

## Note on the "Leopoldina," or "The Imperial German Academy of Naturalists at Halle"

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Recently, a professor of entomology sent an urgent letter of inquiry relative to the association of German naturalists called, in the older writings, the "Leopoldina," or, more fully, the "Academia Caesarea Leopoldino-Carolina Naturae Curiosorum." He had read an account of Jacob Boll, early Texan naturalist, and therein had noted his election (March 1, 1873) to membership in the society. The article stated that, in 1873, the Academy had its seat at Dresden, where its Praeses, Heinrich Gottlieb Ludwig Reichenbach had been for many years professor of natural history, and director of the natural history museum. It also stated, mistakenly, that the Academy had been founded at Frankfort on the Main in 1670. My friend wished to have fuller information on the "Leopoldina," since many entomologists, like Boll, had been members; but found the sources of information very scanty and conflicting.

Conflicting indeed! The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (eds. IX, 1878; XI, 1910; XIV, 1930) states consistently that the Academy was founded in 1662, [presumably] at Leipzig; *Meyers Konversations-Lexikon* (V, 1, 1893, 259) gives the date as 1652, and the place as Vienna; the *Enciclopedia Italiana* (I, 1, 1929, 189) states that the society was 'established at Halle, in 1662, on the initiative of Bausch.' Garrison (*History of Medicine*, ed. IV, 1929, 281) states, correctly, that the society was founded by J. L. Bausch, a physician, at Schweinfurth, on Jan. 1, 1652. The XV edition of *Der Grosse Brockhaus* (11, 1932, 325), drawing from good printed and archival sources, states explicitly that 'the (present) *Kaiserliche Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher in Halle* was founded at Schweinfurth in 1652, *bestaetigt* [1687] by the H.R. emperor, Leopold I; and [much later] was moved to the University of Halle in 1878.' Concerning details of the "Leopoldina," *Der Grosse Brockhaus* gives nothing further, but refers to Johann Walther's (1926) account of the past and present of the society, published in the journal *Leopoldina*, and later reprinted (*infra.*) *Meyers Konversations-Lexikon* (*supra*) gives a fuller account than Brockhaus. From this we find that the early society was founded largely by physicians with interests in natural history. Dr. J. L. Bausch (resident of Schweinfurth, and not of Vienna, as Meyers' mistakenly inferred) organized it in his own, then an Imperial, city in 1652. Later, both of the H.R. emperors, Leopold I (regn. 1658-1705) and Karl VII (regn. 1742-45) were patrons and benefactors of the society. The name of the academy thus became changed. Its first title (1652) was "Academia Naturae Curiosorum." After Leopold's benefaction (1687) the name was changed to "Academia Caesario-Leopoldina Naturae Curiosorum;" and after Karl Adolf's benefaction (c. 1743), to the "Academia Sacri Romani Imperii Leopoldino-Carolina Naturae Curiosorum" (or, as often abbreviated, the "Academia Caesarea Leopoldino-Carolina Naturae Curiosorum.")

Bausch's original circular letter was sent generally to German medical men, inviting their adhesion to the society, and their communication of extraordinary or exceptionally interesting cases from their practice. For a time, the communications were published independently and ephemerally. In 1670, however, the academy commenced the publication of *Miscellanea Curiosa*, of which 30 volumes appeared between 1670 and 1706, in three series of ten volumes each. After a lapse of

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six years, ten annual volumes of *Ephemerides* appeared; followed by ten volumes of *Acta Physico-Medica* (1727-54). In 1757 the *Acta* were succeeded by the *Nova Acta*, which under various title-modifications, appeared in a series of 110 volumes, from 1757 to 1928. The present publication of the Academy, beginning with 1926, is titled, "*Leopoldina, Berichte der Kaiserlichen Deutschen Akademie der Naturforscher in Halle.*"

On May 28-30, 1937, the society celebrated the "250th Anniversary of the Founding" of the Leopoldine academy. The discrepancy of dates is apparent: 1937 was the 285th anniversary of the founding of the "*Academia Naturae Curiosorum*," and the 250th anniversary of the "*Kaiserbestaetigung*, if it took place in 1687, rather than 1677 (as some accounts state).

I have been able to find but little regarding Dr. Johann Lorenz Bausch, founder of the Academy. Poggendorff (basing his statements on Büchner, *infra*; Alexander Chalmer's *General Biographical Dictionary* (Lond., 1812-17); and Christian Gottlieb Jöcher's *Allgemeine Gelehrten-Lexicon* . . ., Bd. I, 1750) states that Bausch was born at Schweinfurth, Sept. 30, 1605, and died there Nov. 17, 1665. I find from the Surgeon General's Library Catalogue that Bausch took the degree M.D. at Marburg, under Professor Johann Kempf, with a dissertation on Dysentery (published at Marburg, in quarto, 1628). Portraits of Bausch are contained in two portrait-collections in the Surgeon-General's Library. Besides his doctoral thesis, the British Museum catalogue of printed books, the Library of Congress catalogue, and the Surgeon-General's Library catalogue give a list of only three publications, two of them on mineralogy.

The Academy had a president, two secretaries, and an indeterminate number of members. When Boll was elected a member in 1873, he adopted as his "name in the Academy" *Fabricius Junior* (as was the custom) in honor of the great Danish entomologist, pupil of Linnaeus. By this act Boll delimited his field to entomology (he was then doing notable insect-collecting in Texas), and carried out in his own case the constitutional provision of the Academy, that each member should choose a field of Science for his special cultivation.

LITERATURE: ANON? (date?) *Historia succincta et brevis ortus et progressus S.R. Academiae Naturae Curiosorum*. [Origin obscure, v. Surgeon-General's Library Catalogue S.V. "Miscellanea Curiosa"]—BUCHNER, ANDREAS ELIAS (1755). *Academiae Sacri Romani Imperii Leopoldino-Carolinae Naturae Curiosorum* . . . [Historia]. 1 v., 4°, Halle.—DELIUS, H. F. (1788). *De nupero et presenti dictae Academiae statu breviter agit*. 4°, Erlangen.—GRULICH, OSCAR (1891-1905). *Katalog der Bibliothek der Kaiserlichen Leopoldinisch-Carolinischen Deutschen Akademie der Naturforscher* . . . 3 v., Halle. IDEM (1894). *Geschichte der Bibliothek und Naturalien-Sammlung der . . . Akademie* . . . Halle.—WALTHER, JOHANNES, (1926). "Die Aufgabe der [Leopoldischen] Akademie in Vergangenheit und Gegenwart" (*Leopoldina*, Bd. I, pp. 1-20, 1926); published also independently as *Die Kaiserlich Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher zu Halle*, at press of Quelle & Meyer, Leipzig, 1926. (20 pp., 8°, illustr.)