

Christian Bastholm, *Historische Nachrichten zur Kenntniss des Menschen in seinem wilden und rohen Zustande* (Historical News on the Knowledge of Man in His Wild and Savage State), 4 volumes, Altona 1818-1821, published by J. F. Hammerich, 20.6 x 13 cm, half leather bindings. Bindings bumped and rubbed, some signs of age.

Provenance: Purchased by the previous owner from the Munich antiquarian bookshop Theodor Ackermann in 1985 for DM 420. Handwritten owner's note "Hackwitz," probably from the 19th century.

The priest and theologian Christian Bastholm (Copenhagen 1740 – 1819 Copenhagen) was an important figure during the Age of Enlightenment in Denmark, seeking as a reformer to reconcile the new scientific discoveries of the Enlightenment with the Christian faith. Based on humanism, he also advocated a more tolerant attitude towards Judaism.

After graduating in theology from the University of Copenhagen in 1761, he studied philosophy and natural sciences before serving as pastor of the German community in Smyrna (now Izmir in Turkey) from 1768 to 1771, where many Danish merchants also stopped. After the death of his first wife, he married a second time in 1777. In 1778, he became First Court Preacher and in 1782 Royal Confessor, but resigned in 1800 due to old age. Until 1810, he lived with his son Hans, who was a pastor in Slagelse, before moving back to Copenhagen, where he died in 1819.

The work *Historische Nachrichten zur Kenntniss des Menschen in seinem wilden und rohen Zustande* (Historical News on the Knowledge of Man in His Wild and Savage State), some of which was published posthumously in German, appeared in Danish as early as 1803-1804 and is quite rare on the market in both editions. The book paints a vivid picture of the beliefs and rituals of various indigenous peoples around the world based on scientific writings and the author's own experiences.