

Wilhelm von Humboldt an Benjamin Guy Babington, 29.06.1828

Handschrift: Grundlage der Edition: Philadelphia, American Philosophical Society, B: H88.11, Nr. 16

Mattson 1980, Nr. 7914

[1] Baron Humboldt found between the papers Doctor B. Babington had the kindneß to communicate to him last saturday, a letter of the Colonel Tod^[a] no^[b] belonging to the matter of the Malayalam language. He has the honor to return it hereby to D^r. B. Babington.

He takes this opportunity of expressing his grateful feelings for the very interesting information Doctor B. Babington gave him in his letter on the dissertation of M^r. Ellis. What Doctor B. Babington said last saturday to the Baron, that he should take away the only copy of M^r. Ellis's dissertation existing in Europe made such an impression on the Baron, that he proposed to Sir Alexander Johnston to leave the dissertation here on condition that the Asiatic society would reprint it immediately now and make common to the learned men of Europe the information which it contains. Sir Alexander Johnston promised to do so, and if Dr. B. Babington would condescend to add explanating and correcting notes to the dissertation, the Baron should be sure to have rendered a very much greater service to Philology by this way, than by translating the dissertation in its present [2] state.

The notice Doctor B. Babington given to the Baron of M^r. Matthew Whish^[c] has been very interesting for him and he will certainly make use of it. He begs leave to Doctor B. Babington to communicate it to M^r. Burnouf at Paris whom the Baron believes to be a very much better judge of those subjects than himself, and to let him hope that D^r. B. Babington would introduce him at his request to M^r. Wish [sic]. But Baron Humboldt has the full conviction, that nothing <should> so much contribute to give a solid and profound knowledge of these languages of India, as if Doctor B. Babington would deign to offer to the Public his own investigations on that interesting subject.

10. Great Cumberland Place.

June, 29. 1828.

a) [Editor] Lieutenant-Colonel James Tod (1782–1835).

b) [Editor] Soll wohl heißen: not

c) [Editor] Charles Matthew Whish (1794–1833).

[3; Anschrift mit Poststempel vom 30. Juni [1828]]

Dr. Benjamin Babington.

48. Finsbury square.

paid