

From Ignatius de Asso

1 January 1775

NLS 3942/184-185. The endorsement identifies Madrid as the provenance for the letter.

Eruditissimo viro Guilelmo Robertson
Ignatius de Asso S. P.

Innotuit iam pridem nomen tuum Regionibus nostris, vir doctissime, et tua, Mariae Stuardi, Jacobi VI et Caroli V Imperatoris, Historia defaecato iudicio, et estimia diligentia conscripta, gravissimi Historici laudem tibi conciliavit. Habet nescio quid summorum virorum virtus, quod omnes ad se trahat, atque alliciat. Id me ad te amandum, observandumque compellit. Cum ergo humanissimus Wadilowius mihi significasses, injectam esse tibi cupiditatem in intimos legum nostrarum recessus penetrandi, meum esse duobus, officii, et observantiae meae nonnulla tibi argumenta praebere.

Vetur fuit Hispanii institutum omnia quaeque ad Reipublicae administrationem spectantio, Comitit tractare, quae postea diligentissime litteris consignabantur. Hae sunt fontes, quae legum nostrarum origines; imo luculentissima civilis Historiae monumenta inde sunt derivanda: quae utinam Scriptores Hispani anse oculos habuissent, non enim tam turpiter fuissent hallucinati. Horum omnium specimen nostratibus exhibui; sed quominus ea, quae non mediocri cura in Bibliotheca descripseram, mea opera in publicum evolarent, imperatorum hominum invidia et malevolentia, impedimento fuit. Mitto igitur tibi Leges antiquas laiae Comitit Matrisensibus anno Erae Hispanae 1363; Idem *Ordinationes*, ut vocant, Burgenses ann^o 1338 et. 1316; quae ei tibi salivam moveant, a lia non pauca bonae frugis plena propediem tibi suppeditabo. Rogo te, atque observo, vir eruditissime, ut Innunoculum hocce pro tua humanitate acceptum ferre non graveris. Vale. Dabam Matritit Kal. Jan. Ann^o MDCCLXXV.

Translation:

To the most erudite man, William Robertson, Ignatius de Asso sends greetings,

Long ago your name was well known to our regions, most learned sir, and your history of Mary Stuart, Jacob VI, and Emperor Charles V, for its refined judgement, and written with inestimable diligence, brought for you praise from the most serious historians. The virtue of the best men holds a certain merit, which draws all people to it, and entices them. This compels me to love and heed you. When, therefore, the most learned Wadilow had alerted me that a desire had been injected into you of analysing the deepest recesses of our laws, I considered it my job to provide also to you some arguments of my observation.

The Spanish had an old custom that all things pertaining to the administration of the Republic be examined one by one by a committee, which afterwards were diligently consigned to letters. These are the same sources, which are the origins of our laws; indeed the most excellent recollections of civil history thence must be derived: which if only the Spanish writers had before their eyes, for then they would not have had such vile delusions. The proof of all of these I have exhibited to our own people; but, these things which with not mediocre care I had described in the Bibliotheca, so that these things did not fly out into the public by my own effort. And the jealousy and malevolence of ignorant people served as an impediment. Therefore I send to you the ancient laws sent to the Madrid committee in the year of the Spanish Era 1363; likewise the orders, as they say, *bergenses*, in the years 1338 and 1316; which they should move your saliva, and I will supply to you shortly other things, not few, full of good fruit. I ask you and observe, most erudite man, that you not be aggrieved to receive this small gift in return for your humanity. Be well, I send this in Madrid on the Kalends of January in the year 1775.