ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF DEDICATION AND PREFACE OF PETER KALM’S TRAVELS.

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The editor of a recent Finnish-Swedish reprint of Peter Kalm’s TRAVELS remarks: “At the close of the 19th century an awakening interest in the past is taking place and especially so the interest in the earlier history of America.

“PETER KALM’S TRAVELS are receiving renewed attention from the point of view of historical import both in America and Europe. The reliability and comprehensiveness of the observations noted by Kalm in his TRAVELS constitute the staying qualities and enduring value of this work.”

For the benefit of those who have enjoyed only the English version of this work, the dedication and preface of the first Swedish edition have been translated by the writer, as no English translation of this part has heretofore appeared, so far as known.

DEDICATION.

(To Queen Louisa Ulrika of Sweden).

MOST GRACIOUS AND MIGHTY QUEEN:

We will find that a sovereign, solicitous of the welfare of his subjects, is always to be identified with his country’s growth in prosperity, resources and power, the support and encouragement of useful sciences.

A nation where any of these is wanting, where ignorance and indifference to useful pursuits and sciences prevail, must necessarily progress with difficulty.

1A [Journey] to [North America] [By] The Direction of the Royal[ Swedish Academy of Sciences] and [performed at public expense] by [PEHR KALM] Professor Economics in Abo [and Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.] VOL. I. [With the sanction of His Majesty the King. Stockholm.] Printed by Lars Salvius, 1753.] Vol. xxxvi.—2
On the contrary, fortunate indeed is the nation where the watchful care of the Ruler, the comfort of the inhabitants and the advancement of science have brought about a union of brotherhood and kindliness.

Happy, indeed, is Sweden, whose people now behold in their beloved and gracious Ruler, these noble attributes of high Royalty, which other nations either desire or, in words of flattery only, may claim for their rulers.

Most gracious Queen! Your subjects acknowledge with gratitude and blessings the devoted endeavours of your Royal Majesty to promote all useful parts of the national husbandry, to raise it to a level of universal thrift, comfort and prosperity in order that we may equal if not surpass, the most industrious and prudent of our Southern European neighbours.

Your Royal Majesty has already at this date conferred upon the sciences a generous measure of encouragement, protection and development; their future advance is beyond computation inasmuch as Your Majesty is pleased to devote your own spare hours to the application of this useful knowledge, and in the most important of them evince such insight that even he, who has devoted all his time to their study, finds himself a mere beginner and apprentice.

In accordance with the pleasure and gracious directions of Your Majesty, expeditions have been undertaken to remote countries in order to explore the secrets of nature and to collect various indigenous products. The manifold produce of nature from all parts of the earth has, in a sense, prayed to be granted the favor to be laid before the notice of Your Majesty.

It is due to the gracious protection and generosity of Your Royal Highness that the learned world looks forward to a description and treatise of the soil, properties and minerals, plants, animals and other curious offerings by Nature, as recounted in the Holy Writ and to be found in historical places of sacred fame, the history of which
countries, even as regards their inhabitants, has been shrouded in utter darkness.

I supplicate the privilege of laying humbly before the feet of Your Majesty a full account of the journey undertaken by me to the northern part of America, the first part of which report herewith makes its appearance.

Your Majesty has not only with gracious approval agreed upon the benefits of such a journey but also, on my return, conferred upon me many manifestations of your Royal favor, especially by causing the many specimens brought home by me from foreign parts, to be placed with Your Majesty's remarkable Natural History Collection, which in costliness as well as in variety and rarity of specimens is scarcely to be equalled by that of any other potentate or in any other part of the world.

May the Almighty Providence grant Your Majesty a long and happy reign and fulfill the aspirations of Your Majesty, thus granting to Sweden the utmost happiness and prosperity.

Mighty and Most Gracious Queen, I remain unto my dying hour, Your Majesty's Most humble and faithful servant and subject,

PEHR KALM.

PREFACE.

Herewith is given to the kind reader the first part of my account of the journey undertaken by me by the direction of the Royal Academy of Sciences and at the public expense.

In order that the gentle reader may not be unadvised of the purpose of this journey, its inception and the individuals or bodies who especially contributed toward the success of the undertaking, I will submit this brief statement.

After having passed some time at the Upsala University, through the generosity of the Vice President and Knight of the Northern Star, the Right Honorable Baron Carl Bjelke, where I enjoyed the direction and instruc-
tion of Archiater Linnaeus, Knight of the Northern Star, it was proposed by the Vice President, as formally recommended by the Archiater, that for the promotion of the public interest and welfare, I should be permitted to undertake a journey either to Iceland, Siberia or some other part of the world located in the same latitude as Sweden, there to carry on various investigations and to collect plants, especially the seeds of such as may be used as human food, fodder for cattle, or for the improvement of our barren lands, marshes and arid hills or be made useful in dye works or in manufactures, husbandry or medicine, with a view of having these plants domesticated and grown here to our profit and advantage.

