

## PEN FRIENDS OF BERTIN,

### FOREWORD

Poivre's letters to Bertin, many of which are not addressed to Bertin but to his first secretary, Melchior-François Parent, are in the Institut de France: manuscript Ms 1518.

They were transcribed and annotated by Henri Cordier under the title "Bertin's Correspondents". Pierre Poivre is the subject of Chapter IV, published in the journal *T'oung pao*, vol. XV July 1914 pp. 307-338.

Our contribution was simply to digitise the transcription by H Cordier and to ask L Malleret's work to introduce these letters by adding Ko's letter to his parents of 27 September 1764.

(Since we could not reproduce the Chinese characters, we simply replaced them with "[Chinese Carac. ]. )

Note on the surname LEFEBVRE.

Three religious who exercised their priesthood in the Far East at the same time bear this name.

-Monsignor Armand-François Lefebvre, Apostolic Vicar of Cochinchine (1709-1760), was the originator of Pierre Poivre's exclusion from the Foreign Missions (end of 1744) and had to go to see him when Poivre came on a trade mission for the Company of India in 1749.

-Urbain Lefebvre (1725-1792), also from the foreign missions in Paris, spent many years in China (in the Se-Tchoan). He is not mentioned in our documentation but he must certainly have known Pepper as they were both in Macao at the end of 1750. (Just like Archbishop Lefebvre)

-Joseph-Louis Lefebvre (or Le Febvre, quoted several times below), born on 30 August 1706, joined the Mission of China in 1737; he was appointed superior of the French Mission in 1762 to replace Father de Neuville; he himself had Father J.-B. de la Roche as his successor in 1769. He did not return to France until 1775 "at the age of 70 after thirty-eight years in the service of religion and the State". Cordier notes that "Father Lefebvre was a special friend of Pierre Poivre, the director of the Ile de France"; this is possible because Poivre writes below: "This missionary is a very honest man who usually lived in the canton during the stay of the *Vaisseaux de 1' Europa*. He leaves this port of China only with our French ships, with which he sails to the Isle de France to wait there for the ships of the next monsoon and return with them to Canton. ». It is therefore possible that Poivre knew him during his time as administrator on the Isle de France, but we have no evidence of this.

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MFD, November 2010

## Foreword

The Auditor General Henri-Léonard Bertin, the Chinese Ko and Yang  
Text borrowed from Louis Malleret (extract from Pierre Poivre pages 254-256)

Henri-Léonard Bertin, then Secretary of State, who knew Poivre and probably recommended him to the Intendant of Lyon when the first members of the Agricultural Society were appointed, also showed great curiosity about everything concerning China. Like Turgot (1) he was interested in two young Chinese Christians who had sent the Jesuits from North China to prepare them for a career in the church ... They left Peking on July 7th 1751 to embark in Canton to France... and arrived in Lorient on July 26, 1752... six years at La Flèche College... Noviciate in Paris on 10 March 1759 where they remained for three and a half years ... Priesthood in March 1763... At the beginning of 1764 they turned to their benefactor Bertin to obtain from him the transfer to a building of the Compagnie des Indes. However, he advised them not to leave immediately and asked them to extend their stay for another year. His intention was to give them an idea of the arts practised in France so that when they returned to China they could compare them with those of their own country and, on the basis of reciprocity, make the French workers familiar with the practices used in China. To this end he took a number of initiatives and organised a trip to Lyon, Forez and Vivarais for them. Melchior-François Parent, former director of the Chamber of Commerce of Lyon and the first tax official in Bertin since 1759, was given the task of preparing a memorandum on all the informative visits they had to make to the Lyon region in relation to economic matters. This programme included a visit to the factories of Lyon for drawing silk from one or more cocoons to obtain a thread, reeling, twisting and twisting mills, dyeing in the five colours, making gauze, plain, shaped or rocking fabrics and braids, the operation of the argument for drawing gold thread, trimmings, coins and needles. Factories, hospitals and some Roman remains of antiquity were seen... The journey should continue to Saint-Chamond, Saint-Etienne, Annonay, Péage de Roussillon and Vienne, then return to Paris via the Bourbonnais, Moulins, Cosne and Nevers, with a stop at the locks of the Briare Canal, and finally end in Rouen and Elbeuf to see the preparation of wool and the manufacture of sheets.

The Chinese left Paris on 21 September 1764 and were received in Lyon by their parents' brother and Pierre Poivre, both members of the Academy.

On 27 September Ko writes to [Melchior-] François Parent, Bertin's assistant. He regrets the unpleasant circumstances of their journey at the time of the harvest: "This is why this woman [Poivre et Parent] asks us to see everything that your memory orders in Lyon. Today we saw everything that has to do with silk, i.e. unrolling, feeding and watering. (2 ), as well as all questions relating to dyeing. All this kept them very busy, and they hardly had time to eat lunch and dinner and read their breviary. On 10 November 1764 they returned to Paris. Pepper had suggested that they be taught chemistry and they were indeed taught this science.

L. Malleret

1 For them the economist wrote Reflections on the Formation and Distribution of Wealth, published in November 1766, and for them he wrote his questions on China, which he addressed to Mr. KO and Yang.

