

*Sigerist to Singer, Pura, 7 May 1954*

My dear Singer,

Many thanks for your letter of the 15th April. You probably have also received the enclosed sheet about the Greek Tour. Since I apparently suggested it I shall have to join the group. I had thought that the tour would take place after the Rome meeting, but our American colleagues apparently must be back home by the end of September. If a sufficient number joins the group, which I very much doubt, I would not be able to meet you in Naples and I would regret it very much. \$ 400 is a lot of money for two weeks even for Americans, and seems rather unlikely to me that a group of twenty will come together.

A very nice hotel in Naples is Santa Lucia. It is on the waterfront and my daughter Nora and her husband<sup>1</sup> liked it very much. In Rome I asked for reservations at the Hotel Continental, it is not a particularly pleasant hotel but has a good central location.

I quite agree with you about the subject of drugs. I of course shall have to discuss them and their preparation in my book,<sup>2</sup> but I cannot possibly devote too much space to them either. The policy you outline for your book is absolutely correct and as a matter of fact the only possible one.<sup>3</sup>

My health is better than when I wrote you last time, I am on a strict reducing diet and have to take off twenty lbs. I am also taking Serpasil with good results. It is a drug that Ciba<sup>4</sup> is producing, and which actually is a very old drug[,] a glucoside extract from Rauwolfia, a plant used in India for 2000 years. Maybe Dorothy [sic] should take it also, it lowers the blood pressure and is at the same time a sedative.

You need not be vaccinated for smallpox, but inoculation for typhoid may be advisable as there is a good deal of typhoid in Naples and the whole of Southern Italy. I keep my immunisation up by having a shot every year when I go to WHO in Geneva.<sup>5</sup> On the other hand if you are a little careful, drink wine instead of water and avoid salads etc. you should be perfectly safe. I do not know if I ever wrote you that my daughter Erica got typhoid in Geneva a few years ago.<sup>6</sup> There are sporadic cases even in Switzerland. A few years ago there were about 12 cases in Basle and it was quite impossible to find the source of infection. One obviously can never quite avoid having typhoid carriers in the country.

I have not seen Endeavour for some time. Holmyard promised to send me a few numbers and I am particularly anxious to see your article.<sup>7</sup>

I have subscribed to the Times Literary Supplement and read it every week with great delight. It is so infinitely superior to the book section of the New York Times. Some of their leading and front articles are simply superb.

You may have heard that last week I was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and this was perhaps the greatest satisfaction I ever experienced. England has been very good to me in recent years, an hon. D.Sc. of the University of London last November and now the R.C.P. As a matter of fact and between ourselves I feel infinitely closer to England than I ever did to America.<sup>8</sup>

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Emmy is in Zurich to get an American visa as she would like to spend two months with our daughter Nora and her family. Getting an American visa even for a short visit is a matter of six months and Americans are certainly trying to erect an iron curtain in front of their country.

With all good wishes and hoping that we shall meet in Naples, I am,  
Yours as ever,  
Henry E. Sigerist

<sup>1</sup> Nora and Jack Beeson-Sigerist (1921–2010), composer.

<sup>2</sup> Sigerist (1951, 1961).

<sup>3</sup> See previous letter

<sup>4</sup> Swiss pharmaceutical firm, now part of Novartis

<sup>5</sup> World Health Organization

<sup>6</sup> See letter 355.

<sup>7</sup> Singer (1954a).

<sup>8</sup> This may be an exaggeration of the moment.

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*Singer to Sigerist, Kilmarth, Cornwall, 1 June 1954*

My dear Henry,

Many thanks for your letter of May 7. I am very sorry to hear that you may be going to the eastern Mediterranean. I hope it won't come off and that we shall duly meet at Naples. I went to have a general medical examination the other day and the report was that there is no reason at all why I should not go by sea provided I could have a companion to travel with me. Next week I am going to the University to see if they will run to the expense of a companion. My general idea would be to go by sea and come back by air. I have to be in London on September 30 to give the Lloyd Roberts Lecture,<sup>1</sup> which is a combined lecture of the R.C.P.,<sup>2</sup> the Royal Society of Medicine and the Medical Society of London. The Subject I thought of doing was "How Medicine became anatomical". Of course, I can do that without any work at all. It is just a question of collecting lantern slides!

I was very glad to hear of your "promotion" to be a D.Sc. of the University of London and an F.R.C.P.<sup>3</sup> I should have written to congratulate you, but I knew well that these things were for you just a routine matter.

Do let me know as soon as you can what are, in fact, your arrangements about Naples. I met J. Z. Young the other day and told him of the situation of you and me, and he promised to look after us and to entertain us at the Aquarium.<sup>4</sup>

We have just received here the dummy of Vol. I of A History of Technology. It certainly is a formidable-looking volume.<sup>5</sup>

With all kind wishes,  
Yours as always,  
Charles Singer

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<sup>1</sup> David Lloyd Roberts (1835–1920), British physician who endowed the Lloyd-Roberts Lectures, given annually on a subject of medical or scientific interest; see ‘David Lloyd Roberts, M.D., F.R.C.P’, *British Medical Journal*, 1920, ii: 569.

<sup>2</sup> Royal College of Physicians

<sup>3</sup> Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians

<sup>4</sup> John Z. Young (1907–1997), English zoologist and Professor of Anatomy at UCL, at the Zoological Station at Naples; see B. B. Boycott, ‘Young, John Zachary (1907–1997)’, *Oxford dictionary of national biography* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), vol. 60, 921–924.

<sup>5</sup> Singer et al. (eds), vol I (1954).

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*Sigerist to Singer, Pura, 4 June 1954*

My dear Singer,

It decidedly looks as if the Greek Tour were off. It was announced too late and

\$ 400 is a lot of money even for Americans. So I am looking forward to seeing you in Naples, I have not made any definite arrangements yet, but there should be no difficulty in getting hotel rooms. I plan to go to a health resort for a couple of weeks and after that I hope to be well again.

Of course I am looking forward to seeing the first volume of your History of Technology<sup>1</sup> and in the last few weeks I have been devoting a great deal of thought to[?] my own History<sup>2</sup> and I came to the conclusion that the thing to do now is to make the book from volume four on if not sooner a co-operative venture like yours. I am too old and not well enough to write the eight volumes myself and it is better to make plans now than postpone them indefinitely. If I mobilise my colleagues we may get the eight volumes out in four or five years and I even think of the possibility of doing the Sociology of Medicine which I had planned in four volumes along similar lines.<sup>3</sup> I am working on a plan which I will submit to John Fulton when I see him in September and I would like to do the two books completely under the auspices of his department so that there will be a certain guarantee that the work will be completed.

