



Figure 2: Black & yellow Swallow tailed Butterfly [ca.1774-75] watercolour and graphite on laid paper, 32.1 × 23.4 cm. Shows *Papilio polyxenes asterius* Stoll (Black Swallowtail) with its caterpillar (Parsley Worm) on *Foeniculum vulgare* Mill. (Fennel). The John Work Garrett Collection, Special Collections Division, Milton S. Eisenhower Library, The Johns Hopkins University.

obtained supplies, and shipped specimens and watercolours to collectors in Europe and the United States. His customers provided the cork-lined wooden boxes needed for shipping their orders. If watercolours were requested, Abbot packed these first under the cork in a false bottom for protection and to avoid customs duties. The remainder of the box he filled with specimens. Although the roads were 'very bad in Georgia', Abbot discovered that he could transport these boxes a hundred miles 'without a single insect being hurt or misplaced'. Damage occurred only if the box was 'opened by some Unskillful person in the Custom house'.¹⁵

For several decades, Abbot had his London agent John Francillon arrange his contacts with European naturalists. Francillon, a