

F
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Dean of the College
JEREMIAH S. FINCH ✓

June 16, 1958

W. W. Francis, M.D.
Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Dear Dr. Francis (OctoBilly genarian):

Pleasant packages and letters have been coming from Montreal, both Franciscan and Sir T.B.-ian, which have lightened up my life these past days. June is the cruelest month, decanally speaking.

It was indeed good to see you and Miss Desbarats again, and that night with the Princetonians I had a chance to talk with Wilder Penfield--so there were three blessings to be grateful for.

S. Midgley's Hallifax and its Gibbet-Law is being mailed to you today, with a broken hinge, alas, but otherwise complete (I think). Sir T. and Henry Power on pp. 88-89. The little case is only for protection in mailing.

I have another copy, printed in 1761, as well as a nineteenth century reprint. I wish my contribution to Osleriana were more, but there are few treasures lacking alongside the ashes, and mites like Midgley's book are the best I can hope to offer up.

Your servant, and Miss Desbarats' too,

Gerry Finch

JSF:is

*Arrived with pen
36th. no carton.*

*Commended him to the
Special Providence that
looks after brains (and
others!)*

*Disappointed to find
no mention of
Shuttleworth, as usual.
cf. Kew 244.*

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Dean of the College
FRANCIS R. B. GODOLPHIN

Assistant Dean
JEREMIAH S. FINCH

September 16, 1953

Dear Dr. Francis:

If you can identify the authors or editors of any of these, I'd be grateful for a word. Westfall (who began work on the Catalogue with me long ago) and I are somewhere near completion, praise be!

I hope you and Mrs. Francis are well and enjoying some of the lovely autumn days we are having here.

All my best,

Gerry S. Finch

OSLER LIBRARY,
21 Sept., 1953.

P.T.O.

"Recentiorum Disceptationes ..." Lugd. Bat., J. Maire, 1647,
is no. 6 in Keynes's Bibliography of Harvey, 1928, a reprint of the
attack made by Parisanus in 1639, incorporating the chopped-up text
of the De motu.

"1683. A Relation of a Voyage to Constantinople by
W. J. Grelot." R. Walt, *Philosophical Transactions*,
1824, vol. 3, col. 2, lines 5-6. Also vol. 1, made index by
Phil. 183, 8. Orig. in Fr. & Dan., 1680, 40 cc.

A good many more could probably be gathered by
using W.'s useful 'Subject' index.

Dear Jerry Finch,

Glad of your good news of the catalogue.
You have done well to have so few nuts still uncracked.
A quick glance identifies "Jo. Archilesc. Gennar" (Gennar)
(Gennar), as Peshawar, d. 1828, and a trip to the printed
catalogue, 1845, of the Bodleian (vol. 1, p. 701, col.
1, second entry; under the catch-title, *Diagnos*) gives
the full title "Diagnos", 1675, thus:
A journey into the country; being a
dialogue between an English professor
physician and an English peasant, wherein
the proper state of the popular controversy
is discussed, in some answer to Peter Walsh.
London, 1675.

There's a long and interesting-looking
article on Walsh in the B. N. D., but I can't see that it
mentions this.

More later, I hope.

In haste,

W. J.

W. J. F. 104

PS: I hope you've seen Boncompagni's splendid *Relatio*.

P. T. O.

FV
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

P.T.O.
and 21st.

Dean of the College
FRANCIS R. B. GODOLPHIN

Assistant Dean
JEREMIAH S. FINCH

May 16, 1951

Dear Dr. Francis:

Enclosed is proof of a piece on Sir T B that I venture to send to you because it is not long, and because it mentions you and Osler. It was an "address" before the Historical Section of the N.Y. Academy of Medicine, and they asked me not to let it be printed. My audience was twenty-one persons, including myself! Not much in the article, I fear; certainly nothing new. If reading it is a nuisance, please just look at the first two paragraphs and express your approval, boredom, or displeasure. Whether they mean what ^{they} say about my returning the proof "at once" I don't know.

Warm and sticky in Princeton today.
My best to Mrs. Francis,
Jerry S. Finch

21st

Rid today (Wed). near "maki" for "Varet" went
up to Jim's house (do's tobacco etc.) well-
loaded. Almost dark thought for U.S. air-escape
return. Mrs. F.

Finch

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Dean of the College
FRANCIS R. B. GODOLPHIN

Assistant Dean
JEREMIAH S. FINCH

Dear Dr. Francis:

5/23/51

vault becomes niche

Edgehill it is (the doctors disagree)
about this one.
Wilkinson has it E.H.

Keynes copies two dots after name of in the
1643; Wilkins and Greenhill omit them.
I'll omit, instead of going to look at
the Princeton copy, as I should.

The opium ref. is in Keynes V, 343. The
whole selection from pp. 331-343

I like your little girl and God story. I know one of another little
girl who said she could play Haydn. Her surprised piano
teacher asked her what sort of pieces by Haydn she could play.
"Oh, no pieces -- just hide 'n go seek!" I hope Mrs. F.
will soon be not only ambidextrous but decadigital -- or duo-palmar.
J. F. [↑] forgive it!

C O P Y

OSLER LIBRARY,
6 March, 1951.

Dr. J. S. Finch,
Princeton University,
Princeton,
N. J., U. S. A.

Dear Jerry Finch,

I wish I had read the MS. of that "Appendix".
A horrified Osleriolater is accusing me of letting W. O.'s "Estate"
sell a lock of Browne's hair!! The passage on p. 276 is so worded
as to lay us open to that awful suspicion!

In accused of having sold this!
Here is no. "x" of ^{W.O.'s} surreptitious MS. "Notes about
the Libraries. 24.xi.19" written on his deathbed.

"In the Sir T. Browne collection there is a lock
of his hair which belongs to Mrs. Wilkin. Most of
the things she sent me I sent to Norwich. There is
a letter to Mrs. Wilkin, whose address I could not
find, explaining matters. They may know about it at
the Norwich Museum."

1951. L. O. J. ...
We could not find the "letter explaining matters",
but of course sent back the lock of hair. Mrs. Wilkin ("P resumably",
you say, the wife of ^{Browne} the editor, who died in 1862!), widow of a
grandson, was recently dead, or died soon after, and it was her estate
that sold it and without our knowledge. We would gladly have bought
it, had we been given a chance. / Where did you find out about its
having been "sold to a Professor Sherman of America"? It looks vague!

If they ever show you Osler's brain in Phila. and you
print that we sold it to the Wistar Institute, we'll be really annoyed!

Otherwise, and despite the typography, the book has
been so popular that I've not read it through yet, and had to borrow
it back from a borrower to confute this horrible innuendo.

Yours dis-Tress-edly,

[signed] W. W. Francis

WWF:cd

OSLER LIBRARY,
26 May, 1952.

J. S. Finch, Esq.,
Princeton University,
Princeton,
N. J., U. S. A.

Dear J. Finch
(Jeremiah sounds too lugubrious
and Jerry too familiar),

The enclosed seems to throw
another speck of light on Sir T. B. at Leyden.
I copied it for Keynes and thought you might
like this carbon.

The hoity-toity, superiority-
complex review perpetrated by our juvenile
Stevenson on your nice booklet, was rather
nauseating.

How goes the sale-catalogue?
Somebody suspected me lately of planning some
similar facsimile, my septuagenarian brain-file
forgets whom and which.

Yours sincerely,

W. S. J.

WWF:cd
Encl:-

*Mr. Keynes 26 May. re
for 4 m. I'll put the letter
back to him!*

Ch. 2, pt. 2, p. 8. Our "bombast" is not from Paracelsus, much as he may prototypify it! See H. A. D., and Sigerist, Bull. Hist. Med., 10: 688-9, 1941.

Ch. 2, pt. 2, p. 11. I suspected that B. was to the younger (F. M.) van Helmont, 1638, but I see that he did not arrive in England till 1670.

