

## Hochverehrtester Herr!

### Letters from Austrian malacologists to the editors of the "Journal de Conchyliologie" in the second half of the 19th century

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Part of the correspondence of the predominantly Austrian malacologists Brusina, Conemenos, Czeschka, Frauenfeld, von Hauer, Kleciak (Kleciak), Landauer, Parreys, Ressmann, Schwartz von Mohrenstern, Stossich, and Zelebor with the editors of the "Journal de Conchyliologie" Fischer and Crosse is discussed and depicted. These letters give a vivid picture of life and particularly malacology in Central Europe in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Key words: history of malacology, Journal de Conchyliologie, Austria sensu lato.

## INTRODUCTION

Twenty-three years ago I was lucky enough to be able to buy most of the correspondence received in the last half of the 19th century by the editors of the famous French journal "Journal de Conchyliologie". Founder of the journal was Sauveur Abel Aubert Petit de la Saussaye. He was born in Rouen in 1792 and died in Bordeaux in 1870. The first volume was published in Paris in 1850. After that Petit de la Saussaye edited and published three more volumes in 1851, 1852, and 1853 respectively.

The fifth volume was published only in 1856 under the editorship of Paul-Henri Fischer (1835-1893), generally indicated as Paul Fischer, and Félix Bernardi (1863-1898). With this volume the second series of the "Journal de Conchyliologie" started, so "Tome V" is the same as "2e série - Tome Ier". Bernardi also acted as publisher. Of this second series four volumes were published. Starting with volume IX, 1861, Joseph Charles Hippolyte Crosse (1826-1898) joined the editorial board and also became the publisher of the journal. This also is the start of the third series, so that "Volume IX" is "3e série - Tome Ier". From 1864 onwards (Volume XII, 3e série - Tome IVe) Bernardi is no longer member of the "Direction".

Crosse was not a professional conchologist, but a businessman. He was responsible for the commercial part of publishing a journal. He kept a very accurate record of the subscriptions to the journal and did all the bookkeeping, including receiving the subscription fees. For this purpose he had a kind of account book, in which he noted down the names of the subscribers, the years of publication, whether the issues were sent, and whether the subscription was paid for. In this ledger there were separate pages for Paris, for every French "département", and for every country in which subscribers to the "Journal" were based. From these books (there are three altogether, covering the periods 1861-1874, 1875-1892, and 1893-1898 respectively) one can learn how many subscribers there were, where they lived and how long they subscribed. Fig. 1 shows the page "Autriche" (Austria) from the first book. Eight subscribers are mentioned. The most famous subscriber can be found on the page "Portugal": S.M. Dom Luis I, roi de Portugal et des Algarves (Portuguese monarchs were known as "King of Portugal and the Algarves").



03-1883; letter, 16-03-1883; letter 21-10-1885; letter, Paris, 23-08-1889; postcard, Agram (Zagreb), 01-04-1890; postcard, Zagreb = Agram, 18-04-1890; letter, 26-08-1897; postcard, 27-12-1897; postcard, Zagreb (Agram), 10-01-1898.

Language. – All letters are written in Italian.

Remarks. – With one exception all letters were sent from Zagreb, where Brusina was professor of zoology at the university, and director of the zoological museum. Zagrabia is the Italian name of Zagreb, whereas Agram is the German name for this town.

One letter was written during a visit to Paris in 1889: "I will stay in Paris until mid-September and would like to visit you to show you some fossils and the lithographic plates of my next publication".

Brusina was born in Zara, Dalmatia (now Zadar). After the Vienna Congress Dalmatia was assigned to Austria. Italian was widely spoken by Italo-Dalmatians. In 1866 the Austrian administration limited the use of Italian in favour of Croatian. Brusina, however, although a civil servant, continued to use Italian.

Brusina has been a prolific author, who published in several languages: Italian, Croatian, German, and French. Six papers were published in the *Journal de Conchyliologie*. For more bibliographical information I refer to Sturany (1901) and Coan et al. (2007).

Most of the letters deal with trivial things like transfer of money for payment of the subscription, orders of reprints of papers, requests for material, and the like. The letter of 1882 shows that there was a conflict with the French malacologist Bourguignat (not known to be a very amiable person). Brusina writes to Crosse: "Mr Bourguignat is in the process of writing a 20-page paper against me. I intend to answer him not only to defend myself against his accusations of me being a calumnator, being envious and malicious, but also to show the ridiculousness of his claim of new species: 67 *Emmercia*!?!?". They probably never became friends.

