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Abbreviations

A.L.S.
Autograph Letter Signed
[written and signed by the person described].

L.S. [T.L.S.]
Letter Signed
[signed by the person described, but the text or body written by another or typewritten]

D.S.
Document Signed

A.Q.S.
Autograph Quotation Signed

A.N.S.
Autograph Note Signed

Measurements

Vertical measurement given first.

4to
Quarto [approximately 11x8½ inches]

8vo
Octavo [approximately 8x5 inches]

vn.d.
No date

n.p.
No place

n.y.
No year
ABBOTT, BERENICE

(1898–1991) American photographer best known for her black and white images of artists, writers, and New York City.

Original Photograph Signed by Abbott on verso, 8 x 10, of Sylvia Beach in her long dark trench coat seated three-quarter length, 1927.

Abbott’s subjects were people in the artistic and literary worlds during her time in Paris, including this well known image of Beach. Our original photograph bears the photographer’s stamp and pencil signature on verso, “Berenice Abbott.” Sylvia Beach (1887–1962), born Nancy Woodbridge Beach, was an American bookseller and publisher who lived most of her life in Paris, where she was a leading expatriate figure between World Wars I and II. She founded the iconic English language bookshop in Paris, Shakespeare and Company, which she permanently closed in 1941 during the German occupation. She and her bookstore gained considerable attention after publishing James Joyce’s “Ulysses” in 1922. A new bookshop was opened in 1951 in Paris originally called Le Mistral, but renamed Shakespeare and Company in 1964 in honor of the late Sylvia Beach. Abbott closed her Paris studio and returned to the United States in 1929 after a trip to New York City showed the city’s photogenic qualities. Very slight bend in one corner and wear at another corner tip.

ID#4114 $2,500
“DO NOT WRITE IF YOU DO NOT FEEL AN URGE TO DO SO. CONSIDER THE NATURE AROUND YOU AND LOOK INTO YOURSELF”

(1805–1875) Danish author, best known for his fairy tales.

**Autograph Letter Signed, in Danish, two and a half 8vo pages, Copenhagen, January 15, 1870, with signed holograph envelope.**

To twenty year old Frederic Carl Klixbull, assistant to his father, station master, Søncke Sørensen Klixbull. The letter is incorrectly dated according to “The diaries, vol. IX, p. 10 (1871) Monday the 16 January: “Sendt brev og Manuscript til Poeten ved Marslet Station ved Odense” (…sent letter and manuscript to the poet at Marslet Station, Odense…) Andersen writes: “Dear Sir! In the end of November last year I received your first letter with the enclosed poems. At that time I was very busy and I could not comply with your wish to read them. Later at Christmas I read your poems and wanted to write back to you-then I could not find the letter with your name and address! However, I hoped that you would stop by for a visit when you were in Copenhagen or write me a new letter. Yesterday I received another letter from you and now I can return your manuscript of which I had preferred to talk to you about instead of writing. From the few poems you sent me it is impossible to say something about your talent. The 16 lyric poems don’t stand clear and strong to me. To me they seem very inspired from Ingemann’s [Bernhard Severin Ingemann (1789 –1862), Danish novelist and poet] earliest period. I am afraid that I can’t encourage you - however I don’t want to disappoint you. I don’t know your age, and your situation. I want to tell you like I have told more that one young talented poet: “Do not write if you do not feel an urge to do so. Consider the nature around you and look into yourself, and it will create great joy to your life. However, please do not let my remark discourage you. My opinion is and always will be of one man only.” Signed, “Yours truly, H. C. Andersen.” Repairs to horizontal margin folds. Handsomely bound in a burgundy leather and velour binding. The letter is bound opened to reveal both sides with the signed envelope placed on empty space on the lower portion of the final page. The signed envelope is addressed, “For Mr. F. C. Klixbull, Marslev Station, Odense (Denmark),” and signed, “H. C. Andersen.”

Andersen holograph letters are occasionally available, but letters discussing motivation to write in such a clear and articulate manner are rare.

ID#1520   $7500


The document amends an agreement regarding publication of a biography of Blake by Al Rose and Schirmer Books, a division of Macmillan. The first change states that, “The publisher shall copyright the Work in the names of Al Rose and Eubie Blake.” The second change denotes payments of royalties. Blake is the last to sign above his typed name, “Eubie Blake.” Jazz historian, Al Rose signs just above. Schirmer published “Eubie Blake” in November 1979.

