

Translation: Jasmin Günther

Württemberg Association for Commercial Geography

To Dr. Gustav Niederlein, Commercial Museum, Philadelphia

Stuttgart, 24th January 1905

Your Excellency!

I do not know whether you, dear doctor, remember me, but I reminisce about the hours Your Excellency spent here at the Museum of Ethnology. Yes, I have been thinking about Your Excellency more often than you might assume; at the time of your departure for the Philippines, I have intensively thought about writing to Your kind Excellency in order to ask for support for my museum ambitions; due to modesty and uncertain whether you remember me, however, I have restrained.

All the more I have been pleased and moved to read the letter from Dr. Hugo Hardy of January 8, 1905; in this letter Dr. Hardy sent me a list and informed me that Your Excellency has graciously entrusted my museum with an enormous and scientifically valuable collection of ethnographic objects from the holdings of the Philippines collection in St. Louis; I have been delighted about studying the list, because after the arrival of this collection, the museum will have without a doubt - in combination with its present holdings from this group of islands - one of the finest collections from this archipelago.

However, if I would confine my sincere thanks to the contribution of this fine collection, I would not comply with the pleasant duty of expressing my grateful sentiments, because then I would have abstained from also thanking for the great efforts of Your Excellency to add specific identifications of origin, through which the collection is awarded its scientific value.

I am longing for the arrival of this most interesting collection that will be difficult to obtain in the future.

Should I not cross the line between modesty and the contrary, which is often difficult to distinguish, I would be even more indebted to Your Excellency, if you would be gracious enough to talk to Dr. Wilson about the objects he has given to the museum as a gift as per Dr. Hardy in order to eliminate difficulties that may be an obstacle to the shipping.

Since Your Excellency has visited the museum, it has in almost tropical manner unfold and has been declared a museum of highest rank by the scholars who have gathered here in large numbers for the International Americanist Congress in August of this year.

Translation: Jasmin Günther

I might be satisfied with the credit for this achievement of a single man, yet I can point out an achievement that no one else in Germany, or at least in Württemberg, could have done; namely, I succeeded in raising a sum of 1 Million Mark from private resources for the construction of a museum and further warranties ensure the full amount of what is needed for the building.

The success of my actions in both matters addressed here may justify when I, from time to time, request too much.

I, with pleasure, embrace the opportunity to assure my deep respect

[Graf Karl Heinrich von] Linden