A Curious and Very Rare African-American Periodical, Apparently the Only Issue


Only the third known copy of this inaugural issue of a periodical from the Readers and Writers Club of America, which claimed to have “a membership of Negro Youth all over America….” The preliminary sections include the rationale of the publication, explaining that “We wish to bring about a more intimate and sincere coordination between the leaders of today and those of tomorrow. Through this organ we seek to express ourselves on questions most vital to the welfare of the Race; the intelligent discussion of problems facing us as Negroes with aims to intelligent solution….” A statement of purpose follows, along with a list of African-American journalists and newspaper editors who volunteered to assist with the publication, including: Marcus C. Stewart of The Indianapolis Recorder (son of its founder George P. Stewart), R.L. Melton of the Fort Worth Mind, Eustace Gay of The Philadelphia Tribune, and William O. Walker of The Cleveland Call-Post.

The work contains several short essays, including “An Approach to Aesthetic Appreciation” by E. Manasseh Ray, “A Fable in One Act” by A. Russell Teasdale, and the anonymous “Every One Can Learn to Write.” This issue also features advertisements for the Niagara Falls Laundry Service, Re-Vi-Vo Blood Remedy, and the World Wide Mailing Club, the function of which “is to put you as a circular mailer in touch with advertisers either directly or indirectly,” and which may be the basis for the publication of The Negro Student.

Not in OCLC, nor in Blockson. Danky and Hady’s African-American Newspapers and Periodicals lists only one copy, at Howard University. This firm recently sold one other copy to an institution.

DANKY & HADY 4197.

$1500.
Founding Papers from an Arizona Company
Intimately Connected with the Disastrous Walnut Grove Dam Failure


A beautifully-rendered contemporary calligraphic copy of an original document containing the articles of incorporation for the Piedmont Cattle Company in Arizona. The original had been previously recorded in Manhattan on May 12, 1886. This copy bears the certification of the clerk of Boyd County, Kentucky court, where it was recorded on May 31, and bears the embossed seal of Boyd County Court. It is also docketed with a note by the county recorder in Arizona that it was “recorded at the request of DeWitt C. Bates” on June 12, 1886. Most likely, this copy would have been retained by the company as proof of incorporation.

The Piedmont Cattle Company was founded by New York investors and incorporated in Kentucky, but as stated here “the corporation proposes to carry on business in Yavapai County in the Territory of Arizona...buying, selling and raising horses, cattle, sheep, and other live stock...and operating pipe lines, ditches and reservoirs for conducting, storing and distributing water for irrigating the lands of the Company.” The visionaries were the brothers Wells and DeWitt Blake, Arizona miners whose main purpose was to create a dam through their related Walnut Grove Water Storage Company. The water was used for placer mining as well as cattle irrigation. The Walnut Grove Dam failed in February 1890, sending a massive wall of water down the gulch and killing innumerable residents.

The present articles of incorporation for the company provide a rare glimpse into the internal organization of a New York cattle company operating in the Arizona territory in the salad days of the Old West. $1250.
A Search for the Truth in a Brother’s Murder in the Wild West

3. [Arizona Territory]: [Foster, William K.]: [ARCHIVES OF LETTERS AND TELEXGRAMS RELATING TO THE MYSTERIOUS MURDER OF WILLIAM K. FOSTER IN THE ARIZONA TERRITORY]. Helvetia and Tucson, Az.; Hatchita, N.M.; Dayton, Oh.; and Washington, D.C. 1906-1913. Thirty-six autograph letters, signed (a handful being retained copies); twenty original mailing envelopes; two typed letters, signed; eleven telegrams (two completed in manuscript, the others typed); and a Western Union receipt. Original mailing folds, minor edge wear. In very good condition overall.

An enthralling collection of correspondence related to a murder mystery in Arizona in the years just before statehood, and in the waning years of the “Wild West.” The archive concerns the murder of one William Foster, a New Yorker who had gone west in search of fortune, invested in an Arizona mine, and was mysteriously killed in a gun and knife fight, and the attempts of his brothers to find the truth behind his demise despite conflicting reports from the victim’s partners and from law enforcement.

The archive consists of letters and telegrams sent between William K. Foster, his brothers, James C. Foster and Bertram G. Foster, U.S. Marshal B.F. Daniels, J.L. Tremaine, and others, detailing the life, western experiences, murder, and burial of William K. Foster in Arizona Territory. From the nature of the correspondence, including the fact that all of the letters sent to Bertram Foster are present here in manuscript copies, the archive was likely retained by Foster’s brother, James. William K. “Will” Foster, born in Cleveland, New York in 1868, moved to Arizona Territory around 1906 in an attempt to find his fortune in copper mining in the Pima County town of Helvetia. On the night of March 23, 1908, Foster was shot and stabbed in a dispute at a Mexican restaurant, and another man presumed to be his attacker was shot and killed. Foster was buried the next day in the Helvetia cemetery at the direction of the local U.S. Marshal, B.F. Daniels.

When William Foster’s brothers, James C. Foster of Dayton, Ohio, and Bertram Foster of Washington, D.C., learned of his death, they began to suspect that there was more to the story than a drunken brawl. Will Foster had worked on occasion for Marshal Daniels in Tucson, and the mine that Foster and his partner, J.L. Tremaine, were digging was partly owned by Daniels. Over the course of the letters here, the great majority of which emanate from March, April, and May, 1908, Tremaine and Daniels tell the surviving Foster brothers that on the night of his murder, Will was intoxicated and provoked an attack from the owner of the restaurant. Then, when attacked, Foster drew his gun and killed the restaurant owner in self-defense, but accidentally shot himself in the leg in the process, which eventually resulted in his death.
The archive includes five letters written by William Foster, the last written two days before his death, all addressed to his brother, James C. Foster. The first, dated February 20, 1906, finds Foster in New Mexico, where he writes about big game hunting and the health benefits of living out west. In his second letter, dated in October 1907, Foster tells James that he will accompany Marshal Daniels to Ardmore, Indian Territory (in present-day Oklahoma) to take “a murderer back to that country to answer for his crime....” Foster posted this letter from the Foster & Tremaine mining camp. In his next letter, again from the Foster & Tremaine mining camp, William Foster reports that he has accepted a position as a Deputy U.S. Marshal, and will likely serve in Nogales or Tucson. Here again he touts the benefits of the western life (“I could not live elsewhere”) after his trip to Ardmore the previous year, where he also traveled through El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, Fort Worth, and Gainesville, Texas. In his penultimate letter, dated February 27, 1908, Foster reports that he has been “down in the Yaqui Country since Dec 12th doing some mining assessments,” where he “saw but 2 white faces in over 2 months.” He writes that he is now back in his mining camp, where he will live for the foreseeable future, which sadly for him was about another month. Foster’s last letter, written two days before he was killed, is eerily prophetic. Foster writes that he plans to go to town in Helvetia to stock up on supplies, and that he recently planted various fruit trees. Then he closes with the following passage:

“We have a fine camp and if I don’t make it I will lay my weary bones down in Arizona or elsewhere in the West some Day & it cannot be long now. I think I have lived through the worst of it & there has been very little brightness in it all, but as long as there's life there's hope & I have never given up yet & never will.”

The “worst of it” came two days later, when Will Foster was stabbed and shot in Helvetia. James Foster received the news in a letter dated March 28 from his brother's mining partner, J.L. Tremaine. Here Tremaine tells James that Will was “shot and stabbed to death by Mexicans in a Mexican Restaurant at Helvetia.” Tremaine writes that since he was not present at the crime, and since the coroner did not have James' address, the decision was made that the burial take place immediately. The Foster brothers successfully commissioned Arizona authorities to have Will's body returned to New York, and hired a Tucson undertaker named O.C. Parker to handle the exhumation and shipment of Will's body; some letters and all of the telegrams relate to this process and to Will's eventual funeral in Cleveland, New York.

James and Bertram Foster's doubts about their brother's death began immediately after hearing the news. In Bertram Foster's first letter here, dated April 4, 1908, he calls the circumstances surrounding his brother's death “to say the least very peculiar.” Bertram does, on the other hand, concede that “the Mexicans have been down on him because of his past activities as deputy marshal and more than likely have been awaiting the opportunity they at last secured.”

Still, their doubts persisted. In James' first letter here, he writes to the governor of Arizona about the mysterious swiftness of his brother’s burial and conjectures on the reasons some information is being withheld: “...either for some personal reasons, because the parties concerned expect to appropriate his effects and property, or because it is a crime involving parties the officials do not desire to or are afraid to bring to justice and no man is fit for or deserving of an officer's pay who is too great a coward to enforce the laws he is paid and under oath to enforce.”

Bertram continues to doubt in his next letter, dated April 6:
“I cannot doubt the main fact – Will's murder – for all the surrounding circumstances are in direct accord, but as you state, the character of the inquest and the other circumstances, including the sending of the news and the lack of detail are very peculiar...the indications are that the deed was premeditated and hushed up as soon as possible.”

In his first letter here, dated April 8 and written on Justice Department, Office of United States Marshal stationery, Marshal B.F. Daniels lays out his understanding of the events in three pages. This is the first time anyone mentions that the mining partnership of Foster and Tremaine was actually a three-way partnership, with Daniels being a co-owner as well. Daniels details Foster’s trouble “about one year ago with some Mexicans” and that Foster had actually been “indicted for the trouble.” After being cleared in court in Tucson, Foster returned to Helvetia. According to Daniels:

“Mr. Foster was shot and stabbed to death, and he shot one Mexican to death and shot one other through the hand....It was an old grudge, and by what I can hear, they were all drunk, and had been drinking for two or three days. He was shot about 4:00 o’clock in the morning and died about six o’clock.”

The next letter, also dated April 8, and written by George Kruege, a fellow Mason in Tucson, to Bertram Foster, relates further details about the murder. Through the undertaker, O.C. Parker, Kruege learned that “while your brother was in the restaurant the Mexican came out of the kitchen with a carving knife and proceeded to cut your Bro. who drew his pistol shot the Mexican and accidentally shot himself severing a large vein from which he bled to death & the Mexican is also dead.”

Two days later, Bertram Foster is ready to “stir them up” in Arizona over the investigation of his brother’s death. It is at this time that the first three letters from Foster’s partner, J.L. Tremaine, appear, two in response to previous letters from James Foster and one from Bertram. In those letters Tremaine details the rather extensive mining interests owned with Will Foster, and the myriad of current and future costs associated with their claims. Tremaine also assures James Foster that the body recently transported from Helvetia “is your brother.”

In his letter to Bertram, Tremaine reports his understanding of the incident in the Mexican restaurant, providing a few additional details, namely that Will Foster was with a man named W.P. Scott at the time of the attack in the restaurant. After the incident Scott ended up with the knife that allegedly belonged to Foster’s attacker, giving it to another man named C.R. Childs, telling him that “that was what he was killed with.” Childs found Foster “on the ground in front of the Mexican Restaurant where the trouble occurred – he was not dead but very weak from loss of blood and died about an hour later on the operating table.” Tremaine promises to “get at the bottom of things and see that full justice is done.”

A two-page letter from P.J. Neilly, the coroner, to Bertram Foster, dated April 13, relates the fullest account of the incident in the present archive, which pieces together and reinforces some of the accounts given up to this point, but differs slightly from others. Neilly provides more details about the firearms carried by both Foster and his friend, W.P. Scott. He also adds that Foster and the proprietor of the Mexican restaurant (who was also “drinking pretty fully”) were having an argument about guns. Scott then went outside to “obey a call of nature,” which is when the shooting occurred. Upon re-entering the restaurant, Scott saw Foster “sitting down with a bread knife in his hand and was covered with Blood.”

Another letter from the undertaker, O.C. Parker, and dated May 11 further contextualizes the incident and provides more details. Parker claims that Will Foster “had no one to blame for his misfortune but himself as he had trouble with the Mexican restaurant keeper of Helvetia” before. Parker claims that Foster was considered “the bully of the camp about one year ago wounding him [the Mexican restaurant owner] with a gun....” According to Parker, Foster’s murder was precipitated when he started drinking and “remained for a Mexican dance that was to take place in the restaurant of his foe.”
James and Bertram Foster continued to doubt the veracity of the story being related to them piecemeal through these various sources. James writes to the governor of Arizona on May 11, calling the inquest a “farce” and the evidence “contradictory” and “underdeveloped.” The governor’s secretary replies that the matter has been referred to the district attorney of Pima County.

The surviving Foster brothers were not happy with Marshal Daniels’ next response, sent on May 18. Here Daniels reiterates that Will Foster was drunk at the time he was killed; further, Daniels claims that Foster was drunk “every time he got hold of any money.” The marshal details other instances of Foster’s drunkenness, and then ends his letter with his understanding of the timing of Foster’s arrival in Helvetia on the trip that ended his life. Daniels claims Foster arrived on March 20 around noon, and proceeded to get drunk and stay drunk until the “fatal moment” in the early morning of March 23. This cannot be so, as the present archive contains a letter from the deceased himself dated March 21 from his mining camp, which states he plans to travel to Helvetia the next day, March 22. James Foster raises this point with the governor of Arizona in a letter dated May 27. In this letter James also questions how Will could have wielded a gun to shoot the Mexican restaurant owner if he was blistering drunk, and raises numerous other questions about the incident. Here James basically blames the entire community around Helvetia for “covering up the facts” of his brother’s murder.

No doubt that James and Bertram’s suspicions were further inflamed by a letter from William Foster's business partner, J.L. Tremaine, on May 27, in which he states, “In regard to the statement that your brother Will had been drinking for two or three days, that is entirely wrong....” Tremaine writes that Will was only in Helvetia for “eleven or twelve hours all told” before he was killed. Then, rather shockingly, Tremaine relates an entirely new and completely different scenario surrounding the incident. His account reads, in part:

“In my opinion Scott knows all that transpired that night if there was any way to force him to tell it, but you can see by his evidence that he was so drunk that he could not remember (a most convenient memory that). It has been told among the Mexicans that Scott really was the cause of the trouble. They say, so I am told, that when Scott and Will went into the house Scott accused the Mexicans of stealing a bottle of whiskey and started for his gun. Niconor Riviera, who owns the house where the dance was in progress, took exception and grabbed at the gun and Will stopped him. The trouble was supposed to be all over when Riviera claimed he was cold and went into another part of the house and threw a blanket around himself and came back into the room. He had a knife in each hand concealed under the blanket and walked over to where Will was sitting on a bench and attacked him. Will shot twice in self defence. Scott was standing outside the door when the trouble came up the second time and stepped inside the door and fired two or three shots and then ran. He did not return for some time so the Mexicans claim but finally came back and took Will out side. He laid him down about 20 ft. from the door and that is when he called Childs and told him that Will was killed....”

This starkly different story did not seem to make a difference in solving the mystery of the circumstances surrounding William Foster's murder. The governor of Arizona referred the case to the Pima County district attorney, and that is where matters seem to end. In the last letter in the archive, however, dated May 26, 1913 in Denver, Bertram Foster relates overhearing a story in which Marshal Daniels greatly benefited from the sale of the same mining claims he had once owned with Will Foster. Bertram's letter ends with continued suspicion of Daniels' and Tremaine's complicity in the murder: “...the outcome, when taken with the other incidents leading up to and following his death at least leads one to the theory that his death might indeed have been the result of a plot.”

The whole William Foster affair is a tale filled with characters right from central casting of a classic Hollywood western: the Yankee out west prospecting for gold killed by a Mexican restaurant owner and his own bad aim; his mysterious partner who claims he wasn't there to see any of the crime but lays the blame at the feet of another man; a local U.S. Marshal who claims a third ownership share of the victim's mining business, though the deceased never mentions the marshal in any of the five surviving letters he sent from Arizona; the brothers back East who don't trust or believe the western authorities about their brother's murder, and are receiving conflicting reports from everyone they correspond with; the governor of Arizona who largely stays out of the affair; and the undertaker who finally lays down the truth about the murder...or does he?

A fascinating Wild West archive detailing a case involving murder, mining, intrigue, and subterfuge. $4750.
Arkansas Debates Secession in the Month Before the Attack on Fort Sumter, and Offers a Staunch Defense of Slavery


An account of the proceedings at the first meeting of the Secession Convention held in Arkansas, in March 1861. This was the beginning of the secession debate in Arkansas – they would put off the final decision until August. This convention calls for an election over the issue of secession, includes a draft of an Arkansas secession ordinance (“An Ordinance, To dissolve the Union between the State of Arkansas and the other States united with her under the compact entitled ‘The Constitution of the United States of America’”), and prints the South Carolina secession ordinance in the Appendix, along with detailed arguments for secession. Inevitably, the convention addressed the question of African-American slavery; a resolution from March 11, shrouding a pro-slavery argument in the cloth of the Constitution, reads: “Resolved, That it is the deliberate sense of this convention, that African negroes, and the descendants of the African race, denominated slaves by all the constitutions of the southern slaveholding states, is property to all intents and purposes, and ought of right to be so considered by all the northern states, being expressly implied by the constitution of the United States; and a denial on the part of the people of the northern states, of the right of property in slaves of the southern states is, and of right ought to be, sufficient cause, if persisted in by northern people, to dissolve the political connection between said states.” This resolution was thereby referred to a committee.

Perhaps surprisingly, at this initial assembly, the delegates actually voted to remain in the Union and to reconvene later in the year to take up the issue again, at which point they eventually did choose to secede. Very rare. Parrish & Willingham record a dozen institutional copies, but only one copy has appeared at auction since 1918.

PARRISH & WILLINGHAM 2707. HARWELL 425. $4750.
Account Book of Atlantic Trading Voyages


An interesting manuscript ship’s log containing financial accounts for the brigs Nimrod and Jasper for an eight year period from 1826 to 1833, while they were under the command of a Capt. John Hill. The two ships made numerous voyages between the United States, Europe, and the Caribbean. The present log book contains accounting of expenditures for journeys from London and Marseille to New York and Norfolk in 1827; from Antwerp to London in 1828; from Philadelphia to the West Indies in 1829; from Madeira to the Turks Islands in 1831; from the West Indies to Pensacola to Havana in 1832; from the Indies to New York in 1833; and several other similar voyages. The log also contains two copies of an 1832 letter written in Havana by Hill to merchants there inquiring about the price of molasses, and a list of port charges at several major way points.

A fascinating artifact of trans-Atlantic trade in the 1820s and 1830s. $1500.
The First 100 Issues of the Adventures of Buffalo Bill in French

6. [Buffalo Bill Dime Novels]: BUFFALO BILL, LE HÉROS DU FAR-WEST. Paris: A. Eichler, [n.d., ca. 1906-1908]. 100 issues, 32pp. each, many with an additional leaf of ads at the end. Printed in two columns, in French. Quarto. Original color pictorial wrappers. Moderate scattered foxing and toning (as usual), with occasional brittleness or chipping at edges, ten issues with one or both wrappers detached but all wrappers present. Internal text clean throughout. A good plus collection.

An unbroken run of the first 100 issues of this popular French weekly chronicling the adventures of Buffalo Bill as he battles Indians and other assorted bad guys in the Wild West. The magazine bills itself as “the only original edition authorized by Col. W.F. Cody, known as Buffalo Bill.” Each issue contains a separate story, with the title printed in French on the cover (often accompanied by an English translation), and the text entirely in French. Each has a wonderful color illustrated front wrapper, showing Cody rescuing settlers, saving damsels in distress, battling an Indian, or gunning down a miscreant. Many of the issues contain a biographical sketch of Cody on the rear wrapper, touting that his adventures are legendary to American readers, and now French audiences have an opportunity to read his stories themselves. Some of the titles include: “Buffalo Bill’s Decoy Boys or The Death-Rivals of the Big Horn,” “Buffalo Bill’s Death Grapple or Shadowed by the Sure Shots,” “Buffalo Bill’s Brother in Buckskin or The Redskin Lariat Rangers,” and “Buffalo Bill at War with the Danites or The Crafty Mormon’s Darkest Plot.” Other issues are devoted to Buffalo Bill’s adventures with specific Indian chiefs, including Big Elk and Tahrokee.

The publisher, A. Eichler, was simultaneously producing periodicals describing the adventures of the American detective, Nick Carter, the Pinkerton agents, and the pirate, Captain Morgan. The Buffalo Bill stories were at the peak of their popularity in Europe between 1906 and 1912, the year of Eichler’s death, but continued in new periodical editions through the larger part of the 20th century. The total number of titles issued in this series is unknown, but may have stretched beyond two hundred. OCLC reports numerous scattered institutional holdings, but only a few with runs as vast as the present collection.

A fine example of the French fascination with the American West, and an uncommon opportunity to secure such a long run of a very rare and culturally significant periodical.

Palladio’s Caesar

7. Caesar, [Caius Julius], and Andrea Palladio: COMMENTARI DI C. GIULIO CESARE, CON LE FIGURE IN RAE...FATTE DA ANDREA PALLADIO PER FACILITARE A CHI LEGGE, LA COGNITION DELL’HISTORIA. Venice: Apresso Pietro de Franceschi, 1575 [58, including blank], 407,[1]pp. Small quarto. Full vellum, spine gilt extra, gilt labels. Two folding maps, forty double-page engraved plates. Some foxing and occasional marginal thumbing and soiling, some spotting to G1-2, trivial worm nibble in gutter of a number of the plates, a few old ink marginal annotations, still a very good copy.

