Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 7

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tnah13>

On the 'Ankündigung eines systematischen Werkes von den Schmetterlingen der Wienergegend' of Schiffermüller and Denis

Louis B. Prout F.E.S.^a

^a 246 Richmond Road, N.E.

Published online: 22 Sep 2009.

To cite this article: Louis B. Prout F.E.S. (1900) On the 'Ankündigung eines systematischen Werkes von den Schmetterlingen der Wienergegend' of Schiffermüller and Denis, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 7*, 6:31, 158-160, DOI: [10.1080/00222930008678350](https://doi.org/10.1080/00222930008678350)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00222930008678350>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (the "Content") contained in the publications

on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis, our agents, and our licensors make no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages, and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to or arising out of the use of the Content.

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at <http://www.tandfonline.com/page/terms-and-conditions>

and the numerous tables of genera and species will be very useful. We are glad to see, too, that transformations are described in the case of the comparatively few species in which they are known. We may mention that the excellent (and, in the present volume, crowded) coloured plates are by Mr. Horace Knight.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the 'Ankündigung eines systematischen Werkes von den Schmetterlingen der Wienergegend' of Schiffermüller and Denis. By LOUIS B. PROUT, F.E.S.

THE well-known 'Systematisches Verzeichniss der Schmetterlinge der Wienergegend' by the above-named authors is invariably cited by modern writers as dating from 1776, and I am not aware that that date has ever been challenged. I have, however, for some years past, been acquainted with a copy of the same work under a different title, bearing date 1775, and have been somewhat puzzled by it; but as my studies have not hitherto necessitated a critical investigation of the work, I have not until quite recently taken up the question seriously. In doing so, however, I find sufficient evidence to be worthy of publication, and by the advice of Mr. John Hartley Durrant, with whom I have been in correspondence on the subject, I have prepared the following notes.

In the library of the British Museum (Bloomsbury) is the copy which first arrested my attention, coming from the library of Sir Joseph Banks, and quite accurately catalogued by Dryander in 'Bibl. Banks.' ii. p. 254. The title reads "Ankündigung | eines | systematischen Werkes | von den Schmetterlingen | der Wienergegend | herausgegeben | von einigen Lehrern | am k. k. Theresianum. | Wien, | verlegt Augustin Bernardi Buchhändler. 1775." Another copy, identical with this, was acquired by Smith in 1784 from Linne's library, and is, of course, preserved by the Linnean Society; this latter is of considerable interest, as it is still in the original boards, while that at Bloomsbury has been re-bound, and lettered on the back "Ankündigung eines Werkes von den Schmetterlingen der Wienergegend. Wien. 1775." With the exception of the titlepage and the frontispiece, this early issue is identical with the well-known 'Systematisches Verzeichniss' of 1776, so that, as Mr. Sherborn says (*in litt.*, 13th Feb. 1900), "there was only one printing of the body of the work—the same broken letters occur in every copy." Mr. Sherborn further writes:—"Note that the 1775 T.P. is a 'woodblock,' not type set, and the 1776 T.P. is engraved on copper." The frontispiece and plates are coloured, but the former is arranged as in the uncoloured 1776 copies. A third issue (1776 also) has coloured plates, but the frontispiece is somewhat differently designed. I have seen no copy of the 'Ankündigung' excepting the two above mentioned, but the following bibliographical references deal with it.

Mr. Durrant called my attention to the fact that Eiselt, 'Ges. Syst. Lit. Ins.' 203 (1836), and Percheron, ii. 39-40 (1837), both

cite ed. 1775—the latter, however, under the title ‘Systematisches Verzeichniss’ &c. This latter, perhaps, accounts for Hagen’s slip (i. 167), where, under Denis, he gives nearly the 1776 title, with the 1775 date. Engelmann (505) falls into just the opposite error, citing the 1775 title with date 1776.

Hagen (ii. 122), under Schiffermüller, gives “i. Ankündigung . . . 1775,” but only at second hand, as he had not seen it.

Percheron (*l. c.*) quotes among the reviews of the work “Jena gel. Zeit. 1775, p. 825.” As there is no copy of the ‘Jenaische Zeitungen von Gelehrten Sachen’ in this country, I wrote to Dr. O. Taschenberg, in Halle, who very obligingly sent for a copy from Jena and wrote me out the review verbatim. It appeared in “LXXXVIII Stück. Freytags den 8 December 1775,” pp. 825–826, and described the work as “Ankündigung . . . 1775. 322 S. in gr. 4. nebst 8 Kupfertafeln,” quite accurately, except that I suppose 8 to be a typographical error for “3,”—an error, however, which has been followed by Schröter and by “L’Esprit des Journaux.” The reviewer says, “Dieses hier angekündigte fürtreffliche Werk haben wir vorzüglich den Herren Professoren Schiffermüller [*sic*] und Denis zu danken,” and goes on to discuss appreciatively the authors’ plan. The title “Ankündigung” was of course indicative of the fact (well-known to lepidopterists) that even this great catalogue of 322 pp. was only intended as the precursor of a much greater work which never appeared. But the title in question has given rise to much confusion, and it is highly probable, as Dr. Taschenberg suggests, that it was changed in 1776 to “Systematisches Verzeichniss” &c. because its scope had been misunderstood. It is quite obvious, as Mr. Durrant points out, that there cannot “have been such a demand for this work in 1775 as to necessitate a second edition in 1776” (*in litt.*, 9 Feb. 1900); moreover, Mr. Sherborn has shown from internal evidence that there is only one printing in question. Mr. Durrant inclines to regard the 1775 copies as “advertisement advance-copies with a temporary title.”

