

M0001393: Reproduction of an autograph letter from John Hawkins to Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820) dated 8th February 1794

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Sir

My Son acquainted me that you wish'd to know the origin of the Engrav'd plate of the Jesuits bark you have in your possession

Doct^r C. Mortimer in 1740, then Secretary of the Royal Society (my relation) was a correspondent of Mons^r de la Condamine's, who being then in Peru, sent the Doct^r a present of a Serone of Bark, (I think it was so called) w^{ch} might be about half a Hundred weight, pack'd up in a Bullocks hide, in w^{ch} was enclosed several specimens of the Jesuits bark tree also some large pieces of the wood with the Bark on, and some specimens of an uncommon form'd branch of a Tree which he call'd Quinaquina; together with its Almond like seeds.

I being then an Apprentice in London, having pleasure in the Study of Botany, drawing Plants &c Doct^r Mortimer gave me the several specimens that I might form a drawing to be engrav'd for the Royal Society. The specimens were crumpled up, but by soaking them in warm water, I got them expanded so as to form an exact representation, as the plate shows.

I also made a drawing of the uncommon form'd specimen, with the triangular stalk with thick farinaceous winged leaves set on every side: w^{ch} he call'd Quina Quina, the drawing of w^{ch} I enclose for your acceptance; a foul copy of the same I gave to M^r Lambert with descriptions of both; I also send for your perusal, a letter from D^r Dillenius, with whom I ^{to correspond} used, on Botanic matters, as it alludes to the present subject. on the other side I have transcrib'd Mons^r Condamine's description of the first Quinquina.

I am Sir Your most Obedient

Hum^{ble} Serv^t

John Lawking

Dorchester Feb^r 9th 1794