

## 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 kind not perish. I believe in fact something in the former should not be scorned. And altogether I would choose selections from the same before it is too late to be brought to light.”

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 has beheld light, for my part I have heard nothing; but I doubt whether this subject will be treated according to its worth. My brother has examined all these many things carefully and more simply, and moreover he has extended to morals and the natural, indeed also computing the probabilities of life and death; certainly already once, before I went to Holland, this he has permitted me to see, and which I enlarged by my own meditations constantly and at that time he combined the former with his own. Now however what was made from the manuscript of the book (which I hear from others is extended nearly to the central theorem) I have avoided 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 mode of proceeding has clearly not offended me; for by it 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 would be brought forward to light of day, it will be demanding 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 of the former to be used, seeing that of our studies (he is) 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 merited, which he set forth, and I have indicated it in writing more than once. Frequently I am reminded to us the part of Logic to be wanting concerning gradations of the appearance of truth. Moreover I believe one should estimate according to the gradations of possibility, or from the great number of equal possibilities. I revealed once in a certain political publication published by command of a Prince, certain estimations to be made by addition, others by multiplication.”

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