
Everything is discounted – Some items up to 50%
Over 300 listings
Welcome to our special Paper Americana

2020-2021 Holiday Sale Catalog

We know it’s a lot to swallow in one gulp, but in this catalog we’ve included over 300 listings, some quite recent and some older. **All of the items have been reduced in price, some by as much as 50%.** The sale ends on January 3, 2021, so if you’d like to take advantage of a discount, you’ll need to order before then.

**Terms of Sale**

Prices are in U.S dollars. When applicable, we must charge sales tax. Unless otherwise stated, standard domestic shipping is at no charge. International shipping charges vary. All shipments are sent insured at no additional charge. Any customs or VAT fees are the responsibility of the purchaser.

Please contact us by email or telephone to place an order as prices at our online venues have not been changed to reflect any discount.

We accept checks, money orders, credit cards (preferably through PayPal) and bank transfers. Payment by credit card or bank transfer will incur an additional fee.

Trade discounts (in addition to any catalog discounts) are extended to APS-Dealer members and members of the ABAA, ASDA, ILAB, IOBA, NSDA and their related affiliates.

Institutions, ABAA members, ASDA members, and long-time customers in good standing may be invoiced. All others are asked to prepay. Layaway or payment-over-time options for expensive purchases may be possible.

Any item purchased may be returned for a full refund for any reason if the return is initiated within ten days of receipt and the item arrives back to us in the same condition as when originally shipped. Prior notice of any return is appreciated. Return shipping costs will be paid by the buyer.

All items are guaranteed as described. If a recognized authority finds an item or signature not to be genuine, the original purchaser may return the item at any time for a full refund including all shipping costs.

Regards, Kurt and Gail

____________________________________
Kurt and Gail Sanftleben
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Email: info@read-em-again.com
Phone: 703-580-6946  Text: 571-409-0144
Website: read-em-again.com
Items are arranged in chronological sequence. If you’d prefer to search for specific items, please use your browser’s “Find” function. For example, if you use Chrome, first click on the three dots in the upper-right hand corner. Then click on the “Find” link in the pop-up box that appears. Another popup box will appear. Enter your search term in that box, and then use the carets to move up and down.


Nuremberg, Germany: 1720. 19.5" x 23.5". Hand-colored. Title cartouche shows the explorer, Father Hennepin, with allegorical New World figures, a buffalo head, and a classic image of Niagara Falls. Vignette in lower right shows an inaccurate illustration of bison flanked by Native Americans.

$2,750  $1,650  #8590

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Letter sent by a Maryland patriot to the future Deputy Quartermaster of the Continental Army—via the renegade “Constitutional Post” to avoid detection by Parliamentary Post agents—requesting that he smuggle gunpowder to the Eastern Shore under the noses of the officers of the Crown

Sent by Jonathan Worth of Georgetown, Maryland to John Mitchell of Philadelphia

November 6, 1775. This two-page stampless folded letter measures 13” x 8” unfolded. It is datelined “Kent County, November 6th 1775”.

$6,500  $5,850  #9578

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
18th-Century “Ciphering Book” kept by Asa Sherman.
Marshfield, [Massachusetts]: 1789-1790. Approximately 8” x 12.5” with 64 pages of mathematical exercises. Ciphering books were prepared as basic mathematical training for relatively well-off American students, usually boys. In addition to computations still in use today, they included long-forgotten skills like Compound Reduction and the Rule of Three. Additionally, boys venturing into trades or businesses needed advanced or specialized training in mathematics. In this case, Asa was preparing for future work in commerce as his book contains additional tasks titled: The Pence Table, Addition of Money, Wine-Measure, Cloth-Measure, Tare Weight, Compound Interest, “Rules of Practice [for] most sorts of Goods or Merchantdize,”

$750  $675  #9527
Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Advertising handstamp for the first life-preserver on a stampless folded letter sent from London to merchants in Boston from Jacob Cram to Messers Parker & Poor.
London to Boston: 1807. Sent via the ship Enterprise. The advertising stamp reads, “Daniel’s Life Preserver in case of Shipwreck, Bathing & Wapping, A National Concern, Established 1806.” Francis Daniel designed the first life-preservers after witnessing numerous drownings in the Thames. He promoted his product with people performing stunts (e.g., playing instruments, smoking pipes, firing pistols) while floating down the river.

$600  $540  #9322
Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
German fraktur manuscript prayer book created by Franz Xaveri Warig for Oresencia Kieferin. Pennsylvania: 1807. This leather-bound manuscript prayer book, titled Sonen Wend: Blumlein (Solstice: Flowers), measures approximately 4.25" x 6.25"; it is complete with frontispiece, title page, author and ownership page, 273 numbered text pages, and index. The exceptionally well-done frontispiece is hand-drawn/colored and shows Jesus in prayer next to a large sunflower under a bright sun. The text is a mixture of fraktur and script. Elaborate headings and decorations in red, green, yellow, and black-brown appear throughout and repeat the sun and flower motif. Purchased at an antique shop in Pennsylvania’s Dutch Country.

$1,500  $750  #8727

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Deed of Manumission for a New York City slave signed by Mayor Dewitt Clinton.

New York City: 1809. Measures 8” x 9.75”. Slightly toned, ¼” tear on right edge.

“We have this day examined a certain Negro named Joseph Sands the property of Susannah Drake which said slave is about to be manumitted and he appearing to us to be under fifty years of age viz about Twenty five and of sufficient ability to provide for himself we do grant this Certificate.”

Clinton also served as a U.S. Senator and state governor. He was the Federalist candidate for President in 1812, and is best known as the father of the Erie Canal.

$850  $765  #9561

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
Plea from a hero of the Northwest Indian Wars to receive his Army pension. Folded-letter from Captain Cornelius R. Sedam to the former Secretary of War, James McHenry

Captain Cornelius R. Sedam
Cincinnati: 1810. This stampless one-page folded letter measures 15.5” x 12.5” unfolded. It was sent from Sedam's farm near Bold Face Creek about three miles west of Cincinnati and is dated November 11, 1810.

$750  $375  #8893

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Letter from a U. S. mariner held captive in Naples after his ship was captured and condemned during the Napoleonic Wars

Sent by Olphert Tittle
Naples: 1810. This two-page stampless folded letter measures approximately 14.5" x 10" unfolded. It was sent by Olphert Tittle in Naples to Olphert Tittle (his father) in Beverly, Massachusetts. The letter is dated "March 11th 1810," and its salutation begins "Honor’d Mother."

$1,250  $875  #9071

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Commercial letter from London to the United States discussing the prospect of continuing the War of 1812 - Delivered by the American privateer, Brutus, just as the British were imposing a blockade on American harbors

From James Pritt & Co. to J. R. Parker

London to New York and Boston: 1813. This two-page stampless folded letter measures 15.75” by 10” unfolded. It is datelined “duplicate London 30th January 1813.” The letter was forwarded to New York after originally having been addressed to Boston. It bears a straight-line “SHIP” handstamp and two receiving postmarks.

$750  $525  #9240

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Stampless “War Rate” letter from a landowner in Prince William County, Virginia offering to sell property to a colleague in Genesee County, New York

From John Fitzhugh to Joseph Fellows

Dumfries, Virginia to Geneva, New York: 1815. This three-page stampless letter measures 12.5” x 7.5”. It is dated “Elm Wood 19th Sept 1815” and bears a manuscript “Dumfr 19 Sept” postmark applied at Dumfries, Virginia along with a “37½” postal rate mark.

$400  $280  #9255

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
**United States of America, Exhibiting the Seat of War on the Canadian Frontier from 1812 to 1815**

by Samuel John Neele.

Leeds: Published by Edward Bianes, Aug 5, 1816. Approximately 16.5” x 10.25” including margins. The map focuses on the eastern half of the United States but also includes the Great Plains region west of the Mississippi River. In the lower right-hand corner, there is an enlarged view of the Lake Erie-Lake Ontario region locating the forts that played a role in the War of 1812. The map also identifies many key locations in the Florida panhandle, Louisiana, and Mississippi theaters of the war including Fort Mims and the Talapoosa River where Andrew Jackson led the American army and its Native American allies in the decisive defeat of the Creeks in route the capture of Pensacola and his famous defense of New Orleans.

**Letter from an American in Liverpool describing his efforts to prevent an Englishman from stealing credit for inventing a longitude measuring device based on a theory by a prominent Georgia physician, Doctor Joel Abbott**

Dr. J. Hall

Liverpool: 1818. This two-page letter was sent from Liverpool to New York on 30 July 1818. After delivery to a ship’s agent, it was dispatched on the second voyage the Black Ball Line ship, the *Amity*, which departed Liverpool on 2 August and arrived at New York City on 3 September where it was sent on to Lebanon Springs.

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
The United States from Worcester’s Modern Atlas by H. Morse.

Boston: Cummings & Hilliard, circa 1821. Approximately 18.5” x 11.5” including margins. A folding map with hand-colored borders. This is one of the first maps to show Missouri as a state; land to the west and north is labelled “Part of Louisiana or Missouri Territory”. The Arkansas Territory stretches west through present-day Oklahoma, and Little Rock is the western-most U.S. city on the map. The North West Territory extends from the northern Illinois border through what is now Wisconsin and Minnesota. Galveston [Galveston] and San Antonio are shown in Texas which was part of Mexico. The map includes tribal locations, settlements, and forts.

SOLD

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

The Pirate Fight (The Action of 9 November 1822) as reported by “an Officer on board the Schooner Alligator.

Washington, D.C.: The National Intelligence, 1822. A complete four-page newspaper includes a recounting of the battle between the American Schooner USS Alligator, commanded by Lieutenant William Howard Allen of the West Indies Squadron, and three pirate ships, probably commanded by Diabolito, off the coast of Cuba. 18-column inches detail the encounter. At the time of battle, the pirate force had in its possession five captured US merchant vessels. The Alligator, although out-gunned and out-manned, boarded the principal pirate vessel, Revenge, forcing its crew to flee in the other two pirate ships and abandon their merchant prizes. As the Alligator pursued, it came under withering fire, and Allen was cut down in a musket fusillade. His name was used as a rallying cry a year later when the Navy defeated another pirate force in the same area and killed its leader, Diabolito.

$600  $300  #8040

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
A request for Information about the murder of a Louisiana watchmaker. Two-page folded letter sent by the Justice of the Peace from Thibodeauxville, Louisiana to the Postmaster of Iberville

A Justice of the Peace from Thibodeauxville, Louisiana

Thibodeauxville, Louisiana: 1831. This two-page folded letter measures 16” x 9.75” unfolded. The cover has no postmark nor rate mark, so it is likely it was carried outside of official post office channels.

$250  $200  #9363

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Letter from a Marblehead, Massachusetts merchant in Spain informing his family at home of the opportunity to import inexpensive year-old Merino wool and make it appear to be fresh and of high quality

Samuel Hooper to Robert & John Hooper.

Bilbao, Spain: 1831. This three-page stampless, folded letter is datelined “Bilbao 5th Augt 1831.” Although it references an enclosed invoice, the invoice is no longer present. The letter was no doubt favor-carried to Le Havre in France as it bears a faint forwarding agent cachet on the on the reverse that reads, “Wells & Greene Havre” and from there placed on an unnamed private vessel bound for New York.

$150  $100  #9030

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Circular printed and sent to Congress by the Hatters of Philadelphia in support of passing the Protectionist Tariff of 1832

Nathaniel Fowle, John Land, et. al.

Philadelphia: 1832. This one-page printed circular, dated “Philadelphia, May 30th, 1832 was folded and sent by mail to the “Hon. P. Ellis” (Senator Powhatan Ellis of Mississippi) at “Washington City, D.C.” It bears a small, circular “PHIL 6 JUN” postmark in red and a black “FREE” handstamp, which was appropriate at the time as the circular was being sent to a member of Congress.

$200  $150  #9413

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

A broadsheet announcement of Andrew Jackson’s famous veto of the Second National Bank Bill titled Veto. Message from the President of the United States returning the Bank Bill to the Senate, with his Objections.

1832. This broadsheet measures approximately 11" x 17.25. It has worn edges with light foxing and stains. The chip at the lower right does not affect any text. Broadsheets announcing Andrew Jackson’s famous veto of the 1832 bank bill are scarce. At the time of listing, none are for sale in the trade. There is only one auction record listed at Rare Book Hub. While digital images are available, OCLC lists no physical copies held by any institution, however, the American Antiquarian Society has two (by different printers) and the Library of Congress holds one by a third printer. This example is different from those three and not listed in Sabin, Howes, Eberstadt, Streeter, nor the Checklist of American Imprints.

$3,500  $3,000  #9482

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Letter from Frederic de Graft, a Baltimore Merchant, to Mess. Clossmann, a wine merchant in Bordeaux

Fredric de Graft

Baltimore: 1833. This one-page folded letter was written on March 20, 1833 and privately carried to the New York forwarding agents DeRham, Islen, and Moore who placed it aboard the Old Line's packet ship, Henri IV. (The envelope bears an oval “De Rham Iseling & Moore” forwarding handstamp.)

$100 $80 #9383

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Letter from Ebenezer Stevens & Sons, a New York firm, to Messrs Otard Dupuy, one of the most important Cognac producers in France

Ebr Stevens & Sons

New York to Cognac, France: 1836. This two-page folded letter was written on December 31, 1836 and sent to Cognac, France via the Havre-Whitlock Line’s packet ship Albany. It arrived at Le Havre on February 1, 1827 where a “Bureau Maritime” receipt stamp was applied along with a “Pays d’Outremer par Le Havre” (Other Countries by Le Havre) marking was applied.

$100 $80 #9381

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Letter from an American passenger describing the arrival of an immigration ship and informing a prominent, but despicable, Connecticut minister that his long-suffering wife (who would soon initiate one of the most notorious divorce cases of the 18th century) would shortly be returning from Europe

Sarah Gibbs to the Reverend Dr. Samuel F. Jarvis
Ship Burgundy to Middletown, Connecticut: August 14, 1837. This two-page folded letter measures 16” x 10” unfolded. It bears a circular red New York “Ship” postmark dated August 16 and is in nice shape.

$250  $200  #9320
Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Affectionate friendship letter from a rural New York woman to a dear childhood friend in eastern Massachusetts whom she has not seen in 25 years describing her family’s health woes

From Sarah M. Menton to Harriet Reynolds
Kinderhook, New York to Boxford, Mass.: 1839. The cover bears a scarce 31mm red circular Kinderhook postmark dated March 2 and a manuscript “18¾” postage rate.

$125  $75  #9135
Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Letter from a Superintendent of Repair on the Erie Canal to the Deputy Comptroller of New York reporting the monthly salaries of the five locktenders under his supervision

E. A. King

Port Byron, New York: 1839. This one-page stampless letter measures 7.75” x 12.75” unfolded. It is dated April 25th, 1819 and signed by E. A. King. The front of the cover bears circular Port Byron postmark and a manuscript “18½”.

$150  $120  #9426

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Letter to Thomas H. Gallaudet requesting that he arrange for the residential treatment of a prominent Massachusetts woman at the Hartford Retreat for the Insane

Horatio Brinsmade

Pittsfield, Massachusetts: 1840. This four-page folded letter measures 16” x 10” unfolded. It was sent to the famous deaf educator, Reverend Thomas H. Gallaudet, in Hartford, Connecticut by Horatio Brinsmade in Pittsfield Massachusetts. The letter is dated January 8, 1840. It bears a 10-cent blue manuscript rate in the upper right corner. Gallaudet’s docketing is on one panel.

$250  $450  #9067

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Slave-carried mail between a future Judge of the Supreme Court of Virginia and an elderly female member of a prominent Virginia family. Letter carried by the slave, Richard, from R. C. L. Moncure to his mistress

R. C. L. Moncure
Stafford, Virginia to Buck Hall (Buckhall), Prince William County, Virginia: 1840. This one-page, stampless folded letter measures approximately 13” x 8” unfolded. It is datelined, “Stafford Sept. 4 : 1840” and addressed to “Mrs. Mary A. Hoole / Buck Hall / Prince William / V.”

$1,750  $1,500  #9606
Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Two-page folded letter with cotton-pricing circular sent via the Steamer Columbia from Liverpool to New York via Boston

Liverpool: George Holt & Co., 1841. This two-page folded letter and circular measures 15.5” x 9.5” unfolded. It is addressed to A. Richards, Esq., New York and dated 4 June 1841. The cover has a manuscript annotation that reads, “Via Boston / Steamer Columbia.” There is a “Paid at / Liverpool / 1841 Ju 3” handstamp. A George Holt circular, used as the base document for the letter, provides prices for various types of cotton (Upland, Orleans, Alabama, Sea Island, etc.) as well as the number of recently arrived vessels and size of their cargo.

$300  $150  #8983
Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
An important large archive relating to the short, tragic life of a Seminole Wars naval hero, John T. McLoughlin, who though brave, tactically and strategically astute, and technologically innovative, was also self-centered, ethically-challenged, and ostentatiously greedy.

1842-1847. This archive consists of 36 letters (34 to McLoughlin, one by McLoughlin, and one to his widow) and two documents. Generally, in nice shape with some splits. In 1839, Lt. McLaughlin took charge of a new three-ship Florida Expedition to protect settlers during the Seminole Wars. He developed the first naval riverine tactics using canoes to take the fight into the heart of the Everglades. However, he was also a self-promoter. Although only a lieutenant, he fashioned himself an acting-Captain and flew an unauthorized commander’s pennant. Worse, he lived ostentatiously, drinking fine wines from crystal and filling his stateroom with luxury furnishings. In time, newspaper articles appeared alleging his misuse of funds, collusion with local merchants, embezzlement of food, mistreatment of marines, etc. These letters deal with the investigation that followed, as well as his unethical building of a state-of-the-art gunboat on government time, and perhaps with government funds, that his brother then sold to the U.S. Navy.

$4,500  $4,000  #9515

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Report of an inquest into the murder of a female slave by her Alabama master signed by Jesse B. Edwards, Justice of the Peace, and acting coroner, plus six jurors.

Perry County, Alabama: 1842. This one-page manuscript document is on the first page of an otherwise blank bifolium measuring 15.5” x 9.75 “ unfolded. It reads in part, “We the undersigned jurors summoned to hold an inquest over the body of Isabell Slave of William H. Jones . . . have come unanimously to the opinion after careful examination of the body of the deceased, that she . . . came to her death by violence . . . inflicted by William H. Jones.” On-line court records reveal Jones “feloniously, wilfully, and of his malice aforethought, cruelly, barbarously and inhumanly beat and whipped, of which . . . the said Isabel . . . died.” After his conviction, Jones was sentenced to ten years in the state prison. Very scarce as almost no slave owners who killed their slaves ever faced justice.

$1,750  $1,500  #9595

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Hale & Company Local Post Cover
From New Bedford, Massachusetts to Boston: c 1844. Six-cent blue stamp with street address (Scott #75L1) and red oval “Forwarded by Hale & Co from New Bedford” handstamp. Manuscript “Paid” in upper left corner. Dampstain.
$100  $80
Any questions, please contact us.

Three-page letter and invoice for trees and bushes from the first commercial nursery in America sent by packet mail from Flushing, New York to a renowned Scottish horticulturist in Edinburg
William Prince to Eagle Henderson
Flushing, New York to Edinburg, Scotland: 1846. This stampless folded invoice-letter was prepared on January 20, 1846. It was privately carried on the Ship Gondola to the Scottish port at Greenock, and it bears a scarce “Greenock / Ship Letter” receiving hand stamp.
$150  $125  #9386
Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
A “true copy” of votes cast at a New Hampshire town meeting for a Congressional representative in a bitterly fought election that broke “dams and dykes” allowing a “tide of anti-slavery feelings . . . [to] wash . . . down from . . . northern mountains upon the slave-cursed south.” Attested to by John Brown, Town Clerk.

Bridgewater, New Hampshire: 1846. This document summarizes the vote taken in a bitterly fought watershed election that despite three votes left a Congressional seat unfilled. One of the candidates, John Hales, enthusiastically accepted the abolitionist cause and campaigned extensively throughout the state in the “Hale Storm of 1845”. Although Hales was unsuccessful, his coattails filled the state legislature with anti-slavery Whigs and Independents, breaking the pro-slavery Democrats political will throughout the North and ushering in, as described by John Greenleaf Whittier, “a tide of anti-slavery feelings . . . along the whole length of Mason and Dixon’s line . . .”

