

# The Codebook of Willem Six van Oterleek: Dutch Diplomatic Intelligence from Saint Petersburg between 1806-1810

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## Abstract

Between 1806 and 1810, Willem Six van Oterleek served as diplomatic representative of the Netherlands in Saint Petersburg, Russia. During these years, van Oterleek kept his Minister of Foreign Affairs informed as fully as possible about political developments, information he received from other diplomats and the *couleur locale* from his posting in Saint Petersburg. This sensitive communication was to be kept secret and was therefore sent in code. These coded messages and the accompanying codebook that was used to protect them survived in the Dutch National Archives. This article will explore this codebook, analyse code usage and decode the secret messages to present a unique peek behind the curtain of the diplomatic developments and intrigues of those days.

## 1 Introduction

Van Oterleek's posting began during turbulent times for Europe. Napoleon Bonaparte had crowned himself Emperor of the French in 1804, and in June 1806, he installed his younger brother Louis as King of Holland. In Russia, Tsar Alexander I had come to power in 1801 after his father was murdered. Right at the start of van Oterleek's posting in 1806,

the Holy Roman Empire was dissolved during the Napoleonic Wars.

The Dutch Republic had been dispatching special missions to Moscow since 1615. Relations between the Netherlands and Russia intensified during the reign of Tsar Peter the Great. The Batavian Revolution of 1795 formally ended diplomatic relations with Russia. The Danish *chargé d'affaires* was entrusted with the legation's three chests of correspondence and chancery papers. The Danes managed Dutch affairs, without explicit authorization, until the arrival of a new envoy, in 1803.

The Dutch National Archive in The Hague holds the archive of the Dutch Legation in Russia between the years 1720 and 1810<sup>1</sup>. This archive contains, among other paperwork, the correspondence of the Dutch diplomatic representation in Russia with the Dutch Parliament and the Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1720 until 1810.

Willem Six van Oterleek (1761 – 1811) was a Dutch diplomat who served as “Extraordinary envoy and minister plenipotentiary” from 1806 to 1810. During his posting in Saint Petersburg, the capital of the Russian Empire at the time, he used a codebook to send secret diplomatic messages to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands, Willem Frederik baron Röell (1767 – 1835). The archive

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.nationaalarchief.nl/onderzoeken/archief/1.02.13>

material from this envoy forms the heart of this article.<sup>2</sup>

This material was previously noted by Karl de Leeuw, who was a pioneer in the research of historical cryptology in the Netherlands. He presented this archive material at the HistoCrypt conference of 2018 (De Leeuw, 2018). At that conference, he described the codebook and some of the encoded messages. De Leeuw’s final conclusion at that time was that to decode the messages “(...) the codebook (...) is a likely candidate, but we are not sure (...)”. No further references in academic literature to this material exist. Apparently, he never was able to apply the codebook successfully to decode the messages.

This article will explore this codebook and decode the messages. It will show how the codebook worked and what can be learned from the decoded messages. Section 2 will introduce the codebook together with its author, its design and how it was supposed to be used. Section 3 will use an example of an actual encoded message to demonstrate the usage of the codebook in practice. Section 4 will discuss the cryptographic properties of the codebook supported by statistical observations from the encoded messages. Section 5 presents the conclusions. Appendix A provides an overview of all the messages in the archive after their successful decoding.

### 1.1 Open source material

All the raw material, including the original scans, the transcriptions of the messages, the codebook, and the Python code to decode and analyse the messages is publicly available in a GitLab repository<sup>3</sup>. Readers are welcome to download the material and verify the observations and results from this article.

<sup>2</sup>Both the codebook (1.02.13.226) and the encoded messages (1.02.13.228) are in the archive.

<sup>3</sup><https://gitlab.science.ru.nl/fvankampen/histocrypt-2026-oterleek-codes>

The codebook, messages and transcription are also available in the Decode database (Megyesi et al., 2019) (Megyesi et al., 2020) (Héder and Megyesi, 2022) for further integration into the broader research into historical cryptology.<sup>4</sup>

## 2 The Diplomatic Codebook

From a terminological perspective, it is important to note that the term *codebook* in this article is used in a somewhat colloquial fashion. The official designation for this type of system is *nomenclator*. This follows Mikhalev et al. (2023) which provides an overview of terminology for the field of historical cryptology. But since the term “codebook” more naturally conveys “a book containing codes for encoding and decoding messages”, this article uses both terms. When analysing the code system in a systematic way, the more specific and correct term *nomenclator* is used.