#### Nicholas CONEMENOS

Number of letters: 3.

Details. – Postcard, Prévésa, 12-07-1889; postcard, Prévésa, 03-03-1890 (fig. 5); letter, Corfou, 27-01-1892.

Language. – All letters are written in French.

Remarks. – Preveza is a town on the west coast of Greece, and Corfou a Greek island, at that time both part of the Ottoman Empire. So, strictly speaking this material does not belong to the category "Austria". However, the postcards sent are Austrian postcards. They carry a pre-printed Austrian stamp, which is surcharged "20 PARA" (fig. 4). The postal services of the Ottoman Empire were considered to be unreliable. Therefore Austria established its own post offices throughout the Balkans.

All letters are about his subscription to the *Journal de Conchyliologie*. Paying for a subscription in a country so far away was not always easy. Conemenos writes: "I enclose 30 francs in Italian bank notes. French bank notes cannot be found here".

Unfortunately I have not been able to find biographical data about Nicholas Conemenos. He probably is the same Nicholas Conemenos who wrote papers and stories about the history and lay-out of the City of Corfu. Shells collected by him can be found in several large museums and collections, including the Museum of Zoology of the University of Michigan, the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, and the Institut

Lagnob-Agram 23.2.78.

Esimo Signore!

A suo tempo La  
pregai di far tirare a  
parte cento esemplari del  
mio articolo "Finez. Pindob."  
a mie spese. Ai 19 dello  
scorso mese Le scrissi nuo-  
vamente con carta-lina posta-  
le di corrispondenza, ma non  
avendo avuto risposta alcuna,  
ritengo smarrita detta corri-  
spondenza. Perciò nuovamen-  
te mi faccio a pregarla  
di sapermi dire se ha fatto  
stampare detti 100 esem-  
plari. Con tutte stime ha  
l'onore di dirmi

di Lei obblig. serv.  
Spiridion Brusina

Fig. 2. Letter from Spiridion Brusina, 23-02-1878 (22.5 × 13.5 cm).

Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Brussels.

Several species were named after him: *Maleagrina* [error for *Meleagrina*] *conomenosi* [error for *conemenosi*] Tiberi in Monterosato, 1884; *Gibbula conemenosi* Monterosato, 1888; *Aporrhais conemenosi* Monterosato, 1890; and *Limax conemenosi* Boettger, 1882.



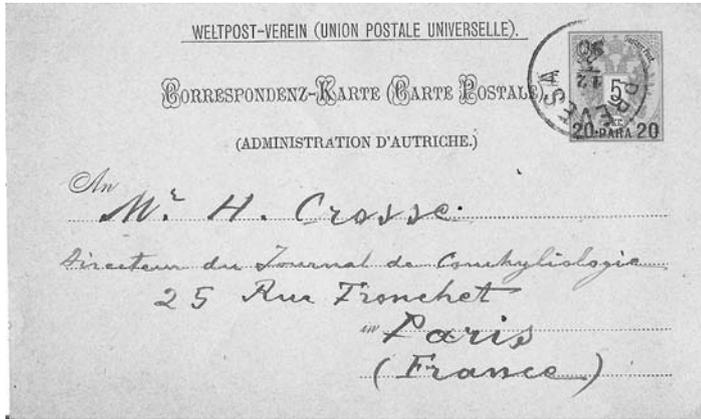


Fig. 4. Postcard from Nicholas Conemenos, written 03-03-1890, stamped 12-03-1890 (8.2 × 14.0 cm).

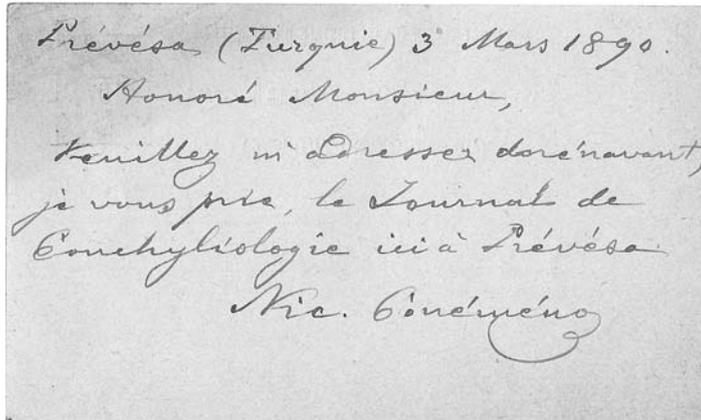


Fig. 5. Postcard from Nicholas Conemenos, 03-03-1890, see fig. 4 (8.2 × 14.0 cm).

