

25

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 4 April 1922*

My dear Sigerist,

As regards the resolution of the French. I have been considering the matter carefully and if the French law of procedure is anything like the English law of procedure it is impossible to pass such a resolution as that which was passed in Paris demanding a unanimous vote to admit a new national society, except by giving special notice. The English law of procedure is that no motion which affects the constitution of a society can be put on the agenda unless full notice is given of it. This usually means two meetings and should have meant two meetings in this case. If I am right in this we can very easily reverse the decision at the London meeting.<sup>1</sup> If I find it cannot be done I shall certainly resign my membership of the International Society.<sup>2</sup> But I rather gather from a letter recently received from Lavastine that it can be done.

The object of this letter is to urge you to attend the meeting of the Society in London. The more people like yourself will come the more my views may be strengthened by your support.

It was decided at a recent meeting of our Council in London to send an invitation to Zürich University asking them to send a representative, who will of course be yourself.

Yours always,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup>The London meeting was to take place on 17–22 July 1922.

<sup>2</sup>International Society of the History of Medicine.

26

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 24 May[?] 1922*

My dear Sigerist,

I find that there is a letter from you on my table dated March 4th some elements of which are I think still unanswered.

I notice that you are interested in the MSS. of Solomon Negri<sup>1</sup> in the Hunterian Library at Glasgow. It is impossible to photograph them there. But it is possible to get them to London. If you care for this I could, I think, arrange for them to be here for a few weeks during your visit. One has to insure the MSS for a rather large sum (£ 1,000 I think) which costs about £ 3. But I think it could be done.

1922

Write to me if there are any other MSS you would like specially to see or any arrangements you would like to have made for study & I will try to help in every way in my power.

Klebs comes through London next week.

Yours always,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> Salomon Negri (c.1660–1729), philologist in Damascus and London.

27

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 25 May 1922*

My dear Sigerist,

At our International Congress we have, as you know, a section on “The Revival of Medical Knowledge during the 16th century”.

We have not yet a title of a paper from you. Could you not perhaps help us with this section?

I enclose a preliminary prospectus and programme.<sup>1</sup>

Yours always,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> Singer was President of the 2nd International Congress of the History of Medicine in July 1922 in London.

28

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 29 May 1922*

My dear Sigerist,

I see that your meeting of the Swiss Society begins on August 24th.<sup>1</sup> It is just possible that I shall be able to come to it.

I want to get a copy of Ladame’s Michel Servet in the Bulletin de l’Institut national genevois Genève 1914 tome XLI.<sup>2</sup> Could you perhaps get one for me sending me the bill? Was it perhaps unprinted?

As always,  
Charles Singer

1922

Klebs is here & I am meeting him today.  
C. S.

<sup>1</sup> Swiss Society of the History of Medicine; the first meeting after its foundation in 1921.

<sup>2</sup> Paul-Louis Ladame, 'Michel Servet, sa réhabilitation historique; son caractère – son oeuvre comme savant et sa découverte de la circulation pulmonaire', *Bulletin de l'Institut national genevois*, 1914, **41**: 225–319. Paul-Louis Ladame (1842–1919), Swiss neurologist; Michel (Miguel) Servet, (1511–1553) Spanish theologian and physician.

29

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 31 May 1922*

My dear Sigerist,

You can get a good idea of the character of Salomon Negri's work by looking at the article on "The Life and Works of Rhazes" by J. S.A. Rankin [sic]<sup>1</sup> on p.237 of the Section of the History of Medicine of the 17th International Congress of Medicine, London, 1914. This work is entirely taken from Negri's manuscript.

I will arrange to have a list of manuscripts of Apuleius in London ready for you, so as to waste as little of your time as possible.<sup>2</sup> You are quite right that there is a celebrated Anglo-Saxon translation (Cotton Vitellius C.3) at the British Museum. It is printed in Cockayne<sup>3</sup> and one of the illustrations is there reproduced. I have also reproduced several illustrations from it in Vol. II of my "Studies".<sup>4</sup> I have a very large number of other coloured figures of it and have been at work some time on it with an Anglo-Saxon scholar.<sup>5</sup>

It is good news that you are coming to the Congress. I know quite well that it is often much more comfortable for people to stay in hotels and I will not press the matter, but we have, in fact, ample and comfortable accomodation here and should be more than pleased to put you up. It would be a great pleasure to us both. We have so many things to talk about together that I think we should probably get through much more if you were with us. You have but to say the word and rooms will be reserved for you either in this house or close by. I would add that we are 25 minutes from the British Museum and it is much cooler up here than in town.

I have been invited to lecture in Glasgow in November next. It is a long journey – 12 hours each way – and I don't want particularly to go, but I would be partly determined by the question as to whether I could do any good by examining manuscripts. If, therefore, there are any points that you would like me to look up at Glasgow, let me know and that, together with my own needs in the matter, will partly determine my decision.

That is good news about your paper on the "Conflict between the 16th century Physicians and Antiquity".<sup>6</sup> I have put you down for it. It is just the sort of thing we want.

With best regards from us both,

Yours always,  
Charles Singer

1922

I have been asked to write an account of the Menon Papyrus<sup>7</sup> for a learned work here. I don't know anything special new on it. Do you?