With warm regards to Dorothy and yourself, I am,

Yours as ever,

Henry E. Sigerist

<sup>1</sup> Singer et al. (eds), vol I (1954).

<sup>2</sup> Sigerist (1951).

<sup>3</sup> Volume III-VIII of *History of medicine* and the *Sociology of medicine* did not materialize

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*Sigerist to Singer, Pura, 3 August 1954*

My dear Singer,

I am just making plans for September and I am very much afraid that I shall not be able to meet you in Naples before the Congress. Genevieve Miller, Ilsa [sic] Veith, Anna Tjomsland,<sup>1</sup> Henry Schuman, John Fulton probably and a few other old friends will be in Pura at that time and I am afraid that I could not get away before the 10th or 11th of the month.

Why not spend a few quiet days in Naples after the meeting. Naples is close to Salerno and we may need a rest after the many official functions the congress is offering.

With all good wishes, I am,  
Yours as ever,  
Henry E. Sigerist

<sup>1</sup> Ilza Veith (born 1915), German-born American medical historian, Sigerist's pupil. Anna Tjomsland (1880–1968) anesthetist and medical historian; see 'Anne Tjomsland, 1880–1968', *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, 1969, 24: 482.

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*Sigerist to Singer, Pura, 28 September 1954*

My dear Singer,

Congratulations upon the Benivieni. Your translation is excellent and the book is beautifully presented. It is a great classic of medicine and it is good to have the book in such a handy edition. I have to review it, but at the moment I am not quite sure whether it is for Centaurus or Isis.<sup>1</sup>

I missed you very much in Rome. The Congress was the usual Vanity Fair, but went off quite well, and Rome and Salerno at this time of the year are most pleasant.

You may have heard that the International Society of the History of Medicine would very much like to hold its next Congress in 1956 in London. It is over thirty years that we had that brilliant gathering in London, and we all felt that England has so much to offer that we could not think of a better place.<sup>2</sup> Of course an invitation would have to be sent to the Society. The best would be to address it to its President: Wickersheimer. At any rate the Council decided that should an invitation come forth from England it would be accepted enthusiastically. Guthrie suggested that the last two days should be held at Edinburgh, which I think should be feasible.<sup>3</sup>

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I hope you are keeping well. With warm regards, I am,  
Yours very sincerely,  
Henry E. Sigerist

<sup>1</sup> Singer and Long (1954); *Centaurus* and *Isis*, Journals of the history of medicine and of science, respectively, the review appeared as Henry E. Sigerist, 'Review of Antonio Benivieni *De abditis nunnulis ac mirandis morborum et sanationum causis*', in *Centaurus*, 1955, 4: 175–176.

<sup>2</sup> The last London Congress was held in 1922 under Singer's presidency. The Congress did take place eventually but not until 1972.

<sup>3</sup> Douglas J. Guthrie (1885–1975) British medical historian; see H. P. Tait, 'Douglas James Guthrie', *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 1975, 49:575–576.

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*Singer to Sigerist, Kilmarth, Cornwall, 7 October 1954*

Confidential

My dear Sigerist,

Many thanks for your letter of September 28 and the kind things that you say in it. I am rather glad that I did not go to Rome. It would have taken up time and would have been very tiring, and, of course, I should not have learned anything. Moreover, it would have interrupted work and it would probably have left me in every way the worse. Had I been able to meet you at Naples, it would have been a very different matter.

Underwood has told me about the question of the International Congress 1956. I think London would be admirable, and I am quite sure that we could arrange to have a very good show indeed and that a special effort would be made to repeat the success of the previous meeting there.<sup>1</sup>

The matter is of some delicacy because it is really not practical politics to have a meeting both in London and Edinburgh. Rome and Salerno are no more than four hours apart, and four hours through very interesting country. But London and Edinburgh are eight hours apart and it is a very tiring and dull and expensive journey. Furthermore – as between fellow augurs – Guthrie really is not quite up to it. He is a very good fellow but also a very late beginner, and he really has not got the root of the matter in him. Yet further, there is really very little of medical interest to see in Edinburgh. After all, the Medical School in Edinburgh is one of the younger children of Boerhaave.<sup>2</sup> Of course, if St. Andrews, Glasgow and Aberdeen were added, there would be more to show and to do, but all this would mean much more travelling.

Against such possibilities, we have in London an endless wealth of historical medical material, with the Royal Society of Medicine, the Wellcome Foundation, the College of Surgeons and the College of Physicians all willing and anxious to give entertainment. And Oxford and Cambridge are only 1 ¼ hours away.

The basic awkwardness is, of course, about Guthrie. If there were anybody obvious to put in his place, it would not matter so much, but it is difficult for me to suggest Under-

wood.<sup>3</sup> The alternative is to get some really big noise outside. If I am alive in 1956 I shall be 80 myself, as will H. H. Dale. Lord Webb-Johnson is in rather poor health. Lord Moran is out of the question on many grounds. Lord Horder will be 87 or more. MacNalty is the same age as I am and in very poor health indeed.<sup>4</sup> If we do not have either Guthrie or Underwood, my best suggestion is Zachary Cope, who is a sensible and amiable man, though also getting on in years.<sup>5</sup> As I turn the matter over, I think, in fact, it really boils down to have Guthrie and Underwood as Joint Presidents with as many Presidents of Honour as the Committee jolly well like!

I should be glad to have the results of your contemplation on this matter, which I would treat in confidence.

Yours as ever,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> See previous letter.

<sup>2</sup> Hermann Boerhaave (1668–1738), Dutch professor of medicine at Leyden. See G. A. Lindeboom, 'Boerhaave, Hermann', in *Complete dictionary of scientific biography*, Vol. 2 (Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2008), 224–228.

<sup>3</sup> As Underwood's father-in-law.

