

Kurt A. Sanftleben, ABAA and ASDA

Paper Americana and Postal History

Catalog 24-1 – January 2024



**Item #21 - 1907 – Labor union scrip issued by the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW or Wobblies) during the Goldfield, Nevada labor disputes of 1906 to 1908.**

In the early 1900s the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) fought with the American Federation of Labor to control worker representation in the Goldfield, Nevada mines. Mine owners exploited the inter-union conflict to convince the governor and President Roosevelt to deploy federal troops to prevent the city from falling into anarchy. During a resulting IWW strike, which shut down the mines, the Wobblies issued "Exploitation Mercantile Company" scrip for its strikers to trade for Wobbly-supplied goods. The bill's obverse contains a central motif of a Teddy Bear symbolizing Roosevelt's involvement and stacked rifles in the lower corners representing the military occupation. The reverse is emblazoned "This is the only kind of money Nevada will see if the Goldfield Miners Union Lose the strike against the infamous scrip system."

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Regards, Kurt and Gail

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1. [AGRICULTURE – INDIGO] [COLONIAL AMERICA – EAST FLORIDA] [FLORIDIANA] [POLITICS – COLONIAL] [SLAVERY – INDENTURED SERVITUDE]

1771 – Letter to “yr. Excellly”, James Moultrie the Acting Governor of East Florida from a friend, probably David Yeats, advising him of the political machinations of his opponents, the Indigo market, slave losses, and general gossip.

This long letter, datelined “St. Augustine Oct<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1771”, contains four pages of text with more than 800 words and provides an incredible amount of detail regarding life in the British colony of East Florida shortly after poor health forced its Governor, James Grant, to return to England. Before he departed in 1771, Grant appointed his Lieutenant Governor and President of the East Florida Council, John Moultrie, to act in his stead. Apparently missing the final page, so unsigned, but based on its contents, the letter was likely written to Moultrie by David Yeats, Grant’s agent in Florida and the caretaker of his Mount Pleasant plantation located on the North and Guano Rivers. A transcript will be provided. In nice shape.

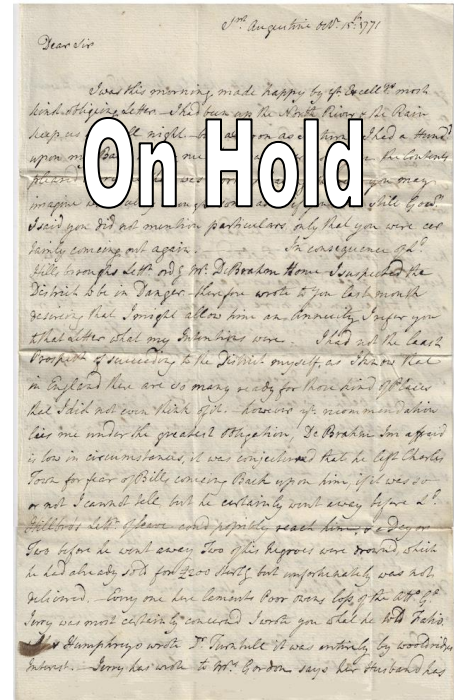
“I was this morning made happy by yr. Excellys. most kind obliging Letter. I had been up the North River & the Rain keep us there all night, but as soon as I return’d I had a Hund’d upon my Back telling me there was a letter from you the contents pleased every one that was worth pleasing the rest you may imagine were sulky enough some ask’d if you were still Govnr. I said you did not mention particulars, only that you were certainly coming out again. . . .”

The letter continues, identifying some of Moultrie’s “sulky” opponents, primarily Dr. Andrew Turnbull, a planter who had deceived hundreds of Minorcans into serving as indentured servants on his massive indigo plantation, and William Drayton, the colony’s Chief Justice.

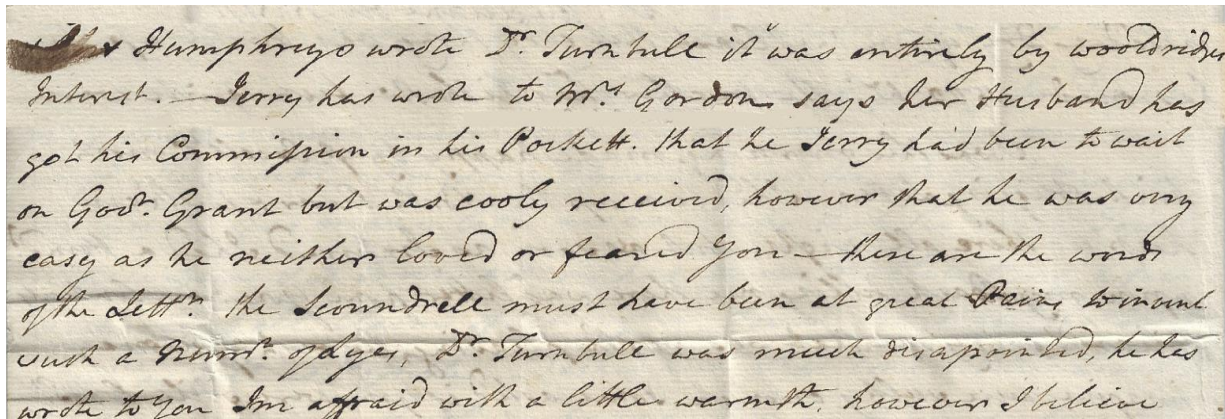
“[Walter] Humphreys wrote D<sup>r</sup>. Turnbull [about you]. it was entirely by Wooldriges Interest [and] the Scoundrell must have been at great Pains to invent such a num<sup>r</sup> of lyes. . . . [Upon learning that Governor Grant] was very easy as he neither loved or feared you . . . D<sup>r</sup>. Turnbull was much disappointed, he has with you I’m afraid with a little warmth, however I believe [when] he finds out that Govr. Grants word in England will go a great way, & . . . they will attend to what you say more than to any thing he can write or tell himself. . . .”

Prospects for that year’s indigo crop looked good.

“The Indigo Acc<sup>t</sup>. pleases every one, ascertaining the real value was wisely done, & I think a great stroke for the Province it being sold with the Carolinas . . . You mistake about Draytons it was sold in the same Time it was the Two last Lotts under the Name of Grab who is Draytons Mercht. it fetched 6/11d the highest and 6/6 the lowest. . . . The Summer has been so exceeding Dry upon the Coast that every thing was burned up, [but Skinner] has made 1500 Wt. . . . For this last six weeks plenty of Rain & as yet not too much & a great Prospect every where of another fine Cutting, if cold weather does not Coon it in a great quantity of Indigo will still be made. . . . Pinman goes home with D<sup>r</sup>. Turnbull next month, and will carry with him some good Indigo, a Thousd. weight or more – the Dr. has got 7000 made, & if the weather continues he will have 3000 more at least – he woud have had above 10,000 if it had not been for the worms. . . .”



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



~~Mr~~ Humphreys wrote D. Turnbull it was entirely by Woodridge's Interest. Jerry has wrote to Mr. Gordon says her Husband has got his Commission in his Pocket. that he Jerry had been to wait on God's Grant but was coolly received, however that he was very easy as he neither loved or feared you - these are the words of the Lett<sup>r</sup>. The Scoundrell must have been at great Pains to invent such a Friend. of dyes, D. Turnbull was much disappointed, he has wrote to you I'm afraid with a little warmth, however I believe

Several comments reflect problems with planters' enslaved workers.

"Before De Brahm went away two of his Negroes were drown'd, which he had already sold for £200 Sterl<sup>l</sup><sup>re</sup> but unfortunately was not delivered. . . . Poor Alert is dead, they say M<sup>r</sup>. Oswald has not used him well & he broke his Heart. . . . [Levitt] has given Mathers a free Discharge from all Claim[s]. . . . Powell shou'd me the discharge which is as full as Possible. I asked him what could induce Levett to do it as it . . . he laughed & said that it was true M<sup>r</sup>. Levitt had bought some of the Negroes himself & that discharge made now the value good which before a was doubtfull, he also . . . discharges John Dawson from all except £160 . . . for a Negro Boy which Dawson took away with him. . . ."

And gossip flows freely.

"De Brahm I'm afraid is low in circumstances, it was conjectioned that he left Charles Town for fear of Bills coming Back upon him, if it was so or not I cannot tell but he certainly went away before L<sup>d</sup>. Hillbro's Lettr. of leave cou'd possibly reach him. . . . Fairlamb is going to quit the Plantation & if so the Mount will not flourish, for Robinson who was likely rent out is quite unfit for the Employment. . . . The Fat Maj<sup>r</sup>. sleeps at the Barracks but spends the Day at Jenkins's . . . which he has fitted up & built a look out at for the Convenience of Miss Marr & three Days ago she in return for his kindness brought forth a fine girl. . . ."

It seems nearly every person of consequence within colonial East Florida is mentioned in this letter: De Brahm, Drayton, Fatio, Forbes, Gordon, Grant, Humphreys, Levitt, Oswald, Pinman, Robinson, Skinner, Turnbull, Walsh, Woolridge, and Yates, as well as Lords Hillsborough and Lillington. The only two prominent names that do not appear are Moultrie and Yeats, which supports the content suggesting Yeaks is the author of this letter.

(For more information, see Crenshaw's "Mudslinging for Appointment in British East Florida: Andrew Turnbull vs. John Moultrie, 1771-1772" in the Spring issue of *Alpata*, various articles and transcripts related to East Florida at Florida History Online, British Colonial Office East Florida Records at the David Library of the American Revolution, Mowat's "St. Augustine Under the British Flag, 1763-1775" in Vol. 20 Issue 2 of *Florida Historical Quarterly*, and "British Period" at the Volusia County Florida website)

A scarce and detailed first-hand account of early East Florida politics, agriculture, and power. At the time of listing, nothing similar relating to Moultrie's term of office is for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows only one Moultrie-related letter and two Moultrie-related documents have appeared at auction in the past 60 years. OCLC shows the Moultrie family papers are held at the South Carolina Historical Society, and some personal correspondence is located at the Library of Congress.

**#1,750** [#10161](#) On Hold

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## 2. [COLONIAL AMERICA – WEST FLORIDA] [FLORIDIANA] [FOOD & DRINK – SPOILAGE] [MILITARY – COLONIAL DEFENSE]

### 1774 – Extract from a letter copy book for the 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, the British Army in West Florida, with correspondence related to the spoilage of stored food

This disbound 12-page section of a letter copy book from the 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, stationed in Pensacola, West Florida, contains eight letters and one document on eight pages; four pages are blank. The letters begin on 12 August 1774 and end on 22 September 1774. In nice shape.

The letters were sent between Major Alexander Dickson, “the Commander of the Troops in West Florida,” i.e. the 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, and James Barbut, the Commissary General of Stores and War Provisions in Pensacola. The single document is a list of the spoiled provision verified by the signatures of three officers assigned to the 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

The spoiled food consisted of “128 Barrels flour / 2 Teirces Bread / 27 Teirces Rice / 12 Barrels Pork / [and] 1 Barrel Pease”.

In the initial letter written on 10 August, Dickson instructs Barbut, by order of Major General Haldimand, to sell at public auction

“All the provisions condemned on the 10<sup>th</sup> Instant [10 August]” and transmit the resulting funds to “the Deputy Quarter Master General at New York. . .”

Barbut takes exception to this order and replies,

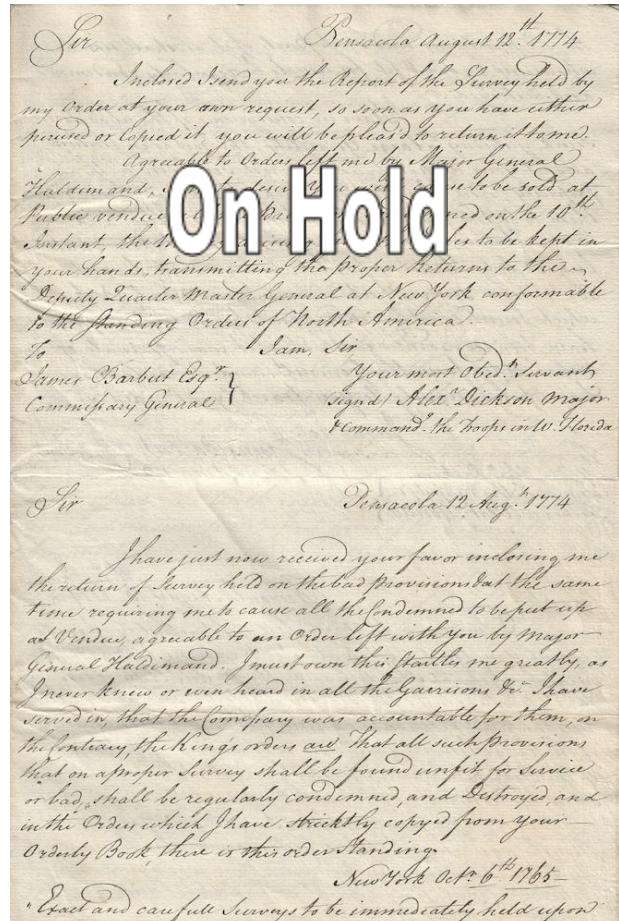
“I must own this Startles me greatly, as I never knew or even heard in all the Garrisons &c. I have served in, that the Company was accountable for them, on the Contrary, the King’s orders and Thal all such provisions that on a proper Survey shall be found unfit for Service or bad shall be regularly condemned and Destroyed in the Order which I have strictly copied from your Orderly Book. . .”

Over the remaining letters, the two officers become ever more emphatic in holding their positions, and at one point Barbut notes

“I have had the Honor to serve the Crown above Thirty five years with Zeal, Spirit and with a just and stirckt obedience to all Orders, but I must say I seldom have seen or heard of Private Orders of this nature. “

Dickson was not intimidated and held his ground. Eventually, Barbut was forced to back down, eat crow, and grovel.

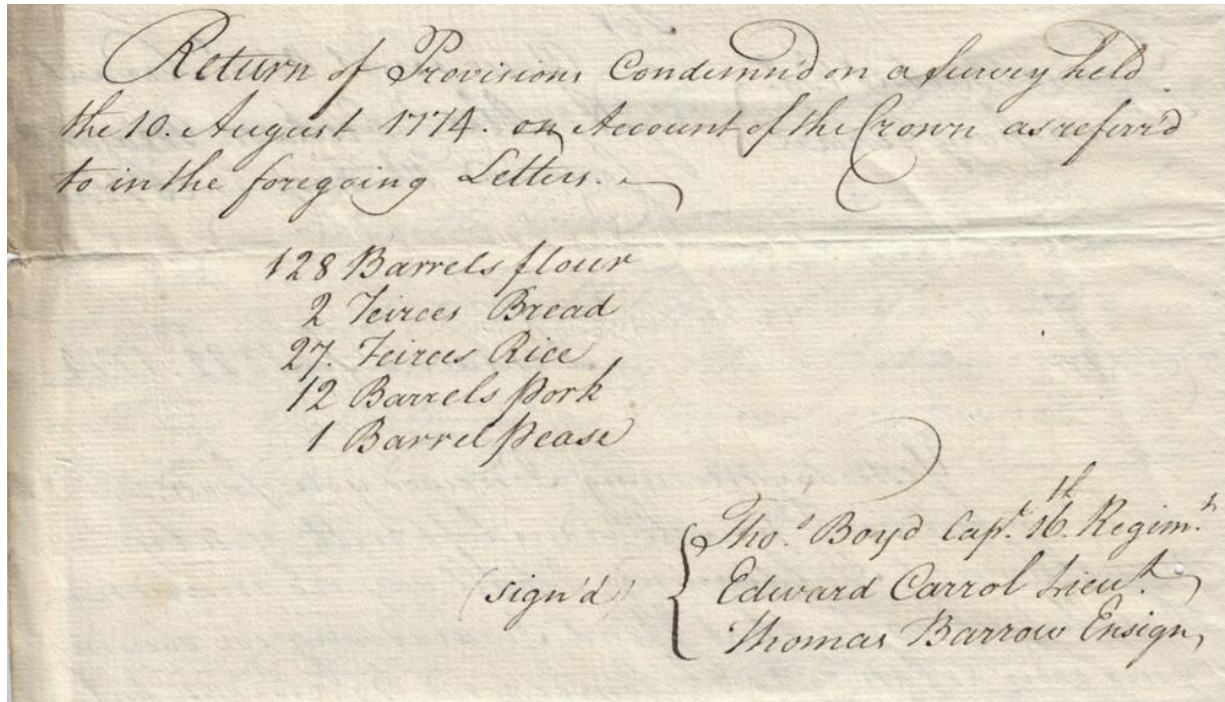
“I received your favor, enclosing me some private orders left with you by Major General Haldimand, I shall say no more on that Subject, only, that I find I was wrong. . . There for [I] hope Major Dickson





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

will not interpret my objection to obey his orders, to any want of respect and esteem for him, but that I may carry on in the Duty of my Office in its proper line, for believe me Sir, when I most sincerely assure you, that ever sence I had the honor of you acquaintance, I formed a peculiar regard and affection which I hall ever study to cultivate and improve."



During the early years of the Revolutionary War, Dickson and the 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment served in New York, however they returned to West Florida to defend the British colony against an invasion by Spain, an ally of the United States, during the Gulf Coast Campaign. They were unsuccessful, and the 16<sup>th</sup> along with other British regiments that had been deployed along with them surrendered Pensacola to the Governor of Spanish Louisiana, Bernardo de Gálvez, on 10 May 1781.

(For more information, see Siebert's "The Loyalists in West Florida and the Natchez District" in the March 1916 edition of *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, available online.)

Exceptionally scarce. Although the content of this letter is not inspiringly militaristic, it is an important piece of correspondence nonetheless as it appears to be the only extant record from the British Army's pre-Revolutionary War presence in West Florida, although several items from the 16<sup>th</sup>'s service in New York during the war have appeared at auction, and it is possible that some documents from the British Army's pre-war West Florida service may be included in a miscellaneous collection of military documents from the Southeast dating from 1773 to 1868 that is held by Florida State University.

**\$1,500** [#10162](#) On Hold

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### 3. [FIREARMS – HARPOON GUNS] [MARITIME – WHALING]

**1791 – An article regarding harpoon whale guns from “Papers in Mechanicks” describing a list of rewards proffered to expert harpoon-gunners for their achievements in 1790 and, most importantly, to Charles Moore, the inventor of an improved harpoon-gun that made those achievements possible**

This 12-page disbound extract is from “Papers in Mechanicks,” *Transactions of the Society, Instituted at London, for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce*, Vol. 9 (1791), pages 159-168 and Plate IV.

It contains reports of “Rewards offered for taking Wales by the Gun-Harpoon, in the year 1790” including

“Certificates” and “Premiums, being Three Guineas for each Fish so taken, paid to the . . . Harpooners.”

Eight rewards were given to harpooners. Most importantly, however, it includes a report of a 10-Guinea reward granted to Charles Moore for inventing a viable harpoon gun able to be used despite saturation by ocean spray that made their accomplishments possible.

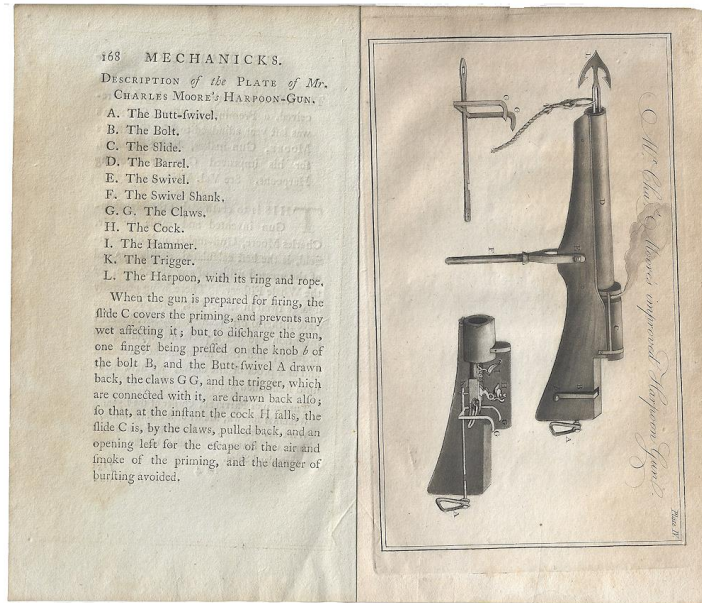
An example of a harpooner’s reward reads,

“Charles Fox, harpooner of the said ship Simond, on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 1790, at 1 A.M. being in latitude 71° 14’ north, and about sixteen or seventeen fathoms distant from a Wale Fish, perceiving her going down, fired with the harpoon-gun made by Mr. Moore, and got fast to fish which ran out five lines and a half, each one hundred and fifty fathoms long, which was about eight hundred fathoms in all, and then came up, when four more harpoons were struck in; and a 2 A.M. she was killed. The length of her bone was ten feet two inches, and boiled about fourteen tons of oil.”

The reward report for Charles Moore includes a plate, titled “Mr. Charles Moore’s improved Harpoon Gun” featuring a drawing of its internal firing mechanism along with a description of how its labeled parts work together. The reward text reads in part,

“This is to certify, that the Harpoon-Gun invented and made by Mr. Charles Moore, Gun-maker, in East Smithfield, is the best calculated, and has proved the greatest utility of any yet known, for the Wale Fishery. There being generally a large swell in those seas, Harpoon-Guns have hitherto often failed. By Mr. Moore’s invention the wet is prevented injuring the priming; and that inconvenience avoided. . . .”

