

Correspondence between Carl August von Bergen and Carl Linnaeus

https://www.alvin-portal.org/alvin/view.jsf?dswid=-4306&searchType=EXTENDED&query=rhinoceros&aq=%5B%5B%7B%22A_FQ%22%3A%22rhinoceros%22%7D%5D%5D&aqe=%5B%5D&af=%5B%5D&pid=alvin-record%3A223672&c=16#alvin-record%3A223672

Letter 9 August 1746, Frankfurt an der Oder to Carl Linnaeus. L0723.

(Text, Manuscript)

Language

- Latin

Persons

- [Bergen, Carl August von](#), 1704-1759 (author)
- [Linné, Carl von](#), 1707-1778 (addressee)

Incipit

Improvisam occasionem praesentes has litteras

Origin

[Frankfurt an der Oder](#), Germany, 9 Aug. 1746 [1746-08-09]

Physical description

Format: Non digital + Digital, reformatted digital

Abstract

- Carl August von Bergen seizes an opportunity to send Linnaeus some new works and also to ask if Linnaeus ever received the bundle he had sent two years earlier [von Bergen to Linnaeus, 15 July 1744{L0569}]. Bergen is surprised that the exchange of information between them, which had just been started, works so badly that Bergen sees letters from Linnaeus more seldom than he sees animals from the remote countries of India.

The reason why he mentions such animals is that Bergen has just seen a live female rhinoceros, quite unlike the elephant and more like a boar and so fond of wet places, that some scholars consider it to be an amphibious animal. Bergen specifies which of Linnaeus's works that he expected to receive in return for the things he had sent himself. He is most interested in *Amoenitates academicae* together with *Musa Cliffortiana* and *Flora Lapponica*, which he had already asked for in an earlier letter [von Bergen to Linnaeus, 24 June 1744{L0493}]. Linnaeus is advised to hand over what is meant for Bergen to a Mr Janson, who has promised to ensure that it is delivered safely to Bergen.

Transcription

- Viro Excellentissimo Experientissimo Celeberrimo
Domino
Carolo Linnaeo

S[alutem]
Carolus Augustus a Bergen

Improvisam Occasionem praesentes has litteras, una cum inclusis scriptis academicis hujus loci ad Te exarandi ambabus manibus lubens arripio, partim ut meae in Te observantiae novum aliquod exstet testimonium, partim ut rescirem, an meus fasciculus ante biennium jam missus ad manus tuas pervenerit necne? Nescio enim cujus culpa factum sit, quod commercium litterarium vix inter nos institutum protinus adeo abruptum fuerit, ut litteras tuas inspicere rarius longe mihi sit quam Indiae remotissimas belluas videre. Scias enim velim me his nundinis vidisse rhinocerotem feminam vivam, belluam scil[icet] quae generici characteris intuitu plane non convenit cum elephanto sed quam potius suem lacustrem et scil[icet] masculum, porcum lacustrem sui generis nominarem, adeo enim uliginosa amat loca, ut sint qui hoc animal amphibiiis adnumerent. Pro transmissis scriptis expeto mihi tuas, Vir doctissime, Dissertationes Academicas, quas nuper et ab eo tempore, quo cathedram ornas academicas edidisti, his quoque, si floram Lapponicam (Suecicam enim possideo) vel Musam Cliffortianam addere digneris, rem facies mihi gratissimam, quam omni officiorum genere demereri studebo. Si quaedam ergo parata habes, quae transmissioni destinasti poteris, ea tuto concredere Dom[ino] Jansono Civi nostrae urbis, conterraneo tuo, qui mihi promisit se operam daturum, ut quae ipsi pro me concredentur certo ad manus meas pervenirent. Vale interim Patriae decus, Vir doctissime, et me amare perge!

Dab[am] Francofurti ad Viadrum d[ie] 9 Aug[usti] 1746.

Notes

- Letter from or to Linnaeus
- **Additional physical form** : Linnaeus, Carl: Bref och skrivelser af och till Carl von Linné. Utgifna och med upplysande noter försedda af Th. M. Fries, J. M. Hulth & A. Hj. Uggla. Afdelning I:1-8, Afdelning II:1-2 (Stockholm 1907-1943). Vol. II:1: 178 P. 272-273
- **Original location**: a. (Linnean Society, London, I, 522-523).

Literature

Linnaeus, Carl: Amoenitates academicae, I-X (Stockholm 1749-1790). Soulsby no. 1280.

Linnaeus, Carl: Flora Lapponica exhibens plantas per Lapponiam crescentes, secundum systema sexuale collectas in itinere [...] Additis synonymis, & locis natalibus omnium, descriptionibus & figuris rariorum, viribus medicatis & oeconomicis plurimarum (Amsterdam, 1737). Soulsby no. 279.