One-page Mexican-American War letter from a newly appointed ensign in the Missouri Volunteers as his unit prepared to depart Camp Lucas in Missouri on the Great Platte River Road in route to establishing Fort Kearny for protection of the Oregon Trail

John V. Masters to the Honorable C. Masters

Camp Lucas May 30th 1847

One-page stampless folded letter measures 15.5” x 10” unfolded. It is dated “Camp Lucas May 30th 1847.” The cover must have been delivered by favor, outside of the postal system, as it is unfranked and bears no postmarks.
Letter from a young man to his mother describing his travels on the Mississippi River and plan to return East by the Ohio

Thomas C. Awery, Jr

Steamer Mt Vernon Mississippi River: June 7, 1847. Two-page stampless letter datelined Steamer ‘Mt Vernon’ / Mississippi River June 7 1847.” The letter bears a manuscript “Cairo, Ill. June / 8” postmark and a manuscript “10” rate marking. In nice shape. Transcript included.

$300 $250 #9584

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Report on the resolution of an unpaid debt that was secured by the use of “several negroes” as collateral


Marion, Alabama: The Mobile Br Bank, May 14th, 1847. This three-page report on the resolution of a debt and mortgage related to “several negroes" is datelined “Marion May 14th 1847 / The Mobile Bank vs John Howie, J.J. Watts & Allen Houston.” It bears a manuscript “5” rate mark and a circular, black Marion postmark dated May 15.

$200 $150 #9600

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Governor Albert Gallatin Brown coordinates the integration of the Volunteer Battalion of Mississippi Riflemen into the Army of the West during the Mexican-American War. A letter from Brown to General Brooke arranging for Mississippi volunteers to be mustered into federal service for the war in Mexico.

Governor Albert Gallatin Brown

Jackson, Mississippi to New Orleans, Louisiana: 1847. This one-page stampless autograph letter signed (ALS) was sent by Governor to George Mercer Brooke, the Commanding General of the Western Division of the U. S. Army, at New Orleans.

$250  $200  #9611

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Kidder’s Brooklyn City Express local delivery service used to send a Valentine


$400  $325

Any questions, please contact us.
Series of three stampless folded letters from a ship captain to his wife while transporting soldiers and supplies to Vera Cruz and Tampico during the Mexican-American War

J. T. Morrill

Vera Cruz to Massachusetts via Mobile, Alabama and New Orleans, Louisiana: 1847-1848. These two one-page and one two-page folded letters, each measuring 15” x 10”, were written by a civilian ship captain to his wife while transporting soldiers and supplies to Mexico during the Mexican-American War.

$450 $300 #9323

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Recommendation for a Florida physician and plantation owner to receive a federal commission as a Lieutenant of Dragoons. Free-franked folded-letter from Florida State Senator James H. T. Lorimer to U. S. Senator J. D. Wescott

James H. T. Lorimer

Tallahassee: 1848. This one-page folded letter measures 15.5” x 10” unfolded. It is dated “January the 16th, 1848.” The cover bears a green “Free” handstamp indicting no postage was required as it was addressed to a U.S. Senator. It is postmarked with a green circular Tallassee handstamp dated January 19.

$500 $250 #8905

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
A bond requiring a white man to appear in court on the charge that he furnished “spirituous liquor” to another man’s slave.

Forsyth County, Georgia: 1848. In this document, bondsmen pledge $100 as a guarantee that the accused will appear in court “concerning the offence of a Misdemeanor for furnishing a certain negro man slave by the name of Buc the property of one Captain McQuering with spiritous liquor for his own use.” Slaves were allowed alcohol during the early years of slavery. However, by 1750, most British colonies restricted access believing that “Blacks were too irresponsible to be trusted with [its use], fear that Blacks would be less accepting [of their] servitude, . . . more difficult to control, and more prone to violence. [Concern] was heightened following Nat Turner’s and Denmark Vessey’s revolts.” (See Christmom’s “Historical Overview of Alcohol in the African American Community” in Journal of Black Studies, Jan. 1995.)

$200  $175  #9349

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.


New York and Cincinnati: A. S. Barnes & Company and H. W. Derby & Co., 1849. First Edition. Approximately 4” x 6”. Complete with 86 pages including 3 pages of b/w illustrations. 9 additional advertising pages in rear. Title page illustrated with an untitled wood engraving (titled as “Scenery on a Branch of the Sacramento” in another contemporary book about California) of a placer gold mining scene. This is clearly a reference book intended for men caught up in the California Gold Rush Fever of 1849 although neither California nor the Gold Rush are specifically mentioned in the text. As stated in its preface, the book was intended to be a portable, basic reference for the novice “without a large library”, and to be “an indispensable companion to enable the miner to assay [and] extract . . . useful metals.” Not listed in Howes, Graff nor Streeter. OCLC shows about 30 copies held by institutions but is otherwise rather scarce. At time of listing, no examples are for sale within the trade, and a search of ABPC, Rare Book Hub, and Worthpoint reveals only one auction record.

$450  $225  #8617

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Pocket travel map in cover: *Map of the Western States* by John M. Atwood.

New York: Ensign & Thayer, 1849, ©1848. Hardcover. The folded Gold Rush Era pocket map measures 26¾” x 21”. Original hand coloring. The map includes county divisions for Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, and parts of Wisconsin and Iowa. The Indian and Nebraska Territories are identified. This is the first edition of Atwood’s classic travel map; it was updated yearly through 1855.

$550  $400  #9497

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Folded letter from by an important New York jurist—who had tried and sentenced many men during the infamous Anti-Rent War—shortly after he relocated to a small rural town not far from Binghamton; franked with a very nice example of first U. S. Postage Stamp (Scott #1)

Written by Nelson Knox Wheeler

Deposit, New York: 1849. This two-page letter measures 15.5” x 10” unfolded. It was sent by Judge Nelson Knox Wheeler from Deposit, New York to an associate, H. Ballard, at Cortlandville. It is franked with a well-margined (one just a little narrow), red-brown 5-cent Franklin postage stamp (Scott #1).

$799  $350  #8980

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Letter from a young lawyer and recent graduate of Hanover College to a friend who was still enrolled reporting on the founding of an early independent Memphis fire company to include the purchase of an engine and misconduct at a firemen's ball

[Xenophon] B. Sanders to Edward “Ned” C. Porter

Memphis, Tennessee to South Hanover, Indiana: 1849. This four-page stampless folded letter measures 15” x 9.5” unfolded. Sent from Memphis to South Hanover, Indiana and bearing a circular Memphis postmark in blue, a manuscript “10” rate marking, and the annotation “via river mail.”

$250 $175 #9314

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

A detailed letter from a guard at East Cambridge Jail (which was made infamous by Dorothea Dix nine years before) describing the inmates’ Independence Day celebration and the imminent hangings of two of the most notorious 19th-century Massachusetts murderers

G. Patch

East Cambridge, Massachusetts: 1850. This three-page stampless folded letter measures 15.5” x 9.5” unfolded. It is datelined “East Cambridge July 7th/50”. The front panel bears a circular East Cambridge postmark dated 8 July and a black “5” postal rate handstamp.

$250 $200 #9572

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Letter from the son of a Texas pioneer sent to a sister in Rhode Island which includes information about the construction of Gonzales College; franked with a scarce 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #10A)

Wm D. H. Peck

Gonzales, Texas: 1851. This two-page folded letter was written on September 18, 1851. It was franked with a three-cent orange-brown Washington stamp (Scott #10A with recut vertical lines) and received a manuscript postmark that reads, “Gonzales / Sept 20th”. The letter was missent to Bristol, Pennsylvania where it received a circular a circular red postmark dated October 10 and a manuscript annotation “Missent & forward” before it was sent on to Bristol, Rhode Island.

$250 $200 #9392

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

A bi-fold wholesale broadsheet circular advertising a variety of quack medicines.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Louden & Co., circa 1851-1857. This folded mail-order broad sheet measures approximately 15.5” x 10” unfolded. One page lists a variety of quack medicines available for wholesale purchase and the second page is a “Circular” filled with ‘small print’ that defines terms of sale and provides selling tips including the use of Louden Almanacs and Show Cards. The folded broadsheet has been franked with a relatively scarce 3-cent orange-brown Washington stamp (Scott 10A with recut vertical lines) canceled by a circular blue Philadelphia postmark.

$450 $400 #9534

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Letter from a student at Wesleyan University to a friend attending Charlotte Academy describing admission requirements and encouraging him to attend Wesleyan the following term

A. Merwin

Middletown, Connecticut: 1852. Four-page letter with its mailing envelope. The cover bears a circular Middletown, Con. Postmark with black “PAID” and circled “3” handstamps; three cents being the cost to mail a prepaid letter up to 3,000 miles.

$100  $75  #9248

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Letter send by a young petty officer assuring his brother that he was going not going to renge on his commitment to work for the Purser of Commodore Perry’s flagship, the USS Mississippi, on its voyage to Japan to force the Shogunate to open the country to foreign trade and allow the resupply of American whaling vessels

B. Roberts to J. Edwin Roberts

New York Navy Yard to Church Hill, Maryland: 1852. This stampless letter is dated “Navy Yard. New York / May 10. 1852”, franked with a strip of three 1-cent Franklin stamps (Scott #7, Type II - no balls on the bottom scrolls), and cancelled with New York postmarks dated May 11.

$750  $600  #9579

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Gold Rush cover from California to Prince Edward Island, Canada


SOLD

Any questions, please contact us.

Rare shipwreck cover addressed to Prince Edward Island, Canada, from the California Gold Rush Steamer Winfield Scott

San Francisco, California: [1853]. The cover is addressed to Daniel M Rae, Rollo Bay, Prince Edward Island, and a manuscript postmark “S.F [San Francisco]/ Dec 1st” with a manuscript "Paid 15c" rate mark. It also bears the famous red "STEAMER / WINFIELD SCOTT" handstamp, the only handstamp used by any ship of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. A blue St. Andrews, New Brunswick receiving mark dated Feb 2, 1854, is on the reverse. "From wreck of" has been handwritten on the front of the envelope above the ship handstamp, presumably by a postal worker or steamship company employee.

SOLD

Click on the image of links for more information and larger images.
Postal cover from Fort Laramie, N.T (Nebraska Territory, now Wyoming) sent by the naturalist, John H. McIlvain, to his brothers in Philadelphia

Fort Laramie, Nebraska Territory (now Wyoming): 1853. Light but legible circular postmark dated July 15 and a "5" rate mark, both in black. (July 15 is the first known use of this postmark per the ASCC, Vol. 1, p. 450.).

SOLD

Congressional Free Frank by Representative J. L. Taylor of Ohio

Washington, DC to Chillicothe, Ohio: 1854. Circular Washington DC "FREE" postmark along with Taylor’s manuscript signature. From the 33rd Congress. Legal letter is enclosed.

SOLD

Any questions, please contact us.

A manuscript letter of petition from chairman of the Lincoln County Western Plank Road requesting the road’s attorney pursue a change in its charter to allow the arrest of slave-trading trespasser on the Sabbath

C. C. Henderson to Mr. J.

Lincolnton, North Carolina: 1854. This stampless folded letter, addressed to Joseph H. Wilson in Charlotte, measures approximately 16” x 8” unfolded. It is datelined “Lincolnton N.C. December 4th 1854” and bears a circular Lincolnton postmark, dated December 5 in black and a “PAID” handstamp in red.

SOLD

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
A nice example of J. Valentines famous anti-slavery propaganda cover used within the United States addressed to E. [Edward] D. Sweeney.

From Austinburg, Ohio to Meadville, Pennsylvania: [circa 1855]. This terrific anti-slavery propaganda envelope was "Engraved & Published by J. Valentine, Dundee" on greyish wove paper. It shows Britannia supported by a lion as the protector of a slave while a banner reading "God Hath Made of One Blood All Nations of Man" flies over head. On the right, a slave trader flogs a black man who is lashed to a pole, and another slave lies supine while a woman and child look on. Nearby, another trader holds a cord around the neck of a kneeling slave, and in the background a third trader has bound four black men to a log with neck chains. In distance, a group of slaves waits to be loaded on a slave ship.

In the late 1840s, Valentine met a radical American pacifist, Elihu Burritt, who convinced him to produce propaganda covers advocating abolition, temperance, world peace, and universal brotherhood to be sold in England and America. Austinburg, Ohio was a major stop on the Underground Railroad and the home of an ardent and early leader of the American abolitionist movement, Betsy Mix Cowles. School records show that Edward D. Sweeney was a freshman at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania, which was located in Crawford County, the home of John Brown’s tannery.

SOLD

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

A signed letter (ALS) from Horace Greeley to the most prominent “Friend of the Mormons” inquiring about his health and relating the latest news of the Greeley family

Horace Greeley to Thomas Kane

Boston, Massachusetts: January 4, 1855. Four-page letter dated January 4, 1855. Signed “Horace Greeley” at the bottom of the fourth page. The accompanying postally used envelope is addressed to “Thomas L Kane Esq. / Clerk U.S. Dist Court / Philadelphia, / Penna.”

$500 $400 #9495

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Small group of legal documents regarding the indictment of two men for rape and burglary.

Switzerland County, Indiana: 1856. There are eight documents in this group. All are related to the arrest and trial of Henry Simpson and Thomas Level for the robbery of Charles Seamback and the rape of Teclaw Smith. Simpson “with force of arms forcibly and feloniously took one gold Coin commonly called an Eagle,” and Seamback did “feloniously touch strike beat and wound [Smith and] then and there Carnally Know [her] unlawfully feloniously forcible against her will.”

$150 $100 #9121
Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Two campaign advertising envelopes promoting the candidacy of the first Republican to run for President: one cover showing John Fremont and the second showing his wife, Jessie.

Hartford, Connecticut and East Randolph, Massachusetts: 1856. Both covers (Milgram JF-4 & KF-50) are franked with 3c Washington stamps (Scott #11). John “The Pathfinder” Fremont (seen by some as a hero and others as a villain) was an American explorer, politician, and Army officer who, in 1856, became the first candidate of the Republican Party for the office of President of the United States. His wife, Jessie, the daughter of the powerful Missouri senator, Thomas Hart Benton, was the brains of the campaign and more popular than John himself.

$900 $775 #9442
Click on the images or links for more information and larger images.
Two letters carried by the famous Mississippi riverboats, *Natchez* and *Princess*, from New Orleans cotton brokers informing the owner of a large Mississippi plantation of the status of cotton bales awaiting shipment to Europe and the state of the European cotton market

**Buckton, Stanton, & Newman to Dr. Walter Wade**

New Orleans, Louisiana to Rodney, Mississippi: 1856 and 1857. Both one-page folded letters measure 9” x 11” unfolded. One is datelined “For Natchez / New Orleans 9 Feb 1856” and the other, “For Princess / New Orleans 3 Mch 1857.”

$750  $650  #9604

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

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**Advertisement for an attorney, Samuel V. Niles, who specialized in obtaining military land patent bounties for veterans and heirs of veterans who had served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, and the Indian Wars between 1775 and 1855.**

Washington, DC: 1857. This handbill measures about 8” x 10 and is printed on light blue paper that is loosely mounted to thin cardstock; the adhesive is likely water soluble, and the handbill could probably be removed with minimal, if any, damage. Its mailing envelope, which is franked with a straddle copy of a one-cent blue Franklin stamp (Scott #24) is addressed “To the Heirs of Mrs. Ruth Bullard.” At the time, the federal government provided bounty land for those who served in its wars both as an incentive to enlist and as a reward for service. Few recipients lived on their land; most sold their property to developers or land agents.

$150  $125  #9376

Click on the image or links for more information and to view larger images.
Humorous letter to a student at the Clinton Liberal Institute featuring a drawing of him wheelbarrowing a crate of clothing and supplies back to school

John P. Cannod

Mohawk, New York: circa 1857. This envelope features a hand-drawn pen illustration of a young man trudging along a road and pushing a wheelbarrow with a large crate addressed to “James Johnson, Clinton Liberal Institute, Clinton, N.Y.” It is franked with a 3-cent, plum or deep claret, Type III or IV Washington stamp (Scott #26) that is tied to the cover with a circular Mohawk, N.Y. postmark.

$500  $250  #8916

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Invoice—sent via Boyd’s City Express—for property rental to support the Sailors’ Snug Harbor, one of the first charitable organizations in the United States

Joseph Greenleaf to Caleb Swan.

New York: 1857. This invoice was sent by Joseph Greenleaf, the Treasurer of Sailors’ Snug Harbor on Staten Island to Caleb Swan at 126 Ninth Street. It is dated 28 October 1857 and bills Swan $100 for “Six Months Ground Rent”. It bears a somewhat blurred Boyd’s City Express postmark dated October 29 along with a “PAID J.T.B.” handstamp.

$150  $125  #9393

Click on the image or links for more information and to view larger images.

New York: Pudney & Russell, 1860. First Edition. Quarter-leather binding. About 5" x 7.5". Complete with three introductory pages including the half-title, tissue-protected frontispiece portrait of Sam Houston, and 100 text pages. Watrous became the Texas Attorney General in 1838 and was forced to resign two years later when his unethical conduct as a member of several shady land companies was revealed. Soon after, his old friend, President James Polk, pulled strings to secure an appointment as a U.S. District Judge where allegations persisted that he forged land certificates. The House of Representatives began impeachment hearings in 1851, however after seven years, dropped the case in 1858. His principal accuser, Senator Sam Houston, made this vitriolic attack upon him in this 1859 Senate floor speech, convincing many that the charges were true. The House resumed its impeachment hearings, but their resolution was cut short in 1861 when the Civil War began. Watrous was refused a position in the Confederate government, but he resumed old job as a District Judge as Reconstruction began in 1865 and served until 1869 when medical problems forced his resignation.

$750  $375  #8804

Click on the images or links for more information and larger images.

An advertising envelope for the American Tract Society’s Tract House.

Boston: American Tract Society, [1860). This advertising cover features an illustration of the Tract House at 28 Cornhill in Boston, Massachusetts. The text reads, “Home Evangelization Foreign Distribution / Tracts and Books. / Tract Journals Child At Home / Missionary Colportage.” It is franked with a 3c Washington stamp (Scott #26) that has been cancelled with a barred circular PAID handstamp. Colportage is a publishing system based upon the use of traveling carriers, known as ‘colporteurs’ or ‘colporters.’ to distribute books and religious tracts. The American Tract Society was a wildly successful evangelical organization, first established in 1814 as the New England Tract Society, which distributed Christian literature in the United States. In its 1850-1851 fiscal year alone, the society used 569 colporters (about a fifth of whom targeted German, French, Irish, Welsh, Spanish, and Norwegian immigrants) to visit over half a million American households. The organization is still in existence today and has distributed many, many millions of religious publications over the years.

$250  $175  #9098

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
A by-name “Appraisement” document for 13 slaves, four of whom were “Valueless”, belonging to the estate of Henrietta Clarke, a female Alabama plantation owner.

The estate of Henrietta M. H. Clarke

Perry County, Alabama: January 1, 1860. Unbound. This two-page appraisal measures 7.75” x 12.75”. When evaluated by a panel of appraisers, the 13 identified slaves were valued between $0 and $1,650 each. “Valueless” slaves are not often found on slave sale or appraisal documents. It is likely that the family selected these 13 slaves during the estate settlement, expecting each to have at least some value, but the panel saw things differently. Slaves who could no longer work were not turned out to fend for themselves; instead, they continued to receive the same type of shelter, food, and clothing as when they were productive. Often, old slaves were used to watch slave children while parents worked in the fields or to assist in performing light house work, (See “When slaves became too old to work or disabled. . ..” online at Quora.com and Follett’s The Sugar Masters. . ..)

$750 $650 #9596

New Mexico Territory Cover


$100 $80

Any questions, please contact us.
Inferior court petition charging a man with “seduction . . . debauchery, & carnally knowing a young girl by which she became sick & pregnant”.

Forsyth County, Georgia: Oct 24, 1860. This document was filed by Daniel Stephens seeking damages from Leland Vaughn for the “debauching & and carnal knowing [his daughter] Nancy by which she became pregnant with child [after which he] lost the services of the said Nancy [amounting to] the sum of Five Thousand Dollars damages.” Although in the early years of the 19th century “southern states stipulated execution for white men convicted of rape, and . . . the sexual assault of female children . . . [by 1850] most States in the South imposed lesser penalties. (See Bardaglio’s “Rape and the Law in the Old South” in the Journal of Southern History, Nov 1994.) In addition to this civil case, Vaughn faced criminal charges that could result in imprisonment at hard labor for not less than two years.

