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Singer to Sigerist, London, 20 December 1923

My dear Sigerist,

It is perfectly mad of me, but I find I have Sudhoff's Syphilis work perfectly safe after all.¹ I had an idea that it was in proof form and I have been hunting everywhere for proofs. But I see that this is not the case. I have the typed document perfectly safe and will embark on it at once.

Will you please explain to Wolff and Lier what has happened? The whole mistake arose from my thinking it was in proof form.

I have nearly finished the 1493 Ketham, and you shall have the material in the first week in January.

With best wishes from us both to you all for a happy Christmas.

Yours ever,

Charles Singer

¹ Sudhoff (1924).

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 22 December 1923

My dear Sigerist,

(1) I have to-day sent off to Wolff at Munich the major part of my introduction to the 1493 Ketham. He has already received the translation of Mundinus so that he has now got nearly the whole thing.¹ I expect you would rather not see it until it is in proof but if you want to I have two more copies.

(2) About illustrations for it. I have to-day sent to Lier & Co. a number of illustrations to be turned into blocks. A number of other blocks I can myself supply from the Clarendon Press. Could you let them have the clichés [sic] of these two plates from the Sudhoff volume?

(3) I hope you got my letter saying that I had found the MS of Sudhoff's Syphilis & would work at it at once.²

(4) How goes the Sudhoff volume? I have not yet had proofs of Thorndike's article.³

Best wishes from both to both for Christmas.

Yours ever,

Charles Singer

¹ Singer (1925a).

² Sudhoff (1924).

³ Thorndike (1924).

Singer to Sigerist, London, 31 December 1923

My dear Sigerist,

Many thanks for your letter. I am glad you are to have a quiet holiday.

You shall certainly have the photographs in question in due course.

There is some work that I want done at Munich of which I'll write to you in a few days.

This letter is to tell you of a rather interesting visit that I had the other day. Menno Hertzberger of Amsterdam telephoned me up to say that he wanted to see me.¹ He came here and we spent an hour talking things over.

He had heard – from whom I do not know – that you and I had formed the idea of editing an international journal for the History of Medicine. He told me that Janus was about to die (it's about time) and of course he anticipated the death of the Archiv.² His idea is to publish a journal under our editorship guaranteed for two years. I said I thought we'd like Streeter included and that probably the general format of the Archiv was about as good as we could have. I said I didn't mind economising on print but we must have scope for the reproduction of figures.

I said that in a general sense I thought it was probable that you and Streeter would agree to what I suggested and I asked him to go and think it over and write suggestions to me which would be a basis of discussion for us all.

I just thought you'd like to hear of this as soon as possible.

Don't overdo it and take things easy and tell your wife I said so.

With best wishes from us all for the New Year,

Yours ever,
Charles Singer

¹ Menno Hertzberger (died 1982) Dutch antiquarian bookseller.

² The planned international journal did not materialize. Janus, the third medico-historical journal of this name, was founded in the Netherlands in 1896. The Archiv für Geschichte der Medizin und Naturwissenschaften was founded by Sudhoff in 1907.

Singer to Sigerist, London, 7 January 1924

My dear Sigerist,

For the last few days my wife and I have been struggling with old Sudhoff's introduction to the Syphilis tracts. What a silly old fool he is! The difficulty is not with the German but with the confusion of ideas. Do you not think it possible that it could be translated into German first and then we could tackle it? As it is it is really incomprehensible.¹

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It would be useless for me to invoke any one else to do the work. We have of course in London expert German scholars, and I have several colleagues who are this, but they could make no more of it than I can. I think if I worked at it hard enough I could get it into English, but I reckon it would take me some weeks. Would it not be possible for Sudhoff to re-write it under the express condition that no sentence was longer than three lines in length, or could someone do this for him in German? Once this were done I could of course tackle the work right away and finish it off in one day.

I am truly sorry to bother you with this, but the old man is really getting too bad! Have you seen a copy of it?

Yours ever,
Charles Singer

P.S. It is part II from page 9 onward of his stuff that is so awful. The first part is just tolerable, though it is a pity that he has never learnt to write German.

¹ Sudhoff's *Syphilis tracts* (1924), is indeed written in a difficult German with complex syntax and in a metaphorical style.

