

Kurt A. Sanftleben, ABAA and ASDA

Paper Americana and Postal History

Catalog 23-5 – October 2023



25. 1974 – Salesman's headshop poster catalog from Markethouse International, Inc. Manufactures of Youth Oriented Products

Lee Marshall, National Sales Representative. Butler, Wisconsin: Markethouse International, Inc., 1974. Some of the most iconic color, photographic, and blacklight posters from the late '60s and early '70s are in this catalog including Robert Crumb's *Keep on Trucking*, Joseph Petagno's *Smile Things Could Be Worse* (President Nixon on a toilet), Jon Pasche's *Lips and Tongue* (the Rolling Stones logo from their notorious *Sticky Fingers* album, Elizabeth Richter's *Liberation* (a photograph of a woman using a urinal in graffiti-filled men's bathroom), and many more including seven with African-Americans sporting big Afros.

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Regards, Kurt and Gail

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The Manuscript Society

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1. [BUSINES – LAND BROKERING] [CRIME – CONTERFEITING] [PHILATELY] [TERRITORIAL EXPANSION]

1820 – Letter from a member of New York’s prosperous and powerful Ogden Family regarding an upper New York land sale to an important New York City land developer discounting his complaint about having received payment that included a counterfeit \$5 bill

This one page, stampless folded letter measures 15.5” by 9.5” unfolded. It was sent by Gouverneur Ogden in upper New York to Nicholas Low in New York City. The letter is datelined “Madrid 1 Nov. 1820” and bears a circular Ogdensburgh, New York postmark dated 5 November along with a manuscript rate marking “1½ oz \$1.11”. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided. The letter reads in part:

“In Respect to the Counterfeit Bill of \$5 which you rec’d from me in a Remittance on land acct, I submit it to your determination whether a gent ought to be responsible to his municipal under similar Circumstances – and particularly where the Commission red’ is so small. Because if he is accountable, \$20 Bill of the same spurious Money, altho’ admirably executed & capable of staggering the opinion of the officers themselves, of the particular Bank of which it is a forger, would sweep away the Compensation of the agency for a Year at least, & perhaps, have the agent indebted to his principal.”



The Ogden Family made their fortune by purchasing huge tracks of land in northern and western New York from the Iroquois Confederacy which it sold in small lots to white settlers at an enormous profit. Additionally, members were instrumental in the construction of the Erie Canal as well as harbors, mills, and turnpikes that encouraged emigration to the region surrounding Ogdensburgh. Low was a wealthy merchant and land speculator who acquired several large tracts of land, apparently from the Ogdens, and was instrumental in developing the Watertown and Lowville settlements in upper New York.

Counterfeiting ran rampant during the early years of the United States, especially in New York. A chronic lack of currency and coinage led individual banks and businesses to print a wide variety of paper money. By 1820, the region was flooded with these private bills which met the needs of an ever-expanding economy. Upon presentation of these bills at the issuing bank, bearers could receive their value in gold or silver. Their wide variety of designs and quality created a system that was easily abused by counterfeiters. As well, many bills were issued by questionable or insolvent bank companies that had no intention of ever redeeming them. Thus, it was nearly impossible for the public to determine whether a bill issued by an unfamiliar bank was in fact legitimate. To aid in detecting false notes, descriptions of counterfeit bills were continuously published as broadsides and in newspapers, especially the *Niles Register*. Eventually, enterprising book publishers began to combine this information into “counterfeit detector” manuals. Still, the problem continued, and it has been estimated that by the time of the Civil War, half of the currency in circulation was counterfeit. It wasn’t until the Secret Service was given the responsibility for protecting the nation’s currency in 1865 that counterfeiting began to significantly decline.

(For more information, see “Ogden family papers, 1790s-1850s” at the University of Michigan Library website, many issues of the *Niles Register*, and William’s “Mahlon Day’s *Originary Counterfeit Dectecter*, 1828” at the American Numismatic Society’s website.

Scarce. At the time of listing, no letters regarding counterfeit bills are for sale in the trade. None have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub. Five are held at institutions per OCLC.

\$200 [**#10135**](#)

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

2. [MARITIME] [MEDICINE & NURSING – CHOLERA, PLAGUE, & QUARENTINE] [PHILATELY]

1827 – Stampless cover transported by a ship from Malta that was held in quarantine at Boston for fear that it carried Cholera or the Plague

This stampless cover was sent from Malta to Fallsburgh, New York in 1827 where it and the ship that transported it were held in quarantine for 40 days. The address and additional docketing on an inside flap indicate it was sent by Samuel Lockwood from the “Harbor of Malta” on May 8th 1827 to H. T. Powell via general delivery by Thomas Lockwood, the postmaster of Fallsburgh, New York. It was privately carried on an unnamed ship which was held in quarantine at Boston for 40 days until released into the U. S. Mail on 18 July 1827. It bears the rare Boston straightline “QUARANTINE” handstamp as well as a “SHIP” marking, both of which were applied upon arrival at Boston. It also bears a circular Boston post mark dated 18 July, the day it was released from quarantine and into the U.S. Mail for delivery to Fallsburgh.



Boston established a Quarantine Hospital, or Lazaretto, on Rainsford Island in 1737. It was used to quarantine both Bostonians who contracted Smallpox and well as Boston-bound ships that were found to be carrying infected patients or known to have come from infected ports. Patients were afforded no real medical care in the lazaretto; they either lived or died. In September of 1827, there were 104 ships in quarantine at the island. Although some lazarettos in other ports often ‘purified’ quarantined mail with smoke or fumigants, Rainsford used neither; letters were simply held for long periods of time under the assumption that would eliminate contagion.

The Lockwood and Powell families were the most important citizens of Fallsburgh in the early 1800s. They were instrumental in the construction of a turnpike to attract business. They erected a number of town buildings, built its major grist mill, and most importantly owned over 10,000 acres of timber. Samuel Lookwood, the son of Fallsburgh’s postmaster, served over 45 years in the navy and retired as a Commodore in 1867. He mailed this cover when he was assigned as a midshipman to the Sloop *Warren* while ferreting out Greek pirates in the Mediterranean.

Although neither Cholera nor the Bubonic Plague are endemic to Malta, both diseases were regularly brought there by maritime travelers and periodically ravaged the island with horrific epidemics.

(For more information, see Holden's *History of the Lockwood Family*, Quinlan's *History of Sullivan County*, Milgram's “American Fumigation” at the American Philatelic Society website, and Robert's “Rainsford Island, Boston and other Quarantine Islands of New England,” available online.)

A rare item documenting quarantine measures taken within the United States to protect citizens from foreign diseases and prevent epidemics. At the time of listing, no quarantined mail from Malta or held at the Boston lazaretto is for sale in the trade. Stephen T. Taylor, the preeminent dealer of 18th and 19th century transatlantic postal history has only sold three examples in the past 33 years. The Rare Book Hub and Stamp Auction Network report only three examples have been sold at auction. OCLC identifies no similar institutional holdings, however, Samuel Lockwood’s papers are located at the Yale Archives.

SOLD #10136

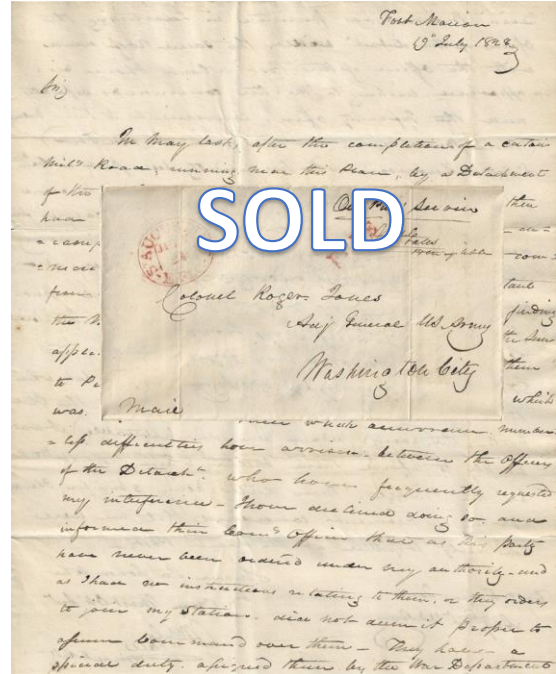
Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

3. [FLORIDIANA] [LAW – COURTS MARTIAL] [MILITARY – FORT MARION] [PHILATELY]

1828 – Letter from the commander of Fort Marion requesting the Commanding General of the Army to intercede in a conflict between officers of the 4th Infantry Regiment which was building a bridge at the city gate of St. Augustine

This two-page stampless folded letter measures 16" x 9.75" unfolded. It was sent by Major Wm. Gates from Fort Marion (Castillo de San Marcos) at St. Augustine, Florida to Colonel Roger Jones, the Army's Adjutant General at Washington, D.C. It is datelined "Fort Marion / 19th July 1828" and free-franked "On Pub. Service / Wm Gates / Major USA". It bears a bold "FREE" handstamp along with a scarce circular "ST AUGUSTINE / E. FLO" postmark with an internal boxed date of 24 July (ASCC Vol 1, pp 52-53). In nice shape with a short 2½" split along one mailing fold. A transcript will be provided.

Shortly after Spain ceded East Florida to the United States, the Army stationed its 4th Artillery Regiment at Fort Marion, formerly the Castillo de San Marcos. and dispatched the 4th Infantry Regiment to establish a fort at Tampa Bay. At the time, outright warfare had not yet broken out with the Seminoles, but it became clear that Florida needed a road network to connect its military detachments and existing settlements. The 4th Infantry was given that task. One detachment was deployed to St. Augustine to complete a section of a military road, after which it built a causeway at the entrance to the city. In this letter, the Fort Marion commander reports on conflicts between officers of the detachment.



"After the completion of a certain mily Road . . . by a Detachment of the 4th Infty. Lieut. H. Brown . . . came and encamped with his Party (70 men) in order to commence on a Bridge about one Mile distant. [As they were] too much exposed to the heat of the Sun, application was made to me, to permit them to Pitch on the ramparts of the Old Fort, which was agreed to. Since which occurrence numberless difficulties have arisen between the Officers of the Detacht who have frequently requested my interference. I have declined doing so and informed the Com^s Officer that as his party have never been ordered under my authority and, as I had no instructions relating to them, or they orders to join my station, did not deem it proper to assume Command over them – They had a special duty assigned them by the War Department. . . "Lt Jos. I. Anderson, who has recently been put in Com^d of this Detach^t has given (as you will perceive by the enclosed note) Lt Brown a just cause for demanding his arrest and has required my authority to that affect. I have in this case also refused to interfere. The matter is therefore respectfully referred to the Comg General whose decision I shall be happy to learn. . ."

(For more information, see Eby et. al "Memoir of a West Pointer in Saint Augustine: 1824-1826" and Brown's "The Florida Crisis of 1826-1827 and the Second Seminole War" both in in *The Florida Historical Quarterly* April 1964 and April 1995, "Castillo de San Marcos" National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, and "Gates, William" at Wikipedia.)

Scarce. At the time of listing no similar items are for sale in the trade. None have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub, and OCLC reports none are held by institutions.

SOLD #10137

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

4. [FLORIDIANA] [PHILATELY] [PLANTATION LIFE] [TERRITORIAL EXPANSION] [WOMEN & GIRLS]

1829 – Letter describing the ‘horrors’ of her Tallahassee plantation home from a recently arrived, witty, well-educated young woman who had with her father who had been appointed by the President as the U. S. Marshal for the Territory of Florida

This four-page, stampless letter, measuring 16" x 19" unfolded, was sent by Harriet Randolph on July 9, 1829, to a friend in Virginia. It bears a scarce Tallahassee postmark dated July 15 (ASCC, v.1, p. 53) and a manuscript "25" rate mark. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

Harriet had relocated to Florida from Lynchburg, Virginia in 1829 with her family after her father, Thomas Easton Randolph, was appointed as the territory's U. S. Marshal and established Eathelmea, a plantation 13 miles from Tallahassee. He also started Florida's first girls' school where Harriet taught classes. Shortly after her arrival, Harriet wrote this humorous account of life at their big "log house" which though nearly "naked of furniture" and still under construction was "by far the best in the neighbourhood."

"Mary and myself went up to our loft to dress, but just as we had accomplished that delightful operation a thunder cloud burst over us, the rain begun to fall in torrents. . . you have no idea of the rapidity with which a storm comes

up. . . One moment all is calm & bright, and the next . . . the lightning flashes, and the rain descends [in] masses of water. . . If you put your arm out the window, it feels as if you were plunging it into a river. [For our] sleeping apartment. Imagine a loft 20 feet square with a floor of loose, unplanned boards, and a roof of pine slabs which the sun has warped and split in every direction, so that I can lay in bed and count the stars [or cannot] because of] the drops of rain that come trickling. . . To keep the splinters from our feet and prevent persons below from seeing us through the cracks we have spread down our old Lynchburg parlour carpet. . . In one corner of the chamber is a bed, a small trestle, with a single mattress and in another a bit of pine board . . . on which stands my dressing box, a tiny looking glass, highly prized by both its mistresses after having dressed themselves a fortnight in a piece of tin. Our trunks and a . . . stool complete . . . this delectable apartment. here we go to our repose with . . . ten to twelve leather winged bats flying about our heads [and] a dozen flying squirrels and wood rats running over us. (the squirrels are very fierce & bite terribly) & occasionally a great, green tree frog comes starring at us with his huge glassy eyes and leaps about . . . to our horror & dismay. . . Without we have a tribe of owls, who . . . make a noise like the barking of a dog as big as a horse. . . Worse. . . a pole cat runs near our fence. [Not] an 'ounce of civet' could sweeten . . . that diabolical effluvia! . . ."

Harriet taught at her father's school for two years until she married a prominent physician and died one year later during childbirth. (For more information, see Groene's "Lizzie Brown's Tallahassee" and Knauss's "Education in Florida, 1821-1829" in the *Florida Historical Society Quarterly*, October 1969 and April 1925.

At the time of listing, no similar letters were for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Club shows none have appeared at auction. OCLC reports another of Harriet's letters and a collection of family papers are held by institutions.

SOLD #10138



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

5. [FLORIDIANA] [LAW – SPANISH COLONIAL CODES] [PHILATELY]

1831 – Letter from an attorney expressing frustration over how Florida courts determine which Spanish Colonial provisions and which English Common Law provisions will be applied to suits involving the resolution of estates

This three-page stampless letter, measuring 15.5" x 10" unfolded, was sent by John Rodman, an important Florida estate and land attorney, to a New York City attorney and land investor, Daniel Boardman. It is datelined "St. Augustine 27th April 1831" and bears a scarce oval postmark that reads "St Augustine / E. FLO" that is dated April 28 in ink and a manuscript "25" rate mark. In nice shape. Transcript included.

Early Florida territorial laws were a confusing amalgam of English Common Law and a colonial version of Spanish Law. This resulted from the union of British West Florida and Spanish East Florida when the American territory was formed. In the treaty that brought East Florida into the Union, the first American governor, Andrew Jackson, agreed to accept Spanish Law with regard to property owned by residents who had lived in the territory before 1822.

