

Euler to Wettstein
Berlin, 20 May 1747
Letter 253 (2753)

I am a little worried concerning the delay of your reply to the last letter that I had the honor of addressing to you, since it contained my very humble thanks to President Folkes and to Mr. Mortimer and particularly to you. I would be upset if this was omitted due to the fact that the letter might have become lost, and I would nearly be unable to redress the fault, which they might think me capable. However as an accident of this nature has not yet occurred to me, I hope that it will not have happened under these very important circumstances. I would wish to enjoy the dignity that the Royal Society of London has conferred to me and have recently read an excellent work on the sailing of ships that Mr. Bouguer has just published, I believe that I can raise myself to the occasion for the society by presenting a similar work that I completed and published for the Petersburg Academy. However, due to the fact that the situation at the Academy has vastly changed and that this material has received scant notice, I feel that I could not do better than to present my research to the Royal Society. Mr. Bouguer will be fairly well-known, and I can say that the material that I treated is very similar and that we have met on many occasions, even though my work was completed long before we met. Furthermore, it appears that besides some important topics that Mr. Bouguer did not touch upon, I deal with more carefully and with greater clarity. I have also noticed that Mr. Bouguer's work contain some mistakes especially concerning the force of oaring, where he was obliged himself to admit that the results of his experiments were not in agreement with his answers, whereas what I have said regarding this matter is in perfect agreement with the experiments. The determination of the force of oaring is extremely difficult, and I think that I have developed the first understanding of it through the principles of mechanics. If you feel that this work is worthy of the attention of the Society, I request that you handle the proposal and in the case that it is accepted, to recommend how

I should send my manuscript to the Society, and who would be willing to pay for the printing.

In my previous letter, that I hope is not lost, I made a thousand compliments on behalf of Baron Vernezobre, and I also made a very worthy request for Mr. Count Kayserling, ambassador to Russia, who wishes to have the best geographical maps made in England. This letter also contained my most grateful thanks for the tobacco, that you so nicely forwarded as well I brought to your attention to discount the 50 almanacs, as well as the 10 ecus that I owe from last year and still for about the twenty or thirty books that I requested that you send through Mr. Fasch in Amsterdam.

My entire family is well thanks to God and offers their most sincere goodwill; my wife has just given birth to a son (Hermann Friederich Euler) so that now we have four sons and two daughters. I await impatiently news from your health and I have the honor to be with the most perfect consideration [...]

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