

17 November, 1939

Dr. L. S. Deitchman,
609-10 Central Tower,
Youngstown, Ohio

Dear Dr. Deitchman,

I failed to fulfil the promise, in my letter to you of April 24th, to let you know what I might hear from Klebs about the date of the Rabanus Maurus. What he sent me was not very satisfactory but such as it is I pass it on: "As regards my No. 524.1, Hrabanus, my 'surprising' date of 1474 is not a misprint. You will find the matter explained in detail in my final edition. For the present I can only tell you that, with others, I do not accept the date of 1467 as authentic."

I have since noticed, however, that no less an authority than Victor Scholderer, in an article, "Adolf Rusch and the earliest Roman types", in the Library, 4.ser., 20:43-50, June 1939, accepts the Paris inscription as 1467 and gives a facsimile of it.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. F.

Next leaf 3. begins: 7 caps. populum poren...

LEON S. DEITCHMAN, M. D.
609-10 CENTRAL TOWER
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

April 22, 1939

24 April, 1939

Dr. L. S. Deitchman,
609-10 Central Tower,
Youngstown, Ohio
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Sir,

I had not noticed the very surprising fact that Klebs had dated the Rabanus Maurus "[474?]" . If it were not Klebs I should suspect a misprint. I have gathered the idea from somewhere that the most probable date was considered to be about 1464. The copy in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, was recorded in an exhibition catalogue printed in 1881 as having a note of purchase by a canon of Notre Dame dated the 20th July, 1467. I have written to Klebs, who is an old friend of mine, asking him for the reason of his revised date.

I give below the collation of our copy, # 7478 in our printed catalogue, "Bibliotheca Osleriana", 1929; and shall write you again when I hear from Klebs.

Yours truly,

U. V. F.

(and L. V. F.)

Thanking you in advance,

I beg to remain,

Folio; sigs. $a^{8+1} b^{10} c^8 d^8$ of $e^{10} f^8 g^6 h^6 i^8 k^{10} m^8 n^{10} p^8$ $q^{10} r^8$; st s ; 169 leaves (the last two blank); 2 cols.; 56 lines; roman characters of 2 sizes; Strassburg, press 11, type 1; capital-spaces.

Hain-C. #13639; Proctor 239; B.M.C.1, 60; Osler. Inc. Med. 1.

Except for the list of characters of Book 17 (19 lines) leaf 125^b is blank. Leaf 9 is a separate half-sheet inserted between quires a and b and is necessary to the text. It would appear to be missing in the B.M. copy (cf. B.M. Inc., 1, p. 60).

The extra leaf, 9, begins: $\bar{i}$ cāpo. populum porem...

This should
have been
chapter

LOUIS S. DEITCHMAN, M. D.
609.610 CENTRAL TOWER
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

April 22, 1939

Osler Library,
McGill University,
Montreal, Canada.

Gentlemen:-

Kindly give me a collation of your copy
of Rabanus Maurus "De Sermonum Proprietate" Hain -
Copingier, 13669.

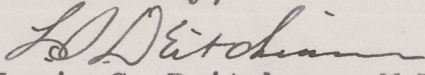
Would you care to venture an opinion as to
date? As you know Arnold Klebs has it (1474?) instead
of the commonly accepted 1467.

Any information from you will be greatly
appreciated.

Thanking you in advance,

I beg to remain,

Yours truly,


Louis S. Deitchman, M.D.

LSD:ms

J.-J. DENONAIN
17 rue Victor-Hugo
Versailles (S&O)
France

Jan. 18 1947

*His name does
not occur in
Leroy's Notes.
5080 u.v.*

Dear Sir,

Preparing an edition of Sir Thomas
Browne's Religio Medici with a full apparatus
criticus, I have started fresh work upon the
manuscript copies, with unhoped for discoveries.

I am therefore very eager to obtain
information about the MS Copy in the possession
of the Bibliotheca Osleriana: Osler MS.4417.

I should be most grateful to you if
you would kindly answer the following questions
#4534, 1° Has any study or collation of the MS.
already been made? In such a case, was any dif-
ference from the MSS collated by Wilkin and
used in his edition noticed?

35² 2° Could a microfilm (35mm) be taken and
sent over to me? What would be the cost? and
the best means of sending remittance in these
days of Exchange Control? I have ASKED Bain.

Any other information about the MS. will
be very thankfully welcome.