First Palladio edition of Caesar’s Commentaries, based on the translation by Francesco Baldelli (first published in 1554). Andrea Palladio (1508-1580) is most widely known for his highly influential designs and treatises on architecture. In his preface to this late, somewhat out-of-genre work, Palladio indicates that this illustrated edition of the Commentaries “originated in a project for his two sons, Leonida and Orazio. The sons died in 1572, and Palladio, finding the sketches they had made, decided to publish them with his own additions...” – Mortimer. Palladio engraved the fine plates, which depict overhead views of encampments and land and sea battles, fortified cities, river crossings, and bridge and wall construction. “Édition recherché à cause des gravures dont elle est ornée” – Brunet. The work was reprinted several times in the following decades.

MORTIMER ITALIAN 16th CENTURY BOOKS, 97. BRUNET I.1461. FOWLER 237. $5500.
Revealing Correspondence about the 1917 Film Adaptation

8. Caine, Hall: [A SMALL BUT HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT FILE OF CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE FILM VERSION OF HIS NOVEL, The Deems Ter]. Heath Brow, Hampstead Heath. July and August, 1916. Comprised of one typed letter, signed (13pp.), two autograph letters, signed (3 and 7 pp.), an autograph note, signed, and two related items, three with envelopes. Quarto, octavo, and 12mo., all but one item (a related retained carbon). Very good or better.

In 1916, the American company, Arrow Film Corporation, undertook an adaptation to the screen of Caine’s highly popular 1887 novel, The Deemster. Of special import is the fact that Caine’s son, Derwent Hall Caine, then in the U.S., was actively involved in the project, and played the lead role of Daniel Mylrea – Derwent appeared in at least seven films prior to embarking on his career as publisher and Labour Party politician. Howell Hansel directed the film, which is formally credited to screenwriters Edfrid A. Bingham and Charles A. Taylor (but was, in large part, by A. D. Levino). The present archive of correspondence records in detail the degree of Hall Caine’s own participation in the adaptation, and includes:

a) a remarkable typed letter, signed, from Hall Caine, 13pp., quarto, with extensive manuscripts corrections and additions, to his son Derwent, c/o The Arrow Film Corporation, New York City, dissecting the scenario of The Deemster, scene by scene, in reference to “General Plotting of the Story,” “Motive of the Quarrel,” “The Love Interest,” and “Minor Suggestions,” etc, and offering “suggestions for the consideration of the Company as far as they are still practicable...”. This letter is accompanied by a clean carbon of a retyping of the letter, likely intended to circulate within the company;

b) an autograph letter, signed, from Caine to A. D. Le Vino, of the Arrow Film Corporation, Hampstead Heath, 28 August 1916, 3pp, octavo, referencing the above letter and congratulating him “…on the Scenario of The Deemster. It is good indeed. I thought it short. I wrote a long letter making suggestions (addressed to my son care of your Company) & I have since cabled suggesting a few bright, winsome scenes at the beginning to develop Dan’s charm & make the people love him before he is plunged in the tragedy. I trust the end as in the book can be followed. But an alternative happy end might be also be taken in case of absolute need...”;

c) an autograph letter, signed, from Caine to A. D. Le Vino, of the Arrow Film Corporation, Hampstead Heath, 29 August 1916, 7pp., octavo, dealing extensively with the theme and the details of the story and the production, reading in small
part: “It was very good of your President to promise to take again any scene that seemed to require altering. There are a few ...that seem to me to do that, but I feel that some might be added to give depth of emotion to the greater scenes. In my long letter to my son I have indicated these scenes -- the greater scenes, particularly, between Dan & Mona, & Dan & the Bishop. Anything you can do to deepen & heighten the emotion in these scenes will add greatly to the effect of the film. If you can indicate, without offence, that the story of the Deemster is, in effect, the story of the parable of the Prodigal Son, I think it will help the public to follow & sympathise with it. ...I should like you to do all you can to develop the death end & to bring it to a high level of spiritual exaltation. It seems to me a little hurried in the scenario. ...On secondary points -- could you by any mechanical manipulation of cut film convey the sense of the phantom ship in the scenes of Dan's isolation when he passes through the fishing fleet? Could you introduce the collie dog (if he is a good actor) in the scenes of plague. ...Could you have the dog in the last scene expressing its dumb sympathy with Dan? And Dan (who has Mona beside him) touching the dog's head with a grateful hand? ...Pray grant me your indulgence in making these suggestions. I am very anxious that both your company, you yourself & my son should have a great[?] success with this film."

Finally by way of a lengthy postscript Caine adds: “... Do you remember Rossetti's poem & picture of the Blessed Damozel, which shews the girl in heaven looking down on her lover on earth? Do you also remember Mr. Belasco's last scene in the Darling of the Gods where the lovers are seen united on their way to heaven? If so, you will grasp my meaning...”;

d) an autograph note, signed, one page, 12mo., Hampstead Heath, 17 August 1916, with envelope, from Caine to the war-time Postal censor, asking for rapid clearance of his mail as it “consists of nothing but instructions for the making of a cinema film ...” – the envelopes that are present each bear censor inspection labels;

e) a retained carbon typescript letter, 2pp., from Derwent Caine to “Dear Father,” 31 July 1916, quarto, on poor pulp paper stock and thus somewhat chipped and delicate, forwarding LeVino's scenario, asking for Caine's specific reactions and advice about details and the overall interest and success of the adaptation, etc. He notes: “However, I must tell you that we are starting work this afternoon, and naturally a great many scenes will be taken before you will have a chance to see it [the scenario]. But Dr. Shallenberger, the president of the company, says that if you suggest a new beginning to the story, which to us seems at present a little weak, he would take whatever number of scenes required fresh, in order to get Dan placed as more of a gentleman coming down a little more gradually to the fisher life than at present is in the scenario.” He indicates the scenario (“only finished a couple of days ago”) is being rushed by the first steamer, and the pencil postscript notes that he also included some promotional material for the company's last film (not present); and

f) an autograph note, 1½pp., octavo, on letterhead, from Mary Hall Caine, evidently to Arrow Films, enclosing a photograph [not present] of Caine to be used for promotional purposes. The correspondence affords a detailed glimpse into the intimate involvement of a novelist in the film adaptation of one of his books, material the nature of which, for this period, is highly uncommon. $1750.

A 16th-century Mexican broadside from the collection of Dr. Emilio Valtón, in the rare book with explanatory text by Edwin Carpenter. Carpenter's book was printed in an edition of 140 copies by Saul and Lillian Marks at the Plantin Press. The piece present here is a carta de poder (or power of attorney) form accomplished on September 6, 1589 in Mexico City, by the second printer in the New World, Pedro Ocharte. The text is printed on one side of the sheet, with seven lines of manuscript on the recto, and nine lines of manuscript and a signature on the verso. Ocharte took over the press from Juan Pablos and operated it until 1592. Valtón owned a total of thirty-nine pre-1600 broadsheets. This represents virtually the only chance to own an example from the first press in the New World.

This copy was previously in the collection of Occidental College, a gift of legendary librarian and bibliographer Lawrence Clark Powell (class of 1928). $2000.
Mark Twain’s Pledge About Immortality


A manuscript memento of a famous artifact, being Clemens’ fourteen line rough draft verse (signed “M.T.”), written in preparation for his inscribing the verse on three stones for presentation to Mrs. Thomas K. Beecher, wife of Reverend Beecher who officiated at the wedding of Clemens and Livy Langdon in 1870. An account of the undertaking appears in the October 1895 number of Munsey’s, and in brief, a sort of wager grew out of a friendly debate between Clemens and Mrs. Beecher about the immortality of the soul. Mrs. Beecher concluded by asking Clemens: “If you meet me in heaven a million years from now, will you confess yourself wrong?” And when Clemens assented, she insisted a record of his agreement be rendered in stone for future generations. The manuscript in hand is Clemens’ draft of what was placed on three sections cut from a stone Mrs. Beecher picked up from the Susquehanna river bed near Charles Beecher’s summer home near Wyalusing, Pennsylvania. The actual stones, known as the “wager stones,” are now preserved in the Twain Archive at Elmira College. Clemens’ poem (incorporating his alterations) reads:

“If you prove right & I prove wrong [/] A million years from now, [/] In language plain & frank & strong [/] My error I’ll avow [/] To your dear mocking face. [/]
If I prove right, by God his grace [/] Full sorry I shall be, [/] For in that solitude no trace [/] There’ll be of you & me [/] Nor of our vanished race. [/] A million years, O patient stone, [/] You’ve waited for this message: [/] Deliver it a million hence [Survivor pay expressage.] M.T.”

Appended to the manuscript is an autograph note from Clemens, July 2, 1895, to Livy Clemens’ friend, Clara Spaulding: “Dear Clara: Livy says it is this rough old original draft that you preferred. I didn’t understand & I beg pardon. This looks too disreputable. My purpose was to have a nice trim comely copy made for you. Yours ever, SL Clemens.”

$9500.
Samuel Bangs and Smallpox in San Antonio in 1830


A rare surviving Mexican Texas legal decree ordering dispersal of funds to fight smallpox in Saltillo, Monclova, and Bexar, emanating from the state legislature of Coahuila y Tejas, and printed by the most prominent printer in Texas history. This copy was issued to the mayor of Allende, Coahuila, located about forty miles south of the Rio Grande. It is signed in type by José María Viesca, the governor of Coahuila y Tejas at the time of its printing, and his secretary, Santiago del Valle, with both of their manuscript rubrics following their printed names.

The decree (translated into English in Kimball) is set out in six articles and states that the executive department of the state “authorized to contract a loan of three thousand dollars” which “shall be used to succor persons attacked with the small pox throughout the state.” The funds are to be divided among the three departments of the state, with 1200 pesos going to Saltillo, 1000 to Monclova, and 800 pesos to Bexar (modern-day San Antonio). The decree also stipulates that the executive will “regulate the manner said succor shall be ministered to the destitute classes in the state.” Once the “contagion ceases,” the final article directs the executive to “give notice to congress of the persons assisted by virtue of this decree, and the amount they have received, causing the whole to be published through the press.” “Authorizes loan of 3,000 pesos to help victims of smallpox” – Spell.

The present decree was printed by the most famous printer in Texas history. According to Texas bibliographer and bookseller John H. Jenkins, Samuel Bangs was also the “first printer in Texas, the first printer in three Mexican states, and the first printer west of the Louisiana Purchase.” From about 1817 until his death in 1854, Bangs served as a printer for the Mina expedition, the Mexican government before the Texas Revolution (including the states of Tamaulipas and Coahuila y Tejas), various printing shops in the United States, and in various cities in the Republic of Texas, mainly Houston and Galveston. He has been the subject of two book-length biographical/bibliographic treatments: Lota M. Spell’s Pioneer Printer and Jenkins’ Printer in Three Republics. Bangs printed the present work during his time as official printer to the state legislature of Coahuila and Texas, which had lured him away from the government of Tamaulipas in 1828. Despite his rather prolific output, Bangs imprints are rarely encountered in today’s market.

Jenkins notes three copies, at the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Texas at Arlington, and in his own personal collection. OCLC confirms the first of those copies, as well as showing a copy at Yale in a serial record.

A rare document printed by Samuel Bangs in which the Mexican government authorizes funds to battle smallpox in San Antonio, among other locations in the state of Coahuila and Texas.

KIMBALL, p.149. JENKINS, PRINTER IN THREE REPUBLICS 352. SPELL 279. OCLC 32764677, 173724746. $2500.

The New York edition of this later Crockett Almanac for 1847, full of the usual entertaining stories and wild illustrations, but also including a good bit of text and several illustrations relating to the most pressing territorial issues of the day – the annexation of Texas and the conflict with England over the Oregon Territory. The images include “Crockett Blowing up a Man of War by a Flash of Lightning from his Eye,” “Crockett’s Description of the Joint Occupancy [sic] of Oregon,” and “The Ghost of Crockett Scaring John Bull from Oregon,” as well as thrilling fare such as “Crockett Boiling a Dead Indian, &c., for His Sick Bear,” and “A Wolf Ride.” The Crockett almanacs were not always so focused on the political issues of the day – the present edition and the 1837 issue with text and images of the Texas Revolution being notable exceptions. HOWES C897, “aa.”

$5000.
Cuban School for Girls in the Early Years of the Depression

13. [Cuba]: [Education]: [ANNOTATED VERNACULAR PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM CENTERED ON THE COLEGIA PARA NIÑAS ROMUALDO DE LA CUESTA, A GIRLS’ SCHOOL IN CENTRAL HAVANA, IN THE EARLY 1930s]. [Havana. 1931-1932]. Thirty-two original photographs, eighteen of which measure 8 x 10 inches, the remainder between 2¼ x 3½ inches and 7 x 11 inches, some dated either 1931 or 1932. Annotated throughout in Spanish. Oblong folio. Contemporary green wrappers, manuscript title on front wrapper reading, “Album E.R.C.” Spine ends a bit chipped, faint dampstain on front wrapper, minor edge wear, and light dust-soiling. Minor wear to photographs. Overall very good.

An album of annotated photographs from the Colegio Para Niñas Romualdo de la Cuesta, an all-girls school in the central district of Havana, Cuba, during the early 1930s. The photographs, most of which are of substantial size, depict the individual students, interiors and exteriors of the school, the art room, restrooms, a “fiesta” attended by both students and teachers, class pictures, and a school field trip, among other aspects of school life in Havana. The annotations provide significant context to the photographs, and the whole stands as a vital record of school life for young women in Havana in the early 20th century.

The demographic composition of the student body is interesting. Each class shown here is made up of Hispanic and African-Cuban young ladies from kindergarten to approximately middle school. The students pose for the camera in classrooms and at various school events, namely a field trip to El Capitolio (the National Capitol Building), where dozens of the students pose on the steps of the capitol, inside the legislative room, in the Hall of Lost Steps, inside the Cuban Library of Congress, and ranged around La Estatua de la República (the Statue of the Republic) in the main hall of the Capitolio. The photographs conclude with a group shot of what may be the entire student body of the school and a group photograph of the teachers and administrators of the school, all women.

Some of the photographs concern restoration of some part of the school in 1931, with the annotations making reference to the renovations. In a few instances, facing photographs show settings in the school before and after the renovations, including classrooms and the restrooms. One of the captions, underneath a photograph of desks in a room on a tile floor, reads, “Aula segunda – Antes de ser restaurada el Colegio, por el Sr alcalde: Cap Jose Izguierdo Julia” [in English, “Second classroom – Before the College was restored by the mayor: Cap Jose Izguierdo Julia”]. In 1931, the municipality of Havana became the Central District of Cuba. The district was governed by an alcalde (or mayor) appointed by the president. In that year, President Gerardo Machado appointed Sr. Jose Izguierdo Julia as Alcalde of Havana.

The Colegio Para Niñas Romualdo de la Cuesta, created by philanthropist Romualdo de la Cuesta, stood three stories tall, and had capacity for 300 students. A 1907 Cuban geography book refers to it as a free private school, but by the 1940s it was considered a public school and received municipal funds. The school struggled through many transitional periods in Cuban history, from the colonial period to the post-colonial years. During the earlier colonial period, the school was segregated, and classified “para ninos de color” (“for children of color”). After civil rights campaigns and petitions to the government, the Spanish colonial government integrated Cuban schools in 1894, though the process was slow. Cuban schools remained integrated following the American occupation of Cuba after the Spanish-American War, and thereafter. Fluctuations in the Cuban economy affected schools over the next few decades, and the current album, with its depiction of school renovations and full classrooms, represents one of the high points in enrollment and investment in Cuban education in the 20th century.

A wonderful record of the education of young Cuban women in the early 1930s. $1500.
Seneca Warriors in Georgian London


A very rare and significant handcolored lithograph produced in London depicting seven touring Seneca Indians from Buffalo Creek, who arrived in Liverpool in January 1818, and toured at least through May. The names of the Native Americans depicted, posed in front of a painted panorama of the Niagara Falls, appear in the margin below each in both phonetic Seneca and their English translation: Beaver, I like her, Two Guns, Steep Back, Black Squirrel, Long Horns, and Little Bear. The group was part of a travelling show organized by Storr & Co., which sent the seven Seneca warriors around England and who were particularly noticed and described by the Society of Friends.

Denis Dighton was enrolled as a student at the Royal Academy, where he exhibited seventeen paintings between 1811 and 1825. Favorited by the Royals, Denis was appointed military draughtsman to the Prince Regent, and is best known for his military portraits and battle scenes, especially his views of the Waterloo battlefield. A watercolor portrait painting by Dighton of Chief Long Horns, titled “Portrait of Senung-Gise, North American Indian Chief” also survives.

“In 1818 – early – Juba Storrs & Co entered into a speculation, joining with some others, among them Hale & Brigham of Canandaigua. This project was nothing less than an ante-Barnum project: They became proprietors of a show. A company of fine-looking Indians were accoutred and sent to Europe for exhibition, with hope of ‘turning a penny’ for the benefit of the operators. Among them have been named to me Tommy Jimmy, Steep Rock, Little Bear, Red Squirrel and Two Guns. They were put in charge of Carlton Fox – already known as a skillful hand in managing the wild men....The Indians were a splendid set of fellows, and they knew it, and were wonderfully set up by their knowledge and the notice they attracted and attention they received. This was very great. They were novelties, shown off in their native costumes, with brilliant feathers, and bright hued garments, and wild ways – and John Bull was wonderfully taken by it...” – Bigelow.

OCLC lists only a single copy, at Yale. An uncolored copy held by the Six Nations Public Library in Ontario names the printer and date in pencil. An impressive and very rare handcolored lithograph emblematic of the English fascination with Native American populations in the 19th century.


$11,750.
When Tired of Dime Novels, Learn to Play Chess


A later edition of the tenth entry in Beadle's first series of Dime Handbooks related to games and pastimes, a genre that they originated and made vastly popular along with their dime novels. Originally issued in 1860, this edition was published by Beadle somewhat later, perhaps around 1864, though the type used to print the copyright page was so worn that the impression is almost unreadable (a common occurrence in later editions and printings of Beadle and Adams’ works). This edition expands the title from simply Dime Chess Instructor, and was published in orange wrappers with no engraving on the front wrapper instead of the original buff wrappers of the first edition with an engraving on the front.

Co-Written by Lynn Riggs

16. [Doyle, Arthur Conan (sourcework)]: Millhauser, Bertram, and Lynn Riggs [screenwriters]: FIRST DRAFT “SHERLOCK HOLMES IN WASHINGTON” ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY...BASED ON A STORY BY SIR A. CONAN DOYLE. [Los Angeles: Universal Pictures], June 30, 1942. [1],107 leaves. Quarto. Mimeographed typescript, printed on rectos only of salmon colored stock. Bradbound. Pencil name on title leaf (“Milton Feld,” a Universal producer at the time), a few annotations in color pencil, very good or better.

A first draft of this contribution to the Holmes screen canon. Released in April of 1943, Sherlock Holmes in Washington was directed by Roy William Neill, and starred Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce. The association of Lynn Riggs, the Oklahoma-born, part-Cherokee gay playwright and poet with this project is very interesting. It is one of at least two of the Universal Holmes titles that Riggs worked on, the other being an (until recently) uncredited revised draft of the screenplay for Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror (also dated 1942). Riggs is most widely known for his play, Green Grow the Lilacs, which was immensely popular as the musical adaptation, Oklahoma!, but little has been written about his years as a screenwriter for MGM, RKO, Paramount and Universal. Millhauser’s career as a screenwriter began in 1911 and includes over sixty credits, including Sherlock Holmes Faces Death (1943) and Sherlock Holmes and the Spider Woman (1944). Script material relating to any of the pre-1950 Holmes films is uncommon. Although well over one hundred and fifty adaptations of Sherlock Holmes to the screen are known, beginning with Sherlock Holmes Baffled (1903), the Rathbone-Bruce portrayals have become almost canonical, beginning with The Hound of the Baskervilles (March 1939), and concluding with the twelfth in sequence, Dressed to Kill (1946).

DE WAAL 5150. $2250.
An Important Book-Length Manuscript  
*on Constitutional Theory and South American Independence Movements*  
by the Progenitor of the Du Pont Dynasty,  
Sent to Thomas Jefferson for Comments


An important manuscript treatise on constitutional theory, and a proposed system of government for the new republics emerging from the independence movements of South America, by French-American writer, economist, publisher, government official, and aristocrat Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours. Du Pont wrote numerous influential treatises on political and economic theory. This, his last major work, was never published and only survives in the present manuscript. This is almost certainly the manuscript Du Pont loaned to Thomas Jefferson for his comments and advice in the spring of 1816.

Du Pont first came to prominence with his major economic treatise, *Physiocratie, ou Constitution Naturelle du Gouvernement le Plus Avantageux au Genre Humain*, written in 1768, in which he coined the term “physiocracy.” He went on to become an economic advisor to Jacques Necker and King Louis XVI, serving as Inspector General of Commerce. Although he initially supported the French Revolution with other moderates like Lafayette, he soon became its victim, and was awaiting execution in 1794 when the Terror ended with the downfall of Robespierre. Still at odds with the French government, he emigrated to the United States in 1799 with his son, Eleuthere Irenee du Pont, and there founded E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., creating one of the great family dynasties in America.

Pierre Samuel du Pont continued to write important works of political theory, and became a friend and correspondent of many leading figures in the United States, most notably Thomas Jefferson, whom he had first encountered in Paris in the 1780s. Between 1800 and 1817 they exchanged dozens of letters on various topics, including this manuscript. In 1800, at Jefferson’s request, he drew up plans for a national educational system. In 1802 he returned to France, where he was an important promoter of the Louisiana Purchase. He remained in France and took an active part in the restoration of the monarchy in 1814. In the spring of 1815 he fled Paris during Napoleon’s Hundred Days and returned to the United States, where he remained until his death in 1817.