OSLER LIBRARY,

2 February, 1949.

Jeremiah S. Finch, Esq.,
Assistant Dean of the College, Ighitey didn't become "famous for his Princeton University, still after the publication of his "Discours" in 1658, Princeton,

N. J., U. S. A., p. 55. Is it reasonable to blame Crooke, not B., for "A true and full" inscription? Would C. have separated his surreptitious ones?

Dear Finch,
the book.

We are looking forward to your next visit -- and

You must have given up the draft of chs. 1-3 for lost!
It goes off to you at last, under separate cover, with apologies.

His miracle of thirty years is bound to need padding with inferences and conjectures, there is so little recorded, but I'm wondering whether your 120 or more pp. of MS. will be out of proportion. I've forgotten how long the book is intended to be. I find it all most interesting, though, of course, I have a special interest in the subject. It reads easily.

I have marked a few queries in the right margins, and here are some of the more important, or less unimportant:

The book ought to be popular in England, and I wonder if you are too 1776 to cater to British prejudices. I once copied from "Punch" an epitaph on a journalist:

"His style may have needed the curb
And at times caused the captions to frown;
But he never used 'sense' as a verb
And he rarely used 'urge' as a noun."

"Captions" is right, but I'm a Victorian and "sense" gave me a jar in ch. 2, p. 5, and ch. 3, p. 11.

Ch. 1, p. 29, l. 4: Lord Lumley, or John, Lord Lumley. To be Lord John (a courtesy title) he would have had to be the son of an earl or higher.

Ch. 2, p. 1 and passim, "Continent" needs a cap., when used specifically for the mainland of Europe.

Ch. 2, p. 15, "Morgellons" must have cost Kellett a lot of research, and even so, its describers are obscure and their descriptions not too doocid lucid! K. has a lot to say about the Sale catalogue, as you doubtless know (Annals Med. Hist., n.s. 7: 467-79, 1955). Apparently,

B.'s name for it is unique!

Ch. 2, pt. 2, p. 8. Our "bombast" is not from Paracelsus, much as he may prototypify it! See M. E. D., and Sigerist, Bull. Hist. Med., 10: 686-9, 1941.

Ch. 2, pt. 2, p. 11. I suspected that Browne's reference was to the younger (F. M.) van Helmont, 1668, but I see that he did not arrive in England till 1670.

Ch. 3, p. 28. Surely Digby didn't become "famous for his Sympathetic Powder" until after the publication of his "Discours" in 1658.

Ch. 2, p. 55. Is it reasonable to blame Crooke, not B., for "A true and full" inscription? *Would C. have repared his surreptitious-ness?*

We are looking forward to your next visit — and the book.

With best regards and dilatory apologies,

Yours sincerely,

W. L. F.

WWF:cd

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Dean of the College
FRANCIS R. B. GODOLPHIN

Assistant Dean
JEREMIAH S. FINCH

March 19, 1951

Mr. W. W. Francis
Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Dear Billy Francis:

Lest you think me too hair-brained, here is an extract from a note on page 39 of Miss M. L. Tildesley's monograph on Sir TB's skull, portraits, and ancestry, which I plundered with her permission:

"There was also a lock of hair, said to be Sir Thomas Browne's, in the possession of the late Sir William Osler; Lady Osler states that this was obtained from a Mrs. Wilkin of Norwich, and, as it was not specifically mentioned in Sir William's will, had to be sold with a large number of his books, at the order of his Executors. It was bought by Messrs Tregaskis, Booksellers of London, and has now been sold by them to Mr. Sherman, an American professor."

I wish I had consulted you about it, but it didn't occur to me that my wording would suggest that you had sold the lock of hair. At any rate, that's where I got the vague Professor Sherman. Maybe Messrs. Tregaskis can un-lock the mystery.

In case you'd like to write Miss T., who sent me a very amusing letter in reply to one of mine, telling of addressing a Norwich audience including the elderly daughters of Mr. Fitch, and the grandson of sexton Potter - - her address is, or was: Checquerfield, Stubbs Road., Wolverhampton.

Abashed, but ever your warm friend and admirer,

Jerry Finch

OSLER LIBRARY,
31 Jan., 1951.

Dr. J. S. Finch,
Princeton University,
N. J., U. S. A.

Dear Jerry Finch,

The long-looked-for package arrived at last -- doubled.
Our Customs here are of the most exasperating. My name was
plain on the label of the original package, and they could easily
have delivered it.

Sprot, an instructor in English who is working on B.'s
relation to the skeptics, has walked off with the book, before I
had time to read it. He's deeply impressed, and tells me you've
had the use of the deaderated Denomain text.

But the Devil take Schuman and his title-page and typography
worthy of a helena rubinstein cold cream ad. I've written asking
him if he puts your Sir T. B. in the same class as he put Osler's
outraged "Aphorisms", not meant "for scholars", but "as a gift book"
(for zoot-suited juveniles?). I hope it doesn't shock you as much
as me. You are young, born in this arts-forsaken century which is
incapable of producing a thing of beauty -- thing, I say, not person!

I am glad to have had the joy of reading some of it in MS.
Many thanks, and forgive the outburst.

Mr. Sprot asks whether the Princeton Library would lend that
unpublished dissertation of T. J. Westfall, 1938, "Sir T. B.'s
revision in Pseud. Epid." (no. 16 on p. 299 in your Bibliography)?

Your ever respectful friend and humble
servant (to match my sub- with your in-scription!)

WWF:ed

W. F.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Dean of the College
FRANCIS R. B. GODOLPHIN

Assistant Dean
JEREMIAH S. FINCH

September 18, 1950

Dr. W. W. Francis
Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Dear Dr. Francis:

This is the department of bad blunders. From the copy of your letter and a telephone conversation this morning with the nice Mrs. Curtis at Henry Schuman's, I find that galleys were sent to you without an explanation that they were uncorrected proofs for advance opinion.

Because I was a slow author, galleys weren't ready until August, and to meet the often postponed Fall publication date, I was asked to read proofs practically ~~instantaneously~~ ^{sent back}. I wrote to you on August twenty-first saying that I had ~~read~~ the galleys with corrections, but failed to say that you did not need to correct as you read. I wrongly assumed that the Schuman people had sent an accompanying note, and they wrongly assumed that I had explained fully.

Not knowing that the proofs would be so long in reaching you, I thought that perhaps you might be able to pass on egregious mistakes for correction ~~one~~ page proof. Meanwhile, I had to correct page proofs with equal speed.

The result is that the proofs haven't had the benefit of your reading, which I had hoped for, and you have probably waded through them all unnecessarily. The blame is entirely mine, and I am sorry for it. I just hope that Sir Thomas will emerge ~~not~~ ^{not} tarnished by too many errors.

Very sincerely yours,

Jerry S. F.
Jeremiah S. Finch

P. S. I did manage to de-knight Geoffrey Keynes.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Dean of the College
FRANCIS R. B. GODOLPHIN

Assistant Deans
JEREMIAH S. FINCH

April 27, 1949

Miss Cécile Desbarats
Osler Library
McGill University
School Dr. J. S. Finch,
Mont. Princeton University,
Princeton,
Dear Mr. J. S. U. S. A.

OSLER LIBRARY,
5 May, 1949.

CP
Send him
an copy of
the history
in loan?
L.W.7

Now I am asking for more favors. When I was at the Osler
Library, I showed me a new book from the Norwich and
Norfolk hospitals. I can't seem to find it in your library. I am
sending me the title and A. J. Cleveland, "A history of the Norfolk
think and Norwich Hospital", 1948, is loanable, so I am posting it to
about you. You can return it when you've finished with the T. B.
Medic chapter or when you've got your copy, if you still want to order
pursuit. It took us some time to get it from England. Send me a p.c. or receipt, S.V.R.
fully pay him and bless you for your trouble.