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 8 January 1924

My dear Sigerist,

About your visit to München. There are one or two points which I would like you to attend to.

In the 1493 Ketham there is, as you know, only one coloured plate. I am having a coloured version of this prepared in London.

But there is an interesting coloured copy of the 1495 Latin edition at Leipzig which I have not seen. It might be worth while to prepare coloured figures from it, notably the plague scene. I enclose a letter from Sudhoff in which he says he can have it sent to München. You could arrange to meet it there and to examine it and see whether these figures are worth reproducing. If you see your way to do this would you write direct to Sudhoff himself?

I find there are records of seventeen editions of Ketham of which I have seen only eleven. I append a list of the editions and I should like this list checked off against the editions in the München Library, so that I may ascertain if there are any editions of which I have never heard and also so as to get photographs of editions that I have not seen. If there are editions that I have not seen there I should like photographs of the more relevant pages.

Would you investigate the matter for me while there? The editions known to me are:

- I. Venice 1491. Latin. Folio.
- II. Venice 1493. Italian. Folio.
- III. Burgos 1495 May 25th. Spanish. Folio.

- IV. Venice 1495 Oct. 15th. Latin. Folio.
- V. Pampelona 1495. Spanish. (Stockton Hough). Not seen
- VI. Venice 1500, March 28th. Latin. Folio
- VII. Venice 1501. (Feb. 17th 1500 Old style). Latin. Folio.
- VIII. Venice 1508. Italian. Folio. Not seen.
- IX. Milan 1509. Italian. Quarto.
- X. Milan 1510. Italian. Not seen.
- XI. Antwerp 1512. Latin. Not seen.
- XII. Venice 1513. Latin. Folio.
- XIII. Venice 1515. Latin. Not seen.
- XIV. Seville 1517. Spanish. Folio.
- XV. Venice 1522. Latin. Folio.
- XVI. Venice 1523 (Jan. 17th 1522. Old style). Italian. Not seen.
- XVII. Venice 1668. Not seen.

There is also a point or two in the MS of Dioscorides while you are at München, if I have time to look points up before you go and you have time to do it.

Yours ever,
Charles Singer

P.S. I am also having investigations made for these editions at the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris and in Leipzig. If after this any editions remain over of which I have no news I shall make a more extended search.

I have ordered your photographs of Harley 4346 and Sloane 1313 to-day.

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 14 January 1924

My dear Sigerist,

Herewith the photographs which you asked for together with the bill. The photographs are full size.

I think you had better pay me direct, and not Fleming, and allow me to pay Fleming.¹ If you deal with Fleming direct I think he will raise prices still further.

The prices are scandalously high and we are endeavouring to deal with the question in London. There are, however, various technical difficulties in the way.

I have had a letter from Sudhoff this morning in which he says he would gladly let you have any Kethams at München. The only one in question, however, is the coloured 1495 of which I wrote you. Will you write to him direct?

Sudhoff proposes a scheme by which I should buy books for his Institute and partly balance them by the price of photographs etc. that I get from there. I don't see how I can possibly afford it. If his Institute gets hard up and cannot pay the differences between our two accounts I cannot press him for the money and I must be the loser, and it would amount to more than I could afford.

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I must think the matter over before I answer him. I expect he has proposed a similar scheme to you.

Yours ever,
Charles Singer

¹ A photographer in London.

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 28 January 1924

My dear Sigerist,

As I wrote to you some time ago I had a visit from Hertzberger of Amsterdam from whom I have now had the enclosed letter.

I have sent him a reply of which I enclose a copy. I hope you are not overdoing it, but I rather fear from the tone of your last letters that you are. Don't be in too much of a hurry – you have all your life before you.

If this isn't too late for your visit to München I wonder if you would look through the illustrated Dioscorides MS there (I mean the one in Beneventan Script) and select for me half a dozen pages for photography, just noting the plants upon them. I won't order them at present as photography is so dear in Germany just now, but if I have the pages I can do so when prices become more reasonable.

Many thanks for the 16/5 safely received.

I hope that my brother and his wife won't give Mrs. Sigerist too much trouble. I fear they are a changeable pair who do not know their own minds. They are naturally very anxious about their daughter who is really a good and clever girl. I don't feel myself much doubt that she has a tuberculous infection of the pleura.