Very scarce. At the time of listing nothing similar is for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hub reports nothing similar has appeared at auction. Although OCLC lists no “whale gun extracts” it does show digital and microform copies *Transactions of the Society*. . . are available; it identifies only three physical sets held by institutions, one at Wake Forest, one in Canada, and one in South Africa.



**\$350 #10188**



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**4. [MARITIME – CUSTOM HOUSES] [MEDICINE – MARINE HOSPITAL SERVICE] [PHILATELY]  
[TRANSPORTATION – STEAMBOATS] [MILITARY – AMERICAN REVOLUTION]**

**1809 – Letter from a pioneer steamboat captain onboard the Steamboat *Phanex (Phoenix)*, requesting approval from the New London Customs House Collector, a former general officer in the Continental Army during the American Revolution, for a sailor to receive medical care under the *Act for the Relief of Sick and Disabled Seamen***

This turned, two-page stampless folded letter, measuring 16" x 13" unfolded, was first sent by Moses Rogers, master of the steamboat *Phoenix* which traveled between New York Harbor and the Delaware River on the first steam-powered, ocean-going voyage in American waters. The letter was answered by General Jedidiah Huntington, the "Collector of the Port" in New London, Connecticut on August



30, 1809. It bears a "17" rate mark, a curved "PAID" handstamp, and an indistinct circular handstamp. It was turned, i.e., returned and addressed to Rogers "onboard the Steam boat Phanex" (*Phoenix*), with a "17" rate mark and a manuscript postmark reading "N. London / Sep<sup>r</sup> 5". (This is likely the fourth earliest known steamboat-carried letter and the first that was not carried by Robert Fulton's North River Line). In nice shape.

In it, Rogers requested that Huntington issue his associate, a "sick & disabled" merchant seaman named Martin A. Gardiner, a hospital 'passport' which was necessary for Gardner to be admitted in and cared at the New London Marine Hospital. It reads in part:

"I have a man by the name of John A. Gardner who Sailed & Paid hospital money a long time out of the port of New London. His at present a proper subject for an Hospital & as such is recd into that of Pennsylvania, but as I have become surety for certain expenses in the event of non-procuring a Certificate of the man's having paid Hospital Charges, I make bold to request you will be so obliging as to forward one to me without delay. . ."

Huntington granted Roger's request and signed an endorsement on the letter that reads,

"District of port of New London 4 Sep. 1809 I certify that the above named John A Gardner is entitled to the relief provided by law for sick & disabled seamen."

Rogers also requests,

"Please be so good as direct to me on board the Steam Boat Phoenix Trenton, N Jersey & the expenses . . . my father (Amos Rogers of Groton), to settle with you."

Moses Rogers, a native of New London, made a name for himself by captaining first-generation steamboats between 1809 and 1817, including boats for Robert Fulton, and as master on the pioneer voyage of the *Phoenix* between New York Harbor and the Delaware River in 1809, which was the first ocean-going steam-powered voyage in American waters. However, he is best known for commanding

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the S.S. *Savannah*, on its steam and wind-powered transoceanic voyage from Savannah, Georgia, to Liverpool in 1819.

Jedidiah Huntington, of Norwich, Connecticut, joined the city militia as an ensign in 1769 when discord began to develop between the colonies and Great Britain. He rose to the rank of colonel and commanded a regiment that was instrumental in lifting the siege of Boston. He was promoted to general and served at the Battles of Ridgefield and Monmouth. Later, he was appointed to the court-martial board that tried Benedict Arnold. Following the war, President Washington appointed him to be the Customs House Collector at New London.

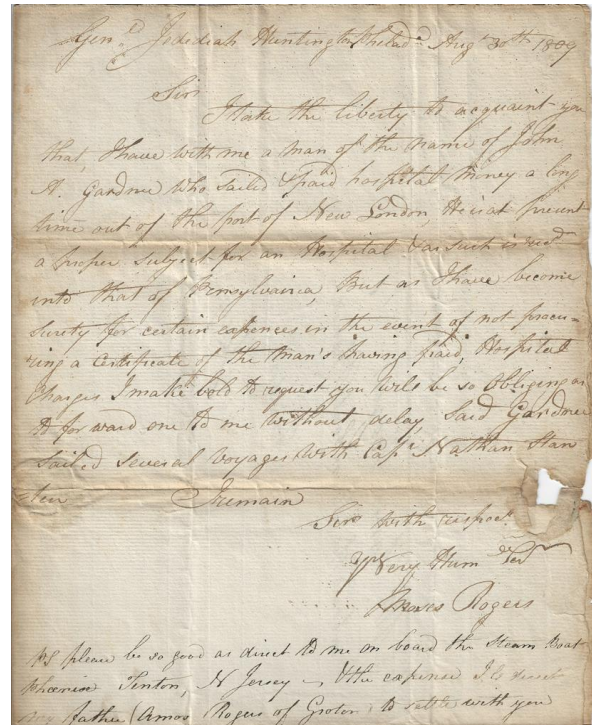
In the late 1790s, Congress began to suspect that a series of serious yellow fever epidemics in coastal cities might somehow be related to the ever-changing population of sailors who temporarily resided in those ports. At the urging of Alexander Hamilton and the Marine Society of Boston, it established the *Act for the Relief of Sick and Disabled Seamen* in July of 1798. This law established the first federal social insurance program, the Marine Hospital Service, the forerunner of the U.S. Public Health Service. To fund the program, ships' masters or owners were required to collect a mandatory 20-cent per month tax on each U.S. ship that arrived in country from a foreign port. These taxes were given to the Secretary of the Treasury who was directed to either establish a hospital in each east coast port "to provide for the temporary relief and maintenance of sick, or disabled seamen" or provide such services in another manner, which could include contracting with existing facilities, i.e., Benjamin Franklin's "Pennsylvania" Hospital referenced in this letter. Mariners desiring care at these hospitals were first required to obtain a "passport" from a customhouse. Usually, a letter from a ship's captain was sufficient to establish eligibility. Also, tax rolls were examined to ensure that taxes for the sailor's voyages had been collected. If both criteria were met, the seaman was presented with paperwork authorizing his treatment and care at a Marine Hospital, contracted facility, or, perhaps, by an approved local physician.

(For more information, see Richard's "Sketch of General Jedidiah" in *A genealogical memoir of the Huntington family*. . . , *Act for the Relief of Sick and Disabled Seamen* at the Statutes and Stories website, Rao's "Sailors' Health and National Wealth" at [commonplace.online](http://commonplace.online), and Lot 4066 "1809 Hudson River Steamboat Mail" in Seigel Auction Sale #1071 on 20-21 May 2014.)

This important first-hand historical letter documents the exceptionally early operation of steamboats, the function of Marine Hospitals, and the involvement of both a Revolutionary War General and one of the first steamboat pioneers.

At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows nothing similar in its listing although several letters from Robert Fulton regarding non-steamboat issues have occasionally appeared at auction. OCLC shows one 1808 diary written by a steamboat passenger traveling between New York City and Albany, and Robert Fulton's early papers are held in the New York State Historical Documents Collection.

**\$2,000** [#10163](#)



Gen. Jedidiah Huntington New London Aug 20th 1809

Sir I take the liberty to acquaint you that I have with me a man of the name of John A. Gardner who sailed from this hospital many a long time out of the port of New London and is now a proper subject for an Hospital but as I have become duty for certain reasons in the event of not procuring a certificate of the man's having paid Hospital charges I make bold to request you will be so obliging as to forward one to me without delay said Gardner sailed several voyages with Capt. Nathan Swan

Yours truly  
Jedidiah Huntington  
J. Gardner

It please be so good as direct to me on board the Steam Boat Savannah New Jersey with the papers I have sent to Nathan Swan Papers of John A. Gardner to settle with you

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## 5. [HERALDRY] [MARITIME – PRIVATEERING] [MILITARY – WAR OF 1812] [PHILATELY]

**1814 – Letter sent by a Englishman in Cherbourg, France to the Earl of Liverpool in London warning that one of the most famous American privateers had just sailed into the English Channel intent on attacking British shipping near Greece**

This four-page stampless folded letter measures 14" x 9" unfolded. It was sent by John Harvey Venner at Cherbourg, France to the Earl of Liverpool in London on 8 July 1814. It bears two overlapping indecipherable postmarks, one presumably from its point of departure point and the other applied upon arrival. A large red wax seal was applied to the reverse. It bears the Venner coat of arms in relief: a cross charged with a cross formée, between four eagles displayed of the second. In nice shape with a section of the lettersheet (that does not affect any text) removed when opened.

Venner simultaneously sent a duplicate copy of the letter to the British Ambassador in Paris.

"As an English man I feel it my duty, and more especially so as a commercial man, to inform your Lordship, that an American Privateer, called, *Le Prince de Neufchatel*, mounting 14/24 pounders . . . sailed from here the 2<sup>d</sup> instant, her complement of men is at present very small. I believe between Thirty and Forty.

"Her intention is to the Southward of this port, and to proceed through the Port of Gibraltar to the straight under the idea of proceeding to the coast of Greece, & taking her prizes in to the Greek ports. This information which I believe to be correct, may not however be so – but at any rate I thought it my duty to communicate it to your Lordship knowing that the Mediterranean Fleet has been much diminished, & aware, that with good intelligence she may be easily captured before she does any material damage.

"It is possible this report may have been circulated to cover her intention of escaping to America, but this I leave to your Lordship's respect. . ."

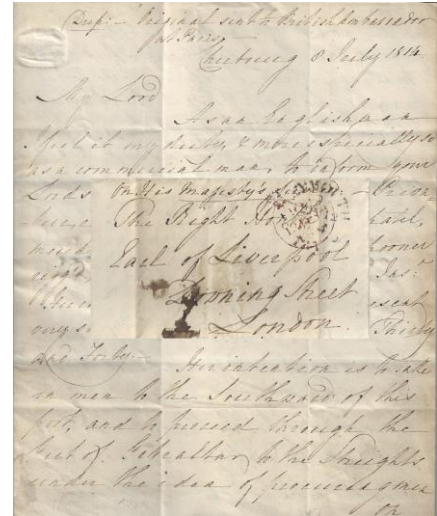
The *Prince of Neufchatel*, captained by John Ordronaux, was one of the most successful American privateers during the War of 1812. It captured or destroyed about 30 British merchant ships, escaped from nearly 70 English warships, and brought nearly \$300,000 of plunder back to the United States.

Venner was wrong about the *Neufchatel*. Instead of sailing to Greece, it wreaked havoc on British shipping within the Channel. While continuously evading capture by HMS *Achille* and HMS *Sybil* it captured six British merchantmen. The *Neufchatel* then sailed to the Portuguese coast where it captured another twenty prizes before returning to Baltimore. Most impressively, when engaged in a follow-on voyage, the *Neufchatel* was cornered by the famous fifth-rate British frigate, HMS *Endymion*, after taking a prize off the coast of Martha's Vineyard, and escaped by fighting the English warship to a draw.

(For more information, see "John Ordronaux" at WikiMonde online, in French.)

Unique. At the time of listing, no similar intelligence reports about War of 1812 American privateers are for sale in the trade. None have appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub, and OCLC shows none held by institutions.

**\$800** [#10164](#)





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

6. [BUSINESS – OLD CHINA TRADE] [DRUGS – OPIUM] [MARITIME - SMUGGLING] [PHILATELY]

**1816 – One of the earliest extant Old China Trade letters regarding a shipment of tea and silk from a merchant who was simultaneously beginning the largest American opium smuggling concern in China**

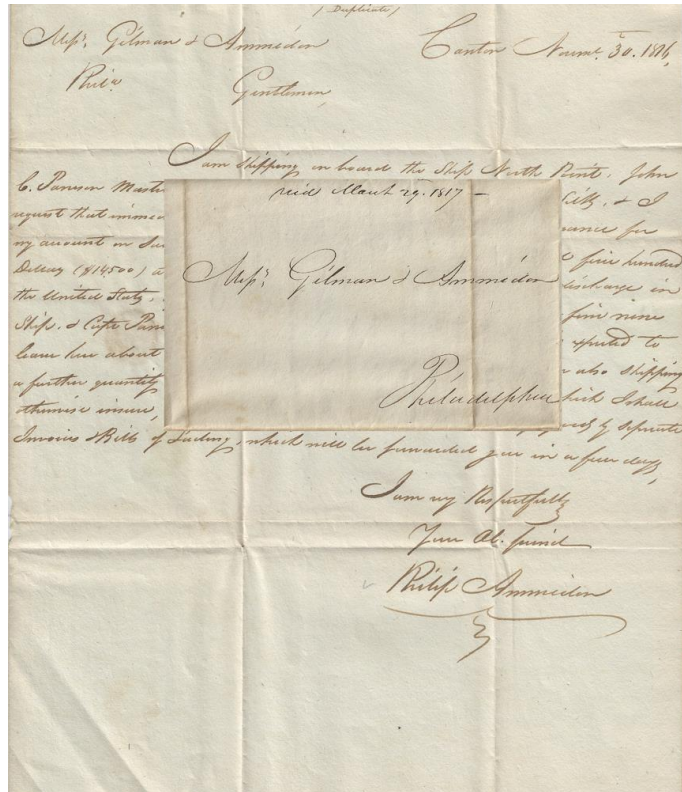
This stampless folded letter from Philip Ammidon in Canton, China to Benjamin Ives Gilman in Philadelphia measures 16½" x 9½" unfolded. It was sent on 30 November 1816 and is one of two copies sent by Ammidon to ensure his message was received. As this letter was sent long before mail from China was officially routed through the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai, it was privately carried and bears no postal markings. It is likely the second earliest commercial extant letter sent to the United States from China. In nice shape.

It reads in part:

"I am shipping, on board the Ship North Point, John C. Paneson, a quantity of Teas & Silk, & I request that immediately upon receipt of this, you will affect insurance for my account on Said property, to Amount of Fourteen thousand five hundred Dollars (\$14,500) at from Whampow to Baltimore, or a port of discharge in the United States, against all risk. The North Point is a fine . . . Ship, & Capt Paneson considered an experienced man. She is expected to leave here about the 15<sup>th</sup> of next month (Decem<sup>r</sup>) – I am also shipping a further quantity of Tea, by the North Point, (say 405 Chests) which I shall otherwise insure. – I shall designate the two parcels of goods by separate Invoices & Bills of Lading, which will be forwarded you in a few days,

I am very Respectfully  
Your Al. Friend  
Philip Ammidon"

American trade with China began in 1784 when the *Empress of China* left port with a cargo of ginseng and fur pelts, the only commodities besides silver and opium of interest to Chinese merchants. She returned a year later filled with tea and silk which turned a 25% profit on its owner's investment. Soon a handful of American free-traders entered the market whose contact was limited to the port of Canton (today, Guangzhou). One of those, Stephen Girard, soon found a way to circumvent the British East India Company's monopoly of the opium trade. Instead of obtaining his opium from India, he secured his in the Levant.



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

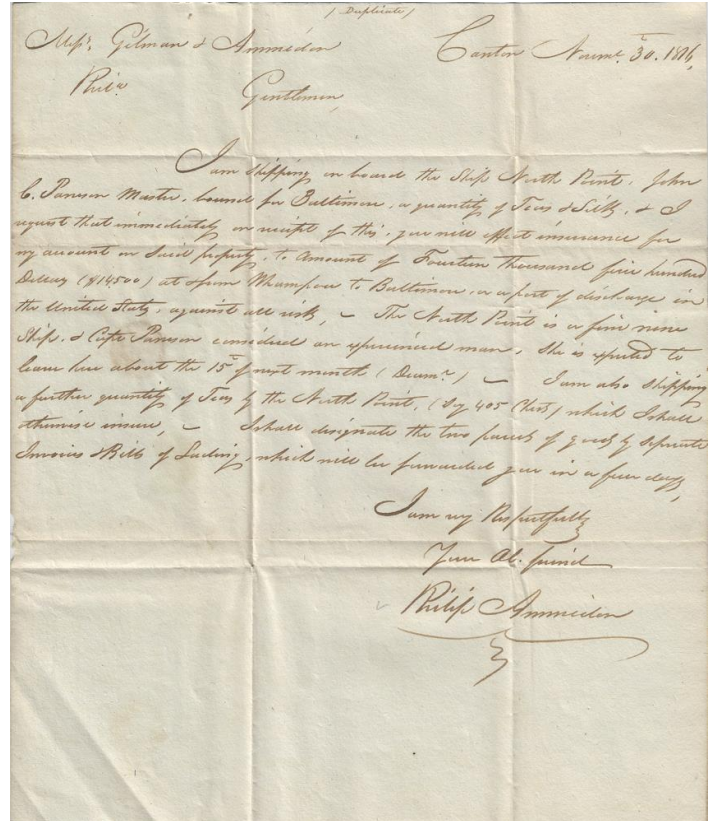
Although some accounts place Ammidon in China in the early 1800s, it is more likely he didn't arrive until 1815 after the Treaty of Ghent ended the War of 1812 when relations between Great Britain and the United States thawed. Regardless, Ammidon was one of the earliest American traders in Canton, and after a burst of Chinese smuggling control temporarily crippled opium trade, he was able to purchase a shipment from one of Girard's supercargoes at a bargain-basement price in 1816. No doubt, he turned a significant profit which may have been used later in the year to fund the tea and silk transaction referred to in this letter.

In 1818, Ammidon partnered with Samuel Russell to form Russell & Company which devoted its efforts almost exclusively to the opium trade. Amidon soon traveled to India and somehow skirted the East India Company's monopoly and sourced a supply of opium there. After merging with Perkins & Co., another opium supplier, Russel & Company became the largest American supplier of the narcotic to the Chinese. Ammidon left the company and returned to the United States, sometime between 1827-1830.

Whampoa was an anchorage in the Humen, a narrow strait in China's Pearl River, a gateway to Canton about 15 miles further north. All foreign ships docked to load and unload their cargos at Whampao, and from there, goods were ferried to and from Canton by sampan. As foreigners moved their cargo upriver more deeply into Chinese territory, they became increasingly dependent on Chinese navigators, merchants, and Imperial patrol boats since pirates infested the waters. In addition to the western merchantmen and sampans, the harbor was filled with houseboats, junks, and 'flower boats' that provided music, wine, opium, and women to sailors. Shallow-drafted 'crab boats' with many oarsmen scuttled in and out of the harbor using small inlets to smuggle opium while avoiding official patrols.

(For more information, see "This Week in China's History: February 22, 1784" at The China Project website, "The Dragon and the Eagle" at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum website, Downs's "American Merchants and the China Opium Trade, 1800-1840" in *The Business History Review* Winter 1968, Perdue's "Rise and Fall of the Canton Trade System" at MIT's Visualizing Cultures website, and "A Chronicle of the China Trade" at the Harvard Business School website.)

Unique. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade. Neither the Rare Book Hub or Stamp Auction Network list any auctions for similar letters. (Stamp Auction Network identifies only two pre-1835 letters to the U.S. from China as having appeared at auction; neither was related to the opium trade.) OCLC shows nothing similar in institutional collection. There is an image of one earlier American letter at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum website.



**\$4,000** [#10165](#)

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

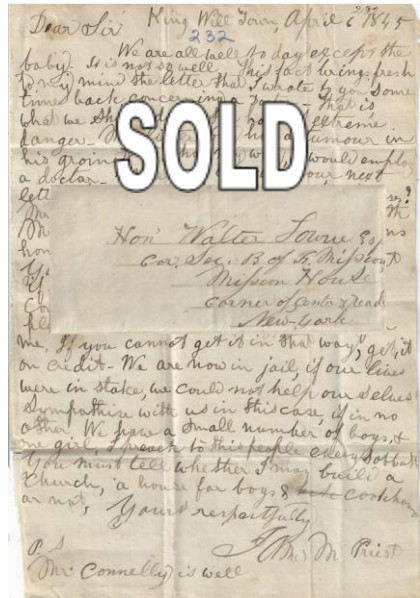
**7. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA – LIBERIA] [RELIGION – MISSIONARIES & PRESBYTERIANISM] [PHILATELY] [SLAVERY – MANUMISSION]**

**1845 – Letter from a former slave, who had become a Liberian missionary and would soon become the country's Vice-President and later a member of its Supreme Court, requesting that the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions provide a doctor to serve in his country**

This one-page stampless folded letter, measuring 7¼" x 12½" unfolded, was sent by James Priest of Liberia to Willaim Lowrie in New York City. It is datelined "King Will Town, April 6 1845". Privately carried with no postal markings. In nice shape.

It reads in part:

"We are all well to day except the baby. . . This fact brings fresh to mind the letter that I wrote to you some time back, concerning a Doctor – that is what we should do in the hour of extreme danger. My little boy has a tumour in his groin. . . Will you tell in your next letter what I must do, always in Such case? Mr M Donough has gone to stay with Mr Connolly until the Madam returns home. We are, [therefore] alone at this time. You tale me . . . that if I were left alone you would send a Company. You must now redeem your pledge. Mr Lowrie do bey the boat for me. If you cannot get it in that way . . . get it on credit. We are now in jail, if our lives were in stake, we could not help our Selves Sympathise with us in this case. . . We have a small number of boys, & one girl. I preach to this people every Sabbath. You must tell whether I may build a Church, a house for boys, & cookhouse or not. . ."



