

'Ponci, Ferdinando'

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PONCI, FERDINANDO, VENICE

105/13

14 JUN 1913

MEMORANDUM

FROM BURROUGHS WELLCOME & CO.

TO BURROUGHS WELLCOME & CO.

JUN 14 1913

MILAN

LONDON

Reference No. 3656

Date 12th. June 1913.

Your Memo. Dated _____ Reference _____

Re H.M.Exhibition.

In C. G. S. Thompson

Sig. Ponci Ferdinando, Chemist, Campo S. Fosco, Venice, a regular customer of ours, writes to say that he has forwarded to Mr. Henry S. Wellcome in London a photograph of his "long-established pharmacy (A.D. 1630), excellently preserved and really artistic" and asking us to advise Mr. Wellcome of this. We have written to Sig. Ponci saying we would do what he asks and thanking him in advance for his courtesy.

MB

H. M. M.

13th June 1913.

No. 3030

H.M. Exhibition.

Sig. Ponci Ferdinando, Chemist, Campo S. Torso, Venice, a regular customer of ours, writes to say that he has forwarded to Mr. Henry S. Wellcome in London a photograph of his "long-established pharmacy (A.D. 1630)", excellently preserved and really artistic" and asking us to advise Mr. Wellcome of this. We have written to Sig. Ponci saying we would do what he asks and thanking him in advance for his courtesy.

Ferdinando

Whitman

Poveri

Translation of letter to ~~to~~ Ferdinando, Venice.

Dear Sir,

I desire to thank you very cordially for so kindly sending me the photograph of your ancient and beautiful pharmacy. I am having it framed and placed in the Pharmacy Section of the H.M.M.

I trust if you are coming to England this year, you will be able to pay a visit to the Museum.

Again thanking you for your kindness, and the trouble you have taken in the matter,

Yours, very truly,

H.S.W.

18 giugno, 1913.

Gentilissimo Signore,

Desidero ringraziarla assai cordialmente per avermi mandato la fotografia della Sua bella ed antica farmacia. La farò inquadrare per la Sezione Farmaceutica del Museo Storico-Medico.

Spero che se Lei venisse in Inghilterra quest'anno, Lei possa visitare il Museo.

Ringrazianola di nuovo della Sua gentilezza e la pena datasi.

Di Lei devotissimo,

Il Signore *F. Ferdinando Ponci,*
Venezia.

Harrow

ENGLAND.

12 Aprile 1912.

Pregiatissimo Signor,

Probabilmente si ricorda che la visitai nella Sua farmacia quando mi trovavo a Venezia sei anni fa; parlammo fra altro della probabilità che io comprassi i vecchi mobile, vasi, di farmacia, ecc., della Sua farmacia.

Non so se Lei sia ancora disposto a venderla o se avesse intenzione di venire ad un termine prima della fine dell'anno.

Caso mai sarebbe disposto a considerare un adattamento come il seguente, che non sarebbe che un suggerimento; che io rifornisca la Sua farmacia con mobile moderni, vasi e bottiglie di uno stile il più avanzato assieme ad una somma che dovremmo fissare fra di noi in cambio per tutti i suoi mobile, vasi, utensili, ecc., che ora vi si trovano?

Questo non è come dico che un suggerimento sul quale ci potremmo basare per intraprendere la negoziazione.

In attesa di una Sua gradita risposta prego di accettare i miei cordiali ossequi.

C.J.S.T.

Voglia notare il cambio d'indirizzo.

Pregiatissimo Signor
Ferdinando Ponci,
Campo San Foca,
Venezia. Italia.

PLATE I.

HYGEIA - THE GODDESS OF HEALTH AND THE HAND-MAID OF MEDICINE.

THE GREEK GODDESS OF HEALTH.

THE GREEK GODDESS OF HEALTH.

PLATE I.

THE GREEK GODDESS OF HEALTH.

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THE GREEK GODDESS OF HEALTH.

PLATE I.