<sup>4</sup> Alfred Webb-Johnson (1880–1958), British surgeon; see Eric Riches, 'Johnson, Alfred Edward Webb-, Baron Webb-Johnson (1880–1958)', rev. Michael Hobsley, *Oxford dictionary of national biography* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), vol. 30, 231–232. Charles McMoran Wilson, first Baron Moran (1882–1977), physician and writer; see R. R. H. Lovell, 'Wilson, Charles McMoran, first Baron Moran (1882–1977)', *ibid.*, vol. 59, 502–504. Thomas Jeeves Horder, first Baron Horder (1871–1955), British physician; see L. J. Witts, 'Horder, Thomas Jeeves, first Baron Horder (1871–1955)', *ibid.*, vol. 28, 106–108. Sir Arthur MacNalty (1880–1969), English physician and public health administrator; see George E. Godber, 'MacNalty, Sir Arthur Salusbury (1880–1969)', rev. Michael Bevan, *ibid.*, vol. 35, 934–935.

<sup>5</sup> Zachary Cope (1881–1974), English surgeon; see David Hamilton, 'Cope, Sir (Vincent) Zachary (1881–1974)', *ibid.*, vol. 13, 317–318.

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*Sigerist to Singer, Pura, 11 October 1954*

My dear Singer,

I just received your letter of 7th October and I hasten to answer it. I quite agree with you that Edinburgh is too far and has too little to offer. I think, moreover, that it never is good to have an International Congress to meet in two places. You lose track of the people and many members of the Congress do not travel to the second place. This was the case with Salerno. John Fulton and quite a few others did not make the trip but went home instead, and it is a nuisance to have to change hotels, etc. Thus I would suggest to drop the idea of Edinburgh altogether.

As to the Presidency of the Congress you are the obvious man for the job. You are the outstanding medical historian of Britain and you played your part so well twice in the past as President of that memorable Congress of 1922, and later of the Congress of the History of Science, that if your health permitted you simply must assume the Presidency. Why not

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have Underwood and Guthrie as Vice-presidents? They could do all the rough work for you, but you must be in charge of the Congress. A man like Lefann [sic]<sup>1</sup> could be Secretary General, I hear that he did a very good job organising the International Congress of Medical Librarians last year.

London is the ideal place in every respect, and this is why I suggested it at the meeting of permanent committee at Rome. With the Royal Colleges, the Royal Society, the Wellcome Foundation, the British Museum, Apothecary Hall, etc., it has so much to offer, and I know of no country where there is a more delightful hospitality.

I fully agree with your judgement of Guthrie. His History is the work of a beginner and amateur, and it is full of obvious mistakes, but if he could be made Vice-president he would probably be satisfied.<sup>2</sup>

All in all I can only urge you to go ahead in the matter and I am quite sure that the Congress in London 1956 will be a huge success.

With warm regards, I am,  
Yours Sincerely,  
Henry

<sup>1</sup> William R. LeFanu (1904–1995), librarian at the Royal College of Surgeons, London; see Ian Lyle ‘William LeFanu’, *Medical History*, 1995, **39**: 501.

<sup>2</sup> Douglas Guthrie, *A history of medicine* (London, 1945).

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*Singer to Sigerist, Kilmarth, Cornwall, 22 October 1954*

My dear Sigerist,

Many thanks for your letter on the next History of Medicine Congress. I suppose that it should be in London and, I suppose, that I should be president. I can always gracefully retire. I quite agree too that it should be in one place, but I think we could easily have a side-show at Oxford which is only one and a quarter hours by rail. For some reason which I don't understand Underwood would prefer Oxford. I think him wrong.

I am sorry to hear, though I am not surprised, that you do not feel equal to completing your enormous task unaided.<sup>1</sup> It is a superhuman undertaking. If I might venture on a word of advice, it is that you associate a much younger colleague with yourself as editor. Quite apart from securing continuity, it has the great advantage, as I have repeatedly found, that if a contribution is rejected or treated critically or his work be modified, in accordance with the plan, the offended author can always be assured that the difficulty lies with the other editor!

We are now expecting advance copies of our History of Technology, Volume I, daily, but official publication is on November 18 and Volume II will be with the printer before then.<sup>2</sup>

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That you may have some idea of what is in the air with reference to the history of medicine in England, I enclose copy of correspondence. You have doubtless received a copy of the agendum on the fate of the R.C.P. library. The Royal College of Physicians is an ultra-conservative body, and is getting so obviously out of date and functionless that something must happen to it soon. I can say these things to you as we are both Fellows! It should have united with the Royal College of Surgeons, which has funds, enterprise, a better library, and a working scheme for teaching. This was prevented by purely personal antagonisms.

You know too that Dingle retires from the chair of Philosophy of Science and as head of the department of the History and Philosophy of Science next June. I hope that McKie will be elected as Professor and in charge of the department, partly because he has earned it and is the best man available, but also partly because it is, in fact, much easier to get a philosopher than an historian of science.<sup>3</sup> The success of the department, measured by the number of post-graduate students, has been immense. Last session there were something like 60 of them. The weakest point is their standard – they are mostly schoolmasters – but this is certainly steadily rising. The biological sciences are another weak point, but in this the department shares in the general trend of scientific education which treats biology lightly. On the whole my judgement is that the department has been a great success and has well justified itself. Personally I think it would be healthier to have a department of the history of medicine in close association with the department of the history of science.

Yours as ever,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> Sigerist's *History of medicine*.

<sup>2</sup> Singer et al. (eds), vol I (1954); vol II (1956).

<sup>3</sup> For Dingle and McKie see letter 311.

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*Sigerist's secretary to Singer, Pura, 6 November 1954*

Dear Dr. Singer,

This is to let you know that Dr. Sigerist has been ill since October 18th and is at the clinic St. Anna in Lugano. He has an embolism, which paralysed his right side and prevented him from speaking. He is consequently unable to deal with any correspondence and is not even allowed visitors. Mrs. Sigerist stays with him night and day, although recently his condition has improved and it is hoped he will continue to make steady progress. He will in any case have to remain in hospital several more weeks.

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I would be most grateful if you could let Sir Russel [sic] Brain know about Dr. Sigerist's illness, in case he is expecting him to communicate on any business.<sup>1</sup>

Yours sincerely,  
Phyllis H. Arnold

(Secretary)

<sup>1</sup> Walter Russell Brain (1895–1966) British neurologist; see George Pickering, 'Brain, Walter Russell, first Baron Brain (1895–1966)', rev. *Oxford dictionary of national biography* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), vol. 7, 291–292.

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*Singer to Sigerist's secretary, Kilmarth, Cornwall, 10 November 1954*

Dear Miss Arnold,

Thank you very much for your letter of November 6, which grieved me greatly. Do let me know if there is, by any chance, anything that I can do.