James M. Priest had been an enslaved worker belonging to Jane Anderson Meaux of Kentucky. After James expressed an interest in becoming a Presbyterian minister, Meaux sent him to a preacher in Jessamine County to receive a basic education after which she freed the young man and sent him on a voyage to evaluate Liberia as a potential home for all her slaves. Upon his return, Meaux sent James to the McCormick Theological Seminary at New Albany, Indiana. While there, James married, and upon graduation in 1848 became that school's first missionary when he and his wife traveled to Settra Kroo, Liberia, to establish schools under the sponsorship of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. Priest was elected as a Liberian Senator and eventually became the republic's Vice President. He later served as an Associate Justice of the Liberian Supreme Court until his death in 1883.

Priest's son, James Jr., who was likely "the boy" referenced in this letter, attended Liberia College in Monrovia and later the Columbia School of Mines. He returned to Liberia where he became a professor of mathematics. Lowrie served as the Corresponding Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions from its founding in 1837 until his retirement at age 80 in 1865.

(For more information, see "Priest, James M." at the Notable Kentucky African Americans Database, Halsey's *A History of the McCormick Theological Seminary*, Houston's *Maxwell History and Genealogy*. . ., Yannielli's "Princeton & Slavery," Adam's "New Scholarship Honors James R. Priest. . .," and *Memoirs of the Hon. Walter Lowrie*, all available online.)

A scarce letter from one of Liberia's important early leaders. At the time of listing no other Priest letters are for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub identifies only six that have been sold at auction. OCLC also shows six of his letters are held by the Library of Congress and Duke University.

**SOLD #10166**



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

## 8. [FIREARMS – HARPOON GUNS] [MARITIME – WHALING] [PHILATELY]

**1845 & 1849 – Two letters sent by a commission agent in England to his associates in New Bedford discussing prices of whale products and, more importantly, the potential market for harpoon guns**

The 1845 stampless folded letter, measuring 17" x 10½" unfolded, is datelined "London 19 May 1845" and was sent by Lemuel Goddard to "Messrs [Jireh] Swift & [Frederick Slocum] Allen / New Bedford" Massachusetts. The letter also includes the text from an earlier letter message that had been sent on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Both provided pricing information for whale oil, Sperm whale oil, and whale bone. The letter was apparently favor-carried to Boston as it bears no English or U.S. Post Office markings. At Boston, the carrier deposited it with an independent mail service, Hale & Company, for delivery to New Bedford. It bears two red handstamps that were applied in Boston. One, an oval, reads "Forwarded / By / Hale & Co. / from / Boston". The other, a rectangle, reads "Collect / Six Cents". Both are identified in the American Stampless Cover Catalog, Vol. II, p. 17. In nice shape with some insect/rodent predation that affects a few words of text.



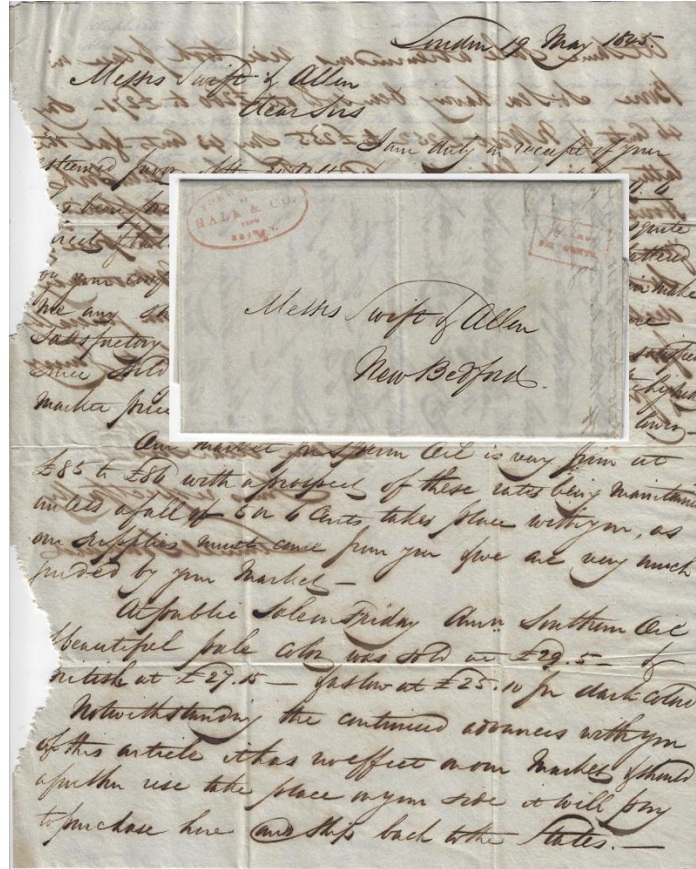
The 1849 stampless letter is both historically and philatelically important. It measures 16" x 10" unfolded and was also sent by Goddard to Allen and Swift in New Bedford. It is datelined 9 November 1849 and its black cross "L.S." postmark indicates it was mailed from the Lombard Street branch of the London post office on the same day. As the letter was sent under the provisions of the recently ratified Anglo-American Postal Treaty, the front cover bears two bold "24" handstamps indicating the postage due cost to be collected from its recipient. The 19-cent handstamp is an "accountancy" mark indicating the amount of that payment the U.S. would reimburse Great Britain. In nice shape.

The 1849 letter reads in part:

"I am very happy to learn you had at last succeeded in finding a ship that would suit Capt. Tatch . . . the Paulina...will be just the vessel, tho I know some of your folks don't like Barques. In this country, we think them preferable. . . . I wish the Paulina and Capt. Tatch . . . every success and hope she will prove a fortunate ship. By the Zurgari that sailed for Boston this week, I sent Capt. Delano one of Greener's celebrated guns that so much has been said about, with a set of Harpoons...would it not be as well to let Capt. Tatch take it out with him and test them. The testimonial from all the English Capt<sup>s</sup>. are amazingly strong and no ship now sails without 2 or 3 of them on board. You saw the account of Enderby's failure, it will not affect the Whaling Co. . . . Sperm Oil is prime at 82 to 83 Pounds...I am getting my name a little posted up with East India and China . . . and don't mean to let Barings have all these nice cumshaws. They have just rec<sup>d</sup>. a cargo of Whale Oil from Manilla which will be sold by auction on Wednesday. . . . Whalebone 185 Pounds and sales making at this price. . . ."

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

Prior to 1849, payment for the delivery of letters between the United States and Britain could only be made up to the first port of the destination country. Once there, the recipient had to pay any additional costs for delivery to have the letter forwarded to the post office nearest them. The Anglo-American Postal Treaty of 1848 (which went into effect in February 1849) changed that, and through a meticulously complex "accountancy" system allowed payments for the entire journey to be made at one time. Initially, all treaty mail was routed through only four designated "offices of exchange:" London, Liverpool, New York, and Boston. Fees were standardized and accounted for in U.S. cents (3-cents for inland British postage, 16-cents for ocean postage, and 5-cents for inland U.S. postage). Which nation received payment for each segment of the journey was based on whether the transport ship was an American or British packet and whether the letter was sent prepaid or postage due.



Frederick S. Allen and his brother-in-law, Jireh Swift, were major suppliers of ropes, iron ware, and foodstuffs needed to outfit whaling vessels. They began operations at New Bedford in 1842. They also acted as agents for whaling vessels from 1844 to 1887, providing near full-service operations that included supplies, equipment, crew accounts, and sales of whale oil, sperm oil and whale bone for individual voyages. As petroleum products replaced whale oil, Swift & Allen's business shrank accordingly, and it ceased operation in 1891.

Captain Tatch and the Paulina departed the following December on a three-year voyage to the Indian Ocean, but it isn't known if it took any Greener harpoon guns along.

Earlier in 1849, Charles Enderby, the head of a prominent British whaling concern attempted to establish a whaling settlement at New Zealand's Auckland islands. Misled by an 1830s report regarding the islands' "salubrious" nature, when Enderby arrived with three ships of settlers, he instead found only one island that was barely habitable. None-the-less, Enderby continued with his plan, however by the end of the year, it was clear the attempt would end in failure. Although the settlement lingered on for three years, it was completely abandoned in 1852.

Although there had been experiments with flintlock harpoon guns since the 1730s, it wasn't until 1815 when George Wallis, Jr. of England developed the first commercially successful gun that protected the powder used in its flintlock mechanism from the ocean's spray. These guns were never used by American whalers until William Greener, a renowned Birmingham gunsmith, created an improved version that used slow-burning powder that seldom misfired, had twice the range of a Waller gun, and was far more accurate. The first American advertisement for Greener guns did not appear until Swift and Allen placed it in New Bedford's *Whalemen's Shipping List* on February 5, 1850, no doubt spurred by this letter from Goddard that they received three months prior. It read,

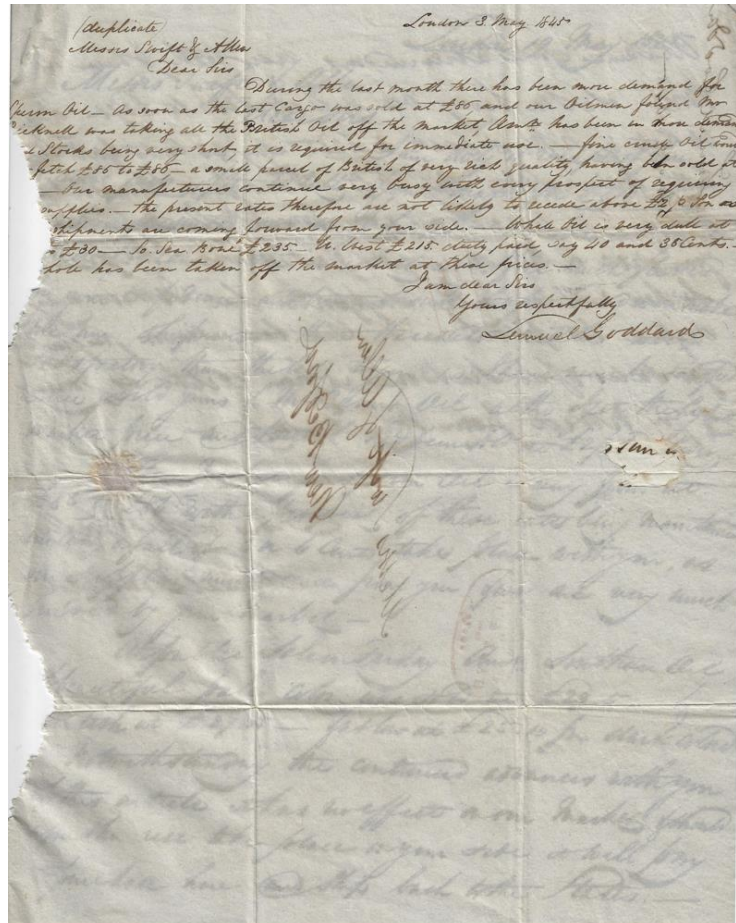


Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

"Harpoon Gun Greene's [sic] celebrated English harpoon gun, said to be capable of throwing a harpoon forty yards with effect, received for exhibition and sale by Swift & Allen."

Sales did not take off, however, until the *List* published a follow-on article, no doubt influenced by Swift & Allen,

"We do not remember that we have particularly mentioned the Whaling Gun invented by Mr William Greener, the eminent Gun maker of London. These have been for a long time in use in the British Whaling service, and have been there considered as valuable instruments. We have now the pleasure of adding the testimony of one four own captains in their favor. A letter from Capt Worth of the Ansel Gibbs of Fairhaven states that he had purchased one of Greener's Whaling Guns. . . . Capt Worth had taken one whale with the instrument which he would not otherwise have captured. This whale was struck at a distance of eight fathoms by a harpoon discharged from Greener's Gun. He is strongly of opinion that if he had possessed himself of it earlier he should have been the gainer by two hundred bbls. of sperm oil."



Eventually, Greener guns became widely used in American whalships, especially in calmer Pacific waters and are credited with sustaining the whale oil industry until the late 1800s.

(For more information, see Jones's "The Anglo-American Postal Treaty" in November 2018 issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, *London's Postal History*. . . . by Sharpe, et. al., "The Dr. Carmen A. Puliafito Collection of U.S. Independent Mails" at Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc. Sale #1124 on 4 May 2016, "Enderby Settlement" at the New Zealand Department of Conservation website, "Swivel Guns and Swivel Gun Harpoons" at whalesite.org, and "Whaling owner's flags . . ." at the Flags of the World website.)

This is, almost certainly, the letter that spurred Swift & Allen to take the risk of purchasing British harpoon guns which became indispensable equipment on American whalships and allowed American whaling to continue to prosper until it was overtaken by the petroleum industry.

Unique. Nothing similar is for sale in the trade or shown to be in institutional collections by OCLC. Rare Auction Hub shows that these letters previously appeared in a 2013 auction where their importance was not fully realized.

**\$1,500** [#10189](#)

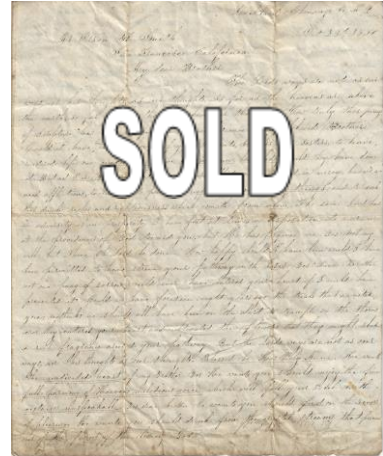


Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

**9. [CALIFORNIANA] [DEATH VALLEY] [MINING – CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH] [TRANSPORTATION – WAGON TRAINS] [WESTWARD EXPANSION]**

**1850 – Letter to Orson K. Smith, one of the leaders of the infamous Lost Death Valley Wagon Train to California, from his sister, Ruth Ann, who though empathetic to his tribulations, suggested that if he had sought heavenly rather than earthly riches, he could have avoided the suffering**

The Lost Death Valley Wagon Train of 1849 consisted of eastern pioneers who endured a long, suffering journey through the Great Basin, Death Valley, and Mojave Desert during the early days of the California Gold Rush. After its 107 wagons departed Salt Lake City in early October 1849, its guide, Jefferson Hunt, soon lost the confidence of the travelers after misleading them through the Escalante Desert where no water was found for several days. While the pioneers were recovering, Orson K. Smith, the leader of a pack train that was also headed to the gold fields encountered the party. After he displayed a map, supposedly from one of John C. Fremont's military expeditions, showing a short cut to California, almost all of the pioneers decided to follow Smith. Unfortunately, Smith's map was incorrect, and his train wandered through the desert for three months, only to be saved from dying from thirst by a snowstorm. In January 1850, Smith's party was rescued by a western-bound Mormon wagon train. Although only one wagon train member died none believed they would survive, and it is said that the region was named when one pioneer looked down from the Panamint Mountains as the wagon train resumed its California journey and said, "Goodbye, Death Valley."



Ruth Anne must have written her four-page letter from Chenango County, New York, soon after learning of Orson's horrible journey as it is dated in October 23, 1850. While her love and empathy for her brother are apparent, so is her belief that his tribulations were the result of seeking earthly rather than heavenly treasures. In nice shape with some staining. A transcript will be provided.

"Our Heavenly Father . . . leads us to place a right value on earthly things, and to seek that that desirable riches and righteousness which cometh from above. . . I have felt at times a disposition to murmur at the providences of God toward you, but He has forgiven me. . . How happy should I have been . . . to strewn your pathway with roses. . . Could we have foreseen eight years ago the trials that awaited . . . we should all have been on the alert to trample on the thorns e'er they entered your heart. . . I knew you possessed a kind heart [and] if it was in your power you would place your friends beyond the reach of want. You had it in your heart to promote their comfort and happiness, but dear brother we must love the Creator more than the created. [How I] would to be with you to night where I could anticipate your wants . . . prepare the frugal meal and arrange a soft bed, with downy pillows for you to rest your weary body . . . Heart rending thoughts fill my heart when I . . . dwell upon the trials through which you pass. . . May all work together for your good; [and] when you are tried you may come forth as gold. . . How many trials persons would escape if they would obey the commands of the Savior instead of seeking these worldly things."

(For more information, see Hafen's *Journals of the Forty-Niners*, Lyman's *The Overland Journey*, "Simpson David Huffaker" at WikiTree online, and Ligenfelter's *Death Valley and the Amargosa*.)

A unique, immediate first-hand response to the horrible suffering of the gold-seekers who nearly lost their lives while crossing Death Valley in 1849. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, recorded in auctions listed by the Rare Book Hub, or in institutional collections per OCLC.

**SOLD #10167**

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

10. [CALIFORNIANA] [DEATH VALLEY] [MINING – CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH] [WESTWARD EXPANSION]

[Circa 1850] 1950 – Photographs and description of graffiti left in Greenwater Canyon by an early traveler through Death Valley, perhaps by a member of the lost 1849 Death Valley Wagon Train which wandered through this area

This lot consists of a one-page letter from the National Park Service at Death Valley National Monument, dated 17 February 1950, and two photographs of graffiti that read, "J W ADE". The letter is signed L. F. Kellar, "Death Valley National Monument Park Naturalist" L. F. Keller. The photographs were mounted on a piece of bond paper with cello tape that has discolored over time.

The letter reads in part:

"On February 16, 1950, Mr. C. E. Choucher . . . directed us to the site in Greenwater Canyon where he located last week an inscription which he reported as 'C Wade'.

"The inscription was 'J Wade' located 1.4 mile northeast of the petroglyphs and 6.9 miles southwest of the Lila C. Mine on a great vertical volcanic breccia 50 feet west of the road.

. . .

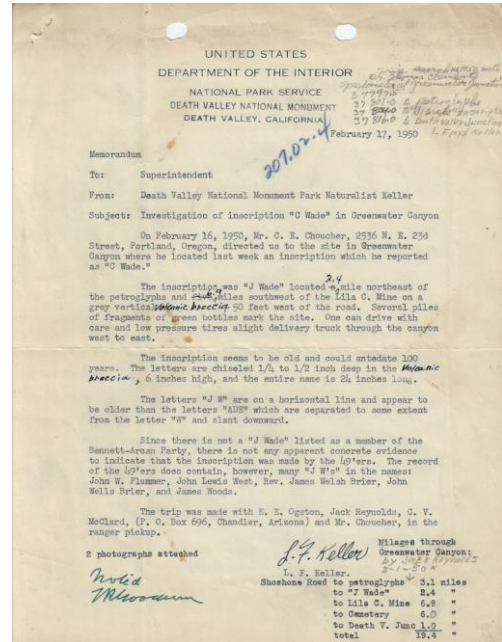
"The inscription seems to be old and could antedate 100 years. The letters are chiseled  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep in the volcanic breccia, 6 inches high, and the entire name is 24 inches long. . .

"Since there is not a 'J Wade' listed as a member of the Bennett-Arcan Party, there is not any apparent concrete evidence to indicate that the inscription was made by the 49'ers. The record of the 49'ers does contain, however. Many 'J.W's. . ."

The two black and white vernacular snap shots clearly show the graffiti, one up close and the other from a distance.

Distances to the inscription from various landmarks are docketed on the front of the letter, one table in pencil and the other typed; distances from the same landmark differ between them.

\$100 [#10168](#)



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

**11. [CALIFORNIANA] [MARITIME - WHALING] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR] [MINING – CATALINA GOLD RUSH] [WESTERN EXPANSION]**

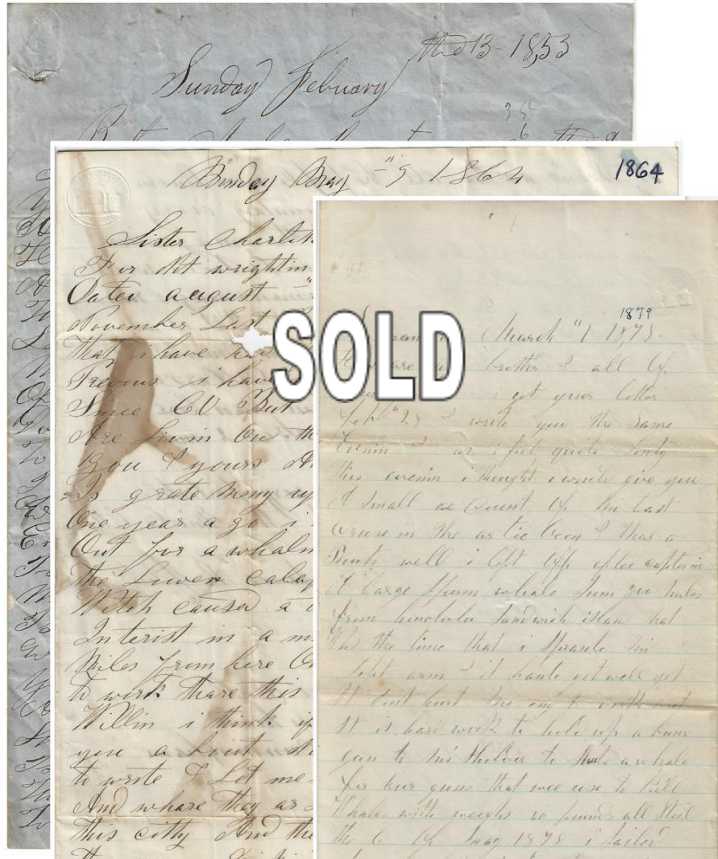
**1853-1879 – A detailed three-letter archive documenting the life of an adventurous Easterner who left home to go whaling, became an early settler of California, struck out in the Catalina Gold Rush, and returned to the seafaring life where he went broke after a disastrous arctic whale hunt**

This archive contains three letters totaling ten pages of text that were written by James R. Johnson over a 26-year period. All are in nice shape; one has its mailing envelope with stamp removed.