$250  $200  #9347

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Advertising envelope for slave traders, William H. Betts and E. J. Gregory, along with a a $20 banknote issued by a slave traders bank they helped establish.

Richmond, Virginia: 1860-1861. This unused U. S. postal stationery envelope displays an embossed oval advertisement on the rear flap that reads, "Betts & Gregory / Auctioneers / For the Sale of Negroes / Franklin St. / Richmond, Va." The buff-colored envelope with the double-line POD/US watermark (Scott Wmk 1) envelope, probably Scott #U27, is missing its front panel and the stamped 3-cent indicia. It has minor stains and light soiling. There is light docketing that appears to read, "Clay / Receiving / Billable Vouchers". The $20 banknote proof was intended to be issued by the [Slave] Traders Bank of the City of Richmond, Virginia. It features a portrait of Henry Clay and vignettes of slaves picking cotton and a well-to-do lady at her spinning wheel with what appears to be a factory, perhaps a cotton mill, from the city's Manchester Industrial District in the background. Richmond slave traders, William H. Betts and E. J. Gregory became partners in May of 1860, forming an auction company in the heart of Shockoe Bottom, Richmond’s bustling slave-trading district. They began having financial problems after the election of President Lincoln in November when Richmond slave prices dropped by as much a 50%. That said, the traders apparently recovered, at least for a while, as the firm was still advertising in Southern newspapers as late as September 1861. Traders Bank was founded in February 1860 by a group of 13 Richmond slave traders.

$1,250  $1,000  #9559

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
Early Civil War turned cover with both US and CSA franking.

Richmond, Virginia to Whittles Mills, Virginia, then Whittles Mills to Charlottesville, Virginia: April 1861. This 3-cent U.S. stamped envelope (Scott #U10) was first sent from Richmond to Dr. Conway Whittle at Whittle’s Mills; it bears a Richmond postmark dated 28 April 1861. It was then turned inside-out by Conway, franked with a Confederate 10-cent stamp (CSA #12), and mailed to Charlottesville. This second posting bears a manuscript Whittle’s Mills postmark dated “Oct 18”; the stamp was cancelled by cross-hatches. The cover was opened along the top and has been split on two sides so both postings can be seen. When the cover was first mailed, the use of a U.S. stamped envelope was appropriate; when it was re-used, Confederate postage was required. An uncommon, mixed-use cover from the early days of the Civil War.

The only known U.S. postal envelope mailed through the Confederate post office at Salem Virginia with an enclosed letter requesting support for the appointment of the Roanoke College President as a Chaplain in the Confederate Army

James McCauley

Salem, Virginia: May 24, 1861. This letter was mailed using a U.S. 3-cent Nesbitt (Scott #U10) envelope on May 24, 1861, after Virginia had joined the Confederacy. At that time, such usage was appropriate as Confederate Postmaster General John H. Regan had decreed the pre-war Union postal system would remain in effect through 31 May 1864.

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
Union patriotic cover – General Winfield Scott with flag and “Brave in the Field” slogan.

Franked with Scott #26 and postmarked on 24 June 1861 at New York. Bischel #497. Scott was the senior officer in the U.S. Army at the start of the Civil War and developed the strategic Anaconda Plan used to defeat the Confederacy.

$150  $125

Unknown sender

Richmond, Virginia: 26 July 1861. This 5.5” x 3.25” ‘opened’ and deeply trimmed envelope has two Richmond, Virginia postal markings: a circular city postmark dated "Jul 26 1861" and a circular "Paid 10" handstamp indicating Confederate postage was paid at the time of mailing. There is also a bold strike of circular datestamp that reads "Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville, Ky. * Jul 31 1861". The envelope additionally has 3-cent Dull Red, Type II (Scott #26) postage stamp tied with a blue grid cancel and matching blue double-circle blue postmark that reads Louisville KY. Aug 1, 1861. A light blue label headed “The Adams Express Company, S. A. Jones, Agent. Louisville, Ky.” provides instructions to northern recipients for sending letters to the South.

$3,500  $1,750  #8713

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Set of five 1861 Civil War Michigan Central Rail Road passes for soldiers of the 1st Michigan Infantry Regiment including one issued to a private who was wounded at the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas).

Detroit, Michigan: August to October 1861. The passes are enclosed in an envelope with docketing that reads “Comp. Mrs Florence S. Babbitt Dep Pres. of Womens Relief Corps – Aux of the Grand Army of the Republic – April 28th 1905 – Passes issued to the first Mich Infantry”. The 1st Michigan Volunteer Infantry was among the first units to reach the Capitol, and President Lincoln is said to have exclaimed, “Thank God for Michigan” upon its arrival. In July, the regiment fought at Bull Run where seven men were killed, 37 men were wounded, and 65 men went missing. Its commander was wounded while leading several charges for which he received the Medal of Honor. Florence Babbitt was active in the Grand Army of the Republic’s Women’s Relief Corps and represented Michigan at the 1905 Convention in Denver where she was elected to its Executive Board.

A University of Alabama student joins the newly formed Corps of Cadets as the school transitions from its rowdy pioneer past into the “West Point of the South” at the beginning of the Civil War. A letter from Cadet Thomas B. Hall to “Cousin Marie” shortly after he arrived on campus to begin academic year 1861-1862

Thomas B. Hall to Marie L. Elmore

Tuscaloosa to Montgomery, Alabama: 29 Sep 1861. Envelope or Cover. This letter is datelined “Camp Beauregard” Sept. 29th 1861”. It is enclosed in a stampless envelope addressed to Miss Marie. L. Elmore at Montgomery in “Care of Col. Jno a. Elmore”. It bears a circular “Tuscaloosa / Oct 2 / Al.” postmark and “Paid 5” rate mark, both in black.
Correspondence between Thomas F. Rowland, Colonel William Borden, and J.B. Andrews regarding the fabrication of ironwork parts needed in the construction of the ironclad, USS New Ironsides

Thomas F. Rowland and Colonel William Borden

Greenpoint (Brooklyn), New York: October 1861. This 3-page letter and endorsement measure approximately 8” x 9”. It was apparently carried by courier between Rowland’s Continental Iron Works and the Providence Tool and Armory Company, which employed both Borden and Andrews, as there are no postal markings.

$750  $375  #8823

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Civil War prisoner’s mail from Congressman Alfred Ely at Ligon’s Prison in Richmond following his capture while observing the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas)

Alfred Ely

[Ligon’s Tobacco Warehouse Prison, Richmond]: November 17, 1861. The envelope (there is no content) is free-franked "Alfred Ely" and postmarked with Washington D.C. Nov. 17, 1861 circular date stamp. In nice shape. Light edge-wear with tiny chip at top. Ely was a New York Congressman who had been captured while eating a picnic lunch and observing the first Battle of Manassas (Bull Run).

$1,500  $1,000  #9466

Click on the image or links for more information and larger image.
Letter reporting on a two-day “teacher’s association” conference that was mailed in an illustrated envelope featuring the two-story Bridgewater Normal School, the first building in the United States specifically built for the education and preparation of future teachers

“Madison’ to “Uncle & Aunt”

Bridgewater to Fall River, Massachusetts: 1861. This two-page letter is dated “Bridgewater, Dec. 14. 1861.” It is enclosed in an envelope featuring an illustration of the Bridgewater State Normal School which has been franked with a brown-red 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #65).

$350 $250 #9159

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

The Contraband Schottische - Sheet Music by Septimus Winner.

Philadelphia: Lee & Walker, 1861. First Edition. Complete: 6 pages including the cover. The cover shows a white overseer, whip in hand, threatening four young male slaves. It is dedicated to Major General Benjamin Butler, who at the time was the Commanding Officer of Fort Monroe in Hampton Roads, Virginia. In early 1861, three slaves, who had been working as laborers building defense-works in nearby Norfolk, snuck across the bay and presented themselves at Fort Monroe. Butler refused to return the slaves in accordance with the federal Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 maintaining that since Virginia had seceded from the Union there was no legal requirement to do so. With time, other escaped slaves began reporting to Union forces, and by August they were officially identified as "contraband," an old naval term that referred to smuggled goods.

$700 $350 #7953

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Col. Ellsworth’s Funeral March; Composed & Respectfully Dedicated to Francis E. Brownell Esq. [Sheet Music] by Septimus Winner.

Philadelphia: Lee & Walker, 1861. First Edition. This is the color lithograph edition (Ellsworth standing on a Confederate flag) of Winner’s tribute to the first hero of the Civil War. Elmer Ephraim Ellsworth, a friend of Abraham Lincoln, was the Commanding Officer of the 11th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment, a Zouave unit. He was killed shortly after his regiment arrived in Washington and began the occupation of Alexandria, Virginia. While securing Alexandria, Ellsworth noticed a Confederate flag flying above an inn. Ellsworth, assisted by three of his men, climbed to the roof where he cut down the flag. On their way back downstairs, Ellsworth was killed by a shotgun blast to his chest. Corporal Francis Brownell (to whom this music is dedicated) immediately killed the innkeeper who had shot Ellsworth.

$500 $250 #8432

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Handmade twenty-year ledger from a Pennsylvania physician documenting his purchases of medicine and supplies between 1861 and 1880 kept by David Zerbe.

Marietta, Pennsylvania: 1861-1880. The cover of this 53-page handbound manuscript ledger measures about 5.25” x 8” although individual leaves are smaller and vary in size. Entries are recorded legibly in pencil, and the pages are in nice shape. Each page lists purchases (quantity, item, price) from an individual supplier in chronological order; the earliest dated “1861 oct 25th”. Entries include ground orange peel, Amber oil, gum Myrrha, quicksilver, vials with cork, extract of Logwood, Rhubarb, turpentine, Nitric Acid, Alcohol, camphor, paper boxes, oil of peppermint, Aloes, Zedoary, Agaricus, Borax, Salve, Yellow Bees Wax, Styrrax, Gum Benzoin, Peruvian Balsam, “Eather”, Lavender, and many more items.

$300 $250 #9499

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
One year of letters home written by soldier in a three-month volunteer unit that defended Washington, DC at the beginning of the war before it reorganized into a three-year unit that fought a number of battles including Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg

John E. Gillespie

Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington DC, and Virginia: 1861-1862. Ten letters sent by a private in the 1st Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, later the 1st Pennsylvania Reserve Regiment. They begin with the unit's creation in June 1861 and continue through May 1862.

$2,000 $1750 #9367

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Dakota Territory cover.

Fort Randall, Dakota Territory: circa 1861. No content. Fort Randall was an important Army post that protected the Platte River Overland Route and the Missouri River from the Lakota Sioux.

$100 $80

Any questions, please contact us.
Alabama Confederate Cover – CSA #1
Montgomery to Greenville, Alabama: 1862.
Montgomery postmark dated Feb 17, 1862.
Extensive docketing on front and reverse; almost looks like someone doing some forgery practice. Previous collector pencil-annotation on the reverse reads “Early Impression”.
$150 $100

Any questions, please contact us.

Colorado Territory cover
Denver City, Colorado Territory: April 1862.
$150 $100

Any questions, please contact us.
Complete set of eight Civil War currency bills issued by The Mississippi Central Railroad Company.

Holly Springs, Mississippi: The Mississippi Central Railroad Company, January 1st, 1862. The fronts of all eight bills (5, 10, 25, 50, & 75 cents and 1, 2, & 3 dollars) feature illustrations of a classic 4-4-0 locomotive pulling passenger cars; the reverses are blank. In 1852, a group of wealthy cotton planters received a state charter to build the Mississippi Central Railroad from Canton, Mississippi to Grand Junction, Tennessee, and in January 1860, the final leg of track was laid. In 1862, during the Civil War, General Ulysses S. Grant unsuccessfully attempted to capture the railroad during the Union Army’s Vicksburg campaign.

From 1837 until 1866, private banks, railroads (like the Mississippi Central), companies, churches, and even individuals were allowed to issue currency, and it has been estimated that over 8,000 types of banknotes were issued.

$500  $450  #9540

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

A Jewish Captain in the Confederate Cavalry ominously promises a Georgia lawyer he will soon pay a visit to “settle my business with you . . . for the manner which you have acted towards me.” A short, but threatening, letter sent by a prominent Jewish Confederate cavalry officer to a lawyer in his hometown of Columbus, Georgia

Captain Edwin Warren Moise to Colonel Seaborn Jones

Camp French [near New Hanover, North Carolina] to Columbus, Georgia: August 1862. This one-page letter is datelined, “Camp French Aug 10/62. It is enclosed in its original mailing envelope which has a blue manuscript endorsement “Soldiers Letter / from Captain E. W. Moise / Clairborne’s Regiment” and a black manuscript “Due 10” rate mark. There is a handstamped circular postmark that reads “Wilson / Aug / 10 / N.C.” near the left margin.

SOLD

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Confederate cover from Petersburg, Virginia

Sent from Petersburg to Charlotte Court House, Virginia: c1862. Circular blue Petersburg postmark with indistinct date.

$150  $125

Any questions, please contact us.

Quack medicine advertising from Henry Barden, M.D.

Utica, New York to Pann Yan, New York: 1862. Franked with Scott #65.

$75  $50

Any questions, please contact us.

Union patriotic cover – Eagle, flag, and music

No postmark. “Due 3” handstamp. Bischel 4715. Very scarce, but slightly trimmed at right and two mended tears so priced accordingly

$200  $150

Any questions, please contact us.
Union patriotic cover – *The Girl I Left Behind Me*.
$175 $150
Any questions, please contact us.

Union patriotic cover – *The Soldier’s Dream of Home*.
$150 $125
Any questions, please contact us.

Union patriotic cover – *George Washington* with eagle, cannon, flags, drum, and slogan, “Long may our Land be bright”.
$150 $125
Any questions, please contact us.
Four bird’s eye views of Alexandria, Virginia on Magnus Union Civil War patriotic envelopes.

New York: Chas. Magnus, circa 1862-1863. Four unused illustrated patriotic envelopes published by Charles Magnus during the Civil War. Two of the illustrations are in color and two are in b/w.

$300 $225 #9360

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Wool merchant price list.

New York City to War, Massachusetts: Feb 1, 1863. Sent at the printed circular 1-cent rate. Franked with Scott #63.

$75 $505

Any questions, please contact us.
Confederate cover from Woodstock, Virginia
Woodstock to Louisa County Court House, Virginia: 1863. Franked with a pair of CSA #7s. Manuscript cancel in the center of the pair reads, “1863”. Manuscript postmark reads, “Woodstock / March 27th”.
$150  $125

A stampless cover from an officer in the 57th Georgia Infantry Regiment posted at Vicksburg, Mississippi as a parolee after he was wounded and captured during the Battle of Champion Hill (Baker’s Creek)

Lieutenant A. J. (Andrew Jackson) Miller
Vicksburg, Mississippi: Company K, 57th Georgia Regiment, Jun 25 [1863]. This stampless cover was mailed by Miller from Vicksburg to a friend back home in Georgia who annotated it along the left edge, “From A J Miller / Co. K 57th Ga Rgt”. It bears a 25mm double-circle Vicksburg Miss postmark dated “Jun 25”.
$200  $180  #9356

Two checks reimbursing property owners for damage to their buildings incurred during the infamous New York City Draft Riots during the Civil War signed by Mayor George Opdyke and others.

New York City: 1863. These checks measure approximately 8” x 3.75”. Both are printed in blue and have official red overprints reading, “Riot Damages.” Both were drawn on the County Treasury account at the Broadway Bank, one for $25 and one for $914. Between 13 and 16 July 1863, Lower Manhattan was beset with violent draft riots by mostly Irish working-class men venting their opposition to laws passed by Congress authorizing men to be conscripted into the Union Army to fight in the Civil War. President Lincoln directed that several regiments be deployed from Gettysburg to regain control of the city, however they did not arrive until the second day of the riot. In the interim, mobs destroyed public buildings, private homes (especially those of wealthy abolitionists and African-Americans), and the Colored Orphan Asylum. Casualty estimates range from 2,000 to 8,000 injured and place the number of dead between 120 and 2,000. Total damage has been estimated as high as $5 million (about $100 million in today’s dollars).
$1,000  $700  #9193

Any questions, please contact us.
**Turned Confederate cover with military address.** Sent between Dr. D. R. Cumming and his wife.

Macon, Georgia to Richmond, Virginia then New Market Virginia to Warthen's Store, Georgia: October 1863. Mrs. Cumming’s first use (inside) was franked with a 10-cent stamp (CSA #12), tied by a small double circle Macon, Georgia postmark dated October 6th, and addressed to Dr. D.R. Cumming, Hospital Steward, Richmond, who was the Hospital Steward for the 12th Georgia Light Artillery Battalion. Dr. Cumming refranked the cover with another CSA #12 stamp and used it to reply to his wife at Warthen’s Store; this use bears a New Market, Virginia postmark dated October 28th. The cover has some minor spotting and has been opened on two sides to display the inside stamp. It is difficult to read the entire inside address, however it appears that Cumming’s battalion was part of Harrison's Brigade within Ward’s Division.

$300 $250

Any questions, please contact us.

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**A former officer in the ‘Army of California’ becomes an early employee of the Union Pacific Railway Company Eastern Branch (Kansas Pacific Railway) after being promised a job as the conductor of its second train.**

Letter from Grove Watson to a friend reporting that he had recently accepted a position with the railroad in Kansas

**Grove Watson**

Wyandotte, Kansas: Office of the Contractors of the Union Pacific Railway Company, Eastern Division, 1863. Envelope or Cover. This letter on the stationery of the Union Pacific Railway Company, Eastern Division is datelined, Wyandotte, Kansas, November 7, 1863, and enclosed in a mailing envelope which bears a circular Wyandotte, Kas Dec 7 postmark and a manuscript “Due 6c” rate mark.

$850 $750 #9615

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
CDV of Johanna Maria (Polly) Heckewelder sold to raise money at the Great Western Sanitary Fair at Cincinnati, December 21st, 1863

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania: Photograph by H. P. Osborne & Son, 1863. As the founder of the Ladies Relief Society of Freedmen’s Aid to raise money for efforts to assist former slaves, Heckewelder became something of a tourist attraction in Pennsylvania, receiving a great many visitors. As this card notes, “She loves the Soldier, and has sent this photograph, with her blessing, as her gift to the Great Western Sanitary Fair.” Sanitary Fairs were civilian-organized bazaars and expositions that raised funds for the United States Sanitary Commission which was a private relief agency created by federal legislation to support the treatment and hospitalization of sick and wounded soldiers.

$200 $150 $9500

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Proceedings of a Confederate court martial of a long-AWOL soldier, Isham Stone, that imposed punishment which would be considered cruel and unusual today.

Camp near Kenston, North Carolina: 1863. This three-page summary of court proceedings of a Confederate Army deserter who had been AWOL for nine months after being discharged from a military hospital. Stone was sentenced “to be bucked and gagged four hours each day for twenty days, with a stick ¾ of an inch in diameter . . . and be compelled to walk the Guard line . . . at the point of a bayonet with a ‘Barrel Shirt’ on, for five days.” Bucking and Gagging, a torturous punishment that inflicted incredible pain, was usually reserved for deserters who were not sentenced to execution. During Stones respite from his torture, a heavy barrel was lowered over his head, and he was forced to march on temporarily crippled legs throughout his camp. Images of bucking and gagging and barrel shirts are not included.

$1,000 $800 #9592

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Charles Magnus

New York: Charles Magnus (Branch Office, Washington D.C, circa 1863. Unbound. Song sheet titles included in Magnus multi-color illustrated “Series No. 1.” song sheet booklets vary. This one contains: Taking Up Quarters, The Prisoner’s Hope (Tramp, Tramp, Tramp), While there’s Life there’s Hope, The Soldier’s Dream/The Soldier’s Team, Parody of When this Cruel War is Over, and Traitor Spare the Flag.

$750 $600 $9369

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Twelve cartes-de-visite of white slave children from New Orleans who were put on display in the North by the Freedman’s Bureau to bolster support for continuing the Civil War. Photos by Chas. Paxon and M. H. Kimball.

