

Abbreviations Used

The following are abbreviations used in notes to this edition of *The Travel Journal* :

JMS: References to diaries written by Alexander Svoboda's father Joseph Mathia Svoboda. The format is JMS[diary no.]:[page no.]. For example, JMS56:10 for page 10 of Joseph Mathia Svoboda's diary number 59. Other references to JMS diaries will follow the same format.

JMS-MM: References to Margaret Makiya's transcriptions of Joseph Mathia Svoboda's diaries. For example, JMS-MM04:12, for Margaret Makiya's transcription of diary number 4 (May 1865 - Aug 1866), page 12.

JMS-NA: References to Nowf Allawi's digests of information from the JMS diaries.

ME: References to Alois Musil, *The Middle Euphrates : A Topographical Itinerary: Oriental Explorations and Studies, no. 3*, New York: American Geographical Society, 1927.

PALM: References to Alois Musil, *Palmyrena, A Topographical Itinerary; Oriental Explorations and Studies*, New York: American Geographical Society of New York, 1928.

Note: The Style of This Edition

In producing our *Newbook* Print-on-demand edition of Alexander Svoboda's travel journal we were obliged to make a number of stylistic choices for which a brief explanation might be helpful. In the matter of names—of people, and places—originally in Arabic, the number of competing Latin letter transcription systems is dauntingly large. For personal names we simply chose one of several possibilities and applied that as a standard to every occurrence. For the names of cities, towns, and other places we did much the same, although we tried to pick the version that was most productively searchable. In all cases of Arabic words transcribed directly into Latin letters from the diary, we used a simple phonetic alphabet with no diacriticals except in the notes and the definite article is always represented as 'al-'. Those interested in the Arabic can always refer to the Arabic text. The only words italicized in the English text are French and English words and phrases that Alexander himself wrote in Latin characters. This means, for example, that the train schedules he wrote in Arabic will appear in the standard font and European schedules written in Latin characters will appear in italics. Readers might also notice that in the English translation only the page numbers of the original appear, while in the Arabic there is also an indication of line numbers. This is because the Arabic transcription directly allows reference to the formatting of the original text, which the English translation cannot do. For those interested in comparing the Arabic, English, and original text, the side-by-side web version of the text is the best resource.

The Svoboda Diaries Newbook Project is intended first and foremost to make original sources available to scholars and the general public in new ways made possible by digital technologies. Although we are making historical sources available, we are not historians. However, we have provided some notes taken from

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the diaries of Alexander's father, Joseph Mathia Svoboda, with information about members of the Svoboda family mentioned in the Travel Journal. We have also included notes about some features of the geography and culture of the lands Alexander traveled through and about some of the sights he saw. These notes are not intended to be extensive, exhaustive, or original and grow more meager as the journey extends to well-known sites in Europe. We hope that our on-line resources, primarily the Svobodapedia, will contain an ever-growing storehouse of more extensive information on many of the people and places encountered in the Travel Journal and in the forthcoming Joseph Mathia Diaries.