Du Pont’s last major work, the *Républiques Équinoxiales* was never published, and until the emergence of this manuscript from the estate of a Du Pont descendant, only known through references in his correspondence. Du Pont and Jefferson
corresponded about the work in 1815 and 1816. The first reference appears in a letter dated May 26, 1815 where, amid a broader discussion of various political developments in South America, Du Pont alludes to what would prove to be one of his final literary undertakings and the impetus behind it:

“Ten or twelve large republics are being created on your continent. They will establish themselves and grow stronger, although a few might be temporarily vanquished by the strength or weakness of European Spain. Three of these republics, which are already united, have done me the honor of consulting me.... They had no idea yet about representative governments, and they had experienced the danger of tumultuous assemblies.”

In mentioning this “consultation,” Du Pont refers to an occasion which must have occurred in Paris at some point in 1814. The collapse of Spanish government during the Napoleonic era had opened the door for independence movements in the Spanish colonies in the Americas. At that stage Manuel Palacio-Fajardo, representing the state of New Granada, approached Du Pont and asked him to draft a constitutional guide book for the practical and economical management of his fledgling republic.

The present manuscript has a dedication inscription to “Don M. Palacios” on the fly leaf. The main body of the manuscript, presumably executed in at least one secretarial hand, has the dedicatory epistle to Manuel Palacios-Fajardo in a second, distinctive (and likely authorial) hand. The colophon is dated with a holographic signature, “Paris 13 Mars 1815, Du Pont (de Nemours),” also in Du Pont’s hand. The manuscript shows abundant corrections in ink (quite likely in Du Pont’s hand), with period repairs and pasted corrigenda to certain passages. The slightly later engraved ownership bookplate and various later owners’ inscriptions tie the manuscript to the Du Pont family, including Frances “Fanny” du Pont (née Solana), Alexis and Elizabeth du Pont, and [A.I.] du Pont.

The overall scope and narrative content of this newly rediscovered manuscript demonstrate that it must be the formerly “lost” treatise. It is clear that the chapter headings in the present copy (as outlined below) conform to Du Pont’s more general interests and views on agriculture, economics, constitutional theory, and anthropology; these were themes which he discussed with an unwavering consistency throughout his other works.

One final observation on the “state” or “edition” of this manuscript: it seems likely that this particular copy represents a second (or possibly third) authorial recension of the text of Républiques Équinoxiales. This is evidenced not only by the frequent revisions and corrections throughout, but also by a statement Du Pont makes in the manuscript’s prefatory letter to Don Manuel Palacios, wherein he remarks on the superiority of this present state of the text: “J’ignore si la première copie du Mémoire ici joint a pu vous parvenir, et je vous envoie une seconde en peu corrigée.”

Shortly after completing the manuscript Du Pont fled Paris to escape the returning Napoleon. By the time he wrote Jefferson in late May he was in Delaware. In December 1815, Du Pont visited Monticello and left a manuscript of the Républiques Équinoxiales with Jefferson for his perusal. Du Pont had asked Jefferson on several earlier occasions to proofread and critique his latest writings, but only shortly after its dispatch, he asked Jefferson to return the manuscript. He explains the reason for this in his letter of December 20:

“If you have read the Mémoire aux Républiques Équinoxiales, I would be grateful if you could send it back to me, either directly if your franking privilege allows it, or through either the president or the secretary of state, who could get it to me under their countersignatures. I will send you another copy of it, which I am having prepared right now. But I need to give the former one to Don Pedro Gual, who has been sent to the United States by the republics that consulted me and that are united as New Granada. It may be that General Palacio has not received either of the two copies I sent him; and the opportunity of transmitting one personally to a civil officer of these republics is not to be neglected.”

Jefferson returned the manuscript sometime around the beginning of the new year, 1816, as may be inferred from his Dec. 31 and Jan. 3 replies to Du Pont. Having delivered the desired copy to deputy Don Pedro Gual, Du Pont then resent the manuscript of Républiques Équinoxiales to Jefferson for his commentary. On March 31, 1816, Du Pont writes:

“I have the honor of sending you again my little gospel for the use of the Spanish republics, which I brought to you four months ago. Thank God I have had and will still have several copies of it to give away, as I have only one secretary.... This book on republics, newly born, to be born, or to be restored, is one of my writings for which I most desire your approval and blessing. I would like to find a good writer to translate it into Spanish.”

On April 24, 1816, Jefferson wrote Du Pont a long letter from his second home, Poplar Forest, discussing the manuscript in depth. Jefferson was critical of Du Pont’s proposed system. In his observations on the dangerously oligarchic structure Du Pont recommended, Jefferson directly criticizes the arguments found in chapter twelve of the present manuscript, “Assemblée communale, seconde section: des assemblées de canton,” and in its concluding chapters, feeling that the upper levels of government were too far removed from “the people.” However, he praised Du Pont’s “moral principles” and provides a ringing endorsement of his democratic theories of government. Jefferson evidently returned the manuscript to Du Pont with this letter.

Until now the unpublished treatise, Républiques Équinoxiales, has been known solely through the foregoing letters. Nevertheless, there are several crucial indications that the present manuscript is the working copy, now coming to light after two centuries in the care of the Du Pont family. The title and dates of composition, which match those signaled in the Jefferson correspondence; the dedicatory inscription and letter to M. Palacios, whom Du Pont identified as his intended recipient in his letter to Jefferson of Dec. 20, 1815; and, finally, the colophon, which Du Pont signed and dated, together allow for little doubt that this particular copy is identical with the literary work which Du Pont himself described, and thereafter sent twice, to his friend, Thomas Jefferson.

A monumental political work by the progenitor of the Du Pont family, a work thought lost for almost 200 years.


$75,000.
“The sentiment is, the more they see of them, the more they say of them
‘Let Secesh keep the cursed n*****’

18. Edmands, Thomas Franklin, Lt. Col.: [SUBSTANTIAL ARCHIVE OF
HUNDREDS OF AUTOGRAPH LETTERS, SIGNED, FROM LT. COL.
THOMAS FRANKLIN EDMANDS, CO. B, 24th MASSACHUSETTS REGI-
MENT, TO HIS FATHER AND SIBLINGS DURING THE CIVIL WAR,
RELATING IN STARK DETAIL HIS EXPERIENCES, INCLUDING HIS
PARTICIPATION IN BURNSIDE’S NORTH CAROLINA EXPEDITION,
SERVICE IN FLORIDA, IN SOUTH CAROLINA DURING THE RECAP-
TURE OF CHARLESTON Harbor, HIS LONG SERVICE IN VIRGINIA
DURING THE SIEGES OF PETERSBURG AND RICHMOND, AND
HIS TIME IN RICHMOND DURING THE POST-WAR OCCUPATION,
WITH MANY PASSAGES RECORDING HIS UNVARNISHED OPINIONS
OF AFRICAN AMERICANS AND EMANCIPATION]. [Various locations in
Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Virginia during the Civil
War. December 15, 1861 to January 18, 1866]. 382 autograph letters, signed, in-
cluding 276 from Edmands to his father, 101 to his three sisters,
and five to his brother, almost all war-date letters, totaling about
1,390 pages and around 170,000 words, plus twelve assorted fam-
ily letters and documents. Most letters housed in their original transmittal envelopes, with stamps removed. Original mailing folds,
occasional wear. A handful of letters with short fold separations,
but the vast majority in excellent condition.

An extraordinarily deep and informative archive of manuscript
letters sent home by Massachusetts soldier and officer Thomas
Franklin Edmands during the Civil War. The large size of the
archive (nearly 400 letters in total), the remarkable detail provided,
and the literate style, makes this one of richest and informative
Civil War letter archives that we have handled.

Thomas Edmands was very well educated, and writes in an engag-
ing and readable style in his letters, having no compunction about
describing camp life, battles, military policy, his current reading
habits, and the positive and negative aspects of his fellow officers
and soldiers in astonishing detail. His observations on African-
American soldiers are especially significant, as are his unvarnished
opinions on General Benjamin Butler, whom Edmands disparages
in numerous letters. Edmands elaborates on the various subjects
he writes about at a level of specificity and observation rarely, if
ever, encountered in Civil War archives. He was also a talented
artist, evidenced by several drawings within his letters relating to
battle sites, war materiel, and other non-military-related items.
And he often writes about the books he is reading while in the
field or in camp, including military manuals and literary works.

Thomas Franklin Edmands (1840-1906) worked his way up the ranks of the
24th Massachusetts Volunteers during the Civil War, and ended the conflict as a
lieutenant colonel. He writes first from Camp Foster in Annapolis in December
1861, then last in January 1866 from Richmond, Virginia. During his war career,
Edmands was variously stationed at Annapolis; various locations in North Caro-
lina, such as Roanoke Island, Newbern, Portsmouth, Beaufort, and Washington;
Morris Island in South Carolina; two locations in Florida – St. Augustine and
Jacksonville; Gloucester Point, Bermuda Hundred, Deep Bottom, and the Union-
occupied areas near Petersburg and Richmond, then inside the city of Richmond
in Virginia. His letters cover virtually the entire length of the war, and range
from one to sixteen pages, with the great majority numbering at least three pages.

Edmands’ letters home to his father in Boston make up the bulk of the archive.
Consisting of over 270 separate letters dated from late 1861 to late January 1866,
Edmands wrote his father every few days or at least three or four times per month
over the duration of the war. The letters begin at Camp Foster on December
15, 1861. In these letters, Edmands often focuses on one or two subjects and
relates them in unusual detail to his father. The various subjects include camp
life at Annapolis, the background of Union officers, various naval maneuvers he hears about from ships arriving there, the titles of books he receives during his service, photographs he sends home and those he receives from his family, the pleasure of sitting around the fire on guard duty and hearing jokes and stories of the lives of his fellow soldiers, his pay and various military expenses (including payment to his “servant,” which cost him $15.10), recruiting regulations, the intricacies of military policy, and much more. He occasionally writes about former Confederate locations when his unit takes them over, often describing the towns and “Secesh” he encounters there. He also comments on the various promotions and machinations of the officers within his unit, and pleads his father for updates on his personal finances on the homefront.

**North & South Carolina**

Edmands reports on the taking of Roanoke Island by the “Burnside Expedition” in early February 1862, which also inherited “over three thousand prisoners” in the process. Edmands’ February 9 letter, covering almost four pages, describes in intimate detail the taking of the island, in which he participated. He writes about commandeering “wooden houses which will accommodate 3000 men, and were built by the rebels for their winter quarters—so we are comfortable.” While on the island, Edmands records casualty totals experienced in battle, his time in the army hospital (“some very bad wounds in the hospital”), and other details.

The next month, Edmands and his unit moved to Newbern, North Carolina, where they took part in the Battle of New Bern on March 14. Again, Edmands reports on the battle in great depth, over seven pages of an eight-page letter to his father. This letter also includes an illustration of the area of the battle around Fort Thompson drawn by Edmands. Another letter from Edmands in March describes over three pages the various trophies he and his fellow soldiers have taken from “Secesh” prisoners. On March 29, Edmands writes in detail about the recent battle between the Monitor and Merrimack, observing to his father that “the days of wooden ships are over.” Edmands provides a long description and drawings of two different kinds of depth charges (“torpedoes”) recently discovered in the river near Newbern.

Edmands spent most of the summer and fall of 1862 in the hospital with a leg injury, which he likely suffered at the Battle of Tranter’s Creek, fought by Burnside’s forces on June 5. As such, he missed the battles of Secessionville and the Second Battle of Fort Wagner in mid-June and mid-July, respectively. Besides containing a great deal about his recovery from his leg injury, his letters report much of what is going on with Burnside and McClellan in these months, namely that McClellan is focusing on a potential capture of Richmond. Edmands also relates an interesting incident when a Union lieutenant named Turner was offered the chance to resign from the Army or be court-martialed for illegally sending home a large box full of southern “loot of every description—cut glass goblets, silk, thread, ladies shoes, rubbers, pencils, and in short a whole box full of such things.” Turner claimed he was sending home a bath tub, but the “loot” was discovered upon inspection of the box.

The first instance of Edmands’ negative views on African Americans and emancipation comes in a letter of September 2, 1862, which he marks “Confidential.” Edmands states, “The days of wooden ships are over.” Still in the hospital in Portsmouth, North Carolina, Edmands writes to his father: “I agree with you in your ideas of the emancipation—there are too those of the majority of the army who have been in contact with the institution. If I am any judge, at least they are the same as those who are stationed in the vicinity of Newburn. The sentiment is, the more they see of them, the more they say of them. ’Let Secesh keep the cursed n******’ [asterisks ours]. There are as you believe many secret Union men in the South. In conversing with some of the best informed of them here I have learned many interesting facts, among which one of the most important is that the large majority for the conservative Governor Vance may be regarded as most significant that the people of N.C. are not so very intently attached to the C.S.A. as that institution would desire.”

Edmands again comments on African-American troops in a letter of February 22, 1863, regarding Black troops under the command of General David Hunter, who had come to prominence (or perhaps infamy) for issuing a general order in May of 1862 emancipating slaves in Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida, and for his active and energetic advocacy of employing Black troops in the Union Army. Edmands comments: “I have seen several officers who have been down to Gen. Hunter’s department and they all report that it is all ‘n*****.’ They say that the white troops are demoralized and disgusted, and that to prevent bloodshed Gen. H. is obliged to encamp the black troops three miles away from the white.” This letter is also almost entirely consumed with Edmands thoughts on General Hunter’s countermanding of efforts by General John G. Foster (whom Edmands greatly prefers) to split his forces from Hunter’s in the run-up to the eventual siege of Charleston. On March 2, Edmands again comments on troop politics between Hunter and Foster, and again on African-American troops with Hunter: “I saw one of the sutlers who have returned from there [South Carolina], and he told me that the feeling against the n***** was awful—very strong. The 24th is we hear to be the right flank battalion of Gen. Hunter’s attacking force (?)—if he attacks (?)”

On March 17, Edmands writes from Newbern that the Union forces near Charleston “are not so much prepared now to take Charleston as a month ago. They have sent to Washington for additional iron to put on the decks of the ironclads! I am afraid Charleston will not be taken in 1863 if Gen Hunter is to do it.” He then recounts in detail an attempt by the Confederates (“about 10 to 12 thousand men”) to re-take Newbern on the anniversary of the battle the year before; the Union gunboats eventually “opened on them” and the Confederates “didn’t take Newbern.”

Less than a month later, on April 8, Edmands writes a detailed three-page letter to his father about the threat of invasion by Confederate forces in Newbern since Union forces have left North Carolina for Charleston. Edmands states that “I
do not think that at present there are more than 12,000 effective men in all the places – Elizabeth City – Plymouth – Roanoke Island – Washington – Newbern – & Beaufort. The rebels are aware that many of the 18th Army Corps best regiments & batteries are at Charleston, and therefore they have been very troublesome since they went, having successively pounced upon Plymouth, Newbern & Washington.”

In early May 1863, Edmands was re-assigned from the 24th Massachusetts to serve as an assistant in the Corps of Engineers, which was tasked with “building and repairing the fortifications in the department of N.C.” By early July, while in Washington, North Carolina, Edmands read in an issue of the Charleston Courier that the Confederates “claim that Lee has withdrawn his army in safety across the Potomac into Virginia” and “claim the battle of Gettysburg as a victory!” He also reads of other war news as erroneously reported by Confederate papers, namely that “it was a very fortunate thing for them to lose Vicksburg” and that after “the fall of Port Hudson,” the Confederates still “claim the capture of New Orleans!” Edmands laments the position of southern newspaper editors who “must keep up the drooping spirits of their people by lying in a most refreshing manner.”

Edmands was still in Washington, North Carolina during the Siege of Charleston in July 1863, but he “still cannot help feeling uneasy when I hear accounts of the fighting near Charleston.” His friend Cush narrowly escaped being a casualty in the conflict, and Edmands comments on the many losses reported in recent “killed & wounded lists.” At this point, Edmands includes an incredibly detailed ten-page letter in which he defends his temporary transfer from the 24th Massachusetts to the Engineering corps. Apparently there was a lack of communication within the Army, and some officers believed that Edmands was absent without leave from the 24th Massachusetts. Edmands sets them straight with a step-by-step accounting of his movements, including the contents of several general orders that tracked his transfer, which he re-creates in his letter.

Edmands was then re-assigned as a line officer and again ordered to join the 24th Massachusetts, which was stationed on Morris Island in South Carolina. At this time, the 24th Massachusetts was engaged in the Second Battle of Charleston Harbor, also variously known as the Siege of Charleston Harbor, the Siege of Fort Wagner, or the Battle of Morris Island. Edmands’ first letter from Morris Island, on August 8, details the armaments which the Union forces were setting up in preparation for another assault on Fort Wagner (which the Union had failed to capture during the heroic assault by the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry the month before), with an eye towards eventually recapturing Fort Sumter. Edmands writes: “Though the actual siege is to Ft Wagner that is, parallels & trenches, the plan is to batter down Sumter [sic] which commands Wagner after which the monitors can get around behind it & command Wagner themselves.” In his next letter, Edmands states that he is not allowed to relate much detail about the “siege of Charleston,” but still offers his unvarnished opinion of the Navy’s role in the affair: “the Navy are acting like sneaks and cowards in their ironclads of which they have seven here and the only one which does anything is the big new ironsides....”

In his letter of August 27, Edmands details a recent attack by his unit on Fort Wagner, using a strategy of assault and retrenchment in the rifle pits. A favorite fellow officer, Lieutenant James Perkins was killed in the battle “by a grape shot passing from his right shoulder to his left through his body breaking the neck and spine.” Edmands details the attack on August 26: “The affair was quite a brilliant one for the Regt as the thing it did had been tried twice before with other troops and failed. The facts are these. We have been advancing & digging, throwing out our pickets at night and driving the enemys in till we got them back into a line of intrenchments or rifle pits about one hundred & fifty or perhaps two hundred yards from Fort Wagner. We got a parallel in front of this line and very near to it. It became necessary to take the rebel line away from them because we wanted it for a still farther advanced parallel to work forward on Wagner’s parapet. The first two attempts were of no account, and Genl. Terry resolved to try the 24th which he did with success, but at a severe loss to us, not in numbers but quality – Perkins was a splendid officer, a thorough gentleman and sociable companion. All loved him....The plan of attack was so arranged that the moment our men took the place, they seized shovels which were carried in by part of the Regt, and threw up an intrenchment in an hour which under ordinary circumstances on fatigue detail would have taken the Regt a day to get up. All this, shovelling as well as charge was done under a continued heavy fire of shell, shrapnel, grape, canister, & rifle bullets, and it is a matter of great wonder to everyone how the regt came off with so few casualties. I write this hastily to go in the mail...in order that if an account of the affair reaches home by telegraph you may be spared anxiety as soon as possible by receipt of this.”

Edmands’ next letter, dated September 5, 1863, contains a long and favorable appraisal of the activities of the 24th Massachusetts on Morris Island, much of which restates his account of the assault on Fort Wagner on August 26. He also mentions that “the batteries have been firing very steadily since about two
o'clock this A.M. I think they are at Wagner stirring them up a little.” This was indeed true, as this was the beginning of a thirty-six-hour artillery assault on Fort Wagner that killed over a hundred of the remaining Confederates inside the fort, led to its evacuation, and resulted in a Union takeover. Two days later, Edmands opens his next letter to his father with the following sentence: “Morris Island is entirely in possession of the Federal Forces.” This letter mentions the evacuation of Fort Wagner, and Edmands’ command of troops into Fort Wagner and then on to the battery at Fort Gregg. As with almost all of his letters, the amount of detail Edmands provides in his dispatches from Morris Island is simply remarkable.

Edmands writes again to his father the next day about his activities on Morris Island, relating in detail the capture of the rear guard of the Confederates at Gregg, and citing that event as the reason that the Confederates failed to “spike their guns” and completely demolish Fort Wagner immediately prior to retreat. He also records the capture of specific Confederates, and their secondary attempts to mount an assault on Gregg to destroy their abandoned armaments. Edmands concludes this letter with an account of “a tremendous explosion, followed by a quick succession of many heavy guns going off...in the direction of Fort Moultrie.” Apparently one of the Union gunships blew up a magazine inside Fort Moultrie and was busy attacking the fort, while “the iron-sides and monitors are giving Sullivan’s Island batteries and Moultrie a heavy cannonade while the batteries are active upon the monitors, the whole being increased by the James Island batteries & Johnson pegging at us in Wagner & Gregg, while our guns give it occasionally to Sumpter & c..” From Edmands’ vivid description, it seems that the whole of Charleston Harbor was afire on this morning.

In his last letter from Charleston, Edmands takes three pages to detail an unsuccessful attempt by the Union Navy to take Fort Sumter prior to September 10. Edmands and his unit were ordered to Fort Sumter for an attack, but were beaten there by the Navy, which proceeded to attack. In the end, the Navy was “repulsed with a loss of five officers and over one hundred men, killed wounded and missing.” Edmands comments that the Confederates were prepared for the naval assault, with “two steamers with howitzers aboard which did much damage. Many of the Navy’s boats were sunk and much of their loss is in prisoners.” Edmands also contended that “the proposed attack by the army was secret, as would have been that of the navy if the army had arrived at the Fort first. The enemy had no knowledge of our being there, and we were unmolested by shot or shell while laying off the mouth of the creek watching the navy attack.” This is yet another example of Edmands’ low regard for the Union Navy.