With long time collaborator Noble Sissle, Blake wrote the Broadway musical “Shuffle Along” in 1921, one of the first Broadway musicals to be written and directed by African Americans. Blake’s compositions included such hits as, “Bandana Days”, “Charleston Rag”, “Love Will Find A Way”, “Memories of You”, and “I’m Just Wild About Harry”. The musical “Eubie”, which featured the collected works of Eubie Blake, opened on Broadway in 1978.

ID#4115  $225
(1885–1962) Danish Nobel Prize winner in Physics in 1922. He is the main contributor to the understanding of the structure of the atom as well as to the development of quantum mechanics.


This document is a Danish Masters degree examination for qualifying for a teaching position in a secondary school in the math or science faculty. “Practical paper in Physics for stud. mag...Interferometric absorptions of the Cobolt-Curve-Spectre in the ultraviolet area are wanted procured in order to examine the hyperfinestructures of the lines and if possible relate these to those thermo-fissions that are known from the analysis of the visible area. The paper has been posed 1st October 1936. The answer is to be handed in 29th October 1936 at the latest. Bohr signs as the second signature after the October 1 date, “Niels Bohr.” Slight center fold tear below the text. Docketing in another hand on verso on bottom section.

ID#2197  $1950
BUBER, MARTIN

(1878–1965) Austrian-Israeli-Jewish philosopher, translator, and educator, whose work centered on theistic ideals of religious consciousness, interpersonal relations, and community; best known for his I and Thou (1923) and translating the Hebrew Bible into German.

**Autograph Letter Signed, in German, two pages on one 4to sheet, Deir Abou Tor, Jerusalem, November 30, 1946.**

Buber writes to the son of his friend Florens Christian Rang (1864–1924), pastor, lawyer and author, identified as a Christian Socialist and whom Buber considered to be a jurist, philosopher and theologian. In part, “I had already heard about you some time ago through Leopold Max. Marxen’s live as hard-working settlers in Shave Zin near Naharia. Kratz, who published a series of German poems here over the years lives in Jerusalem...he has a position as a minor official. Benjamin ended in suicide after he had crossed the Franco-Spanish border with a number of others and was told that he would have to return (which later turned out to be false) My help with the highly desirable publication of the literary remains of your father is certainly at the disposal of the editors...As soon as you tell me the time has come, I will have the letters in my possession copied and will send you a copy...In all this time, I have hardly published anything in German, though a series of books in Hebrew, recently also a few things in English. Several volumes are being prepared in English...maybe it will be possible to make a small trip to Germany from Switzerland...” He signs in full, “Martin Buber.”

A cultural Zionist, Buber was active in the Jewish and educational communities of Germany and Israel. He was also a staunch supporter of a binational solution in Palestine, instead of a two-state solution. In 1946, the year of this letter, his Paths in Utopia was published.

ID#2179 $850
(1904–87) American mythologist and author, best known for his work in comparative mythology and religion and his widely read books, “The Hero with a Thousand Faces” and “The Power of Myth.”

Autograph Letter Signed, 8 pp on 4 sheets of stationery, the first page bears “Sarah Lawrence College” letterhead, Bronxville, March 11, 1957. With holograph envelope signed on envelope flap.

This letter, to Thomas Yahkub, professor of international relations at Goddard College, presents a form of preliminary course syllabus. While little is available on Prof. Yahkub, the Nashua Telegraph (Nashua, NH) of November 7, 1950 records a lecture given at the Rotary Club on the “Eastern View” by Prof. T. Yakub, a native of India and professor of Sociology and History at Goddard College. It seems probable that this is the same person as Joseph Campbell’s correspondent. Prof. Yahkub asks for a syllabus for Campbell’s course (presumably Comparative Mythology and Religion) at Sarah Lawrence where he taught from 1933–1972. Campbell says he is unable to give an actual syllabus, but can tell him what books he asks his students to read. “I change the reading list every year... but I can perhaps give you an idea... through the following skeletal list.” He then proceeds to give a quite detailed list of required reading. “I commence with Ovid’s Metamorphoses and the Odyssey... These works supply an introduction to the breadth, depth, and main problems of the subject. We turn next to the psychological study... Freud and Jung... Myths and Symbols in Indian Art... The Book of Tea... Old and New Testament.... I ask them to read Greek Tragedies... Arabian Nights & Koran... Grimm's Fairy Tales.... It is quite a jaunt and quite a load; but strong and solid, which actually serves as an introduction to Comparative Mythology and Religion....” According to lists on Amazon.com and Goodreads.com, these are all the books that Campbell required for his courses. A friendly and informative letter which appears to be unpublished.