His first letter, from 1853, was written to family at home while Johnson was in New Bedford, Massachusetts preparing to embark on a whaling voyage; it includes a page of text written by his sister Charlotte (Sharlotte) who had apparently accompanied him.

The second letter from 1864 was written from San Francisco after Johnson had lost a ship off the coast of Mexico and invested in a gold claim on Santa Catalina Island.

The final letter from 1879 describes Johnson's bankrupting whaling voyage that began successfully in Hawaii but ended fatefully in the Arctic Ocean when his ship became stuck in the ice for most of the whaling season.



In his first letter from New Bedford, Johnson informs his family at home of his intention to become a whaleman and encourages his brothers to join him. It reads in part:

"I Shall go to Sea In The Spring the first Mate of the Barque Marseille of New Bedford for the 20, & 300 Dollars Bonus I should Like fore you to come Out and See Me before I go. If you can and If you will com I will Pay your Expencis on and off so oll to come & If you want Som money you Shall Have It. . . Now for The future 25 months I exspect To Bee Abstant from Home If good Luck attends Mee while gone I anticipate good Luck, well wee May As well Look On The good Side as On the Dark Side. . . Fur futher Particklers write Or Come & see. . . If eny Do . . . wants to go awhaling Come Out By The First of April And you Shall have a pleasant trip with me. . ."

Charlotte's short addition to the letter expresses her concern for an enslaved worker that she owned, and asks her family to take care of him while she is away.

"To all enquiring friends [I] rat (write) about my coon in hop that you keep him for me till i com home for i should like [you] See [to] him for he is a fine fellow and no mis take. . ."



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

In the second letter, sent from San Francisco to Lackawanna, Pennsylvania during the Civil War, Johnson informs his sister Charlotte and her husband John A. Fisk about life in the city, past events, and his future plans. It reads in part:

"As i have before said thar is grate many ups & Down in this world One year a go i bought a Schuner fit hur Out for a whalin cruse went down on Lower California got on the wreah (reef) Witch caused a . . . wreck. i have an Interest in a minein Claim Sum 100 & 50 Miles from here On catta lina island I expect to work thare this summer if the Lard is Willin. . . One word a bout this citty And the people And thar morils Tha are a Drinkin people & as a gineril thing tha Will Stupe eny thing for Money every house is a grog Shop & god Only knows how many there is Of ill fame But tha are nemeris As the Sand On the Sea Shore. It seems as tho all the people were Leevein the States & comin to this country every Steamer is crowded ful of the emagrasion. . . well it is a grate country womans wages runs from 25 to 30 Dollars a month & that is as much as Men gits on a farm men work in the citty gits from 3 to 5 Dollars a Day and fore yourself But One man here Has got to do as much a to men has in the States. . ."

Johnson's last letter from 1879 describes his ill-fated whaling voyage. It reads in part:

"I would give you a small ad Count of mi last cruse in the artic Ocen & thar a Bouts well i left off after capterin a large Sperm whale Sum 300 miles from honolulu Sandwich island that Was the time I that I sprante mi Lefet arm & it haint get well yet I dont hurt me eny to work but it is hard work to hold up a bum gun to mi sholdier to shute a whale for our guns that wee use to kill Whales with weights 40 pounds all steel. . .

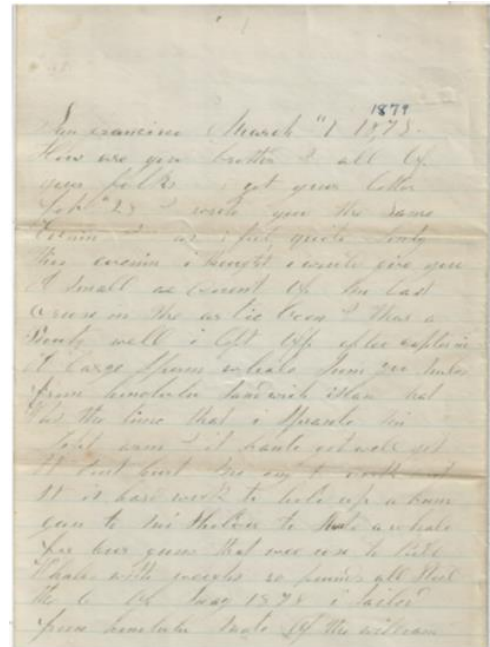
Sunday February 1853  
Brother Charles I got yours the 9<sup>th</sup>  
Inst and was glad to here from  
you and to here that you was  
well well you wrote that you  
had made a bargain with Allen  
for a mile concern in Building  
the Barn well I shall go to  
Sea in the Spring the first  
Mate of the Barnard Marshall  
of New Bedford for 20,000  
Dollars Bonds I should like for you  
to come Out and see me before  
you go. If you can and if you  
will come I will pay your  
Expenses Out and off so all  
to come I if you want some  
Money you shall have it  
I should like to see you the

Sunday May 1864  
Sister Charlotte I just Excuse me  
for not writing before got a letter from  
Oate August 17 1863 the first of  
November last & that was the first line  
that I have recd from any of you for 4 years  
I mean I have wrote aged many letters  
since Oct But I am glad to here that you  
are in the farm and are good & happy  
you & yours As I have before said thar  
is grate many ups & Down in this world  
One year a go I caught a Schuner fit hur  
Out for a whalin cruse went down on  
the Lower California got on the wreah  
Witch caused a little wreck I have an  
Interest in a mine in Clame Sum 100 & 50  
Miles from here On catta lina island I expect  
to work thare this summer if the Lard is  
Willin I think if I no mi self I will be with  
you a Leetle November next Dont for get  
to write I let me no if I have any friends her  
and where they are located One word a bout  
this citty And the people And thar morils  
Tha are a Drinkin people & as a gineril thing tha  
Will Stupe at eny thing for Money every house  
is a grog Shop & god Only knows how many  
ther is Of ill fame But tha are nemeris  
As the Sand On the Sea Shore

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

"I Sailed from honolulu Mate of the William Allen bound to the artic Ocean On a whalin & tradein veige we had quite a good passage up to the fix islands (Fox Islands). . . . On the 22 the Same Month thick fog & rainy 25 made Gors (St. George's?) island and plenty ice The same time this island is covered with white Bears & sum uf them is very large Thea have been known to weigh 2 ton Well wee did not stop for bears as we was lookin for bigger game. The 15 of June wee was off St. Lawence bay saw some 3 or 4 whales Lowered for them your humble Servant had the luck to hook One of these Monsters . . . what whalemens terms a bo head whale The Old man fetched the vessail to the fish and let go our anchor Sum 15 fahom water & 3 miles from land hooked on and cut him in and . . . com menced boilin plenty of Indians on hand and squass allso you had orto sean them. . . .

"Several vessels in site all bound in to the artic wee went also but saw no more whales. . . . the whales at this time was gone in the ice whar Shipes could not get At them the artic Ocen was ice all over up till august The 3 of august this vessail was stove with the ice off cape Smith Sum 3 Miles from the land & 25 Miles South from Pointe Barrow [Alaska] that is the turnin pointe for the land trends to the S & Eastwd then when you go around that cape. . . . "i lost a good season Werk & that keeps mi out here after bein stove I went on board of this Ship mount wolliston. . . . wee get him 150 miles to the Eastward of franklins (Port Franklin) return wrath and the wind came a head bein in a La goon & small water wee had to anchor only 2½ to 3 fathoms of water we had the wind Dead ahead for 13 days An then the wind killed to the northwest And the ice drove us back to the South by the pointe & thare the hull fleets was gum med up in the ice was 8 days we all begun to think that we would have to winter in the artic Ocen but the wind Shifted & all get Out the last of Sept ember to the 12 of October we was off of heerld Island (Herald Island, Russia) Saw a few whales but it was so rugid that could't Do any thing with them Started for home Dead Broke arrived in frisco November "12 1878. . . . "I don't feel like writein to Night a'men. . . ."



Bum guns were small canons, handheld or prow-mounted, that fired either a 'bomb' that would explode inside a whale's body or a 'bomb lance' that would hold fast once it entered the whale.

Santa Catalina was the site of a short-lived gold rush in 1863. After two men staked out a claim in April, others soon followed and a loosely organized San Pedro Mining District that included all of the surrounding islands was established. Soon, plans were laid to establish a headquarters area to be known as Queen City. However, almost as soon as the boom began, it was shut down by federal authorities who had received reports that the mining operation was a sham to cover the construction of a Confederate fortification for the repair and provision of privateers to prey upon coastal traders. By the following February, the Fourth California Infantry forced all miners to abandon their claims and leave the island at once. (See Harris's *Sixty Years in Southern California 1853-1913*, excerpts available online.)

A fascinating collection of letters referencing east coast whaling, west coast whaling, early San Francisco, and the Catalina Gold Rush. (OCLC reports only one institution holds an original letter referencing the event, however it attributes the rush to silver and lead, not gold.)

**SOLD #10169**



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

## 12. [LINCOLNIANA] [POLITICS – PRESENTIAL] [SLAVERY – CONSTITUTIONALITY]

**1860 – First separate printing of Abraham Lincoln's speech at the Cooper Union that launched him on a path towards the White House.**

*Speech of Abraham Lincoln of Illinois, Delivered at the Cooper Institute, Monday, Feb. 27, 1860.* New York: *New York Tribune, Tribune Tracts*, No. 4, 1860. Complete with 16 pages, approximately 9" x 5¾". Printed in double columns with Lincoln's speech on pages 1-11. Softcover with *New York Tribune* advertisements and subscription terms on reverse. (See Monaghan #50.) In nice shape with some light chipping/soiling to the back cover.

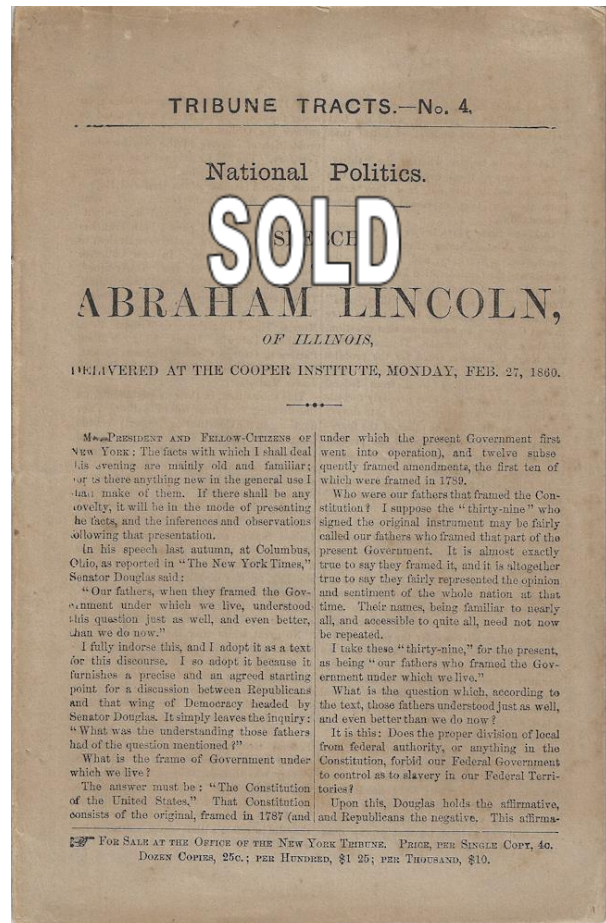
Other newspapers including the *Chicago Press* and *Detroit Tribune* also printed the entire speech, but Horace Greeley's *New York Tribune* printing was widely distributed and turned the speech into one of national importance.

Lincoln's speech resounded throughout the North, striking a balance between condemning slavery and rejecting anti-constitutional positions propounded by the most radical abolitionist Republicans. While acknowledging federal authorities had no basis to prohibit slavery in states where it already existed, he convincingly argued, in opposition to Stephen Douglas, that the *Constitution* did provide federal authority to prohibit its expansion into the western territories, which is what the Northwest Ordinance of 1785 had done. He condemned Democrat accusations that the Republican Party was involved in John Brown's raid upon Harpers Ferry as "malicious slander," and he grudgingly acknowledged that the U.S. government had no Constitutional power to abolish slavery in the South. In the end, though, with laser-like precision, he pinpointed slavery itself as the central issue dividing North and South, "Their thinking it right, and our thinking it wrong, is the precise fact upon which depends the whole controversy" and ended with a rousing finish, "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

(For more information, see Holtzer's *Lincoln at Cooper Union: The Speech That Made Abraham Lincoln President*, Monaghan's *Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library . . . Lincoln Bibliography*, and Christies 8 December 2015 Auction Lot 248)

Scarce; a highlight of any Lincoln collection. At the time of listing, no other examples are for sale in the trade. OCLC shows institutional holdings abound, but almost all are for digital and microform copies, and the listings make it difficult to determine how many are physical examples. The Rare Book Hub shows that only 15 have sold at auction since 1960.

**SOLD #10170**





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

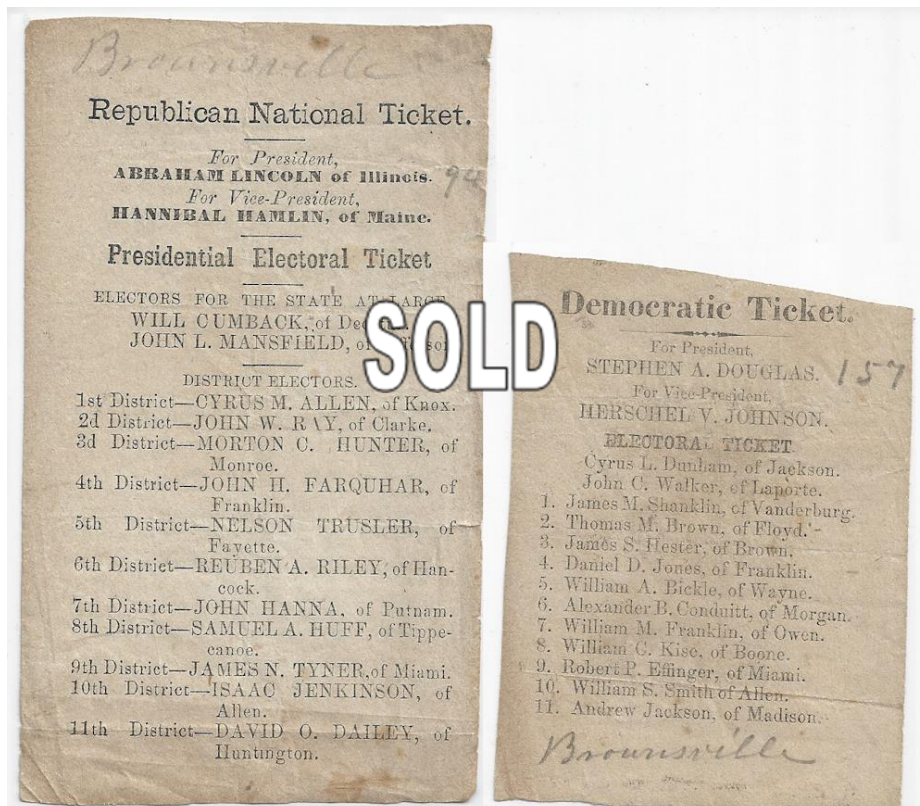
### 13. [LINCOLNIANA] [POLITICS – PRESENTIAL]

**1860 – Two Ohio ballot tickets from the 1860 Presidential Election; one from the Republicans featuring Lincoln and one from the Democrats featuring Douglas**

Two 1860 Presidential Election ballot tickets from Ohio. The Republican ticket measures 3¼" x 5½", and the Democratic ticket measures approximately 3" x 3¾". Both are annotated "Brownsville" in pencil. In nice shape with some minor soiling and wear.

The "Republican National Ticket" is headlined by Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin. It lists two "Electors for the State at Large" and 11 "District Electors."

The "Democratic Ticket" is headlined by Stephen A. Douglas and Herschel Y. Johnson. It too identifies two electors at large and 11 district electors.



**SOLD #10171**

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

**14. [CRIME – MURDER] [EXECUTIONS – HANGING] [LAW – HABEUS CORPUS] [MILITARY – CIVIL WAR] [PHILATELY] [RACISM – ANTI-BLACK] [VIRGINIANA]**

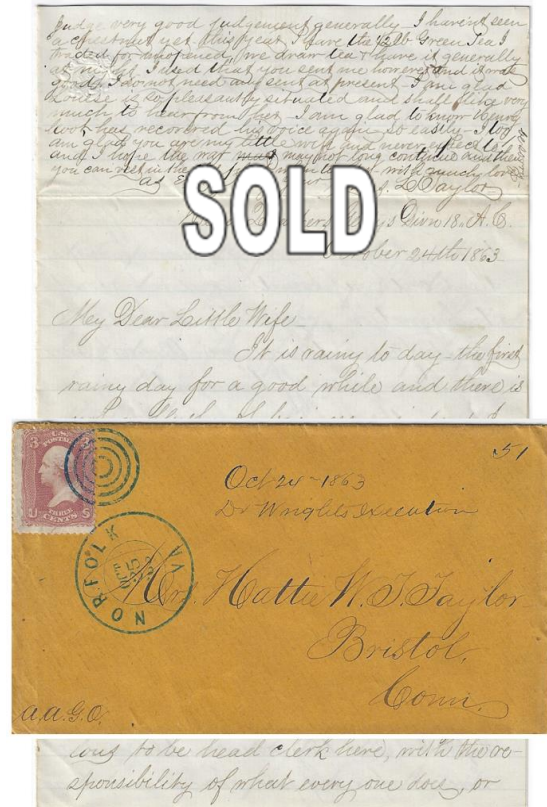
**1863 – An account of the execution of an esteemed Virginia physician by the Union Army for killing an officer assigned to the U.S. Colored Troops**

This 4-page letter sent by Charles L. Taylor, K Company, 16<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Infantry, was sent to his wife in Bristol. is datelined “Head Quarters, Gettys Divn 18<sup>th</sup> A.C. [Army Corps] / October 24<sup>th</sup> 1863”. Its mailing enveloped is franked with a 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #65) and canceled by a double-circle Norfolk, Virginia duplex post mark dated 25 October 1863. It is docketed “Oct 20 – 1863 / Dr Wrights execution”. In nice shape.

It reads in part:

“Three regiments of our division – 8<sup>th</sup> & 13 Conn. & 4<sup>th</sup> R.I. . . . were ordered down to Norfolk Thursday night to be present the following day at the execution of Dr Wright for shooting an officer with negro troops who were halted and drilled in front of his house – perhaps you have the circumstances in mind. I send the ‘Old Dominion’ with an account of the execution &c. you may save the paper to keep. I also enclose an older copy of a paper which I intended to have sent before. . . . The secessionists there said the Yankees would not dare to hang him, but there is too much power in Yankee muskets aided by cannon especially loaded and artillery standing by to load again. there was no disturbance, a good many tears were shed by them. this may be a lesson to them of our power to execute justice. . . .”

Whether or not justice was executed is questionable, and, of course Union and Southern accounts of the incident vary widely, with some Northern versions absurdly claiming it to have been an assassination planned well in advance. A review of numerous contemporary newspaper accounts as well as secondary source historical analyses suggest the following is most likely.



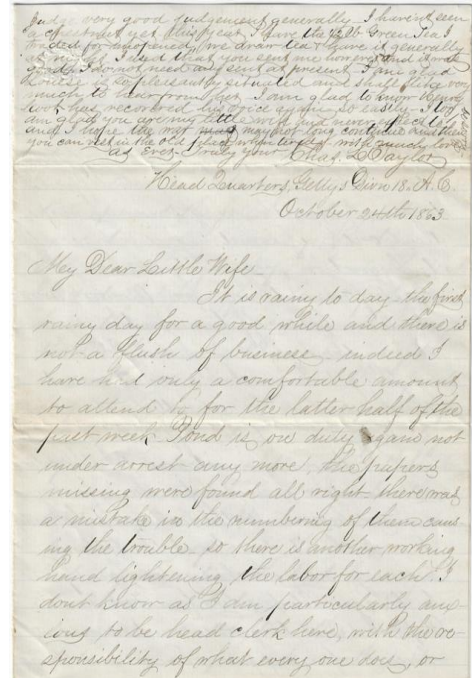
**Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.**

Dr. Wright, a highly regarded citizen and physician, was an ardent secessionist. He and other elderly friends were not standing in front of his house but actually gathered inside the doorway of a Norfolk store watching Lt. Anson L. Sanborn and his company of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Colored Troops march past on the sidewalk, rather than using the street.. As the unit passed, its soldiers jostled civilians and pushed some women and children into the gutter. In return, Wright and his friends shouted that they were “unmanageable savages.” Wright also personally insulted Sanborn as a “dastardly coward,” spurring the furious lieutenant to draw his sword and order Wright’s arrest. Wright warned Sanborn to “stand off” as the lieutenant advanced upon him. During the turmoil, a friend passed Wright a pistol, which he used to shoot one round into the lieutenant’s hand and shoulder as Sanborn pushed him further back through the store’s door. As Sanborn grabbed the pistol’s barrel and grappled for its control, he was shot a second time. At that point, discipline within the 1<sup>st</sup> Colored Troops dissolved, and soldiers charged into the store with fixed bayonets shouting, “Let’s kill him!” A colonel,

named Flood, from a different regiment forced his way through the troops. As Sanborn fell to the floor bleeding profusely, Wright immediately proffered the pistol to Flood without resistance. The colonel called for a doctor and Wright identified himself as one, begging, "Let me do something for this man—I want to do something for this man!" Flood ignored Wright's plea and, instead, had him arrested and removed from the scene. As Wright was being pulled away by soldiers, he attempted to reach out and assist Sanborn. At the ensuing "trial by military commission," Wright maintained that he was acting in self-defense, expressed remorse for being unable to provide Sanborn with emergency medical treatment, and noted that if he had really intended to kill Sanborn, he could have fired another round into his body rather than voluntarily giving the pistol to Colonel Flood without a struggle.

