

Euler to Wettstein  
Berlin, 27 June 1747  
Letter 255 (2756)

[...] I wish to thank you for the infinite number of trouble that you gave taken onto yourself for me concerning the tobacco, as well as the work which you have presented to the Royal Society, on behalf of Count de Kayserling, who is the same person that you met in Dresden and who extends his thanks to you for the kindness in finding the list of English maps. He will profit by thanking you and will immediately pay Mr. Henry Wettstein in Amsterdam the cost of the maps which he has chosen; because having all ready received some from Mr. de Villiers he does not need them all. Here is the list of the ones that he requests:

Baron de Vernezobre was extremely touched when I reminded him of you and even though I dined with him I am incapable of relating all the wonderful things that he and the Baroness have entrusted me to tell you on their behalf. Even though I have not yet received the 30 ecus that you had given instructions to have me paid, I am extremely obliged, however, I greatly fear that there might not have been enough for the tobacco, and I would have preferred to receive the half of this sum in tobacco, of which I am in greater need than ever, since because of your goodness I have entirely lost my taste for other tobacco. Besides that, I had hoped that by sending me twenty pounds of tobacco at a time through Mr. Fasch that it would prove to be less of an inconvenience because until now I was very surprised to see that practically each package had been placed in an envelope, signed and waxed by your hand, which embarrasses me to the point of realizing how much trouble this has caused you. Might I suggest that that you send twenty pounds at a time, I wish for half at 2 shillings and the other at 2 1/2 shillings and I will not fail to pay Mr. Wettstein in Amsterdam the price immediately and the freight to England. I would be better satisfied if it were thirty pounds, and avoid the necessity of requesting your help too soon.

I am much obliged for the extract from Mr. Dobb's letter which tells of the passage through Hudson Bay into the Pacific sea. I am upset however that you thought it necessary to translate this letter, because I feel

that I would have very well understood it in English having translated a few years ago Mr. Robin's treatise on Gunnery into German. I agree with Mr. Dobbs, that even after the corrections to the geographical maps concerning Captain Bering's observations, there is still a considerable stretch of land between California and the country discovered by the Russians which is completely unknown, it would, however still be possible that there is a passage large enough from the Hudson Bay to the Pacific sea. Having looked at some maps, I am even thinking that this could almost be the cargo vessel Animus which went from the sea to Hudson Bay. However, it appears that Mr. Dobbs has not understood my relation concerning the Russian expeditions, since he believes that after having arrived at the Japanese islands, Captain Bering arrived at this unknown land, which was as a result of traveling too far south. Since there were two different expeditions, one under the command of Captain Spangenberg to the south and arrived at the Japanese Islands, and the other lead by Bering himself which took an easterly direction and arrived at the land in question. This knowledge will somewhat diminish the unknown stretch between California and this land. However there are still remains a large portion of territory yet to be discovered that I as well as others are extremely curious to know about, in view of the fact that the geography itself will be of significant importance.

We will do as best that we can with some of the suggestions that you had the goodness to tell us concerning our almanacs, as they are already proofed and instead of the astrological predictions which are combined every month, will be dated in the old manner and concerning the distances between the principal places in Europe we will correct them and apply the presentation that you have provided us with.

Mr. Gael Morris took the liberty to write concerning the subject of the moon and has shared some excellent observations made by Mr. Bradley observations of which I am very grateful. In the attached letter there are some explanations concerning the time and whether they are the real or the mean , and I am requesting the results of his observations made in September, December and March from which I expect to correct my own tables in such a way that they align with his observations to within one minute.

Kindly provide for my most humble compliments to Mr. le President, and all the members of the Royal Society. My entire family gives you their best wishes and I remain with the most perfect affection full of gratitude.

[...] I will not forget to mail immediately Die Berlinischen Nachrichten in 4o to Mr. Wettstein in Amsterdam as you have requested. The Japanese person who was in Petersburg died before my departure, and I know nothing about any of the new arrivals.

1<sup>st</sup> Edit 11/30/03