Yours faithfully

J. Denonain
Professeur Agrégé de l'Université

HA. 8450 - Mr. Bromberg

Jan. 18 1947

J.-J. DENONAIN
17 rue Victor-Hugo
Versailles (92000)

Sept. 6 (pp. 16-17, 1947)

Dear Sir,
Sept. 13. from letter (1/1/27 to "L'Univers")

p. 29.

Preparing an edition of Sir Thomas
Browne's Religio Medici with a full apparatus
criticus, I have started fresh work upon the
manuscript copies, with unhoped for discoveries.
I am therefore very eager to obtain
information about the MS copy in the possession
of the Bibliotheca Casertana: Oster MS. 4417.
I should be most grateful to you if
you would kindly answer the following questions:
1° Has any study or collation of the MS.
already been made? In such a case, was any dif-
ference from the MS collated by Wilkin and
used in his edition noticed?
2° Could a microfilm (5mm) be taken and
sent over to me? What would be the cost? and
the best means of sending remittance in these
days of Exchange Control?
Any other information about the MS. will
be very thankfully welcome.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

Professeur A. Rege de l'Université

HA 8150 - 1000

OSLER LIBRARY,
11 Feb., 1947.

Monsieur le professeur J.-J. Demonain,
17 rue Victor-Hugo,
Versailles (S & O),
France.

Dear Sir,

The two books by Leroy on Sir T. B. were a pleasant surprise, and to hear from a Frenchman that he is preparing a critical edition of the "Religio" is more than gratifying.

I could have a 35 mm. microfilm made of our MS. #4417 and hope to find out soon for you what the cost would be and how payment could be made. But I think you would prefer a microfilm of the collation. Have you access to our printed catalogue, "Bibliotheca Osleriana", Oxford, 1929? Entry no. 4534 reads as follows:

MS. in English, on paper: written in 1912 and 1913
at Norwich: (i) 13 x 16 in., 185 leaves; (ii) 13 x 8
in., 186 leaves; (iii) 7 x 4 1/2 in., 54 leaves;
unbound, in a cloth case.

Collations of Religio Medici, nos. 4417-20, made for
Sir W. Osler by Mr. Fred. Johnson: (i) Collation of
the two Wilkin MSS. and the two surreptitious eds. of
1642 with the authorized ed. of 1643. (ii) Collation
of the Osler MS. and the Hall MS. with the 1643 ed.
(iii) Correspondence about the work.

1642-3 coll.

Keynes took no interest in these collations. He seemed to think that the work had already been done sufficiently by Wilkin, ~~Brushitt~~, and others. *Greenleaf*
Looking into this #4534 (ii), the differences seem to be minor ones of spelling, plus some omissions, e.g., section 8 (pp. 16-17 of the 1643 ed.) and the poem, &c., section 13 (pp. 27 to "resurrection" on p. 29).

I should be glad to deal with any questions you care to ask me about this collation.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. Francis

W. W. Francis, M.D.,
Librarian.

WFF:CD

J.-J. Denonain

March 30th, 1947

17 rue Victor Hugo
Versailles
Seine & Oise
France

Dear Sir,

My pleasure at reading your letter of Feb. 11th was all the greater as I find you have in your hands the solution to all my difficulties. In fact, the sole obstacle I meet on my way is to secure reproductions of your Osler Ms. and of the De Havilland Hall Ms. which all my recent enquiries have failed to locate in England. In case I should be unable to trace this latter Ms., your 4534 (a) would be of the greatest interest for my work.

Yet, I prefer by far reading the full texts myself. I can read quite easily the Seventeenth Century handwriting, and have already done the work upon three Mss. Moreover, though there is no reason for suspecting the accuracy of the collations in your hands, I had rather compare the texts myself. Some gross errors in Greenhill's apparatus, especially about the readings of the folio ed. of 1659, and the omission of some 1643 readings of importance, due to his relying on the collation made for him by a friend, induced me to be very cautious. And I must say that a personal perusal of the work reveals quite new and unexpected aspects of the problem, and imperatively calls for a complete reconsideration of the editing task.