Our photographer shies at the idea of trying
to photo the first Religio through the glass, so we'll have to
isolate it. I suppose you want the title-p. with W. O.'s 1868
Trinity College inscription and the engraving opposite it? If
you prefer the death-bed inscription or the red morocco binding,
let us know quickly.

Yours was addressed to Miss D., but the only
job she side-steps is answering correspondence herself when I'm
about.

Sincerely yours,

L.W.7

WTF:cd

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Dean of the College
FRANCIS R. B. GODOLPHIN

Assistant Dean
JEREMIAH S. FINCH

April 27, 1949

Miss Cécile Desbarats
Osler Library
McGill University
School of Medicine
Montreal, Canada

Dear Miss Desbarats:

Now I am asking for more favors. When I was in the Osler Library, Doctor Francis showed me a new book about the Norwich and Norfolk hospitals. I can't seem to find it and would appreciate your sending me the title and publisher if you have it. I have also been thinking that it would be very nice if I could include in my book about Sir Thomas Browne a photograph of Osler's own copy of Religio Medici, perhaps just as it rests in the exhibit case. If you could persuade a photographer to make a glossy print for me, I would cheerfully pay him and bless you for your trouble.

All my best to Doctor Francis and to yourself.

Sincerely yours,

Jeremiah S. Finch

CP
Send him
an copy of
Religio Medici
in loan?
L.W.F.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Dean of the College
FRANCIS R. B. GODOLPHIN

Assistant Dean
JEREMIAH S. FINCH

January 24, 1950

Doctor W. W. Francis
Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Dear Doctor Francis:

Could you bear to read the rest of my manuscript on Sir Thomas?
I think the part you so kindly read took you nearly half way through, but
the rest of it is quite a chunk, and I don't want to ask you to labor with
it if it would come as a burden right now.

I still have the Norfolk hospital book but will return it insured.

No snow here. My little girls keep asking me whether it will
ever snow again. All best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Jermy Finch

OSLER LIBRARY,
10 Feb., 1950.

Mr. Jeremiah S. Finch,
Princeton University,
Princeton,
New Jersey, U. S. A.

Dear Jerry Finch,

I hate to deny myself the pleasure - and
I mean PLEASURE - of reading the rest of your T.B. MS.,
but I have two obligatory jobs, checking a ghastly medieval
translation and reading air mail proofs from Oxford of some-
body else's book.

So I am forced to refuse your flattering
request. No hurry about the Cleveland (Norwich) book. You
might have got away with it. I had forgotten all about it.

I hope your lassies have had some of our
snow lately. Last Sunday was our first ski-able week-end!
What a winter.

With apologies and all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

W.C.F.

WWF:ed

PS. If I'm free later I would be glad to have a whack at
the proofs, if you like.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Dean of the College
FRANKLIN R. R. GOODELPHIN

OSLER LIBRARY,
3 June, 1949.

Assistant Dean
JEREMIAH S. FINCH

Dr. Jeremiah S. Finch,
Assistant Dean,
Princeton University,
Princeton,
N. J., U. S. A.

May 11, 1949

Dear Finch,

I enclose two shiny prints of the
title-page of Osler's first "Religio", number
4446. The photographer wants \$1.50. A
money order payable to John Isaac would be
best. They take too much off when cashing a
small U. S. cheque.

"Sr.
Your servant to my power,"

W. W. F.

WVF:cd
Encl:-

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Dean of the College
FRANCIS R. B. GODOLPHIN

Assistant Dean
JEREMIAH S. FINCH

May 11, 1949

Doctor W. W. Francis
Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Dear Doctor Francis:

The book arrived, and I'll return it soon.

The title page of Religio Medici with W O's inscription would
be right. Again, "for this relief, much thanks".

Very sincerely yours,

Jeremiah S. Finch
Jeremiah S. Finch

JSF:RM

Osler Library

6 April, 1949.

Dr. Jeremiah S. Finch,
Assistant Dean,
Princeton University,
Princeton,
N. J., U. S. A.

Dear Gerry Finch,

No apologies called for. I can't throw stones at anyone for epistolic dilatoriness! I'm relieved that you didn't mind my sensing that urge! Did you see about Churchill's minute to a criticism of his ending a sentence with a proposition? "This is a bit of pedantry up with which I will not put!"

I'm flattered that you propose to use my account of the pronunciation of R. M. They didn't put it in the last Journal!

I should like to read the rest of your MS. - but not before the end of May. I'm being dunned for three things about Osler, and shall be glad if I reach his 101st anniversary.

Mrs. F. and Miss Desbarats send their regards,

Yours sincerely,

W. L. D.

WWF:cd

The Medical Library

3640, University Street,
Montreal 2, Aug.10,1948.

Dr. Jeremiah S. Finch,
Assistant Dean of the College,
Princeton University,
Princeton, N.J., U.S.A.

Dear Doctor Finch,

Miss Desbarats, Dr. Francis' secretary,
had left for her holiday before your letter
of August 6 reached here.

Would it inconvenience you greatly to
wait for the address for which you ask until
she returns some time towards the end of
next week? I do not know just where to
locate this, and although Dr. Francis is
improving, I am glad to say, he is not sup-
posed to have anything to do with "work".

Yours very truly,

u

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Dean of the College
FRANCIS R. B. GODOLPHIN

Assistant Dean
JEREMIAH S. FINCH

March 14, 1949

Dr. W. W. Francis
Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Dear Dr. Francis:

I am a slow responder, as you see, but I am very appreciative of the trouble you have taken to read my MS. I have sworn a great oath never again to verb "sense", or to noun "urge". With this, as with all the other corrections, I cannot but agree. Schuman has already suggested that I reduce the material on the earlier part of Browne's life, and lead off with a chapter on Religio Medici as a great book. This would permit the chronological treatment to follow naturally from that, ~~as~~ showing how such a book came to be written and what happened afterwards.

Two of my friends on the Faculty, who are professors of classics, were delighted with your note on the pronunciation of "Religio Medici", which Miss Desbarats so kindly prepared and sent me. I have it carefully placed with my little collection of Brownes, which has the distinction of being the finest collection of common or imperfect copies in all the world. Your note is the only autographed and unique item I have, and for that matter probably the only one I ever shall have. With your permission I would like to quote it in the book.

Not long ago I had a fine day in Philadelphia with Dr. Packard. We talked about Sir T. B. and prowled in a couple of Philadelphia libraries. I told him of the pleasure I had had in seeing you and Mrs. Francis, and of my day as curator of the Osler Library.

The life of Sir T. progresses, but too slowly. I've found that the years between Religio and Urn Burial are cluttered and difficult. Perhaps he found them that way too. I hope I may send you the remaining chapters when they are finished, but if reading them would be in the slightest way an inconvenience, please say so.

Though it was a brief visit, I feel very fortunate in having been able to come to Montreal, and I look back on that day with the pleasantest memories. Please don't think that my failure to write sooner indicates any lack of appreciation for your kindness. And let me say to Mrs. Francis again that I relished the patched-over meat pie. My wife now finds that the second crust device works beautifully. But we don't have the Osler dining room furnishings to go with our meat pies!

Very sincerely yours, and with best wishes
to Miss D.,
Jerry S. Finch

Assistant Dean
JEREMIAH S. FINCH

Dean of the College
FRANCIS R. H. GODOLPHIN

March 14, 1949

Dr. W. W. Francis
Osher Library
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

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Very sincerely yours,
Guy S. Francis

OSLER LIBRARY,
27 July, 1948.

Jeremiah S. Finch, Esq.,
Princeton University,
Princeton,
N. J., U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Finch,

Dr. Francis asked me to drop you a line to let you know that he suffered a slight heart attack last week. He is in the hospital at the present time and he seriously doubts that his doctor will allow him to come back to the Library for quite some time. He had been in excellent health for the last year and was supposed to leave for his holidays the following day.

I know how much he had been looking forward "to picking your Hydriotaphical brains" and he was very worried that this change may upset your plans.

