

Correspondence of D.F.L. von Schlechtendal in the herbarium of the University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (HAL)

Natalia TKACH, Uwe BRAUN & Martin RÖSER

Abstract: Tkach, N., Braun, U. & Röser, M. 2014: Correspondence of D.F.L. von Schlechtendal in the herbarium of the University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany (HAL). *Schlechtendalia* **28**: 29–34.

The correspondence of D.F.L. von Schlechtendal stored in HAL comprises approximately 5,600 letters from about 500 contemporaries. The list of senders contains among others some prominent names, e.g., A. von Humboldt, A. von Chamisso, R.A. Philippi. The letters reflect the transfer of scientific information in the botanical community of the 19th century.

Zusammenfassung: Tkach, N., Braun, U. & Röser, M. 2014: Briefwechsel von D. F. L. von Schlechtendal im Herbarium der Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Deutschland (HAL). *Schlechtendalia* **28**: 29–34.

Die Korrespondenz von D.F.L. von Schlechtendal, welche im Herbarium der Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Deutschland (HAL), aufbewahrt wird, umfasst etwa 5600 Briefe von 500 Zeitgenossen. Die Absenderliste enthält unter anderen auch einige bedeutende Namen, z.B. A. von Humboldt, A. von Chamisso, R.A. Philippi. Die Briefe reflektieren den Wissenstransfer in Kreisen der Botaniker des 19. Jahrhunderts.

Key words: biography, letters, Halle (Saale), plant collections, 19th century, D.F.L. von Schlechtendal.

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Introduction

D.F.L. von Schlechtendal (1794–1866) is one of the most important botanists of the 19th century, who described about 1,200 species, many of them from the New World, especially Central and South America (Schubert, 1964). His herbarium of ca. 70,000 specimens is preserved at the Herbarium of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (HAL). Between 1833 and 1866, he acted as professor of botany and director of the botanical garden of local University (Werner, 1988). Between 1826 and 1866 (40 years) he was editor of the journals “*Linnaea*“ and “*Botanische Zeitschrift*“, in which many contemporary botanists published results of their scientific researches, including descriptions of numerous new species and other taxa (e.g., A. von Chamisso, C.A. Ehrenberg, C.F. Lessing, C.G.D. Nees von Esenbeck, R.A. Philippi, etc.).

At this time hand-written letters were the common way of communication with colleagues to maintain regular contacts, exchanges of information and to facilitate discussions. Schlechtendal’s correspondence encompasses letters sent to him by about 500 persons, including a wide range of famous contemporary botanists, natural scientists, travellers and plant collectors, for example, A. von Humboldt, G. Kunze, R.F. Hohenacker, F. Miquel, C.J.W. Schiede. The letters reflect the transfer of scientific information in the botanical community of the 19th century.

Many interesting historical details and information are to be found in these letters, which are often not mentioned in the corresponding scientific publications. The letters contain references to itineraries of collectors and purchasers of plant collections, exchange of plant material and discussions about plant science, publishing activities, management of botanical gardens and other academic affairs. Many botanists sent specimens of new plant taxa as gifts to Schlechtendal. The specimens either belonged to their manuscripts for publication in the journals „*Linnaea*“ and „*Botanische Zeitschrift*“ or were sent to be identified or described as new taxa by Schlechtendal. The specimens concerned were mostly accompanied by letters that often refer to new descriptions. Certain letters contain references to and discussions on type specimens, now deposited at HAL (Braun et al., 2009 onwards), that have never been published. Other, more personal letters are also included, for example, a postcard sent by A. von Humboldt with the invitation to visit him in Paris.

Results

The collection of the letters sent to D.F.L. von Schlechtendal includes approximately 5,600 items. The alphabetically arranged list contains the names of about 500 contemporary persons as well as the number of letters written to Schlechtendal which are preserved at HAL. Most correspondents were colleagues, plant collectors, scientific travellers and other botanically interested persons from Germany and other countries. Furthermore, Schlechtendal corresponded also with publishers, draughtsmen and lithographers. The correspondence with scientific societies such as Ferdinandeum (Innsbruck), Société botanique de France, Société impériale des naturalistes de Moscou or Société royale de botanique de Belgique, is also preserved. A small part of the letters could not be exactly assigned to any person. Some of the letters contain additional drawings, receipts or any other written documents or notes. The following preliminary index comprises Schlechtendal's correspondents with their life data if known and the number of letters preserved at HAL:

