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Regards, Kurt and Gail

Kurt and Gail Sanftleben
Montclair, VA 22025
Email: info@read-em-again.com
Phone: 703-580-6946
Website: read-em-again.com
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1. [ADVERTISING] [LAW & CRIME] [MILITARY & WAR] [PHILATELY] “SALE OF . . . THE FOLLOWING ESTATE . . . BEING HIS MANSION HOUSE AND LAND” – An apparent proof copy of a broadside announcing an estate sale of a prominent New England landowner that was sent to the family patriarch, probably for his approval. Solomon Lincoln, Guardian, and Lloyd G. Horton, Auctioneer to General William P. Riddle. Hingham and Quincy, Massachusetts to Bedford, New Hampshire: August 21, 1846.

This broadside, which advertises an estate sale to be held on 26 August 1846, measures approximately 13” square has been folded to facilitate mailing. It was printed in Quincy, Massachusetts by the auctioneer on 21 August 1846 and sent the following day (probably for approval) to the family patriarch in Bedford, New Hampshire by the guardian of the deceased’s children in Hingham, Massachusetts. The broadside bears a circular Hingham postmark in red and a black manuscript “2” postal rate, the correct cost to send printed matter by mail. It is in nice shape with light toning and wear.

The broadside announces two simultaneous auctions to dispose of the estate.

“Sale of Real Estate at Bent’s Point in Quincy . . . being the property of Mary E. Riddle, Charles L. Riddle and Adeline L. Riddle, minor children of David Riddle, deceased. . . .

“One undivided fifth part of a certain piece of Land with a Dwelling house, and other Buildings . . . containing two acres, more or less . . . being formerly the property of Isaac Riddle, Esquire, deceased, being his Mansion House and Land. . . .

“At the same time and place . . . four-fifths of the above estate will be sold under the direction of Gen. Wm. P. Riddle, on behalf of the remaining heirs. . . .”

The Riddles were a prominent and prosperous New England family. Isaac, the original owner of this property, had also owned property in Bedford as well as the first mill to be built at Merrimack, New Hampshire. He, and his brother (or possibly cousin) William P. Riddle formed a militia company of exempts, i.e., self-armed and equipped volunteers over 40 years of age who, although exempt for military duty, chose to organize as a militia unit. The company drilled daily in expectation that as a result of heightened Anglo-American tension over the Oregon-Canada border, it would be called on to fight the British at Portsmouth. Although that never happened the unit remained active and grew following the war. Although Isaac apparently lost interest, William continued his service and rose to the rank of Major General in the New Hampshire militia before resigning in 1835.

(For more information about the Riddle Family, see Ridlon’s History of the Ancient Ryedales and their Descendants. . . , Conover’s History of Bedford, New Hampshire, and Websters “Pageant” narrative for “The Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Town of Merrimack NH,” all available online.)

$150  #9697
To place an online order or to see additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #

2. [ADVERTISING] [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [BUSINESS & LABOR] [FOOD & DRINK] [PHILATELY] [SLAVERY] [TRIANGLE TRADE] THE BRITISH OWNERS OF ONE OF THE LARGEST SLAVE-LABOR PLANTATIONS IN CUBA PEDDLE SUGAR AND COFFEE IN NEW ENGLAND. A printed circular from the Drake Brothers in Havana announces their current prices for sugar, molasses, coffee, and other products to a prominent wholesale and shipping firm in Maine. Havana: The Drake Brothers & Co. to Magoun & Clap of Bath, Maine, 8 May 1851.

This two-page, bi-fold printed circular measures 8.25” x 11”. It is datelined “Havana 8 May 1851” and signed in print by the Drake Brothers. It is addressed to a merchant in Bath, Maine, and bears to postal handstamps, a straight-line “PRINTED CIRCULAR.” In black and a large bold “6” in red. (In 1847, the U.S. established a rate of three cents for loose printed matter originating in the West Indies and given to the purser or mail agent aboard a contract steamship. If addressed beyond the U.S. port of arrival, the “printed matter” delivery rate of three cent was added, resulting in a total cost of six cents to mail this circular.) The circular is in nice shape with original folds, light edgewear, and a couple small spots of foxing.

The circular provides a long list of the then current prices for various grades of Cuban sugar, molasses, and coffee, as well as a few other spices and products.

James Drake was a shrewd English merchant who settled in Cuba and married into an aristocratic Cuban family. He and his sons, led by Charles, owned a number of prominent Cuban merchant houses and one of the island’s major plantations that alone was worked by over 400 slaves. The Drakes were an important cog in Moses Taylor Pyne’s Triangle Trade slaving network that created the fortune used to transform Princeton from a small and rather unimportant New Jersey college into the major university it is today. The family became quite wealthy exporting sugar and coffee from their stable of warehouses while also serving as the island’s largest importer of goods and luxuries which they sold to plantation owners. Additionally, the Drakes made large profits financing slave ships and by provided ‘banking’ credit to the planting elite to fund the purchase of land, plants, equipment, and slaves.

David C. Magoun was a prominent merchant in Bath, Maine who joined with a wholesale grocer, Charles Clapp, in the early 1840s to establish an important New England shipping company. Magoun was elected to serve as Bath’s first mayor in 1848.

(For more information, see Glass’s “Moses Taylor Pyne and the Sugar Plantations of America at the Princeton & Slavery Project online, “Drake, C. & Co.” at the Rothschild Archive London, and Flassler’s “Enforcing Slavery Era Disclosure Ordinance (2-92-585) against UBS . . . . online at Zurich University.)

A scarce ephemeral testament to the mercantile dominance of Great Britain and New England in the slave trade during THE height of the abolitionist movement made even more desirable by an unlisted “printed circular” handstamp and uncommon stand-alone red “6” rate stamp applied in Boston. (See ASCC, vol 1, p168.) At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, nor has the auction of a similar item been reported at the Rare Book Hub or Worthpoint. A box of Drake & Co. correspondence is located at the Rothschild Archive in London, and OCLC shows collections of Magoun & Clapper papers are held at two institutions.

$350   #9695
To place an online order or to see additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #

3. [ADVERTISING] [FRAUD] [GAMBLING] [LOTTERIES] [PHILATELY] “MAGNIFICENT LOTTERIES . . . SPLENDID SCHEME . . . $1,901,900” Four-page handbill advertising 21 interstate mail-order lotteries originating in Maryland. George Cox, Lottery Broker. Sent to a potential customer in Pennsylvania from Baltimore, Maryland, 1852.

This four-page handbill measures 7.5” x 9.5” and advertises the availability of mail-order tickets for 21 different Maryland lotteries that were being held in March of 1852. It is enclosed in its original mailing envelope which bears a scarce, short-lived “PAID 1” arc postmark indicating the price the lottery broker paid to send this printed brochure. (Between 1 July 1851 and 30 September 1852, the U.S. Post Office charged 1-cent to deliver up to 1 ounce of unsealed circular mail—i.e., printed matter—a distance of up to 500 miles.) The handbill is in nice shape with its original mailing folds and some light and unobtrusive pencil docketing. The cover (envelope) has some light soiling and edgewear; the postal handstamp is dark and bold.

Lotteries played an important role in the early history of the America and were used to finance the establishment of the first English colonies; the first lottery to do so raised £29,000 for the Virginia Colony. They continued to be a popular method to funding projects such as road building, wharf construction, church and college construction, etc. until the mid-to-late 1800s. However, many of these lotteries were fraudulent and perpetrated by corrupt public officials including one National Lottery passed by Congress to beautify Washington, DC.

As increasing corruption was revealed, many states began to ban lotteries from being held within their jurisdictions, and lottery brokers stepped in to sell lottery tickets by mail across state lines. Following massive scandal in the 1870s involving the state lottery of Louisiana that revealed extensive bribery of state and federal officials, Congress outlawed the use of mail for lotteries in 1890 and in 1895 invoked the Commerce Clause to prohibit lottery tickets or advertisements from crossing state lines, effective ending all lotteries in the United State.

75 years later, lotteries were revived in 1964 when New Hampshire established a state lottery. New York followed in 1966 and New Jersey in 1970. By 1999, the lottery industry had been fully reborn; 37 states and the District were conducting lotteries.

(For more information about lotteries in the United States, see the 1999 Final Report of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission.)

A fine example of a mid-19th century advertising by a Maryland lottery broker made especially desirable by the use scarce, short-live ‘printed matter’ postal rate handstamp to send it across state lines into Pennsylvania (see ASCC, vol 1, p147).
4. [ADVERTISING] [BUSINESS AND LABOR] [MARITIME] [PHILATELY] [TRAVEL] “A MOST DIABOLICAL REPORT THAT THE UNDERSIGNED WAS DEAD THEREBY FOR HIMSELF GAINING BUSINESS UNDER THIS FALSY” A Handbill sent from a Shipping Agent on St. Helena to his customers in the U. S. dispelling accusations of bad service and providing assurance that that his firm remained an excellent place for ship’s masters to resupply, receive health care for their crew, and conduct business and banking transactions. William Carrol. Island of St. Helena: November 1853.

This stamped, folded broadside, printed in St. Helena for a prominent “shipping agent” in November of 1853, measures approximately 8” x 10”. It was transported in bulk on an unnamed ship from St. Helena to an associate of the agent in Boston. There it was franked, no doubt along with many others, with a blue 1-cent Franklin stamp (Scott #7), canceled with a circular Boston/Paid postmark, and forwarded through the U.S. postal system. At the time (from 1 Oct 1852 to 1 Jan 1857), the U.S. postal rate for mailing up to three ounces of printed matter was one-cent. The handbill is in nice shape with light toning and shipping/storage folds. The stamp is slightly off-center.

St. Helena is a British Territory in the Indian Ocean about 1,200 miles off the coast of southwestern Africa that, until it became a Crown Colony in 1833, was entirely under the control of the East India Company. For years, the island served as an important provisioning stop-over point for American whaling vessels and transport ships on their return home to Great Britain and the United States from British India and China.

In this letter, Carrol, the first American Consul assigned to St. Helena, who by the time of this letter had become a prominent island landowner and shipping agent, attempts to quell

“a most diabolical report, got up by a person lately of this island . . . to do the undersigned a serious injury, and thereby for himself obtaining business under this gross falsity [of my death].”

Carrol’s handbill goes on to assure his customers in the United States that the owners of many were not fooled by his rival’s subterfuge and have

“cheerfully directed the masters of their ships to their address themselves to the undersigned for supplies, advice, and assistance.”

He further reports that his island facility remains an excellent stopover point.

“The anchorage at this Port is perfectly safe. The climate most salubrious and there are great facilities for the dispatch of business. [Waterboats] sail alongside vessels [to provide] water discharged water by a Force Pump. And there is a Hospital established for the sick seamen of all Flag, to which all are admitted free of Charge. Funds are always at hand to disburse all charges and the credit of Ship Owners ever will be as heretofore, held sacred in his hands.”

(For more information about St. Helena and William Carrol, see All About St. Helena, online.)

Perhaps the only extant example of this unusual and uncommon inter-oceanic commercial broadside used to combat an unethical attempt to usurp a profitable international shipping support service located on an island in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean.

SOLD  #9693
5. [ADVERTISING] [BUSINESS & LABOR] [COAL] [MINING] [PHILATELY] CARRYING COALS ‘FROM’ NEWCASTLE – An advertising circular sent to the Boston Gas Light Company promoting the importation of ‘gas coal’ from Newcastle upon Tyne. A. Wellington Hart. New York: House of Anthony, Parker & Co. of New Castle upon Tyne, 1855.

This two-page bifold circular measures 8” x 10”. It was printed on 13 March 1855 and subsequently mailed from the coal company’s agent in New York to the Boston Gas Light Company in Massachusetts. It bears a circular red “New York/PAID” postmark (of a typed mainly used for printed matter) dated “MAR 23”. Although no postal rated is shown, at the time, the cost to send up to three ounces of printed matter was one cent. The circular is in nice shape with mailing folds and light postal wear.

In the mid-1800s, the use of natural gas as an energy source was unknown. Although coal-manufactured gas first began to be used in Great Britain in the 1800s and the United States in 1820s, it wasn’t until the 1850s that it began to become a viable method for providing public, residential, and industrial lighting in the eastern half of the United States. This was primarily due to the abundance of natural forests that provided more than enough wood to use as fuel. Although, American anthracite began to be used for heating and industry in the 1840s, it was the softer bituminous coal that was used to produce gas for lighting. While the mines of Pennsylvania grew rapidly, much of the coal use for American lighting was imported from the United Kingdom, especially Newcastle.

In this circular, Hart provides assurance that the Crimean War neither interrupted British bituminous coal production nor increased its price. Additionally, there are several tables comparing coal production and pricing.

The Boston Gas Light Company was among the pioneer coal gas manufacturers in the United States. Although founded in 1822, concerns regarding laying of gas pipes and their locations were argued for a number of years, delaying the first lighting of a gas streetlamp until 1829. By 1838, 28 gas lamps had been installed and 180 by the following year. By 1862, the city had over 4,300 in operation.

(For more information, see Former Manufactured Gas Plants, Adam’s “The US Coal Industry in the Nineteenth Century,” and Gray’s “The Gas Supply of Boston” in the July 1898 issue of The Quarter Journal of Economics via JSTOR, all available online.)

$100  #9698

This advertising packet consists of two four-page brochures of illustrated advertising sawmill equipment enclosed in an illustrated advertising cover. It was sent from J. K. Sanborn, a sales agent in Sandy Hill, New York to Milo J Moore in Sherburne, Vermont. The cover is franked with a 2-cent black, grilled Jackson stamp (probably Scott #93). All in nice shape; the envelope shows some opening roughness along the right edge.

One brochure features a large illustration of Foster’s Patent Canting Machine”, the same illustration as on the envelope. Quickly and safely “it rolls the log from logway on to the carriage, and rolls it over on the carriage, and will take up a stick of lumber and hold it up any desirable height required [resulting in earnings of] “Five to Fifteen Dollars per day, because [it] turns out from one to three thousand more feet of lumber per day than . . . without the machine.”