2 We reproduce the full text of this letter from Ko to the parents dated 27 September 1764 following this introduction.

Letter from Ko to the parents dated 27 September 1764

Sir, I'm convinced of how involved you are in our business, and I'm in no more of a hurry than to tell you how we are. We arrived icy, though tired from the journey, but in good health. Her brother welcomed us with great kindness and has all kinds of attention to guide us to the destination of our journey. It is a pity that the circumstances at that time are extremely unfavorable both for your brother and for Mr. Pepper, because in this country the grape harvest is carried out and you know that in this canton as elsewhere the workers only work as much as they are given attention. That is why this madame is pressing for us to see in Lyon whatever your memoirs order. From now on we have seen everything concerning silk, i.e. the devuidage, the doubling and the shaping, we will only be able to see the print in Vivarez; 2° everything concerning the colouring, i.e. the five basic colours. You see, sir, our day could not be better. There are only the forms we need to take our notes; because we only had the forms for lunch, dinner and speaking our breviary. But I hope that, since these women are not masters, despite all the goodwill they have for the public good, we will find time to sacrifice all the time they would wish for while they are busy on the one hand, leisure to work on our notes. Her brother intends to show us all the factories that can be seen in Lyon and that can be improved by the knowledge that comes with the continuation of China. I also forgot to tell you that we work in Le Velours and Le gros de Tours. We must also ask you to talk to Mr Bertin about a little something we would like to do in St Etienne en Forest, in Cône and Moulins, when we go there, about the ironmongery trade in that country. It looks like we are leaving for St. Stephen's before the end of next week. So you will have the goodness to let us know again and again if we can do what we ask. When we arrived icy, we learned with joy that you no longer have any pain, we wish you a complete recovery. I apologize to you, sir, if this letter is written without life, for it is already very late, and tomorrow I have no time to enjoy myself. I have the honour to be your most humble and obedient servant with deep respect, Lord. Signed on 27 September 1764: Ko a. i.

We ask you, Mr. Minister, to pay our respects to the Minister and share our news with him. »

**PEN FRIENDS OF BERTIN,**

Century,

FROM HENRI CORDIER.<sup>1</sup>

IV ROCK PEPPER.

Pierre POIVRE is a well-known traveller and scholar, born in Lyon in 1719; we published his trip to Cochinchine in the *Revue de l'Extrême-Orient*; at the beginning of his correspondence (i.e. the second letter) he had just been appointed director of the Ile de France and Bourbon and took up his post in 1767; he was absent for six years and returned in 1773. Pepper died on January 6, 1786.

I.  
1764.

Lyon, this 27th 7th November

You have made a very good deal, my dear sir, by sending us your two Chinese students. (2) You arrived here in very good health. As soon as I saw them arrive, I left everything on my land, where there is no lack of work during this time of sowing and harvesting, and went to Mr. Parents, whom I found to be a dear Chinese woman. I read your letter and your brief, which is excellent. Without loss of time we started our races at the mills of Mr. JENTET, which our Chinese saw very well, long and detailed. Mr. Parent and I gave them all the explanations they asked us, and the smaller one in particular asked us many questions and seemed to me to have understood the mechanics of this machine, which is a nice thing, especially the long square, which takes up less space and does much more work than the round ones. Our yesterday morning was spent with Mr. JENTET; in the afternoon we went through the workshops of our dyers; we saw all the colours: but we were of reason and following your opinion, especially the diminishing one, the white colouring, the blue one, we saw the preparation of the patent for indigo, we saw it crushed and the vat made, we observed with the same special attention, the yellow and black colouring. Our foreigners have samples of all our dyes and the salts that our dyers use. If, before you send them to us, you could make them take about twenty lessons only from Mr. MACQUER or Mr. ROUELLE, they would better understand what they see. I find it difficult to make them understand what an astringent, lye, acid, etc. is and what they do to each other. They will understand it better when they return to Paris and you will teach them the principles of chemistry.

Yesterday we also saw the factories of our embroidered fabrics of all kinds and velvet.

Looking at these two articles is for their curiosity and will not be useful to us.

I will first take them this morning to the Jesuit library where they will see the great and beautiful history of China in 32 Chinese volumes with the handwritten translation by Father de Mailla (1), and then we will take them to Mr. Pitra, who has gilded, from there to the drop, etc.

All our prints have been finished in this country for over a month. For me, there is a long time when I have no old maid and no cuckold (2), which makes me very angry. But I plan to have them at the Fréta (3) on Sunday, I will show them my spinning wheel and all my utensils and try to explain the art of spinning as well as possible. I also hope that they will still find pools in Serrières and at the toll station. I am very

happy with their trip to our dyers: that is the essence of what they want to see in this city.

I was very sensitive to what I learned from your illness, I sincerely wish you the return of health, I embrace you with all my heart. I've been writing to him recently...; no doubt you've been with him.

1 See T'oung pao, May, October and December 1913.

2 See Henri Cordier, *Les Chinois de Turgot* (Florilegium Melchior de Vogué, 1909, pp. 151-158).

1 See *Bibliotheca Sinica*, column 584-585 - The MS de Mailla, deposited in the library of the great college of Lyon, was ceded to Father Grosier on August 3, 1775 - It is now located in the Bibliothèque nationale de Paris.

2 Note JPM: Typing error, read cocoon.

3 La Fréta was the country house of Poivre near Lyon, on the banks of the Saône.

II.

My Lord,

January 7, 1767.

I, who have turned to the East and am ready to board the ship of the company of the Indians, the Dolphin (4); I carry with me a vivid memory of all your kindnesses, which I will not forget my life, I ask you to carry them on to me. I received a package from you today for Mrs. Ko and YANG ainsy, that small acrobatic glasses, when the rest of the shipment arrives at my place, will be given to Mr. Sanguinet, (5) Captain of the *Vaisseau le Beaumont* (6), destined for China, at the address of Mr. LE FEBVRE (7), procurator of the Beijing missionaries.

I am sure you will be satisfied with the correspondence of Ms. Ko and Yang, who will certainly respond to the kindness you have felt for them. For my part, I shall try to obtain, through Mr Lefebvre, all the instructions on Chinese arts that are important to us, and I shall make it my duty to communicate them to you annually.

I am respectful, Monsignor,

Your most humble and obedient servant,

PEPPER.

In Lorient, January 7, 1767.

Mr BERTIN, Minister and State Secretary.

4 The dauphin, captain of Kerangal, was armed on 8 March 1767 and disarmed on 27 October 1768.

5 P. de SANGUINET.

6 The Beaumont sailed on 19 January 1767 and was disarmed on 10 June 1768 (JPM note: The Beaumont, held back by headwinds, did not leave Lorient until 15 March and, after a simple stopover in the Strait of the Øresund in Serigny, arrived in Vampou [Wanpou near Canton] on 13 August. Read in *Lettres édifiantes et curieuses*, t.13, the relationship of crossing in a letter from François Bourgeois, canton on 1 September 67)

7 Joseph Louis LE FEBVRE, S. J., born on 30 August 1706; arrival in China on 8 August 1737; return to France.

III.

