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The Euler / Wettstein Letters

Letter 247 (2748)

Berlin, 8 January 1746

Euler establishes a new opportunity to sell the Academy's almanacs to England and to spread the wealth of ideas from the Prussian Academy to England. Euler tells Wettstein that Frederick II has given him everything he wants and Euler says, "*The King has named me his professor and I think that I am the happiest man in the world.*"

Letter 248 (2749)

Berlin, 29 March 1746

Mention of some accounting irregularity and the best ways to handle the almanacs transactions. The lunar tables and Dr Bradley, the English astronomer. The Berlin Academy's first volume of the Memoirs and Euler offers a barter of English tobacco for the almanacs.

Letter 249 (2750)

Berlin, 16 July 1746

The Russian expedition to Kamtschatka and Japan by Spangenberg and Bering's landfall in northwest California. The demise of his crew and the correct assumption that Asia and America are not connected. New lunar tables are sent to London. Euler would like to be a Fellow at the Royal Academy but does not wish to appear ambitious. Request for more tobacco and news of electricity experiments in Paris and Vienna.

Letter 250 (2751)

Berlin, 19 November 1746

The first issues of the genealogical almanacs are sent to London with their prices and Euler accepts Wettstein's offer to induct him into the Royal Society. Euler requests more tobacco and Folkes,

Bradley and Sterling are inducted into the Berlin Academy. Euler is pleased with his new lunar tables and in line with Newton's theory.

Letter 251 (2752)

Berlin, 10 December 1746

The current postage rates for the almanacs from Berlin to London. A geography lesson from Captain Bering and his to California, a lunar eclipse; Euler's doubts that Russia will publish the travelogue for fear of jeopardizing the trade route advantage. Mention of Halley lunar tables, Ledbetter's imperfect tables and Keill's astronomy.

Letter 252 (2753)

Berlin, 4 March 1747

Euler has received 27 pounds of tobacco and instructs for future posting instructions and is relieved to here that the almanacs arrived early. Euler points to Newton's theories and the lunar tables. Dr. Bradley's observations of the moon's passage through the meridian, the aberration of fixed stars, the correction for the parallax, a correction for the lunar eclipses. Thanks for induction into the Royal Society and Count Kayserling request for geographical maps of England. Struijck's research into comets and Halley's predictions of the comet's return. An electricity experiment kills a bird and all is well with baron Vernezobre.

Letter 253 (2754)

Berlin, 20 May 1747

Euler is thrilled to have been inducted into the Royal Society. Then there are a few points deeming the force of rowing. Mr. Bouguer's works contain an imperfection.

Letter 254 (2755)

London, 5 June 1747

Wettstein übersendet eine Übersetzung die er in aller Eile von einem Brief von Dobbs angefertigt hat. Wettstein hat diese Übersetzung nicht mehr korrigiert, Euler erkennt aber, worum es sich handelt. Wettstein bittet, für einen Bekanneten ihm die

“Berlinischen medizinischen Nachrichten in 4to komplett” zu besorgen und an seinen Cousin Fred. Henry Wettstein nach Amsterdam zu senden. Die 30 ecus warden Euler überwiesen warden. Wettstein hofft, dass Euler seinen Brief von 14 Mai erhalten hat.

Letter 255 (2756)

Berlin, 27 June 1747

Euler's request to Wettstein for all a comprehensive list of English maps. Euler instructs Wettstein on the type of tobacco he most enjoys. He explains to Wettstein that it was not necessary to translate Dobb's letter since he was proficient enough to translate Robbins "Gunnery" into German from English More concerning Bering's travels and Dobb's misunderstanding that Spangenberg went south and Bering went east. More on astronomy.

Letter 256 (2757)

Berlin, 5 December 1747

Wettstein goes to Basel to find a wife. Kayserling is anxious to receive the maps; Euler continues to push the almanacs and for more tobacco. He thanks Wettstein for pressing his treatise on Navigation to the Royal Society and even though it was not accepted, the Academy in Saint Petersburg renewed its copyrights.

Letter 257 (2758)

Berlin, 5 March 1748

Euler congratulates Wettstein on his proposed marriage. Euler mentions the English News and that Parliament is planning to allow for the naturalization of foreign Protestants and Euler mentions that he would like to immigrate to England. He is disenchanted because fine arts is supplanting mathematics and perhaps he will be out of a job and since Saint Petersburg is out of the question and that "neither our country nor elsewhere is suitable to me except England." Euler urges confidentiality.

