**

Adam Johann von Krusenstern is today perhaps still best known as the leader of the first Russian circumnavigation. However, he was not only interested in developing the Russian maritime affairs and mapping the Pacific Ocean but also stressed the importance of scientific exploration and research in the northern polar regions and left behind a significant scientific and cartographical work, which have not been thoroughly studied up until today. He also had a vast international scientific network – he regularly corresponded with several prominent western maritime and scientific figures to exchange information and data. This presentation intends to show the role of Adam Johann von Krusenstern in the Arctic exploration together with his international networking activities.

The most important expedition in which Krusenstern was involved in was Otto von Kotzebue’s Ryurik expedition which had the goal to find a way to navigate through the Northwest Passage in 1815–1818. Krusenstern played a central role together with Nikolay Rumyantsev in preparing this expedition. It is worth mentioning that Krusenstern travelled to London in 1814–1815 to prepare for Kotzebue’s expedition where he intensely collaborated with the British maritime and scientific figures. Kotzebue’s expedition also inspired the British to explore the Northwest passage in 1818. Although it was not a success in this sense, Krusenstern still saw the importance of charting the area of Bering Strait and the northwestern coast of Alaska, but also the northeastern coast of Russia. In 1819, Krusenstern suggested Ferdinand von Wrangell as the leader of the Kolymskaya expedition which turned out to be one of the most important Russian expeditions to the Arctic in the 19th century. He was also connected to Friedrich Benjamin von Lütke’s circumnavigation and wrote instructions for him.

It is important to follow Krusenstern’s international scientific network, especially with various British figures who were the most interested in the Arctic exploration. He stayed in regular contact with seafarer James Burney and the secretary of the British admiralty John Barrow, but also the leader of the first new British expedition to explore the Northwest Passage Sir John Ross, giving them information about Russian exploration in the northern polar regions. James Burney was fascinated by the preparations of Wrangell’s Kolyma expedition, because he believed there to be an isthmus between Asia and America. John Barrow, on the other hand, asked Krusenstern for help in preparing the British expeditions to explore the possibility of the Northwest Passage. In 1818 Krusenstern sent him the details of Kotzebue’s voyage, thus making him the mediator of Russian and British geographical sciences.

It can be seen that Krusenstern not only helped prepare different Russian expeditions to the Arctic but he became a prominent figure on this not only in Russia but also in the west. These aspects, however, need more attention and research based on archival sources because of the gaps in it which will ultimately show us Krusenstern’s intertwinement with the European scientific and geographical networks.