

## PREFACE

Anyone who, between 1937 and 1983, entered the front room on the first floor of the Snouck Hurgronje Huis, Rapenburg 61, Leiden, could not fail to notice the photograph of an exotically dressed young woman (Plate I). Gradually, the regular visitors—mostly students of Arabic and Islam—came to learn that the name *Sayyida Salme (Emily Ruete)*, written in white letters on an impressive book-case in the room, indicated the same person. Only few were aware that the Said-Ruete Library, as the collection of books was known, contained not only the *Memoirs* of the princess, but other writings of hers as well.

This book presents the reader with a short biography of the princess and of her son, a new English translation of her *Memoirs*, and an English version of her other writings. The Introduction is meant to provide the reader with information useful for a better understanding of Emily Ruete's writings. It is not intended as a contribution to the History of Zanzibar. Such an enterprise would have surpassed by far the already stretched limits of the work. The sources used in the Introduction seem sufficient for the purpose.

As Emily Ruete wrote in German, it would have been logical to publish her work in that language. Thanks to the help and interest of Prof. B. Flemming of Leiden University, who also made important contributions to the preparation of the *Introduction*, the manuscript of such an edition was ready to be sent to the press when Annegret Nippa's *Leben im Sultanspalast* appeared (1989). It then seemed more appropriate to publish this material in English.

Such an enterprise is, of course, hazardous for someone foreign to the English language, especially if he wants to render the German original as faithfully as possible. I wish to thank Carney Gavin and Mary Ellen Taylor, Executive Director and Archivist respectively, of the Harvard Semitic Museum, Cambridge, Mass., for correcting my English text. Needless to say that mistakes and an inelegant style, due to last-minute changes, can only be imputed to me.

My indebtedness to the publications of Dr. G. S. P. Freeman-Grenville, York, is evident throughout the work. I wish to thank him for his assistance in translating the passages in Swahili, for the documents which he put at my disposal, and for information in general.

My thanks go also to Professor C.E. Bosworth, Manchester, to Dr. J. J. Witkam, Leiden, and in particular to Drs. Peri Bearman, Leiden. I am grateful to Elizabeth Carella, Curator of Historic Photography, Harvard Semitic Museum, who prepared the illustrations, and to the Museon Museum, The Hague, for the preparation of further illustrations. I owe gratitude to Dr. Hamad H. Omar, Director of the Zanzibar National Archives, for his generous help, and I would also like to thank all the friends who so generously made it possible for me to travel to Zanzibar.

The great differences between the transliteration of Arabic names and terms employed by Emily Ruete on the one hand, and the modern standard systems used by the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, the Library of Congress and British Library, or the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (*IJMES*) on the other, pose a problem as to a consistent transliteration of these names and terms throughout the work. For historical and linguistic reasons, I wanted to remain faithful to the author's original transliteration, which is therefore followed in her writings, the only exception being the replacement of German *j* and *sch* by *y* and *sh*. On the other hand, it is too much of an anachronism to adopt Emily Ruete's transliteration in the Introduction. In the latter, the *IJMES* system has been followed. However, for the benefit of the general reader, the long vowels and other diacritical marks have been omitted, again with one exception: *Said* indicates the author's son, whereas *Sa<sup>c</sup>id* is used for the general Arab name *Sa'id*.

A list at the end of the book facilitates the identification of the names.

The book is dedicated to the memory of the great Dutch Islamicist Christiaan Snouck Hurgronje, with whom Emily Ruete and her children were linked in friendship (Plate II).

Leiden, April 1990

E. VAN DONZEL

In herinnering aan

Emily Ruete

(Seyyidah Salme)

geb. 30 Aug. 1844, overl. 29 Februari 1924

Dochter van Said bin Sultan

Vorst van Oman en Zanzibar

is deze bibliotheek in 1937 geschonken  
door hare kinderen

Antonie Brandeis / Rudolph Said-Ruete / Rosalie Troemer

tot aandenken aan de vriendschapsbanden  
van Moeder en Zoon met

C. Snouck Hurgronje

Zum Gedenken an

Emily Ruete

(Seyyidaly Salme)

geb. 30. VIII. 1844 gest. 29. II. 1924

Tochter des Said bin Sultan

Verechter von Oman und Zanzibar

wurde diese Bucherei gestiftet i. J. 1937  
von ihren Kindern

Antonie Brandeis / Rudolph Said-Ruete / Rosalie Troemer

in Würdigung freundschaftlicher Verbundenheit  
der Mutter und des Sohnes mit

C. Snouck Hurgronje

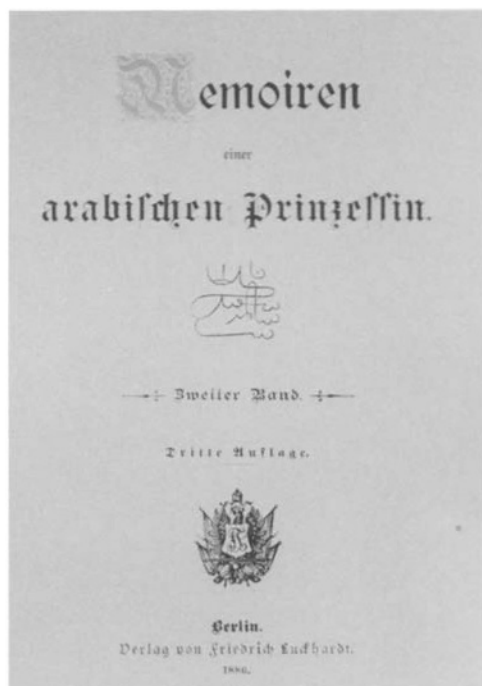


Plate III. Title-page of the 2nd vol. of the 3rd German edition of the *Memoirs of an Arabian Princess*



Plate IV. Princess Salme's name in Arabic script on the frame of the photograph reproduced on Plate I

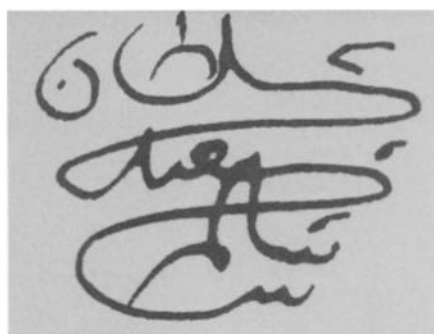


Plate V. Princess Salme's autograph

