

Euler to Wettstein
Berlin, 5 November 1757
Letter 296 (2797)

[...] The poor performance of our almanacs this year is apparently the reason why you have not placed another order for next year. However, having pressured the almanac publishers so that they are all ready and since we have made considerable corrections, I trust that you will not be upset when you receive the same number as last year, as long as they arrive on time. With this in mind I am hesitant to use the Rotterdam route, so with this in mind I chosen the Hamburg route which you indicated to me concerning the maps that Mr. Jeffries asked for and which I hope arrived. It is to Mr. Jefferies that these almanacs are addressed unless told otherwise, and I kindly request, Sir, that you offer him my very humble excuses in this regard and to reimburse him for any costs that he might have incurred.

I have hope that if the almanacs travel in this direction that they will arrive at the beginning of next month, however I have given orders that in case no ships are leaving Hamburg ,that the package will not be sent back to us. I beseech you very humbly, Sir, to forgive my liberty with you which the circumstances of the war have forced me to take and this little business appears too interesting for our Academy to drop it for a year. We have just begun to experience the fear of war. Because if it had been predicted that an army of Austrian troops would attack our city, and that our garrison would succumb and that the enemy would enter the city, I can admit that there would be no greater disaster that I could have imagined, and the terror of such misfortune would have given me the courage to flee to the other side of the world. Even though we had just been exposed to this enormous danger, divine intervention protected us from unhappy circumstances that should have befallen us. . Now, thank God, our situation is turning around, and for a few days now we are receiving good news. The Austrians have abandoned Silesia and

have pulled up the siege of Schweidnitz and Glaz after just a few blows that our troops gave them; the last of which was a great surprise, since our brave Prince Bevern had attacked and an army of 16000 men and during the encounter which took place at night a large number were put to the sword, 800 of which were made prisoners and taken to Breslau. This action forced the entire Austrian Army to retreat the next day since they were without provisions and had lost most of their horses. Prince de Bevern did not pass up the opportunity to pursue them and according to all reports they will suffer heavy losses and they will even risk losing all of their artillery due to the poor roads that they will have to travel. The King has also carried off some important victories over the Empire's combined forces and the French army which had come to besiege the city of Leipzig was driven off with heavy losses after having conquered the outskirts of the city; also an army of 12000 men had retreated to Merseburg where the King had them surrounded. There was an army that advanced to Halle and broke down the gates and began to pillage this good town, however during the occupation, they were surprised by the Hussars who massacred all of those who were in the city. At Leipzig a number of prisoners were taken and the surrender of the army of the Empire was simply incredible. Now our Prussian army is advancing towards the Swedes who being commanded by the prince of Holstein, brother to the King of Sweden, promises us a great success, since all the Swedish deserters who arrived here in great numbers have said unanimously that the troops are extremely upset with their Senate since they have no desire to wage war against their King's brother-in-law. So here we are on the eve of some very important news that our great God wishes to turn to our advantage.

All of our compatriots especially Baron de Gorgier with whom I will dine today at His Royal Highness Margrave Henry's offer their very humble regards, as well as my family which wishes the best to you and to your gracious wife. I have the honor to be with the greatest affection [...].

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