The entire codebook consists of two parts. The first part is a two-page introduction that explains the usage of the system and provides some general guidance on how to write coded messages. The second part is the actual nomenclator and is 18 pages long and provides the mapping between numbers and *nomenclature elements*. Mikhalev et al. (2023) gives a precise definition:

**Nomenclature element:** A plain-text element which is above the alphabet level. A nomenclature element can be a syllable, a name, a function and a content word as well as a phrase.

The following section will explore the codebook’s introduction.

<sup>4</sup>Codebook <https://de-crypt.org/decrypt-web/RecordsView/1035> and messages <https://de-crypt.org/decrypt-web/RecordsView/1033> for the messages.

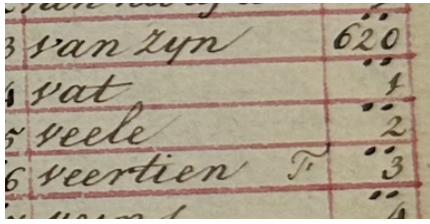


Figure 1: The word *veertien* (fourteen) with a *F* marker

## 2.1 Author and Usage

The two-page preamble to the codebook provides an introduction on how to use the nomenclator and some guidelines on the security aspects of encoding messages. The codebook was designed to support both Dutch and French as plaintext languages. Most entries were specifically assigned for either Dutch or French words or phrases. In some cases however, a special marker in the form of a letter “F” or “D” indicated that a word could be used in both languages, but that the end user was responsible for its translation. The introduction gives the example of the entry for “fourteen”, as shown in figure 1. This entry can be used for messages in both languages even though the entry only lists its Dutch original “veertien”. In a French message, this should be translated to “quatorze”.

According to the introduction, users were allowed to freely switch between these two languages while encoding the plaintext (although in the actual messages from the archive, there is no sign of this). The start and end of messages however, should be marked with specific Dutch headers. The letter should start with the phrase “Begin des briefs” (start of letter) and end with “Einde des briefs” (end of letter). These phrases were encoded by *single* numbers (see Figure 2 for an example). For security purposes, which will be explored in section 4, the codebook provided for multiple encoding alternatives for these very

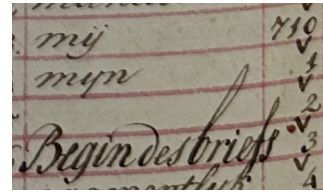


Figure 2: Entry for 713 *Begin des briefs*

specific header phrases. Apparently, this demand was sometimes ignored, since there are messages in the archive that leave out these headers and start with the actual content right away.

The introduction very specifically forbids users to mix cleartext and ciphertext. It explicitly prohibits “(...) even the addition of a single plaintext letter”. The codebook employs a system of “null” numbers. These numbers are present in the codebook, but have no associated plaintext entry. They can be used freely, to obscure the structure of the message. The introduction states that they should specifically be used at the beginning or end of a message, to obscure message boundaries. Besides these special “null” characters, the user was also allowed to use “gibberish” words before or after the special headers. In that way, it was obvious that these words were not part of the message and that they could safely be used to obscure the actual message even further.

The system also provided a grammar modification, in the form of a single dash mark after a code number. This dash mark would transform a single noun to a plural noun and a verb to its past participle form.

The introduction is signed by its designer “S.E. Croiset”, The Hague, August 5, 1803 (see Figure 3). De Leeuw (2000) introduces this Dutch codebreaker and designer Samuel Egbert Croiset (1734 – 1816).

From 1738 the Dutch diplomatic nomenclators were designed by “the secretary of ciphers” Pieter Lyonet (1706 - 1789). Lyonet

Vrij den 3 Augustus 1803.  
S.E. Croiset

Figure 3: The signature of the author: S.E.Croiset

incorporated the lessons learned from code-breaking in the continuing evolution of new versions of Dutch diplomatic codebooks (De Leeuw, 2000). Croiset was a nephew of Lyonet and from 1756 onwards involved in designing Dutch diplomatic codebooks as well as in the cryptanalysis of other nations' codes.

De Leeuw (2000, p 27) gives a detailed description of some of the earlier codebooks, like the one designed by Lyonet in 1756: "The book still contained about 4000 items but each page was now divided into five columns in stead of three and would have a box left blank at the top or the bottom of the page. The code-groups would follow the columns, their meanings would follow the rows (...)". This description clearly resembles the design of the codebook of Croiset which will be presented in the following section.

