January 10, 1963

My dear Friedmans,

Can you forgive me for letting another Christmas slip by without a word, and another New Year stretch its legs for ten days before I manage to set out after in with an ambler pace to send you all Greetings for 1963. Cambridge, as you know, is very compacting, catching one perpetually in the unlooked for or the inviting or the irresistible.

This place eats up ones time like a mouse at soft cheese in the quiet of the dark. I am utterly undone and losing all my friends in consequence. Please, please forgive me and let me start the New Year with a resolution to escritte more often.

These kind preliminaries make me forget my chief object in writing: how are
you both? How is Yucatan? and the Nayan.

problem? I feel years out of touch.

Did I write to you last year? Last
year was GHASTLY. But exciting too because
I had the whole of the Suntan Museum to
look after by myself. The Director having
suddenly left under a cloud. It was a really
 taxing experience. I lost weight and gained
knowledge daily. Quite exhilarating in retrospect.

Now I am back in Cambridge with a 3 year
Research Fellowship at Nashman. It is
supposed to provide a restful opportunity
for research. I am to compile a fact and
find the tome. But alas, this may be
many alone. In practice I teach for
the new Faculty of Fine Arts and am
giving some lectures, am a University
Examiner in Art History and the Painter...
It is now fun doing all this because I feel sleepless in the University again as one fell swoop—and all from the unaccustomed side of the fence! Even being Praelector is jolly as it is the just most redolent with tradition. I have to dress in all my flapping black and white academic stuff—more board and black boots included—and process to the Senate House every second Saturday in term to present candidates for degrees—all in Latin speeches. Quite an eye-full of University.

One thing I have been long saving to send to you is some secret code. It is in a manuscript by
Sir Anthony Van Dyck

I have been helping Michael Jaffe to edit for years. It is now almost done but this horrid code problem remains unsolved. It would be lovely if you could tell us what it says. The manuscript is mainly formulae for etching etc., or remedies for ail ments — so far it has been suggested that the bits in code are either a cure for venereal disease (!) or a super-secret way of making etching ground. I am sending a Flemish transcription and an English translation. If it is too much of an imposition please don't hesitate to send me whole lot back. I enclose some American stamps — please don't be insulted: it does me a kindness to
to remove them from my wallet — where they are sometimes a wearisome delusion.

The only bits of code are in sections 26 and 27. I have (muddily) underlined them in red. The script is very legible in the manuscript and as I tell the thing has been helpful. Both transcriptions have been checked by the archivist in the Rubens House in Antwerp. If you can from your great experience and sagacity not only Michael Jaffe and I, but also everyone interested in Van Dyck will be grateful to you — beyond measure. And so
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interested in Van Dijk will be grateful
to you — beyond measure. And so
course Michael will be delighted to be able to see such authorities as you.

If, alas, you have no leisure or inclination to look at the thing could you perhaps recommend someone in England who might be able to help?

All this is rather a long story.

New Year greeting, and perhaps at the end I ought as much to apologise as send my love. I hope that you both enjoy your health and happiness throughout 1963.

With every best wish and love

from Pat. (Hume Henderson)
laten in wijn zien den ende maakt der mede de resmollen even
mat; dese remedie sy alternel uit eenen Holanser valued
genomen uit Hercorates.

25. Heel goy remedie vor don rooden loor oft root melisam,
Nemt bierbraden hortshoren in roosenwater oft weeshbree i
water gewassen ende een draene oft ander half met wijn ingenomen
daar een daar een [sic] worden dramaten in remoekt heeft
is een moxte medecyn als men die tereenalen des trachta in
nemt daerofzakenooy een draene reedsel van eenen Jonzen
haas met wijn inneemt.

5 verso

26. Om een qhul weder soo x t t te maken als een 
 \[ \text{vmm x b} \]
| \( \text{w m a u x h} \) nemt \( \text{ax f x t c d} \) \( \text{v m c x t} \) ende \( \text{x m b o w x t o s b s e n} \) van elckx
| \( \text{even vel carse vel cleyn als rhy daar nul 2 hants vollen af}
| \( \text{hebt soo nemt een pont} \) \( \text{x f v m x b} \) smilt se ende
doetter het waorschend en, let ses dan te wamden wieden
achtiens een halfür lanck ouer meer soo drukt het der
eenen dock en bestrijckt hier mode.

27. Item nemt \( \text{s m k x b n m u} \) latet in palt waeter smilten
ende lecht er dit met een dockxken en ende men sait somtete
verderen.

28. Om een saeker penencken te maenken met een saer moedt coleur
om op te teekenaw met aert kryt, potlioot, inckt oft iet
anders dat v belieft, soo nemt aerrbys ende menmet dit
met int ende vriët dit samen wel fyn ende doetuer soo veel
oft latel int by tot dathet v bimok brîyn shenoch te
wesen oft nemt aert kryt en moet hier in naast vonden int
hier mode bestrijckt v poupier dûr met een smen.