I have written to Mrs. Sigerist at the St. Anna Clinic, and I have also informed Sir Russell Brain of the situation.

Yours sincerely,  
Charles Singer

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*Singer to Sigerist, Kilmarth, Cornwall, 19 November 1954*

My dear Henry,

I am so very sorry to hear that you are laid by for a while. But I have a piece of historical intelligence that may perhaps encourage you. You will remember that Pasteur was afflicted with precisely the same condition as that from which you are now suffering, and that much of his best work was done after it.<sup>1</sup> May it be so with you.

Were you not in bed, I should burden you with a copy of the first volume of our History of Technology, but it is such an enormously weighty volume – far too big and far too heavy – that I hesitate to let you see it until you are home again.<sup>2</sup> I hope that may be a reason for hastening your recovery.

I have had several enquiries about you, among others from Sir Russell Brain.

With kindest wishes,  
Yours as ever,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> Louis Pasteur (1822–1895) French microbiologist. See Gerald L. Geison, 'Pasteur, Louis', in *Complete dictionary of scientific biography*, Vol. 10 (Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2008), 350–416; and Nils Roll-Hansen, 'Pasteur, Louis', *ibid.*, Vol. 24, 21–30.

<sup>2</sup> Singer et al. (eds), vol I (1954); the first volume has 827 pages.

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*Singer to Sigerist, Kilmarth, Cornwall, 16 January 1955*

My dear Henry,

I was so very glad to hear from Emmy that you are making good progress. You will take comfort from the history of Pasteur, some of whose best work was done after just such an attack as yours. All your friends here are hoping that 1955 will bring you just such a restoration. Your circumstances & surroundings must be about the best in the world for recovery.

You would perhaps like to have news of our subject from this country. During the last few weeks I have been having distressing letters from poor old W.H.S. Jones (Malaria Jones) complaining that he has to eke out his pension with elementary teaching. He is just bringing out the second of his endless volumes of the Loeb Pliny and wants to write a book on Roman popular medicine.<sup>1</sup> I have spoken to H. H. Dale about it and have written to the Wellcome Trustees making an appeal on his behalf. I have good hope that they will respond. I chose the opportunity to put forward also the suggestion of Stapleton & Plessner of a reasoned catalogue of the Arabic scientific and medical MSS in Great Britain and Ireland.<sup>2</sup> I think that Dale is sympathetic to that too.

At the last International Congress of the History of Medicine – at Rome – Guthrie was rather unfortunately, the British representative[.] He is proposing Edinburgh as the centre, with secondary centre in London! As it happens the railway fare from London to Edinburgh is about 18 pounds sterling return without sleeper so that no visitor from the Continent would be likely to make the journey – especially as in doing so he would pass York and Durham, both more beautiful than Edinburgh – when in fact the medical remains are exiguous. So the problem is to detach it from Edinburgh & get it to London, Cambridge or Oxford. However[,] we have 2 years in which to operate!

My own news is that we have at last got out the first volume of our history of technology, & the second volume is mostly in galleys. All this has meant further delay with my unfortunate Galen which is in page proof.<sup>3</sup> The trouble with that is that the anatomical nomenclature has had to be largely changed, which has made a dreadful mess with the proofs. There are still one or two passages resistant of translation. I don't mind about them for they can be either left blank or I can just do the best I can with them, frankly saying so. But the nomenclature is a real headache.

I am now well on in my 79th year. Naturally I cannot quite make such long hours as I did formerly, but I have so much [...] help that I think that 1954 has probably been my most productive year. We had half thought of going to California this winter, but it seemed a pity to leave the History of Technology at this early stage. By next winter

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Vol. II should be published, Vol. III in galleys & Vols IV & V mostly in MS.<sup>4</sup> We might perhaps if our health still holds go then by all sea route. Who knows?

I often turn to the masterly first Volume of your great history.<sup>5</sup> I do hope that you may have similar good fortune to mine & be able to continue it.

With affectionate & fraternal greetings,

Yours ever,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> William H. S. Jones (1876–1963), British author, wrote on malaria and Pliny; see Vivian Nutton, 'Jones, William Henry Samuel', in Robert B. Todd (ed.), *The dictionary of British classicists*, 3 vols (Bristol: Thoemmes Continuum, 2004), vol. 2, 525–527. Jones translated volumes VI–VIII of Pliny the Elder's *Natural history*, published in the Loeb Classical Library series.

<sup>2</sup> Stapleton and Plessner probably unpublished.

<sup>3</sup> Singer (1956a).

<sup>4</sup> Volumes II to V of *A History of Technology* appeared in 1956, 1957, 1958, 1958.

<sup>5</sup> *Sigerist* (1951).

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*Sigerist to Singer, Pura, 26 January 1955*

My dear Charlie,

It's too bad about poor Jones. I don't remember whether I told you what my experience has been with the Loeb Classical Library, which is now at Harvard.<sup>1</sup> They make a charge for every quotation used, and while there is an agreement between American university presses that they won't make a charge for each other, the Oxford and Cambridge University Press are not included in this agreement. This means that the excellent translation of Hippocrates of Jones' cannot be used, and in quoting I am using the old translation of Francis Adams, which isn't copyright.<sup>2</sup> Of course I alter it to suit my purpose.

Congratulations upon the completion of volume I of your History of Technology.<sup>3</sup> You were wise not to plan to do it alone, as I have done and as Sarton is doing.<sup>4</sup> At our age you cannot tell whether you will be stricken by illness. I understand that Sarton did have some trouble too. Of course we would have started writing long ago if the war had not interfered. Now I am at home I would appreciate it if you sent me the History of Technology.

Guthrie's antics are most unfortunate, in that he will invite the Congress to be held in Edinburgh. You must dissuade him from carrying out his plan. It was I who suggested London, because I have good memories of the Congress of 1923 [sic].<sup>5</sup> As you say, there are many institutions that are eager to entertain in London.

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I am progressing and I am hoping for a complete recovery. My leg carries me without a stick, and my arm, although not quite good as yet, I hope to improve through gymnastics. As you see I can dictate letters, so that my speech is also coming back.

With affectionate greetings,

Yours ever,  
Henry E. Sigerist

<sup>1</sup> Loeb Classical Library, a series of Greek and Latin literature with text and English translation.

<sup>2</sup> Francis Adams, *Genuine works of Hippocrates; translated from the Greek* (London, 1849).

<sup>3</sup> Singer et al. (eds), vol I (1954).

