

O Kortumie Starszym

Kortum-Senior

SUMMARY

G.M. Kortum, born in Quedlinburg in 1698, was living as the city-physician in Bielsko, a small town situated on the border between Poland and Silesia, which at that time belonged to Austria. In his letters, written in the years 1728-1743, and addressed to Johann Friedrich Henckel (1679-1744), a very known German mineralogist and chemist, Kortum described the Polish and Silesian lead ores and mines and the methods of lead manufacturing used on these territories. He also published reports on his own experiments concerning the improvement of indigo dye colouring. G.M. Kortum possessed a distinct authority as scientist. He was elected (1728) to the Leopoldina Academy in Halle. He was also invited to occupy a chemistry chair in the Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg (1736), but rejected this offer. Of the two sons of G.M. Kortum the younger, Karol Ludwik (1749-1808), was a banker in Warsaw. K.L. Kortum was also active as a scientist and published important papers relating to the electricity science and electrochemistry. The evidence presented above suggests that Karol Kortum's enthusiasm for scientific research brought originated in his family home.

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