**Florida**

At this point, Edmands was again re-assigned to the Engineering corps. His next letters appear the month after from St. Augustine, Florida, where he served as the post adjutant and in an additional administrative role. He finds “some little society” in the town, with the military band, glee club, and theater troupe, but his life in Florida is mostly uneventful through the end of 1863 and into the spring of 1864. In early January, he details over the course of four pages the death of 2nd Lieutenant Oliver Walker, who was “shot in a skirmish...in this out-of-the-way place” while on a mission to procure wood, which was located “nearly three miles beyond the pickets.” While in Florida, he also mentions that “Quite a force has landed at Jacksonville and is now supposed to be stirring up the interior in the direction of Tallahassee.” Edmands is assigned to go to Jacksonville and writes from there on February 18, where he participates in the occupation of the city. As with other events he reports throughout the archive, Edmands details the events of the Jacksonville occupation to a level not seen in the great majority of Civil War letter collections. He provides names of participants, movements, force numbers, his observations on the motivations behind activities, and other important information about Jacksonville; in his letter of February 25, 1864, he even draws a map of the Union’s defensive positions around Cedar Creek.

**Virginia, The Siege of Petersburg, and the Occupation of Richmond**

Edmands next reports on May 2, 1864 from camp at Gloucester Point, Virginia, where his unit had been re-assigned to General Terry’s division. Six days later, Edmands and his unit are just south of Richmond, where they are destined to play an important role in the Siege of Petersburg and the eventual occupation of Richmond. Edmands draws a map of his location on May 8, depicting his unit’s encampment on the James River between Richmond and Petersburg, and recounts a “demonstration” made by two brigades of his regiment (also referenced in his hand-drawn map). On May 11, Edmands writes from Bermuda Hundred, where he reports to his father that “Our forces have been fighting the enemy up to last evening for two days and one night, and whipped them everywhere. Three miles of the railroad in our front are destroyed. We have threatened Petersburg, and kept the troops there going to reinforce Lee, & we have drawn troops from Richmond & Ft. Darling southward.” On May 17, Edmands tells his father about a recent promotion, details recent skirmishes on the “Richmond & Petersburg turnpike,” and reports on the killed and wounded for the next ten pages. Edmands bemoans the fact that “We have the Morris Island story over again. We must either march, fight, dig, or be on picket every day, and turn out at 3 o’clock every morning no matter what we have done the day previous.”

A fourteen-page letter Edmands wrote to his father on May 29, and marked “Confidential to B.F.E.” is particularly notable for its long and vicious takedown of General Benjamin Butler. Here, after Edmands relates that “Some kind of a new movement is afoot” (no doubt in preparation for the sieges of Petersburg and Richmond), Edmands rails against Butler for several pages, then notes that he has marked the letter confidential because “to criticize superiors from principle...is forbidden in General Orders.” Edmands denigrates Butler in other letters, as well.

Edmands’ letters from Bermuda Hundred and Deep Bottom are replete with battle details and movements of officers and units, with long passages on the requirements of officer promotions and assignments, and accounts of picket duty. In the early letters, his writing is full of hope that the siege will be short-lived. His early letters from Virginia include two hand-drawn maps of the areas in which Edmands is serving, including Jones Neck and Malvern Hill (June 22), and a wider version of the same area on June 23.
Beginning with his letter dated June 14, 1864 (the eve of the first battle), Edmands chronicles the nine-month Siege of Petersburg throughout the end of the war. This letter begins, “Genl. Grant is swinging his army around. His left is said to be now about five miles from here below on the other side of the James….We were turned out last night at midnight…in expectation that Gen. Lee would attack in our front. It is now nearly noon and we have seen nothing of him yet; nor do I think we shall see him either. This place is undoubtedly Gen. Grant’s new base. I think Petersburg will be taken as soon as possible after the rest of the Army gets here.”

Edmands was dead wrong about that, as it would take until early April 1865 for Petersburg and Richmond to fall. In the interim, Edmands would be in the area to witness much of the end of the Confederacy, and take part in the occupation of Richmond after it fell. His June 15 letter contains an interesting passage in which he predicts the results of the war in the coming months: “I look at the situation in the campaign thus. Gen. Grant has destroyed the communication and devastated the country between Washington & Richmond. Lee can’t get north to get ahead of him. Grant swings around to the south of Richmond. A base is already for him there. He takes Petersburg & justifies keeping the Appomattox open and still holding this place as a safe depot for supplies. He keeps the Danville Rail Road cut by cavalry, and draws Lee out of Richmond south to fight him in his entrenchments if Lee had rather do so than get away out of the northwestern state by the line of the Danville Road.”

Edmands writes an interesting passage about African-American troops in his July 16 letter from Deep Bottom: “Yesterday morning, Col. Osborn and I started off to find a regiment of Colored Cavalry (the 2nd U.S.) from which we wished to get some colored under cooks out of some rejected recruits they had. These under cooks are allowed now in the Army, four to each company if wanted, to be of African descent.” They were unsuccessful in finding these recruits, as they had “already been taken up by the Quartermaster Dept.” In this same letter, Edmands mentions a recent rumor that Sherman has taken Atlanta and discusses how that might effect the war effort in Virginia. He draws yet another map in this letter, centered on the junction of the Lynchburg and Richmond Railroads.

African-American troops are again mentioned in Edmands’ July 31 letter, in which he gives a brief but accurate account of the Battle of the Crater, fought in part by the IX Corps, which was partly composed of African-American soldiers: “We have rumors of an attack by us on Petersburg but we can learn no definite particulars. The 9th Corps are said to have exploded one of the mines, blowing up a South Carolina Regiment and then the 9th & 18th Corps charged through the breach at a second line of works four times but were repulsed at each. The n***** of whom great talk has been made are said to have un-distinguished themselves.”

More shocking still is Edmands’ assessment of the activities of the African American soldiers at the Battle of the Crater in another letter, dated August 10. Here, he blames the disaster of the Battle of the Crater on three factors. The first is that General Burnside was out of position. Secondly, the advance was improperly handled. Thirdly, that “the disgraceful behavior of the n*****”, but for which even as things were the day had a promising aspect. These black rascals actually charged with the bayonet on white troops who were drawn up as supports to them, and broke through them – they also assaulted officers who attempted to arrest their flight, and lost all their colors – in all thirteen colors actually thrown away because they couldn’t run fast enough with them.”

Edmands continues to recount and reiterate the activities of the African-American troops for another two pages.

Edmands reports on August 16 that he had recently suffered a shrapnel wound to the lips when a cannon ball exploded near him. He describes his face in the aftermath of his injury: “a snout like a darkey, and an utterance nearly as unintelligible as the Cherokee tongue, spoken through a dozen boiling hot potatoes.” Given that he had to remain in camp while healing from his wounds, Edmands still informs his father about his regiment’s nearby battles in great detail, including a meticulously-drawn map of the August 14 skirmish between Union and Confederate forces near Deep Bottom.

By September 1, Edmands’ unit was stationed near Petersburg, where he writes to his father that his lips are still healing from his injury. Here, he actually draws a series of facial profiles showing the various stages of his lips as they heal. Throughout the month of September, writing from “Before Peterburg,” Edmands details his unit’s current composition of officers as they celebrate the three-year anniversary of the formation of the 24th, also discusses the news of the occupation of Atlanta, and Union successes in Mobile Bay. He requests a chess board (which he receives on September 30) and a personalized memorandum book for a friend in the Royal Swedish Army serving alongside him outside Petersburg, relates in deep detail the losses of officers due to their completion of service terms, writes wistfully of being home among “the old familiar haunts” of eastern Massachusetts; and details a recent brief military mission down by Richmond.

An interesting passage in his letter of September 8 reads: “Away with all the armistice. If there is any peace let it be by sending one hundred thousand fresh soldiers to us here, another hundred thousand to Sherman and another to Sheridan
and let us squeeze peace out of them by taking away their claws, these rebels. I
for one don't want to feel that I have had three years hard work and given up
some of the best years of my life for nothing. I want to see the enemy succumb
to our arms not our tongues, and I want to see a U.S. force hold every rebel state
till we are sure they will never trouble us again.”

By October 5, 1864, Edmands and his unit had been sent near Richmond, where
he writes all of the letters from October through mid-December. Edmands’
October output includes a fourteen-page letter almost completely devoted to the
intricacies of officer promotions, and again disparages General Benjamin Butler
for his interference. On October 14, Edmands mentions a recent “fight” his unit
had against the Confederates at “Darbytown Pyke,” and records the numbers of
killed and wounded for his and other regiments; he records a similar exchange
near the same location on October 28. His letter of October 16 concludes with
an observation on the military implications of the political victory of Lincoln’s
re-election: “The opinion is that the election of Mr. Lincoln will be better than a
decided victory over the enemy by battle in the dispiriting effects it will have.
We get large numbers of deserters here daily, who represent matters at a low ebb
in the Confederacy.” He also describes camp life favorably, as more Union troops
mass near Richmond, and details more light skirmishing around the capital, along
with yet further critical passages about Benjamin Butler.

In November, still near Richmond, Edmands reports on camp life, and writes a
long letter on the return readiness of Albert Ordway from his injury. He records
an interesting passage on the regimental band: “They go into a fight with the
regiment and keep with the line of battle or move forward with the skirmishers
as the fighting varies and do excellent service. There are a certain number of
stretchers in the band and drum corps – each has its squad and each man drills
to his duty and under command respectively of the two principal musicians.
The greatest punishment one of these men could have would be to return him to the
ranks, and therefore they are very careful of their conduct.”

In early December, Edmands and his unit were ordered to stand ready to move.
Edmands ponders the recent movements of his and other Union regiments in the
area: “They may be going to open the canal at Dutch Gap. Gen. Grant may be
going at the same time to make another extension of his left at Petersburg and we
demonstrate in the face of Richmond on this side of the James River. I don’t
think we can do much more than make a demonstration as we have very little
to gain by assaulting here until we have force enough to walk over everything...
yet, all thing considered, I think the left is the place where the real attack will
be made on the enemy.”

His next letter reports on recent restructuring of various Massachusetts military
units. This includes the African-American regiments, which Edmands describes
as follows: “The colored troops of each corps together with a division of the
9th Corps are put together and make the 25th Army Corps, or as we call them,
the Egyptians. Thus, the Army of the James still holds two corps and gains the
strength of the colored division from the 9th Corps, while all the colored individu-
als are ‘all by themselves’ and the white men, ditto.” In late December, Edmands
also works on guard and picket duty, including guarding groups of conscripts
that arrive in Bermuda Landing from Fort Monroe. He writes that “a day or two
since over a thousand men came in this way and it took all the men we had for
proper guards. These conscripts need very close watching to prevent desertions,
and our men look sharp after them. In addition to the contempt which our old
reenlisted veterans look upon these ‘thousand dollar men’ as they call them, a
reward of thirty dollars and a furlough of thirty days is given to every man who
 catches a deserter.”

Another very interesting letter in December concerns an elaborate prank that was
played on Edmands. The prank centered on a false field order printed by one of
Edmands’ regimental friends that presented Benjamin Butler as a generous but
sanctimonious donor to a local fair for the benefit of an orphan asylum. The
order also carried a handwritten quote that purported to be from the Bible, and
which praised Butler. Edmands writes that he soon realized the “joke” that had
been played at his expense by his “very good friend,” Colonel Evans.

Edmands begins 1865 the same way he spent much of 1864 – complaining about
Benjamin Butler. He rejoices in his January 11 letter at the news that Butler “is
no longer in command of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina” and has
been replaced by General Ord. Six days later, Edmands reports on the success
of General Terry in taking Fort Fisher, “coming as it does upon the failure of Genl.
Butler.” In his last letter of January (sixteen pages in length), Edmands spends
most letter praising Terry and also Ordway. Throughout February, Edmands writes
of dining with Ordway on a new “Ironsides” in the James River, relates news of
the evacuation of Charleston, gives accounts of prisoner exchanges, and reassures
his father that he does not feel in danger of being attacked in Bermuda Hundred.

Edmands visited the Shirley Plantation in early February 1865, which he describes
as “a very fine country seat across the river owned by a Mr. Carter a descendant
of Gov. Carter of Virginia. It is one of the oldest and wealthiest families in Vir-
ginia and the place is magnificent being very English indeed. Of course he can
get very little income from it now but its revenues in peace time are enormous.
He is very much opposed to the Confederate government and is protected by a
safeguard from us.”

On March 18, 1865, back in Bermuda Hundred, Edmands pens a fourteen-page
confidential letter to his father in which he details the reorganization of the
24th Massachusetts, with Ordway in charge of the unit with five new companies.
Edmands writes that he is poised to be promoted to lieutenant colonel. He also
mentions two captains who “like whiskey altogether too well.” Also in this letter,
Edmands records a paraphrased conversation between Ordway and General Rus-
sell (most likely Charles Sawyer Russell), “who commands a colored brigade in
the 25th Corps...[and] took the colonelcy of a n***** regiment and was promoted
Brigadier for gallantry.” During the course of the conversation, Russell complains
about heading an African-American unit: “You see I’m a n***** brigadier, and
ever since I’ve been in Boston they have been dragging me about to all sorts of
writes three pages detailing Libby Prison, and reacts to the recent assassination

In his April 19 letter, Edmands reports on more of his unit’s actions in Richmond, to be in Richmond for a long time. We occupy a large tobacco warehouse at the corner of Franklin & 19th sts.” Edmands also touches on the possible division of Richmond, whether or not the civil government can continue to function, and states that he expects to be in Richmond for a long time.

In his April 19 letter, Edmands reports on more of his unit’s actions in Richmond, writes three pages detailing Libby Prison, and reacts to the recent assassination of President Lincoln: “The 24th has charge of Libby Prison & Castle Thunder which is about all we can do with the small number of men we have at present. We are the only regiment quartered within the limits of the City, as you have probably seen by a general order published in the ‘Richmond Whig’ which I have mailed to you I believe every day lately....The people are quiet and do not make trouble, whatever they may feel. There are a great many Confederate officers in the streets. Libby Prison is full of officers & soldiers who are being paroled as fast as their papers can be made out by the clerks....As is the case everywhere, there is a very deep feeling of indignation at the assassination of President Lincoln. The Army feel very sure about it, and it was feared at first there might be trouble, as our men might vent their feelings on some of these Confederate officers or soldiers here and so begin a serious trouble, but nothing of the kind has happened....Hanging is too good for the assassin. He ought to have his skin torn off of him, a square inch a day and then starved on quarter rations until he died, or else have a college of surgeons convened to determine the most lingering and incessant torture that a man can bear.”

Edmands’ last letter from April 1865 mentions being “very much disappointed in the way Sherman behaved about granting such terms as he proposed for Johnston's surrender” and expresses “pity” that John Wilkes Booth “could not have been taken alive.” Edmands remained in Richmond as part of the occupying force until he was mustered out in January 1866. While there, Edmands writes much about the conditions in Richmond during the occupation, mentions the capture of abusive Libby Prison keeper Dick Turner, escorts a Connecticut regiment as they leave Richmond, and more. In an eleven-page letter of June 26, Edmands details the battles in which he has participated, and makes a list of all the engagements in which he fought personally. Perhaps the most notable activity performed by Edmands and his occupying force is their oversight of the Richmond elections in October 1865. In his only letter of that month, Edmands mentions the elections and details the force numbers in Richmond. Edmands writes that “Many are of opinion that after these elections, the volunteer troops will not be retained.” In November Edmands learns that the 24th Massachusetts will be one of three units retained for duty in Richmond “all winter.” On December 16, he writes from “24th Mass Volunteer Inebriates Richmond Va.” and tells his father that “the regiment seems to be on a general and extensive drunk today.” Edmands was finally mustered out of the service in January 1866, and writes his last letter to his father from there on January 18.
Throughout the course of his letters, Edmands writes detailed passages (sometimes multi-page letters) describing various interesting incidents, such as a rumored takeover of the Union hospital at Portsmouth by local “rebels” working in concert “with some of the secessionists of this island” (Sept. 17, 1862); complains of flies and fleas while stationed in South Carolina in 1863; describes a night at the theater in Saint Augustine, Florida; gives a very detailed description of and request for various insignia to be sent for the caps of his men or for his father to purchase for him a set of shoulder straps, with an illustration of them; writes a passage regarding a newspaper commentator named “Knapack” who was apparently disparaging members of the 24th Massachusetts in local publications which his father read back home. He also discusses the issues surrounding re-enlistment in early 1864; his objections to how “romantic” the accounts are of service in the South during the war, as reported by some “sneaks” in the northern newspapers and other similar passages; and so much more. Edmands provides a detailed list of survivors from his hometown area who took part in a battle near Goldsboro in December 1862, and asks his father and sister to report the good news to their families, recounts the 24th Massachusetts’ last grand review on June 11, 1865. In this same letter he requests books by gluing in ads removed from the newspaper. In addition to the amazing detail of his military-specific reporting (force numbers, state of readiness, movements, reports of skirmishes), Edmands’ numerous letters while at Bermuda Hundred and other locations in Virginia from early May to the end of his service time in January 1866 touch on subjects as diverse as the muddy roads in Virginia, the “hard tack” and coffee and other foods he’s consuming, the inaccuracy of the war news reported in northern papers, the politics of officer promotion in the Union Army, and myriad other subjects.

**His Reading Interests**

Throughout the letters recounting his experiences during the war, Edmands’ passages regarding the books he is requesting, receiving, and reading are an especially interesting and insightful aspect of the present archive. In his letter of December 23, 1861, he requests two books from his father – “Scott’s Infantry Tactics” and “Mahan’s Field Fortifications.” He also mentions that he has access at camp to “Mahan’s Outpost,” “Vielle’s Hand Book,” and “Army Regulations,” along with “a small pamphlet which was sent to the regiment...entitled ‘Instructi on for Officers on outpost and patrol duty.’” It has 24 pages and is ‘abridged from the work of the late Col. Arentschid of the British service, by an officer of the Adjutant General’s Department.’ I can’t tell much about it yet, as I have read only a few pages....”

Edmands again mentions books in his December 31, 1861 letter. He receives “Kelton’s Bayonet Exercise” with which he is “very much pleased. Its plates are first rate – very plain, and showing the positions finely – its reading matter I have not yet had opportunity to study as yet, but from the hasty glance I have had time to get at it, I should judge it to be very good. Singularly enough, last evening I had a ‘McClellan’s Bayonet Exercise’ given to me...I can make a close comparison of the two. I think I shall like ‘Kelton’s’ best – it looks as though it were more full in its descriptions – besides having several guards and plates and observations of attack of cavalry, which I think ‘McClellan’s’ has not.”

Edmands further mentions a book in his March 29 letter, a copy of “Heavy Artillery 1851’ compiled by a board of Army officers” which he uses to teach drills. In a letter of September 25, 1862 he asks his father to return his copy of “Casey’s Tactics” which he had sent home and now needs again. He also requests from his father a copy of “a book called ‘Charles Haswell’s Pocket Engineering’ or words to that effect” in May 1863, after being re-assigned to the Engineering corps.

On June 28, 1863, three pages of a four-page letter from Edmands to his father are consumed by requests for books, which he asks his father to procure from one of two Boston bookshops or Van Nostrand in New York. On the first page, he recreates a printed advertisement with all the bibliographical details of a book by Hyde called *Elementary Principles of Fortification*, including the format, binding information, and price. He comments that “I hope Hyde’s work has plates & if so I hope they are bound in with the book and not separated, like Straiths. However, send them as they, rather it, comes.” He also asks for a copy of “Davies Surveying” and “Mahan’s Permanent Fortification with both sets of plates.” Edmands doubts if his father will find the Mahan, as “it is lithographed at the Military Academy Press West Point, and only a sufficient number printed to supply the classes. The cadets are obliged to turn in their copies when through with them.” Clearly a reference to the lithographed instruction books made at West Point for the use of cadets.

Edmands is impatient for these books, as he again mentions them in a letter to his father on July 20. He also includes in this letter another re-creation of a printed book advertisement, this time for “Field Manual of Courts Martial by Captain Henry Coppée” published by Lippincott in 1863. He describes what it should look like, how much it costs, and his reasons for wanting it: “It is just out and contains a great deal of information which every officer should know, but which very few do know.” The next day, Edmands acknowledges receipt of a bill from Van Nostrand’s for the Hyde book, and again goes on for three pages about books, including the Coppée, the fact that Van Nostrand was unable to find a copy of the Mahan, and “an odd volume of Huttons Mathematics and a little book of tables of logarithms Sines Tangents &c which I boned at New Bern from a dusty bookshelf in Tom Stevensons old home.”

Edmands mentions books in numerous additional letters throughout his service time to both his father and sister, a few examples of which include “Napiers Principles of Tactics” which very few do know.” The next day, Edmands acknowledges receipt of a bill from Van Nostrand’s for the Hyde book, and again goes on for three pages about books, including the Coppée, the fact that Van Nostrand was unable to find a copy of the Mahan, and “an odd volume of Huttons Mathematics and a little book of tables of logarithms Sines Tangents &c which I boned at New Bern from a dusty bookshelf in Tom Stevensons old home.”

Edmands mentions books in numerous additional letters throughout his service time to both his father and sister, a few examples of which include “Napiers Peninsular War” (from Bermuda Hundred, June 9, 1864); Edward Everett’s “Gettysburg oration” – quite likely including Lincoln’s address (in a group of books received from his father at Deep Bottom on July 10, 1864); Thackeray’s “Great Hoggarty Diamond” (from Deep Bottom, August 23); Thackeray’s “Lovell the Widower” (from Petersburg on September 18) because he liked the previous Thackeray so much; “Marmont’s Military Institutions” on April 19, 1865; a request for “Da-
soldiers, writing that they do not enjoy history or literature, but instead settle for “The New York Ledger and 10 cent novels from the paper mongers.”

