

YALE UNIVERSITY
THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
NEW HAVEN · CONNECTICUT

DR. HARVEY CUSHING

22 January 1937.

OSLER LIBRARY,
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,
MONTREAL.

Dear Willie:

*"Trail Blazer
of Science"*

Don't make fun of me about that Vesalius to Cushing book of friend Gumpert. He sent me his German book, and assuming that he was a non-Aryan, I could do nothing other than write him a friendly letter, not knowing at the time that he was so non-Aryan that he was shortly coming over here to take up his abode and, to get himself a start, wanted to have an English translation of his book and requested the privilege of appending my letter to it. So this gives you the picture. You as a tiddlywinker have had sufficient intimacy with me at late hours of the night to know that however I may appear to Gumpert, I am really not a primate.

Your presidential address is ripping, like everything else you do, and this particular reprint the more precious for your having identified by marginal notes some of the persons to whom you allude, e.g., the 'sensitive, book-devouring investigator'. I assume by this you will have received the Corrigenda slip; and if you want any more of them, let me know because there are five hundred to distribute.

I am glad to say I am feeling reasonably fit and am, temporarily at least, off crutches which I have been obliged to use these past six months. Klebs has been here off and on for visits this past month. He has completed his check-list of science incunabula but having a hard time finding anyone to publish it. He had a falling out with Johnson and Chapman, and now the Yale Press has given him proofs, but the cost of publication is agitating him greatly.

Then, too, there's the complication as to what his obligations are to Archie and the New York Academy who have already put six thousand dollars into the work. Just what will come out of it I don't know, but I rather think he is tending to learn toward Osiris, for Sarton has offered to take it.

It is lamentable that he has not included any of his valuable and highly unique annotations about authors, printers, and so on, but is merely proposing to put out a check-list for other incunabulistic bibliophiles to shoot at. How it will all turn out I can't foresee. You know better than most people the difficulties that confront a bibliographer. But what would the Bibliotheca Osleriana have been merely as a check-list and without the notes?

I have just put a skit about Ercole Lelli in the local Journal, a copy of which I shall shortly be sending you.

With love to the family, I am

Always affectionately yours,

Harvey Cushing

25 January, 1937

Dr. Harvey Cushing,
Yale University School of Medicine,
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Harvey:

! Gumpert's God forbid that I should make fun of you and Vesalius. I am just as likely to do it of him as of you, but certainly ~~the~~ descent from Father Abraham and his plans for the future put a queer slant, as you say, on the picture. As for your "primacy", did not Popsy himself say that you had created a specialty and a clinic which had finally compelled European medicine to come to America? What more do you want?

I got the "Corrigenda" a day or two after I wrote you, and am delighted with it. Here again, what might have been a dry list (to those not personally interested) has been enlivened by annotations. The Oxford Press, N.Y., sent me three copies to start with and another three copies which I requested.

It is good to hear that the crutches are laid aside and I hope it will be for longer than you seem to expect.

It does seem a shame that dear old Klebs should publish merely a check list after all the work he has put into it. Nobody can ever expect to put the final finishing touch to a complicated bibliography. It seems to me that such a check list would only delay the main work, probably till beyond his lifetime, with possible loss of much of his interesting material.

I shall look forward to seeing your *Urocole* Lelli.

Yours ever,

Rill

2 February, 1937

Dr. Harvey Cushing,
Yale University School of Medicine,
New Haven, Conn.

My dear Harvey:

I enjoyed the Lelli paper, even p. 208 of it which shocked my Latinity and drove me to your sources to find out the true insignificance of "Insignia". It ought to read "seance" (lines 12 and 52 and in the legend of Fig. 9). It is a plural word both in English and Latin and the singular, "insigne", is obsolete in English. I suspect that your Oxonian ear has confused it with the similarly sounding "encaenia"? I learn from Martinotti that the "insignia" are the pictures, crudely painted on vellum, which they used to make in mass production to commemorate special events at the University of Bologna, one copy for each of the "anziani" (elders, i.e. senators?) present. Each copy bears at the top, like Fig. 9, the insigne, i.e. the "mark", or coat of arms, of the particular senator it was made for; hence these pictures were called "insignia", but the meetings they represent should not be so called.