The Library is always open and the keys will be left in the Medical Library during my holidays (2nd Aug. - 18th) but I'm sure it would be more satisfactory for you if you could possibly postpone your trip until the autumn when Dr. Francis would be able to welcome you himself. This Library is like an empty shell without his Oslerian knowledge - and chuckle!

Sincerely yours,

Cécile Desbarats
Secretary to Dr. Francis

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Dean of the College
FRANCIS R. B. GODOLPHIN

Assistant Dean
JEREMIAH S. FINCH

OSLER LIBRARY,
21 May, 1948.

May 17, 1948

Jeremiah S. Finch, Esq.,
Princeton University,
Princeton,
N. J., U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Finch,

The Osler Library

McGill University

Delighted to hear from you again (from the seats of the Assistant-mighty, too) and to learn that the sale catalogue is only in abeyance, not abandoned, that you are writing the life of our "lifelong Mentor", and that you are at last to visit his Canadian shring.

I have had some correspondence with a Parisian, Denonain, who is bringing out a new critical edition of the R. M. in English!

I expect to be here all this summer, except for the last half of July. So come at any other time that may suit you, but not at a week-end. The building is closed Saturday and Sunday throughout June, July and August.

It will be a pleasure to welcome you, to pick your Hydriotaphical brains, and to make you interpret our "America might have ... never arose unto us" fragment which, far from being in Sir T. B.'s best hand or syntax, I have never deciphered.

Meanwhile, I have been working at the biography, and recently spent a pleasant day with John Fulton, "Sir, your servant to my power," life of Benjamin Silliman for Schuman. Before very long I hope to spend a day at the Osler Library and would like to come at a time when it would be possible to meet you. Will you be in Montreal during the summer, or would it be better to postpone my visit until September?

WWF:CD

Very sincerely yours,

Jeremiah S. Finch

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PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Dean of the College

FRANCIS R. B. GODOLPHIN

Assistant Dean

JEREMIAH S. FINCH

May 17, 1948

Dr. W. W. Francis
The Osler Memorial Library
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Dear Dr. Francis:

It is some time since we have corresponded, and you may have wondered what has happened to the Browne Sale Catalogue. Work stopped completely early in the war, when my collaborator went into service, and I took on a number of miscellaneous jobs here, so that it was only last year that I could turn to it again. Meanwhile, I have arranged to write a biography of Browne for Henry Schuman, who is bringing out a series of biographies of men of science. Schuman conceives of his series as intended for the lay reader, but expected to stand up under scholarly scrutiny. No easy trick, with Sir T. B!

Since I am anxious to complete the MS, I have once again put aside the Sale Catalogue, but hope to get back to it and finish it thereafter. I was encouraged to find in looking over the materials already assembled, that the task had progressed far enough so that it can be finished in not too long a time.

Meanwhile, I have been working at the biography, and recently spent a pleasant day with John Fulton, who by the way, has written a life of Benjamin Silliman for Schuman. Before very long I hope to spend a day at the Osler Library and would like to come at a time when it would be possible to meet you. Will you be in Montreal during the summer, or would it be better to postpone my visit until September?

Very sincerely yours,

Jeremiah S. Finch
Jeremiah S. Finch

6 May, 1941.

Mr. J. S. Finch,
142-A Hodge Road,
Princeton,
N.J.

Dear Mr. Finch,

Many thanks for your nice letter of 25 April, identifying the final use of that scrap of Sir T. B.'s (#4416, iv). Keynes's transcription is more than necessarily confused because he has made two interlinear alternative clauses read into the text.

Glad to hear of the progress on the Sale Catalogue; I agree that a subject index to it is out of the question. To douché my pride at your remarks about the Bibl. Osler index, I've just looked through my own copy (which is far from containing all the errors picked up in 12 years' use), and I've counted 78 sins, 25 of com- and 55 of o-mission! So there!

Uncle Sam may move slowly proximi dum paries unit, but he manages to come to the rescue before it's too late.

Sincerely yours,

W. W. F.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of English

142-A Hodge Road
April 25, 1941

Dr. W.W. Francis
Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal

Dear Dr. Francis:

✓ The other day I came upon a passage in Browne's Christian Morals which seems to be a later version of the partly illegible MSS page in the Osler library. It is in section 26 of the third part of CM (I,153 in Mr. Keynes's edition). Although the "America...terra incognita" business does not appear, there are a number of parallel phrases which cannot be pure coincidence, and it bears all the earmarks of a revision of the passage as printed in Keynes's fifth volume, p. 224. There is another reference to Plato's year in Pseudodoxia (III,189), though it doesn't seem to derive from the Osler MS. Some day I'd like to try my hand at deciphering the rest of the passage.

Now that the college term is nearly over, I can do some more work on the Sale Catalogue (which seems to require a Platonic year to bring near completion). Preparing an index is the next job to be tackled, and it is a bit terrifying. I've been studying your admirable index to the Bibliotheca Osleriana recently, in the hope of avoiding thereby the pitfalls which indexers must guard against. The Catalogue index will, I suppose, have to be merely an index of names, editors, authors, translators, etc., for a subject index of any thoroughness is impossible without an examination of each book listed, which I can hardly hope to do. As it is, the index of names alone will be fairly substantial.

We are all anxious over the war down here, and do what we can to help. American opinion advances too slowly, but at least it's moving in the right direction.

Sincerely yours,

Jerry S. Finch

P.S. On re-reading I discover an unintentional ambiguity in my remarks above about your index to B.O. and "pitfalls." I need hardly say that your work in that volume is unlikely to be a subject for criticism, and anyone looking for mistakes or "pitfalls" will look in vain!

Finch

18 November, 1940.

Mr. J. S. Finch,
Dept. of English,
Princeton University,
N.J.

Dear Mr. Finch,

Thanks for the interesting Road-to-Zabasu-like reprint on Early drafts of the G. of C. I have had some experience of trying to decipher Sir T. B.'s scrawl, and I take off my hat to you. Some of it must be guess work, but I haven't any more plausible guesses to suggest. The extra n in Dianna may be the printer's --- it isn't Browne's.

We have a half sheet here of his worst which I'd like to submit to you some day. Much the same passage (apparently) is drafted on both sides of the paper. I've never made out much of it except that it ends, "America might have been a perpetual terra incognita and never arose unto us." I haven't found any clue to it in the works.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

W. W. F.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

142-A Hodge Road
February 20, 1940

Department of English

Dear Dr. Francis:

The bon voyage you wished me in your letter of June 9th last year had good effect. We had booked passage on the Nieuw Amsterdam, sailing from Southampton on August 25 (the reading room of the British Museum closed on the 26th), and we reached New York on the day of the invasion of Poland.

Although I did not return triumphantly with a complete account of Sir Thomas Browne's library in my notebooks, I did at least satisfy myself that some of his books were purchased by Hans Sloane and thus became a part of the original collection of printed books of the British Museum. I identified the handwritten number on the title of the B.M. copy of the Browne Sale Catalogue as Sloane's by comparing it with Sloane's own catalogue of his MSS and books (mentioned in his will, and now in the MS room). Unfortunately the portion of the Sloane catalogue containing his printed books was incomplete, ending tantalizingly in the R 800's, and so the Browne Catalogue, numbered R 2345, was not listed. Nevertheless, with the help of Mr. Johnson of the department of printed books I examined a number of other items listed in the Sloane catalogue of which the Museum has but a single copy, such as Lettres Nouvelles, de Monsieur Boursalt (1699), and found that the copy bears Sloane's catalogue number, in his hand- R427, *others similarly.* This seemed satisfactory evidence of the authenticity of these Sloane numbers, and makes it pretty certain that the Browne Catalogue was number R2345 in Sloane's collection.

my Proceeding on this assumption, I spent a good part of time examining all the B.M. copies of items listed in the Browne Catalogue, hoping to find some that Sloane had purchased and inscribed them with his own catalogue number. I was encouraged to proceed thus by the presence in the Browne Catalogue of a great many check marks opposite items-- dashes, crosses, and in some instances the words "you have it," suggesting that a bookseller or secretary had checked through the Catalogue for Sloane. Only a few of these checked items corresponded to those in the Osler copy, the list of which you kindly sent to me.

