

PETER BENT BRIGHAM HOSPITAL

JOSEPH B. HOWLAND, M. D.
SUPERINTENDENT

HENRY A. CHRISTIAN, M. D.
PHYSICIAN-IN-CHIEF

721 HUNTINGTON AVENUE
BOSTON 17, MASS.

HARVEY CUSHING, M. D.
SURGEON-IN-CHIEF

S. BURT WOLBACH, M. D.
PATHOLOGIST

January 23, 1930.

*Please
return
1956.*

Dear Bill:

I am simply delighted with the Copernicus note and am enclosing a check for five dollars for you to hand over to whoever it was that made the transcription. If you don't do so, I shall feel hesitant about calling upon you for things of this kind in the future.

I haven't the slightest intention of using this for anything except to enhance the provenance of my 1543 copy of Copernicus, and your occasional marginal notes magnify this value a thousandfold, particularly your check on the "four times nine years". Who in the world but you would have known to what "into the fourth novennium" alluded to!

I hope some day you will get around to sending me a transcript of that paragraph that some bibliographer wrote apologizing for bibliography in general. I always meant to copy it out sometime when I was in Oxford and now I don't even remember what the book was but trust that you will.

Your all-too-brief visit here brought great joy to the household. With best love to you all, I am

Always yours,

Stanley

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

January
Tenth,
1930

Dr. Harvey Cushing,
721 Huntington Avenue,
BOSTON, 17, Mass.

My dear Harvey:

Ever so many thanks for the excellent facsimile of Beaumont which came the other day inscribed to me. I have reinscribed it to the Osler Library, to which it must belong.

Behold to what piffling interests bibliography has reduced me — the fallacy of facsimiles and the spelling of New York! I notice that in the Osler copy of the original, in the copyright paragraph on the back of the title-page, it is spelled New-York, with a hyphen, in the Frenchified fashion which seems to be usual on the title-pages of books printed ^{then} in the early decades of the last century. But your facsimile hasn't the hyphen, though it seems to have a very slight trace of it in the shape of a small dot near the w. I think you said it was made from your copy of the original. Next time I have the joy of browsing in your library I should like to look it up. May I soon have the opportunity!

I can't tell you how much we all enjoyed our visit. Poor Hilda came down yesterday with a very painful corneal ulcer, but she seems to suffer most from the necessity which it entailed of postponing our eighth birthday party, which was to have come off today.

With love to you and yours and to Miss Stanton,

Affectionately,

Bruf

P.S. The eye has been taking in 'The Binding Influence' as delightedly as the ear did — more so, 'cause the eye can linger over it. Whatever happens to the scalp, don't let the pen rust. You've done great things with both.

Rebelais
in 1694
M.H.L.

Yale
Please return
W.W.F.
April 1956.

DESCHAMPS ON THE BIBLIOGRAPHER

One word more, and I have finished.

If there is in the world a thankless, laborious, difficult, ill-paid and unrespected occupation, surely it is that of the bibliographer. "A bibliographer," says the man in the street, "What's that?" - and the that is a euphemism! "A bibliographer," say the scientists and a few scholars, "Well, he's an underling who has his uses. In the first place he does nobody any harm, provided always he is kept out of the management of our public libraries; and besides, he can do us some service in his ^{own} modest sphere. When we are puzzled, he tells us where to look for special sources: he calls our attention to scientific rarities; and he's a walking catalogue ^{etc., etc."} ~~a~~ ^{Yes, and} a catalogue, Heaven knows, that is consulted daily.

In short, a bibliographer may, on the whole, be worthy of ^{some} ~~more~~ consideration.

And so, all you to whom I address these last lines, "Readers most illustrious, and you, thrice precious Subscribers (for to you and none other are dedicated my writings)", if the bibliographer is helpful (and not ~~too~~ censorious), if in certain respects he deserves some favors, please condescend to thank him for his efforts, and do not reproach him too bitterly for his weaknesses, his oversights, or even for his mistakes.

