

Translation: Jasmin Günther

Württemberg Association for Commercial Geography

Stuttgart, 23rd May 1905

Dear Mr. Zilling!

Confirming the receipt of your letter of 18th May, I have the honor to confirm the entry of your photographs and express my sincere thanks for kindly thinking about me.

The photographs are exceptionally beautiful and for our purposes very well-chosen. However, I deplore that some of them have not been provided with identifications of their places of origin, but I hope that your next stay in Stuttgart will eradicate this flaw. I have looked through the copy of the journal "The Philippines", which you have so kindly sent to me, as well as a report on the Philippines exhibition sent by Mr. Niederlein particularly with regard to the above mentioned flaw but could not find anything about it.

I would like to add a request in confidence, just in case you are in the position to fulfill it.

Dr. Niederlein has promised a seemingly outstanding ethnographic collection from the Philippines of his private holdings to the Association and has arranged its shipping from St. Louis in so long that he, in a letter of 2nd March 1905, expressed his hopes that I am already in possession of the collection.

Unfortunately, I am merely in the possession of the promising list, but not the collection; just as little I have a certificate of shipping. I would like to add that the forwarding agent Julius Rudert from Hamburg has asked me about 10 days ago whether I have received the five boxes from Mr. Niederlein in St. Louis. I cannot deny thinking that the collection might be labelled with an incorrect name of the recipient and that it was passed into other hands – the same happened two months ago and the case is still not sorted out yet.

Now I am very worried that the Niederlein collection might have been sent to the Prussian Ministry of Education in Berlin and I would be grateful if you could clarify the situation.

The loss of this collection would be an unfortunate one for the Association.

At the same time, I would like send you my congratulations for your employment in Bremen. This certainly is a fortunate coincidence.

With best wishes and most respect

[Karl Graf von] Linden