The results were disappointing. Although a number of books turned up with Sloane numbers on the titles, only a few carried marginal notes in a hand like Browne's, and none his autograph. Two were of some interest: Bovillus, De Intellectu (1510), which Browne cites in the Garden of Cyrus, contained notes and under-scoring in the very portions which Browne refers to; then, in Morshemius, Explicatio....Questionis (1559), there is an amusing note, almost certainly Browne's writing, to the effect that "Ptolemy and his tribe of astrologers are all guilty of impostures!" These and a few others are the only things of interest that appeared.

The Epistle, &c.

*Adamas de
rupe veteri
præstantissi-
mus.*

and Generous Honesty. I look upon
you as a Gemme of the Old Rock, and
must professe my self even to Urne and
Ashes,

Norwich
May 10.

Your ever faithfull Friend,
and Servant,

Thomas Browne.

TO

Epist. to the 2d booke



TO MY
Worthy and Honored Friend
NICHOLAS BACON
of Gillingham Esquire.



Ad I not observed that a Pur-
blinde men have discoursed
well of sight, and some^b with-
out issue, excellently of Gene-
ration; I that was never ma-
ster of any considerable garden, had not
attempted this Subject. But the Earth is
the Garden of Nature, and each fruitfull
Connirey a Paradise. Dioscorides made
most of his Observations in his march about
with Antonius; and Theophrastus rais-
ed his generalities chiefly from the field.

Beside we write no Herball, nor can this
Volume deceive you, who have handled the
c massiest thereof: who know that three
d Folio's are yet too little, and how New
Herbals fly from America upon us, from
per-

^a Plinius,
Cabeus, &c.

^b D. Harvey.

^e Belleri
Horus. Ey-
stensis.
^f Bauhini
Theatrum
Botanicum,
&c.

^m Of Berin-
guccio nella
pyrotechnia.
ⁿ At Elme-
bam.

not Observations of Coals found fresh, after four hundred years^m. In a long deserted habitationⁿ, even Egge-shells have been found fresh, not tending to corruption.

In the Monument of King *Childerick*, the Iron Reliques were found all rusty and crumbling into peeces. But our little Iron pins which fastened the Ivory works, held well together, and lost not their Magneticall quality, though wanting a tenacious moisture for the firmer union of parts, although it be hardly drawn into fusion, yet that metall soon submitteth unto rust and dissolution. In the brazen peeces we admired not the duration but the freedom from rust, and ill savour; upon the hardest attrition, but now exposed unto the piercing Atomes of ayre; in the space of a few moneths, they begin to spot and betray their green entrails. We conceive not these Urnes to have descended thus naked as they appear, or to have entred their graves without the old habit of flowers. The Urne of *Philopæmen* was so laden with flowers and ribbons, that it afforded no sight of it self. The rigid *Lycor-*

gus

gus allowed Olive and Myrtle. The *Athenians* might fairly except against the practise of *Democritus* to be buried up in honey; as fearing to embezzle a great commodity of their Countrey, and the best of that kinde in *Europe*. But *Plato* seemed too frugally politick, who allowed no larger Monument then would contain for Heroick Verses, and designed the most barren ground for sepulture; Though we cannot commend the goodness of that sepulchral ground, which was set at no higher rate then the mean salary of *Judas*. Though the earth had confounded the ashes of these Ossuaries, yet the bones were so smartly burnt, that some thin plates of brasse were found half melted among them: whereby we apprehend they were not of the meanest carcasses, perfunctorily fired as sometimes in military, and commonly in pestilence, burnings; or after the manner of abject corps, hudled forth and carelesly burnt, without the Esquiline Port at *Rome*; which was an affront continued upon *Tiberius*, while they but half burnt his body*, and in the Amphitheatre, according to the custom

* *Sueton. in*
viâ Tib. &
in Amphi-
theatro se-
missus lan-
dum, not
Cesars.

D 3

But not to look so high as Heaven or the single Quincunx of the *Hyades* upon the neck of *Taurus*, the Triangle, and remarkable *Crufero* about the foot of the *Centaur*; observable rudiments there are hercof in subterraneous concretions, and bodies in the Earth; in the *Gypsum* or *Talcum Rhomboides*, in the *Favaginites* or honey-comb-stone, in the *Asteria* and *Astroites*, and in the crucigerous stone of *S. Iago* of *Galicia*.

Capitula
squammata
Quercum
Baubini,
whereof
though he
saith perra-
ro reperit-
tur his tan-
tum inveni-
mus, yet
we finde
them com-
monly with
us and in
great num-
bers.

this ming not inferior to oak leaves in the
next page

The same is observably effected in the *Fulus*, *Catkins*, or pendulous excrescencies of severall Trees, of Wall-nuts, Alders, and Hazels, which hanging all the Winter, and maintaining their Net-worke close, by the expansion thereof are the early foretellers of the Spring, discoverable also in long Pepper, and elegantly in the *Fulus* of *Calamus Aromaticus*, so plentifully growing with us in the first palmes of Willows, and in the Flowers of Sycamore, *Petasites*, *Asphodelus*, and *Blattaria*, before explication. After such order stand the flowery Branches in our best spread

spread *Verbascum*, and the seeds about the spicous head or torch of *Tapsas Barbatus*, in as fair a regularity as the circular and wreathed order will admit, which advanceth one side of the square, and makes the same Rhomboidall.

In the squamous heads of *Scabious*, *Knapweed*, and the elegant *Jacea Pinca*, and in the Scaly compolure of the *Oak-Rose*, which some years most aboundeth. After this order hath Nature planted the Leaves in the Head of the common and prickled *Artichok*; wherein the black and shining Flies do shelter themselves, when they retire from the purple Flower about it; The same is also found in the pricks, sockets, and impressions of the seeds, in the pulp or bottom thereof; wherein do elegantly stick the Fathers of their Mother. To omit the Quincunciall Specks on the top of the Mistle-berry, especially that which grows upon the *Tilia* or Lime-Tree. And the remarkable disposure of those yellow fringes about the purple Pestill of *Aaron*, and elegant clusters of *Dragons*, so peculiarly secured by nature, with

Antbo. Grac
inier Epi-
grammata
γερσίδην
ἐνδὲν ἑμῶν
μετὰς
καρῶν
ἐχοντες

an
ἐνδὲν ἑμῶν καρῶν μετὰς ἑκ
ωστε

twelve years burial have produced themselves again.

In met.
sym Cabo.

That bodies are first spirits *Paracelsus* could affirm, which in the maturation of Seeds and fruits, seems obscurely implied by ^a *Aristotle*, when he delivereth, that the spirituous parts are converted into water, and the water into earth, and attested by observation in the maturative progresse of Seeds, wherein at first may be discerned a flatuous distension of the husk, afterwards a thin liquor, which longer time digesteth into a pulp or kernell observable in Almonds and large Nuts. And some way answered in the progressionall perfection of animall semination, in its spermatieall maturation, from crude pubescency unto perfection. And even that feeds themselves in their rudimentall discoveries, appear in foliaceous turcles, or sprouts within their coverings, in a diaphonous gellie, before deeper incrustation, is also visibly verified in Cherries, Acorns, Plums.

From seminall considerations, either in reference unto one mother, or distinction

tion from animall production, the holy Scripture describeth the vegetable creation; And while it divideth plants but into Herb and Tree, though it seemeth to make but an accidental division, from magnitude, it tacitely containeth the naturall distinction of vegetables, observed by Herbarists, and comprehending the four kinds. For since the most naturall distinction is made from the production of leaf or stalk, and plants after the two first seminall leaves, do either proceed to send forth more leaves, or a stalk, and the folious and stalky emission distinguisheth herbs and trees, and stand Authentically differenced, but from the accidents of the stalk.

