

Euler to Wettstein
Berlin, 24 July 1759
Letter 302 (2803)

[...] It is exceedingly late that I am answering your letter of 27 April, thinking as the days pass that I will have some important news, however we have observed since the commencement of this campaign of near inactivity and apparently it will be in America that we should expect some new changes. Yesterday there was discovered a conspiracy among the recruits who wished to torch several places in the city and then to escape. A few hundred were arrested and today it is rumored that there were some civilians accomplices and that a certain foreign enemy had place a bounty. God has spared us from an enormous danger and will save us from those who threaten us.

Messrs Gattier and Sack have confirmed your intentions of coming to establish yourself here once peace returns. We wish to God for that to happen soon so that you can come spend a long time and enjoy perfect health. The atmosphere in Berlin is without doubt different from the *kapnosphere* of London, and will be perfectly acceptable to your health and as for enjoyments I hope that you find as many here as in London.

Mr. Sack has brought the presents for my wife and daughters on behalf of Mlle Dehuron which are all the more important to us since they come from someone who we had the utmost esteem during the time that we knew her. As she is still affiliated to your house, I kindly request that you tell her of our perfect thanks and to tell her that we will be forever obligated to her. As there was a similar gift addressed to her aunt Mme Weniger, I took it to her personally and if she is still writing to her, I have no doubts that she has already received the most affectionate thanks, at least she appear to be very surprised by the graciousness of her niece.

I thought that I had mentioned the receipt of the 100 ecus immediately that you had the goodness to send me last year. I am annoyed that our almanacs for this year again arrived too late in spite of the precautions that we took to send them through Hamburg already in November, however we learned with a great deal of surprise that the merchant from Hamburg had forgotten the package; I am hoping that this never happens again.

I have not yet received the volume of the Transactions that I hope for as well as the tobacco; however I present my very humble thanks while still asking for a thousand pardons for the troubles that I have caused you with my needy requests.

It will be nearly impossible to establish in advance the value of our money in English currency due to the enormous variations which drives down the rate of our continually. You can judge for yourself, Sir, when I tell you that the ducats for which the price was at one time fixed a 2 ecus and 18 groschen, has gone up to 3 ecus and 13 groschen, and apparently it seems likely that it will change again. Therefore no matter what currency that you account with before it gets to us we will probably gain more, even though we will take a loss, since 100 ecus will effectively be worth only 70 ecus. So if you wish to set the sterling at 7 ecus, it will appear that we are gaining nominally only and not in the intrinsic value.

It seems certain that Mr. de Maupertuis has already been in Basel for quite some time, and that he has been dangerously ill, in fact he was taken for dead already more than once, so that Madame de Maupertuis has already made up her mind to leave to see him and left here the 8th of this month accompanied by Mr. Merian; however having reached Magdeburg she was advised that Monsieur, her husband was in extremis and she returned on the 12th, and having learned that he was still alive she left for a second time again with Mr. Merian, and at this time she should not be far from Basel. We have every reason to hope that he will escape from this danger.

As for the late Mr. Dietrich's instrument, I will be very upset if my son's paper will have done him an injustice. The London craftsmen are better able to execute his work and as such he

deserves the reward and I will be desperately unhappy if I were the reason to deprive him of it. Therefore I ask you to kindly make these demands known to Mr. Bradley.

My entire family and all our compatriots present their fondest regards as well as to Madame, your wife. While expressing the deepest wishes for your safety and prosperity, I have the honor to be with the greatest regards [...]

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