Letter 258 (2759)

Berlin, 25 May 1748

Euler is concerned that Wettstein has not written and worries that his persistence for the almanacs and the tobacco are the reasons. Count Kayserling is impatient to receive the maps. Euler is upset that information concerning the passage through Hudson Bay has appeared in the London Newspapers. Euler purports that this was heresy and that if he had communicated more accurate information the Saint Petersburg Academy would have been very upset.

Letter 259 (2760)

Berlin, 29 June 1748

Euler suggests to Wettstein that he sends whatever maps he has collected of England and sends them immediately as well as some more tobacco. Euler mentions that even if the English parliament allows foreign Protestants to immigrate there will certainly not subsidize them. Euler is curious if there magnetic needle experiments conducted on the Hudson Bay expedition. Grischow and Lemonnier leave for London.

Letter 260 (2761)

Berlin 19 October 1748

Euler is anxious concerning the maps for Kayserling as well as the genealogical almanacs that Fasch should have communicated to Splittgerber. The Baron Vernezobre is suffering from the dropsy and does not expect to live long. M. D'Andrie is well and M. Grischow has been well treated while in London and Euler is infinitely grateful. Count Kayserling is disappointed that the rest of the maps have not come and well as showing the appreciation to Wettstein for all his efforts.

Letter 261 (2762)

Berlin, 18 January 1749

Kayserling's maps arrive and Bevis' Uranography, which concerns the mapping of the heavens, is under subscription with people waiting. Baron Vernezobre has died of hydrophy. The Russians have returned from their expeditions and it seems unlikely that the

information they have will prove that Hudson Bay is connected to the Pacific Ocean.

Letter 262 (2763)

Berlin, 28 June 1749

This letter appears in English and gives rise to the thought that the original was lost and a copy made from Wettstein letter at the Royal Society. Euler discusses the location of an Ibn-Jounis manuscript in Leyden. The only pre-existing astronomical documents date back to Ptolemy. Euler has noticed through Walter's Nuremburg observations that there have been sensible changes in planetary motion. He concludes that as the system has had a beginning it will also have an end.

Letter 263 (2764)

Berlin, 27 September 1749

Euler consoles Wettstein on the death on his child and says he was despairing when his twins died after 17 weeks. Euler hopes that the Arabic document that Lemonnier produced is authentic since Euler is hoping to find material on their observations rather than their conclusions which are of no value. Euler states that the sun's observations would be important to validate his conjecture on planetary motion. Bevis' Uranography is not out yet and Euler requests Bills of Mortality, and a copy of Robin's paper in which he mistreats Euler. More tobacco, please. Raphael Levy and Bruckner are searching for a solution to the longitude problem. Mr. Faure's calculation of the quadrature is wrong. Bernoulli and Koenig are mentioned as are Sarasin, Ryhiner and Passavant. M. d'Andrie has left to occupy his baronetcy and Mr. Battier has left the Prince of Saxe-Gotha without a trace. Everyone await Bevis' Uranography.

Letter 264 (2765)

Berlin, 20 December 1749

More of the almanacs, their prices and the way in which the dates are prescribed; in either the Julian or Gregorian fashion. First mention of Kohler's profiteering from the sale of the almanacs. Euler thanks Wettstein for presenting an extract on astronomy to the Royal Society concerning the orbits of the planets and the length of the year, Arabs, Chaldeans, the oscillations that a pendulum makes in time and other discussions on astronomy. Some social gossip.

Letter 265 (2766)

Berlin, August 28, 1750

Euler introduces the concept of "on consignment" to the sale of the almanacs. Euler says that he has not received the books and tobacco that were sent a year ago. The Prussian Minister of State wishes to have the same English maps that Wettstein sent to Euler.

Letter 266 (2767)

Berlin, 21 November 1750

When Grischow was in London, Wettstein packed books and tobacco for Euler. Grischow returned to Berlin but did not unpack and was awaiting a position in Saint Petersburg. Mr. Raillard is leaving for Brazil. The Uranography is late but when they are sent please send some tobacco.

