From James Joyce to Paula Sluiter: Letters, Photographs, and Artwork + Sale Section
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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 11x8B/c inches]

8vo
Octavo [approximately 8x5 inches]

n.d.
No date

n.p.
No place

n.y.
No year
Bechet writes a personal letter to his wife, Elisabeth (Ziegler), whom he married in 1951. He explains that he arrived “OK” and plans to bring her, “a big fish when I get back.” He implores her to let him know how she is “…”. He ends the letter with, “Love.” On verso of the holograph envelope he signs, “S. Bechet” as part of the return address. Bechet moved to Paris in the 1940's, where he became a French institution. In the year of this letter he led an American jazz group at the 1958 Brussels Worlds Fair, his final important performance. He made his success in Europe bringing New Orleans Jazz across the Atlantic with his unique expertise on the soprano sax and clarinet. A visually attractive letter.

Beckett is best known for his play, "Waiting for Godot," published in 1952 with its original French title, "En attendant Godot" and first performed in 1953. He wrote many of his best known works in French as he did this letter. Before the start of World War II, Beckett moved to France, joined the Resistance during the war and settled there permanently after the war.

Translation: "Dear old Frank, I am very touched by your sweet letter and very happy that you liked it. There was a lot more to say about that idea and as always I have the nagging feeling that I did not do with it everything that I could have. Perhaps it should be revisited. I will be very happy to see you. I will be in Paris around Easter time and will get in touch with you then. In friendship and with renewed thanks, Sam Beckett." Beckett may be referring to his play, "Happy Days," published in 1960, the year of our letter and premiered in September 1961.

(1906–89) Irish author, awarded Nobel Prize in 1969.
Brando writes a last minute apology for being unable to attend an event due to the poisoning of his sister’s baby. The letter appears to have been quickly penned in a large hand. “I will not be able to come tonight. My sister’s baby was seriously poisoned yesterday night and I feel it necessary to go to Chicago tonight to be with her. (none of my family will be there) Please forgive me it was unavoidable...” He signs, “Marlon.” With handwritten envelope.

Brando had two older sisters, one is known to have had two sons. Actress Jocelyn Brando (1919-2005) and Don Hanmer had one son, author Gahan Hanmer. Brando and Hanmer divorced in 1950. She then married Eliot Asinof in 1950, divorced in 1955, and had her second son, Martin Asinof, born in 1952. Brando’s letter does not indicate which son was poisoned. It is our guess that Brando wrote this no later than 1953. Brando’s most famous films include, “A Streetcar Named Desire”, “On The Waterfront”, and “The Godfather.”

In this official British press photograph, measuring 7 x 9 inches, Churchill in dark clothing stands between Field Marshal Alan Brooke and General Bernard Law Montgomery at Montgomery’s headquarters in France. South Africa’s Prime Minister Jan Smuts stands last on the other side of Montgomery. The news service stamp on verso is Acme News Pictures with the usual warnings of republication without crediting the news service. The image is in very good condition with one small break in the top border at the center not affecting the image. The attached press caption on aged and brittle paper has deteriorated into several readable pieces. “Talked out of accompanying the first wave of invaders to the shores of France, Prime Minister Winston Churchill visited the Allied beachhead in Normandy as soon as he possibly could.” Credit for the photograph goes to “British Official Photo from Acme” with the date “6/15/44” above the words “official photo.”

Wartime Photograph of Prime Minister Churchill, Normandy, France, June 15, 1944, nine days after the Allied invasion of France.

$425 View item #4781 online

(1874–1965). British statesman known chiefly for his leadership of the United Kingdom during World War II. He served as Prime Minister from 1940 to 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955. A noted orator, historian, writer and artist, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1953.

$245 ▶ View item #4791 online

"Mind Field" published by Hanuman shows a color photo of Corso by fellow Beat writer, Allen Ginsberg on the jacket cover of the paper back miniature or chap book with gold debossed lettering. Corso writes on the first free end paper, "This is one of lettered...copies # J

Gregory Corso." The small publication of poems measures 2 3/4 x 4 inches. Slight imprint from Corso's writing on the inside jacket flap facing signature end paper and minor chipping on jacket corners upper and lower right. Overall condition is very good.

The group of drawings include a bust length sketch of a dog rendered in pencil, with the caption, (or the dog's name) "Steady," signed and dated, "H. H. Crealock 1868." Accompanying this dog is a smaller furry canine, bust length, similarly signed with date, "68." A third signed sketch shows a man with cap or tam in profile, signed with initials, "HHC." Included also is a sketch in another hand of a castle dated, "Aug. 1868," and a faded period photo titled on verso, "Argilla Road." Condition: Overall good with light soiling and foxing on on the three signed sketches, one with bent upper corner visible in image.

(1831–1891) British military officer, artist and writer, Member of the Royal Academy of Arts.
Fiorillo's halting image identifies this print as #345 on the lower right of the dark lower border followed by, “L. Fiorillo phot.” The print measures 10 x 7 3/4 inches and is in very good condition.

**Albumen photograph, “Sakkarah Le Serapeum,” unmounted.**

$245 ➤ View item #4806 online

Fiorillo's halting image identifies this print as #345 on the lower right of the dark lower border followed by, “L. Fiorillo phot.” The print measures 10 x 7 3/4 inches and is in very good condition.

(1847–1898) Italian photographer, known for his Middle East photographs, also active in North Africa.
Freleng sketched one of his most adorable cartoon characters, Tweety Bird, in pencil, on yellow card stock to show off his bright canary color, full length, 4 x 6 inches. Signed, under Tweety's feet, "Friz Freleng." Very Good.

FRELENG, FRIZ

Tweety Bird Sketch Signed on Canary Yellow card.

