

# Handschriften / Autographen

## Tagebuch von Johann Ernst Geister.

**Geister, Johann Ernst**

**Cuddalore, 01.01.1739-17.12.1739; 10.01.1740**

15. - 30. März 1739

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1739.  
March 15.

As I wanted a Recreation for my body, having had much business all this while, I resolved to go to Porto novo (which is about 5 leagues from hence) to visit and acquaint myself with the Dutch Gentlemen there. The Dutch having a great Power in East-India, and having been particularly kind to the Protestant Mission, the Protestant Missionaries have always taken care to cultivate a friendship with them. I set out from Cuddalore near three of the Clock in the afternoon and arrived there after seven in the Evening. The Chief M<sup>r</sup>. Dornieux and the other Gentlemen received and entertained me very kindly, and I was desired, to christen three children, one of whom was a Grandson of the said M<sup>r</sup>. Dornieux.

16. Being resolved not to stay long from home, I set out from Porto novo the next day and arrived at Cuddalore after 10 at night.

With the End of this Month Salomo, who had assisted me hitherto in the Malabar Language insisted very much upon his being dismissed, pretending several Reasons. Though I promised to comply with his desires, he assented himself at last, before I gave my final Resolution, and I found afterwards, that he had committed several irregularities, in borrowing Money and the like, of which he dreaded the Consequences.

30. To my great Joy and Satisfaction M<sup>r</sup>. Walther came here from Tranquerbar to stay for some days with me. His design was 1.) to acquaint himself with me 2.) to see, if either in Porto novo or here he could discover something of the <sup>1000</sup> Pagodas which were lost some Months ago not far from hence. As I hitherto by letters and otherwise had done all what I could to find out something of it, I was ready again to do any thing, which could be done that way. The Governour M<sup>r</sup>. Hubbard in particular had interposed his authority and done several things to discover the Theft, which however proved ineffectual. Some other Means being proposed upon new suspicions, his worship gave the necessary Orders for a new Examination in this place (because the Man who lost the Money, is an Inhabitant of Fort St. David's) and a handsome Reward was promised to one in this place, who seemed the most likely Man to find the thing out. Yet this last effort had no more effect, than the former. In the Mean time I was very careful to make the best advantage of M<sup>r</sup>. Walther's company, who has been long in the Country and is very well skilled in languages and sciences. I profited so much by his conversation, that I found Reason to thank God for his providence in this particular.

### April.

With the End of the last month I had an opportunity to be acquainted with an Inhabitant of this place, Pothani by name, who has kept for several years a publick School, but finding himself by his Age unfit for such a laborious work has given it up to one of his Relations. Upon enquiry I found, that he was very well skilled in the Language and had a little learning according to the Country way, therefore I resolved to take him into my service, to assist me in the language, in which I was likely to advance now faster, because this Man doth not understand any European Language, so that I am obliged to talk nothing but Malabar with him. But this was not the only design, because I thought, that some time or other, if providence should open the way, this Man might be brought over to christianity. Because he being constantly with me, the innate dislike which these people have against the Europeans, will wear out, & I can watch proper opportunities to talk nearer and more confidently to him, when probably he will disclose himself with greater freedom, and give me an opportunity to acquaint him with the excellency and necessity of the christian Religion.