

Euler to Wettstein  
Berlin, 5 June 1751  
Letter 269 (2770)

All of the letters that you sent to me arrived here as well as the 12 lbs of tobacco to which I am infinitely obliged. And I hope that you have received, in view of the time it has taken, the books that you had asked for.

A native Berliner has presented himself into Mr. Finch's service, and I ask that you present my best regards to him. This young man had been recommended by Messrs Peloutier and Achard, both ministers of the French church which besides the fact that he speaks perfect French and German he is entirely presentable to be in the service of a lord, and is very adept for preparing hair, he is a good boy and excellently behaved. However, I must tell you that he is only 24 years old and not the 30 that you requested, even though he is French born, one cannot say that he understands French grammar perfectly, however the ministers assure me that one will not find anyone here who understands the principles of the language, even if it concerned having employed a man who had studied. The same persons complain that the majority of the French youth who live here are spoiled in such a way that they would be hard-pressed to propose others who would fit into this opportunity for employment. However this designated young man is well at ease to accept the conditions that you have indicated and he is entirely at your disposal. In the event that you should select him and pay him a small amount for the trip, it will be an occasion to liquidate my debt to you in what concerns the geographic maps which I once again make the request for our Academy which wishes to have the best maps of the Counties of Great Britain as well as all of Europe and the other parts of the world (with the exception of the very particular maps which would be of no service to us whatsoever and I expect you to judge which those are). We

would also wish to see the curious tables of the late Mr. Halley on the trade winds and the declination of the magnetized needle.

As for the mulberry seeds, if it would be possible to provide us with a pound of the Virginian type, the Academy would be most pleased, since it is said that these provide the largest leaves. However, since it is impossible to find these seeds in London, it would only be abusing your goodness, Sir, to request that they come from elsewhere and perhaps one will find them in France where Mr. de Maupertuis is intending to make a tour next winter. In what you have mentioned concerning the trees, it really is a small matter, since our intentions are limited to but a few thousand.

I would have thought that I had mentioned the subject of Mr. Grischow, who has already been hired by the Petersburg Academy where he has been since the beginning of the year; and he has paid me for the tobacco and the books which had been originally intended for me. Now receiving a salary of 800 rubles a year, he will be better able to pay off his debts with Dr. Mortimer, than if he were still here.

Mr. Raillard's employment with His Excellency Field marshal de Schmettau was short-lived, even though he was very good. Since he was too shy to oversee these young boys and apparently the air has not been kind to his sensitive constitution, so that he decided that he did not have the necessary vitality for the job and had made the decision to return to Basel, where he should be right now. His brother the engineer is still here, even though there is little chance to get him any decent employment. Mr. Passavant is well established with Madame Thoulmeyer in the capacity of tutor for her only son, and he seems to prefer this position to that of Academician which he left to obtain this position.

My entire family is extremely sensitive to your fond memory and as well as for your wife. However, Baron d'Andrie has requested that I inform you of his respects.

I have the honor of being with all possible affection [...]