The Archiater, the Right Honorable Linnaeus, was of the opinion that North America, of all places, offered the most promising field, no botanical scholar having with any degree of diligence examined and described its native plants, while among the few specimens received, several had been found sufficiently hardy to survive our winters, and a goodly number were valuable in the fields of medicine and economics.

In 1754 Capitain Mechanicus Triewald expressed his opinion, as published in the Transactions of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, of the need and practicability of Sweden producing its own raw silk. After relating his many experiments and difficulties, and the scanty encouragement of his efforts, he concludes as follows: "For the reasons given I have been greatly inclined to bury in eternal darkness and oblivion all the knowledge regarding the cultivation of raw silk that I have acquired during ten years of experiment. But the distinguished member of the Royal Academy of Sciences, the noted Botanist, Professor Linnaeus has, through his investigations, discovered a species of mulberry which will undoubtedly endure our severe winters and even more inclement springs, and not suffer more than our firs, pines and birches. This species of mulberry may easily be
obtained, as will be explained by Doctor Linnaeus as soon as I have disclosed, at least in part, the results of my experiments in the cultivation of mulberry trees."

These expressions served Archiater Linnaeus as an added incitement to urge a journey to America.

His excellency, Count C. G. Tessin, member of the Royal Cabinet, President of the Kings' High Council, High Marshall of the King, Tutor of His Royal Highness, Prince Gustaf, Chancellor of the Abo University, and Knight Commander of the Order of His Majesty, Knight of the Black Eagle, accepted the Presidency of the Royal Academy of Sciences in October of the above-mentioned year, at which time the Vice President, the Right Honorable Count Bjelke submitted to the Academy his own opinion as well as that of Archiater Linnaeus, of the need and value of such a journey to North America, and at the same time recommended me for the performance of same.

This recommendation was graciously received and met with the unanimous approval of the members of the Royal Academy. The question then arose how this journey could be accomplished without trenching on public funds which were sorely needed for other purposes.

The Royal Academy therefore decided to direct their Excellencies, the Chancellors of the Universities within the Kingdom, to request in such manner as their own respective judgment might approve, that each Academy, according to its individual means, allot a reasonable portion from its stipend funds toward the object in view. This plan was pursued and written messages were immediately dispatched by their Excellencies the Chancellors.

The Abo University, which because of meagerness of resources and revenue as compared with its sister institutions, has but little to spare, had no sooner received the gracious communication from its Chancellor than it offered its available mite of money secured through the efforts of Professor Theologicus, now the Bishop and vice Chancellor, Doct. Joh. Brovallius; the amount col-
lected was subsequently transmitted to His Excellency the Chancellor, who forthwith forwarded it to the Royal Academy of Sciences.

The Abo University thus won the honor of being the first to contribute to the need in question. The Lund University had no funds available for contribution for such a journey. The Upsala University, while it was the last to come forward with assistance, gave so generously that her share of the burden must be considered among the heaviest. Early in 1746 the Royal Academy of Sciences authorized its President, Archiater Rosen to file a petition, on behalf of the Society, with His Excellency, President of the General Land office, Count Piper, soliciting his gracious approval of devoting toward the journey one of the Piper stipends established at Upsala University. His Excellency gave the Royal Academy the assurance that, if no other recourse presented itself, one of the stipends referred to would gladly be placed at their service as soon as vacant.

Further, the Royal Academy of Sciences submitted to the University Senate of Upsala whether it would generously consent to assign one of the Magnat-stipends to the purpose stated. Chief Marshall, Baron Harleman, deeply yet inadequately cherished for his life-long devotion to the advancement of his country, undertook while serving as President of the Royal Society, to push the matter forward. During a visit to Upsala as escort to their Majesties, the Count called upon the Academic Council and urged favorable consideration. Inasmuch as the Helmfeld stipend was at the time not appropriated, it was proposed that the same be assigned to the purpose urged by the petitioners. The Council promised to contribute all within its power, and did so in the autumn of the above-mentioned year, when its consent was formally given at the urgent solicitation of Archiater Linnaeus. The opinion and approval of the Worthy Magistracy in Stockholm also being required in the premises, this Hon-
orable body was duly informed of the decision of the Academic Council.

True to its wonted benign concern for useful sciences and the country’s prosperity the august and noble Magistracy gave its prompt and unanimous approval to the petition. Thus it was brought about that the Helmfeld stipend was assigned toward the journey under consideration.

Inasmuch as the Royal Academy of Sciences had by the above act become the recipient of one of the Academic Magnat stipends, his Excellency, Count Piper found himself constrained to withhold his consent to devote one of the Piper stipends to the journey in view, partly because it seemed contrary to the will of the testator that any one individual should enjoy two Magnat stipends from one and the same Academy and in part to avoid setting a dangerous precedent.

