

From/A.R.S. Kennedy.to W.O.

CUS417/35.65.

33, Fountainhall Road,
Edinburgh.

Dear Sir William,

I have hunted through all my repositories of ancient "stuff" but have failed to find single copies of the two articles on Jean Astruc, which I wrote for "The Expository Times" twenty years ago. (Oct. 1896 - your letter states).

I have only the bound volume for the year 1896-'97, which I lent to Sir Alexander Simpson. No doubt he would send it you, if you still care to see my handiwork.

of
As a Professor/Hebrew, it was of course his epoch-making "Conjectures" that I was interested in and to which my second article is entirely devoted. But I was interested in the man of whom I could, at the time, find nothing very informing. So I delved around in the British Museum, and even

Jean Astruc (continued).

BOOKS, 1913-5.

ventured so far ultra crepidam meam as to read - say rather, glance through - some of his medical works!! My first article is entirely biographical, and I fear contains nothing that is not well known to one, like yourself, acquainted with the history of medicine.

His case is one of the best illustrations I know of history's little ironies. Jean Astruc wrote his Conjectures to defend the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch against the freethinkers of his day, but in reality he drove the first nail into the coffin of Jewish tradition!

I am,

Yours sincerely,

A. S. Kennedy