ID#4093 $1975
DREYFUS, ALFRED

Dreyfus (1859–1935) French army officer made famous in the “Dreyfus Affair” which exposed corruption and anti-Semitism in the French military. Dreyfus was convicted of treason in 1894 and exonerated in 1906.


Letters by Dreyfus referring to his famous legal case rarely become available. In our letter, written two years after he was exonerated, Alfred Dreyfus writes to an unknown recipient about suing the French newspaper, “La Libre Parole,” for refusing to correct statements regarding his innocence. Dreyfus references his trial lawyers, Henri Mornard and Edgar Demange as well as Henri Ditte, President of the Tribunal of First Instance of the Seine, a civil court. Dreyfus begins, “I wrote you yesterday to ask when you would return. Meanwhile, I am sending herewith a draft request [not included] for a trial to do with la Libre parole before the Civil Court. I have made up my mind to take the direction that I had thought of two years ago and on which we had decided. - M. Demange, of course, M. Mornard agree with me. Would you please be kind enough by asking of President Ditte an expiation, the closest possible. Please note that it will be necessary to notify within at least three months, about the actes d'interruptifs de prescription. This precaution is absolutely necessary even though we are going before the Civil Court and not before the Court of Assizes...” He signs, “A. Dreyfus.”

“La Libre Parole,” was a virulently anti-Semitic publication founded in 1892. The day following Dreyfus’s conviction, “La Libre Parole” headlined a call for Jews to leave France, “Out of France, Jews. France for the French!” Dreyfus was ultimately found innocent in 1906, having been framed by fellow officers of the army. “La Libre Parole” refused to correct false statements regarding the Court of Cessation decision of July 12, 1906, fully exonerating Dreyfus. Between Dreyfus’s initial conviction in 1894 and full exoneration in
1906, the officer who actually committed treason by spying for the German government, Major Ferdinand Walsin-Esterhazy, was put on trial twice. Esterhazy's first trial in 1898 resulted in an acquittal. Emile Zola wrote his famous, “J'Accuse” open letter to the French President. Zola's letter, published in the newspaper “L'Aurore,” accused the French government of anti-Semitism, judicial errors and lack of serious evidence in the case against Dreyfus. Zola, himself, was accused of libel and to avoid imprisonment, fled to England. He returned home in June 1899. On June 3, 1899, the Court of Appeals overturned the guilty verdict against Dreyfus, however, despite overwhelming evidence of innocence, a military court again found Dreyfus guilty of the same charge of treason. French president Emile Loubert pardoned Dreyfus on Sept. 19, 1899. Seven years later, in 1906, a military commission finally fully absolved Alfred Dreyfus. “La Libre Parole,” ceased publication in June 1924.

ID#4080 $5,600
EHRLICH, PAUL

(1854–1915) German physician and researcher who won the 1908 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. He is noted for his work in hematology, immunology, and chemotherapy, which term he coined.