In Lorient, 9 January 1767. (8)

I arrived icy, Lord and dearest Amy, on the 6th of the current in very good health, as well as my wife, who endured the strains of the journey and the bad roads with the greatest courage. The next day I received two letters from you with a parcel containing four acrophobic jars which you asked me to forward to Mrs. Ko and YANG; I acknowledge receipt of these letters on the same day to Mr. BERTIN, whom

I had the honor of writing to thank him again for his efforts and to give him new assurances of my respect and attachment. I have received with your letters the status of the things sent to Mrs. Ko and Yang, but I have not yet received the same things from Mr. Galloys; as soon as I have them, I will load them on one of the Chinese ships and let you know. I will see to it that the whole thing is addressed to Mr Lefebvre with the £2400 which I will convert into piasters and which I will also address to Mr Lefebvre.

As for the two cases of wine, it is rumoured that I will only buy them in Cadiz, and I will write to you again from this port.

I only received a new package from the minister this morning, in which I found two letters for Moy and a new package for Mrs. Ko and Yang. I will reply to the Minister's two letters by post if I get there in time.

I think you would have been kind enough to withdraw my letters and give them to Mr. DRON ainsy, whom we had agreed on; I ask you to take all your care with my little business. You can feel how important it is for moy that the letters are registered in time when I leave to send my Michaels cord, which I should be able to take with me. My wife, who is receptive to your memory, presents you with her courtesy and a thousand times her strong attachment to the woman; allow me to assure her of my respect.

I kiss you with all my heart,  
PEPPER.

M. PARENT, 1st Secretary to Mr BERTIN, Rue Poissonière.

8 In the file of Mr POIVRE

IV.

My Lord,

I have received the two letters which you have done me the honour of addressing to me and which are contained in the same package as this one, addressed to Mrs. Ko and Yang; with one of these letters you were kind enough to inform me of the arrangements you have made to facilitate and ensure the correspondence of this Chinese woman through Mr. Lefebvre, the lawyer of the Beijing missionaries. This missionary is a very honest man who usually stays in Canton during the stay of the Vaisseaux de l'Europe. He leaves this port of China only with our French ships, with which he sails to the Isle de France to wait there for the ships of the next monsoon and return with them to Canton. You have seen, Monsignor, that on the island of France I would know very well your correspondence with Mrs. Ko and YANG, in order to learn from Mr. Lefebvre a thousand little interesting details that cannot be learned by letters. I will interest Mr. Lefebvre through all the honesty that my place allows me to be within his reach, to seek at his side, through the eyes of his colleagues, all the knowledge that you desire or that I suspect might be useful and pleasant for you. In the other letter you honoured me with, you announced the king's intentions regarding the tapestries left by Mrs. Ko and Yang in Canton. The knowledge I have of the locals empowers me to assure you that you couldn't have a better party than the one you have taken. Her comments on the four drawings of the **Battle of the Emperor** (1) will certainly be tasted by the missionaries of Beijing, and I have no doubt that this woman will make an effort to bring them to the Emperor's taste as well. With the help of Mr. Lefebvre, I will start a correspondence with our Beijing missionaries, which is the one that favors the Emperor most. My project is to make skilful use of this woman

in order to obtain all privileges, be they lucrative or honourable, for our trade in the canton of François de Canton. It is certain that the Europeans in general, all together, have been there for some years now in a state of humiliation that is very difficult to bear, through the fault of the English alone. The tapestries of goblins that His Majesty is ready to present to the Beijing missionaries will certainly give them the opportunity to ask for a certain distinction in favour of our Francis. If the **slaughter boards** are well executed, it will be a new way. I will try to strengthen the self-esteem of the Beijing Jesuits by making them understand that the services they will provide for our cantonal affairs will be a means, if not to reconciliation with the government, then at least to their complaint and regret. Furthermore, I will consult them on the possible gifts and the means which might make the Emperor advantageous to us, and according to their well-considered opinions I will contact you.

I will not let any opportunity pass without renewing to you, the testimony of my attachment and the recognition I owe to all your kindnesses.

I am respectful, Monsignor,  
Your most humble and obedient servant,  
PEPPER.

In Lorient, January 12, 1767.

P. S. The three packages to the address of Mrs. Ko and Yang have arrived, I will load them together with all other packages for them on a China ship. All these articles will be embarked on the Beaumont and handed over to the captain of this vessel, Mr SANGUINET, at the address of Mr Lefebvre on the Isle de France or in the canton. As for the pension of Mrs Ko and Yang, the total amount of which is £2,400, which I received in Paris on their behalf, I will transfer it only on the ship Le Villevault (1 ), which will go with us to the cargo of Mr St ROMAIN, the captain of the said ship, and to the address of Mr Lefebvre, the procurator of the Beijing missionaries, to Cádiz in Piaster. I will do the same for the two small boxes of 30 bottles of wine each, which I am to buy for Mrs. Ko and Yang. Ainsy, I hope that all the missions you have honored me with are well executed.

P.

Mr BERTIN, Minister State Secretary.

1 See Les Conquêtes de l'Empereur de la Chine by Henri Cordier (Memoirs on East Asia, I, 1913, p. 1-18).

1 Le Villevault, Capitaine de SAINT-ROMAIN, armed on 12 March 1767 and disarmed on 4 June 1768

V. In Lorient, 14 January 1767 (2).

You have no more pain, Lord and dear friend; you now know the news of my journey and my happy arrival in this port.

I have confirmed to Mr. BERTIN with the last letter the receipt of the three small balotins and all the parcels you have given me so far for Mrs. Ko and Yang, all of which I have received with the reservation of the one you have communicated to me by messenger service, which you tell me is the envoy of the Intendant of Limoges, (3) and the one you communicated to me by carriage; as soon as I have received these last two parcels, I will let you know. I will always put what I have received so far on the Beaumont, on Mr. SANGUINET's mail and on Mr. LEFEBVRE's address.

