

No 296.

London 4th May 1751 O.S. 1

I have the honour of your Letter, wherein you order a Mural Quadrant of 8 feet Radius, and has Commissions D^r Bradley, and Mr. Graham to see that it be properly executed. D^r Bradley is now at Oxford, but it so happened that I had an opportunity of sending your Letter to him, immediately after I received it. It will be about three weeks before the D^r comes back to Greenwich, therefore that no time may be lost, I have thought proper to send you this Letter before I see him.

I am glad to hear that the Instruments made for you some time ago, gave you satisfaction, and I don't doubt but the Quadrant when made, will have the same effect. It will be proper to make it all of Brass, like the New Quadrant at Greenwich, because different Metals, have different expansions. The New Quadrant at Greenwich is furnish'd with several particulars quite new, and nothing is omitted that would in the least contribute to its perfection, therefore I take it granted that if you have one in every respect the same, you will have no cause of complaint.

Now Sir to prevent any future misunderstanding, it will be proper to inform you, upon what conditions I can undertake this work; which are exactly the same agreed upon with D^r Bradley for the Instruments at Greenwich (except the price) and also with a Spanish Gentleman for whom I am now making a Mural Quadrant of 6 feet Radius, and some other large Instruments.

1. The price is three hundred and fifty pounds sterling, exclusive of the Packing Cases, and other expences ^{may attend} which, putting it on Ship board.
2. One half of the Money to be paid to me when I am ready to begin the Work, and the other half when the Quadrant is finish'd.
3. As I cannot be certain of the constancy of my Workmen, I cannot promise the exact time of its being finish'd, but you are undoubtedly sensible, that the sooner it is done the more will be my advantage, and therefore hope you'll make no scruple, in leaving me at liberty in this particular.

Now Sir If you agree to this, the sooner you confirm the Bargain the better it will be for you; for I am now treating with Mr. Le Monnier at Paris, about a Mural Quadrant and if he should be beforehand with you in the agreement, he must be first served.

I am glad to find that Astronomy is likely to flourish in most parts of Europe, for besides the large Instruments which I am making to go to Spain, his Catholick Majesty has sent an order to Mr. Short for a Reflecting Telescope of 24 feet in length, and also another of 12 feet.

I am yr. most humble and most Obedient servt.

John Bird

P.S. I had no more for the new Quadrant at Greenwich than 300 £ but as I am a ~~late~~ loser by it, I cannot make another of the same Radius for less than the price above mentioned

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Monsieur

Monsieur H. N. Grischoff
Professeur de l'Académie Impériale

à Pétersbourg