**Autograph Letter Signed, in German, 4pp, 8vo, Berlin, March, n.y., but late 1880s.**

Regarding his research, Ehrlich writes to August Bernthsen (1855–1931), German chemist and laboratory chief of the German chemical company, BASF, beginning in 1899. “First, I would like to express my gratitude for the amiable words and the kind offer to continue to support my efforts. I will attempt a methodical response to your letter and, therefore, begin with Lokao, the ‘Chinese Green’ known to commerce, about which a paper was just recently published in the Reports. The crystalline aniline has been produced by Cassella [a manufacturer of dyestuffs who supplied material for Ehrlich’s work on chemotherapy], and by way of using Schaffer’s acid [a crystalline naphtholsulfonic acid used as an intermediate dye]...producing an isotope of naphthosulfonic acid. The [?] methyl violet was produced by Metke and published in the Safranin [a biological stain] paper and is distinguished by its beautiful fluorescence of the alcoholic solution and its prompt decay when exposed to light. Brieger doesn’t have any Indole or Skatole [crystalline compounds found in intestines and feces left by decomposed proteins], since he has given the remainder to Koch. However, I believe to be able to procure Indolepikrat from another friend of mine, which I will promptly send to you. As far as my own desires are concerned, I would primarily ask for Isothianin [?] and Imido Thiophenyl and would be content and grateful for even the smallest remaining scraps and traces. I really do not need the investigation of Thianolin and would humbly ask you to send me, perhaps, a small sample (3–4 grams) of the Badenese product [i.e., originating from Baden, probably a reference to the location of BASF]. I myself am in active correspondence with the Ludwigshafen house and would be able to procure any desired amount of the hydrochloride, if any has been produced there. At home, things couldn’t be better - thank God ----” He signs, “P. Ehrlich.”

Ehrlich refers to the “Chinese Green,” presumably malachite green, used for biological staining for microscopic analysis of cells and tissues. He also refers to colleague Robert Koch (1843–1910), considered the founder of modern bacteriology and known for identifying the causative agents of tuberculosis, cholera, and anthrax. Koch received the Nobel Prize for physiology and medicine in 1905.
Ehrlich also refers to Ludwig Brieger (1849–1919) who was the chair of therapeutics at the University of Berlin. He discovered the organic compound Skatole in 1877, expanded knowledge of hydrotherapy, and was an associate of Ehrlich's at the Institute of Infectious Diseases. The Ludwigshafen house mentioned in our letter presumably refers to the BASF Chemical Company which supplied Ehrlich with many of the chemicals he needed for his research.

Ehrlich studied microorganisms through the use of dyes made form aniline compounds. After earning a medical degree, he accepted a post at a Berlin clinic where his interest in pathology grew. According to the Dictionary of Scientific Biography, during this time, he, “gained lasting insights into diagnostic and therapeutic problems. His reports on the morphology, physiology and pathology of the blood cells advanced hematology by establishing methods of detecting and differentiating leukemias and anemias. Further, the observations that basic, acidic and neutral dyes reacted specifically with such cellular components...implanted in Ehrlich's mind the fundamental concept underlying his future work: that chemical affinities govern all biological processes.” In the mid-1880s, Ehrlich discovered that certain tissues such as nerve endings were especially receptive to the stain of methylene blue. This was the beginning of Ehrlich's pioneering experiments in chemotherapy - the treatment of medical conditions with the application of chemicals.

ID#4108  $7,200

Autograph Letter Signed on a picture post card, unreadable post mark date, showing a photograph of Beacon Island Hotel on Plettenberg Bay, South Africa, ca 1954.

He writes, “I am sorry there is no one to sign this but me. Also hope your loyalty [illegible] to the Conf. Clerk to give Ina Claire a hand. I’m interested to learn what her Paris dresses were like. We’re sea bathing but you have to avoid sharks.” He signs with initials, “TSE.”

Ina Claire (1893–1985) was an American actress whose last stage appearance was as Lady Elizabeth Mulhammer in T. S. Eliot’s play, “The Confidential Clerk” (1954). She was known for her comedic performances. According to a story in Life Magazine, Feb. 1, 1954, Eliot did not attend the opening night of his play because he was vacationing in South Africa as our letter supports.

ID#4017  $1,700
FIELDS, W. C.

(1880–1946) Born as William Claude Dukenfield, American comedian, actor, juggler and writer remembered for the misanthropic, alcoholic characters he played; one of the most influential comics of the twentieth century.

Photograph Signed, soft sepia toned, publicity still, 8 x 10, from the film, “The Old Fashioned Way” (1934).

Fields is shown full length in costume as a vaudevillian, on stage, holding a top hat and sporting a large comical flower on his lapel. To the right of his image, he writes, “To my friend...with happy memories of a town in South Africa and elsewhere, Best Wishes, W. C. Fields.” Film credits are included on the lower white margin, “W. C. Fields in ‘The Old Fashioned Way’” with Baby Leroy...A Paramount Picture.”

