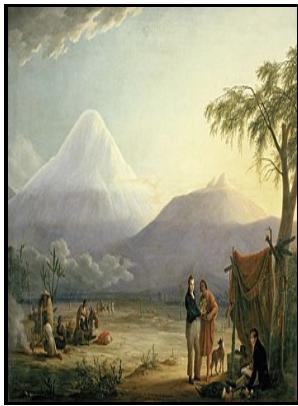


Letters of William von Humboldt to a female friend

John Chapman - Wilhelm Von Humboldt : A Biography, Paperback by Humboldt, Wilhelm, Freiherr ... 9781437446753



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Before There Was Beyoncé, There Was Humboldt

He never turned away a visitor and helped push through a law that made slaves free once they touched Prussian soil. Morse would go on to make significant contributions to American history and culture.

Designing for Humboldt: Five Questions with Karen Siatras

Seeing the constellation of the Southern Cross for the first time was his childhood dream come true. The argument for freedom in the elaboration of scientific knowledge, therefore, is simply a special instance of the argument for freedom in general.

Alexander von Humboldt papers, 1801

Humboldt wrote more than 25,000 letters to his contacts, establishing relationships with individuals such as Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, the Marquis de Lafayette, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Charles Willson Peale, George Catlin, and James Smithson founder of the Smithsonian Institution.

Alexander von Humboldt papers, 1801

His scientific endeavors and intellectual pursuits formed a legacy that through the twists and turns of international influence lead a pathway straight to the founding in 1846 of the Smithsonian Institution. Alexander von Humboldt doing one of his favorite things — measuring.

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And so he bought new instruments, planned his route, was learning Persian and Arabic. Thus as many trails as possible will be covered, and science will penetrate most rapidly in every direction towards that kind of hidden knowledge which is unsuspected by all but its discoverer, the kind of new knowledge on which the progress of science truly depends. The British ornithologist gives a more balanced view, writing in 1941: His world is round and simple and complete; the British country; the perfect escape.

Gesammelte Schriften; 14 by Humboldt, Wilhelm, Freiherr von, 1767

Karen Siatras is a graphic designer in SAAM's Publications office.

Humboldt, Wilhelm, Freiherr von, 1767

Charismatic, annoying, exuberant, caustic, but undeniably relevant, Humboldt straddled the enlightenment penchant for wanting to know everything about everything and the establishment of modern scientific methods designed to query that accrued knowledge. From Lima they sailed towards Guayaquil and along the way he documented the rich waters of the cold current running along the west coast of South America. Ticking off a litany of areas in which Humboldt had revolutionized our understanding of the planet, Agassiz noted how others had been inspired by his writings to further investigate his observations.

Letters of William von Humboldt to a female friend : Humboldt, Wilhelm, Freiherr von, 1767

It was first published in 1789 by his brother.

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