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An Interesting Description of the Black Sea of 1802 and the Remarks of His French Author

(Summary)

An interesting, not published so far written work, directly connected with the history of the Black Sea is presented in the article. The original is kept in the French National Archive in Paris and consists of two parts: a letter and a report-presentation of the French earl Jacque Ponce to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs de Talleyrand, dated 31 July, 1802, that describes the Black Sea and the opportunities for commercial penetration in the region. The document reflects the major principles of the French commercial policy in this part of the world in XVIII-XIX century. In the descriptive part of “The Presentation” earl Ponsais draws on facts from the book of Ch. de Payssonnel “Treatise on the trade in the Black Sea” (Paris, 1787) but also includes his own conclusions and summaries which make this written work in a valuable and useful historical source.