PLATE I.

PLATE I.

Translation.

Harrow.

12th April 1912.

Dear Sir,

You may remember some six years ago, when I was visiting Venice, I called upon you and had an interview at your pharmacy, and we had some conversation as to the possibility of my purchasing the ancient fixtures and vases of pharmacy, etc., in your pharmacy.

I do not know if you are still willing to consider the sale of it, and if we could come to some agreement on the matter before the close of this year.

Would you be willing to entertain some arrangement of this kind:- that I should re-fit your pharmacy with modern fixtures, vases and bottles of the most improved style, together with a sum of money to be agreed upon between us, in exchange for the entire old fixtures, vases, and implements, etc., that are now in it. I simply suggest this as a basis upon which perhaps we might be able to negotiate.

Trusting you are well, and awaiting the favour of your reply,

I am, etc.

C.J.S.T.

P.S. Kindly note
change of address.

Sig. Ferdinando Ponci,
Campo San Fosca,
Venice.

Miss Skinner

The Brook House
Kingston-on-Thames
6 Giugno 1906.

Egregio Signore,

— Obbligato di assentarmi all'estero, non ho potuto finora rispondere alla pregiata vostra del 5^o Gennaio.

Con riguardo agli anodi ecc. della vostra vecchia farmacia, forse mi deciderei ad accettargli, se poteste offrirmegli ad un prezzo ragionevole!

Ringraziandovi per della vostra gentilezza e di tutto il fastidio cagionato, ^{vi}riverisco distintamente, di Lei voi

Devotissimo

All' Egregio Signor
Ferdinando Ponci
Campo San Teresa
Fenezia (Italia)

Fosca The pamphlet is only a pamphlet advertising *Santa* ~~Purificando~~
~~Ponci~~ Purgative Pills and the blue-marked paragraph is a
request for authorisation made the 10th June 1701 to continue
the manufacture of the said pills.

Translation of matter on back of photograph.

Venice 9.6.3.

The old and historical pharmacy Ponci at Santa Fosca,
Venice which Bedeker mentions to visitors for its originality
and for its artistic value. Its style is of the period of
about 1630 and presents the barocco style. Our architect
and literary man Camillo Boito has admirably described it in
one of his novels.

With best compliments to the firm
Burroughs Wellcome & Co

B.E.R.

Trish

C.T.

January 27. 1905

Dear Mr Welloome,

I returned from Italy last week leaving Dr Sambon, who had not recovered, at Milan to superintend the despatch of the remainder of the packing cases.

*Delvd in
London if bought*

Before leaving Milan, I made a careful inspection, as you wished, of old Mr Sambon's collection of medical antiquities. It is composed in all of 344 (three hundred and fortyfour) objects, and is in some respects the finest collection of the kind I have seen.

He has 203 (two hundred and three) antient Greek and Roman surgical instruments and medical and pharmaceutical implements in bronze and silver. The majority of these, he states, are picked specimens, and certainly some are very beautifully ornamented. Next to the instruments, in importance, is the section of medical medals, of which he has 112 (one hundred and twelve) antient and modern, in bronze and silver; some of these are exceedingly interesting. Of votive offerings, medical statuettes, biberons and lamps of the Greek and Roman epoch he has 77 (seventyseven) in all, in terra cotta. Among the antient Roman antiquities are several bronze nipple shields and an old cupping instrument of bronze, similar specimens of which I have only seen in the Museum at Naples. Of medical objects of the mediæval period, he has a good trepanning instrument of the XVth century, a speculum of the XVIIth century, old lancets and microscope. Another most interesting object in the collection is a human skull with the cranium mapped out in sections in the phrenological style and inscribed with the various attributes in XVth century caligraphy. It is evidently one of the skulls used by the astrologers of the XIVth and XVth century such as we often find depicted in works on astrology and chiromancy of that period. He has also a very beautiful ivory carving, in miniature, depicting a demonstration in anatomy, a fine oil painting of St. Rocco in the act of being healed by an Angel, a curious wax picture representing the plague, XVIIth century (damaged) and five rare old pharmacy vases of the XVth century in caffajoile ware.

