

Transkription: Brief Johann Conrad Fischer an James Watt

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Sir!

It is with those agreeable feelings that I take the liberty to address these lines to you, which always arise from the acquirement of something thats precious, & as such I shall ever consider the honour of having made your personal acquaintance & your kind permission to write to you, when returnd to my own home.-

The great obligations I am under towards you would have made it my duty to make my acknowledgments much sooner than I do now, had it not been for the apperehension of intruding upon your time on one hand, & on the other for waiting the departure of a Swiss Gentleman & friend of mine Mr Studer of Winterthur who will be so good as to charge himself with this letter & whom I take the liberty to recommend very much to your good favors as his extensive travels to different parts of the world will render you his personal acquaintances both agreeable & interesting – Mr Studer will at the same time deliver you two samples of cast Steel^{1*} into which I converted according to my promiss the two different specimens of English iron you had the goodness to furnish me with.

These samples which I have the honour to get submitted to your examination will prove I hope sufficiently that the English iron whether good or bad will be as fit as any other iron for being converted into a very good sort of cast steel provided the composition of the flux be calculated according to its nature & properties.- By the great number of experiments I have made already on iron & the different modifications it is apt to undergo, I was so sure of success with respect to this, that immediately after the casting of the bars I presented them to the action of a tilting hammer of 150 lbt weight, going at the rate of 216 strokes in a minute which they bore so well as if mad from the best Swedisch or Russian iron.-

If I was not afraid of having entertaind you too long already with an object of fabrication which, in comparison with the importance of those I have seen at your manufactory, shrinks to nothing, I should say still some words on the different manners of proceeding as they are in use at Rotherham & Atterclif & my own little laboratory.- My only & most hearty wish is that you might realize your intention of coming this spring to Switzerland, which would procure me the pleasure of talking with you at large on subjects that greatly interest me & of which I know no more competent judge than yourself.- As Mr. Lee of Manchester is expected within a few months

* Observe the smooth cast bar is from the cold short & the porous one from the tough iron.

here (Mr. Lowe whose acquaintance I made a few weeks ago told me so) you would meet I fancy a very agreeable companion of voyage, besides young Mr. Gotts of Leeds, whom & whose respectable Family I shall never forget.-

I don't remember whether I have told you that the Russian Emperor visited my steel foundry when at Schaffhausen. I have been presented by his majesty with a very precious ring set with 91 brillants sent from Vienna accompanied with a letter whose contents greatly enhanced the value of this gift. Before I conclude this letter I think it my duty to mention to you that Mr. Wedgwood has done the highest honour to your kind recommendation. I only regret the very little time that was left upon my hands for making a longer stay in your sweet isle, as it was not above a month.- My consolation is however that it has furnished me with matter for contemplation these twenty years to come, & I have not yet given up the idea of treading English ground again.- Be pleased to remember me to Mr. Bolton & Mr. Murdoch & to believe for ever to be entirely yours

Schaffhausen the 6th of March 1815

J. C. Fisher

Briefbeschriftung:

J. C. Fisher

Shaffhausen 3 March 1815

Has sent samples of cast steel, by Mr Studer.

Thinks a flux may be adapted to any kind of iron

Expects a visit from Mr. Lee

Present made him by the Emperor of Russia

Thanks for (unleserlich)

J. Watt Es Vre

At

Soho

Near Birmingham