

Contents

Acknowledgments	11
Introduction	15

CHAPTER ONE

The Idea of the Expedition: “Benefit for the World of Scholarship”	25
Michaelis’ Proposal: Arabia and the Search for Meaning in the Bible	26
Johann David Michaelis and the <i>Georgia Augusta</i> University, Göttingen	30
Why Denmark and Johann Hartwig Ernst von Bernstorff?	36
Assembling the Team: The Philologist – Frederik Christian von Haven.....	44
The Cartographer and his Teacher: Carsten Niebuhr and Tobias Mayer.....	46
The Botanist – Peter Forsskål: An “Apostle” of Linnaeus.....	55
<i>Fragen an eine Gesellschaft gelehrter Männer.</i> A European Exercise in Inquiry	63
Bernstorff the Manager. Driving the Project: New Suggestions, Additions and Problems	68

Niebuhr and his Instruments: A Detour on the Lunar Distance	
Method and the Problem of Determining Longitude	74
Changing the Route and the Royal Instructions	81

CHAPTER TWO

Exploration and Death. Learning about Egypt, the Red Sea and Yemen 92

The Outbound Voyage – Copenhagen to Alexandria	93
Introduction to Egypt: Alexandria, the Nile and Arrival in Cairo	114
Niebuhr – Ethnography, Map Making, the Great Pyramids and Hieroglyphs	119
Forsskål – The <i>Flora Aegyptiaco</i>	136
Haven – Manuscripts and Hebrew Codices	139
Frustration and Failure in the Sinai	143
Sailing the Red Sea – Discovering Marine Life and Creating a Chart.....	156
Scientific Discovery in Yemen: Exploring the Tihāmah and the Coffee Mountains.....	172
A Tragic Ending in Yemen: al Mukhā, San‘ā’, Bombay.....	182

CHAPTER THREE

**The Solitary Explorer. The Long Road Home:
India, the Persian Gulf and the Lands of the Middle East** 203

Rejuvenation and Inspiration: A Brief Exposure to the Culture of Western India	204
The Voyage from Bombay to al Baṣrah: Oman, Persepolis and Pirates of the Persian Gulf.....	215
“Do not order me to travel too hastily. Now is the time when I can learn something.”: The Lands and Peoples of Iraq and the Levant.....	235
From Caravans to Kings: The End of the Expedition.....	275

CHAPTER FOUR

**Presenting the Expedition to the World
and the Expedition’s Significance for the 18th Century.....** 284

The Struggle to Publish the Findings of the Expedition	286
From Geography to Philology: The Results of the Expedition	295
Geography.....	297
Cartography	314

Astronomy	316
Antiquities	322
Botany and Zoology.....	331
Philology.....	326
The Evaluation of Niebuhr's Works in the 18 th -Century and Since	340
Epilogue – Niebuhr's Return to a Rural Tradition: The Meldorf Years, 1778–1815.....	343
Conclusion	354
List of Illustrations, Maps and Charts.....	402
Bibliography of Published Sources	404
Index.....	432