ID#4090       $975
(1843–1907) Norwegian composer and pianist. He is best known for his Piano Concerto in A minor, incidental music Peer Gynt, and for his Lyric Pieces for piano.

Signed Elliott and Fry Cabinet Photograph, docketed 1899 on verso.

The photograph by Elliott and Fry, London, shows the famed composer, half length, in coat, suit and bow tie. He has signed on the lower margin, just below his printed name, “Edvard Grieg” One small repair at upper margin, usual background foxing. The Elliott and Fry emblem, address and copyright notice are printed on verso along with docketing which includes the name (?) Thane and the date.

ID#2302 $2,900
KOCH, ROBERT

(1843–1910) German physician and biologist considered the founder of the field of bacteriology; awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1905 for his work on tuberculosis and recognized for isolating the anthrax bacillus in 1877 as well as for work on cholera and malaria.

**Autograph Letter Signed, in German on a government postcard, Kimberly, South Africa, March 22, 1897.**

Koch went to South Africa to assist in fighting the spread of rinderpest which had ravaged cattle stocks across Africa in the 1890s. He stayed for 3 months between 1896–7, at Kimberley, Cape Colony. Koch had concluded his work on cattle plague and left Kimberley on the day he wrote our letter. He writes to the Director of the Royal Health Authority Councilor Kohler in Berlin. In full, “I was lucky to get last minute tickets for passage on the German East Africa line’s “Admiral,” and I will depart from Durban on March 28. I will take the liberty to send you cards along the way from each of the countries we have to pass, in accordance with your request. Unfortunately, they do not have picture postcards yet, culture has not reached them yet…” Signed, “R. Koch.” Slight water staining on right margin text but words remain easily readable.

The rinderpest epidemic seriously affected the Transvaal and Northern Cape particularly, bringing socioeconomic disaster to President Kruger’s Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek. The disease, attributed to imported cattle, was highly contagious, but Koch found that an inoculation of bile from an infected animal safeguarded the rest of the herd. Koch propounded the theory that “one germ causes one disease—every disease has its specific germ.” Although he could not isolate the specific pathogen, he developed an effective vaccine against rinderpest in February 1897 and stemmed the spread of the cattle plague. It reappeared about a century later. Koch received the Nobel Prize for his work in 1905.

ID#2482  $3,850
(1876–1916) American author whose most famous novel is Call of the Wild.

**Important Autograph Letter Signed, 2 pp on separate 4to sheets of lined paper stamped with name, address and date, [Glen Ellen] Sonoma Co., June 20, 1910.**

To the noted bibliographer and book collector, author of “High Spots in American Literature” (1929), Merle Johnson. Jack London writes about his yet to be published work, “The Scarlet Plague.” This work, a novella first published in “London Magazine” in 1912 and in book form in 1915, is a post-apocalyptic tale. London addresses his correspondent as “Mr. Johnson” and writes in response to Johnson’s recent letter. “I’ve got a twenty-thousand word yarn, just finished... a pseudo-scientific story dealing with the things that happened in the twenty-first century when a new micro-organic enemy smote mankind and left only several survivors.” He asks if Mr. Johnson would have a read. “Will you care to glance at it?” He announces the birth of his daughter, “Have just had a visit from the stork – a girl.” Unfortunately, this child died 38 hours after she was born. Written in his large hand and fully signed, “Jack London.” This letter is not in his collected letters edited by Hendricks and Shepard. Unpublished according to our research.

A review of London’s story from the perspective of the US Center’s for Disease Control sees the work as the first foray in modern literature into catastrophic pandemics. The story set America, takes place in 2073, sixty years after the Red Death nearly destroyed the world in 2013. The public fear of widespread death from uncontrollable disease almost seems prescient, particularly in light of the influenza pandemic of 1918–19, as do the class disparities presented in his dystopian future.

**ID#4071  $5,200**
MILLER, KENNETH HAYES

(1876–1952) American painter and influential art teacher.

Autograph Letter Signed, to artist Walt Kuhn, 4to, New York, March 10, n.y. but likely 1914.

Commenting on Kuhn’s participation in an exhibition at the Montross Gallery in New York, Miller writes: “My dear Kuhn: I have enjoyed — and admired — your stuff in the current Montross show so much I can’t resist the impulse to tell you of it. It is important work I am sure, and adds a note to the exhibition that is robust, interesting and tonic. Altogether, your stuff is indispensable to that show.” Signed, “Kenneth Hayes Miller.” Artist to artist letters hold a particular interest for us.