## 2.2 Design

As stated, the nomenclator of Croiset consists of 18 pages, each page with the same layout. Every page is divided into 5 columns of 71 rows. Each column of the top 6 rows is split into two smaller columns. This results in a total of 385 entries per page: 6 rows with 10 columns (60 entries) and 65 rows with 5 columns (325 entries). A total of 18 pages results in a maximum capacity of 6930 entries. Some entries are left empty for the purpose of null codes.

The entries are filled in alphabetically in row order while the numbers are incremented per column. The smaller entries at the top of each page, with each column split in two, contain entries for single and double letters,

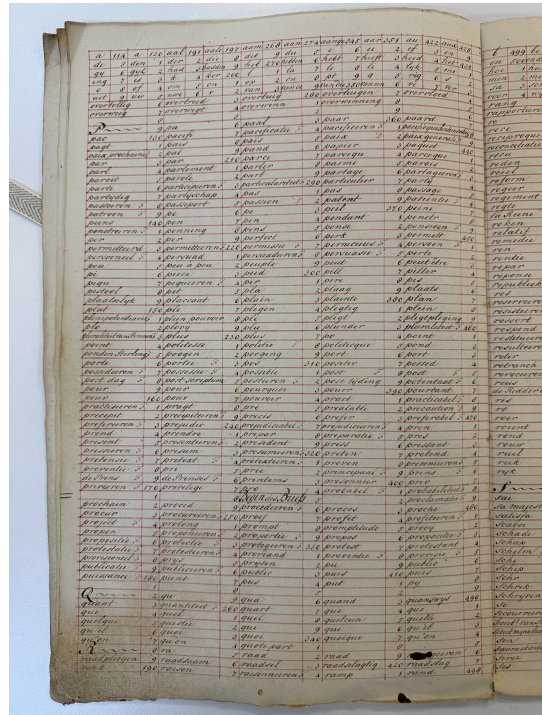


Figure 4: Example page from the codebook

frequently occurring syllables, particles and small prepositions. These split columns have their own alphabetical ordering from A to Z on each page. An example page can be seen in Figure 4 and a schematic overview in Figure 5.

The codebook is divided into seven different sections, each with numbers in the range of 1 to 999. Each section has a specific, distinguishing marker written above the number, with one section having no marker. The first four sections, and approximately half of the fifth section, contain alphabetically ordered letters, syllables, words and phrases. The remaining part of the sections contains more specific entries such as geographical names, diplomatic phrases, and treaty terminology. Although the words are ordered alphabetically row-wise and the numbers are increased column-wise, the different sections still main-

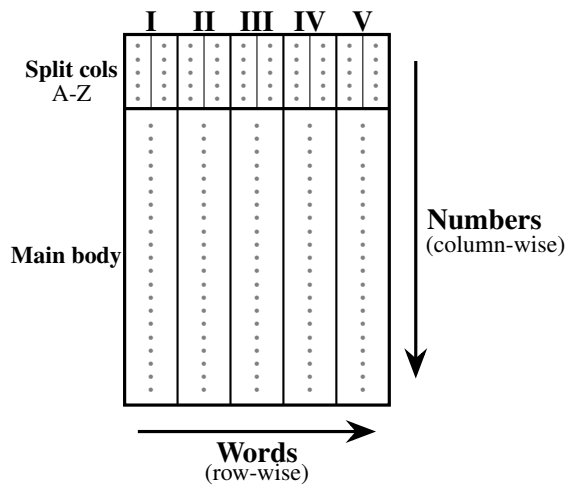


Figure 5: Schematic overview of codepage

tain an overall alphabetical order on a page level. This can be seen in table 1 where an overview is given of the seven sections of the codebook, the marker for each section and the specific flavour of words.

### 3 The codebook in practice

This section will use an example message to show the practical workings of the codebook. It demonstrates choices made during the encoding process. This message was also chosen as a typical example of the kind of diplomatic intelligence messages that were sent from Saint Petersburg to the Netherlands.