Of course with a girl of her age a sanatorium is not a very satisfactory place. I feel myself that if she could be placed in a doctor's family in Switzerland, – even if the conditions of altitude and so on were less satisfactory, – the ultimate result would probably be better.

Yours ever,
Charles Singer

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 2 February 1924

My dear Sigerist,

Many thanks for your letters of the 29th and 30th of January. Of course I read German with comfort when, as in your case, the writer takes the least trouble to make himself

intelligible. It's only with Sudhoff that I ever have any real difficulty. I enclose his preface to the 'Syphilis Schriften' and I cannot help thinking that there are a good many sentences with which even a German would have difficulty. It is often not the language but the sense that is obscure.

See what you can do with it. Above all break up the sentences! It seems to me that it is in the nature of the human mind that it can grasp one idea better than two and it is therefore better to have one idea in each sentence than more! The rule appears to me to be simple and to apply to every language.¹

I have to-day sent off a letter to Hardt² of which I enclose a copy which please return. The first page concerns business details, with which I think you need not trouble. The second page is more important especially as regards the last paragraph.

I quite accept your criticism about omitting certain figures. Some, such as the theatre of Terence³ which seem strange were put in because the artist of the Ketham volume was also the artist of that figure. There are certain little details in both which are strikingly like the Ketham and which come out in rather an amusing way. I am quite content, however, to wait to see how prices, etc. go before deciding whether to insert such things. You will, however, naturally wish me to have a small section on the identity of the artist of the 1493 Ketham.⁴

What a splendid audience you must have had at Munich. It was a very great pleasure to me to hear of your success.⁵ I hope the effort has not been too much for you.

I see we exactly agree about the form, frequency, format and illustration of the proposed "Archives of Medical History".⁶ I have, as you know, written again to Hertzberger, and when he calls here – as he will in a few weeks – I shall be able to go forward with the negotiation.

Again I would say don't hesitate to rule out any of my illustrations for Ketham. The fact is that a reader is a much better judge of what a book ought to be than its author, and I welcome your criticism. In any event it will be a very handsome volume.

Many thanks for having helped my brother.⁷ I hope things will go all right with them.

With best regards to your wife and yourself from us both,

Yours ever,
Charles Singer

P.S. I enclose corrected proofs of Thorndike's article.⁸

P.S.S. [sic] I have the negatives of those photographs of MSS in the British Museum which I sent you the other day. I will send them on if you like. In the meantime they are stored among my own negatives at University College, and I can let you have prints of them, if you need them, without charge.

¹ Singer on Sudhoff's writings about the history of syphilis; Charles Singer (ed.), *The earliest printed literature on syphilis being ten tractates from the years 1495–1498*. Adapted from Karl Sudhoff (Florence, 1925).

² A co-worker at Lier Publishing, Milan.

³ Publius Terentius (2nd century B.C.), Roman playwright.

⁴ Singer (1924a).

⁵ In January 1924 Sigerist was invited to give lectures at Munich.

⁶ The planned international journal.

⁷ See letter 107.

⁸ Thorndike (1924).

Singer to Sigerist, London, 14 February 1924

My dear Sigerist,

The enclosed letter from Hertzberger.

By this post I have written both to Hertzberger and to Streeter and I enclose my letters to them. I don't doubt that you will agree with both.

It will be a bore having de Lindt [sic]¹ but I do not think he will have very much to do with the work. Dutch would not be one of the official languages, and he could hardly intervene in any of the others.

I have written to-day also to Hardt telling him that I quite understand his alarm at the enormous number of figures that I am sending to him and suggesting that he should entirely confine himself at the moment to anatomical figures. We can see when these are printed how things stand.

Yours ever,

Charles Singer

P.S. I should be glad if you would return enclosed letters.

¹ Probably Jean-Gérard de Lint (1867–1936), Dutch historian of medicine; see J. J. Tricot-Royer, 'Jean-Gérard de Lint, historien de la médecine', *Bulletin de la Société Française d'Histoire de la Médecine*, 1937, **31**: 197–208.

Singer to Sigerist, London, 15 February 1924

My dear Sigerist,

Your letter of Feb. 13th to hand.

