

Sir Alexander Johnston an Wilhelm von Humboldt, 30.01.1829

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Humboldt, Alexander von Humboldt, Caroline von Humboldt, Caroline von, Tochter von Wilhelm von Humboldt Johnston, Lady Louisa Lawrence, Sir Thomas Rosen, Friedrich August Humboldt, Wilhelm von: An Essay on the best Means of ascertaining the Affinities of Oriental Languages, Transactions of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland 2, 1829, 213–221

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19 Great Cumberland Place
30. January 1829.

My dear Baron

Your kind letter of the 29.th Decr last from Berlin reached me in Scotland where I had been staging & travelling abent with my family for nearly five months – we returned to town last Monday & the moment I arrived I went to the Asiatic Society in order to ascertain how the mistake occured to which your letter alludes. I found that Rosen had already, in consequence of a letter from you, been doing all that was nessessary upon the success – he tells me he has written you some time ago & will write you again giving you the details of what he has done – finding from him that even in the new that a dot had been appointed<inserted> which ought to have been |41v| <omitted,> I sent him yesterday to the Asiatic Society to take care that the dot is era erased from all the copies which have been printed – by the enclosed which I have just received from him you will see that he has nearly completed the business.

Your letter upon the subject of language is universally admired in every part of Great Britain, while I was in Scotland I was solicited <for> & distributed a great many copies of it amongst many of the literary characters of that literary & I may say philosophical country – & I have no doubt that the perspicuity & ability with which you have given to the public your ideas upon the mode in which the affinities & analogies |42r|of languages ought to be studied & investigated, will bring the whole subject so much into fashion in this country & in India us-to<that it will> enable us to desire more important informations from many persons in different quarters of the Globe, who I presume would never have turned their minds to the question.

I called yesterday on [Sir Thomas Laurence](#)^[a] on purpose to see what progress he had made in your portrait. I was very much pleased with it. I think he has caught the animation of your countenance & has represented your features & expressions in an agreeable manner. This portrait will form a very valuable addition to the ones |42v|with which it is to be associated in the Kings cabinet.

We are all anxiety in this country to read [your brother Alexanders](#) lectures^[b] which I have seen are to be published by Murray in an English translation. I would however be most desirous to read them in their original language & if you can send me a copy from [Berlin](#) you will do me a favor.

[Lady Johnston](#) & my daughters desire to be kindly remembered to you & to the [Baroness](#) & [M^{ll} Humboldt](#)

I am with great regard & esteem my dear Baron

Yours very sincerely

Alex.r Johnston

a) |Editor| [Sir Thomas Lawrence](#) (1769–1830), englischer Porträtmaler. Das Gemälde ist abgebildet bei T. Borsche, *Wilhelm von Humboldt*, München: 1990, S. 159 Abb. 8; dort wird das Bild allerdings in das Jahr 1817 datiert! Es befindet sich heute in Windsor Castle, Waterloo Chamber (<http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/collection/404936/charles-william-baron-von-humboldt-1767-1835-0>)

b) |Editor| Die 'Kosmos-Vorträge' (1827/1828) Alexander von Humboldts ? 1847 erschien bei John Murray in [London](#) eine englische Übersetzung mit dem Titel "Cosmos : sketch of a physical description of the universe".