Linnaeus, Carl: Musa Cliffortiana florens Hartecampi 1736 prope Harlemum (Leiden 1736).

Letter 10 October 1746, Uppsala to Carl August von Bergen, Frankfurt an der Oder. L0727.

(Text, Manuscript)

Language

- Latin

Persons

- [Linné, Carl von](#), 1707-1778 (author)
- [Bergen, Carl August von](#), 1704-1759 (addressee)

Incipit

Hodie accept munus tuum e variis curiosis

Origin

[Uppsala](#), Sweden, 1746 d. 29 septembris [1746-10-10]

Physical description

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Format: Non digital

Abstract

- Linnaeus thanks Carl August von Bergen for the letter of 9 August{L0723} with the enclosed works.

Bergen seems to remember Linnaeus, although Bergen has not received anything Linnaeus sent to him at the beginning of the spring [this letter has not come down to us].

Linnaeus reports that he has made a journey of 250 Swedish miles through the province of Västergötland and to the West Coast of Sweden. He has collected many things there, which he will publish in Swedish just as he has already published his reports on earlier journeys [Linnaeus's report was published in 1747, *Wäst-göta-resa*].

Flora Zeylanica is about to be printed. It will deal with plants collected by the late Paul Hermann in Ceylon, and the specimens are in Linnaeus's possession.

Linnaeus is thankful for what Bergen tells on the rhinoceros. Linnaeus has never seen one, and he does not believe in the earlier descriptions. There is a new description, recently published by James Douglas, but Linnaeus has not seen it. English books are scarce and late in reaching Uppsala. [The description was probably never publised, but a drawing made by Douglas at a visit to Leiden in the 1720's, see Rookmaker, 1978].

Linnaeus asks Bergen to make a good study of the animal and report his observations to Linnaeus.

Linnaeus has sent a number of books, mainly dissertations, "de Horto academico" [*Hortus upsaliensis*], "Museo principis" [*Museum Adolpho-Fridericianum*], "Plantis Burseri" [*Dissertatio botanica, qua Plantae Martino-Burserianae explicantur*], "Acrostico" [*Dissertatio botanico, in qua Acrosticum [...] curiosorum oculis modeste subjicit*], "Ananadria" [*Dissertatio botanica de Anandria*] and "Musam cliff." [*Musa Cliffortiana*] by ship from Uppsala to Stockholm, and they are meant for Bergen. In addition, Bergen should know that Uppsala is far from the centres of scholarship and a place where news and literature come late, and Linnaeus has many distractions. Bergen will notice for himself that Linnaeus writes a dissertation in one day and has it printed the day after.

Transcription

- Viro Illustri,
D[omino] D[octori] CAR[OLO] AUG[USTO] a BERGEN,
Professori celeberrimo,
S[alutem] pl[urimam] d[icit]
Car[olus] Linnaeus.

Hodie accepi munus tuum e variis curiosis opusculis una cum literis d[ie] 9 augusti exaratis.

Tu mei memor vivis, licet meas nec accipis literas nec munuscula.

Doleo, quod non acceperis literas, quas scripsi primo vere.

Hac aestate Historiae naturalis causa 250 milliaria Suecica emensus sum per provinciam Westrogothiae et littora maris occidentalis. Multa ibi legi curiosa, quae edam Suetice, uti antehac iter Gotlandicum & Suecicum.

Flora Zeylanica propediem praelum subibit, quas continet plantas omnes a Beato Paulo Hermanno in Zeylona lectas, redactas ad certa genera cum varietatibus et veris synonymis. Videbis quod non vidisti in Asiaticis plantis. Plantas ipsas ab Hermanno lectas ad manus habeo.

Gratissima sunt quae de Rhinocerote mones; ego animal numquam vidi; si vidissem non ita errassem; qui ante me viderunt non oculatiores in eo fuere; Duglassi descriptionem novam non vidi; raro enim ad nos libri Anglici advehuntur.

Fac, ut per tuos oculos videam hoc genus; des, quaeso, mihi characterem pro nova systematis editione; describas mihi praesertim dentes, mammas &c.; tua fide et tuo nomine genus constituam; si Tu non velis, nec miraberis me praestantiozem dare non potuisse.

Misi hodie cum nave Holmiam dissertationes de Horto academico, Museo principis, Plantis Burseri, Acrostico, Anandria, Musam Cliff[ortianam], quas cito conedere licuit. Tu aequi bonique consulas; et quae sunt levidensia amicis oculis intueare, nec succenseas viro ad remotissimas regiones delato, ad quas vix fama eruditorum pervenit, multo minus docta et limata opera, nisi casu et fortuito. Deinde scias nimis multa esse quae me quotidie distrahunt, ut nequeam meas cogitationes limare et polire quemadmodum deceat; dissertationes enim apud nos conscribimus uno die, altero imprimimus, quod et facile videbis me tacente.

