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(3) It may be noted further that there is a little confusion about the places of the letters which bear no date, which are either put in their approximate order or relegated to the end with the miscellaneous documents. The latter are grouped accurately with the letters to which they belong (CXXIII and CXXIV with LXXXV; CXXI with CIII; and CXI with XIX).

(4) Finally, letter XXIX (? = 16), Thorpe's special acquisition,¹ must be supposed to have slipped out of the book in the same way as IIa, VIIa, XXXa, LXVIIa, LXXXVa, and Ca, and, in reaching Thorpe's hands, only to have rejoined the Collection to which it had originally belonged.

IV. CONJECTURAL COMPLETION OF THE HISTORY.

The documentary evidence adduced fixes the following dates:

1650, when the two series were assembled in the hands of Constantijn Huygens;

1825, when the two series were sold at Sotheby's;

1833, when the two series, now formed into one collection, appear in the sale catalogue published by Thorpe.

Can the gaps be filled?

also for two letters added from Clerselier's text (XLIIIa and Cb) which both certainly belong to the series. It can only be suggested that like Cb, which was probably lost to Huygens' collection because it was produced before the High Court of Holland (CI, p. 245, l. 7 n.), XLIIIa, being in effect a petition on behalf of Bannius and Bloemart, was passed on by Huygens to another quarter.

¹ Above, pp. xlv-xlvi.

HISTORY OF THE COLLECTION

(a) *The gap 1650-1825.*

§ 1. Constantijn Huygens lived to an advanced age and died in 1687. In his will mention is made, as we saw,¹ of his collection of manuscripts, comprising his own works, published and unpublished, and the letters which he had received from eminent friends. These he left, with certain recommendations, to the care of his eldest son. We saw reason to believe that the letters which he had received from Descartes were among those to which reference is made. We may then assume that our Correspondence was in the possession of the Huygens family at least up to the time of Constantijn Huygens' death in 1687. The gap is then narrowed down to the period 1687-1825. At some time between these dates it passed into the collectors' hands.

§ 2. Presumptive evidence might be sought from the two ends. On the one hand we know that at the close of the seventeenth century the letters were in the possession of the Huygens family; on the other that they were in the possession of the Sypestein family at the beginning of the nineteenth. Hence it would be reasonable to seek for information concerning their history from the histories of the Huygens and Sypestein families. Mynheer de Waard, the Dutch scholar to whom all students and historians of the life of Descartes are under a profound indebtedness, very kindly undertook the necessary investigations on behalf of the inquiry. His efforts were completely successful, since he was fortunate enough to discover a point at which the histories of the two families met. A brief summary of his results, which he very generously put at my entire disposal, will suffice here.

§ 3. Constantijn Huygens the elder died in 1687, leaving his manuscripts in the care of his eldest son of the same name

¹ Above, p. lii.



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(Constantijn II). Constantijn II died in September 1697, and was survived by an only son, Constantijn III. This son died very shortly after, in November of the same year, leaving all his property by will to his mother, Susanna. After her death in 1712, the family papers passed to yet another Constantijn, Constantijn IV (son of Lodewijk, the third son of Constantijn the elder), as is proved by the fact that he busied himself considerably with them, making a copy in his own hand of the elder Constantijn's diary and some five hundred of his Latin letters,¹ and providing the biographical information concerning his uncle Christiaan, the mathematician, for Gravesande's edition of his works (Leiden, 1724). Constantijn IV died in 1739; his wife Philippina, who succeeded to all his property, in 1746. Of their two children only one survived, a daughter, Susanna Louise, wife of Willem, Baron van Wasenaer (died 1764). Susanna Louise died without children in 1785, and with her the direct line of Constantijn Huygens the elder, whose manuscripts we are trying to trace, came to an end.

§ 5. As might have been expected, at this juncture a division took place of such of the family property as had remained intact up to this date. A copy of the relevant notary's act² is still in existence at the Hague, and from it we learn that the partition was effected among fourteen persons, two of the Hocufft family, three Royers, two Van der Meidens, three Gerlaghs, and four Teding van Berkhouts.³ Mynheer de Waard's very carefully constructed genealogical tables show clearly that these families are for the most part descendants of Constantijn Huygens the elder through his daughter Susanna. The precise lines of connexion, however,

¹ Cf. Unger's Introduction to his edition of Huygens' diary in *Oud Holland* for 1885.