<sup>1</sup> George S. A. Ranking (1852–1934), British surgeon; see *British Medical Journal*, 1934, ii: 336.

<sup>2</sup> Sigerist was engaged in cataloguing the medical manuscripts of Switzerland and was editing Apuleius. Ernst Howald and Henry E. Sigerist (eds), *Pseudo-Apulei herbarius*, *Corpus medicorum latinorum*; v. 4 (Leipzig/Berlin, 1927).

<sup>3</sup> Thomas O. Cockayne (1807–1873), philologist of Anglo-Saxon, and author of *Leechdoms, wortcunning and starcraft of Early England* (London: Longman, 1864–1866).

<sup>4</sup> See letter 5.

<sup>5</sup> Presumably J. H. G. Grattan, see letter 244.

<sup>6</sup> Probably for the London Congress of July 1922; not published.

<sup>7</sup> This medical papyrus, now in London, includes a list of the opinions of Greek doctors of the 5th and 4th century B.C. which most scholars believe goes back to Menon, the pupil of Aristotle, around 340 B.C., see W.H.S. Jones (ed.), *The medical writings of Anonymus Londinensis* (Cambridge: University Press, 1947).

30

*Dorothea Singer to Sigerist, London, 23 July 1922*

My dear Dr. Sigerist

It is too charming of you to have sent me these lovely roses. Thank you so very much. They are filling our room with lovely perfume & are a tangible reminder of the great pleasure we had in seeing you & Mrs. Sigerist. We are so very glad that you were able to come & we much look forward to seeing you in Switzerland next month.

With our warmest greetings to you and Mrs. Sigerist & with again so many thanks for the lovely roses

Yours very sincerely

D. Waley Singer

31

*Singer to Sigerist, Lugano, Switzerland, 24 August 1922*

My dear Sigerist,

We were so very glad to hear that you are going on well. Of course you must go very slowly and by no means think of answering this letter.

We start from here tomorrow for Mesocco. From there we are walking to Bonaduz where we shall pick up letters and from there to Andermatt where we shall pick up letters again. Perhaps we may be able to look in on you at Zurich later on in September if you are back by then but you and Mrs. Sigerist must on no account think of putting us up. We know quite well that her hands will be very full & we want to save her & you in every way.

1922

I think you will be interested to see the enclosed list of books. They are for sale by an old medical man who has had a hemiplegic stroke. He is willing to let them go for anything at which they are valued by a competent person. I have marked one or two Sig (Sigerist) & one or two A.C.K. and others C. S. (C. Singer) but any you or Klebs take a fancy to, by all means order as I am not set on any except perhaps the Cocchi.<sup>1</sup>

Let me have the list back, quite at your leisure. I have written to old Baker<sup>2</sup> to say that I cannot order any till I get home but asking him to reserve the marked books – which I am sure he will. I have also written to him to let you or Klebs have any you want.

I received Sudhoff's Pagel<sup>3</sup> for the British Medical Journal just before I left but I think it has not been printed yet. I will let you have a copy when it appears. I also write a leader for the Literary Supplement of the Times in which I ventured to use an idea from your paper at the Congress – the notion of the fertilising union of the mediaeval legacy of Greek science with the Renaissance inheritance of Greek letters. It seems to me a most illuminating idea which ought to be worked out in detail.

I called on Spät of L'Art ancien this morning & found him a very intelligent fellow, but not cheap.<sup>4</sup>

Lugano is very hot & we have been staying on Monte Salvatore where it is pleasant and cool though there are rather to many trippers in the afternoon. Today I had a letter from Sudhoff who is full of the exhibition of graphic art at Leipzig and wants me to send one or two things.

With best regards from both to both,

Yours ever,

Charles Singer

Please tell Mrs. Sigerist that we shall be very grateful if she will let us know how you go on.

<sup>1</sup> There are several medical authors named Cocchi: Antonio (1695–1758), Antonio-Celestino (1699–1747), Virgilio (1692–1736).

<sup>2</sup> Probably a bookseller.

<sup>3</sup> Karl Sudhoff, *Kurzes Handbuch der Geschichte der Medizin* (Berlin, 1922), a continuation of Julius Pagel's textbook on the history of medicine. Julius L. Pagel (1851–1912), German physician and medical historian. See Walter Pagel, 'Julius Pagel and the significance of medical history for medicine', *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 1951, 25: 207–225.

<sup>4</sup> Probably a bookseller.

32

*Singer to Sigerist, San Bernardino, Switzerland, 29 August 1922*

My dear Sigerist,

Isn't it beastly. I've just broken my leg here. Fibula only, simple fracture in 2 places. I had to be carried here about 1½ hours. My leg is now in plaster & I shall stay here in bed about 8 days & then try to get to Zurich where I must have massage[,] Rontgen Rays etc.

1922

Do advise me where to stay & whom to consult there?

How are you going on? This is an additional reason for not staying with you but we shall surely see a good deal of you.

I have written also to Klebs[.]

Best regards from both to both

Yours ever

Charles Singer

33

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 29 September 1922*

My dear Sigerist,

How are you? I hope you have not been doing too much. Do drop us a line to say you are going on all right. We are so grateful to you and your family for your kindness to us.

