

Euler to Wettstein  
Berlin, 25 April 1752  
Letter 275 (2776)

[...] I was extremely pleased to learn that you have been touched by a mark of distinction that our Academy could not refrain from awarding you after so many important services that you have had the goodness to provide to it. Our very worthy President has entrusted me to convey our most perfect recognition in this matter, and to assure you that by presenting his very humble compliments, that if the Academy were able to distinguish you with more substantial marks of its appreciation, no one would have a greater part than you.

I am particularly annoyed that the almanacs arrived so late and in the future I will try to send them to you as soon as possible. We have also created a new typeface so that I hope that there will be nothing more to say in the future about this matter. However as for the drawings we are well obliged to be modest since the ones that were too bawdy attracted too many complaints.

I am very much obliged to you, Sir, that you have been willing to send Halley's and Sherwin's tables that I hope to receive them after the Leipzig fair As I have received all that was expected as regards to the accounting of the almanacs, I kindly request that you pay the remaining amount to Mr. Battier. Who in relationship with Mr. Splittgerber it will be the quick way to pay as well as something that we can use in the future.

The Virginia mulberry bushes are particular dear to us and everyone who comes to see our little plantation is very impressed. We will try to multiply them through grafting onto our native mulberry bushes. Furthermore we hope to have the seeds and how very obliged that you are willing to supply the two pounds of seeds that the late Dr. Mortimer promised us even though they can only arrive New Year.

I am very vexed that the *malva perennis flora variegato* has prompted such useless research and since this name is entirely unknown, I practically think that it is a hybrid that was produced

somewhere through the copulation of two different plants, and I insist that you no longer give yourself the slightest trouble.

In regards to the three payments that Mr. Grischow still owes to the late Mr. Mortimer's heirs, I have written to Mr. Schumacher in Saint Petersburg who will not miss obtaining their payment. As for the two guineas that are still due to His Excellency Mr. d'Arnim, I had thought that the Academy could reimburse him by the payment of the two pounds of mulberry seeds, however since this will drag through until next year, Mr. Mortimer has only to remit them to Mr. Battier to have them paid here with what you will send me for the almanacs.

The *Uranography* of Mr. Bevis has been dragging for such a long time. The subscribers have lost hope of ever seeing it in their life time. Therefore when it does appear it will appear to have been sooner than one thinks.

I have never written anything on the subject of Mr. de Buffon, having not even read his works on Natural History, however, before the book appeared, his ideas on the formation of the planets was communicated to me, ones which appear to be contrary to the theory which what I wrote in my answer. I have learned subsequently that Mr. de Buffon had inserted my objections in his works with a reply. I have no doubt that his reply is well-founded since it is very likely that I initially misunderstood his real intentions. Other than the papers that you have mentioned that I have published, there is *Methodus maximorum et minimorum*, *Theoria Cometarum* and the three reprints that are here enclosed.

I have yet to see the villainy that was written by those gentlemen from Leipzig concerning the excellent paper written by Professor Wettstein which has found general approval. However it is a great consolation that the general impertinence of the theologians is not limited to a single city.

Finally I kindly ask that you present my humble regards to your dear wife, to Mr. Finch and all the distinguished members of the Society of Science. My entire family does the same and I have the honor to have the highest esteem [...]

PS. Mr. Beckel of Basel is leaving for London at the employ of a Scottish Lord, he has asked me to recommend him to you as he seems to be a perfectly good person, and I trust that he will be worthy. I have just learned that the doubled prize of 5000 ecus which was placed on the question of the inequalities of Saturn and Jupiter has been awarded to my paper. I wished that they were pounds sterling.

1<sup>st</sup> Edit 12/2/03