

1257  
B. Corfield  
16 Story Street  
Cambridge 38, Mass.

**AIR LETTER  
AÉROGRAMME**

Dr. W. W. Francis  
570 Milton Street  
Montreal, QUEBEC  
CANADA



**VIA AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION**

NO TAPE OR STICKER MAY BE ATTACHED  
IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED, THIS LETTER  
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

SECOND FOLD

FIRST FOLD

16 Story Street  
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts  
March 10, 1957

Dear Dr. Francis:

Time flies, and I think you may not remember a solitary searcher into the mysteries of Sir Thomas Browne at the Osler Library in 1949. I had the pleasure in about a week's time of using the collection of Browne materials which came under your care, and of seeing many precious books Sir William Osler had gathered together. I have never forgotten your kind helpfulness.

This note is just to let you know that at long last-- after an interruption of five and a half years, during which time I have been teaching English in Women's Christian College of the University of Madras, India-- I have completed the dissertation, "Studies in Sir Thomas Browne's Pseudodoxia Epidemica," under the lucid direction of one of Harvard's finest scholars, Douglas Bush (who is a Toronto man). It has been a struggle to get back into the swing of research after five years away, and with the accumulated laziness of a tropical tour behind me! But it has been accomplished. The degree will come along (from Radcliffe College) in June, when I am in England en route once more to my post in Madras (for another five-year stay). I couldn't let the chance to tell you slip by untaken, for I have "enshrined" you in my preface, and I am most sincerely grateful to you for your part in helping me along my way.

The studies developed into a comparison of subject matter conclusions, criteria, etc., of the Ps. Ep. and Stephen Patman's Batman uppon Bartholome, His Booke De Proprietatibus Rerum (1582--a revision of the earlier encyclopedia a comparison (along similar lines) of the Ps. Ep. and Francis Bacon's Sylva Sylvarum and Historia Naturalis; and a study in some detail of the contemporary criticism which greeted the Ps. Ep. as represented in the comments of Alexander Ross, John Robinson, Dean Christopher Wren, and Sir Hamon L'Estrange (the L'Estrange material still rests in MS in the B.M., where I used it last summer to my delight). The thing sounds a bit of a hodge-podge, but it has unity and was fun to work up.

I found out your whereabouts from Dr. Barbara Gurd, of the Radcliffe College Health Center. I have been there often to get the numerous "shots" tropics make necessary and pre-sailing requirements demand! She was sweet about finding out from her family in Montreal how I could reach you.

I sail for England May 8th, D.V. And I fly on to India in June. I wish time allowed a visit to Montreal. My memories of my 1949 trip there are vivid and most pleasant.

With all good wishes for your health and prosperity,  
I remain,

Sincerely yours,  
*Bertha May Corfield*  
Bertha May Corfield

(India: Women's Christian College  
Madras 31.)

Amid 20th: Open, etc. to him, from 11, (Pres. Lib. N. 2)  
address on  
Other Counsel (his, & or his...?) Larry Finch,  
with collection less modest than he is about it, Life.  
Pre-union vol. meant unpublished. His mission, despite  
an administration for the future of your country, will not carry a  
little more. W. W. F.

A-11 Mower Hall  
Harvard University  
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts  
July 18, 1949

Dr. W. W. Francis  
The Osler Library  
McGill University  
Montreal, Quebec

Dear Dr. Francis:

In a letter just received from Dr. Gordon K. Chalmers of Kenyon College I have learned of your curatorship of The Osler Library. Dr. Chalmers has suggested that for bibliographical purposes I might find a visit to McGill profitable, since I am just beginning a doctoral dissertation at Radcliffe College on Sir Thomas Browne. I do hope such a trek will be feasible.

I have in mind a series of studies in Browne's PSEUDODOXIA, with special reference to the third book and the literary tradition in which it lies. Dr. Douglas Bush of Harvard University will supervise my work.

Is the Osler Library open for inspection during August? I am currently in Cambridge, making the most I can of a summer on the scene before I return to my teaching duties at the University of Illinois, and I should like to come by and see the Browne material, if it is possible to do so, before returning to the Middle West in late August or early September.

I should gratefully value any information you can shed on the general subject of Browne materials available on this side of the Atlantic. Dr. Chalmers tells me of the John Fulton collection at the Yale School of Medicine.

Very truly yours,

Bertha Mae Corfield

Bertha Mae Corfield

~~Photograph~~ New Hartford Conn.  
→ CORNER July 20/34

Dear Dr Francis.

I shall be very glad  
on my return to Balto. to  
send you a photograph  
of the portrait which I  
painted of Dr Asler for the  
old Faculty building & also  
two rather unimportant  
snap shots that I made  
of him at the time.

I do not remember any  
copy of the photograph being  
published in any periodical

I always regretted that  
my portrait of Dr. Oler.  
did not come up to the  
best of my work. He was  
not an easy subject &  
was also very busy at the  
time preparing to leave for  
England. He made the remark  
one morning that he did  
not feel really alive until  
after 12 o'clock, so I did  
not see him at his best.  
Wm. M. Chase of N.Y. painted  
him for the University  
of Penna. I think it was.  
I have heard that he did

succeed either. Seymour  
Thomas, now living at Los-  
Angeles, made a portrait  
that Dr Welch liked very  
much. There is an early  
photograph 1894 perhaps  
which was reproduced  
(quite small) in one of the  
Students' year books of the  
University.