Figure 6 shows the first half of encoded message Nr. 4063. The first line starts with the following codes: 861 785 212+ 709" 96+ 17+. To find the plaintext, we have to look up each code in the right section of the codebook. The first code has no special marker. From Table 1 we can see that this is the fourth section of the codebook. When we look at the entry at number 861, it is empty. This means that this is a so called *Null* code. Remember that the introduction to the codebook (see section 2.1) specifically advises the

Nr	Marker	(Alphabetical) Content
1	Tilde 	General entries A-D and often used words and syllables
2	Quote 	General entries D-J and often used words and syllables
3	Caret 	General entries J-O and often used words and syllables
4	(no marker) 	General entries O-S and often used words and syllables
5	Colon 	General entries S-W and often used words and syllables
6	Plus 	General entries W-Z and Geographic locations, titles, and international relations
7	Equals 	Specific names and dates

Table 1: Markers and sections

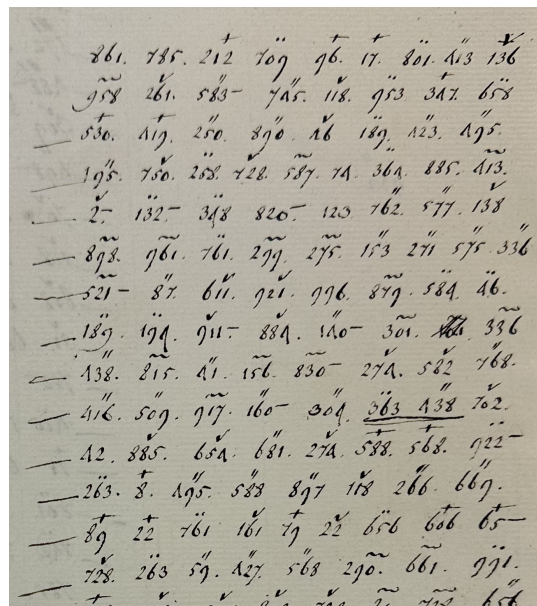


Figure 6: First half of encoded message 4063

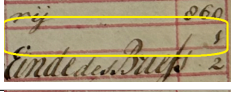
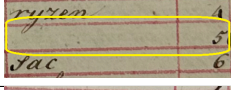
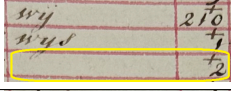
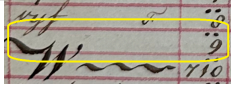
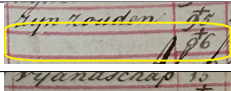
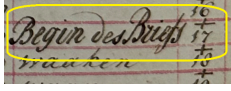
Code	Codebook Entry	Plaintext
861		Null
785		Null
212+		Null
709:		Null
96+		Null
17+		Start of Letter

Table 2: Header of message

user to use these *Null* at the start of the message “to obscure message boundaries”. We continue this process with the next codes: code 785 is in the same “without marker” section, code 212+ is in the section with marker +, etc. The message header ends with code 17+ which has the Dutch meaning “Begin des Briefs” or “Start of Letter” in English. After this, the actual message begins. The summary of the message header can be seen in table 2.

We will now examine the first codes from the actual message to see how plaintext Dutch was encoded with this codebook. The codes we are going to look at are 801: 413" 136^ 958~ 261^ 583". Table 3 shows the result of the decoding. The message starts with the Dutch sentence “Wel geïnformeerde lieden” or “Well informed persons” in English.

The Dutch words “geinformeerde” and “lieden” are split up into smaller parts, each part encoded separately. The word *geinformeerde* becomes: *ge-inform-eerde* and the word *lieden* becomes *lie-de-n*. The

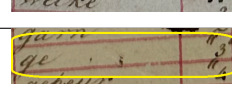
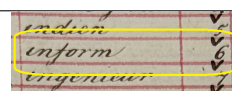
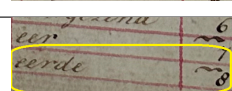
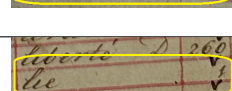
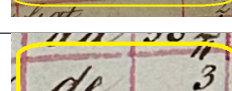
Code	Codebook Entry	Plaintext
801:		Wel ( <i>well</i> )
413"		ge
136^		inform
958~		eerde ( <i>informed</i> )
261^		lie
583"		de + plural ( <i>persons</i> )

Table 3: Start of message content

last encoding makes use of a special character, the dash (“-”), to show that the plural form of the plaintext word is to be used. The syllable “lie” is appended with the word “de” (the same as the Dutch definite article) the result made plural by the addition of the dash after the code number. The final result: “lie-de-n”, or “persons” in English.

