

'Fothergill, George A'

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FOTHERGILL, GEORGE A

1913

Blue Snow Hill Bays

29 October 1913.

Dear Sir,

I desire to thank you for your kind and interesting letter and your appreciative remarks with reference to the Historical Medical Museum.

Very many thanks for so kindly presenting your design for the menu card which has now been framed and hangs in one of the Galleries of the Museum. The combination of art and medicine is a very interesting one, and I am so glad to know that you have been successful in following the call of the art which appealed to you most.

I trust that some time you will be able to visit London and see the Historical Medical Museum, in which I am sure you would find many things to interest you. As you have probably gathered from the report of the opening proceedings, I have decided to make it a permanent institution in London and a home for the study of the history of medicine, surgery and the allied sciences.

Wishing you every success in your future artistic career, and again thanking you for your kind gift,

I am,

Yours very truly,

George A. Fothergill Esq.,
Old Farmhouse, Cramond Bridge,
Linlithgowshire.

IT S W.

Old Farmhouse : (ramond Bridge
in Lithgowshire.

S. X. 13

C.T. ~~these~~ very
small ~~very~~ candid
Mr. W. ~~are~~
appreciated
deply for
my signed
books, etc.

Dear Mr Wellcome — your pamphlet and
note reminding me of my promise to lend
something for your museum has just arrived.
It has found me at ^{the} ~~an~~ ^{of forty-five} age — a critical age in
a man's life — wavering between strength and weak-
ness of mind i.e., I am looking back as
well as forward. If I am to do anything more
that is worthy of attention, the less I look back
the better. (on the other hand — and your
pamphlet, with certain remarks made therein by
Sir Thomas Barlow, has served as an extra
stimulus — I believe I have some justification in
doing so; and if I do, it may be the more interesting
to those who view what I now intend to send
you as a permanent loan, for they will be reminded
of the fact that the man who conceived and
carried out that unique design has grown out of
a Bachelor of Medicine and Magister Chirurgicus to be
the most distinguished ^{British} ~~all round~~ draftsman and painter
in water-colours that ^{mystical} ~~the~~ Profession has yet known.
That's a piece of self glorification for the reader of
this letter to mouth! It is none the less true.
The Royal Scottish Academy* has honoured me already
by hanging three of my works "on the line" and very
many much better drawings than those hang in
the houses of influential people throughout
England and Scotland, at Melrose (Lord Binning's),
Salisbury (W. Hall Walker Esq. M.P.), & Raby Castle
(Lord Barnard's), to mention but three places. Again,
though it does not possess any of my later and best
water-colours, "The Fothergill Collection" at Darlington
Co Durham, is a complete collection of my published
drawings (close upon 2000) which will convince
anyone that ~~where~~ the author of it has undoubtedly

* I have so far never sent anything up to the R.A. or any other big London gallery.

at the Technical College and at the Edward Pease Public Library, where is a cabinet of my water-colours, proofs, etc.

done more all round drawing than anyone else who has crept through the ranks of the Doctors and come out of it an artist. It is true I did this without having made a name in Medicine, and beyond having been known locally as a good average general practitioner, and one who, by the grace of God, came out of his three years service without having made any blunders, my work in Medicine will sink into oblivion. But, as long as my art productions remain I suppose my reputation as an artist springing from the Medical Profession will not readily die down.

I am aware that several distinguished Medical men in London have indulged in art, ^{their works have} and [^] been well hung on the walls of good galleries; but their efforts are honestly, not great. I should have no fear about placing a dozen of my best pictures alongside of a dozen of theirs and calling upon a good committee of judges in art to decide which was the best dozen.

I must however not ~~omit~~ omit here that I ~~have~~ ^{had} done two unique things during my short medical career. I was the first to find "chicken cutlets" at the base of the brain (vide the enclosed gift for your Museum), and I once accepted a guinea fee ~~for~~ from a well known member of the Pytchley Hunt for opening up a fox's stomach and getting its contents analysed!

Forgive me for writing at this length and for sounding my own trumpet so loudly — but it is my duty, now and again, for the sake of my large family to advertise myself.

Believe me,

Ever yrs truly, George A. Fothergill

P.T.O.

P.S.

My six exhibits at the International Art Horse Show, Olympia, of this year were pronounced to be not inferior to the work of Mr George Denholm Atkinson, who is generally looked upon as our best sporting artist of today and of all time. Some even declared my portraits of horses were better than his. He did not, ^{however,} exhibit at this show. The dealers in London have not seen any of my work for at least ten years; it has nearly all been privately commissioned; and, certainly, the Medical Profession there is entirely ignorant of it.

CAF

This menu-card was ^{in 1893} conceived and designed by myself. This is one of the original auto-lithographs, my only copy, which I now present to Mr Wellcome for his Historical Medical Museum.

There were 120 at the dinner and each found a similar menu card between his knife and fork.

Those who spoke afterwards were - Dr Russell, Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

Sir William Turner, now Principal of Edinburgh University.

Mr Caird, now Professor of Clinical Surgery.

Professor John Chisne.

Professor Symington, in whose honour the dinner was given.

Dr Leith, now Professor in Birmingham.

Mr Miles, a distinguished Edinburgh surgeon.

Mr Cathcart, also a distinguished Edinburgh surgeon etc, etc.

George A. Fisher
Oct. '93