In the course of conversation, I asked Mr Sambon if he had any thought of disposing of them, and he replied that he had

W

January 27. 1905

special wish, as he had been collecting them for over thirty years, but he is now concentrating his efforts in making a collection of objects connected with theatres and the drama. He would be willing to sell if he could get the money back that he had paid for them. I have brought back with me a complete catalogue of the entire collection, so that you will be able to see it on your return. I should roughly estimate the value of this collection at about £300 (three hundred pounds), and I reckon that it would be cheap if it could be got for anything under. Of course Mr Sambon is an experienced dealer and is well aware of the value of these antiquities.

While in Venice, we came across an antient pharmacy founded in 1620, which still contains in their entirety, the original fixtures of most beautifully carved wood and gold. It is the finest interior I have ever seen, and the proprietor kindly allowed me to take some rough sketches, as it was too dark to photograph. Surmounting the shelving on the three sides of the shop are life sized busts carved in wood, one of an alchemist holding a retort; another of an apothecary with a pestle and mortar, and the other of a physician holding a book. The shelving is supported by thick carved wood pillars, and the cornice ornamented with gilded serpents intertwined and reclining figures, also gilded. The edges of the shelving are all carved and partly edged with gold. On either side of a very finely carved door that leads into a laboratory at the back, stand two anatomical figures, male and female, beautifully carved, about four feet in height. The front of the counter and drawers underneath the shelving, and cupboard doors, are all similarly carved and panelled. The containers and vases in use are still the antient blue and white majolica of the XVII century, but they are not very pretty.

2 I spoke to the proprietor and asked him if he felt disposed to sell the entire fixtures as they stood, and although he would not name any price, he said he would be willing to consider an offer for them. I thought it best to let the matter rest and not seem keen on it, as we could always take it up any time if you felt disposed to make a bid for them. I believe these fixtures are unique, and I have never seen anything so fine in any pharmacy. It is not unlikely that the man might take a reasonable price for them if you wished to buy, as I heard that several pharmacists in Venice recently have removed their old fixtures and replaced them with more modern and convenient ones.

January 27. 1905

The pharmacy is called "Farmacia San Fosca". I will bring the sketches before you on your return.

Dr Sambon returned to London on the 25th inst., and is somewhat better, but he still looks ill. I am starting him to work to-day on describing and arranging chronologically all the antient surgical instruments we have collected up to date. This he is going to do at the Office as this appears to me to be the best method of getting satisfactory results from him in London. I shall be glad to know if these arrangements meet with your approval.

yes.
I heard yesterday of a barber-surgeon's bleeding basin of the XVII century and a medicine bottle of the same period that had recently been found in digging the foundation of an old house in Bennetts Lane, London, E.C. The basin is undoubtedly genuine and a most interesting specimen. They wanted a stiff price for it, and it was a case of closing at once or letting it go. I thought it was too good to pass and after some bargaining bought the two for £2.2.6 (two pounds two shillings and sixpence).
good.

With respect to the Davenport pharmacy vases in Venice, I have made an offer to begin with of 10 frs. (ten francs) for each vase and glass bottle. I do not think he will accept this offer, but it will serve to open negotiations. I have not yet had a reply and will advise you if I come to an agreement on the matter.

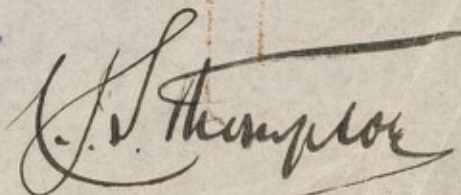
I have started Mr Terzi to work on the large picture of the plague in Bologna, as I brought back with me a very fine photograph of it showing all the detail and have taken also the colours in the original picture so that he should have no difficulty now in executing it. I am also making him alter the other picture of "The Making of the Theriaca", as when I saw the original I found the colouring much darker than he had made it.

