A few words on the problem of rendering into English Tahitian proper names that have been transcribed in Cyrillic: Russian lacks certain letters, notably "h" and "w," and so one must make allowances on encountering, in Russian texts, such names as Guageine and Mata-Giva (Huaheine and Matahiva in English form), even while bearing in mind that Russians in the early nineteenth century were often rendering into Cyrillic Polynesian place and personal names on the basis of James Cook's or his people's orthography. Thus, the eighteenth-century British form of Otahiti becomes O-taiti or Otaiti. By considering Kotzebue's and Bellinghausen's published sources, which were mostly but not exclusively British, one can easily gloss over such place names as Teporionnuu for Te Poroinu'u, or Tagara Point for Taharaa Point. In this volume, there is no standardization of all forms of Tahitian names found in the Russian texts translated, but Tahiti is substituted for O-taiti, O-taite, etc., after the first one or two occurrences. All Russian, French, and German texts are translated on the basis of first editions except for the Kotzebue account of the Predpriiatie visit to Tahiti in March 1824. It should not be inferred from this that the London version of Kotzebue's narrative, A New Voyage Round the World (1830), is an altogether accurate and adequate translation. In reality, it is so free as to be bordering on paraphrase. The point, however, is that London Missionary Society apologists, James Montgomery especially, responded to the 1830 London text when they rebutted Kotzebue's allegations that the mission in Tahiti had not preached true Christianity and that its version of the Gospel was a libel on the Saviour. I discuss translations, adaptations, and reprintings of the Kotzebue narratives of 1821 and 1830 in The Russian View of Honolulu, 1809-1826 (Ottawa, 1988), pages 300-2.
With regard to Baltic German surnames: widely recognized anglicized forms have been accepted, especially when bearers of names with a Russian and non-Russian form so signed themselves: hence Bellingshausen and not Bellinsgauzen, except in reference to publications by that name, and Kotzebue rather than the awkward Kotsebu. For professional or other reasons, some distinguished Baltic German officers and scholars identified with Russia so much as to adopt the Slavic version of their name when signing documents or even letters. Predpriiatie’s young mineralogist is therefore Ernst K. Gofman, not Hoffmann. On the other hand, the artist Ludovik Andreevich (just Ludwig, by baptism) Khoris wrote and published under French colours, as Choris, and his feelings on the matter are respected.