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**Date:**  26 July 1711

**Sender:**  Runckel, Johann Ludwig

**Sender Place:**  Schaffhausen, Schaffhausen, Switzerland

**Receiver:**  Need, Committee for Foreign

**Receiver Place:**  Amsterdam, North Holland, Netherlands

**Language:**  English

**Translation:**

186. July 26, 1711. Letter by Runckel with the detailed list of the moneys realized by the sale of possessions of those departing, in the amount of 14,453 ½ rixdollars. In addition, those departing have from 6000 to 7000 rixdollars in bills of exchange and cash with them. Keeping these funds has occurred secretly, but is favored by Runckel in order to give them enough for current needs, prevent the King of Prussia from knowing the exact amount, and hinder the Bernese government from further despoiling them. He hopes yet to collect an inheritance of Melchior Zahler. The amount would be much more significant if the Reistian party had also followed the example of the Oberlanders.

[page 1]

Schaffhausen,[[1]](#footnote-9) July 26, 1711.

Very worthy, etc.

My especially highly honored Sirs!

Following up my last communication of the 22nd of the current month, which I hope will have safely arrived along with the second letter of exchange from Messrs. Malacrida and Company of Bern, besides the other enclosures, I transmit herewith as promised an exact listing,[[2]](#footnote-10) in which according to the regulation of the illustrious Anabaptist Commission at Bern [is recorded] the money both previously handed in by the Anabaptists departing from the land and that drawn gradually from the means entrusted to their relatives who were left behind. [Also] I recorded systematically from whom such [money] has been handed in and to whom the same should be restored, when they have settled in Holland or wherever else.

The total sum runs to 14,453 ½ rixdollars, in partial payment of which I have transmitted exactly 11,400 rixdollars in money to my highly honored Sirs in a first and second letter of exchange from Messrs. Malacrida and Company of Bern to Messrs. Chaumel and Company at Amsterdam

[page 2] and further to Mr. George Ritter a little at a time on account, according to receipts I have paid, the sum of 2156 rixdollars. I have also sent along with him 10 rixdollars, 22 batzen, and 2 kreutzer[[3]](#footnote-11) in a sealed sack as small cash, withheld by me from Messrs. Malacrida and Company.

Thus the remainder is 886 rixdollars, 22 batzen, 2 kreutzer, which needs

to be accounted for, as also the 800 rixdollars which was submitted a little at a time by Daniel Rychen. Accordingly, my bills are to be sent in as soon as possible and transfer of funds for the balance is to be given to my agent in The Hague, and with this I plan to bring everything to a full settlement.

For every sum received on the said list, I have given to him or to them, to whom it belonged, a special receipt or certificate that such money will be restored to them in Holland. My highly honored Sirs will please take all such certificates in hand at the dispensing of the sums reported therein and cancel and destroy them and at that time transmit to me a formal and authentic receipt to my credit for the full sum of 14,453 ½ rixdollars.

Above this sum of 14,453 ½ rixdollars there are those possessions, which could not be sold, as also other means, which are not permitted to be released, [page 3] still nice sums, which should appear after the departure of these people and yet in the year of freedom agreed upon and approved. About this, the Anabaptists arriving [there in Amsterdam] and especially Daniel Rychen can best supply the details, and at the same time report how the matter might be addressed and fully accomplished without special charges from Bern’s regime. I agree to be willing and ready to exert my small services still further in this and other matters, for our purpose as necessary with the Anabaptist Commission at Bern, as far as that is doable.

Otherwise I am assured and my highly honored Sirs can just firmly believe that, in excess of the previously reported sum, the arriving Anabaptists, particularly those from Neuenburg and the Oberland, are bringing with them at the least around 6000 to 7000 rixdollars, partly in letters of exchange, partly in hard cash, although some of them do not want

to admit anything about it. I for my part have not only gladly allowed it to happen, but I have even encouraged them to secretly take along as much as possible of their means, especially that which they had outside of the area of Bern. One reason for that was to hinder [page 4] his royal Majesty of Prussia from getting any actual knowledge about their means and accordingly perhaps overextend his plans for their colonization. Another reason was that if the illustrious Canton of Bern should actually know or learn of the possessions of the Anabaptists removed from the country, they might perhaps regret the grace shown to these unfortunate people, or at the least attempt to evaluate them as the wealthiest in the world and as a result, sooner or later, they might watch those remaining yet in the country so much more closely.

From the Emmentalers of the Reistian congregation very little [money] has come in, except that which Christen Gäumann, the younger, has handed over, as my highly honored Sirs will have learned from the above mentioned listing. However, if these people would depart and follow the example of the Amish congregation, they would be able to supply even far greater sums than the Oberlanders, particularly if they want to take along their wives and child [sic]. This has not happened in every case among those who had been imprisoned, but, as my highly honored Sirs will have perceived from the last transmitted list and the accompanying details, there have been even some, for example, Heinrich Schilt[[4]](#footnote-12) and Barbara Steiner,[[5]](#footnote-13) who would rather throw [page 5] to the wind the money delivered to me on demand of the government than themselves go to Holland. Let my highly honored Sirs rest assured and not doubt that the management of the money belonging to these people will proceed according to law.

For the honorable Melchior Zahler I have been able to receive nothing in spite of all the trouble, effort, and toil expended; nevertheless, the Anabaptist Commission has positively promised that his share of the

bequest[[6]](#footnote-14) from his mother would certainly be released to him. He himself will report in person what my impartial opinion is to help him to his rights, in case nothing can be achieved otherwise.

With this, I kindly commit my highly honored Sirs

into the all-powerful, gracious protection of God,

however myself and mine to your devoted prayer

and remain continually,

My highly honored Sirs’

Most devoted servant,

Johann Ludwig Runckel.

1. This document is translated into Dutch in Vorsterman’s Relaes (A 1392) on pp. 218-219. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
2. Document 185. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
3. xr = kreutzer. Until 1798 in the Canton of Bern 4 kreutzer equaled 1 batzen. Coins of the World 1750-1850 by William D. Craig (Racine, Wisconsin: Whitman Publishing Co., 1966) p. 563. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
4. In Document 180 Runckel reports that Heinrich Schilt, formerly a prisoner, has run away from the emigration boat. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
5. She is mentioned in Document 185 as one of the emigrants. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
6. A 1361 and A 1362, dated 1712, from the De Hoop Scheffer Inventaris deal with this inheritance of Melchior Zahler. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)