Of course I agree that it is impossible for me to go to Geneva, which is in a neutral country, if the Germans are excluded from the Congress.¹ I believe that will be the opinion of all the English. We are now at peace with Germany and this state of affairs is simply impossible.

Now the question is what action shall I take? I will of course write in protest to Cumston. The question is had I better do so at once or had I better wait to receive some notice concerning it? I will do whichever you prefer.

I will also ask other English historians to do the same. I think I can rely upon Withington, Crawford [sic]² and W. G. Spencer and probably also J. D. Rolleston.³

Sir Humphry Rolleston has expressed his views clearly enough by contributing to the Sudhoff volume. They are, I am sure, identical with mine.

As regards illustrations to Ketham II.⁴ Do you not think it better that a good many of them should be distributed in the text? Or do you think it better that they should be all

collected together on sheets at the end of the volume? I think a use of both methods is advisable. I repeat, “include only the anatomical figures” and leave out all others for the present. Among the things I should particularly like to have included are the dissection scenes, earlier than the year 1500. There are two more of these to come, both quite easy to reproduce. I realise however the anxiety of Hardt.

As regards the index, we will make that here all right.

That is wonderful news that you are going to Monte Cassino.⁵ The critical manuscript for my theory of the History of the Herbal is at Monte Cassino and I very much want a full series of pictures from it. I understand there is no accommodation [sic] for a photographer in the Monastery and it is essential to take a photographer with you. I would gladly pay part of the cost of this. The particular MS which I believe to be the original both of the Rome 1484 Apuleius and of the illustrated Anglo-Saxon Herbal is Cassinensis 97 10th century. I want a full series of let us say 20 figures from it, including the more striking and better pages, the incipit and explicit and specimens taken from all three sections if they exist, i.e. Apuleius, Dioscorides and Sextus Placitus. I should be particularly glad to have a photograph of the whole manuscript, but this I expect would be impossible. The photographs should show both script and especially figures. You may rely on me for £ 5.-£7-10-0.

I should of course like to have notes on any other illustrated herbals at Monte Cassino.

I think I have only told you incidentally in a letter to Streeter that my wife and I are adopting two children, a boy and a girl.⁶ We are at present engaged in altering our house to accommodate [sic] them. It is a great adventure.

With best regards from us both,

Yours ever,

Charles Singer

¹ Geneva was the site of the Congress of the International Society of the History of Medicine with Cumston as president (see letter 14).

² Possibly Raymond Henry Payne Crawford (1865–1938), physician and medical historian; see J. D. Rolleston, ‘Crawford, Sir Raymond Henry Payne (1865–1938)’, rev. H. C. G. Matthew, *Oxford dictionary of national biography* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), vol. 14, 92–93.

³ John D. Rolleston (1873–1946) British physician and medical historian, brother of Sir Humphry; see *British Medical Journal*, 1946, i: 507–508.

⁴ Singer (1924a).

⁵ A Benedictine monastery in southern Italy, bombed in World War II.

⁶ Nancy and Andrew Singer, see letters 113, 135 and 173.

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 27 February 1924

My dear Sigerist,

I have had another try at Sudhoff’s Syphilis work¹ and have made something of it, though it has been more difficult than the Ketham. Apart from the difficulties of language and his naturally involved style, there is an additional and very serious trouble in

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translating this particular work. He assumes that the reader is familiar with everything that he has previously written. Now it happens that while everything that Sudhoff writes is extremely difficult for an Englishman to understand, his work on Syphilis is even more difficult than most [;] I seriously doubt if there is a single person in this country besides myself who has read his Erstlinge or Frühgeschichte.² In both works there are passages which I must confess I do not wholly understand, though I think I am getting clearer on them now.

In order to make his essay intelligible to English readers it is absolutely necessary therefore to summarise all that he has previously written on the subject.

I have now finished making a draft and will let you have a copy of it in a day or two. Would you be careful in looking through it to see if I have got details of general German history accurate? Of course these historical points I could do myself, but they are probably quite familiar school knowledge with you, while with me they have to be looked up.

Yours ever,
Charles Singer

P.S. I notice that Sudhoff says in dealing with the Magdeburg 1498 edition of Grünpeck³ that it exists in a unique copy in the British Museum – “a reproduction of the title-page has so far not reached me”. It seems a pity to leave out this one page, especially in the English edition. Had I not better order a photograph of it?