The Æquivocall production of things under undiscerned principles, makes a large part of generation, though they seem to hold a wide univocacy in their set and certain Originals, while almost every plant breeds its peculiar insect, most a Butterfly, moth or fly, wherein the Oak seems to contain the largest feminality, while the Julius, Oak, apple, Pill, woolly tuft, foraminous roundles

K 4

upon

in a large acception it comprize shall be tables, for the Index and suffuter are on the description of trees.

Lev 6.

Many Expressions by this Number occur in Holy Scripture, perhaps unjustly laden with mysticall Expositions, and little concerning our order. That the Israelites were forbidden to eat the fruit of their new planted Trees, before the fifth yeare, was very agreeable unto the naturall Rules of Husbandry: Fruits being unwholsome and lath, before the fourth, or fifth Yeare. In the second day or Feminine part of five, there was added no approbation. For in the third or masculine day, the same is twice repeated; and a double benediction inclosed both Creations, whereof the one, in some part was but an accomplishment of the other. That the Trespasser was to pay a fifth part above the head or principall, makes no secret in this Number, and implied no more then one part above the principall; which being considered in four parts, the additionall forfeit must bear the Name of a fifth. The five golden mice had plainly their determination from the

the number of the Princes; That five should put to flight an hundred might have nothing mystically implied; considering a rank of Souldiers could scarce consist of a lesser number. Saint Paul had rather speak five words in a known then ten thousand in an unknown tongue: That is as little as could well be spoken. A simple proposition consisting of three words and a complexed one not ordinarily short of five.

More considerable there are in this mysticall account, which we must not insist on. And therefore why the radical Letters in the Pentateuch, should equall the number of the Souldiery of the Tribes; Why our Saviour in the Wildernesse fed five thousand persons with five Barley Loaves, and again, but four thousand with no lesse then seven of Wheat? Why Joseph designed five changes of Rayment unto Benjamin? and David took just five pibbles out of the Brook against the Pagan Champion? We leave it unto Arithmeti-

O 2

call

recon. p.
xxv four
and one, or
five. Scalig.

this note refers
to Quincunx in
next page

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of English

If one were to examine all the items in the Sale Catalogue that are to be found in the B.M., one might discover some others containing likely looking notes, but I doubt whether the results of such a search would repay one for the time spent.

Following your suggestion I looked into the catalogue of the library of Charles, Viscount Bruce, and found that it contained some of the items checked in the Osler Sale Catalogue, though not many. Very few of the items marked in the Osler copy are marked in the Fulton, B.M., or Worcester College copy, and indeed there are not many such correspondences between any two of the copies. I have not yet attempted to see whether anything is known of the disposition of the Earl of Elgin's books. Late in the summer Dean Wilkinson showed me the Worcester College copy of the Browne Sale Catalogue, and together we looked at the items checked in it that are in the Worcester library. Not a single volume ^{bore} ~~bearing~~ notes in Browne's hand.

And so the results of my summer's search were mostly negative, although a number of items were identified. At least one can be more certain than heretofore that Sir Thomas did not write his name in books, and only rarely wrote in them at all. (Geoffrey Keynes indicated to me that he felt quite certain of this when he was showing me his collection.) While, therefore, some of Browne's books are, or were, among the collections represented by the four known copies of the Catalogue, they cannot now be identified as his. So far I have found the Catalogue accurate in its description of books: no errors in dates, and few in spelling have appeared; whoever compiled it seems, moreover, to have been competent and discriminating in copying titles or indicating contents. Meanwhile Mr. Westfall and I are proceeding with the task of indexing Browne's writings and the Catalogue; lately my part of the work has been interrupted by the finding of another Urne Buriall, and it is this which prompts me to send this letter, now long delayed.

The Urne Buriall is in the Avery Library of the school of architecture of Columbia University, and was formerly owned by Samuel Putnam Avery, the benefactor of Columbia. It contains eighty-one corrections, most of which are clearly Browne's hand, and I enclose photostats (duplicates, so that you will not have the trouble of returning them) for your consideration. Besides confirming two of John Carter's "ghost corrections," fastned to a beame, and in a chamber, it confirms two of his own independent corrections (p. 177, p.197), and it furnishes seven unique corrections. I have written Carter at length, sending a complete list, a carbon copy of which I enclose here, and I have also sent an account to TLS. Now my page is running short, and this long letter must end. I shall look forward to hearing your opinion of the hand in this newly-discovered minor monument to Sir Thomas and his urns and quincunxes.

All good wishes,

Jerry S. Finch

Corrections in the Avery Copy

- sig. A5 epist. to the 2d booke
- sig. A7, 1.1. wraat up in flowers
- p.2, 1.10 thousands of years
- p.3, 1.10 for a mixture r. admixture
- p.12, marg. [O Absolom, Absoll. Absol[om] Sam.2
- p.16, 1.14 [Pra]sutagus
- p.25, 1.19 this shou[ld] have be[en] printed [in] the mar[gin]
(parentheses enclose as also ... Spanish)
- p.27, 1.16 Ansgarius
- p.30, 1.8. [p]ersons
- p.32, 1.3 and way preferred
- p.33, 1.19 for notable Lamps, with r. notable Lamps with
- p.36, 1.15 Rust
- p.37, 1.9 four
- p.39, 1.3 for Anatomiesd r. dAnatomies
- p.39, n. for Rope, and r. Rope, fastned [to a] beamel[,] and
- p.45, n. Sperma Rana[rum] Alb. Over.
- p.47, n. Kirckmannus de funer. deleted
- p.48, 1.3 gnaw'd (not Browne's hand)
- p.49, 1.16 petrified
- p.49, 1.20 petrified
- p.56, 1.23 that tree
- p.56, 1.27 furze
- p.76, 1.7 the words without the favour of the everlasting Register
are deleted, written again in the margin, with an
indication that they follow time. (not Browne's hand)
- p.76, marg. [beflore the [flo]od
- p.81, marg. Gr. Lat. He[brew] AEgypt. Ar[abick,] defaced by Licinius
[the Emper]our
- p.94, 1.14 Stebaus
- p.94, 1.27 [doubled
- p.94, n. ευχωρια

- p.98, 1.4 Tenupha
- p.100, 1.23 sonnes
- p.107, marg. this marg notes [sic] referres to page 110
 (the note in question begins De armis....
 on page 110 a small o is written opposite Heralds)
- p.109, 1.9 chapiters
- p.110, 1.18 [picturers
- p.112, 1.15 [which might (not Browne's hand)
- p.119, 1.8 seven
- p.122, 1.3 head
- p.122, n. for Quercum r. Quercuum
- p.122, marg. [this marg. note referres to oakrose in the next page | e
 (on p.123 a small o is written opposite OakeRose)
- p.123, 1.2 Tapsus
- p.123, marg. ἐνδοὺν ἐνῶν λαγόνων μητρός ἔχω πᾶτε[ρα]
- p.124, 1.13 Teazell
- p.125, 1.21 for maintained in r. maintained, in
- p.125, 1.23 for Mercurie weld r. Mercurie, weld
- p.126, 1.4 Sengreen
- p.126, n. Stratiotes
- p.127, 1.14 furze
- p.130, 1.5 germen
- p.133, 1.10 powers
- p.133, 1.27 for Henbane, and after r. Henbane, after
- p.135, 1.15 in a large acception it comprizeth all ve[ge]tables,
for the frutex and suffretex are und[er] the
progression of trees
 (carat inserted after trees.) (This correction is also
 written, then crossed out, in the side margin; see photo)
 stat. A different hand?)
- p.135, 1.26 for Oak, apple r. Oak apple
- p.135, 1.27 for dill r. Pill
- p.137, 1.20 sent
- p.139, 1.7 closing