On arriving home I found on my table H. Kühn, Die Malerei der Eiszeit, published by Delphin Verlag of München.<sup>1</sup> It was bought for me by a friend who was visiting Germany and cost me about 7/6. It has 12 folio plates and a number of other drawings, and is a very beautiful reproduction. I thought you might like to know of this.

Yours ever,

Charles Singer

I also find the long expected solution by[?] Newbold of the Roger Bacon cypher.<sup>2</sup> Absolutely mad!

<sup>1</sup> Herbert Kühn, *Die Malerei der Eiszeit* (München, 1922).

<sup>2</sup> Newbold and Roger Bacon cypher not identified.

34

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 1 October 1922 (postcard)*

I notice that S. Bocca,<sup>1</sup> Via Fontanella di Borghese, 27, Roma 9 has the following 489. Du Cange<sup>2</sup> 1884 edition (the best), bound, 1500 lire 846. Mangetus. Bibliotheca anatomica. Geneva 1685.<sup>3</sup> Round 75 lire 1355[.] Thierfelder Additamenta ad Haeseri Bibliothecum

1922

[sic] 1843<sup>4</sup> 12 lire with 20% addition. These might interest you. Hope you are going on well.

Yours ever  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> A bookseller.

<sup>2</sup> See letter 13.

<sup>3</sup> Jean-Jacques Manget (1652–1742); Jean-Jacques Manget, *Bibliotheca anatomica* (Geneva, 1685).

<sup>4</sup> Johann G. Thierfelder, *Additamenta ad Henrici Haeseri bibliothecam epidemiographicam* (Meissen, 1943), on a work of the medical historian Heinrich Haeser (1811–1884).

35

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 3 October 1922 (postcard)*

I saw Elliot Smith<sup>1</sup> for a few minutes yesterday. He will write for the Sudhoff Volume “On the beginnings of Science”.<sup>2</sup> I thought you would like to hear this at once.  
C. S.

<sup>1</sup> Grafton Elliot Smith (1871–1937) British anatomist and anthropologist. See Graham Richards, ‘Smith, Sir Grafton Elliot (1871–1937)’, *Oxford dictionary of national biography* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), vol 51, 156–157.

<sup>2</sup> Charles Singer and Henry E. Sigerist (eds), *Essays in the history of medicine presented to Karl Sudhoff on the occasion of his seventieth birthday November 25th 1923* (London/Zurich, 1924); see Letter 64, note 2.

36

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 11 October 1922*

My dear Sigerist,

We were very glad to get your card and hope things will go on all right now. You will be glad to see the enclosed from Lewis who is delighted to have that Welsh book.<sup>1</sup> Don’t return it.

My leg goes on as well as possible and I am getting about in fair comfort. I am told I shall be quite all right in about a month.

I hope you won’t attempt to lecture this term and will have a good time at Lugano with no thought of work!

With best wishes from us both to you all,

Yours ever,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> Timothy Lewis (1877–1958), scholar in Celtic palaeography. The Welsh book not identified.

37

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 5 December 1922*

My dear Sigerist,

Thanks for your letter of December 2nd. Please forgive me for not having answered sooner I have been very upset by the very grave illness of my mother.

Comrie,<sup>1</sup> Elliot Smith, Withington,<sup>2</sup> and Streeter<sup>3</sup> have all accepted. To that list you must of course add my name.<sup>4</sup> I have written to Garrison but have not yet had an answer. Now that I have your list I will begin to attack the doubtfuls.

By all means let me have the lantern slides together with an account. The College<sup>5</sup> will pay all right. How many were there?

That is good news that you are properly at work again. I think it is quite all right about Ketham<sup>6</sup> although I have been so buried under with work that I have not had time to think about it. I do not think there is any doubt that Klebs and I are to work for the Italian firm.<sup>7</sup> I do not know about overlapping Sudhoff but I will make a point of sounding him on the subject.

With best regards from house to house,

Yours always,

Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> John D. Comrie (1875–1939), Scottish historian of medicine. See ‘John Dixon Comrie, M.A., B.Sc., M.D.’, *British Medical Journal*, 1939, **ii**: 789.

<sup>2</sup> Edward T. Withington (1860–1947), British historian of medicine; see ‘E. T. Withington, M.B.’, *British Medical Journal*, 1947, **i**: 698.

<sup>3</sup> Edward C. Streeter (1874–1947), medical historian at Yale University, pupil of Sudhoff. See Henry R. Viets, ‘Edward Clark Streeter (1874–1947)’, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 1947, **21**: 843–845.

<sup>4</sup> Contributors to the Sudhoff Festschrift.

<sup>5</sup> University College London.

<sup>6</sup> Iohannes de Ketham (15th century), poorly identified editor of medical texts and drawings. In 1923 work on Ketham led to certain irritation between Klebs, Sigerist, Singer, and Sudhoff; see the Sigerist-Klebs correspondence in Marcel H. Bickel (ed.), *Henry E. Sigerist: Vier ausgewählte Briefwechsel mit Medizin-historikern der Schweiz* (Bern, 2008).

