

Comein Collection (Antwerp) - Pharmacy Jars

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1901-1903

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14
Mr Johnson.

Please look out the papers on drug jars in the possession of a chemist in Antwerp. Mr Wellcome wants to know the exact position. I brought the matter before him about a year ago when I heard that some of the drug jars had been sold. A great many are left, ~~because~~ Mr Curry wrote about the matter when he was in Antwerp.

You might also remind Mr Wellcome about the collection of drug jars in the possession of Professor Liebreich of Berlin. I believe this to be the most complete on the Continent. Mr Curry knows something of it.

May 9, 1903.

L.

THE CHEMIST & DRUGGIST.
PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

H. S. Wellcome, Esq.,
Snow Hill Buildings,
E. C.

Dear Mr. Wellcome,

I thought it might interest you to know that the collection of pharmacy pots belonging to M. J. Comein, 24 Marche aux Soutiers, Antwerp, is for sale. We illustrated a few of the pots in our Winter Number of 1900, but in case the article escaped your notice I give the following particulars of the collection:- First of all there are in polychrome 70 Delft vases of various shapes (albarello and carafe), 4 Rouen, 7 Strasburg and 1 Spanish. In monochrome (some in cameieu and grisaille) there are 165 Delft, 5 Rouen and 17 Italian. 50 other Italian vases are also in the collection, some rare, including a specimen of Urbino faience. The other items include 15 old glass bottles and vases, 16 bronze mortars (from 1500 to 1600), weights, and some old Pharmacopoeias and Herbals. M. Comein puts the value as £400, but I presume that is a matter for bargaining. You will, I hope, excuse me sending particulars of this collection, but knowing you to be interested in articles of vertu it appeared to me these might have a special interest on account of their unique pharmaceutical interest.

I am,

Very faithfully yours,

Saml W. Woolley
Assistant Editor

See the C. & D. for 27th Jan. 1900.

pp. 164-167.

and
31 JUL 1901

42, Cannon Street,
London, E.C.

27th July, 1901.

Translation of letter from J. Comein, Pharmacie Anglaise, dated
Antwerp 29th September, 1901, addressed to Mr. Thompson.

I hasten to send you a few words in reply to your favour of yesterday; I regret being unable at the moment to send you a larger number of photographs of my collection, they are all I have left. I have also been obliged to send some to America, and last week a chemist from San Francisco took away about 20 to show at the University and at the Chemical Society. By the end of this week I hope to be able to send you some more, if not all, as the printing is not so quick now as in summer. I shall not fix you a price until you are able to form an idea as to my entire collection. It contains some very beautiful things and is certainly worthy of a Museum, I even dare to assert that there are very few Museums that are so complete, and I believe that there are no private collections that can compare with mine.

I have several mortars in bronze, amongst them a gothic one dated 1563.

My collection comprises also several curious works on chemistry and botany and a very old pharmacopoeias of 1641 and 1650 and following years.

Yours etc., etc.

Comein

PHARMACIE ANGLAISE

J. COMEIN

Marché aux Souliers, 24

TÉLÉPHONE 814

*

Monsieur Thompson

London

ANVERS, LE 29 *Jan* 1894

Je m'empresse de répondre quelques mots à votre honorée lettre d'hier; je regrette de ne pouvoir vous envoyer pour le moment un plus grand nombre de photographies de ma collection, c'est tout ce qui me reste encore. J'ai dû en envoyer anglaises, en Amérique, et la semaine dernière un pharmacien de San Francisco en a emporté une vingtaine pour les montrer à l'Université, et à la Société de Pharmacie. Pour la fin de cette semaine j'espère pouvoir vous en envoyer encore quelques-unes si pas toutes, car le triage ne se fait plus aussi vite qu'en plein été. Je ne veux pas vous fixer le prix avant que vous puissiez vous faire une idée de toute ma collection. Elle comprend de très belles pièces, et elle est certainement digne d'un musée, je puis dire qu'il y a peu de musées qui soient aussi complets, et je crois qu'il n'y a pas de collections particulières qui puissent rivaliser avec la mienne.

J'ai plusieurs monnaies en bronze. Dans l'un, gothique date de 1563.

PHARMACIE ANGLAISE
J. GOMER

Ma collection comprend aussi plusieurs ouvrages anciens de
chimie et de botanique et de très-vieilles pharmacopées
de 1641 & 1650 et années suivantes.

Je prie, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma haute et distinguée

J. Gomer

Price
Fr 10,000

12/10000
20/833-4
41/13.10
46.18.4

Return:
Postk Restante
Rotterdam.

Queen's Hotel.
Antwerp.
88
Aug. 29. 02.

