The Voyniches in the 1901 Census of England and Wales

(From <u>Voynichiana</u>: documents, images, and research illuminating the lives of Wilfrid and Ethel Voynich and of Anne M. Nill, Wilfrid Voynich's assistant and Ethel's life-long companion after Voynich's death.)

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The 1901 Census of England and Wales reports the Voyniches living as man and wife in apartment #20 in Great Russell Mansions in Bloomsbury. (The Voyniches had moved to that address in 1900 – see <u>The Naturalization Papers of Wilfrid Voynich</u>).

The Census also reports that the Voyniches have an unmarried live-in servant named Sarah H. Suggate, age thirty-six. In the page above, Wilfrid ("Head") is recorded in the fifth line from the top, Ethel ("Wife") in the sixth, and Sarah Suggate ("Serv.") in the seventh. In the lines indicating "Profession," Wilfrid's is listed as "Bookseller & Bibliographer," Ethel's as "Novelist" ("Author," following "Novelist," has been erased), and Sarah Suggate's as "Housekeeper Domestic." Wilfrid's birthplace is given as "Russian Poland," Ethel's as Ireland, Sarah Suggate's as Suffolk.

By 1901 Voynich's rare book business must have been prospering, for Great Russell Mansions was an enviable address, then as now. As can be seen from the above page of the Census, many of the inhabitants of Great Russell Mansions had live-in servants. Auguste Dickenson, reported on line one, employed no fewer than three.

Great Russell Mansions is 60 Great Russell Street, directly across from the east wing of the British Museum in South Bloomsbury and within easy walking distance to Voynich's bookshop in Soho. (Voynich was also supplying rare books and manuscripts directly to the Museum.) It was in the Register Office of the local Civil Parish, St. Giles, that the Voyniches officially married in 1902 (see <u>The Registration of Marriage of Wilfrid and Ethel Voynich</u>).



Front Courtyard of the British Museum Looking on Great Russell Street



Great Russell Street



Great Russell Mansions