<sup>7</sup> Lier & Co., publishers, Milan.

38

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 5 January 1923*

My dear Sigerist,

Many thanks for your letter of Jan 1st. That is good news about the publisher. Now about the plan of the book.<sup>1</sup> I enclose an article I have written for it for your approval.<sup>2</sup> You will note that it [is] in the nature of a review of work done & does not profess to be original. I think it is better so. I also think that a short list of the more important work

reviewed – as distinct from bibliography – is better than complete documentation for our purpose.

If you approve of this idea I will at once start getting in my people<sup>3</sup> from this point of view.

I have written to Garrison but have not yet had a reply. I have also written to Maar<sup>4</sup> & Fonahn<sup>5</sup> but as I have not heard from them I'll write again. Wickersheimer I have intentionally left till last.

All my other people have accepted, Comrie, Withington, Streeter, Elliot Smith. If you pass my plan I'll get them to write on similar lines.

I've had a great upset here. My mother died (aged 83) a month ago & I have had much to do looking after her affairs. Now I have lost the use of my secretary for a time & she will not be back till next week.

But the article is done – that's the great thing. Best wishes to you all from us both for the New Year,

Yours ever,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> Sudhoff Festschrift, Singer and Sigerist (1924a).

<sup>2</sup> Charles Singer and Dorothea Singer, 'The origin of the Medical School of Salerno', in Singer and Sigerist (1924), 121–138.

<sup>3</sup> Comrie, Withington, Streeter, Smith.

<sup>4</sup> Vilhelm Maar (1871–1940), Danish medical historian; see Edvard Gotfredsen, 'Vilhelm Maar (8. Juni 1871–18. Mai 1940)', *Mitteilungen zur Geschichte der Medizin und der Naturwissenschaften und der Technik*, 1940, **39**: 212–213.

<sup>5</sup> Adolf M. Fonahn (1873–1940), Norwegian orientalist and medical historian.

## 39

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 24 January 1923*

My dear Sigerist,

You must really forgive me for being such a very bad correspondent. I feel very guilty about it. But you would not believe how pressed I have been during the last few weeks. I have had to write two articles for a volume edited by Marvin;<sup>1</sup> I have had to get finished my article on "Science" for the "Legacy of Rome";<sup>2</sup> I have had to write an introduction to a school-book on "The History of Science";<sup>3</sup> I have had any amount of reviewing;<sup>4</sup> I have had to prepare my lectures for the term, and I have been getting Hippocrates into its final state.<sup>5</sup> However, I feel a little less rushed now and am able to turn round.

Firstly, I must thank you most sincerely for your two admirable volumes on "Dark Age Texts" and on "Ambroise Paré".<sup>6</sup> They are both most valuable and treasured contributions. Curiously enough, we have sent off to the printer this very week our own little volume on Paré which is to appear in my wife's name.<sup>7</sup>

I have this morning sent letters to Fonahn, Leersum, Maar and Sarton,<sup>8</sup> copies of which I enclose. The four letters differ only as regards one sentence. I have also written

to Streeter and Garrison copies of whose letters I also enclose. I have written also to Professor E. G. Browne at your suggestion.

As regards Lier & Co. and their taking up the editing of that series of Kleins.<sup>9</sup> They are quite right that I have been very negligent, but the reason for my negligence is the same as for my negligence of you. It is really pressure of work which is now, I am glad to say, less. I have had their letter on my table for weeks, meaning to answer it.

I should be delighted to join you or Klebs or both of you in editing such a series as you suggest, but having neglected it so long I feel very guilty in the matter. I think the best thing to do would be for you to edit the series and for me to undertake the Ketham either alone or in conjunction with Sudhoff.

I have an idea that I could make it more readable than Sudhoff could, and a volume written in English would probably have a greater sale. If he would like it why not send his plates to me with the material, allow me to write it up, and let it appear in both our names, his of course to come first? This is what I should really like best, and you may assure him that I should be proud to place my name under his in an English work.<sup>10</sup>

As regards the general editing of the series, I really feel that as things have gone so long it would be best for you to take on the whole series as editor and I will back you up as much as I can, and specifically by undertaking this Ketham right away. If, however, you think it would help to add my name you are most welcome to do so, and I should think that Klebs would take the same view. I think I could make some suggestions, particularly in the department of MSS. We have one or two manuscripts in the British Museum which certainly ought to be facsimiled, notably the French Roger of Parma which I could easily do also.<sup>11</sup>

You may absolutely rely on me not to run in any way a rival show of facsimiles. Anything that you settle with Lier I am sure to be content with.

Yours ever,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> Charles Singer, 'Ancient medicine', in F. S. Marvin (ed.), *Science and civilization* (London, 1923), 43–71; Charles Singer, 'The Dark Ages and the dawn', *ibid.*, 112–160.

<sup>2</sup> Charles Singer, 'Science', in C. Bailly (ed.), *The legacy of Rome* (Oxford, 1923), 265–324.

<sup>3</sup> Not published under this title.

<sup>4</sup> In 1922 Singer published 10 book reviews.

<sup>5</sup> 'Hippocrates' not published under this title.

