

## THE KRUSENSTERN ATLAS

THE LIBRARY'S COLLECTION OF PACIFIC VOYAGES IS NOW of such strength and importance that it is only occasionally possible to obtain works known to be lacking.

Since the last issue of the *Record* a much sought-after volume has been secured in London—the great Atlas of the Pacific Ocean (1824) resulting from the circumnavigation of the world by Ivan Fyedorovich (also referred to as Adam Johann von) Krusenstern. This epic voyage and the remarkable influence of this gifted navigator entitle him to a high place in the story of Pacific exploration. Born in Esthonia in 1770, he was sent at the age of 15 to the Russian Naval Cadet College at Kronstadt, and from 1788 to 1792 he gave distinguished service in the war against Sweden. In 1792 he was sent to England as one of the twelve best young officers of the fleet, to improve his knowledge of naval affairs.

After six years in active service and extensive travel with the British fleet, he returned to Russia, full of plans for a Russian voyage around the world. Against much opposition he ultimately carried his point, and with two British-built ships, the *Nadezhda* and the *Neva*, launched his expedition. Captain Yuri Lisyiansky, who bought the ships, commanded the latter, Krusenstern the former.

The voyage lasted from July 1803 to August 1806, its route being westward by way of Cape Horn, Marquesas Islands, Sandwich Islands, Kamchatka and Japan, Macao and Alaska, China and Sunda Islands, across the Indian Ocean, and up the Atlantic coast of Africa back to Russia. Captain Cook's navigation was the great ideal of the Russians, and the voyage was planned to complement the work of the Englishman. English precedent and naval practice were highly regarded by Krusenstern, who valued his years in British ships.

Krusenstern's oceanographical observations were especially important, and he was virtually a pioneer in the field of ocean currents, which were recorded with the