Letter 267(2768)

Berlin, 30 January 1751

Euler gives the final billing for the last almanacs. Mentions to Wettstein that the Academy is preparing to publish its own atlas and requests another sets of maps for England, Scotland, Ireland and the American provinces. Grischow left his trunks so that it would be more convenient to send to Saint Petersburg. So Euler is without Halley's tables and his tobacco. He also requests the seeds

of a certain Canadian mulberry bush, it is rumored that the Uranography is completed and that Euler's 3 ½ year old son died at the end of the last year.

Letter 268 (2769)

Berlin, 27 April 1751

News concerning the death of the Prince of Wales is false, but still it sends Berlin into grief. Euler is impatient to receive his stock of tobacco and informs Wettstein that the books that he is sending will pay for the tobacco. Euler awaits the maps and the mulberry seeds. The Saint Petersburg Academy proposed the following question for its first international scientific contest for the solution to the following problem “to demonstrate whether all the inequalities observed in lunar motion are in accordance with Newtonian theory, and if they are not, to demonstrate the true theory behind all these inequalities, such that the exact position of the moon at any time can be computed by means of it.”

Letter 269 (2770)

Berlin, 5 June 1751

Euler receives his tobacco and hopes that Wettstein received the books. Euler has recommended a young man for service to an English household. High praise that he will do well. French born in Berlin and fluent in French and German and English. Requests that the maps be sent as soon as possible with the mulberry bush seeds. He requests copies of Halley's works on the trade winds and the magnetized needle. Mr. Grischow is in Petersburg with a decent salary to reimburse Dr. Mortimer, Raillard could not continue to tutor Count von Schmettau's children and has returned to Basel, and Mr. Passavant has established himself as tutor to Mme Thoulmeyer's sons.

Letter 270 (2771)

Berlin, 17 July 1751

Finch's young man has entered into service and Euler's is pleased to have been of help. Euler appreciates the tobacco and asks for another 12 pounds. Euler tells Wettstein to submit his bill for a letter of change and those de Maupertuis kindly requests the maps especially those that are of the American colonies. Euler is instructed to buy 200 mulberry bushes and if there are rare fruit trees please add a dozen of each. Euler asks for copies of the Philosophical Transaction from 1734.

Letter 271 (2772)

Berlin, 11 September 1751

Concerns about the young man deployed to Finch's service. The need to send 220 mulberry bushes from Virginia and the missing volumes of the Philosophical Transactions.

Letter 272 (2773)

Berlin, 9 October 1751

Euler extends his thanks for the tobacco and de Maupertuis and d'Arnim are anxious to have the maps. A list of trees is to be included when Wettstein ships the mulberry bushes. Could the new maps include the new geography of Hudson Bay? Mr. Clairaut has been awarded the prize of 100 ducats for the Saint Petersburg prize concerning Newtonian theory of attraction. The second Saint Petersburg prize questions the cost effectiveness of aqua regia. The second part of the Codex Fredericianus has been sent.

Letter 273 (2774)

Berlin, 30 November 1751

Euler asks about the receipt of the almanacs and the trees.

Letter 274 (2775)

Berlin, 26 February 1752

England has finally abolished its association with the old-style calendar (Gregorian). This simplifies reducing the number of almanac publications. Wettstein is conferred a title of honorary Academician. The trees have arrived safely and although the Magnolias are expensive they are beautiful. Dr Mortimer has died and the debt for the two pounds of seeds should be paid by the executors of his estate.

Letter 275 (2776)

Berlin, 25 April 1752

Euler tells Wettstein that the Academy is pleased to elect him as an honorary member. Euler is upset that the almanacs arrived late and that Wettstein has agreed to send additional copies of Halley's and Sherwin's tables. The mulberry bushes are doing well. Mr. Grischow still owes money to Dr. Mortimer's heirs and Euler will write to Mr. Schumacher in Saint Petersburg to ensure payment. Bevis' Uranography is still not off the presses. Euler mentions that Mr. de Buffon's Natural History does not align itself with his own understanding of the planets and has objected to that in his book. A scandalous reply to Wettstein's cousin from the gentlemen of Leipzig.