Remarks. – Fritz Czeschka, Edler von Mährenthal, was working in the zootomical institute in Graz. In his letter to Crosse (fig. 6) he asks for reprints of cephalopod papers published in the Journal.

At that time Franz Eilhard Schulze (1840-1921) was professor of zoology in Graz. In 1884 Schulze moved to Berlin to become the first director of the newly established Zoological Institute. Fritz Czeschka followed him almost immediately to Berlin and became Schulze's first scientific assistant.

"Edler von" (Noble of) was the lowest title of nobility in the Austrian Empire. The Turbellaria genus *Maehrenthalia* von Graff, 1905, is called after Fritz Czeschka.

Georg FRAUENFELD (1805-1873)

Number of letters: 4.

Details. – Letter, Wien, 22-12-1864; letter, Vienne, 27-02-1865; letter, Paris, 01-07-1865 (fig. 7); letter, Wien, 16-12-1871.

Language. – The letter of 27-02-1865 is in French, the others are in German.

Remarks. – Georg Frauenfeld was participant of the famous NOVARA Expedition (1857-1859). In 1859 he was ennobled to knighthood and from then on carries the name Georg Ritter von Frauenfeld. Although all four letters are signed by him, only the Paris letter is completely written by himself. The other letters seem to have been written by secretaries of the “K.K. zoologisch-botanische Gesellschaft”. Two letters are signed “Georg Ritter v. Frauenfeld”, the other two letters are signed “George Chev(alier) de Frauenfeld”.

The letters concern the exchange of publications (see third line of the register of subscriptions, fig. 1). The letter of December 1871 tells “dass der wegen Kriegsereignissen zurückverbliebene Band 1870 ..... an Ihre Adresse abgesendet wird” (1871: Bismarck, unification of Germany, excluding Austria; end of Franco-German war, treaty of Versailles).

In June/July 1865 Frauenfeld was in Paris and tried to visit Crosse. He went to Crosse’s house twice in vain and then wrote him a letter, disappointed not to have met him.

For more biographical and bibliographical information I refer to Sturany (1901) and Coan et al. (2007).

#### Franz von HAUER (1822-1899)

Number of letters: 3.

Details. – Letter, Vienne, 12-02-1867; letter, Vienne, 29-04-1867; letter, Vienne, 15-12-1871.

Language. – All letters are written in French.

Remarks. – Franz von Hauer, also known as Franz Ritter von Hauer, was an Austrian geologist and palaeontologist. In 1866 he became director of the Geological Institute in Vienna (Kaiserlich-Königliche Geologische Reichsanstalt). His letters to Crosse concern the exchange agreement between his institute and the *Journal de Conchyliologie*. Having written his letters in French he signs with: François de Hauer.

For more biographical information I refer to Tietze, 1900.

#### Blasius KLECIACH or KLECIAK (1823-1881)

Number of letters: 4.

Details. – Letter, Zara, 13-08-1867; letter, Macarsca, 10-09-1869; letter, Macarsca, 26-10-1868; letter, Macarsca, 02-01-1870.

Language. – The first letter is written in French, the other three letters are written in Italian.

Remarks. – Blasius Kleciach was a shell collector living in Dalmatia, Croatia. His name can be found written in different ways: Kleciach, Kleciak, Klec’ak, and Kleciac. His official first name is Blasius, but he signs his letters in Italian with Biagio (fig. 8) and his letter in French with Blaise. He lived in Zara, now Zadar, and then moved to Macarsca, now Makarska. He died on the island of Lesina, now called Hvar. All these places are situated in modern Croatia. In 1797 Zara came under Austrian rule and became the capital of Dalmatia.

Kleciach exchanged molluscs with Crosse and asked him the address of Hidalgo in Madrid, since he also wanted Spanish molluscs. He published a small number of papers. Several species were named in his honour, like *Cochlostoma kleciaki* (Braun, 1887) and

M.  
 Off. 16  
 1882  
 29. III. 1882  
 Herrn J. P. Crosse.

in Paris.

Pechter Tolon!

Ich erlaube mir, anzufragen, ob einzelne der im  
 „Journal de conchyliologie“ erschienenen Abhandlungen  
 als Separata zu erhalten sind. Ich wünsche nämlich,  
 die in diesem Journal veröffentlichten Arbeiten,  
 welche auf das System oder die Biologie der  
 Cephalopodes Bezug haben, kennen zu lernen,  
 so die Publicationen von Feneu u. Haru P. Fischer  
 (1862. X. p. 124 f., 1867. p. 12, 1869. XVII. p. 128,  
 1874. XXI. p. 368, III. Suppl. XXII. p. 204-214) und  
 Jean Lafant (1869).