² No. 3468 of Lambertus Sijthof, dated 31 March 1786.

³ The same list is given in *Transportregister van Voorburg*, 16 January 1787, p. 122 (cf. *Haagsch Jaarboekje*, 1897, p. 187).

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need not detain us, because we have reached the central point for our immediate purpose. Jan Teding van Berkhout (1756-1806), one of the four members of the Teding van Berkhout family in whose behalf and in whose favour the partition of the Huygens family property was effected in 1786, was the husband of Elisabeth Sophia van Sypestein (1756-1800), sister of Wigbold van Sypestein (1758-1815), the owner of the Sypestein collection.¹

Elisabeth Sophia van Sypestein died in 1800, and her husband in 1806. Whether papers of the Huygens family passed into the Sypestein collection by gift or purchase during the lifetime or after the death of either Elisabeth or her husband, will probably never be known. A glance, however, at the Sotheby catalogue of 1825 shows that the lots of the five first days of the sale, among which our Correspondence finds a place, include an extensive collection,² comprising about 1,000 pieces, of letters addressed, or having reference, to Constantijn Huygens, and it is difficult not to suspect that these passed in some manner from Jan Teding van Berkhout, one of the heirs of the last direct descendant of Constantijn Huygens, to his brother-in-law, Wigbold van Sypestein, whose son and heir, Cornelis Ascanius van Sypestein, was the 'Gentleman of the highest consideration in Holland'³ who was responsible for the Sotheby sale of 1825.

§ 6. From now the history of our Correspondence is that

¹ Originally founded by his father, Cornelis Ascanius van Sypestein (1722-83).

² Not all the Huygens' manuscripts became part of the Sypestein collection. The majority, including the manuscripts of Constantijn Huygens' own unpublished works, were sold in Amsterdam on 17 February 1823 (see the *Algemeene Konst- en Letterbode* for 1822, vol. II, pp. 39-40, and for 1823, vol. I, pp. 91 and 179). The sale was anonymous, but Mynheer de Waard's researches showed that the vendor was a Hoeufft, a member of one of the families sharing in the partition of the Huygens property in 1786.

³ The phrase of the Sotheby sale catalogue, above, p. xxxvi.



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of the Sypestein collection.¹ Under the pressure of financial difficulties Cornelis Ascanius van Sypestein determined to sell the collection, and in view of its outstanding historical importance² he offered it first (for the sum of 80,000 florins) to the reigning house. Unfortunately it was a time of great general financial stringency, and the offer had reluctantly to be refused.³ It was then decided to sell it by auction in London, and the sale, advertised for May 30th, took place finally on June 20, 1825. Since at this sale our Correspondence, which we know to have been in the hands of Constantijn Huygens in 1650, was offered among other Huygens manuscripts, we may presume that its history is throughout one with theirs, and that, passing through the hands of the successive heirs of Constantijn Huygens with the rest of his papers, it became, after the partition of 1786, part of the collection of the family to which one of the distant heirs was closely allied by marriage.

(b) *The gap 1825-1833.*

It may be asked how it came about that eight years elapsed between the purchase of the Correspondence by Thorpe at the Sotheby sale (1825) and its appearance in his sale catalogue (1833). The answer to this question is perhaps to be found in a curious detail of price. In both of the annotated copies of the Sotheby sale preserved in the British Museum, the amounts paid by Thorpe for the two lots are noted as £12 12s. and £23 2s. respectively, £35 14s. in all. The amount asked in his catalogue for the

¹ For further information in its regard I am indebted to the present Jhr. C. A. C. H. van Sypestein, and to Mr. W. del Court, grandson on the maternal side of the Sypestein of the sale. See also *Notes and Queries*, 10, S. III, pp. 341 and 409 (May 6 and 27, 1909).

² It will be remembered that our letters formed only an insignificant fragment of the whole splendid collection.

³ Cf. J. C. de Jonge in *Mnemosyne*, XVII, pp. 347-83 (Dordrecht, 1827).