Letter 276 (2777)

Berlin, 8 July 1752

Euler expresses his surprise that Wettstein is not a member of the Royal Society of London, but is pleased that he has become a member of the Berlin Academy. Euler is in receipt of the Halley lunar and Sherwin mortality tables and explains that the almanacs will not longer contain dates in the "old-style" and that might help them sell better in England. He even suggests that the book seller in London take them on consignment. He expects the two pounds of seeds, the magnolias have done well and the fruit trees are splendid. Euler mentions two letters from Short and Dolland who criticize the new theory of optics and the manufacture of lenses. He feels

vindicated now that the answers were incontestable and in alignment with the great Newton.

Letter 277 (2778)

Berlin, 29 August 1752

Euler tells Wettstein that he has overpaid on this year's almanacs. He suggests that he simply deduct it from next year. He suggests that the London bookseller reduce the prices since there is no risk since they are on consignment. Euler is surprised that Wettstein still dates his letters in the "old-style". Schumacher of Saint Petersburg will get the money from Grischow and send it to Dr. Mortimer's heirs. If Mr. Collinson would send more seeds for some exotic plants the Academy would offer him a membership. The plants that were sent, although they grew well have died due to exposure during their transportation. Euler mentions receipt of Sussmilch's book on scriptural chronology and thinks that there is too much astronomical reference in the Pentateuch because the periodic solar and lunar references are far from the truth and that the "Hard head" philosophers would have a field day if the truth and the references in the bible were true. Mention that Newton was an alchemist and that Kepler was an astrologer. Dolland has a problem with Euler's theory of refraction, which Euler refutes.

Letter 278 (2779)

Berlin, 21 November 1752

The Berlin Academy almanacs were printed in French, German and Latin. Euler asks for exotic plants seeds and promises to send Mr. Collinson some caryophylli flore (yellow carnations). Mr. Eller has sent his Principles of medical and Euler's critiques an American philosopher's attempt to explain universal gravity and as that the attempt to explain gravity due to the force of the Sun's rays is ridiculous. Euler talks about the 1744 prize on magnets (Paris) and the cause of universal gravity, the elasticity of ether and fluid mechanics. Short and Dolland have objections to Dioptics. Mr. Bruckner's rowing machine will not work properly.

Letter 279 (2780)

Berlin, 31 March 1753

Euler congratulates Wettstein on the birth of a child. The almanacs were held up in Holland but 70 copies were sold. The Euler's preference for the different cuts of tobacco is discussed. Different papers from the Philosophical Transactions are mentioned. Euler discusses a short paper on the Revelation and the "Big Bang" theory and that LaMetterie is just wrong in believing in fortuitous circumstances since the orbits are different today as they were in the beginning. De Maupertuis gives his best and Formey is grateful that Wettstein approves of his Christian philosophy.

Letter 280 (2781)

Berlin, 27 October 1753

Euler commiserates with Wettstein concerning a death in the family. Mr. Collinson will be elected to the Berlin Academy for the fine work that he has done to improve the Prussian Academy's gardens. Euler's needs Sherwin's Tables of Mortality since he will use them for teaching the two students that are pensioning with him. One is from Saint Petersburg and the other from Geneva. Delisle condemns the Russian Atlas and has written a paper on the territories beyond Kamtschatka. Saint Petersburg is upset. The Berlin Academy has authorized a naval attaché to write a paper on the expedition to counter Delisle's findings. Euler claims that the savages above California ate 12 Russians. A quack doctor from Aargau is a scam.

Letter 281 (2782)

Berlin, 27 October 1753

The tobacco and the books are appreciated. Euler's seeks out the little pamphlet on the "Hard-heads". Mr. Buass' discovery is nothing and Mr. Bruckner's theory of rowing is nothing as well. The first death by electrocution has killed Professor Richmann. The French are abandoning their electrical experiments and Euler says we have Benjamin Franklin to be thank for. The Russian ships will return with an answer after two years looking for a passage into Hudson Bay. Uranography will probably not appear. So people will

be out of some advances. Euler's mother is living near her son on a farm with horses and cows with arable fields and full of paying guests and a tutor for his children. Baron de Gorgier sends his best.

Letter 282 (2783)

Berlin, 8 January 1754

Euler hopes that Wettstein is in good spirits despite the death of their child. He requests the payment for last year's almanacs. Euler is figure the best way to have books shipped to and from England to Hamburg and factor in the buyers, sellers and publishers. There is mention of a Chinese letter which concerns ancient observations of eclipses from 2000 BC identifying the acceleration of the sun and the moon. Euler says that Mayer is a very good astronomer. Also mention that there will be an astronomical catastrophe with the change of lunar orbits. De Maupertuis is in St. Mâlo and some of the plants that were shipped were damaged by the cold and have died. Mr. Buass's vegetation and Baron de Gorgier has disappeared to take care of his estate.

