

CORRESPONDENCE

JACOB HERMANN AND GOTTFRIED LEIBNIZ

Extract from Letter V of Hermann to Leibniz

4 April 1705 at Basel

Leibnizens mathematische Schriften, Bd. IV, pp. 270-271

“Our most esteemed Bernoulli, of whom I recommend respectful treatment to you equally, has continued his book concerning the *Arte conjectandi* nearly up to the center, and at that point he treats nearly all types of games.”

Extract from Letter XIII of Hermann to Leibniz

28 October 1705 *Leibnizens mathematische Schriften*, Bd. IV, pp. 285-288

“The *Ars Conjectandi*, as he named it, is removed very little from completion, and he would have undertaken the last hand, if even he had survived his fate at least by a few months. The whole work is divided into four parts, of which the first includes the Huygen treatise concerning reckoning in games of chance with additions by him of his own distinguished notes. The second contains the doctrine of Permutations and Combinations. The third explains the use of the preceding doctrine in various castings of lots and in games of chance. Finally part four delivers the use also and application of the preceding in Civics, Morals and Economics.”

Extract from Letter XX of Leibniz to Jakob Hermann

15 July 1706 at Hannover *Leibnizens mathematische Schriften*, Bd. IV, pp. 298-299

“Mr. Bernoulli¹ recommends to me the adolescent son² of the other brother to our studies. Therefore this renown of the family will be inherited. . . . Now I have asked that you might show to me a little the more distinguished work of the late Mr. Jakob Bernoulli; if there be leisure time for it, I ask again. I should wish it either to be protected in a safe place, or it to be published in whatever manner that some things are obtained, in order that the greatest part will be obtained.”

Extract from Letter XXI of Jakob Hermann to Leibniz

17 July 1706 at Basel.

Leibnizens mathematische Schriften, Bd. IV, pp. 299-302

“Concerning his papers, I have learned from the widow left behind, our blessed Jakob Bernoulli therefore to have decided they should be preserved to his Only Son, now offering work in the art of sacred painting, which afterwards, as soon as he will make for Paris, will arrange there it to be copied out into type, at least what the Famous Varignon will determine worthy publicly to see the light of day.”

Translated by Richard J. Pulskamp, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Xavier University, Cincinnati OH. August 16, 2009.

¹Translator's note: Johann Bernoulli.

²Translator's note: This son would be Niklaus I Bernoulli.