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two lots together is only £8 8s. It can only be surmised that no one had been willing to offer such a price for the Correspondence as would even reimburse Thorpe for the transaction, and that the extraordinary and unusual reduction to £8 8s. was the counsel of despair.¹

(c) *From 1833 to the present day.*

That the Correspondence passed into the hands of Mr. Harry Wilmot Buxton is certain. What is not certain is exactly when it did so pass and whether or no by immediate purchase from Thorpe.² Mr. H. W. Buxton was a barrister-at-law with both mathematical interests (he was a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society) and a love for French language and literature. Further, he seems at one time to have been specially interested in Descartes, and he certainly drew up in his own hand a still extant catalogue of the Correspondence, possibly with a view to publication. Family tradition, however, inclines to the belief that it came to him through Charles Babbage (1792-1871), the Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, famous for the invention of the calculating machine, whose friend and biographer he was. However that may be, it was among Mr. Harry Wilmot Buxton's papers that his grandson Mr. L. H. Dudley Buxton by so happy a chance found our letters, and it is therefore to the Buxton family that their preservation is due.

¹ Many of Thorpe's purchases of the Huygens collection from the Sotheby sale appear in his Catalogue for 1826 and 1830. It may be remarked, however, that Thorpe was in grave financial difficulties in 1826, and began offering his remarkably extensive and varied stock at extremely reduced prices.

² The Correspondence does not seem to appear again in Thorpe's catalogues of manuscripts, e. g. for 1835, nor in the catalogue of the sale of his stock by Messrs. Puttick and Simpson in November 1851. It would seem therefore to have been disposed of in 1833 or 1834.



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V. THE HISTORY SUMMARIZED.

The links in the history of our Collection may now therefore be summarized.

(1) *The series from Huygens to Descartes*, originally in the possession of Descartes and deposited by him with Van Hoghelande in 1649, was returned to Constantijn Huygens after Descartes' death in 1650, and left by him with the rest of the family manuscripts to his heirs, the direct line of whom can be traced till 1785. At some time between 1786, the date of the partition of the property of the last surviving heir, and 1822, the date when the Sypestein collection was first offered for sale (probably, however, before 1806, the date of the deaths of both Jan Teding van Berkhout and his brother-in-law Wigbold van Sypestein), it was added, together with other of the Huygens manuscripts, to the Sypestein collection. Sold among that collection at Sotheby's in 1825, it was purchased by the bookseller Thorpe, and joined by him to the second series,

(2) *the series from Descartes to Huygens*. This, originally in the possession of Huygens, was bound up by him into a volume in order to ensure its preservation, and, with the exception of a few letters which became detached from the binding, remained intact among others of the Huygens manuscripts until finally dismembered by Thorpe after the Sotheby sale.


(3) *The two series together*, now made into one collection, passed into the possession, possibly through Babbage, of the Buxton family, and were lost sight of until rediscovered by the son of the present owner, Dr. Dudley Buxton, among a number of books and family papers which formerly belonged to his grandfather.

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VI. BIBLIOGRAPHY.

It remains to add that the entries in the Sotheby catalogue did not remain unremarked. About sixty years after the sale attention was drawn to them by a librarian at Amsterdam, and researches among the Huygens manuscripts there preserved revealed the existence of copies of seventeen letters which had passed from Huygens to Descartes. As some fifteen letters purporting to be from Descartes to Huygens had been published by the various editors, material, however scanty, was available for the reconstruction of the whole correspondence. This was attempted by a Dutch scholar, D. J. Korteweg, and appeared as a paper contributed to the *Archives néerlandaises* for 1888 under the title '*Notes sur Constantijn Huygens considéré comme amateur des sciences exactes, et sur ses relations avec Descartes*'. The seventeen letters were published in their entirety a few years later by M. Adam, then engaged in assembling material for the great tercentenary edition of the works of Descartes, and a full account was given by him of the Sotheby sale in the hope that the Correspondence might thereby come to the light ('*Lettres de Constantin Huygens à Descartes*.' *Extr. de la Revue bourguignonne de l'Enseignement supérieur, 1895*). A report on the actual find from the present editor was presented to the Académie des Sciences morales et politiques in June 1924 ('*Correspondance de Descartes et Huygens. Séances et Travaux de l'Académie des Sciences morales et politiques, LXXXIV^e année, nov.-déc. 1924, pp. 411-36*).

¹ The communication was very kindly read by M. Lucien Lévy-Bruhl.



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C. AIM AND CHARACTER OF THE EDITION.

(I) The aim of the present edition is twofold:

(i) To present the Descartes-Huygens Correspondence as one intelligible and self-contained whole.