This process demonstrates how the plaintext Dutch was processed *syntactically* in such a way that it was supported by the available entries of the codebook, i.e., words, syllables and letters.

To conclude this example, a transcription of the message from figure 6 is provided below, together with the decoded entries from the codebook and an English translation.

```
[NULL:861] [NULL:785] [NULL:212+]
[NULL:709:] [NULL:96+]
Begin des Briefs[17+]
wel[801:] ge[413"] inform[136^]
eerde[958~] lie[261^] de-en[583"]
gelooven[745"] te[118^] weeten[953:]
dat[347+] in[658:] Saxen[530+]
```

een[419+] form[250"] ee[890"] l[46~]  
 Tractaat[189:] het[423"] geen[495"]  
 tot[195"] nu[750~] toe[258:]  
 niet[728~] best[587~] ond[74]  
 tussen[364:] de[885] beide[413~]  
 Keizer-en[2~] sluiten-en[132:]  
 en[348:] ratificeren-en[820] is[123]  
 geworden[762"] de[577"] inhoud[138~]  
 daar van[898~] is[961~] voor[761:]  
 alle[299~] een[275~] die[153"]  
 p[271"] geheim[575"] ge[336"]  
 blijven-en[521~] doch[87"] men[611~]  
 onder[921~] steld[996]  
 eensdeels[879~] dat[584:] dit[46:]  
 Tractaat[189:] eene[194:]  
 offensief-en[911~] en[884~]  
 defensief-en[140"] alliantie[301~]  
 beh[336~] el[438"] s[815~] t[41"]  
 ander[156~] deel-en[830~]  
 dat[274~] een[582~] onderdaan[768~]  
 gedeelte[416"] van[509"]  
 deszelven[917~] despositie-en[160"]  
 even[304"] tue[363:] el[438"]  
 moeten[702~] zijn[42] in[885~]  
 het[654~] geval[681"] dat[274~]  
 Engeland[588+] aan de[568+]  
 voorslag-en[922:] tot[263:]  
 vrede[8+] geen[495"] gehor[588"]  
 geliefd[897"] te[118~] geeven[266"]  
 gelijk[669"] zulks[89+]  
 waarschijnlijk[22+] voor[761:]  
 komt[161~] zo[79+] lang[22~] de[656:]  
 Spaansche[606+] zaak-en[65+] niet[728~]  
 tot[263:] decisie[59"] zijn[427"]  
 gebr[568"] ach[290~] t[661~]

The English translation:

Well-informed persons believe to know that in Saxony<sup>5</sup> a formal Treaty, which until now did not exist between the two Emperors, has been concluded and ratified. The contents thereof have remained a deep secret for everyone, but it is supposed on the one hand that this Treaty contains an offensive and defensive alliance.

On the other hand, a subordinate part of its dispositions must be conditional in the event that England does not deign to give ear to the proposals for peace, as appears probable as long as the Spanish affairs<sup>6</sup> have not been brought to a decision. (...)"

<sup>5</sup>Reference to the Conference of Erfurt (September 27 - October 14, 1808), where Napoleon and Tsar Alexander I met to renew their alliance from the Treaty of Tilsit (1807). The meeting took place in Erfurt, the capital of the Principality of Erfurt in Saxony.

<sup>6</sup>The Peninsular War (1808-1814)

## 4 Cryptographic Observations

As with all systems based on a codebook without additional encryption, the book itself is the secret key. Once (part of) that book is reconstructed by a third party, all communications – past, present and future – are compromised. This particular codebook has some additional security functionality in its design that is worth exploring. This design by Croiset and Lyonet seemed to have been fairly common during the late 18th century (Kahn, 1996).

### 4.1 The security of the codebook

First, the codebook has been designed in such a way that some words have multiple encoding options. More formally, some plaintext elements have multiple ciphertext equivalents. This property is called *homophony* and is used to counter basic frequency analysis of often-used words and characters. The effectiveness of this security feature in practice is of course fully dependent on the discipline and craftsmanship of the encoder. The next section will provide some insights into how this was done in this particular situation.

Second, the codebook provides mechanisms to choose different ways of encoding for the same plaintext element. Since the system provides ways to encode single characters or syllables, some words can either be encoded using a number for the whole word, or combined by using building blocks on a smaller level. Again, the use of this possibility is dependent on the routine and craftsmanship of the person performing the encoding.