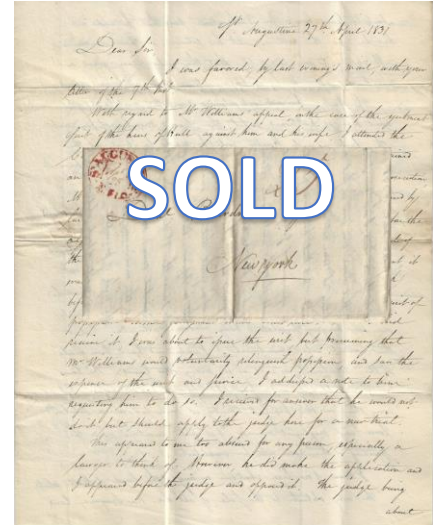
Lawsuits over land disputes hinged on American courts' interpretations of Spanish Law with regard to ownership of land that had been acquired when Spanish Law was in effect. Under the treaty owners of this property were entitled to all rights that would have existed if Spain had continued to hold Florida. Complicated issues arose over rights conferred by the Spanish Crown that would have never existed under English Common or U.S. Laws, and the situation did not begin to resolve until Congress passed *An Act to provide for the final settlement of land claims in Florida* on May 26, 1830. It is Florida's interpretation of this act that Rodman awaits before determining how to proceed. His letter reads in part:

"The laws passed at the last session have not yet been published and I do not know what alterations they have undergone by our ever changing legislative body. Some alterations . . . I understand have been made in the attachment as well as in many other laws. The laws are now publishing in a pamphlet from at Tallahassee, but every thing in this hopeful country is conducted in a dilatory low and negligent manner, it is quite uncertain when the printing of the laws will be completed. . . .

"I have searched several times with the office of public archives [and] no such [Hull] grant can be found, . . . the survey and plat exhibiting it were not made under the authority of the Spanish Government. . . . There is, therefore, no grounds on which to apply to land commissions for the confirmation of a grant that never existed, even if there were commissions still in Spain. [I believe that] the heirs of Hull cannot under the law . . . obtain the trust . . . because the right of presumption only applied to settlers who have not obtained any grant of lands whatever from the Spanish government."

(For more information, see "History of Florida Law" at the Florida Supreme Court website, Carson's "Historical Background of Florida Law" in the *University of Miami Law Review* Vol 3 No 6, and *United States v. Percheman*, 32 U.S. 51 (1832).)

At the time of listing no similar first-person accounts of this legal confusion are for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Club shows none have appeared at auction, and OCLC identifies no institutional holdings.



SOLD #10139

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

6. [AUTOGRAPH – WINFIELD SCOTT] [GOVERNMENT – PATRONAGE] [MILITARY – WAR OF 1812] [PHILATELY]

1841 – Letter signed by Winfield Scott forwarding his endorsement of a disabled War of 1812 veteran's request to be appointed as the Military Store Keeper of Detroit.

Two-page letter and endorsement enclosed within a stampless cover. The letter was written by Justus Ingersoll on 6 December 1841 and endorsed by General Winfield Scott on 17 December before forwarding to the Secretary of War, John C. Spencer. The endorsement is signed "Winfield Scott", and a postscript is initialed, "W. S." The cover bears a circular "Detroit / Mich" postmark dated December 10 and a "FREE" handstamp. Additionally, a 5¼" x 8" print of Scott as a Lieutenant General is included. It was engraved and published by J. C. Buttre of New York, circa 1863. Everything is in nice shape.

Ingersoll's request reads in part:

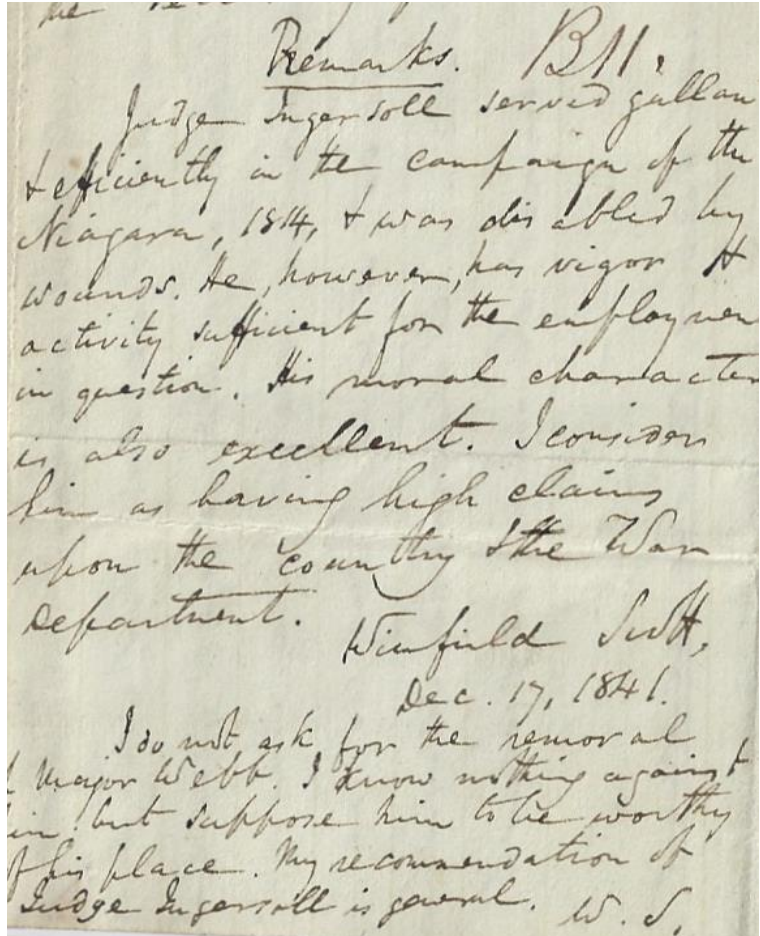
"I do hope and trust General that it will be your good pleasure to give me the appointment at this place – of Military Store Keeper: as I candidly do not know how to support my family otherwise. [You] gave it to me before; at the last reduction I lost my place. I did suppose it was permanent. Do General, give me this situation for seeing that I have served my country. . . I cannot perform manual labor, on account of my wounds."

Scott, who did not have the authority to appoint Ingersoll to the position forwarded the request to the Secretary of War with an endorsement that reads in part:

"Judge Ingersoll having made the mistake of supposing the appointment to be in me, ought not to prevent me from laying his letter before the proper authority, and accordingly I beg leave to submit it to the Secretary of War – with [these] Remarks.

"Judge Ingersoll served gallantly and efficiently in the campaign of the Niagara, 1814, and was disabled by wounds. He, however, has vigor and activity sufficient for the employment in question. His moral character is also excellent. I consider him as having high claims upon the country and the War Department. . .

"I do not ask the removal of Major Webb. I know nothing against him, but suppose him to be worthy of his place. My recommendation of Judge Ingersoll is general. . ."



Remarks. B.M.
Judge Ingersoll served gallantly
efficiently in the campaign of the
Niagara, 1814, & was disabled by
wounds. He, however, has vigor &
activity sufficient for the employment
in question. His moral character
is also excellent. I consider
him as having high claims
upon the Country & the War
Department. Winfield Scott,
Dec. 17, 1841.
I do not ask for the removal
of Major Webb. I know nothing against
him, but suppose him to be worthy
of his place. My recommendation of
Judge Ingersoll is general. W. S.

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

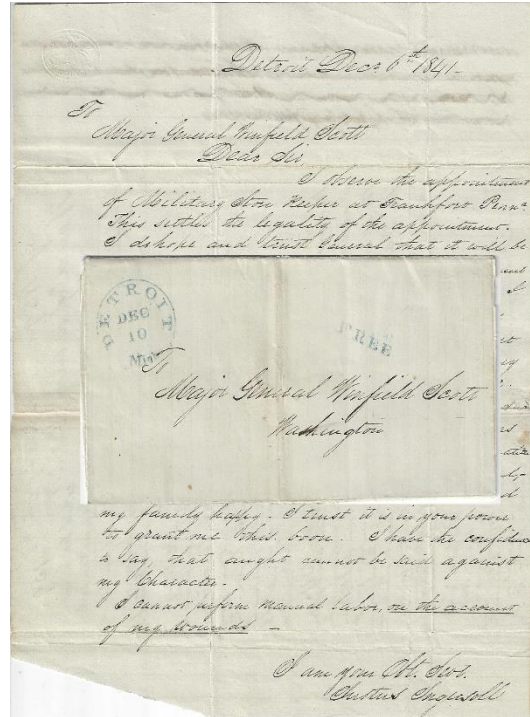
Scott's reference to Ingersoll's gallant and efficient performance in "the campaign of the Niagara, 1814" suggest that Ingersoll served within his command at the Battle of Lundy's Lane in Canada near Niagara Falls.

Scott was the most important officer ever to serve in the U.S. Army and served from 1808 until 1861. Astonishingly, he was a general officer for 47 of those 53 years and during that time was principally responsible for American success in the War of 1812 and the Mexican-American War. He was diplomatically astute and played a key role in diffusing the Patriot War, the Nullification Crisis, and implementing the Indian Removal as humanely as possible. As well, although Scott did not command forces during the Civil War, it was his Anaconda Plan the split the Confederacy in two and ultimately strangled the eastern half by capturing the Mississippi River and somewhat less effectively blockading Southern ports.

I have been unable to determine if Ingersoll's request was granted by John C. Spencer. However, as an interesting aside. Spencer's son, Philip, is more famous (well, actually notorious) than his father. Philip was an incorrigible, wild, and uncontrollable young man who as a boy was fascinated by pirates. After expulsions from Geneva (now Hobart) and Union Colleges (where he founded Chi Psi (XΨ) fraternity, his father, by then the War Secretary, easily purchased a midshipman's commission for Philip in the U.S. Navy. Continuing his horrendous behavior, Philip was removed from two vessels, the USS *North Carolina* and the USS *John Adams* for drunkenness, insubordination, and brawling. However, he was not cashiered because of his father's position. He ended up aboard the USS *Somers* where he rapidly alienated the captain and other officers and became drinking and smoking buddies with the crew, especially two sailors whom it was rumored had previously served on slavers and with pirates. After the men's behavior suggested they were plotting to mutiny, seize the *Somers* to use as a pirate ship, their belongs were searched. Unfortunately for them, the search turned up an incriminating slip of paper in Philip's shaving kit that was written in Greek, and all were shackled to the foredeck. The next morning, after a deliberation between the captain and his other officers, they were hanged from the yardarm without court-martial. Their hanging was well-published throughout the country, and although public opinion was split, the captain and officers were exonerated by a court of inquiry. Philip's execution was the driving force that stopped the navy's on-board sea training of boys and young men to become officers and led to the establishment of the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. Herman Melville, whose cousin was an officer aboard the USS *Somers* and a first-hand witness of Philip's hanging, based *Billy Budd* upon the incident.)

(For more information see, Graves's *The Battle of Lundy's Lane, On the Niagara in 1814*, McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*, "Scott, Winfield" in the 11th edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, and Melton's *A Hanging Offense: The Strange Affair of the Warship Somers*.)

Documents and letters signed by Scott are scarce. At the time of listing, there are three signed letters for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hub shows that four have been sold at auction since 2000. OCLC reports Scott letters are held at only four institutions.



\$2,500 [#10140](#)

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7. [ETHNIC – MENORCAN] [FLORIDIANA] [IMMIGRATION [PHILATELY] [SLAVERY – INDENTURED SERVITUDE] [TRAVEL]

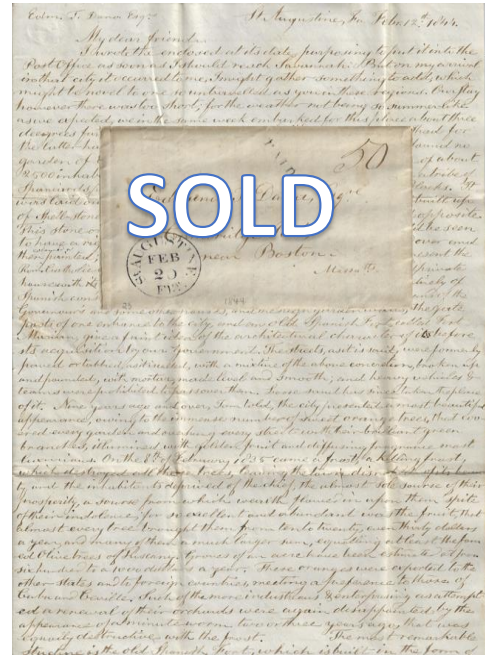
1844 – Letter from a friend of Richard Henry Dana and his brother describing a visit to St. Augustine, Florida during his travels to find a place to settle in a “balmy region not far this side the tropics”

This densely written four-page stampless letter measures 15” x 12” unfolded. It was sent by John Knapp to his friend, Edward T. Dana in Cambridge Port, Massachusetts, and frequently mentions sharing parts of it with Dana’s brother, Richard Henry, the author of *Two Years before the Mast*. The dateline reads “St. Augustine, Fa. Febr. 12th.1844.” It bears a scarce, circular “ST. AUGUSTINE / FL.T.” postmark dated 20 February, a faint “PAID” handstamp, and manuscript “50” rate mark. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

Although a little flowery, Knapp’s prose is well-written and paints a wonderfully detailed picture of life in St. Augustine during 1840s. It also addresses some historical events including the de facto enslavement of 1,400 Menorcan and Greek immigrants by Andrew Turnbull, a British diplomat, who after receiving a royal land grant, established a 100,000 acre plantation where he hoped to grow indigo. The letter reads in part:

“I found no garden of Eden or Elysian Fields. A dull looking town of about 2500 inhabitants, one third Americans, one third and more is a tribe of Spaniards (with some Greeks called Minorcans), and the rest Blacks. It was laid out in the Spanish fashion of narrow streets and built up of Shell-stones brought from quarries found upon an island opposite. . . This concretion of shells is a curiosity, which should be seen. . . The walls &c made of it are plastered over and then coloured or painted; but are soon stained with mould and rust. . . The streets, as it is said, were formerly paved or tabbled, as it is called, with a mixture of the above concretion, broken up and pounded, with mortar, made level and smooth; and heavy vehicles & teams were prohibited to pass over them. . . Nine years ago . . . I am told, the city presented a most beautiful appearance, owing to the immense number of sweet oranges trees that covered every garden and overhanging every street with their brilliant green branches, golden fruit and diffusing fragrance most luxurious. On the 8th of February 1835 came a frost, a killing frost, which destroyed all those trees, leaving the town disrobed of its beauty and the inhabitants deprived of the chief . . . source from which wealth flowed in upon them spite of their indolence, for so excellent and abundant was the fruit, that almost every tree brought them from ten to twenty, even thirty dollars a year, and many of them a much larger sum. . . Groves of an acre have been estimated at from six hundred to a 1000 dollars a year. . .

“The most remarkable structure is the old Spanish Fort, which is built in the form of those described in books of chivalry & romance. . . with its high sloping walls crowned with parapets, a watchtower, its deep moats, its donjon keeps, &c. From the area within you may pass into deep and wide arches cut in the walls, one of which . . . have been lighted, as occasion required by lamps or torches, . . . In one corner, it is said . . . were found parts of a skeleton and rusted irons near it so found as apparently to have been chained to keep the body in a standing posture, a mode of torture. . . . Another is used for a prison; and there the noted Seminole Chief Wildcat, with a number of his tribe was confined, until by starving themselves into sufficient leanness, he & some others managed . . . to climb up to the barred window high above the floor and get through. . . I reflected that your brother, Richard, might avail of this Castle



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

. . . with some actual and more imaginative history. . . to frame a Spanish romance or other tale of danger and deliverance. . .