New York: 1863-1864. This group consists of twelve photographs of four white children who were included in a group of eight emancipated slaves that were taken North in November 1863 on a publicity tour to shore up flagging support for the Civil War. While on tour, photographs of the four were sold to raise money “devoted exclusively for the education of colored people in the Department of the Gulf, now under the command of Maj. Gen. Banks.” Overall, the cards are in nice shape. One has clipped lower corners, several have minor soiling, one has a hard-to-see light crease, and one has a scrapbook-mounting-scuff on the reverse.

$3,500 $3,000 #9627

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Letter sent to Josiah Nichol, Esq. at Washington, Arkansas notifying him of three slaves who had been “stolen” and would soon “be lost” if taken across the [Ouachita] River into Union held territory

Written by J. N. Embres (Embrie)

Tates [Bluff], Arkansas: Jany 25, 1864. This letter, franked with a pair of 5-cent blue Confederate stamps (Scott #7-Richmond printing) and cancelled with a circular “Camden Ark” postmark dated Jan 26., frantically requests the receiver to notify a Confederate major that two of his slaves have been stolen.

$1,500  $750  #8890

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Confederate stampless cover from Cotton Gin, Texas


$150  $125

Any questions, please contact us.

Scarce Tract House patriotic cover.

Nashville, Tennessee to Clarence, Iowa: Feb 7, 1864. Religious civil war soldier’s Tract House stationery. See the Frajola’s Tract House patriotic exhibit for more information. No content.

$400  $80

Any questions, please contact us.
Confederate adversity cover from Wilmington, North Carolina


$150  $125

Any questions, please contact us.

Colorado Territory cover from Spanish Bar


$100  $80

Any questions, please contact us.

Civil War documents related to the compensation of a Union officer who returned home to raise two companies for the 2nd New York Mounted Rifles (also known as the “Governor’s Guard”) after being discharged for wounds suffered at the Battle of Cedar Mountain in Virginia

William P. Warren and others.

Niagara County, New York: 1864. A four-page statement Warren’s efforts and expenses in organizing two companies for the 2nd New York Mounted Rifles followed by fourteen short endorsements from others. The document is franked with a 5-cent express revenue stamp (Scott R25); its mailing envelope is franked with a 3-cent Washington (Scott #65).

$200  $150  #9477

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Illustrated Billhead for H. R. Bradway & Co. Dealers in Poultry, Game & Fruit with U.S. Revenue Stamp.

New York: 1864. This attractive billhead is 10” x 8.5” and printed in black on blue-gray paper. The illustration features a shore bird examining roasted poultry of different sizes. A blue 2-cent Bank Check stamp (Scott R5) is affixed to the document.

$75  $40  #8537

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Union soldier’s detailed Civil War letter describing combat during the Battle of Bloody Bridge outside of Charleston, South Carolina

Folly Island: 1864. This four-page letter was sent by Private Atwell B. Leavenworth of the 57th New York Infantry to his father. It is dated “Folly Island July 13. 64”. In the letter, Leavenworth relates his personal experience in the unsuccessful Union attempt to dislodge the Confederate defenders of Charleston from their positions on James and Johns Islands that was subsequently known as the Battle of Bloody Bridge. Leavenworth also briefly discusses “Charley” Fremont’s split from the Republican Party, the draft law, Sherman’s march in Georgia, and the 55th Massachusetts, “a colored regt [with] the best band I ever heard. . . .”

$500  $350  #9143

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Satirical “Salt River” type handbill advertising a fictional “Freedom of Speech,” anti-Lincoln, pro-McClellan campaign rally featuring a balloon ascension and speech by the exiled Ohio politician Clement Vallandigham

Unidentified place, publisher, and year, but probably somewhere in Ohio shortly after the Presidential election of 1864. The small broadside measures 6.5” x 9” and features a large image of a balloon ascension. The thin, fragile paper has been expertly backed with silk tissue. The text reads in part, “You are respectfully invited to accompany the Peace Makers in their Ariel Flight to the Land of Rest. Where there will be Freedom of Speech [and] Freedom of the Press, to print what we Please, — Lawful, Immoral, Treasonable or any other species of Information. / Our nightly dreams will not be haunted by the Spectre Ghost of Old Abe nor our day dreams, by the Fear of Tyranny. . . . / The Mourners will provide Crape and Grey Butternut Clothing, at their own expense. . . . / The McClellan Campaign Song, will be Sung immediately after starting. / Vallandigham will address the Audience, supported by Pendleton, and letters from prominent men, such as Jeff Davis, Breckenridge and others will be read”. The style of this handbill is similar to the “Salt River tickets” that were issued to ridicule political opponents after they had been vanquished in an election. This was issued by Republicans after Lincoln defeated McClellan in 1864, and the Copperhead, Vallandigham, became a political non-entity.

SOLD

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Riverboat Mail – Steamboat Fashion

Alabama & Mississippi Rivers; circa 1864. See Milgram 454. Franked with a pair of Scott #65s cancelled with a Fashion postmark. No content. Roughly open plus a few insect nibbles. Still scarce.

$50 $40

Any questions, please contact us.
Riverboat Mail – Steamboat Bella Donna
Louisiana riverboat: circa 1865. See Milgram 100. Franked with Scott #65, target cancel. Oval Bella Donna postmark in red.

$100  $80

Any questions, please contact us.

Riverboat Mail – Erwin & Donahue Steamboat Agents
Louisville, Kentucky: July 3-4, 1865. Erwin & Donahue postmark dated 3 July; Louisville postmark dated 4 July. Franked with Scott #65

$75  $60

Any questions, please contact us.

“Fraud” mail from Dubuque, Iowa.
Dubuque, Iowa to Elk Grove, Wisconsin, 1865. Dubuque, Iowa postmark on reverse. Attempt to use cut-to-shape postal stationery as postage. Annotated “Fraud” on front cover along with circular “Due 3” and oval ribbon “Held For / Postage” handstamps. Large double-ring oval Dead Letter Office hand stamp on reverse.

$150  $100

Any questions, please contact us.
Official copy of a telegram from Secretary of War E. M. Stanton providing guidance regarding “the Jackson case” in which a plantation owner had been arrested for the murder of a freedman

Edwin M. Stanton

Vicksburg, Mississippi By Telegraph from Washington, D.C. 1865. This one-page official copy of a telegram sent by Secretary Stanton to General Slocum is dated “Vicksburg Miss Aug 1st 1865”.

$500  $450  #9409

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

While flirting with the girl he left behind, a cavalry trooper relates his experiences fighting Plains Indians as he protects settlers and pioneers along the Western Trails. Letter from a soldier stationed at Fort Laramie describing his isolated life and the ongoing battles with the Sioux and Cheyenne

James Butler

Fort Laramie, Dakota Territory (now Wyoming): 1865. This letter to Belfast, Ohio, is datelined “Ft. Laramie, D. Tery., Oct. the 20th 1865” and the envelope is franked with a 3-cent Washington stamp (Scott #65). It bears a scarce “Fort Laramie Dak” postmark along with a Goshen, Ohio, transit stamp.

$2,000  $1,750  #9617

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Indian Territory cover
Fort Gibson, Arkansas (actually, Indian Territory): 1865. No content. Franked with Scott #65.

$75 $60

Any questions, please contact us.

Advertisement for John Taylor's Sons' Albany Imperial Cream Ale
1865. Advertisement. Advertisement for John Taylor's Sons' Albany Cream Ale brewed in Albany, New York. The ad is from an 1865 New England business directory and measures approximately 5.5" x 9". It features a wood engraving of the John Taylor Brewery complex in Albany. The reverse of the leaf is an advertisement for another Albany brewer, Charles A. Burt. By the mid-1850s, Albany, due to its proximity to brewing ingredients and access to a superb canal and river transportation system, had become the U.S. brewing capital, shipping ale to the east via New York City and Boston and throughout the south all the way to New Orleans by riverboat.

$150 $75 #8360

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Beautiful Civil War patriotic, fund-raising, souvenir of the Great North Western Sanitary Fair: The Union Rose: East and West
Charles Magnus
New York: C. Magnus, [1865]. Large octagonal die-cut sheet that measures about 10¾" x 10¾" when opened. Printed on both sides with 14 birds-eye views of American cities, accompanied by one view of a building from each (Albany, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Louisville, Milwaukee, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Portland, St. Louis, Washington); all in bronze. Two-panels of the octagon feature red roses and leaves in color. Includes the original envelope, also printed in bronze.

$800 $700 #9570

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
1865 fireworks invoice for a massive display - probably a Civil War victory or Independence Day celebration

No Author

New York: Badeau Lockwood & Company, 1865. Document. Folio. One page, partially-printed invoice for a large assortment of fireworks sold on 7 June 1865, less than one week after General Kirby Smith surrendered the last significant Confederate force. The invoice is from the Badeau Lockwood Company, a New York City fruit and fireworks dealer, and lists fireworks sold to W. H. Fredenburgh, a prominent politician and peach farmer from Kingston, New York. The fireworks include: Torpedoes, Crackers, Ball Candles, Sky Rockets, Fancy Reading, Star Serpents, Blue Lights, Pin Wheels, Coach Pistols, Large Racks of Crackers, and Flags. The bill totaled $67.72 (that is just under $1,000 in today's money).

$300 $150 #8480

The Announcement [catalog] of Kentucky University [Transylvania University] for the Year 1865-'66, Lexington, KY., 1865

Cincinnati: Caleb Clark Book & Job Printer, 1865. Complete 24-page pamphlet. Sound binding. Removed from a sammelband so a little rough along the left edge. In 1780, before Kentucky was a state, the Virginia Assembly, chartered Transylvania Seminary, then affiliated with the Episcopal Church, as the first college west of the Allegheny Mountains. It began in a log cabin in Boyle County and moved to Lexington in 1789. Ten years later, it changed its name to Transylvania University. By 1818, it included a medical school, a law school, a divinity school, and a college of arts and sciences. About the same time, Bacon College of Georgetown was established, and it soon changed its name to Kentucky University. At the end of the Civil War, both Kentucky University and Transylvania University were in dire financial straits, and the state legislature approved a merger in hopes of solving their fiscal crises. The new combined institution used Transylvania’s campus while perpetuating the Kentucky University name. After the Agricultural and Mechanical components of the merged school split away to become the University of Kentucky, Kentucky University returned to using its old name, Transylvania University.

$250 $150 #9090

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Brown University Graduating Class College Cover.

$75  $60

Any questions, please contact us.

Advertising cover for George Campbell, Grape Culturist.
Delaware, Ohio: c1865. Illustration features a farmhouse, greenhouses, grapes, and leaves. Franked with Scott #65.

SOLD

Any questions, please contact us.

Advertising cover for Merrell's Drug Mill Laboratory manufacturers of Eclectic & Botanic Medicines.
St. Louis, Missouri: c1865. Nice illustration of a factory storefront. Franked with Scott #65.

SOLD

Any questions, please contact us.
Broadsheet advertising Carl Baunscheidt’s Life-Awakener (Lebenswecker) or “Artificial Leech” that was used to drive toxic oils into the body by piercing the skin with needles.

J. C. Reisner

Lebanon, Pennsylvania: 1866. This two-page broadsheet measures 20” x 14.5”. Two storage folds. Light toning. The device consisted of a rod with dozens of sharp needles which were dipped into an irritating “oleum” and then driven into the skin creating “eruptions” of blood blisters “to conduct the poisonous matters from the inner organs to the skin” cleansing the body and eliminating pain. Baunscheidt ‘discovered’ the principle behind this device – which was incredibly popular in the late 1800s – when his rheumatic hand was repeatedly stung by a swarm of insects.

$350 $300 #9536

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

An unusual post-Civil War indenture between a “Moulder or Iron Founder” and a Massachusetts manufacturer agreeing to calculate wages-due in shillings and pence.

Bristol County, Massachusetts: Barstow Stove Company, 1867. This two-year indenture measures 8.5” by 14”. A 25-cent revenue “Insurance” stamp (Scott #46) has been affixed and cancelled with multiple strikes of a circular Bartow Stove Company handstamps. It seems odd that 74 years after Congress declared the dollar to be the official currency of the United States a company would pay employee wages calculated in shillings and pence. Yet, the Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, pages 18-19, No. 604, October 1929 reported that “In the payrolls of [some New England companies] time and piece rates were given in shillings . . . up to 1845, and probably longer [although] the actual money payment in all cases would have been [in] American dollars.”

$100 $70 #9296

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
A Political Manual for 1866 and 1867, of Executive, Legislative, Judicial, Politico-Military, and General Facts, From April 15, 1865, to April 1, 1867, and including the Development of the Presidential and the Congressional Plan of Reconstruction, with the Peculiarities of Each compiled by Edward McPherson

Washington, DC: Stereotyped by M’Gill & Witherow, 1867. Approximately 6” x 9.25”. Original string-bound self-wraps with four introductory pages, 262 text pages, and two pages of advertisements. This indispensable desk reference for Reconstruction Era politicians consolidated all manner of laws, orders, proclamations, conventions, interviews, reports, speeches, voting results, resolutions, etc. related to governance in the post-Civil War United States.

$150 $125 #9546

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Congressional free frank mail from Representative Burt Van Horn of New York.


$50 $40

Any questions, please contact us.
Illustrated Billhead for Henry A. Hall India Rubber and Gutta Percha Goods with U.S. Revenue Stamp.

Boston: 1869. This attractive billhead is 5.5" x 8.5". The illustration features men in a downpour. One unhappy man is dressed in street clothes and top-hat getting drenched by rain as the wind rips apart his umbrella. The other man remains content wearing rubber rain a coat, pants, and hat. A brown 2-cent Internal Revenue stamp (probably variant of Scott R15) is affixed to the document.

$100 $50 #8536

Letter from a French ship captain in San Francisco to a wine wholesaler in Southern France predicting the upcoming demise of the French wine trade in California

From G. Caussy to the Gautier Brothers

San Francisco to Cette (today Sète), France: 1869. This three-page folded letter, in French, measures 16.5" x 10.5" unfolded. It is dated "Sn Francisco le 7 Yuillet 1869" and franked with a 15-cent black Lincoln stamp (Scott #77) canceled with a 'fancy' black circle-of-wedges. Multiple postal markings on front and rear.

SOLD

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
A sergeant from the 18th Infantry discusses life at Fort Bridger, the Snake Tribe, seeing Brigham Young and his wives, and his less than favorable impression of “the style of the Mormons.” Two flirty, lonely-hearts, pen-pal letters from a young infantry sergeant stationed at Fort Bridger to a woman he has not met

Sgt. Harry Vincent (a pseudonym)

Ft. Bridger, Utah Territory (now Wyoming): 1869. Two letters, both sent at Brimfield, Massachusetts; one datelined “Fort Bridger, U.T. Jan. 30th 1869”, the other, ”Fort Bridger Mar 9th, 1869”. One is enclosed in an envelope franked with a 3-cent stamp (Scott #65) and bearing a faint circular fort postmark with cork killer.

$1,500  $1,250  #9616

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

A businessman in San Francisco informs his brother in Great Britain about the pending completion of the Transcontinental Railroad and its implications for cross-county travel and shipping. A stamped folded letter from San Francisco to Liverpool, England franked with a black 12-cent E grill stamp and accompanied by a Philatelic Foundation Certificate

Red. McKnight to George McKnight

San Francisco, California to Liverpool, England: April 23, 1869. This one-page folded letter is franked with a 12-cent black Washington stamp embossed with an E-grill for postal security (Scott #90). The stamp is canceled by a fancy radial cork handstamp. It bears a magenta San Francisco paid exchange circular date stamp and a manuscript “pr Overland Mail” endorsement. It was carried by the S.S. Donau.

$850  $750  #9619

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Illustrated Billhead for Myer’s Wine and Spirit Importers with U.S. Revenue Stamp.

Philadelphia: 1870. This attractive billhead is 7” x 8.5” and printed in brown. The illustration features a number of bottles and casks surrounded by a lush grape vine. A legend above the illustration reads, “Importers of Brandies, Wines, Gins, &c.&c. Old Bourbon & Rye Whiskies always on hand.” An orange 2 cent Internal Revenue stamp (Scott R15) is affixed to the document.

$75  $40  #8535

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
An indentured servant contract between a Cuban landowner, Don Juan Morena, and a Chinese Coolie, Gourata.

Matanzas, Cuba: 1870. This contract measures 8.5” x 12” and is from the “Jurisdicción de Matanzas” (Matanzas Jurisdiction). It bears a blue oval handstamp, “Inspeccion de Vigilencia / Del Distrito Sur / De Matanzas” (Surveillance Inspection, Southern District of Matanzas). In it Gourata commits to “work any job assigned by my employer, be it in sugar mills, in other farms or workshops” for the paltry sum of 12 pesetas plus 12 daily ounces of meat, a supply of bananas and sweet potatoes, medicine when needed, a blanket, and two changes of clothes per year. The Coolie trade was simply a hypocritical substitution for slavery in which indentured Asians fared no better—and often worse—than African slaves. It was originated and developed by Great Britain to supply labor for its colonial plantations and later perfected by Portugal and Spain.

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Bound volume of manuscript Natural Philosophy (i.e. Physics) lecture notes and drawings probably kept by a freshman student at Kansas State Agricultural College (now Kansas State University)

Manhattan, Kansas: circa 1870. This half-leather-bound volume with marbled boards measures 8" x 10.5" and is titled "Lectures on Natural Philosophy." It contains approximately 140 manuscript text pages and an additional 80 pages with about 150 meticulous, hand-drawn illustrations of apparatus and experiments, some in color.

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Wells Fargo cover from Oregon


Any questions, please contact us.

Letter from the Territorial Governor of Montana encouraging a man from Illinois to emigrate and start a cattle or sheep ranch

B. F. Potts to Joseph Barber

Virginia City, Montana to Richview, Illinois: 1872. Envelope or Cover. This letter is written on official “Territory of Montana. Executive Department” letterhead, dated November 13, 1872. It is accompanied by official “Executive Department / Montana Territory” mailing envelope which is franked with a three-cent green Washington stamp (Scot #147).

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Two large and impressive Bills of Sale for the Steam Tow Boat, Benwood

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: 1872-1873. Both certificates measure 15.5” x 21”. They are printed on heavy, stiff paper (almost like a faux parchment). Both are in nice shape with storage folds. The 1872 certificate records the sale of the Benwood and bears a pair of green and black $1 Internal Revenue stamps (Scott # R144). The 1873 certificate has a foil Pittsburgh Notary Public seal attached with an embossed handstamp.

$200  $175  #9549

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Letterhead, brochures, and illustrated advertising envelope for B. K. Bliss Seed & Horticultural Warehouse.

New York: B. K. Bliss & Sons, 1874. Five-piece grouping of advertising materials sent by B. K. Bliss in New York to L. W. Hamlin in Collisterville, Pennsylvania in 1874. It includes an illustrated advertising cover, a Comstock brochure for a variety of cultivators and sowers, a Planet brochure for plant drills and hoes, and an announcement of Bliss’s relocation to a seven-floor warehouse at 34 Barclay Street. B.K. Bliss was one of the earliest American seed dealers, opening his business in Springfield, Massachusetts in the 1850s. By the 1870s he had relocated to New York City. He is credited in Hedrick’s History of Horticulture in America to 1860 as being the first to incorporate color illustrations in his seed catalogs beginning in 1853 although none of the initial catalogs have survived. He sold seeds and home gardening-horticultural supplies by mail throughout the United States, and one of his most famous customers is reported to have been Emily Dickinson.

SOLD  #8661

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Advertising envelope for Burr Robbins’ Great Menagerie, Roman Hippodrome and Egyptian Caravan sent shortly after the circus arrived at its winter quarters; its enclosed letter from Robbins describes planned improvements including a ‘Dung House’ and sheep pen.

From Janesville, Wisconsin to Paw Paw, Michigan: 1875. Envelope or Cover. The letter is datelined “Janesville Wis Oct 30 1875” and written on illustrated letterhead featuring a portrait of Robbin’s. The cover features an illustration of the circus under big top tents with wagons and crowds in the foreground. A banner above reads, “Burr Robbins’ Great Menagerie Roman Hippodrome and Egyptian Caravan” and text in the lower left corner reading “Acknowledged to be the Finest Show in America.” It is franked with a three-cent Washington stamp (Scott #2070 canceled by a Janesville, Wisconsin postmark.

