

CUS417/35.3¹⁰

A Modern Sphinx - "Dr. James Barry"

Letters fr. Lieut-Colonel E. Rogers (late Staff Officer of Pensioners and Recruiting Officer, Manchester, 1874-89).

To W.O.

Gatling Villa,
267, Clapham Road,
S.W.

December 22, 1910.

Dear Professor Osler,

Some time ago you wrote to ask if I could let you have a copy of

A Modern Sphinx

I have one now that I could part with for 1 guinea - (I have only two copies of the novel myself)

I sent you a copy of a letter I wrote to the Lancet with photo: of Dr. Barry's grave in Kensal Green (Oct. 10 last).

I now send you the actual photograph (for which the guinea-charge the Editor refused to pay! He sent me 7/6 for the letter!).

There is a possibility of my republishing my novel in the "Daily Mail" series @ 6d. as recommended to the Editor by my "Savage" friend, Tom Marlowe, (Ed. of the "Daily Mail"). But this gentleman thinks the tale too long by some thousands of words! I have offered to reduce the pages, but as yet without effect!

It is too ridiculous; for apart from the unique career of Dr. Barry I had hoped the novel was good of its kind(?)

Yours faithfully,

E. ROGERS, Colonel.

From the same to W.O.

38, Gassiot Road,
Tooting, S.W.

CUS417/35.4

September 14, (1914²)

Dear Sir William Osler,

I was very pleased to get your note of the 9th, which shows the interest you have in Dr. Barry's remarkable career.

I first published my novel in monthly parts, 2nd as a 3 vol:- 3rd in single vol. shape, and 4th, as you know, 3 vols. in one. I offered the cheap edition @ 2/- to the "Daily Mail" Novel Company but the negotiations fell through and it was not re-published.

Dr. James Barry...2.

Col. Rogers' letter (continued).

I have only 4 copies of the book left:- 1. The Magazine edition. 2. The novel in 3 vols. 3. The novel in one vol. @ 2/-. 4. The 3 vols. bound in one.

This last is what you have seen and now I wish to present to you as I know you will appreciate it.

As regards the autopsy - there was an inquest of course and the a special report was made by 3 doctors as to her sex. I have seen this document at the medical branch of W.O. in Victoria Street. But as a matter of fact Dr. Barry's sex was discovered by Surgeon-General Longmore in Trinidad when attending her for a severe illness in 1844. A friend of mine (Colonel Montmorency) was present and told me all about it. I also corresponded with Sir T. Longmore at Netley on the subject - Longmore thought that Barry was worthy of a monument. My book and a photo of Dr. B. are kept at Netley. A life-sized portrait of her is at the Cape. Certainly her pluck deserves to be permanently recorded.

This is my address for the future, as I am laid up after two years' illness. I shall be 80 years old in November and cannot long survive, otherwise I would raise the question myself. I had her grave in Kensal Green done up; it was in a shameful condition. Excuse bad writing etc. and believe me to remain,

Your sincere friend,
E. ROGERS.

I enclose notice of Sphinx.

If you come to town I should like to meet you either here or at the Savage Club.

W.O.'s note below:-

See Phoebe Hassell (Hassell) of Northumberland Fusiliers in Peninsular War.

In the Army list for 1855 given as follows:-

39 years' service, 3 for half pay. Hosp. asst. July 5, 1813, Asst Surg. Dec. 7, 1815. Staff Surg. Nov. 22, 1827. Dep. Inst. Gen. May 16, 1851. Station Corfu.

There are other etc - Hannah L Ince "the British amazon" who was in the 6th Regt. of Foot.
Hera Sanders a sergeant for the slaves.
The Chevalier ~~de~~ d'Esta was another the other way round
referring a woman