"The U. S. Engineer . . . expressed an expectation of being set to modernize the Fort by taking down the watchtowers and turrets and embrasures, &c. . . . We freely expressed to him our own aversion to such a measure and insisting that this among the few antique structures in our country ought to be left unspoilt. I doubt not you and Richard would have joined heartily in our condemnation of the project. . .

He also describes the life of the local Menorcan community.

"People of barbarian temper reside here. . . to ornament the public Square with trees, &c, the abutters had planted a number [of] beautiful & lofty Magnolia and Cabbage Trees. The next morning everyone was found cut down or girdled. . . . Within a mile of our boardinghouse is a remarkable Farm cultivated [with] plants appropriate to the climate [and] numerous kinds of vegetables of our northern growth. . . . One article, viz! the Grape, he [cherishes most of all and wages a] destructive war against that prince of Sylvan songsters, the Mocking Bird. . . . He is said to have killed as many as eleven hundred in one year.

"In front of the city to the east spread the Sea enharboured by islands which make it safe to paddle out in canoes . . . or to sail in larger boats to . . . fishing grounds that abound innumerable varieties . . . mullets, sheepshead, drum, grouper, redfish, catfish, Sawfish, cavallas, whittings, pompanos, trouts, and others . . . to say nothing of small sea turtles and the great abundance of oysters. I have often thought how . . . would enjoy the sport of pulling them up as fast as you could sink your line & hook.

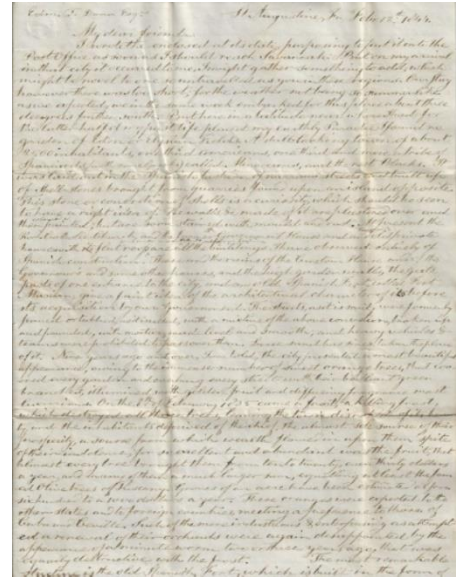
"The lazy Minorcans discouraged [by the failure of] their orange groves, have betaken themselves to this occupation of idlers. . . . During the British possession of Florida were enticed by on Col. Turnbull to migrate from Minorea and settle at Mosquito, about forty miles from here under a promise of grants of land and other compensation, and were defrauded by him and treated like slaves. . . . Some four or five years after, a small number of them effected their escape and came to this place, and made their wrongs known to the British Government who immediately liberated those who remained at Mosquito. . . . Those who had fled hither soon persuaded the rest of their countrymen to join them. . ."

Turnbull's Menorcan "colonists" were treated as harshly as any slaves bound for British plantations in the Caribbean. Almost 150 died in the Middle Passage, and upon arrival they were forced to clear mangroves swamps and create arable land under the whips of ex-Army sergeants and hardened slave overseers. By the time they were freed after ten years of captivity, only around 400 remained alive.

(For more information, see "Andrew Turnbull: The Most Reviled Man in Colonial Florida" at the PBS website, Moskos's *Greek Americans: Struggle and Success*, "Coquina: the rock that saved St. Augustine" at the Fort Matanzas National Park website, and Raab's *Spain, Britain and the American Revolution in Florida, 1763–1783*.

An exceptional description of St. Augustine after Florida had become an American territory but before it was granted state hood. At the time of listing, no other similar first-hand accounts were for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub lists only two similar first-hand accounts that have appeared at auction since 1938. OCLC identifies about 20 personal papers collections held by institutions that might hold similar items.

SOLD #10141



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

8. [FOOD & DRINK – WINE] [MARITIME] [MEDICINE & NURSING - VACCINATION] [MILITARY –SLAVE TRADE SUPPRESSION] [PHILATELY] [TRAVEL]

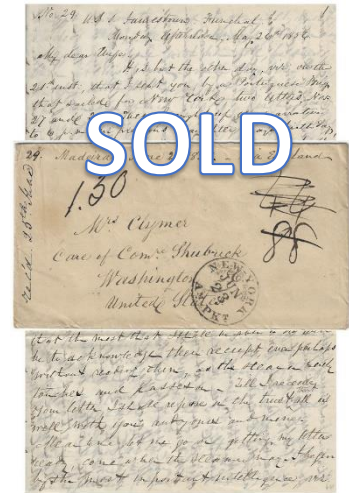
1856 – An astonishingly comprehensive letter from the Surgeon of the U.S. Atlantic Squadron that address Madeira wine, the beauty of Funchal, incredibly wealthy merchants, naval smuggling, smallpox vaccinations, and much more

This 18-page letter, enclosed in a stampless envelope, was sent by George W. Clymer, aboard the USS *Jamestown* (the flagship of the African Squadron) at Funchal, Madeira, to his wife in Washington, DC. The letter was carried from Madeira to Southampton on the Royal Mail Steam Packet *Tamar* and then forwarded to New York, and there rated a total of \$1.30 postage due. It bears a British Post Office double-arc Madeira postmark dated 2 June on the reverse and a New York American Packet receiving stamp on the front. All are in nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

Clymer, the son of a U.S. founding father, was a career naval surgeon, serving on active duty from 1827 to 1866, after which he was appointed “medical director” on the retired list and continued to serve until 1871. At the time of this letter, Clymer was the surgeon aboard the USS *Jamestown*, flagship of the African Squadron, which attempted to suppress the Atlantic slave trade. In it Clymer provides an incredible amount of detail regarding a wide variety of topics ranging from Madeira wine, to the beauty of Funchal, the incredible wealth of Funchal merchants, naval smuggling, Queen Victoria’s birthday, ladies’ fashion, vaccination, and much more. Greatly abridges, it reads in part:

“Being at this Lejour des Delices, which [is] a Paradise itself I do not fail to enjoy. . . Mr March [the on-island partner of the most important American wine importers, March & Benson] keeps open house, and provides a handsome dinner every day both at his city house, and at his Quinta, a mile out of town. . . The Quinta is one of the most lovely spots on the Island. . . He never knows how many are going to dine with him till he sees them at his house; and . . . always has ample dinner served a la Francaise. His cook is a French artiste who he takes to Paris every year, and places in a restaurant . . . to keep hm perfect in his profession. The consequence is that the Quinta dinners are particularly recherche, and the dinner service of silver and gold is very rich. . . Mr. March’s Quinta is the pretty resort of his Pensioners. Some eighty of them march up there every Saturday afternoon and receive one hundred dollars. . . Though not a winedrinker himself [his] stock of wines is much the largest on the Island, and no doubt the finest. In addition to the large supply [in his] cellars . . . he has eight thousand dollars worth of old wines which he purchased last summer. . . Mr. March sent for the U.S. when there last fall and winter some ‘five hundred vines’ which have taken, thus appearing to show that a new vine . . . will draw nourishment from a soil after the old vine . . . shall have exhausted it of its own peculiar nourishment . . . it is necessary to vary the crop. . . I have engaged 2 quarter casks of fine Madeira, and 1 of Sercial. Bayman who has the best taste on this Island, has selected them; and he says he knows nothing better on the Island. The 2 Quatercasks of Madeira will be different wines, though equally choice. The Sercial is the finest in Mr. March’s cellars and a most delicious wine it is. Whenever I have dined at the Quinta the wine that Mr. March has given us is of the vintage of 1774, He says that there are not five pipes of it in the world. . .

“We breakfasted on a veranda that opened on one of the most lovely flower gardens that I have ever seen. What a feast for the senses. How I did wish that you had been there to enjoy it. . . Mrs Litchfield . . . tells me that . . . during the winter that she was sitting with the doors and windows open, the flowers all out in bloom, the air filled with delicious fragrance, and birds singing on every tree. . . Every thing



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

here is redolent of flowers. Every parlor and drawing room is fragrant with them; and every napkin at the dinner tables is done up into a pyramid crowned by a beautiful bouquet. . .

"I vaccinated the ships' company at the start [of our voyage] and shall repeat the operation next week with new matter sent from Bureau. In the St. Laurence I vaccinated three times. She was the only ship in the Mediterranean that did not have small pox on board. That Independence lost several men with it. The Bureau supplies the Squadron with medicines & sent . . . from the Laboratory, so that we need not purchase medicines here, where they cost two or three times as much as at home. I send to the Bureau, from time to time, requisitions for the Squadron. . ."

"The Flag Ship is not required by the Department to go south of Monrovia, the Commander in chief, by placing his family at Madeira, might pass much of his time with them. It is not an expensive place to live at, when compared with Washington and our other cities. I should much prefer this station to either the East Indies, or the Home Station, and perhaps to the Brazil station. . . Ask dear little May how she would like that. What a florist she would become. . .

"I observe what the English and American ladies wear, the open sleeve is much more here, morning and evening. I will get a few. Our officers are all buying the white lace shawls. I was the only person who bought them before. Mrs O'Sullivan and Miss Rogers think them very handsome, and advise us, by all means take home a number. . . They could not be had in New York under 15 dollars. Here we give 4, 4½, 5, & 5½. . . I am glad to find that those I sent you are not "tres ordinaire. . .

"Bartlett [who had been the *Jamestown's* Executive Officer] was convicted before the Naval Committee of smuggling, stealing, and lying [but not for] conduct on board this ship. . . [Bartlett was charged with fraud while on temporary duty purchasing lighthouse equipment for the Treasury Department.] What does, however, surprise me vastly is that with so much against him of years' standing, known to so many and in the files of the Department and now so readily proved. . . There is great dereliction of duty on the part of those now his ready accusers, who all the while knew of his great guilt and were silent. . . Why did not . . . the Secretary of the Navy, years ago, bring Bartlett to a courtmartial. . .

"I saw the Weekly Herald of the 6th May. It contained my letter of the 8th March. . . I hope that provisions will be sent to the poor starving people of the Cape Verds. I am obliged to your father for making it public. . ." [Clymer was the first to bring the horrific conditions at the Cape Verde Islands to public attention. After a crop failure on St. Nicholas, 30,000 people were forced to live for weeks on banana stalks and the carcasses of dead animals, until American charities responded to the emergency.]"

(For more information, see "Jamestown I" at the Naval History and Heritage Command website, "Madeira Selections from American Wine Lists, 1851-1866" at the Hogshead Wine Blog, an 1856 Senate Report "The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of Washington A. Bartlett, late a lieutenant in the Navy of the United States", "Early Contacts" at the Schooner Ernestina website, and online genealogical entries related to George W. Clymer.)

An extensive and descriptive letter that paints a brilliant image of the lives of U.S. naval officers and well-to-do American and English merchants living on Madeira in the mid-1850s. At the time of listing, no similar items are for sale in the trade. Rare Book shows no auctions of similar items, and OCLC shows none held by institutions.

SOLD #10142



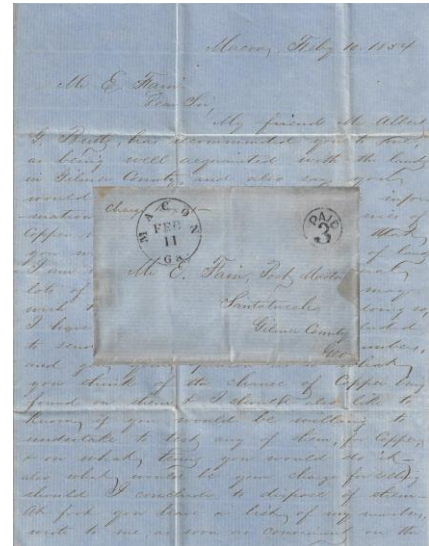
Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

9. [MINING - COPPER] [PHILATELY]

1854 – Query sent by a prominent Macon businessman to the postmaster at Santa Luca requesting information about the feasibility of mining copper on properties he owned in Gilmer County Georgia

This two-page stampless, folded letter measures 15" x 9¾" unfolded. It was sent by Thurston Rowland Bloom of Macon, Georgia to M. E. Fain, the postmaster of Santaluca [Santa Luca] in Gilmer County. It is datelined "Macon, Feby 10. 1854". It is annotated "Charge Box 71" and bears both a circular "Paid / 3" rate mark and a circular "MACON / Ga." Postmark, dated February 11. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided. The letter reads in part:

"My friend Albert G. Buttz, has recommended you as being well acquainted with the land in Gilmer County, and also says you would give me much valuable information about the recent discoveries of copper mines in your County. . . I have . . . concluded to send you a list, of numbers, and get your opinion as to which you think of the chance of Copper being found on them & I should also like to know, if you would be willing to undertake to test any of them, for Copper & on what, terms you would do it – also what would be your charge for selling should I conclude to dispose of them. . . Write to me, as soon as convenient . . . I may come up if necessary – In your answer, be so good as to inform me, on what lots Copper has been found on, & which districts are considered the best, for Copper You shall have an interest if you should desire it."



Santa Luca was a tiny village located about three miles from Cherrylog in Gilmer County, Georgia near the Tennessee border. A discovery of gold in the area began a rush in 1829 and a number of mining companies were established, most prominently, the Georgia White Path Copper and Gold Mining Company. Gold played out in the 1840s, but mining interests were rekindled with the discovery of copper deposits in what is known as the Ducktown Copper Basin, most of which is located in the southeast corner of Polk County, Tennessee. Following the Cherokee Removal from the area in 1838, there was little white settlement because it was not easily accessible. However, after copper was discovered in 1847, a mining-rush ensued, and construction of roads capable of hauling heavy loads began. Three large companies, the Union Consolidated Mining Company, the Burra Burra Copper Company, and the Ducktown Copper Company were established in Tennessee. Nothing so massive occurred in Gilmer County as its Copper veins were neither so large nor as rich they were to the north, however, they were enough to attract the interest of prospectors, small mining companies, and speculators like Bloom, a wealthy cotton merchant and railroad executive. Much of the region's copper was hauled by oxcarts from the twin cities of Copperhill, Tennessee, and McCaysville, Georgia through Ellijay to the railroad depot in Dalton. Although delayed by the Civil War, eventually a narrow-gauge railway known as the "hook and eye" replaced the oxcarts. Mining, although greatly diminished, continued until the 1980s.

(For more information, see "Gilmer County" in the *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, Waters's "Mining The Copper Basin In Southeast Tennessee," Pagel's "The Hook and Eye: the History of a North Georgia Rail Road," "Ten Amazing Facts About McCaysville & Copperhill," and "Thurston Rowland Bloom" at the Wood and Torbert Families website.)

A nice surviving first-hand testament to the copper mining fever that gripped Georgia and Tennessee in the 1850s.