SOLD
Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

A small archive of forms and letters documenting a legally-contested purchase of a billiard table from the newly incorporated Brunswick & Balke Company

Cincinnati, Ohio: The J. M. Brunswick & Balke Company, 1875-1879. This archive consists of one illustrated Brunswick & Balke advertising envelope, three letters referencing the financial dispute on illustrated Brunswick & Balke letterhead, one shipping document on illustrated Brunswick & Balke billhead, and eight Brunswick & Balke customer promissory notes

SOLD
Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
An inventor’s hand-written, illustrated notebook identifying over 66 pages of short but wide-ranging descriptions of potential devices for use in laboratories, construction, tailoring, manufacturing, etc. Kept by Theodore Bacmeister.

[Toulon, Illinois]: 1875-1898. Notebook. This notebook contains over 120 pages, 66 of which contain Bacmeister’s potential inventions. They are written in pen and pencil; all are legible. An annotation in the front matter suggests Bacmeister initially purchased the notebook in 1859 although he did not begin using it until 1875.

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

14-page legal “opinion” about a court case (J. F. Hicks v. G. W. Truehart) regarding a disastrous Mississippi riverboat fire aboard the Steamer Mary Belle.

Vicksburg: [1876]. 8.5” x 14” and contains 14 handwritten pages. In 1876, the Steamer Mary Belle was the largest steamer ever built for traffic on the Mississippi River. She “took fire and was burned to the water’s edge. The boat and cargo of five or six thousand bales of cotton, many thousand sacks of sand, and sundries and baggage of all passengers, numbering about two hundred in the cabin, were a total loss. No lives are known to have been lost, no persons injured.” The boat was valued at $90,000 but only insured for $30,000; the cargo was fully insured. (See The St. Louis Post-Dispatch of 28 Feb 1876 and The New York Daily of 19 Feb 1876.) This lawsuit involves the owner/master’s responsibilities with regard to the forwarding of passengers and baggage from a riverboat’s point of destruction to its passengers’ contracted destination. The opinion is easy to read and cites considerable case law in adjudicating this hitherto unanswered issue.

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
The transcontinental Lightning Express captures the attention of the nation while transporting a theatrical troupe from New York to San Francisco in record-breaking time for opening night. A small archive relating to Jarrett & Palmer’s famous non-stop transcontinental Lightning Express train that transported their theatrical company from New York to San Francisco in under 84 hours.

New York to San Francisco: June 1-4, 1876. This group of items includes a rare cover that was carried by the Lightning Express from New York to San Francisco, a postal card from Oakland describing the arrival of the Lightning Express, and a newspaper clipping about the train and trip. The rare transcontinental cover is franked with a 3-cent green Washington stamp (Scott #158) that has been canceled with circular duplex postmark that reads “Jarrett – Palmer’s / Special Fast Trans-Continental Train” and is dated “New York / June / 1-1876 / 12.10 A.M.” It bears an oval “4 June / 1876) receiving handstamp from “E. Rass & Co. / San-Francisco”. The postal card (Scott #UX3) reporting on the arrival of the Lightning Express is dated “Oakland June 4th” and canceled with a ‘circle of Vs’ handstamp and a San Francisco postmark.

$4,750 $4,00 #9587

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

A wonderful calligraphic birthday greeting in German featuring an illustration of a large bird on the reverse of a U.S. postal card.

Monroe, Michigan to Detroit: 1878. 1-cent Liberty head postal card (Scott #UX5) posted from Monroe, Michigan to Detroit. The card is illustrated on the reverse with an especially fine calligraphic drawing of a dove. The surrounding text is in German and wishes the recipient luck on her 21st birthday.

SOLD

Click on the image or links for a larger image.
"Thank-you" grouping consisting of a Female Guardian Society advertising cover, a two-page letter written on the organization’s stationery, and a religious tract

New York: 1879. This thank-you group consists of a Female Guardian Society advertising cover, a two-page thank-you/solicitation letter written on the organization’s stationery, and a religious tract. A group of women established the Female Moral Reform Society of New York with the goal of reforming prostitutes in New York City and improving the morality of the population in general.

$200 $100 #8925

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Lot of advertising materials related to the first all-in-one washing machine, the T. Horton Western Washing Machine, issued while the then current management of the company was engaged in a trademark infringement lawsuit with its founder who had moved on to another business.

Bluffton, Indiana: 1879. This lot consists of an illustrated 8-panel leporello (accordion-fold) brochure and a letter on illustrated letterhead, both enclosed in an illustrated advertising envelope. The brochure was printed in 1875, and the letter is dated 1879. The envelope is franked with a 3-cent green Washington stamp (Scott Type A46) and cancelled with a circular Bluffton postmark and small cork handstamp.

$150 $125 #9533

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
A seven-year account book, titled *Blacksmith*, identifying the materials purchased from and services provided by nine New Hampshire blacksmiths, wheelwrights, and carriage dealers

Unidentified compiler

Nashua, New Hampshire: 1879-1886. Notebook. This notebook measures 3.75” x 6” and contains approximately 210 pages of records identifying purchases of materials and services from nine different Nashua blacksmiths, wheelwrights, and carriage dealers. The notebook is titled “Blacksmith” on the front cover and front endpaper. Some of the entries are for axle oiling, repairs (cart, collar, pails), horseshoeing, replacement of side and tail boards, wheel and spoke work, snowplow repair, and fabrication of springs, hooks, chains, and tools.

$900  $750  #9232

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Letter from a gold prospector describing his last day as the “judical chair” for his mining camp

Osceola, [probably Nevada]: 1880. This letter is in nice shape, with several short splits. A transcript will be included. It has no accompanying envelope. The author of this letter reports to his mother that although he had found gold, it was not enough to keep him from moving on. He also describes his last day as the head of his camp’s miners’ court and his relationship with the local Indian tribe, (probably Utes), ““Someone gave whiskey to the Indians who are camped but a short distance from me. Those who did not drink were exposed to the abuse of the drunken ones. They made a great noise all night. One of them came to my cabin and made complaint. I told him I would be the Judge in the morning and have the guilty parties punished. I did as I promised and that was the last of it. . .. The Indians are in a starving condition and have been all winter. They are constantly coming to me for food. There should certainly be something done for them. There maine dependence is the pine-nut crop which was a complete failure this year. Winter has been very severe It as been as low as 22 below zero, which makes it still harder on them.”

$400  $350  #9530

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Invitation to participate in the Cleveland Yachting Association 1880 Inter-Lake Regatta

C. B. Krause

Cleveland, Ohio: Cleveland Yachting Association, 1880. The bi-fold, cardstock invitation is addressed to L. Lockwood Esquire of Sandusky. It includes a chart of the regatta course as well as the regatta rules and list of prizes. Also included are the cover letter and envelope used to forward it; both are branded with the club’s CYA pennant.

$50  $40  #9374

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Montana Territory cover from Fort Carroll addressed to Captain Frank D. Baldwin, the first person to be awarded Medals of Honor in two different wars

Ft. Carroll, Montana Territory to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas: c1880. Circular “Carroll / Mont” postmark. Fort Carroll was a short-lived Army steamship landing and trading post occupied in the mid-1870s by the 7th Infantry Regiment. It was totally abandoned by 1882. Baldwin was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Battle of Peachtree Creek during the Civil War and for rescuing two young sisters (whose parents and brothers had been massacred by Native Americans) from the camp of Grey Beard, the medicine man leader of the Cheyenne during the Red River War, who had received them as slaves in a trade with Chief Medicine Water.

$150  $100

Any questions, please contact us.
Boyd’s City Express cover with varnish, sealing wax, and brewers’ supplies corner card

New York City: 1882. Black on lilac pink stamp (Scott #20L54) tied to cover by an oval Boyd’s Park Place postmark. Advertising corner card for varnishes, sealing wax, and brewers’ supplies

$150 $125

Any questions, please contact us.

Boyd’s City Express cover with Silk Association corner card

New York City: 1882?. Black on pink stamp (Scott #20L56) tied to cover by an oval Boyd’s Park Place postmark. From “The Silk Association of America.”

$150 $125

Any questions, please contact us.

Letter describing life at Montana’s Blackfeet Agency from the U.S. Army Indian Agent, Major Rueben A. Allen, credited with saving most of the Piegan Blackfeet Tribe following the infamous “Starvation Winter” that killed a quarter of its members.

Blackfeet Agency, Montana: December 21, 1884. This long letter from the army major credited with saving most of the Piegan Blackfeet following the departure of an agent blamed for the “Starvation Winter” during which nearly 600 members died following the failure of their annual buffalo hunt. Major Reuben Allen arrived in March 1884 and became the darling of the tribe, local whites, and the press. It also did not hurt that federal relief provisions had finally arrived. When Allen penned this letter, it was 30 degrees below zero with 20 inches of snow on the ground. However, the crisis was over: “The terrible condition these poor people were in when I came here made it necessary for me to do everything I possibly could to alleviate their suffering from starvation and I am proud to say I have succeeded. I can now give them plenty to eat.” He then lists the abundance of supplies he has to feed the tribe including 26,000 pounds of bacon, 272,000 pounds of beef, 295,000 pounds of flour, 36,000 pounds of potatoes, as well as blankets, winter clothing, and much more, noting rather smugly: “The Indians are well satisfied and I have their entire confidence. They will do anything I ask of them. . .. I am credited by the people and press of Montana of helping them out & am now satisfied.”

$1,500 $1,250 #9628

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Postal advertising for Battle Creek College. Battle Creek, Michigan: March 24, c1883-1888.

This Battle Creek College mailing envelope features an illustration of the school, a description of its mission, and a short summary of its instructional programs. It is addressed to Bristol Center, New York and franked with a brown, 2-cent Washington stamp (Scott #210) which was in use from October 1883 to 1887. It bears a Battle Creek postmark dated March 24th with no year date. No contents. A seldom seen college advertising cover associated with the Seventh Day Adventist Church, the Battle Creek Sanitarium, and Dr. John Kellogg of Kellogg’s Corn Flakes fame.

$150  $100  #9632

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Occupational cabinet card photograph of a New York City coachman in winter dress.

New York: Patch Brothers, 1885-1890. This wonderful studio photograph of a New York City coachman in winter dress and holding his whip is complete with fake snow and snowflakes.

$200  $125  #9162

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Cabinet card photo album documenting prominent United Brethren missionaries serving in Sierra Leone and Japan including two views of the mission and local converts at Rotofunk Station shortly before its staff and converts were massacred by Mende tribesman and the entire complex razed to the ground.

Sierra Leone, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Illinois: 1888-1897. This album measures 11½” x 9” with 36 pages containing 66 cabinet photographs in page-inserts. Most images in this album are single or group portraits of members many with ties to the Salem Bible Church at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. More importantly, 15 are of missionaries who served at Rotofunk Station, Sierra Leone, and Sendai, Japan, plus two images of the Rotofunk mission, one of the facility and one of a group of converts. Many of the Rotofunk missionaries and all of the converts were massacred by Hut warriors in 1898 and the mission complex was razed.

$1,500  $1,250  #9504

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Occupational card-mounted photograph of Local Union #10 (Richmond, Virginia) United Association of Journeymen Plumbers Gas & Steam Fitters

Richmond: 1890s. The photo measures 9.5” x 75” and the mounting card, 11.75” x 10” The photo is in nice shape. The card has minor wear at the corners. The photograph shows about thirty members of Richmond Local #10 of the United Association of Journeymen Plumbers.

$200  $125  #9030

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Advertising cover and broadsheet for a music store selling pianos and organs.  

Worcester, Massachusetts: 1890s.  
Franked with a one-cent dull blue Franklin stamp (Scott #219).  Large (10” x 13.5”) double sided broadsheet “Catalog of Band and Orchestra Music” for sale by the store.  

$50  $25  

Any questions, please contact us.

Mail addressed to Captain Frank D. Baldwin, the first person to be awarded Medals of Honor in two different wars.  

Laredo, Texas to Fort Davis, Texas: 1890.  
Franked with 3-cent green Washington stamp (Scott A46).  Laredo postmark on the front; Fort Davis postmark on the reverse.  No contents.  Baldwin was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Battle of Peachtree Creek during the Civil War and for rescuing two young sisters (whose parents and brothers had been massacred by Native Americans) from the camp of Grey Beard, the medicine man leader of the Cheyenne during the Red River War, who had received them as slaves in a trade with Chief Medicine Water.  

$50  $25  

Any questions, please contact us.
Johnson & Johnson advertising packet including samples of Lintine and Johnson’s Rubber Adhesive Plaster.

New Brunswick, New Jersey: [1891]. grouping consists of a four-page brochure, a sample of Lintine, a sample of Johnson’s Rubber Adhesive Plaster, and their original mailing envelope that features a “red cross” logo corner card. The envelope is franked with 1-cent blue Franklin stamp (Scott #21, which was issued in 1890) and canceled with two double-oval New York postmarks.

$200 $150 #9501

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

The Brownie Building Blocks

Palmer Cox. McLoughlin Brothers: 1891. Paper-covered wood block puzzle set with its original box. Measures 13.5” x 11” x 2.75”. Twenty wooden cubes, each about 2.5” square can be used to form six, winter-themed puzzles featuring Palmer Cox’s famous brownies: “Hauling the Yule Log”, “The Christmas Dinner”, “Snowballing”, “Skating”, “The Dance” and “Blind Man's Bluff”. Some minor wear to the paper paste-downs covering the cubes and box top, but, overall in nice shape.

SOLD

Any questions, please contact us.
**Letter on Casper and Rongis Stage Line stationery sent by an early and important Wyoming oil prospector from the middle of nowhere via one of the line’s stagecoaches**

Iver Johnson

“14 miles from any body”, Wyoming: 1892. Envelope or Cover. Three-page letter on illustrated stagecoach stationery with matching mailing envelope. The letter is dated “At camp 14 miles from any body Wyo., Jan 6th 1892.” The cover is franked with a 2-cent Washington stamp (Scott # 219D) canceled by a 7 January Casper postmark.

$750 $650 #9582

[Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.](#)

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**Lone Star Harry: American Representative Scout. Predominately authored by Lone Star Harry**

New York: Dick’s Pub. House, Circa 1893-1894. Softcover pamphlet with 16 pages. Harry claimed to have been born in Eagle Pass, Texas in 1855 and to have worked as a cowboy on cattle drives between the ages of 14 and 22. After serving as an Army scout, he became a talent agent for Native Americans who wanted perform in Wild West shows. By 1890 he had begun to perform in many of those shows himself, and in 1893 at the Chicago World’s Fair, Harry won several “World’s Columbian medals as the greatest handler of revolvers the world had ever seen.” In addition to Harry’s biography, the pamphlet includes “Instructions Regarding Handling of Revolvers” which advises that if one is ever involved in a gunfight to “always stand sideways, left side toward them, then the left arm protects the heart, and the finest marksman in the world can’t reach it.” It also contains an important essay, “My Experience on the Texas Cattle Trail” in which Harry provides fascinating details about cowboy life on Captain King’s Nueces Texas ranch which included leading an 1882 cattle drive of 3,500 head to Nebraska. The booklet concludes with lyrics for five then-popular songs, so perhaps this songster was sold as part of his act at Wild West shows.

$250 $125 #8669

[Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.](#)
Advertising cover for the Key & Co. Distilling Company

Statesville, North Carolina: 1894. Illustration of two moonshiners making whiskey at a still hidden in the woods.

$150 * $100

Any questions, please contact us.

Hand-drawings of an elegantly dressed donkey and court jester on a postally used envelope with a fancy cancel.

Sent by B. Bice

New York: 1895. This postally used envelope features two nicely drawn pencil sketches. One is of a braying donkey in evening dress with a caption that reads, “1 A.M. – Just in from the Box Social. Very tired and sleepy.” The other is of a court jester holding a sign above his head that reads, “Wedding Cake from B. Bice.” The envelope is addressed to Charles Truesdell, Cascade Valley, Broome Co., New York. It is franked on the reverse with a 2-cent carmine Washington stamp (Scott #250) tied by circular Cascade Valley postmark and canceled with a star handstamp.

$75 * $50 #8985

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
All-over illustrated advertising cover for The Tornado Top and Whistle featuring Palmer Cox’s Brownies.

Palmer Cox

Detroit: John C. Goodrich, circa 1895. This advertising cover incorporates nine small drawings: five of the toy top and four of Palmer Cox’s Brownies playing with the toy top. The envelope is franked with a one-cent blue Franklin stamp (Scott Type A87) that is tied to the cover by a Barry machine cancel.

$125 $100 #9375

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Illustrated advertising envelope and letter promoting “Professor” Edward Rush’s balloon “aeronauts and parachute artists.”

Clay Center, Kansas: 1898. The envelope, trimmed at right, features an illustration of a man hanging by his feet from a parachute attached to an ascending hot air balloon. The letterhead contains illustrations of “The Balloon Ascending, Leaving the Balloon, Parachute Falling Through Space, [and] The Parachute Open.” The envelope is franked with a 2¢ carmine postage stamp (Scott # 250 or 251) and postmarked at Randolph, Kansas on 11 Aug 1898. The cover and stamp were trimmed along the right edge when opened.

$900 $450 #8685

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
All-over multicolor illustrated advertising envelope for Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company.

St. Louis, Missouri: Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company, 1898. Envelope or Cover. This “all-over” multi-color Ligget & Myers Tobacco Company cover is franked with a 2-cent Washington stamp (Scott #220) tied by a St. Louis machine cancel dated 1893. The cover features a colorful fantasy illustration of a boy fishing in a river alongside a block of five gigantic plugs of Star chewing tobacco across from a riverbank sign with the company address.

$400  $350  #9273

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Spanish-American War patriotic cover – All over flag.

Haverhill, Massachusetts: 1898.

$125  $100

Any questions, please contact us.

Spanish-American War patriotic cover – Large Cuban flag.

Lynn, Massachusetts: 1898

$125  $100

Any questions, please contact us.
Spanish-American War patriotic cover – “New Bird in Havana Harbor”.

Lynn, Massachusetts: 1898. Bald eagle with U.S. shield perched atop the wreckage of the USS Maine. Franked with a pair of Trans-Mississippi one-cent stamps

$225  $175

Any questions, please contact us.


Haverhill, Massachusetts: 1898. Franked with a two-cent Trans-Mississippi stamp.

$150  $120

Any questions, please contact us.

A flirty Spanish-American War letter from a volunteer hospital corps soldier using patriotic stationery to a young woman back home in Iowa

Claude S. Deal to May Davidson

Camp Cuba Libre (Jacksonville, Florida) to Toledo, Iowa: 1898. Envelope or Cover. A four-page letter on attractive patriotic stationery featuring crossed U.S. and Cuban flags under a legend that reads, “Camp Cuba Libre.” Its accompanying patriotic envelope features an unusual variation of the crossed flags design. Franked with a two-cent copper-red Trans-Mississippi stamp (Scott #286) cancelled with a Jacksonville, Florida machine postmark dated 13 July 1898.

$200  $175  #9502

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Advertising package for Boston Cycle Company, a short-lived bicycle manufacturer.

Boston: 1899. Unbound. This lot includes a 14-page 6.5" x 3.5" catalog with b/w illustrations, a letter on company stationery, and the envelope in which it was mailed. The Boston Cycle Company was founded in 1897 and originally sold both new and secondhand bicycles made by other manufacturers including Victor, Columbia, and Rambler, along with a variety of parts and accessories. It soon began to produce its own models, the Algonquin, Bellingham, and Number Seven. Public records and contemporary newspaper advertisements and articles suggest that the company went out of business around 1903. This catalog features men’s and ladies’ Algonquin models, fittings, hangers, and sprockets.

$200  $125  #9143

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Wanted for the Embezzlement of Postal Funds

[Los Angeles, California]: Office of Chief of Police, 1899. Unbound. This broadside wanted poster for Franklin W. Thornton measures 5.5" x 9". Stamped in the lower left corner: “Office of Chief of Police / Feb 7, 1899 / . . . / San Francisco, Cal.” The poster features a photograph of Franklin W. Thornton along with his full description. Thornton, a 42-year-old Stamp and Registry Clerk at the Pasadena, California post office absconded on 29 January 1899 with $792 from his account. A report in the February 7th San Francisco Chronicle notes he was probably head for Mexico and had left a wife and children behind. A follow-up article from July 4th reports that Thornton was taken into custody in Columbus, Ohio after a U. S. Marshall recognized him – from the widely distributed wanted poster – entering a boarding house.

$200  $150  #9526

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
The pinnacle of postal advertising: three end-of-the-19th Century Seabury & Johnson ‘all-over’ multicolor illustrated advertising envelopes.