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 Schlotthauber, A.F. - 3
 Schmid, B. (1788–1857) - 10
 Schmidt, C.F. (1811–1892) - 14
 Schmidt, J.A. (1823–1905) - 3
 Schmidt, H.W. - 3
 Schnaase, E.D. (1805–1886) - 5
 Schnittspahn, G.F. (1810–1865) - 4
 Schnizlein, A. (1814–1868) - 30
 Schoenheit, F.C.H. (1789–1870) - 4
 Schomburgk, M.R. (1811–1891) - 1
 Schomburgk, R.H. (1804–1865) - 2
 Schott, H.W. (1794–1864) - 1
 Schouw, J.F. (1787–1852) - 2
 Schrader, H.A. (1767–1836) - 17
 Schrag, J.L. - 1
 Schreiber, F. (1839–?) - 4
 Schuchardt, T. - 18
 Schultes, J.H. (1820–1887) - 3
 Schultes, J.A. (1773–1831) - 6
 Schultes, J.H. (1804–1840) - 9
 Schultz, K.F. (1765–1837) - 5
 Schultz, K.H. (1805–1867) - 18
 Schultz, F.W. (1804–1876) - 3
 Schultze, M.J.S. (1825–1874) - 11
 Schultze - 1
 Schur, P.J.F. (1799–1878) - 2
 Schwabe, S.H. (1789–1875) - 23
 Schwabe, A.F. - 2
 Schwabe, H. - 1
 Schwaegrichen, C.H. (1775–1853) - 11
 Schweigger, J.S.C. (1779–1853) - 1
 Schweinfurth, G.A. (1836–1925) - 1
 Schweizerbart - 1
 Senoner, A. - 33
 Seringe, N.C. (1776–1858) - 4
 Seubert, M.A. (1818–1878) - 2
 Sieber, F.W. (1785–1844) - 8
 Sinning, W. (1792–1874) - 5
 Skofitz, A. (1822–1892) - 2
 Société botanique de France - 1
 Société impériale des naturalistes de Moscou - 2
 Société royale de botanique des Belgique - 2
 Soleirol - 1
 Sollmann, A. (fl. 1862) - 8
 zu Solms-Laubach, H.M.C.L.F. - 2
 zu Solms-Laubach, R. - 3
 von Soltau - 1
 Sommer, M.C. - 1
 Sonder, O.W. (1812–1882) - 40
 Speerschneider, J. (1825–1903) - 23
 Spiker (?), Sticker (?), G.H. - 2
 Sporleder, F.W. (1787–1875) - 4
 Sprengel, A. (1803–1851) - 4
 Sprengel, K. (1766–1833) - 50
 Steetz, J. (1804–1862) - 3

- Stenhammar, C. (1783–1866) - 3
 Steudel, E.G. (1783–1856) - 3
 Stizenberger, E. (1827–1895) - 3
 Stempel, C.F. (1800–1872) - 8
 Sturm, J.W. (1808–1865) - 16
 Stürmer, T. - 1
 Suringar, W.F.R. (1832–1898) - 1
 Susan, C. - 2
 Thomé, O.W. (1840–1925) - 3
 Thorbecke - 1
 von Thümen-Gräfendorf, F.K.A.E.J. (1839–1892) - 11
 Tittelbach, E. - 1
 Todaro, A. (1818–1892) - 3
 de Tommasini, M. (1794–1880) - 1
 von Trautvetter, E.C. - 1
 Treviranus, L.C. (1779–1864) - 89
 Trevisan de Saint-Léon, V. (1818–1897) - 4
 Trinius, C.B. (1778–1844) - 3
 Troschel, F.H. (1810–1882) - 2
 Tuckerman, E. (1817–1886) - 3
 Tulasne, C. (1816–1884) - 6
 Turczaninow, N.S. (1796–1863) - 1
 von Uechtritz, R.K.F. (1838–1886) - 1
 Unger, F.J.A.N. (1800–1870) - 7
 von la Valette St. George, A.J.H. (1831–?) - 1
 de Visiani, R. (1800–1878) - 7
 Vogel, T. (1812–1841) - 9
 von Voigt - 1
 Voß, L.C. - 3
 de Vriese, W.H. (1807–1862) - 13
 Wagener, H. (1823–1877) - 4
 Wallroth, C.F.W. (1792–1857) - 26
 Walpers, W.G. (1816–1853) - 45
 Walter, F. (1772–1855) - 45
 Wartmann, F.B. (1830–1902) - 4
 Weihe, C.E.A. (1779–1834) - 23
 von Welden, F.L. (1780–1853) - 1
 Wenck, E. - 2
 Wenderoth, G.W.F. (1774–1861) - 36
 Wendland, H.L. (1792–1869) - 1
 Wendland, H. - 13
 Westhoff, C.F. - 3
 Wiegmann, A.J.F. (1770–1853) - 1
 Wigand, A. (1821–1886) - 21
 Wight, R. (1796–1872) - 1
 Wikström, J.E. (1789–1856) - 1
 Willdenow, C.L. (1765–1812) - 1
 Willkomm, H.M. (1821–1895) - 63
 Wirtgen, P.W. (1806–1870) - 10
 Wittfeld - 1
 Wretschko, M. (1834–1914) - 2
 Wydler, H. (1800–1883) - 7
 Zenker, J.C. (1799–1837) - 4
 Ziz, J.B. (1779–1829) - 3
 Zuccarini, J.G. (1797–1848) - 11
 Zuchold, E.A. (?–1867) - 30
 Zwanziger, G.A. (1839–1893) - 1

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Addresses of the authors

Natalia Tkach, Uwe Braun & Martin Röser, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Institute of Biology, Geobotany and Botanical Garden, Neuwerk 21, 06099 Halle, Germany.
 (E-mails: natalia.tkach@botanik.uni-halle.de, uwe.braun@botanik.uni-halle.de, martin.roeser@botanik.uni-halle.de)