<sup>6</sup> Probably Henry E. Sigerist, *Studien und Texte zur frühmittelalterlichen Rezeptliteratur* (Leipzig, 1923) and Henry E. Sigerist (ed.), *Ambroise Paré, Die Behandlung der Schusswunden* (Leipzig, 1923).

<sup>7</sup> Dorothea W. Singer, *Selections from the works of Ambroise Paré* (London 1924).

<sup>8</sup> E. C. van Leersum: Dutch medical historian; see M. A. van Andel, 'In memoriam Prof. Dr. E. C. van Leersum', *Janus*, 1939, 43: 81–83. George Sarton (1884–1956) Belgian-American historian of science. See *Isis* George Sarton Memorial Issue, Sept 1957, 48 (3).

<sup>9</sup> J. T. Klein (1685–1759) published on zoology. 'Series of Kleins' not edited by Singer.

<sup>10</sup> Charles Singer (ed.), *The Fasciculus Medicinæ of Johannes de Ketham, Alemanus*. With an Introduction by Karl Sudhoff, translated by C. Singer (Milan: Lier, 1924). Singer had corresponded with Sudhoff about Ketham.

<sup>11</sup> Roger Frugard of Parma, 12th century surgeon in southern Italy; not edited by Singer.

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 29 January 1923*

My dear Sigerist,

If you like you may transmit the enclosed letter to Sudhoff, either with or without a covering letter from yourself.

I am sorry to say that Leersum won't hear of contributing to the volume.<sup>1</sup> E. G. Browne would like to but is doubtful if he can find time. I shall try to persuade him, and shall be in Cambridge next month for the purpose.

Yours always,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup>The Sudhoff volume, Singer and Sigerist (1924).

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 1 February 1923*

My dear Sigerist,

I have written right off to Streeter to suggest that he should do "Renaissance Anatomy" rather than Renaissance Medicine as a whole.

I am so glad you are taking on Lier's job. I'll help all that I can most gladly. My idea was also to reproduce pages from different editions of Ketham and to have a general survey of the book as a whole. We'll see how Sudhoff takes it. I shan't be at all hurt if he does it on his own, but I think it very likely that he will like to collaborate with me.

Of course if we reproduce manuscripts in England it would not be in the least necessary to make the clichés in England. It would only be necessary to make the photographs here, unless perchance we decided to have coloured figures.

Of course I would do the 1478 Mondino.<sup>1</sup> Another suggestion that I would make is Malpighi's *De pulmonibus* of 1661 (Bologna).<sup>2</sup> There is no copy of this in England and it is excessively rare. Doubtless it is to be found in Italy. You remember that it is the first work containing a description of the capillaries. It is quite short.

Maar and Leersum have just refused with a considerable degree of ferocity! Under the circumstances I decided to invite Fishbein also and have written to him.<sup>3</sup> I think you will approve of this.

I have just had a letter from E. G. Browne to say that he thinks he will be able to do something after all.

Have you seen the article by Breasted<sup>4</sup> in the last number of the Bulletin of the Society of Medical History of Chicago? on the "Edwin Smith Papyrus"? It is earlier than the Ebers and very much more scientific.<sup>5</sup> If Breasted is right he has produced a new

document of fundamental value which must entirely alter our views as to the origin of science. Much of what I have written about the beginnings of Greek science will have to be re-written.

With best regards to you all from us both,  
Yours ever,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> Mondino de Liucci (c.1275–1326), Italian anatomist. See Vern L. Bullough, ‘Mondino dei Liucci’, *Complete dictionary of scientific biography*, Vol. 9 (Detroit: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2008), 467–469.

<sup>2</sup> Marcello Malpighi (1628–1694), Italian anatomist; Marcello Malpighi, *De pulmonibus observationes anatomicae*, Bologna, 1661. See Luigi Belloni, ‘Malpighi, Marcello’, *Complete dictionary of scientific biography*, Vol. 9 (Detroit: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2008), 62–66.

<sup>3</sup> Morris Fishbein, (1889–1976), editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and historian of medicine and science; see *Morris Fishbein, M.D.: an autobiography* (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1969); and ‘Former editor Dr Morris Fishbein dies’, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1976, **236**: 1820–1822’.

<sup>4</sup> J. H. Breasted, ‘The Edwin Smith Papyrus: an Egyptian medical treatise of the seventeenth century before Christ’, *Bulletin of the Society of Medical History of Chicago*, 1923, **3**: 58–78. James Henry Breasted (1865–1935), archaeologist and historian, see W. R. Dawson, ‘James Henry Breasted’, *The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*, 1936, **1**: 179–184.

<sup>5</sup> Edwin Smith and Ebers, Egyptian papyri.

42

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 2 February 1923*

My dear Sigerist,

Many thanks for your letter of Jan. 31st. Your suggestion that I should do the 1493 Italian Ketham and Sudhoff the 1491 seems to me quite satisfactory, and I will gladly fall in with your plans.

It seems a pity that the two should not appear at the same time, but I should like to have Sudhoff’s material before me while I prepare mine. I think in that way I could make a better job of it. Perhaps I might have proof sheets of the facsimiles sent me?