George Seabury

New York: Seabury & Johnson, circa 1900. Three all-over chromolithographic Seabury & Johnson advertising covers, all are franked with 2-cent Washington stamps (Scott #279B) tied by New York machine cancellations dated between 1898 and 1901.

$2,250 $2,000 #9272

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Photographic Jewelry Broadsheet Catalog

Boston: The G. A. Shuler Photographic Company, circa 1900. Unbound. Bifolium broadsheet. Approximately 15.5” x 19” unfolded. Minor wear: tiny tear on the rear leaf and rubbing along a horizontal storage fold. This attractive large broadsheet catalog features a two-page display of 58 different buttons, pins, cufflinks, chatelaines, stick-pins, etc.

$200 $100 #8586

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Photo album documenting the travel of a California sugar magnate and his wife

Compiled by Mrs. Anna Sutro Lowenstein

California, Niagara Falls, St. Louis World’s Fair, Hawaii, Philippines, Japan: Early 1900s. Leather album (approximately 7” x 5.5”) with a hand-drawn front-cover illustration of a Philippine mission. Contains 50 photographs (mostly 2.75” x 3.75”).

$300 $150 #8605

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

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Small photo album with 39 cyanotypes and photographs including at least nine of the Connecticut State Reform School for Boys

Meridian, Connecticut: circa 1900. Album. All but one of the images measure approximately 3.5” x 2.25”. 19 of the images are cyanotypes; 20 are photographs. Highlights include cyanotypes of students, the central building, daily chores, residential cottages for the boys, etc.

$900 $450 #8959

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Small archive of artwork, mockups, photos, transfers, etc. for making hand-painted and hand-tooled leather screens and wall panels.

New York: George D. Thompson & Co., circa 1900. The archive contains over 40 items including: 12 pencil sketches, 2 hand-colored pencil sketches, 6 pin-prick transfer patterns, 2 tri-fold screen mock-ups, and 19 b/w 8” x 10” photos of completed screens and panels.

$450 $225 #9602
Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Colorful illustrated envelope advertising 12 varieties of Wrigley’s Chewing Gum.

Chicago, Illinois: Wm. Wrigley Jr. and Co., 1902. This advertising cover features color illustrations of 12 different varieties of Wrigley’s gum. It is franked a two-cent red Washington Type I stamp (Scott A88) and cancelled with a 1902 Chicago postmark.

$300 $250 #9522
Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
Journals and photograph album documenting an early 20th surveyor’s work on eight different railroad and river system projects compiled by Alfred A. Appling.

Various locations: 1902-1907. There are around 130 captioned photos in this lot. This collection begins in earnest in April 1903 while Appling was a low-level supervisor, jack-of-all-trades, and surveyor-in-training at the Pennsylvania Railroad’s Linwood Yards at Cincinnati, Ohio. He next began work with a Corps of Engineers Ohio River surveying project and later secured a job with the Big Four Railroad (Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis Railroad) in Illinois. Although his journal ends at this point, it is possible to continue to track Appling’s career through his captioned photographs which document his successive employment by the Chicago, Quincy & Burlington Railroad at Wind River Canyon and the Powder River Basin in Wyoming, the Chicago, Northwestern Railroad in Wisconsin, the Illinois Central Railroad in Tennessee, and the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad in Mississippi. The photographs in Appling’s album provide an exceptional window into the field-life of a railroad surveyor showing small-town life, surveying equipment and teams, track gangs, immigrant labor, locomotives, riverboats, bridges, handcars, train wrecks, desert camps and tent cities, wagon trains and freighters, log cabins, bunk furnishings, wildlife, livestock pens, lumbering operations, hoists and other machinery, mile markers, railroad offices, "A little Nigger cabin", and more.

$2,000 $1,500 #9528

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

A black and white ink drawing of Niagara Falls on a postal card that was sent to Germany

Signed, but illegible

Niagara Falls, N.Y. to Hamburg, Germany: 1903. Card. This postal card (Scott UX7) is postmarked with a Niagara Falls flag cancellation and also bears a circular Hamburg receiving handstamp. It features an attractive black ink drawing of Niagara Falls.

$75 $50 #9437

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Lynn Base Ball Association Grand Assembly Dance Card

Lynn, Massachusetts: 1903. The dance card is for the "Grand Assembly and Dance Under the Auspices of Lynn Base Ball Association" held at the East Lynn Odd Fellows' Hall on Friday evening, April 3rd, 1903. The cover shows a player being tagged out as he slides into base. The "Order of Dances" include several with baseball titles, "The Opening Game," "Base Hit," "Our Captain," "Home Run," etc. The rear cover lists organizers of the dance, presumably players for the team. This attractive dance card has not been filled out and includes the original string tie.

$175 $80 #7484

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Large, lift-the-flap, insensitive, steam boiler advertising postcard

card featuring the devasting Mt. Pelee volcanic eruption that destroyed an entire city, killing 30,000 people

Boston, Massachusetts: Smith & Thayer Co., 1903. This advertising postcard for Winchester Steam Heaters measures approximately 10” x 6”. It features a print, titled “The Secret of Mt. Pelee” in grey, green, and red showing an idealized volcanic eruption, the island of Martinique, and the city of Saint-Pierre. A flap in the center of the volcano can be lifted to reveal the force behind the eruption, a Winchester steam boiler. The card is postally used, franked with a 1-cent Franklin stamp (Scott #300) cancelled with a Boston postmark. Mt. Pelee’s eruption in 1902 destroyed the entire city of Saint-Pierre, killing over 30,000 people. It was the third worst volcanic eruption of all time, only surpassed by those of Mount Tambora in 1815 and Krakatoa in 1883. I am not sure this is the type of an explosive event one should use to advertise pressurized steam boilers.

$600 $400 #9447

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
An early Libby’s canned goods advertising cover.

New York City: 1903. Cans of Libby’s Ox Tongues, Mincemeat, and other beef products figure prominently in the vibrant illustration.

$150  $125

Any questions, please contact us.

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Advertising Booklet and Illustrated cover for The Woman’s Magazine and the Louisiana Purchase Exposition

St. Louis: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1904. The illustrated advertising envelope features an image of the cover of The Woman’s Magazine and a rectangular promotion for the St. Louis World’s Fair. It is franked with a 1-cent green Franklin stamp (Scott #300) and postmarked with a World’s Fair machine cancel. The advertising contains 8 pages of information about banking through the magazine by mail.

$150  $75  #8723

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

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Occupational cabinet card photos of Wisconsin lumbermen

L. L. Richardson, photographer

Spooner, Wisconsin: circa 1905. Four card-mounted photographs, each measuring approximately 7” x 5”. One of the cards is blind-stamped “L. L. Richardson, Spooner, Wis.” and one has a later annotation on the reverse, “Shell Lake Lumber / Spooner, Wisconsin.” The photos show lumberjacks posing with axes, adzes, crosscut saws, hoists, and log-hauling horse teams.

$350  $250  #9031

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
18 photographs detailing the clear-cutting lumber operations of the A. C. Tuxbury Lumber Company in the virgin lowland forest near Charleston, South Carolina

Charleston, South Carolina: A. C. Tuxbury Lumber Company, circa 1905. This lot has 18 card-mounted albumin photographs. Six are images of the uncut lowland swamp forest with company officials, buildings, and railroad tracks. Two show a Forney 0-4-4 locomotive. In one, company officials and lumbermen pose trackside as the African-American engineer and firemen look down on the group from the cap window. The other shows the locomotive operating in conjunction with a steam hoist at a logging site. Five photos are of the company's mill complex and include the sawmill, storage facilities, small equipment, and a partially loaded boxcar. One shows the company's steam tugboat, Victory, and two show three-masted schooners moored at the mill complex.

$350  $300  #9629

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Two postal cards featuring multicolor comic illustrations including one self-portrait sent by Will Hedgcock to Burdette Johnson

Jeffersonville, Indiana to St. Louis, Missouri: 1905. Both postal cards (Scott UX18), which Hedgcock sent to his cousin Johnson, bear Jeffersonville, Indiana postmarks. One also has a St. Louis receiving handstamp. One is in nice shape; the other has some soiling and is worn at the lower right corner.

$100  $80  #9436

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Business mail from Japan to New York that was salvaged from one of the most infamous train wrecks of the 20th century

Winckler & Company

Yokohama to New York: 1905. Salvaged from the wreck of the Twentieth Century Limited that occurred on June 21, 1905 at Mentor, Ohio. It shows water, fire, and smoke damage along its edges and bears a label reading “Post Office, New York, N.Y. The enclosure was damaged in the wreck of the ‘20th Century Limited’ train on the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern R. R., that occurred at Mentor, Ohio, Wednesday, Jun 21, 1905. William R. Willcox, Postmaster.” It is franked with two Japanese stamps (Scott #s 96 and 103). A circular, red “Winckler & Company” sealing label is on the reverse along with two New York receiving stamps dated June 24 attesting to the speed in which the mail was recovered and forwarded.

SOLD #9334

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Five-year diary kept by a Colorado piano dealer that includes descriptions of his vacation trips throughout Europe in a Locomobile. Kept by Clarence Campbell

Various locations: 1907-1911. Campbell was the son of the wealthy owner of the Knight-Campbell Music Company of Denver. His 4” x 7” leather diary contains approximately 385 pages. In addition to much information about purchasing, shipping, maintaining, and driving “The Big Loco,” Campbell’s name for his Locomobile, the diary records notes about his social life, the opera, theater, teas, picnics, horseback riding, country club affairs, and business deals with Steinway, Aeolian, and Wurlitzer.

$599 $350 #9087

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Small packet of material relating to Tom Water's piano-comedy, The Mayor of Laughland

Fred G. Nixon-Nirdlinger
Philadelphia: The Nixon & Zimmerman Enterprises, 1907. This lot consists of three items: a booking letter on illustrated letterhead, its accompanying illustrated advertising cover, and a second, different illustrated advertising cover. Tom Waters was a successful musical-comedy actor who began his career in minstrel shows and gained fame as the star of the Broadway hit The Pink Lady. He was an accomplished pianist and was noted for his piano-comedy act, The Mayor of Laughland which toured throughout the United States and abroad.

$225 $150 #9311

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Photo album documenting a University of Michigan student “County Fair.”
Ann Arbor, Michigan: 1908. Album. The album measures approximately 10.5" x 13" and contains 16 photographs; 15 are affixed to its pages, and one is laid in. Five of the photos measure 7.5" x 9"; the remainder 5" x 8". The album includes images of a band with members dressed as hobos and prisoners as well as a group of men dressed as suffragists with signs mocking the movement. Other photos include images showing fraternity men dressed in drag, views of the "Dip-Dip" ride, and "Bosco's Jungle."

$1,500 $1,000 #9004

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Illustrated advertising envelope and catalog for Electric Wheel Company farm and lumber wagons.

Quincy, Illinois: Electric Wheel Company, 1908. This illustrated advertising cover features a farm scene with two Electric Wheel wagons loaded with hay as well as an illustration of an Electric Wheel. The text reads, "Electric Wheel Co. Manufacturers Solid Metal Wheels and Farmers’ Handy Wagons." The envelope is franked with a 2-cent red Washington stamp (Scott #309) which is tied with a Quincy, Illinois flag postmark. The catalog contains 23 pages describing and illustrating a variety of farm wagons, lumber wagons, and electric wheels.

$150  $120  #9305

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Illustrated letterhead for Gulden’s Mustard, Capers, and Olives with its accompanying illustrated advertising cover.

New York: Charles Gulden, 1908. Envelope or Cover. This colorful letter from Gulden’s Mustard contains a mimeographed notice (signed in print by Charles Gulden) informing stores the company has obtained a temporary injunction against a rival firm to prevent the sale of Chance & Son’s “Don Caesar” olives, whose name and packaging was quite similar to Gulden’s “Don Carlos” brand. . . .

$150  $120  #9309

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
Advertising cover for the American Flag Manufacturing Company.

Easton, Pennsylvania: 1908. The largest flag company of its time. Founded by a traveling salesman who created a booming demand for U.S. flags when none previously existed.

$150 $120

Any questions, please contact us.

Louisville & Nashville RPO special delivery cover

Nashville, Tennessee to Louisville, Kentucky: December 26, 1908. No content. Franked with Scott #332 (two strips of three). Nashville postmarks on front with manuscript “Special Delivery” and “Fee Claimed / Louisville Ky.P.O.” handstamp. Louisville & Nashville RPO and Louisville receiving stamps on reverse.

$50 $40

Any questions, please contact us.
Early airship patent for a combination of airplane and hot-air dirigible awarded to Adolph Lubke.

Washington DC: United States Patent Office, 1909. The six-page original patent is printed on thin cardstock with three pages of text and three pages of technical illustrations. It was awarded to Adolph Lubke, a resident of San Francisco, California.

$200 $140 #9106

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Business letter and invoice for a phonograph wholesaler enclosed in an illustrated advertising envelope featuring the famous “His Master’s Voice” illustration of a dog listening to a recording

Cleveland, Ohio: The Eclipse Musical Company, 1909. The letter and invoice address a payment made to the company by a retailer located in Middleton, Ohio. It is franked with a 2-cent red Washington stamp (Scott #332) tied to the cover with a Cleveland machine postmark dated 1909.

$75 $50 #9310

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
Photograph album documenting improvement projects along the Erie Canal during the construction of the New York State Barge Canal system

Vicinity of Ilion, New York: circa 1910. The album measures approximately 7½ “ x 10 ½” and contains over 65 photographs ranging in size from 3½“ x 2½” to 5¼“ x 3¼”. About 60 of the photos show in-progress construction including workers, boats, cranes, and dredges working in concert. Several show equipment from Pearson & Son, Inc. of New York City. Six additional photographs in the rear of the album show a freight train wreck, perhaps related to the project. In 1903, the New York State legislature authorized construction of the New York State Barge Canal as part of an improvement project for the “Erie, the Oswego, the Champlain and Cayuga and Seneca Canals.” Construction began in 1905 and the canal opened to through traffic in May 1918 at a cost of $96.7 million

$500  $450  #9529

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Small archive of materials related to the Silver King Mine by, to, or for Mr. W. S. Risley of Albany, Oregon

Elkhorn, Oregon (now a dead post office): 1911 – 1920. Unbound. This lot of consists multiple items: One canceled check from the Silver King Mining Company, one application and contract to purchase Silver King Mining Company stock, two Silver King Mining Company employment agreements accepting shares of capital stock in lieu of wages, two letters on Silver King Mining Company letterhead regarding “grub” needed at the mine, one note on plain paper enclosed in a Silver King Mining Company envelope, and one file copy of a letter regarding the transfer of a stock certificate. Two of the covers are postmarked with Doane Type 2, No. 1, “railroad track” cancels.

$200  $175  #9370

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
American Boy Scouts Plays and Pastimes by C. H. Lawrence.

Donohue, 1912. This is the preferred edition with eight full-page color lithographs instead of the more frequently found copies with only four. Full page color illustrations include selecting a campsite, signaling from a hilltop, sending Morse Code, fording a stream, performing first aid, rescuing a couple in a lake, building a bridge, and playing water sports. There are also 6 smaller sepia illustrations inset into the text.

$150 $75 #8862

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Letter from the “Surgeon in Charge” of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad hospital at Clifton Forge, Virginia.

Dr. Jno. C. Wysor


$50 $40

Any questions, please contact us.
Photograph album including 20 images of a drug store.

New England (based on some of the products showing in the images): Circa 1915. This 10.5” x 7” album contains approximately 135 photographs. The images include about 20 photos of the inside of a drug store showing a soda fountain with ads (ice cream sodas, college ices, and Jersey Ice Cream), a large National League baseball player doll, a variety of products and advertising (Coca-Cola, Colgate, Sutols Tooth Powder, Harvard Cigars, Beech-Nut Chewing Gum, Fan Tan Chewing Gum, Cherry Smash, Curran & Joyce Ginger Ale) and many other store items (boxes of once-cent matches, boxes of potato chips, pipes, a large display of Easter candy, racks of postcards, a cash register, cabinets filled with bottle and jars, etc.)

$500 $250 #6856

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Grouping of three mounted minstrel photographs and two minstrel music pamphlets belonging to a member of the Sons of Veterans of the United States

Cedarville, Ohio: circa 1915. Three large photograph. In one, an entire finely-dressed blackface minstrel company poses on an ornately curtained stage. Another shows eight members of the company on stage carrying drum, sabers and pennants for Cedarville, Slippery Rock College, and the University of Michigan. The third shows members of the Cedarville Sons of Veterans Band posing as group while wearing a variety of blackface, clown, and hobo costumes.

$800 $650 #9291

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
Four rare “pioneer airmail” letters sent by an officer assigned to the 13th U.S. Cavalry Regiment during the General Pershing’s Pancho Villa Punitive Expedition from within Mexico to his wife at Fort Riley, Kansas

Lieut. C. [Clarence] Lininger

Various location in Mexico: 1916. As noted in Volume 4 of the American Air Mail Catalog (AMMC 92), "On March 19 the 1st Aero Squadron began flying its eight planes between Columbus and points in Mexico, [transporting] mail and military command dispatches. . . . It is possible . . . to ascertain . . . if a particular letter was flown . . . from the field to Columbus, [it will bear] a Columbus postmark between March 19 and April 20." AMMC 92 also reports that eventually "new planes arrived at a later date and made flights into the field but it is unclear when mail was flown after April 20." The other four letters in the group (only three of them were flown) are from this later time frame and shed light on when airmail service resumed. One makes it clear that only officers could send mail by airplane.

$9,500 $8,000 #9486

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

12-page Letter from Canon City, Colorado, to North Adams, Massachusetts, referencing the Colorado National Guard, the Battle of Ludlow, Mexican Border Service, a Strike in North Adams Massachusetts, Auto Touring, and Infantile Paralysis

Canon City, Colorado: 1916. Letter. The letter is written on United States Post Office stationery. Its first page is postmarked, Canon City Colo. / M.O.B (Money Order Business). Letter content indicates it was sent to Massachusetts. This very informative letter addresses a number of interesting topics including Typhoid Fever, Infantile Paralysis, the Battle of Ludlow, union strikes, auto touring through Colorado and Massachusetts, and the difficulty the Colorado National Guard was having reaching full strength so it could be deployed to protect the Southwest Border of the United States during the Mexican Revolution.

$150 $75 #8851

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
Correspondence from a volunteer serving with an American Field Service in France while providing ambulance support to the 2nd and 10th French Armies

Harold Wiswall

[Dugny, France]: 1917. Unbound. Two letters sent on consecutive days by Wiswall to his family in Wellesley, Massachusetts. The first was written on a 5.25” x 7” soldier’s mailing sheet. It is franked with a blue 25-centime Sower stamp (Scott #168) and bears a Tressors et Postes mark dated 15 August 1917. A S.S.U. XXX handstamp is also on the font. A return address on the reverse reads “H. C. Wiswall / S.S.U. 30 / convois automobiles / Par B.C.M / Paris, / France.” The second letter is in a plain envelope free-franked “F. M.” (Franchise Militaire) has the same S.S.U handstamp, but postmarked on the 16th. Great content about life in the ‘French Ambulance’.

$400 $320 #9247

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Two photographs of “The Pilgrim Girls,” a popular all-woman band that performed on the Lyceum and Chautauqua circuits.

Circa 1917. Two photographs of The Pilgrim Girls are attached to this scrapbook page. One appears to be a real photograph post card (RPPC) that measures approximately 5.5” x 3.5”. The other is a smaller silver print photograph that measures about 2.5” x 1.5”.

$200 $150 #9467

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Correspondence archives documenting one woman’s effort to volunteer as a surgical bandage and dressing preparer during World War One.

Mary Watts

Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Washington, DC: American Red Cross, 1917-1918. This archive consists of one American Red Cross membership card, two American Red Cross donation receipts, four official letters discussing American Red Cross certification on official American Red Cross letterhead (three with their postally used mailing envelopes), one postcard discussing American Red Cross certification, one tuition receipt for an American Red Cross certification course, and two American Red Cross certification cards.

