

be an acceptable service, for the Honour of the *Nation*, and of that *Colledge* in particular, and of the *Royal Society*.

But I must beg your Pardon for this long Digression : And subscribe my self, an Humble Servant of the *Royal Society* ; And

Yours to serve you,

John Wallis.

IV. *Account of a Book, viz.*

Aloyfi Ferdinandi Comit. Marsigli Danubialis operis Prodomus.

Ad Regiam Societatem Anglicanam. Fol. 1700.

THe Author of this *Prodomus* hath given several proofs of his great Abilities in this part of Learning, as in his *Offervazioni intorno al Bosforo Tracio*, Printed at Rome in 4to. 1681. In his *Dissertatione Epistolare del Fosforo minerale, o Sia della Pietra illuminabile Bolognese*, at Leipfick in 4to cum fig. 1698.

The Piece now before us is only a Plan or Model of a great Work, which *Signor Marsigli* is carrying on in six large Volumes in Fol. Imperial Paper, which he designs to dedicate to the present *Emperor of Germany*, by whose Favour he was employed many years in the Turkish Wars, and continues to receive a noble Salary from the same hand.

The first Tome is to contain the Geographical Part, illustrated with many Charts and actual Surveys of the Banks of the *Dambe*, from its rise to its exit into the *Euxine* Sea, describing all along the Channels, Whirlpools,

pools, Cataracts, the Rivers running into it, the Subterraneous communications, the increase and decrease of the Waters, all the Windings of the River, examin'd with Magnetick Needles, the Soundings and the Bottoms; noting also the adjacent Provinces, Cities, Towns, Villages, Castles, Islands, Fortifications, Bridges; the various Inhabitants, with their *Origine's*, Languages, Revolutions, Habits, and Manners; the Distances and Latitudes of the most remarkable Places, exactly taken with the best Instruments, wherein many Errors of *Kepler* and *Ricciolus* are Corrected. To these the *Author* will add his observations upon the Planets, the Eclipses, the variation of the Compass, especially near some Mines, as also his remarks upon the great variety of Springs.

The Second Tome is to take in the Antiquities, as the *Roman Castra* with their Figures, Dimensions and Materials, the Aquæducts, Pillars, Arches, Roads, Inscriptions, *Roman* Bridges, Weights, Measures, Instruments, Urns, Medals, large Bones dug up in the *Tumuli* and *Aggeres*; together with other Monuments, especially Military ones, occasioned by the *German* and *Dacic* Wars. To this Volume will be annexed, large Accounts of the *Roman Via* out of *Italy* thro' *Greece*, *Thrace*, *Mysia*, *Dacia* and *Pannonia*; all Illustrated in Tables and Maps, whereby *Antoninus*, *Peutinger* and *Begerius* may receive great light.

The Third Tome will be taken up with the varieties of Earths, Sands, Stones, Metals, Minerals, and other Fossils; examin'd Microscopically Chymically, Amongst the rest, the *Author* intends to be curious upon *Chrystals*, and designs to give the Organick structure of the Mountains, with their *Focus* and *Fissures*, and the *Modus* of the Generation of *Ores*. In discoursing of Iron he intends to treat of *Magnetism*. He distinguishes xii sorts of Copper Ore, and promises dissertations on the Copper Fountains. He will give his experiments upon Silver

Ores, and the *Hungarian Gold*, (esteem'd the best in the World) which is generally found pure, sometimes mixt in a white Stone, and often with other Metals. As for *Marchasites* and other *Minerals*, he says there is a rich collection of them in his *Museum* at *Bononia*. In this Tome the Author designs a *Charta Metallographica*, in order to explain all the Mines he hath seen with their *Ichnography*.

Volume 4th will be employ'd wholly upon the Fish, as well the Finn'd as the Crustaceous and Testaceous kinds, the Indigenious as well as Strangers, that come only at certain seasons, with their manner of Breeding; their external and internal parts will be describ'd, and the whole digested into many Tribes or Classes, and Illustrated with *Elegant Icons*. The method appears but little different from that deliver'd in the *Ichthyography* of Mr *Willoughby* and Mr *Ray*; yet many particulars may be set in a better light by the Authors having opportunities of viewing some Fishes, never seen by the fore-mentioned Writers. Some Anatomies are promis'd by *Signior Marsigli*, especially of the *Huso's*, and some Amphibious Quadrupeds, that frequent the *Danube*.

Tome 5th is to contain the Birds, whose distribution in this *Prodromus* varies not much from that of Mr *Willoughby* and Mr *Ray* in their *Ornithology*; the same may be said of this part as of the immediately foregoing. The Author promises *Elegant Figures* of the *Non-descripts*, especially the *Heron kind*, as the *Ardea cinerea flavescens*, N. D. *Ardea viride-flavescens*, N. D. *Ardea fusca*, N. D. The *Himantopus*, never seen by Mr *Ray*. At the end of this Volume there will be large *Paralipomena* upon Nests, Eggs, and the Ventricles of Birds, with several compleat *Anatomies*.

Tome 6th is to comprehend the Plants, but what Improvements will be made to *Bellonius*, *Clusius*, and Mr *Ray*, this *Prodromus* doth not mention. However, in this

this Volume the Ingenious *Author* is pleas'd to promise many Observations on the Weather, the Velocity of running Waters, the Physical qualities of the several sorts of Waters near the *Danube* ; also a *Dissertation* upon the *Skeletons* of *Elephants*, as well as their single Bones, dug up in great quantities near and in the *Roman Aggeres*. Lastly, all the *Insects* of the *Danube* will be methodically rang'd, describ'd and figur'd, by the indefatigable hand of *Signior Marsigli*, who deserves all the encouragement that the Learned World can possibly give him.

V. *Extracts of some Letters to the Publisher, giving an Account of some Books now Printing and lately Printed in Italy, France, Germany, Holland and Scotland.*

DR *Marchini* a Physician at *Luca* is now Writing the Natural History of the places within that small Commonwealth. Dr *Bagliani* at *Rome*, is Writing a Treatise *de Successionibus Morborum*. F. *Plumier* has finished his Book *de Torno*, or of turning, and is now about publishing a Catalogue of all the Plants found in *France*, the Title of it will be *Botanicum Gallicum*. He has ready 1400 designs of Plants belonging to this Work. *Johannes-Georgius Volckamerus*, a Physician in *Nurenberg*, is busie in making Tables of the Affinity of Plants, which he promis'd in the Preface to his *Flora Norimbergensis*. In this Book he will follow a method directly contrary to that of *Rivinus*. At *Leyden* is now Printing *Stephani Blancardi Lexicon Medicum*.