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Carnegie Institute of
Technology, Pittsburgh Museum
Address

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Address of the Carnegie
Museum Presented to
The New York Academy
of Sciences on the occasion
of the Two Hundredth
Anniversary of the
Birth of Carl von Linné

May 23, 1907

Microscope
Presented by Carl von Linné
to
Bernard Jussieu, August, 1738
(Now in Custody of the Carnegie Museum)

Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh
Museum

The Invitation of the New York Academy of Sciences, addressed to the Carnegie Museum, to participate in the exercises commemorative of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of the great Swedish naturalist, **Carl von Linné**, is thankfully received and accepted.

Standing in a case in the office of the Director of the Carnegie Museum is an ancient microscope. It was at one time in the possession of Jacob Henrici, the head of the Economite Society. The Economites are a communistic society, which was founded by George Rapp, who was born in Würtemberg in the year 1770. The object of the society was, so far as possible, to return to the teachings of primitive Christianity, as understood by them. Encountering the opposition of the civil authorities in Europe, the Economites migrated to America in 1803, and first established themselves in Butler County, Pennsylvania, where they built in the midst of what was at that time a region of almost unbroken forests a village, to which they gave the name of Harmony. It stood upon the banks of the Conequenessing Creek. In 1817 they removed to the banks of the Wabash River, in Indiana, and founded a settlement which they called New Harmony. Financial difficulties led to the sale of the tract of land which they had acquired in Indiana, and

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it was purchased by Robert Owen and his associates, among whom were William Maclure and Thomas Say—*nomina venerabilia*! Owen and his colleagues attempted upon another basis to form a communistic society at New Harmony. The Economites under Rapp returned to Pennsylvania, and on the banks of the Ohio in Beaver County, seventeen miles northwest of Pittsburgh, they built the town of Economy, and ultimately became prosperous and rich. The old microscope was for years hidden away in a cupboard at the Administration House at Economy, and a few years ago was transferred to the Carnegie Museum by Mr. Jacob F. Henrici, a nephew of the head of the Economite Society, the successor of Rapp.

But what has this to do with Carl von Linné?

In a small drawer in the stand or base of the microscope is pasted a piece of paper which is yellow with age. Upon it is an inscription which is now only in part easily legible, but which upon careful scrutiny proves to be as follows:

Atrox Iapeti genus
Ignem fraude mala gentibus intulit.
* * * *

Nil mortalibus ardui est.

Hor. Carm. Lib. I, 3

In perpetuam memoriam consuetudinis quam cum
dulcissimo sodali Carolo Linne

Parisiis habebat hoc ab eo amicitiae donum

accepit Mense Augusto MDCCXXXVIII

Bernardus Jussieus

There is nothing to tell how the microscope which Linnaeus gave to his friend Bernard Jussieu came into the possession of Jacob Henrici. Mr. Jacob F. Henrici in the Proceedings of the American Society of Microscopists, Volume IX, page 214, states that the microscope is said to have belonged to Frederick Rapp, one of the founders of the society, a nephew of George Rapp, who came over from Germany in 1804, and who died at Economy in 1834. He is said to have been a man of much intellectual culture. In conversation with Mr. Jacob F. Henrici, he informs me that the statement made by him was in error. Since publishing that account of the microscope he ascertained from the late Dr. Benjamin Feicht, who was a physician at Economy, that it was the property of a German physician, who came to Economy from the fatherland in destitute circumstances and in poor health, and who died there. The microscope was among his effects at the time of his death, and, as he had no known relatives on either side of the Atlantic, it remained in the possession of Mr. Jacob Henrici, who gave it to his nephew, who, as above stated, transferred it to the custody of the Carnegie Museum.

Whatever the story of the microscope, its inscription recalls the fact, known to all biographers of Linnaeus, that the immortal Swede spent the summer of the year 1738 in the city of Paris, where he formed

an enduring friendship with Bernard Jussieu, at that time the indefatigable and masterful Curator of the Royal Gardens, who had already sketched the outline of the natural system of the classification of plants, which in later years was elaborated and published to the world by his brilliant nephew and pupil, Antoine Laurent Jussieu, in his great work the *Genera Plantarum*, which issued from the press in 1789.

In place of a formal address in which it might be attempted in glittering phrase to proclaim the measureless services of "the father of modern botany," and for that matter, of modern zoology, the Carnegie Museum prefers to submit on this commemorative occasion these lines, accompanied by a picture of the microscope which Bernard Jussieu received "as a perpetual reminder of the social intercourse which he had in August, 1738, with his most delightful comrade, Carl Linné."

Carnegie Museum
May 23, 1907

W. J. HOLLAND,
Director