I am not at all surprised by the fact that your Ms. presents what are improperly named "omissions". They are not actual omissions, due to the copyist leaving out parts of the original in his hands, either out of carelessness or intentionally. They are "additions" made by Browne himself in the 1643 ed. Thus it is probable that your Ms. does not include the sections numbered 8, 28, 43, 56, in the 1643 text, nor a good many passages mostly in the ends of sections. Reversedly, what Keynes calls "additions" to the text, that is, passages found in Mss. and the 1642 edd., but not in 1643, are passages struck out by Browne in the successive versions of the book. In the Pembroke Ms., which I may call my discovery, there are no less than 28 passages not to be found anywhere else, yet with the true Brownean ring; some of them of the highest importance for the interpretation of Browne's thought, e.g. a Paracelsian definition of Death, at the end of section 39, closely connected with the preceding passage, which was preserved?

Your Ms. will probably corroborate what I noticed elsewhere, and will be most useful to establish the various stages of the composition of the intricate text which we now read. As far as I can guess, this Ms. belongs to the same group as the two Wilkin Mss., and the Rawlinson Ms. rather than to the earlier group of Lansdowne Ms. and Pembroke Ms. If this is the case, it will be most useful to correct and explain the corruptions of the 1642 edd.

It is needless to say that I consider all those Mss. as very important for the establishment of the text, all the more so as I found in two of them ample proof to correct mistakes and choose between alternative

interpretations.

March, 30th, 1947

I shall therefore take it very kindly if you would have a 35mm microfilm made of your Ms, and also if you would add all information you may have gathered about the ~~origin of this copy~~ (including such details as the size of the copy, general appearance, &c, which I shall quote in my introduction.)

I confess I am quite anxious about the cost, for my recent experience with a private firm of photographers in London was rather appalling. Whereas the Bibliothèque Nationale and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique charge respectively 4 and 5 francs (i.e. 2s. 2d.) per picture, I had to pay 4 shillings per picture for microfilming in the British Museum. In case of high expenses should be involved, would you be so good as to inform me that I may consider the question. In case I find my recent enquiries have failed to locate in England. In case I should be unable to trace this letter, I am, with thanks, very welcome to be of the greatest interest for my. Yours sincerely, V. G. B. Benson

Yet, I find by far reading the full texts myself. I can read quite easily the Seventeenth Century handwriting, and have already done the work upon three Ms. Moreover, though there is no reason for suspecting the accuracy of the collations in your hands, I had rather compare the texts myself. Some gross errors in Greenhill's apparatus, especially about the readings of the folio ed. of 1659, and the omission of some 1643 readings of importance, due to his relying on the collation made for him by a friend, induce me to be very cautious. And I must say that a personal perusal of the work reveals quite new and unexpected aspects of the problem, and imperatively calls for a complete reconsideration of the editing task.

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It is needless to say that I consider all those Ms. as very important for the establishment of the text, all the more so as I found in two of them ample proof to correct mistakes and choose between alternative

OSLER LIBRARY,
31 March, 1947.

Monsieur le professeur J.-J. Demonain,
17 rue Victor-Hugo,
Versailles (S & O),
France.

Dear Sir,

Your airmail letter dated "March 30th" arrived on the 26th. One of Browne's "wingy mysteries"? Or - "There was a young lady named Bright, Who travelled much faster than light; She set out one day, In a relative way And got back the previous night!"? - but the postmark looks like "21 - 3."

I can well understand your preference for doing your own collating, and I shall have a 35 mm. film made of our MS. 4417, as soon as possible. I can't say definitely, but the price used to be 2 cents a page, which would come to \$2.88, about 230 francs if 5 francs are worth 2 d. I am informed that payment would have to be arranged by you through a French Bank and might be facilitated if you "could get some scientific society to order the microfilm." In any case we shall send you the film, without waiting for payment. If there is any difficulty in this regard, I would suggest that you consult the very charming young librarian of the Académie de Médecine, (Mlle le!) Docteur Geneviève Genty, 16, rue Bonaparte, Paris, 6^e, tel. Danton 25-52, who spent some months last year in our medical libraries on this side of the Atlantic. She showed an interest in our Sir T. B. collection, and would know all about the exchange of material between France and America.

Have you access to our printed catalogue, "Bibliotheca Osleriana", Oxford, 1919? If so, it may save me some copying. You don't answer that question. Perhaps not, as you ask me the dimensions (11 3/8 x 7 1/2 inches) of MS. 4417. But a similar description is also given in Keynes's Bibliography which you, no doubt, have. Another MS. 7664, vol. 3, has notes by Osler about the various Browne MSS., but these were all incorporated by Keynes. The only information I can add to that given by Osler in the catalogue and by Keynes in the Bibliography, is that Osler paid £30 for MS. 4417 at Sotheby's, in 1906, and a memo, which I wrote on leaf viii of that MS. that Tregaskes ~~is~~ was holding the Hall MS. for £320 in October 1928. Do Keynes and Prof. T. K. Monro, of Glasgow, not know where it went? I should have thought Leroy Crummer (died 1932) would have bought it. His Browne collection is now at the University of Michigan.