\$150 [#10143](#)

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

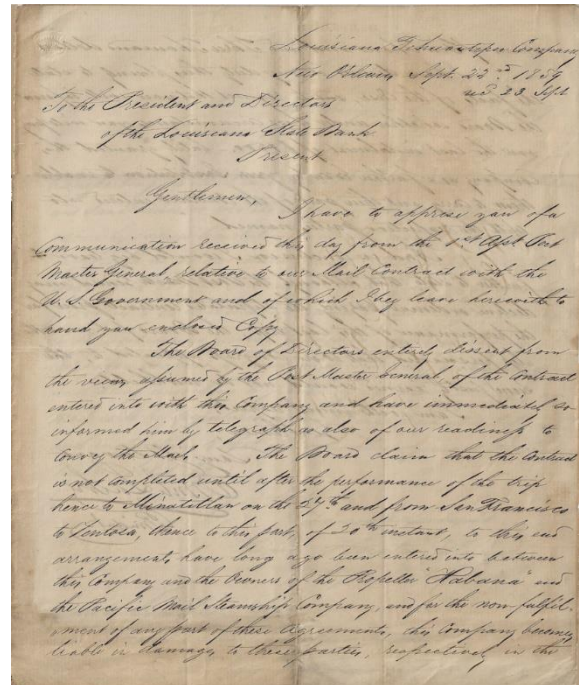
**10. [BUSINESS – LOUISIANA TEHUANTEPEC COMPANY] [POSTAL SERVICE - PONY EXPRESS]
[TERRITORIAL EXPANSION] [TRANSPORTATION – CANALS]**

1859 – Letter from the Louisiana Tehuantepec Company to the Louisiana State Bank forwarding a copy of the official notification by the Postmaster General not to renew its mail contract which, in turn, precipitated the formation of the Pony Express.

This lot consists of two items: a copy of the Post Office Departments decision not to renew the mail contract of the Louisiana Tehuantepec Company's mail contract and a letter from the Louisiana Tehuantepec Company to the "President and Directors of the Louisiana State Bank" informing them of the Post Master's decision.

The Post Office Departments termination notification letter from the 1st Assistant Postmaster General is dated 16 September 1859. It reads in part:

"As the contract with your Company for transporting the Mails on route No 8162, between New Orleans and San Francisco via the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, will expire by express limitation, on the 30th instant, it will be impossible [for you] to complete a trip commenced at New Orleans on the 217th inst. only three days previous to its termination; and I am therefore directed by the Post Master General to inform you, that having heretofore declined to renew your Contract for that service and being unwilling to grant any extension thereof, no Mail will be despatched on the 27th inst. from New Orleans. . ."



The follow-on letter dated 22 and 23 September 1859 from Emile La Sére, the president of the company notifies the Louisiana State Bank of the Post Office Department's decision. It reads in part:

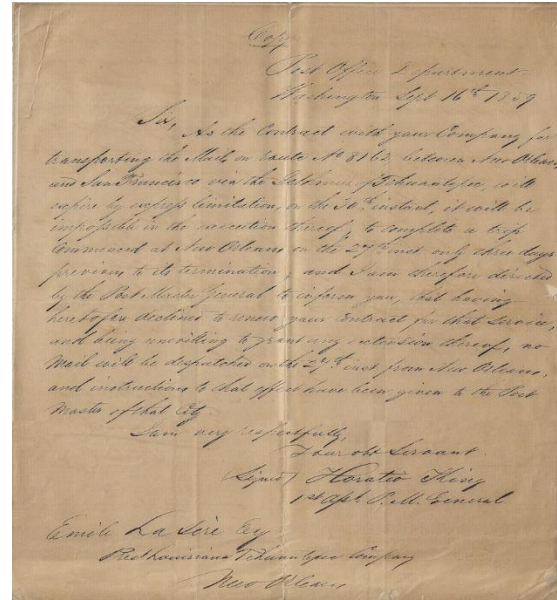
"I have to apprise you of a Communication received this day from the 1st Asst. Post Master General relative to our Mail Contract with the U.S. Government and of which I beg leave herewith to hand your enclosed Copy.

"The Board of Directors entirely dissent from the view assumed by the Post Master General, of the contract entered into with this Company and have immediately so informed him by telegraph. . . The Board claims that the Contract is not completed until after the performance of the trip hence to Minatitlan on the 27th and from San Francisco to Ventosa, thence to . . . this Company and the Owners of the Propeller "Habana" and the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. [If not completed,] this company becomes liable in damages to these parties, respectively in the sum of Ten Thousand and Three Thousand dollars. . . Under these circumstances [are] you willing to pay over the last instalment of \$1,500 lately granted . . . as a loan by your Institution to enable [us to] carry out this part of the contract. . .

"And in conclusion I would beg leave to further to state, that although the Post Master General may decline or demur paying the stipulated Contract price for the performance of this last trip, the Board feel nevertheless persuaded that were Congress appealed to, the sum justly earned would not be withheld."

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

Creating a connection between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans was considered in the 16th century by the Spanish conquistador Hernando (Hernán) Cortés after his genocidal destruction of the Aztec Empire. And over the ensuing years, due to the short distance between them at the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in Mexico, the idea became attractive to various global powers including Spain, England, France, the Netherlands and finally the United States, as it would save costs, time, lives, and cargo, as ships would not need to sail around the Cape. However, it wasn't until 1842, that Mexican President López de Santa Anna seriously considered the project. A number of foreign firms proposed plans, and in the end a U.S. firm based in New Orleans, the Louisiana Tehuantepec Company, was awarded the concession. As part of the agreement, the company was be allowed to transport mail and freight over the route free of customs or other charges by the Mexican government. Passengers, mail, and freight embarked on the Steamship *Quaker City* at New Orleans for Minatitlan on Mexico's east coast where all were then loaded on a company vessel, the *Suchil*, for a trip over the Coatzacoalcos River until they reached the company's log road near Suchilapan del Rio and taken by carriage to a west coast port near Venosa for final transport to San Francisco by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company.



Post Office Department
Washington Sept 16 1859

Sir, As the contract with your Company for transporting the Mail on route from St. Louis, Missouri, San Francisco and San Francisco via the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, is the subject of a bill of the Senate, it will be impossible in the meantime to complete a high Governmental contract with your Company on the 20th inst. and other steps previous to its termination, and I am therefore directed by the Postmaster General to inform you, that having heretofore declined to renew your contract for that service, and being unwilling to grant any extension thereof, no work will be dispatched with the Mail from San Francisco, and instructions to that effect have been given to the Postmaster of that city.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Genl. La Sore
Genl. La Sore
Genl. La Sore

By the end of 1858, United States mail was transmitted from the East to West by four overland and two ocean-going routes (including the Louisiana Tehuantepec Company) all run at considerable expense to the federal government. While East-West communications had never been better, the Post Office Department was hemorrhaging funds. Expenses for the service were ten-times higher than revenues they brought in. In 1859, the incumbent Postmaster General died unexpectedly, and his successor made it one of his goals to eliminate what he saw as wasteful cost associated with mail transport to and from California. To that end, slashed the budget and eliminated all of the routes until only the Louisiana Tehuantepec Company and the Butterfield Overland Mail Service remained. A legal technicality prevented him from defunding Butterfield, but as soon as the Louisiana Tehuantepec Company's contract expired, he shut them down too. Butterfield's service was insufficient to handle the existing requirements, and they became even more overwhelmed with the discovery of gold at Pike's Peak and silver in the Washoe hills of Utah (now Nevada). This opened the door for private competition and in 1859, the Leavenworth & Pike's Peak Express Company which was renamed a year later to become the Central Overland California & Pike's Peak Express Company, which is better known as the Pony Express.

(For more information, see Spitzzeri's "Across the Isthmus to California: News of the Tehuantepec Route Across México. . ." at the Homestead Blog, Gordon's "From the Crescent City to Jaguar Hill. . .," Moore's "Correspondence of Pierre Soule: The Louisiana Tehuantepec Company" in the February 1952 issue of *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, and Godfrey's *Pony Express National Historic Trail Historic Resource Study*.)

Unique. Nothing similar is for sale in the trade, none has ever appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub. Neither is anything similar held by an institution per OCLC, however it is possible that the Judah P. Benjamin Papers (he was a member of the company's board) at the American Jewish Historical Society may contain something similar.

\$1,750 [#10144](#)

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

11. [DANCE – BALLS] [HOLIDAYS – WASHINGTON’S BIRTHDAY] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR] [PHILATELY] [PUBLISHING – NEWSPAPER ILLUSTRATION]

1864 – Letter from a soldier in 126th New York Infantry reporting that companies of sharpshooters were being established in the Union’s Second Corps and that the Corp’s Washington’s Birthday Ball came off without a hitch

This lot contains a letter written by a soldier in the 126th New York Infantry and a clipping of an illustration from Frank Leslie’s Illustrated newspaper, both enclosed in the letter’s original mailing envelope. All are in nice shape.

The four-page letter, written in light pencil, is datelined “Camp near Stevensburg, Va. March 13th, 1864. It was sent by Private George S. Young to his sister, Louisa, at Waterloo, New York.



The mailing envelope bears a double-ring Washington, DC postmark dated March 13 and is franked with a 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #65) that has been canceled with a target handstamp.

The wood-engraved newspaper illustration measures approximately 9½” x 6½” and pictured hundreds of dancers in a huge hall festooned with flags and garlands. It is captioned, “Washington’s Birthday in the Army – Ball at the Second Corps Headquarters – From a sketch by our Special Artist, E. [Edwin] Forbes.” Although the illustration is enclosed in the letter, it must have been placed there later by Louisa, as it was not published in Leslie’s newspaper until March 19th.

Young’s letter reads in part:

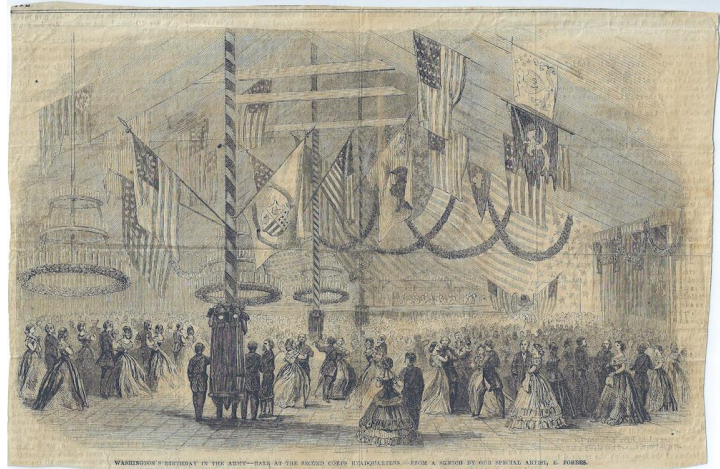
“All passes on in the same old monotonous way, but it is highly probable that this will not long continue. . . . It is reported that Gen. Grant has been – or is now – paying a visit to the Army of the Potomac and that it will be reorganized and improved under his supervision. . . . A company of sharpshooters is being organized from each regiment in the corps. Three men are detailed from each company and a captain, first and second lieutenants, from each regiment. It is probable that these sharpshooters will do most of the skirmishing in the “Coming Campaign. . . . The Ball that was held at Corps Headquarters on the 22nd passed off to the satisfaction of all concerned. . . . It was intended for the officers and not for privates. Tickets were only ten dollars. There were quite a number of Ladies present from Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York & other places. . . . I shall not be able to get my photograph taken as they will have to be sent to Washington to be finished, but . . . I will send an ambrotype. If I had some taken a week ago, perhaps you might have seen some change in me but since then I have taken my whiskers off and look the same as of old. All the boys remarked that they greatly improved my appearance. . . . I have just heard of some changes and promotions in the regiment but will not mention them until confirmed.”

Young was correct about Grant’s visit to the Army of the Potomac’s headquarters and its reorganization. The letter was written only a few days after Grant was promoted to Lieutenant General and placed in charge of the entire Union Army. Although the organizational changes that subsequently took place had been planned before he took charge, at the meeting Grant and Meade established a working cordial if not entirely pleasing command relationship. Grant would primarily concentrate on overall strategy and Meade on tactical operations.

The ball was a magnificent affair. As reported by a Second Corps Surgeon, William Warren Porter:

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

"The Second Corps gave a grand ball at the headquarters of the corps near Stevensburg, or, to be more precise, at the Thom House on Cole's Hill. Adjoining the house a dancing hall was built, which required 12,000 feet of lumber to floor . . . smoothed and fitted by carpenters detailed from the ranks. The sides of the building were constructed of green hemlock which our sawmills furnished, and the roof was of canvas. It was lighted with 600 adamantine candles, the holders for which were especially made in Washington. The supper was furnished



by Gautier, a Washington caterer, for which we paid him \$2,200 and furnished transportation for it to the camp. It was a subscription ball . . . and no officer outside of the corps being allowed . . . in other words, every visitor was considered the guest of the managers. Officers in the Second Corps who were solicited, subscribed according to rank or position, and my subscription was \$20.00.

"General Meade, General Sedgwick, General Pleasanton, and other high officers were present, besides Vice-President Hamlin and daughter, Governor Sprague and wife . . . and other distinguished civilians. The distinctive flags of the corps' and the camp, and garrison flags, were festooned in an artistic way about the room. An orchestra was built up across one end of the hall, upon which were mounted two brass Napoleon guns with the requisite ammunition, and three bands [from the Corps] furnished uninterrupted music till morning. The pickets at the Rapidan were doubled that night, and a Brigade was sent down within supporting distance of the picket line, so as to be in readiness in case of a surprise; but, happily, there was no attack, and all went off in splendid style. This was, undoubtedly, the largest strictly military ball ever given in this country, a pleasure to the participants and a credit to the managers."

General Meade reported that "There were present about three hundred ladies [and] the next day I reviewed the Second Corps for the benefit of our lady guests. . . ." and his aide, Theodore Lyman, expanded, "We were confronted by the apparition of two young ladies in extemporaneous riding habits, mounted on frowsy cavalry horses and prepared to accompany. General Meade greeted them with politeness, for they were some relations of somebody, and we set forth. The review was on a large flat . . . rather rough for the purpose and consisted of the Corps and Kilpatrick's division of cavalry. When they were all ready, we rode down the lines, to my great terror, for I thought the womenkind, of whom there were half a dozen, would break their necks; for there were two or three ditches, and we went at a canter higglety-pigglety. However, by the best of luck they all got along safe and we took our place to see the troops march past. . . . Thereafter Kill-cavalry (as scoffers call [Kilpatrick]) gave us a charge of the 500, which was entertaining enough, but rather mobby in style."

(For more information, see "Ball of 2nd Corps--Washington's birthday" at the Library of Congress website, the 19 March 1864 edition of *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* at The Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection website, Porter's *Three Years with the Army of the Potomac*, Huntington's "A Ball and a Review (February 24, 1864)" at the Searching for George Gordon Meade website.)

Uncommon. At the time of listing, no other first-hand manuscript accounts of the Second Corps ball are for sale in the trade. None have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub, and OCLC shows none held in institutional collections. Even contemporary printed accounts are scarce.

\$500 [#10145](#)

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

12. [LINCOLNIANA – 2ND STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR] [POLITICS - PRESIDENTIAL] [PHILATELY] [PUBLISHING – NEWS PAPERS]

1862 – Lincoln's Second State of the Union Address printed in *The New South* in December 1862

"News from the North: The President's Message Washington, Dec. 1, 1862." Published in *The New South*, Volume 1, Number 17. Port Royal, South Carolina, December 13, 1862. Complete with all four pages. With a few spots of foxing and mailing folds. It was sent to Miss Mary E Blake at Kensington, New Hampshire. Its mailing envelope is franked with a 3-cent Washington stamp cancelled with a target handstamp. The envelope bears a double-ring Port Royal, South Carolina postmark dated December 17.