Third, the system is composed in such a way that the words are filled in alphabetically row-wise and the numbers are increased per column as shown in Figure 5. This means that the strict relation between the alphabetical order of the nomenclature elements and the number is not a simple one-to-one mapping. This guards against (very) elementary

codebook cryptanalysis where a codebreaker could know in what alphabetical range a word would fall into, only depending on the number and some knowledge of reconstructed words. Once this property becomes clear to the codebreaker, its additional layer of security is removed.

## 4.2 Homophony statistics

The archive contains 35 encoded messages from the posting of van Oterleek, all encoded with the same codebook. This makes it possible to gather statistics on how the system was used in practice. In this section we will examine the use of *homophony*. The messages have a total of 5359 code numbers with 1767 unique codes.

Often-used words, like prepositions or articles, have multiple entries in the codebook, giving the encoder a choice of which specific code number to choose in a particular sentence. To make maximum use of this security feature, the encoder would have to choose as many different numbers for a specific word as possible. This is a manual process with the quality fully dependent on the discipline and creativity of the person encoding the message.

To measure the use of this technique in this case, the following statistics were gathered: Take the top 10 words with the most encodings in the codebook that are used in the messages. For each of these words, the number of different encodings in the codebook is counted and the number of different encodings in the messages. The number of different encodings in the codebook is the theoretical maximum the encoder can use. The number of different encodings in the messages shows the actual choices of the encoder. The results of these statistics can be seen in Table 4. The fact that the observed numbers in the messages are very close, or even equal to the theoretical maximum, is a sign of true profes-

Dutch entry	Nr codes in code-book	Nr codes in mes-sages	English
de	14	13	the
en	14	13	and
te	13	12	to
ge	11	11	(past participle prefix)
is	11	11	is
in	11	9	in
het	10	10	it
met	9	9	with
zijn	9	9	are
op	8	8	on

Table 4: Statistics on top 10 homophones

sionalism and craftsmanship of the encoder.

## 5 Conclusions

Between 1806 and 1810 Willem Six van Oterleek served as the special Dutch envoy in Saint Petersburg. During his posting, he used a Dutch diplomatic codebook to send encoded messages about political developments to his Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands.

This codebook and a collection of 35 messages have been preserved in the Dutch National Archive. Analysis of this codebook, combined with historical research, shows its position in a lineage of Dutch codebooks that started in the 18th century (De Leeuw, 2000). The codebook was specifically designed for diplomatic communications and supported both Dutch and French plaintext. The messages show that Dutch plaintext was *syntactically* processed in such a way that it could be supported by the available entries of the codebook, i.e., words, syllables and letters.

The messages and codebook also provide insight into how such a system was used in real life. Analysis of the encoded messages shows the use of *homophonic* encoding to add security of the system. Statistics show that the

people using the system were aware of the security properties of the codebook and that they were properly trained for this task.

Finally, the decoded messages provide a unique insight, from an eyewitness standpoint, into Dutch diplomatic intelligence in a very turbulent era. Van Oterleek operated as an intelligence professional cultivating local sympathetic contacts. His reports on the Erfurt Conference, in the messages referred to as “the Saxon Conference”, show this. He relied on conversations with the French Ambassador to Russia, Caulaincourt, salon gossip, and trusted contacts to piece together what had been secretly agreed between the two emperors. Together with the codebook, the decoded messages provide a valuable insight into how diplomatic intelligence actually flowed through early nineteenth-century Europe.

## Acknowledgments

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## Appendix A. Overview of the messages

This appendix gives an overview of all the decoded messages with a short summary. The full (Dutch) decoding can be reproduced using the provided open source material in the GitLab repository. The numerical identifier of each message is derived from the filename of the original digital scan. This numbering scheme has been kept to preserve a consistent workflow during analysis and reporting. The messages are numbered between 4037 and 4074. The numbers 4061, 4062 and 4066 are not included, since they represent plaintext messages.

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### Msg. Summary

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- 4037 Expectation that the French Emperor will achieve his objectives at the forthcoming meeting; orders from the 7 July dispatch being followed.

