



Ethnologisches Museum - Staatliche Museen zu Berlin
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To Whom It May Concern,

The Ethnologisches Museum Berlin is very pleased to offer this letter of support to Dr. Sigbjørn Rønbeck and his effort to start the very important Captain Adrian Jacobsen Society. The Ethnologisches Museum Berlin evolved from the collections of the royal cabinets of art which - since its foundation in 1873 - has become one of the largest and most significant collections of its kind worldwide. The museum's holdings comprise approx. 500,000 ethnographic, archaeological and historico-cultural objects from Africa, Asia, America, Australia and the South Seas. They are complemented by an ethnomusicological archive of 140,000 sound recordings, 285,000 photographs, 20,000 films and 200,000 pages of written documents. Many of its collections are among the most comprehensive and valuable in existence today.

In the late 19th century, Adolf Bastian, director of the Berliner Museum für Völkerkunde (now Ethnologisches Museum Berlin), commissioned Johan Adrian Jacobsen with the procurement of the most "original" objects from the American Northwest Coast and Alaska. Jacobsen returned to Berlin with not only approximately 7,000 artifacts, but also an impressive account of his expedition. As a historical document, this account is to be part of an exhibition at the Humboldt Forum.

The Ethnologisches Museum will soon be relocating to its new home at Schlossplatz in Berlin-Mitte, where it will be the largest partner involved in the Humboldt Forum and feature a brand new exhibition concept. One of the exhibitions at the Humboldt Forum will be dedicated to the journey of Johan Adrian Jacobsen to the Pacific Northwest coast and Alaska from 1881 to 1883. This exhibition critically deals with the museum's own history of collecting.

We first met Dr. Rønbeck during a public talk in June 2015 about the planned exhibition to the Humboldt Forum and the journey of Johan Adrian Jacobsen to the Pacific Northwest coast and Alaska. Since then, the Ethnologisches Museum Berlin has been cooperating with Dr. Rønbeck on several occasions.

To the Ethnologisches Museum Berlin, Johan Adrian Jacobsen is one of the most important collectors and a significant person for the museum's history. Jacobsen was the first person

directly commissioned by the museum to collect ethnographic objects. Today, there are more than 10,000 Asian and American objects by Jacobsen in the museum's collections.

The Ethnologisches Museum Berlin set itself the goal to critically engage with the work of Jacobsen and the museum's history of collecting. The Captain Adrian Jacobsen Society will be an important assistant in that matter by bringing together different institutions, archives and scientists working on Jacobsen's legacy.

The Ethnologisches Museum Berlin strongly supports Dr. Rønbeck's efforts to establish and develop the Captain Adrian Jacobsen Society, and I hope that he may secure the necessary funds to do so.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lars-Christian Koch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized initial "L".

Prof. Dr. Lars-Christian Koch

Museumsdirektor