

letters & lives online



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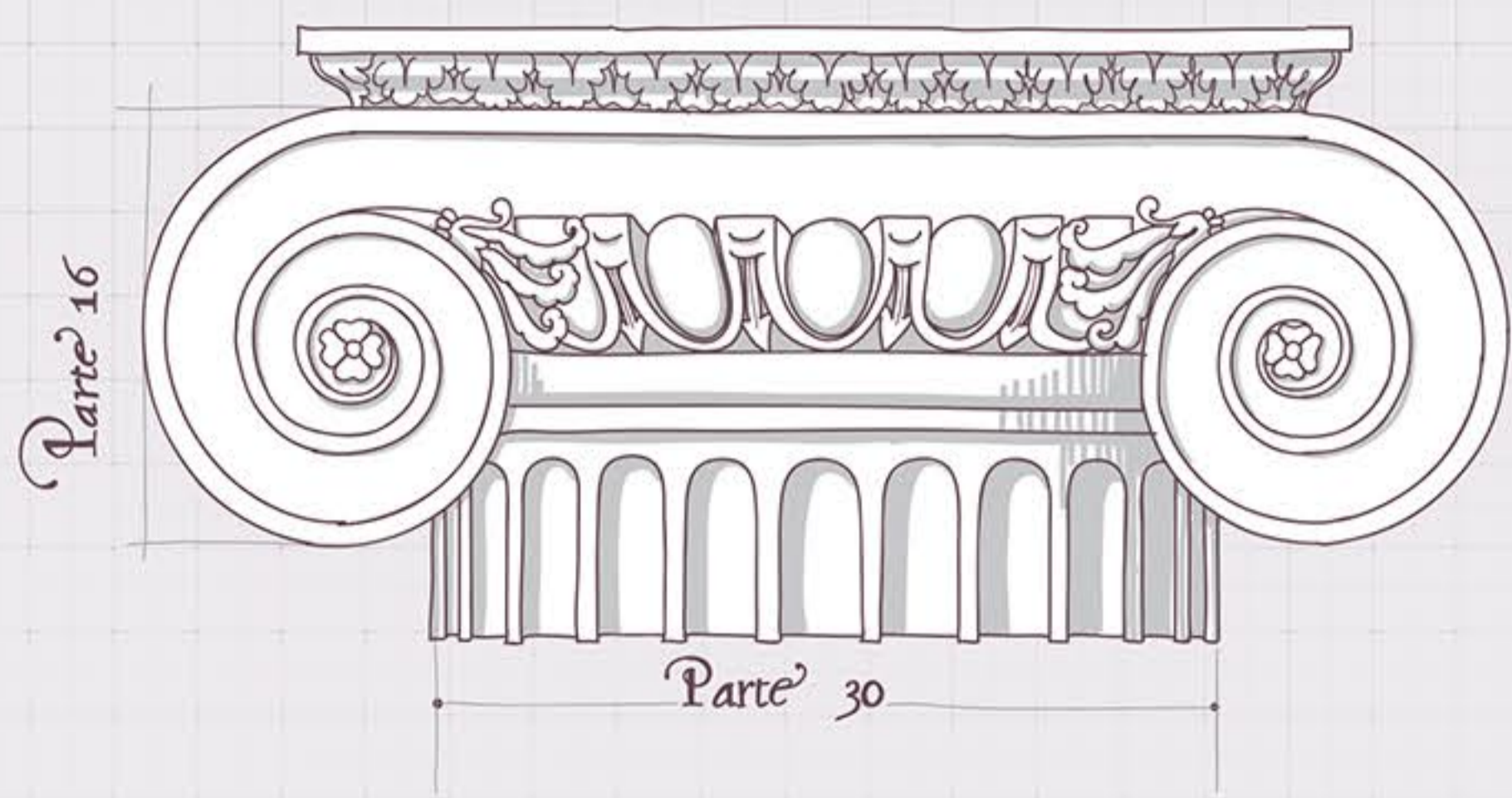
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"A traveler without observation is a bird without wings."

Moslih Eddin Saadi



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Virginia, United States

"... I congratulate you upon having got through the Amendments to the Constitution, as I was very anxious that it should be done before..."

Letter from Edmund Pendleton [revolutionary politician & judge] to James Madison [founding father, president, & politician].
Sent on Wednesday, 2 September 1789

Maracay, Aragua Venezuela

"... I hope the day is not far distant, when I shall see the liberty & happiness of this country established upon a solid and permanent footing..."

Letter from Francisco de Miranda [Venezuelan revolutionary] to Jeremy Bentham [philosopher, author, legal writer, & reformer].
Sent on Tuesday, 2 June 1812

Aboard Desire, mid-Atlantic

"... Although we have been more fortunate in our voyage from Quebec than you and I were in our trip from Montreal..."

Letter from Alexander Mackenzie [explorer & fur-trader] to Roderic Mackenzie [fur-trader, militia officer, politician, & academy member].
Sent on Wednesday, 30 October 1799

Saint Helena, Africa

"... There are three Stars of the first Magnitude that never appear in England, but none near the South Pole of any brightness, except one of the third Magnitude, which is about ten degrees distant from it..."

Letter from Edmond Halley [astronomer, mathematician, & academy member] to Sir Jonas Moore [mathematician & patron].
Sent on Thursday, 2 December 1677

London, England

"... And now I have done my tedious discourse which I would not have written without a great opinion that you can hear reason patiently..."

Letter from Thomas Hobbes [philosopher] to Hon. Charles Cavendish [aristocrat, traveller, & general].
Sent on Wednesday, 1 September 1638

Hamburg, Germany

"... We may probably soon hear of his having been Physician and Prime Minister to the Prince of Abyssinia, & having stepped over the Source of the Nile, like Mr. Bruce..."

Letter from Charles Hanbury [merchant] to Jeremy Bentham [philosopher, author, legal writer, & reformer].
Sent on Friday, 19 July 1782

Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

"... the sea constantly Chang'd from an Excellent blue to a Green; common with the seas in our Channell. from whence I observ'd..."

Letter from Nathaniel Foxcroft [East India Company official & magistrate] to Robert Boyle [scientist].
Sent on Tuesday, 21 September 1666

Xiamen, Fujian, China

"... The Trade from Surat to China is at Present the most proffitable, & by a modest Computation beleive may cleer 55 per Cent. for my Employers which will bee..."

Letter from Sir John Lock [merchant & East India Company official] to John Locke [philosopher & physician].
Sent on Sunday, 4 December 1701

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