Other contemporary references to the “Ankündigung” may be briefly noted as follows—I give nothing which I have not personally verified:—

Schröter, “Abhandlungen über verschiedene Gegenstände der Naturgeschichte,” erster Theil, 1776, “Vorrede” (dedication is dated 28 Feb. 1776): “Mein Manuscript war bereits in den Händen meines Herrn Verlegers, als mir noch eine Arbeit zu Gesichte kam die ich nicht übergehen kan.” He then gives the title “Ankündigung” &c., 1775, and remarks that the book might appear to many too detailed for a mere “Ankündigung,” &c., &c.

‘L’Esprit des Journaux’ for April 1776, p. 400, gives “Ankündigung [*sic*] einer systematischen werks von der sehemerligen” [*sic!*], &c., 1775, very probably merely after the account in the ‘Jena. Zeit.’

Schulze, in ‘Neue Mannigfaltigkeiten,’ iv. pp. 26 (*bis*—recte 28) *et seq.* (Berlin, 1st June, 1776), reviews the “Ankündigung . . . 1775” very fully.

Berlinische Sammlungen,’ ix. p. 219 (recte 303), 1777, refers to

both issues, apparently assuming that of 1775 to be a true Ankündigung.

Cobres, 'Deliciæ Cobresianæ,' p. 387 (1782), gives "Syst. Verzeichniss . . . 1776," but adds, "Anfänglich kam es unter dem Titel Ankündigung eines systematischen Verzeichnisses [*sic*] . . . heraus."

Prange, 'Verz. Schrift. Naturgesch.' p. 207, copies Cobres.

The earliest review which I have seen of the issue entitled 'Systematisches Verzeichniss' &c., is Erxleben's, in his 'Physikalische Bibliothek,' iv. Stück 2, pp. 190-207 (1777); but others soon follow. In Denis's own work on 'Die Merkwürdigkeiten der k. k. garellischen öffentl. Bibliothek am Theresiano' (Wien, Bernardi, 1780), of which the preface is dated 3rd Nov., 1778, we find (pp. 16-32) a chronological list of works in the library which appeared from 1747 to 1778. Under 1775 there is no mention of the 'Ankündigung,' but under 1776 the Syst. Verz. is duly registered, with the comment "durch des ersten [*i. e.* Schiffermüller's] Beförderung zum Directorate des so genannten nordischen Collegiums in Linz ist die Fortsetzung dieses Werkes wenigstens auf einige Jahre gehemmet worden."

Mr. Durrant calls my attention to a possible further complication. Engelmann, 514, and Hagen, ii. 122, quote the 1776 edition as "Wien (Beck)"; but all the copies which I have seen or which are noticed in the early writers were published by Bernardi; and Dr. Taschenberg explains to me that the fact that Engelmann places "Beck" in brackets indicates that that name will *not* be found on the titlepage, but that "das ist entweder der Commissions verlag oder der Eigentümer der Firma Bernardi" (*in litt.*, 8 Mar., 1900).

I have at present quite an open mind as to whether the date 1775 should be accepted for this work or not; but in the meanwhile I venture to make a practical suggestion that for "priority" rank it should be placed *after* the other 1775 literature (Fabricius, Syst. Ent.; Naturforscher vi., vii., &c.), but *before* that of 1776 (Sulzer, Abgek. Geschichte; Müller, Zool. Dan. Prodr.; Naturforscher viii. &c.). I also gladly follow Mr. Sherborn's suggestion (*in litt.*), and recommend that henceforth it be cited as "Schmett. Wien," as this does not cause any confusion in the title.

246 Richmond Road, N.E.,
16th March, 1900.

Abundance of the Greater Sil-Smelt (Argentina silus, Acan.) on the Market of Boston, Lincolnshire. By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

The Natural History Museum has received, through the kindness of Mr. W. H. Shrubsole, F.G.S., specimens of this rare fish, measuring up to 14 inches, which had been sent to him by Mr. F. Kime, with the information that great numbers had been brought on the 25th June to Boston and sold in every direction. The only record of the capture in English waters of this deep-sea fish well known from the coast of Norway is of a quantity taken on the 15th June, 1898, off the south coast of Ireland (*cf.* Holt, Journ. Mar. Biol. Assoc. v. 1898, p. 341). Mr. Kime writes to me that these fish, which excited great curiosity on the market, were caught in deep water somewhere about the coast of Norway.