W. G. Spencer will be coming here one day next week.<sup>1</sup> He has given me that excellent paper that he read on the figures in the *Epitome* of Vesalius<sup>2</sup> to publish in the next volume of my “Studies”. It looks, however, as though Vol. III of my “Studies” will be some time in appearing. I therefore think that it would be a good idea for me to ask him to put the article into our volume for Sudhoff.<sup>3</sup> He has some beautiful clichés for it, and I know he has a great admiration for Sudhoff.

I had a letter from Klebs this morning which rather suggests that he is a little offended about this business with Lier! If he is, it is entirely my fault for not answering letters promptly and you may put it all on to me!

As regards asking the French to contribute to the Sudhoff volume, I have been awaiting a favourable opportunity and clearly that has not yet arrived. I fear there is nothing for it but to leave them as late as possible. When we have a volume with plenty of English and

American names – and it is now certain that we shall have these – we can tell them how the matter stands.

Have you had anything from Italy yet?

Yours ever,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> Walter G. Spencer (1858–1940) English surgeon and medical historian. See *British Medical Journal*, 1940, **ii**: 649–650.

<sup>2</sup> Andreas Vesalius (1514–1564) anatomist; Epitome to his *De humani corporis fabrica* (Vesalius 1552).

<sup>3</sup> Walter G. Spencer, ‘The “Epitome” of Vesalius on vellum in the British Museum Library’, in Singer and Sigerist (eds), (1924), 237–244.

43

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 5 February 1923*

My dear Sigerist,

(1) Enclosed from Browne is very difficult to read. The relevant passage runs as follows: -

["I should like to contribute to Sudhoff's *Festschrift*<sup>1</sup> but shrink from Bibliography. I would like to write a short account, of my rare Arabic MS *Magala* [...] <sup>2</sup> ("Discourse on the Generation of Man") by Abu'l Hasan Said ibn Hibaluh'Nah court physician to the Caliph al-Mugtadi who died in A.D. 1101. My copy was made in A.D. 1096 while the author was still living. There is another MS at Oxford which I have not seen. The book is mostly about Embryology & Psychology, but as yet I have only examined it superficially. We can discuss it when we meet."

I go to Cambridge & stay with him for a day or two next Monday. Of course I shall accept though his suggestion is off our line. It is important & too good to lose. Also he is too eminent to miss. I feel sure you will agree.

(2) I enclose also Fonahn's letter. I am less certain about including him. The article[,] however[,] on the "Grabadin" might be extended a bit to be made of more general interest & something dragged in about the "Mesue" collection.<sup>3</sup>

In favour of including Fonahn is that he is the only Scandinavian that has accepted & it is evident that we shall be short of non-English & non-German contributors.

(3) Poelter[?]<sup>4</sup> let me have my article back. I can brush[?] it up a bit & add one or two new facts that I have found. But you can have it the very moment you want to go to Press.

Yours ever,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> Browne did not contribute to the *Festschrift*, Singer and Sigerist (1924).

<sup>2</sup> Arabic transcriptions are left out.

<sup>3</sup> Grabadin, a medieval compendium of drugs by J. Mesue (Mesue collection).

<sup>4</sup> Poelter or Poetter not identified.

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 27 February 1923*

My dear Sigerist,

You haven't let me have back my MS. of Salerno.<sup>1</sup> There are a few things I should like to alter and amplify in it.

D'Arcy Power has consented to write an article for the Sudhoff volume. It will be on the "History of Antiseptic Surgery since its inception".<sup>2</sup> He can of course write it from personal memory. I have to-day also written to Walter Spencer. I think he will give us the article that he gave at the Congress, and he has some clichés in illustration of it which I think he might lend us.

To-day there comes from Lynn Thorndike his two-volume "History of Magic and Experimental Science during the first thirteen centuries of our era". It looks to me a work of enormous erudition.<sup>3</sup>

Very many thanks for the excellent lantern slides. They are really beautiful, but most unfortunately they do not fit the English lantern. I only discovered this a few days before yours arrived, when I had similarly a number sent to me by Sudhoff. You must, however, let me know the cost so that I may send you a cheque.

The English lanterns are made to hold a slide of 8.1 cms x 8.1 cms. Some of your slides I can cut down, but about two thirds of them I cannot. I think, however, even in these cases I can have other slides made from them.

You will be interested to see the enclosed project for a summer school at Vienna. Our present scheme is to come to Switzerland about the middle of July with a couple of our nieces, to spend a fortnight on walking tour, and then to go on to Vienna. I wonder if you and Mrs. Sigerist would care to come there. I expect you are already booked up.

I have not yet had the plates of Ketham. With best regards from us both to you all,

Yours ever,  
Charles Singer

P.S. I enclose a letter from Streeter which explains itself. As he is going to Salerno I have written to him to know if he can secure a photograph of that MS. that Capparoni has been working on.<sup>4</sup> I should think that Capparoni and Wellcome between them are sure to do something that will be quite useless, so that we shall have to get it done anyhow!

<sup>1</sup> Charles Singer and Dorothea Singer, 'The origin of the Medical School of Salerno', in Singer and Sigerist (1924), 121–138.

<sup>2</sup> D'Arcy Power's article did not appear in the Sudhoff Festschrift.

