

volume of his works, appeared in 1764, which he dedicated to Earl FERRERS, (then Captain SHIRLEY) as an acknowledgment for his kind assistance in contributing a great number of birds intended for Madam POMPADOUR, and taken by the Captain in a *French* Prize. This part contains eighty five different subjects, designed, engraved, and coloured after nature, on fifty two plates.

Thus our Author, after a long series of years, the most studious application, and the most extensive correspondence to every quarter of the world, concluded a work which contains, engravings and descriptions of more than six hundred subjects in Natural History, not before described or delineated. He likewise added a generical Index in *French* and *English*, which is now perfectly compleated with the *Linnæan* names, by that great Naturalist LINNÆUS himself, who frequently honoured him with his friendship and correspondence *.

Upon

* The following letter bears the strongest testimony of the high esteem the great Professor had for Mr. EDWARDS, as well as friendship for his own pupil the ingenious Dr. SOLANDER :

*Viro nobilissimo Domino G. EDWARDO, Ornithologo summo,
f. p. d. CAR. LINNÆUS, Eques.*

“ Has tibi, vir nobilissime, traditurus literas D. DAN. SOLANDER,
“ meus totus est; hic in animum induxit Angliam adire, ut in naturæ
“ cognitione

Upon finishing the work, we find the following declaration, or rather remarkable petition of the author,

“ cognitione proficiat apud nobilissimos Anglos, apud quos hæc scientia
 “ hodie unice floret. Imprimis vero tua autoritas eum allicuit, qui sum-
 “ mum suum habet oblectamentum in animalium historiâ. Est imbutus
 “ varia cognitione zoologica, sed ut verum fateor minus in ornithologicis
 “ versatus, quam in reliquis partibus: te itaque præceptorem colere avi-
 “ diffimus est. Fac pro tua in me amicitia quantum poteris, ut in his
 “ proficiat; ego spondeo eum esse et fore moribus honestissimis, anima
 “ candidissima gratissima et ingenio acutissimo; et nisi me omnia fallent,
 “ post nostra fata, aliquando summus historicus naturalis per Europam,
 “ modo D. T. O. ipsi vitam largiatur, pro ut ipsi dederit voluptatem gus-
 “ tandi has delicias. In nostra patria deficiunt naturæ gazæ; ipsa urbs
 “ Londinensis, sola scatet pluribus quam tota Europa. Si te benefactorem
 “ et Mæcenatem obtineat, facile ipsi ostendas pleraque eorum, quæ apud
 “ vostrates occurrunt. Plantas, et insecta, et conchilia plura novit; ideam
 “ scientiæ hausit; mentis acumine pollet, ut aptus sit discipulus. Si a-
 “ liquando quis vestratum ad me perveniat, omnia ipsi tua commendatione
 “ præstabo, quæ huic præstas: scias enim omnia officia quæ in hunc con-
 “ feras, in me collata esse et tamque in filium proprium. Misissem lu-
 “ bentissime cum eo aliquot exuvias avium, sed profectus equo nequit
 “ ulla ratione salvas secum ducere. Qui te videre nequeo quotidie
 “ imaginem tuam in pariete suspensam intueor gratissima mente, quod
 “ tam pulchras naturæ gazas oculis mortalium exposuisti primus et facilitè
 “ unicus. Nullus certe adhuc præstitit quod tu in pulcherrimis omnium
 “ avibus; nullus facile præstabit in posterum simile opus; lætor quod hæc
 “ potui propriis intueri oculis.—Servet te Deus in ornamentum artis.

Dabam Upsaliæ, 1759, c. 12 Aprilis.

“ Quæso commendes meum SOLANDRUM apud D. D. RUSSEL, cui
 “ devotissima mea dicas.—Utinam etiam posses eum commendare apud
 “ præfectos musei SLOANÆ, ut videret Paradisum illud terrestre.”

In

author, where he seems afraid that his passions for his favourite subject of Natural History, should get the better of nobler pursuits, viz. the contemplation of his Maker.

“ My petition to God (if petitions to God are not
 “ presumptuous) is, that he would remove from me
 “ all desire of pursuing Natural History, or any o-
 “ ther study; and inspire me with as much know-
 “ ledge of his divine nature as my imperfect state is
 “ capable of; that I may conduct myself, for the
 “ remainder of my days, in a manner most agree-
 “ able to his will, which must consequently be most
 “ happy to myself. What my condition may be in
 “ futurity is known only to the wise disposer of all
 “ things; yet my present desires are (perhaps vain

E

“ and

In a subsequent letter is the following remarkable passage:

Amico Sincero Do. EDUARDO.

f. p. d. CAR. LINNÆUS.

—“ Gratulor tibi de tot pulchris, tamque infinitis avibus rarissimis, quot
 “ nullus umquam detexit nec umquam detegat, minus umquam tam vivēde
 “ delineabit, in quibus nil deficit nisi cantus: hæ tamen decantabunt no-
 “ men, famamque tuam, tamdiu aves existant, et cum iis homines. Tu
 “ per has seculi nostri ornamentum immortale evasisti. Vive diu felix, et
 “ me inter sinceros tuos cultores, numera. Saluta amicos meos omnes ac
 “ singulos honestissimos Anglos naturæ cultores.”

Upsaliæ, 1764, d. 13 April.



Linne

, Carl von and Edwards, George. 1776. "Two letters from Linnaeus: Viro nobilissimo Domino. G. Edwardo, Ornithologo summo, Upsaliae, 12 Aprilis 1759, & Amico sincero Do. Edwardo, Upsaliae, 13 April 1764." *Some memoirs of the life and works of George Edwards, Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies* 11–13.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/249512>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/295692>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Not in copyright. The BHL knows of no copyright restrictions on this item.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.