

Thomas Pennant to Richard Bull

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From: Thomas Pennant
To: Richard Bull
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Dear Sir

Dec^r 2[illegible] 1791.

I am very sorry to have my suspicions confirmed: for such is your punctuality that I was certain that illness interrupted our correspondence. Let me beg to You & miss Bulls¹ to accept my best wishes that you may enjoy many returns of the season un-embittered with sickness or the tender anxious duties which such circumstances call forth. I esteem your early thoughts of me on Symptoms of returning health a very particular mark of y^r friendship. I accept the prints of shipping with many thanks & request they may be sent to M^r Mazel No. 7 Bridges street Convent Garden who has a parcel ready for me.

I have sent my *journey from London to Dover* to be bound in vellum by a treasure of a binder at Denbigh who falls little short on any of y^r celebrated binders: & yet never was further than chester. so extensively have the arts spread. Y^r Copy is almost ready & shall be sent the moment it is completed. Moses can do no more to it than furnish a frontespiece. I suppose you would have him ornament the margin of the zoological part of the arctic Zoology² with birds & beasts which he can do well. let sickness or age attack us we must beguile both with innocent amusements.

I return with thanks the Balloon. If I read right or if the printing on the back refers to it: the balls were made of copper: such a ^metallic system was thought of by Baldwyn of Chester the Balloonist of that city. but his Balls were to made of the matter with which mock-silver plate is made. Pray look into *Gentle mans mag.* vol. LIV. 245. 329.³ By which you will see that the art of Ballooning I mean its principles were known 2000 years ago. I shall be happy to hear of y^r perfect recovery: but not I entreat you exert yourself on that or on any other motive on my account.

I am with truest regard

Dear Sir

affec^{tly} y^{rs}

Tho. Pennant

Be so good as to make my best Complim^{ts} to Gen. Rainsford. I suppose Storer is still at Bath.

Marginalia

in Richard Bull's hand:

I find in your *litterary life* 2 pretty Eng Etchings

1st St. Margarets' near Lincoln Cathedral.

Map laton church near Ashbourne Derby shire.

Q. are they private Engraving's, and by whom? if not, where do I want them for?

Editorial Notes

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Elizabeth and Catherine Bull.

² It is not entirely clear on which version of *Arctic zoology* Bull was working. In view of previous references to the printing of the zoological part in [1118](#) and [1124](#), it may be fair to assume that the earliest printed examples of the second edition of 1792 is meant.

³ See letter from 'Adurfl' in *Gentleman's Magazine*, LIV, part i (1784), 245–6, where it is contested that 'The principle at least on which it [the Air Balloon] is constructed, appears to have been known above two thousand years ago'; and a letter from 'An Old Westminster' in *ibid.*, 329, sending 'a remarkable passage out of Aulus Gellius . . . which seems to make it probable, that the principle of modern air-balloons was in some degree at least known to the ancients'.