In addition to books, Edmands’ letters include numerous mentions of photographs sent or received and also constant requests from home for supplies and other products, which include bullets, a gun cleaning kit he can use on his Colt revolver, stamps, various items of clothing, table cloths, napkins, soap, a cloth toilet case, silver forks and spoons, a pen-knife, a coat and gloves for the Florida winter, pickled lamb’s tongues (while in Virginia), blank books for the use of the military band, and a host of other creature comforts.

**LETTERS TO SIBLINGS**

In addition to the letters to his father, there are over a hundred letters here from Edmands to four of his siblings, with the overwhelming majority written to his sister Ellen. The letters date from December 17, 1861 at Camp Foster, Annapolis, Maryland, to his time in Virginia towards the end of the war.

He writes only occasionally about war matters to Ellen. On September 17, 1862, from Portsmouth, North Carolina, Edmands spends half of a sixteen-page letter detailing the criminal activities of a fellow officer named Mellen that resulted in Edmands calling him a “thief and a coward.” He writes on February 22, 1864 that his unit is “fortifying” Jacksonville in case the Confederates “tackle us here, won’t be to them for we have a position to give them a good drubbing – entrenchments in front, gunboats in the river on our flanks, an open communication in our rear down the river which they cannot blockade as they did Little Washington in North Carolina, and men enough to man all the defences thoroughly.” On April 18, 1864, Edmands writes from Jacksonville that he and his unit will shortly leave Florida: “N***** are henceforth to garrison the Dept. of the South, with a few white troops to keep up I suppose a sort of civilization. Orders for us to go have been here four days but the transportation is so much occupied that some must wait.”

In Deep Bottom, Virginia in mid-July, 1864, Edmands writes to Eileen of a recent sighting of General Ulysses S. Grant: “Gen Grant visited the ground we occupy here, day before yesterday. We had a flying view of him, mostly whiskers and shoulder straps.” Shortly after arriving near Petersburg in August 1864, Edmands writes: “Before we came here the colored troops were on this front and there was a brisk fire kept up all the time, but when we arrived and our men showed white faces, and especially when we found that by a coincidence the brigade which was on picket last at Deep Bottom in our front was moved over here and put opposite us the fire ceased and by a sort of mutual consent the old Deep Bottom Regulation of no picket firing is again established...” Edmands also describes recent desertions from the Confederate Army in the area, resulting from a “reduction in their rations” after the Union Army severed communication on the “Weldon road.” A few days later, on September 2, 1864, Edmands writes that newspaper vendors in Petersburg refuse to sell any more papers to Union soldiers.

From Deep Bottom in July 1864, Edmands writes a long passage regarding various war rumors: “We are very much amused at the scare the people have on them at the North. It might surprise some people to see the way the Army who have been hard at work take the news as it comes from the north – general laughter – we have no apprehensions, though we have as a last report the news that the enemy are in possession of a part of the defences of Washington. This will wake people up to the fact that we are at war about this time, and we may be able to get more men. The prevailing impression is that Gen Grant who is up there somewhere will not let these fellows who have pitched in so badly get away so easily as they came. They must be gobbled, even if they get both Baltimore & Philadelphia first, not to speak of Washington. If it were not for the valuable public buildings and archives in the latter place which it would be so terrible to have destroyed, I don’t think the Army would be so very sorry to see it taken, particularly if Congress were only in session, for the effect it would have on the public mind at the north. Yesterday we got news from the enemy in a Richmond paper that Sherman had taken Atlanta. We hardly know whether or not to believe it.”

In a letter from Bermuda Hundred in January 1865, Edmands tells his sister Ellen that “The South must be on its last legs and I think there more likelihood of my soon becoming a civil villain [i.e., civilian], if the signs of the time mean anything, than ever before in the war. Indeed I hear it given on many sides as a decided opinion that this spring will settle matters. Wilmington is a very heavy blow, and Sherman will rattle the dry bones about in the South. Thomas will wiggle as much as the state of the roads and rivers will let him and the Dept. of the Gulf won’t suck its thumbs – while we can keep them quiet here.”

Edmands’ most revealing and racially-insensitive letter to his sister was written on March 23, 1865 from Bermuda Hundred. In it, he expresses his displeasure at the focus of a recent church festival: “Lizzie gives me in a letter an account of the recent festival at the church. In her narrative she uses the word ‘Freedmen’s.’ Was that the object with which the thing was gotten up? I had thought all along it was for the benefit of the children’s mission. But that word ‘Freedmen’s’ is a bitter pill to me for it makes the chains of the white man clank in my ears. N***** N***** N*****. The poor N****. Bah! It’s disgusting. A white man had better dye his skin to be considered anybody nowadays. The other day a board was assembled to consider the expediency of increasing the amount of vegetables in the rations of colored troops, on the ground that their health required it, and that N***** must have more vegetables to live on than white men, when all along the white men have been obliged to spend much of their pay to get vegetables and stave off the scurvy. But I have no words to express myself on the subject, so I’ll let it alone.”

Edmands also writes a handful of letters to his sister Hattie early in the war, another handful to his sister Lizzie, and an occasional letter to his younger brother Rayner (whom he advises on comportment and helps, in best *Citizen Kane* style, to name a sled). Unlike in the letters to his father, Edmands expresses a desire to his siblings that he intends to live a quiet life after the war, “if I live.”

The present archive is easily one of the most information-rich Civil War archives we have ever encountered, providing much potential for further research on a variety of subjects, not the least of which are racial attitudes of northern soldiers during the war.

$32,500.
The Last Months of the Civil War, as Observed by an Upstate New York Schoolboy, with Notes on Baseball as Well


An interesting homefront diary kept by a schoolboy named Harvey M. Geer of Troy, New York during the last year of the Civil War. Geer filled the available space for each and every day during 1865, reporting on school, piano lessons, recreation time, visits to nearby towns, visits from family and friends, and numerous other activities. In early July he attended a performance of “George Christy’s minstrels.” The most important entries pertain to Robert E. Lee’s surrender at Appomattox, President Lincoln’s assassination, seeing the president’s coffin in Albany during the funeral procession on April 26, and numerous entries of Harvey and his friends playing baseball. Notable entries include:

April 3: “This morning we heard news that the Rebels had evacuated Petersburg and that we had captured Richmond. In this evening’s times the Mayor requested the citizens of Troy to illuminate their dwelling. The larger portions of the city was illuminated and it looked very fine indeed.”

April 10: “Today we got news in this city at least that General Lee had been captured, and all of his army had surrendered to General Grant. This noon while the Troy City Artillery were firing a salute in honor of the good news the gun went off and shot a man’s arm off....”

April 14: “This evening while the President of the United States was at a theatre in Washington he was killed by some one firing a pistol at him, the ball entering his head....”

April 15: “This morning we had very bad news here that President Lincoln was dead. The stores all or very near all closed up and made the city very gloomy as they hung their stores with black or draped them I should have said. We heard also that Secretary Seward and son had been assassinated [sic] which has been confirmed. President Lincoln died from the wound he received last [night] at the theatre. My Mother's Aunt Betsy died to day.”

April 17: “There is to be no performance at the theatre to night on account of the Presidents death. This afternoon I went to Albany and took my dog with me. When I got there I walked around the city a little while and it looked very gloomy indeed. There was so many of the houses draped in mourning....”

April 26: “This morning the soldiers came out and marched around the city a little while and then got on board the Vanderbilt and went down to Albany to act as escort to Lincoln’s remains. I went this afternoon on the horse car but I was too late to see the body although I saw his coffin and the catafalque they carried him on. I came home on the little steamer.”
In addition to the war and assassination-related content, Geer makes several mentions of the relatively young game of baseball. A selection of excerpts are as follows:

April 28: “This afternoon I played a game of ball with Charlie Sinsabaugh and Steve Williamson until it began to rain. After it had got through raining we played some more.”

July 14: “After supper this evening we went over to the ball grounds and played ball for a little while but some of the boys got angry and would not play. This evening we had a baseball meeting and the boys elected me as secretary.”

July 22: “This afternoon the first nine of our club played a match game of ball with the Zephyrs and the score stood 22 to 33.”

July 29: “To day eight boys of the first nine hired a team of Mr Morey to go to Lanesboro to see the match game between the Zephyrs of North Williamstown and the Faghonics of Lanesboro. The former came from the field victoriously the score standing 40 for Zs and 14 for Fs.”

July 31: “This evening we had a game of base ball over on our new field.”

Following the diary portion are three pages of expenditures delineated by Geer, who bought items such as candles, shoe strings, and a large amount of candy.

An excellent personal diary, with important personal reactions to the final events of the Civil War, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and his funeral procession through Albany, not to mention a wealth of information on a single year in the life of a young student in mid-19th-century New York, with much research value on the daily life of a “regular American.” $2850.
Some Variant Texts of Early Works

20. Ginsberg, Allen: [GROUP OF FIVE TYPESCRIPT POEMS]. [N.p.: The Author, no earlier than 1950]. Ten leaves, quarto. Typed on rectos only. Some tanning and modest finger soiling, some old folds from having been mailed, but in good order.

An interesting lot of typescripts of early poems by Ginsberg, originally from the papers of his friend and fellow writer, John Clellon Holmes, and likely sent or given to him for his comments. Four of the typescripts are dated in black ink at the conclusion of the poem, ranging 1945-1950. The poems are as follows:

a) “An Early Poem Revised,” with a previous dedication scratched out in black ink (“for Richard W[illlegible]”). 1p. Dated “1945 – 1950.” This is a draft of the poem printed as “An Eastern Ballad” in the CP of 1985, and includes a stanza not present in the galleys of that collected final version.

b) “Stanzas Written at Night in Radio City.” 2pp., undated. Apart from alteration of one word, this typescript conforms to the text printed in CP 1985, but does not include the two final stanzas (likely a concluding page is missing).

c) “The Song of the Shrouded Stranger of the Night.” Two different typescripts, on three leaves, one with the title shortened, omitting “of the Night,” with Ginsberg’s typed name at the top, and with one pencil correction. The other typescript is dated in ink, 1949-1950. The text is the rhymed version, and both typescripts present a state of the poem substantially different from that collected as “The Shrouded Stranger” in CP (1985), where it is dated “1949-1951.”

d) “Ode to the Setting Sun.” 2pp. Dated “1949” in ink at conclusion. Compared to the text included in the CP of 1985, this draft includes a substantially longer explanatory “Note” after the title, and includes several important differences in diction and sentence construction.

e) “In Judgement.” 2pp., dated in ink at end “1950.” This typescript presents a significantly variant form of the poem collected as “In Memoriam” in the CP of 1985.

While assuredly apprentice work, and not of the caliber of his poetry of a half-decade later, this is a textually important and interesting lot of typescripts.

$4750.
Sailing to China for John Jacob Astor, Twice, Just After the War of 1812


An unusual and extraordinary American merchant seaman’s log book kept by crewman and then Third Officer Eli P. Halsey, reporting in great detail on two voyages from New York to Canton, China and back again for John Jacob Astor between 1815 and 1817. Halsey has written in pencil on a front flyleaf, “The Log Book of Eli P. Halsey.” Within the log book, Halsey has recorded the typical sailing conditions, positions, and locations, but has also enhanced his narrative with sailing maneuvers, descriptions of onboard activities by various crewmen, and a wide variety of commentary regarding the recently-concluded War of 1812, the history of the Dutch East Indies, encounters with Chinese locals in Canton, the cargo procured from and delivered to China (including a massive amount of opium, which was illegal at the time), the pitfalls of trading with Chinese shopkeepers, the “cruel & unnatural” custom of Chinese female foot binding, and more. This log provides an important look at the nascent American trade with China during a moment of growing international activity for the young nation.

The log book opens with a long, full-page commemoration of the news of the end of the War of 1812, and details regarding the ship on which Halsey was preparing to leave. The passage begins, “Receive the Joyful news of Peace with Gladness our Country having concluded an honourable peace with England, now beholds herself exalted among the nations of the earth.” The passage speaks of “undaunted bravery and skill in battle,” “humanity and kindness to the vanquished” and American “heroes.” Halsey then hopes for a flourishing of “Agriculture, Commerce, and Manufactories” as he arrives in New York to board the Seneca, “belonging to John Jacob Astor Esqur. and Capt. Whetten,” and provides a list of the ship’s officers, including Captain Frederick A. De Peyster.

Frederick De Peyster was one of Astor’s favorite commanders. In both of the voyages recorded in the present log book, Astor was attempting to cash in on the lucrative trading markets in China after the War of 1812, and without delay after the recent conclusion of the War of 1812. The Seneca set out on March 15, 1815. Onboard activities recorded by Halsey include carpentry work, “people variously employed” making rope bands, spinyarn, knotting yarn, putting new cloth in sails, and the like. They even encounter a “large right Whale” and other whales along the way, which Halsey details.
One interesting incident onboard the Seneca occurred fifty-seven days out from New York, on May 11, 1815, when the ship reached Simons Bay, Cape Town, South Africa, and was “boarded by a number of boats from a British squadron.” The Seneca “informed them of the ratification of the Treaty of Peace by the President, at which they seem’d to be highly pleased.” This is, of course, a reference to the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the hostilities between the United States and Great Britain in the War of 1812. The United States had only recently ratified the treaty in mid-February, 1815. The next day, Halsey records that De Peyster secured permission to leave from the British admiral, who proceeded to fire a 21-gun salute to the Americans as they left Cape Town, while the British militia “paraded in uniform on Shore, and great Joy was expressed on the news of Peace.” The Seneca proceeded from South Africa, headed eastward for China.

On June 28, the Seneca encountered a “Chinese junk under our Lee.” About a week later, Halsey and the ship arrived in China, where they set “anchor in Canton River at Chine Pee [Chuenpi].” Here, the Seneca celebrates the July 4th holiday and Halsey remarks on “the Glorious Anniversary of Independence. The proudest day that America can boast of: the day on which she became a Nation. May she always maintain her Independence inviolate, and assert her rights, in Spite of the proud Tyrants who are deluging Europe in blood.”

On July 11, the Seneca “weighed and delivered 18 boxes of Opium weighing 2562 lbs.” This is significant information because at the time the Chinese government had outlawed the importation of opium into China, which was regularly delivered on British ships coming from India. Obviously, as can be seen here, the delivery of opium still took place, and with some regularity and from almost all ships trading in China. Opium was, apparently, a regular but small percentage of Astor’s trading cargoes at this time. On occasion, opium was traded just outside Canton and exchanged for silver, which the traders then traded for teas. Astor understood the delicacy of carrying opium on his ships, and wrote to one of his agents in an 1818 letter that, “I should think opium must towards the last of the season get up, in a few hands. I believe no one knows of our having any on board the Seneca, except Captain Clark, and its put up in casks as if furs.”

Halsey concludes this portion of the volume with a long and detailed accounting of the other ships also present in Canton at that time. He mentions the capture of the ship “President commanded by the Gallant Decatur” and narrowly escaping “being robbed by the Chinese, while several American vessels are plundered and property taken to considerable amount....”

Halsey also writes a long passage on the dishonesty of Chinese shopkeepers, and their talent for counterfeiting currency. He counsels traders to personally witness their cargo being packed, to avoid their “tea boxes being found full of saw dust” upon returning to America. Of the currency exchanged with Chinese shopkeepers, Halsey writes, “Foreigners should be very careful of the new Dollars they take from them as they excel in counterfeiting so that it is almost impossible to tell one from the Sound, or appearance. You may generally tell from feeling them, they being on the surface a little slippery as they had been greased.”

Halsey also details the “horrid practice” of Chinese foot binding, a “cruel & unnatural custom” Chinese women underwent by “contracting the feet when young...they appear as if the fore part of the foot had been accidentally cut off,
leaving the remainder of the usual size, and bandaged like the stump of an amputated limb.” He expounded upon this issue with regard to the different classes of Chinese women: “Some of the very lowest classes of the Chinese women, who inhabit chiefly the mountainous part of the country – and those who inhabit the River of Canton are exceptions to this horrid practice, but the females of this class are held by the rest in the utmost degree of contempt! And are employed by the others in the most menial domestic offices. So inveterate is the custom which gives preeminence to mutilated limbs before perfect ones, that if two Sisters, otherwise every way equal, the one had thus been maimed while nature was suffered to make its usual progress in the other, the latter would be considered as in an abject state, unworthy of associating with the rest of the family, and doomed to perpetual obscurity, and the drudgery of servitude.”

The log next picks up on November 18, 1815 when the Seneca left Canton to return to New York. On the return trip, the men of the Seneca were put on an “allowance of beef, Bread and pork” on December 7. On January 8, 1816, a man named Peter Thompson was knocked overboard and lost. Halsey and another man made “every exertion...to save him but in vain.” On February 11, Halsey notes that he has made a miscalculation, and the Seneca was actually fifty-five miles more westerly than he thought, due to a current for which he had “not made proper allowance.” Continuing his patriotic trend, Halsey writes a celebratory passage about George Washington on the late president’s birthday, February 22. Halsey’s patriotism shines through in his writings here, as does his faith. He mentions or alludes to God in several passages. He also often mentions other ships encountered during his voyages, including yet another of Astor’s ships, the Enterprise.

On the penultimate day of the return voyage to New York, Halsey received news of “Bonaparte’s arrival in France, Battle of Waterloo, his unjust imprisonment in St. Helena, &c.” The next day, the Seneca sees “the light on Sandy Hook,” arriving in New York harbor on February 29. Halsey records the distances made on the return voyage: “Canton to Java head 2,050, from Java head to the Cape of Good-hope 5,506, from the Cape to New York 7,335.” These figures total 14,891 miles in just 104 days.

Upon arriving in New York, and for the next few months, Halsey attended a wedding, helped unload another of Astor’s ships, the Beaver, and re-enlisted under Captain De Peyster on the brig William and John for another trip to Canton. For this voyage, Halsey was promoted to 3rd officer.

The remainder of the log book pertains to Halsey’s second trip to Canton aboard the William and John, a newly-constructed ship owned by John Jacob Astor, which set out on June 2, 1816. Before his entries begin, Halsey scrawls a title for this voyage, reading “Journal of a Voyage from New York to Canton in 1816-1817. By Eli P. Halsey.” He follows this with a list of the seven officers, himself among them.

Again, the ship sailed east for China, with Halsey recording daily shipboard activities such as carpentry, sail making, knotting yarn with the boatswain, stormy weather preparations, and much more. Halsey records the sow onboard the ship giving birth to “ten fine pigs – being streaked, speckled & spotted,” after which they move the sow to the longboat.

On this trip, Halsey records a couple of instances of ill health among the crew. He writes that some men have reported “bile on their stomachs” and a man named Brown was bled for having “pain in his side and disiness [dizziness] in his head for 2 or 3 days.” Once in Canton, Halsey records men “sick with fever and ague.”

Halsey sets down a page of commentary made by Captain De Peyster on Christmas Island, and records his own observations of the island of Java, where he and the crew of the William and John encounter “a few of the natives off of whom we purchas’d about a dozen Fowls and a few Pine apples – and sent letters by one of them to Batavia to be delivered on board of an American Ship there bound to the United States.”

Succeeding pages of this portion of the log book also contain lengthy and detailed passages by Halsey on a wide variety of topics related to Java. He reports on the “rappine & cruelty of the Dutch in Java” (along with a listing of the “staple commodities” produced there), the climate of Java with a long description of the city of Batavia [the current city of Jakarta] and the locals, a history of the Chinese in Java, a description of the Malay people (in which Halsey posits their ancestry as Chinese and Tartar due to their “close resemblance”), a history of the “overwhelming influence of the Arabs” in the Dutch East Indies, and a passage on the “massacre of the Chinese in Batavia by the Dutch,” specifically Van Imhof. This passage appears to be a quote from a book which Halsey may have had on board with him; some of the other passages may have been informed by books Halsey had on board, as well, though there are certainly indications that Halsey learned some of this information while there in person. In addition to the descriptions, Halsey has also sketched several shoreline views of various islands in the Dutch East Indies in this section of the log book.

By early October, the William and John arrived in China and stood anchor at Macao Roads and then Wampoa, near Canton. On October 12, Halsey accompanied Captain De Peyster to Canton, where the two got into “a row with the China men belonging to the man of war boat.” The next day, Halsey mentions traders offering them “Quick Silver, Lead, Ginseng and Furs,” and meets “Mandarinds very anxious to learn English” who “began by asking the names of the different parts and members of the body, which entertainment lasted till 10 o’clock when they retired to bed.” During their stay on the Canton River, Halsey notes “Chinese Caulkers” and Chinese painters at work on his ship, a fire inside the city walls of Canton, a visit to “Kinggua’s Factory” for “China ware,” and other encounters with locals.

The crew of the William and John stayed in Canton throughout October and November. During the latter month, Halsey recorded in the margins the comings and goings of other ships to and from Canton, providing an important record of the traffic surrounding the China trade at that time. Towards the end of their preparations to return to New York, Halsey also entered into his log book a list of goods procured from Canton. These included “Teas, Silks and China ware, china root, mats, rhubarb, &c.” Halsey also makes another mention of foreign ships being robbed in Canton, namely a ship out of Providence that lost $4000 worth of property to “the Chinamen.” The William and John was spared these types of crimes, and in early December the ship headed home to New York.
The voyage from Canton to New York was uneventful. Halsey mentions a few encounters with other ships, then by March 25, the William and John has reached the “Gulph Stream” where the ship encountered “a number of Gannets.” A few days later, Halsey and his fellow travellers arrived in New York. Halsey works onboard the William and John “untill she is discharged, which takes about 10 days.” His final note states that he was contacted by Captain De Peyster in May, and recommended as Second Officer to the ship Rosalie. On May 20, 1817, Halsey set out yet again for Canton.

