

Lettre de David Deiches à Émile Zola du 17 janvier 1898

Auteur(s) : Deiches, David

Les folios

En passant la souris sur une vignette, le titre de l'image apparaît.

4 Fichier(s)

Les mots clés

[affaire Dreyfus](#)

Relations

Ce document n'a pas de relation indiquée avec un autre document du projet.□

Citer cette page

Deiches, David, Lettre de David Deiches à Émile Zola du 17 janvier 1898,
1898-01-12

Centre d'Étude sur Zola et le Naturalisme & Institut des textes et manuscrits modernes, CNRS-ENS ; projet EMAN (CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne Nouvelle).

Consulté le 07/01/2026 sur la plate-forme EMAN :

<https://eman-archives.org/CorrespondanceZola/items/show/8061>

Présentation

GenreCorrespondance

Date d'envoi[1898-01-12](#)

Adresse49, Old Compton Street, London

Description & Analyse

DescriptionLettre d'admiration. Envoie à Zola deux prospectus sur la conservation des corps humains.

Information générales

Langue [Anglais](#)

CoteANG DEICHES 1898_01_12

Éléments codicologiques

- Un bifeuillet original.
- Un imprimé original.

SourceFonds Colin Burns (Centre Zola)

Informations éditoriales

Éditeur de la ficheCentre d'Étude sur Zola et le Naturalisme & Institut des textes et manuscrits modernes, CNRS-ENS ; projet EMAN (CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne Nouvelle).
Mentions légales

- Fiche : Centre d'Études sur Zola et le Naturalisme & Institut des textes et manuscrits modernes, CNRS-ENS ; projet EMAN (CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne Nouvelle). Licence Creative Commons Attribution - Partage à l'Identique 3.0 (CC BY-SA 3.0 FR).
- Image : Fonds Colin Burns. Toute reproduction doit faire l'objet d'une demande auprès du Centre d'étude sur Zola et le naturalisme à l'aide du formulaire de contact.

Contributeur(s)Macke, Jean-Sébastien (édition scientifique)

Notice créée par [Jean-Sébastien Macke](#) Notice créée le 26/08/2020 Dernière modification le 26/08/2020



49 Old Compton
St. London
W.

17th Jan 1898

Noble Sir,

gB

I have read
your letter trying to pick
up a fallen man, it
shows the nobleness
of your great Soul
and your cry will
be re-echoed in the
wide world; by this

fearless great act
you have made your-
self a higher monument
than your great
abilities; if there are
more such noble souls
in France like yourself
I cry to them across
the channel "Vive la France"
I submit humbly to
you Copies of my
patent Invention
and will be pleased

to hear your very
esteemed opinion.

I Remain
With the highest Regards
Your most Respectfully
David Decker

Monsieur Zola
The Great French Novelist.

Please read it through before you form an opinion.

BY ROYAL



LETTERS PATENT.

[COPY].

PRESERVING DEAD BODIES FROM DECAYING.

DAVID DEICHES, 49, (late of 19), Old Compton Street, London, W., Jeweller and Watchmaker, Diamond Merchant and Money Changer. I do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

To preserve dead bodies from decaying in air-tight coffins so constructed to fill them, in spirit, or in liquid which may have the same power of preserving. Spirit will preserve dead bodies in the same state for ever, so that worms coming from the body and from the earth will never eat them any more. In fact it will lessen the horror of dying in knowing that when we die our bodies will be preserved and not be a meal for worms, insects, rats, mice and the like. Spirit will also revive the seeming dead. In preserving the dead bodies in this way the living will be less subjected to catching illnesses, as most diseases come from fresh bodies rotting in the earth. The coffins can be made from glass, china, pottery earthenware and the like, the coffins can be made like a jar, or shade with a stopper on top, (or in any suitable form): fill the coffin half with spirit, put the body in, wait fifteen to twenty minutes, and if the person don't revive life is extinguished; fill the coffin full with spirit and grind the stopper in, to be like hermetically sealed. The coffins can be buried or kept where preferred.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed I declare what I claim is:

- 1.—Novelty in Burial.
- 2.—In keeping where preferred.
- 3.—Novelty in preventing burying alive.

