

NEWHAM COLLEGE,

CAMBRIDGE.

TELEPHONE 52478.

January 10, 1963

My dear Friedmans

Can you forgive me for letting another Christmas slink by without a word, and another New Year stretch its legs for ten days before I manage to set out after in with an ambling pace to send you all greetings for 1963. Cambridge, as you know, is very corrupting, catching one perpetually with the unexpected or the irritating or the irresistible. This place eats up one's 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 write more often.

These horrid preliminaries make me forget my chief object in writing: how are

you both? How is <sup>the</sup> situation and the Mayan 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 Smita 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 Newham: it is supposed to provide a restful opportunity for research. I am to compile a fat and find the time. But alas this may be theory 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 Praefector

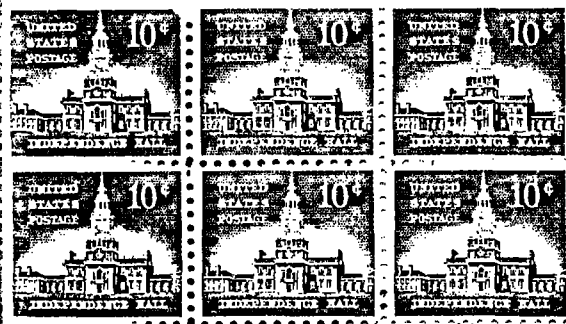
of my college time is scarce. It is rather fun doing all this because I feel steeped in the University again at one fell swoop — and all from the unaccustomed side of the fence! Even being Praelector is jolly as it is the job most redolent with tradition. I have to dress in all my flapping black and white academic stuff — mortar 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 whom I have been helping Michael Jaffe to edit for years. It is now almost done but this howid 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 ailments — 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 (needlessly) underlined them in red. The script is very legible in the manuscript and as



all the thing has been fully. Both transcription have been checked by

the archivist in the Rubens House in Antwerp. If you can join your great experience and sagacity <sup>Solve the mystery</sup> not only Michael Jaffe and I, but also everyone interested in Van Dyck will be grateful to you — beyond measure. And s-

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course Michael will be delighted to be able to cite 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?

After all this is rather a troublesome New Year greeting, and perhaps at the end I ought as much to apologise as send my love. I hope that you both enjoy good health and happiness throughout 1963.

With every best wish and love  
from Pat. (Hilma Henderson)

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latse in wÿn sieden ende maakt daer mede de geswollen ogen nat; dese remedie sÿn altemael uut eenen Holansen sÿteur gienomen uut Hipocrates.

25. Heel goet remedie vor den rooden loop oft root melisoen.  
Nempt gebranden hertshoren in roosenwater oft weeghbree i water gewassen ende een dragme oft ander half met wÿn ingenomen daer een daer een [sic] weÿnich dragants in geweyckt heeft is een experte medecÿn als men die tweemaels des tnachs in nempt desghelÿcken oock een dragme reÿsel van eenen joncken haese met wÿn innempt.

5 verso

26. Om een qbhÿ weder soo x t s te maken als een . l n t x z x .  
w m w a u x b . nempt a x f w x t c d . n t w x t s b q f ù .  
v m m c x t . ende . z m b c w x t c s b g f n . van elckx  
even vel carse wel cleÿn als ghÿ daer nÿ 2 hants vollen af  
hebt soo nempt een pont . a x f z m x b . smilt se ende  
doetter het ùorschreden in, lat se dan te samen sieden  
sachtens een halfÿr lanck doer nser soo drÿckt het doer  
eenen dock en bestrÿckt hier mede.

27. Item nempt . s m k x b b n m u . latet in pÿt waeter smilten  
ende lecht er dit met een dockxken op ende men salt somteÿts  
verÿersen.

28. Om een beker pampierken te maeken met een seer goet coleÿr  
om op te teekenen met swert krÿt, potloot, inckt oft iet  
anders dat v belieft, soo nempt serrÿÿs ende mengelt dit  
met int ende vrÿft dit samen wel fÿn ende doeter soo veel  
oft lÿttel int bÿ tot datthet v dÿnckt brÿÿn ghenoch te  
wesen oft nempt swert crÿt en goet hier in plaet vanden int  
hier mede bstrÿckt v pampier deÿr met een spoonsi.

6 recto

Om te etsen ghÿ sÿlt nemen een ons witen was ende onder  
half ons asfaltÿm ende een quertien reusen herdtÿt ende  
een half ons termentÿn dat eerst sÿlt den ansaltÿm cleÿn  
brecken ende in eenen aerden pot oft panneken te smilten  
setten; gesmolten seÿnden sÿlt daer bÿ doen den witten was  
oock gesmolten den reusen herÿt cleÿn gestooten seÿnde met  
den termentÿn daer te samen ingedaen ende oock lasten  
smilten maer en mach niet ten barren oft te heet worden,  
roerret altyt om met een houten stockxken ten sÿlt den  
grondt altemael in coÿt water witen ende wel doorcnden  
want bÿ anders niet wel mengen en coÿ. Daer naer drocht  
hem af ende set hem weder in het selve panneken te smilten,  
dan noch een weÿnich gesoden he bende sÿlt hem door een sÿÿver

22. Remedy for badly swollen eyes after purging and making a plaster: take endive and a pinch of dandelion in equal amounts. Squeeze the juice and mix with a white of egg and a little oil of roses; soak a small piece of cloth in it and put it on your eye at night.

Idem: 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 sumach [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.

Idem: take prepared sarcocolla [9] and pound 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 applications: so take an ounce of each of white wine and rose-water, a drachm each of aloes and saffron; wash the eye-lids with this mixture; take three ounces each of water in which sumach was boiled, rose-water, white wine-stone; a drachm each of vitriol, verdigris, burnt aloes; 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 well 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 based on Hipocrates.

25. Excellent remedy for red diarrhoea or bloody flux: burnt hartshorn washed in rose-water or in plantain water taken in one and a half drachms of whey in which a little box-thorn [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 q b h ù again like x t z, also a . l m t z z x . w m s a u x b . take equal quantities each of a x f w x t

c d . m t w x t s b q f ũ . v m m o x t . and z m b o w x  
 t o s b g f n ; grate very fine; when you have two handfuls  
 of that, take a pound of a x f z m w x b ., melt it and  
 add the above, let them boil together slowly for half ~~an~~  
 an hour, after that squeeze it through linen and coat it  
 therewith.

27. Idem: take s m k x b b m 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 pellules. If you want to prepare this  
 for etching, heat the plate a little until the ground, which  
 you spread with the above mentioned little pellule, begins  
 to melt.

To prepare v rnish 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 Strashourg turpentine.  
 For an abcess on a tooth: take a well beaten volk of egg, put  
 it in a small pot and put with it the equivalent of three  
 powdered peppercorns, and three or four of the largest grains  
 of [illegible: "saondt" ?] and three powdered sage leaves and