This has necessitated the insertion of short *prolegomena* and notes to each letter, explaining current events to which reference is made, and showing the connexion between the various letters within the series. Summary accounts of the life and work of every person mentioned have been given on the occasion of the first appearance of the name.

(ii) To co-ordinate this Correspondence with others carried on by Descartes at the same time.

This has been effected by copious cross-references to the general published correspondence, indicating parallel passages treating of the same subject-matter, and showing the connexion between letters of this, and letters of other, series.

(II) *Character.*

(i) The book is divided into two parts, the main body, comprising the letters which passed between Descartes and Huygens, and the Appendices, containing miscellaneous letters and documents relating to them. Every letter and document bearing its own serial number forms a part of the new collection and is here published from the original.¹

(ii) The small number of letters and documents inserted from printed sources² in order to make the series complete, have been printed in small type and are signalized by supplementary numbers (e.g. II a, C b).

(iii) The *prolegomena* prefaced to each letter or document contain:

(a) the names of the writer and addressee;

(b) the date of writing (when conjectured, in square brackets);

¹ The only exceptions are the contents of Appendix H. These are published here for the first time, but from autographs at the Hague and Leiden, not from Mr. Buxton's Collection. ² Cf. above, p. xxxi-xxxii.

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(c) a short palaeographical description;¹

(d) whenever already printed elsewhere, a note of place and source of publication;

and (e) in italics, a statement of connexion with the preceding, or any other relevant information.

(iv) In the printing of the letters great care has been taken to ensure as exact a reproduction of the original written text as possible. Peculiarities of spellings have in every case been retained, and, so far as possible (e.g. by the reproduction of *i* and *v* for Descartes, *j* and *u* for Huygens), even the differing idiosyncrasies of the two handwritings.²

The following exceptions, however, have been made:

(a) contractions have been resolved;

(b) words written together have been divided;

(c) punctuation, and the use of capital and small letters, have been modified, and accents added, whenever the original might cause difficulty to the reader.

(v) In cases where the letter or document has appeared elsewhere, as noted in the *prolegomena*, the manuscript text here printed has been carefully collated with the other, and all differences between them, except differences of spelling, have been registered at the foot of the page.

It should be added that the attempt has been made throughout to harmonize with the model edition of Descartes' Correspondence published by M. Adam.

¹ The size denominated foolscap varies slightly from 31.00-31.5 cm. x 20.5-22.5 cm. Generally the paper used by Descartes is the wider. The large and definitely marked margin on the left-hand side of the page used by both correspondents is of 6-7 cm.

² Descartes' orthography, which displays many variations as well as peculiarities, has been dealt with exhaustively in the Introduction to M. Adam's edition. That of Huygens is singularly regular and modern. His use of a full stop after numerals (cf. below, e.g. II, p. 4, l. 41; XCIII, p. 229, l. 14 f.) and his spelling *desiré*, call perhaps for special comment.

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D. HISTORICAL NOTE.

I. *Résumé of the early life of Descartes and of Constantijn Huygens.*

RENÉ DESCARTES was born 31 March 1596 at La Haye in Touraine and was educated at the Jesuit college at La Flèche. After a certain time at Paris, he joined the army and served in Holland (1618-19); spent about six years in travel (1618-25); and after a few years in France again, settled in Holland (autumn, 1628). In the spring of 1629 he was at Franeker; from the end of that year till 1631 at Amsterdam. In 1632 he stayed for a time at Deventer near his friend and disciple Renier, but was back in Amsterdam in 1634. 1635 saw him at Utrecht, whence the first of our letters was written.

CONSTANTIJN HUYGENS, linguist, poet, athlete, musician, and statesman, son of Christiaan Huygens the elder (1551-1624), himself secretary to the Council of State, was born 4 September 1596 at the Hague. After a year at the University of Leiden (1616), he visited England in the suite of Sir Dudley Carleton (1618) and studied for a short time at Oxford and Cambridge. He then embarked upon a diplomatic career, representing his country at Venice (1619) and London (1621-3). Here he was knighted by James I (1622), and became a great friend and admirer of Dr. John Donne, whose poems he afterwards translated into Dutch. In June 1625 he received the appointment of private secretary to the then Stadtholder, which office he retained under his two successors as well. He married in 1627 and had four sons, the second of whom was the celebrated mathematician, and one daughter. He lived in great honour, amid prodigious literary and political activity, till the age of ninety-one.

