

*Other volume is*  
*Some volume is* **Incunabula** 7  
The Antidotarium of  
Nicolaus Praepositus  
BOOKS. 1903.  
(Venice, 1471)  
*This is Nicolaus Salernitanus not Praepositus*  
*(Quaestiones non 1471)*

In fly-leaf of N. Jenson's Nicolaus Falcutius, Antidotarium

From Robert Fletcher to W.O.

Surgeon General's Office,  
U.S. Army Medical Museum and Library,  
Washington. **CUS417/35.47**

November 20, 1903.

My dear Doctor Osler,

I am not able to say positively that the work of Nicolaus Praepositus of 1471 is the earliest dated printed medical book, but I have always been accustomed to so regard it. Sprengel gives no earlier date, although, curiously enough, he does not seem to have detected the error in the date of the first edition of Vaalescus that was printed as 1401, and has been sometimes quoted with that date, which is clearly a blunder for either 1491 or 1501.

I thank you for your kind interest in the matter of the portrait. It has not yet arrived, and I shall be glad to let you know when it can be seen and to hear your opinion as to the likeness.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT FLETCHER

*(Klein says there is a  
Portrait of 1471 also  
by Jenson)*

From the same to W.O.

**CUS417/35.48**  
The Portland,  
Washington, D.C.

May 20, 1906.

Dear Dr. Osler,

I was glad to receive your letter of the 9th and to know that you were well and therefore happy in your charming milieu. I have just finished vol. XI of the Index-Catalogue (2nd series) but after all it does not take in the letter O. The subject of the Nervous System (from Nerve to Neuroses) alone occupies 240 pages! The Public Printer sordidly objects to printing more than the appropriation for the volume will pay for, so we end with the completion of letter N. With another year's margin of time perhaps the lacking seven reprints may be discovered and come to you singing joyously.

"O, Master! we are seven!"

I should like to meet you in Munich - I have always wished to see the famous old city. I hope it "waves all its Banners" to welcome you. I have not picked up much of rarity lately for our library - there is a Nicolaus Praepositus, 1471, so clean, and with such black ink; no pallid Mergenthaler abomination. There is another Nicolaus, N. Salicetus, 1493, also acquired. His book of Meditations is a queer collection of devotional essays all in medical terms. He was a doctor of Arts, of Medicine, and Abbot of a Monastery beside.

I again venture to express the hope that the quiet of Norham may be helpful to that much needed History of Medicine!

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT FLETCHER BOOKS

Please give my kind remembrances to Mrs. Osler.