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Featuring items for the 59th Annual New York International Antiquarian Book Fair

Thursday, March 7 – Sunday, March 10
Park Avenue Armory
Park Avenue between 66th and 67th Streets
New York, NY
The typewriting. I hate it, for I have a respect for print, born of a long career of effort to print well; and this cramped, unspaced, botched of lettering is nauseatingly ill. But the job I have in the R.A. is now a semi-lexical one, and part of it has to be done on a typewriter. So I try to embrace private and public demands, by making my literal typing lesson work off some of my equally-exaggerated letters. Letter-writing in a hurly; which is a good thing to tell a man to whom one is writing, but you'll guess how it is. If we were only in the same warm, I'd walk across 300 miles on my bike, to save spell a postcard.

However, I won't, so I make the best of a bad job. It is very good of you to take my musing in about Zemke so perfectly. If I knew you were so underprivileged a writer I'd never have had the cheek to write down my primitive ideas about the book. By the way and passion of the text I'd assumed you were a beginner, half in love with his first effort and probably now heart-broken of its failure to come anywhere near the perfection dreamed of. I'll never forget the anguish with which I read my seven millers in 1929, after forgetting it for two years. It was so incredibly unlike what I'd thought of talents (of which I'd had too good an opinion) would bring forth, that I then and there swore I'd never try again. If there's been any redeeming feature, it's the whole thing was undecipherable.

Back to Zemke: the worst thing about the mass-production of introspective is that it's the most of their blooming selves. As you say, I'm glad to say, by the length and exhaust of my remarks, the book did move me, and justify me profoundly. It was the real stuff. I shouldn't, if I were you, attempt to re-do it, the non-successes are fairly strict, of real people, or are altogether the soul of these things come and grow; it's like sculpture, the blacksmiths of the Venus de Milo is the main virtue of that sentimental but very lovely work. I like best of all the books in which fallible men have burst themselves trying to be better than they can be. Take, to anyone who's tried to write, a technical delight, all the more for being imperfect, here and there. If you write it out again, and make a rounded and glorious thing of it, reader, you'll rob us of the object lesson, and lose us of what might have been a new and very lovely book, on another subject.

Now, confusion. In the R.A. we live in a commune which is voluntary and real. So as soon as the old stag arrived he didn't care. I haven't an idea who has him, out of the seven hundred fellows of us in camp. We will instilly make, either for a day or for a week; nothing ever goes wholly wrong, not as anything would. They are like tomson on a desert island, looking to take all they see on the shelves of all the ships, but a few to taste. Without a guide to tell them what's what. Being almost back-blind, themselves, you inside are welcome. So they assume that all my books are cabbages. I suffer once in a while, as may, but generally I'm delighted that they should find none of use. I like these fellows enormously. We are ready the same kind of creature - a great would be if I'd had a natural life, and not a sort of extravagant experience - the nearer I can creep back towards that the safer I feel. They give one a root in the ground.

Your philosophy interests me. I haven't got so far myself; being so English as I am gives me a distrust for systems of any kind, and I don't believe I could think out anything worth while. When I try to think, it lasts about five minutes, and then digresses along some pathway of dream, and if I try to write out on any subject, I think to myself, I'd like to see them, but not to you for them. It would take the back of making them well and good. They will be by themselves and not to death by all the silly changes, and concluded correctly in half a dozen words, and I'll do them less than justice, for the writing has just been done where I live and die, on my bed in a hurry. Your common life is not fit for a man to live, and the common life is not the way to make the life.
DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN

Doyle expresses anger over a Sherlock Holmes play in this exceptional Autograph Letter Signed, on one page of printed address stationery, South Norwood, June 3, 1894. He considers taking “action” over the unauthorized production and possible use of his name.

▶ View Online: Item #4440

HOUDINI, HARRY
(1874–1926). Hungarian American magician.

Revealing correspondence between Houdini and mentalist Julius Zancig about mind reading, with illustration: 1- Zancig Typed Letter unsigned, to Houdini on “Zancig Studio” stationery explaining the mind reading trick “How to Thought Picture”; with envelope addressed to Houdini, postmarked Asbury Park, NJ., August 8, 1925. Zancig wrote “Private” on verso of this letter. 2- Written on behalf of Houdini, possibly by secretary Julie Sawyer, a holograph letter signed for him to mentalist Julius Zancig, in pencil, three separate 4to pages, August 17, 1925; Julie Sawyer was the niece of Houdini’s wife Bess. 3- Typed Letter unsigned, 2 pp, to Zancig with a hexagram diagram Houdini likely drew, in ink, Aug. 21, 1925.

▶ View Online: Item #1557

LAWRENCE, T.E.
aka LAWRENCE of ARABIA [T. E. Shaw]

Leader of the Arab revolt against the Ottoman Empire (1917–18) described in his "The Seven Pillars of Wisdom" (1926).

First Letter in the T. E. Lawrence and Henry Williamson correspondence, Typed and Holograph, Signed, two sides on one large folio sheet, [Karachi], April 2, 1928. Published. Lawrence critiques Williamson’s writing and refers to his own writing of “The Seven Pillars of Wisdom.”

▶ View Online: Item #4614
Item #4620. Jean Negulesco pastel drawing
NEGULESCO, JEAN  

Vibrant pastel drawing, Signed, sketched in Mexico [1936] of a barefoot male figure carrying a full basket perhaps of fruit. Rendered early in his film making career.

► View Online: Item #4620

PATCHEN, KENNETH  


► View Online: Item #4609

ROBESON, PAUL  

Photograph signed, ca 1933, “Paul Robeson.” Bust length, sepia toned, post card size, docketed on verso “5th October 1933

► View Online: Item #4618

STEINBECK, JOHN  

In a lengthy five page illustrated holograph letter Steinbeck explains in great detail his ideas for redesigned Land Rover including air pollution control and safer seats. Sag Harbor, June 30, 1965. Signed "J.S."

► View Online: Item #4333

TESLA, NIKOLA  
(1856–1943). Serbian born American electrical and mechanical engineer, prolific inventor, developed alternating current (AC) for commercial electricity.

Tesla writes to Bernard A. Behrend (1875–1932), electrical engineer about an “order for the 220 volt motor.” Rare Typed Letter Signed on illustrated “Tesla Laboratory, Long Island, N.Y.” stationery, October 9, 1908.

► View Online: Item #4460

WELLES, ORSON  
(1915–85). American director, writer, actor, and producer for film, stage, radio, and television.


► View Online: Item #4615

WELLS, H.G  
(1866–1946). English author known for his science fiction novels.

Wells draws a captioned comical sketch of a figure shooting an oversized elephant gun at an aeronaut in a bi-plane. Written to aeronautical engineer J. W. Dunne who designed similar planes. Illustrated Autograph Letter Signed, on blind embossed personalized stationery, Sandgate, April 6, 1904.

► View Online: Item #4355

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Thursday pm

Dear [Name],

Looks like we close at Cal-T on Saturday (March 22) - at least Allyn told me half hr ago that that was it.

But since I have two appointments on Monday pm - one in a taped interview, the other to see Harry Zeller, the NBC man I mentioned to you - and since Allyn plans to stay on a couple of days, chances are I'll be coming in, say, on Tuesday. Nothing absolutely sure yet.

Love,

[Signature]
An A-Z of Famous Doodles

Scrawl
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