The other brochure advertises four other products: a First Class Mill, a Second Class Mill, a Third Class Mill, a Self-Oiling Roller, and a Timber Mill, each with a large illustration.

Online patent records, lumbering newsletters, and newspaper reports and advertisements indicate that J. K. Sanborn manufactured a variety of lumbering equipment at Sandy Hill from the 1850s to the 1870s.

Milo J. Moore owned a saw mill, stretcher (tool to adjust a saw’s tensioning and levelling), and bowl lathe that was located on the Quechee River in Sherburne, Vermont. (See Sherburne “Township Information” online at rootsweb.com.)

$250  #9712
7. [ADVERTISING] [BUSINESS & LABOR] [FOOD & DRINK] [HOROLOGY] [PHILATELY [WATER]
“SARATOGA SPRING WATERS . . . THESE WATERS ARE BOTTLED FRESH FROM EACH OF THE SPRINGS IN
SO CAREFUL AND SECURE A MANNER THAT THEY PRESERVE ALL THEIR MEDICINAL VALUE FOR YEARS”
– Advertising circular for bottle spring water sent by the inventor of time zones to the most important
professor at Hamilton College. Sent by the Reverend Charles F. Dowd to Professor Edward North.
Saratoga Springs to Clinton, New York: March 1868.

This two-page handbill measures 6” x 9.75” and is illustrated with an image of the Congress and
Columbian Springs in Saratoga Springs, New York. An addendum identifying the “Discounts for 1869” is
attached to the reverse. The handbill is enclosed in its original envelope sent by the Reverend Charles F.
Dowd from Saratoga Springs to Professor Edward North of Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. The
envelope is franked with a black two-cent Jackson stamp (Scott #73) that has been canceled with a fancy
“P” carved cork handstamp. Both the handbill and envelope are in nice shape.

The alleged benefits of Saratoga Springs naturally-carbonated mineral water can be traced to the
Mohawk and Iroquois tribes that are said to have drank and bathed in the waters for its supposed
healing and curative powers. Early settlers were convinced, and, over time, incredible claims about
their power exploded in early America. They were said to cure kidney and liver disease, rheumatism,
diabetes, scrofula, cancer, malaria, and “weakness of women” in addition to numerous other conditions and diseases. By the mid-1850s, Saratoga was the pre-
eminent vacation destination for the uber-wealthy including the Vanderbilts, Whitneys, J.P. Morgan,
Diamond Jim Brady, and Lillian Russell. Soon thereafter, resort proprietors expanded their operations to
include bottling their waters for shipment, especially within New York state.

This circular was produced in the early days of Saratoga water shipping by the suppliers, Hotchkiss Sons,
who promise to deliver bottled water from the Empire, Congress, and Columbian Springs “safely and
securely packed in boxes suitable for shipment to any part of the world.”

Reverend Dowd and his wife were co-principals of Temple Grove Ladies Seminary (now Skidmore College)
in Saratoga Springs. Dowd, however, is most famous for inventing the system of U.S. time zones (that was
eventually adopted world-wide) to improve railroad scheduling.

Professor North served as the Professor of Greek and ancient languages at Hamilton College for over 58
years. He also served as the president of the New York State Teacher’s Association and on the board of
trustees for the Clinton Grammar School.

(For more information, see “Saratoga Mineral Springs Legend & History” at Saratoga.com, CDC’s “History
of Drinking Water Treatment,” “The Man Who Made Time Workable” from the Jul/Aug 2017 issue of Yale
Alumni Magazine, and “A Memoir of Edward North” from the 14 Oct 1905 issue of the New York Times,
all available online.)

$200   #9701
8. [ADVERTISING] [FERTILIZER] [GUANO] [PHILATELY] “NO. 1 PERUVIAN GUANO . . . ALL GRADES OF MEXICAN GUANOS” – Four-page advertising circular mailed to farmers and planters advertising Guano and Raw Bone Phosphate fertilizers. P. Zell & Sons. Baltimore, Maryland: circa 1869.

This four-page advertising circular measures 8.5” x 11”. It was sent from P. Zell & Sons in Baltimore to William R. Rhea in 3 Springs, Virginia. It is franked with a 2-cent black, grilled Jackson stamp (probably Scott #93). The circular is undated, but no in-text testimonials are dated past 1868. Overall, the circular is in nice shape, however it has some soiling and postal wear along the folds including the beginnings of a few small splits. There is a 4” closed tear across the spine.

The circular begins with a short essay, “How to Improve Your Soil and Increase Your Crops” that promotes the use of Guano and Bone Phosphate as fertilizers. One inside page provides pricing and descriptions of Zell’s products. There are two pages of customer testimonials from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina.

In the 1840s, after Europeans realized the tremendous fertilizing power of the guano, i.e., seabird excrement, that Peruvians routinely harvested from mountainous deposits on their country’s rocky coastal islands, its value skyrocketed, and an entire “white gold” industry sprang up almost overnight. Millionaires were quickly made, primarily Peruvians and Englishmen who lured and indentured Chinese and Polynesians as virtual slaves to dig and harvest the guano. Americans began to search the coasts of Mexican, the Caribbean and the Pacific for other deposits, and Congress passed the Guano Islands Act in 1856 that authorized U.S. citizens to temporarily hold any uninhabited and unclaimed island until they stripped it of the valuable fertilizer.

It had also long been known that bones, especially crushed bones, provided nutrients to soils that promoted crop growth, however in the 1840s, a German chemist, Justus von Liebig, discovered that by first treating them with sulfuric acid allowed for a much more rapid and thorough absorption of their phosphate nutrients. Together, guano and bone phosphate fertilizer made possible the tremendous increase in agricultural production that occurred in the mid-to-late 1800s. (For more information, see Tandon’s “A Short History of Fertilizer” at the Fertilizer Development and Consultation Organisation online.)

SOLD #9704
To place an online order or to see additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #


Four broadsides promoting cigars made by the Cigar Makers International Union (CMIU). Each measures approximately 8” x 10”. Light toning and mailing folds.

The CMIU was the first union to label its products, and these broadsides feature its 1894 blue “Union-Made” label along with three caricatures proclaiming the benefits of union cigars, and one African-American man who is very upset that he can no longer purchase non-union cigars (see “Dating ‘Union-Made’ Labels” online at the National Cigar Museum.)

Prior to the Civil War, craftsmen purchased tobacco from entrepreneurs to make cigars at their homes which they then resold directly to the public. This system was brought to a halt during the Civil War when, to raise desperately needed funds, the federal government created a tax system on cigars requiring the entrepreneurs to establish consolidated worksites. In turn, they abandoned their craftsmen, hired inexpensive immigrant labor, developed mechanical methods to speed the process, and purchased large tenements where their workers were required to rent apartment-work rooms, thus meeting the requirement to establish a consolidated worksite. In response, cigar craftsmen established the CMIU to denigrate these tenement cigar factories, and it eventually became prominent when one of its officers, Samuel Gompers, led the founding of the American Federation of Labor.

George W. Perkins became the CMIU president in 1892 and launched a major campaign against “unhealthy” immigrant-made cigars. These broadsides were prepared at the height of his effort. Despite the effort, union-made cigars could not economically compete with those mass-produced by machines. Although, the CMIU eventually unionized the immigrant cigar-makers, it was too little, too late. The last hand-made U.S. cigar factory closed in 1931. After World War II, most production facilities moved to Central and South America, and the CMIU voted to merge with the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union. (See “The Golden Age of Cigars” online at the National Cigar History Museum.)

Surviving broadsides are rare, possibly these are the only surviving examples. There are none for sale in the trade. Rare Book Hub, Liveauctioneers, and Worthpoint show none have appeared at auction, and OCLC lists none held by institutions. One similar CMIU poster but without any of the impressive caricatures sold on ebay for $250 in 2018.

SOLD Item #9714
To place an online order or to see additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #

10. [ADVERTISING] [perhaps EDUCATION] [WOMEN] CABINET CARD PHOTOGRAPH OF SEVEN COLLEGE-AGED WOMEN DRESSED IN MEN’S SUITS POSING, PERHAPS IN A SORORITY PARLOR. Possibly an advertisement or memento related to a late 19th century Iowa haberdashery. N. D. Loper. Perhaps, Grinnell, Iowa: Iowa College, circa 1890.

This photograph measures 6.75” x 4.75” and is mounted on a card measuring 9.25” x 7”. In nice shape with a little bit of wear. There are tape scuffs on the reverse suggesting the card was once mounted on a wall or in a frame.

The photograph features seven smiling young women, all dressed in matching men’s suits with various styles of men’s hats. Several hold unlit cigarettes in their hands or clenched between teeth. They are standing in a straight line with their left hand placed on the shoulder of the women before. The photograph was a taken in what appears to be a common room or parlor, perhaps in a dormitory or at a sorority house, with a piano in the background. The bottom margin of the card is embossed N. D. Loper.

While identification and attribution of the image is no doubt impossible, searches (reference book, internet, and genealogical) for the name N. D. Loper, which is found where photographers routinely embossed their cards, turns up only as the owner of a haberdashery located in Grinnell, Iowa in the late 1800s. At the time, Grinnell was the location of Iowa College (today Grinnell College). The school first admitted women in the 1860s and a number would have been enrolled at the time this photograph was taken. It is only supposition, but if these women were students at Iowa College, perhaps they coordinated this photograph with N. D. Loper to advertise his clothing or provide for a group memento.

Regardless, this is a wonderful image of a happy group of young women cross-dressing in men’s suits.

SOLD  #9716
11. [ADVERTISING] [BUSINESS & LABOR] [FOOD & DRINK] [PHILATELY] [TRUST-BUSTING] [UNCLE SAM] “5¢ PER LOAF” – Very attractive postal advertising showing logos from one of the seven bakeries that merged together in 1907 to create a virtual monopoly of the St. Louis bread business. St. Louis, Missouri: Heydt Bakery, 1916.

An advertising envelope featuring logos of the various breads sold by the Heydt Bakery, which was a branch of the American Bakery Company. It is franked with a two-cent red Washington stamp (Scott #463) postmarked with a 1916 machine cancelation. Enclosed are three partially printed receipts, each annotated as paid. In nice shape; the envelope is slightly trimmed along the right edge affecting the stamp’s perforations.

The Heydt Bakery’s flagship brand was Yankee Bread, and its Uncle Sam logo is prominently featured on the front of the envelope. There are several references to the company’s “5¢ per Loaf” marketing slogan as well. Logos for other Heydt brands, shown on either the front or rear of the cover, include Bismarck Rye Bread, Butter Krust Bread, Superior Bread, Sunrise Bread, and Besta Cake.

The American Bread Company was organized in 1907 with the merger of seven St. Louis bakeries, the Heydt, Welle-Dostler, Freund Brothers, St. Louis Baking, A. A. Condor, Home, and Houck-Hoerr companies. When it did so, the presidents (or their sons) of those companies remained as managers of their respective bakeries. American Bread claimed that the merger allowed them to provide better service and maintain costs by streamlining delivery routes. Opponents, including those small bakeries that were not included in the merger, claimed that any overhead savings were negated by ever-increasing salaries paid to American’s seven managers. Moreover, they charged that the merger allowed American to fix the price of bread at five cents (by shortening the length of its loaves) during a period of escalating wheat prices to drive them out of business. The state of Missouri declared American’s organizational structure to be illegal, and in the spirit of those trust-busting times, sued the company in an attempt to break it apart. After a legal battle lasting several years, the state’s attorney general withdrew its suit when it realized a victory was unlikely due to a lack of evidence and statute of limitations issues. (For more information see various St. Louis Post-Dispatch articles and “American Bakery Co. Suit Discontinued” in Bakers Review of October, 1915, all online.)

An attractive bread advertisement and testament to the trust-busting attempts in the early 20th century.

SOLD  #9710
12. [ADVERTISING] [BUSINESS & LABOR] [FOOD & DRINK] [MEAT PACKING] [PHILATELY] “SAUSAGE SHIPPED BY LOCAL FREIGHT AT BUYERS RISK OF SPOILAGE” – An attractive advertising cover for one of the largest “independent” meat packing companies in the United States. St. Louis Independent Packing Co., 1917.

An attractive advertising cover featuring a large illustration of the St. Louis Independent Packing Company with two enclosed invoices.

The illustrated envelope is franked with a two-cent red Washington stamp (Scott #487) and posted with a 1917 machine cancelation. All are in nice shape; the left edge of the envelope has some light toning.

The envelope illustration shows the company’s massive plant located in St. Louis’s ‘Butcher Town” which at one time enclosed invoices were for a variety of products including Bologna Sausage, Bacon Round Jowl Butt, Beef Sides, Bacon Fat Back, Salt Butts, and Tubs of Pure Lard. Each bears a purple over-stamp reading “Sausage shipped by Local Freight at Buyer’s risk of Spoilage.”

At one time Texas longhorn steers were carried across the Mississippi River on the Carr Street and North Market ferries from railyards across in East St. Louis, Illinois. Once on the Missouri side of the river, they were driven through the streets by cowboys to either the Union or Courtney Stockyards until the city’s Central West End Butcher Town packing plants could receive them. Eventually, hogs and pork replaced cattle and beef within the plants.

The St. Louis Independent Packing Company alone occupied over 16 acres at Chouteau and Vandeventer Avenues. It was one of the last St. Louis packing companies to close, and its Mayrose Meats (“I’m a meat man and a meat man knows, the finest meats, ma’am, are Mayrose” was the company’s ubiquitous and catchy jingle) and Hickory Hill bacon remained staples in St. Louis grocery stores and butcher shops until the late 1970s when it was apparently acquired by Swift & Company and operations moved to the National City Stockyards in Illinois.