If you have not heard from Mr DROUX about my letters, I have no more news than you have. You assume that they are registered, and I do not even know if they are sealed, because you, who were kind enough to take care of them, probably did not say a word about them, at least you took them out of the bucket a long time ago and immediately gave them to Mr Droux. I hope that this friend will lose no time in following the necessary records, particularly those of Parliament, which is the only one the Marquis de Marigny is expecting.

I am taking Mr BAUDOIN's memoirs with me and will try to have Mr Lefebvre carry them out. The varnished bamboo canes do not need to be wrapped, they just need to be wrapped well in rush mats, and in this condition they can be perfectly stored in the upper Vais buckets at the edges.

It has been a long time since I provided Mr NIEN with a room on board the Beaumont ship on which he boarded. Ainsy, he no longer needs protection in this respect. It wasn't easy under the circumstances. I intend to send you with the first mail my life certificate in good condition and then in the meantime the amount I will have paid for the courier and freight costs. Keep this little money for me unless Mr Droux asks for it. I have left this friend the sum of one hundred louis to cover the cost of the recordings, I think that will be enough.

I am very embarrassed to see you with the rheumatism of which you tell me that you were infected in Versailles, agreeing that the air of this country is infected and malignant, both physically and morally, I am sure that in one of these respects you have protected yourself from its bad influences; but in the other you have not resisted by taking care of yourself and chasing away a neighbour who was as inconvenient as possible.

My highest regards to the woman and a thousand compliments from my wife. I embrace you with all my heart and I am very grateful to you, your friend.

PEPPER.

To the Lord,

Mr PARENT, First Secretary to Mr BERTIN, Minister State Secretary, rue Poissonnière in Paris.

Second republic 19 January 1767.  
Three Turgot.

VI.

In the East, January 23rd, 1767.

Yesterday, my dear sir and friend, I received the two small boxes that you sent me from the messenger service. I paid the postage 10#4S that I ask you to credit to my account. I put them on the Villevault today with the new parcel I received in the post today. As the Villevault no longer passes through Cádiz, when I arrived I was afraid that I would not meet this building on the Isle de France, and so I dressed this building with the packages cy over the pension or the tip of 2400# ac-string of the king to Mrs. Villevault. Ko and Yang in piasters at the rate of 5# 5s 6d of piasters, which is 1/2 rounds for every 227 piasters, I addressed the whole thing to Mr. LEFEBVRE, whom I had already warned, and Mrs. Ko and YANG of all your envoys from Vau le Beaumont. I've also written about the Villevault to them all.

I only know what you have to buy to fulfill Mr. Bertin's intentions towards Mr. Le Febvre. The scrap metal has devastated all shops in the country and you can only find it at extravagant prices. I will buy a small Barica of Spanish wine in Cádiz and

take it to Mr. Lefebvre, I will send you the amount of my payment and you will transfer it back to my credit.

I will keep your letter to give you the information you want about the painting of the marble screens. I have some knowledge of it, which I do not have time to tell you about today. You can assure Mr. de LA ROQUE that I have no prevention against him, that on the contrary I am attached to him and that he was perhaps a little wrong to resist Moy, according to a compliment and honesty letter I wrote to Mr. DUBUQ, which this gentleman accidentally returned to him, this letter distinguished something between the genius of Mr. De La Roque and that of Mr. Dubuq, Mr. Laroque will show you after my departure.

My wife conveys her courtesy to you and to Her Ladyship, for whom I assure you all my respect.

I kiss you with all my heart,  
PEPPER.

To the Lord,

Mr PARENT, First Secretary to Mr BERTIN, Minister of State Secretary, rue Poissonnière, Paris

VII.

In Lorient, January 26, 1767.

I have received, dear friend, your last two packages for Mrs Ko and YANG, which contain the effects announced in your accompanying letter of 21 of the current year. I immediately took her to Mr. ST. ROMAIN, captain of the Vaisseau le Villevault, just waiting for a favourable wind to leave this port. As it was decided that this ship would not pass through Cádiz and that I would have to pass through there, I feared that when I arrived on the island of France, I would not find the two ships that were destined for China. I sought icy piasters and sent to Mr. Lefebvre on behalf of Mrs. Ko and Yang the sum of 455 piasters, which is the sum of 2400# that I had received, to give to them as a reward that His Majesty granted them. The piasters go back to 5# 5s 6d. I also converted into piasters the 400# that the Intendant of Limoges had asked me to hold for these gentlemen; moreover, all the balottins, boxes, bundles, are divided between the Beaumont and the Villevault. Of all your commissions, I only have the two small cases of wine left to fill. Oh, I'll do that in Cádiz, because that's the only place I can do it properly.

I left with Mr. L'HERITIER, notary public, my power of attorney in blank, as you requested.

I have received a letter from Mr Droux informing me of the difficulties you have encountered with regard to the certificate of life and morals required by Parliament; I thank you for this and I ask you to continue your good and commendable services until the end of this matter. Mr DROUX is counting on you very much for the steps that will be taken with Mr de NICOLAÏ. I rely on it at least as much as Luy.

The marriage of Mr. Marquis de MARIGNY (1) delayed my expeditions a little. It was not Mr. de MONTUCLA with whom it was necessary to speak, but Mr. de CUVILLE, and this Mr. de Cuvillé was at the wedding in Mesuard and had to be back in Paris only last Saturday. I hope, however, that despite this slight delay, I will still receive the messages from Mr de Marigny's office. We do not yet have an order for our departure, and the wind is very contrary.

Father NGNIA has left for Beaumont, very happy with his small room and very willing to fulfill your small orders and those that I will give him for the Province of Fo Kien. I think he's an indispensable man.

I am pleased that Mr Bertin is happy with his screen; I remember having one of the same quality, with colours as beautiful as anything else. It depicted the fables of the mythology of the bonzes on one side and flowers and birds on the other, but it sins like that of Mr. Bertin through the drawing and lack of perspective.

I have the project to have a custom made table made of white copper. I will try to find out with which kind of bite the colours stick and I know the colouring materials very well.

I embrace you with all my heart and with the most inviolable bond, dear friend, I am your most humble and obedient servant.

PEPPER.

