

PROF. DR. FREUD

Dec 1st 1921

WIEN, IX., BERGGASSE 19.

Dear Dr. Crowther

The discrepancy you have found out in my *Psychopathology of Everyday Life* is easily explained. You will not detect it in the German edition so it must be considered as a misprint of the English translation. The responsibility of which I may disclaim.

Yours respectfully
Freud



Freel

England

*Dr. H. A. Crowther
The Sanatorium
Middleton Wharfedale
Wetherley
Yorkshire*

I am interested in an apparent discrepancy which occurs in one of your works & I should be very gratified if you had the time & would be so kind as to inform me concerning the significance of the apparent error.

The point in question arises in the English Edition (6th impression 1920) of your *Psychopathology of Everyday Life*. On page 119 you cite an example of misinterpretation in reading & writing. This is as follows:

"I received a letter - called my wife - informed her that poor Mrs Wm. H. was seriously ill. ----- my wife asked to see the letter etc. -- on re-reading we found therein 'Poor W.M.' --- I had once overlooked

'Poor Dr W.M.' -- by mistake signified an effort to turn the sad news from the man towards the woman -- because the fate of this poor man had excited my fears regarding another & nearer person who, I was aware had the same disease

My point is the discrepancy between
Mrs Wm H. and Dr. W. M. - if y^e had
merely wished to transfer the illness to
the doctor's wife why not "M^{rs} W. M."
instead of Mrs Wm H. - where does the
initial "H" come from - it could not
be the woman's maiden name
otherwise the Mrs would not be prefixed
- if the question is not impertinent
may I ask if H. is the name of the
"other" person who I was aware
had the same disease "

I am

Yours truly,

H. C. W. H.

Recd:
Univ. of
Vienna
24.11.21.

Internation Autograph Auctions, 17 October 2019, lot 294, £2,600.

Catalogue description

FREUD SIGMUND: (1856-1939) Austrian Neurologist, the father of Psychoanalysis. A.L.S., Freud, one page, 8vo, Vienna, 1st December 1921, to Dr. H. A. Crowther. Freud declares 'The discrepancy you have found out in my Psychopath[ology] of Everyday Life is easily explained' and continues to inform his correspondent 'You will not detect it in the German edition, so it must be considered as a misprint of the English translation, the responsibility of which I may disclaim'. Accompanied by the original envelope self-addressed by Crowther at The Sanatorium in Middleton-in-Wharfedale near Ilkley. Together with a retained manuscript draft copy of Crowther's letter to Freud, two pages, 8vo, n.p., 24th November 1921, referring to an apparent discrepancy on page 119 of the English edition of *Psychopathology of Everyday Life* (sixth impression, 1920) relating to an example of mistakes in reading and writing which Freud provides and questioning the use of a middle initial, in part, 'My point is the discrepancy between Mrs. Wm. H. and Dr. W. M. - if you had merely wished to transfer the illness to the doctor's wife why not "Mrs. W. M." instead of Mrs. Wm. H. - where does the initial "H" come from - it could not be the woman's maiden name otherwise the Mrs wouldn't be prefixed - if the question is not impertinent may I ask if H is the name of the "other & nearer person who I was aware had the same disease"'. Some uniform age toning, light creasing and a small, minor stain at the head of Freud's letter, G, 2 *The Psychopathology of Everyday Life* (1901) is perhaps the best known of all of Freud's works and first appeared in book form in 1904. A scientific classic of the 20th century, it is sometimes referred to as the 'Mistake Book'