Miller exhibited four works in the historic 1913 Armory Show focused on Modern Art where Kuhn also exhibited.

ID#262  $375
Popular and influential singing quartet. The original members of the singing group were: John C. Jr. [replaced by the father of the group John “Skipper” in 1936 after John Jr. died] bass vocalist and guitarist, Herbert tenor, Harry Flood baritone, and Donald lead tenor.

Signed Photograph, 7.5x9 trimmed margin, gelatin silver print.

The publicity photograph shows the singers posed in a group, looking at the camera, and each with a slight smile. An inscription in the upper left reads, “To...Our most sincere wishes to you always Good Luck. Respectfully, Mills Bros.” Each has signed with first name on his image. The signatures of Larry, Herbert and “Skipper” are light. The photographer's stamp on verso reads, “Rose Joseph Publicity Warner Bros. Sunset Studio...Hollywood, California...”

The Mills Brothers, sometimes billed as The Four Mills Brothers, and originally known as The Four Kings of Harmony, were an American jazz and pop vocal quartet who made more than 2,000 recordings that combined sold more than 50 million copies and garnered at least three dozen gold records. The Mills Brothers were inducted into The Vocal Group Hall of Fame in 1998. Duke Ellington discovered the group in 1928 in Cincinnati and launched them on their long career.

ID#4113   $400
Our Document is a signed copy of the “Assignment of Copyright,” indicating that “Thelonius S. Monk does hereby transfer, set over and assign unto Village Music Corp. Executive’s Capital Planning...all of its right, title and interest in and to the musical composition titled, ‘MONK’S DREAM’...” Crossed out with typed x’s are, “words and.” The text continues, “music by THELONIUS MONK....” The document's signed in red ink, “T. Monk,” as well as by “Evelyn Sue Taylor. E.C.P.” The final typed line indicates the, “original entry filed under Riverside Publishing.” A blind embossed stamp in the lower right corner reads, “Executive Capital Planning,” and left a slight punch hole tear to the side of the stamp. “Monk’s Dream” is the first album Monk released on Columbia Records in 1963 and recorded Oct. 31, Nov. 1, 2 & 6, 1962.

Widely considered one of the foremost jazz musicians, Monk had a unique improvisational style and made numerous contributions to the standard jazz repertoire, including his classic works “Round Midnight” and “Blue Monk.” He is often regarded as a founder of bebop. In 1952, Monk signed a recording contract with Prestige Records and recorded “Smoke Gets In Your Eyes” as well as “Bags’ Groove” with Miles Davis in 1954. Prestige sold his contract to Riverside Records in 1955, where Monk tried to expand the appeal of his first two recordings. Although this effort was poorly received by critics, his 1956 album, “Brilliant Corners,” garnered wide acclaim. The following year, the Thelonious Monk Quartet, which included John Coltrane, began performing regularly at the Five Spot in New York, enjoying great success. Monk’s appeal had finally broadened so widely that Columbia Records offered him a contract in 1962. Village Music, referenced here, was owned by Sid Prosen, who was a producer, agent, and music promoter. Our document refers to Monk’s agreement to record with Columbia and ultimately to his musical significance.

ID#4110  $2,875
(1915–2009) Lester William Polsfuss, known as Les Paul was an American guitarist and among the developers of the electric guitar.

**Original Drawing Signed Twice of a guitar, 8vo, n.p., n.d.**

Paul has loosely drawn a guitar, a likely rendition of his Gibson Les Paul model, with his name on the end of the fret board. Below the drawing he has signed, “Have fun Les Paul,” in a bolder hand.

Uncommon.

**ID#4091   $495**
(1885–1945) United States Army general in World War II in campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, France and Germany, 1943–45. In World War I he was a senior commander of the new tank corps and saw action in France. The popular image of “Old Blood and Guts”, contrasts with the historians’ image of a brilliant military leader whose record was marred by insubordination and some periods of apparent instability.

