

Euler to Wettstein
Berlin, 16 August 1755
Letter 289 (2790)

[...] This is to advise you that Mlle Dehuron, whose interests both of us have kept close to our hearts, has happily left here last Tuesday and that she should have arrived in Hamburg before yesterday. I provided her with a letter of recommendation to a merchant who will take care to provide her with an occasion to finish her trip as soon as possible. She stayed in my house for 8 days, and even though her aunt appeared very upset that she left so quickly, she finally surrendered her entreaties to the point of making some small silverware gifts and giving her hope for her inheritance. However this affair made quite a bit of noise here. Mr. Dah, first chaplain to the court, has often had her to his offices to find out who were the Catholic priests who wished to convert her to Catholicism, but she did not name anyone. The head of the Consistory, Mr. Danckelmann questioned me attentively on the matter, and he would have been delighted had he been able to make his power felt over the Catholics on this occasion. . I have already had the honor to tell you, Sir, that this young lady needed suitable clothes for the trip, and finally I advanced her as much as was necessary for her to make the trip to Hamburg, the total amount came to 18 ecus. If however it is found that what I did was not appropriate by giving 12 ecus over the orders, I will consider it an honor to have been of service to this virtuous young woman as though she were my own, as her 8 days in my house showed us how pleasant she was. Furthermore had it not been for her traveling clothes there would have been no need to pay more than the orders indicated.

Having needed to see Mr. Splittgerber, who told me that he had not yet received the orders from Mr. Battier. This puts me at ease since I wanted him to remit the payments for the maps for

Mr. Jeffries, since both one and the other have to be accounted for in the Academy's treasury.

Mlle Dehuron will provide you with Mr. Collinson's diploma that the Academy wishes for you to give him.

I am impatiently awaiting receipt of the Transactions however as for Mr. Dietrich's magnets, I could very well bill them again, but since I still have a few, I see no way of selling them, because having already sold for 225 ecus and given the money to Mr. Dietrich, everyone around here is already suitably stocked in magnets.

However this same Dietrich has just made a discovery much more important of which you have probably already been informed: they are his pointing needles by which, irrespective of the direction in any place and any time observe the magnetic inclination. He has sent me two of these constructed instruments that I have examined with all possible care and I have found them to be very accurate at finding the magnetic inclination, but I have also used them in other important experiments which my son is writing up and will presented to the Academy. I have recommended these instruments to the Saint Petersburg Academy so as to obtain a decent reward for our compatriot's since he has spent a great deal of time making this discovery. I hope that your recommendations in England have better success, the discovery will have justified it, because one must admit that all of the pointing needles that have been made until now are worthless and the inclination is without doubt as worthy of our attention as the declension for observation since the English have given themselves so much trouble, besides which it is certain that we will never arrive at a perfect understanding of a magnet's nature without the exacts studies of the inclination., where it appears to me that the English should make a very big case concerning the inclined needles of Mr. Dietrich, if it were not for the fact that even things that are foreign are despised. . But that they should given this good man 50 pounds sterling for such an instrument, and I caution them that with this instrument they will be able to make others infinitely better and more important which may very well provide one day the surest way of observing

longitude at sea whereas one should encourage the first efforts so as to overcome difficulties otherwise one will never arrive at their goals. I have here two instruments of Mr. Dietrich's, which I hope to use at the Saint Petersburg Academy and if an English lord decided to take the other, he would not regret such a paltry expense due to the important discoveries that would not fail to be produced, since the construction is so different from anything that has been put into use until now and which contains ideas of such importance that it will lead invariably to discoveries of the greatest importance.

With the regards of my entire family, I have the honor of being with all humility [...]

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