¹ Sudhoff (1924).

² Karl, Sudhoff, ‘Graphische und typographische Erstlinge der Syphilisliteratur aus den Jahren 1495 und 1496’, in *Alte Meister der Medizin und Naturkunde* (Munich, 1912); Karl Sudhoff, *Aus der Frühgeschichte der Syphilis. Studien zur Geschichte der Medizin*, Heft 9. 175 pages (Leipzig 1912).

³ Joseph Grünpeck (ca.1473-ca.1532) wrote on Syphilis: *Tractatus de pestilenciali scorra siue mala de Franzos* (Magdeburg, 1498).

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 1 March 1924 (telegram)

PLEASE SEND FESTSCHRIFT PROBEBOGEN. SINGER

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 2 March 1924

My dear Sigerist,

(1) I have now quite completed the translation of Sudhoff’s Zehn Syphilis Drucke.¹ It really has been a perfectly beastly job. I have had to abstract his earlier works & incorporate much of them in the text. I have done nothing else for the last ten days. There is still

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one passage which I do not understand but you will be able to fill that in.

The Introduction is now being typed. This will take two or three days. As soon as it is done I will send it to you.

(2) Of course while I have been doing this I have had to neglect Ketham II.² I shall get back to this during the coming week.

(3) My secretary, Miss Anderson, is making an Index of the Authors' and Place names for the Sudhoff Festschrift. Miss Anderson has at present some time free & I therefore wired to you for more proof sheets as she could now go on with them[.]

(4) Some friends of ours – our neighbours here who are spending the summer in Switzerland have asked me if you would or could be so very kind as to give them any information about

(a) the Hotel Pension zum Schweizer Alpenclub in the Maderaner Tal

(b) any Hotel in the Sandalp or region North West of Tödi

(5) I wrote to you that we were adopting children.³ One of them, a little girl age 9, has arrived two or three days ago. She is settling down very nicely & we are very happy with her. As soon as we feel quite at home with her she will [be] joined by a little brother.

(6) I enclose a photograph of myself which has just been taken. Please let me have one of you.

Yours ever,

Charles Singer

¹ Sudhoff (1924).

² Singer (1924a).

³ See letter 110.

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 7 March 1924

My dear Sigerist,

Here is this Syphilis translation of Sudhoff at last.¹ You cannot imagine what drudgery it has been preparing it. As you will see it is, in effect, a new work. I had to look up all the references, rearrange the whole material & consign much of Sudhoff's original text to the notes. It is really a disgrace to German literature that a man should be allowed to write in this fashion.

On page 25 of his German text corresponding to page 35 of my translation there is a passage which I do not understand. Perhaps you would be good enough to look into it[.] I have surrounded it by a green mark.

Also on page 28A of his German text, corresponding to page 38 of my translation, is a Latin passage which has to be printed in some special manner that I don't quite understand.

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My manuscript can now be printed & we can correct these points in proof.
Yours ever,
Charles Singer

I think my version had best be called frankly an Adaptation. It is really not a translation & the original is untranslatable[.]

¹ Charles Singer (ed.), (1925b).

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 11 March 1924

My dear Sigerist,

In case matters should change and you are able to get to Monte Cassino after all, I have a friend who very much wants a piece of photography done there. He is Dr. E. A. Lowe of 277 Woodstock Road, Oxford, author of the “Beneventan Script”.¹ He will of course pay any expenses; what he is having done together with what I am having done will materially help you to cover the cost of a photographer, if you go.

I enclose the exact directions together with a copy of his letter to me in so far as it bears on the matter.

Yours ever,
Charles Singer

¹ Elias Avery Lowe (1879–1969), palaeographer; see James J. John, ‘Lowe, Elias Avery (1879–1969)’, *Oxford dictionary of national biography* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), vol. 34, 563–565. Elias A. Lowe, *The Beneventan Script. A history of the South Italian minuscule* (Oxford: Clarendon Press: Oxford, 1914).

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 15 March 1924

My dear Sigerist,

Many thanks for your letter of March 12th and for the delightful photograph of yourself which came by the next post together with a number of other documents. It is a great pleasure to have your photograph and we shall include it in our gallery.