I have placed the staff of lady artists at work on the Italian pictures which we have brought back, and of which there are over one hundred so that they may be done without delay.

A number of very interesting objects has been recently offered on loan for the H.M.B., some from America, others from Holland and France. All of these have been suitably dealt with.

Faithfully yours,

Henry S. Wellcome Esq.



Force
Force

Force

Truly
Yours
Truly
Yours

Force
Force

7 Giugno 1906.

Egregio Signore,

Obbligato di assentarmi all'estero,
non ho potuto finora rispondere alla
pregiata vostra del 5 Gennaio a. c.

Con riguardo agli arredi ecc. della
vostra vecchia farmacia, forse mi deci-
derei ad accettargli, se poteste
offrirmeagli ad un prezzo ragionevole.

Riagraziandovi della vostra genti-
lezza e di tutto il fastidio cagionato,
vi riverisco distintamente, di voi
Devotissimo.

All'Egregio Signor
Ferdinando Ponci
Campo San Tosca
Venezia (Italia)

To be translated into Italian.

6d. 1/10
pc

The Brook House,
Kingston-on-Thames.
June 5th, 1906.

Dear Sir,

Absence abroad has prevented me replying
to your letter dated January 5th sooner.

With respect to the fittings, etc., of your
ancient pharmacy, any time you may be prepared to
name a reasonable price for the same, I shall be
pleased to consider it.

Thanking you for your kindness, and for the
trouble you have taken,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Signor Ferdinando Ponci,
Campo San Fosca,
Venice.

FARMACIA F. PONCI

Campo S. Fosca - VENEZIA

CON LABORATORIO PER ANALISI CHIMICI
e MICROSCOPIA CLINICA

FIALE STERILIZZATE

PER INIEZIONI IPODERMICHE

Telefono 984

Venezia, li 25th January 1906

The Brook House
Grove Crescent Road
Kingston-on-Thames

Dear Sir!

Got Yours of the 27th XI part
as well as the photographs
back and in reply to it I must
tell you the offer I've made
is most reasonable concerning
the artistic value of the whole,
nevertheless I am inclined to
yield a trifle and kindly
request you to make a propo-
sal trusting far further answer
I am Yours truly

Ferdinando Ponci

Brook House notepaper.
For translation into Italian.

November 23, 1905

Dear Sir,

I have now pleasure in returning you the picture of your pharmacy which you so kindly loaned me when I was in Venice some weeks ago, and trust it will reach you safely.

I regret to say that the price you ask for the photos, etc, is quite prohibitive, so I am sorry I cannot entertain the purchase for so considerable a sum. If at any time you are prepared to take a moderate amount I should be glad to hear from you.

Again thanking you for your kindness in loaning me the picture,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Signor Ferdinando Ponci,
Farmacista,
S. Fosca,
Venice,
Italy.

£ 100.000

60 16

128

Complete

Large vases
Small vase

NOV 2 1905

£4,000

£4,000
100
100

Duplicate.

il 27 novembre 1905

Egregio Signore,

Colla presente lettera, vi ritorno le viste della vostra farmacia che aveste la cortesia di rimettermi alcune settimane fa, quando io era a Venezia, e spero che le riceverete in buon stato.

