

2.27.191

Berchtesgarden near Vienna,
1. August.

Sir

The matter begins to be complicated.
To cut it short, I live the choice, The size,
the number and the rarity of The shells to your
judgment. I want ornaments for my chest,
which is quadrangular, with glass-walls.
It is standing free in the middle of a large
room. Its contents are valuable anatomical
preparations of Mollusca. I wish to have
the top of the chest adorned with
fine & brilliant shells, 3^{or 4} for each side,
a large one in the middle of each margin,
and two ^{or four} smaller, to keep company.

Nautilus, Argonauta, & Haliotis (2 species)
I am very desirous to get. ^{besides Comus}
^{Trochus, etc.]}
I beg you, to do, what you can,
for the sum of 30 £. St., here enclosed.

What you will send to me, is welcome!
provided that the things ^{or of curious shape} are brilliant.

You are a scientific man, and will
certainly treat me as such. Shells are
not my speciality. Whatever size of the shells
you think convenient, I entirely agree with you.
You certainly had never a more pliant and
easy to be contented customer.



Nicht abgesandter Brief (auf meine Inter-
vention) an einen Naturalienhändler.

So schreibt man doch nicht an einen Länder.
Charakterisiert Hirtls vollkommene Unkennt-
nis im Geschäftsverkehr.

L. A. Friedlowsky



* two years ago

"Impedimenta augent vim, says Cicero.
I do not give up the hope, to get
a gloria maris et 2 Cedo nulli!
because there is a difficulty to get them.

About the "gloria maris", I must tell
a story. There is a man in London,
Mr Bartlett, from whom I obtained many
rare objects of comparative Anatomy (animals
in spirit, skulls, & skeletons). He is well
acquainted with the sailors. He is not in the
least a scientific man. I asked for a
"gloria maris". He answered: to procure
it for 27 L. St 10 Sh. If that man
is the dupe of a rogue, or if it is
a happy accident, to have the desired
object at so cheap a price, can only be
ascertained by ocular inspection. I tell
the story, only to excuse my astonishment
at the price of 60 L. St. for your specimen.

I must add, that the Imperial Museum
of Nat. Hist. at the Court of Vienna
has no "Gloria maris."

I hope that our correspondence will not
cease with that transaction. I should like
also to surround the base of the trunks
of the trees in my garden with large ** shells
so that you will probably hear more of

Your

obedient servant
Jos. Hyatt.

* Please to think
in advance. Your stores
seem to contain, what
would suit that purpose.