$150  #9711
To place an online order or to see additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #

13. [AFRICAN-AMERICANA] [AMERICAN INDIANS] [BUSINESS & COMMERCE] [CHOCTAW NATION] [COTTON] [PHILATELY] “HOPE TO BE SEEING YOU . . . IF I CAN GET DONE AT THE ABOVE PLACE.” Postcard home from an Englishman doing business with the huge Choctaw Cotton Compress showing African-American laborers posing with bales of cotton. “Eab” to Bob & Polly Chorlton. South McAllister, Indian Territory to Liverpool, England: circa 1903-1907.

This postcard captioned “Choctaw Cotton Compress, South Mc Alister, Ind. Ter.”, features an image of African-American laborers handling cotton bales. It is franked with a red 2-cent Washington stamp (Scott #319) canceled with an undated “South McAlester / Ind. T.” duplex postmark. (The South McAlester post office merged into the McAlester post office in 1907.) Underneath the image, the sender informed his Liverpudlian friends that “I hope to be seeing your in a few days if I can get through at the above place” suggesting that he was a British purchasing agent for a British textile mill. In nice shape.

The Choctaw Nation was involved in cotton production from the early 1800s. It also had a long history of using African-American slaves to labor in its cotton fields, gins, and presses; in 1860, the tribe held nearly 2,300 slaves. Although production decreased with the Civil War, by 1910 it had fully recovered, and over 900,000 cultivated acres were producing 40,000 bales annually on the backs of African-American freedmen. Within the territory, there were three main pressing plants that compacted loose cotton into shipping bales, and the Choctaw Cotton Compress at South McAlester was the largest. It operated until 1921 when it along with 10,000 bales and 50 boxcars of cotton were destroyed in a fire started by a locomotive spark.

(For more information, see Fite’s “Development of the Cotton Industry by the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory” in The Journal of Southern History, Dattle’s “Cotton in Global Economy” at Mississippi History Now, English’s By All Accounts: General Stores and Community Life in Texas and the Indian Territory, “Cotton” at the Oklahoma Historical Society, and newspaper accounts of the fire; all available online.)

While unused postcards or cards sent to domestic address occasionally appear on ebay, this international use by an English cotton buyer cotton buyer on a business visit is quite unusual.

SOLD  #9729
14. [ALCOHOL] [FOOD & DRINK] [LAW & CRIME] [PHILATELY] [PROHIBITION] “IT APPEARS THAT YOU HAVE NO LEGAL AGENCY IN YOUR TOWN FOR THE SALE OF PURE LIQUORS” – A printed circular mailed to the Selectmen of Carmel recommending they establish a local State Liquor Agency for the purpose of selling medicinal alcohol. Eaton Shaw. Portland, Maine: Office of the State Liquor Agency, 1863.

This one-page circular measures approximately 5” x 8”. It was sent by the State Liquor Agency in Portland, Maine to the Selectmen of Carmel. It is enclosed in its original mailing envelope that has been franked with a black two-cent Jackson stamp (Scott #73) which was canceled with a double-ring Portland postmark. At the time, two-cents was the prepaid postal rate to mail printed matter. Both the circular and envelope are in nice shape.

Maine was the home of Prohibition in the United States. In 1846, it passed the first law in the country that outlawed the sale of alcoholic beverages except those needed for “industrial and medicinal purposes” followed by another in 1851 that prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages for any purpose. However, enforcement was difficult, bootlegging ran rampant, and the sale of impure liquor was common. So, in 1862, the law was relaxed, and Maine established a “Commission to Regulate the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors.”

This flier from the “Office of State Liquor Agency,” recommends that communities without a legal entity to sell industrial and medicinal alcohol establish a local Agency to do so noting

“Alcohol is extensively used for manufacturing and mechanical purposes. Our physicians frequently prescribe Wines and Alcoholic Liquors for their patients; and these articles are used in sickness by many of our citizens. . . . How essentially and vitally important it is, that if Wines and Liquors are used at all by the feeble invalid, such only should be used as are known to be pure.

“It is well known that there are numerous large establishments throughout the country which are turning out immense quantities of adulterated Liquors . . . deadly poisons are often used [that] are not always obvious to the taste . . . .

“As guardians of the public weal . . . you will, I trust, consider the subject of this circular . . . .”

(For more information, see “Alcohol” at Maine: An Encyclopedia, “Maine Law: First State Prohibition in U.S.” at Alcohol Problems and Solutions, and “The Maine Law” at maine.gov., all available online.)

SOLD #9702
To place an online order or to see additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #

15. [BOOKSELLERS] [ OCCULT] [ORIENTALISM] [ PHILATELY] [ THEOSOPHY] “SHEIKHS UL KAABA. KHANAKEEN FIRST OF THE OCCIDENT” Printed invitation announcing a meeting to adopt this mystical organization's constitution and bylaws. Charles Southern and Robert Hyslop. New York: Sheikhs ul Kaaba, March 21st, 1885.

This invitation, dated March 21st, 1885, is printed on pink paper measuring approximately 5” x 8”. It is signed in print by Charles Southern and Robert Hyslop. It is enclosed in a matching pink envelope featuring a ‘ankh ansata’ (also referred to as a ‘handled-cross’ or ‘Coptic ankh) which is shape like an ankh but with a circular rather than teardrop shaped loop. The envelope is franked with a one-cent dark ultramarine Franklin stamp (Scott #182) and canceled with a New York postmark.

The invitation reads in part:

“A special enclosure of this Khanakeen, will be held at ‘Bade Bros’ . . . to consider the final adoption of a Constitution and By-laws, as well as for the transaction of such other business as may be offered for the welfare of the Khanakeen. / Charles Sotheran, Sheikh of Allah / Robert Hyslop, Sheikh Fakir”

There is no information about the Sheiks of Kaaba available online, and at first glance it would appear they were simply one of many secret fraternal organizations that became popular in the late 1800s. However, Charles Sotheran, was a founding member in the Theosophical Society, who, in fact, gave that organization its name, and Robert Hyslop may well have been a relative of J. Hyslop, another founding member).

Sotheran, a wealthy New Yorker antiquarian, bookseller, and journalist was a member of the famous London bookselling family and worked for Sabin and Sons, helping to publish their journal, The American Bibliopolist. He belonged to the Brotherhood of the Rosie Cross, was active in Egyptian Rite Masonry, and a student of the kabbalah, Egypt, and all things mystical. Sotheran was present at the first meeting of what he (although Henry Steel Olcott also claimed credit) would later name the Theosophical Society, where he was elected as its first librarian and appointed to a committee to draft its constitution and by-laws. Apparently, Sotheran had a difficult personality, clashed publicly with Helena Petrovna Blavatsky and other founders, eventually resigning his membership. Later, Sotheran apologized and rejoined the society. However, disagreements continued and after 1879, when Blavatsky and Olcott relocated the society to India, all mentions of Sotheran in theosophical writings ceased. Perhaps forming the Sheiks of Kaaba, was his attempt to rekindle a similar movement in New York. (More Information about Sotheran and the Theosophical Society can be found online.)

Possibly the only extant record of Sotheran’s post-Theosophical mystical activities. At the time of listing nothing similar is for sale in the trade; nothing similar has appeared at auction per Rare Book Hub and Worthpoint, and nothing similar is held by an institution per OCLC.

$250  #9715

One-page letter, dated “April 22nd 1837” from a Philadelphia mechanic describing a stove foundry he and thirteen other workers had just started within the city that earned the ire of local “cappitalists.” No mailing envelope, letter only. A transcript will be provided.

In this letter, Painter informs his nephew that he

“moved to the citty there is fourteen of us has started a foundry on the corner of Schuylkill & Coates streets have plenty of work at present we are getting up A set of cook stove patterns witch I think will be the best in market we have now in the sand the prettyest gass ovens in town this is quite a new thing here, the cappitalists that is carrying on foundrys here is down on us Mechanics for starting a foundry, but I think that we can get along without their good will if we cant have their approbation . . . We live in callowhill St above Schuylkill fourth I don’t calculate on staying here for the rent is to high and it is to far from the foundry if you should come to the citty you had better come to the foundry for I can’t tell where I will move to from here . . . direct [mail] to Phila Mechanics foundry corner of Schuylkill Sixth and Coateses St.”

In the early 1820s iron molders (foundry workers) began to complain about low wages, long hours, and forced use of company stores. By 1833, some molders had formed a rudimentary and ineffective union in Philadelphia while others joined fraternal organizations to provide insurance and care for injured or sick co-workers. Some, apparently like Painter and his associates, began to establish their own worker-owned foundries. Generally proved to be ultimately unsuccessful, and the molders returned to factories owned by capitalists. It wasn’t until the 1850s that unions began to gain a foothold within the iron industry when the Journeymen Iron Molders Association and the Stove and Hollowware Molders Union both formed in Philadelphia. Painters mention of his “prettyest gass ovens . . . quite a new thing” is quite timely as even though they were not common, gas ovens had been invented in the early 1820s. (For more information see “National Union of Iron Molders” at encyclopedia.com and Food Crumbles, both online.)

A nice piece of evidence documenting early non-union labor activism and an extremely early use of the term “cappitalist”. Although the Oxford English Dictionary states that the first use of the word ‘capitalist’ occurred in William Makepeace Thackeray’s 1857 novel, The Newcomes, it appears in several earlier publications: Young’s 1792 consolidated journal, Travels in France; Child’s 1833 abolitionist text, An Appeal in Favor of That Class of Americans Called Africans; and Parker’s 1852 Discourse on the Death of Daniel Webster.

$350  #9708

One-page stampless folded letter from a hiring agent informing a client that he has located and tentatively procured the services of a broom maker. The letter shows a circular Kingston postmark dated “Mar/21” as well as a straight-line “PAID” handstamp. Light soiling and postal wear. A transcript will be provided.

In this letter, Belding informs Ellsworth (likely a landowner with a supply of broom-straw) that he has found a broom maker willing to relocated to Ellsworth’s property.

“I have ingaged a good work man for you one that has worked at the business about four years he is a man of good principles is a man that you can trust. He will make thirty brooms for a days work good common brooms he wants twenty dollars per month and board or 2½ c per broom if you board him and do his washing allowing 50c per month for washing he wants you to pay one half of the fore to your place he will stay with you until you make up the brush you have on hand if you and he are both suited he will start for your place the fore part of next week if you want him to come on the conditions mentioned I think that is quite as reasonable as you can find any broom maker in this place at the present time that is counted a good workman”.

Broom making was an important trade throughout Pennsylvania before the invention of carpet sweepers in the early 1900s. Brooms were made from the tassels of a special type of sorghum known as broomcorn that grew very well in the hard clay and shale fields of Pennsylvania. It was a perishable crop, planted in the spring harvested while still a bright pea green color. While the preponderance of brooms were made in early factories even in rural areas where entrepreneurs purchased broom corn from local farmers. Rather than sell his broom corn to one of these factories, Ellsworth apparently chose to hire a broom maker to turn his “brush” into finished products for resale. (For more information, see Hoover’s “Pennsylvania’s Historical Industries: Broom Making” online at PennsylvaniaResearch.com.)
To place an online order or to see additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #

18. [BUSINESS & LABOR] [GOLD RUSH] [MINING] [PHILATELY] [TAXATION] “THE CAPITAL STOCK OF THE STEWART GOLD MINING COMPANY IS ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND SHARES, PAR VALUE OF FIVE DOLLARS EACH – An official printed list of all stockholders in a Colorado gold mining company that was mailed to tax assessors. Charles Durham. Boston: Stewart Gold Mining Company of Colorado, May 28, 1864.

This one-page shareholder list measures approximately 5” x 8”. It was printed on 28 May 1864 and mailed three-days later to the “Assessors of Bridgewater, Massachusetts.” It is franked with a 2-cent black Jackson stamp (Scott #73) which at the time was the pre-paid rate for sending printed materials. It bears a circular Boston/Paid postmark dated May 31. In nice shape.

The Stewart Gold Mine was one of many mines to spring up in the Central City region of Colorado in wake of the Pike’s Peak Gold Rush after paydirt was struck in Gregory Gulch in the late spring of 1859.

By 1860, over 10,000 miners had descended upon Central City to mine the Gregory Lode and four other major veins that were subsequently found in the region: Bates, Gunnell, Kansas, and Burroughs.

Most of the miners worked for companies, and in 1863, and after signing a resolution to form a “hard rock miner’s union” rioted and began destroying property at the Bob Trail mine. Mining security responded and skirmished with the rioter throughout the night. By the following morning, the miners had lost heart, and the union effort folded. By 1900, the veins had been exhausted and the regional population had decreased to just over 3,000.

Historically, the Stewart Gold Mine was located within the region’s Apex-North Gilpin Mining District which is now part of the Roosevelt National Forest. The mine has been closed for many years and there are no plans to reopen.

(For more information, see “Stewart Gold Mine Near Central City, Colorado” at The Diggins and Wikipedia entries for “Gold Mining in Colorado” and “Central City, Colorado,” all online.)

$150  #9700
To place an online order or to see additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #

19. [COLONIALISM] [EDUCATION] [PHILATELY] “TONIGHT WE ARE DOWN AT THE QUARTERS OF THE NATIVE SOLDIERS TO SEE ABOUT STARTING NIGHT SCHOOLS FOR THEM.” Small archive of letters from one of the first “Thomasite” teachers sent by the United States to establish an education system for its new Philippine colony. Henry also Harry or Heinrich [Martin Wagenblass]. Tuguegaro, Cagayan, Philippines: 1903.

Four letters, totaling 29 pages of text, sent by Henry Wagenblass from Tuguegaro, Cagayan, Philippines to his romantic interest, Emma “Bob” Woolley at New York City and Bayshore, Long Island between January and July of 1903, each with its original mailing envelope. (This Emma Woolley is not the famous president of Mount Holyoke College, but the daughter of a prominent New York City physician who had become a millionaire speculating in Upper East Side real estate.) All are franked with two-cent red U.S. Washington stamps overprinted “PHILIPPINES” (Scott #214). Three of the four are canceled with circular postmarks reading Tuguegarao / Cagayan P.I. The fourth postmarked reads Aparai / Cagayan P.I. All bear a variety of transit and receipt handstamps. All in nice shape; the back flap of one envelope is missing.