P. D.

Translated ^{by W.W.F.} from Brunet's "Manuel du Libraire, Supplement ^{par} ~~pour~~ P. Deschamps et G. Brunet": vol. i, 1878, Avertissement, p. xv.

The quotation is the opening of Rebelais's preface; with Readers and Subscribers substituted for Drinkers and Luetics.

copied for H.C. + translated
27. i. 30.

W.W.F.
OSLER LIBRARY,
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,
MONTREAL, Canada

no. 6940.

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S. BURT WOLBACH, M. D.
PATHOLOGIST

January 9, 1930.

OSLER LIBRARY,
McGILL UNIVERSITY,
MONTREAL, Canada

Dear Bill:

I was just looking last night at your note about the Copernicus, No. 566 in the Biblioteca Prima, and find that Miss E. G. Parker had translated the preliminary matter in W.O.'s copy. Would it be an imposition to ask you if you could send me a copy of this translation? The Latin is too much for me. I of course will be most glad to pay for having it made.

It was such a joy to have seen you here and I wish you would make it an annual visit. And do please cudgel your mind for something you can come down and give either to the local Historical Society or to the Medical Club which meets here monthly. It will help educate us and it will give you an excuse to get away occasionally.

Best love to you all.

Always sincerely yours,

Harry Cushing

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

December 13th,
1930

Dr. Harvey Cushing.
721 Huntington Ave.,
Boston 17, Mass.

My dear Harvey:

Mrs. Harry Reid writes me that she has been commissioned by the Oxford Press to shorten the Biography, and wants "any little point of view" of mine "that has not already been emphasized". I wonder how she will do it? I am a bit afraid that the sentiment may be laid on too thick.

*What happened
about Mrs. Natty?*

My sister Gwen turned over to me recently a great many letters he wrote to us children in the '80's and '90's. I had no idea that my mother had kept them. I don't see your mark on them and am wondering whether you ever had them, and if not, why not. Some of them are delightful. I may get something out of them for Mrs. R.

This reminds me to notify you that I now have room for those precious cabinets of the biography material which you offered to send to the Library.

C. Reid

I had a good day here with Klebs and only wish that I could have gone with him to do the New York Libraries with the two of you.

The family is flourishing and Bildakins will be no less than nine next month.

Love to you and yours.

W. R. R. Reid

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HARVEY CUSHING, M. D.
SURGEON-IN-CHIEF
S. BURT WOLBACH, M. D.
PATHOLOGIST

December 15, 1930.

OSLER LIBRARY,
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,
MONTREAL, Canada

Dear Bill:

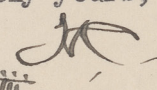
I supposed of course you knew about Mrs. Harry Reid. Just what happened about MacNalty I never learned, but the first thing I knew about it was a note from Cum-berlege telling me that he had taken up the matter with Mrs. Reid who expressed great delight in the prospect of writing a short biography, and all that he asked of me was whether I was willing to have her do so. I didn't see that I really had anything to say in the matter, and so she has gone ahead with great enthusiasm and I am sure that it will be good.

I wish that I might have seen these letters which your mother had preserved. They were just the sort of thing I was looking for, for I had small picking in the '80's and '90's. Still, I am glad that they have turned up now so that Mrs. Reid can use them. There will be material turning up for repeated biographies and I hope some day you will get around to writing something yourself.

I saw Klebs in New York and he talked most enthusiastically about his visit with you. I wish I might have been able to get away to share in this pleasure with him.

My time, as you know, is drawing to a close here and when I come to dismantle this office the cabinets will go to you and you will have fun, I am sure, looking over the material which I fear may have been pawed over by a good many people; but I assume it is still pretty much intact. There are copies of countless letters that have never been utilized.

Always affectionately yours,

Frederic and love 15/12/30 

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

*150+ letters to
me & my sisters
used by Mrs Reid.
I had no idea that
my mother had
kept them, till
her things came
out of 12 years
storage in 1929!
W.W.F.*