<sup>4</sup> Sarton (1952).

<sup>5</sup> Sigerist means 1922.

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*Singer to Sigerist, Kilmarth, Cornwall, 2 February 1955*

My dear Henry,

I cannot tell you with what relief I got your letter of January 26 which assures me that you are better and back at work.

I am arranging for you to receive a copy of the first volume of A History of Technology.<sup>1</sup> It may be a week or two before it reaches you; if it doesn't reach you within the next month do drop me a line.

I am trying to get hold of Guthrie when he comes to London in a couple of months' time. I have asked him and his wife to stay with us here. I can perhaps then talk matters over with him about this congress.

You may care to see an article that I wrote for the Christmas number of the British Medical Journal.<sup>2</sup>

I shall be in Cornwall until the beginning of May, when I shall be going to Town for two or three months.<sup>3</sup>

With kindest wishes for your further progress and affectionate greetings,

Yours ever,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> Singer et al. (eds), vol I (1954).

<sup>2</sup> Charles Singer, 'How medicine became anatomical', *British Medical Journal*, 1954, **ii**: 1499–1503

<sup>3</sup> i.e. to London.

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*Singer to Sigerist, London, 26 April 1955*

My dear Henry,

I am at last able to send you a copy of Volume I of 'A History of Technology', of which I assure you it has been quite difficult to secure copies, and I am sending one which we have been using in the office. I am hoping to hear your feelings about it.

Have you any help now with your second volume? That must of course come out at all costs.

With kindest regards,  
Yours as always,  
Charles Singer

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*Singer to Sigerist, London?, 4 May 1955*

My dear Henry,

I am longing to have news of how you are. If you aren't up to writing, do please ask Emmy to answer this letter.

I hope that you have by now received a copy of Volume I of our History of Technology and that you have approved of it.<sup>1</sup>

I want your advice on the following matter. I have had a letter from Professor Boenheim, who holds the Chair of Internal Medicine at the "Karl Marx University" of Leipzig.<sup>2</sup> He writes on paper headed "Karl Sudhoff Institut" and I simply don't know whether there is a Professor of the History of Medicine there any longer. It seems that on 14 February 1906 Sudhoff gave his introductory lecture and they want to bring out a memorial volume to celebrate the occasion in 1956. He writes asking if I will contribute to it.

Boenheim has a son, a British subject, who has called on me and with whom I have discussed the matter. He is, it seems, in touch with Pagel.<sup>3</sup> The elder Boenheim himself was a refugee from the Hitler regime and became an American subject. He has now, however, returned and, according to the son, is really very happy under the present regime.<sup>4</sup> Of course, he admits, so his son tells me, that he belongs to the favoured class of highly trained scientific people of whom Eastern Germany is naturally very short. The chief trouble seems to be that they get hardly any Western literature so that Professor Boenheim could not even find my address! Of course, it is to be found both in the Medical Directory and in Who's Who.

I would very much like to hear your general reactions on the subject. I have no particular reason to commemorate Sudhoff personally but he was certainly a very great worker in his time, though he was also a very foolish and violent man. I suppose we must accustom ourselves to forget such things. I should not like myself to visit Germany but I am not

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really quite sure whether I could bring myself to write in a German journal.  
Yours as ever,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> Singer et al. (eds), vol I (1954).

<sup>2</sup> Felix Boenheim (1890–1960) head of the Sudhoff Institut (Leipzig Department of the History of Medicine) from 1950 to 1958; see Thomas Michael Ruprecht, *Felix Boenheim: Arzt, Politiker, Historiker, eine Biographie* (Hildesheim; New York: Olms, 1992).

<sup>3</sup> Walter Pagel (1898–1983) German/English medical historian, son of the Berlin medical historian Julius L. Pagel.

<sup>4</sup> German Democratic Republic, succeeding the Soviet occupation zone.

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*Sigerist to Singer, Pura, 6 May 1955*

My dear Charly,

I am perfectly overwhelmed by your generous gift of the History of Technology and I realise that it wasn't easy to secure a copy. Both in quality, size and presentation the book is superb. How wise you were not to plan to write it singlehanded.<sup>1</sup> From Volume III of my History of Medicine I am going to imitate you. The second volume I shall finish alone, but from the third on I shall mobilise my old students who are now professors in various universities.<sup>2</sup>

Your History of Technology has been enthusiastically reviewed, which must be a great satisfaction to you. I saw the review in the Times Literary Supplement, and Sarton's excellent review in *Isis*.<sup>3</sup>

My health is making progress daily but my recovery is slower than I had hoped for. Well, I have written one paper, two book reviews, delivered the manuscript of the Heath Clark Lectures,<sup>4</sup> and now this week I have resumed work on the History after such a long interruption.

With kindest regards, and once more many thanks, I am,  
yours ever,  
Henry E. Sigerist

<sup>1</sup> Singer et al. (eds), vol I (1954); Sigerist (1951,1961), the latter volume appeared posthumously.

<sup>2</sup> Presumably Ackerknecht, Falk, Miller, Roemer, Temkin, Veith, and others.

<sup>3</sup> Sarton had reviewed Singer's *History of technology* in the history of science journal *Isis*, 1955, **46**: 294–296

<sup>4</sup> Henry E. Sigerist, *Landmarks in the history of hygiene* (London, 1956).

*Sigerist to Singer, Pura, 10 May 1955*

My dear Charly,

I hope my letter in which I thanked you for your magnificent History of Technology reached you.<sup>1</sup> It was addressed to Par.<sup>2</sup> I trust that mail is forwarded to you.

Now to your problem. Professor Boenheim asked me to contribute an article to their Wissenschaftliche Zeitschrift which is brought out by the university with a deadline of August 31st 1955. They plan to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Institute of Medical History and they asked me to reminisce and to say what I had intended to do and what I achieved in the seven years in which I held the Chair of Karl Sudhoff.<sup>3</sup> Now I don't know whether we were asked to contribute to the same volume although I suppose that they didn't mean to have two publications for the occasion. Boenheim is Professor of clinical medicine, head of the polyclinic [sic], and Director ad interim of the Karl Sudhoff Institute of the History of Medicine. They could not find a successor to replace von Brunn,<sup>4</sup> they approached me several times to see whether I should consider resuming my old Chair, but I was not tempted to accept the offer as I felt too old. Now they appointed Boenheim as he was interested in medical history and contributed several papers.

