

X. *Letter from Sir Benjamin Thompson, Knt. Count of Rumford, F. R. S. to the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. K. B. P. R. S. announcing a Donation to the Royal Society, for the Purpose of instituting a Prize Medal.*

AT the Anniversary of the Royal Society, held the 30th of November, 1796, the President acquainted the Society, that Count RUMFORD had transferred one thousand pounds three *per cent.* consolidated Bank Annuities to the use of the Society, on certain conditions stated in a letter to the President; which was read as follows :

“ SIR,

“ Desirous of contributing efficaciously to the advancement  
 “ of a branch of science which has long employed my atten-  
 “ tion, and which appears to me to be of the highest importance  
 “ to mankind, and wishing at the same time to leave a lasting  
 “ testimony of my respect for the Royal Society of London, I  
 “ take the liberty to request that the Royal Society would do  
 “ me the honour to accept of one thousand pounds stock, in  
 “ the three *per cent.* consolidated public funds of this country ;  
 “ which stock I have actually purchased, and which I beg leave  
 “ to transfer to the President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal  
 “ Society ; to the end that the interest of the same may be by  
 “ them, and by their successors, received from time to time  
 “ for ever, and the amount of the same applied and given, once  
 “ every second year, as a premium to the author of the most

“ important discovery, or useful improvement, which shall be  
“ made and published by printing, or in any way made known  
“ to the public, in any part of Europe, during the preceding  
“ two years, on Heat, or on Light; the preference always being  
“ given to such discoveries as shall, in the opinion of the Pre-  
“ sident and Council of the Royal Society, tend most to pro-  
“ mote the good of mankind.

“ With regard to the formalities to be observed by the Pre-  
“ sident and Council of the Royal Society, in their decisions  
“ upon the comparative merits of those discoveries, which in  
“ the opinion of the President and Council may entitle their  
“ authors to be considered as competitors for this biennial pre-  
“ mium, the President and Council of the Royal Society will  
“ be pleased to adopt such regulations as they in their wisdom  
“ may judge to be proper and necessary. But in regard to the  
“ form in which this premium is conferred, I take the liberty  
“ to request, that it may always be given in two medals, struck  
“ in the same die, the one of gold, and the other of silver; and  
“ of such dimensions, that both of them together may be just  
“ equal in intrinsic value to the amount of the interest of the  
“ aforesaid one thousand pounds stock during two years; that  
“ is to say, that they may together be of the value of sixty  
“ pounds sterling.

“ The President and Council of the Royal Society will be  
“ pleased to order such device or inscription to be engraved on  
“ the die they shall cause to be prepared for striking these me-  
“ dals, as they may judge proper.

“ If, during any term of years, reckoning from the last ad-  
“ judication, or from the last period for the adjudication of this  
“ premium, by the President and Council of the Royal Society,

“ no new discovery or improvement should be made in any part  
“ of Europe, relative to either of the subjects in question (Heat or  
“ Light), which, in the opinion of the President and Council of  
“ the Royal Society, shall be of sufficient importance to deserve  
“ this premium; in that case, it is my desire that the premium  
“ may not be given, but that the value of it may be reserved,  
“ and being laid out in the purchase of additional stock in the  
“ English funds, may be employed to augment the capital of  
“ this premium; and that the interest of the same by which  
“ the capital may, from time to time, be so augmented, may  
“ regularly be given in money with the two medals, and as an  
“ addition to the original premium at each such succeeding ad-  
“ judication of it. And it is further my particular request, that  
“ those additions to the value of the premium, arising from its  
“ occasional non-adjudications, may be suffered to increase with-  
“ out limitation.

“ With the highest respect for the Royal Society of London,  
“ and the most earnest wishes for their success in their labours  
“ for the good of mankind,

“ I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) “ RUMFORD.”

London, 12th of July, 1796.

To Sir JOSEPH BANKS, Bart. K. B. President  
of the Royal Society of London.

The Society hereupon resolved, that they accept of the dona-  
tion, and accede to the conditions annexed to it by the Count;

and also directed that a letter be written to the Count, acquainting him of this acceptance; returning him thanks for the liberal donation, and assuring him that the conditions annexed to it will be strictly adhered to.

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ERRATA.

Page 153, 3d line from the bottom, *for* fig. 8. *read* fig. 10.

Page 205, l. 14, *for* "there was no appearance of conception in the uterus; no placenta;" *read* "there was no other appearance of conception in the uterus; no other placenta;" &c.