My wife, who is full of health and courage, greets you and your parents, who I assure you of my respect.

I confirm to Mr Bertin the receipt of his last two parcels and my dispatch on the Villevault and ask you to pay him the honour of my sincere, inviolable and respectful attachment (2).

To the Lord,

Mr Parent, First Secretary to Mr Bertin, Secretary of State, rue Poissonière in Paris.

1 Abel François POISSON, Marquis de MENARS et de MARIGNY, brother of the Marquise de Pompadour, born c. 1725; died in Paris on 11 May 1781; Director General of Buildings, married in January 1767, Marie Françoise Julie Constance Filleul, resident Rue du Mail, eldest daughter of Dame Filleul, mistress of the financier Bouret. See Memoir, de Marmontel, II, 1804, Liv. V, P. 13-14.

2 The Father S. is signed.

VIII.

In Lorient, on February 9, 1767

You thought I was gone, sir and dear friend, and here I am again. I was told that I will be there for a few more days, at least until the 20th of this year. The dolphin expeditions have not yet been announced, and the headwind is already there. I know that you have been kind enough to do me justice and to deposit in my favour the information about my life and morals that I needed to register my letters to Parliament. I thank you for this and ask you to continue to show me your friendship for the other recordings still to come. I promised Mr DROUX that you would be kind enough to help him to the end. If you know Mr. de CURVILLERS, ask him to send you my cordon, of which I have no news, although my letters were registered 18 or 20 days ago.

If I don't get the cordon here, I will not be able to get it until I arrive on the Isle de France, because the Dolphin I am embarking on will be the only ship of this expedition to sail through Cádiz. It would be advantageous for the King's services if I were to land on the island of France with this sign of state protection. M. Marquis de Marigny gave the order to send me immediately after the registration of my letters: But Mr. de Cuvilliers suffered, I don't know why. Mr de MONTIGNY TRUDAINE did not force me to hand over the money to buy the rams and ewes he wanted from China; but I instructed Abbé GALLOYS on the one hand and Mr DUMONT on the other to send me these animals to the Isle de France. Since Mr Galloys has a sum of money for the various objects of his mission, it is not necessary for the time being for

Mr de Mon- tigny to provide money. I send the account when I send the sheep. I ask you to assure this honourable magistrate that his orders will be carried out precisely. I will gladly show him my zeal and respect. You thought that I would not neglect anything either, to serve Mr. BERTIN and to fulfil all the orders you gave me from him and from you. For me it will be a question of heart and inclination. You will grant Mr de SAINTE CATHERINE, on my behalf, an advance in respect of my printing works, for which this Mr has paid cash and transport costs; I would ask you to repay his advances.

My wife has just got the measles and she is well; she sends her regards, we both assure the woman of our respect, we hug her whole dear family. Farewell, think of your friend.

PEPPER

IX.

In Lorient, February 16, 1767.

I do not know, my dear good friend, that Mr TRUDAINE de MONTIGNY<sup>1</sup> let Mr DROUX count the sum that we had promised him two rams and four ewes from China. As I knew today, the committee was nevertheless given, and I trust that it will be well run.

I am pleased to be able to tell you, because I know of your friendship with me, that yesterday I received the Cordon de St Michel with the letter from the King allowing me to wear it from now on. Please inform Mr Bertin. This news will make him happy, I thought.

Please send me a piece of black moiré ribbon as a replacement for my lanyard, which does not last forever.

Consult Mr. SOUFFLOT and send me the piece by mail through the 1st The winds are contrary and seem to be persistent, I will still be able to receive them. I would like to express my friendship to you and all of you.

PEPPER

Mr. Parent.

<sup>1</sup> Jean-Charles-Philibert TRUDAINE de MONTIGNY, son of Daniel Charles TRUDAINE, Intendant of the Auvergne, born in Clermont in 1733; died on 5 August 1777; replaced his father as Director-General of Finance; honorary member of the Academy of Sciences.

X.

In Lorient, February 26, 1767.

With your letter of the 19th of this month I, my lord and dear friend, received my memorandum and the letter from

Mr BAUDOIN, thank you very much for all the effort you have put into my affairs.

Mr. DROUX informed me of the transfer from Mr. de MONTIGNY of the sum of 168# for commissions which he charged me and I confirmed to Mr. de Montigny that he had received this transfer.

I have not yet received the piece of tape I asked for; you will be very pleased to send it to me as soon as possible.

My wife, who has commissioned me to pay you a thousand compliments, is better than ever; she is ainsy que moy very sensitive to the role you played in her discomfort; she will follow your advice so that her eyes do not feel the effects that measles can cause. You know all my feelings and the tender friendship I have shown you.

We pay our respects to you and your family.  
PEPPER

Today, February 27th, I received the tape piece that I have the honor to send to me. I thank you for this and ask you to pass this on to me. It is not a question of paying Mr de STE CATHERINE (1) my printing works, but only his port from Paris to Lorient. The wire you're talking about is definitely abaca. The Abaca is a wild banana tree that covers the mountains of the Philippines. The yarn is good for cables, it is made of canvas that you can see you will be sorry, Mr. de JUSSIEU (2), to whom I gave it under the name of Nipis. This tree grows in one year, gives off more strings than the coconut tree, which has to wait very long years for Cairo. The winds are stubbornly contrary. Good morning, cheers, unqualified friends.  
PEPPER. (3)

To Mr  
Mr Parent, First Secretary to Mr Bertin, Minister and State Secretary, rue  
Poissonnière, Paris.