Letter 283 (2784)

Berlin, 9 April 1754

Wettstein's cousin dies in Holland. Euler has mentioned something unflattering about Delisle and is upset that it has been made public. Euler mentions planetary acceleration. Mayer of Gottingen mentions the acceleration in his lunar tables. Euler is very complimentary concerning the accuracy of Mayer's tables and that they are far more accurate than Halley's and that they should be awarded the prize from the Longitude Board since they only requires a 30" degree of accuracy in the observation of a star to the moon at sea so that the error of observation is less than 30" and then determine the longitude to within one half degree of exactness. The Uranography has finally appeared and Euler would like some tobacco when Wettstein sends his copy. Euler objects to someone's insinuation that planetary acceleration can be observed. It is a clear case of mathematical computation in accordance with good observations. Euler will add Collinson's name to the new list

of proposed memberships. There has been no success from the factory that was built to extract gold from silver.

Letter 284 (2785)

Berlin, 6 July 1754

Euler appreciates Wettstein's efforts to sell the almanacs and apologizes on the mistakes and the poor quality of illustrations. He tries to get Wettstein to vacation in Berlin. Euler mentions his correspondence with Clairaut and is impressed with him as a "principled man" as opposed to rest of the Parisian academicians. Euler mentions Delisle and how but not why he is prohibited to writing him. Mayer of Gottingen is still working to increase the accuracy of his lunar tables, but if he is to win the Board of Longitude's prize he must insure their accuracy at sea. Euler refers to a Mr. Megard of Geneva who has constructed a two inch lens telescope which would be excellent to find Jupiter on land but difficult to observe while at sea. Mr. Bruckner's rowing machine is worthless. Mention of Mr. d'Haucarville as a scoundrel but a savvy mathematician, but Euler reserves judgment until he sees the book

Letter 285 (2786)

Berlin, 16 November 1754

Euler mentions receipt of two letters and that de Maupertuis was sorry not to see Wettstein in Paris. Euler congratulates Wettstein on his membership to the London Society. The Transactions have mentioned Dolland's argument concerning the refraction of rays of different colors and that the law is flawed due to an embedded contradiction. Mention that d'Alembert has not thought as closely of his lunar tables as has Mayer. Bruckner complains that no one pays attention to his calculations and Mr. Dietrich's artificial magnets.

Letter 286 (2787)

Berlin, 1 March 1755

Euler is pleased to learn that the almanacs were well received thanks to all the corrections that were made. Euler offers Dietrich of Basel a position as tutor to his children, the offer is 60 ecus a year

with full board, but he has to live with Euler's mother in Charlottenburg. A wish for Wettstein to inform Messrs Bradley and Short that the changes to the obliquity of the ecliptic are not only due to the nutation of the earth's axis but also due to the fact that the obliquity diminishes by 48" every century. Euler reveals that there are changes at the fixed star latitudes. Having compared the fixed star catalogues of Ptolemy, Tycho and Flamsteed, Euler is surprised that others have not noticed that some stars are further from the ecliptic pole, depending on their longitude correspondence and that he will be surprised if d'Alembert does not instantly publish the results when he finds out.

Letter 287 (2788)

Berlin, 31 May 1755

Dietrich arrived safely, maps are frightfully expensive to engrave, print and send. Mays praecox seeds, tobacco, subscription of Virgil. Mr. Mayer of Gottingen is the most likely candidate to date to warrant the Longitude prize since it is thought that the Moon will provide the solution to the longitude problem. No tic tock, tic tock- yet.

Letter 288 (2789)

Berlin, 5 August 1755

Mlle Dehuron fears forced conversion from her religion and presses Euler to escape from her aunt's clutches. Mr. Splittgerber gets the money for the almanacs and Mr. Jefferies should give the money for the maps to Mr. Battier and Mr. Collinson's diploma will be sent with Mlle Delhuron as Mr. Formey did not think it appropriate to send it by mail. Euler has been awarded foreign membership to the Paris Academy along with Lord Macclesfield. Euler son has been awarded first prize from the Gottingen Academy and as member to the Berlin Academy. Mr. Mayer of Gottingen is mentioned as well as his tables. Euler awaits the Transactions.