On the same page 208, let the Cardinal "legato" pass, though Cardinal legata is a perfectly good English term, but I bet old Spinola will try to get your purgatory prolonged for calling him a "Genevese", the equivalent of a heretic in his days. He might be Genoese, but his name looks Spanish.

Archie and I are getting busy on the new volume of W.O.'s essays and addresses (since Aequanimitas, 1906, and Alabama Student, 1908). If any useful hints about a title, inclusions, exclusions &c. occur to you, please let me have them. The Oxford Press, N.Y., abandoned the idea when the slump came, but now Blakiston's are considering it.

With apologies for écorching your Insignia,

Yours, ever, ^{the} "meticulously"

Ruf

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DR. HARVEY CUSHING

5 February 1937.

OSLER LIBRARY,
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,
MONTREAL.

Dear Willie:

*wrong use of "iniquia"
in Ercole Lelli
paper.
W.W.F.*

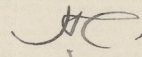
Cruel man! Stanton and I have been groaning and wringing our hands at your skinning our page 208 alive. It is all due to my feeble [and even less than that] reading knowledge of Italian. It reminds me of the story you once told me about the rubber tub in some one of the League of Nations [Genevese] publications. I published a paper with John not long ago which contained some sad slips about Volta's relation to Galvani which have already been hurled back at us. I had no business to undertake the writing of that preamble to John's bibliography.

By this time I am sure you will have picked up errors in the W.O. corrigenda slip I sent you. I can fully appreciate what the Biography would have been like if your eagle eye had not gone over the final proofs, for which I have never sufficiently thanked you. You have gotten me so inhibited now that I shall submit all future efforts at historical writing to your attention before I shall venture to let them go in print.

Viets writes that he is growing fainthearted about the effort to raise money for the Ewelme church. I have an idea that a better way to go about it, if it is to be done, is to circularize all the J.H.H. graduates of the Osler days and to add Sue Chapin's name to the list of sponsors and circularize her and Tanta Grace's friends as well. I doubt very much if merely printing the appeal in a few journals would have any particular response. I wonder how you feel about it yourself.

I am greatly interested to learn about your and Archie's project toward a new volume of W.O.'s essays. It will be well worth doing, and would of course include the Classical Association address.

Always affy., and heaps of
thanks for écorchéing our
Ercole Lelli,



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

10 February, 1937

Dr. Harvey Cushing,
Yale University
School of Medicine,
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Harvey:

I hope you and Miss Stanton have not suffered as much as you say from my jarred latinity. That page probably won't bother anybody but an old purist.

Thanks for the delightful address on your cousin Teddy and his Baskervilles. Hilda and I and Marian thoroughly enjoyed last night this account of your boyhood and Marian would like to know which side of the brush was used and if so the consistency of the bristles.

I have also enjoyed reading Mrs. Reid's nice book on Thayer which I did not know was coming. The title may be all right but I saw it listed rather criminally this morning as "The life and conviction of W. S. T." That strikes me as worse than finding W.O.'s "Chorea" under geography.

We shall certainly include "Old Hum" in the Essay volume. Archie has not yet got Houghton Mifflin's permission and had an idea they might object. If they do I may get you after them. I may be bothering you for advice about omissions and inclusions.

Yours ever,

W. L. F. Will

P.S. willing to meet at in the wood

Salvami - Aldman

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DR. HARVEY CUSHING

OSLER LIBRARY,
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,
MONTREAL, Canada
2 March 1937.

Dear Bill:

Some time ago I wrote a letter
of enquiry to Dr. Byers about an old patient
of Buller's that he had subsequently reported.
I have had no reply from him and don't know
whether he is dead and buried or on the beach
at Miami. Do please let me know on a p.c.
whether he is still able to sit up and take
notice or, like me, an emeritus who is slow
on the trigger.