In 1747 our most gracious King, as High Chancellor of Upsala University, was pleased to direct a communication to the University Senate submitting whether or not 1000 platar (gold) might be paid from the Treasury of the Academy toward this journey. The worthy Professors in Upsala complied at once with this high and gracious request, and remitted the amount of 6000 dalers (silver) to the Royal Academy of Sciences.

The Bureau of Manufactures subsequently was pleased to donate to the Royal Academy of Sciences 1800 dalers (copper) for the promotion of the journey.

Personally, I have outside of my salary and private means, expended over 5000 silver dalers in the interest of this journey and for the good of my country; therefore my savings at the end of the journey available for my homemaking, may easily be computed. The further shortage that appeared was met by the Royal Academy of Sciences from its own resources. I had, also, to deal with the difficulty that at the very beginning of my journey the English bank rates were higher than ever before or later, so far as known to me.
The distinguished member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Squire Joh. Classon, at the request of the Academy, equipped me with an open letter of credit on his Commissioner in London to provide me with all necessary money and everything else required during the entire journey; and the same gentleman has also conferred on me and the Academy various other favors in connection with this journey. In the autumn of 1747, upon the respectful recommendation of His Excellency Count Tessin, as Chancellor of Abo University, His Royal Majesty granted me leave of absence with permission to travel abroad in the interest of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and in addition His Majesty not only gave me credentials under his own illustrious name but also graciously caused instructions to be given to all his Ministers at the Royal Courts of France, Spain, and England as well as at the States-General in Holland, to procure for me credentials from those countries. Thus prepared I began my journey from Upsala to Gothenburg on the 16th of October (according to the new reckoning which is always understood in this preface). I had chosen as companion Horticulturist Lars Jungström, who is thoroughly familiar with gardening, care of plants, sloyd, skilled in the tasks of a mechanic, of great endurance and in every respect faithful. Contrary winds delayed us in Gothenburg until the 11th of December, when we embarked at sea, but, driven by a terrific storm, we were compelled to seek shelter in Norway. Here we remained until the 8th of February, 1748, when we set sail for England and arrived in London on the 17th of said month. There being no vessel chartered to sail from England to America we were forced to remain in England until the 5th of August when we embarked in Gravesend and lost sight of the shores of England on the 11th of same month. We sighted America on the 13th of September following, after having, during the night previous, struck on a shoal, from which through the help of the Almighty we
were soon delivered without damage, and we arrived happily, on the 15th of September, in Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, or as it was formerly called, the New Sweden.

The remainder of the year was devoted partly to collecting the seeds of various plants, which were sent to Sweden, and partly to various journeys throughout the surrounding country. In the following year, 1749, I travelled through a large part of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, from there up the river Hudson to Albany, further over the lakes St. Sacrament and Champlain, all of the European settlements in Canada and returned to New Sweden shortly before Christmas. All the seeds collected during this summer were shipped the same winter to Sweden.

In 1750 I explored the western part of Pennsylvania, a considerable stretch of country along the coast line of New Jersey; and subsequently I left Jungström behind me in Pennsylvania during the summer to collect the seeds of various herbs, while I alone travelled over New York. I journeyed over the Blue Mountains to Albany, up the Mohawk river and further through the land of the warlike and cruel Iroquois tribes, viz: the Mohawk, Oneida, Tuscarora, Onondaga and Cayuga. Later I passed across the great lake or inland sea Ontario to the marvellous Falls of Niagara, which, I must concede, are to be rated as among the greatest wonders of nature.

From there I journeyed back in the autumn over another part of the Blue Mountains and returned finally in October to Philadelphia. On the 13th of February, 1751, we departed from Philadelphia. On the 16th we embarked at New Castle for Europe.

On the 18th of the same month I beheld for the last time America and I confess that I felt the deepest regret at this too sudden parting. There remained still a vast number of things in all the three realms of nature that I had been unable to examine and describe, and must
leave to other investigators. After a trying passage, filled with storm and fear of our lives, the coast of England was sighted on the 23rd of March. On the 27th of the same month our ship ran aground near the mouth of the river Thames with such vehemence that we were forced to take refuge on the nearest land, unable, with the two pumps at hand to free the leaking vessel of as much water as was entering through the broken bottom. I travelled by land to London which I reached on the 29th of March and where I experienced the joy of seeing our ship, with all things safe on board arrive a few days later after having made necessary repairs. We departed from London on the 5th of May, arrived in Gothenburg on the 16th of the same month and reached Stockholm on the 3rd of June.

Of the notes taken by me during this journey the first part now makes its appearance, containing also various observations made while in Norway and England.