Indem ich Sie bitte, mir gefälligst eine Antwort  
 oder angegebener Adresse zu kommen zu lassen,  
 unterzeichne ich mich achtungsvoll

Graz, 29. III. 1882. Dr. F. Czeschka.

Adresse: Graz (Austria, Styria), Zoolog. Institut,  
 Universitätsplatz 5.

Fig. 6. Letter from Fritz Czeschka, 29-03-1882 (17.3 × 11.0 mm).

*Anodonta kleciaki* Drouët, 1881.

For more biographical and bibliographical information I refer to Sturany (1901) and Coan et al. (2007).

#### M.J. LANDAUER

Number of letters: 1.

Details. – Letter, Wien, 25-02-1873.

Language. – French.

Remarks. – I have not been able to find biographical data about this collector. In the archives of Crosse there is a four-page brochure (fig. 9) in which Landauer offers Tertiary fossils from Kassel, Germany. The brochure is in German, but the first three lines are in French. Perhaps it was specifically produced for distribution in France.

Landauer was not Austrian but German. The reason he writes a letter from Vienna: “I

Paris 1 July 1865

Verehrter Herr !

Ich bedauere sehr, dass ich bei meiner Anwesenheit in Paris nicht das Vergnügen habe, Sie zu sehen. Ich war Mittwoch den 29. Siny in Ihrem Hause, und man sagte, Sie kämen freitags nach Paris. Freitag den 30. fuhr ich abwärts, und man sagte, Sie seyen Tags vorher hier gewesen, und kämen erst nächste Woche wieder. Da ich Dienstag den 4<sup>ten</sup> July <sup>abends</sup> nach der Schweiz abreise, so ersuche ich Sie, mir nach Wien zu schreiben, wo ich Ende July wieder eintreffe.

Mit herzlichem Grusse  
 ergebinst  
 Georg Ritter v. Frauenfeld  
 v. Wien  
 Cog. Chaussée d'Antin 27. 4<sup>te</sup> Et.  
 ou Dr. Siebel Chaussée d'Antin  
 lin 50.

Fig. 7. Letter from Georg Ritter von Frauenfeld, 01-07-1865 (22.3 × 14.3 cm).

have sold all my shells, forced by an eye illness. For 10 months I have not been able to read a letter. That is the reason I have retired from my business and left Frankfurt to live with my son [in Vienna]. I spent several months with my daughter in Agram [Zagreb]. I visited Mr. Brusina and I brought back nice fossils from Croatia and Slavonia. In that place I have regained my health and I will start to take up my business again". Only one letter, so much to think about...

## Ludwig PARREYSS (1799-1879)

Number of letters: 1.

Details. – Letter, Wien, 25-04-1876.

Language. – German.

Remarks. – Ludwig Parreyss was a very well-known collector and dealer in natural history objects, not only shells, but also insects, fishes, reptiles, birds, and mammals. In his letter (fig. 10) he proposes Crosse to exchange land and freshwater molluscs from Algeria for cone shells. More information about Ludwig Parreyss can be found in Sattmann (1986).

## Franz RESSMANN (1794-1892)

Number of letters: 4.

Details. – Letter, St. Vit, undated; letter, Malborgeth, 15-01-1870 (fig. 11); letter, St. Vit, 10-05-1870; letter, St. Vit, 14-12-1871.

Language. – French.

Remarks. – St. Vit is the city of Sankt Veit an der Glan in the Austrian province of Carinthia.

Franz Ressmann was born in 1794 in the Carinthian village of Malborgeth, which is now the Italian village of Malborghetto in the province of Udine. He died in the same village in 1892 and thus reached the high age of 97/8 years. He studied law in Vienna, got a PhD in law and has been a lawyer in the Austrian town of Villach. His father, Johann Ressmann, owned a hotel in Malborgeth (Gasthaus Ressmann). As an amateur naturalist he collected both shells and plants.

With Crosse he exchanged land shells, and offers species like *Helix gobanzii* Frauenfeld, 1867, *Clausilia stenzii* Rossmässler, 1836, *Pupa ressmanni* Villa “of some authors” (see below), *Pupa kokeilii* Rossmässler, 1837, and many others. In his letters he asks for species from the Philippines and Madeira in exchange. From his letter it becomes clear that it was very difficult, if not almost impossible, to transfer money from Austria to France. The relations between France and Austria in the 19th century were not very cordial!