**Autograph Letter Signed, 5 pp one two separate folded 8vo sheets, n.p. (probably Fort Sheridan, IL), October 17, 1910.**

Patton writes a chatty, yet revealing letter to his mother, Ruth Wilson Patton, written just 16 months after he graduated from West Point (on June 11, 1909) where he was commissioned as a second lieutenant of Cavalry and sent to his first post with the 15th Cavalry at Fort Sheridan. Patton’s next post wasn’t until December 1911 when he was transferred to Fort Myer, VA. Patton affectionately addresses the letter, “Dear Mama” and begins by discussing football. “Last night I was too stiff to write as the result of playing football...” He then refers to having been at West Point and saying that if he had played football “as well there as I do now I would have made the team.” Patton, a graduate in the class of 1909, was known to have been “remarkably deficient in spelling – but an outstanding athlete at the Point.” [from Carlo D’Este: Patton: Genius for War, 1995 who also noted that it is likely that Patton had an undiagnosed dyslexia,] Patton continues by mentioning that he made “expert pistol shot” which he says was “easy to do.” In the December 22, 1945 obituary of Patton in the “New York Times,” it is noted that in 1912 he represented the United States at the Olympics, competing in the pentathlon. Contrary to what he tells his mother in this letter, his “poorest showing [in the Olympics was] in the pistol marksmanship competition, but he subsequently practiced until he overcame this weakness.” Regarding his immediate plans, he offers his view on the Army, an interesting perspective coming from a newly commissioned officer. “We are going out to camp for four days on the Cavalry drill ground... [to] comply with Gen. Wood’s newest notion and be inspected in the field....” He expresses his opinion that it is basically a waste of time, proclaiming it “a mere sinecure there is no such thing except in name.” He states, “Our whole military system is a... sort of pretext which a palsied national spirit puts up to hide, its nakedness like blesses did the olive branch [sic].They salve their conscience by saying ‘we have an army’ and put added balsum on it with the equally futile assertion ‘we have a militia’ but they will wake up some day
and I hope it will be sooner than later...” He refers, mostly likely, to Brigadier General Leonard Wood (1860–1927), Chief of Staff of the United States Army, Military Governor of Cuba, and Governor General of the Philippines. He was named Chief of Staff in 1910 by President Taft. He then mentions seeing Dorithy [sic] Wilmot who “is a very nice and pretty girl” and the weather which was warm. He mentioned his “blood hound [which] was too young to ship but I will get him in about a month....” The letter is signed, “With much love your devoted son, George S. Patton, Jr.”

Autograph Letter Signed to Alexis de Tocqueville, 3 pp on one folded 4to sheet, Cambridge, MA, July 5, 1837.

Sparks begins his letter on the third page following a “duplicate” letter he had previously written to de Tocqueville dated June 6 of the same year. He discusses the translation and publication of de Tocqueville’s most famous work, “Democracy in America [“Democratie en Amerique”].” It has been suggested that Sparks and de Tocqueville met in 1828 while Sparks was visiting Paris to do research on American history in the French archives. In 1830, Sparks founded and edited the “American Almanac and Repository of Useful Knowledge,” and from 1834–37, he wrote “The Life and Writings of George Washington,” published in 12 volumes in 1842. “The Writings of Washington” itself was published separately in 1837. Alexis de Tocqueville made his historic visit to America between 1831-1832. Sparks was among those with whom de Tocqueville met on his travels, and their discussions influenced de Tocqueville’s important book. In Sparks letter to de Tocqueville of June 6, 1837, which Sparks had duplicated here in another hand, Sparks discussed the translation and publication of de Tocqueville’s, “Democracy in America.” Sparks says, “I am vexed and mortified that an edition of your ‘Democracy’ has not yet been published in America. [“Democracy in America” was published in France in 1835 & 1840; the English translation was published in 1838 & 1840]. The causes might be explained... the work came out just at the time of the unfortunate ‘Indemnity Controversy’, and then General Jackson’s war spirit began to stir up... hostile feelings toward France... Parts of your work most objectionable to American readers... remarks on the defects of Democratic institutions...” In the current letter of July 5, Sparks explains. “My Dear Sir, The preceding letter is a duplicate of one which I wrote to you a month ago [June 6 1837]. Since that time I have applied to the American Stationers’ Company (a publishing house in Boston) respecting the publication of your new work [second part of “Democracy in America,” reference below.] They agree to procure a translation, well executed, and to publish it, in case you do not have another translation printed in England. The reason of this condition is that a separate edition of the translation published in England may be re-inforced, and thus ensure the sale...”
a separate translation published in England may be reprinted here and thus injure the sale of the American translation.” He requests that de Tocqueville, “not have the same printed in England. The sheets can be sent to London as they come from the press...the copyright of the translation will be received in the United States. If you approve this arrangement, you will please to give me due notice. Your ‘Democratie’, which was advertised as soon to be put to press in New York, has not appeared....” Sparks explained the reasons in his June 6 letter. Sparks continues, “Should it not be published in New York and should the American Stationers’ Company publish the Second Part, it is possible that they may also publish the ‘Democratie’ in a uniform style....” Sparks concluded with details on how de Tocqueville should send the manuscript. Signed, “Truly your friend, Jared Sparks.” On the lower left across from his signature, Sparks identifies his correspondent as, “Mons. Alexis de Tocqueville.” The American Stationers’ Company published Sparks “George Washington: The Writings of Washington” in 1837.
SULLY, THOMAS

