

MISCELLANEA.

THREE UNKNOWN DARWIN LETTERS.

In 1834 — on his voyage round the earth on board the “Beagle” — Darwin found at the coast of Chile a new and so far undescribed variety of Cirripedia (Danish: “Rankefødder”, English: “Barnacles”), which marked the first step in his profound studies of this group of animals. However, not until 1846 did he really set to work on the Cirripedes, a work which was to extend over no less than eight years; for not only was the material of overwhelming volume, but in addition Darwin’s health was bad during long periods within this space of time. In 1851 and 1854 two big volumes were published containing monographs on all known recent Cirripedes and also two smaller ones on the Fossils.¹ These treatises with which Darwin enriched science are rightly placed among the most perfect systematic works, and they would by themselves have transmitted Darwin’s name to posterity. Although his works on the Cirripedia can hardly be said to have been of much importance as regards his theories on the origin of species, Darwin himself makes reference to the connection in various treatises and letters.²

The three letters below are a supplement to Darwin’s hitherto known correspondence with foreign scientists during the execution of his preliminary works on the Cirripedes.³ They have been presented to me by a Royal Air Force Officer who after the capitulation was stationed on the island of Sylt where he got them from a Ger-

¹ 1851: 1. *A Monograph on the Fossil Lepadidae or Pedunculated Cirripedes of Great Britain.*
2. *A Monograph on the Subclass Cirripedia, with Figures of all the Species. The Lepadidae or Pedunculated Cirripedes.*

1854: 1. *A Monograph on the Subclass Cirripedia: The Balanidae (or Sessile Cirripedes); the Verrucidae, etc.* 2. *A Monograph on the Fossil Balanidae and Verrucidae of Great Britain.*

² See Letter from Charles Darwin to Hooker, May 10th, 1848, in *More Letters of Charles Darwin*, edited by Francis Darwin, 1903.

Letter from Charles Darwin to Lyell, Oct. 11th 1859, in *The Life and Letters of Charles Darwin*, edited by Francis Darwin, 1887, chap. 6.

On the so-called “Auditory-sac” of Cirripedes, *Nat. Hist. Review*, 1863, pp. 115—116.

On the Males and Complemental Males of Certain Cirripedes and on Rudimentary Structures, *Nature*, vol. VIII (1873), p. 431.

³ Darwin had exchanged letters with two Danes, among others, on the subject of Cirripedes, viz. Japetus Steenstrup and I. G. Forchhammer. See Johs. Steenstrup, Darwin’s Brevveksling med Japetus Steenstrup, *Tilskueren*, 1909, and *Breve til og fra I. G. Forchhammer*, III, udg. af Ad. Clément, København, 1926.

man. Besides providing evidence of Darwin's modesty and scientific thoroughness they mention several of the important naturalists of that time with whom he was connected, especially in Germany. The addressee, the geologist Wilh. Dunker⁴ (1809—1885), was at that time a lecturer at the Technical High School of Cassel. Letter I was sent from Darwin's brother's residence in London, whereas II and III were sent from Darwin's home in Down, Kent. Letter II is a double letter, the first three pages being written by Darwin, the last page by the man whom in letter I he refers to as "my friend J. Morris".⁵ Letter III bears a black wax seal, as in April 1851 Darwin had lost his 10 year-old daughter Anne; the signet stamp is the fabulous monster with wings, known from his other letters.

The wording of the letters is as follows:

I.

7 Park Stⁿ. Grosvenor Sq^{re}
London

Much honoured Sir

I received this morning your letter of the 6th of June & a Box of fossil Cirripedia from my friend Mr J. Morris. The fossils have arrived quite safely. — I beg to thank you with the utmost cordiality for this act of kindness: I will take the greatest care of the specimens, & return them you in a month or two's time, when I have completed the Engravings for the Fossil Part of my Monograph. — I particularly request you to give my sincere thanks to MM. Roemer⁶ & Philippi⁷. — I knew your drawings & descriptions of *P. Hausmanni*⁸ in the work on the Oolithgebirges⁹, than which nothing can be better. — I am making considerable progress in my Monograph; I have described 38 fossil Pedunculated Cirripedia, all the recent Pedunculate including the animals' body, & I have just finished with the 45th species of the great & difficult genus of *Balanus*. — I should esteem it a great favour & most valuable aid if you would entrust me with your collection of recent species; but you will almost certainly object to send me unique specimens, when I tell you that I cannot recognise the species, & will never name any species, without disarticulating *one* specimen; I can, however, almost always gum together the valves so that they look nearly as