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II. *Conspectus of passages in the published correspondence of Descartes relating to Huygens, and of Huygens relating to Descartes, previous to the opening of this Correspondence.*

(I)

HUYGENS TO GOLIUS.

7 April 1632.

Briefwisseling, 676, vol. I, p. 348.

Ex quo postremum a te abij, vir doctissime atque amicissime, secuta me imago est mirabilis Galli, amici non extra invidiam meam tui, cuius in magna urbe paulatim sepultæ distat inertæ celata virtus. Illam præcipue, quam de refracti radij demonstratione, tanquam de re levi ac perspicua, spem fecit, nusquam depofui. Quæso vero, dum per hos dies festos tuus es, esto hic, quod fuisti semper, quodammodo et meus quoque, et illud age ferio, ne ab his regionibus, quod minabatur, decedat vir præstantissimus, nisi hoc faltem nomine liberato, quo quidem debitor censerî in univèrsum noster potest, quod sementis in hoc solo factæ messem indigenis invidere nulla ratio patitur. Amicitiam viri, non tam ineptus mei æstimator sum, ut ambire gestiam, nec vim facturus sum quærenti latebras, quo posteritati magis illucescat. Sed quando cœtaneis fere nobis, quod te dicere memini, parum liquet, uter alteri superstes esse possit, iterum te rogo, curæ sedulo ut velis, ne se totum suo sæculo invideat, aut hoc felicitati nostræ deesse velit, quod serius esse non cœperimus, aut cras vivere, qui pridem nati sumus, et ad gloriam nostram pertinere ducimus, quod eodem sole illustramur cum nobilissimo planeta, qui inter nebulosa sidera latendi, ut immerito certe, sic tandem frustra, consilium cœperit. . . .

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(2)

GOLIUS TO HUYGENS.

16 April 1632.

Briefwisseling, 677, vol. I, p. 349.

In reply to the preceding.

Gratulor Musis, et ingenius disciplinis, vir nobilissime atque amplissime, te illis fautorem obtigisse, qui eas et ingenio tuo, et auctoritate plurimum augere potes. Gaudet omnes felici hoc sydere, quicunque illarum sacris operantur; multi ad ea excitantur, quo a te amari queant; hoc autem nullus non vehementer optat, qui te et virtutem novit. Ideoque doleo, latebras, quas Lynceus ille Gallus captat, nobis omnibus et quoque ipsi hac parte obesse, quippe quæ faciunt, ut in magnarum rerum contemplatione magnam adeo animam non videat. Quamvis enim in eum finem ipse latet, ut postea tanto magis luceat in publicum, non dubito tamen, quin illa eius virtus promptius atque efficacius se exeret, si contingeret illum conjungi tecum, astro congenere et maxime benigno; tantum in mentem illam posset virtutum tuarum splendor et amica vis! Ita iudicasti dudum, ac proinde ambivi proxenete nomen et gratiam, at vero obstitit hætenus, quod literarum commercium, prout mihi cum illo esse solet, aliquamdiu interruptum fuit, ex quo communis amicus noster Elichmannus istuc non commeavit, neque mihi ad illum aditus aliâ viâ patet. Deceveram hisce ferijs excurrere, et percunctando investigare philosophum humanissimum, qui inventus se amicis talem præbet, ut quævisse ipse videatur. Interea tamen significatum mihi fuit, *Dioptrica* ejus, de quibus inter nos sermo fuit, ad finem esse perducta. Arridet quidem mihi fundamentum eorum; omnino tamen probari non potest absque exactioris sensus testimonio, quo firmandæ sunt mathematicarum naturalium hypotheses. Neque de primis naturæ particularis legibus aliter arbitrari fas est. Disposita quidem jam mihi quædam sunt ad capiendum rei experimentum, eaque operâ in tui gratiam, et destituit me liberior solis radius, ad eam rem repetitus, et tentantem etiam hodie elusit. Quare jam nunc aliam normam mihi strui iussi, quâ etiam ad

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lucernam uti potero. Si experimenta opinioni votoque meo convenient, primus ego sustollam manus, et si laudator videar parum idoneus, præceator saltem fuero ipsius famæ. . . .

(3)

DESCARTES TO DE WILHEM.

23 May 1632.

Corresp. XLIV, vol. I, p. 253, l. 8 f.