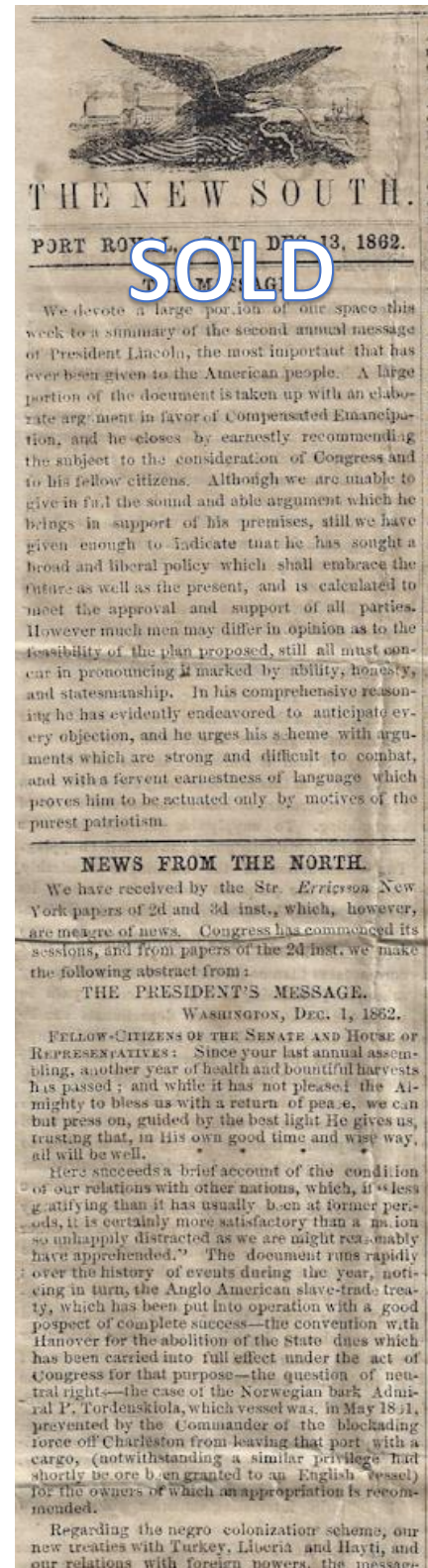
Lincoln's speech is printed in three columns on pages two and three of this newspaper. In it, he attempted to motivate and encourage both the public and Congress after the slaughter that had occurred at Antietam, the bloodiest battle of the Civil War. He also sounded a moderate, but committed, voice regarding emancipation, declaring,

"We cannot escape history...The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation. We say we are for the Union. The world will not forget that we say this. We know how to save the Union. . . In giving freedom to the slave, we ensure freedom to the free—honorable alike in what we give, and what we preserve. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last, best hope of earth."

Unlike today's State of the Union addresses, Lincoln's was delivered in writing and read to Congress.

Per the online South Caroliniana Library: "Union postmaster Joseph H. Sears published the *New South* newspaper out of the post office building on Union Square in Port Royal, S.C., on a weekly basis beginning in March 1862. The paper was moved to the town of Beaufort sometime in 1865 and remained there until it ceased in 1867. . ."

Scarce. At the time of listing, although two other issues are for sale in the trade, neither contain Lincoln's State of the Union Address. The Rare Book Hub shows only two examples of the State of the Union issue have appeared at auction. OCLC entries suggest almost all institutions hold only microform or digital copies of *The New South*; however, it is likely that the University of South Carolina has an entire set since its staff created the digital editions. No institutions are identified as having a physical copy of the State of the Union issue. **SOLD #10146**



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

13. [FOOD – THANKSGIVING DINNER] [HOLIDAYS – THANKSGIVING] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR]

1863 – Letter describing the Thanksgiving festivities and dinner held by a Union infantry company on Hilton Head Island and its dissatisfaction with an upcoming change of command

This seven-page letter was written on December 3rd, 1863 by James Himrod of the 48th New York Volunteer Infantry to his niece in Brooklyn while stationed on occupation duty at Pope's Plantation on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. In it, he describes his company's Thanksgiving festivities as well as its disgust with the captain who has been selected to be its next commanding officer. (Himrod is identified from other correspondence, copy attached.) In nice shape. A transcript will be provided. The letter reads in part:

"You ask how I spent Thanksgiving. . . . In the first place you must know that we . . . are encamped In a beautiful Grove of Orange trees on the Bank of a River. . . . We brought some evergreens from the Woods and made a Bower under the trees. Set a long table of Boards inside with the Stars & Stripes strung above the Table, various Mottos and the names of the different Battles & Skirmishes in which we have participated in wreathes hung about the place.

"Amusements: Foot Racing, Hurdle Racing, Target Practice, Singing & Dancing in the Evening – Dinner: Roast Pig, Sweet Potatoes, Irish Potatoes, Boiled Onions, Apple Pie, Rice Pudding, Coffee, [and] Crullers – Supper: What was left from dinner. Retired at night much like a stuffed turkey, . . . My next if my life is spared will be spent where some of the fair sex will grace the table with their presence and furnish me with a partner for the Quadrille instead of a moustached soldier. Yet considering the circumstance, every thing passes off well. The Pig could not have been better cooked. Better crullers are seldom made (except at home). Of the pies I am no judge, not being fond of Dried Apple Pie. . . .

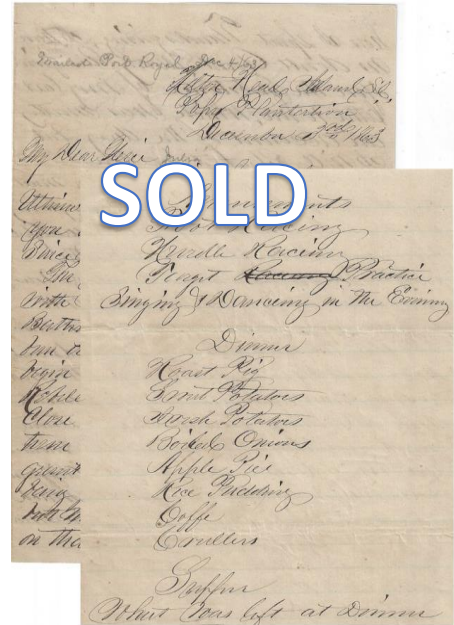
"Capt. Dunbar has not yet assumed command [and] I hope that he never will as he is one of the most conceited Coxcombs that ever disgraced a uniform and as selfish as old Nick himself. [He] was in Camp yesterday and happening to see one of the Privates with a few eggs which he had purchased from the Negroes, said that when he got here he would inform the Negroes that when they had any such things to sell, they must come to him for a purchase [first]. Just as though a Private was not entitled to purchase when he was a mind to. Capt Dunbar will find that Co "A" wont be Humbuged by such actions. . . .

In November 1861, Union forces captured Hilton Head and turned it into a bustling military post crucial to the Union's logistical support. Over the next four years, more than 190 regiments served at or passed through the complex. Also, a camp, known as Mitchelville, was established to house freed slaves from throughout the barrier islands that at times supported up to three thousand people. Pope's 800-acre cotton plantation served as the Union headquarters.

(For more information, see the Heritage Library website, Schumacher's "Squire Pope Property" Beaufort County's Vendor Registry website, and the American Civil War Research Database.)

An excellent first-person account of Thanksgiving dinner and festivities held by a Civil War infantry company. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. Rare Book Hub shows a similar letter has sold at auction, and OCLC identifies two similar letters held in institutional collections.

SOLD #10147



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

14. [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR & PRISONERS OF WAR] [PHILATELY]

1865 – Letter from a Union officer held prisoner at the Confederate POW camp in Columbia, South Carolina known as Camp Asylum or Camp Lunacy on grounds of the South Carolina Lunatic Asylum.

This 3-page letter was sent by Captain Edgar A. Burpee of the 19th Maine Infantry who was held captive at “Camp Asylum,” a Confederate Prisoner of War Camp in Columbia, South Carolina that was established on the grounds of the state “Lunatic Asylum.” It is dated February 13th, 1865, the last day of its operation. He sent the letter to a relative in Rockport, Maine. It was sent in a yellow envelope with “Official Business” printed in the upper left corner. It bears an inscription in the upper right corner that reads “From a Prisoner of War / Columbia / S.C.” It is also inscribed “Via / Richmond / City Point. Va.” In the lower right corner. All in nice shape. A transcript will be provided. It reads in part:



“Your ‘Neph’ still lives . . . and [has] longed to be set free from his prison house, to. . . How much I have felt the need of home comforts and privileges. [That will] be like an Entrance into a heavenly world. . . I fear it will be some months yet ere I set foot on my native shore, but . . . my destiny is in the hands of God. . . But prison life is not without enjoyments. . . We have band which amuses us with its music. Then our visiting each other’s tents, makes life kind of social. I have [made] several sketches of the prisins &C where I’ve been, so when I get home, we can get some pictures. . . Lieut Robbins of the old 4th is messing with me so our rehearsals of old times in Rockland give pleasure to us both. Rich of the old 4th Me band, a Lieut now is here and he graces our tent with his company. . . Our religious privileges are few, but once in a while Ministers from Columbia come in and preach to us. . . Grandpa I spec has grown old fast since [I’ve] been jurneying South. He will be thinking I’d better have staid at home aint he? . . .”

Camp Asylum opened on December 12, 1864, and immediately received 1,000 Union officers transferred from the notoriously unsecure Camp Sorghum prison. Upon arrival, they found only one hut had been erected, however there was a supply of lumber and tents that they could use to erect shelters themselves. Unfortunately, the material was insufficient, and many simply dug sleeping pits in the ground, known as ‘shebangs’, that they covered with blankets during the night. However, the camp had sufficient food and water, and the camp commandant treated them with respect. He allowed the officers to form a glee club to entertain the town ladies and, as noted in Burpee’s letter, to form a band. As Sherman’s Army bore down upon Columbia, the camp was closed on 14 February, the day after this letter was written, and the prisoners were moved to Wilmington, North Carolina, where they were eventually turned over to Union forces when that city surrendered.

(For more information, see “Camp Lunacy / Camp Asylum Prisoner of War Camp” at the American Civil War website, Craft’s “Camp Asylum, A Civil War Prisoner of War Camp” at the Heroes, Heroines, & History website, and entrees for Burpee and genealogical and military websites and databases.)

Exceptionally scarce. Galen Harrison, the preeminent on Civil War Prisoner Camps reports in *Prisoners ‘Mail from the American Civil War* that only eight covers (postally used mailing envelopes) from Camp Asylum are known to exist. This is confirmed by the Siegel Auction House, which sold two of them within the past twenty years; another was sold by Heritage Auction. These sales ranged from \$1,100 to \$2,400., and none of these items had any contents within, much less contents referencing life within the camp. This item, which is now the ninth known example, is a true rarity.

SOLD #10148

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

15. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR & CONSCRIPTION]

1865 – Receipt issued to a free man of color certifying he had paid \$450 for hire a substitute and avoid the draft.

This 'draft substitute' receipt measures 8½" x 14". It reads in part:

"Receipt for Payment of a Substitute. / For One Year. / This is to Certify that I have received from Levi Huff, residing at No. 245 West 19 Street, the sum of Four Hundred and Fifty Dollars, to pay for the enlistment of a Substitute Recruit (should any offer) for the following person: / Name, Levi Huff. . . / Residence 245 West 19th Street. . . / Age, 44 years / Color, Colored / Occupation, Coachman / Married. . ."

"This deposit can be withdrawn by the depositor on presenting this receipt at any time before a Substitute shall have been furnished. This receipt will also be returned to this Office on the delivery of the Provost Marshal's Certificate showing that a Substitute has been mustered into the service for the depositor, and further this Committee is in no ways liable. . ."

At the beginning of the Civil War many men, filled with patriotism and the belief that the war would be quickly won, eagerly enlisted in federal service or state militias. However, as the war dragged on and casualties became horrific, fewer and fewer men signed up. So, in 1863 Congress passed the Enrollment Act (also known as the Civil War Military Draft Act) to ensure continuous manpower for the army. It required the "enrollment" of all male citizens and immigrants who had filed for citizenship between ages 20 and 45. The act, of course, proved highly unpopular. Two of its elements were especially controversial, commutation and substitution. Commutation allowed wealthy draftees to buy their way out of service for \$300. Substitution allowed them to purchase the services of another to serve in their stead.

All draft substitute applications, certificates, and other documents are seldom found; however they do periodically appear at auction or for sale in the trade or from antique dealers, and we have handled a dozen or so over the years. Occasionally, they reference hiring an African-American as a substitute.

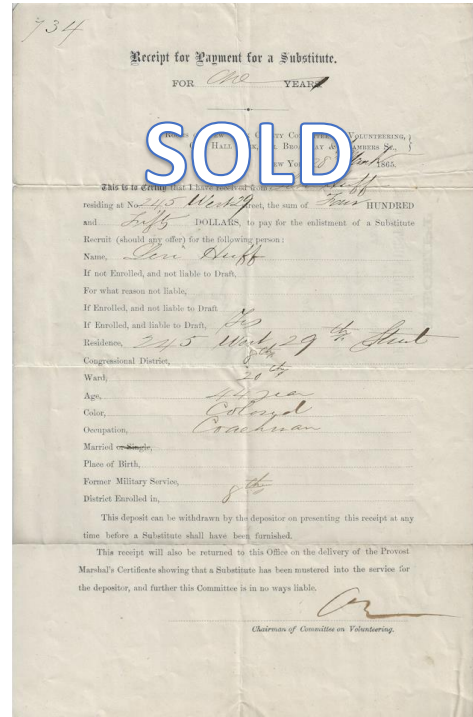
However, this is the first such item we have ever seen in which a black man, and a 44-year-old black man at that, hired a substitute to avoid the draft.

\$450 was a lot of money in 1865, the equivalent of seven months labor for a teamster. This suggests that Huff was employed as a coachman by a wealthy New Yorker who paid for the substitute in order that Levi's employment could continue uninterrupted.

(For more information, see Fuller's "The Draft and the Draft Riots of 1863" at the Bill of Rights Institute website and "History of Wages in the United States From Colonial Times to 1928: Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, No. 499.")

At the time of listing, there are no other documents for sale in the trade showing that a man of color purchased a substitute to avoid the draft. There are no similar documents that have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub, and OCLC shows no similar documents are held by institutions.

SOLD #10149



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

**16. [POLITICS – DEMOCRATIC PARTY, PRESIDENTIAL, & IMPEACHMENT] [PHILATELY]
[RECONSTRUCTION]**

1860 – A mysterious New York-to-London letter discussing the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson, opposition to the Radical Republicans, and the upcoming Democratic National Convention

This secretive letter, signed only “T. O.,” was sent from New York to “T. G. Slaughter / Farmingham / Dartford / Kent / Great Britain”. It is datelined “N. Y. June 17/68” and enclosed in an envelope franked with a relatively scarce 12-cent Washington stamp with an “F grill” (Scott #97, cat val \$300) which paid the “treaty rate” for transatlantic transit to London. It bears a New York foreign mail postmark with fancy cancel, a London “PAID” handstamp, and Dartmouth backstamp indicating it arrived on 2 July. In nice shape. A transcript will be provided.

