

His “dear sister Liddy” was his half-sister Lydia Sarah Barrington (1840–1864), who died the year after this specimen was pressed; she would have been about 23 years old when she was encouraging her young half-brother. There do not appear to be any specimens extant that were collected by Lydia Barrington.

Richard Manliffe Barrington’s siblings included one more noteworthy brother: Charles (1834–1901) was the first person (with two Swiss guides) known to have reached the summit of the Eiger in August 1858 (Barrington and Barrington 1884). Eighteen years later, RMB also climbed the Eiger accompanied by one of his brother’s Swiss guides, and he is almost as well known for his mountain-climbing as his botany and ornithology.

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The will of Ludwig Heinrich Bojanus (1776–1827), an interesting nineteenth-century natural history document

The scientific studies of Ludwig Heinrich Bojanus were evaluated by Adam Ferdinand Adamowicz, his student and assistant, in 1835. Since that publication further research has been largely based on Bojanus’s letters to Cuvier, preserved in the Institut de France in Paris (Daszkiewicz 1998). This note refers to a new source of information, “Das Testament des ks. russischen Staats Raths Bojanus deßen Verlassenschaft und die Curatel über deßen

Pflege-Tochter Amalie Rudi bt.”, “the last will of imperial Russian councillor Bojanus concerning his estate and the guardianship of his adopted daughter Amélie Rudi”, preserved among the Acts of the Tribunal of the Grand Duchy of Hesse at Darmstadt in the Hessisches Staatsarchiv Darmstadt.¹ This interesting document provides a biography of Bojanus and an account of the history of his work.

On 24 October 1824, Ludwig Bojanus, Professor of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy at the University of Vilnius, left that city to travel to Darmstadt, his failing health being the reason for this journey. No longer able to teach, he requested leave of absence and addressed a farewell letter to the University. In 1826, the university authorities extended his leave of absence but did not fix a date for his return (Fedorowicz 1958); consequently Bojanus spent the last years of his life in Darmstadt, where he had strong connections. His family took refuge there after the French army re-conquered Alsace and he completed his secondary education and practised medicine in the city between 1798 and 1800. Thanks to the financial assistance of the Landgraff of Hesse, Bojanus was able to complete his studies and visit universities in Germany, France, Austria, England and Scotland. A branch of his close family lived in Darmstadt so it is not surprising that being seriously ill he returned to the city to end his days there.

His will was made on 25 June 1826 and read on 5 April 1827, two days after his death. The citation from the will records that it was opened in the presence of State Councillor Eigenbrodt, attorney to the court of the Grand Duchy, in the name of the heiress, Ludwig’s sister and wife of Eigenbrodt, and of the lawyer appointed by the court of the Grand Duchy in the name of Charles Bojanus, his brother, then a merchant in Saint Petersburg.²

Bojanus was in charge of the zoological museum at Vilnius and created the first specialized collection of animal anatomy in that part of Europe (Fedorowicz 1958). However, he also had a personal collection as revealed in the fifth clause of the will which stipulated: “I bequeath to my nephew, William Eigenbrodt, a medical student, my natural history collections, the mineral cabinet and all my anatomical appliances, among them a little case and a compound microscope.”

Bojanus had assembled a library of great scientific and material value during his stay in Vilnius and he referred to its disposal in the sixth clause:

My books, among which can be found rare and precious engravings patiently collected and estimated on their own to be worth more than 1,000 thalers³ to which must be added 500 other volumes, most of them chosen carefully, will go to my nephew William Eigenbrodt, if which bequest is considered to be a real favour, as I believe it will be, based on his taste and personal relations, in return for 600 thalers, for which he shall be exempt of interest for the first four years, he shall however thereafter pay the customary 5 per cent or pay Amélie or her heirs in one form or another.

The monograph on the anatomy of the European pond turtle, *Anatome testudinis europaeae*, was one of Bojanus’s greatest successes, recognized as one of the most important works on animal anatomy. Both Cuvier and Oken praised it (Adamowicz 1835).⁴ Bojanus dissected some 500 turtles and devoted a decade to this project. He used all the anatomical techniques known at the time to prepare this work: maceration and boiling in various solvents, injections of colouring agents, colouring with mercury and gelatine. He made the original drawings himself, had the plates engraved on copper by Friedrich Leonhard Lehmann, who he had brought from Hesse especially for this work, and personally paid for the printing of the 80 copies of the original edition. This cost him a considerable sum: 5,000 roubles, the equivalent of two years’ salary. It is interesting to note that because he

created the first lithography workshop in Vilnius for his own scientific needs, Bojanus is now considered to be one of the precursors of the graphic arts in Lithuania (Gasiūnas 1997).