I am indeed surprised to hear of the special interest of the Pembroke MS. I find no indication that Osler ever examined it critically.

I shall be happy to answer any further questions. And if you are wise enough to consult Dr. Genty, please give her my best regards.

Yours sincerely,

L. L. F.

MS. 4417 only available
five dollars, but he is
interested in it -
MS. must wait.

and P. 50. 4 air mail for 3. 11. 47

J.-J. Denonain
Professeur Agrégé
17 rue Victor Hugo
Versailles
(S.&O.)
France.

June 23rd 1947

Dear Sir,

You probably received, some time ago, letters written on my behalf by Docteur Genty, Librarian of the Académie de Médecine, in Paris. You certainly noticed that not only your MS. 4417, but also Fred. Johnson's collation of MS. Osler and MS. Hall with the 1643 edition, N° 4534(ii) were asked for. It appeared to me, indeed, that in case my enquiries about the present whereabouts of the Hall MS. should fail, I could avail myself of the aforesaid collation, the comparison with the Osler MS. allowing me to form an impression about the accuracy of the work.

You will understand my eagerness for receiving the microfilms when you know that, having recently stayed in Norwich and Cambridge, I have collated the two Wilkin MSS., and the MS. in Saint John's College. Only the Osler and the Hall MSS. remain for me to study. And, if I am to believe Greenhill's note that they are very different from those studied by Wilkin, I expect most useful data about the readings and the genesis of the text. The Saint John's MS. proved to be intermediate between the Pembroke MS. and the Wilkin MSS. Your MS. may confirm my opinion that the latter, and especially MS. W1, ^{followed by 1642} give the most corrupted version. Important conclusions may be reached, which, added to some unexpected remarks I made about the relation between the 1642 and the 1643 texts may call for a completely different outlook on 'Religio Medici'. I therefore hope very sincerely that the microfilming of the documents in your hands will not be postponed too long.

Your printed catalogue: 'Bibliotheca Osleriana', is available at the Bibliothèque Nationale, and gives me valuable information.

I am sorry to say I could not meet Mademoiselle la Doctoresse Genty, but only her father, the Librarian of the Académie de Médecine.

May I state, before closing this letter, that there was no 'wingy mystery' in a previous one apparently arriving before it was written. There was no 'Deus ex Machina', but most prosaically a 'lapsus machinae'. Moreover, as grave a paper as the Sunday Times prints that such occurrences are not impossible in the least, on account of the different meridian times!

June 23rd 1947

Please believe I am, with very sincere thanks for
your kind help,

Yours truly,

J.-J. Denonain
Professeur Agrégé
17 rue Victor Hugo
Versailles
(S. & O.)
France.

Dear Sir,

Dear Professor Denonain,
You probably received some time ago, letters written
by me to the Académie de Médecine, in Paris. You certainly noticed that not only your MS.
but also the MS. of the Académie de Médecine, No. 4534 (II) were asked for. It appeared to
me, indeed, that in case my expertise about the present whereabouts
of the MS. should fail, I could avail myself of the store-
house of the Académie de Médecine, the comparison with the MS. allowing me to
form an impression about the accuracy of the work.
You will understand my regret in not having the
microfilm which I have collected the two Wilkin MSs. and the MS.
in Saint John's College. Only the MS. of the Académie de Médecine
remains to study. And if I am to believe Greenhill's note that
they are very different from those mentioned by Wilkin, I expect
most useful data about the readings and the genesis of the text.
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some unexpected remarks I made about the relation between the
1642 and the 1643 texts may call for a completely different
outlook on 'Religio Medici'. I therefore hope very sincerely
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I am sorry to say I could not meet Mademoiselle La
Doctoresse Genty, but only her father, the Librarian of the Aca-
démie de Médecine.

May I state, before closing this letter, that there
was no 'wingy mystery' in a previous one apparently arriving
before it was written. There was no 'Dens ex Machina', but most
probably a 'lapus machine'. Moreover, as grave a paper as the
Sunday Times prints that such occurrences are not impossible
in the least, on account of the different meridian times!