. . . Le ne sçay que répondre à la courtoise de Monsieur Huygens, finon que ie cheris l'honneur de sa connoissance comme l'vne de mes meilleures fortunes, & que ie ne feray iamais en lieu où ie puisse auoir le bien de le voir, que ie n'en recherche les occasions. . . .

(4)

DE WILHEM TO HUYGENS.

4 June 1632.

Hooff's Brieven, vol. III, p. 478 (*Briefwisseling*, 683, vol. I, p. 353).

. . . Nunc eam [occasione] nactus percommodam¹ malui iudicium meum periclitari scribendo, et audaciæ notam subire quam inofficiosus in te iudicari. Hæ enim quas tibi mitto domini de Cartes literæ ad id faciendum reluctantem impulerunt. . . .

(5)

HUYGENS TO DE WILHEM.

19 September 1632.

Briefwisseling, 712, vol. I, p. 363.

. . . Perpetuam salutem et infinitam, quoties ad D. Descartes scribis, ab indigno me tantæ virtutis æstimate, summo virorum dici postulo.

¹ i. e. the arrival of a letter of Descartes. The letter in question is not a letter from Descartes to Huygens, but that from Descartes to De Wilhem of May 23 of which an extract is given above (3). See Introduction, above, p. xxxiii.

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(6)

HUYGENS TO GOLIUS.

21 October 1632.

Briefwisseling, 722, vol. I, p. 368.

... Quousque D. Descartes opusculum procefferit, valde scire aveo, et, ut perpetuam a me salutem nuncios, obnixè peto. ...

(7)

GOLIUS TO HUYGENS.

1 November 1632.

Briefwisseling, 730, vol. I, pp. 372-5.

... Neque enim asserere hæcenus fui ausus ingeniosi Descartis inventum, quod tamen, seu præfatio, seu affectu quodam, apud te jactare non extimueram, scilicet refractionis leges, ab illo descriptas, quas veras esse et ipsius naturæ, me credere visus et ratio nunc cogunt. Cæpi nuper experimenta quædam, incidique paulo post in Snelliana plura, quæ ambiguitatem et serupulum exemerunt omnem. Ambo illi, qui dici merentur magni mathematici, haud unquam inter se cogniti, diversis locis et temporibus contrarias ingressi vias, per principia et causas Gallus, per effectus et observata Batavus, alijs et diversis verbis concluderunt prorsus idem. Quod neque celare Ampl. tuam, neque sine studio divulgare velim, quo et tibi mea constet observantia et inventoribus sua in solidum gloria.

[There follows a comparison of the Optics of Snellius and Descartes.]

... Tam semper pueri sunt [homines], ut quæ incognita admirati sint et suspexerint maxime, eadem inventa despiciant et tantum non rideant! Quod vereri videtur suæ physicæ naturæ genius Descartes, ea quippe tota mechanica, seu potius mathematica est; adeo palpabilem fecit, ex materia infinite dividua et motu, tanquam solis

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principijs, derivatam. At sapientiores et generosæ animæ ob facilitatem et necessarium rerum ordinem multo magis perspicient atque respicient summam Creatoris potentiam et sapientiam, ac mirabuntur amabilem per se maxime pulchritudinem. Ita de se testatur nobis ipse philosophus, cujus dulcissima consuetudine pridem mihi licuit per biduum frui; ingenue fateor, quanto magis tracto atque cognosco, tanto magis miror et amo. Neque enim in eo minor est animi bonitas probitasque vitæ, quam ingenij felicitas et doctrinæ præstantia. Opus autem, quod molitur, ad humanæ animæ, cujus originem a Deo petit, philosophiam nunc perductum, extremam expectat manum; erit autem breve et pressum, ut attentionem et in philosophando diligentiam majorem excitet. Ipse nunc Daventriam secessit, ut se turbæ et compellationibus eximat et postea se fructuosus omnibus impertiat. Prima occasione data salutem illi nunciabo tuo nomine, quam fore illi gratissimam scio, et utrique vestrum amicitiam mutuam, si unquam vos congrédi contingat. ...

(8)

DESCARTES TO DE WILHEM.

12 December 1633.

Corresp. L, vol. I, p. 274, l. 13 f.

... dans vne famille où i'entens qu'il n'y a personne qui ne participe aus rares & excellentes qualités qui sont particulièrement admirées de tous en Monsieur de Zuilicom vostre beaufrere. ...

