29. April 3, 1710. Letter from Thielman Rupp[[1]](#footnote-1) and associates at Neuwied to Jasper Tellefort at Amsterdam to accompany Document 13, the letter by Loheer. Two brothers from the Palatinate have visited them to press the request of Jonas Loheer. The Swiss prisoners sailed past under armed guard, probably with Rotterdam as their destination. They press the Dutch to have them released.

[recto]

Jasper

Tellefort[[2]](#footnote-2) Neuwied[[3]](#footnote-3) April 3, 1710

Very worthy and good friend and in addition your whole family and all good friends and acquaintances, may you be granted the best for salvation!

The cause that we write is that we have received news from the Palatinate that the lords from Switzerland are persecuting the Mennonites there and taking them prisoners. Now two ministers from our people in the Palatinate have come here because the Swiss intend to take them [Swiss Mennonites] as prisoners to Holland to deliver them there to the

representatives from Bern. We understand that the Palatines desire of us that we should write to Holland.

Now yesterday, April 2, they came past here with twenty-three prisoners, without the women and children with them, brought half way. There were fifteen men from the Bernese lords appointed to guard them. I with the two men from the Palatinate went after their ship, but was not really permitted to speak with them. When we had had a few words with them, they did not tolerate that we should speak further with them. The prisoners would have gladly disembarked in Neuwied,[[4]](#footnote-4) but they did not want to permit that pleasantness to [mere] farmers. They would be brought to Rotterdam. Since we have no acquaintance there, we agreed to write to you in Amsterdam. It is our friendly request to you that you do your best to help free these people. The Palatines have written to Holland, but we do not know to whom. Their wretched condition you can see in the enclosed letters. With good wishes we remain your willing servants

Thiel Rupp

Hans Firnschuss[[5]](#footnote-5)

Hoppertt Sintznig[[6]](#footnote-6)

[verso: address]

Mijneer

Mr. Jasper Tellefort

on the New Dike[[7]](#footnote-7) at

the Golden Fish, merchant,

to very kind hands.

postage paid to Cologne

In Amsterdam

urgent

urgent

1. 29 For Rupp family members mentioned at Neuwied, including Thielmann, see ME IV, 379. A photograph of this letter appears in Dutch Aid to Swiss Brethren by Irvin B. Horst (Amsterdam: Doopsgezinde Historische Kring, 1984), p. 9. Preacher Thielmann Rupp died in 1729. Church book no. 107 of the Mennonite church at Neuwied, (Sterbebuch der Mennoniten Gemeinde) kept at the Mennonitische Forschungsstelle at the Weierhof in Germany, as reported by Gary Waltner in 2001. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Tellefort is not mentioned in the Mennonite Encyclopedia or the Mennonitisches Lexikon. However, Jasper Telvoorn was deacon from 1685 to 1705 of the Zonist church in Amsterdam according to a chart on the wall of the Singelkerk in Amsterdam in 1998. See also footnote 7. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Neuwied is a town on the Rhine River 7 miles (11 kilometers)northwest of Koblenz. ME III, 859. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Müller, p. 270. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Each signature is in a different hand. The syllable, “Firn,” is itself a German family name derived from Middle High German virne = erfaren, schlau. Etymologisches Wörterbuch der Deutschen Familiennamen, A-J by Josef Karlmann Brechenmacher (Limburg a. d. Lahn: C. A. Starke-Verlag, 1957), 470. Document 13 addresses Hans Virenschoss and Thielman Rupp as ministers at Neuwied. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The writing of this signature is not entirely clear. Each signature is in a different hand. Hans Ferenschoß died July 6, 1717; his first wife was Maria Sentzenich and second wife Anna Christoffelin. Church book no. 107. Hubert Sentzenich is listed as a member of the Neuwied church; his first wife was Feronica Bär from Zipffen, his second wife Cathrina Bräüersh from Kreyfeld. Hubertus Sentzenich was born Sept. 12, 1677. Church book no. 106 of Neuwied (Geburtsbuch und Aufname in der Gemeinde) kept at the Mennonitische Forschungsstelle at the Weierhof. Hubertus Sentzenich, elder (Vorsteher) died Oct. 4, 1713, with the same two wives listed. Church book no. 107. In 1680 a Mennonite family named Sintzenich is mentioned as living at Neuwied. In 1774 a visitor to this Mennonite settlement mentions a family called Kintzing. ME III, 859-860. For Tiell Rupp and Hopper Sintzenig, see also Lowry, Documents of Brotherly Love I, pp. 588-589. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Nieuwendijk is a well-known street in Amsterdam. The Vergulden Fuorn is the name of the house, probably referring to a gilded ornament on the front of the house, perhaps a voorn, a kind of fish. According to the burial records in the Gemeentearchief of Amsterdam, Jaspar Telvooren, who was buried August 19, 1720, was living op de Nieuwen dyk, by de kolk, at the time of his death. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)