Quaeso ad D[ominum] Gleditschium mittas Dissertationes, in quibus ejus nomen adposui, cum mihi vix alia occasio mittendi succurrat. Valeas et floreas!

Dabam Upsaliae 1746 d[ie] 29 septembris.

Viro Experientissimo &
Celeberrimo

Notes

- Letter from or to Linnaeus

The transcription based upon the edition in *Bref och skrivelser*, II:1, (19161), a digitized image of the original manuscript will be added later.

- **Additional physical form** : Linnaeus, Carl: *Bref och skrivelser af och till Carl von Linné. Utgifna och med upplysande noter försedda af Th. M. Fries, J. M. Hulth & A. Hj. Uggla. Afdelning I:1-8, Afdelning II:1-2* (Stockholm 1907-1943). Vol. II:1: 179 P. 273-274

Literature

Linnaeus, Carl: *Dissertatio Botanica de Anandria*, diss., resp. E. Z. Tursén (Uppsala 1745). Soulsby no. 1434.

Linnaeus, Carl: *Dissertatio Botanica, qua Plantae Martino-Burserianae explicantur*, diss., resp. R. Martin (Uppsala, 1745). Soulsby no. 1417.

Linnaeus, Carl: *Dissertatio botanico, in qua Acrosticum [...] curiosorum oculis modeste subjicit*, diss., resp. J. B. Heiligtag (Uppsala, 1745). Soulsby no. 1439.

Linnaeus, Carl: *Flora Zeylanica; sistens plantas Indicas Zeylonae insulae, quae olim 1670-1677, lectae fuere a Paulo Hermanno [...] demum post 70 annos ab Augusto Günthero [...] orbi redditae* (Stockholm, 1747).

Soulsby no. 420.

Linnaeus, Carl: Hortus Upsaliensis, resp. S. Naucmér (Upsala, 1745). Soulsby no. 1424.

Linnaeus, Carl: Musa Cliffortiana florens Hartecampi 1736 prope Harlemum (Leiden 1736).

Linnaeus, Carl: Museum Adolpho-Fridericianum, diss., resp. L. Balk (Uppsala, 1746). Soulsby no. 1443.

Linnaeus, Carl: Wäst-göta-resa på riksens högloflige ständers befallning förrättad år 1746. Med anmärkningar uti oeconomien, naturkunnogheten, antiquteter, inwånarnes seder och lefnads-sätt (Stockholm 1747).

Letter 16 March 1747, Frankfurt an der Oder to Carl Linnaeus, Uppsala. L0790.

(Text, Manuscript)

Language

- Latin

Persons

- [Bergen, Carl August von](#), 1704-1759 (author)
- [Linné, Carl von](#), 1707-1778 (addressee)

Incipit

Eadem occasione qua nuperrimas tuas

Origin

[Frankfurt an der Oder](#), Germany, XVI. Martii. 1747

Physical description

-

Format: Non digital + Digital, reformatted digital

Abstract

- Carl August von Bergen answers Linnaeus's mail of 10 October 1746{L0727} by return of the same mail. Bergen would like the same person who brought this letter to continue to act as an intermediary. Bergen had never received the letter that Linnaeus says he wrote at the beginning of the spring [this letter has not come down to us]. Bergen would be glad to receive copies of Linnaeus's travel reports, even if they are in Swedish, and also *Flora Zeylanica*. Bergen admits that he has seen the rhinoceros but not so well that he would be prepared to make a formal description of it, and in view of his short experience in natural history, he would be satisfied to present it in a lecture to the Frankfurt academy [Bergen published his speech, *Oratio de rhinocerote, etc.*]. Bergen does not know the literature published by James Douglas and mentioned by Linnaeus.

Bergen thanks Linnaeus for the books he received, especially for *Musa Cliffortiana*. Bergen sends some dissertations from his and other German universities. Bergen specifically asks Linnaeus to

send him some dissertations that he knows would interest Janson, who will be travelling more times between Uppsala and Frankfurt, namely *Disputationem botanico-medicam inauguralem qua Ficus, ejusque historia naturalis & medica exhibetur* and Groenvald's [Anders Grönvall's] *Argenti fodinae ut et urbis Salanae succincta delineatio*. He also asks for a copy of *Hortus Upsaliensis*. Lastly, Bergen mentions some works that Janson would be ready to pay for, so he asks if Jens Lauridsen Wolf's, *Norrigia Illustrata* and [Christoph Steinkühl] Peder Claussøn Friis' *Topographia Norwegiae*, are available. Bergen would also like to receive samples of Nordic shells, fossils and minerals, if Linnaeus has duplicates, and he is willing to send samples from his country in exchange. Johann Gottlieb Gleditsch has got the dissertations that Linnaeus had asked Bergen to forward, but Bergen has not yet received confirmation from Gleditsch.