(9)

RENERI TO HUYGENS.

14 April 1635.

Briefwisseling, 1109, vol. II, p. 61.

... Monsieur Descartes n'a point esté adverti par moy de ces lettres, mais je vous diray bien en un mot, qu'il vous admire extrêmement en tant des belles et rares parties qu'il trouve en vous. ...

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(10)

DESCARTES TO GOLIUS.

16 April 1635.

Corresp. LIX, vol. 1, p. 315, l. 1 f.

... Je vous ay très grande obligation du soin que vous aués eu de me faire auoir la connoissance du tourneur dont vous m'escriviés, & ie ne manqueray pas de l'aller voir en cete ville à la premiere commodité. Mais ce qui vaut mieux que tous les tourneurs du monde, c'est que Monsieur de Zuilicom, que j'ay eu l'honneur de voir ces iours à Amsterdam, apres auoir eu la patience d'ouir lire vne partie de ma Dioptrique, s'est offert d'en faire faire luy mesme quelque espreuue; ce qui me met entierement hors de peine de ce costé, car ie m'affure que, s'il est possible que la chose reussisse, il en trouuera les expediens plustost que personne. Veritablement c'est vn homme qui est au dela de toute l'estime qu'on en scauroit faire, & encore que ie l'eusse ouy louer à l'extreme par beaucoup de personnes dignes de foy, si est-ce que ie n'auois encore pû me persuader qu'un mesme esprit se pult occuper à tant de choses & s'acquiter si bien de toutes, ny demeurer si net & si present parmi vne si grande diuersité de pensées, & avec cela retenir vne franchise si peu corrompue parmi les contraintes de la cour. Il y a des qualités qui font qu'on estime ceux qui les ont sans faire pour cela qu'on les ayme, & d'autres qui font qu'on les ayme sans qu'on les en estime beaucoup dauantage; mais ie trouue qu'il possede en perfection celles qui font ensemble l'un & l'autre. Et ie ne tire pas peu de vanité de ce que ie ne luy ay sceu dire aucune chose qu'il ne comprist quasi auant que i'eusse commencé de l'expliquer. Car si la Metempsicose & la reminiscence de Socrate auoient lieu, cela me feroit croire que son ame a esté autrefois dans le cors d'un homme, qui auoit les mesmes pensées que j'ay maintenant; & ie prens de la occasion de iuger que mes opinions ne sont point trop esloignées de ce que dicte le bon sens, puisque estant en luy très parfait, comme il est, elles ne laissent pas de luy estre si familiares. Et ie vous ay voulu escrire cecy tout au long affin que vous sçachiés combien ie vous ay d'obligation de l'honneur de sa connoissance, car ie sçay que c'est principalement à vous que ie la doy. . . .

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LIST OF AUTHORITIES AND ABBREVIATIONS

E. LIST OF AUTHORITIES AND ABBREVIATIONS.

Œuvres = *Œuvres de Descartes* (edited by Charles Adam and Paul Tannery, Paris, 1897-1913), volumes VI-XI.

Corresp. = *Correspondance de Descartes*, forming volumes I-V of the *Œuvres*. When the substance of a note by M. Adam is given, the source is indicated by the letter *A*.

Vie = *Vie et Œuvres de Descartes*, by C. Adam (Paris, 1910), forming volume XII of the *Œuvres*.

Baillet = *La Vie de M^r Descartes*, by Adrien Baillet, vols. I-II (Paris, 1691).

Briefwisseling = *De Briefwisseling van Constantijn Huygens*, edited by J. A. Worp (Hague, 1911-17), forming volumes 15, 19, 21, 24, 28, and 32 of the *Rijks Geschiedkundige Publicatiën*.

Dagboek = *Huygens' Diary*, published by J. H. W. Unger in *Oud-Holland* (1885).

ERRATA

PAGE 1, prolegomena, line 2. For *Introd.*, p. lviii read *Introd.*, p. lxxiv.

PAGE 16, lines 2-3 of Notes. For *Introd.*, p. liii read *Introd.*, p. lxix.

PAGE 19, prolegomena, lines 2-3. For *Introd.*, pp. xxx, xxxv, and xxxix read *Introd.*, pp. xlv, li, and lv.

PAGE 54, prolegomena, line 2. For *Introd.*, p. xxx read *Introd.*, p. xlv.

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