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11 Brookside
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Oxford

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Dear Miss Strachey,

I hardly know how to apologize for the exceptionally long time I have taken to complete the examination of the papers related to your sister's typescript edition of the Emmanuel College poems. Many and many a time, during this long silence, I have been on the point of writing to you, but, constantly, unexpected matters arose, connected with it, which needed to be settled first. I will now say, at once, what the present state of affairs is.

I recently had a conversation, by telephone, with the Secretary, at Newnham, (she is a former pupil of mine) and I am now ready to forward the typescript to Dr Burne, the Librarian. There were three matters you mentioned in your last letter (4 April 1960) and these are now, at last, finally cleared up.

(1) You asked about the correspondence between your sister and the owners of the Emmanuel College MS. I have traced the early letter giving your sister permission to use it. Therefore it will fully suffice now if this letter is included with the typescript and other papers in the deposit at Newnham College. I had already told Dr Rickard, a Fellow of Emmanuel College (also an expert in Anglo-Norman and a member of our Society) what had been decided, and he, at the time, informed the Librarian of his College.

(2) You mentioned the question of Professor Pope's contribution when she revised your sister's typescript and you asked me how this fact might affect your right to give the documents unreservedly to Newnham College. I am now quite satisfied that Professor Pope's share in work for the projected publication did not really amount to more than routine editorial additions, mostly taken from your sister's own materials, and I think, therefore, to disregard all Miss Pope's handling of the typescript. But, surprisingly, it has taken a very long time to find this out, because the Society's dealings with the edition have been so complicated. At first Miss Pope, as Secretary, and later as the member of the Editorial Board most concerned, had charge of the edition, which she had sent to me with a

covering letter some time before she fell ill. After her death Miss Legge and I were asked to continue the preparation; for the Society then still hoped to publish the edition. We found in the typescript several pages of linguistic commentary in Miss Pope's handwriting which we assumed to be part of the revision she made. Only when it was necessary for me to go through all the contents of the suit case (given to me much later by Miss Pope's relatives) in order to see what ought to be preserved did it dawn upon me that these pages must have remained accidentally in the loose sheets of typescript after Miss Pope had made her report to the Editorial Board. In her covering letter to me Miss Pope said could not "do any more to Miss Strachey's edition" because she lacked time with her own edition of Horn still to finish. This I see now would be consistent with an attempt on her part to amplify and develop further Miss Strachey's linguistic commentary, which Miss Pope later dropped and decided to leave matters as she found them. She then failed to remove her draft; in any case this would have been the part we should have had to exclude to conform with the Society's recent policy. As the typescript will now go back to Newnham it will be appropriate for it to remain exactly as your sister had treated the linguistic part. At the various stages when the edition was inspected, naturally only this last folder with the final copy was seen. The discarded material in the suit case might have been consulted, but only at the printed proof stage. Finally I hope you will understand what I mean when I add that the extent to which linguistic matters are treated is one of individual taste and that your sister's work was quite complete as it stood. The few insertions here and there in Miss Pope's handwriting must remain, but they are cross-references and mechanical adjustments with no originality in themselves. I will send a comment on the state of the typescript to be kept with the papers to explain why additions not made by your sister herself appear there. Miss Legge's and my suggestions were never inserted, but recorded on separate papers.

(3) I remarked in one of my earlier letters that the character of the Emmauel College MS (interesting as throwing light on the preoccupation of the owner who ordered its compilation) could involve much study of contemporary didactic and religious literature, for there are other versions in other MSS. This your sister had carried out as fully as she could, and in her

preface she says that other copies or variants may exist she has not identified. Had we been able to carry out the publication some further investigations of that kind might have been required. I had been very anxious to consult an American scholar, a member of our Society, and a former pupil of my own, who has been commissioned by the Clarendon Press to revise Professor Vising's Bibliography of Anglo-Norman Language and Literature issued at the Press in 1923. Professor Vising could not do this himself and welcomed the proposal that Professor Dean should do this. She is exceptionally well qualified as a palaeographer, and is inspecting all Manuscripts and will make many additions and corrections. I felt Miss Dean's help would be of invaluable assistance to me. She was to have been here in the summer of 1960, but just as she was starting her father died unexpectedly, and in the end she could not get here till last autumn. We had some useful talk, but though she would have stayed on here a revival of a rare and tiresome skin trouble forced her to return to the States in November to see the medical man in charge of her case; she is back now in Italy and France, and I shall see her in July here. She will need to refer to the Emmanuel College MS and I consider that the revised Bibliography will be a much better place to publish an informative statement about your sister's unpublished edition than in our bare list, in the Prospectus, of our Society.

Apart from the hindrances I have spoken about my personal affairs have held me up. Your sister's edition is not of a single composition, or even a small group of poems but of thirty-nine different items. Checking the material needed concentration. By ill-luck I was obliged to get out a volume of complimentary Essays to a recently retired Professor for the Clarendon Press (of which he is a Valued Delegate) by July 14th 1961. I had to deal with all the final proofs of contributors articles alone. I expected after that to get back to my work on the suit case papers. But on May 1st that year, an elderly relative who lives with me, and was in normal good health, suddenly collapsed with what later proved to be an acute attack of fulminating meningitis; she was not expected to live, but after a month on the danger list, and a very long convalescence made a remarkable recovery. But it was not till the beginning of this year that she was almost back to normal; at that very moment our most valuable domestic helper (who has been with us thirty years) was snatched off to tend a paralysed

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brother and is still so occupied. I have therefore been obliged to deal withh your sister's papers at periods when I could get unbroken time; anything else made my examination unreliable. My partner on the work on the Second Voume of Horn has had to take the brunt of that, and apart from the difficulty of handing over (and therefore re-checking) the only other person 'au courant ' was Miss Legge, badly overdue ^{now} with revisions required by her publishers of her book, and with proofs of ^{old French} ~~an~~ text of her own to read now.

Shall I now send the typescript edition to the Librarian at Newnham College, together with useful papers, and say I am doing this on your behalf? If so would you like me to select from the discarded drafts what would represent a second copy of the edition and send that to you to keep for reference? I shall not set about destroying unwanted papers till I hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Francis