Don't be shocked that they didn't find your address, probably there is no copy to be found in the entire University of either the Medical Directory or Whos Who [sic]. My advice is if you can bring yourself to write in a German journal at all, to drop prejudices and pay tribute to Karl Sudhoff, because he was a great man, although as you say he was violent and unbalanced in his judgement at times. I accepted to contribute a paper to that Festschrift,<sup>5</sup> although I have not set foot in Germany since 1932. I am sending you under separate cover the reprint of an article I wrote on the occasion of the centenary of Sudhoff's birth.<sup>6</sup>

With kind regards, I am,  
Yours as ever,  
Henry E. Sigerist

<sup>1</sup> Singer et al. (eds), vol I (1954).

<sup>2</sup> Par, the town next to Singer's Kilmarth.

<sup>3</sup> 1925–1932.

<sup>4</sup> Von Brunn held the Leipzig chair from 1934 to 1950.

<sup>5</sup> Henry E. Sigerist, 'Erinnerungen an meine Leipziger Tätigkeit', *Wissenschaftliche Zeitschrift der Karl-Marx-Universität Leipzig*. Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche Reihe. 1956, 5: 17–21.

<sup>6</sup> Henry E. Sigerist, 'Erinnerungen an Karl Sudhoff', *Archiv für Geschichte der Medizin*, 1953, 37: 97–103.

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*Singer to Sigerist, London, 13 May 1955*

My dear Henry,

Many thanks for your prompt reply to my question about Sudhoff and for your Sudhoff article.<sup>1</sup>

I must just think it over. Sudhoff is certainly a queer choice for a Karl Marx University to celebrate!

Yours ever

Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> Sigerist (1953b).

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*Singer to Sigerist, Kilmarth, Cornwall, 10 March 1956*

My dear Henry,

I had the pleasure this morning of receiving a batch of your offprints & am particularly glad of this evidence of your great & continued activity. All this makes me hope that we shall soon see Vol. II of your magistral work.<sup>1</sup> Looking through your offprints I read first, of course, your memory of Sudhoff & feel I must congratulate you on the tact & good feeling that emanate from it.<sup>2</sup> And, by this token, did anything come of the volume to celebrate Sudhoff at the Leipzig Institute? One of my assistant [sic] christened it the Hitler-Stalin Institute of the History of Medicine! I have heard no more of it.

When is your volume II to be out?

You will by now have perhaps received my translation of Galen's De anatomicis admin.<sup>3</sup> It has been around my neck for 15 years, one accident after another has prevented it from appearing. I always received the various stages of proofs at a time when I could not possibly attend to them & correspondingly the printer always received them back when he could not attend to them!

Vol. II of the History of Technology has left my hands.<sup>4</sup> It is in page proof & I shall not see it again except in covers[?], I hope about May. Vol. III is in MS. Vol. IV is allocated & we are now at work on Vol. V.

I hope that you have not fared too badly in this very cold winter. We have been lucky in having been in almost the warmest part of Europe & have come out pretty well. Though cold, we had a quite exceptional amount of sunshine & enjoyed it.

Let us please have news of your family & yourself. Our children are doing well. Andrew, who is doing hospital administration, has had some promotion & is now

secretary to a hospital for rehabilitation of Industrial Neurotics at Horsham in Sussex – a good position.

Fraternal greetings from house to house, Yours as always

Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> Sigerist (1961).

<sup>2</sup> Sigerist (1953b).

<sup>3</sup> Charles Singer (ed.), *Galen on anatomical procedures: de anatomicis administrationibus / translation of the surviving books* (London, 1956).

<sup>4</sup> Singer et al. (eds), vol II (1956).

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*Sigerist to Singer, Pura, 20 March 1956*

My dear Charlie,

Yesterday morning I received your Galen, *On Anatomical Procedures* for which I want to thank you most cordially and to congratulate you on a superb achievement.<sup>1</sup> One sees that it is the result of fifteen years of work. By the way, Underwood sent me a set of page proofs years ago so that I am familiar with the content of the book. Yesterday night I read your introduction and I was glad to see my guess confirmed that Galen describes human anatomy occasionally. What a good idea to have some Kopel illustrations added.<sup>2</sup> The book is beautifully presented as far as printing and paper go. I am sure you regret with me that you could not write Greek words in Greek letters and I am very much afraid that the Oxford Press will refuse me to use Greek type also. I have of course many Greek quotations in my second volume.

You asked what happened to the volume which is intended to commemorate the foundation of the Leipzig Institute. Well Boenheim has been appointed professor of medical history after he reached the age limit as a professor of medicine. He is not a historian but they could not get a real historian of medicine. Katner, his assistant, is a musicologist.<sup>3</sup> Under such leadership it is obvious that the Leipzig Institute is going to the dogs. This is a pity as it is the only institute the library of which was not bombed out. A celebration in memory of Sudhoff is to be held sometime in June, when the volume will be out. I wrote a short article in which a [sic] gave a summary of my activities while I was in charge of the Leipzig Institute.<sup>4</sup>

You are fifteen years older than I and I envy you your health and your productivity. My Heath Clark Lectures will be published this spring under the title *Landmarks in the History of Hygiene*.<sup>5</sup> I also wrote my Bryce Lecture that I gave some years ago at Somerville college on the *Latin Medical Literature of the Early Middle Ages*.<sup>6</sup> I only have to add the footnotes. And now at last I resumed the work on volume two of my *History*.<sup>7</sup> I hope to get through with the manuscript at the end of this year, so that the volume should come out next year. But I am progressing very slowly.

Congratulations on the completion of volume two of your History of Technology.<sup>8</sup> As I wrote you in a previous letter I was wrong in the assumption that I could write eight volumes alone. From volume three on I shall have to get some help.

We had a beastly cold winter and I am sure Cornwall was about the warmest spot in the whole of Europe. Even in the Ticino the thermometer dropped to about 15° F which is most unusual and it did last for about six weeks and played havoc with our garden. The mimosa, the olive tree, the oleander, the agave all are dead. The camelias [sic] have suffered a great deal. And the dahlias which we are accustomed to leave in the soil are frozen dead also.

As a result of this protracted cold I had a slight set back that kept me a few weeks in bed. My blood pressure dropped suddenly from 170 to 120 and I almost collapsed. This was at the end of last month and I feel better and my doctor allows me to get up a few hours in the morning and a few hours in the afternoon.