J. J. Demonain
22 rue Marmontel
Paris 15^{ème}.

Paris October 26th 1947

Dear Dr Francis,

This letter, I am afraid, has been considerably delayed. The parcel containing the Osler microfilms did not reach me at once, on account of the vacations, when the Académie de Médecine was closed, and also of my being away from Paris. At the time when I received it, I was busy packing to move from Lyon to Paris, and had to postpone the study of the films to a more favourable time.

Even now, what with the disorder of my moving in and my teaching work, I have not yet completed the perusal of the documents, but can form an idea.

The films are excellent. The omission of a picture: p. 37 verso and 38 recto, in the Osler Mss of R. M. does not seem to involve great inconvenience. As regards the collations, they were very completely photographed, and in both sizes very satisfactory.

As regards the value of the Osler Mss and of the collations themselves, things are different: Your Mss of *Religio Medici* is a rather indifferent copy of the text, to be compared with the Rawlinson Mss in the Bodleian. There are many blunders from the copyist, in addition to the mistakes due to progressive corruption of the original.

I classify the Osler copy as regards the evolution of the

text, with the Rawlinson and the Hall MSS, next to the St John's coll^g copy and Wilkin's n^o 2, but before Wilkin's n^o 1, which is evidently more corrupted than all others and paved the way - if it was not the very copy used for it - for the 1642 surreptitious editions. My conviction that the Pembroke MS is nearer the earlier version, and nearer the correct text gets more and more confirmed.

Now the Johnson collations are very unsatisfactory and I am glad I could secure a copy of the MS itself. Mr Johnson paid more attention to the spelling than to textual differences, and ^{along with the wrong recordings} he omitted a great number of variants which are of interest as they allow one to see the relationship between the MSS. His work ~~was~~ ^{is} therefore very misleading and the contention that the Osler and the Hall MSS resemble each other more than any other MSS used by Wilkin has to be revised. Both have much in common with J. W. and R.; but, on the other hand, the Hall MSS, as recorded by Johnson, has readings of its own, or readings which link it now with Pembroke and now with Wilkin 1.

The Hall MS still failing to turn up, I should have preferred a more accurate collation on Mr Johnson's part, in the bulk of his study. Yet, his recording of the Hall variants is, strangely enough, more reliable than that of the Osler copy, when compared to the data of the other MSS. Thus the collation can be quite useful, and make^{up} for the absence of the copy itself.

I am extremely grateful to you for contributing to the completion of my study. Save for a few details which are to be checked carefully, my apparatus is ready. And I may contemplate publishing the whole work in the course of next year. It is needless to say that due

recognition will be given to your kind help, without which this edition of *Religio Medici* could not have been carried out to an end. I must now ask you to be so good as to give me a formal permission to print (in the present case) parts of the Osler Ms copy, and of Fred Johnson's collations.

I wish also to meet all the expenses involved by micro-filming the documents, postage, and so on. The best scheme is to act through the "Bibliothèque de l'Académie de Médecine", and for me to refund the money to the Librarian, Mr Gentil.

But I shall remain in debt to you for your great kindness, and the strenuous efforts which I guess you had to make in order to have the Mss microfilmed, and I sincerely hope there may occur an occasion for me to be of some help to you, in my small sphere.

Please believe I am, with thanks,

yours sincerely,

Henri Pirenne

OSLER LIBRARY

18 Sept., 1953.

Dear Mr. Denonain,

The long-expected definite ^{ive} edition was well worth waiting for. Many thanks for the complimentary copy received from Cambridge and for the kind mention of me in Preface and Introduction. In addition to its scholarly perfection, I have found it the handsomest and the most easy to read of all our copies. It is a masterpiece of typography as well as of editing.

That veteran collector, Professor T. K. Monro, of Glasgow, now 88, writes thanking me for warning him a few years ago to be on the lookout for it, and says, "It is a handsome volume and reflects much credit on author and publishers ... An immense amount of skilled labour has been bestowed on the work". I hope and trust that the labour has not discouraged your original resolution to give us also a French translation.

Lovers of the Religio must always be grateful to you for bringing "her in to be new trim'd in the dock" (38); she should be sea-worthy now for all time!

Es. 10. 's line 1 footnote was removed

Very truly

WVF

WVF:cd