1 One of the directors of the Compagnie des Indes.

2 Bernard de Jussieu, born 1699 in Lyon; died in Paris on 6 November 1777; joined the Académie des Sciences in 1725.

3 P. S. autog. sig. of initial P.

XI

26 June 1777 (4)

My Lord,

I have received the letter which you sent me on the 17th of this month with the two little cones contained in it. I was all the more delighted by cardamom because it was I who brought this spice from the Malabar Coast and introduced its cultivation on the island of France. Cardamom is a commodity for Asia, whose inhabitants consume much of it by mixing it with their Bethel. The other seed is that of Zedoaire, which was brought from Madagascar to the Isle de France. It is its root, which is a consumer object for medicine. The natives of Madagascar, who call it Volengo, put it in their sweetbread and in everything they eat. It is an aromatic root like ginger. The flowers of these two plants are blue and have a unique shape. I'm gonna try the culture. Only last year I was able to sow the seeds from China, which you had kindly provided me with the year before. Only three species have grown, the mulberry tree and two varieties of cucumber, which have blossomed, whose fruits have settled but are not yet ripe, these are good species which we do not have in France and which I regret. Winter has also brought the death of the young mulberry trees, which are announced with leaves that are much better than anything we have here.

Do not be discouraged, Monsignor, by this lack of success of our first attempt; last year the pais seeds in my country did not do better than those from China. The northerly winds, which prevailed for most of the year, were in contrast to the vegetation and all kinds of seedlings. Please ask Péquin for new seeds for all kinds of fruits, vegetables, flowers and païs trees. But I will wish that the kernels, the seeds and all the somewhat large seeds in bottles or small vases of glazed earth are sent to you, well stopped and the seeds buried in fine, dry sand, the other seeds in paper cones inscribed with French characters.

I don't see that on the Isle de France we have tried to send you the gourami fish you requested. It would be easier to send you some than to bring the golden fish from

China to France. The gourami is a beautiful and excellent fish, far superior to all our freshwater fish and almost all our marine fish; it is familiar, rises easily in the smallest waters, grows, fattens and reproduces very quickly. This would be a nice gift to Europe. It was brought from the Moluccas to Batavia and from Batavia to the Isle de France in 1760 or 61. Mr Ceré is the one who multiplied them most on the Isle de France, he is the only one you have to go to to get them.

This Mr. CERE is, Monseigneur, this good farmer who is responsible for growing our food, for whom I have taken the liberty of asking you and for whom I have the honour of asking you once again for your kindness to Mr. de Sartine.

Allow me, Your Excellency, to renew to you here the assurance of my solidarity, my appreciation and all my respectful feelings.

I have the honour to be, with the deepest respect, your most humble and obedient servant, Monsignor,

PEPPER.

At La Fréta on June 26, 1777.

4 Concerning Chinese seeds and fish from the island of France mentions gourami and cardamom. - Member of Parliament July 2, 1777.

XII.

It was a mistake, sir, when the Minister was told that I was holding in my hands a Chinese manuscript from his library. I can't remember ever having had any other Chinese manuscript from Mr Bertin except the translation of a poem about gardens. If this is the one you wished for, you must find her, dear Lord Parent Father, to whom I have brought her back to the temple.

I have the honour to be, with respectful sentimentality, Lord, your most humble and obedient servant,

PEPPER.

Lyon, this 9 7bre 1777.

XIII.  
1778.

October 23rd,

My Lord,

You were kind enough to share with me last year the seeds that our missionaries from China brought to you. The season was too late when I received it to sow it that same year. I was only able to sow them last spring and will report on the success of these seeds.

Of all the ways you have addressed me, only eight have succeeded. There are three different types of Giraumont, including a long, large one with dark green bark, a smaller one with green and yellow striped bark and a third with melon-shaped fruit. A unique medium-sized pumpkin, which is embroidered with wart-like growths on the outside.

A single Pe-Tsai plant of a very large species, which I will keep over the winter to sow next spring.

A few small beans or phase-oils of little value, carrying only five or six pods, whose beans are perfectly ripened. These beans are very small, brown, I don't think they are

very good. There is an excellent species in China that gives a lot and whose pods have no thread.

In the package that you delivered to me there were several cones of the same species, of a small seed that is perfectly similar to that of the Amarauthe or the cockscomb; this seed has risen well and has grown like a weed. It is a blittum, a vegetable very common in China and appreciated in our colonies in India and on our islands, where it is eaten like spinach. Although the Chinese and our settlers in India made a lot of fuss about it, I had it raised before it gave its seed, because it is a coarse-tasting vegetable compared to our spinach, and if I let it go to the seed, I would no longer be the master who would destroy it in my garden.

The best I have had so far is, I hope, a plant whose leaf looks a little like that of our longer mauve rose, which I think is a pleasant flower, arranged in an umbel in a beautiful bright red, which I have often admired in the gardens of China and whose name I have forgotten. This plant has not flowered, but I have replanted some in pots to keep them in the greenhouse over the winter and let them flower the next year. I leave several in the ground to test if it is frost-resistant. They already wiped two of them painlessly last week. If this plant is successful, it will be a new acquisition, we do not have it yet. I will have the honour of reporting to you next year.

Mr. de JUSSIEU, a demonstrator at the Jardin Royal des Plantes who has come to Lyon to visit his family, will return to Paris at the end of the month and will carry a parcel of Pè-tsai seeds, picked in my garden, on plants made from Chinese seeds. This gentleman arranged for the package to be delivered to your hotel.

After Mr. de CHOMPRES (1) warned me that I could ask him some questions which I think should be addressed to our missionaries in China and that you would be kind enough to include them in your expeditions, I take the liberty of inserting them here. My questions are reduced to four, sçavoir, about the art of Chinese indigo trees, about borax, about saltpetre, about drawing Nanquin silks. I have attached a note with the most important seeds that you can ask for in China. I ask you, Your Excellency, to support with your recommendation the questions that I ask you and that you find useful, as well as the requests that I make for the most useful seeds, with an indication of the best way to send them in good condition.

I ask you in advance to make me a small part of the consignment that will be sent to you and in particular to give me the answer to the questions on the art of indigo. I am convinced that the Chinese method will enable us to produce good indigo in France without much effort and expense. I have chosen the natural plant for the product.

Allow me, Monsignor, to renew here the assurance of all the feelings I have dedicated to you for life.

I am, with the greatest respect, Monsignor, your most humble and obedient servant,  
PEPPER.

At La Fréta on 23 October 1778.

1 See above, T'oung pao, May 1913, p. 244 (Note JPM: Nicolas Maurice Chompré was then director of correspondence in Bertin's ministry).