(1783–1872) English-born American painter. Studied with both Gilbert Stuart and Benjamin West. One of the leading portrait painters of his day, whose subjects ranged from political portraits and military heroes to landscapes and particularly beautiful portraits of women according to the magazine, “Godey’s Lady’s Book” in 1844.


To Miss Blake. “You have made the old man proud of the excellent Valentine you have sent him. It is the only one I have received during a long life - judge then how precious it is!” Sully then asks his correspondent, “Why do you not cultivate the excellent talent for drawing.” Signed, “Thos. Sully.” Tape repair on verso along center margin.

ID#606      $350
WOOLF, VIRGINIA STEPHEN

(1882–1941) English novelist and essayist, regarded as one of the foremost modernist literary figures of the twentieth century and a member of the Bloomsbury Group. Her most famous works include “Mrs. Dalloway” (1925), “To the Lighthouse” (1927), “Orlando” (1928), and the book-length essay “A Room of One’s Own” (1929).


Virginia Stephen Woolf composes a letter to her future brother-in-law, Clive Bell, (1881-1964) English art critic and writer, who would marry her sister, the painter Vanessa Stephen Bell (1879–1961). “I find that it would suit Vanessa better if you could come at 2 tomorrow instead of 5. Could you lunch here first at 1:30. Adrian will be in. Thoby seems really better tonight. His temp. is only 100 pt. 8 & though he has some pain it is less...The Dr. says he may see a friend for 2 minutes tomorrow, & I hope Mr. Sydney Turner may be able to come...” She signs in full, “Virginia Stephen.” Her brother, Thoby Stephen, was suffering from typhoid fever, which he contracted in Greece and is the illness to which his sister refers. After the optimistic report presented here, Thoby died on Nov. 20, 1906. His death prompted one of the bouts of depression which ultimately caused Virginia's suicide in 1941. After Thoby's death, Vanessa Stephen suffered a serious depression as well and the following year agreed to marry Clive Bell, the recipient of our letter. The friend to which Virginia Stephen refers is Saxon Sydney-Turner (1880–1962), who was a civil servant in the Treasury Dept. Leonard Woolf, Virginia's future husband, described Sydney-Turner's mind as, “extraordinary supple and enigmatic.”

Our letter references significant events that would shape Virginia Woolf's future as well as that of the Stephen siblings. The letter was written in the formative period of the Bloomsbury Group as well. After the death of their illustrious literary father, Leslie Stephen in 1904, Vanessa, Virginia, Thoby and Adrian Stephen established a household in the Bloomsbury section of London. Thoby had started “Thursday evenings” for his Cambridge University friends to visit and talk, and his siblings continued this arrangement after his death. After Vanessa's marriage, Virginia and Adrian moved to 29 Fitzroy Square as did their Bloomsbury circle of writers, artists, and intellectuals. The letter is also written at the start of Virginia Woolf's renowned literary career. In 1905, she began writing literary reviews
for the “Times Literary Supplement” which she continued for many years. About 1908, she began writing her first novel, “The Voyage Out” finished by 1913 and published in 1915 by Duckworth & Co. An early letter with significant family and literary context.

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