Following the Spanish-American War, after Spain sold the Philippine archipelago to the United States, the wealthy Filipino leaders who had led revolutionary insurgents against Spain were outraged that the U.S. did not immediately grant the islands independence. When the U.S. continued to occupy the region these *Illustrados* declared their independence and turned to fight American rule; a bloody three-year war ensued. In 1901, with help from Filipino allies, the American Army captured the Philippine president, Emilio Aguinaldo, who then pledged his government’s allegiance to the U.S. In return, the U.S. declared amnesty for all fighters, allowed Filipinos to establish their own independent legislative assembly, replaced the military with a Philippine Constabulary, and expanded the U.S. Bill of Rights to include all Filipinos. The U.S. also assumed a maternalistic “mother-daughter” relationship with its new colony. This included providing a public school system for all Filipinos, not only the aristocratic class as was the case under Spanish rule. President McKinley established a commission to undertake the task, and 540 idealistic teachers from all over the U.S. undertook the challenge. They traveled to the islands aboard the army transport, *U.S.S. Thomas*, and were quickly dubbed the “Thomasites”. Starting from scratch and beset by incredible problems (lack of facilities, equipment, and communications compounded by weather and health issues), they eventually established a popular system. As noted by Beth Day Romulo, “Filipinos, starved for education which had been denied them under Spanish rule, flocked to the schools.”

Henry Wagenblass, who established a school at Tuguegaro in the Cagayan province, was one of the teachers to answer the call. These excerpts from his letters touch upon his efforts:

“Mr. Rodwell’s horse got away and as we are going over across the river to Enrile tomorrow to see the school property there we spent the evening trying to find him but without success. ... on Saturday I go to Amulung and Alcala and later into Isabela Province. So notes will probably be all I can write for a while. ... The errors in this letter are due to my being so sleepy, from the sun and wind. ...”

“It looks at last as if I were to get off for up-river. Ever since the Holidays I have been expecting to make the trip but one thing after another has kept me busy. To-night however, Mr. Rodwell said he expected to go tomorrow and wanted me to go along. So we shall probably be gone for at least a
week. We shall plan to go by horse unless it rains: then we shall do the next best thing [walk, I suppose]. . . . The other day a band of Calingos were in here and Mr. Rodwell took a series of pictures of them. [and] tonight we were down at the quarters of the native soldiers to see about starting night schools for them. Afterwards we rode down to the river to water our horses. . . .

“Mr. Goody has been here since he came from Tuao and three teachers from Ilocos, making a tour of the Cagayan Valley have been here since Friday. You see there are no hotels nor anything of that kind here so an American when he reaches a town hunts up some resident Americans and always receives a welcome. . . . “The other day word came from Mr. Bard, the new superintendent, that he would not be here until June 1st . . . so I hope to finish up things this week and get down to Manila if possible. . . . I am still in Tuguegaro with no definite word as to a change but I expect that before very long I shall be transferred. . . . Our hot weather has not quite baked me to a cinder but it has thinned me down until I only 153 lbs – less than I ever did in college. But I think I am really better for it.”

Although Wagenblass hoped Emma would wait for his return (“I suppose there will naturally be others and I hope you will pass a very pleasant summer. All I ask is that you do not quite forget me this summer. Next summer I hope to be on hand to serve as a rather forceable reminder that I exist. I am sorry I cannot do so this year.”) That was not to be. Emma married an accountant and moved to New Jersey. Wagenblass, however, stayed on, and after completing three years as a teacher, he became the third superintendent (after Mr. Rodwell and Mr. Barr) of the Cagayan schools. He served in that position for 11 years before returning to his family’s farm near Wyoming, New York. He married soon after and was heavily involved in community activities until his death in 1963 at the age of 84.

(For more information see Quizon’s “The Voyage of the Thomasites at the National Heritage Commission of the Philippines, “Education: Thomasite Troubles” in Time April 12 1937, “Philippines – Historical Background” at the Library of Congress Federal Research Division, the Kiester’s’ “Yankee Go Home and take me with you!” in Smithsonian May 1999, Tarr’s dissertation, The Education of the Thomasites, and genealogical entries and obituaries for Wagenblass and Woolley, all available online.)

First-hand accounts by Thomasites of their educational endeavors in the Philippines are decidedly scarce. At the time of listing, there is nothing similar for sale in the trade. The Rare Book Hub shows no original Thomasite items have been sold at auction, and OCLC shows only one institution, the University of Michigan, holds a small Thomasite archive.

SOLD #9727
To place an online order or to see additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #


Three-page letter from Francis C. Lowell, the “Father of the American Industrial Revolution”. Although unaddressed, the content makes it clear he was writing to Congressman Thomas Dawes Eliot, the most vociferous American opponent of the Coolie Trade. Glue remnants along the left border.

In this letter, Lowell requests that the Congressman “check if not to prevent American vessels from engaging in the Coolie trade” and rages against it.

“I called upon such of my acquaintances [who] consider this trade . . . worse than the African slave trade. I asked one why he said worse. I have, said he, seen the negroes landed from the ships and many of them appeared ignorant & stupid, but these Chinese come from a much more civilized country . . . He added the blacks are sold for life & we masters have an interest that they should live long, whereas these men are sold for five or ten years & the masters have no such interest.

“The detestation in which this trade is now held . . . have come to us within the last two days through England. . . . The Coolies are or have been engaged in putting guano on board ships at the Chinese Islands. Your committee might learn . . . how these men are treated there at the guano island & whether a China man or any other man would voluntarily have subjected himself to such treatment. . . . The worst features of this trade are so revolting that . . . it throws an air of improbability over the whole affair. The least startling & most common facts about the trade are quite enough to excite the public indignation & to justify your Committee in any measures they may wish to introduce for the suppression of this trade in American vessels.”

The “coolie trade” refers to the importation—by force or deception—of Asian (primarily Chinese or Indian) laborers on European-owned plantations as substitutes for slave labor. Hypocritically, it was infamously developed and aggressively pursued by Great Britain at the height of the British attempt to destroy the African slave trade. The British began by importing 200 Chinese to Trinidad in 1806, after ending the slave trade. By 1838 over 25,000 East Indians had been taken to the British East African colony of Mauritius. Indian coolies were mainly exported by the British to their own colonies, however between 1847 and 1874, up to 500,000 Chinese coolies were imported to British, French, Dutch, and Spanish colonies in the Americas, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Some of the worst abuses suffered by coolies were to the Chinese workman who had signed contracts to harvest guano, the precious “white gold” bird-dropping-fertilizer, from islands in the Pacific. Lowell’s and Eliot’s efforts resulted in passage of the 1862 Act to prohibit the Coolie Trade by American Citizens in American Vessels. (For more information, see Coolie Trade in the 19th Century and Schultz’s American Merchants and the Chinese Coolie Trade 1850-1880, both available online.

A rare and important testament to burgeoning American attempts to preclude U.S. involvement in the Coolie Trade.

SOLD  #9709
To place an online order or to see additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #

21. [EDUCATION] [MENNONITES] [PHILATELY] [RELIGION] [WOMEN] “I HAVE FINISHED MY RIBBON PIECE [AND] WILL SOON BEGIN WORK AT MY LACE. . . . TWO HOURS ON MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY I EMPLOY ATTENDING TO ORTHOGRAPHY, ARITHMETIC, AND SEWING.” Two letters from Lititz Seminary (now Linden Hall) the oldest continuously operating girls’ boarding and day school in the United States. Charles F. Kluge and Ann Herr. Lititz, Pennsylvania: 1833.

Two stampless letters from Lititz, Pennsylvania, one from Charles F. Kluge (the principal of Lititz Seminary) and one from Ann Herr (one of two sisters attending the school as boarders). Both are addressed to Susan (Susanna) Herr, Ann’s older sister, in Lancaster City. Both bear manuscript postal markings in the hand of the same Lititz postmaster. One shows a post rate of “6”, the cost a single-sheet letter a distance of up to 30 miles. The other shows a double-rate of “12”, the cost to send a folded letter with an enclosure (an invoice that is no longer present). Both are quite legible; one has some toning and the other is missing a small bit of text where its wax seal was broken upon opening. Transcripts will be provided.

Ann and her sister, Amanda, were boarders at the Lititz Seminary (which was later renamed Linden Hall) where they studied domestic arts of the day in addition to reading, writing, and arithmetic. As Ann informs her older sister,

“I have finished my Ribbon piece; sister thinks she will complete hers next week. I did not assist her any. I have been sewing at our capes, and will soon begin work at my lace. The two hours on Monday and Wednesday during which I worked at my Ribbon piece, I now employ in attending to Orthography [Spelling and Writing], Arithmetic and sewing. Each one of my companions, has a garden, I have mine, in partnership with Laura Archer and Mary Ann McCord. I can assure you, this affords no great amusement. We generally go into the pleasure ground at noon, and take our walks in the evening. Since Easter, we again go to church on Wednesday evening.”

Charles F. Kluge, the principal, informs Susanna in his letter:

“You will, therefore, find washing, Board & Tuition, & other regular quarterly charges [on the enclosed invoice, which is now missing.] The two sums, placed to yr. credit under date of July 31st [con]statute the payment of $68.45/100, made to me on the day. The amount remaining due on both accounts stand, leaving the time of payment to be determined by yr. convenience.”

Linden Hall began in 1746 as a simple Moravian log Gemeinhaus that served as a chapel, parsonage, and schoolhouse where both boys and girls received instruction until a separate girls’ facility, which now houses the school’s administrative offices and is known as Stengel Hall, was built in 1769. By 1800, the school was routinely admitting girls from non-Moravian families.

A nice pair of letters testifying to the operation and academics of the earliest girls’ boarding and day school in continuous existence in the United States.

$200   #9706
To place an online order or to see additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #

22. [EDUCATION] [PHILATELY] [WOMEN] “IN EVERY RESPECT, A SCHOOL OF THE FIRST ORDER, AND A
DELIGHTFUL RESORT FOR YOUNG LADIES, WHO WISH TO RECEIVE A THOROUGH AND FINISHED
EDUCATION.” Catalogue of the Officers and Students of the Townsend Female Seminary, for the Year
Ending August 1847 mailed to a physician in Massachusetts. Miss Hannah P. Dodge et al. Townsend to
Littleton, Massachusetts: The Townsend Female Seminary, 1847.

This 14-page academic pamphlet measures approximately 4.5” x 7.5”. It was mailed to Dr. E. [Edward] J.
White of Littleton, Massachusetts, a physician per the 1850 Census. It bears a Townsend postmark dated July 24
and two manuscript postal rate marks. It received a “3” cent marking by the Townsend postmaster (the cost to send
a printed circular) but was rerated a “5” cents (the letter rate) upon arrival, perhaps because the postmaster
noticed a two-word pencil annotation on the last page. In nice shape with minor wear and faint crease.

It identifies the school’s Trustees, Examining Committee, Faculty, and its 66 students. There is also a list of former students who had formed the Literary and Education Society “to promote female education.” Another section specifies the school’s Regulations, Terms, Examination, Tuition, and the cost of Board and Music lessons.

The catalog’s most interesting pages identify the books used for instruction as well as the courses for the
school’s five-year academic program: English (Grammar, Milton, Rhetoric, Poetry, Shakespeare), Languages (French, Latin), Math (Algebra, Geometry), Philosophy (Intellectual Powers, Moral Science), Practical and Performing Arts (Drawing, Instrumental Music, Needlework, Painting), Science (Astronomy, Botany, Chemistry, Geography, Physiology), and Theology (The Bible, Evidences of Christianity, Natural Theology). These courses are of the same type and level of difficulty as those found in contemporary male academies and seem to refute the canard that schooling for young women was not as rigorous as that for young men. While that was the case up to the early 1800s, by the 1850s advanced female education had achieved parity in terms of rigor, availability, and access. The difference was in how that education was used; most males became ministers while most females became teachers or used what they had learned to educate their children. (For more information, see Sweet’s "The Female Seminary Movement and Woman’s Mission in Antebellum America” in Church History, March 1985, and Horowitz’s Alma Mater: Design and Experience in the Women’s Colleges from Their Nineteenth-Century Beginnings to the 1930s.)

Hannah P. Dodge, the Townsend’s principal was a distinguished 19th century educator. After completing
her preparatory education, she enrolled at the academy (which had been founded in by Levi Warren in the
1830s) in 1844 and stayed on to serve as principal for the next seven years. She later led several other
women’s schools and served as a faculty member at Kalamazoo College and the Colby Academy. She
retired from education after a four-year term as the superintendent of schools in Littleton, Massachusetts.
(For more information about Dodge, see Willard and Livermore’s A Woman of the Century. . ., Siebert’s
“Women’s minds were not ‘strong enough’ for learning” in the Nashua Valley Voice, and Cloues’s A
Teacher’s Message: a Memorial to Hanna Perkins Dodge, 1821-1896; all three available online.

$200  #9696
To place an online order or to see additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #

23. [EDUCATION] [PHILATELY] [SCHOOLMARMS] [TRAVEL] [WESTERN EXPANSION] [WOMEN] “I AM IN THE MIDST OF REAL KENTUCKY CAMELITE HOOSIERS, MOSTLY IGNORANT AND PREJUDICED . . . TEACHING IN A REAL LOG CABIN.” A young woman recounts her travel from Connecticut to western Indiana to begin teaching as one of the first schoolmarms trained by Catherine Beecher and Calvin Stowe and sent west to civilize the frontier. Roxana Ellsworth. Portland Mills, Indiana: circa 1847.

This three-page stampless folded letter is datelined “Portland Mills Ind Nov. 27”. In it, Ellsworth notes that she was writing it on a Saturday which, coupled with its content, suggest it was composed in 1847. It bears a Portland Mills postmark and a “circled 5” rate stamp. In nice shape with some postal soiling.