Letter 289 (2790)

Berlin, 16 August 1755

Mlle Dehuron has left the Euler household for Hamburg and then England. There is political intrigue against the Catholics who have been implicated in the attempt to convert Mlle Dehuron. Mr. Dah first chaplain and Mr. Danckelmann, head of the Consistory have been involved. Mention of Mr. Dietrich's magnets and the fact that his instruments for designating the magnetic inclination is extremely precise.

Letter 290 (2791)

Berlin, 15 November 1755

The order of the new almanacs has been sent. Euler lays out in great detail the approach to the manufacturing of a telescope that reduces the border discoloration and minimizes the amount of distortion which has as much to do with the refractivity of the rays as well as the sphericity of the lenses. He mentions that Dioptrics is ready from the printer. Euler would like Wettstein to find a manufacturer and then to present it to the Royal Society, in expectations he sends the manufacturing specification along with the caveat that the manufacturer should find a Lord to pick up the tab. Mlle Dehuron arrive safely in London.

Letter 291 (2792)

Berlin, 22 May 1756

Euler is distressed to learn of Wettstein's deteriorating eyesight. The Mulberry seeds have arrived, as well as Mr. Leland's third volume, and the almanacs accounting appears to be off and Euler notices that the seeds have not been deducted from the amount. Euler and Dolland are still working out the details of the laws governing the refracting of the lenses necessary to produce truly fine telescopes. There was never any question as to the shape of the lenses which are spherical or parabolic, but only of the new law that rays of different colors refract differently when passing through one transparent medium to another.

Letter 292 (2793)

Berlin, 30 August 1756

Mr. Mitchell has kind words for Euler. Mr. Bertrand of Geneva has been a student of Euler's for four years and will take a break from the war and his studies having received permission to go to London. Euler entreats Wettstein to take care of him. Euler has sent the maps and the last Memoires, but is upset that anyone might think that Voltaire wrote some of the verses in the almanac. Mr. Bertrand will provide a full report on the Euler family and Euler pleads for more tobacco since he is reduced to smoking plugs.

Letter 293 (2793)

Berlin, 9 October 1756

Wettstein returns to London from Bristol and he hopes that he has see Mr. Bertrand. Mr. Murdoch has provided the Berlin Academy with the History of the Royal Society of London. Mr. Bertrand has a map of North America and has left for field duties with the king. Based on the last battle Te Deums will be sung and sermons based on Psalm 20, verse 6.

Letter 294 (2795)

Berlin 26 March 1757

The almanacs stayed in Rotterdam and are now late. Euler is sending a copy of *Analysin ad Infinitorum* which St Petersburg has just printed. Mr. Dietrich's inclination machine. Euler looks at the moon's atmosphere and remarks that the ring eclipse of 1748 showed that the diameter of the ring had become larger he assumes because the atmosphere is thinner at the moon than on earth. An in-depth look at ring perceptions.

Letter 295 (2796)

Berlin, 17 September 1757

The war has changed the public's mood. Despite heavy fighting, the strongest of the enemies are attacking from all sides and that the Swedes have joined the fray and Prussia feels betrayed since they entered into a truce with the French. Euler states emphatically, so that we finally learn what the world has entirely forgotten, that it is the Eternal One who rules the world and that he is the Kin of Kings.

Letter 296 (2797)

Berlin, 5 November 1757

Euler apologizes for the poor performance of the almanacs, but he says that revisions have been made and the errors will not be repeated. Prussia begins to fear the war and the thought of Austrians garrisoned in Berlin causes Euler to think of fleeing to the other side of the world. The Austrians have abandoned Silesia and have pulled up the siege of Schweidnitz and Glaz. The King's forces have relieved Leipzig against heavy French losses. Important communications concerning the Empire's strategy.

Letter 297 (2798)

Berlin, February 4, 1758

Euler hopes that the English nation will undertake to support the just cause of our august King, which is the liberty of the Germanic cause and the conservation of the Protestant religion. English troops were mis-sent to the French coast and some German states have been flooded. The bill for the maps has been sent to Mr. Jeffreys and the almanacs had not arrived at Christmas. But Euler took the precaution that if the almanacs were not in London by Christmas then they would be sold in Hamburg. And please reduce the price of the almanacs by the amount of the tobacco and books.