Yours very truly  
Thos. C. Corner

To Dr W. W. Francis  
McGill University

DEAN CORNWELL  
GAINSBOROUGH STUDIOS  
222 CENTRAL PARK SOUTH  
NEW YORK CITY

2 Dec.  
30 November, 1939

November 29, 1939

Mr. Dean Cornwell,  
Gainsborough Studios,  
222 Central Park S.,  
New York

Dear Mr. Cornwell,

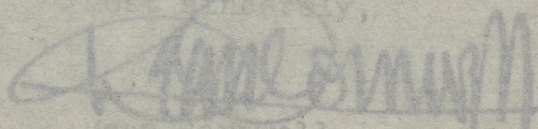
Osler Library

McGill I am glad to hear that the Osler picture is under way, and I hope it will be a great success. I enclose my own copy of the 1877 photo of Osler taken when he was about 28. This is the one you asked for, the original being #45899 at Messrs. Notman & Sons, 1330 Sherbrooke St. E. You may keep this copy as long as you wish to but I should like to have it back ultimately. We have one copy of the original photograph which I would prefer not to send unless you really need it. It shows the eyes rather more clearly than the enclosed copy. This is the picture which forms the frontispiece of the Life of Osler. of Dr Osler, negative number 45,899. Unless I am mistaken this is the same one with kind regards and best wishes, etc in Dr Cushing's book; it seems to fit the pose I need and if you would be kind to Yours sincerely, I will be happy to forward the amount as soon as I hear from you. I cannot for the love of God remember the name of the photographer in Toronto who has these negatives although I did call on him and take down the numbers while I was there.

W. L. F.

I wish to thank you again for your interest and hospitality, and as soon as the picture is finished I shall send you a photograph of it.

Most sincerely,



Dean Cornwell

If there is any difficulty in the photographer locating the negative and you can lend me a photograph for a week, I could have this copied and returned to you in good condition.

DEAN CORNWELL  
GAINSBOROUGH STUDIOS  
222 CENTRAL PARK SOUTH  
NEW YORK CITY

November 29, 1939

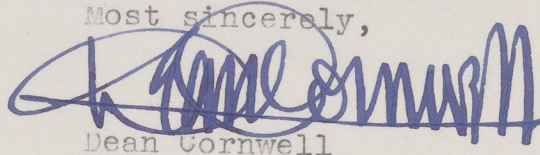
Dr W W Francis  
Osler Library  
McGill University  
Montreal, Canada

Dear Dr Francis:

At last I am about to start the large painting of Dr Osler, having experimented with several ideas in sketch form. I am writing you to ask if you would help me to the extent of purchasing for me a copy of the photograph of Dr Osler, negative number 45,899. Unless I am mistaken this is the same one that is used as a frontispiece in Dr Cushing's book; it seems to fit the pose I need and if you would be kind enough to do this I will be happy to forward the amount as soon as I hear from you. I cannot for the love of me remember the name of the photographer in Montreal who has these negatives although I did call on him and take down the numbers while I was there.

I wish to thank you again for your interest and hospitality, and as soon as the picture is finished I shall send you a photograph of it.

Most sincerely,



Dean Cornwell

P S

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DEAN CORNWELL  
GAINSBOROUGH STUDIOS  
222 CENTRAL PARK SOUTH  
NEW YORK CITY

July 1, 1940

Dr W W Francis  
McGill University  
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Dr Francis:

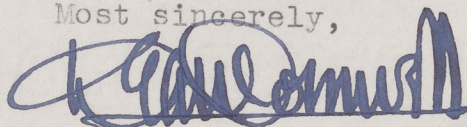
I appreciate your kind letter in reference to the Osler painting and I am very happy that it has met with your approval in spite of the red tie and the hat.

For artistic reasons I took full advantage of Dr Cushing's description of the "Days in Philadelphia". He mentions the top hat and red tie during the Philadelphia sojourn. Your letter gives me the feeling that you fully understood my problem which was not so much the portrait as recreating the rich local color and character of the old Alms House around 1880.

The color reproduction of the painting, which if it has not already done so, ought to reach you very soon.

Thanking you again for your help, I am

Most sincerely,



Dean Cornwell

DC:cw

DEAN CORNWELL  
GAINSBOROUGH STUDIOS  
222 CENTRAL PARK SOUTH  
NEW YORK CITY

May 4, 1940

Dr W W Francis  
The Osler Library  
McGill University  
Montreal, Canada

Dear Dr Francis:

I enclose herewith the photograph of Dr Osler that you so kindly loaned me. As soon as we have the painting reproduced, which is in the hands of the photoengraver, I will send you a copy.

Thanking for your help on this  
I am,

Most sincerely,

  
Dean Cornwell

DC:cw

= 1930 copy of W.O. Co  
1877 (# 45,899 at  
Natman's), which  
I lent him in 1939  
W.O. Co.  
6.11.40.

27 June, 1940

Mr. Dean Cornwell,  
Gainsborough Studios,  
222 Central Park South,  
New York

Dear Mr. Cornwell,

The fine picture of Osler at Blockley is  
sojourning here this week in the Library. It is a dull time  
of the year, but during the 2-1/2 days it has been on view,  
it has been admired by more than 50 people, 21 of whom came  
specially to see it.

My first impression was good and the more I  
look at it, the better I like it. Osler is unmistakable, his  
head very good, all except the eyes, which don't look natural  
in any of his pictures. I think I told you that I never  
believed in that red tie; and I'm doubtful about the height  
and color of the hat, which, however, is a vast improvement  
on that ghastly derby in the photo of the autopsy room! also  
about the wide-open, standing collars on Osler and some of the  
students, which were worn, I think, in the 70's not in the 80's.  
I am no judge of art, but the whole composition seems masterly,  
or, in other words, pleases me greatly. You told me you were  
looking for color, and you have successfully found - or created -  
it.

Thanks for your note of May 4th, returning the  
old photograph. I delayed acknowledging it while expecting the  
reproduction (in colors?) which you promised.

Congratulations on a difficult job well done.

Yours sincerely,

L. W. F.