Always yours,

Harvey Cushing

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

4 March, 1937

Dr. Harvey Cushing,
Yale University School of Medicine,
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Harvey:

Dr. Gordon Byers is not on the shelf or in the ground or on the beach, but hard at work at the old stand and ought to be attending to your correspondence. So jog his memory and I have no doubt you will hear from him.

You mentioned before the corrigenda to the "Corrigenda". I only found one, on p. 6 under the reference to the foot-note on p. 162, where you have given the Pope far too long an innings, "1903" instead of 1922. A propos of our old friend James, Cardinal Gibbons, did you ever hear this, "Cardinal, is it really possible that you can believe the Pope to be infallible?" "Well, I must confess that the Holy Father persists in calling me Jibbons".

Yours ever,

Will

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DR. HARVEY CUSHING

OSLER LIBRARY,
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,
MONTREAL, Canada
6 March 1937.

Dear Willie:

Thanks for your entertaining note. I will touch up friend Byers with apologies to him for my impatience. It is quite possible that he hasn't been able to trace the case that I wrote him about and that is why he has delayed in answering.

Alack and alas, that you should have found a correction to the Corrigenda! I know perfectly well how it happened, because of my confusion with Pius [i.e. Willie Cushing] who was born in 1903 and chosen for the papacy by W.O.

I remember the Jibbons story and almost recall that he made this remark one afternoon at 3 West Franklin Street. The impudent question, indeed, may possibly have been put to him by your sister. Still, that is possibly an apocryphal freak of memory.

Always affy.,

W.C.

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

*Pattus here -
See "Corrigenda", p. 6.
ref. to ii, p. 162 again.
He had Pius XI (Ratti)
elected Pope in "1903"
instead of 1922.
Willie (Pius) was born
the day a previous
Pius (truth?) was
elected!*

24 June, 1957

Dr. Harvey Cushing,
Yale University
School of Medicine,
NEW HAVEN, Conn.

Dear Harvey:

Many thanks for the interesting June 1919
page from W.O.'s engagement block. I am very glad to have
it even if I have evidently neglected to acknowledge it for
some time.

I am sorry the Fultons kept me so busy the
second day of my visit that I could not get back to your
house. It was delightful to see you and to find you so well.
The girls and I are off next week to spend July at Hubbards,
N.S.

Yours ever,

RW

20 August, 1937

Dr. Harvey Cushing,
Yale University School of Medicine,
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Harvey:

I notice an article that might interest you,
"Die initialen in Vesals Anatomie", by Klaus Rosenkranz, in the
current number of Sudhoff's Archives, August 1937, vol. 30,
pp. 35-46. It is not very illuminating and I think you could
teach him something about those initials.

Yours ever,

RW

P.S. How are you're keeping fit

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DR. HARVEY CUSHING

OSLER LIBRARY,
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,
MONTREAL, Canada
31 August 1937.

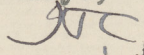
Dear Bill:

Thanks greatly for calling my attention to the article in Sudhoff's Archives on the initials in Vesal's Anatomy. I would like greatly to learn whether he has found anything more than Sam Lambert found, and I shall hope ere long to have a chance to compare the two papers to find out.

I judge from your note that you are back on the job and I hope you have had a good vacation somewhere. J.F.F., after being here most of the summer, with a long face departed one day saying he had to go fishing with the family. I asked him if I could dig him some worms, but he didn't seem to think it was funny. I had supposed he was going to be gone fully a month, but I understand he is back this morning, short of a week. Whether this was lack of fish or abundance of black flies and gnats I shall hope to learn in the course of the day.

As for me, I am still grinding out a page or two a day on the life history and domestic troubles of the meningioma family, the end of which the farther I get seems the farther away. Anyhow, it won't be a best seller and so you needn't worry.

Always affy.,



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

7 October, 1937

Dr. Harvey Cushing,
Yale University
School of Medicine,
NEW HAVEN, Conn.