- 4038 Reports widespread rumours that an Austrian Archduchess will marry Napoleon; assurances that Franco-Russian relations will remain unaffected.
- 4039 Russian emperor received news of the King's marriage favourably; hopes for reducing family complications and guarantee against continental wars; Russian cabinet wants to keep good relation with France; Russian nobility weary for more wars due to taxation burden.
- 4040 The alliance between the three empires is not yet formally negotiated; Russo-Turkish negotiations progressing with French mediation; territorial arrangements discussed for Wallachia, Moldavia, Bessarabia, and Serbia.
- 4041 Brief report on conversation with Count Romanoff regarding Dutch affairs. Specific notes on extreme caution and reserve.
- 4042 Confidential conversation with Count Romanoff confirms Russia, France, and Austria are cooperating to bring England to peace.
- 4043 Courier arrived from Moldavia; military operations suspended; Russia demanding financial compensation; Austria may receive territorial advantages.
- 4044 News of King Louis Bonaparte's abdication received via Russian legation courier; Ministerial communication with Count Romanoff will be avoided pending further instructions.
- 4045 Dutch affairs viewed with sympathy by Russian government, during King's stay in Paris; Russia longs for stability and is committed to neutrality; discussion of financial reforms and administrative challenges.
- 4046
- 4047 Reports of abdication of Swedish crown by reigning king; new crown prince arriving in Stockholm; Franco-Austrian discussions described as amicable.
- 4048 Important information received from French courier; speculation about imperial marriage negotiations; strict secrecy maintained among only four or five persons.
- 4049 Assessment that no formal diplomatic *démarches* have yet occurred; only the Ambassador's views being solicited.
- 4050 Discussion of territorial redistributions in Germany;
- 4051 detailed analysis of Russia's internal financial crisis: currency devaluation, excessive paper money emissions, and hardship among lower ranks and military personnel.
- 4052 Emperor reportedly considering declaration to halt paper money emissions; financial difficulties persist requiring new taxation; Counts Romanoff and Kotschubey consulted on these matters.
- 4053 Turkish front stagnating; siege of Silistra abandoned due to supply shortages; orders dispatched to Prince Bagration to resume advance.
- 4054 Peace conditions between Austria and France detailed; cession of part of New Galicia to Russia; rumoured Polish territorial demands proven unfounded; Russian friendship valued in secret negotiations.
- 4055 Intelligence that Napoleon, upon concluding peace with Austria, intends to concentrate doubled military force against Spain.
- 4056 Report that the young Prince of Orange, studying at Oxford, is destined to marry Princess Charlotte, daughter of the Prince of Wales.
- 4057 Prince Czertorinsky returned to Saint Petersburg; his Austrian sympathies noted; Polish uprisings condemned; assessment of Russian forces in Galicia; commercial shipping news.
- 4058 Reports of Czertorinsky's audience with the Emperor were incorrect; Orange party spread false information; Swedish negotiations proceeding slowly.
- 4059 Report about suggestion to Alopeus in Stockholm to place a Holstein prince on Swedish throne in exchange for Finland; rejected as Russia will not return Finland.
- 4060 Urgent report: Emperor issued orders to Prince Galitzin to attack Austrian forces in the Grand Duchy of Warsaw.
- 4063 Formal treaty concluded between Napoleon and Alexander in Saxony; suspected offensive and defensive alliance; internal Russian discontent is not diminishing; Emperor isolated but retains sufficient power to enforce compliance.
- 4064
- 4065 Caulaincourt confirmed agreement between the two Emperors; Alexander expressed sympathy for Dutch affairs and friendship for the King; frontier negotiations postponed; potential sources of discord between allied powers prevented.
- 4067
- 4068 Secret details about the Saxon Conference; Relay of Caulaincourt intentions to restore European peace; France agrees Russia to retain Finland. Connection between two empires. Turkish acquisitions.
- 4069 Emperor Alexander recognition of King of Spain; Prussian peace conditions moderated at Alexander's insistence.
- 4070 Despite widespread discontent, no disturbances anticipated during the Emperor's absence from the capital.
- 4071 Rumours of exchanging Grand Duchy of Berg for Dutch territory discussed with Caulaincourt; Treaty of Paris (1806) guarantees invoked; hopes that influential persons at the conference will protect Dutch interests.
- 4072 Note about the secret evacuation of Prussian territory; *démarches* made but with moderate instructions; author exercising caution; trusted local contact warned against excessive inquiry.
- 4073
- 4074 Expression of Emperor Alexander's gratitude for the reception of the Prince as conveyed via the French Ambassador; reflects the consideration shown towards the Dutch King.
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