I did not bring this invention in for gain, only against degrading humanity. Why, in this 19th century, shall people be a meal for worms, etc., while they can be preserved at a least cost than hitherto rotting in the earth. It is sad that all those centuries have passed without a thought for the dead, although people have inherited fame, honour and wealth from the dead. My invention concerns every being—the living and the dead. Let the dead be honoured by us. My invention will supersede the necessity of cremation altogether. Wealthy people have their bodies mutilated for embalming, at a great cost, to be preserved in their family vaults. My invention offers and enables even the poorer public to be preserved at a small cost, without mutilating their bodies, also a sure safeguard against burying alive. I await the public response.

Living Members wanted to bring this noble humane invention immediately in great existence as without members it will NEVER come in existence as I cannot order the requirements, so Ladies and Gentlemen, who favour my invention are requested to become members at once to help to bring this noble invention immediately in great existence. Even those people who will not favour my idea will admit that it is better than rotting in the earth and will also admit that the members will know what they will have for their money. The sole aim of my invention is: to prevent, to lessen degrading humanity the image of God. As to reference my patent right and position will guarantee the fulfilment of my liability.

MEMBERS ANNUAL PAYMENT:—

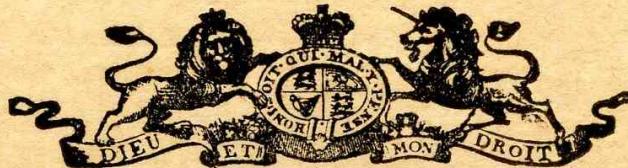
From 1 year to 40 years of age	... 10 shillings yearly.
“ 40 years „ 60	” ” ” £1 ”
“ 60 ” ” 70	” ” ” £2 ”
“ 70 ” ” 80	” ” ” £5 ”
“ 80	” ” ” £10 ”

The money will be lodged in a prominent bank until I can order the requirements. My liability begins by the remittance and receiving the second annual payment, and consists, to deliver the coffins and spirit to the deceased member's friends, free of all charges. All money received will be duly acknowledged and booked in as members.

DAVID DEICHES,
JEWELLER, WATCHMAKER AND MONEY CHANGER,
49, OLD COMPTON ST., LONDON, W.

N.B.—Postal Orders or Cheques may be crossed “& Co.” payable to the Inventor.

By
Royal



Letters
Patent.

No. 4626.

MY new invention concerneth every human being, and ensures a better future state for all humanity in not becoming skeletons; also a sure safeguard against being buried alive. Many things have been invented, but none to secure a peaceable rest after man's arduous labours, in his last resting place, where he should be safe from being disturbed by all sorts of vermin, &c.

The sole aim of my invention is to lessen the degrading of humanity—the image of God. I have received acknowledgments from Dukes, eminent Statesmen, and Members of Parliament; also a letter from the Prime Minister, The Most Hon. Marquess of Salisbury, dated the 1st June, 1897, addressed officially; "D. DEICHES, Esq., Jeweller, 49, Old Compton Street, W.," and signed "SALISBURY." Also I have received an excellent opinion on my invention from the Editor of *The Railway Supply Journal*. He writes as follows: "I should be pleased to receive particulars of your excellent invention for the purpose of giving an article thereon in my Journal;" addressed "D. DEICHES, Esq., Old Compton Street, London."

To defray expenses, three complete copies of my patented invention will be sent, on application, for 1/-; and should applicant become a member it will be deducted.

NOTE THE ADDRESS—

DAVID DEICHES,
Jeweller, Watchmaker, Diamond Merchant,
Money Changer & Inventor,
49, OLD COMPTON STREET, LONDON, W.

R. SKINNER, Commercial and General Printer, 19, Blackfriars Road, S.E.