- p.141, 1.14 fifth (not Browne's hand)
- p.142, 1.15 [br]amble
- p.142, 1.26 [Delp]hinium
- p.143, 1.19 weazell
- p.150, marg. μεγάλη κοιλία, κεκρύφαλος, ἐχίνος ἥνυστρον. Aristot. maios
venter Reticulū [abom (deleted)] omasus, abomasus. Gaza
- p.151, marg. ἥνυστ[ρον]
- p.154, 1.25 Aiaia
- p.156, 1.17 Starres
- p.162, 1.8 [gl]enerallitie
- p.166, 1.4 pot
- p.166, marg. [inw]ardly [in] a chem[be]r
- p.166, marg. ἰσοχοῦσι
(opp.1.16)
- p.173, 1.19 for two right etc. r. four right, it virtually contains four
right. (in every one deleted)
- p.174, 1.9 channels stand not
- p.177, 1.13 inter-arborations
- p.181, 1.14 Pluto
- p.187, marg. ἐχέασ[εν] αὐτὸν [εν] τῷ π[αντι]
- p.191, marg. Quintus e[] (?)
(opp.1.1)
- p.191, marg. Oscula cux Venus
Quinta parte sui Nectaris imbuit
(written on wrong page; no mark at Nectar, p.192)
- p.192, 1.19 technology
- p.193, marg. this shoul[d] [have] been pr[inted] in the m[argin]
(parentheses enclose or very...described)
- p.195, marg. this note refer[es] to Quinque in [the] next page.
(on p.196 a small o is written opposite Quinque)
- p.197, 1.26 for consist r. consisting
- p.199, marg. in Ovid met (opposite 1.8)
- p.200, 1.15 for of this expect r. of this, expect
- p.200, 1.21 for which often r. which to often
- p.201, 1.21 the drowsy

[misprinted page number is corrected from 102 to 202]

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of English

June 27, 1939

Dr. W.W. Francis
The Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, Canada

Dear Dr. Francis:

Thank you for your letter of June 9th about the marks opposite the items in the Osler copy of the Sale-Catalogue. I had not remembered whether the copy contained any marks and had contemplated writing to you about it. The catalogue of the library of Charles, Viscount Bruce, shall be carefully looked into. In his notes about his own copy of the Catalogue Dr. Fulton has indicated that the copy in Worcester College Library, Oxford, has many of the items marked in pencil, some with a dash, others with a cross, the latter perhaps having been purchased by Geo. Clarke, the former owner of the copy. In Dr. Fulton's copy a number of items are marked, most of them very faintly, usually with a simple dash, sometimes with a zig-zag line(=). Whether these clues will lead to some of the volumes Sir Thomas or Edward Browne actually owned must be "referred unto consideration."

I shall probably be in London most of the time until August 25th, except for trips to Oxford and Norwich. This summer's lease hath all too short a date for my task. The cataloging of the Sale Catalogue has been going on all the past year, though intermittently. Dr. Tipton Westfall, who is assisting me, reports that he has finished making index cards of the items through page 28. I have just finished the English section. We are also preparing an index of all the specific references to books and authors in Browne's printed writings. Just what form the edition ought to take when it is finally ready is of course yet undetermined. About that too I should welcome your advice.

Meanwhile, may I call upon you if I become ensnared in bibliographical delusions during the summer? I suspect that there are pitfalls on the way. Being unfamiliar with the British Museum library and the Oxford libraries I may have to ask for directions, though I shall try not to trouble you needlessly. Thank you again for the information about the Osler copy.

A pleasant summer,

Sincerely yours,

J. S. Finch

201 Grenville House
Dolphin Square
 Grosvenor Road
London, S.W. 1

29 June, 1959

Dr. J. S. Finch,
Department of English,
Princeton University,
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Dr. Finch,

Your letter of the 27th arrived after Dr. Francis had left to attend the meeting of the Medical Library Association in Newark, N.J. From there he intends to go on to Bermuda and is not expected back in the Library until the end of July. His address in Bermuda will be: Summerside Guest House, Somerset.

With kind regards to you and Mrs. Finch and good wishes for a happy summer,

Yours sincerely,

sb

Secretary to
the Librarian

A copy of this note to have been made for J.F.F. I'm returning
Finch's letter to him of 5th with carbon of J.F.F.'s reply 18th,
a note ^{with} on the latter & my pencil list attached.
10. vi. 39. L.W.F.

9 June, 1939

Mr. J. S. Finch,
Department of English,
Princeton University,
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Mr. Finch,

Fulton has written me that you are going to
work this summer at the British Museum on the Sale-Catalogue
and would welcome suggestions about the investigation of
books, etc. It has occurred to me that the Osler copy has a
peculiar mark like a z in ink opposite a good many of the items.
This may indicate that those books were bought for Charles,
Viscount Bruce (1682-1747, Earl of Elgin and of Ailesbury in
1741). The volume from which our copy of the Sale-Catalogue
was taken bore his book-plate (and is entered as No. 12 on p. 96
of the catalogue of his library at Tottenham, Wilts, which was
printed in 1733. It would be worth while looking up that
catalogue in the British Museum.

identific

(date 1712) L

at Oxford L

The following is a list of the items so marked.
The figures outside the brackets are the pages in the Sale-
Catalogue, the figures inside brackets are the items:

31 (3); 32 (12); 33 (36, 5, 7, 11, 13); 34 (55,
56, 61, 66); 35 (73, 89, 95, 119-21); 36 (132, 134, 137, 145-7,
149, 152, 159); 37 (182-3, 185, 191, 193, 196, 197, ^{or} 198,
205-6, 210, 212, 219-20); 38 (226, 230, 255); 44 (9-10, 15-16,
18-21, 24, 28, 31); 45 (62, 70, 80); 46 (93, 106); 47 (35-6,
42); 48 (84); 49 (43, 46, 48); 50 (64-8, 77); 52 (165, 183, 193);
53 (204, 206-7, 231); 54 (279, 286-7, 290); 55 (312-14); 56 (348,
361); 57 (23, 29).

Bon voyage and a good summer.

Yours sincerely,

L.W.F.

1 March, 1959

J. S. Finch, Esq.,
142-A Hodge Road,
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Mr. Finch,

Many thanks for the reprint on "Urn Burial", with the extract properly quoted from my letter. I'm afraid the clause and sentence following your quotation marks are a little misleading. One cannot, of course, be positive that here (in this particularly cramped spot) the hand is Browne's, but wherever there is enough free marginal writing to enable ~~me~~ ^{one} to judge, I am just as positive as Carter that the corrections in the Osler copy are autograph.

While I am in a post-influenzal critical mood, I would "memorialize" you about the awful word you've obtruded between "Osler" and his "Library" in the first footnote on p. 347 (but not, happily, in the text on the next page). It is pseudo-doxically epidemic nowadays, and dear old "Popsy" Welch had to complain that people wouldn't wait till he was dead before miscalling his octogenarian achievement the Welch MEMORIAL Library!

Otherwise, I have nothing but thanks and praise for your account of this new recruit to the Hydriotaphic élite. And I am glad to hear that work is progressing, in such good hands, on the Sale Catalogue.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. F.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of English

142-A Hodge Road
February 16, 1939

Dr. W.W. Francis
The Osler Library

Dear Dr. Francis:

I am enclosing a reprint of an article about the Cornell Urn Burial which really had its beginning during my visit to the Osler Library in July, 1937. I took the liberty of quoting from your letter of September, 1937, and hope that the extract quoted meets with your approval. When I showed the Cornell copy to John Carter, while he was in New York last December, he seemed convinced that the corrections were Browne's.

Although the work upon the Sale Catalogue goes slowly, I have been able to make some progress with it, and am being assisted by Mr. Westfall, now at the University of Illinois. Dr. Fulton has very kindly put his copy of the Catalogue in my hands. If I am able to go to London next summer, as I plan, there may be something to show before another year has passed.

