

Euler to Wettstein
Berlin, 9 October 1751
Letter 272 (2773)

[...] I will be very pleased if the young man whom I sent to Mr. Finch's service would conduct himself in such a way that this gentleman will be happy with him. Today it is eight days since the package of books arrived and the tobacco happily arrived here. I have an infinity of obligations towards you as much as does our Academy, and Mr. de Maupertuis our President has entrusted me to thank you on his behalf and H.E. Mr. d'Arnim is also very aware of the troubles that you have given in regards to sending the maps.

The season will soon be here to transplant our mulberry bushes; in case that there is still time, may I also ask you to add the following trees:

Tulip Tree	Spanish Plan	Scarlet horse Chestnut
Laurel Tulip	Cedar of Lebanon	Virginia Cypress
Benjamin Tree	Cork-Tree	Amelorichier
The Manna Ash	Longleaved Llex	Carolina Linden

We would hope to have more maps of America, especially those which contain the newest discoveries made in Hudson Bay. Mr. Battier is entrusted to pay for everything that you have the goodness to furnish, however in concerning the billing I am obliged to ask you, Sir, to immediately specify onto each piece with their prices, since there are a number of items on my accounting so that I might split the payment of the costs between the Academy and what we owe to Mr. Splittgerber.

I have little hope that the *Uranography* will arrive with the Mulberry bushes, however I request on this occasion to provide us with number 436 of the Transactions which is still missing and that you had the kindness to promise us.

The Academy of Saint Petersburg has just awarded the prize for 100 ducats that it had placed on the question: *if the Newtonian theory of attraction is sufficient to explain all of the inequalities of lunar motion or not?* And it is Mr. Clairaut who has won the prize. This question was worthy of being asked to be examined by scientists since the apogee of the moon had appeared contrary to Newton's theory.

Mr. Newton had not showed the alignment of the theory in this regard, and all those who followed his steps since had only found a 20 degree annual movement in the apogee of the moon, instead of the 40 degrees which it is, and I must admit that I was of the persuasion that this disagreement was not to be reconciled with the theory. However, now Mr. Clairaut has the glory of having fully reconciled the theory with the truth and has shown by such profound and wrenching calculations that there is no reason to be surprised that this beautiful harmony was ever in doubt.

The Academy of Saint Petersburg has chosen the subject for its second prize, which will be judged in 1753. It is a question in chemistry, which requires the physical explanation of gold from silver by the method of aqua regia. An accompanying question if there are not other ways to perform this separation in quicker fashion and at less cost.

The second part of the Codex Fredericianus has just appeared and I will add this part to the treatises on this subject. And as soon as all is bound following your instructions, I will send that by the preferred method.

After the marked regards of my entire family, I have the honor of being with the great affections [...]