<sup>3</sup> Lynn Thorndike (1882–1965), historian/medievalist at Columbia University; see *Isis*, 1966, 57: 88–89. Lynn Thorndike, *History of magic and experimental science during the first thirteen centuries of our era* (New York, 1923–1958).

<sup>4</sup> Pietro Capparoni (1868–1947), Italian medical historian; see Andrea Corsini, 'Pietro Capparoni 1868–1947', *Rivista di Storia delle Scienze Mediche e Naturali*, 1947, 27: i–ii. Pietro Capparoni, *Magistri salernitani nondum cogniti*. (London, 1923) was published in the series of Wellcome Historical Medical Museum Research Studies in Medical History.

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 7 March 1923*

My dear Sigerist,

Many thanks for your letter. No matter about the diapositives. Although they do not fit our ordinary lanterns, I find that, as a matter of fact, there are a good many lanterns that they can be used for with a little manipulation, and as you kindly sent the photographs I can have slides made from them by our college photographer.

Thanks, too, for the bill. I am passing it through the college account and you will be paid in a few weeks. If, however, you would like to be paid earlier, let me know, and I daresay it could be managed.

Walter Spencer, I think I wrote to you, will let us have that excellent article on Vesalius,<sup>1</sup> which should especially appeal to Sudhoff for it contains figures of the Epitome (of which he will lend the clichés) which have never before been used.

Sarton is entirely in sympathy with the idea of giving a volume to Sudhoff, but feels he cannot do anything as he is so very rushed. Fishbein, however, has consented.<sup>2</sup>

We shall be taking a walking tour in Switzerland during the last fortnight in July with one of my nieces. When we know your movements we shall be able to arrange to meet, I have no doubt.

I have been reading a good deal of Lynn Thorndike's book. It is undoubtedly a very fine piece of work, and will enormously facilitate future researches. It might, I think have been a good deal condensed without diminishing its usefulness, but one must be grateful to him for what he has done, and must not cavil at minor defects. Among his other achievements he has codified and rendered accessible all the work of Steinschneider.<sup>3</sup> I shall review it in the most friendly possible fashion.<sup>4</sup>

Yours ever,  
Charles Singer

Thanks for the Salerno article safely received.<sup>5</sup> You shall have it back again in due course.

I am telling contributors to the Sudhoff volume that their articles must be in in May. I hope that you are keeping well & getting all the open air you can.

<sup>1</sup> Spencer (1924).

<sup>2</sup> Fishbein has no article in the published Sudhoff Festschrift.

<sup>3</sup> Moritz Steinschneider (1816–1907) published on Arabic and Hebrew Literature.

<sup>4</sup> Charles Singer, 'Review of L. Thorndike: A history of magic and experimental science', *Observer*, 13 May 1923, p.5.

<sup>5</sup> Singer and Singer (1924).

46

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 23 March 1923*

My dear Sigerist,

I find on looking through some of the letters on my table, that there is a point in your last which I had not answered. I should be quite satisfied with £15 for doing Ketham for Lier.

There is one matter in which I might be able to help him. I have the negative, full size, of the very fine dissection scene in the 1493 Italian edition of Ketham. This I would gladly place at his disposal. I have made several attempts to get it coloured in accordance with the original, but all of these have so far failed. The difficulty is that the colours have of course different tone-values in the photograph. Therefore, to get a satisfactory picture, the artist must first get a tracing of the photograph itself and then fill in the colours. It occurs to me as a possible solution that we might send to Italy a print of the photograph and get someone there to trace it, and then have it re-coloured at the British Museum. It is in the tracing that the British artist always seems to break down.

Yours ever,  
Charles Singer

I've asked Thorndike to write for the volume.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Lynn Thorndike, 'Disputed dates, civilization and climate, and traces of magic in the Scientific Treatises ascribed to Theophrastus', in Singer and Sigerist (1924), 73–86.

47

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 5 April 1923*

My dear Sigerist,

Just a line to say that today I have sent off signed my contract to Lier. I go away today to Belgium returning on April 21st.<sup>1</sup>

On my return I will at once set about getting in the papers for the Sudhoff Festschrift. These should be in by the end of May.

On June 6th my lectures end. I will then start on Ketham at once. Fishbein has accepted to write to Sudhoff. I have not yet heard from Thorndike.

Yours always,  
Charles Singer

P.S. Poor old Klebs was fuzzing about London last week.

I wonder if Sudhoff would really have a chance for the Nobel Prize? You can hardly call him a 'literary' man & as a scholar I fear he would come after Wilamowitz<sup>2</sup> or

Heiberg.<sup>3</sup> But, of course, if they do award the prize for medical history there could be no two opinions that Sudhoff is the man.

We like Silberschmidt very much.<sup>4</sup> I've been able to put him in touch with the people he wants who all like him.

<sup>1</sup> To the Congress of Historians.

<sup>2</sup> Ulrich von Wilamowitz (1848–1931) German classical philologist.

<sup>3</sup> Johan Ludvig Heiberg (1854–1928), Danish philologist.

<sup>4</sup> William Silberschmidt (1869–1947) Swiss hygienist, was Singer's guest.