His scientific success was not accompanied by commercial success. The will (clause 7) informs us that not all of this small first edition had been sold by 1826, seven years after its publication:

The last payment due for the sale of my engravings on the anatomy of turtles remains to be paid by the bookshops Fr. Fleischer at Leipzig and Fr. Moritz at Vilnius, the unsold copies are with Fr. Fleischer and some of them at my home where I also have the 4* corresponding engraved plates, to be sent to M. de Froriep, proprietor of the Regional Industrial Counter in Weimar, in accordance with an earlier agreement which I still hope to conclude myself, for a modest sum to be decided, which sum shall be added to the capital destined for my adopted daughter Amélie.

Bojanus never completed his scientific work, and several projects that he did finish were never published, including the anatomy of the sheep with 600 of his own drawings, a work which, had it been published, would have been as well known as the monograph on the European pond turtle (Adamowicz 1835). However, Bojanus is well known to mammalogists and archaeozoologists as the author (Bojanus 1827) of the name *Bos primigenius* for the extinct aurochs. Clause eight of the will was devoted to unpublished works:

Under no circumstances should my manuscripts or my drawings fall into the hands of strangers. Although most of them are publishable, none of them should be printed as a posthumous work. However, if my nephew William Eigenbrodt takes pleasure in practising comparative anatomy, my manuscripts and drawings shall be entirely at his disposal. As far as I can recall, they include many simple studies, unfinished work, in my comparative anatomy notebooks, particularly the first sketch which owed much to others. Improvements and corrections were later added on loose leaves or on the drawings I made. Many discoveries, now well known, were noted briefly, or indeed not at all, in the heat of the discovery but should be the subject of oral communications.

The will gives us important insights into Bojanus's life and scientific work. Unfortunately, the subsequent history and current location of his collections, library and copper engravings of the anatomy of the European pond turtle are unknown. Perhaps an investigation of the life and activities of William Eigenbrodt, sole heir to the scientific heritage of Bojanus, might shed light on the subject.

NOTES

¹ Hessisches Staatsarchiv Darmstadt, reference HStAD Best, G 28 Darmstadt Nr. F 2537/1. The original document is written in German; the translation was undertaken by Mr Liam Gavin.

² "Wurde heute in Gegenwart des, Namens der dahier befindliche Intestaterbin, der frau Geh. Staats Raths Eigenbrodt, erschienenen Hofgerichtsadvocaten Eigenbrodt, und des vom Amtswegen, für den, zu St. Petersburg wohnenden Kaufmann Karl Bojanus."

³ One thaler is the equivalent of seventeen grams of silver.

⁴ Interestingly an edition was published in the United States by the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (Bojanus 1970). This facsimile reprint of the 1819 edition has a short additional introductory text and 31 folding plates.

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An annotated catalogue of the marine biological paintings of Thomas Alan Stephenson – a fourth missing painting found

When the definitive catalogue of marine biological paintings by Thomas Alan Stephenson (1898–1961) was published (Williams and Moore 2011), the whereabouts of 44 of the 99 works listed were at that time unknown. Not long afterwards, three of the missing paintings, numbers 20, 25 and 50, were traced (Williams 2012). Now, information about another has been discovered.¹

The most recent sighting of this fourth missing painting was apparently at an auction on 8 March 2007, when it was sold as lot 244 to an undisclosed buyer by Morphets of Harrogate, Yorkshire. It might reasonably be presumed to be now in private hands. The complete description given was “Lot 244: THOMAS ALAN STEPHENSON (BRITISH 1898–1961) crest of Gibbet Island, Bermuda, watercolour, 18.5cms × 29cms, artists biography and exhibition labels verso [*sic*].”

This information clearly identifies the painting as number 62 of Williams's and Moore's 2011 catalogue. The labels indicate that it was part of the peripatetic memorial exhibition of Stephenson's work during 1964; the description tallies with item L10 in the Chenil Gallery catalogue (Anonymous 1964a). Comparison of the listings in the Chenil Gallery catalogue and the later Art Exhibitions Bureau catalogue (Anonymous 1964b) reveals that it was one of the 51 marine biological paintings sold (out of the 69 marine subjects) during the opening of the exhibition at Chelsea. Moreover, 59 of the total 99 known paintings in the Williams and Moore catalogue have now been traced.

NOTE

¹ URL <http://www.artfact.com/auction-lot/thomas-alan-stephenson-british-1898-1961-crest-1-c-6cdfa31a5f> (accessed 20 July 2013).

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