During the Civil War, military commissions notoriously provided legal cover for egregiously biased pre-decided verdicts. They were also far more likely to order executions rather than imprisonment. This commission quickly found Wright guilty of murder and ordered his hanging, which was personally approved by President Lincoln after verifying Wright was sane during the incident. After an unsuccessful attempt to escape from jail by wearing his daughter's clothes and allegedly offering his jailor a bribe, Wright was executed by the Union Army under the strong show of force described by Taylor.

The circumstances of Sanborn's death suggest that the most serious charge brought against Wright should have been no more than manslaughter. More significant is the question of whether the Union Army had a Constitutional right to arrest and execute a civilian. As argued by the defense attorneys: 1) Wright was a noncombatant civilian, 2) Norfolk was no longer under martial law per the 18 July edition of the *New York Times*, and 3) military trials of civilians were specifically prohibited by a Congressional Act passed on 3 March 1863. All this was ignored. President Lincoln, who was personally involved in this case, and members of his cabinet had long ignored laws protecting the Constitutional rights, including *habeas corpus*, of Southern civilians, Democrats, and North copperheads.





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

The remainder of Taylor's letter includes information about his job as a unit clerk, the possibility of a furlough, and news from home.

(For more information, see Spiegel's *A. Lincoln, Esquire*. . ., Hubbard's *Lincoln, the Law, and Presidential Leadership*, Bushnell's "A Civil War crime of passion" in the 8 February 2015 edition of *The Barre Montpelier Times Argus*, Miller's *President Lincoln: The Duty of a Statesman*, Tyler's "Civil War and the 'Great Suspender'" in *Habeas Corpus in Wartime*. . ., and contemporary newspaper accounts including "Affairs at Portsmouth and Norfolk . . . The Murder of Lieut. Sanborn" in the 18 July 1863 edition of the *New York Times*, all available online.)

Exceptionally scarce. At the time of listing, no other first-hand accounts of this notorious incident are available for sale in the trade. Neither have any appeared at auction per the Rare Book Hub, nor or any held by institutions per OCLC. However, one contemporary 3-page broadsheet-pamphlet is held by the American Antiquarian Society, and multiple institutions hold microform or digital copies. Also, several copies of the funeral oration for Sanborn have appeared at auction and are held by institutions.

**SOLD #10190**

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

**15. [MILITARY – CAMP FOLLOWERS & CIVIL WAR] [SLAVERY- CONTRABAND] [VIRGINIANA]**

**1863-1864 – Group of three letters from a Maryland soldier to his wife discussing whether he should acquire the foul-mouthed, combative daughter of a camp follower or former slaves to serve as household servants for his family at home**

This group contains three letters from Charles T. Simperts (also written Sempers) of the 6<sup>th</sup> Maryland Infantry Regiment to his wife: 1) 20 February 1863 – Harpers Ferry: four pages measuring 7¾' x 9¾". 2) 15 May 1863 – Camp Keys, near Romney, Virginia: two pages measuring 7¾' x 9¾" Written on the reverse of an unused medical form, "Report of the Sick and Wounded of the 6<sup>th</sup> Md. Vols". 3) 16 February 1864 – Headquarters 6<sup>th</sup> Maryland Volunteer Infantry; 2 pages measuring 7¾" x 9¾".

Simperts was commissioned as an Assistant Surgeon in the 6<sup>th</sup> Maryland Infantry on 21 August 1862. He was captured while attending to the wounded on 15 June 1863 at the Second Battle Winchester after which he was held at the Libby Prison in Richmond. There, he suffered from dysentery until his release the following November after which he was promoted to become regimental Surgeon.

In these letters, Simperts foreshadows his capture by confidently reassuring his wife that "The alarm manifested from not hearing from me is quite natural, but here after you may feel more easy when I apprise you of the fact that surgeons are seldom exposed and are required to keep themselves in places of safety, on account of the responsibilities devolving upon them." He also recounts a sad, bloody story about a mail carrier who was shot by a Confederate sniper and a unit skirmish.

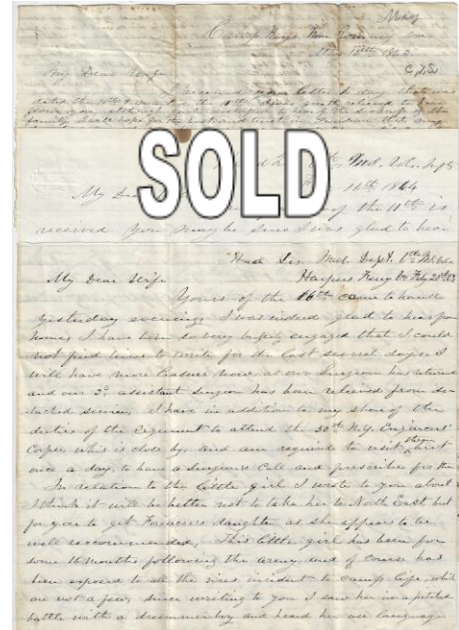
He reports he had considered sending young daughter of a camp follower home to be a family servant. "In relation to the little girl I wrote to you about I think it will be better not to take her. . . . This little girl has been for some 16 months following the army, and . . . exposed to all the vices incident to camp life, which are not a few, since writing to you I saw her in a pitched battle with a drummer boy and heard her use language . . . I am particularly anxious none of our children should have used. . . . She could swear like a trooper, and could fight pretty well."

He also suggests his father hire "Contrabands," i.e., escaped slaves sheltering with the Union Army, to serve the family. "I will endeavor to give such information as will enable him to procure one or as many as he may want. The contrabands are taken to . . . the Arlington Farm across the Potomac River, where they . . . have rations and clothing issued to them: that would be the proper place to get them, as a selection can be made from all ages, classes, and conditions of the tribe. . . ."

(For more information, see Bouldin's "Is This Freedom? Government Exploitation of Contraband Laborers . . . During the American Civil War" and the American Antiquarian Society's "Slaves Declared Contrabands of War," both available online.)

A unusual series of letters documenting a Union officer's effort to secure servants for his family home in Maryland by acquiring the daughter of a camp follower from her mother and hiring escaped black slaves. At the time of listing, no similar records are for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows none as having appeared at auction, and OCLC shows none in institutional collections.

**SOLD #10191**

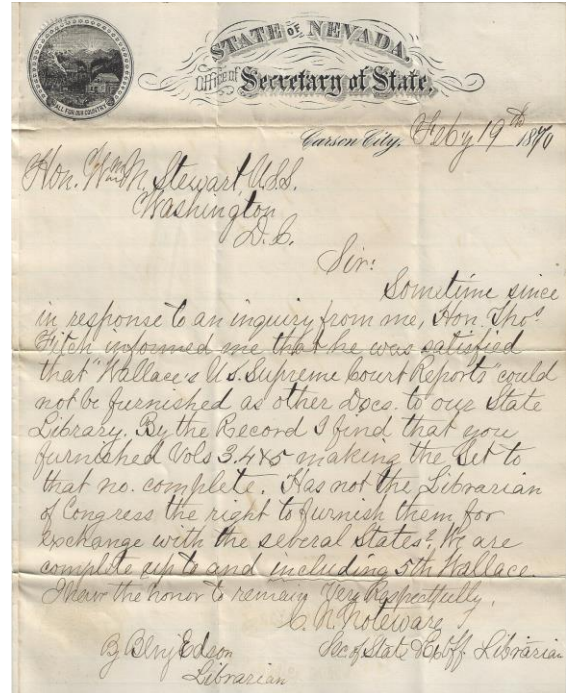


1. 10 August 1866 – Letter from Stewart to Horace Greely introducing Adolph Sutro (King of Comstock) who amassed a fortune as the developer of the water-draining Sutro Tunnel which allowed Comstock Lode mines to operate safely. The letter is docketed, presumably in Greely's hand.



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

2. 29 February 1870 – Letter on Nevada Secretary of State stationery sent to Stewart by the State Librarian related to a request from Thomas Fitch, who later served as Wyatt Earp's defense attorney following the OK Corral gunfight.

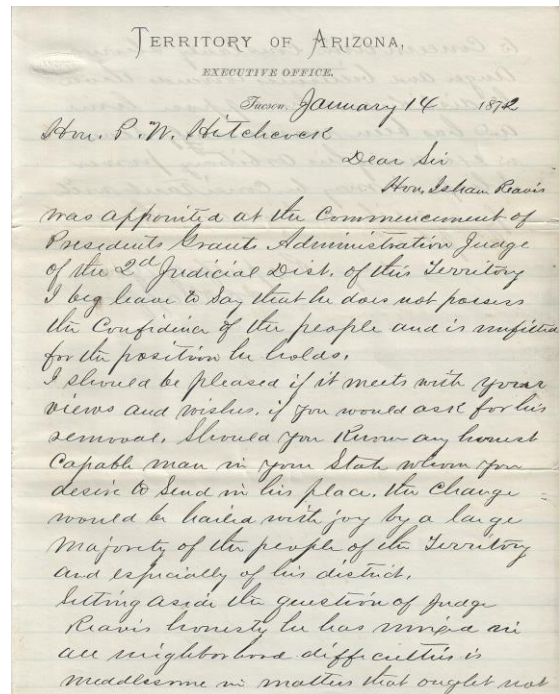


3. 16 April 1870 – Letter sent to Stewart by Henry P. Randolph of New York requesting he use his influence to garner a lucrative position for Randolph with the Union Pacific Railroad.

4. 11 May 1871 – Letter on U.S. House of Representatives stationery to Stewart from Arizona's Territorial Delegate Richard C. McCormick, requesting Stewart use his influence to ensure that General Crook remained assigned to the territory to conduct the Yavapai War against the Apache. It also requested that he obtain support from influential westerners to organize the Texas Pacific Railroad.

5. 1871 – A letter from former Governor Anson P. K. Safford, datelined San Francisco May 11<sup>th</sup> 1871, specifically noting,

"Genl Crook told me . . . that he had been appointed to temporary Command the department of Arizona. The Genl Says (. . . in Confidence) that if he is only to command a few months and then be relieved that he would only have time to mature his plans and get ready for operations . . . to place the force into fighting trim he will have to cut a good deal of red tape and place the most efficient men ahead. . . . By doing so he will receive the displeasure of many officers. If after doing this and before he could have an opportunity . . . with the Indians . . . it would [create] a deep feeling against him in the Army and [he would] gain no credit as a fighter. . . . if he finds he is to be relieved in the fall he would let every thing stand as it now does in the Territory and get along as easy as possible. . . ."



6. 13 January 1872 – Letter on Territory of Arizona Executive Office stationery from Governor Anson P. K. Safford in Tucson to E. B. Gage, a Tombstone mining executive who funded Wyatt Earp's Vendetta Ride, requesting assistance in removing Arizona Territory Associate Justice Isham Reavis. It reads in part:

"Enclosed are several documents for Stewart I send them to you thinking you can . . . save Stewart some time . . . to ask for the removal of Judge Reavis. . . . I have known the villainy of this man for over two years. . . . My duty to an afflicted people will not allow me to remain silent any longer. . . ."

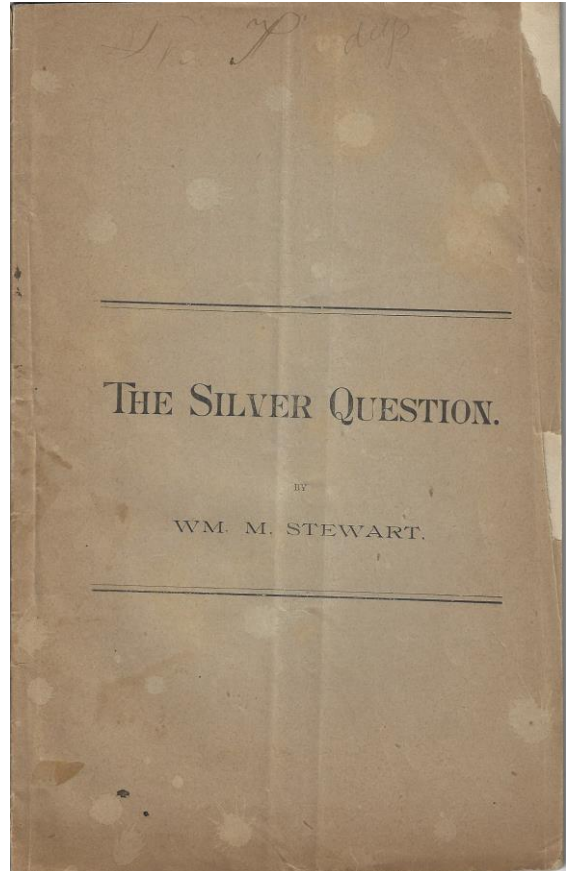
Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

7. 14 January 1872 – Letter on Territory of Arizona Executive Office stationery from Governor Anson P. K. Safford in Tucson to Nebraska Senator P. W. Hitchcock. It reads in part:

“Isham Reavis . . . is unfitted for the position he holds. I should be pleased . . . if you would ask for his removal. . . . Should you know of any honest capable man in your State . . . you desire to send in his place, the change would be hailed with joy by a large majority of the people of this territory. . . .”

8. 14 January 1872 – Letter sent to Steward on Territory of Arizona Executive Office stationery by Governor Anson P. K. Safford in Tucson with more information regarding Reavis. It reads in part:

“I enclose an affidavit [showing] an alarming condition of affairs. . . . Reavis is the one I proposed to have removed two years ago. . . . He has gone on worse than ever. . . . Corruption existed but you know how difficult it is to prove these things and his tyranny and oppression has been so great that the people have been intimidated. . . . I think [the affidavit] can get him removed at once. . . . He has acted in . . . in the interest of Hooper Whiting & Co. . . . The middle man in this bribery is John S. Carr. . . .”



9. 1885 – A pamphlet written by Stewart, *Bondholders’ Conspiracy to Demonetize Silver*. . . . Complete with 43 pages and original wrapper.

10. 1890 – A pamphlet written by Stewart, *How Silver Was Demonetized / Speech of Hon. William M. Stewart , June 5, 1890.* Complete with 60 pages but no wrapper.

11. 10 February 1898 – Letter on United States Senate stationery to “The American Pub Company” of Chicago agreeing to write for the publication providing it “agree that I could be at liberty to express my own views [and] that the journal is open to free discussion. . . .”

12. 1 September 1898 – Check from The Bullion and Exchange Bank of Carson City, Nevada, signed by Stewart payable to P. B. Ellis for \$20 and bearing a 2-cent “battleship” revenue stamp. Ellis operated the State Line Mine and Mill in Death Valley from 1885 to 1890. Later, he served as the Assayer at the Carson City Mint and as Nevada’s Deputy Secretary of State.

13. 19 October 1898 – Check from The Bullion and Exchange Bank of Carson City, Nevada, signed by Stewart payable to himself for \$1,000. It bears a 2-cent “battleship” revenue stamp.

14. Circa 1898 – An Underwood & Underwood stereocard portrait of Senator Stewart

15. 1 January 1901 – Personal Letter signed by Stewart to Nevada Deputy Secretary of State [Pearis B.] Ellis, regarding the exchange of money.

16, 17, and 18. 4 April 1907 – Letter from Stewart at his Bullfrog, Nevada law office, relating to the estate of William Grady and his relationship with the W. E. Lawton and his Tonopah-Goldfield Trust Company, a second from Huger Wilkinson at Rhyolite, Nevada, to Campbell, Metson & Brow dated

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

April 4, 1907, regarding the Stewart's involvement in Grady estate, and a telegram from Wilkerson to the Campbell firm telling it that an "understanding" was reached with Stewart and to delay taking further action.

19. 25 September 1907 – Letter from Stewart at Rhyolite, Nevada to the Campbell firm reporting that the Estate of William Grady had been resolved.

20. 16 January 1908 – Advertising cover to Stewart from R. L. Polk, publisher of the *Nevada State Gazetteer*, franked with a 2-cent Washington stamp. Roughly opened on the right edge.

21 & 22. Circa 1909 – Two biographical clippings delineating Stewart's career, possibly from *Who's Who*.

23. Undated – A photograph postcard of Stewart riding a Burro titled, "Senator Stewart who represented Nevada in the U. S. Senate for 36 years / Upon retirement he built his home in Rhyolite Nevada."



24 & 25. Undated – Stewart's autograph on a small card as well as on an album page along with that of John P. Jones. Jones, another senator from Nevada who served for 30 years. Jones was an original California 49er and later owned the Crown Point Mine on Comstock Lode. He was a co-developer of the Panamint Silver Region along with Stewart and the founder of Santa Monica, California.

(For more information, see *Reminiscences of William M. Stewart*, Wilcox's *The Saga of Doc Holiday* online, "Panamint City, California" at the Western Mining History website, and Goff's "The Appointment, Tenure and Removal of Territorial Judges. . ." in the July 1968 issue of *The American Journal of Legal History*.)

A unique collection documenting William M. Stewart's political influence in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Arizona and Nevada including previously unknown information regarding the removal of Nevada Associate State Justice Isham Reavis and General Crook's appointment as Commander of the Department of Arizona.

At the time of listing, although copies of Stewart's fascinating autobiography are readily located, no similar collection of original source Stewart documents is for sale in the trade or has been sold at auction. OCLC shows several institutions hold isolated documents and letters related to Stewart.

**See listing #18 for Stewart's Senate Speech, *Restriction of Chinese Immigration*, a concise but detailed history of Chinese immigration from 1849 to 1888.**

**\$4,000 [#10172](#)**



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

**17. [RELIGION – MISSIONARIES & PRESBYTARIANISM] [CRIME – MURDER]**

**1878 – Cabinet card photo of missionary John Wright and his Persian wife, Shushan, who was murdered along with her unborn baby by a disgruntled Armenian teacher at the Presbyterian mission school at Oola Salmas**

This cabinet card photograph shows the Wrights dressed in their Sunday best as they pose before a country-scene studio backdrop. The card indicates that the photograph was taken by Spence, a photographer doing business in Blanchester, Ohio. The card is annotated on the reverse, "John Wright & / Persian wife. / Missionary to Persia / in 1878. / Cousin of Papas." The annotation is probably mistaken about the date of the photograph; other references indicate the Wrights visited the United States in 1888. In nice shape.

By far, the Presbyterians provided the largest numbers of missionaries in Persia. Although they were forbidden from proselytizing to Muslims, Persian authorities had no issue if they attempted to convert Nestorian-Christians, whose concept of Jesus Christ differed significantly from that held in western countries. As Nestorians were also allowed to missionize freely in Persia, the Presbyterians focused on them, believing that they might be more likely to be permitted to discuss religion with Muslims.

John Wright was an American missionary from Ohio. After his first wife died, Wright married Shushan Oshana, a Nestorian Christian from Persia, who had converted to Evangelical Christianity. Together, they taught in the mission school at Oola Salman in western Persia. There, they employed a housekeeper-nannie named Asli, who attracted the eye of an Armenian Nestorian, Minas, another teacher at the school. One night when Shushan went to check on her daughter, who slept in Asli's room, she found her baby had been left alone after Minas had lured Asli to a clandestine rendezvous. After Shushan subsequently dismissed Minas from his teaching job, Minas came to the Wright's home on May 14<sup>th</sup> supposedly to collect his final wages. When John left the room to obtain the money, Minas pulled out a hidden dagger and stabbed the pregnant Shushan repeatedly over most of her body. She and her unborn baby died a fortnight later on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Minas was quickly captured and brought to trial, where he was convicted and received a life sentence.

(For more information, see Kashari-Sabet's "Religion and the Diplomacy of US-Iranian Relations" in the September 2019 edition of *Iranian Studies*, "Mr Pratte to Mr. Blaine" at the State Department Historian's website, and "Shushan Wright, died 1890" at the Presbyterians of the Past website.)

Unique, at the time of listing no other photographs of John, his martyred missionary wife, Shusan, or any other missionaries to Persia are for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows none have appeared at auction and none are held in institutional collections per OCLC.