$150  $125  #9538

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Memory book assembled by one of the first U.S. YMCA workers to deploy during World War One who later received a commission in the Army and after the Armistice served as a missionary in North Dakota compiled by Richard G. Preston

United Kingdom, France, North Dakota, and Massachusetts: 1917-1958. Album. This scrapbook measures 12” x 12.5” and contains 37 pages with about 90 documents, vouchers, photographs, watercolors, patches, letters, newspaper clippings, and other ephemeral pieces. Contents include a photo of the first U.S. service workers to deploy overseas during World War I, Preston’s YMCA welcome letter, Identification cards and papers (YMCA papers, British Identity Book, and French Customs document), a wide variety of YMCA forms and documents, photographs, Preston’s YMCA and 41st Division patches, letters, newspaper articles, mementoes, a travel diary, and an offer of post-war missionary employment in North Dakota.

$450  $300  #9042

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Large archive of Cole Porter's financial records that were kept by his family lawyer including invoices listing hundreds of antiques and objets d'art used to furnish the Porters' Paris and Venice apartments as well as box office receipts for shows including Paris, Fifty Million Frenchmen, Anything Goes, and The Gay Divorcee.

Written and received by Cole Porter, Madam Cole Porter (Linda Lee Thomas), and Harry Cole.

France, Italy, New York City, and Peru, Indiana: 1917-1962. There are over 200 items in this archive including signed letters, telegrams, invoices, box office and royalty receipts, hotel and restaurant tabs, cancelled checks, bank tickets, a copy of Porter's 1930 will, and more. Many of the documents have French and Italian revenue stamps.

$9,500  $7,500  #9489

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

World War One Naval Seaplane Pilot's Letter with great content

Lasher, Herbert

Dunkirk, France: 1918. Letter and envelope are both lightly toned. The envelope has been postmarked with an APO #2 (Paris) flag machine cancellation and has some old tape repairs. Excellent content about seaplane patrols and coming under fire from big German artillery guns.

$250  $125  #7853

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
Small archive regarding a heroic young 3rd Infantry Division soldier including a gruesome description of hand-to-hand fighting during the two most important turning-point battles of World War One

Corporal Herbert T. Wild

Marne River and the Argonne Forest: 1918. This grouping six items. The earliest letter, dated July 25, consists of four pages and is enclosed in an envelope postmarked with an indistinct flag cancelation from APO 2 (Paris). The second letter, written from a Base Hospital and dated 31 October 1918, has seven pages and is enclosed in an envelope, dated November 5, from APO 798 (Meaves-sur-Loire). Wild’s Croix de Guerre with bronze star is included, as is a newspaper clipping recounting his action at the 2nd Battle of the Marne. Exceptional content.

$4,500 $2,500 #8994

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Undeliverable cover sent via the French post to a bugler in the 332nd Infantry during the Battle of Vittorio-Veneto in Italy, 13 October 1918

APO 901-C “No Record” ancillary marking applied to the envelope front on 1 November 1918 along with pencil text reading, “Return / <over>”. A French return address is on the reverse. During WWI, Vittorio was occupied until in October 1918 when the Italians assisted by the U.S. 331st Infantry, defeated the Austro-Hungarian army at the Battle of Vittorio-Veneto and ended World War One in Italy.

$100 $750

Any questions, please contact us.
Photograph album documenting life in the Los Angeles area during World War I

Unknown compiler.

Mostly Los Angeles County: 1918-1919. This 72-page 9” x 8” album contains approximately 200 photographs of shipyards and ship construction, naval base and warship photos, railroad yards, The Pike at Long Beach, San Juan Capistrano, fruit orchards, a military parade, the Rose Parade, and more.

$500 $250   #8655

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

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Exceptional photograph album documenting college-life in the first quarter of the 20th Century compiled by K.G. Feick.

Capital College, Bexley, Ohio: 1918-1923. The album measures 10” x 7” and contains over 280 captioned photographs ranging in size from 1” x 1.5” to 7” x 5”. Capital College was founded in 1830 and is the oldest college in central Ohio. It first accepted women in 1918, the year Feick began assembling this album. Three of the 32 members of Feick’s graduating class were female, and their images are included. The photos show the campus, faculty, students, football, tennis, baseball, basketball, the band, fraternal organizations, the glee club, cheerleaders, the Student Army Training Corps (a forerunner of ROTC), and more. Of special interest are about 20 images of “Class Rushes,” that is official, school sponsored, physical fights and battles between students.

$500 $250   #9228

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
Photograph album documenting the American participation in the Allied Intervention in Russia following World War I and the Russian Revolution compiled by an unidentified member of the 31st Infantry Regiment.

Siberia: Circa 1919. Album. This album contains 127 photographs and 28 mostly real photo postcards (RPPC) created using various photographic and photomechanical processes including silver gelatin, collotype, carbon, half-tone, etc. Almost all relate to the intervention. Photographs include soldier portraits, repairing destroyed railroad tracks, a river barge, corolling horses, rifle practice, hip-deep snow, a tent city, box cars, coolies with shoulder yokes, ship unloading, White Russian and Czech Legion soldiers, Cossacks, Bolsheviks about to be executed, Russian peasants and more. RPPCs include images of Americans entering Vladivostok, Vladivostok street and harbor scenes, the Flag Ship Brooklyn, and the Vladivostok YMCA.

$2,500  $2,000  #9073

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Photograph album documenting six years in the life of an itinerate west coast laborer, whaler, and general seaman compiled by Henry A. Deneen

Oregon, at sea, and many ports of call: 1919-1926. This large album contains 100 pages with over 300 photographs plus ephemera, clipped articles, and almost 50 beer labels. Deneen was an itinerate seaman and laborer who documented his life with a camera and occasionally sold photos and short articles to magazines. The album includes photos of the funeral of Nestor Varrio, a Sailors Union thug who was killed during a gun battle with police after using a firearm to threaten scabs. There are also images of Deneen cleaning insulators on a 600’ radio station tower, a bull fight in Peru, a whaling expedition to include firing a harpoon gun, Hot Springs Arkansas bath houses, the Helga shipwreck at Waikiki Beach, fishing (barracuda, sailfish, mahi-mahi, etc.), commercial clam digging, and many more from Alaska, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, and Shanghai. Deneen has also included 46 large, colorful beer bottle labels from the U.S., Australia, Germany, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, and the Philippines.

$1,500  $750  #8712

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
New England Photograph Album featuring the Army’s 531st Balloon Company at Boston circa 1921.

Various New England Locations: 1920s. Photograph Album. The album contains 58 vernacular b/w photographs. The highlight of the album is a section with 19 photographs of a post-WWI Army Balloon Company, one of which is annotated “531st BC.” The 531st Balloon Company was a reserve unit located in the Boston area in the early 1920s. Photos include unit members holding an American flag, a balloon being inflated, men climbing into a balloon’s basket, a balloon ascending, a balloon in flight and bird's-eye views taken from the balloon. Other photos include groupings from Groton school and New Bedford.

$550  $225  #8221

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Collection of 18 beautiful advertising mailers for men’s clothing made by J. L. Taylor, a subsidiary of the International Tailoring Company.

Chicago and New York: [J. L. Taylor], late 1910s to early 1920s. These colorful advertising mailers range in size from 4" x 6.5" folded to 13.25" x 14.25" unfolded. All are tri-folds, leporellos, posters, or pamphlets. Many have die-cuts, lift-the-flaps, cut-outs, etc. All have gone through the mail; most are franked with 1-cent green Franklin stamps (in use from 1908-1922) with Chicago or New York City pre-cancels.

$3,000  $1,500  #8886

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
Typed letter signed by Clifford M. Holland, Chief Engineer of the Holland Tunnel, sent to a Harvard classmate in response to a letter concerning the beginning of the tunnel’s construction.

New York: 1920. This one-page letter on the stationery of the New York State Bridge and Tunnel Commission and New Jersey Interstate Tunnel Commission, measuring 8” x 8.5”, was written to Clifford Holland to Mr. Leon C. Hills of Washington, DC, on October 17, 1920.

$300  $150  $8950

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Production manager’s notebook for Vanity Fair underwear and stockings

Kept by Howard B. Snader

[Reading, Pennsylvania]: 1922-1929. This 5” x 7.5” faux leather notebook contains 120 pages chock full of manuscript production tables, sizing information, test results, assorted notes, clothing labels, elastic samples, receipts, correspondence, certifications and more. A six-page pamphlet extract with information about an automatic sewing machine is laid in.

$750  $375  #8803

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
Photograph album documenting two itinerant roughnecks’ travel through New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio until they found jobs at the Woodville Oil Field

Unidentified compiler

New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio: 1923. This 8” x 6” album contains 37 b/w photographs. The crisp, well-composed snapshots are chronologically arranged, and most have been captioned. In addition to the rugged workmen, equipment, and environment of 1920s oil fields, these images show the men’s Model T Ford, roadside tent camping, and a big campsite at Cleveland’s Euclid Beach Park. Ohio became home to one of the first oil booms in the United States in the 1860s after a blacksmith, William Jeffrey, drilled a successful well in Trumbull County. The discovery of oil near Woodville in 1892 started a boom that lasted until 1905 by which time the area was mostly drained although drilling and pumping continued in a few of the area’s fields.

$750  $375  #8967

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Unusual foldout postcard that opens into a menu for an Alaskan steamship.

Onboard the SS Admiral Rogers, Chatham Sound, Canada (just south of Ketchikan, Alaska): 1923. This foldout postcard measures 11” x 7” when opened into a four-page menu. It is franked with U.S. two-cent Washington stamp (Scott # 554) which has been cancelled by a duplex Seattle & Skagway R.P.O. postmark. An Alaska tourism poster stamp is affixed in the upper left corner.

$200  $150  #9586

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
Photograph album documenting steamship life upon the Mississippi River during the 1920s compiled by Clarence T. Smith

Mississippi River: circa 1925. This album measures 7¼” x 10” and contains over 60 photographs of Mississippi River towboats, tugboats, barges, tankers, dredges, crews, riverbanks, trucks, bridges, shipping facilities, and more. Almost all of the photographs are captioned. Photograph captions suggest that Smith was a crew member on the towboat Destrehan, which was owned by the Pan American Petroleum Company of New Orleans. Images of named vessels include: Chinca, Destrehan, Henry Thane, Iowa, Lieut. Gurney, Minnesota, and Wynoka. Other scenes show the Pan American Petroleum Company plant at Memphis, unidentified syrup and oil tankers, Memphis bridges, unidentified government towboats and dredges, tugboats at Memphis, Angola Prison in Louisiana, trucks, and truckdrivers (one a woman and one an African-American).

$800 $700 #9508

Small archive of photos and ephemera kept by a politically naïve American YWCA missionary in China as the country lurched through The May Thirtieth Movement towards the Second Chinese Revolution and eventually full civil war sent “Jo” [Josephine Brown] to a former colleague, probably in California's Imperial Valley.

Hsi Chi Men, China: 1925-1926. The archive consists of 11 captioned photos of YMCA workers and Chinese girls, a 14-page letter, a bilingual brochure for a Camp for Chinese Girls and Women, and a 17.5” x 22” anti-imperialist broadsheet. Some soiling, ink bleed, beginning splits, and minor insect predation. These items were mailed in the midst of the May Thirtieth Movement following the deaths of thirteen Chinese students who had attacked a Shanghai police station in an effort to free eight striking workers who had been jailed after storming a Japanese-owned factory. Brown's heady political naiveté is apparent in her letter which contains a denial of Soviet attempts to influence Chinese politics, anti-imperialist sentiment especially against Great Britain, enthusiastic support for Communist inspired street protests, and her idolization of a Soviet-backed, Chinese warlord intent of conquering Mongolia. She epitomizes a “useful idiot” (a term often misattributed to Vladimir Lenin) of the Comintern. The broadsheet “Many Important Statements Bearing on the Shanghai Case Issued” that compiles numerous accounts of the May 30th Massacre that led to the May Thirtieth Movement and Second Chinese Revolution, is especially important.

$3,750 $2,500 #9063

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Commemorative cover (postally used envelope) celebrating the dedication of Davis-Monthan Airfield by Charles Lindbergh. Franked with a ‘Lindbergh Tribute’ airmail stamp (Scott C10) and canceled with a 23 September 1927 postmark, the day of the dedication. “In 1919, the Tucson Chamber of Commerce aviation committee established the nation’s first municipally owned airfield at the current site of the Tucson Rodeo Grounds. The rapid increase in aviation activities meant a move in 1927 to the site which is now Davis–Monthan Air Force Base. After the City of Tucson acquired land southeast of town for a runway in 1925, Charles Lindbergh, fresh from his nonstop crossing of the Atlantic Ocean, flew his “Spirit of St. Louis” to Tucson in 1927 to dedicate Davis-Monthan Field, then the largest municipal airport in the United States.” The field supported joint civilian and military use until 1940, when civilian operations were relocated. (See Wikipedia.)

$50  $40

Any questions, please contact us.

Packet the inauguration of renewed airmail service between Cuba and the United States.

Havana, Cuba and Key West, Florida: 1927. This grouping of four covers (postally used envelopes) from Key West and Havana commemorates the resumption of airmail service between Cuba and the United States, Foreign Airmail (FAM) Route #4. (The service first began in 1920 but was almost immediately canceled and very few covers exist from those flights.) One cover in this group was sent from Key West to Havana on 27 October 1927. The second cover was sent the following day from Havana to Key West. There are two small covers addressed to the Postmaster General of the United States: one from the Postmaster General of Cuba, Rafael F. Sanchez Aballi, and one from the Cuban Minister of Communications, F. G. Masvidal. Clippings with more info about the flight are included.

$100  $80

Any questions, please contact us.
Letter from Joseph “Joe” Farley, a member of the U.S. water polo team, to his mother written aboard the S.S. President Roosevelt while in Amsterdam during the 1928 Olympic Games.

S.S. President Roosevelt, Amsterdam: 1928. This four-page letter is written on printed stationery that reads: “American Olympic Team / Ninth Olympiad, July 28th to August 12th, 1928 / S.S. President Roosevelt / Amsterdam / Address all communications / care of American Olympic Team / 13 Rokin, Amsterdam, Holland”. Although the letter is only signed “Joe”, there is a pencil note on the bottom of the last page that reads, “Water Polo / Joseph Farley” and, indeed, Joseph Farley was a member of the 1928 U.S. Olympic Water Polo team and a teammate of Johnny Weissmuller. He wrote this enthusiastic letter about the upcoming games to his mother a couple of days after arriving in Amsterdam.

$200 $150 #9453
Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

Group of 34 cadet demerit slips from the United States Military Academy at West Point

West Point, New York: 1929-1930. Most of the demerit slips are completed in pencil; two are typed and a red colored pencil was used for one. All were issued to first classmen (seniors in a civilian school) for a wide variety of reasons including making impudent and insolent remarks to a cadet officer-in-charge, hugging and kissing a young lady on Cullum Hall Balcony, wearing no belt in class, improperly swept floor, not wearing pajamas, etc.

$125 $75 #9051
Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
Photograph album showing state-of-the-art aircraft, students, and facilities at the Curtiss-Wright Technical Institute at the Grand Central Air Terminal in Glendale, California

Glendale, California: 1930s. Album. This 12" x 8" album contains over 115 original photographs and real photo postcards. About 100 of the photos show training, racing, experimental, military, and commercial aircraft; the remainder show students and the school. The Curtiss-Wright Institute, established in 1929, was one of the first professional aviation schools in the United States, and Glendale's Grand Central Air Terminal was the first, best, and most important airport in the American West. These aircraft images are a testament to California's burgeoning aircraft industry, and almost any of them could be considered a highlight. Images include military, racing, and commercial aircraft. (Visit the website for more specifics.) Of special interest is a photo of Amelia Earhart's famous Lockheed Model 10 Electra R16020. (There is no "N" in the aircraft number, so the photograph must have been taken before she seriously considered flying it outside of the United States.) There is also a series of photos showing an American Airlines Curtiss T032C being destroyed in a runway fire-explosion.

$2,500  $1,250  #8946

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

A large and comprehensive scrapbook-photo album documenting the 25th Reunion of Harvard University's Graduating Class of 1906.

Cambridge, Massachusetts: Twenty-Fifth Reunion [committee for the Harvard Class of 1906], 1931. Album. This album has a debossed gold-leaf title, “Harvard Class of 1906 / 25th Anniversary / Reports” on the front cover. It contains more than 100 pages filled with a variety of ephemera and artifacts including 90 reunion photographs (posed groups, softball, golf, tennis, turtle race, stadium crowds, cheerleaders, etc.), after-action reports from subcommittees (reception, entertainment, sports, dinner, hospitality, publicity, etc.), letters regarding souvenir items (cigars, cigarettes, menus, photographs, etc.), and miscellaneous items (programs, songbook, tie, medal, directional signs, many editions of the reunion magazine, a campus map, newspaper clippings, etc. This is a phenomenal reunion record and a giant helping of school spirit.

$350  $250  #9474

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
Two photos of the last lynching in California following the kidnapping and murder of Brooke Hart.

San Jose, California: 26 November 1933. Each of the two b/w semi-matte photographs shows a different man hanging from a tree. One man (John M. Holmes) is naked and the other (Thomas H. Thurmond) is naked but for a shirt and jacket. Brook Hart was a 22-year-old heir to a prominent and highly regarded San Jose family. Despite receiving their $40,000 ransom demand, his kidnappers brutally beat Brook with bricks after which he was slowly drowned. The kidnappers were quickly captured, and the governor and local radio stations called for them to be lynched immediately rather than wait for a trial. A mob met little resistance breaking into jail and dragging the men to St. James Park where 15,000 spectators had assembled to watch the hanging. Both men were stripped, severely beaten, and strung up to slowly hang to death. Jackie Coogan (TV’s Uncle Fester on the Addams Family) was a college friend of Brooke’s and is said to have held one of the ropes used in the lynching. These lynchings are generally accepted as the last to occur in California although some claim—without details or confirmation—that another occurred at Callahan in 1947.

$1,250 $900 #9304

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.

A photograph of the interior of the Optical Service Company as well as the proof copy of an advertisement for the business that was published in the St Louis Post-Dispatch.

Unknown photographer

St. Louis: [1936]. The advertising proof shows a portrait photograph of Mr. August Siever and announces that he had left his position as the manager of the Geo. D. Fisher Optical Co. The 7” x 5” photograph shows the interior of Siever’s new employer, the Optical Services Company with Siever and another white-coated optician fitting a man with eyeglasses.

$100 $50 #8844

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
Working Conditions in the District of Columbia: a transcript of a speech given by the Honorable Virginia Jenckes as printed in the Congressional Record

Washington, DC: 1937. This one-page handbill (approximately 9” x 11.5”) is formatted to look like a page from the Congressional Record. It provides the text of Jenckes’s speech in the House of Representatives demanding that a Union Shop be imposed upon workers at the Woodward & Lothrop Department Store in Washington in lieu of their long-established and extremely popular Company Union. In her speech Jenckes alleged that Painter’s Union No. 368, who wished to represent the workers, could not get newspaper coverage because Woodies was one of the largest advertising buyers in the District. Jenckes’s campaign was unsuccessful. Company workers remained satisfied for the next 37 years until opting to join Retail Store Employees Union Local 400 in 1970.

Photograph showing the inside of rural Illinois tavern

Highland, Illinois: circa 1937 based upon visible advertisements. This 7” x 5” card-mounted photograph shows the interior of a rural Illinois tavern. A middle-aged man wearing a vest, tie, and apron is standing behind the bar along with a casually dressed young man who appears to be a bar boy. An African-American man is standing at the rear of the room. There are no customers present. The room appears to be heated by an old cast iron stove. The tavern bar is quite long as is the mirror behind it. A number of beer and soft drink posters are visible (Country Club, Stag, Coca-Cola, etc.) The bar is well-stocked, and many cigar boxes are visible. A Nehi ice box stands near the bar.

Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.
**Original gallows photograph of a syphilitic murderer whose harassing advances were repeatedly rejected by the young woman he killed**

St. Genevieve, Missouri: 1937. This 6.5” x 8.5” press photograph is captioned on the reverse: "International Chicago 2-27-37. With 400 persons crowded around the gallows within a stockade on the county farm near here, Hurt Hardy, 31, was hanged for the murder of his sweetheart, Ethel Fenestock. In 1935 (sic) Hardy is shown standing on the gallows with legs strapped just before the hood was placed over his head. Sent to A and C lists.”

The caption has three errors, the year was 1937 not 1935; Hall was 32 at the time, and the young woman he murdered was not his “sweetheart.” Local newspapers reported that the 20-year-old victim had repeatedly spurned Hardy’s crazed advances.

