

Stuttgart, 3rd January 1906

Neckarstrasse 47

Your Excellency!

Dear Director!

Because I have learned from Mr. Wanner that Your Excellency is proficient in my native language, I prefer to answer to the [letter] of 21st December 1905, which I was honored to receive yesterday, in German instead of offending you with poor English.

The collection that Your Excellency has sent to the Museum, which was founded by me, has arrived here about 10 days ago. I have personally compared the content to the accompanying list and there is no reason for any objection.

Am honoured to thank your Excellency on behalf of the Museum as well as to express my personal and sincere gratitude for your contribution.

Your Excellency has not been wrong to assume that your shipment includes objects that did not exist in the Museum's collections; I am especially pleased with the textiles, which complement my existing collections very well, as well as the weapons and a number of the household items. On the other hand I must genuinely admit that I have observed the two weaving loom models with a rather hostile look and thought about the luckier museum, which is in possession of the original objects; I am not really keen on models, unless [?] they represent objects that are completely immobile.

After all I do not doubt that your collection, in combination with my existing items from the Philippines, may be turned into a wonderful exhibition that would present the lives of the respective people very well.

I am very keen on noticing your kind offer to exchange [items] and I am very willing to send objects from Africa or the South Seas of any kind in return. However, I ask for you to name the objects and places you put your emphasis on, because I own only one written catalogue that I cannot give away and send to you. The Museum has been constantly growing for years and the printing of a catalogue, therefore, does not pay off because it would already be outdated in the following year.

In a previous letter to Dr. Hardy, you indicated, as if it was not completely impossible, that the collection from the Philippines could be completed. I would highly appreciate this and add straightaway that I would be very interested in textiles, weapons and musical instruments of the individual tribes.

Apart from this, I believe that I have been told last year that Your Excellency is in the position to dispose of fine collections from South and Central America; the Museum has not much to offer from these regions and for this reason there would be no limits to your beneficence.

At the end of your letter you ask for a photograph of the Museum – the Prussians are not as quick. It was additional business for me to raise money for a new museum building and I am quite proud of

Translation: Jasmin Günther

this deed that no one else in South Germany could have done. The next few weeks will determine whether I can send you a photograph of the construction plan; for now, my precious Museum is placed in a miserable rented house.

The photographs that were promised to me were not given to me yet; they would be even more valuable for me, if they would give hints on the interior arrangement, namely of the bureaus and modern conveniences.

In most respect for Your Excellency,

Linden?