6 recto

Om te eten rhy allt nemen een om witen van ende onder
half ons analtam ende een quarten reussen herstelt ende
een half ons terementyn dat eerst sult den analtam cleyn
breken ende in eenen werden met oft peneken te smilten
sitting resmollen naennder sult daer by doen den witten van
ook resmolen den reussen herst cleyn metooken rennde met
den terementyn daer te samen inrede ende ook laopen
smilten maar en noch niet een berren oft te heet worden,
roerret altv om met een houten stoeckxken een sult den
grondt altemueil in ool water witen ende wel doorenden
want by anders niet wil smolten en saol. Daar weer drocht
hem af ende set hem weder in het selve penenen te smilten,
dan noch een weynich reexden he bende sult hem door een súyver
22. Remedy for badly swollen eyes after purging and making a
plaster: take an endive and a pinch of dandelion in equal
amounts. Squeeze the juice and mix with a white of egg and
and a little oil of roses; soak a small piece of cloth in
it and put it on your eye at night.
Ideas: take boiled lentils, pour off the liquid; mix it with
a little rose-water and use it in the above manner. Or
take an ounce each of lentils, pomegranate peel and rose
syrup [8], pound these together and make a poultice by
adding rose-water. Moisten your eyes frequently with
distilled rose-water or with well water in which sugar has
been boiled; or take even quantities of dandelion, of the
rose paste described above, and of lentils.
Ideas: take prepared sarcocolla [9] and round it in juice
of aloe, and smooth it on the eyes; it is very good. But
should these swollen eyes once take cold you must stop and
should purge again, and use stronger things for external
application: so take an ounce of each of white wine and
rose-water, a drachm each of aloe and saffron; wash the
eye-lids with this mixture; take three ounces each of
water in which syrup was boiled, rose-water, white wine-
stone; a drachm each of vitriol, verdigris, burnt aloe; use as a cold wash, but this is somewhat perilous.

23. Another way: take a well beaten white of egg mixed with
rose-water or with oil of roses; smear frequently with
this until it is dry.

24. If the swelling breaks out or becomes inflamed take a
beaten white of egg, mix it with rose-water or oil of
roses and apply it [to the swelling] as often as it is
dry. Two or three days later take a small bag of
camomile flowers; let it boil in wine, and moisten the
swollen eyes with it. All these remedies are taken from
a Dutch author named on Hippocrates.

25. Excellent remedy for red diarrhoea or bloody flux: burnt
hawthorn washed in rose-water or in plantain water taken
in one and a half drachms of whey in which a little box-
horn [10] has been soaked; an expert medicine when taken
twice a night, as well as a drachm of lard from a young
hare taken with wine.

26. To make a b h l again like x t s, also a . l m t s s x -
w m s a u x b , take equal quantities each of a x f w x t
27. Iclami: take a m k x b b m u let it melt in well water and put it on with a small cloth which one should change from time to time.

28. To prepare a reliable paper excellently coloured for drawing with black chalk, pencil, ink or anything else you should wish, take ceruse [11], mix it very fine with ink and rub together; put in as much or as little ink as is necessary to make it brown enough; or instead of ink take black chalk and good beer and drench your paper with a sponge.

To make an etching: you should take an ounce of white wax and one and a half ounces of asphaltum [12] and a quarter of resin, and half an ounce of turpentine; then break the asphaltum into small pieces and melt it in an earthenware jar or small pan; when melted add the white wax which must also be melted, the resin pounded finely with the turpentine; let this also melt, but it must not burn or get too hot, stir it constantly with a small wooden stick; then pour it all out again into cold water and knead well, otherwise it will not mix properly. After that dry it and then melt it again in the same small pan; then after letting it boil for a while, pour it through a small piece of clean cloth, and let it drop into water again, and knead it, and make it into small pellets. If you want to prepare this for etching, heat the plate a little until the ground, which you spread with the above mentioned little pellets, bosins to melt.

To prepare varnish which is good for varnishing paintings: take two ounces of oil of turpentine to one ounce of turpentine; pour this into a glass flask and stir well over a small fire or in the sun. It should be Strasbourg turpentine.

For an abscess on a tooth: take a well beaten whole of em, put it in a small pot and put with it the equivalent of three powdered peneccorns, and three or four of the largest grains of [illegible: "saondt"] [?] and three powdered sage leaves and
24. To make a Q. Hu again like XTZ also A

LMTZX WMBAUXB TAKE EQUAL QUANTITIES
UNTIL SOAMLER

EACH OF AXFZXTD MTWXTS0QP0 VMMEXT
MELEND ONSEANAKI MOJEN
(TICKS?)
AND XMBNWXTS0GFEN, A GRATE VERY FINE;
TOMPSENAR A

WHEN YOU HAVE TWO HANDFULS OF THAT,

TAKE A POUND OF AXFZMVX, MELT IT...

MELTOSER

27 IDEM: TAKE SMKXBBMMU...

COVERROO...