Ellsworth’s letter is addressed to her brother in Pennsylvania, and in it she describes her travel from Hartford, Connecticut to her frontier teaching job in western Indiana.

“This is Saturday one of the school teachers leisure-bysy days. . . . They want school kept here something less than six months for a yr. . . . I left Hartford Sept. 25th in company with 28 other teachers with Gov. Slade for an escort – reached Albany in the afternoon . . . went on to Buffalo 326 miles [and] remained until Tuesday evening when we took the Steamer Empire bound for Munroe & Toledo on the west end of Lake Erie . . . (about 27 hours) a fine passage over the lake. One division of our party had taken place at Buffalo another now took place at Toledo. Four of us took the little packet boat for a techious ride down the Wabash & Erie Canal . . . and reached Montezuma on Monday morn . . . the nearest point on the canal to what was then my place of destination Portland Mills Parke Co. Ind. . . . I am not teaching the school that I expected to when I left Conn. I am in the midst of real Kentucky camelite [probably Carmelite used as an adjective meaning poor and isolated] Hoosiers, mostly ignorant and prejudiced. The school is quite a different character from what I expected. . . . The people here do not know what a good school is. Many things which if not practiced in a school in the east would be considered a great deficiency – the same thing here would meet with strong opposition. I am teaching in a real log school house, boarded in a log house 3 weeks, very good . . . for those who are not dyspeptic. . . .”

In the late 1840s, Catherine Stowe (Harriet’s sister) and her brother-in-law Calvin Stowe (former governor of Vermont) became alarmed by reports of immorality and ignorance within the communities of the expanding American frontier. As a remedy, they established a Board of National Popular Education and began raising funds to educate young women to provide female teachers, rather than male schoolmasters, to civilize western towns. Their first cohort of schoolmarms, escorted by Stowe, departed in 1847. During the organization’s 13-year existence, it sent between 450 and 600 young female teachers to western schools. (See Boyle’s The Feminization of Teaching in America, Welt’s Women Teachers on the Frontier, and Speicher’s Catharine Beecher Educates the West.

A scarce first-person testament to Beecher’s and Stowe’s program, one of the most important and influential educational initiatives in the United States that not only had a civilizing effect in frontier America but also forever “feminized” the school-teaching profession in the United States. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, been sold at auction per the Rare Book Hub, nor held in an institutional collection per OCLC.

SOLD  #9713

This two-page, bi-fold handbill circular measures 7.5” x 9.75” and promotes the opening of the Motorpathic Water Cure and College of Health. It was folded and mailed from Meriden, Connecticut to Boston Massachusetts in November of 1856. It bears a circular “PAID/1” postal rate handstamp in red. (Between 1 October 1852 and 1 January 1857, the post office would deliver up to three ounces of printed matter for one cent.) In nice shape. Light wear with original mailing folds.

The first mention of this college is an advertisement in the 7 April 1854 issue of the Connecticut Whig that announces its planned opening. This prospectus does the same.

“This Institution is now open for the reception of invalids. It is situated on Meriden, Conn. on the line of the New York and Boston Rail Road. ... For an institution for the kind, the location is superior to any in the State; the air is pure, the water wholesome, and the scenery fine. ... It has been fitted up ... with special regard to the convenience of invalids. ... The Rooms are large and airy and well arranged for ventilation. A Gymnasium, Bowling Alley, and other exercises are connected, well calculated to call into active exercise those muscles and portions of the system enfeebled by long disuse [and] its Bathing facilities will fully meet the requirements of water-cure treatment. ...”

The circular continues, promising

“We shall treat Chronic Diseases of every variety and name, as Consumption in its early stages, Bronchial Affections, Liver Complaint, Dropsy, Scrofula, Nervous Derangement, Paralysis, Falling of the Bowels, Spinal Irritations, Convulsions, Hysteria, Spinal Curvature, Rheumatism, Polapsus Uteri, or Falling of the Womb, Fluor Albus, and all diseases incident to females, &. . . .”

Treatments included “the use of the hot-air bath, the alcoholic vapor bath, the medicated sulphur bath, the use of water cold, warm, or in vapor. ...” When indicated, patients received “natural muscular support,” “Motorpathy” [i.e., the treatment of disease by muscular movements], “Medicated Inhalations,” and the promotion of “natural and free perspiration.”

There is no information in the circular about the college’s faculty, course of study, or other academic elements.

At the time of listing two copies of this circular are known to be held by institutions, Penn State University and the American Antiquarian Society.

$150  #9694
25. [EDUCATION] [IMPERIALSIM] [TRAVEL] An exceptional photograph album documenting the life of a well-to-do expatriate family in Shanghai, China which includes travels to India, Egypt, and Italy to see Mount Vesuvius. The Haines family with two sons named Jack and Preston. China, Egypt, India, and Italy: 1930-1933.

This tooled leather album measures approximately 13” x 9” and contains over 200 corner-mounted photographs. The photos range in size from 2.25” x 3.25” to 5.25” x 3”. Many of the photos are captioned on the reverse and bear Preston Haines’ initials. The album, pages, and photographs are all in nice shape.

The album begins with approximately 30 images of Shanghai to include the famous international business community of the Bund (a mile-long stretch of waterfront along the Whangpoo (now Huangpu) River and the Shanghai American school (S.A.S.)), where the family’s son was apparently enrolled. There are many images of school life including the traditional Sophomore-Freshman mud fight and its Juno Trophy that was awarded to the winning class. There are also camping photos of the “Panther Patrol,” apparently one patrol of a Boy Scout troop sponsored by the S.A.S. Many students are identified. There is one photo of Jack wearing the uniform of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps (the S.V.C was a multinational defense force established to protect the international community) “during the trouble in Shanghai 1932.” (The Shanghai Trouble—also known as the First Shanghai Incident, the January 28th Incident, and the Shanghai War of 1932 was a three-month long battle within the International Community between Japanese and Chinese forces that took place after the Japanese invasion of Manchuria.)

A second section includes approximately 30 photographs of what appears to be a stay at the Preston’s vacation home in Pai Tai Ho (now Beidaihe), a beach resort not far from Beijing that is still popular today. A number of the photos show the Preston’s staff (including a majordomo, roomboy, cook, and musician with a dizi, i.e., bamboo transverse flute. Others show family members dining, hiking, relaxing on a beach, and climbing on the region’s rocks and mountains that overlook the sea.

A short third section with about a dozen photographs shows a ship’s launch or gig traversing a harbor, shipboard posing, sampans, a rickshaw, oxcart, a woman who appears to be making paper, and one of China’s infamous “baby towers” (this one at Cheefo) where dead babies disposed and unwanted babies (usually girls) were deposited and left to die.
The following section contains about 50 photographs of a visit to India with the women wearing white tropical dresses and the men dressed in tropical white suits, shorts, knee sox, and pith helmets. Images include a man with tongue and facial piercings, fishermen, beggars, elephants, monkeys, religious festivals, statues, the Mahabodhi Temple at Bodhgaya, monks, snake charmers, cobras and a mongoose, yogis, ruins, and shipboard swimming, croquet, and shuffleboard.

Over 60 photographs of Egypt follow showing pyramids, camel, oases, Khufu’s pyramids, the Sphinx, other monuments, museum, Cairo landmarks, street scenes, peddlers, craftsmen, mosques, and much, much more.

The album ends with more than 30 images of a smoking Mount Vesuvius and scenery and ruins in the surrounding area.

Although I could find no records of a Haines Family living in Shanghai during the 1930s, Ancil F. Haines was an important figure in the Pacific shipping industry during the early 1900s and spent time in Shanghai while serving as executive with both the Dollar Steamship and Admiral Mail Lines. It’s possible that a son followed in his footsteps as several of the ship photographs suggest that the head of this family may also have worked in the steamship industry.

The Shanghai American School was founded just north of the Bund in 1912 to educate the children of American missionaries, but soon developed a reputation for academic excellence and grew into a large and prosperous school that supported Shanghai’s international business community. The school still exists today.

An exceptional visual record of a privileged life made possible by colonial imperialism. No doubt it is one of the better albums of its kind that we have ever handled.

$1,750  #9721
26. [FAIRS & EXPOSITIONS] “THE GREATEST OF WORLD’S FAIRS IMPRESSIVELY OPENED” The St. Louis Post-Dispatch coverage of “Opening Day” at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition or St. Louis World’s Fair. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, May 1, 1904.

Three complete sections of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch covering opening day activities of the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair, the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. In exceptionally nice shape with light toning and a single horizontal storage fold; otherwise, pristine.

The front page includes a screaming headline, “THE GREATEST OF WORLD’S FAIRS IMPRESSIVELY OPENED / Attendance, Estimated, 200,000; Previous Record, Philadelphia, 186,672,” along with large images of David R. Francis and Thomas H. Carter (the president of the exposition and its chief promoter) as well as Secretary of War Howard Taft delivering an opening day oration. The lead article recounts the crowd’s astonishment when the electricity was turned on at 7:30 pm to bathe the entire exposition in light. Each subsequent page of the first section contains at least one large illustration accompanied by articles about some of the exhibits and features including “Picturesque Manila,” “Giant Patagonians,” The Cascades’ Illumination,” “The Pike,” “Camp of the Maccabee Scouts,” ”Strange Peoples from the Orient,” and “The National Chinese Pavilion.”

The first page of the “Want Directory” section features a large comic portrayal of Americans from throughout the country as they witnessed the fair’s opening and includes a host of smaller articles about “Out of the Ordinary Incidents of Opening Day.” In addition to a variety of want ads, this section also includes several illustrated advertisements for Chinese and European Clairvoyants and Palmists. A near-full page advertisement for the Magnetic Springs Sanitarium guarantees “MORPHINE, OPIUM, COCAINE . . . PERMANENTLY CURED IN 10 15 DAYS . . . LIQUOR HABIT-DRUNKENESS-CURED IN ONE WEEK – NO HYPODERMICS USED”.

The Sporting Section devotes four illustrated pages to the upcoming Olympic Games to be held in conjunction with the fair, one illustrated page about the fair’s $5 million “Auto Parade” and demonstration that will include “ten thousand automobilists in 2500 machines,” and a double-page illustrated spread predicting the Cardinals will become the 1904 National League Champions (sorry, but that was not to be for another 22 years).

$125 #9705

This circular measures approximately 7.5” x 10”. It is enclosed in its original mailing envelope which is addressed to a militia Major in Paris. It bears a double oval Utica postmark dated Dec 17 and a manuscript “2” rate mark indicating the then current postal rate to mail up to 3 ounces of printed matter. The circular is in nice shape; the envelope has been roughly open and is missing a piece of its back flap.

The circular announces that the state militia will be hosting a conference to determine the feasibility of establishing a “fraternal communion” to “foster, encourage, and perfect our Militia system,” “discuss amendments . . . before the Legislature,” and “elevate the standing and character of our Militia [to be] the largest, best organized and best drilled body of independent troops in the world.” Membership dues of $5.00 are proposed, some of which will also be applied to hosting of a Military Ball.

In fact, the New York State Militia became the largest militia force in the United States. Although the state funded and directed its training and organization, individual militiamen were required to provide their own muskets and equipment, and officers also provide their own mount, saddle, pistols, sabres, and bearskin caps.

Generally, membership in local militias was compulsory in the early United States and every male citizen between the ages of 18 to 45 was required to attend military training. During peace time militiamen were required to attend several musters each year (under penalty of fine) or hire substitutes (e.g., unnaturalized immigrants) to serve in their place. Although required to provide their own firearms, substitutions for them were often allowed as well (e.g., cudgels).

(For more information see Fearon’s Sketches of America. . ., and “New York State Militia” online at worldhistory.us.online.)

SOLD #9699
This half-leather scrapbook measures 8.25” x 11” and contains 64 pages, all completely filled with newspaper clippings and a myriad of ephemera including official correspondence, broadsides, calling cards, armory illustrations, encampment maps, fez packaging, certificates, ball invitations, dance cards, event tickets, award ribbons, payment receipts, meeting notices, a newsletter masthead, an encampment program, an embossed gold-foil unit seal, etc. All are glued to the leaves. A later postcard inviting Bane to a unit reception is laid in. There are two printed labels affixed to the front cover: one reading “Armory / Bain Zouaves” and the other of a zouave advancing at the ready; both are lightly faded. A third manuscript label identifies this scrapbook as “Volume 2nd”. The binding is sound but feels a little loose; about ¾ of the spine covering is missing.

Company K of the St. Louis Police Reserves was formally organized by wealthy community volunteers in 1878 after the 1877 General Strike fomented by the local Marxist Workingman’s Party attempted to seize control of St. Louis and cripple its economic base. However, as it became apparent that their threat had evaporated soon after the strike ended, the unit’s law-and-order foundation and mission was quickly overshadowed by the traditional social and civic element of civilian militias that provided “outlets for physical exercise, entertainment, and companion ship of like-minded young men . . . to exhibit the martial pomp and ceremonies that were, more often than not, intended to attract female admirers.” When its first commander departed to accept a Regular Army commission, Bain assumed leadership of the unit.

This scrapbook begins just as Bain’s Zouaves, along with the entire St. Louis Police Reserve, was mustered into the Missouri National Guard after the city’s police commission determined its oversight of an armed paramilitary force was legally questionable.

Bain’s Zouaves eventually disbanded and several sources report that it was absorbed into or succeeded by a rival company, the Busch Zouaves, sponsored by Adolphus Busch as part of his brewery’s advertising program. Both Bain’s and Busch’s Zouaves gave drill and tactical performances at military competitions, reunions, encampments, as well as civilian fairs and picnics throughout the Midwest. They, along with
other local militias funded the construction of a consolidated multi-story “Grand Armory” that occupied a full block at 17th and Pine Streets. The Busch Zouaves apparently dissolved in 1895 when its commander, Rosser Roemer, secretly left the United States to lead a band of 200 Americans who had joined the Cuban resistance fighting for independence from Spain.