Considerable matter was omitted by me in describing English Husbandry, lest the work be made too lengthy; but I hope, if God please, to have it appear in Academic publications. When writing of England, I have occasionally made use of English words. I do not think that therein I have laid myself open to criticism any more than those who make use of French words. These foreign words are almost all explained by me in various places throughout the text.

Many worthy people who read books for amusement rather than profit will soon weary to find so often in this narrative of my journey, the words, ACRE, MEADOW and various terms pertaining to husbandry, but rarely appearing in heretofore published travels, with the exception of those by the Honourable Archiater Linnaeus and others who have followed his method. The purposes of this journey however, fully warrant so doing, and my main efforts were to collect such material. I wish that we had correct, economic reports not only of our country
as a whole, but of its every province, county and parish, thus having at our disposal excellent information and guidance in improving our husbandry.

We might then select the best from the material at hand and abandon those of our methods which were found less profitable than those practised by others. It would prompt us to much further advance and our husbandry would soon be in a sounder and more prosperous state. However, in order to please those who have no liking for economic descriptions, I have at the beginning of each paragraph briefly indicated, in heavily leaded type, the contents of the paragraph, by which method, anyone, lacking taste for a certain science, may pass over the parts that may prove of less interest. In the English countries I have used the English mile, in the French countries the miles of the French; six English and two French miles about equal our Swedish mile. I say about as it falls short if computed with mathematical accuracy.

In North America there are, as yet, no officially measured miles, distances are largely estimated, with the result that sometimes one mile will be found to measure twice the length of another.

The standard measure used by me during these travels has been the Swedish foot and yard. When I have used the geometrical inch, I have always added the word geom. In every case where this abbreviation does not appear the regulation inch applies.

I have daily noted the climate during the whole of my journey. In preparing my manuscript for printing, this information, in so far as concerns Sweden, Norway and England, was omitted as hardly necessary, but from my departure from England and thenceforward, it will be found recorded, as it is a very important matter to know, for general reasons, as well as for the proper care of American plants.

The thermometer, which has served me during my
whole journey is that of the late Professor And. Celsius, an instrument of utmost reliability and generally accepted throughout Sweden. I am still using the thermometers I carried with me during my travels.

When a NUMBER is quoted in describing a plant, without specifying any one book, it must be understood as always referring to Archiater Linneaus FLORA SVECICA.

When information has come to me, that I have not had opportunity to verify, I have generally named the authority, partly in order to record my gratitude to my informant and not to give out as my own what is due to others, and partly to place the responsibility of the statement with its author in case it should not prove in accordance with facts. Furthermore, in describing what I have not beheld myself but have accepted from the information of others, I have generally used the words, IT IS REPORTED or IT IS SAID, but in every instance, falling within my own observation or confirmed by the unanimous opinion of all, I have made my statement as of an established fact.

I have purposely omitted technical descriptions of plants, animals and minerals. Most readers weary of them and it would increase the size as well as the cost of the book. I have always stated the utilitarian value of plants, animals and minerals whenever known; I plan, if God pleases, to furnish later their full description in a Latin work. The style of my writing is anything but graceful. It is as recorded daily during my travels, often with a tired hand. To apply one's attention daily to all that comes within one's observation and to record it without delay is fully as exhausting as most other labor. After having suffered repeated inconveniences and annoyances during a day's journey, a traveller is often compelled, when others are snugly in bed, to sit up to copy notes and in legible hand record what has been entrusted to memory during the day.
I cannot hope to be more fortunate than others in escaping uncharitable critics. They must have something on which to exercise their wit. No writer's rash has placed the pen in my hand; I was prompted by my devotion to our common welfare and my obligation to obey the instructions of the Royal Academy of Sciences. No one can say that I have sought or am seeking profit or emolument. If my journey will in any way promote public interest, I am amply rewarded and compensated for any inconvenience and expense I may have suffered. Only future experiments and skill can justly determine if my country will derive benefit from the seeds I brought from America. I have done all within my power. I have had the disadvantage of being located at the most northerly Swedish University, where the climate is more severe and the winter's cold is vastly more bitter than in Upsala, Stockholm and Lund. In Upsala and Lund there are Botanical Gardens and attendants. Here in Abo both are wanting. From the experiments carried on by me on my own little HORTULA, I found that American mulberry plants of the height of barely two inches endured the cold in a room where the thermometer registered 20 degrees below freezing point; our native plants of equally tender age would scarcely endure more. Walnut trees, grapes, plum trees and others, although as yet most tender, have also endured our winters. Let us await the verdict of the future. But watchfulness and unceasing care will be required. If we ever will be fortunate enough to have here in Abo an Academic Garden, very much more may be accomplished.

The subsequent parts of my journey will, if God please, soon appear in due order. Gentle reader, I beg you in the meanwhile to interpret this with charity and forbearance.

Abo the 13th of July, 1753.