Letter 298 (2799)

Berlin, 28 June 1758

Euler is unsure how much to charge for the late almanacs so just substitute for tobacco. Prince Ferdinand is a hero and the English flotilla entered Brest and destroyed 104 ships. The progress in Moravia depends on the fall of Olmutz. Austria and France need the Russians whose viciousness is feared by all. The Prussians had to abandon the Swedes to stop the Russians and the French are threatening with a new army. But Euler's faith is sanguine despite present circumstances. The French are cajoling the Danes to join the Swedes. Mr. Dietrich has died and Euler still has one of his inclination magnetized needle machine which Dietrich did not wish to be used by the Russians which is why he did not cash it in for the 100 ducats prize. Two of Euler's compatriots are tutors to the Prussian princes and he asks what glory is there for our nation when the education of the Prussian princes is in the hands of the Swiss?

Letter 299 (2800)

Berlin, 11 August 1758

70 almanacs were returned, the last volume of the Philosophical Transactions was from 1755 and Mr. Peloutier the librarian has died. The war has changed to Prussian favor. The Vienna, Paris and Saint Petersburg entente has collapsed and Ferdinand has kicked the coalition forces out of Brunswick, Hanover and Hesse. Swedish troops have been destroyed and 30000 French and Austrians troops were thwarted in their attempts to invade Bohemia. The Russian Court is demanding the recall of a certain foreign minister. Poland is in great turmoil and that the king has left Warsaw and the poles are screaming against the Russian invasion and the Prussians have followed them to stop them from entering Silesia. A Swedish undertaking at the Pennemunde garrison ended tragically. Euler hopes that the almanacs fare better next year. Mr. Schaub has died and Mr. Huber has left for Basel to marry Mlle Rhoner. In his post scriptum, Euler adds that the captured French and Swiss are boasting that they will crush Ferdinand and his army.

Letter 300 (2801)

Berlin, 31 October 1758

Euler mentions unfortunate setbacks in Hesse and Saxony. The Turks diversionary tactics did not work and they will suffer the consequences of the Russians and Austrians to fall onto them. A Dutch ship sent by the French has arrived in Danzig filled with money for the Russians. Euler has received payment for the Wettstein's outstanding balance; a pound of *Genesta spinosa* seeds from Mr. Collinson, the war has slowed the production of the almanacs, Mr. de Maupertuis will spend the winter in Basel and Mr. Huber is married. Bradley objects to the accuracy of the Dietrich's magnetized needle inclination device. Even though it would not work in heavy seas, it is worth a modest investment of 6 guineas to perfect it. Euler is pleased that Dolland understands Euler's theory on the complex refrangibility of light rays. The last Transactions contained work on changes in the obliquity of the ecliptic and the variation in the latitude of the fixed stars.

Letter 301

Berlin, 28 April 1759

Euler learns that Wettstein is not well. Euler discourses on the war and the battles at Rossbach, Prague and Lowoset, and that it was unfortunate that the King had to abandon Saxony and attack the Austrians in Silesia. The almanacs were sent in mid-November and arrived too late in February. This is a loss for the Academy and Euler since his tobacco was dependent on the sales of the almanacs.

Letter 302 ((2803)

Berlin, 24 July 1759

Euler predicts that any new developments on the war front will be in America. Euler is happy with Wettstein's announcement that once the war is over and peace returns he will go to Berlin and establish himself far from the kapnosphere (*kapnos*, Greek for fog) of London. Euler apologizes for the lateness of the almanacs and says that the merchant in Hamburg forgot the package. Wettstein would like to prepay for the almanacs but Euler reasons that it is not possible to evaluate their currencies because of the fluctuations. Rumors that de Maupertuis is dead or dying.

Letter 303 (2804)

Berlin, 23 October 1759

General Wiench has recovered Wittenburg and Torgau and Dresden surrendered as he approached. Euler feels that even Berlin was threatened. Fortuitous circumstances retreated from the gates Berlin based on poor information. Russia is accepting reparations from the English which will relieve the pressure on Prussia. There is mention of the capture of Quebec. Mention of Dolland's discovery concerning the different refractibility of glass.

All letters translated by:

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