

CUS417/4.17

Fred Johnson to Sir William Osler.
18th February 1912.

8 Theatre Street,
Norwich.

Sir,

Miss Williams of Prince of Wales Road, has been to see me about the collation of the MSS. here of the Religio Medici with the editions of 1642-43; she also showed me your letter to her.

This afternoon I have been to the Castle Museum and see the two MSS. and the two editions. One MS. in small 4^{to}. contains about 185 pp. and the other in a much smaller handwriting about 85pp. I am not very clear as to what is included in your definition of collation - do you desire mere variations in spelling noted, or only variations or omission in words etc.

I am also not very satisfied yet, as to best plan upon which to work, (always of course, supposing that an arrangement is made between us to that effect). I am wondering if I should take the 1643 (the authorized) edition as my basis and then give the variations on the other edition and the 2 MSS. as 1. 2. 3.

Of course, one must work on one or other of the 1642-3 editions in order to have a definite reference to each page and line and the edition that you would have would I imagine correspond with one of these, so as not to confuse the references.

Will you let me know your ideas on this and then I think I can better judge as to the possible cost. My usual charge for work of this kind is either per hour or per day (2/= an hour 10/= a day). I am doubtful if the MSS. would be allowed out of the Castle, except under a heavy insurance or bond of some kind - but I do not see any reason why I could not work at the Castle. It is not easy to estimate how long it would take, but I think it could not be done very quickly - such work requires care and cannot be hurried, but I can, if you prefer it, go into the matter more carefully when I know what your wishes and requirements are more fully.

Yours truly,
Fred Johnson.