

Translation: Jasmin Günther

Württemberg Association for Commercial Geography
and Museum of Ethnology

Protector: His Majesty the King

Stuttgart, 10th March 1906

Neckar-Strasse 47

[To Dr. Gustav Niederlein, Zittau]

Your Excellency!

Referring to your letter of 2nd March, I have the honor to inform you that your first class decoration of the Friedrich award ("Ritterkreuz erster Klasse des Friedrichsordens"), which has graciously been given to you by His Majesty the King, has been sent to Your Excellency by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 27th February.

By again congratulating on this well-deserved decoration, I hope that the same will enter into your possession within the next few days.

I am convinced that Your Excellency will be willing to look after my interests in the future as well – now that there is a pleasant and strong tie between you and Wuerttemberg.

I find clear signs of your personable participation in your letter of 2nd March already. However, I regret that I cannot make use of your suggestion to invite Mr. Noufflard for a lecture because all dates are already reserved. Furthermore, I am also worried that this man, even if he would surely be able to assemble a large audience, would not be understood by three quarters of the congregation, if he would speak in his mother tongue; and if a French man makes use of the English language, then, according to my experience, he will not be understood by anyone.

I certainly regret that I have to pass on this lecture, since a report on Annam or Congo sounds very appealing.

Nevertheless, would it not be possible to engage this man for my museum with your diplomatic dexterity. (question?)

My museum indeed deserves the sympathies of all those, who are interested in its objectives; it is downright superb. A few days ago, I was able to acquire an enormous collection from Ethiopia; it is the only collection of this kind in private possession and, as far as I know, such items cannot be found in other museums – at least within Germany. Three years ago, I was lucky to receive a likewise comprehensive collection from Menelik's Empire, which stuns with its beautiful and rich silver and textile works, with the result that I now, at least to my knowledge, own the largest of such collections.

In contrast, the regions that you mentioned Mr. Noufflard has visited seem sketchy and, unfortunately, grant his liberality a fairly rich area.

Yours sincerely, [Karl Graf von] Linden