In your letter there are a number of points raised:

(1) Title page of the Sudhoff volume. I have carefully corrected Allbutt’s dedication but I should think I ought to see another proof of it.

I should have preferred to have seen the names of all the contributors on the title-page with ours underneath them if still practicable; but if not let it be as it is.

(2) I am glad you like the Ketham.¹ I have had to neglect it for the last few weeks by reason of being engaged on Sudhoff's Syphilis tracts² and a good deal of University business. The Sudhoff work is now finished and the term is drawing to an end, so that I shall be able to take it up again. Of course I quite appreciate what you say about the cost of illustration and entirely sympathise with it. I am quite content with your judgment.

I have an idea that Baer of Frankfurt is more or less the same firm as Lier & Co. I notice that in their new catalogue they have some beautiful illustrations of precisely the things I want. If this is the case perhaps after all they might be obtained without cost to Lier. It is, however, not worth a great deal of bother.

(3) As regards the Syphilis tracts, I had not written to Sudhoff as I wanted to get your approval of the sheets first. I have, however, by this post despatched a copy to Sudhoff with an explanation of what I have done. I have not, however, another copy of his original typescript with the two obscure passages in it. For them you must deal with him direct. If he would write out what he means in simple German in these two cases I would turn them into English.

(4) Concerning the International Congress at Geneva.³ I have written a letter to Cumston of which I enclose a copy.

I will gladly also, as a member of the Swiss Society, write to Dr. Maillart,⁴ but do you not think it wiser that I should wait until I get a reply from Cumston? If I write to Maillart without having Cumston's reply it almost forces a quarrel on Cumston, and it is at least possible that Cumston may give in. If, however, you still think I should write to Maillart without waiting for Cumston's reply, you have only to send me a line to that effect on receipt of this and I will do so at once.

I think I told you that Krumbhaar⁵ was here the other day and that he is acting in a similar sense to what I am doing. I have also written to Walter Spencer asking him to write to Cumston. I am sure he will do so, and I have no doubt that J. D. Rolleston will do likewise. If necessary I daresay we could invoke the aid of Sir Humphry Rolleston. But I hope this will not be necessary as it will put him in a difficult position, though one from which I am sure he will not shrink.

(5) Many thanks for the photographs of Monte Cassino 97.⁶ Where are the negatives? Could I not get prints of them? I will of course return them to you later on. I suppose you are not in a hurry for them.

This MS certainly very closely resembles the Anglo-Saxon Cotton Vitellius C3. The curious thing is that the Anglo-Saxon work is much better than the Italian! But there is no doubt that they are intimately related.

(6) You will be interested to hear that I am probably going to America for a few weeks from about the middle of June to the middle of July. Things are not quite fixed: it is probable though not certain. When there I am rather hoping to get across the continent to see the Yellowstone Park which I have always longed to visit.

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You will be glad to hear that our little girl is settling down beautifully and seems very happy.

With best regards from all to all,
Yours ever,
Charles Singer

¹ Singer (1924a).

² Sudhoff (1924).

³ The International Congress of 1925.

⁴ Louis Maillart (1867–1938), Swiss mathematician and astronomer.

⁵ Edward B. Krumbhaar (1882–1966), pathologist, medical historian and founder of the American Association of the History of Medicine. See Esmond R. Long, 'Edward Bell Krumbhaar 1882–1966', *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 1967, **41**: 1–4.

⁶ Monte Cassino 97, a manuscript.

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 22 March 1924

My dear Sigerist,

Many thanks for your letter of 18th March. As regards Seldwyla's proposition. I telephoned at once to the Oxford University Press. They are perfectly willing to consider it favourably, but they feel they must see proofs first.

Would you therefore ask Seldwyla to send me as soon as he possibly can a complete set of 2 proofs, one for myself and one to take down to the O.U.P.? It would be convenient if Seldwyla would write to me a clear statement of the kind of terms they would suggest. I would translate it into English and would present it also at the same time.

There is no fear of my staying in America! I am going with a wealthy friend who is elderly and in bad health. We are going to spend a few days in the Rocky Mountains and he has a little business to attend to. After that we shall come straight back. I do not even propose to see any of the medical historians who will all be on vacation.