Bain, a Washington University graduate, was a successful bookkeeper and insurance agent who served at least one term in the state legislature. He was a highly regarded amateur photographer and the President of the St. Louis Photographic society. He spent the early 1890s in the Holy Land making photographs to illustrate Bishop John H. Vincent’s Earthly Footsteps of the Man of Galilee and the Journeys of his Apostles. Some of his original photos are held in the collections of the University of Pennsylvania, Washington University, and the Library of Congress.

Following his service in Cuba, Roemer returned to St. Louis where he became “Drillmaster” of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department’s Zouave Corps, a precision drill team that performed until it dissolved in 1925.

For more information see Miller’s American Zouaves, 1859-1959, “Lieut Thomas Rosser Roemer” at Find-a-Grave online, Hallotte’s “Photography and the American Contribution to Early ‘Biblical Archaeology’ in the March 2007 issue of Near Eastern Archaeology, as well as the many newspaper articles both from this scrapbook and available online.

$750 #9691

This two-page stampless folded letter measures 15” x 12.75” unfolded. The letter was deposited at Herndon’s express office in Philadelphia where it received an uncommon “Forwarded by Harden & Co. Foreign Letter Office” handstamp and was processed through the Philadelphia post office on April 29th after which it was transported by Harden by mailbag to the company’s Boston office where it was transferred to the Cunard Line’s Britannia as indicated in the upper left corner. The Britannia departed Boston on 1 May and arrived in Liverpool on 14 May. Transit and receipt handstamps from Liverpool and Derry (Londonderry) on the reverse include a scarce “America / L” double-oval. The letter shows some minor soiling and expected postal wear including a chip where its sealing wax was broken upon opening. Transcript enclosed.

In this letter, Brigham informs a family friend in Liverpool that he had been cheated in a business transaction by a “person whom shortly afterwards left and paid nothing . . . however I did not loose much,” and needs funds to take advantage of an offer of “Copartnership from a Man of Property [who] has been in the grocery business” where he knows that he “could do a good business.” To that end, Brigham offers to sell his friend a piece of property at the price he rejected before departing for America; “I wanted 200£ you offered me 180£ now if you wish you can have it at 180£ . . . I should rather you would have it than a stranger and it would please my Mother better. . . .”

Irish immigration into the United States is usually associated with the Great Potato Famine that crushed the population of southern and western Ireland between 1845 and 1852. However, religious and economic immigration from northern Ireland began well before the American Revolution and continued to increase from 2,000/year in 1820 to 50,000/year in 1850, hence place names in New England like Bangor, Belfast, and Londonderry.

RMS Britannia along with three sister ships were the first ocean liners built by the British and North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (later known as the Cunard Steamship Company). A large wooden vessel with coal-powered paddlewheels and three masts, she was the first of the four to enter service in 1840. It was with the Britannia’s maiden voyage that Cunard first began fortnightly mail service between Liverpool, Halifax, and Boston.

(For more information Shannon’s Irish Immigration to America, 1630 to 1921 online at the Nantucket Atheneum, “Britannia” online at Chris’ Cunard Page, Hubbard and Winter’s North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75, and Winter’s Understanding Transatlantic Mail.)

A first-hand testament to pre-famine Irish immigration and a fine example of transatlantic mail service with scarce auxiliary handstamps.  

SOLD  #9732
To place an online order or to see additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #


This 150-page sailing journal measures 7” x 8”. It includes a 119-page daily journal plus additional pages including a list of the ship’s stores, a sample weekly menu for the ship’s officers, the agent’s shipboard library, a clothing and personal effects list, an inventory of foods loaded for the voyage, a list of clothing sold to crew members, sketches of three remote islands, company information for the W. F. Weld Company, and a table of daily readings (latitude, longitude, weather, speed, distance, etc.). A 4.5” x 4” card-mounted albumin photograph of the Borneo is laid-in. The text block is solid; the spine covering is missing, but both well-worn covers are attached. An 11-page transcript of journal highlights is included.

The Borneo, a ship owned by the W. F. Weld Company and captained by Henry Smith, left Boston harbor on February 8th, 1868 arriving at Batavia (today Jakarta) in the Dutch East Indies on May 29th and Singapore in the British Straits Settlements on June 16th. Temple Fay, an agent for W. F. Weld accompanied the ship and the firm’s cargo during the voyage. He got along well with the ship’s 19-man crew, at times even joining in small working parties, and kept company with its officers and 62-year-old captain, whom he both admired and found frustrating.

Fay kept an exceptionally detailed journal, using a full page of text to summarize events for almost every day of the trip describing the weather (including a waterspout, hurricane, and several gales), distance traveled, leisure activities (reading, fishing, bird shooting, cards, gossipping, drinking, and smoking), and significant occurrences (fights, illness, and the death of a well-liked seaman who fell overboard to his death while working on the rigging). Fay drew amateurish sketches of three remote islands (Island of Fernando Norohna, Amsterdam Island, and Christmas Isle) the Borneo passed along its way. As well, Fay’s listing of ship’s stores is thorough, and his description of a week’s worth of 21 meals served to the officers is impressive. Upon arrival at Batavia, Fay recounts meetings with regional merchants, the unloading of cargo, wrapping up business details, and the city’s social life (dinners, breakfasts, gatherings, billiards at the club, and attending musical concerts).

The W. F. Weld Company was one of the most prominent shipping company during the Age of Sail. William Fletcher Weld was the son of a Boston ship owner whose plans for Harvard were crushed when his father’s fortune was lost in the War of 1812. Instead, he became a clerk for a Boston importer at 15, and within seven years accumulated enough wealth and credit to build his first ship, the Senator. A savvy businessman, Weld soon became one of the wealthiest shipping magnates in the United States, operating 51 sailing vessels plus 10 steam ships bearing the companies famous “Black Horse Flag.”

A scarce, important, and detailed shipping journal. There are no other W. F. Weld ship journals for sale within the trade, and none have been listed at auction per the Rare Book Hub. OCLC shows only one Weld ship journal is held by an institution, the Library of Congress.

$1,500  #9718
31. [MARITIME] [MILITARY AND WAR] [WORLD WAR I] “TAKING SURVIVORS ABOARD . . . AFTER BEING TORPEDOED.” A terrific photographic record J. P. Morgan's yacht, the USS Corsair, which was leased by the Navy during World War One to serve as an escort and patrol ship. Compiled by Quartermaster 3rd Class Charles Chambron. Atlantic Ocean: 1917.

This large album measures 12” x 9.5” and contains well over 250 glued-in photographs, most measuring about 4” x 2.5”. The photographs are captioned in white ink on 46 of the album's 48 pages. In nice shape; no string but the binding pins are holding it together. Ten additional photographs are laid-in including a 10” x 8” official group photograph of the crew (with a two-inch closed tear) and two smaller portrait photos of Chambron in uniform (one is full length).

The well-composed photos picture all members of the ship (quarterdeck, bow, guns, lifeboats, etc.), the ship’s crew (many identified), other U.S. Navy vessels, dirigibles, airplanes, depth charges, prisoners, torpedoed and burning ships, rescue operations with survivors including mascots, and much more.

The Corsair III, a luxury yacht, was built by T. S. Marvel Shipbuilding for J. P. Morgan and launched in December 1898. After Morgan died, it was inherited by his son, J. P. Morgan Jr. With the outbreak of World War One, the yacht was leased by the United States Navy, rechristened as the U.S.S. Corsair, and assigned to the Atlantic Fleet.

The ship sailed from New York in June of 1917 as an escort for the first contingent of the American Expeditionary Force to depart for France. Her war-record was exceptional. After arriving in Saint-Nazaire, the Corsair joined the U.S. Patrol Squadrons, hunting German submarines, escorting vessels, and patrolling the coast of France. She escorted a number of convoys and rescued survivors from several torpedoed or mined vessels including the USS Finland, the USAT Antilles, and the USS California. The Corsair also rescued survivors from a French ship and towed a disabled Norwegian steamer into a French port.

Following the Armistice, the Corsair, served for a time as the Flagship for the Commander of U.S. Naval Forces in European waters and transported the Secretary of the Navy from Plymouth, England to Brest, France, after which she returned to New York via the Azores and Bermuda. Upon her arrival, the ship, once more, became the private yacht, Corsair III. In 1930, J P Morgan, Jr., donated the Corsair to the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey for use in oceanographic survey work, and at that time, the ship was renamed the USC&GS Oceanographer. During World War Two, the Oceanographer supported the U.S. advance across the Pacific and created 15 charts that were crucial to establishing the logistics base at New Caledonia and instrumental in the success of amphibious landings at New Georgia and the Solomon Islands. The ship returned to Pearl Harbor in June of 1944 for desperately needed repairs, however the work required was so extensive that she was decommissioned and scrapped instead. (For more information about the Corsair/Oceanographer, see the Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships.)

An exceptionally detailed and scarce first-person visual record of life aboard one of the most renowned patrol/escort ships of World War One. At the time of listing, there is nothing similar for sale in the trade nor held by institutions per OCLC. Neither have there been any auctions of a similar photograph album been recorded by the Rare Book Hub.

$2,500  #9722
32. [MARITIME] [MILITARY & WAR] “THAT OLD NAVY SCRAP BOOK OF MINE; IT’S CRAMMED FULL OF PICTURES AND HAPPENINGS OLD, OF THE DAYS THAT ARE NOW LEFT BEHIND.” An extensive sailor’s archive (a huge scrapbook, hundreds of photographs, and five oral history tapes) documenting his pre-WWII service on the flagship of the U. S. Asiatic Fleet. Thomas Wallace Hood. Hawaii, Guam, Philippines, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Borneo, Siam, Singapore, Java, Ceylon, etc.: U.S.S. Pittsburgh, 1929-1931.

This archive consists of an 8” x 14” 300-page scrapbook, filled with articles, clippings, photographs, cartoons, newsletters, assorted ephemera. Hood used 86 pages in the rear of the album to keep a daily journal. The archive also includes more than 120 loose photographs and, documents, certificates, letters, and membership cards, as well as five 90-minute cassette tapes in which Hood provides an oral history of his naval service. Everything is in nice shape.

The scrapbook includes a promotion to “Student Petty Officer First Class,” an Independence Day dinner menu, a machinist’s mate’s test, a duty roster, pages of printed and manuscript naval related poems, and photographs of facilities and ships at Hampton Roads and the railroad trip that took him to California and eventual service on the U.S.S. Pittsburgh. The remainder of the album includes mementos of his service on the ship including an invitation to a reception held for the Governor of the Philippines Dwight F. Davis and a program published by the ship describing his retirement cruise, naval related clippings and cartoons about life in Asia, business cards (cafes, bars, tea houses), advertisements (dance hall, cabaret, eating houses), a label for Asahi Beer, an advertising handbill for a ship’s party, an initiation ‘subpoena’ from Neptunus Rex, a Singapore hotel brochure and theater ticket, a colorful multipage timetable for the Royal Dutch Indian Airways, and much more.

Hood’s well-written three-year diary begins with his departure from Norfolk on a five-day train trip to California where he and 5,000 other sailors boarded an old transport ship for duty in the Pacific. In addition to commentary about daily ship-board life and duty as machinist’s mate, it includes many other lively observations events and happenings during his time on-board. Some excerpts include:

“Battle manoeuvres . . . chasing torpedoes . . . Speed, speed, speed, all the time . . . Thirty one knots and no smoke. Dropped a depth bomb and then . . . picked up dead fish . . . for dinner . . . Had target practice . . . fired the torpedoes and raised Hell . . . We put out 14 shells on the #4 gun, 82 on #3 all
star shells, and 32 small star shells on #5 anti aircraft gun. Fired a torpedo, also. Pretty sight. Star shells breaking over the target and four ships all firing at once. 

“And oh! What a surprise . . . I was appointed to mess cooking . . . three months of washing dishes and peeling spuds.” Subsequently, for days, Hood “peeled spuds . . . spuds and onions . . . more spuds . . . and more onions.”

“Lost a man overboard . . . never found. Sharks got him, I guess.” On another “In February, Hood ‘Got a ‘shot’ . . . Every body is getting them some kind of preparation for the Southern cruise . . . Going to the fights tonight.”

“A typhoon is just ahead of us . . . Got woke up about 3:30 this morning, drenched to the hide. The hatch was open and we shipped about 50 gallons of ocean, not so hot . . .”

“Kobe . . . all kinds of Japanese merchants aboard selling souvenirs. . . . Walked around all day. . . . I like it very much. The people are polite and clean and they will do anything for an American gob.”

“Proceeded up the Yangtze River . . . very pretty scenery coming up the river and there are English, Japanese and Chinese men-o-war here in Yanking.”

“Well, I can say I’ve been ashore in Shanghai [and] Tsing-Tao. . . . Made the rounds of the cabarets and did some dancing. Also drank a few. . . . Went to the ‘Marine’s Café’. . . . Lots of Russians here. . . . Made the cabarets again. Very pretty. The girls all in native costume. . . . The Exec says no more liberty until further notice, as a couple of fellows made an ass of themselves [in Chefoo]”

“Underway at daylight for . . . Hainan just off the French-Indo-China coast, to protect the American interests and missionaries. [During the 1920s-1930s, Hainan was a hotbed of early Communist Chinese activity.] This place is held by the rebel army now and the Nationalist are trying to take it over. Some excitement, perhaps. . . . The battle of Haihow was fought today and the town was taken over by the Nationalists. Very few killed. Not a shot fired in the town.”

There are over 100 loose photos showing shipmates (casual and posed images in various uniforms; including a Filipino mess steward and laundryman), recreation (soccer team and race-boat), equator ceremony (with Davy Jones, Neptunus Rex, etc.), the bridge, running torpedoes, an officer’s gig, and bum boats. About 45 show sailors on liberty in the Bali, Borneo, Ceylon, China, French Indo-China, Java, Philippines, Singapore, Sumatra, Thailand, Villafranca, Naples, and Pompeii.