#### XIV.

NOTE to Mr FLINCK or FRINCK, former Chinese language interpreter, for the Company of England Counter in Canton (1 ).

Mr FRINCK (2) was sent to China at a very young age at the expense of the Compagnie des Indes, d'Angle- terre. He was sent there as a language child to learn

Chinese and to act as an interpreter between the English government and the government or Chinese traders.

Mr. Frinck or Frink, who arrived in China in 1739 or 1740, was placed in the hands of Chinese merchants who were friends with the English. He was dressed in Chinese style and lived for several years among the Chinese who brought him to the inner provinces.

After learning the language Mandarin, the jargon of the province of Canton, he was brought to the province of Fou-kien, one of the eastern provinces of China. He was still learning the special language of this province, which is as different from the Mandarin language as the Breton of François. Mr Frink is the only European who has learned this language of Fou-kien, a language which is very useful for those who negotiate in China, because the inhabitants of this province are the greatest negotiators of the Chinese nation, the most industrious, hard-working and enterprising.

It was Mr. Frink, who in 1744 served as interpreter for Mr. Anson in his interview with the Viceroy of Canton, it was he who granted the English Commodore an audience with the said Viceroy.

It was this Mr. Frink, who in 1760 embarked an English corvette in Canton, which was sent to explore the east coast of China. The obvious purpose of this expedition was to send the emperor, through the vision of Mr. Frinck, a request from the English merchants who complained about the alleged annoyances of the magistrates of the province of Canton.

To fill this apparent object, Mr. Frink drove his corvette into the Gulf of Leao-tong, at the bottom of which he found a river approaching him from Beijing. He came into this river with his corvette, which led him a few miles before Pé-king. As he approached the capital, he found Chinese guards stopping the building and preventing him from passing.

When the Chinese officer in charge of the post asked about the reason for such a new and extraordinary journey, Mr. Frink replied that he had been presented with a plaque to the emperor on behalf of his nation. The officer asked for the plaque, took it upon himself to send it and received orders from the emperor within a few days.

The placet was handed over and taken to Beijing; a few days later the order came to arrest the corvette, to put a guard on it, to disembark Sr. Frink and take him to Beijing.

On his arrival in Beijing, after the appointment of two large mandarins as commissioners, he was called back to Canton to examine on the spot the complaints against the judges of the Canton province contained in the application of the English. Mr. Frink returned to the ground and left his corvette to the Chinese. Since then there has been no news of this English building; in the temples it was said that the Chinese had burned or destroyed it with all the English who were stunned by it.

The commissioners arrived in Canton with Mr Frink, examined the complaints of the English and found them well-founded in relation to the dro-pou (3 ) or customs officer whom they sent to Beijing as a prisoner. The complaints against the Fool Yen or the viceroy were found to be unfounded.

Mr. Frink was sentenced to one year in prison and then expelled from the states of the Reich. His former language teacher, who was convinced that he had written the English proposal, was sentenced to death and executed in the presence of Mr. Frink. At that time, all Europeans were generally much closer to Canton. They were again forbidden to moor in any other port of the Reich. It was forbidden for all Chinese to teach them the language of Païs.

Herr Frink returned to England in 1763. This Englishman, who was very well versed in the language and customs of China, came through Guangzhou to have little mind and no knowledge, especially of what was foreign to China where he had spent his childhood.

This Englishman has undoubtedly become familiar with the affairs of Europe since his return, he is very familiar with the Chinese languages, knows the customs of the Païs, knows the eastern coasts of China, knows how easily you can approach Beijing by sea and river, and can be very useful to a power with views on China (1).

1 To Mr. Parent. We must clarify with the Foreign Office whether this Mr. Flink is not the same Mr. Floin of whom Mr. Floin speaks. Durand.

2 In 1751, when I saw Mr. Frinck for the last time, this Englishman appeared to me small, slender in body, with a mauve face and a face somewhat marked by smallpox. That's all I can remember. He could then be about 28 to 30 years old. - N. A. of pepper.

3 Read Hou pou.

1 Il faut lire FLINT - R. Montgomery MARTIN (China, II, 1847, p. 14) nous donne les renseignements suivants sur sa mission : "A.D. 1761. M. PIGOU, one of the supercargos, proposed an embassy in Beijing to facilitate trade with

North. Mr. Flint was appointed and positively received in Ningpo and Chusan.

"It soon turned out that the Chinese authorities in Canton were unfavorable, and it turned out that between them a sum of 20,000 taels was sent to the officials through the court of Beijing and an edict was obtained restricting trade to Canton.

"Mr. Flint was ordered to leave Ningpo with no goods or supplies. He was forced to sail against an unfavourable moss zone, but instead of steering for Canton, he set his course for the mouth of the Peiho and from there sent a petition to the Emperor in Beijing.

"This petition reached the throne, and an investigation was opened, the hoppo of the canton was dismissed, and several unlawfully issued impositions were lifted. The British ships should in future be referred to as ships of the Western Ocean and not as 'devil ships'.

"When Mr. Flint returned to Canton, his presence was requested by thé Isonstock [read Tsony tou] (viceroy). The super freighters of all nations accompanied him into the city and thought, as they were told, that new orders were about to be issued.

"When they arrived at the gate of the palace, their swords were taken from them; they were then forced into the presence of the viceroy and hesitated to pay homage to the viceroy, and were actually thrown on their faces. The Isonstock then called Mr. Flint and read the emperor's order to banish him to Macao for three years and then to leave the empire forever.

"This punishment was imposed on Mr. Flint because he had gone to Limpo (Ningpo), and the native who had written his petition was beheaded.

"Mr. Flint was held in close captivity for three years, i.e. until 1762, and the English silently submitted to this injustice".

XV.

Lyon, February 4th, 1778.

I have the honour, Sir, to return to you with the attached statement on fathers and grandfathers, which you have forwarded to me by the Minister. I have attached my comments, which I would ask you to present to Mr Bertin at a moment's leisure.

I have the honor to be respectful, sir,

Your most humble and obedient servant,

PEPPER

Monsieur de CHOMPRES.

XVI.