**\$500** [#10173](#)

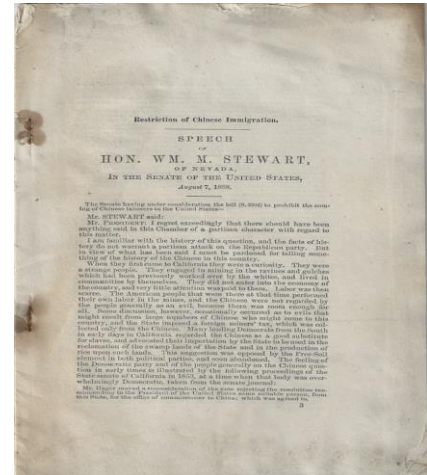
Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

**18. [CALIFORNIANA] [MINING – CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH] [POLITICS – IMMIGRATION] [RACISM – CHINESE EXCLUSION]**

**1888 – Insight into the Congressional debate regarding the Scott Act which closed loopholes that had allowed Chinese immigrants to circumvent the provisions of the infamous Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 which had placed a 10-year ban on Chinese laborers from entering the United States**

*Restriction of Chinese Immigration. Speech of Hon. Wm. M. Stewart, of Nevada, in the Senate of the United States, August 7, 1888.* Presumably published in Washington, DC at the Congressional Globe Office. Complete; stapled binding.

This 20-page speech provides one of the best concise histories of Chinese immigration into California which began with the Gold Rush when they “engaged in mining the ravines and gulches which had previously worked over by the whites . . . and very little attention was paid to them. . . . They were not regarded by the people . . . as an evil.” That, however, does not mean they were seen as the equals of white settlers. In fact, “Many leading Democrats . . . in the early days in California saw the Chinese as a good substitute for slaves and advocated their importation by the State to be used for reclamation of the swamp lands . . . and production of rice. . . .”



With time, miners began to resent the ever-growing Chinese presence in the gold fields, and Democratic Judge J. S. Hager became the most “zealous opponent of Chinese immigration . . . and was one of the first who discovered the Chinese evil.” He was joined in his quest to prevent Chinese immigration by Free Soil politicians who feared that that Chinese coolies would be used by Democrats “to form a whole new system of slavery.” Indeed, in the Southern states, the use of “coolies” was occasionally discussed as a possible augmentation of the enslaved African labor force. For its part, China was glad to provide immigrants, and after the Civil War Chinese workers arrived in droves with no apparent interest in assimilation leading Stewart and others to believe “we were dealing with a race that would overrun this country and subvert its institutions if their coming was not arrested.” Thus, a bipartisan group of Californians convinced a bipartisan Congress to pass the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. However, loopholes in the law abounded and Chinese immigrants found it easy to evade the restrictions. Large numbers began to settle not just along the Pacific Coast but in New England and New York as well. The Scott Act, as Stewart pointed out, was written to close those loopholes.

Interestingly, Stewart’s performance as a District Attorney suggests that he was not simply a racist. In one of the first white on Chinese crimes, he successfully convicted a white “Chinese Miner’s Tax” collector for murder and was outraged when the verdict was inexplicably over turned by the Supreme Court.

(For more information, see “Chinese Immigration and the Chinese Exclusion Acts” at the website of the Historian of the Department of State, Kenny’s *The Problem of Immigration in a Slaveholding Republic: Policing Mobility in the Nineteenth-Century United States*, and the *Reminiscences of William M. Stewart*.)

Perhaps the only extant example of this rare monograph providing exceptional details about the history of Chinese immigration, exclusion, and the intent of the Scott Act. At the time of listing, no copies are for sale in the trade. None have sold at auction per the Rare Book Hub, and OCLC shows none held in institutional collections.

**\$750 [#10174](#)**

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

**19. [ENTERTAINMENT – LECTURES] [CRIME – FRAUD] [RELIGION – CATHOLICISM & INTOLERANCE] [WOMEN & GIRLS]**

**Circa 1894 – Four-panel broadsheet promoting an infamous anti-Catholic lecture by a notorious former prostitute who passed herself off as a nun who had escaped from a convent**

"Romanism Exposed!!" This broadsheet measures approximately 18" x 24" unfolded and 9" x 12" when folded into four panels of text. It promotes a lecture in Grand Rapids, Michigan, by "Margaret L. Sheperd / The Brilliant Ex-Romanist / For Three Years At the Convent Of / Arnos Court Convent / Bristol, England." Shepherd toured throughout the United States, and similar advertisements are known from her three-day stops in Providence, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, and Richmond, Indiana, in nice shape with light wear.

Shepherd's preposterously lurid lectures, which contained inflaming anecdotes including "The Priest and Women in the Confessional" "Reasons why Protestants should not marry Roman Catholics", "Personal Experience in Arnos Court Convent, its Rules and Penances," "The Victims of the Priesthood and the Evil of Priestly Celibacy" and "Purgatory Indulgences and Relics, Sacrilegious Frauds for obtaining Money and building Religious Industries." Not only did Shepherd recite tales of priests preying on nuns in convents and women in confessionals, she also alleged that arms and ammunition were stored in church basements to support a Catholic revolution, and that a massacre of Protestants had been foiled in 1892.

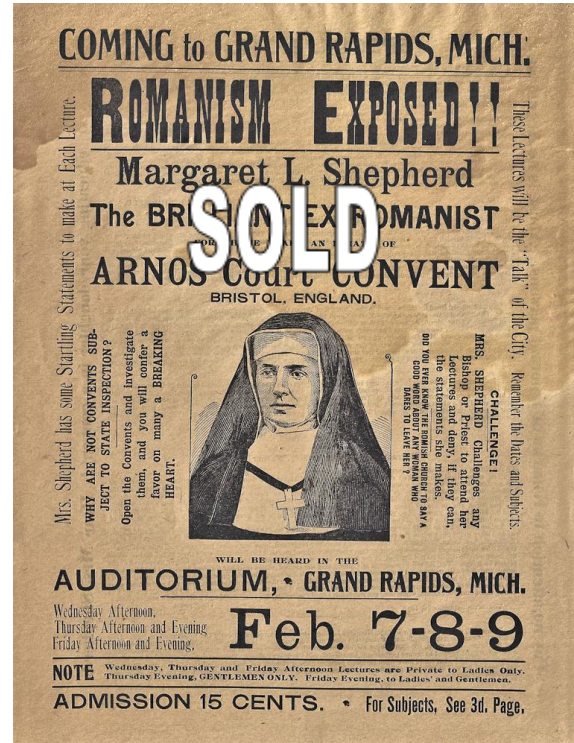
Although Shepherd did live for a short time in a convent, it was a convent dedicated to helping "fallen women" escape from a life of prostitution. Despite being repeatedly exposed as a fraud, Shepherd was supported by the American Protective Association, the largest-ever anti-immigrant and anti-Catholic organization in the United States. There is, however, no documented evidence, despite accusations by some, that she was ever allied with the Ku Klux Klan although, no doubt, some of her claims fueled KKK members' fantasies.

Shepherd died from acute cancer at Harper Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, in March of 1903. Following her death, a Catholic newspaper, the Boston Sacred Heart Review, celebrated her demise.

"Of course this woman who posed as an 'escaped nun' never was a nun; she never even was a Catholic. . . . All her life is an imposter, a criminal, a jail-swindler. Yet because she told scandalous stories about the Catholic Church she was taken up and patronized by American women who would shrink in horror [if they knew her true character. She is] redolent with rottenness. . . . She has returned to the vile dust from which she sprung. . . . Her vicious works and ways . . . remain a reproach to Protestantism . . . which is ever ready to be gulled by obscene imposters. . . ."

(For more information see "Death of the Notorious Margaret L. Shepherd. Her Life of Fraud and Filth" in the 21 March 1903 issue of the *Boston Sacred Heart Review*, available online.)

**SOLD #10175**





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

## 20. [DEATH VALLEY] [MINING – GOLD & SILVER]

### Circa 1905 – Three photographs showing Nevada mining boomtowns

One photograph is captioned “Beatty, Nevada. / Year 1905.” It measures 4¾” x 3½”. Glue residue on the reverse. The second photograph, 5½” x 3¾”, is captioned on the reverse, “Outside Beatty / Rube Ryan’s Mine & / Hollywood Dry Store”. The third photograph is captioned “Belmont, Nevada / Bel-HM-1” on the reverse. It measures 7” x 5”.

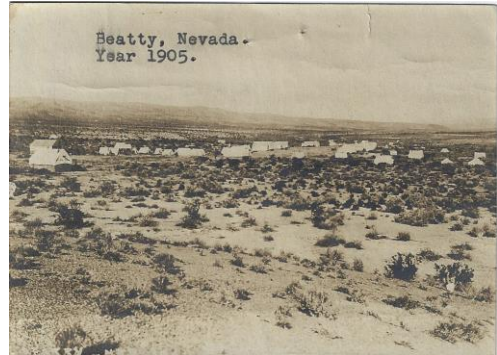
Beatty, Nevada was named for a Civil War veteran who established a ranch along the Amargosa River. It boomed in 1904 after gold was discovered in the nearby Bullfrog Hills

west of town. Initially, wagons hauled freight between the Bullfrog region and the railroad located at Las Vegas. Over 15,000 horses were used for hauling until the Las Vegas and Tonopah Railroad began regular service in 1906. The Bullfrog Goldfield Railroad reached Belmont, the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad in 1907.

The photograph of Rube Ryan’s Mine and Hollywood Store is included in Robert Palazzo’s *Ghost Towns of Death Valley*, which notes it was close to Rhyolite and Bullfrog mining activities. The image is captioned (on the reverse) similarly to the one in Palazzo’s book, however, it is described as a “day store” rather than a “dry store.”

Belmont, Nevada was founded following the discovery of silver in 1865. The town grew rapidly during the following boom, and Belmont became the Nye County seat in 1867 with a population said to approach 15,000 although that figure is highly unlikely. It supported four stores, two saloons, five restaurants, a livery stable, blacksmith shop, bank, school, telegraph office, post office and two newspapers. Although some of the mines began to close in 1887, Belmont remained the county seat until 1905 when government offices relocated to Tonopah.

Today Belmont is a ghost town, however Beatty remains as a small unincorporated community with a population of about 2,000 and bills itself as the Gateway to Death Valley with lodging and stores to desert tourism.



**\$250** [#10176](#)

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

**21. [LABOR – IWW & STRIKES] [MINING – GOLD} [NUMISMATICS – SCRIP] [ROOSEVELTIANA]**

**1907 – Labor union scrip issued by the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW or Wobblies) during the Goldfield, Nevada labor disputes that lasted from 1906 to 1908**

An exceptionally rare \$5 labor strike note was issued by the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW or Wobblies) during the Goldfield, Nevada miners' strike. It measures 7¼" x 3¼". Almost no wear; a dot of black ink at the tip of the upper left corner.

Labor conflict came to Goldfield in the early 1900s when the Western Miners Union, an IWW affiliate, began to fight the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor (AFL), for control of mining labor. The Carpenters had a history of cordial relationships with Goldfield's mines and legitimate businesses in the region. The IWW, a revolutionary union dedicated to the overthrow of capitalism, allied itself with the region's saloon keepers and gambling houses, openly supporting the systematic theft of high-grade ore by miners as they exited work each day, and most of the stolen gold was spent on whiskey and card-playing. Additionally, the IWW tried to force all Goldfield workers, including AFL members) into joining its union. After an IWW thug murdered a pro-AFL restaurateur (some leftist revisionist historians deny this), armed workers from both camps began patrolling the 20,000-person city.

When the Panic of 1907 created a cash crisis, the Consolidated Mines Company (owned by industrialist George Wingfield and Senator George Nixon) began paying its workers in company scrip. This especially angered the Wobblies, who began a strike that shut down the mines. Wingfield and Nixon used the restaurateur's murder, the inter-union conflict, the strike, and streets filled with armed men to convince Governor, "Honest John" Sparks to telegraph President Theodore Roosevelt, informing him that "domestic violence and unlawful corporations [the unions]" threatened Goldfield even though the city was never truly endangered. Alarmed, Roosevelt ordered three companies of the Army's 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry to occupy the town which caught the entire city by surprise. With the military in place to suppress IWW violence, the mine owners exploited the situation by reducing wages, requiring IWW miners to renounce their memberships, and hiring 'scabs' to fill vacancies. The strike collapsed within weeks, and the IWW was crushed. A later investigation showed the troop deployment was unnecessary, and Roosevelt publicly announced that he had been duped by Governor Sparks.

During the strike, the IWW issued its own "Exploitation Mercantile Company" scrip to strikers to trade for Wobbly-supplied goods. Its obverse contains a central motif of a Teddy Bear symbolizing Roosevelt's involvement in the strike-breaking effort and stacked rifles in the lower corners representing the military's occupation of the town. The reverse is emblazoned "This is the only kind of money Nevada will see if the Goldfield Miners Union lose the strike against the infamous scrip system."

(For the most impartial account of the events, see Elliott's "Labor Troubles in the Mining Camp at Goldfield, Nevada, 1906-1908" in the November 1950 edition of the *Pacific Historical Review*.)

Exceptionally rare. Only two other examples of this IWW scrip are known to have survived. One sold at a Heritage auction in 2015; the other sold at a Holabird auction in 2022. This example is in better condition than either of those.

**\$900** [#10177](#)

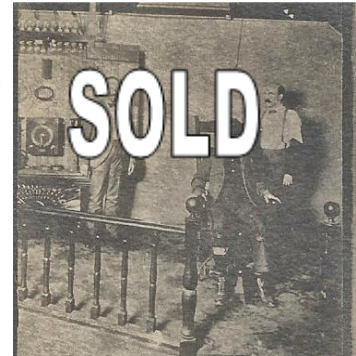


Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

## 22. [EXECUTIONS – ELECTRIC CHAIR] [LAW – CAPITAL PUNISHMENT]

**Circa 1907 – A souvenir photograph-card celebrating the first 31 electric chair executions that had been conducted at the Ohio State Penitentiary**

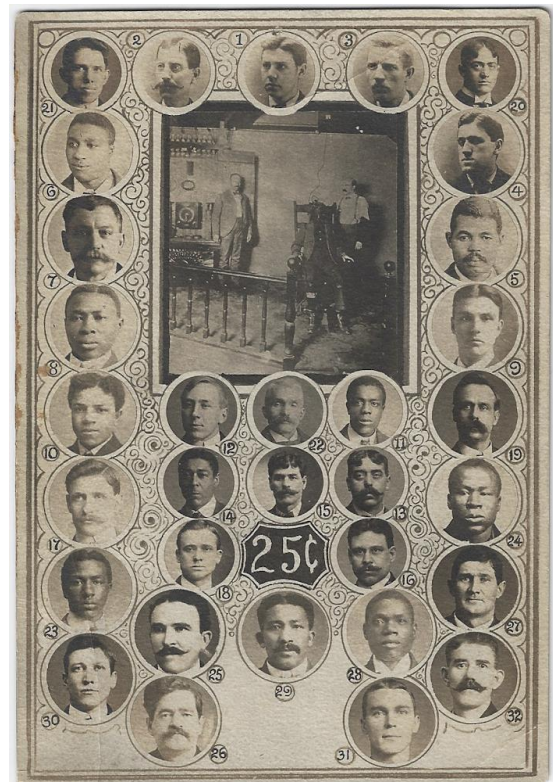
This 25-cent composite souvenir photograph-card, measuring 4" x 6", features an image of a prisoner strapped into electric chair, *Old Sparky*, at the Ohio State Penitentiary in Columbus as two executioners stand ready to throw the switch. It is surrounded by cameos of thirty-one previously electrocuted criminals. As noted on the card, it sold for 25-cents. In nice shape with light wear. A strip of masking tape has been applied on the reverse.



By the mid-1890s Ohio Penitentiary officials had become dissatisfied with hanging as a method of execution. In his 1896 annual report, Warden E. G. Coffin wrote:

"The number of executions during my term of office has been greater than during the term of any other Warden, and I state it as the result of my observations that the present method of inflicting capital punishment is unsatisfactory."

Electrocution, which was seen as more humane than the gallows because it was quicker, was selected by the legislature as a replacement method on 1 July 1896. An urban myth claims that a prisoner built Ohio's first electric chair and was later executed in it, but that is untrue. The actual builder is unrecorded although it is likely that Superintendent R.C. Green and a team of employees of the Gas Works and the Electric Light Plant constructed the heavy wooden chair in 1897, and that an electrician, Harry Canfield installed its electrical components. Apparently, the prison, only the second in the United States to use an electric chair, was so proud of its progressive method of execution that it sold souvenir execution cards like this one up until around 1907 after it conducted its 31<sup>st</sup> electrocution. Cards from earlier years contain fewer cameos of executed criminals. Between 1897 to 1963 when it was retired, 315 people were put to death in *Old Sparky*, including three women.



(For more information, see "Myth Busting: Electric Chair Edition" at the Ohio History Connection online and Whitmire's "Ohio's original 'Old Sparky' electric chair comes to OSR" in the 3 June 2015 edition of the *Mansfield News Journal*.)

Rather scarce; however, one or two of these electric chair souvenir cards appear on eBay each year.

**SOLD #10178**



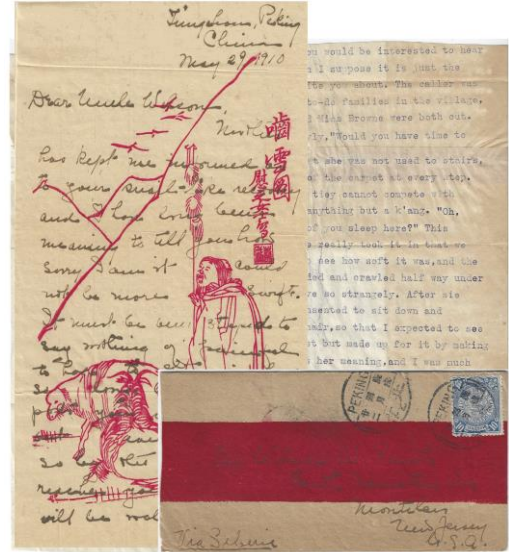
Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

### 23. [PHILATELY] [RELEGION – ANGLICAN & MISSIONARIES]

**1910 – A missionary letter from Peking on impressive, illustrated stationery that was sent home to family in New Jersey inside a vibrant ‘red-band envelope’ that normally was only used for auspicious domestic Chinese mail**

This three-page letter is written on illustrated Chinese stationery (each leaf has a different illustration) measuring 5" x 9". It was sent on 29 May 1910 by a young woman in Peking, Debra or Delia Seavens, to her Uncle Wilson Smith in Montclair, New Jersey. It is enclosed in a “red-band” envelope that is franked with a 10-cent dragon stamp (Scott #129) and bears two Peking postmarks. A Peking transit mark is on the reverse along with an indistinct U.S. receiving mark. The letter was routed “Via Siberia” as indicated on the front of the envelope. A typed onion-skin enclosure is included. In nice shape. Transcript will be included.

Ms. Seavens was serving within Peking as she references travelling out of the city with a female associate. Although the letter doesn’t indicate the mission’s name, it was likely associated with the Anglican Society to Propagate the Gospel as at the time, it had the most prominent presence in the city.



Red-band envelopes, which were prized by the Chinese for their attractiveness and as a symbol of good luck, were usually reserved for sending auspicious personal or commercial messages. They were seldom used by foreigners. As explained by Ms. Seavens, “Please do not be shocked by the envelope. It is truly Chinese. The proper form of address would be on the red line ‘Uncle Wilson Great Man’ and at one side ‘Please give to Mr. Smith’ with the address.” She also thanks him and her aunt for a thermos bottle which she used while visiting Chinese families to provide them with untainted cold water and hot milk.

As well, she enclosed a most interesting note from her Board Secretary regarding a visit from a Chinese woman . It reads in part:

“The caller was a serving woman from one of the more well-to-do- families in the village. She came on an errand when Miss Andrews and Miss Browne were both out. [Following her errand] she said coily, ‘Would you have time to take me up stairs?’ It was quite evident that she was not used to stairs for she mounts it with great caution, feeling of the carpet at every step. Stair carpets are interesting . . . but they can’t compete with beds to one who has never dreamed of anything . . . but a k’ang. ‘Oh, how white and how soft,’ she said, ‘how many of you sleep here?’ This question was [answered] several times till she really took it in that we had a bed apiece. . . . She was dumb founded and crawled half way under the bed to see what could be making it behave so strangely [as to regain its shape when vacated.] She perched gingerly on the side of a rocking chair, so that I expected to see her tip over any minute. . . . She picked up a book and proudly showed me that she could read a few characters [and] fairly swelled with pride . . . as she recited a little hymn, running her fingers along the lines [pretending] that she was reading it. . . . Then we sang. . . . I hit the tune once in a while and she never by any chance did. . . .”

An original source historic, philatelic, and visual treasure.