The letter reads in part:

“Last evening I called on Sup^t Babcock . . . when they informed me that they had held money for me. . . I am much obliged to you for sending it [although] at present I am not in need. I sent you the papers during the Trial of the President and hoped they arrived safe. I will send you one on the 6th of July as a great traumatic meeting to be held here on the 4th for the purpose of nomination a president for the next election on their platform in opposition to the radicals. I would write oftener and tell you what I am doing could you keep this information from those claiming to be closely united with myself. I want to have nothing to do with them or they with me. . .”

The trial to which T.O. refers was, of course, the impeachment trial of Andrew Johnson in the U. S. Senate, the culmination of a bitter policy dispute within the Republican Party over how harshly the South was to be punished during its “Reconstruction” following the Civil War.

The upcoming “great traumatic meeting” was the Democratic National Convention to nominate a candidate for President in 1868 which was to be held at Tamany Hall in New York City from 4 to 6 July. Political fireworks were expected to be hotly contested between George H. Pendleton, Andrew Johnson, Winfield Scott Hancock, and a host of others. That said, the Democrats motivation to preserve white supremacy was clearly expressed in the convention motto, “This is a white man's country, let white men rule.” And as Francis Preston Blair, the party’s eventual candidate for Vice-President later announced, the issue in this contest was the overthrow of Reconstruction, as the radical Republicans had forced it in the South.”

(For more information, see “Impeachment Trial of President Andrew Johnson, 1868” at the U. S. Senate website and “The 1868 Democratic Party Presidential Nomination” at potus-geeks.com)

A secretive and philatelically valuable letter that is certainly worthy of further research to determine the full extent of its historical significance. I have been unsuccessful in discovering a relation ship between “T.O.”, Babcock, and Slaughter, although the names Babcock and T. G. Slaughter appear in some documents related to the Methodist Church.



\$275 [#10150](#)

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

17. [EDUCATION - ACADEMIES] [IMMIGRATION] [PHILATELY] [WOMEN & GIRLS]

1869 – Letter to a friend back home from an English immigrant expressing doubts that she made the right choice by coming to the United States

This five-page undated letter was sent by Miss Emily Borchert, a teacher at the Amsterdam Academy in Amsterdam, New York to a friend in Bath, England. It is enclosed in its original mailing envelope along with a 2¼" square illustration of the school clipped from a business envelope. The envelope is franked with a blue-green 12-cent stamp (Scott #117, cat val \$450) was used to pay the newly established transatlantic rate established by the US-North German Union Convention of 1867. Dates of its New York Foreign Mail postmark and its London receipt handstamp indicate that it was carried on the *Hamburg-Amerikanische Packetfahrt-Actien-Gesellschaft* (Hamburg-America Line or HAPAG) ship, *Allemania* to Plymouth. Opened for display in a postal history exhibit with a 1 ¼" closed tear. Still, in nice shape. Emily's letter reads In part:

"I left dear old England and . . . you must think me either lost or too happy to think of old friends, but, alas! This is not the case. I arrived safely in New York, although I had been seasick the whole time. . . . I ought to be satisfied but when I overlook the life, the customs, and the way in which the American people live and act. I am quite disgusted, and very sorry to have left the old country. . . . Rich people in America are very different from those in England, and it is a great risk for a foreigner [to board with a family. . . .] The little picture I send you [will give] a better idea of the house [where I stay]. . . . Amsterdam is 200 miles from New York City and about the same from Niagara Falls. I was charmed . . . in seeing so fine a country, . . . the more it seemed a pity that in general the people are so locominded not to seek after something better but money. . . . New York may be the worst place of all. . . .

"I live among honest people and hope not to see much of the wickedness. This is an advantage of a school and its life. Dr. Harsell is the director and [seems] to be both kind and [tries] to satisfy [the] teachers. Besides him there is another gentleman . . . and four Lady teachers. . . . They can do whatever they like when the school hours are past, boarders are but few, and the charge over them is easy enough as now of all the scholars of both sexes are taken under 13 years of age. The number of them is about one hundred. . . . They have to pass every year three public examinations. . . ."

The school where Emily taught was established under the charter of the New York Legislature in 1839 as the Amsterdam Female Seminary. Although its boarding department was only for girls, its day school also admitted boys. In 1865, it relocated to a hill about two miles from the railroad station. An attractive new building was built at the cost of \$40,000, and its name was changed to Amsterdam Academy. Eventually, it merged with the Amsterdam School District in 1895 and served as the district's first high school.

(For more information, see Snyder and von Hasseln's *Amsterdam*, "Mail From the US To Germany Before the Universal Postal Union" at the Rumsey Auction website, and "The Town of Amsterdam" at Montgomery.nygenweb.net.)

It seems likely that Miss Borchert soon returned to England as searches of 1870 or 1880 Census at ancestry.com turn up no results.

\$275 [#10151](#)



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

18. [FOOD & DRINK – FRUIT] [MILITARY – 1ST SINO-JAPANESE WAR] [PHILATELY] [TRAVEL] [WOMEN & GIRLS]

1895 -A young American importer in Nagasaki describes life in Japan and the aftermath of Japan's decisive victory over China in the First Sino-Japanese War.

Two letters by Elmer Floyd Shanstrom to Coolidge, Kansas, one envelope: one to his mother and the other to his sisters. 12 pages of text total. Both are datelined "Nagasaki Japan / Sept 10.95". The envelope is franked with a Japanese 5-sen stamp (Scott #74) which is tied to the cover by a circular Nagasaki postmark dated 12 September. Three circular postmarks are on the reverse: a Yokohama routing stamp dated 15 September, a San Francisco "Paid All" transit stamp dated 1 October, and Coolidge, Kansas receipt stamp dated 5 October. An unused postcard of Nagasaki Harbor is also included. All in nice shape; the envelope has been roughly opened along its left edge. A transcript will be provided.

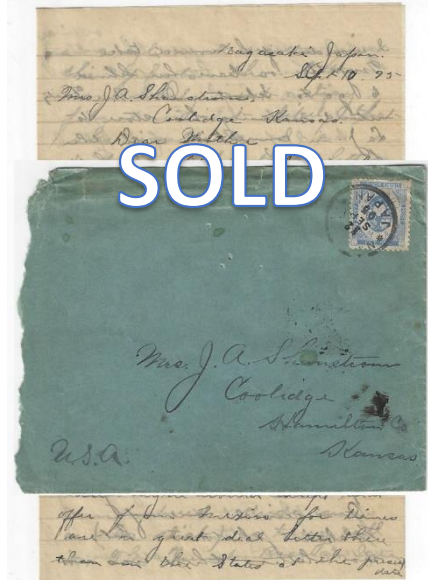
In these letters, Shanstrom reports activity related to Japan's recent victory over China.

"Since the war has closed Japan has been repairing a great many of the captured transports, man of war & torpedo boats here in Nagasaki. there is a large dry dock & expensive machine shops under British controll which are running night and day. A great many Japs are going to Formosa [Taiwan] to settle. I think the back bone of China, the great nation, is broken completely. not long ago I read an account . . . of a Massacre of Missionaries by Chinese [near] Chefoo but there was not the least bit of truth in the piece as everything was reported quiet by the German Consul of that place who was in Nagasaki not long ago." (Shanstrom was wrong about the massacre; several occurred. The worst atrocity was at Kucheng (now Gutian) where eleven English missionaries and their children were slaughtered.)

He also describes the mix of east and west in everyday Japanese life as the country rapidly transitioned from a feudal society into a modern industrialized nation with the assistance of foreign powers.

"The foreigners . . . wear white clothes . . . the English invariable wear the [cork] helmet a silk sash and the ever to remember dude cane or (me stick) as they call it. The French Russian Italian and Americans wear the ordinary broad brimmed hat of straw a loose light shirt and coat & trousers of a kind of duck of English manufacture & an elastic belt. . . the Japs make a sort of crepe which is light weight and very durable [with] very pretty designs in stripes and checks, a great many half civilized japs wear full suits of this material cut a la English. . . I have gotten somewhat used to their cosmopolitan way of rigging out but . . . I could not help laughing at a man who was hurrying along in the rain he had a Japanese umbrella and imported Derby hat, [a] shirt with sleeves reaching to the elbows and tails flying loose, drawers and leather shoes. he wore neither coat nor trousers it was an ideal summer suit and no doubt he only adopted as much dress as he felt to be comfortable for this kind of weather.

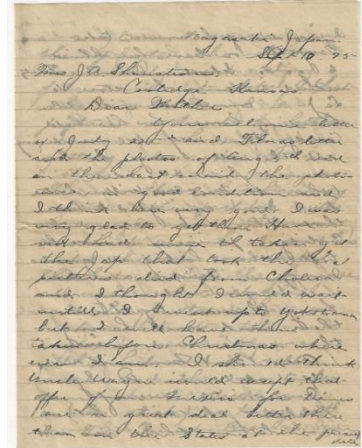
"Suwa Park . . . is the place to see . . . the natives enjoy themselves wrestling, lifting heavy weights, archery and sort of sword contest with bamboo poles. The park is on the side hill overlooking a large part of the town and harbor there are beautiful trees of many kinds. they understand the art of Grafting perfectly as many of the trees will show. In the open spaces and around the small lakes & fountains are hung in abundance. it is here that the little boys & girls . . . play their games of tag and shuttle-cock the boys and girls do not play with each other. . . The girls are taught from infancy their inferiority and give way without a sign of protest or displeasure. It is in the evening . . . tea houses do the most thriving trade



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

of the day. A tea house is the Japanese Ice cream parlor, restaurant Music hall & Saloon all under one roof (Only there is no ice cream) They are generally situated under a spreading tree in a little nook off the main highway. . .

"I know 3 or 4 little Japanese girls [who] go to School and learn to make funny black marks on paper with a brush an ink. there are no horses and buggies for them to ride but some times they get a ride in a ricksha . . . there are a great many peddlers here they carry their goods in small boxes which are carried by a pole . . . Little girls carry their little brother or sister on their backs the baby is tied on and cannot fall off. They run and play and do many things that very near bobs the babys head off but they very seldom cry about it. . ."



He also expresses his disappointment with Japanese fruits.

"When I came here I thought what a lot of cherries I can get . . . but when they began to ripen and were no larger than peas and very bitter I changed my mind. All the fruit here is of an inferior quality save the oranges. They are small but of a fine flavor. the apples are a half breed pear ae very watery the grapes are also lacking in flavor, and small in size. there is a small fruit about the size of a walnut and color of a crab apple which has four large seeds that tastes very good when dead ripe but sour as a lemon before that time. Several varieties of berries are very good. . ."

Shanstrom was a young American Marine who upon his discharge remained in Asia for the rest of his life. (Although, a Marine Corps Muster Roll from 1894 shows him as a member of the USS *Charleston's* Marine Detachment, he later claimed to have been a Chief Petty Officer in the navy.) Shanstrom served as the manager of the Shanghai Naval Club Hotel and eventually became an executive with the important German import-export firm, Melchers & Co. He died in Shanghai in 1920.

Although Japan had steadily been modernizing all facets of its society since Commodore Matthew Perry sailed into Tokyo Bay in 1853, the West had no idea about how far it had advanced despite the immense help provided by the European powers and, to a lesser extent, the United States. So, when a long simmering hegemonic dispute between China and Japan over Korea finally erupted in in 1894, everyone expected the Great Qing empire to make short work of Japan. To the world's astonishment, just the opposite occurred, and by the following April China was forced to cede Formosa (Taiwan) to Japan, recognize Korea as an 'independent' vassal state of Japan, and pay war reparations, about \$600 million in today's dollars. The West now recognized Japan as modern and powerful nation, while it became clear that China was, in fact, broken. China was forced to accept mercantile domination by Japan and the Western powers, and it wasn't long before unrest broke out throughout the country which resulted in the Boxer Rebellion and Xinhai Revolution in 1911.

(For more information, see Wright's *Twentieth Century Impressions of China, Shanghai*. . ., "The Flower Mountain murders: a "Missionary Case" database at the Australian National Library website, Kumlertsakul's "The First Sino-Japanese War and the 'Kowshing' Incident' at the UK National Archives, and online military and genealogical records.)

A scarce first-hand Western account of the immediate aftermath of the First Sino-Japanese War and a wonderful description of life in transitioning Japan. Nothing similar is for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub reports there was an auction of letters from an Englishman who was a gunnery officer in the war. OCLC shows five institutions hold personal papers collections that may contain similar items.

SOLD #10152

Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

19. [BUSINESS – MARKETING] [MEDICINE & NURSING - QUACKERY] [PHILATELY] [WOMEN & GIRLS]

1898 – Fraudulent marketing scheme letter addressing a gullible woman's health issues allegedly signed by Lydia E. Pinkham, however it was written 15 years after her death

Lydia E. Pinkham, a 19-century marketing genius, has rightly been referred to as the “Queen of the Quacks.” She claimed her Vegetable Compound could cure any “female complaint” from nervous prostration to a prolapsed uterus. To make family ends meet after the Panic of 1873, Lydia began peddling her stove-top medicine, a concoction of unicorn root, black cohosh, pleurisy root, and fenugreek seed in a 38-proof alcohol solution that understandably made purchasers feel better. She advertised her \$1 bottles with the slogan; “Only a woman can understand a woman's ills,” and after placing newspaper advertisements featuring her folksy portrait, sales exploded. Soon, she was selling \$300,000 of her compound annually.

Lydia urged women to correspond about their health issues and promised she would personally answer while keeping them confidential. The letters were answered, but not by Lydia. A stable of women handwrote boilerplate replies to each query. She also distributed free informational pamphlets about the female reproductive system (all the while, touting her medicine) that most women would have found difficult or embarrassing to obtain. Pinkham grew bolder as her success increased, and she began claiming her compound could “cure all cases [both men and women] of irregularity, faintness, headaches, chlorosis [anemia], megrims [low spirits], displacements, periodic bearing-down pains, dizziness, palpitations, depression, pains in the back and those dull and listless days when you feel fit for nothing.” Additionally, she and her family expanded their line of products to include liver pills, blood purifier, sanative wash (douches), and laxatives.

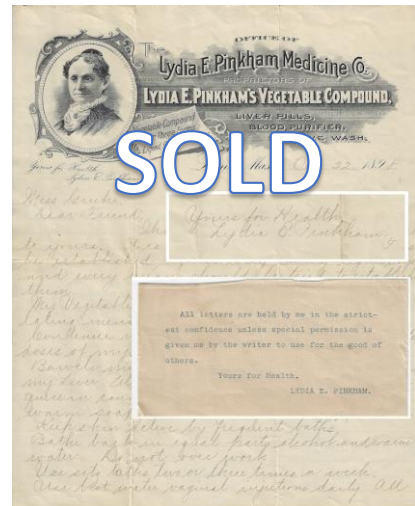
After Lydia died in 1883, the faux Lydias continued to respond to all queries. Although a popular magazine disclosed the fraud, it did not stop her faithful customers and orders continued even after the company was forced by the government to reduce both its claims and alcohol content. Eventually, popularity decreased, however its rights were resold several times, and a variation, Lydia Pinkham Herbal Supplement, is still sold today. While its fans are no longer the legion as before, Amazon reviews reveal they remain just as devoted despite a long study by the National Institutes of Health showing the compound to have no medical value.