Eli Pierson Halsey was born in Southampton, Long Island, New York in 1781. Around 1810, he married Susanna Sayre, from the same Sayre family that helped found Southampton. After returning from the Canton voyage on the Rosalie referenced in the present log book, Halsey served on whaling ships running out of Sag Harbor from 1819-1822. Halsey died at sea on May 6, 1823, likely on a whaling voyage, leaving behind his wife and their two children.

“The War of 1812 had cut off the China trade, thereby creating a demand for American furs in Canton and for Chinese teas and silks in the United States and Europe. John Astor was prepared, however: he had considerably expanded his fleet of ships during the war to full ownership of eight vessels including the Beaver then in Canton; the Fingal and Boxer in European ports; the Pedler and Forester in the Pacific; and the Hannibal, the Enterprise, and the Seneca in New York harbor. Sensing the war’s end and the windfall profits awaiting the first vessel to reach Canton and return, Astor had risked a small cargo of furs and ginseng worth $30,000 on the Macedonian, which sailed in January 1815 for Canton. If the war ended, Astor hoped that the return cargo of teas would produce profits of approximately $300,000. He next outfitted the Seneca, secured one of his favorite captains, F.A. De Peyster, and paid him a bonus of $5,000 to sail on March 13 for China [the first voyage recorded in the present log book]. Astor’s vessels arrived in Canton one after the other, along with perhaps three dozen other American ships that season, all hoping to cash in on the postwar markets. Cornelius Sowle, who had been stranded in Canton with the Beaver since 1812, received instructions from Astor to purchase a cargo and set out for New York. The Macedonian, Beaver, and Seneca all arrived back in New York City between January and April 1816. The Fingal, however, was lost at sea, and Astor immediately had another vessel, the William and John, built that year. By early 1816, Astor had amassed a considerable stock of black and green teas, silks, and nankeens for distribution in American and European markets. The pace of activity continued brisk in 1817 and 1818, with usually three vessels a year traveling between Canton and New York City” – Haeger.

Eli Halsey was barely into his forties when he perished at sea, but the logs he kept and the observations he recorded in this volume – carried on two voyages from New York to China and back – contain important information not only of his own experiences, but also of John Jacob Astor’s role in the growing American trade with China during a crucial period.

An interesting lot of development scripts undertaken for a film version of Hardy's novel which never came to fruition, made up of the following:

a) Gow, Ronald, “Tess of the D’Urbervilles A Play...Based on Thomas Hardy's Novel,” an undated playscript in term binder (overlap edges chipped), foliated in act/scene format;

b) A “First Treatment” by Allan Scott, [1],96 leaves, 14 Feb. 1946 (rerun 16 April 1946);

c) A “Complete Script” of Scott's full screenplay, [1],244 leaves, 12 July 1946 (somewhat worn, upper wrapper and first leaf detached from brads);

d) another “Complete Script” draft as above, re-run 12 January 1947;

e) an undated but revised draft of Scott's screenplay, [1],253 leaves, in canary yellow printed Selznick Studio wrappers; and

f) a different screenplay, credited to Clemence Dane, undated, [1],216 leaves.

Gow’s play was quite successfully produced in 1946, but seems not to have been published at the time. Selznick’s writers may have consulted it in the process of their adaptations. Had it come to fruition, this would have been the third film version of Tess, after the now lost silent versions of 1913 and 1924. As it turned out, a third version would need to wait until the award-winning 1979/80 Polanski version, Tess. $1750.

The George Brinley copy, with his sale's auction ticket on the front pastedown. An important example of the diplomacy practiced among British colonies in the pre-Revolutionary era. This publication records the proceedings of a conference held in New Haven to settle a boundary dispute between New York and Massachusetts in which Massachusetts claimed “the whole territory, within their North and South limits, from the Atlantic Ocean to the South Sea.” The commissioners representing New York were Robert R. Livingston, William Smith, and William Nicol. The Massachusetts commissioners were Thomas Hutchinson, William Brattle, and Edward Sheaffe.

A rare item, printed for distribution to members of the Massachusetts legislature. This is the issue without the appendix, of which only eight copies are located by NAIP. A fine example of inter-colonial diplomatic relations, an under-studied but vitally important aspect of the history of British North America, with a distinguished provenance.

BRINLEY SALE 2751 (this copy). EVANS 10965. HOWES M376, “b.” SABIN 45689. ESTC W30474. $6500.
An informative collection of annotated vernacular photographs documenting the missionary efforts of English and Canadian Baptists in India, also containing important images of various Indian officials and peoples in the late 19th century.

The album includes two group photographs of the Nilgiri Volunteer Rifles, part of the British Indian Army devoted to protecting British families in India; the “N.W.P. & OWDH Police” composed of both British and Indian subjects, many of whom are named here in the manuscript caption. Also included is a group photograph of a Reverend Evans and his family posed with four Indian subjects in “Monghyr” (Munger); a group photograph of women from the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society, labeled the “C.E.Z.M.S.” in the caption, picturing twelve women in Bangalore around the mid-1880s (ten of whom are identified in the captions); and a group of medical missionaries at Jubilee Hospital in 1888. Other images are of the participants of the “Coimbatore Conference” in 1893; an assemblage of men, women, and children outside one of the Lawrence Military Asylums in June 1894; a group shot of four Badagas men at Ooty; a cyanotype of a group of Baptist missionaries in Calcutta in 1882; a party of four “C.M.S. Missionaries;” group shots of various missionary groups at picnics and in other settings. The photographs also picture a Cinchona plantation in Doddabetta; an Irula Village called Mutherum Ullay; a missionary named “Miss Schuff” being carried in an open-air palanquin by four Indian subjects at Kotagiri; a view of the Bandy Shola plantation in Ooty; a “Cinchalese Aide-de-camp” in formal military attire; a scene along the Pykara River and another picturing a “chain bridge” across the river; and a shot of a cinchona farm in Naduvattam. There are also a number of pictures featuring “Views near Naduvattam Nilgiris” and several unmarked photographs featuring unidentified rural locations and indigenous people in India.

The album also includes numerous photographs of various buildings in India relating to the missionaries and indigenous Indian persons. The structures pictured
and identified in captions include a “Refreshment Room” in Conoor; a “Cinchona Villa;” a “Toda Mund” at Marlimund; the Sylks Hotel; the Baptist Mission House at Allahabad (a manuscript notation here reads, “Where I was born”); Union Hall in Ootacamund; the home of Mr. and Mrs. Denham in Mysore; two views of a bungalow near Avalanche Lake in Nilgiris; and more.

India was the focus for a group of Canadian Baptist missionaries beginning around 1874, when John McLaurin and his wife, Mary Bates McLaurin arrived in Coconada. They were followed shortly thereafter by G.F. Currie and his wife, who took charge of the English Sunday School. The Timpany family, consisting of Reverend Americus Vespucius and Jane Bates Timpany, joined the McLaurins in 1879. The McLaurins, Curries, and Timpanys are all present in the large group photograph commemorating the 1884 Canadian Baptist Missionary Conference in Coconada included in the present album. The Reverend John Craig wrote extensively about the Canadian Baptist Mission Society’s work in India in his 1908 book, *Forty Years Among the Telugus*.

Several of the annotations in this album indicate that it was either compiled by and/or additionally annotated later by a member of the Hooper family. There are several group photographs with various members of the Hooper family identified in the captions, some of which are written in blue ink and were likely added at a slightly later date. The identified family members include Elsie Hooper, David Hooper, Hannah Care Evans Hooper, Steve Hooper, Winnie Hooper, Ethel Hooper, Ernest Hooper, and Marjorie Hooper.

An interesting photographic record of English and Canadian colonialist missionary activities in India in the last two decades of the 19th century. $2750.
A fascinating archive of material documenting the service of Violet Jackson (1925-2008) as an Air Force nurse during the Korean War, with letters from and photographs of her first husband, George D. “Tid” Tidwell, and a photograph album from her second husband, Clay E. Kemp.

The first album belongs to Violet Jackson, and about half of it consists of images from her service in the 3700th Station Medical Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas in 1950; the other half consists of images from her time at the Macon Hospital School of Nursing in Georgia, which she attended before joining the Air Force. Photos are not chronological, nor are they always grouped by location or theme. Most photos are captioned in ink on their margins, identifying the subjects and location. One series of images shows a trip to Mexico by Jackson and her fellow Lackland nurses. This seems to have been a mix of business and pleasure. There are shots of them visiting a market, several cafes and bars, a brewery, and waterfalls, but most of the images feature the nurses and accompanying male officers in uniform. During this trip they were hosted by Mexican General Roamus at his substantial estate; Jackson includes several photos of this visit. Many of the Georgia images depict a young and lively group of nursing students and nurses enjoying time off with friends and sweethearts. There are fewer shots of on-duty
also at Ladd, tasked with guarding against potential Soviet incursions in the region.

By April 1952, Tidwell was transferred to the 449th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, and his tour is finished. He writes about plans he and Jackson have discussed about her moving to Alaska once her 'c' rations...." He also writes about the lectures and classes he prepared, life on the island; there are many visits to the beach. A brief series of photos documents damage from a recent typhoon. There are also photos of the airfield and transport planes coming and going. Finally, nineteen photos depict a trip to Hong Kong.

All but two of the letters in the archive are from George Tidwell to Jackson. Tidwell and Jackson likely met while at Lackland, though the letters start once Tidwell is briefly at Sampson AFB in New York (nine letters), and then Florida while on his way to Alaska (one letter). Tidwell worked primarily as a training officer during his time in the Air Force, and in 1951 he was assigned to the Arctic Survival School/Arctic Indoctrination School at Ladd AFB near Anchorage, Alaska (twenty-five letters). In this posting he served as supply officer, and he describes supply runs to Galena Air Force Station in west-central Alaska, and Elmendorf Air Base in Anchorage. The squadron knew how to enjoy themselves, and Tidwell recounts several alcohol-infused events. Overall, Tidwell's letters are chatty and consist primarily of information about his varying duties and frustrations with those in his command and military bureaucracy in general. He is generally quite affectionate towards Jackson, and even racy at times. He also alludes frequently to paying off debts, about which Jackson apparently teased him regularly.

The other two letters in the archive are from two of Jackson's former fellow nursing officers from Lackland, updating her on news and scandals, both dated 1951, and both reporting on a water poisoning epidemic on base. One Lt. Wilson writes: "Tony told you that Magner is going to get married, but she didn't tell you the whole story. About two weeks ago Lt. Hodgkins took her awide [sic] after drill and told her that if she went out with Walter agaon [sic] he would courtmartial her...Then the Major called her in and gave her a direct order not to see Walter on the Base. So, they are going to get married as soon as they can afford it."

There is also a manuscript note in the margin: "Also, Lt. Hodgkins is the father of [Libby's?] baby – he also gave her syphilis! – his wife has syphilis too. How's that!" The other letter, from Lt. Dermonth, is less explicitly typed; she begins: "Jezuz plea3 excuse this poor pion as i don't even know how to type today or for thzt mattdr any other day G-- D----?" She proceeds to recount a plague of scorpions and the announcement that "Lt. Black namely blackie got her Captaincy which dated back to June of 1949. Hot spit hows that for a first john?..." She closes the letter: "Well gal, best i shove off...blackie is waiting with beer and i repeat BEER BEER BEER for us to celebrate her promotion.

Also included is a large photo depicting the members of Squadron 3736, Flight 4737, stationed at Lackland AFB in March 1950. Tidwell is featured as “Training Officer.” Notably, the photo reveals that this flight is integrated; Lackland was one of the first bases where the Air Force started integrating active units, following President Truman's executive order ending segregation in the military in 1948. Additional documents include a folded certificate for Jackson's completion of the “Medical Department Female Officers' Basic Course”; a folded “Air Force Reserve Inventory Questionnaire” Jackson filled out as part of her application to the Air Force; and documents establishing Jackson's retention and readiness status for service.

Unfortunately, this collection does not disclose why Jackson and Tidwell split, what happened to Tidwell, or how she and Kemp found each other, although her obituary notes that she and Kemp stayed married until his death in 1998 (Athens Banner-Herald, January 13, 2008). Jackson remained in nursing, eventually retiring from Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, Georgia, as the Operating Room Supervisor. Kemp became a pastor in the United Methodist Church. An engaging collection about a vibrant and adventurous trio of people, all of whom served in the military from the immediate post-World War II era through the early years of the Cold War. $2850.

A directory of Japanese Americans, mostly in California, but also with entries in thirteen other states, Mexico, Japan, China, and Manchuria. There is also a business directory for Los Angeles, and an extensive sixty-eight-page photographic section with images of Japanese-American residents, businesses, and cultural institutions. The directory section includes multiple entries for many addresses (probably denoting husband, wife, and adult children), including the name in Japanese and Roman characters, the person’s address and phone number. The place of origin (America for native-born residents and prefectures for those born in Japan) is also given in Japanese. In a remarkable example of typesetting, the kanji is set vertically, as is traditional while the Roman lettering is set horizontally on the same line. The photographic illustrations are mostly advertisements for Japanese-American owned businesses, including nurseries, shoe stores, printing companies, farms, markets, and more. The images often feature the proprietors standing in or in front of their businesses, clearly proud of their work and accomplishments. Most of the text in the advertisements is in Japanese characters, but the signage is usually in English. This is one of the last directories published for the Japanese-American community before most of the people in this book were relocated to internment camps during World War II.

Kashu Mainichi was a bilingual Japanese-English newspaper founded by Fujii Sei in 1931. During the Second World War, he was interned as an enemy alien, securing release only in 1946. After the war, he successfully challenged California’s 1913 alien land law, which prohibited Japanese immigrants from owning land. In Fujii v. California, he convinced the California Supreme Court to overturn decades of legal precedents, ending forty years of prohibitions on property ownership and other racially motivated restrictions.

A rare and important directory, with only eight institutional copies recorded in OCLC.

OCLC 37651252, 1021016583, 54481146. $2750.
Young Buddhists in California in 1954, Photographed by a Noted Japanese-American Photographer

27. [Japanese-American Photographica]: [Western Young Buddhist League]: 12th ANNUAL WESTERN YOUNG BUDDHIST LEAGUE CONFERENCE MARCH 26th, 27th AND 28th, 1954 FRESNO, CALIFORNIA [caption title], Fresno, Ca.: Kamiyama, [1954]. Panoramic silver gelatin photograph, 10 x 35¾ inches. Minor edge wear, some creasing and abrading at top right corner, a few soft creases, four small circular stains near bottom right corner. About very good overall.

A substantial group photograph featuring the attendees of the 1954 conference of the Western Young Buddhist League. The photograph captures a few hundred finely-dressed Japanese-American men and women posed in a park in Fresno, California. Various delegates to the conference hold handwritten signs, indicating their home cities and regional organizations, which include Stockton, Lodi, Delta, Enmanji, Marysville, Sacramento, Placer, Palo Alto, San Mateo, Berkeley, Florin, Alameda, San Francisco, Oakland, Fresno, Selma, Los Angeles, San Diego, Pasadena, and numerous other California cities and locales. There are also contingents from Arizona, the Western Young Buddhist League’s Southern District, the San Fernando Valley Young Buddhists, the Coast District Young Buddhist Association, and the Central California Young Buddhist Association. The elders of the organization sit in chairs in front of the young Bussei.

Interestingly, this photograph was taken by noted and prolific Fresno photographer Urasaburo “Frank” Kamiyama. Frank Kamiyama (1886-1974) was an important Japanese-American chronicler of his own community in Fresno and the surrounding area beginning in the early 20th century. He was arrested on March 27, 1942 as one of eight “named Japanese alien enemies” and interned at Angel Island in California and in Santa Fe, New Mexico during World War II. His family, including his wife, Mitan, and their four daughters, were interned separately at Rohwer in Arkansas (the easternmost of the Japanese internment camps). After the war, Kamiyama continued to photograph the lives of Japanese Americans in California until his death.

A rare image of a large organization of young Japanese-American Buddhists in California in the Eisenhower years, with no copies reported in OCLC. $1500.
28. [Joyce, James, et al.]: TRANSITION. Paris, The Hague, etc. April 1927 through April/May 1938. Whole numbers 1-14 and 18 through 27, in 23 issues of 25 published, bound up in eight volumes, gilt cloth, original wrappers and some cover slips bound in. Accompanied by two issues (#15, and double number 16/7) in original wrappers, and two supplements, in original wrappers. A few wrappers show modest soiling, those issues which inevitably show slight to a bit more than slight tanning to the text stock do so here, some minor soiling and a few isolated spots to the cloth bindings, tidemark at the toe of the spine of the volume containing 21/22/23, with some slight isolated rippling to some of the plates, issues 15 and 16/17 lightly worn but unusually nice for these particular issues. Withal a good to largely very good or better run.

A complete run of the most famous and influential expatriate literary periodical of its times, edited by Eugene Jolas and various associate editors. This is a good association set (with additions), bound for, and with the ownership signature in the second volume of, poet/publisher James Laughlin, who dedicated the premiere volume of his annual, New Directions in Prose & Poetry to “The Editors, The Contributors & The Readers of Transition who have begun successfully The Revolution of the Word.” Issues number 1 and 6 are denoted second editions (ie. printings), with #1 now printing the correct order for Stein’s “An Elucidation.” Accompanied by the separate pamphlet printing of the corrected version of “An Elucidation” issued at Stein’s insistence concurrent with the appearance of the first printing of issue #1. Also present is a fine copy of the supplement to issue #23, printing the collective “Testimony Against Gertrude Stein” in response to various slights, errors or attacks made by her in The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas. Maria and Eugene Jolas, Georges Braque, Henri Matisse, André Salmon and Tristan Tzara are the respondents. In addition to providing the forum for the serial publication of Joyce’s Work in Progress, Transition records a virtual who’s who of the literary innovators of the times (with the notable exception of Ezra Pound, whose lack of affinity with one of the most frequent contributors may have led him to steer a separate course).

WILSON & UPHILL A10, etc. SLOCUM & CAHOON C70. HANNEMAN C300, etc. $4500.

First issue of the first authorized edition, without the Table of Contents and Index sections added later, per Lowndes. The original collected edition of the letters, which were first published in the London Public Advertiser from Jan. 21, 1769 to Jan. 21, 1772 under the pseudonym of “Junius” (possibly Sir Philip Francis). “...'Junius’ poured brilliantly slanderous invective upon 'Tory-minded English ministers, especially the Duke of Grafton, for a series of ‘inconsistent measures’ which allegedly ruined England and drove the colonies ‘into excesses little short of rebellion.’ Vehement, lucid, frequently reprinted in English and colonial newspapers, the letters were polemical masterpieces with such extraordinary knowledge and appreciation of contemporary colonial opinion that they lent moral support to the early revolutionary cause. ‘Junius’ opposed the Tea Duty, but upheld the legality of the Stamp Act, and prophesied (Dec. 19, 1769) that the colonies aimed at independence” – DAH. Sabin calls this the best and the original collected edition.

Final Publication of the Press


First edition. The final book from the Kelmscott Press. One of 525 copies on paper (12 copies were printed on vellum). The Short Description of the Press and the annotations for the books are the work of S. C. Cockerell. Specimens of the Tory and Chaucer types conclude the work. The frontispiece is Edward Burne-Jones’ “Psyche Borne Off by Zephyrus.”

PETERSON A53. $2500.
A Proposal to Admit Americans to the House of Commons, 1770


Sole edition of this scarce argument in favor of admitting representatives from the American colonies into the House of Commons. Maseres, a lawyer, had been Attorney General of Quebec from 1766 to 1769, and as such was a staunch defender of the rights of Canadians as British subjects. Maseres felt that the colonists, as British subjects, were obligated to obey the laws of Parliament. However, he writes that for the Americans "the total want of Representatives in the great Council of the nation, to support their interests and give an assent on their behalf to laws and taxes by which they are bound and affected, is a misfortune which every friend to liberty and equal government must be sorry to see them labour under." Maseres proposes a system by which some eighty representatives would be admitted to Parliament from the American colonies and the West Indies, "and their title might be that of Commissioners of the Colonies of America." He describes how they would be elected and their duties, and hopes that through such a plan “the present disputes with America may be equitably terminated, to the lasting and solid advantage of both parties, or perhaps I ought rather to say, to the prevention of the utter ruin of them both.” A copy of this work in the Lande Collection at McGill University has a note in Maseres’s hand noting that “the plan proposed in this pamphlet was met with approbation by Dr. Benjamin Franklin, and likewise that of Mr. George Grenville” (as noted in Adams).

A vision of a path not chosen, and one that likely would have altered the course of eighteenth-century history. A quite scarce work.

A handsome series of original handcolored drawings of mushrooms, with several species drawn from different angles and labeled in manuscript on each leaf. These beautiful watercolors depict both edible and poisonous mushrooms. Most are accompanied by a caption in pencil indicating the binomial Latin name and a reference to the mushrooms in the monograph of François Simon Cordier’s *Les Champignons de la France*, first published in 1870. Each plate is numbered, as is each species on the plate. Species are systematically grouped together, creating a series of plates with one genus or another. All told, it is an impressive work, possibly a series of illustrations for a book, or simply the work of an avid amateur with a firm grounding in the taxonomy of mushrooms.

$15,000.
One of the Most Important American Periodicals of Its Generation

33. Norman, Dorothy, et al [editors]: TWICE A YEAR. A SEMI-ANNUAL JOURNAL OF LITERATURE, THE ARTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES. New York. Fall/Winter 1938 through 1948. Whole numbers one through fifteen (in nine issues), lacking the final, 10th anniversary number. Variously printed wrappers, printed wrappers over boards, and cloth, in printed dust jackets (as below). Nine volumes, including double numbers.

