

Transcript

The Reich Commissioner

for the World fair in St. Louis 1904

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To the Chief of Cabinet of His Majesty the King of Württemberg

Sir Baron of Gemmingen, Excellency

Stuttgart

Berlin 16<sup>th</sup> January 1906

Luisenstrasse 33/34

I was honored to receive the letter of Your Excellency of December 24, 1905. According to a message that Count Linden send to Dr. Hardy, the collection of Dr. Wilson has arrived in Stuttgart by now and has already undergone an inspection. Count Linden noted that the collection is satisfying in terms of quantity, but that the quality does not match the amount of items. However, it was pleasantly surprising that this collection of roughly 150 items comprises products from a wide range of islands and groups of islands.

Hereafter I cannot estimate whether the requirements are met in order to advance a proposal to His Majesty the King, Your most gracious Excellency, to present Mr. Wilson with an order of merit. However, I allow myself to point out that, in his letter to Dr. Hardy, Mr. Wilson expressed his wish to directly communicate with the director of the Museum für Völkerkunde, because it is not out of question that additional valuable objects could be sent to the museum in Stuttgart. Under these circumstances and according to my knowledge of American standards, it may be classified as safe, if Count Linden would make it quite clear to Mr. Wilson that the collection was partially disappointing and if he would hint at the fact that a decoration would still be difficult at this point. Herefrom, Mr. Wilson will surely use this as an opportunity to complete the collections and to gain merits, which may justify an award.

Concerning an honoring of Dr. Hardy, I ask Your Excellency to allow me to stress that it would not seem justified to make his decoration conditional on the evaluation of Wilson's collection. Dr. Hardy has conducted the negotiations concerning the acquisition of new collections for the Stuttgart museum not only with Mr. Wilson but also with Dr. Niederlein and the Chinese and Japanese commissars with great zeal and skill. I can assure it was a difficult task to accomplish what he did, especially during the hot summer months in St. Louis. The circumstance that Mr. Wilson sent the

Translation: Jasmin Günther

collection to the Stuttgart museum was after all based on the fact that Dr. Hardy gave him valuable objects from East Africa of his own private collections as well as parts of an authoritative collection at his disposal in exchange. Especially the fact that the Wilson collection was given in return for Hardy's objects accounts for asking Wilson for more without hesitation. While the items the museum in Stuttgart received from Wilson were given solely due to Dr. Hardy's beneficence and his efforts, also own belongings were donated and further valuable objects of [for?] the Chinese and Japanese departments ceded to the museum. Dr. Hardy is very humble and modest and, therefore, may not have brought this issue to the knowledge of Count Linden. Meanwhile, I hope that Your Excellency has taken the view that Hardy has proven through his success and efforts on behalf of the Stuttgart museum that he is worthy of an honoring and decoration.

With most respect for Your Excellency and assuring my loyalty,

Lewar (?)