My wife is well and my oldest daughter Erica is still unmarried and works as a librarian at the World Health Organization. My youngest daughter is happily married in New York and has two children. She took a Ph.D. degree in Slavic languages and literature at Columbia. Her husband is a young composer, Jack Beeson, who is professor of composition at Columbia University. He has written three operas one of which has been performed in New York, St. Louis, Baltimore and Louisville. And one will be performed next winter. You met my girls in 1946, when you were in Zurich. You have not written in your letter anything about the health of Dorothea, and I sincerely hope that she is feeling comfortable.

Well, that is the news. With best wishes from house to house I am  
Yours as always  
[Henry E. Sigerist ]

PS. I am just reviewing Ackerknecht's Short History of Medicine and I would like to refer to your Short History.<sup>9</sup> Could you tell me what was the latest edition. The first edition is of 1928, if I remember correctly.

<sup>1</sup> Singer (1956a).

<sup>2</sup> The majority of the figures at the end of the book were by Benjamin Kopel and taken from Carl G. Hartman and William L. Straus (eds), *The anatomy of the rhesus monkey (Macaca mulatta)*, (London: Bailliere, Tindall & Cox, 1933)

<sup>3</sup> Wilhelm Katner (1903–1985), German medical historian, see Hans Schadewaldt, 'Laudatio in honorem sexagenarii quinti Guilelmi Katner', in *Medicinae et artibus: Festschrift für Professor Dr. phil. Dr. med. Wilhelm Katner zu seinem 65. Geburtstag* (Düsseldorf: Michael Triltsch, c1968), ix–xii.

<sup>4</sup> Sigerist (1956b).

<sup>5</sup> Sigerist (1956a).

<sup>6</sup> Sigerist (1958).

<sup>7</sup> Sigerist (1961).

<sup>8</sup> Singer et al. (eds), vol II (1956).

<sup>9</sup> Sigerist reviewed Erwin H. Ackerknecht, *A short history of medicine* (New York, 1955) in *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 1956, 30: 278–279; Singer, *Short history* (1928b).

*Singer to Sigerist, Kilmarth, Cornwall, 5 April 1956*

My dear Henry,

Many thanks for your letter of the 20th March.

You will have received my account of Sarton. I am writing a fuller one for Nature.<sup>1</sup> If there is any particular point you would like me to make, perhaps you will drop me a line.

I cannot tell you what a pleasure it is to me that you appreciate my Galen.<sup>2</sup> It was badly wanted but stuck in the press for years. I always got proofs just at the time that I could not attend to them and then by the time that I could attend to them I really had forgotten all about what was needed, and so it went on time and time again.

The Clarendon Press has become really intolerably slow and seems to me not to consider human relationships at all. I thought that Volume II of our History of Technology would have been out long before now but I don't see much hope of it until June, though there is really nothing whatever to add to it.<sup>3</sup>

I am much looking forward to seeing your Heath Clark Lectures.<sup>4</sup>

I don't think I quite agree with you about the need for Greek script. Since there are so very few people now who read it and since it can be reproduced perfectly well in Latin script, it seems to me to be doing a service to use the Latin script and so show the reader at least how the words that he uses are derived. After all, our books are written to be read and not as museum pieces.

You are asking about the last edition of my Short History of Medicine. The Clarendon Press attaches a special meaning to the word 'edition' which is not that of most publishers. By 'edition' they mean a revision in which either substantial additions have been made or the general character of the text has been substantially modified. In this sense there has never been but one edition, though I have, if my memory serves, revised it several times. However, the new edition will be the work of Underwood and it should be substantially ready by now. He knows about it more than I do for he has it under his immediate supervision and I am only too glad not to correct the proofs.<sup>5</sup>

I have actually on my desk a History of Anatomy which I hope to get to press before the autumn.<sup>6</sup> I am also pledged to produce in book form a revision of The Herbal in Antiquity,<sup>7</sup> and Dingle and I are to appear as joint authors of A Short History of Science.<sup>8</sup> For all these reasons I am only too glad to be let off the work on medicine which Underwood is taking on.

I thought Ackerknecht's little book was good of its kind and especially good in the modern section. I thought he was foolish to put in the illustrations, which are neither well produced nor well chosen. It would have been a better and cheaper book if he had left them out altogether. I said this in a very favourable review of the book which I wrote for Nature.<sup>9</sup>

With all good wishes from us both to you both,

Yours as always,  
Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup> Sarton had died on 22 March 1956; Charles Singer, 'Obituary George Sarton', *Nature*, 1956, **178**: 67.

<sup>2</sup> Singer (1956a).

<sup>3</sup> Singer et al. (eds), vol II (1956).

<sup>4</sup> Sigerist (1956a).

<sup>5</sup> The second edition of Singer's *Short history of medicine* appeared in 1962 with Underwood as first author.

<sup>6</sup> Singer's second edition of *The evolution of anatomy*, published as *A short history of anatomy from the Greeks to Harvey* (New York: Dover Publications, 1957).

<sup>7</sup> No revised edition of Singer, *The herbal in antiquity* (1927), appeared.

<sup>8</sup> Charles Singer, *A short history of scientific ideas* (Oxford, 1959). Dingle was not co-author but in the introduction Singer wrote that "Professor H. Dingle has written the section from p. 418 to p.460 and has saved the text from some errors elsewhere".

<sup>9</sup> Ackerknecht (1955); Singer reviewed this in *Nature*, 1956, **177**: 909.

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*Singer to Sigerist, Kilmarth, Cornwall, 18 April 1956*

My dear Henry,

There is a matter in which you might be able to help us. We are seeking an article on the history of water-driven engines between 1850 and 1900. This, as you doubtless know, is a Swiss specialty and has been for a great many years. The firm of Escher Wyss<sup>1</sup> is regarded as the main producer of these engines and they produce a sort of journal 'The Escher Wyss News', now in its 28th volume or so, a version of which is printed in English. It is obviously a very highly scientific venture. Of course, the Swiss have a greater experience of this work than any other people in this world.

First of all, is the firm any relation of Emmie's?<sup>2</sup> Are you in any sort of communication with any of them? Secondly, the Escher Wyss firm produced a large quarto, beautifully illustrated brochure some years ago, from which I learn that the founder of the firm was Caspar Escher in 1805.<sup>3</sup> Two of the articles in this brochure (which, by the way, was published some time after 1939), one by J. Moser 'A Century of Water Turbines' and the other by J. Haefele 'Statistics concerning the Development of Water Turbines', contain the material that we are seeking, though we should want it a bit simplified. Can you tell me anything of these people? I have written to the firm itself asking their address but they had already written that there was no-one directly connected with the management of the firm who could undertake our task. Can you help us in the matter or alternatively could you suggest someone else who might do it? The article need not necessarily be written in English for we could arrange to have it adequately translated.