48

*Singer to Sigerist, Brussels, 13 April 1923*

My dear Sigerist,

(1) While at the Congress of Historians here I have visited the Royal Library at Bruxelles to see the well known IXth-Xth cent. MS. of Muscio.<sup>1</sup> It is suitable for reproduction in your series. If you like the idea I would edit it. No colours are needed though on several pages they are desirable. All the pages also have some red words in them[?] but these need not be rendered red. The pages to be reproduced are MS 3701-15 folio 15 recto to 31 verso included.

The pages that it would be desirable to colour are 16v, 26v, 27, 27v, 28, 28v & 29. Arthur Langsberg, Avenue Victor Jacobs 60, Bruxelles will take photographs of the MS 18x24 cms (practically full size) at Belgian 9 francs per negative & 1.80 for each print. The present exchange is 25 Swiss francs = 81 Belgian francs.

(2) Mme Wickersheimer<sup>2</sup> spoke to me of the possibility of your being invited to succeed Sudhoff. I do hope you will be & I hope also you would accept but that they will provide a proper position[?] for you at Zurich. If I were in your place I think I would rather have a small post in Zurich than a large one at Leipzig!

But can I do anything to help? Can I, for instance write to any one at Leipzig? You know we have [...] a "Board of Studies" at London University for the "Principles History & Method of Science" at which I have now been officially appointed Secretary. I could write in that capacity. The chairman of the Board is Prof A. N. Whitehead who is very well known as a philosopher & mathematician.<sup>3</sup> I daresay he would sign such a letter. But let me know frankly because I don't want to do anything that would injure you. Perhaps I could write to some one at Zurich?

Best regards from both to both,

Yours ever,

Charles Singer

This Congress is very tiring

<sup>1</sup> Muscio or Mustio (c.500 A.D), supposed author of a treatise of gynaecology.

<sup>2</sup> Wife of Ernest Wickersheimer, see letter 14.

<sup>3</sup> Alfred N. Whitehead (1861–1947), mathematician and philosopher. See E. T. Whittaker, 'Whitehead, Alfred North (1861–1947)', rev. I. Grattan-Guinness, *Oxford dictionary of national biography* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), vol. 58, 652–654.

49

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 22 April 1923a*

My dear Sigerist,

Many thanks for your card & letter which reached me, after some wandering, at Ghent. It is good of you to have offered to do anything for me at Rome but I had no need at the moment.

On my return from Belgium I find this article from Garrison awaiting me.<sup>1</sup> I send it on to you at once because, as Garrison lives such a very long way away, in the Phillipine [sic] Islands, I think it would be a good thing if this particular article for the Sudhoff volume were set up in type at once so as to give Garrison time to care of the proofs. You might perhaps ask the publishers if this could not be done.

Best regards,

Yours ever,

Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> Fielding H Garrison, 'The newer epidemiology', in Singer and Sigerist (1924), 255–268.

50

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 22 April 1923b*

My dear Sigerist,

Thanks for your letter of 15. 4. 23. There are several figures of the 1493 Ketham which are among the finest woodcuts ever made. These must be included.

I agree[,] however[,] that the Latin text of 1495 is more valuable than the Italian of 1493.

The situation is therefore that I should publish in one volume

(a) The figures of the Italian Ketham of 1493

(b) The Latin text of 1495 including that of Mondino<sup>1</sup>

(c) The figures of the 1495 edition where they differ from those of 1493 sufficiently to be of importance

1923

(d) Such figures from other editions as illustrate the subsequent history of the work.  
Yours ever,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> Mondino (Mundinus), probably da Luzzi, 13th century; there are several medieval medical authors of that name. See letter 41.

51

*Singer to Sigerist, London, 23 April 1923*

My dear Sigerist,

I have spent the day at the British Museum in the editions of Ketham of which there are 10 copies there.

I came to the conclusion that the following would make the best publication if it can be done: – (1) A complete facsimile of the 1493 edition. This is the largest page, the best print & much the most beautiful. It contains Mundinus (though in Italian) (2) A reprint (not facsimile) in small print of the text of the 1495 edition. On so large a page as is needed for (1) this would go with a very few pages. (3) A translation into English of passages from (2), notably of the text of Mundinus. (4) Reproductions, which can be on a reduced scale, of certain of the illustrations in the 1495 & later editions. (5) Introductory explanatory & bibliographical matter by myself.

If this is too ambitious I suggest leaving out some of the facsimile pages that are merely in type of (1).

Do you know where I can find a copy of the edition of 1509 printed in Milan by Giovanni di Castellione? It is said to have very beautiful figures.

I am greatly interested in this piece of work & much looking forward to it. I expect I shall have to go over to Paris in the course of doing it.

Yours ever  
Charles Singer

52

*Sigerist to Singer, Zurich?, 26 April 1923*

My dear Singer,

Many thanks for your last letters. Excuse my not answering them earlier. When I came home from Rome there was so much work waiting for me that I hadn't time for anything.

I had a letter yesterday from Lier telling me that he hadn't yet got any news from you. Your letter of April 5th must have got lost on the way. Would you write just a few lines to Lier saying that you have sent the contract already and that you agree to his conditions.