Edited by Dorothy Norman. One of the most important journals of its times, founded and maintained in part under the influence of Alfred Stieglitz, 291 and American Place. Literary contributors include Rilke, Bourne, Olson (his first appearance in print), Cummings, Malraux, Dreiser, Nin, Kafka, Williams, Proust, Laughlin, Mann, Toller, Rukeyser, Patchen, Saroyan, Beecher, Miller, Anderson, Frank, Crane, Stein, Wright, Ignatow, Murray, et al. Included are superior reproductions of photographs and other artworks by Stieglitz, B. Weston, Marin, Porter, Wright Morris, Norman, O’Keeffe, Adams, Grosz, et al. An original silver gelatin print of a photograph by Todd Webb is mounted and bound into double number X/XI. Equal attention is paid to progressive, humanistic concerns for justice under the law at home and abroad, and the ongoing worldwide tragedy of the war, race discrimination, transgressions against civil liberties and the like. In this set, Issue I is in stiff wrappers, about fine; II-IX and XII-XIII are in cloth, with dust jackets (small chips to a few dust jackets; a small tea spot to the front panel for that for V/VI; that for XII/XIII with chipping to spine ends), and X/ XI and XIV/XV are fine in printed wrappers over boards. 

HOFFMAN, et al, p.344.

$1100.
Paving Over the Railroad in Bismarck

34. [North Dakota Photographica]: [COLLECTION OF FORTY-THREE ORIGINAL ANNOTATED VERNACULAR PHOTOGRAPHS DOCUMENTING ROAD PAVING PROJECTS IN EARLY 20th-CENTURY BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA]. [Bismarck, N.D. 1917]. Forty-three silver gelatin photographs, each approximately 3 x 5 inches, each annotated in ink with location and date in margins. Minor curling to some edges, light edge wear. Overall very good.

A singular archive of original annotated photographs documenting road paving projects in Bismarck, North Dakota from May to September, 1917, showing its development from Old West railroad town to paved city fit for automobiles. The clear, well-executed pictures record period road construction technology, including steam shovels, steam rollers, squeegee stones, cone mixers, paving materials, and more, as work proceeded in the various downtown districts of Bismarck. In fact, the most striking aspect of the photographs are those that show the construction crew paving over rail lines on the main streets of Bismarck, a harbinger of the evolution of the West and the displacement of the urban railroad. A typical annotation of a photograph reads: “Bismarck ND Dist. #1 Placing [sic] conc. in track 4th Bdy-Main 8-20-17.” These photographs were most likely produced by someone connected to the paving construction company or the local government, and cover numerous aspects of the road construction project. A unique record of development in downtown Bismarck during the World War I era. $1250.
Documenting Rapid Urban Growth in Cleveland

35. [Ohio Photographica]: [Urban Development]: [SUBSTANTIAL COLLECTION OF ANNOTATED PHOTOGRAPHS PERTAINING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLEVELAND, OHIO DURING THE 1920s]. [Cleveland: Printed by the Fowler and Slater Co., 1922-1924]. 161 black-and-white glossy Kodak prints, each 5 x 7 inches. Each photograph with an inventory number and often a date in white printed in the negative, and with further manuscript notes in black ink in the lower margin or on the photograph itself. Minor rubbing and edge wear. Very good plus.

An engaging and useful collection of photographs with often extensive annotations in the image area, documenting the development of Cleveland in the 1920s. The subjects of the photographs range widely around the city of Cleveland, showing stores, factories, warehouses, breweries, foundries, welding companies, and much more, along with residences, railroads, bridges, undeveloped or underdeveloped areas, and scenes along the Cuyahoga River. The images are often populated with residents, sometimes posing for the photographer, and are also interesting for the automobiles, advertisements, and other tertiary subject matter contained in them. The annotations describe the subjects and locations of the photographs, with streets delineated on one or both sides of buildings. The annotations also include address designations, along with parcel numbers for the associated plots of land.

The intention of the photographs is not entirely clear, and would be an interesting research project for scholars of urban development, specifically in early 20th-century Ohio. We believe that the likely purpose of the photographs relates to some form of a real estate development project in Cleveland, or real estate purchasing. One of the largest construction and redevelopment projects in Cleveland in the 1920s was the Union Terminal and Terminal Tower, which resulted in the closing of the Diebolt Brewing Company (pictured here); perhaps the collection relates to that monumental project. The photographs could have also served a municipal function such as defining political districts, construction, rezoning, or property taxation. However, with the explosion of growth and construction in Cleveland in the decade of the Roaring Twenties, the photographs most likely relate to the city’s development or redevelopment.

Aside from the original intent of the compiler, the photographs themselves provide an important and extensive survey of the city of Cleveland in the early 1920s. Many of the buildings and residences pictured here are long gone, along with the people, automobiles, advertising billboards, and undeveloped areas in the photographs. The photographs were taken and produced by the Fowler and Slater Company, a prominent Cleveland photography studio founded in the city in 1895.

A valuable and insightful collection of annotated photographs of the city of Cleveland at the outset of a period of rapid change. $3250.
“You may think we are in danger of our lives, the way we are supplied with implements of war, but everybody goes armed in this country....”


An interesting pair of manuscript letters providing a rare glimpse into life in Indian Territory in the mid-19th century. The author of the letters was an artist who went west and found work on a sheep drive to Texas. He writes his first letter from Saline District in the Cherokee portion of Indian Territory, near the present village of Rose, Oklahoma, on April 13, 1859, and describes a fire that destroyed his camp and all of his clothing: “It made me angry to think what ragged clothes I had been wearing so as to save my good ones, and then lose them by fire.” He describes his present wardrobe as consisting of “a check shirt, jeans pants, and a striped jeans hunting shirt made and manufactured by an Indian woman – oh! I look quite Indian-like.” He later comments that the area “is the greatest country for reptiles I ever saw. I have killed several rattle-snakes and two centipedes and one tarrantillas [sic]. The Bluff Rattle snakes grow to an enormous size here not so long but very thick.” He also announces his intention to “lay down my crook and take up the old business (Knight of the Brush) as soon as I can reach any place where they have a taste for the Fine Arts.” He writes that “I expect to go from here to Fort Smith in Arkansaw [sic], some seventy odd miles from here it is on the line between the Territory and the former state. They say it is a right brisk place and improving rapidly and contains between two and three thousand inhabitants if nothing turns up in my line I’ll go down to Red River and stop in North East Texas or Louisianna [sic] somewhere out of the Yellow Fever Districts....” He also relates how he killed between forty and fifty wolves with strychnine, was able to skin about fifteen before the buzzards found them, and earn “a half dollar a piece for the skins.”

An informative pair of frontier letters relating a surprising amount of local color in Indian Territory and Arkansas in 1859. $1850.

The second letter was indeed written from Fort Smith, Arkansas, five months later on September 25. In this letter, Seal describes the town’s primitive boarding house lodgings at length, adding that he wears a belt “containing a Colt’s revolver & an extra-sized Arkansaw tooth pick. You may think we are in danger of our lives, the way we are supplied with implements of war, but everybody goes armed in this country (and that is the cause of so much bloodshed), and a person does not know what minute he may be attacked.” He also details two recent murders and an attempted murder in town: “No later than yesterday morning a man who lives a few miles out in the country rode into town and snapped twice at a man sitting in a chair in front of the Hotel but luckily the gun did not go off and if it did he would have killed the mans brother he was after as soon as he found out his mistake he apologized and said he would have been sorry if he had shot him for he mistook him for his brother that’s the way they do in this country attempt to kill a man and then apologize. There has been two killed (both Indians) in town since I wrote to you before but I was glad to see the people take one of the cases in hand and if they had caught the murder they would have lynched him the other was done in self defence....”

An informative pair of frontier letters relating a surprising amount of local color in Indian Territory and Arkansas in 1859. $1850.
Uncle Tom Performed,
Featuring the Tennessee Jubilee Singers

37. [Parsons & Pool]: COMING SOON! PARSONS & POOL'S ORIGINAL UNCLE TOM'S CABIN AND TENNESSEE JUBILEE SINGERS....

Uncommon broadside advertising an upcoming performance of Parsons & Pool’s long-running Uncle Tom’s Cabin stage production, with woodcuts showing scenes from the play superimposed over an image of a cabin. Also advertised are the Tennessee Jubilee Singers, who regularly performed with the Parsons and Pool’s troupe. Although Harriet Beecher Stowe never officially sanctioned a stage interpretation of her novel, theatrical versions of Uncle Tom’s Cabin were wildly popular with American audiences during the entire second half of the 19th century and into the early 1900s. These “Tom Shows” existed in scores of different iterations, from moralizing melodramas to blackface burlesques, and were a staple of the traveling show circuit.

Proclaimed as “the only company on the road to-day presenting the old-time manuscript version of Uncle Tom’s Cabin...” Parsons & Pool’s productions can be classified among the moralizing melodramas. In one promotional pamphlet, the producers write that their presentations are “favorable to the development of the great principles of Christian brotherhood, and bringing to the knowledge and sympathies of the world, the lowly, the oppressed and forgotten.” The Jubilee Singers began as the Fisk Jubilee Singers, an African-American a cappella ensemble composed of students from Fisk University, an historically black university in Nashville. They first organized in 1871 to tour and raise funds for the university. They sang traditional spirituals and other popular music, and toured along the Underground Railroad path in the U.S., as well as performing in England and Europe. The student group disbanded in 1878 and then reorganized as the Tennessee Jubilee Singers, a joint-stock touring group, in 1879, but retained their reputation as a refined group of performers, preserving and promoting African-American culture throughout the country.

We found seven copies of this broadside listed in OCLC: Hamilton College, Library Company of Philadelphia, Yale, Clements Library, Middle Tennessee State University, University of Virginia, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

LIBRARY COMPANY, AFRO-AMERICANA (2nd ed. Suppl.) 1655. OCLC 40817572, 701755423. $1500.
Debating Slavery in Pre-Revolutionary Boston

38. [Parsons, Theodore, and Eliphlet Pearson]: A FORENSIC DISPUTE ON THE LEGALITY OF ENSLAVING THE AFRICANS, HELD AT THE PUBLIC COMMENCEMENT IN CAMBRIDGE, NEW-ENGLAND, JULY 21st, 1773. BY TWO CANDIDATES FOR THE BACHELOR’S DEGREE. Boston: Printed by John Boyle, for Thomas Leverett, 1773. 48pp. Dbd. Short diagonal cut through most of textblock, not affecting text. Two unobtrusive ownership signatures on titlepage. Title-leaf and final leaf worn and stained, some soiling, final leaf reattached at gutter. Withal, a good copy. In a cloth chemise and half leather and cloth slipcase, spine gilt.

An early and quite scarce American work on slavery, and one of the only known records of a public debate on the legality of slavery in colonial New England. The work is especially interesting as it is presented in the form of a collegiate debate at Harvard on this increasingly controversial issue. Here, Pearson defends slavery while Parsons argues against it, both basing their arguments on the principles of natural law. There is also much included on the nature of human equality and on the perceived emergence of the African from primordial darkness to the light of Christianity.

ESTC records thirty-four copies in twenty-two discrete institutions, but the work is quite rare in the market. This is only the second copy we have ever handled, and the first in almost thirty years.

EVANS 12917. LIBRARY COMPANY, AFRO-AMERICANA 7455. DUMOND, p.89. HOWES P107. COHEN 9869. SABIN 25075, 81980. ESTC W38507.

$2750.
“At 4:54 a.m. the entire mass of flame, a great portion of her iron sheathing, &c., were seen to ascend high into the heavens, presenting one of the most magnificent pyrotechnical views I ever beheld. With this explosion, the Merrimac was no more....”


A unique and valuable record of a year in the life of the Union steam sloop U.S.S. Dacotah, kept by the ship’s chief engineer, Philip G. Peltz. Such detailed, firsthand accounts from the Union Navy are rather rare, especially with such important and research-worthy content.

Chronologically, the first point of interest in the diary relates to the Dacotah’s hunt for the Confederate ironclad warship the C.S.S. Virginia, which the Union referred to as the Merrimack (or Merrimac). Eventually, Peltz would record the demise of the Merrimac in a vivid firsthand entry, detailed below. The diary also covers the movements of the Dacotah during a year of the Civil War (mostly off the coast of Virginia), mentions encounters with President Lincoln, details the author’s experiences with bitter southern residents in Norfolk, Virginia and New Orleans during the Union occupation of those cities, includes firsthand passages on the Yellow Fever outbreak in the southern United States and Cuba, and perhaps most importantly, records the employment and transport of runaway slaves, known during the war as “contrabands.”

This apparently unpublished diary begins with the launch of the Dacotah from the Brooklyn Navy Yard on March 2, 1862. It arrived for duty on March 13, 1862, just five days after the Battle of Hampton Roads, which is also often referred to as the Battle of the Monitor and the Merrimack. On this date, the text reads (with all quoted entries retaining original spelling and grammar): “Arrived at Fortress Monroe and heard for the first time the news of the terrible encounter between the Merrimac (rebel) and Cumberland and Congress (Federal), also the timely
intervention of the Monitor. We all listened with much attention to account of the battle, and the glorious and noble, and the never before equalled bravery and heroism of officers and crew of the Cumberland. She sank with her crew still at and firing her guns, and still the noble and unpolluted ensign of our country waves from her masthead as the emblem of the bravery that sure fought under folds. We are now under heavy banked fires and ready for a start at a short notice. Constantly on alert and anxiously await the coming of the enemy.”

For the first two months of the diary, the main focus is squarely on the aforementioned enemy ironclad, the Merrimac, which the Confederates knew as the C.S.S. Virginia. Peltz refers to the Merrimac as “the iron monster” and often records news of the Merrimac’s movements, position, and disposition, including alterations to the ship while at port in Richmond. The ship is mentioned more than forty times over the next two months, with a seemingly constant expectation of a confrontation with the dreaded ironclad. Peltz mentions drills intended to prepare his ship and others for the ultimate encounter with the Confederate ship. On March 18, Peltz writes: “We have just received orders in the event the enemy again appears, and we get a chance at them, we are to run them down at full speed...I think we shall cleave her sure if once an opportunity offers.” On March 29, he worries that “In carrying out the orders we now have, to run her down at full speed, at the same time we all expect to be compelled to take to the water for the want of a ship to hold us....Sweet-hearts and wives have been drank to.” He reports on debates among the men about “how soon they will remove their boats as soon as she begins to go down rapidly.”

The Dacotah’s movements helped seal the Merrimac’s fate, as the ship assisted in gradually bottling up the James River between March and early May. Peltz writes of the Merrimac engaging briefly with two Union ships on April 11, before running aground at Sewell’s Point the next day. Here, “anxious rebels” feared for “the welfare of the helpless Monster ashore” but the Merrimac was able to get seaward again and escape without incident. Reports of the Merrimac continued to come to Peltz over the next month, and he dutifully records them here. Peltz details the shelling of Sewell’s Point, Virginia on May 8, 1862, which led to the Confederate evacuation of Norfolk and Portsmouth, the Rebel abandonment of Sewell’s Point, and ultimately to the demise of the Merrimac. He writes: “No doubt a number were killed and wounded on the Rebel side....The Merrimac came part way out just far enough to see all that was going on. We withdrew after fully being satisfied of the rebels obstinacy, and determination to hold Norfolk as long as possible. The Monitor drew up in battle order and stood in front of the Merrimac but she dare not come out of her cover to come any nearer. The sight was something like a cat watching a mouse, but the mouse dared not come out of her concealment.” Despite such close calls, the Monitor and Merrimac never re-engaged after their one and only battle at Hampton Roads. On May 9, Peltz observes “the Monitor cruising around in the neighborhood of the Merrimac and
saluting her with a few shots, [but] none were returned.” The Monitor “being
tired of the enemy” then withdrew. Thereafter, Peltz records that “the Merrimac
lays in view, apparently disconsolate and disheartened.”

The story of the Merrimac culminated with its sinking two days later, on May
11, at Norfolk when the famous ironclad was destroyed at the hands of her own
Confederate Navy. Peltz records the historic event here: “This morning at three
o’clock the Merrimac was discovered on fire. Soon the flames spread over her
entire length, ensnaring her in one sheet of fire. The fire and smoke came
pouring out of the smoke pipe greater than from a cupola. Anxious eyes gazed
upon her waiting for the explosion of her magazine. At 4:54 a.m. the entire mass
of flame, a great portion of her iron sheathing, &c., were seen to ascend high
into the heavens, presenting one of the most magnificent pyrotechnical views I
ever beheld. With this explosion the Merrimac was no more. Not a vestige of
her was left. Not even the slightest trace of fire, or of any portion of her hulk
to be seen in a few seconds after the explosion. We at once informed the
flag officer of the destruction of the much feared vessel.” The U.S. Navy
was so obsessed with the Merrimac that in the present diary, even after the famous
ship was destroyed, Peltz refers to the C.S.S. Richmond as “the 2nd Merrimac”
at least four times. In addition to the first-hand reporting on the demise of the
Merrimac, Peltz memorializes a long second-hand discussion of the loss of the
U.S.S. Monitor in the January 3, 1863 entry.

In addition to the Merrimac content, Peltz reports on shipboard activities (such as
procuring various foodstuffs and flying the flag at half mast for a week in honor
of Martin Van Buren who died in late July 1862), sightings and movements of
other naval vessels, numerous mentions of the transport of troops and munitions,
other nearby battles and skirmishes (including a brief recounting of a battle at
Yorktown in April 1862), news of the capture of New Orleans (where Peltz and the
Dacotah were briefly assigned after Norfolk), the receipt of the Union military
during the occupation of Norfolk (“Norfolk shows too clearly the effect of being
blockaded, no business, no nothing....The ladies particularly vamoosed for fear
of being ravished by the horrible Yankees”), prisoner exchanges, and much more.

After arriving in New Orleans in late May, Peltz and his crew encounter “quite
bitter” southerners who accuse the Union of “buying General Lovell and Jeff
Davis for tens of millions of dollars.” They also meet southern women who scowl
at them and remark that “if the Yankee Officers could not stay away from their
church, they would remain at home and pray there.” They only spend a
week in New Orleans before heading back to Norfolk, where Peltz records more
interesting observations about the occupied citizenry: “The people here at Norfolk
are certainly much more opposed to the Federal Government than the people of
New Orleans....The ladies walk near the side, and often draw their dresses at one
side that the Federal Officers may not pollute them with a touch.” Peltz worries
about “the inevitable Guerilla war that would follow the destruction of the Rebel
army, and its many years duration” and relates that the “prayer books in some
of the churches here had altered that portion in praying for the President of the
United States to read for the President of the Confederate States.”
While patrolling the coast of Virginia, and participating in various maneuvers in July, Peltz also includes an intriguing account of a pilot employed by the Union Navy who had once served the Confederacy on the Merrimac, and had been on board when it fought the Monitor: “He says when they got back to Norfolk all the sailors were presented each with fifty dollars and allowed to go on shore and spend it. Whiskey was fifty cents a drink so their fifty dollars was soon disappeared.” Peltz also reflects on the effects of the Union Navy on the war: “We learned from the attack on City Point and vicinity that our boats done considerable damage to the rebels and killed quite a number. It is wonderful to see how our shrapnel slaughter the enemy, no wonder they skedaddle at the report only of our 11 inchers” (August 7).

Of particular note are two encounters with President Lincoln mentioned in the diary. While still on the hunt for the Merrimac, on May 8, 1862, Peltz writes: “The president looked on at the bombardment with apparent great interest and felt a great anxiety for our side. He passed close to our vessel, bowed, and moved on with his little tug. His pleasing countenance indicated entire satisfaction with the day’s bombarding.” Exactly two months later, on July 8, Peltz reports his ship at anchor at Harrison’s Landing “in front of Gen. McClellan’s headquarters, but a few hundred yards from us several balloons were sent up to make observations. The president visited the Gen. incog., and witnessed the balloon reconnaissance. It is reported that the president made an ascension with the balloon.” Lincoln did indeed visit that day, although the balloon ascension seems to have been an apocryphal tale. The next day, Peltz and the Dacotah were detached “to convoy the President apast the dangerous points on the river. When near Jamestown Island we ran aground through the awkwardness of the pilot. We had passed all the points on the river where there were danger so the Chief Executive went on his way.”

Another historically-important aspect of the diary concerns encounters between Peltz (and his Dacotah crew) and runaway slaves, whom he mostly refers to by the then-popular term, “contrabands.” These encounters provide a rare record of the movements of African Americans fleeing from the South to the North in an attempt to gain freedom, and often fighting for the Union to assist in that effort. On May 12, Peltz learns that the local Norfolk women “went so far as to tell the poor deluded beings that the Yankees would bridle them and put the bit in their mouths and drive them like oxen or horses, and haul stone.” Several escaped slaves reported for duty on the Dacotah on June 28. Peltz writes: “We shipped a band of contrabands consisting of ten. Rec’d them at Old Point. All are well pleased so far with their new vocation, and are also uncontrollably proud of Uncle Sam’s uniform. Their duties on board will be in a great measure menial. Thereby saving the men a deal of unpleasant duty. They were shipped as first class boys.”

Peltz’s entry for July 30 reads: “We have taken on board several contrabands who came down to the beach and begged to be taking [sic] on board. Sometimes they would be possessed with passes from their owners at the same time the pass would read so that the Picket attention would be drawn to the look out for them for fear of their being inclined to join the ‘Yankees.’ The negros not being able to read were not aware of the contents of the pass. When these fellows were closely interrogated as to what their motives were in running off they only seemed to think that their condition could not be any wosser [worse] so they would try it anyhow. Some left their wives and families behind through their great eagerness to leave their state of bondage.”