Transcription

- Viro Illustri et Excellentissimo,
Domino Carolo Linnaeo,
Professori longe celeberrimo,
S[alutem] P[lurimam] D[icit]
Carolus Augustus a Bergen.

Eadem Occasione, qua nuperrimas tuas, mihi que gratissimas, die XXIX Sept[embris] a[nni] p[rioris] exaratas, accepi, eadem prorsus nunc has mitto responsorias. Et ni sane iniquae petitionis censuram subirem, optarem profecto, bonum istum Virum, qui praesentes adfert, suis diutius detineri litibus, modo tuis quotannis suavissimis litteris gaudere possim; quas autem primo vere scriptas mones, nunquam accepi. Itinera tua licet vestro idiomate scripta gratissima mihi forent munera, quod et de Flora Zeylanica intellectum volo, si ita Tibi visum fuerit. Rhinocerotem licet viderim, non eo animo contemplatus sum, ut animalis descriptionem publicarem, probe conscius, quam curta mihi in Scientia naturali supellex sit, nihilo minus nuperrima tua mihi stimulo fuere, ut qualiacunque mea observata occasione Sermonis Academici in lucem ederem. Tui nunc erit judicare, an quicquam pro determinando genere eruere valeas. Figuram animalis Berolini factam archetypum accurate representantem adposui ratus hoc ipsum Tibi non ingratum fore. Douglasii scriptum autem nunquam vidi. Selectissimas tuas Dissertationes avidè perlegi, pro quibus atque imprimis Musa Cliffortiana grates Tibi persolvo in perpetuum duraturas.

Nunc iterum mitto Dissertationes quasdam nostrae et aliarum Germaniae Academicarum pro quibus si revertente iterum Jansonio Dissert[ationem] tuam de Ficu nec non adhuc semel Hortum Upsaliensem. Dissert[ationem] D[omi]n[i] Groenvald de argentifodinis Salanae Upsal[iae] 1725 habitam mihi certo promittere possem, multis nominibus Tibi me obstrictum pollicerer. Imo si forsàn Lorizen Wolff[i] Norigia illustrata, nec non Christian[i] Steinkühe (litteris initialibus C. S. K. H. D) Topographia Norvegiae, Haffniae impressa, apud vos prostare[n]t, quanti constarent Jansonius pro me lubentissime solvet. Tandem si conchyliorum, petrefactorum et mineralium Septentrionalium exemplaria in duplo possides et superfluum copiam facere digneris, ego, quae nostra fert tellus naturae producta certo certius communicaturus sum. D[omi]n[o] Gleditschio tuas misi dissertationes sed mihi hactenus nondum respondit.

Vale et fave!

Dab[am] Francof[urti] ad Viadrum die XVI Martii 1747.

Notes

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- **Additional physical form** : Linnaeus, Carl: Bref och skrivelser af och till Carl von Linné. Utgifna och med upplysande noter försedda af Th. M. Fries, J. M. Hulth & A. Hj. Uggla. Afdelning I:1-8, Afdelning II:1-2 (Stockholm 1907-1943). Vol. II:1: 180 P. 275-276
- **Original location**: a. (Linnean Society, London, I, 524-525).

Literature

Bergen, Carl August von: *Oratio de rhinocerote, etc.* (Frankfurt an der Oder, 1746).

Friis, Peder Claussön: *Topographia Norwegiae. : Das ist eigentliche Beschreibung des Königreichs Norwegen [...]* (1685)

Grönvall, Anders: *Argenti fodinae ut et urbis Salanae succincta delineatio, diss., resp. P. O. Wollenius* (Uppsala, 1725).

Linnaeus, Carl: *Flora Zeylanica; sistens plantas Indicas Zeylonae insulae, quae olim 1670-1677, lectae fuere a Paulo Hermanno [...] demum post 70 annos ab Augusto Günthero [...] orbi redditae* (Stockholm, 1747).
Soulsby no. 420.

Linnaeus, Carl: *Hortus Upsaliensis, resp. S. Naucclér* (Upsala, 1745). Soulsby no. 1424.

Linnaeus, Carl: *Musa Cliffortiana florens Hartecampi 1736 prope Harlemum* (Leiden 1736).

Wolf, Jens Lauridsen: *Norrhgia Illustrata, eller Noriges med sine underliggende Lande oc Øer [...]*
Beskriffvelse, etc. (Copenhagen, 1651).