**\$750** [#10179](#)

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

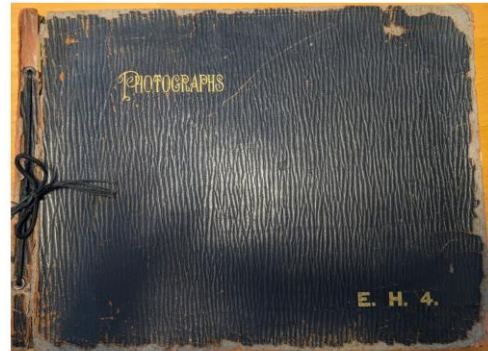
## 24. [MEDICINE & NURSING – MILITARY] [MILITARY – WORLD WAR ONE]

**1917-1919 – One of the most impressive American World War One hospital albums we have encountered.**

This large photograph album, measuring 15" x 11", contains about 100 pages holding over 400 vernacular photographs ranging in size from about 2 ½" x 2" to 6" x 4". The album cover is stamped "E.H.4" in gold. The printed title page reads, "Here, Over There, and Back / A Pictorial History of Evacuation Hospital No. 4 in the World War." The album is divided into multiple sections by printed 3½" x 5" red and black labels providing descriptions of the hospital's location, dates it served in that location, and a summary of events. The last page provides a "Permanent Address Roster" of the hospital's assigned staff. These blank albums and label sets were created and sold by Private Donald P. Crutchfield after the war. A book plate has been removed from inside the front cover, so the photographer/compiler is unknown. e wear.

The sections include.

- 1) Camp Greenleaf,
- 2) Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.,
- 3) Camp Forest, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.,
- 4) The Trip to Allentown, Pa.,
- 5) Camp Crane, Allentown, Pa.,
- 6) Fair Grounds, Camp Milla Mineola, L.I., N.Y.,
- 7) Embarkation and Trip "Across",
- 8) Brest and Pontanezan Barracks,
- 9) Trip to Humes (Hte. Marne),
- 10) Humes (Haute Marne),
- 11) Humes (Cont'd) and Langres,
- 12) Camp de Mailly (Aube),
- 13) Ecury-sur-Cooile (Marne),
- 14) Chateau de Pereuse (Seine et Marne),
- 15) Coincy (Aisne),
- 16) Coincy (Cont'd) Chateau Thierry,
- 17) Fontaine Routon (Meuse),
- 18) Fontaine Routon (Meuse) (Cont'd),
- 19) Fromereville (Meuse), Verdun,
- 20) Trip to Germany Traben-Trarbach,
- 21) Coblenz am Rhein,
- 22) Coblenz am Rhine (Cont'd), and
- 23) Chateau la Fremoire (Loire Inf.)
- 24) The Trip Home.



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

The compiler has added several sections of his own including Schloss Stolzenfels (The Kaiser's Castle).

The photos show hospital staff, its tent and building locations, ships and convoys, railroad transportation, vehicles and ambulances, the pharmacy and other auxiliary services, administrative offices, locals, and more. None of the images show patients.

World War One American evacuation hospitals were developed to temporarily support stabilized patients from Army divisions' medical facilities during relocations. Two evacuation hospitals were attached to each division. They were intended to be staffed by 34 officers and 237 enlisted men and had the capacity to hold temporarily hold up to 1,000 patients.

These facilities were mobile which meant they were often housed in tents although they occupied buildings whenever possible. Each required about 90 three-ton trucks or 30 rail cars to transport its staff and equipment. Generally, they were located about 9 to 15 miles from the front on roads leading to forward medical units and rail lines connected to base hospitals.

(For more information, see Thompson's "Evacuation Hospitals" at the Kansas University Medical Center's Medicine in the First World War website.)

We have never before encountered a WWI album of vernacular photographs with professionally printed captions, and we have handled hundreds; perhaps this is the only extant example. At the time of listing, no other of Crutchfield's' albums are for sale in the trade, and none have been listed at the Rare Book Hub as having ever appeared at auction. OCLC identifies no institutional holdings.

**\$1,500** [#10181](#)





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

## 25. [CALIFORNIANA] [MINING – BORAX] [TRANSPORTATION – RAILROADS]

### 1919 – Six black and white photographs of the Pacific Coast Borax complex located at Death Valley Junction, California

Each of these six photographs measures 5 3/4" x 3 3/8". All are captioned. Four are dated "1919" in their margins. One is dated "Thanksgiving 1919" in the margin. All have minor edgewear and light soiling; one bears a chip to the lower right margin not affecting the image. All have small pieces of black scrap book page remnants affixed to the reverse.

The photographs are of different sections of the Pacific Coast Borax (PCB) complex at Death Valley Junction.

1. "Mt at D.V. Jct.  
Thanksgiving 1919"
2. "Mill P.C. B. D.V. Calif."
3. "Cp of P.C.B. D.V., Calif 1919"
4. "P.C.B. Camp. Death Valley. Jct. 1919"
5. Station. Death Valley Jct. 1919
6. "P.C. B. Co. D.V. 1919"



The "Baby Gauge" Railroad, visible in some of the photographs was an ore-gathering extension of the Death Valley Railroad, which was itself an extension of the Tonopah & Tidewater Railroad. This extension was built by the Pacific Coast Borax (PCB) company to reach mines and claims just over the Greenhorn Mountains that rose above Death Valley. Before cresting the mountains and ending at the Biddy McCarty Mines, the railroad passed by the Played Out Mine. Construction of this railroad began in December 1914, beginning at the Death Valley Railroad's ore bins. It ran by "Poison Rock" to the Grand View Mine, Lizzie Oakley Mine, and Widow Mine, eventually reaching a length of more than five miles that included four tunnels and several spectacular bridges as it ran along the wall of Corkscrew Canyon. After the mines were closed, the railroad was used for tourist excursions.

(For more information, see Hees's "'Baby Gauge' Railroad. Pacific Cost Borax Company" at the Pacific Coast Narrow Gauge website.)

At the time of listing, no other pre-tourist photos of the PCB complex or its Baby Gauge Railroad are for sale in the trade. None are listed as having appeared at auction by the Rare Book Hub, and OCLC identifies none held by institutions.

**\$300** [#10180](#)

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

## 26. [ART – WOODBLOCKS] [RELIGION – MISSIONARIES]

### 1924 – Letter from an American missionary in Shanghai forwarding a lucky charm woodblock print

This personally signed one-page form letter was sent by missionary H. G. C. (Henry Galloway Comingo) Hallock in Shanghai to a contributor, Stella F. Kent in East Wallingford, Vermont. It is datelined “C. P. O (Chinese Post Office) Box No. 1234 / Shanghai, China, Feb. 1, 1924.” It is enclosed in a narrow 6¾” x 3” envelope and franked with several stamps from the “Junk and Temple of Heaven” series (Scott #s 248, 270, 271, and 278) that were canceled with circular Shanghai postmarks dated “2.2.24.”

In the letter, Hallock thanks Kent for

“the fine gift for sending Almanacs into the interior of China. It is fine of you all to make this sacrifice for your brothers here. Your help is greatly appreciated. I have sent your Almanacs a two month journey inland. Pray God to bless this.”

He then continues with a short essay describing a Chinese woman’s conversion to Christianity and her eventually becoming a missionary herself.

Although not mentioned in the letter, Hallock enclosed a 12” x 22” red, green, and black woodblock print emblazoned with the Hanzi character for ‘good luck’, Fu (福) above what I believe is an image of Zaojun, the Stove God. The woodcut was neatly folded to fit into the narrow mailing envelope.

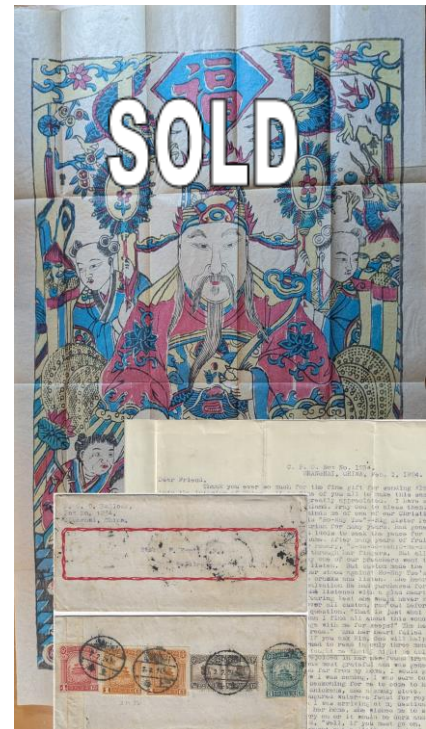
Hallock, a West Virginia native, prepared for the ministry at the Princeton Theological Seminary and immediately after graduation in 1896 assumed a Presbyterian position as a missionary in China. He became an independent missionary-teacher in 1905. He pioneered Sunday Schools for underprivileged children, served as the pastor of Endeavourer’s Church for Eurasians, and as a professor of theology at Shanghai’s prestigious St. John’s University. He published several religious works while in China including almost two million copies of his annual *Hallock’s Chinese Almanac* that he references in this letter.

What set Hallock apart from other missionaries was his use of woodblock art to raise funds. These thin-paper prints depicting various Chinese deities were intended for Chinese home display and were made to be replaced on an annual basis. He sent them from Shanghai to potential contributors along with his fund-raising requests, pointing out that although missionaries were making progress, most Chinese still worshipped heathen gods and that money was needed to continue his effort. Hallock survived near starvation, dysentery, and malaria while imprisoned by the Japanese during World War II at the Chapel Civilian Assembly Center, and following the war, remained in China until his death in 1951.

(For more information, see “Reformed Missionaries of History” at the Puritan Board online and “Hallock’s Gods” at the David Leffman website.)

Scarce. Hallock’s funding letters with their fragile woodblock prints are sought by many collectors today. At the time listing, none are for sale in the trade. Although the Rare Book Hub shows none have been sold at auction a handful that have been listed at ebay auctions where they were quickly snapped up. OCLC shows none are held by institutions.

**SOLD #10182**



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

## 27. [MILITARY – YANGTZE RIVER CAMPAIGN] [ROMANCE – LOVESICKNESS]

**1926 – A lovesick Engineering officer informs his wife in Hankow about his life aboard a U.S. Navy gunboat and coming under attack at IChang by a Chinese warlord as it patrolled the Yangtze River**

This lot consists of two letters sent during the summer of 1926 by an unnamed U.S. Navy officer (“thy husband”) aboard the USS *Pigeon*, a gunboat assigned to the Yangtze River Squadron. The first letter, complete with 12 pages, was sent on 18 August while the ship was at Changsha, China. The second is incomplete and includes 8 pages; it was sent shortly after 9 September. Both are in nice shape with mailing folds.

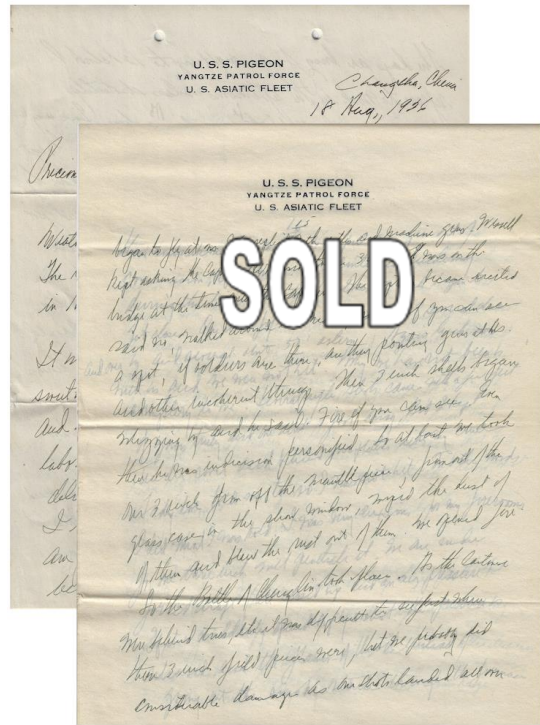
In the first letter, the young naval officer who was serving as the engineering officer aboard the *Pigeon* used most of its 12 pages to write some of the most sickeningly sweet love prose ever committed to paper. He also takes time to explain to his relatively new wife, who was residing at Hangkow, a little about his duties:

“The days are busy for me right up to 12 o’clock. . . . We are now painting the topside which needed it badly. . . . I love the job [and] was granted a special allotment for the relief valve I asked for so I can utilize the exhaust steam for making water, heating the ship etc. After steam is sent to a pump, it is called exhaust steam. When it comes from the boiler it is called live steam. Gradually but surly . . . the Eng. Dept. is getting most efficient . . . slightly better than 100% – about 102 to 3% except when we get underway – then it drops to below 90%. When I can get the new burners and put in new one which I believe the present loss there will be eliminated a great deal. . . .”

However, in the second, he provides a detailed account an attack by a Chinese warlord upon his ship in the first battle of what would become a two-year campaign to maintain peace and protect American interests along the river.

“At about 2 o’clock we neared Changlin (Ichang/Yichang). Our convoy had gone on [the] ninth [of September] with the British this morning. . . . As we started to pass Changlin . . . rifle bullets began to fly at us. We replied with rifles and machine guns. Wessell {the Executive Officer} kept asking the Captain [Lieutenant Commander John Martin Ashley] permission to use [our] 3 inch [guns]. I was on the bridge at the time with the Captain. The captain became excited [and] said no, walked around like Neal, said if you can see a spot, if soldiers are there, are they pointing guns at us and other incoherent things. Then 3 inch shells began whizzing by and he said Fire if you can see them he was indecision personified. So at last we took our 3 inch guns off the mantelpiece, from out of the glass case in the show window, wiped the dust off them and blew the dust out of them. We opened fire. So the Battle of Changlin took place.

“As the Cantonese were behind trees, etc. it was difficult to see just where their 3 inch field pieces were, but we probably did considerable damage as our shots landed all over the embankment. We think we put one gun out of commission, if not more. We continued underway during this time. Then the Cantonese 3 inch began to get close. . . . Again luck was with us and we were not hit. . . . Several rifle shots came with a few feet of yours truly. . . . But I kept under cover and behind our plates . . . so I





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

was not hit. In other words, I did what I was told. I was very anxious for my firerooms for one three inch [shell] will penetrate it. We are under forced draft (all closed by air pressure) If it is suddenly opened by a shot . . . the flames of the oil instead of going out the smoke stack through the furnace [will] shoot back into the fireroom. . . . Once it happens we are put out of commission and most likely all the men in the firerooms will be killed. But we must not speak of such dismal occurrences and likelihood.

"Wessell asked the Captain to turn around and go back and silence their fire and blow them up but he refused: He afterwards said [there were] not enough mates to turn around, etc. But now I am beginning to think after numerous occasions that he is a coward or he gets so excited he doesn't know what he is doing. . . ."

The letter-writer's description of the battle dovetails nicely with Gardner's "The Beginning of the Yangtze River Campaign of 1926-27" which is available online at the U.S.

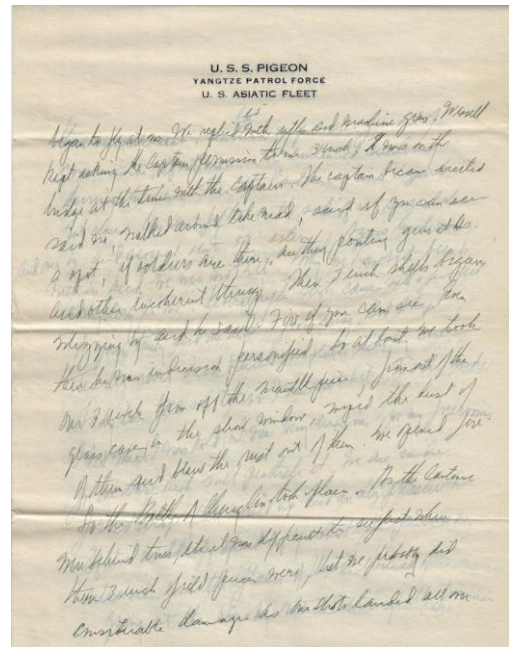
Naval Institute's website. The Yangtze Patrol, the "River Rats," was established in 1854 to protect American interests at China's Treaty Ports. The squadron cruised China's longest river from the coastal waters of Shanghai well into the interior at Chongqing. By the 1920s, it had become known in the U.S. Navy as the epitome of gunboat diplomacy. It was a unit with little combat power but significant constabulary and diplomatic force. As turmoil mounted in China during the 1920s, the Patrol operated in a gray zone, somewhere in between peace and civil war, where local warlords fought openly throughout the countryside.

It was in this environment that the USS *Pigeon* began her voyage on September 9, 1926. That evening, she was ordered to proceed upriver from Hankow along with the USS *Palos* to protect a convoy of several merchant vessels. The orders specified that "If fired upon and source of fire can be determined you are authorized to silence such fire with suitable battery." Heavy firing began just above Hangyan, and both ships returned fire for at least 15 minutes into Chinese forces hiding along the waterfront as they continued their voyage. Eventually both ships effectively employed their 3-inch guns, and the Chinese attack was silenced. A little further upriver, the ships encountered both a merchant vessel and British gunboat in need of medical assistance and those vessels' wounded were transported back downriver to Hankow.

Significant danger remained for commercial traffic along the Yangtze for several years, and military personnel who served on or along the river between 9 September 1926 and 31 December 1932 were awarded the Yangtze Service Medal.

(For more information, see the above-mentioned article by Gardner and Gale's "The Yangtze Patrol," both available online at the U.S. Naval Institute's website.)

Exceptionally scarce. At the time of listing, there are no other first-hand accounts of this battle available for sale online. The Rare Book Hub shows none having appeared at auction, and OCLC identifies none held by institutions. However, there is one account from an officer aboard the *Palos* that was published in the January 1932 issue of *Proceedings*.



**SOLD #10183**

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

## 28. [MILITARY – SECOND SINO-JAPANESE War]

### 1937 – Letter from a U.S. Commercial Attache in Shanghai describing the early days of the Second Sino-Japanese War including the bombing of Tokyo and fighting outside the International Settlement

This three-page letter was sent by “Han” from the Office of Commercial Attache, U. S. Department of Commerce in Shanghai, China on 17 September 1937. Two of the three pages are typed; the last page is handwritten in pencil. Han apparently spent the several days in Tokyo before returning to Shanghai where he wrote this letter. No envelope. In nice shape; a little edge wear.

The Second Sino-Japanese War began on 7 July 1937 when Japanese soldiers crossed the Marco Polo Bridge, a key access route to Peking. After the city fell on 30 July, the Japanese turned their attention to Shanghai. Japanese and Chinese troops rushed to the Shanghai Region, and on 13 August, Chinese soldiers attacked Japanese positions in the city. Amid the horrific street fighting, Chinese planes accidentally bombed the International Settlement, killing more than 3,000 civilians. The fight then transitioned into an air war in which Chinese pilots more than held their own and for two months prevented a 200,000-man Japanese force from capturing the city. It is during this period of ongoing conflict that Han penned his letter. It reads in part:

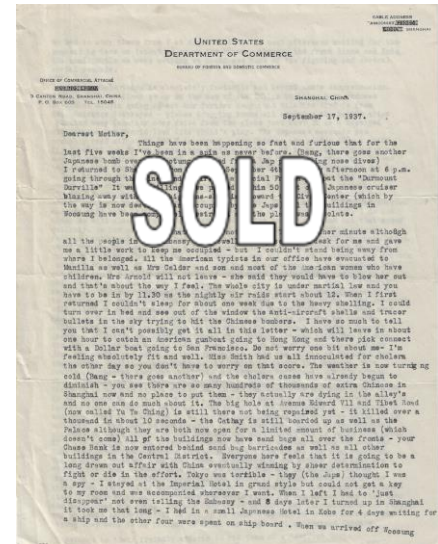
“[Tokyo] is under martial law . . . as the nightly air raids start about 12. . . I couldn't sleep for about one week due to the heavy shelling. I could . . . see out of the window the anti-aircraft shells and tracer bullets in the sky trying to hit the Chinese bombers. . . .”

“For the last five weeks I've been in a spin. . . (Bang, there goes another Japanese bomb over in Pootung dropped from a Jap plane doing nose dives) I returned to Shanghai from Tokyo on September 4<sup>th</sup> . . . going through the lines under fire on a special French gunboat. . . It was thrilling – we passed within 50 feet of a Japanese cruiser blazing away with all 4 big guns. . . All the buildings in Woosung have been completely destroyed. . . There are so many hundreds of thousands of extra Chinese in Shanghai now. . . They are actually dying in the alleys. . . Sand bags [are] all over the place. Everyone here feels that it is going to be a long drawn out affair with China eventually winning by sheer determination. . . Viola and I go up on top of the Dollar building [to] see a genuine battle going on. . . Buildings destroyed – planes dropping bombs all around – the battle ships blazing away (another nose drive from the plane just now) It is a besieged city that makes Madrid look like child's play. The Japanese accounts [are] all about 100% incorrect – the Chinese are giving them a stiff fight and it. . . is practically going on now all over China . . . (nose dive and bomb) Japan . . . has started something that many generations of her people will regret. . . .”

These comments are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the details provided in this letter. Han goes on to expound about the dearth of night life in the International Settlement, the inability to travel freely, the difference between the Settlement's treatment of Japanese and Chinese forces, the possibility that the United States will be drawn into the conflict, and more. He closes his letter with reassurance to his mother that “I am alright & having a memorable experience.”

An uncommon first-hand account of the beginning of the Second Sino-China War from an American who witnessed both the Chinese bombing of Tokyo and the Japanese attack on Shanghai.