Documents within the archive include Hood’s Birth Certificate, his 1927 Discharge, a Statement of Service from 1938, a post-WWII certificate recognizing his service in the Office of Scientific Research and Development, a post-WWII discharge certificate as a Sergeant in the Massachusetts National Guard, and a 1992 Certification of Military Service.

The ephemera includes membership cards in the Ancient Order of the Deep and Domain of Neptunus Rex, a coupon for the Osaka Bazar, a drink/dance ticket for the Japanese Bar Tokyo, advertisements for a tailor in Shanghai and a silk and curio dealer in Colombo, an invitation for a dance aboard the U.S.S. MacLeish, a Luncheon menu for the Adelphi Hotel in Shanghai, and a U.S.S. Pittsburg “Happy Hour” program in honor of Governor Davis.

$900    #9726
33. [MEDICINE & NURSING] [WOMEN] BRAIN-WAISTING, RECTAL FISTULA, EAR MAGGOTS, CITY FILTH, BATHTUBS, UNION SUITS, AND MORE. Two intriguing scrapbooks kept by a Civil War widow who became a physician and the first female doctor to establish a medical practice in Cincinnati. [ELMIRA Y. HOWARD]. Cincinnati, Ohio: 1867-1897.

Two albums, one a Mark Twain Scrapbook measuring 10” x 12” and the other a smaller notebook measuring 3.5” x 8”. Together they contain over 50 pages of clipped medical articles, manuscript extracts from medical texts, professional musings, and advertising for medical products. Six additional items are laid-in. These albums came from the estate of a descendants. Although her name does not appear in either, they were sold simultaneously with many of her books and identified as coming from her personal medical library.

Wear to the albums’ leather spines and marbled boards.

One interesting item is an 1867 Homeopathic “Fee Bill” identifying patient costs at the time Howard was preparing to become a physician. Most of the albums’ advertisements are for women’s products: corsets, abdominal supports, etc., and many of the clippings relate to Howard’s interests in genetics, inheritance, intelligence, and predispositions. Some excerpts include:

“It is a curious fact that people . . . stimulate one or another branch of the fifth nerve [to] quicken their mental processes . . . scratch their heads . . . rub their foreheads . . . pull their beards . . . take snuff . . . eat figs . . . suck chocolate creams [or] sip brandy [to] stimulate the lingual and buceal branches [and] reflexively excite their brains.”

“Man’s natural abilities are derived by inheritance. . . . Many acute observers who are indisposed to accept the hypothesis of the hereditary nature of genius [must still] repudiate the doctrine of pre-educational equality. . . . [There are] two great factors . . . influencing the hereditary transmission of ability. . . . Character that achieves honorable position and commands respect [and] the ignorant, scheming man. . . . Marriages between descendants of these two types are infertile . . . and nature stamps with reprobation such ill-assorted unions.”

“The inferior races of men, negroes, Chinese, etc. have more memory than the superior. . . . It is in inverse proportion to evolution, for it is at its maximum in individuals little advanced in evolution.”

Following Howard’s husband’s death in the Civil War, she was left with three children and no marketable skills. With reluctant support of her parents . . . “she decided to study medicine [as] her little girl was a cripple. At the age of twenty-seven she . . . entered New York Medical College for Women.” After graduation, “she was induced to move to Cincinnati, Ohio [and] opened an office . . . , the first woman in that city to take such a responsibility. She was heartily welcomed and endorsed by the medical fraternity.” (See Willard and Livermore’s “Howard, Elmira A.” in A Woman of the Century.)

The New York Medical College for Women was established in 1863 by Dr. Clemence S. Lozier, a pioneer in women’s medical education. After a series of mergers and reorganizations, it still exists today as the Medical College of New York.

SOLD #9717
To place an online order or to see additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #


This postcard is franked with a one-cent green Franklin stamp (Scott #331), which has been canceled with a duplex “Mont Alto / PA” postmark. It bears an exceptionally nice, bold “DISINFECTED.” magenta handstamp (Sandrick Type 1) under the address. In nice shape.

In this card, Jake reports that since his admission to the sanatorium he has received “67 cards . . . 23 this month” and is feeling “about the same”.

After Robert Koch proved that tuberculosis was caused by an infectious bacterium, sanatorium treatment (which was based on horizontal bedrest, good nutrition, fresh air, and high-altitude convalescence) took hold in Europe and by 1900 had spread to the United States. "The Pennsylvania State South Mountain Sanatorium for Tuberculosis at Mont Alto" began in 1902 and 1910, it contained over 650 patients who were cared for by a staff of more than 100. It continued to expand until an effective antibiotic for the disease was discovered in 1945. The facility then continued on as a geriatric center and mental health "restoration" facility until it closed in 1985 due to a deteriorating and unmaintainable physical plant.

The public was terrified of tuberculosis as not only was it the second leading cause of death (after influenza), but “because it disables and renders useless and helpless, those who have it for a long time before they die, and often beggars their families.” To ally concern, in some sanatoriums, patient mail was disinfected before forwarding by using either formaldehyde or fumes from burning sulfur; both methods were used at Mont Alto. Eventually, medical consensus determined that disinfection was unnecessary as the bacteria could not be transmitted via mail, and the practices was discontinued at most facilities.

(For more information see “What Everyone Should Know about Tuberculosis” and “Stamping Mail as Disinfected” both in the Journal of the Outdoor Life, January and October, 1910, as well as “Disinfection of Mail in the United States in the Spring 1980 issue of the Bulletin of the History of Medicine, and Sandrick’s “Disinfection Markings from Pennsylvania” in La Posta, all available online.)

$150  #9730

A four-page letter on patriotic stationery featuring an illustration of Uncle Sam driving a Spanish soldier from Cuba at bayonet point. It identifies Preston’s location as “Military Station No. 1. / Porto Rico”, but since that post office did not open until 3 August, no Puerto Rico postmark appears on the envelope which was franked with a two-cent Washington stamp (Scott #267) and canceled with a New York City machine postmark upon its arrival on 16 August. In nice shape.

In this letter Preston writes

“Have the honor of being on the ship that is commanded by Capt. Sigsbee the Capt of the Battle Ship Maine he is not by a long way the man the papers claim him to be the sailors all hate him . . . . Our company has been made a dynamite Battery we carry 5 dynamite guns takes 10 men to a gun there is to be 50 men picked out of the company to go with the guns and the rest are to be armed with Crag Jorgisens rifles to go as a guard. I don’t know wether I will be with the guns or carry a rifle . . . . We have the honor of being the only Vol. Company allowed to carry the dynamite guns . . . . and have the only ones in the service. . . . Have been out of sight of land for 3 days and nights . . . will be glad to see land again even if it is an enemys country We are all prepared for them. soon the war will be over . . . if we can get our guns on them. . . . So when you read of the Dynamite Battery you will know where I am. . . .”

Dynamite guns were invented in the early 1880s to allow the use of explosive (dynamite) ammunition. At the time, the instability of explosive shells precluded use of traditional cannon. Instead, dynamite guns propelled shells using compressed air. They were first purchased by the U.S. Army in 1894 for use at coastal forts. While those guns could rely on a steam-driven compressor to provide an air source, that was impractical for field use. Refinements produced the Sims-Dudley gun, which used an explosive smokeless powder charge to compress air in a separate chamber that was used to fire projectiles filled with nitroglycerine instead of dynamite. The army purchased 16 of these thousand-pound field guns which were used during the Spanish-American War. In an after-action letter, the F Company commander reported that since transport horses were unavailable, his men dragged the heavy guns for two miles and carried twelve 260-pound shells that they used to silence the Spanish defenders of Guyama.


A scarce first-hand account of the use of dynamite guns, which certainly must be among the earliest letters mailed during the U.S. occupation of Puerto Rico. At the time of listing, nothing similar shows in the records of Rare Book Hub, Stamp Auction Network, Worthpoint, nor OCLC.

$750  #9731

This leather album, measuring 8” x 10”, contains 35 photographs and real photo postcards, most measuring 5.5” x 3.5”, as well as one color-tinted panoramic photograph measuring 6.5” x 2.5”, a Christmas Dinner Menu for 1910, and two-color postcards. The menu and three photographs or postcards are laid-in; the other images are mounted without glue. Some images at the link are blurred as the album would not lay flat on the scanner.

All of the photographs and RPPCs are in nice shape; one is overexposed. All of the RPPCS unused; the two color postcards have been posted. Two of the photographs have short annotations on the reverse, and one is annotated on the front. The menu is stained and worn.

Among the images are
- NCOs posing in dress uniforms,
- The entire company in dress uniforms, one dated 1908 and one dated 1910,
- Fort Barry buildings,
- Athletic events (a 100-yard dash and a panoramic image of what appears to be a football game),
- A working party resting on top of a 12-inch M1890 mortar,
- Six images of soldiers in casual poses,
- Soldiers waiting in line at the Post Exchange,
- The fort’s cooks and bakers,
- Soldiers in heavy field uniforms posed in front of a tent,
- Hunting parties including two displaying a dead Bobcat,
- Men from the U.S. Lifesaving Service at Point Bonita posing with their lifeboat, and many more.

Coastal Artillery Corps was organized in 1901 to provide for the coastal and harbor defense of the United States. It consisted of 126 batteries or companies stationed along both coasts, Hawaii, the Philippines, and Panama. The units were armed with heavy long-range guns designed to engage enemy battleships before they could threaten the mainland. The “Alexander” Battery was armed with 12-inch mortars (as shown in these images) and stationed at Fort Barry in San Francisco until it disbanded after WWI.

Albums and images of Coastal Artillery posts are decidedly uncommon. At the time of listing, no similar albums are for sale in the trade, and none have been listed at auction per the Rare Book Hub. OCLC identifies only one similar album (but from World War One) held by an institution.

$450  #9719
This postcard was sent to Unteroffizier Friedlaender, who was held captive at the U.S. Prisoner of War Enclosure #2 in Souilly, France, from Posen, Prussia via the American Central Records Office for Prisoners of War at APO 717, Tours, France. It was written on 20 October 1918 and bears a Posen postmark with the same date. There is a German “Überwachungsstelle” (monitoring agency) handstamp in the lower right corner, a circular “55” censor handstamp over the postmark, and a double-square American Base Censor stamp in the lower left corner. A records office clerk annotated the card, “PWC #2”.

My German is poor, but the card’s content appears to discuss the weather, “Grosspapa” (grandfather), the receipt of some of the sergeant’s letters, and hopes that he had received many letters and parcels.

The card address indicates that Friedlaender was a sergeant assigned to the German 461st Infantry, the best unit in the mediocre 237th Division which had performed poorly on the Eastern Front and been relocated to the Aisne-Marne sector in the Spring of 1918. By June 3, the division had dug into positions within the Bois de Belleau, a 1.6 square kilometer of tangled undergrowth, with the 461st occupying the center of its line. On 6 June, the 6th Marine Regiment and the 1st Battalion of the Army’s 2nd Engineer Regiment, both part of the Army’s 2nd Division, began an assault into the woods. Attack and counterattack followed until 15 June when the exhausted Marines were relieved by the Army’s 7th Infantry Regiment which continued to grind away at the German defenses until the Marine Brigade was able to rest and replenish its ranks before returning to the front a week later. The stalemate continued until the afternoon of 25 June when the 2nd Division’s three artillery regiments unleashed a devastating two-hour barrage on the center German line which was held by Friedlaender’s 461st Regiment. As the barrage lifted, five companies of Marines advanced, and after several hours of heavy fighting with the shell-shocked defenders in the smoke-filled woods, the Americans captured and held the German position. The Battle of Belleau Wood became one of the celebrated actions of the war due to the purple prose of Chicago newspaperman Floyd Gibbons who accompanied the Marines and was wounded during the engagement. Freidlaender, who was held at the Army’s Prisoner of War Enclosure #2, was no doubt captured during this battle as the remnants of the 461st Regiment saw little fighting for the rest of the war. (See the Marine Corps History Division’s The Bravest Deeds of Men, “We Were there Too: the US Army at Belleau Wood” at the Angry Staff Officer, “German Defensive Plan at Belleau Wood” at worldwar1.com, the G.H.Q.A.E.F.’s Prisoners of War: Regulations and Instructions, 1918, and “Central Prisoner of War Enclosure No. 2” in the A.E.F. Commander-in-Chief’s Report: Report of the Provost Marshal; all online.)

This is, perhaps, the only extant example mail to or from PWE #2 and made even more desirable by its association with one of the most storied battles of WWI. At the time of listing, no other PWE #2 mail is for sale in the trade, and there are no auctions recorded at the Stamp Auction Network, Worthpoint, nor the Rare Book Hub. Neither does OCLC show any institutional holdings.

$500  #9728
To place an online order or to see additional or larger images, click on the first image or Inventory #


This large album measures approximately 15” x 11” and contains 109 b/w photographs and one cyanotype. Image size ranges from 1.75” x 2.15” to 8.25” x 6.5”. All are pasted to the album pages; some images have partially loosened revealing captions on their reverse. Many students and staff members are identified. A few photographs have split in half. The album and pages are in nice shape. The pages are captioned in white crayon/grease pencil.

In 1916, the wives of the Chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps worked in conjunction with the Navy League to establish a training school to prepare young women for service during “war or national calamity.” It was located on a tract of land at Chevy Chase, Maryland.

The program specifically prepared students “for such work as making and applying bandages, home care of the sick and wounded, and nursing in hospitals for convalescents [as well as] service as chauffeurs, aviators, ambulance drivers, and other capacities heretofore filled by men alone. . . . The students will live in tents . . . in the same rough-and-ready fashion [as men] and a uniform style of dress will be recommended although it will not be a mandatory requirement. [They] will be grouped into companies of fifty women each under the command of a captain and two lieutenants to be selected from their numbers. . . . Miss Elizabeth E. Poe [is] in charge of the school. . . .” (See Washington Times, 5 March 1916.)

