

Euler, Leonhard

Correspondence of Leonhard Euler with L. Bertrand, Ch. Bonnet, M. M. Bousquet, J. de Castillon, G. Cramer, Ph. Cramer, G. Cuenz, A. von Haller, G. L. Lesage, J. M. von Loen and J. C. Wettstein. Edited by Siegfried Bodenmann, Vanja Hug, Mirjana Ilić and Andreas Kleinert. (Correspondance de Leonhard Euler avec L. Bertrand, Ch. Bonnet, M. M. Bousquet, J. de Castillon, G. Cramer, Ph. Cramer, G. Cuenz, A. von Haller, G. L. Lesage, J. M. von Loen, J. C. Wettstein.) (French) [Zbl 1382.01013](#)
Leonhardi Euleri Opera Omnia. Series Quarta A: commercium Epistolicum 7. Basel: Birkhäuser (ISBN 978-3-7643-8743-3/hbk). xii, 621 p. (2017).

This volume contains Leonhard Euler's correspondence with Louis Bertrand, Charles Bonnet, Marc-Michel Bousquet, Jean de Castillon, Gabriel Cramer, Philibert Cramer, Gaspard Cuentz, Albrecht von Haller, Georges-Louis Lesage, Michael von Loen and Johann Caspar Wettstein; in an appendix, a recently discovered letter to Jean le Rond d'Alembert is given. Each correspondence is preceded by an introduction giving background information. The index contains a list of Euler's publications mentioned in the text, an extensive bibliography, and an index of names with some biographical information. The letters, the introductions and the numerous comments are all written in French.

From a mathematical point of view, Euler's correspondence with Gabriel Cramer is the most interesting one, since Cramer's paradox is addressed and discussed there. The other letters offer us glimpses into Euler's life. Opening the book at random I stumbled across a letter from Euler to Wettstein from June 27, 1747, in which Euler writes that "the Japanese who was in St. Petersburg died before my departure, and I have no information on those who have newly arrived". A footnote then explains that "the Japanese" was a Japanese sailor whose ship sank in 1729 near the Russian coast. 15 of his comrades were shot, and Gonza was taken to St. Petersburg and made head of a school for learning Japanese. Gonza died young in 1739, two years before Euler left St. Petersburg for Berlin. The "newly arrived" were five more Japanese fishermen who were brought to the school in 1745.

This edition of Euler's correspondence, which was prepared with the utmost care, will provide historians (not only of mathematics) with an easy access to information on the life of several scientists around Euler during the second half of the 18th century.

Reviewer: [Franz Lemmermeyer \(Jagstzell\)](#)

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Biographic references:

[Euler, Leonhard](#); [Bertrand, Louis](#); [Bonnet, Charles](#); [Bousquet, Marc-Michel](#); [de Castillon, Jean](#); [Cramer, Gabriel](#); [Cramer, Philibert](#); [Cuenz, Gaspard](#); [von Haller, Albrecht](#); [Lesage, Georges-Louis](#); [von Loen, Johann Michael](#); [Wettstein, Johann Caspar](#)