In this 1898 letter ‘signed’ by Lydia 15 years after her death, she promises Miss Gruhe of Ann Arbor, Michigan, that regular use of the Vegetable Compound will regulate her menses, especially if taken in conjunctions with her Blood Purifier, warm alcohol baths, the use of “Glycerine Suppositories,” a change of diet, and the use of “vaginal douches” to reduce uterine “congestion.” A printed note assuring the sender that her query will be kept “in the strictest confidence” is included as is the mailing envelope appears to be sent from a home address.

(For more information, see “Lydia E. Pinkham: American businesswoman” at Britannica.com and Barry’s “Was Lydia E. Pinkham the Queen of Quackery?” at the JSTOR Daily website.)

Surprisingly scarce considering the number of these spurious letters that must have been sent. At the time of listing, no others were for sale in the trade. Rare Book Hub identifies one auction sale for \$70 in 1970 (over \$550 in today's dollars). OCLC reports only one institution holds a similar item.

SOLD #10153



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

20. [MILITARY – BOXER REBELLION]

1902 – Special Orders directing that transportation be arranged for Corporal Eugene Dupree, who had fought at the Battle of Tientsin, to return to the United States via Japan following the completion of his enlistment

This one-page Boxer Rebellion document on onion-skin paper reads:

United States Legation Guard

Peking, China, July 21st, 1902

Special Orders No. 63 (Extract)

1. There being no Army Transport available the Quartermaster Department will furnish transportation by commercial line to Eugene Dupree, late Corporal, Co. "B", 9th Infantry, discharged by expiration of service from Tonggu [Tanggu], China, to Nagasaki, Japan, where upon arrival he will report . . . for additional transportation to the United States. . ."

An endorsement on the reverse from the "Office of the Depot Quartermaster, Nagasaki, Japan, Nov. 6th 1902 reads:

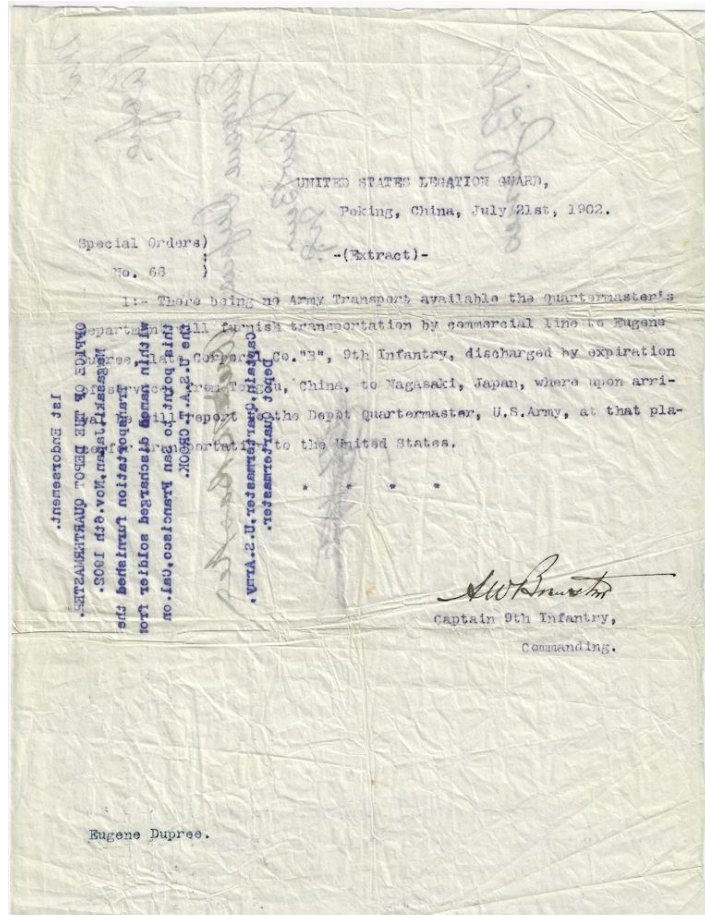
"Transportation furnished the within named discharged soldier from this point to San Francisco, Cal. O the U.S.A.T. Crook."

Dupree had deployed to China with the U.S. Army's 9th Infantry Regiment. He fought in the bloody campaign to relieve the international settlement at Tientsin (Tianjin) and the legations at Peking (Beijing) which were under siege by a combined force of Boxers (the Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists or *Yihéquán*, which was a violent, anti-foreign and anti-Christian peasant movement) and the Imperial Chinese Army that lifted the siege of the international community. After victory at Peking, the 9th began occupation duty, and Dupree's company was assigned to the logistics base at Tanggu, a port district within Tientsin.

(For more information, see Dupree's letter to the editor "At Battle of Tientsin: New Bern Boy Tells of His Experience. Slaughter of Chinese. With the Famous 9th" published in the 7 September 1900 issue of the *New Bern Weekly Journal*, Bowden and Warner's *The Boxer Rebellion*, and Harlow's *Logistical Support of the China Relief Expedition*.)

Original source American documents letters from the Boxer Rebellion are exceptionally scarce. At the time of listing, no others are for sale in the trade. Two similar items have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub, and OCLC shows several institutions hold American Boxer Rebellion personal papers collections.

\$350 [#10154](#)



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

21. [ENTERTAINMENT - THEATER] [PHILATELY]

1907 – Small packet of promotional material relating to Tom Waters’ piano-comedy, *The Mayor of Laughland* produced by Nixon & Zimmerman Enterprises

This lot consists of three items: a booking letter on illustrated letterhead, its accompanying illustrated advertising cover, and a second, different illustrated advertising cover.

In the booking letter, Nixon humorously confronts a theater manager regarding a disagreement over a booking contract, noting “I am afraid when the day comes that I will have to play . . . at the terms you mention, that I will have to quit the business.”

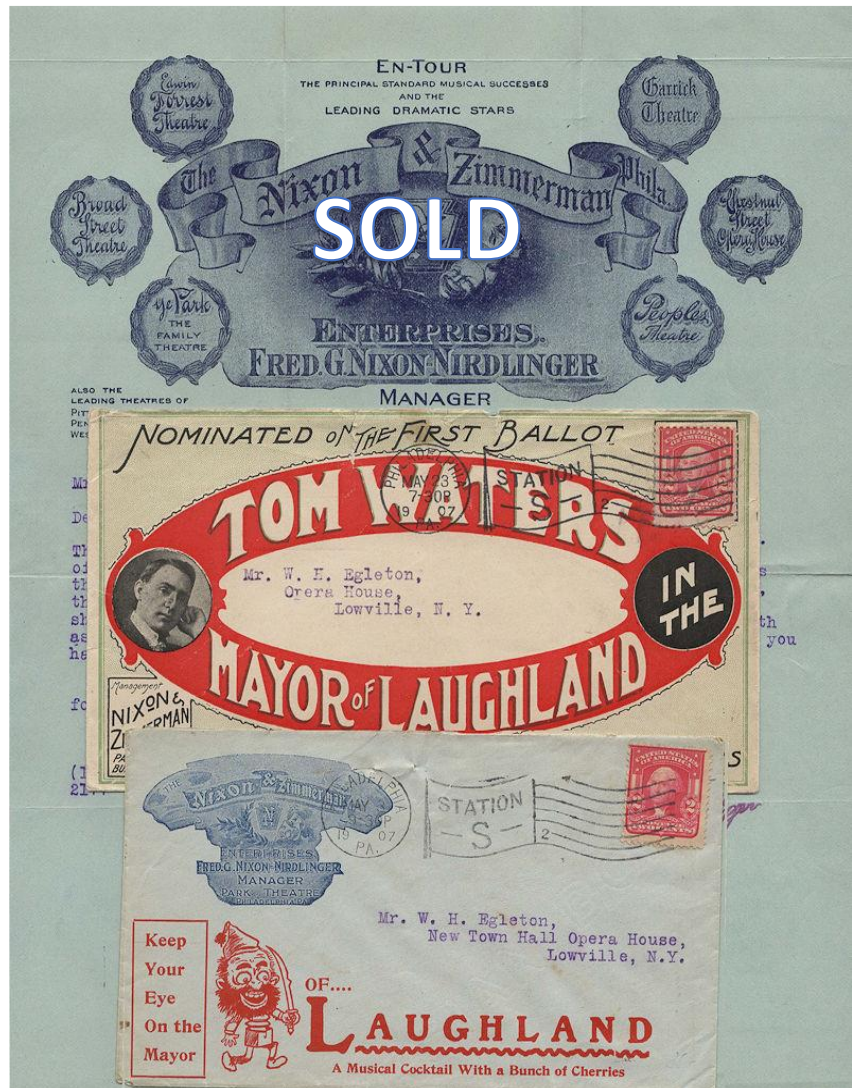
The letterhead and its matching envelope both feature the logo of Nixon’s company, and the envelope has an additional cartoon advertisement for “Laughland” in red.

The other advertising cover features a large red oval with a photo of Tom Waters and touts “The Mayor of Laughland.”

Both envelopes, which are addressed to a small-town opera house manager in New York, are franked with red 2-cent Washington stamps (Scott #309) that are cancelled with Philadelphia machine postmarks. The backflap of the Tom Waters envelope is missing.

Tom Waters was a successful musical-comedy actor who began his career in minstrel shows, made his theatrical debut in *One of the Bravest*, and gained fame as the star of the Broadway hit *The Pink Lady*. He was an accomplished pianist and was noted for his piano-comedy act, *The Mayor of Laughland* which toured throughout the United States and abroad. (see *The Indian Territory Journals of Colonel Richard Irving Dodge*).

ON RESERVE #10155



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

22. [DELTIOLOGY] [DISASTERS – FIRE]

1908 – Five postcards showing the aftermath of the “Great Chelsea Massachusetts Fire”

Each of these five unused postcards show a different photomechanical view of the “Great Fire” that destroyed much of Chelsea, Massachusetts on 12 April 1908. Published by the H. E. Paper & Stationery Co. Mfrs. At Ayers Massachusetts. All are in nice shape; soiling to the reverse of one card.

The fire began at the Boston Blacking Company and the fire department rapidly responded and quickly extinguished the flames. However, a forty mile per hour gale was blowing toward the east, and it carried sparks from the site to nearby

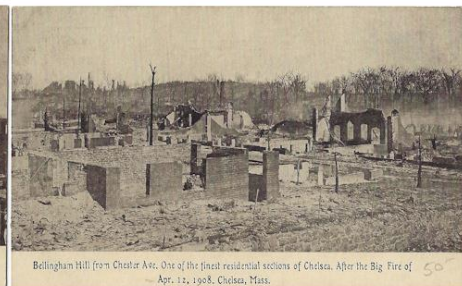
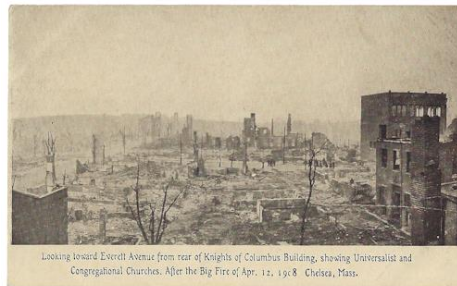
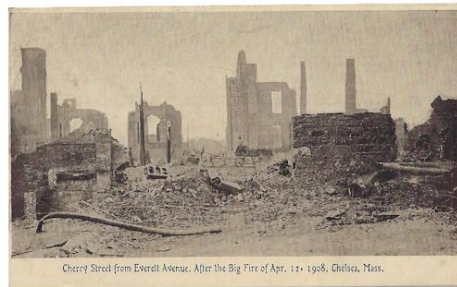
houses and frame buildings which soon ignited. In no time, the fire was raging out of control through the city’s business district. Outside departments joined in fighting the fire, but to no avail. Only the Chelsea River stopped its spread. Many prominent buildings including City Hall were destroyed as well as eight schools and a dozen churches. All told, about 1500 structures were destroyed and 12,000 people were left homeless.

This was in the days before our collective dependence on government, and the citizens responded quickly. Relief donations poured in, mostly from Massachusetts. Within two weeks over \$300,000 had been donated, not including many thousands more donated directly to burnt-out survivors by their employers and fraternal organizations like the Elks, Odd Fellows, Knights of Columbus, etc. Thousands were fed daily at kitchens located in the high school and at Lincoln Hall. Additionally, mountains of donated clothing, household goods, furnishings, and similar items were available on the 14th from a distribution center in nearby Boston.

For more information, see “The Great Chelsea Fire” at Wikipedia.com.

Scarce. At the time of listing, no other groups of Chelsea Fire postcards were for sale in the trade. Worthpoint shows that some individual cards occasionally appear on eBay. OCLC shows that a set of these five cards are held by the Massachusetts Historical Society, but it is unclear if they are the same or different views.

\$125 [#10159](#)



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

**23. [FRATERNAL – KLU KLUX KLAN & UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR]
[RACISM]**

1917 – Souvenir card for the 27th U.C.V. Reunion issued by a former Confederate Officer and Ku Klux Klan hero in honor of the most racist U.S. President, Woodrow Wilson

This 6¼" x 5½" card was printed by William Henry Harrison Phelps and distributed at the 27th United Confederate Veterans Reunion held at Washington, D.C., June 5-7, 1917. It was "Respectfully Dedicated to President Woodrow Wilson." In nice shape with a small, near invisible dampstain on the reverse.

The card front features an image of an elderly Phelps in a Confederate uniform. He is flanked by color images of crossed U.S. flags on the left and crossed Confederate flags (the Battle Flag and the Third National Flag). The text includes two annotations, "Captain (Lula Guards) Co. H 3rd Ga. Bat. Infantry Confederate States Army" and "Last Battle, Sunday, April 16, 1865". The reverse contains several Bible verses along with a second dedication to his "Confederate comrades."

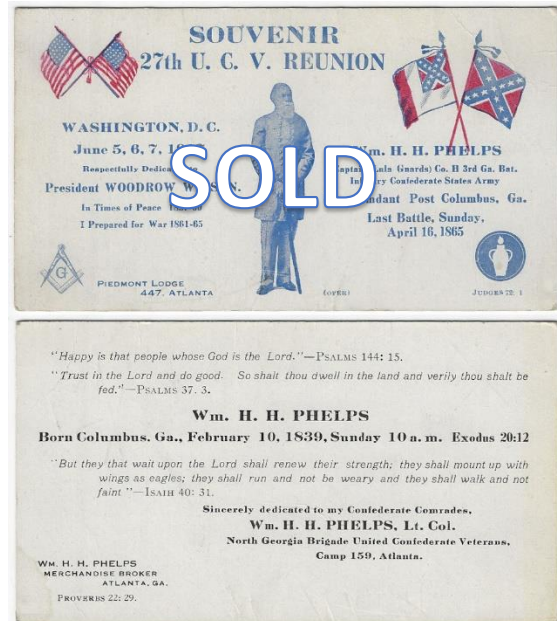
Phelps was born at Columbus, Georgia in 1839. He became a well-to-do merchant but lost his fortune in the war after raising two Confederate companies including the Lula Guards which he named in honor of his wife, Lucy. Following the war, he opened a bakery and candy making business in Columbus. One of its candies, the Moss Rose, became so successful, a second branch was opened in New York. An undated newspaper clipping reports that "he was awarded a hero medal by the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in 1866" while living in Columbus. This is interesting as the Klan was first organized in Tennessee in 1866 and did not become a powerful force until Nathan Bedford Forrest became its leader in 1868. The early Klan was especially active in and around Columbus, harassing Republicans. Eventually it assassinated a Republican politician and began to physically assault and whip freedmen. It isn't clear why the Klan awarded Phelps a "hero medal," perhaps he played an important role in its organization in Georgia.