⁴ Later Professor at the University of Marburg. In his Monograph from 1851 (Preface VIII) Darwin thanks Prof. W. Dunker, Prof. Milne Edwards and Prof. Steenstrup.

⁵ John Morris (1810—1886), astronomer and geologist; among his works is a catalogue of British fossils.

⁶ Ferdinand Römer (1818—1891), private lecturer at the University of Bonn, later Professor of mineralogy and geology at the University of Breslau.

⁷ Rud. Philippi, born in 1808, Med. Doctor, Professor of natural history at the Technical High School of Cassel.

⁸ *Pollicipes Hausmanni*, a fossil pedunculated cirripede, mentioned by Darwin in his Monograph 1851, p. 53.

⁹ F. C. L. Koch & W. Dunker, *Beiträge zur Kenntniss d. norddeutsch. Oolithengebildes u. dessen Versteinerungen*, Braunschweig, 1837, p. 52, Tab. VI, fig. 6.

well as ever. — I have, also, resolved in hardly any case to name a sessile Cirripede without the operculum. — I care comparatively little for specimens without their habitats. — I can assure you the genus *Balanus* is so difficult, that it is folly to attempt describing the species without the opercula; all the species are subject to much variation. — If you could persuade the distinguished Philippi to send me a specimen (*allowing me to disarticulate it*) of the mediterranean species which he has named, it would be doing me the *greatest* service; for I earnestly wish to avoid renaming known species —

I am very sorry to hear that your health has been indifferent; it makes your kind assistance to me the more generous. —

With the utmost respect

Yours truly obliged

C. Darwin

Pray thank Ro[e]mer & Philippi. —

Any parcel addressed as at the head of this letter, will reach me. —

Sept. 20th 1850. —

[Address:] Dr. Wilh. Dunker

Prof. an der Polyt. Schule

Cassel

Hesse Cassel

Germany

P. Paid.

II.

Down Farnborough Kent

April 5th

Dear Sir

At last I am able to return you your valuable specimens, & those belonging to MM. Roemer Philippi & Koch¹. Pray accept my most cordial thanks for your great kindness & communicate the same to the above three distinguished naturalists. When you return the specimens, will you be so good as to present each of the above gentlemen with a copy of my small Monograph, — with which I am not well satisfied, though I have done it as well as I could. —

Pray believe me with much respect,

Yours much obliged

C. Darwin

[The last page:]

Kensington

April. 22 185[1]

¹ F. C. L. Koch (1799—1852), German mineralogist and physicist.
This is a complimentary copy offered by MUSE Libraries

My dear Sir,

I have this day sent by "Continental Agency Company" a parcel, *the carriage of which is paid to Cassel* —, containing 4 Copies of M. Darwin's Work, 1 Copy of my Oolitic Work — 2 pamphlets — and some papers of Dr. Mantell² as well as his fossils and the fossils from M. Darwin —

I sincerely hope you have some books I sent in *December 1850* to you viz — Mr. Edwards³ on fossil *Cephalopoda*[.] M Jones on — [fossil] Entomostraca — etc[.] they were forwarded through Williams & Co the Booksellers of London — I shall be very glad to hear from you and remain with

much respect

John Morris.

III.

