

Franckesche Stiftungen zu Halle

Brief von Heinrich Wilhelm Ludolf an August Hermann Francke.

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Venice May the 21st 1698.

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Dear beloved.

I hope you received my letter dated at Ausbury; we arrived safely here yesterday was Tennight on the 13th instant, without having mee with any cross accident, thank God; and I could hardly have imagined to perform my voyage so far with so little inconvenience. God grant I have ^{may} always a due sense of his particular Providence over me. I found your brother returned from Vienna, and under good circumstances as to his health and worldly concerns. I lodge at Sr. Erico's of Esenack, who outwardly professes the Romish religion, but doth not want inward convictions, that true Christianity is something more noble, than is pretended to by the greatest part of the so called Christians. He is mightily taken up to prove that all languages are descended from the Greek, and hath published last year, *Ἐνδοξασμὸς ὑποκρίνεται, sive humanae linguae generis partis prima being primus*. He hath been useful to me because he is well acquainted having spent above 30 years here. You may set his name down in the catalogue of my acquaintances, and he may befriend a Stranger that comes hither. He is well known here by the name of Giovanni Lelio Erico Maestro di Lingua. By his help I contracted acquaintance with a Dominican Fryer, called L. Thom. Lio. Maphau, who hath both learning and eyes of the understanding enlightened; at the second interview God was pleased to open our hearts to one another. He told me he had thoughts of applying himself to the German tongue. He shewed me a manuscript of his own making, *the* *ratione et revelatione*, dedicated *Iehova trinuro*, which dedication convinced me of his having something in his soul that is real.

I have met here with a Jew of Palastina, whom I saw formerly at London, and is now returning home. Another Portuguese Jew, Jacob Aboab, of great credit amongst them, hath promised me all possible assistance, if I pursue my design of going to Jerusalem. He hath desired me to recommend unto him any friend of mine that should come to this place.

Amongst the Grecians I have got no acquaintance yet, and have small hopes of meeting with one of that nation here, fit to be sent to you. Before I go from hence, I'll see to find some book or other in vulgar Greek, which I may send unto you.

I have thoughts of going to Livorno on Saturday cometh sennight, and shall let you hear from me again when I am arrived there. In the mean while if you will write unto me, and your letter be but recommended to Mr. Rauners brother at Aulburg, he will take care of it.

Mr. Pommer told me, his Nephew wanted a Tutor for his children, and one Mr. Lange, who came as Auditor with the Brandenburgish troops into Italy, and spent afterwards some time here as Tutor to a merchants children: I had order to look one out in Germany. The said Mr. Lange went from hence some few weekes ago, taking his way towards Berlin. I could wish I had been acquainted with Mr. Pommer before Mr. Lange received this commission, I might have prevailed with Mr. Pommer to desire one of you. If you could have recommended a fitt person, he might have done some good here, and made some preparations for a nearer correspondence with Palastina. However if you write to Berlin to some body that may find this Mr. Lange out, it may be time shill, to send such a person to Mr. Pommer, as may be serviceable to our common aim. If I had not reason to hasten my voyage, and could stay to spend a twelvemonth here, I should hope in the grace of God it might be to some purpose.

Pray remember me to your Lady, Mr. Frothinghausen, Mr. Elers, and the rest that know me.