$250 $175 #9340

[Click on the image or links for more information and a larger image.](#)

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**1940s and early 1950s collection of folk art - postage stamp 'mosaic paintings'**

16 different holiday cards, most approximately 5.25” x 3.5”. Each features a different scene created from cut pieces of postage stamps. Most of the stamps used in the artwork came from the 1938 Presidential series, although some other definitive, commemorative, back-of-the-book, and foreign stamps were used as well. All of the card scenes have ink details and lettering, and many have watercolor wash backgrounds. Almost all have seasonal notes to the artist's friend, Edith.

$300 $150 #8114

[Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.](#)
A flag and letter presented by Kobotu Inouye, a California Issei who would later be arrested and incarcerated by the FBI on December 7, 1941

Redwood City, California: October 15, 1940. This fawning, yet somewhat threatening, letter, dated 17 October 1940 and signed by a prominent Issei member of California's Japanese-American community presents a 2' x 4' silk U.S. flag to an unnamed person, presumably a government official or journalist. A transcript will be provided. The flag is included, but the display case is not.

Inouye was an ambitious son from a Samurai family who had wanted to become a naval officer like his older brother. However, after being turned down by the Japanese Naval Academy, he immigrated to California where he established a nursery in Redwood City. He became active in the quasi-official Japanese Associations that controlled most aspects of Issei life through tiered relationships with the Imperial Government. The Associations emphasized Japanese patriotism, churned out pro-Japanese military propaganda, promoted anti-Chinese hatred, and purchased equipment for the Japanese military. No doubt, Inouye's heritage, his brother's service in the Japanese Navy, his leadership in Japanese Associations, and letters like this brought him to the attention of the FBI as the tension between Japan and the United States grew, especially after President Roosevelt directed the FBI to coordinate surveillance of potentially dangerous aliens. Within hours of the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, FBI agents appeared at Inouye's home where, after a search, he was taken into custody as part of a sweep that included German, Italian, and Japanese nationals (Inouye was not a U.S. citizen) suspected of being or of being at least sympathetic to Axis agents. FBI records indicate that during this sweep, the foreign nationals were arrested if they possessed certain cameras, weapons, signaling equipment, or short-wave radios. Although records do not reveal what Inouye possessed, a local newspaper reported his son agreed that Inouye's arrest was the proper thing to do. The son's comment is also indicative of a growing generational split among Japanese immigrants. Issei loyalty generally went to Japan, and Nisei loyalty to the United States. Inouye and two German nationals apprehended at the same time were first taken to a former immigration barracks at Angel Island and then moved to a temporary detention camp at Sharp Park were about 135 other suspected agents were held. From there Inouye was moved through a series of Department of Justice and Army detention camps (not to be confused with the well-known concentration camps later established by the War Relocation Authority). Eventually, Inouye was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and transferred to the Mayo Clinic for treatment. Afterwards, he was allowed to join his family who were by then interned at the concentration camp outside of Salt Lake City. Following the war, Inouye returned to California along with his family.

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Photograph album-scrapbook kept by a pre-World War Two combat engineer-photographic technician documenting his training at Fort Belvoir

Primarily Ft Belvoir, Virginia: 1941-1942. This album is filled over 90 mostly captioned b/w photographs, most measuring 5” x 4”. The photographs are attached with corner mounts; almost all are captioned. Some are laid in. The photos include images of bridging and pontoon school, field demonstrations including the M1917 water-cooled machine gun and water purification units, demolition training, eight different types of uniforms, the 1941 Army Day Parade in Washington DC, Fort Belvoir and Washington DC scenes, and photographic technician training (classrooms, press and camera trucks, copy cameras, repro presses, map reproduction, time exposures, etc.)

$350  $250  #9394

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Japanese Concentration Camp Mail from the Heart Mountain Relocation Center

Hart Mountain, Wyoming: August 28, 1943. Cover from one of the ten concentration camps established by President Roosevelt to imprison Japanese-Americans during World War Two. Addressed to The Denver Post with a return address reading, “6-2B / Nagota” With a camp corner card showing internees barracks and Hart Mountain in the background.

$150  $125

Any questions, please contact us.
An American Missionary travels home from a Japanese Civilian Internment Camp on the Swedish repatriation ship MS Gripsholm. Letter from an American missionary to her brother, informing him she is sick, but recovering, after having been released from Japanese internment in China.

V. Grace Clapper to J. Henry Clapper

Near Rio de Janeiro to Omak, Washington: December 1943. Envelope or Cover. This two-page airmail letter sent by an American missionary, is written on “Motorship Gripsholm” stationery and datelined “Nearing Rio de Janeiro S. A. / Nov. 12, 1943.” The envelope is franked with an orange 6-cent Presidential Series stamp (Scott # 81) canceled by a New York City “Church Street Annex” machine postmark before forwarding to Omak, Washington. “Examined By” censor tape “#7996” seals its left edge.

$1,750  $1,500  #9624

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

World War II U.S. Prisoner of War Mail from Germany

Private Albert P. Jodice

Stalag IIB (Hammerstein, Germany): 17 June 1944. Unbound. This German Kriegsgefangenenpost Postkarte (prisoner of war mail postcard) is addressed to Jodice’s girlfriend in Watertown, Massachusetts. It bears an indistinct German town postmark and purple handstamp from Stalag IIB. A U.S. censor’s handstamp that was applied before delivery is in the lower left corner.

$150  $75  #8969

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
World War II letter from a foul-mouthed, misogynist who hated serving in the Marine Corps

P.F.C. John A Bonaparte to Joseph F. Bonaparte S 2/C

M.C.A.S. Goleta California to Armed Guard School, Gulfport, Mississippi: 1944. This two-page letter is written on U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Santa Barbara stationery is dated “Jan. 25 – 44.” It is enclosed in a free-franked, Marine Corps envelope and postmarked at Goleta, California on January 26, 1944. It was originally addressed to the naval station at Great Lakes, Illinois but forwarded to the Naval Advance Base Depot in Gulfport, Mississippi; directory assistance handstamps from both installations have been applied to the envelope.

$100  $50  #9170

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Returned mail sent to a World War II Marine who was captured on Corregidor and died in a Japanese prison camp

Sent by Mr. & Mrs. A. Mikucki from Chicago to Private First Class Walter Mikucki at the Osaka Yodogawa Bunsho POW Camp in Japan

1944-1945. No content. The cover bears a typed “Prisoner of War Postage Free” free frank in the upper right corner along with a Chicago “War Savings” machine postmark dated Jan 13, 1944. The envelope was opened by a U.S. censor and resealed using tape stamped, “Examined by 6587.” The address has been obliterated using grease pencil or crayon. It has a circular handstamp in the lower right corner dated Nov 20 1945 with text that appears to read “[LIBER]ATED HQ. USMC., WASH., D.C.” There is a USMC “pointing finger” return-to-sender hand stamp.

$750  #375  #8825

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
A wife sends mail to her civilian husband who, after being shot in the back and paralyzed during the invasion of Guam, was imprisoned in a Japanese POW camp. Mail sent to Mr. Frank Perry at a Japanese prison camp by his wife in San Francisco.

Florence Perry to Frank Perry

San Francisco to Shikoku Island, Japan via New York City: 1945. This envelope is addressed to “Frank Perry, American Civilian Internee Held by Japan / in Zentsuzi War Prison Camp / Zentsuzi, Skikoku Island, Japan / Via: New York, N.Y.” The return address on reverse is “Mrs. Florence E. Perry 77 Carmelita St. / San Francisco, California”. It is franked with a pair of 3-cent Presidential horizontal coil stamps (Scott #842) canceled with a New York city postmark dated 17 March 1945. U.S “Examined By” censor tape with purple text reading “11877 / U.S. Censor” has resealed the left edge of the envelope. A Japanese censor handstamp with three Japanese characters reading Ken’etsuzumi (censored) and an additional orange-red oval Wada censor mark are applied below the address. No contents; envelope only.

$500  $300  #9623

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

World War II American prisoner of war’s handwritten memoir-journal and photograph album. Written and assembled by Private First Class Bernard L. Bourgeois

U.S. Army Rhodes General Convalescent Hospital at Utica, New York: 1945. This large album contains 38 pages filled with text and photographs. Two photographs taken soon after his liberation show Bourgeois lying nearly naked in a hospital bed. Three pages contain military-related sketches, one a tipped-in drawing of a comrade lying dead on the ground. Ten pages contain Bourgeois’s densely filled, pencil-written memoir-journal describing in detail his combat and prisoner experience Europe during World War Two written while convalescing after his liberation from Stalag 11B where he had been imprisoned following his capture during the Battle of the Bulge. In it, he describes the terrifying combat he faced since landing at Normandy and the savage treatment and execution of American soldiers by their German captors. Simultaneously horrific and inspiring. A transcript will be provided.

$4,000  $2,000  #8739

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Envelope sent to Rabbi Barnett R. Brickner in care of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Europe from his son, Rabbi Barnett Brinker at the Hebrew Union College in Ohio

Cincinnati, Ohio: 1947. The elder Rabbi Brickner, the long-serving rabbi of Anshe Chesed Congregation in Cleveland, was a well-known educator and Zionist leader. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, often simply referred to as the “Joint,” was initially founded in 1914 to provide assistance to Jews living in Palestine under Turkish rule but soon broadened its mission to helping Jews in distress all over the world. Following World War Two, the Joint focused its efforts on taking care of Jews in displaced persons camps and assisted with legal and illegal Jewish emigration from Europe. The elder Brickner traveled to Europe following the war to study the needs and problems of Jewish soldiers and assist with the Joint’s emigration efforts. This cover was franked with three 5-cent U.S. airmail stamps (Scott C32) to cover the postage cost for delivery in France. By the time it arrived, the elder Brickner had relocated to Rome so a 15F French stamp (Scott #570) was applied by the committee to forward the letter to its offices there. A Rome receiving postmark was applied on the reverse upon its arrival.

Small archive (including photographs of Admiral Hyman Rickover) pertaining to a technician, E. F. King, who worked at the U.S. Navy Underwater Sound Laboratory.

[Fort Trumbell], New London, Connecticut: 1945-1964. Unbound. This grouping consists of material belonging to E. F. King who worked at the U.S. Navy Underwater Sound Laboratory (now the naval Undersea Warfare Center) from World War II until the 1960s. It includes the last newspaper-magazine published by the BuShips Field Engineering Group in 1945, a tongue-in-cheek award certificate, photos of model submarines to be presented as awards or mementos, and sever photographs of Admiral Hyman Rickover with workers and equipment at the Undersea Sound Laboratory.
A Rochester Rockets Senior High School "Atomic Age" homecoming parade photograph album.

Rochester, Minnesota: 1947. The album contains 25 mounted and ten smaller loose photographs. Seven of the smaller snapshots duplicate the larger images. There are also several pieces of ephemera (booster tags, a large newspaper article, and basketball playoff programs). Photos include a motorcycle filled float, the homecoming queen and her court in a streamlined Cadillac convertible, boys in white t-shirts, the football team in leather helmets, and a vibrant downtown area. A terrific photographic slice of post-World War II American culture.

$275 $140 #8397

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Psychiatric hospital letter from a schizophrenic Alaskan, who murdered his gold-miner father during a paranoid delusion.
From Eino Robert Mack to Aune Mack.

Juneau, Alaska and Portland, Oregon: 1948. Two-page typed letter (perhaps a file copy), unsigned. The letter is datelined, “Morningside, Hospital. / Montaville, Station. / Portland, Oregon. / Sept, 23, 1948,” and is in nice shape. This letter contains delusional ravings of Eino Mack, the son of a Finnish emigrant who worked for the Alaska-Juneau Gold Mining Company, attempting to justify to his sister his unprovoked murder of their father. Eino closes his letter by proclaiming his sanity, although he acknowledges that "the right side of my brain is infected, from bone decaying [and] the psychiatrist in charge here . . . told me that I was here for life.” Prior to Alaskan statehood, there were no mental health services in the territory. Alaskans who were committed by family or jury were sent by a combination of dogsled, train, and boat to live at Morningside Hospital (a contracted, private, psychiatric facility) in Portland. By the time Morningside closed after Alaska became a state, it had held over 3,500 Alaskans as patients during its sixty years of business.

$750 $400 #9245

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
An archive related to the legendary dean of American heraldry and the founder of the U.S. Institute of Heraldry, Arthur E. DuBois, including his unfinished monumental work on military ribbons of the world

Compiled by Arthur E. DuBois and others

Primarily Washington, DC: mostly circa 1949. Loose-leaf binder. The archive is contained in a Kempco file box. Its principal component is a two-volume, unpublished manuscript in two binders, each measuring 9"x11". Together they contain approximately 100 pages of manuscript text, eight pages of hand-colored charts, one card of ribbon samples, and approximately 41 U.S. ribbons accompanied by meticulously drawn design schematics. The samples include a Medal of Honor ribbon. A separate document protector contains an additional 25 pages of working papers along with British ribbon samples, one page of 13 U.S. ribbon samples and color drawings, a hand-colored planning chart for the proposed multi-volume work, and more. A number of magazine articles by and about DuBois are laid in.

$1,750 $1,200 #9223

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Collection of Six Tijuana Bible 8-Pagers (Explicit underground comic books).

Various locations: Various publishers, 1940s and 1950s. All complete. Each approximately 2.5" x 4". From an Arnold, Missouri estate. Titles include: V. Fuzzynuts Presents Barney Google in Horse Flesh, Count Screwloose in Decoyed, Rub Matocas Presents Etta Kett in Endorsed, Peter B. Everhard Presents Moon Mullins in Help, Phelta Puss Presents Pop-Eye in Steppin’ Out, and Skeezix by Special Permission of the Copy-right Owner, J. Montmorency Filthy Crotch. All show some wear and light soiling.

$200 $100 #8612

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Photograph of a gambling den in a small Kansas town

Hutchinson, Kansas: circa 1950. This 7” x 5” photograph shows men sitting at tables and standing at the bar inside a Hutchinson, Kansas, “recreation center.” Writing on the reverse reads, “Wallace Utterbacks Recreation Pool Hall in Hutinshin (sic) Kans Effie’s husband (Wallace Utterback) that’s him in hat at bar” Utterbacks pool hall was a notorious Kansas gambling den that was repeatedly raided by the police.

$125 $65 #8840

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Photograph album documenting the family life of a Yekkish man including his flight to the United States from Nazi Germany. Compiled by Lotte Frank as a 50th birthday gift for her brother, Rudof (Rudi).

Germany, Trieste, Cuba, and the United States: 1904-1954. This album contains 64 photographs and about a dozen pieces of ephemera. Most items are captioned in English or German. Highlights include photos of the Frank’s parents and grandparents (none of whom made it out of Germany), pre-war images of the Frank family including their homes and businesses, images from Trieste and Cuba during Rudi’s multi-year journey to the United States, and Rudi’s post-war life in New York. Rudi Frank was born in Bad Kissingen in 1904 where his father was part owner of a fabric store. With the rise of the Nazis, Rudi left Germany in 1935 and settled in Trieste. In 1938, Rudi was able to book passage to Cuba and shortly thereafter entered the United States at Key West. A well-done and fascinating album about a Jewish man’s escape from Nazi Germany made all the more poignant by what is not explicitly shown or said.

$750 $500 #9064

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Three original art sketchbooks by Robert Karsten documenting construction projects in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Maryland and Pennsylvania: 1959, 1960, 1968. Three spiral notebooks contain about 425 pages, almost all filled with detailed pencil sketches of construction sites. Additional photographs and clippings from magazines and newspapers are both laid in and attached to about ten pages. Among the many projects documented in the sketchbooks are work at Gifford Pinchot State Park, the expressway that would become Interstate 83, the filtering basins for the P. H. Gatfelter Co., the Quarryville Sr. High School, U.S. 30 and 230, and Borg-Warner Corporation headquarters. The vehicles and equipment in Karsten's drawings are usually annotated with company, manufacturer, numbering, and/or license information. The sketches and photographs are all in nice shape. The clippings have tape stains.

$1,250 $625 #8564

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

A professional Army Officer's archive including an early Vietnam photo album from the Kennedy years

Palmer, Lieutenant Colonel Carl L.

United States, Italy, Korea, Vietnam: 1942-1973. This archive consists of official papers, letters, certificates, and a photograph album that belonged to Lieutenant Colonel Carl L. Palmer. Although the archive spans Palmer's career from his initial physical exam in 1942 until its end in 1976 with a civilian 'Reduction-in-Force' notification, the highlight is a photograph album with over 50 photographs as an early advisor in Vietnam during the Kennedy years while assigned to the Army Concept Team in Vietnam (ACTIV). The photographs show ARVN forces (including what appear to be Montagnard scouts), M113s conducting operations against the Viet Cong, captured Viet Cong being evacuated by an American Huey helicopter, dead Viet Cong, damage to M113s by high caliber weapons and recoilless rifles, a destroyed M113 (probably by a rocket-propelled grenade, RPG), what appears to be a Viet Cong Tiger Trap (a large concealed hole that could swallow an APC), a hasty river-wetgap crossing, the recovery of stuck M113s, and an ARVN awards ceremony.

$1,750 $1,200 #8587

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Collection of photographs documenting an early U. S. Toyota dealer's trip to Japan to be part of the celebration recognizing the five millionth car to roll off the company's assembly line. Said to have been from a trip taken by Byrl S. Kline an automobile dealer from Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania, California, and Japan: 1968. This collection of 20 b/w and color photographs including 11 snapshots pictures of the dealer and his wife interacting with their hosts in Japan. The are several large photos of group poses at the plane, in front of Toyota headquarters, and at a reception. An additional five large photos show manufacturing and assembly lines, a high speed test track, a parking lot full of cars waiting to be loaded on a cargo ship, and top company officials posing with the 5,000,000th Toyota to come off the production line.

$250  $150  #9056

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Photographic archive documenting a teenager's two-year Soap Box Derby competition career to include participation in the national All-American Soap Box Derby finals at Akron, Ohio. Assembled by David Brenstuhl and family.

Lancaster and Akron Ohio: 1969-1970. This archive contains approximately 140 photos. Most are b/w (about 30) and color (about 110) snapshots. The others are b/w and include official “photo finish” and publicity photos. All are in nice shape, but about a half dozen have faded. These photographs capture David's and his family's involvement in the competition process, various cars, travel, race starts and finishes, cars speeding down derby hills, spectators at local events and packing the grandstands at Derby Downs, celebrity (Joane Worley, John Havliceck, Hugh O'Brien, Noel Harrison, Lorne Greene, James Drury, Astronaut Dick Gordon, etc.) involvement, ceremonies and award dinners, trophy presentations, etc.

$600  $350  #9057

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
Small collection of programs and advertising flyers from regional African-American theater productions in Illinois. Probably assembled by the legendary bass-baritone William Warfield who was associated with the University of Illinois.

Champaign-Urbana and Chicago, Illinois: 1970s-1980s. There are six programs and flyers of varying sizes. All in nice shape, one with pencil notes. Productions include Porgy and Bess, How to Beat Old Age, A Black Woman Speaks, In the House of the Blues, The Trials of Brother Jero, and Po'.

$200 $100 #9270

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.

Mail sanitized during the response to the 2001 anthrax attacks that killed five people and infected 17 others

Alaska and Washington DC: 2001. Unbound. This NPR-A (National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska) Update newsletter was sent from Alaska to the Department of Energy in Washington, DC. It has a meter postmark dated "11-30-01" and bears a two-line, blue "MAIL SANITIZED" handstamp located between the postmark and mailing address.

$100 $70 #9138

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.
A “Sovereign Citizen” treaty that claims to provide ‘documentation’ that people living within the territory of the United States can use to disobey any federal or state law they choose including those requiring the payment of taxes. Published by James Thomas McBride, a convicted swindler.

Sevierville, Tennessee: Divine Trust, 2010. Faux leather. This 35-page document, “Universal Postal Treaty for the Americas,” published by the “Office of the Postmaster General, Trustee of the Global Trust, Divine Province,” is mounted within a black leatherette portfolio. The impressive document is filled with excerpts from the Constitution, U.S. law, and court cases as well as illogical gobbledygook that purports to provide information that anyone can use to declare themself a ‘sovereign citizen’ thus becoming unaccountable to all U.S. and state laws. This is exactly the type of idiocy that landed Wesley Snipes in prison.

$300   $150   $9303

Click on the image or links for more information and larger images.