Woodrow Wilson, a Virginia Democrat, was the most racist person ever to serve as the President of the United States. He unabashedly overturned policies and actions of his Republican predecessors, especially Teddy Roosevelt and William Taft, including firing African-Americans from railway postal positions as those jobs required them to use the same glasses and dinnerware as their white co-workers. He infamously praised the Klan (no doubt earning the adoration of Phelps) "The white men were aroused by a mere instinct of preservation . . . until there had sprung into existence a great Ku Klux Klan, a veritable empire of the South, to protect the Southern country."

(For more information, see Matthews's "Woodrow Wilson was extremely racist- even by the standards of his time" at the Vox website, Lehr's "The Racist Legacy of Woodrow Wilson" at *The Atlantic* website, Bryant's "Ku Klux Klan in the Reconstruction Era" at the New Georgia Encyclopedia website, and a variety of notes, entries, and clippings about Phelps at ancestry.com and the Find-a-Grave website.)

Scarce. At the time of listing no others were for sale in the trade. One has appeared at auction per Worthpoint. OCLC shows none are held by institutions.

SOLD #10158



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

24. [DIPLOMACY – CHINA] [RELIGION – MISSIONARIES] [MILITARY – SOUTH CHINA PATROL] [PHILATELY]] [WOMEN & GIRLS]

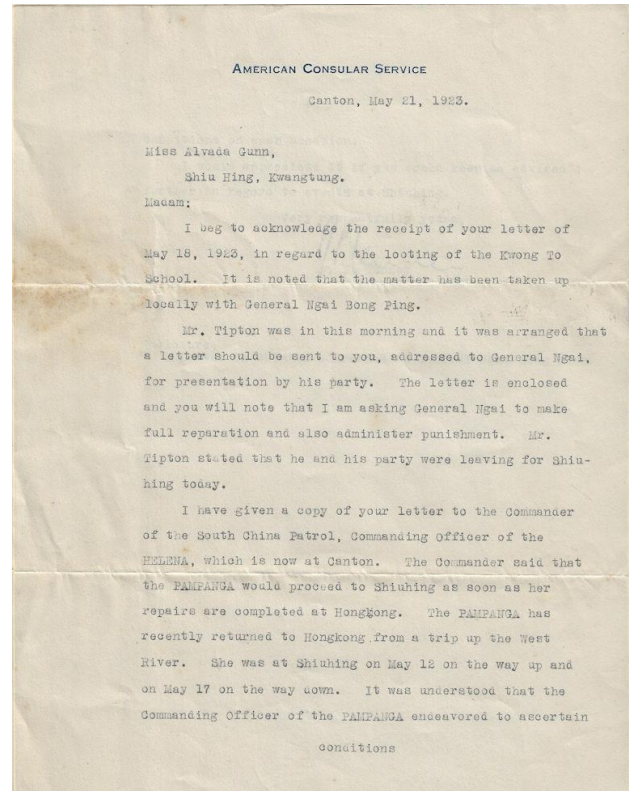
1923 – Letter from the American Consul in Canton to an American missionary regarding the attack upon and looting of her mission school in Shiu Hing (Xiuhing), Kwantung, China

Christian missions in China, despite their nearly non-existent success, faced periodic attacks almost since the first one was established in the mid-1800s and certainly since the Yangzhou Riot of 1867. The attacks reached a crescendo during the Boxer Rebellion when at least 189 Protestant missionaries and 500 native Chinese Protestant Christian were known to have been slaughtered in 1900 alone. However, after the Boxers were defeated, the “Golden Era” era of Chinese missions began almost immediately, and by 1920 over 8,000 missionaries were proselytizing throughout the country. However, an anti-tradition, anti-religion movement, known as New Thought, took hold amongst Chinese students and the intelligentsia toward the end of the first decade of the 20th century. Around 1920, this began to spread to the general population, and by 1922 a full-blown Anti-Christian Movement had developed among the non-Christian general Chinese population. It was during this period that the most horrific massacres of Christian missionaries occurred. Although no one was killed, the looting of the Shiu Hing Mission was among the first to occur.

Alveda Young, a brand-new young missionary was assigned to the Shiu Hing mission in 1920 where she joined two older associates and, in time, took over management of the mission school. By several quirks of fate, the two senior missionaries had to depart the mission, which left Alveda in charge when the station was attacked in February of 1923. Afterwards, she wrote a letter informing the American Consul in Canton of the incident and requesting assistance.

The Consul, R. P. Tenney, responded with a letter datelined “American Consular Service / Canton, May 21, 1923” which was sent to Ms. Young by registered mail in a Consular Service envelope franked with two Chinese 3-cent and one Chinese 5-cent stamps (Scott #s 205 and 207) which were canceled with circular Canton postmarks. An additional registration handstamp is on the front cover, and a Shiuhing receiving postmark is on the reverse. The envelope was sealed with two wax “U.S. Consulate Service / Canton, China” seals. His letter reads in part:

“I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter . . . in regard to the looting of the Kwon To School. It is noted that the matter has been taken up locally with General Ngai Bong Ping . . . and it was arranged that a letter should be sent to you, addressed to General Ngai for presentation. . . . You will note that I am asking General Ngai to make full reparation and also administer punishment. . . .



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

"I have given a copy of the letter to the Commander of the South China Patrol, Commanding Officer of the HELENA, which is now at Canton. The Commander said that the PAMPANGA would proceed to Shiu hing. . . She was at Shiuhing [and] it was understood that the Commanding Officer of the PAMPANGA endeavored to ascertain conditions [while there]. . ."

Although badly shaken by the violence, Alveda remained at the mission until her father died unexpectedly in 1925, and she returned home to be with her family.

It is unrecorded whether the reparations were ever received by the mission or whether the attackers were ever punished.

The Anti-Christian Movement continued unabated until General Chang Kai-Shek converted to Methodism in 1927.

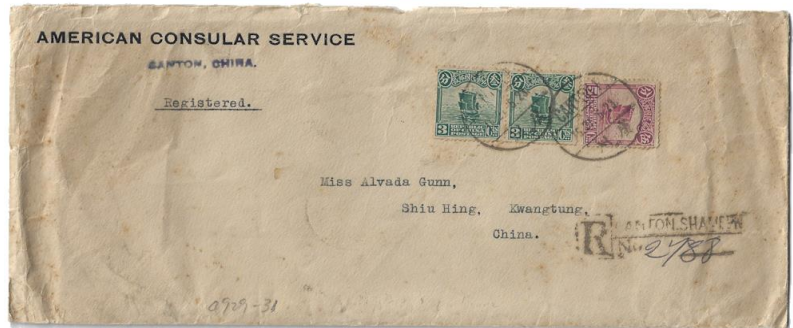
At the time this letter was written, General Nagai Bong Ping was an aide to Sun Yat-Sen, the first provisional president of the Republic of China and the first leader of the Kuomintang (Nationalist Party of China). Later, he allied with Chang Wing-Ming, one of Sun Yat-Sen's enemies. He served as the Police Commissioner for Canton.

No doubt, the Commander of the USS *Pampanga*, Earl Winfield Spencer Jr., had other personal issues on his mind. His wife, Wallis, had just rejoined him in China after a dalliance with an Argentine diplomat in Europe and upon arrival she became heavily involved with Benito Mussolini's son-in-law. The Spencers returned to the United States in 1925 and divorced by 1927. Spencer quickly remarried, the second of five marriages. Wallis did as well; she married a shipping executive, Earnest Aldrich Simpson. In no time, Wallis Simpson found a new lover, Edward Prince of Wales, who abandoned two mistresses to cement his relationship with her. Edward became King Edward VIII when his father died in 1936, but after he watched the proclamation of his accession from a window in St. James Palace with the still-married Wallis visible at his side, the monarchy was thrown into turmoil. Edward abdicated the throne within the year.

(For more information, see "James Hudson Taylor" at the Wells of Grace website, Shan's *Triumph after Catastrophe: Church, State and Society in Post-Boxer China*, Hodous's "The Anti-Christian Movement in China" in the October 1930 issue of *The Journal of Religion*, the Yamamotos' "The Anti-Christian Movement in China, 1922-1927" in February 1953 issue of *The Far Eastern Quarterly*, Griggs's *Margie Shumate: a Virginia Missionary's Experience in Asia*, and various articles in the *New York Times*.)

A fascinating and scarce early testament to the Anti-Christian Movement that gripped China throughout the 1920s. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub identifies nothing similar as having ever appeared at auction. OCLC identifies no similar items, however it is possible that some may be included in some of the missionary personal papers collections that are held by a number of institutions.

\$750 [#10156](#)



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

25. [ART– HEADSHOP POSTERS] [BUSINESS – PUBLISHING] [EDUCATION – DORM ROOMS]

1974 – Salesman's headshop poster catalog from Markethouse International, Inc. Manufactures of Youth Oriented Products

Poster Catalog. Lee Marshall, National Sales Representative. Butler, Wisconsin: Markethouse International, Inc., 1974. Complete, with 15 internal 8¼" x 11" color pages including the front and rear covers. Never bound to facilitate display. Includes a boiler plate sales letter signed in print by Lee Marshall. Unobtrusive staple holes at the top of the front cover where a business card was probably once attached. In nice shape with a little wear to the edges.

As explained in the letter, Markethouse International, Inc. had "recently taken over all copyrights to posters previously printed by Canterbury Posters, Inc. and Wall-Art Corporations and now markets them. The previous owners of both [of those corporations] have no connection with this newly formed company."

Some of the most iconic color, b/w, and blacklight posters of that time are in this catalog including Robert Crumb's *Keep on Truckin'*, Joseph Petagno's *Smile Things Could Be Worse* (President Nixon on a toilet), Jon Pasche's *Lips and Tongue* (logo from the Rolling Stones *Sticky Fingers* album), Elizabeth Richter's *Liberation* (photograph of a woman using a urinal in graffiti filled men's bathroom), and many more including seven with African-Americans sporting big Afros.

Practically every college student from the late 1960s through the mid-1970s must have had at least one of these 'mind-blowing' posters thumbtacked on a dorm wall. They could be bought in any bookstore, especially if it was near a college campus, underground newsstand, or head shop along with a supply of Job or Zig-Zag papers.

For those who may have come of age before or after this period, blacklight posters were printed with ink that would fluoresce (e.g., glow) when exposed to ultraviolet emitted from black lights (an accessory that could also be found in many dorm rooms. Their popularity began in the psychedelic Sixties, (think the Byrd's *Eight Miles High* or Strawberry Alarm Clock's *Incense and Peppermints*), but by the late 1970s, they had fallen out of popularity.

If you find even relatively chaste images of sexual intercourse offensive, I would recommend that you avoid viewing some of the images accompanying this listing on our website.

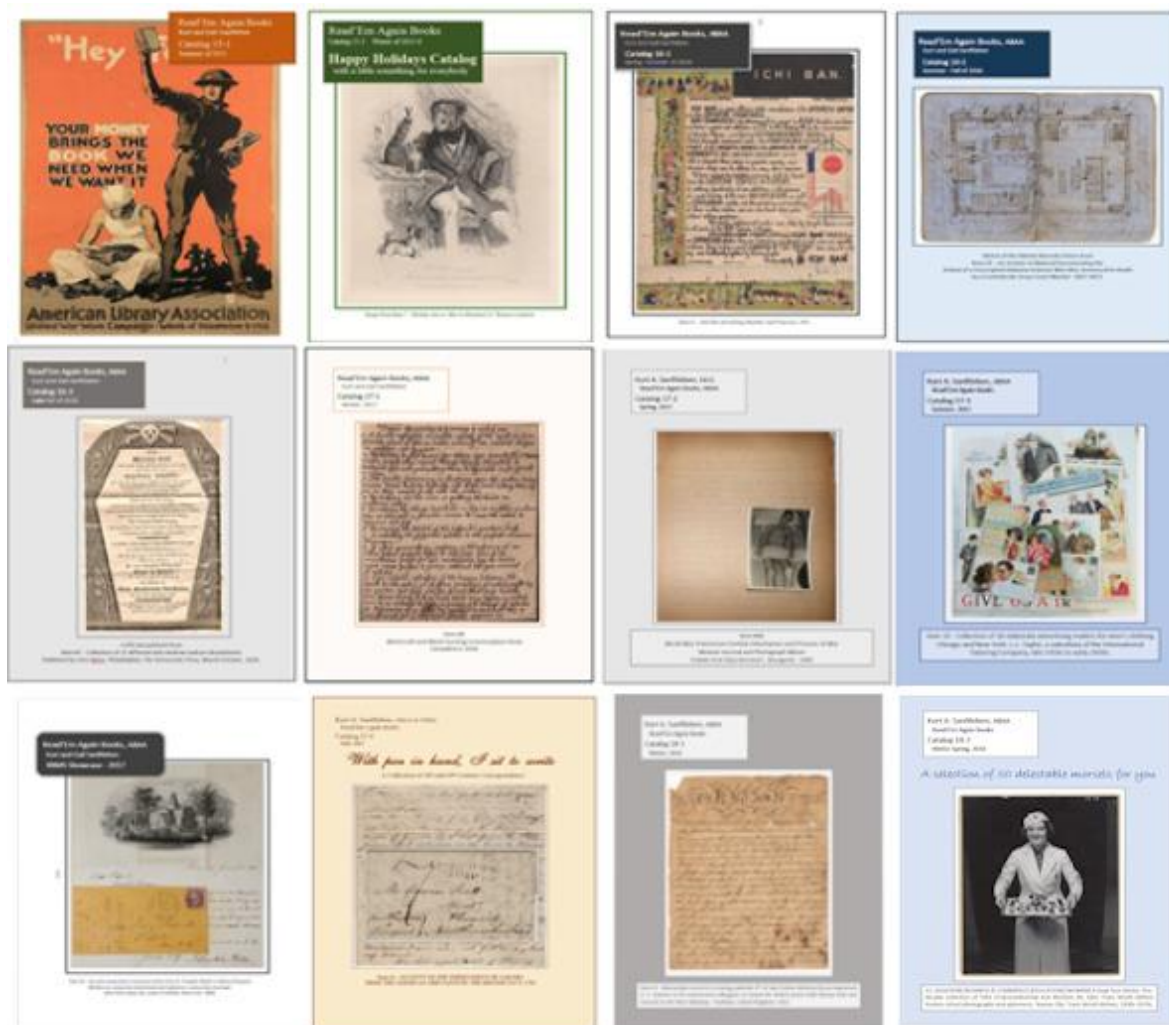
Scarce. At the time of listing, no other examples are for sale in the trade. None have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub, and OCLC shows none are held in institutional collections.

SOLD #10157



Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

Please let us know if you would like to receive our electronic catalogs of diaries, letters, ephemera, postal history, photographs, and sometimes even books.



We hope you can join us at one of our upcoming live shows.

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19-21 January 2024 – [Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition](#) – Sarasota, Florida

1-3 March 2024 – [Florida Antiquarian Book Fair](#) – St. Petersburg, Florida

15-17 March 2024 – Ephemera 44 – Old Greenwich, Connecticut