The handwriting of Ressmann is very beautiful and his letters are very easy to read. He signs his letters with “Deur F. Ressmann”, the first word being short for Docteur.

The letter of 1871 is especially moving. It starts with referring to a political tragedy in France and ends with a personal tragedy of the writer.

“Sir, How have you survived the terrible catastrophe of which I have been thinking continuously? I read about it in the newspaper and want to congratulate you that you have saved your life”.

In 1871 France was defeated in the Franco-Prussian War. The war started in July 1870. The Prussian troops and the troops of other German states were superior. During the battle of Sedan (2 September 1870) the French Emperor Napoleon III was captured. Two days later the Third Republic was declared in France and in January 1871 Paris fell after a prolonged siege. Disaster for France. For Paris the disaster became even worse. In March 1871 there was an uprising of French workers in Paris resulting in the “Paris Commune”. This short-lived government ended in the last week of May. During this “Bloody Week”, as it is called, an unimaginable massacre took place in Paris. Numbers of victims are unknown,

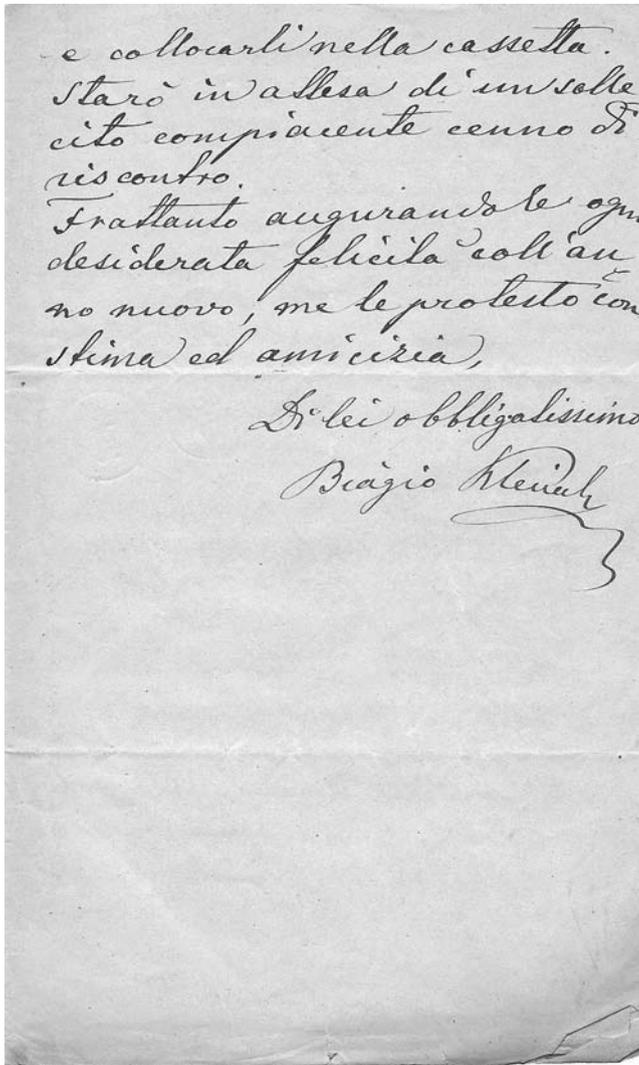


Fig. 8. Letter from Blasius Kleciach, 02-01-1870 (22.0 × 13.2 cm).

but estimates vary from 10,000 to 50,000. Indeed a terrible catastrophe.

And then, at the end of the letter in two lines a pitiable personal tragedy: "This year I lost my angel, my only son. Tuberculosis has taken him from me while in my arms".

Ressmann published a few papers (see Sturany, 1901). *Aegopinella ressmanni* (Westerlund, 1883), *Clausilia cincta ressmanni* Westerlund, 1878, *Campylaea ressmanni* Kobelt, 1902, *Theba carthusiana* var. *Ressmanni* (Clessin, 1887), and *Pupa ressmanni* Villa "of some authors" (Pilsbry, 1924: 152), are named after him. The epithet *ressmanni* is regularly misspelled *resmanni*.