**SOLD #10184**



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

## 29. [ART – CARTOONING] [MILITARY – WORLD WAR TWO] [PHILATELY] [PROPAGANDA – LEAFLETS]

### 1942-1945 – Three Japanese propaganda leaflets intended to degrade the morale of American soldiers fighting for control of Pacific Islands

These three propaganda leaflets were airdropped by the Japanese over American units fighting for control of Pacific Islands. Japanese propaganda leaflets have not received the same level of study as those produced by the Germans in Europe, so it is not possible to know for sure on which islands these were distributed. It is likely, however, that their distribution did not begin until the summer of 1942 after General Douglas MacArthur began the allied island-hopping campaign, beginning with the retaking of the Solomon Islands in August, that led to the defeat of Japan; Even fewer would have survived if these had been distributed early in the war as few allied soldiers would have kept them as souvenirs through four years of prison after surrendering at Corregidor, Guam, or other islands initially captured by the Japanese. All of these leaflets show wear and soiling. One has two small pieces of paper tape on the reverse.



"Framed" – This b/w cartoon leaflet shows President Franklin D. Roosevelt pushing an angry and resistant American soldier (wearing a WWI-style helmet rather than a later 'steel pot') onto a Pacific Island titled "The Unknown." It is captioned, "You did not want to fight. You did not want to leave your sweetheart, your mother your kids – You did not ever think it would be necessary for you to dig your own grave. He did it all for you!"

"Jilted, Re-Jilted" – This colorful five-panel cartoon shows the emotions of an American soldier (again wearing an early style helmet) stranded on a Pacific Island, perhaps symbolizing the earlier Fall of Corregidor. The first panel, "Elation," shows the soldier celebrating as a U.S. naval vessel appears on the horizon either with reinforcements or for evacuation. The second, "Deflation," shows him horrorstruck as the ship is sunk. The third, "Anticipation," shows him hopeful as he spies four approaching ships. The fourth, "Perdition," shows him agitatedly throwing his rifle into the sea as those four vessels are sunk. The final, "Exasperation," shows him angrily shouting and shaking his fists toward the rear as gun barrels from Japanese battleships point at him.

"Killed in Action" – This vibrantly colored leaflet shows the rotting corpse of an American soldier (again wearing an early style helmet) lying on a map of New Guinea with a "Citation" signed by General MacArthur in the background. The caption reads, "Killed in Action! Died that the jungles of New Guinea might again rest in peace."

**\$300** [#10185](#)



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

**30. [ART – CARTOONING] [MEDICINE & NURSING – MALARIA] [MILITARY – WORLD WAR TWO] [PHILATELY] [PROPAGANDA – LEAFLETS]**

**1944-1945 – Five propaganda leaflets distributed, primarily by airdrops, during the American campaign to liberate the Philippine Islands during World War II.**

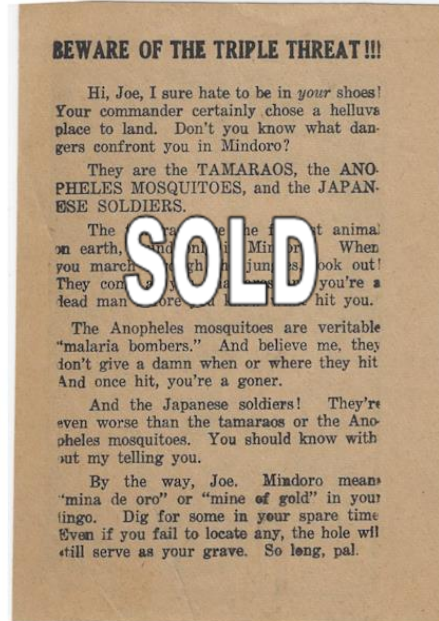
One of the five was distributed by the Japanese to demoralize American soldiers.

“Beware of the Triple Threat” – This b/w leaflet shows a terrified American soldier being attacked by a mosquito, a tamarao, and a Japanese infantryman. The caption on the reverse reads in part, “Hi Joe, I sure hate to be in your shoes! Your commander certainly chose a helluva place to land. Don’t you know what dangers confront you in Mindora [a Philippine island]. . . Tamaros, the Anopheles Mosquitoes, and the Japanese Soldiers. . .” It then explains that tamaraos are “the fiercest animal on earth . . . they may come at you unaware and you’re a dead man before you know what hit you. The Anopheles mosquitoes are veritable ‘malaria bombers’ . . . you’re a goner. And the Japanese soldiers! They’re worse than the tamaraos. . . Mindora means . . . ‘mine of gold’ . . . dig for some. . . Dig for some . . . the hole will serve as your grave. So long, pal.”

The other four leaflets were produced by American intelligence offices to encourage Filipinos and facilitate American efforts during the campaign. While not as well documented as propaganda leaflets from the European theater, the Philippine Island leaflets have received more study than the Japanese leaflets used during General McArthur’s island hopping advance on Japan. Some are identified by catalog numbers assigned by the U.S. Army Psychological Warfare Branch.

Propaganda Leaflet 4-F-6 – “The Yanks Have Landed On your Island; Battle of Liberation Begins”. It shows a photograph of American soldiers landing on a beach. It was prepared on 23 September 1944 to be used in conjunction with American amphibious landings. It shows American soldiers wading ashore. The text on is printed in English and addressed to “Filipino Patriots.” It provides guidance on how “To Help Defeat the Japs” as well as information about American “Military Objectives,” including a caution to “Remember, Planes, Bombs, and Shells cannot tell Friend from Foe.”

Propaganda Leaflet 7-F-6 – “The Warriors of freedom have Landed on Your Island”. It shows a b/w illustration of American soldiers advancing inland from a beach, and reads, “American and Philippine forces are liberating your country from Japanese oppression. Enemy air, land and sea forces have



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

already suffered heavy reverses in the Leyte area. As our landings continue, it is essential that the bombers and fleet prepare their way. We do not want to injure a single Filipino. During the period



from the 15th of December to the 8th of January follow these instructions carefully –Stay away from the Japanese troops and any place where they are gathered together. Avoid all buildings, dumps, airstrips and bridges used by the Japanese. And most important of all, at the first sign of our landing, move away from the beaches. Move inland. . . For your safety comply with this request. “

“Don’t Block the Roads!” shows a cartoon of a convoy halted by crowds of pedestrians clogging a road and a free-flowing roadway without civilian traffic. It, too, was distributed as Americans landed in the Philippines. The caption reads “If you must leave your towns go across country or over trails” and on the reverse, “Clear the Way for the Fighting Men!”

The last leaflet in this is untitled. It features color illustrations of a U.S. flag on one side and the Philippine flag on the other.

(For more information, see “U.A. Army Psychological Warfare Branch (PWB) Leaflets for the Pacific War at psywarrior.com and “Psychological Warfare Branch Scrapbook of American Propaganda Leaflets, 1944-1945” at the Archives West website.

**SOLD #10186**

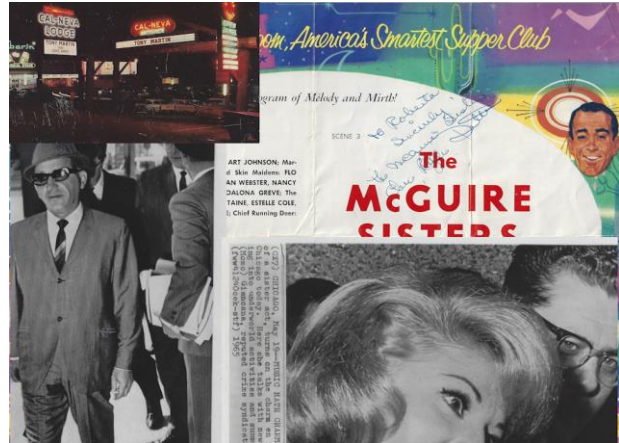


Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

**31. [CRIME – CHICAGO MOB] [ENTERTAINMENT – LAS VEGAS] [GAMBLING] [MUSIC – McGUIRE SISTERS] [POLITICS – CONSPIRACY THEORIES & CAMELOT] [ROMANCE – LOVE BLINDNESS]**

**1960-1965 – A one-of-a-kind mini-collection related to the love affair between the naïve Midwestern singing star, Phyllis McGuire, and the dangerous Chicago mob boss, Sam Giancana**

This archive consists of five items: 1) an autographed program from the McGuire Sisters' 1960 engagement at the Las Vegas Desert Inn where Phyllis McGuire first met Sam Giancana, 2) a press photo of Phyllis when she testified at the 1965 Federal Grand Jury investigating Giancana, 3) a press photo of Giancana at the same investigation, 4) a 1962 postcard of Frank Sinatra's Neva-Cal Lodge where a McGuire-Giancana rendezvous ignited that investigation, and 5) a lobby card from the 1961 Noonan & Marshall film *Double Trouble* (released as *Swingin' Away*).



The wholesome McGuire Sisters singing act hit the bigtime after they nearly blew the needle off the applause-o-meter during an *Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts* television show in December 1952. By the time the trio headlined at the Las Vegas Desert Inn along with the Noonan & Marshall comedy team in June 1960, they had a string of gold records including two #1 hits, *Sincerely* and *Sugartime*. While performing there, Phyllis caught the eye of the unstable, vicious, and violent boss of the Chicago underworld, Sam 'Momo' or 'Moony' Giancana. It is unclear how the couple were introduced, possibly by Frank Sinatra or a casino pit boss. Regardless, the pair hit it off and began a relationship that, except for a few gossipy scandal-sheet photos, was hidden from the public, although Phyllis's sisters and long-time friend Peter Marshall, at that time a comedic straight-man and fellow headliner, were well aware. Long afterward in a Barbara Walters interview, Phyllis related that "When I met him I did not know who he was, and . . . I didn't find out until sometime later really who he was, and [by then] I was already in love."

Perhaps that realization came in the early 1960s when the couple traveled to Chicago, and they were met at the airport by the FBI who coerced Phyllis into an interview where she was either unable or unwilling to divulge anything about Giancana's illegal activities. However, as other agents waited with Sam while the interview was conducted, he exploded, "I know all about the Kennedys and Phyllis knows a lot more about the Kennedys and one of these days we are going to tell all."

Giancana was likely boasting about his well-documented (but vehemently contested by Camelot apologists) vote-fixing efforts in West Virginia and Illinois in 1960 that gave John F. Kennedy the presidency over Richard M. Nixon. Some, including the premier investigative journalist of his time, Jack Anderson, have claimed that the deal, probably cut by the family patriarch, Joseph, whose long-time mob-related investments built the family's fortune, required the future president to turn a blind-eye to underworld operations in Chicago and allow Giancana to assassinate Fidel Castro who had shut down his lucrative Cuban operations. Later, Frank Church's Senate investigation discovered that follow-on secret Kennedy-Giancana discussions were conducted using messages passed between the president and the mobster by their shared mistress, Judith Campbell Exner.

Yet, the above information was not known until later, and the couple's romantic relationship didn't explode in the press until Giancana's visits to Phyllis's chalet, used while she performed at Frank Sinatra's Neva-Cal Lodge (which he may have bought with the assistance of Joseph Kennedy), were



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

discovered by a disabled state gaming commissioner in 1963. By that time, Giancana had been placed on the Nevada blacklist that forbade known gangsters from entering casinos. Upon his discovery, Giancana exploded at the “crippled Son of a Bitch” who confronted him, and the couple’s romance could no longer be hidden after Sinatra was forced to give-up his gambling resort and sell his interest in the landmark Las Vegas hotel, The Sands.

Worse for Giancana, in an apparent double-cross, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, the president’s brother, directed the FBI to investigate his Chicago Unit perhaps, as suggested by several historians and journalists, in an attempt to intimidate the underworld into keeping the vote-fixing and Castro deals under wraps. After President Kennedy was assassinated, the federal probe into Giancana deepened to include the possibility that he ordered the ‘hit’ as pay-back for the Kennedys not fulfilling their part of the mutual deal. When Giancana and Phyllis were subpoenaed by an investigative grand jury in 1965, both remained mum. Although Giancana was granted immunity, he still refused to testify and spent a year in prison for contempt of court, after which he moved to Mexico. Phyllis returned to sing with her sisters, however the damage to the trio was already done. The McGuire Sisters were essentially blackballed by the entertainment world, and they stopped performing in 1968.

After Giancana returned to the United States, he was again subpoenaed but murdered before he could appear in court; one shot to the back of his head as he was cooking a meal of sausage and peppers, then five more into his mouth. Others connected to Giancana also met untimely deaths. Jimmy Hoffa disappeared, perhaps into an incinerator or stadium foundation. Warren Reynolds was shot in his head just before he was scheduled to testify. Two reporters covering Giancana were murdered. One potential witness was found hanging in her cell shortly after being arrested for disorderly conduct, and, the dismembered body of Johnny Roselli was found stuffed into an oil barrel floating off the coast of Florida.

The McGuire sisters finally returned to the oldies show circuit in 1986. Peter Marshall and Tommy Noonan split after their movie bombed, however Marshall found immense success on television as the host of *Hollywood Squares* for 17 years.

(For more information, see “The McGuire Sisters win Godfrey's Talent Scouts. . .” at Youtube, “Sam Giancana” at the Spartacus Educational website, “Phyllis McGuire, Singing Star and Sam Giancana Paramour Dies. . .” at the Mob Museum website, Nesteroff’s interview of Peter L. Marshall at the Classic Television Showbiz blogspot, Suri’s “The McGuire Sisters star Phyllis McGuire dead. . .” at the *Daily Mail* website, the 18 July 1960 issue of *Fabulous Las Vegas Magazine*, Colloff and Hall’s “Married to the Mob” at the *Texas Monthly* website, Lane’s “The Murder of Sam Giancana” at the CIA website, Chicago ABC-7’s “Feds focused on Chicagoans, Outfit figures in JFK files,” and Schwarz’s “Venomous in the Extreme . . . Frank Sinatra’s Acrimonious 1963 Exit from Nevada Gaming” in Vol 24 No 7 of *Gaming Law Review*. The HBO movie, *Sugartime*, is an accurate account of the Giancana-McGuire relationship, and Netflix’s film, *The Rat Pack*, covers Sinatra’s relationship with the Kennedy family and the mob.)

A one-of-a-kind collection documenting the relationship between Phyllis McGuire and Sam Giancana.

\$500 [#10192](#)



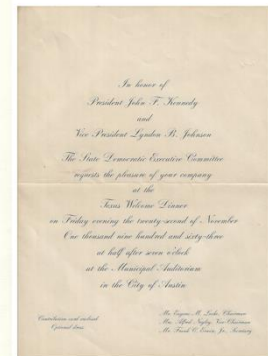
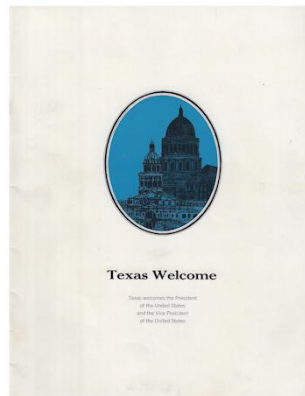
Click on the first image or item number next to the price to view more information and images.

### 32. [CRIME – ASSASSINATION] [POLITICS – PRESIDENTIAL]

**1963 – An invitation, souvenir brochure, and broadside program for President Kennedy's "Texas Welcome Dinner" in Austin on 22 November 1963 that never occurred as he had been assassinated earlier in the day**

Three items related to the culmination of John F. Kennedy's campaign tour through Texas at a "Welcome Dinner" in Austin that had been organized by the State Democratic Executive Committee.

A 7" x 9¾" invitation to the event which was to be held "on Friday evening the twenty-second of November / One thousand nine hundred and sixty-three / at half after seven o'clock / at the Municipal auditorium / in the City of Austin" In nice shape; original mailing fold. Minor tape scuffs on reverse.



An 8 x 11" glossy souvenir brochure, "Texas Welcome / Texas welcomes the President / of the United States / and the Vice President of the United States." Complete. It contains short bios of John & Jackie Kennedy, Lyndon & Lady Bird Johnson, Texas Governor John Connolly, and Texas Senator Ralph Yarborough. It also includes a welcome letter from Connolly, a program of events, a list of the Texas Congressional Delegation, the Bill of Rights, and several pages of advertisements. In nice shape.

An 8½ x 14" cardstock broadside, titled "Texas Welcome Dinner" that features images of Kennedy, Johnson, and Connolly as well as the seals of the President, the Vice-President, and the State of Texas. The program of events is delineated on the broadside. In nice shape.

This dinner never took place. The President was shot in the head at Dealey Plaza in Dallas by former Marine and Communist sympathizer, Lee Harvey Oswald, who was hiding in the Texas School Book Depository as Kennedy's motorcade passed by. Kennedy was rushed to nearby Parkland Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead. Texas Governor John Connolly, who was riding with the President, was wounded but survived. Oswald later murdered a Dallas policeman before he was captured. Vice President Lyndon Johnson assumed the Presidency later that day while returning to Washington onboard Air Force One. Oswald was murdered two days later on live television by Jack Ruby while being escorted through the Dallas Police Station. Ruby was a wanna-be-bigshot owner of a nightclub whose loose ties to Sam Giancana's Chicago Outfit were investigated by the CIA, FBI, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and Warren Commission. Ruby's initial conviction was overturned as it contained inadmissible testimony, and he died of a pulmonary embolism while awaiting retrial in 1967.

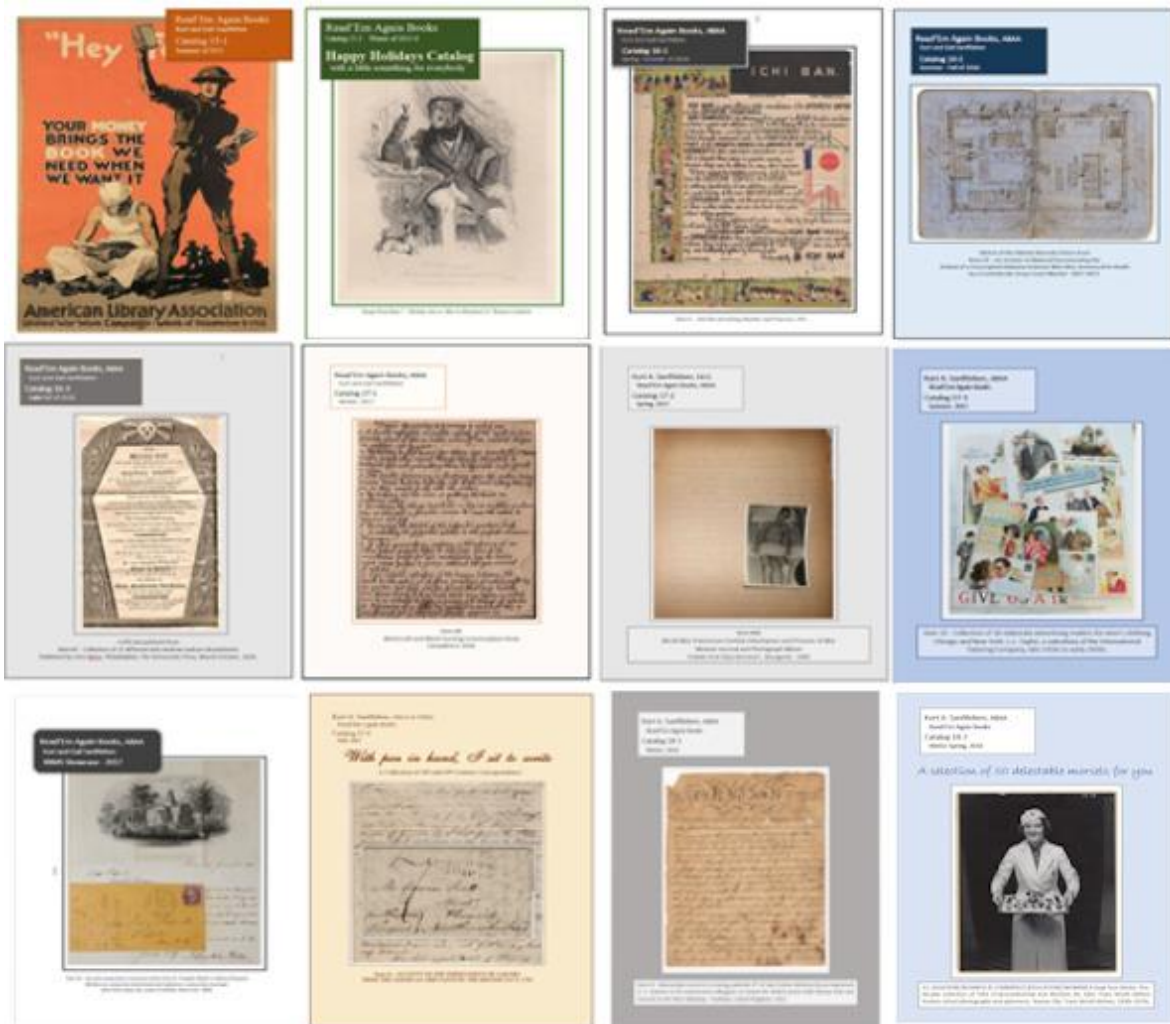
(See lot #31 above for more information about Giancana's involvement with President Kennedy.)

Although invitations occasionally appear at auction, it is unusual to find a set of the three most important mementos from the dinner: the invitation, the glossy brochure, and the program broadside.

**\$1,750 [#10187](#)**

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.



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

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**7-9 June 2024 – National Philatelic Exhibition (NAPEX), Tysons Corner, Virginia**

**15-18 August 2024 – The Great American Stamp Show – Hartford, Connecticut**