Down Farnborough Kent
June 2^d

Dear Sir

I received only yesterday (!) your letter with the P. S. *dated February 4th*, & the valuable Box of Cirripedia. They were delayed, as I am told by Mr. Morris, at Bremen. I thank you very sincerely for all your kindness, for your letter written in excellent English, & for the Cirripedia which I have been very glad to see. I will hereafter return all named, & add some duplicate species not possessed by you. Your collection however is more correctly named than any I have ever seen, but still there are some errors. The Loanda specimen is the true *B. tintinnabulum*, with a purple *var.* of *B. perforatus* adhering to it. — *B. tintinnabulum* presents a vast range of variation. — Some six weeks since I returned, through Mr. Morris all the fossils which you so generously lent me, together with some copies of my small & imperfect monograph of the fossil species; & Mr. Morris enclosed some Books. We both also wrote to you, & are *very* anxious to know that you have received the parcel safely, *will you kindly soon write me a line*. I hope to go in a month to press with the recent Lepadidæ or Pedunculated cirripedes, & will send you a copy when it is published. I have also finished about one-third of the Sessile species.

With much respect

Dear Sir

Yours sincerely obliged

Charles Darwin

To

Prof. W. Dunker

² G. A. Mantell (1790—1852), Med. Doctor and geologist. The owner of a big geological and palæontologic collection, which the British Museum bought for £ 5000.

³ Henri Milne Edwards (1800—1885), Professor of natural history, Paris. To him Darwin has dedicated his monograph on the Cirripedes 1854.

[Address:] Dr. W. Dunker
 Prof. an der Polyt. Schule
 Cassel
 Hesse Cassel
 Germany
 P. Paid.

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For valuable assistance rendered me in composing this paper my cordial thanks are due to Mr. P. Helveg Jespersen, M. Sc.

Arne Portman.

ADDITAMENTA SPONGBERGIANA.

Det förefaller, som om ett utförligare omnämnande eller en enkel minnesteckning av en man kunde locka fram nya meddelanden och nya urkunder rörande den omtalade. Han kan vara glömd i stort sett, men minnet vaknar på skilda håll vid en yttre påminnelse. Så tycks ha varit fallet med professor Johan Sponberg efter mina anteckningar i *Lychnos* 1946—47, s. 213 ff. Både Sponbergs-papper och utfyllande notiser om honom ha kommit fram.

Professor Einar Löfstedt i Lund (nu bosatt i Stockholm) sände mig våren 1948 några brev från sin far, professor Löfstedt i Uppsala, till professor Sponberg under en studieresa i Tyskland 1870; de lämnades av mig till Uppsala universitetsbibliotek att där förvaras samman med andra brev till Sponberg, använda i den nämnda uppsatsen, s. 239 f. (därom senare).¹

Därjämte lämnade prof. Löfstedt till Universitetsbiblioteket som gåva en bunt renskrivna anteckningar in IV^o efter Sponbergs föreläsningar år 1858 över Aischines' tal mot Ktesiphon, 168 s.; de äro ej fullständiga, utan sluta med § 255 (256—260 fattas). Titelbladen äro två, ett med grekiska majuskler och prof. Löfstedts namnteckning, ett svenskt: Aeschines' Tal mot Ktesiphon, öfversatt och kommenterad af Herr Professor J. Sponberg. Uppsala 1858 (de fyra första orden dubbelt undertrukna, de fyra följande enkelt och titel och namn understruket med ett grovt streck); därtill egenhändig namnteckning: Einar Löfstedt, norrl.

Det intressanta med detta referat är, att det är fullständigt likt Sponbergs-anteckningarna i den av mig till Universitetsbiblioteket överlämnade handskriften av en helt annan renskrivarhand, som omtalas i *Lychnos* anf. st. s. 223; jämte Ktesiphon-talet innehåller denna anteckningar till flera av Sponberg under femtioalet behandlade grekiska texter. Ktesiphon-talet är här fullständigt, medan andra texter äro högst fragmentariska. De båda handskrifterna äro lika ordnade: latinsk eller svensk översättning till texten och i två marginaler dels kommenterande anmärkningar, väl efter Sponberg, dels glosor med tysk tolkning efter Passows lexikon. Anmärkningar

¹ De omtalade nya handskrifterna äro ännu ej katalogiserade.