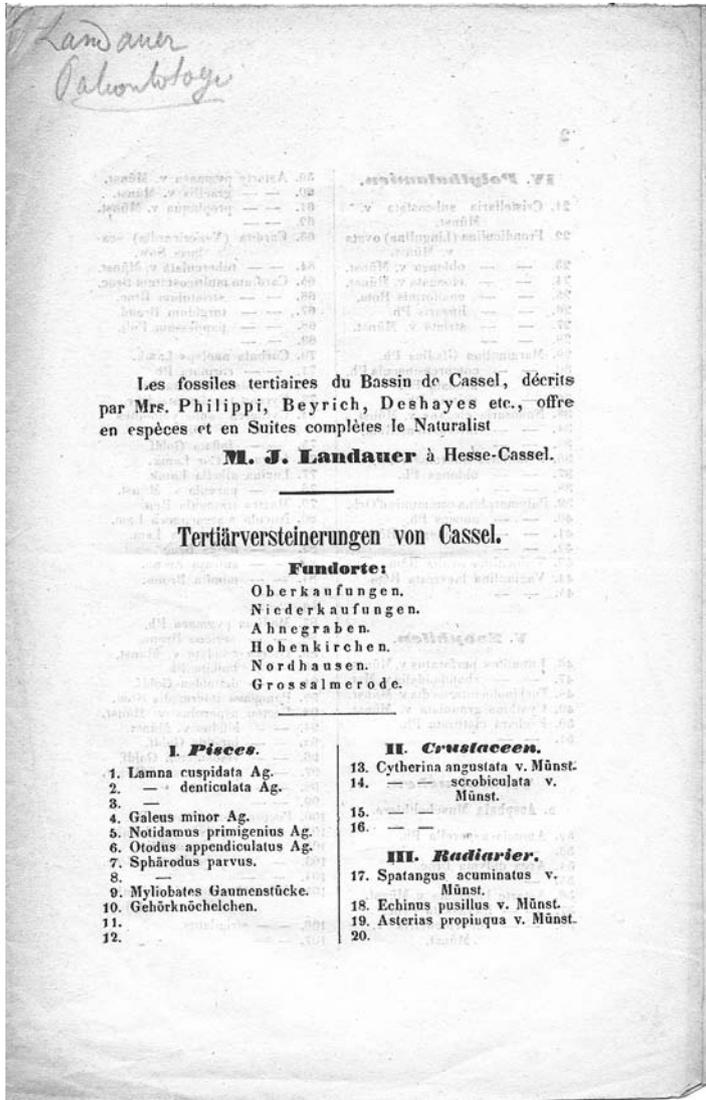


Fig. 9. Price-list from M.J. Landauer (21.5 × 13.7 cm).

und würde mich gerne von Ihren Conus  
im Tausche dagegen nehmen, wenn Sie  
Dupletten davon besitzen.

In der Erwartung einer gütigen Ant-  
wort, bin ich mit aller Hochachtung

Ihr bereitwilligster  
Ludwig Parreys

Fig. 10. Letter from Ludwig Parreys, 25-04-1876 (22.0 × 13.9 cm).

ne seront pas trop chères ?  
 Moi j'en ai une quantité  
 de nos pays iii et beaucoup  
 d'intéressantes p. e. Helix  
 Gobanzyi, chamalleon, Teburia  
 na, Gemonensis, phalerata,  
 Prestii, adelosozona, Clausi  
 lia Rossmoessleri, unita, Henzi  
 succineata, asphaltina, Go  
 banzyi, itala, rablensis, in  
 terrupta, varians diapkana,  
 gracilis, pupa Rossmanni, Ros  
 maessleri, Hothkeili &c, et  
 mille autres choses, si vous  
 voulez en avoir ? —  
 Je'il honneur de vous saluer  
 bien amicalement  
 Franz J. Resmann  
 Malborgeth  
 d'Autriche en Carinthie  
 15/1. 870.

Fig. 11. Letter from Franz Resmann, 15-01-1870 (22.8 × 14.4 cm).

Vienne le 17 Avril 1864.