Dear Harvey:

I have been corresponding with that nice Dr. Gibson of Kingston, Ont., about Mayerne & al. He writes me this morning that he was flattered to get a request from you for his reprint from the current "Annals", a propos of which, your friend Vesalius is a fiend to translate. Dear old Sam Lambert is evidently the man to do it; he has no qualms. But don't take him on faith. In places he makes V. say in English exactly the opposite to his Latin, and there is what looks like a first class howler on p. 425, col. 2, line 12, where "naked" is apparently the interpretation of "nactus", acquired (p. 424, line 4 from bottom), thanks doubtless to the sound of the German "nakt"!

All well here, except that "Fido", Marian's third disastrous attempt at keeping a dog, died happy last week chasing a squirrel across the road, only to be replaced by a messier pup. The squirrel may, as Vesalius says, "have gotten this blind intestine large enough to be compared in size to his stomach", but that doesn't hinder him from successfully dodging the traffic.

My lectures go too slowly. At this rate I'll about reach your hearty blood-y namesake, when the course finished!

Yours ever,

Bill

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DR. HARVEY CUSHING

OSLER LIBRARY,
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,
MONTREAL, Canada
9 October 1937.

Dear Willie:

Thanks for your amusing note. Curiously enough, I opened it just after having said goodbye to Sam Lambert who dropped in to pay me a visit after a summer fishing in Maine. He had on about four sweaters and certainly had seen no barber for several weeks, and beside that had gained considerable weight and was quite wheezy in his bellows. Then too, I rather insulted him because he brought in a deaf man with him and I couldn't remember which was deaf, so I shouted loudly into Sam's ear.

or

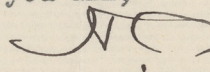
Lucky I didn't see your letter first/I would have been tempted to ask him about his Latin and particularly about the howler on page 425. Anyhow, I complimented him on the paper and asked him to do some more, and I think he is likely to. But before that I thought he ought to get out George Huntington's Berangarius, the MS. of which he has kept in his possession all these years since G.H.'s death. You will remember that Hoeber refused to print it because he thought it was too Rabelaisian. If he and Hoeber have gone to the same place, there may be trouble but I hope not. Poor Hoeber.

This keeping of a dog is no joke. We have a thing called Trumpet that requires a good deal of attention. He too chases squirrels but hopes never to catch one and I fear he may not have such a happy end as did your Fido.

Sorry you feel your lectures are going slowly. Whether they do or not, I am sure they will be good when they are finished.

ke A++

Always affectionately, with
love to you all,



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

17 November, 1937

Dr. Harvey Cushing,
Yale University
School of Medicine,
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Harvey:

Thanks for your kind words about the address. I had always wanted to get that Arnulphian curse and some of the other things into print. You shall, of course, have a reprint as soon as I receive them.

As for your membership, if you only looked in the list which was given in that copy of the Bulletin you would not find your name because I think it was simply a list of the new members added in the last year. In looking up the revised list of 1936 I find that you had been promoted from supporting to honorary membership, which would explain why you are no longer called upon for support. They made me an honorary member when I first brought the library out and I could never get them to accept my fees until they wanted me to be president when they had to reduce me to professional membership. Ballard is president this year and the meeting is to be held in Boston in the spring.

The family is flourishing, including a new pup which threatens to grow into a collie in honour of Hilda, whose maiden name was Colley.

I hope you are keeping well.

Love to you and yours.

Affectionately,

Bill

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DR. HARVEY CUSHING

15 November 1937.

OSLER LIBRARY,
McGILL UNIVERSITY,
MONTREAL, Canada

Dear Bill:

I have just read your Presidential Address before the Medical Library Association. It is delightful and in your very best style. Do send me a reprint if you are to receive any, to put with my files.

Incidentally I find to my chagrin that my name is not given among the supporting members. I wonder how that could have happened. I don't know how much it costs, but it is a worthy cause and I should like to be reinstated.

Always affectionately, and much power
to your elbow,

W.C.

Because he had
been made
an hon. member
W.C.F.

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