I expect you have heard of the discovery in the catacombs of Rome of an alleged dissection scene, said to be of the fourth century A.D. I have only before me a picture which appeared in the New York Times of April 11th. It is a very poor reproduction with a very imperfect screen. On the whole I am inclined to think that it is not a dissection scene, though I admit I am prejudiced because, if it is, I shall have to rewrite a section of a history of anatomy which is now approaching completion!<sup>4</sup> Of course, even if it is a dissection scene, that does not prove that there was any dissecting at the time. In the picture before me there is no Christian symbol or suggestion of Christianity. I should want a lot of persuading that there was any dissection by early Christians. However, it is

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impossible to give an opinion until one gets a proper photograph of the original, for which I have written.<sup>5</sup>

I have been asked to go to California for the winter of this year and I am playing with the idea. It seems a ridiculous thing to do at 80 and I don't suppose anything will come of it, but I thought I would let you know. Should we go, we should go all the way by sea in order to get warm.

I feel sure that you should not be going to the meeting at Florence this year.<sup>6</sup> Should I not go to California, we might possibly consider going to Florence. In that case I think I should try and visit you on the way. Quite frankly, I don't believe either of these schemes will come off and also I think that it is my duty to finish the innumerable literary jobs that I have in hand.<sup>7</sup>

With all kind wishes from us both to you both,  
Yours as ever,  
Charles Singer

P.S. I have just read an interesting and affecting little book by Richard Goldschmidt, 'Portraits from Memory'. It is really a most interesting little volume and in places quite touching.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Escher-Wyss, an engineering firm in Zurich.

<sup>2</sup> Emmy Sigerist-Escher.

<sup>3</sup> Hans Caspar Escher (1775–1859), Swiss industrialist and architect.

<sup>4</sup> See previous letter

<sup>5</sup> The picture was finally published by A. Ferrua, *Le pitture della nuova catacomba di Via Latina* (Vatican City, 1960). For a reproduction and an English discussion, see J. Stevenson, *The catacombs. Rediscovered monuments of early Christianity* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1978) 84, 128–9, with pl. 103. Singer's scepticism has been borne out by recent discussions.

<sup>6</sup> To the International Congress of the History of Science and Technology.

<sup>7</sup> See previous letter.

<sup>8</sup> Richard B. Goldschmidt (1878–1958), German-American zoologist; see C. Stern, 'Richard Benedict Goldschmidt, April 12, 1878–April 24, 1958', *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine*, 1969, 12: 179–203. Richard B. Goldschmidt, *Portraits from memory. Recollections of a zoologist* (Seattle, 1956).

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*Sigerist to Singer, Pura, 25 April 1956*

My dear Singer,

Many thanks for two letters and for your obituary on Sarton. I wish you would write such an obituary for me when the time comes, for I have no doubt that you will outlive me.

Caspar Escher was no relative of Emmy's or at any rate a very distant relative of Emmy's great-grandfather. We have no connection with the firm and I cannot help you in the matter except that I am sending you a clipping from the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" listing all the machines they have exhibited at the Sample Fair at Basle.<sup>1</sup>

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As to the so-called dissection scene I agree with you, that from the picture reproduced in the "New York Times" one cannot say whether it is actually a dissection scene or an operation scene. Friends sent me the clipping. And although Proskauer and Fulton seem to agree that it is a dissection scene, I have my doubts.<sup>2</sup> To the Early Christians who believed in resurrection in the flesh it must have been abhorrent to dissect human bodies, particularly of children. Or it may be that the scene represents a rite unknown to us. I hesitate to give an opinion before I have seen a decent picture and if I were you I would not rewrite a section of your history of anatomy.

Congratulations upon the invitation to California. A winter in California is a very pleasant thing. Should you go to Florence, by all means visit me on the way.<sup>3</sup>

With kind regards from both of us to you both I am

Yours ever

[Henry E. Sigerist]

<sup>1</sup> See previous letter.

<sup>2</sup> Curt Proskauer (1887–1972) wrote on medical iconography; see Malvin E. Ring, In memoriam Curt Proskauer, 1887–1972', *Bulletin of the history of dentistry*, 1972, **20**: 34–36.

<sup>3</sup> The International Congress of the History of Science and Technology at Florence.

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*Sigerist to Singer, Pura, 29 August 1956*

My dear Charlie,

I was very much disturbed to learn through Dorothea that you had suffered a slight heart attack. Take good care of yourself and don't get up too soon.

We have been looking forward to Dorothea's visit, and are very disappointed that we shall not have the pleasure of welcoming her, but we understand that she is anxious to be at your bedside.

Good luck to you my dear friend, and we hope that we shall hear soon that you recovered fully.

With warm greetings to you both from us both, I am,

Yours affectionately,

Henry E. Sigerist

*Singer to Sigerist, Kilmarth, 3 September 1956*<sup>1</sup>

My dear Henry,

Many thanks for your letter of the 29th August. The fact is that I have been afflicted with a very acute rheumatoid arthritis, the acuteness of which gives good hope of an early recovery. I am now quite free from pain and able to walk comfortably, though still almost confined to the house.

About ten days ago I had an attack of cardiac asthma which was very clearly related to a small personal anxiety. I recovered in a matter of minutes with a quarter of a grain of morphia and, though drowsy next day, I was up and the day after was practically normal. I am told that there is no reason why these things should recur.

The rheumatoid arthritis has subsided except in my hands and though I can write I am advised not to for several more weeks. The swelling of the hands is going down rapidly. It happens that I have a sister, now aged 88, who has been through precisely the same history. She is now perfectly normal except that she has a few bony outgrowths on the fingers. She writes perfectly well, has full use of her senses, does her own house-work and goes out daily, which is not bad for her age.

All this will clearly prevent me and, indeed, Dorothea from visiting you this month, so that you must forgive us. I am really not ill and, except for the stage of acute onset, have never felt ill, which is rather a comfort.

With warmest greetings to you both,

Yours affectionately,

Charles Singer

<sup>1</sup>This seems to be the last letter of the correspondence, half a year prior to Sigerist's death in March 1957. Singer died in 1960, aged 84.