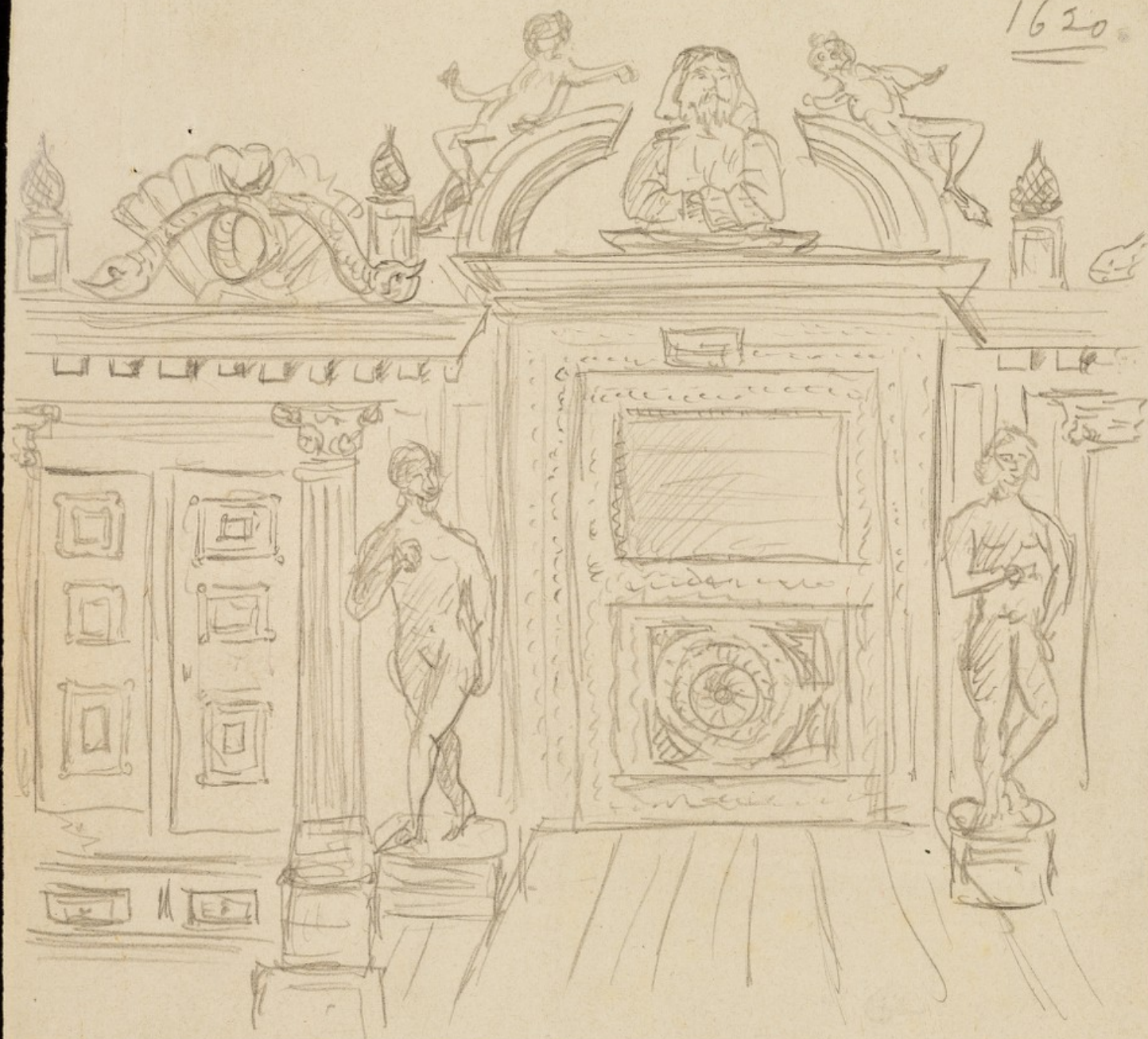
small S ~~ecc.~~ Mi rincresce molto che il prezzo che domandate per le fotografie, ecc. Sia veramente proibitivo e non mi permetta di comprarle. Però mi piacerei ricevere delle notizie vostre nel caso che foste disposto ad accettare un prezzo moderato. *a*

Con i miei nuovi ringraziamenti per la cortesia che aveste di confidarmi gli oggetti in questione, vi prego di gradire i miei più distinti saluti.