No, I have not seen anything of the Lucca manuscript.¹ Could you take steps to get some photographs of it?

Yours ever,
Charles Singer

¹ Lucca, a town in Tuscany. The MS is Lucca, Biblioteca Governativa 296

Singer to Sigerist, London, 24 March 1924

My dear Sigerist,

Many thanks for your letter of March 20th. Do you know, I find your handwriting rather difficult to read!

(1) I have received the enclosed two letters from Cumston. What would you like me to do? I am entirely at your service.

(2) I received from you this morning the proofs of Withington's article and I sent them off by the same post to him at Oxford, asking him to send them on direct to Seldwyla to save time.¹

(3) What is happening with the Sudhoff volume. Why is it so fearfully slow? As soon as I get something to take to the Oxford University Press I will go at once.

(4) I am now giving all my time to Ketham,² and I hope to be able to get them off in a few days.

(5) Carbonelli wrote to me a few days ago concerning the London Manuscript of Roger of Parma. I have complete photographs of it which I am sending him, but I have been so very busy with the end of term and with University matters and with Ketham that I have not been able to answer his letter yet. Will you write to him apologising for me? You may rely on me to do everything in my power for him. You see I have to write to him in French or Italian and – have to put it off until I get a little time.

Yours ever,

Charles Singer

¹ Withington (1924).

² Singer (1924a).

Singer to Sigerist, London, 27 March 1924

My dear Sigerist,

I return herewith the corrected proof of Allbutt's Dedication received this morning.¹ There is still, as you see, one letter to adjust.

I cannot get at the bottom of what is the cause of the delay in the Sudhoff volume. You have said hardly a word about it. Can we not do anything to hurry things up?

Two days ago I received Withington's proofs of his Roger Bacon article and I sent them off within half-an-hour of their arrival here. He now writes to me that they are imperfect and only contain half his article.²

What on earth is the difficulty? I have always returned my proofs at the very earliest possible moment and the book appears to me to be a fairly straightforward piece of printing.

Seldwyla has sent to me what looked like a complete volume. On opening it I find that all the Middle Ages are missing and that there are no plates and that the modern times are not complete. It is really useless for me to go down to the O.U.P. until I have something to show them. As soon as I can get a complete set of proofs I will act at once.

In addition to all these complaints the pages of the proofs are not numbered. When you wrote to me asking if Miss Anderson would make an index I at once set aside some of her time well in advance and she gave up other work. Unfortunately this was wasted as it is impossible to index a book, the pages of which are not numbered.

Can you not induce Seldwyla to give at any rate a date? It is now four months since Sudhoff's Birthday and apparently the book has not yet completely got through the first set of proofs. At this rate it will be Autumn before it can be out. I have always before my eyes the unpleasant memory of the Festschrift presented to Osler, the advance copies of which arrived on the day of his funeral.³ This is literally true.

Yours ever,
Charles Singer

¹ T. Clifford Allbutt, 'Letter of congratulation [to Sudhoff]', in Singer and Sigerist (eds), (1924).

² Withington (1924).

³ Singer and Singer (1919).

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 1 April 1924

My dear Sigerist,

(1) Many thanks for your letter which I have sent on to Withington to explain the delay. We can only hope that it will now proceed as quickly as possible.

(2) As regards the dummy volume of binding which you sent me. I like the look of it very much.

I have a criticism to make of the binding. I do not think we can put on the back "Singer, Sigerist, Essays on the History of Medicine".

On the back we must surely put Sudhoff's name. Would it not be more appropriate to have this legend on the back?

"Essays on the History of Medicine presented to
Professor Sudhoff. Nov. 1923"

Leaving the legend on the side exactly as it stands.

I feel our names should not appear on the back at all.

(3) I still think that it would be better that the names of all the contributors should appear on the title-page, but it is not very important.

1924

(4) I have just got the figures for my Ketham.¹ They are really a very handsome lot and will go into about 22 very fine plates. I take it I shall be able to include a page containing the figures by Streeter and myself that are to come out in the Sudhoff volume.²

(5) I quite agree with your restriction of figures. There are, however, three small line blocks of which I have not sent photographs but which I think should be added to my list to make the selection consistent. I do not suppose there will be any difficulty about this.