Monsieur

Le 26 du mois de Janvier d. s. année  
 j'ei envoie par la poste sous votre adresse  
 la suite de mon travail sur la famille  
 des Rissoides, en même temps j'ai essayé  
 de vous faire parvenir avec le même paquet  
 20 francs pour l'abonnement de votre Journal,  
 deux jours après je vous ai annoncé le  
 départ du paquet contenant la Monographie  
 par une lettre dans laquelle je vous prevenais  
 que dans l'intérieur du couvercle de la  
 Monographie vous trouveriez un Napoléon  
 légèrement collé avec un petit papier garni.  
 Comme depuis ce temps je n'ai rien entendu  
 ni de l'arrivée du paquet comme de la lettre,  
 je crains que toutes les deux ne sont pas  
 arrivées dans vos mains — veuillez je vous  
 prie m'avertir par quelques mots ce qui en est,  
 pour que je puisse me acquitter de ma dette  
 envers vous par un autre voie.  
 Agréez Monsieur l'assurance de ma haute considération  
 votre dévoué Schwartz de Mohrenstern

Fig. 12. Letter from Gustav Schwartz von Mohrenstern, 17-04-1864 (20.3 × 13.2 cm).

Gustav SCHWARTZ von MOHRENSTERN (1809-1890)

Number of letters: 3.

Details. – Letter, Vienne, 24-01-1864; letter, Vienne, 27-01-1864; letter, Vienne, 17-04-1864.

Language. – French.

Remarks. – His full name is Gustav Franziskus Maria. He is best known for his monographs on Rissoids. In 1860 he published "Über die Familie der Rissoiden und insbesondere die Gattung *Rissoina*", followed in 1864 by: "Über die Familie der Rissoiden. II. *Rissoa*". Both works were published in the "Denkschriften der Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftlichen Classe der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften", Vienna.

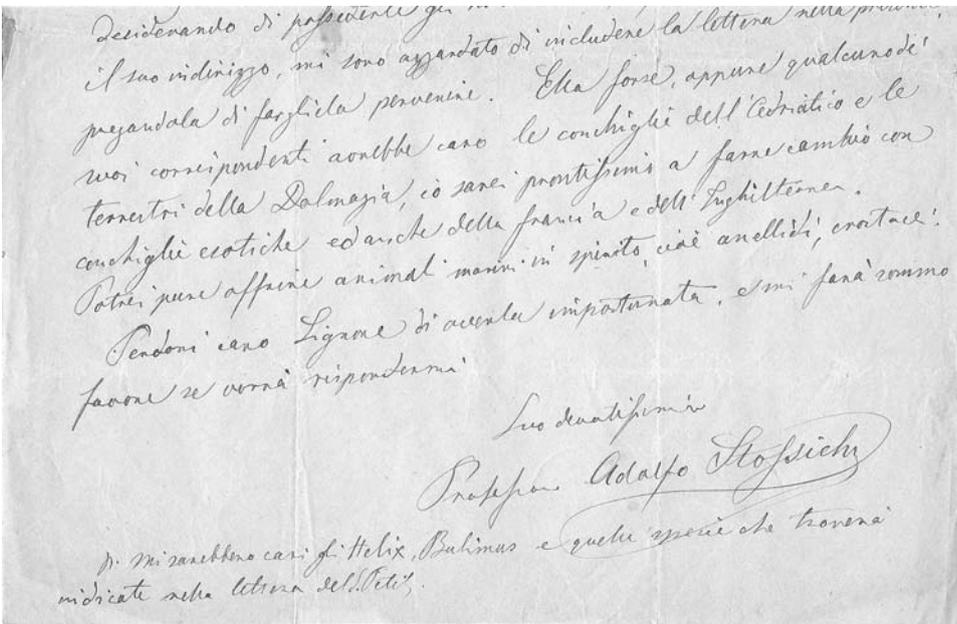


Fig. 13. Letter from Adolf Stossich, 10-06-1864 (13.4 × 20.7 cm).

All three letters are about sending his new monograph on *Rissoa* to Crosse, and about paying for his subscription. Also Schwartz von Mohrenstern experiences difficulties in transferring money and therefore (fig. 12): "Inside the monograph you will find a Napoleon lightly glued with a small square piece of paper". A Napoleon is the colloquial term for French gold coins that were widely used in France during the 19th century.

In 1866 Brusina named *Alvania schwartziana* after him.

#### Adolf STOSSICH (1824-1900)

Number of letters: 1.

Details. – Letter, Trieste, 10-06-1864.

Language. – Italian.

Remarks. – Adolf Stossich was born in Fiume (now Rijeka, Croatia) and died in Trieste (now Trieste, Italy), where he had been teacher at a secondary school (Communal-Oberrealschule) from 1863-1891. His special interests were malacology, botany, and more generally marine biology, especially of the Adriatic Sea. His son Michele Stossich (1857-1906) was a marine biologist, who worked on worms and crustaceans.