J. M. W.
SEP 1 1902

~~Dear Sir.~~

I had an opportunity yesterday of inspecting the unique collection of Pharmacy ware. in possession of Mr. J. Comen. Marche aux Couleirs 24.

Antwerp. A partial description is given of it in C. & D. 27. Jan. 1900. Photos have been sent to Mr. Wellcome. In

addition to the specimens of Polychrome Delft ware. Mr Comen has Spanish & Italian jars including some of Blue Savonna ware. It is a very interesting collection.

Yours truly
F. Lacey.

Thom Burroughs Wellcome & Co.

Mr W. has this
BOF. *2*
not
SEP 1 1902

2-526

Handwritten notes and scribbles in the bottom right corner.

88

ORDER
REOR 19 JUN 1903
ANOR

ORDER No
REOR 1-SEP 1902
ANOR

1

10, AGLAND ROAD,
WILLESDEN GREEN, N.W.

JUN 4 1903

Dear Mr Johnson:

Will you please have
the enclosed draft letter
translated into French &
typed upon blank paper
& sent to me for signature
& despatch in stamped
addressed envelope

J. G. Rhein

3 JUN 1903
Marché aux Boullies
Antwerp. 24.

Please also return draft.

Yours truly
L. Curry.

H. F. Johnson Esq.

For translation into French - then to be typed out on plain paper and sent to Mr Curry for his signature and despatch.

10 Acland Road,

Willesden Green, N.W.

8 June 1903.

Dear Mr Comein,

I have not forgotten your collection of pharmacy jars which you kindly shewed me when in Antwerp last year. Will you kindly let me know if you still have the collection complete, and what is the lowest price you are prepared to accept for it? I will then see if I can help you to place it. If you have sold any part of the collection, please let me know what remains and the lowest price you will take for it. With your price, kindly send me the fullest possible particulars of the number of pieces, description etc. with photographs if you have such - the latter, however, are not absolutely necessary as I have myself seen the collection.

I remember, too, that you had a collection of old medical and pharmaceutical works. If you desire also to dispose of these, please send me a list of the books, their dates, subjects, and of course the author's name; also the price of the collection, and if you will sell them separately, the price per volume.

Have you any other medical or pharmaceutical antiquities of interest? In your reply, please address yourself to me personally, and not to the firm.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mr J. Comein,

5
Marche aux Bouliers 24,
Antwerp.

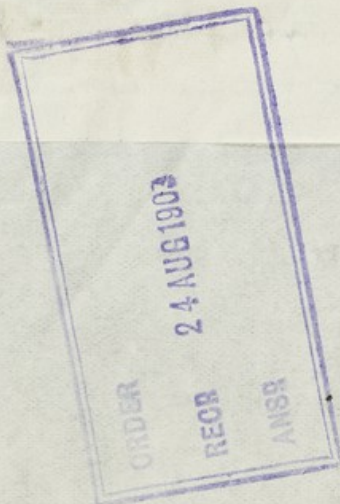
*Please return
to F. Curry.*
AUG 22 1903

Henry S. Wallace Esq.,

Hotel Vascaya,

Bilbao,

Spain.



H Curry will write

PHARMACIE ANGLAISE

J. COMEIN

Marché aux Souliers, 24

TÉLÉPHONE 814

*

ANVERS, LE

12 Juin

18903

Monsieur Comy

London.

Je m'empresse de répondre quelques mots à votre lettre du 8 courant; ma collection est restée entière telle que vous l'avez vue, et si je la vends, ce sera toute la collection et non pas par parties, livres, mortiers et poids compris. Malheureusement pour le moment je n'ai plus aucune photographie, j'en aurai dans une huitaine de jours, car je dois en envoyer également en Amérique. Vous pouvez trouver une description de ma collection dans le "Chemist & Druggist" N° du 24 Janvier 1900 page 164. Ma collection de vases comprend environ 40 pots italiens ^{en apollin} en faïence de Rome, de Savone, de Caffagiolo, de San Angelo, de Gènes etc; 40 vases en faïence de Delft polychromée (c'est-à-dire en plusieurs couleurs), une centaine en faïence de Delft avec vignette bleue 5 vases en faïence de Rouen Louis XV décorés bleus, 2 en faïence de Rouen polychromée, 4 en faïence de Strasbourg Louis XVI, 10 grands vases en faïence de Delft vignette bleue de 24 centimètres de hauteur sur 18 centimètres de diamètre. La collection comprend de 300 à 350 pots.