This album begins with a group photograph of women in the school uniform and includes images of Tent quarters, Staff (Commandant Poe, Army officers, a Marine Drill Sergeant, an Army bugler, and other soldiers), Students (including student officers), The WWI Victory Parade (including President Wilson and General Pershing), Other activities and trips (including Harper’s Ferry, Mt. Vernon, Gettysburg, Washington DC, Camp Meade, Richmond, etc.)

It appears that the compiler stayed at Young Women’s Christian Home (YMCH) in DC following the school, as one page has photos from that non-profit organization that continues to provide temporary lodging for young women enrolled in academic or internship programs in the capital today.

An uncommon first-hand visual testament to a short-lived paramilitary female training program that closed down in 1919 after only four years of operation. At the time of listing, nothing similar is for sale in the trade, and the Rare Book Hub shows nothing similar has ever come up for auction. OCLC identifies no institutional holdings of similar albums or photograph collections.

SOLD #9720

This album measures 11” x 7” and has an Eagle, Globe, and Anchor painted upon its cover along with the U.S. Marine Corps motto, “Semper Fidelis”. It contains approximately 65 b/w photographs and real photo post cards (RPPCs) ranging in size between 2” x 3.25” and 3” x 5.25”. Many are captioned in white ink. The images are attached with corner mounts or glue after the corner mounts failed. All are in nice shape; some corner tips have been creased. The string-bound album has some edgewear and soiling. Although the binding holes of some pages have torn, the pages have been reinserted into the string binding and are holding fairly well.

Some of the photographs include:

A “View of the galley and Quantico” and “A View of the 7th Co. M.O.I.S.”

Images of identified enlisted men in both formal and casual poses in front of wooden buildings which weren’t constructed at Quantico in earnest until 1919. Many show the men in surprisingly slovenly dress wearing partial service uniforms with unbuttoned jackets and hands in their pockets. Several photos show men in cooks’ aprons or protective overalls. Although some uniforms display marksmanship badges, none show WWI overseas or wound chevrons.

Images of men relaxing including one of a pick-up band that included a trombonist and one of a man fishing, perhaps on the bank of either the Potomac River or Chopawamsic Creek.

Several images showing a young woman; in one she is holding a baby. In another, she is accompanied by two Hispanic children, one a young boy wearing Marine’s service cover (hat) and one a teenage girl. A second photo of the boy shows him wearing a Marine’s service jacket over his civilian clothes.

One photo shows two Hispanic, or perhaps Mediterranean, men standing in front of a stone building.

One photo captioned “Three Black Clouds,” shows three African-American laborers standing in front of what appears to be a truck.

The short-lived Marine Officer Infantry School (M.O.I.S.) was established at Quantico in January, 1920 by Major General Lejeune—who was dissatisfied with existing officer training—to teach officers lessons learned during World War One. There were seventeen men in its first class, which was taught by a small cadre of combat-tested officers. The following summer, M.O.I.S. merged with another Quantico school, the Officer Training School, and reorganized as the Marine Officers Training School with two courses. Its field-grade officers’ course was modeled on the Army’s highly regarded Command and General Staff College, and its company-grade course taught basic tactics, administration, etc. (For more information, see Quantico: Crossroads of the Marine Corps by Fleming, et. al.

A very nice visual record of early garrison life at Marine Corps Base Quantico.

SOLD #0723
40. [MILITARY & WAR] “WHY MARINES LIKE CUBA” – An archive of approximately 350 photographs and a half-dozen documents relating to a Marine Corporal’s eight years of service, primarily in Cuba and Haiti. Jack R. “Ray” Hayes. Guantanamo, Cuba and Port au Prince Haiti: 1930s.

This archive includes a packet of enlistment, promotion, and discharge documents for Jack R. Hayes, as well as a photograph album documenting his service at Guantanamo Bay and a collection of loose photographs from time spent at Port au Prince. The documents are in nice shape. The photographs of Cuba are in an album, attached with corner mounts; many of the pages are captioned in white ink. The album cover is in nice shape, but all of its pages are loose. The Haiti photographs have all been removed from an album and have page remnants on their reverse. Most have captions written on the image with a ballpoint pen, probably by Hayes’s wife when they were removed from their scrapbook. There are also several loose photographs of an older Hayes wearing a 1940s Navy uniform one of which is captioned “Ray when war was over”.

The documents include a

1931 baptismal letter from the “Post Chaplain” at Parris Island, 1933 Private First Class promotion certificate from Haiti, 1933 certificate providing Hayes with a “Technical Warrant for Signal Duty”, 1935 Honorable Discharge with a reenlistment annotation, 1936 Corporal promotion certificate from Quantico, and undated letter from the Marine Corps League requesting that Hayes join.

The album contains about 60 leaves, two-thirds of which are detached from the binding. There are about 300 b/w photographs (several are tinted, and a few are real photo post cards) ranging in size from 1.5” x 2.5” to 7” x 4.75”. The images show all facets of a Marine life at Guantanamo Bay. They include

Marines in formations and casual poses in a variety of uniforms, Rifle and pistol ranges, Base facilities, Naval vessels including battleships and submarines, Aircraft, shark fishing, beach combing, swimming, tennis, boxing, civilian hotels and bars, island scenery, and lots of women including one undressing under a palm tree that is captioned “Why marines like Cuba”.

There are about 30 loose photos, primarily from Haiti, most ranging in size between 4” x 2.5” and 6.25” x 4”. The images include

Several shots of government buildings including one captioned, “Palace in Port au Prince / Ray and 100 Marines guarded it in 1931-1932 to keep their leader from being assinated”, Scenery, Ruins of old French forts, Mess hall tables decorated for Christmas, A Thompson submachine gun, A locomotive wreck, Communications equipment, and Radio towers.

Online military records at the National Archives show that Hayes enlisted in 1931 and went to boot camp at Parris Island. He was then assigned to Guantanamo and received communication training. While there, he deployed, possibly twice, to preserve order in Haiti. He returned to Quantico and served a short time at Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington before reassignment to the 15th Marine Regiment at San Diego. He was discharged as a Corporal in 1939.

An extensive, first-hand, visual record detailing a Marine’s life in 1930s Cuba and Haiti.

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This archive consists of 17 loose album pages with about 75 mounted photographs, 35 loose photographs, a Marines’ Hymn postcard, Captain Bryant’s ticket for a Lahainaluna School luau, and a booklet, North China Pictorial U.S.M.C., chronicling the III Amphibious Corps’ occupation duty. The loose photographs were contained in a soiled envelope marked “Capt W. Bryant”. The photos range in size from 2” x 3” to 11” x 4.25”. About half of the loose photos have “It is absolutely forbidden to reprint, reproduce or publish this photograph without the express permission of the Public Relations Dept. U.S. Marine Corps” on the reverse. The album pages are captioned in white ink. Several of the loose photos are captioned on the reverse or in the margin; about ten officers are named. Everything is in nice shape.

About half of the album photos show family members. The rest are 1941-1942 photographs of NCO recruiters, presumably one is Bryant, while assigned to Macon, Georgia. Again, presumably Bryant received a commission as the Marine Corps expanded with the onset of World War Two.

About a dozen of the loose photographs are scenes of Bryant’s unit while in Hawaii. One identifies Lieutenant Damrow who online records show as being wounded while assigned to Company A, 10th Amphtrac (Amphibious Tractor) Battalion, 4th Marine Division during the invasion of the Marshall Islands. The remainder show Marines in a jungle combat zone, presumably the Marshall Islands.

One dramatic image pictures Marines in bay of an amphibious tracked landing vehicle (LVT) and headed to the beach. All are wearing full combat gear. Most are armed with rifles, however some appear to be carrying flamethrowers. Despite a few smiles, the tension in their faces is palpable.

Others show a destroyed LVT, a unit photograph, many small group photos including one captioned “Some of my men There was never a finer bunch of men or better fighters in the world”, cooks with field ranges, a man taking a field shower, a corpsman treating a patient, communications operators, a sleeping tent, the recovery of a jeep that was stuck in the mud, etc.

The 1945 luau ticket features a reproduction of an 1842 print showing the Lahainaluna School and Hale Pei, the first printing shop in Hawaii.

The 1946 III Amphibious Corps pamphlet, North China Pictorial U.S.M.C., documenting the occupation of Northern China is complete with a sound binding.

An excellent first-person, on-the-ground photographic account of island-hopping warfare in the Pacific during World War Two.

$400  #9725
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42. [MISSIONARIES] [EDUCATION] [PHILATELY] [RELIGION] “THE GREAT WICKEDNESS & APATHY OF THE HEATHEN MIGHT POSE TOO MUCH FOR YOUR SENSITIVE MIND.” Letter from a missionary to his brother describing life in India. Otis Robinson Bachelder (Batcheler). Balesore (Baleshwar), Orissa (Odisha), India to East Long Meadow, Massachusetts via Boston and Hollister: 1843.

This four-page stampless folded letter was privately carried to Boston and bears a scarce forwarding handstamp from the Baptist Missionary Rooms where it was delivered. After receiving a Boston postmark and “6” rate it was sent to Hollister. There, it was postmarked again, rerated “10” cents, and sent to East Longview. In nice shape. Some splits but still in one piece. A transcript will be provided.

In this letter O. R. Batchelder, who worked for the General Baptist Foreign Missionary Society, describes his life to his brother, Frederick, and tries to dissuade him from missionary work. Excerpts include:

“Rev Phillips . . . accompanied me to Cuttack. . . . A large church, school, & printing press are located here. Rev. Lacy is pastor [and] a splendid Oriya preacher. . . . The Bible was translated many years ago by Carey & Bro Sutton and [Rev. Sutton] has been revising [their work]. He has also composed many tracts, hymns, & a large dictionary &c. [He] may be considered the father of Oriya literature. . . . Yet, he speaks the language very badly & seldom attempts to preach. . . . We also saw Rev Wilkinson of Cangans. . . . We spent [time] on our way in preaching, . . . distributing books, tracts, etc.”

Besides teaching and preaching, Bachelder studied Greek, Sanskrit, the Oriy Shastres,

“Hindustani & Persian. . . . The first season I read Hindustani translating into Oriya. Last year I read Persian translating into Hindustani & when I get on with Persian a little more, I intend to read Arabic through the medium of the Persian. . . .

He also consolingly informs Frederick, who may have been in the midst of depression, that the dangers and frustrations of Indian missionary work might not suit him.

“You seem to have had a hard time. . . . Hold up your head. Be encouraged. Look high. A brighter day will dawn by and by. . . . A Jackal came into our bedroom during the night. . . . I threw my shoes, stool, & whatever I could reach. . . . I then got my cane [and] succeeded in disabling him . . . He was rabid . . . Mad dogs, & poisonous serpents are so common that we think but little of them. . . . I [believe] you would be more comfortable at home than in the foreign field. The great wickedness & apathy of the heathen might pose too much for your sensitive mind.”

Frederick took his brother’s advice, and after his ordination, he led a Baptist congregation in Longmeadow before relocating to Grand Rapids, Michigan where he worked as a traveling preacher.

(For more information, see Pattnaik’s “God’s Gift of Hope. . . .” in the Odisha Review, Shaw’s “The Cuttack Mission Press. . . .” in the British Library Journal, and various Find a Grave and Wikipedia articles.)

A terrific firsthand account of Baptist missionary life in India. Nothing similar is listed at the Rare Book Hub or OCLC but the University of Michigan’s Frederick Batchelder Collection may include some.

SOLD #973

This one-page stampless folded cover is datelined “London 24 Sept. 1819”, signed by J. Adams Smith, and addressed to David Gelston. It was carried on the ship Criterion, as noted in the lower left corner, and assessed a six-cent port-of-arrival fee as indicated by the manuscript “6”. It has two docketed notes. One, probably by Gelson reads, “J Adams Smith / 24 Sep 1829 / trunk books” and a second, in a different hand, “Secretary / 28 Feb 1820 forwarded by Your Obedt Sevt / John Delafield”. The accompanying Delafield shipping document dated “24 Sep 1820” is addressed to “The Secretary of the Treasury”. In nice shape with some short marginal splits along mailing folds and a chip where its sealing was broken upon open. The letter reads in part:

“By the Criterion . . . has been sent from the American Legation a Trunk of Books for the Treasury department. . . . Mr. Rush our minister requests me to recommend this to your particular care and begs . . . to have it forwarded with the least delay. . . .”

J. Adams Smith, the son of New York Representative William S. Smith (the son-in law of former President John Adams) was appointed Secretary of the American Legation in London by President Madison at the request of and as a favor to his father.

Ambassador Richard Rush, the son of founding father Benjamin Rush and a friend of future President John Quincy Adams, John Adam’s son, was appointed by his friend President Madison to be the Attorney General in 1814 and later to the London position when its former occupant, John Quincy Adams, returned to become Madison’s Secretary of State. In 1825, Rush returned to the United States where then President John Quincy Adams appointed him to be the Secretary of the Treasury.

David Gelston, a New York politician and merchant, was appointed Collector of the Port of New York by President Jefferson in 1801 and served for twenty years. The Collector position, described as the “prize plum of Federal Patronage” in the 14 June 1922 edition of the New York Times, was the highest paid U.S. government employee as he received a percentage of the collected customs fees and fines. Kickbacks from this position were regularly paid to the political party of the appointer.

John Delafield was a somewhat shady New York import merchant and even more questionable banker and financial speculator, who once petitioned friends in Congress to provide payment for some questionable Revolutionary War loan certificates he purported to own. Although two proposed payment bills were introduced on the House floor, both were defeated.

(For more information, see Rush’s A Residence at the Court of London. . . ., Campbell’s Disasters, Accidents, and Crises in American History, Wright’s “Delafield, John” at American National Biography, Ward v. United States, 77 U.S. 593 at Justia Supreme Court, letters held by the National Archives and Library of Congress, and various Wikipedia articles.)

A fascinating pair of documents that testify to the profitable crony connections between family, friends, and political associates during the early years of the United States.

$150   #9733
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22-24 October 2021 – National Philatelic Exposition (NAPEX) – McLean, VA

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