OBSERVATIONS on the submission sent from China concerning the IAT-MEP. (2)

The Chinese word pè, means white, and the word tsai means vegetable. This is what the Chinese call our pea menu white vegetables.

The Chinese pè-tsai is therefore our pea card, which the Chinese appreciate very much, both because they are very poor in vegetables and because it is actually one of the best in their gardens. The Chinese chard is of higher quality than ours. She is getting bigger, her card is wider, longer, thicker, softer, less bland than the one we have in France.

I have received some seeds from China, for my gardens on the Isle de France, where I do not grow any others. I have brought some to France and breed them in the Fréta, where they succeed perfectly; they are more beautiful and better than our usual poiree-cards.

I have also brought some seeds of the three Pè-tsai varieties that the author of the letter talks about; they have all worked well: but these three varieties of vegetables, which the ordinary Chinese confuse under the same name, are in fact three absolutely different varieties that Chinese gardeners distinguish perfectly. They are generally called pè-tsai because they all have very prominent ribs, which are also white. But the flowers and seeds and the shape of the leaves are different.

The pea card is the actual pè-tsai. This is the one the Chinese value most. It is cultivated in all provinces in Ngau-Sun, salted and transported candied in vinegar. The second variety, which the author of the dissertation describes as the first, is a real cabbage, which has a very pleasant shape: but without advantages for the taste. This vegetable, which appears tender on the plant like a pancake salad, is hard, very difficult to cook and tasteless. I have given up farming and don't even have any seeds left.

The third type is a real mustard with very large leaves, each of which, cultivated with care by Chinese gardeners, grows to the size of a beautiful cabbage without ever apples, yet it is the Printe's first vegetable. The Chinese make a big deal out of it. The pungent bitterness of this vegetable pleases them by correcting the blandity of the sweetbread, the strong pungent and coarse taste of this vegetable pleases me as few people love us. I gave up his culture.

Of the three Pè-tsai species mentioned in the letter, the peaty map therefore deserves some attention, as it is superior in quality and size to the species we grow in France; but it seems useless to ask for seeds in Muscovy, where there may not be any. If the Minister is interested in having something grown in his vegetable gardens, I will have some seed plants put aside this year and I will have the honour of sending him some.

2 autog. of pepper. - Pe ts'ai [two Chinese characters] - Brassica chinensis, Linn.; Chan Toung cabbage.

## XVII (1)

It will not be as easy for me, sir, to satisfy the Minister on the last question you asked me on his behalf as it was for me to give him clarity on the PTAI. The Chinese expression about which you are asking me for an explanation is very vague, and I think that only a Chinese scientist can give you a precise answer. I have often noticed that Chinese books use vague expressions that require long comments. In general, they may dig up the number of arts, sciences, virtues, duties, punishments and offences without calling them by name. One author uses more, the other less, so that it is often very embarrassing to understand them.

I think, however, that when it says in the communication sent by China that MONG-TSEE (2) studied the six arts (3), it means the primitive arts which the ancient

teachers of the Chinese nation had to know in order to teach them to the people; These arts include agriculture, the art of surveying, measuring and levelling land to determine possessions, the art of regulating temperatures and seasons by means of observing the sky, the art of constructing buildings to house people, the art of making fabrics to clothe people, the art of shipping, which included the art of building all kinds of boats for transportation.

I believe these were the six primitive arts brought by the ancient sages who formed the first Chinese colony in the Chensi: But that is just my particular opinion, and it is possible that the Chinese note means something quite different; it is very possible that, for example, the art of forging metals and using them for human use is one of the six arts studied by MONG-TSEE. That's all I know, and I'm honored to be with respectful feelings,

Sir,

Your most humble and obedient servant,  
PEPPER.

In La Fréta, February 20, 1778.

1 signed piece.

2 [Chinese characters] Meng Tzu (menus).

3 The six liberal arts [for. Chinese] Liou i : li, urbanity. - Yo, music. - Honey, archery. -[Car. Chinese] yû, who drives the tanks. - Shh, the writing. - Come on, arithmetic.

#### XVIII.

Allow me, Sir, under the auspices of the Venerable Minister to whom you belong and who is the protector of all good works, to advise you on the means of helping a good work that is close to my heart to succeed. I am aware that you have a special responsibility for correspondence with China and that the office from which the matter on which I wish to consult you is not yours, but I am just asking for clarification and I am sure you can give me some.

I would like to enable a young man, who for his part has the greatest hope, to enter and maintain at the King's expense our veterinary school established in Lyon. I have no idea who she depends on.

You are reading the attached statement, which is supported by the statements of all the inhabitants of Bourg de Couzon (1) : 1° That this village, which supplies almost all the stone on which the city of Lyon is built, is making enormous losses in horses because there is no good student at the veterinary school; 2° That the young man proposed, whom I know, is full of zeal and eagerness to learn; 3° That he is the son of the chief marshal of the village, a very honest man: but not an educated man; 4° That the request to Mr. the Intendant of Lyon, who could not grant the request But I notice that the father of the young man was told orally to contact Mr. NECKER in Paris (I think it depends on Mr. BERTIN); 5° You will finally recognize from this request that the young man's name is MARIN COUDOUR. He has been at the veterinary school in Lyon for three months at the expense of his poor father, who can no longer provide accommodation. But the young Coudour has so much intelligence, so much zeal for his studies and is making so much progress that the headmaster (Mr. Flandrin) is desperately trying to lose such a good student.

Would you do me the favour, sir, and teach me the means by which this young man can continue his studies of veterinary arts at the expense of the King, the Province or the schools? As this part belongs to Mr Bertin's department, you should be within reach to give me the information I have the honour to request. You have done me and all the villages around me a real service by enabling me to pursue this case.

The request I am sending you is a little soiled by the hands of the Marshal: but this poor man is not able to get another copy. Please keep them separate to serve according to the information you kindly provide.

I have the honor to be respectfully sentimental, sir,

Your most humble and obedient servant,

PEPPER.

In Lyon, February 17, 1779.

1 department of the Rhône, at 3 kilos. S. de Neuville, on the right bank of the Saône, at the foot of Mont d'Or.