À la commencement de l'année 1898, M. Monsieur
Alexandre, de Putney en Angleterre, de passage à
Amers m'offrait 5000 francs et je n'avais que
la moitié de ce que j'ai maintenant. Il est impos-
sible aujourd'hui de rassembler encore une collection
pareille, quelque soit le prix qu'on veuille y mettre,
Depuis deux ans les faïences de Delft ont plus que
double de valeur, je ne la vendrais donc que pour
autant que je puisse en faire un bon prix, et
encore je m'en réparerai avec regret.
Ci-joint je vous envoie quelques photographies que
j'ai encore trouvées. Si vous en désirez encore des
autres vases, faites-le moi savoir, je vous les enverrai
aussitôt que je les aurai tirés. J'ai encore 6 médailles
en bronze dont une gothique de 1563, une de 1623,
une de 1543, de 1638 et de 1756.
Quant aux livres, ce serait trop long de vous en donner
maintenant la liste, il y a des pharmacopées de 1641,
1651, toutes en latin, de toute les époques, même
la pharmacopée d'Edimbourg de 1756; ensuite des
livres de médecine, et de livres de botanique, les uns en
français, d'autres en hollandais, d'autres en latin, tels
que les œuvres de Clavius imprimées par Plautius
Bachelier. Vous comprenez qu'il est difficile de fixer
un prix, mais si vous avez un amateur sérieux, peut-
être pourrions-nous nous entendre. C'est une collection formée
un véritable musée, qui ne peut que gagner en valeur,
je ne suis donc pas très-pêché de la vendre, à moins d'un
bon prix, comme je l'ai dit plus haut. Je ne crois pas qu'il

Il est en Europe une musée facile à trouver, en fait de faïences, celui-ci
Amersberg ne pouvait être comparé au mien. Je crois que le prix de
10 000 ou 15 000 francs n'est pas exagéré. La collection qui sera
à la vente

Antwerp.

99

Return address: - c/o ~~Post Office~~ ^{Hotel} How.
41 rue de la Madeleine, Brussels.
Hôtel St. Jean Nord, Brussels.

9th August 1903.

Miss Murrroughs Wellcome to
Gentlemen,

Please find enclosed finding
of order folio 6107 for Mr. J. Comen
Pharmacia, 24 Marché aux Foulons
Antwerp. The order I turned over
to Delacre. I persuaded Mr. J. Comen
to order 3 doz products and promised
him a 3 doz 'Fabloid' show case
which he has promised to use
properly but he would not sign
the agreement before receiving the
case He was very courteous to me
but said, that some time ago, he
sent you some photographs of his
collection of old porcelain jars he
use in Chemists' shops many
years ago. He says that this collection

over

[Faint, illegible handwriting]

ORDER N^o
REC^d
NSW²
10 AUG 1903
AUG 10 1903
Net

Antwerp
continued

is very valuable, a description was printed in the "Chemist & Druggist" at that time. He said that you were interested in such things, he had heard say and he invited a visit to inspect them.

He complained that his photographs were never acknowledged.

I explained that there was some mistake that very probably you had received the photos, but could not trace the sender and therefore were unable to write him.

He felt hurt and if you received them I think if you write him on the subject he will be pleased. He speaks French only.

Yours truly
J. H. Morrison

ORDER N^o
REC^o
ANSW^o 10AUG1903
AUG 10 1903 *Aug*

for translation

AUG 22 1903

10. Aeland Rd
Willesden Green.

Dear Mr. Comersin.

I have received
your letter referring to
your collection of Vases &c
& giving me the particulars
asked for in ~~my~~ my
letter to you of the
8th June. I very much
regret to say that I
have not yet found
a buyer ~~yet~~, as I had
thought to do. but
collectors of the kind
likely to be interested in
your collection are few

& the price is altogether
above my figure. My
friend, Mr. Atkinson, who
has lately visited you in
the interests of Messrs
Wellcome & Co. has told
me that you mentioned
the matter to him, but
as I pointed out to
you in my letter. The
affair is a private one
& not a matter of interest
to the firm. If I find
a purchaser. I shall immedi-
ately inform you.

Yours etc.

ORDER	✓
RECR	24 AUG 1903
ANSR	

10, ACLAND ROAD,
WILLESDEK GREEN, N.W.

100

AUG 22 1903

Ref. J.

Dear Mr. Johnstone.

I enclose herewith the original which you kindly lent me this a.m. I have looked into the matter & I find that Mr. Mell-comer's instructions were fully carried out. I do not quite see that Mr. Comer should have expected any further correspondence from me until I had something definite to tell him. I am now writing him to the effect I discussed with you this morning & would ask you to kindly translate & despatch.

Please return originals to me.

Yours truly
H. H. H. H.

ORDER

REC'D 24 AUG 1903