

## CORRESPONDENCE

JOHANN BERNOULLI AND GOTTFRIED LEIBNIZ

Extract from Letter CCVIII of Leibniz to Johann Bernoulli

27 June 1708 Brunswick

*Leibnizens mathematische Schriften*, Bd. III, pp. 835-836

“I have not recalled hearing anything concerning Montmort, who prepares a book on games of chance. I would wish this subject be treated well. But also of Mr. Your Brother, of affectionate memory, I wish meditations of such kinds not perish. In fact I believe something in those is about to be separated. And altogether I would choose selections from the same sometime to be brought to light. Indeed for the public interest of all I would wish a measure to be regarded.”

Extract from Letter CCIX of Johann Bernoulli to Leibniz

1 September 1708 at Basel

*Leibnizens mathematische Schriften*, Bd. III, pp. 837-838

“Whether the book concerning Games of Chance by Montmort now has seen light, for my part I have heard nothing; but I doubt whether he will be treating this subject according to its worth. My brother has examined all these many things more carefully and more simply, and moreover he has extended to morals and natural things, indeed also to computing the probabilities of life and death; certainly already a long time ago, before I went to Holland, these he has permitted me to see, and which by my own meditations I have enlarged presently and at that time he then combined with his own. Now however what has been done with the manuscript book (which I hear from others to be extended nearly to the center) avoids me entirely; indeed the heirs are accustomed to take precautions anxiously, that nothing out of brother’s writings fall into my hands, it is because before death Brother will have wished it thus, or because the survivors of themselves are envious of me. Whatever it is, that method of proceeding has clearly not offended me; for by that I shall avoid suspicion of plagiarism in the view of others so much more easily. Therefore if you wish selections out of brother’s writings to be brought forward to light of day, it will be requesting from the Heirs, especially from his Son, now lingering in Paris, to whom the writings and the book of the Father have fallen, although he understands too little by the former to use, as being of our studies entirely ignorant and undeveloped.”

Post Script from Letter CCXIII of Leibniz to Joh. Bernoulli

6 September 1709 at Hanover

*Leibnizens mathematische Schriften*, Bd. III, pp. 844-845

“I think the book of Mr. Your late Brother to be worthy, which he brought forth, and I have indicated it in writing more than once. Frequently I am reminded to be wanting to us the part of Logic concerning gradations of the appearance of truth. Moreover I propose reckoning according to the gradations of possibility, or from the great number of equal

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possibilities. I have revealed once in a certain political publication published by order of a Prince, certain valuations to be made by addition, others by multiplication.”