Very sincerely yours,

J.S. Finch
J.S. Finch

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of English

November 13, 1937

Dr. W.W. Francis
Librarian, Osler Library
McGill University

Dear Dr. Francis:

Since I last wrote you about the Cornell copy of Browne's Urne-Buriall I have found additional evidence for the corrections being in the author's hand. In the copy owned by Dr. Eli Moschowitz of New York (which contains an ex dono authoris inscription) I found the word neck on p. 123 ^{= p. 122 line 3 work} corrected to front (as it is in the Cornell copy), then corrected again to the usual reading, head. Although Mr. Carter had evidently taken both corrections as being in a second hand, in which many of the corrections are written, I am sure that front is in Browne's own; and of course the appearance of the two unusual corrections in two separate copies in itself is convincing.

I have written a brief article about the copy, and have sent it off, together with photostats, for publication. In it I took the liberty of saying that you believed the thousands of years corrections to be the same in both the Osler and Cornell copies, though you could not be positive that the hand was Browne's. Shortly after dispatching ^{the article} I received a letter from Mr. Carter, indicating that you had written him about the Cornell copy, and asking whether I could help him with photostats of it. Since I lacked a complete set, I sent him a copy of the article, and promised to send photostats as soon as I could get a duplicate

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PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of English

set together. As I am anxious to have a complete set of my own on hand, as well as to send a set on to him, I am going to ask you to send me the ones you have, sometime at your convenience. Should you wish me to have a set made to put with the Osler collection, I shall be glad to do so. I am afraid I have neglected to send your photographer a money order for the work he did for me last summer, but I shall try to do this immediately.

Very truly yours,

J.S. Finch
J.S. Finch

20 September, 1937.

Dr. J. S. Finch,
Princeton University,
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Finch:

I was very sorry to miss your visit at the end of July. I am sure Miss Brownlee managed to show you everything of interest.

hand/ Our photographer is sending you the bill for the photostats, including an item which I have ordered, not you, and which will go off to you tomorrow. It is a negative photostat of pp. 36-7 of our copy of "Urn Burial". The correction "four" in the margin of p. 37 you will be interested to compare with the same word erased on p. 173 of the Cornell copy. It looks to me as though the ~~same~~ was the same. The correction on p. 2, "thousands of years", is exactly the same in both copies, with the same extraordinary 8-like "s". Of course it is difficult to be sure that each one of these was actually written by Browne himself. Where he has written extensively in the margins, as in two or three places in our copy, I would swear to his autograph. In most places he is writing too carefully for one to be sure that it is his hand. So, all I would feel perfectly safe in saying is that some of these Cornell corrections were made by the same hand that made some of the corrections in our Osler copy.

I have not identified the source of the interesting engraving, headed in MS., "Browns of Urns". I have looked up one or two likely places without success but would like to try again. May I keep it and the other photostats a little longer?

The absence of any word from Mr. Struble had made me suspect that he had given up the idea of editing the "Sale-Catalogue". I sincerely hope you may be persuaded to undertake it.

Yours sincerely,

C. W. F.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of English

September 9, 1937

Dr. W.W. Francis
The Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Dr. Francis:

My wife and I were received most kindly by Miss Brownlee when we visited the Osler Library in August, and photostats we ordered were sent very shortly afterwards, for which I am indeed grateful. I have not been billed for the photostats, and would appreciate knowing the amount, which I am anxious to pay. = July (wait)
26th

Since I wrote you about the Sale Catalogue I have become interested in a copy of the 1658 Urn Burial, bound up with several tracts by John Wilkins, now in the Cornell University Library. Although not a perfect copy, and badly cut, it has several marginal corrections in a seventeenth-century hand which I believe to be Browne's. Photostats of three of these corrections are enclosed, which I would like you to examine, and tell me whether you think the hand Browne's. The complete list of corrections is as follows:

- p. 2. a thousand years corrected to read thousands of years
(this almost identical with Osler copy)
- p. 119 five seven
(valueless; printed instead of written)
- p. 122 neck front
(a unique correction; all other^{corrections} read head)
- p. 173 two four
(correction deleted; "stet" written above by later hand; "in every one" not deleted as in other copies)
- p. 202 102 202
(correction of wrong page number)

All these corrections except the last occur, according to Carter's edition of Urn Burial, in other author-corrected copies, and all correct printings indicated in the errata list in the 1658 quarto. The "front" correction is, however, independent of any printed source or author-corrected copy, seeming to indicate Browne's own work, and was perhaps inserted with the French meaning in mind. I have compared these few bits of writing with Browne manuscripts from the British Museum, and find them decidedly similar.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

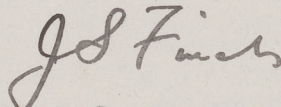
Department of English

The volume contains one other interesting thing: just before the first page of Urn Burial, the usual plate of urns (A1-A7b being missing), is inserted another plate of urns, a photostat of which I enclose. The paper is different from Urn Burial and from that *of the* Wilkins tracts which precede it. It was perhaps inserted by the owner, or binder, from a book of antiquities, but how or when I can not tell. I have never seen it before, and though I confess I have not searched through early books on classical antiquities, I would like to solve the mystery of its inclusion with Browne. The copy passed into the hands of the Cornell Library from Andrew D. White, first president of Cornell. On the first page of the Wilkin tracts the signature of "Thomas Hudson" occurs. I take it that the inscription "Browne of urns" on the second plate of urns is the hand of an early owner or binder. A similar inscription occurs on the first page of the text of Urn Burial.

I have been in correspondence with Chalmers about the Sale Catalogue, and have learned that George Struble, of Lebanon Valley College, who had once undertaken the task of editing it, has given it up. Whether I shall undertake it, I cannot tell. It seems an immense task, if done rightly, and although I have ready access to Professor Cawley's photostats, or to the Yale copies, I should probably find it necessary to spend some time in the British Museum in order to locate some of the rare volumes listed in the Catalogue. Should I definitely undertake it, I shall inform you.

Pardon this long letter. I shall be very grateful for your opinion about the marginal corrections.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. J. S. Finch

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Other correspondence
with Dr. Finch, &
photostats, are on
WJ 3 behind #4499

Department of English

June 8, 1937

The Librarian
Osler Library
McGill University
Montreal

Dear Sir:

I expect to be in Montreal for a short time during July, and since I am engaged in work upon Sir Thomas Browne am anxious to see and use the Osler collection of his works. Professor Herbert Davis of the University of Toronto writes he believes you would be willing to give permission. Will you kindly let me know whether it will be possible, should I come there this summer?

One item I am particularly interested in is the Catalogue of the Libraries of the Learned Sir Thomas Browne, and Dr Edward Brown, his Son, 8°, 1710/11 (60 pages); I want to have a lica film made of this, entire. Will you be good enough to let me know whether you have facilities for making such a film? If not, I can secure a film of the copy in the British Museum, through a friend who is sailing for England very shortly. I shall be grateful for any information you can give me.

Very truly yours,

J. S. Finch
J. S. Finch

10 June, 1937

Mr. J. S. Finch,
Department of English,
Princeton University,
PRINCETON, N.J.

Dear Mr. Finch:

I regret that I shall be away from the Library during July but my assistant Miss Brownlee will be here part of every day and she could arrange for any books you desire to use to be placed in the Medical Library across the corridor. The latter library is open in July from nine to five except Saturdays and Sundays.

I am afraid we have not the facilities for making a lica film of the Browne sale-catalogue (# 4532). A few years ago Dr. John F. Fulton, Sterling Professor of Physiology at Yale, obtained a copy of the original sale-catalogue. It might be more convenient for you to have a film made of his copy than of the B.M.'s. Our copy has been photostated several times. One of the photostat copies is in the New York Academy of Medicine and I have a note that Mr. Robert R. Cawley, 124 Pyne Hall, Princeton, about 1933, possessed a photostat copy.

Meanwhile if there is anything I can do to help you by looking up special points in our very complete collection of Browne items, I am entirely at your service.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. F.

W. W. F. *W. W. F.*

Libman