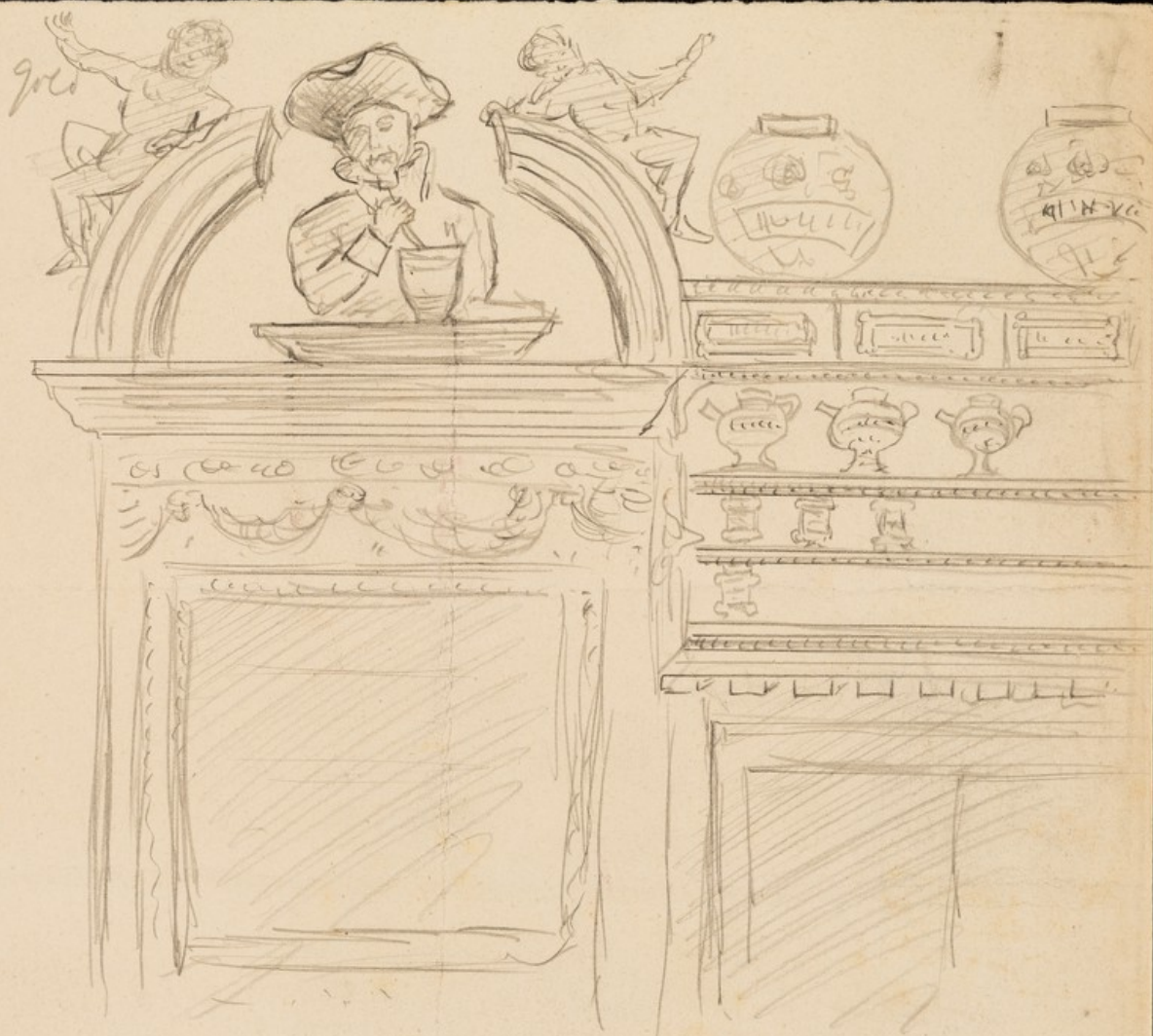
Devotissimo

All'Egregio Signor
Ferdinando Ponzi,
Farmacista, *C*
S. Fosca,
Venice Italy.

1620









Ceiling all beams
painted
wood like dark oak
& (piled)