

February 13, 1968

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Dear Leo

With approximately \$20,000 you could get a nucleus for a historical library on Thoracic Surgery. It of course should involve some anatomy - physiology works such as (1) Sylvius, (2) Lancius, (3) Scarpa, (4) Hunter, etc. (5) Pathology, Morgagni, Rokitansky, etc. In the modern era: (1) Stannius, (2) Sauerbruch, (3) Halsted, etc. I would not go into the really expensive things such as Vesalius, even though some editions can be had relatively cheap for \$3-4000. I also would follow the references that Nissen indicates. I have a fair collection that may be of interest to you, why not come up and see, also a few slides that you could use perhaps.

In May I have to give in Houston for the Texas Medical Association, a paper on coronary surgery, excision of ventricular aneurysms, myocardial infarct excision and coronary endarterectomy that I did in Amarillo. Would you be interested to discuss it? I am attaching a summary of the paper.

If you should want to come, do give me a call ahead of time, an overnight or weekend stay would be fine. From the 15th to the 26th of February I have a geologist from Europe as house guest and will be out of town from the 22nd to the 26th, taking him to New Mexico.

As you know I am writing a biography of Billroth, a major undertaking, that is creeping along. Because of that I am in touch with antique dealers in this country and on the continent, who because of my relatively large purchases give me some preference. I could channel some books, that I consider good, to you, if you should wish to - buying truly good books is a question of money. They f.e. got me some originals handwritten by Billroth, etc. You can see then that they are selective and cooperative. As I have such a terrific expense with illustrations, revisions, etc. with my Billroth biography, I am getting books pertaining only to his era now and let pass some truly good cardio-thoracic material. You of course know the literature of the past fifty years; there is a fair article if I recall correctly, by E. Graham in the 50th anniversary issue of S.G.O. Lindskog also has a fair historical

Feb. 13, 1968

background in his chapters.

Let me know if you could discuss my paper at the Texas Medical Association meeting. In any case it would be nice to see each other again, as long as the Pope doesn't care for us! (Hal)

Sincerely

Karel B. Absolon, M.D.

KBA:bc

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