

Euler to Wettstein  
Berlin, 25 May 1748  
Letter 258 (2759)

I have no doubt whatsoever that you have very important commitments which prohibit you to respond to the letters that I took the liberty to address to you, and as I can not remember having taken any steps that might have caused you any grief, then I hope that your silence is neither caused by some illness or other unfortunate accident. I will agree that perhaps as small as your duties are that they are important enough to excuse your silence in conjunction to these minor insignificances concerning the almanacs and the tobacco, and I would be desperately unhappy if these items caused you the least inconvenience. Your friendship is so dear and precious, that I would prefer never having to receive another letter from your hand, then to lose the least part of your friendship. This statement involves the things that concern me immediately and I hope that you do not take them wrong when I ask that you write to me immediately with a few words on the state of affairs of the geographic maps for Count Kayserling which you were so generous to accept as a task. This important figure asks me occasionally if I have any news, and I always find myself very embarrassed in answering him. So kindly display the goodness to extract me from this uncomfortable position as soon as it is possible.

I have seen through reading the newspapers that you have told the Royal Society the points that I had discussed with you concerning the passage through Hudson Bay. On the one hand I am entirely confused that these points of interest were based on information that came to me through diverse and unproven channels of communication. . However on the other hand I would be particularly embarrassed, if I had better founded material, since the Petersburg Academy would be very angry with me, to which I was obliged to bear my apologies and to

assure them that it never entered my mind to release anything that was to be kept secret, even though I knew absolutely nothing. Furthermore, Sir, I am deeply indebted to you seeing that you wished to use this information in such a way to make up for my lack of duty towards your illustrious Society. However I hope that I will be forgiven, in view of the fact that it has been very difficult to send some mail to England by incurring very considerable expense. In the future I hope that I will be able to conduct my duties through Mr. Legge. I trust that you will convey my respects to Mr. President Folkes and all the worthy members of the Royal Society.

I easily understand that my last request which was very bold indeed to inconvenience you did not happen and I do not expect any reply but I ask a thousand apologies. Furthermore if you would reply to me concerning the issue with Count Kayserling and please tell me at the same time if you have received the almanacs that I took the liberty to send to you without your express request, having relied on the general order that you gave me last year.

I ask you to convey my most gracious regards to Madame, your wife and to accept all those that my family presents to you.  
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1<sup>st</sup> Edit 12/1/03