Yours ever,
Charles Singer

P.S. (6) I enclose "adaptation" of notice of Sudhoff's Syphilis volume[.]³ To save you time I have, by this post, sent copies of it also to Sudhoff himself & to Hardt.

(7) I enclose also a copy of a letter that I have to-day sent to Laignel-Lavastine.

(8) I enclose copy of draft advertisement of the 1493 Fasciculus. I have sent a copy to Hardt.

¹ Singer (1924a).

² Streeter and Singer (1924).

³ Sudhoff (1924).

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 4 April 1924

My dear Sigerist,

Would not it be the best thing now for the Swiss Society for the History of Medicine to write to Laignel-Lavastine protesting against the holding of a so-called International Congress on Swiss soil from which Germans as such are excluded? Would it be possible to get French-Swiss to sign such a protest?¹

Ketham I has arrived and looks extremely handsome.² I congratulate you on it.³ I am hard at work on Ketham II, but it is a bigger business than I had really thought.⁴

I have sent on the second part of Withington's article⁵ to him by the same post as it arrived with instructions to send it direct to Seldwyla.

I wrote a leader on Hippocrates in this week's "Times" entitled "The Father of Medicine" which I daresay you saw.⁶

Yours ever,
Charles Singer

¹ The Swiss of the French-speaking part of the country.

² Sudhoff (1923);

³ As editor of the Monumenta Medica series.

⁴ Singer (1924a).

⁵ Withington (1924).

1924

⁶This was a book review rather than a leader; Charles Singer, 'The father of medicine'. Review of W. H. S. Jones (ed.), *Hippocrates*, vol. i and ii; and R. O. Moon, *Hippocrates and his successors*, in *Times Literary Supplement*, 3 April 1924, 197–198.

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 8 April 1924a

My dear Sigerist,

I have had a bright idea concerning Ketham II.¹

Why not bring it out in two volumes, the first containing the facsimile all by itself exactly as originally printed, the second containing my translation and Introduction? This will make it easier to refer to and will make the subscribers feel they are getting more for their money. The increase in the cost of production will be very small indeed.

Yours ever,

Charles Singer

¹Singer (1924a).

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 8 April 1924b

My dear Sigerist,

Have you looked at the manuscript Bernensis A 52 12th century Folios 1–20v?

In Diels it is ascribed to Joannes Joannis Alexandrini Discipulus.¹

The only other manuscript of this text known is British Museum Additional 18201.

It is a commentary on the De usu partium of Galen and is, I think, quoted by Mundinus. It is odd that Mundinus should have used so rare a text.

But the point is that despite the ascription by Diels the British Museum text gives, in fact, not Joannes but Joannitius. It is, I think, a Latino-Arabic and not a Latino-Greek text. The point is of some importance for my purpose as Mundinus uses very few Latino-Greek texts, among the few were Aristotle's De partibus animalium.

Can you tell me therefore whether the Berne MS says "Joannes" or "Joannitius"?

Yours ever

Charles Singer

¹Hermann Diels, *Die Handschriften der antiken Ärzte* (Berlin, 1905–1907).

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 14 April 1924

My dear Sigerist,

I have had enclosed letter from Cumston to which I have sent the enclosed answer, of which I hope you approve.

Yours ever,
Charles Singer

P.S. I don't quite know what Seldwyla's note to Withington means, and I don't think he will know. Does it refer to reprints or to the book itself, or to extra copies of the book? Furthermore I don't understand what is the price they mention, whether it is English or Swiss money, or in what coin in either country. I have sent it on to him.

Withington is an excellent German scholar, and they can safely write to him in that language. His address is 4 Polstead Road, Oxford.

Charles Singer

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Singer to Sigerist, London, 24 April 1924a

My dear Sigerist,

I have sent enclosed letter to-day to Lier.

I am sorry to bother again about the Sudhoff volume but as you know I am leaving for America on June 4th. I cannot possibly undertake any literary work after the third week in May. If, therefore, the Sudhoff volume is to appear before the summer it is absolutely imperative that the final proofs should reach me before then.

Would you perhaps tell Seldwyla of this?

Furthermore until I get these final proofs it is really useless for me to approach the Oxford University Press.

Yours ever,
Charles Singer