In his letter to Crosse (fig. 13) he announces the sending of his work on the malaco-fauna of the Adriatic Sea: *Fauna Adriatica. Pars I. Index Molluscorum quae usque adhuc reperit* (1864). Both father and son have contributed much to the knowledge of the marine fauna of the Adriatic Sea. In the same letter he also proposes the exchange of marine and terrestrial shells.

Wien den 20/2 1866.

Hochverehrtester Herr!

Berügl. Ihres sehr geehrten Schreibens (vom 7. Februar 1866) habe ich von meinen Conchylien-Doubletten aus Siebenbürgen, Dalmatien, Croatien, Dobrudscha, Griechenland, und Cypern Sie von Ihnen bezeichneten Desiderate in tadellosen Exemplaren für Sie bei Seite gelegt. Auch „Coquilles des Grottes de Carniole“ habe daz. angereicht. Sobald ich meine übrigen Vorräthe aus der Adria etc. kritisch gesichtet habe, werde Ihnen eine zweite Liste senden.

Dagegen erbitte ich mir eine Liste von Ihren kritisch determinirten tadellosen Doubletten der Land- und Süßwasser Conchylien aus Californien und den französischen Colonien überhaupt. Auf einen Tausch von Seeconchylien werde später eingehen.

*J.*

Fig. 14. Letter from Johann Zelebor, 20-02-1866 (22.9 × 14.4 cm).

Gleichzeitig bitte in Ihren nächsten  
 Schreiben gefälligst bekannt geben  
 zu wollen, ob ich Ihre Desidera-  
 te mit der Fohrpost, oder mit  
 einer anderen Gelegenheit senden  
 soll.  
 Zu allen möglichen Gegendienst  
 würden Sie mich ferner verbün-  
 den, wenn Sie in Ihrem werthen  
 Journal gefälligst anzeigen  
 wollten, dass ich Conchylien  
 aus den österr. Staaten, mit Ein-  
 schluss der Adria etc. gegen  
mir fehlende Land- und Süß-  
wasser Mollusken im Tausch  
 abzugeben bereit bin.  
 Indessen mich bestens empfehlend,  
 verbleibe mit vollkommenster  
 Hochachtung  
 Ihr ganz ergebenster  
 Joh. Zelebor

Fig. 15. Letter from Johann Zelebor, 20-02-1866, see fig. 14 (22.9 × 14.4 cm).

Several mollusc species were named after him including *Hippeutis stossichi* (Clessin, 1878) and *Clausilia stossichi* O. Boettger, 1878. Brusina described *Mangelia stossichiana* in 1869 but forgot the "h". There are more species carrying the name *stossichi* or *stossichiana*, some of which are in honour of Adolf, others in honour of his son Michele. For more bibliographical information see Sturany, 1901.

## Johann ZELEBOR (1819-1869)

Number of letters: 2.

Details. – Letter, Wien, 01-02-1866; letter, Wien, 20-02-1866 (figs 14-15).

Language. – German.

Remarks. – Like von Frauenfeld Johann Zelebor was participant of the NOVARA Expedition (1857-1859). In 1866 and 1867 he published about the molluscs collected during this expedition. In 1866 with Dunker as co-author, and in 1867 with L. Pfeiffer as co-author. He was taxidermist at the Natural History Museum in Vienna, in his own words: “Custos Adjunct am K.K. zool. Hof Kabinet”.

His two letters to Crosse are requests to exchange land- and freshwater molluscs. Enclosed in the second letter there is a four-page list of duplicates he can offer: “Zelebor’s kritisch determinirte Doubletten”, in which species from Siebenbürgen, Dalmatia, Croatia, Dobrudscha, Greece, and Cyprus are listed.

His name lives on in species like *Cirsotrema zelebori* (Dunker, 1866), *Xerocampylaea zelebori* (Pfeiffer, 1853), and *Cristataria zelebori* (Rossmässler, 1856). A curious citation is *Unio zelebori* Zelebor, 1866, which should read *Unio zelebori* Dunker in Dunker & Zelebor, 1866.

How different are the greetings and closing phrases of these letters from the ones used nowadays! Handwritten letters, even type-written letters are completely out of date. If you want to contact someone you send an email starting with “Hello” and ending with b.w. (= best wishes).

I prefer the past and therefore, coming to the end of this dedicatory paper, I shamelessly plagiarize from the last letter of Zelebor (figs 14-15):

Hochverehrtester Herr Gittenberger.....

Indessen mich bestens empfehend,  
verbleibe mit vollkommenster Hochachtung  
Ihr ganz ergebenster  
Wim Backhuys

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