On August 12, Peltz again records encounters with runaway slaves, who were helping to fortify Malvern Hill: “A large number of contraband are now engaged in throwing embankments on the south side of the James.” And again on August 12: “Rec’d on board one contraband. He tells his tale like all the others. This fellow says he left his master to avoid a flogging. The provocation not being sufficiently great to warrant it according to his estimation, he thought he would skedaddle. I learned that the plantation from which we foraged has lost some two hundred negroes! They are now with the army, digging trenches.” And once again on August 23, near City Point (which he describes as in “dilapidated condition... the majority of the buildings being entirely destroyed”): “Contrabands continue to come on board every few days. Generally forward them to the army.”

Peltz also reports briefly from Key West, where he hears about the yellow fever raging in Cuba. He touches on the disease a couple more times, as well, and writes long entries about it on October 6, 14, and 23, the latter from quarantine in New York. Peltz apparently contracted the disease himself, but was treated successfully by a naval doctor. He also spends a brief amount of time in Havana, where he records that “The feeling in Havana appears to be divided, many are in favor of the Confederacy, particularly those who came originally from New Orleans. While we say that many secessionists exist here, I can say with equal if not greater force and truth that the sympathizers for the Union are very numerous.” Interestingly, Peltz writes on November 5 that the Dacotah was assigned to “chase after the ‘290,’ Alabama,” a reference to the recently-completed Confederate raider which had launched from Liverpool, England (its shipyard number was 290). By the end of November, the ship was reassigned as part of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron. Peltz reports from Wilmington and Beaufort, North Carolina and Newport News, Virginia while on this mission, recording examinations of numerous ships through the end of the diary.

The identification of Peltz as the author of the present diary emanates from his position as Chief Engineer of the Dacotah, which he achieved on May 2, recording the promotion in his diary. Philip G. Peltz (1832-1868), a Philadelphia native, served throughout the Civil War and remained in the Navy afterwards. He was identified as chief engineer of the Dacotah in the February 8, 1862 issue of the Philadelphia Enquirer. Peltz also makes two mentions of his brother, a naval assistant surgeon, on August 29 and upon his brother’s appointment to the gunboat Chocura on February 20. Philip Peltz’s brother Samuel H. Peltz (1838-1865) was the assistant surgeon aboard the Chocura until his transfer, according to the September 29, 1863 issue of the Washington Evening Star.

A unique and highly informative manuscript diary of Union Navy life during a critical year of the Civil War, providing a fresh new source on the most important naval theater of the conflict, with an eyewitness account of the Merrimac’s destruction, substantial information on runaway slaves serving in the Union military, and passages detailing the Yellow Fever outbreak in the southern Atlantic. $12,500.
A Wonderful Collection of American and English Miniature Profiles, Including Indian Leader John Norton

40. Pole, Thomas: A COLLECTION OF PROFILES BY THOMAS POLE, M.D. [manuscript title]. [London & Bristol. ca. 1785-1824?] Forty-four ink and watercolor silhouettes with engraved and watercolor borders, plus watercolor title sheet, approximately 11 1/2 x 9 3/4 inches, with seven additional silhouettes mounted on smaller cards in varying sizes, and one architectural watercolor drawing, plus two silhouettes and two sketches apparently not by Pole. Later pencil ownership inscriptions on blank versos, occasional pencil annotations. Scattered light foxing and dust soiling. Very good.

Born in Philadelphia, physician and Quaker minister Thomas Pole (1753-1829) was the youngest son of John Pole (1705-1755), a Somerset tailor who had emigrated to America, and Rachel Smith of Burlington, New Jersey. Pole travelled from Burlington to England in 1775 to visit members of his family, then undertook an extraordinary tour through England and Wales, travelling over 6500 miles, primarily on horseback, visiting Quaker meetings along his journey. He decided to remain in England and, after a medical apprenticeship in Maidenhead, settled in London in 1781. In 1789 he was elected a member of the American Philosophical Society. His popular treatise, The Anatomical Instructor... (London, 1790), concerned the preparation of anatomical specimens. After a move to Bristol with his wife Elizabeth in 1802, he continued his medical work, also becoming involved in promoting the educational systems of Joseph Lancaster and William Smith. Pole was a talented amateur watercolorist and painter of silhouettes.

The silhouettes collected here were prepared by Pole evidently as a collection for his own personal retention, and include the profiles of family members, friends, and noteworthy acquaintances, many of them Quakers. Several of the sitters are American. Perhaps the most surprising inclusion is a silhouette of Mohawk Indian chief John Norton (1770-1831), captioned with his Indian name, Teyoninhokarawen. Norton was the son of a half-Cherokee, half English father and Scottish mother. In a strange twist Joseph Brant, the famous Mohawk chief, adopted him. When Brant died the Mohawks made Teyoninhokarawen their new chief. Like Brant, he aided the British in many ways, including translating religious texts into Mohawk. This silhouette was executed in 1804, when he visited England to represent the Iroquois in treaty negotiations with the English.

Among the notable figures depicted here are founding father John Dickinson (1732-1808), drawn within a roundel; James Brinigurst (1730-1810), a notable Philadelphia Quaker businessman; and another Philadelphia Quaker businessman, James Pemberton (1723-1809), remembered as an abolitionist and for supporting the Delaware Indians. Other prominent Quakers included in this collection are the Rev. Samuel West (1731-1807), pastor of Dartmouth, Massachusetts; William Smith of Bristol, the founder of the Adult Schools in England; educator Joseph Lancaster (1778-1838); Mary Ann Schimmelpenninck (1778-1856) and poet James Montgomery (1771-1854), both noted Quaker abolitionists; Richard Reynolds (1735-1816) of Bristol, ironmaster at Coalbrookdale and philanthropist; and poet and gardener Thomas Wilkinson (1751-1836) of Yanwath, Cumbria, remembered as a friend of William Wordsworth.

An extensive collection of well executed silhouettes, with a focus on Quaker figures in England and America. A complete list of portrait sitters is available upon request. $27,500.
The second edition, after the first of the previous year, of the earliest guide to outline the routes of transit in the North American colonies from the Kennebec to Jamestown, Virginia. The first part of the work is comprised of tables of currency conversion and interest. The text then lists “Counties and Towns in New England” and “Courts in the Provinces and Colonies,” including court term schedules. A section follows which lists roads and routes, with mileages, from Boston to Kennebec, Brunswick, Londonderry, Yarmouth, Northtown (Massachusetts), Springfield, Hartford via Windham, Cape Cod (with assorted directions on the Cape), Bristol and Rhode Island, Providence, New London, and New York. Also listed are routes and mileages from New York to Philadelphia, and Philadelphia to Jamestown, Virginia. At the end is a list of the “Streets, Lanes, and Alleys in the City of Boston.”

Thomas Prince (1687-1758) was a prominent Boston clergyman (pastor of Old South Church), historian, and bibliophile. He is perhaps best known for his monumental work, *A Chronological History of New England, in the Form of Annals...* (1736). Although beginning with the sixth day of creation, it is nevertheless a pioneering work in scientific historical writing. His library, consisting of over 1500 items, mostly relating to the civil and religious history of New England, was comparable to those of the Mather family and Governor Hutchinson. Part of his collection is now at the Boston Public Library.

Printer Samuel Kneeland (1697-1769) was the son of Mary Green, of the Green family dynasty of printers (this work was printed with his business partner and cousin, Timothy). Kneeland expanded on this dynasty, becoming a leading bookseller, printer, and publisher in colonial America, with approximately 900 imprints in his career. He printed primarily religious works, but then also the *Boston Gazette* and the *New-England Weekly Journal*, as well as commissions for the colony of Massachusetts Bay, the governor and province council, and the House of Representatives. Kneeland frequently worked with (as here) Daniel Henchman (1689-1761), a bookseller-publisher who, according to Isaiah Thomas, was “the most eminent and enterprising bookseller that appeared in Boston, or, indeed, in all British America, before the year 1775” (Thomas, v.2, p.423). This is the same Henchman who, according to Thomas, purportedly contracted with Kneeland and Green, to print “an edition of the Bible in small 4to. This was the first Bible printed, in the English language, in America. It was carried through the press as privately as possible, and had the London imprint of the copy from which it was reprinted, viz. “London: Printed by Mark Baskett, Printer to the King’s Most Excellent Majesty,” in order to prevent a prosecution...” (Thomas, v.1, p.305). Thomas is likely incorrect in his details, but he notes that it was a popular story when he was an apprentice.

A presentation copy, inscribed by the printer, of volume four of the legendary series of collected folk tales of Greenland, printed on the first real press to operate there and illustrated with remarkable woodcuts prepared by a native Greenland artist, which must rank among the rarest and most extraordinary exotic imprints. This copy was presented to one N.O. Holst by the printer, native Greenland Inuit Lars Møller, and is inscribed on the titlepage.

Although ephemeral pieces had been printed on a small hand press in Greenland as early as 1793, the first real press was brought there in 1857 by the enthusiastic Danish Crown Inspector for Southern Greenland, Hinrich Rink. Rink began his career as an administrator based at the Moravian mission at Godthaab, on the southwest coast of Greenland. He used the press to produce both official notices and literary works. Rink was determined to collect legends and folk tales of Greenland natives and publish them, an ambition achieved in four volumes, published over a five-year span. This is the fourth and final volume in the series. All of the letterpress was printed in a small, unheated workshop next to Rink’s house, mostly executed by Lars Møller.

Rink collected oral tales from throughout Greenland, although mainly in the southern area he administered. The remarkable oral tradition of the Eskimo, polluted by few outside influences, stretched back to the early Middle Ages. Many of the stories, especially in the first volume, describe the clashes between the Norse and the Eskimo. Rink recognized that some of the tales existed in the realm of pure myth, but that others represented recollections, passed from one generation to the next, of events of many centuries earlier. In the preface to the third volume Rink sets out his theories on the tales, laying the foundation for scholarship on the Greenland Eskimo. All of the text is given in both Kalaallisut (West Greenlandic) and Danish.

The most amazing aspect of these books are the illustrations, which varied in number from set to set. In the first two volumes these were supplied by an Eskimo named Aron of Kangeq, a sealer and walrus hunter who lived at the Moravian mission at the small trading station of Kangeq. The creators of the illustrations in this fourth volume is unknown, but Oldendow notes that they are lithographs produced by Møller after woodcuts by native Greenlanders, and they continue the theme of showing scenes of Greenlandic native life and legends.

Rink’s volumes were produced in small editions and issued separately over several years; as well, the attrition of the Greenland climate could not have aided their survival. Today they are of the greatest rarity. An imprint and ethnographic document of stellar importance.

An American Soldier in Cuba, in Words and Pictures

43. [Spanish-American War Photographica]: Lansing, Horace C., 2nd Lieut. [PROFUSELY ANNOTATED VERNACULAR PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM KEPT BY 2nd LIEUTENANT HORACE C. LANSING, DOCUMENTING THE AMERICAN MILITARY OCCUPATION OF CUBA JUST AFTER THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR]. [Mostly Pinar del Rio, Cuba; but also Montauk Point, N.Y.; Huntsville, Al.; Savannah, Ga.; Havana and Viñales, Cuba, 1898-1899], [69]pp., including 113 sepia-toned photographs with substantial handwritten annotations, photographs ranging from 2¼ x 3¼ inches to 4¾ x 6¼ inches, plus two additional photographs and a few ephemeral items laid in. Contemporary tan buckram, corners covered in calf. Moderate wear to extremities. Hinges reinforced, a few leaves tender or with closed tears, a handful of photographs faded, two photographs defaced. Withal, in very good condition.


According to a handwritten personal military service record written by Lansing himself that opens the present album, after his enlistment at Camp Bushnell in Columbus in April 1898, Lansing trained on Long Island, in Huntsville, and in Savannah before sailing to Cuba. He served in Cuba from December 1898 to April 1899, landing in Havana before transferring to Pinar del Rio, where he spent the lion’s share of his time. He concluded his service in Viñales. All of these activities are recorded in the present album. A caption on the verso of one of the laid-in photos, and the clipping of Lansing’s obituary included here, note that he was the youngest commissioned army officer who served in Cuba during the Spanish-American War.

The album opens with training at Montauk Point on Long Island, showing cavalry drills, a picket line, and a shot of a “reception given [by] Pres. McKinley.” About a dozen pictures record Lansing’s time in Alabama, namely their camp, a shot of soldiers “waiting for mess,” a logging camp, the headquarters of General Wheeler, and various Huntsville buildings. There are also a few views from the dock at Savannah, and shipboard pictures of some of the 1,500 soldiers bathing nude on their way to Havana before Lansing and his unit arrived in Cuba.

The remainder of the album captures Lansing’s time in Cuba. The photographs emanate from Havana, Pinar del Rio, and Viñales, and are profusely annotated at times. The album contains two broad views of Havana harbor showing the wreck of the U.S.S. Maine, the sinking of which drew the United States into the Spanish-American War, and a close-up view of the mast of the Maine rising above the water with its rigging intact. After leaving Havana, the first of the Signal Corps’ troops landed at Pinar del Rio on December 12, 1898. Lansing’s pictures show the streets of Pinar del Rio, scenes outside the church after services, a “Coffee House” in the town, a regiment of Cuban soldiers, the Hotel Ricardo, the Signal Corps camp, exterior and interior views of the telegraph office, and the stringing
of telephone wires. Other photos show the military prison, “A ruined Spanish fort,” a railway station, “A Spanish block-house,” a Pinar del Rio “Native,” the Signal Corps headquarters, scenes from a “sham battle,” the captured Spanish Army barracks, the “Governors Palace,” the officers’ mess tent, and Lansing’s own tent, captioned “Our Home.” A couple of large photos from Pinar del Rio show dense crowds celebrating the official transfer of the city to U.S. control on January 1, 1899. An elevated view of the town of Pinar del Rio taken “from top of Spanish Barracks” is dated February 1899.

Lansing also occasionally photographed the “Cuban scenery” and countryside he encountered, including a shot of the “Entrance to Cuban Tobacco plantation On the Kings Highway” outside Pinar del Rio. He also pictures a pack mule train “carrying tobacco from [the] plantation to town and a Cuban tobacco farm including the “Building where tobacco is put to dry.”

Lansing is himself pictured and identified in several photographs. General George W. Davis and his staff appear here as well, including Lansing, who evidently joined Davis’ staff for a brief time. He also includes several photographs of a Cuban academic he befriended named Maximo Abaunza, Director and Professor of Natural History and Agriculture at the Instituto de Segunda Ensenanza de Pinar del Rio. The photos also show Abaunza’s family. One particular image in Pinar del Rio depicts a baseball game played before a large crowd, captioned “Two strikes.” The last two images in the album show the “Picturesque mountains north of Viñales, Cuba” and an “Immense cave” close to the city. Lansing traveled from Viñales to Havana, where he departed on April 20. He arrived in New York on April 27, and was back in Chillicothe, Ohio on May 13, 1899. He spent the latter years of his life in California, evidenced by the ephemera laid in here, which also includes his 1945 Sons of the American Revolution membership card.

A substantial and engrossing personal record of a young Ohio soldier’s service during the American occupation of Cuba after the Spanish-American War, with numerous scenes in rural western Cuba. $4250.
A German’s Immigrant’s Novel Set in South Texas:

“In no other work in German literature and perhaps in no other literature, has the prairie been portrayed with more skill than in this work” – Graff

44. [Strubberg, Friedrich Armand]: AMERIKANISCHE JAGD-UND REISEABENTEUER AUS MEINEM LEBEN IN DEN WESTLICHER INDIANERGEBIETEN. Stuttgart und Augsburg: J.G. Cotta’scher Verlag, 1858. vi,460pp. plus twenty-four plates. Publisher’s green pebbled cloth, gilt spine titles and rules, blind-stamped borders on both boards, all edges marbled. Mild shelf wear. Moderate scattered foxing. Very good.

An authentic account of the early German experience in Texas, written by Friedrich Armand Strubberg, who was the director of the German settlement of Fredericksburg from 1846-47. Strubberg (1806-89) was a prolific author who wrote many novels set in German Texas, including Friedrichburg, die Colonie des Deutschen Fürsten-Vereins in Texas. After his leadership of the Adelsverein in Fredericksburg went sour, Strubberg participated in the Mexican-American War then moved to Arkansas, where he served as a doctor near Camden. In 1854, he suffered a damaging insect sting to the eye and had to return to Europe for treatment. He returned to Germany, and settled down to become an author. The present work is his first novel, set on the Leona River in far south Texas, in which Strubberg revisits some of his formative experiences in the Lone Star State.

“The scene is laid on the Leona, a tributary of the Rio Grande. The author describes in great minuteness several years of his life there. In no other work in German literature and perhaps in no other literature, has the prairie been portrayed with more skill than in this work. It was translated into English (although Strubberg is not credited with its authorship) and published in 1864 under the title of The Backwoodsman; Or, Life on the Indian Frontier...” – Graff.

“Florid narrative, possibly based on actual experiences in the Rio Grande region” – Howes. The twenty-four plates in the work capture the majesty of the landscape and the ruggedness of the American West, with numerous scenes of Native Americans, action scenes of cowboys on horseback fighting, hunting, or killing various animals (including bears and an alligator), and scenes of cattle and buffalo rustling.

A captivating work relating to the early German experience in Texas from a man who was there.

“...the most popular of all Indian captivities” – Vail

45. Williamson, Peter: FRENCH AND INDIAN CRUELTY; EXEMPLIFIED IN THE LIFE AND VARIOUS VICISSITUDES OF FORTUNE, OF PETER WILLIAMSON, CONTAINING, A PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF THE MANNERS, CUSTOMS, AND DRESS, OF THE SAVAGES...A SUMMARY OF THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE SEVERAL PROVINCES OF PENNSYLVANIA, NEW-YORK, NEW-ENGLAND...FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE WAR IN THESE PARTS; PARTICULARLY, THOSE RELATIVE TO THE INTENDED ATTACK ON CROWN POINT AND NIAGARA.... Glasgow: J. Bryce and D. Paterson, 1758. iv,112pp. Early half calf and marbled boards, black morocco gilt label. Boards rubbed, corners bumped, spine ends worn. Two armorial bookplates on front pastedown (see below), annotations on front pastedown and front free endpaper. Small wormholes at gutter of top and bottom of textblock running the length of the volume (just touching one letter of the title, otherwise no text affected), and a small bit of worming to the outside margin of a few middle leaves (no text affected), internally quite clean. About very good. In half blue morocco slipcase and chemise, spine gilt.

The self-styled “third edition, with considerable improvements,” issued the year after the superlatively rare first, of what Vail calls “the most popular of all Indian captivities.” Peter Williamson was born in Scotland, but was kidnapped and sold into bondage in Pennsylvania when he was eight years old. His master proved kind and ultimately became his benefactor, leaving Williamson enough money to marry and establish himself on a farm near the forks of the Delaware. In 1754 he was captured by Indians, probably Delaware, held captive for three months, and submitted to various tortures and humiliations. Escaping in January 1755, he joined the army and was first sent to Boston, and then with the expedition to defend Oswego. When Oswego was captured by the French, he was wounded and taken prisoner. Ultimately he was paroled and sent to England, arriving in November 1756.

An early owner of this copy, William Lee Antonie (1764-1815), was an active member of Whig society, and a reluctant Member of Parliament for Great Marlow in Buckinghamshire. He inherited estates at Totteridge Park and Colworth House, though lived chiefly at Colworth. This copy bears both Lee Antonie’s bookplates and an inscription from the Totteridge Park library.

Williamson’s narrative is vivid and detailed, deserving of the interest and editions it evoked. It served as a model for many later narratives, and numerous fictional treatments stole details from it. One of the earliest obtainable editions, the first existing in only a few copies.

THE CASE
OF
John Wilmore
Truly and Impartially Related:
OR, A
Looking-Glass
FOR ALL
Merchants and Planters
That are Concerned in the
American Plantations.

LONDON,
Printed for Edw. Powell at the White Swan in
Little Brittain, M D C L XXXII.

John Wilmer, John: THE CASE OF JOHN WILMORE TRULY AND IMPAR-
TIONALLY RELATED: OR, A LOOKING GLASS FOR ALL MERCHANTS
AND PLANTERS THAT ARE CONCERNED IN THE AMERICAN PLAN-
paper spine and blue paper boards, manuscript title on spine. Moderate wear to
boards, corners bumped, spine ends chipped. Minor foxing and tanning throughout.
A few pages with small chips (no text affected). Very good overall.

John Wilmer was a London merchant engaged in the West India trade, and
the owner of a plantation in Jamaica. According to his testimony, he shipped
a boy named Richard Civiter out to Jamaica at the request of the young man,
who asserted he had no parents or family. Two years later the parents appeared
and demanded damages, hauling Wilmer into a lawsuit that he claims was just a
scheme to profit from his good will. The text contains much incidental informa-
tion about the West India sugar trade and the state of labor in the colonies and
in England, and provides a fascinating slice of Restoration life. Wilmer argues
that indenturing English boys into trade in the American plantations offers a real
opportunity for them to become planters in their own right. He argues that his
willingness to take on a white apprentice was evidence of his good intentions,
noting that African labor is much more cost effective than white labor. Wilmer
asserts that African laborers cost less, work more and are more productive than
Englishmen, and that the only reason that whites are ever employed in Jamaica
is the government regulation demanding the employment of one white for every
ten black servants, for the security of the island.

Wilmer’s self-defense gives a one-sided picture, of course, and it is hard to trust
a man who spells his name one way on the title and another at the end of the
text (we follow Wing in using the latter). This book is uncommon at auction
and on the market.

WING W2883. SABIN 104573. ESTC R12073. $4500.