$450
▶ View item #4795 online

As a popular and successful writer, French is known by her pseudonym, Octave Thanet. She gained national success for her short fiction and novels written in the "local color" genre popular in the late 1860's to the early 20th century. Her politics were conservative and her stories championed the status quo, however, she gained renewed interest for her sexual orientation. She lived openly with her widowed friend, Jane Allen Crawford.

French writes to Mr. Reese apologizing for her letter that failed to arrive and including a lovely sketch of a girl sitting on a fence and flying bird captioned, "Her Clever Bird Mark." Above the drawing she signs with both names, "Alice French Octave Thanet."
Fuchs is best remembered for leading the British Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition along with Edmund Hillary. Both co-authored, “The Crossing of Antarctica” (1958).

Fuchs sketches a bird floating on a piece of ice likely an image referencing his Antarctic expedition. The drawing is rendered in black ink on verso of a 3 x 6 inch index card. He explains the sketch in the letter to Mrs. Polk written on his personalized printed stationery. He “unhappily” didn’t have the time to draw five birds as she apparently requested and suggests she make four copies of this drawing. Signed in full.

(1908–99) British geologist and Antarctic explorer.
Hemingway survived two plane crashes in Africa in January 1954. He and his wife, Mary Welsh, essentially unhurt from the first crash and picked up by a sightseeing boat, went down a second time when their rescue plane crashed and burned. Several newspapers reported the Hemingway’s dead, but this false story was soon corrected. Newspapers printed the good news that the internationally renown writer was alive with images of a robust and smiling Hemingway. We offer four of these press photos, each with a description attached on aging paper and stamped on verso by the news service. Each is 7” x 9”, curled at the edges but otherwise in very good condition. The descriptions attached at the lower edge of each photo are on browned paper, brittle at the lower edge where the page remains partially attached to the photograph.
HEMINGWAY, ERNEST

The photographs briefly described:
4: Hemingway and Mary Welsh, his wife at the time of the plane crash, “as they arrived in New York in 1950 aboard the Ile de France.” Associated Press.

Note on images: The typed descriptions attached to each photo and verso press service stamp are similar to the photo of Hemingway with Sidney Franklin.

(1899–1961) American writer, awarded the Nobel Prize in literature in 1954. He is best remembered for his novels including, “The Sun Also Rises,” “A Farewell to Arms,” and “The Old Man and the Sea.”
HOMER, WINSLOW

Autograph Letter Signed, 5 pages on 3 separate sheets of beige stationery, Scarboro, ME, June 29, 1903, with transmittal envelope in his hand.

$2,250 ▶ View item #4792 online

He writes to Laura Marrs who rented a summer cottage from him yearly explaining the state of repair to the cottage. He offers three pages of detail including covering chairs before he explains the art work he might hang. "I am going to hang some watercolors as belonging to the cottage - & if you do not wish them to hang there - you can say no - They are from my private stock & not for sale..." He signs in full, "Winslow Homer." The date along with Homer’s name and address are stamped at the top of the first page presumably by the artist himself.

Located on the southern coast of Maine, Scarboro, included the small summer community of Prouts Neck where Winslow Homer’s father bought land for his extended family. Already established as an artist residing in Manhattan, Homer moved onto the family property in 1883 and built his art studio. From this vantage point, he painted some his most important and robust seascapes. He preferred to work before and after the arrival of summer visitors, and now there’s a Winslow Homer Road on Prouts Neck. Overall condition is very good with normal folds to the pages. A fine and rare letter mentioning his watercolors.

(1836–1910). American realist painter and lithographer, perhaps the greatest of the American watercolorists, especially of seascapes and landscapes.
Dear Mr. Seldes:

On my return here a few months ago from London I found a copy of your book "The Seven Lively Arts" with a very kind dedication to me. Unfortunately I have been laid up with my eyes three times since then as perhaps you may have heard. I ought to have written to you before to thank you but I hope you will accept my apologies, belated as they are, and my thanks. I have still to submit to two slight operations and after that they promise me a definite return of my sight. The weather here this winter has been very much against me.

I send Mrs. Seldes and yourself my best wishes and hope that if you are visiting Paris before the 15th of May next you will not fail to let us know.

Sincerely yours,

James Joyce

Typed letter Signed., 4to, Paris, France, April 6, 1925.

$7,900 ▶ View item #107 online

Joyce thanks arts critic and editor Gilbert Seldes (1893-1970) for a copy of Seldes new book, "The Seven Lively Arts" (1924). "On my return here a few months ago from London I found a copy of your book, 'The Seven Lively Arts' with a very kind dedication to me. Unfortunately I have been laid up with my eyes three times since then as perhaps you may have heard. I ought to have written to you before to thank you ... I have still to submit to two slight operations and after that they promise me a definite return of my sight." Signed, "James Joyce." Seldes review of Joyce's "Ulysses" in "The Nation" brought the book to the positive attention of the American reading audience. Joyce suffered from various eye problems and had a series of operations over a twenty year period, none of which returned his vision.

(1882–1941) Irish writer, widely considered one of the most influential authors of the 20th century. He is best known for his landmark novel, "Ulysses" (1922).
Royce discusses his "notion of the intimate relation that exists between initiative sensitiveness and strongly marked individuality. For your marked individuality I get a decided impression both from the data that you give, and from the manner of your giving them. Yet you disclaim what you call 'originality' because you are a 'composite photograph' of whatever had interested you.

I think that I understand the relation between these traits. As I said in my 'Century' paper, our originality is very generally the individual fashion, style or selective choice of our imitativeness. What and how we shall imitate - that our individuality determines. That we initiate - this is necessary in proportion as we are sensitive and intelligent. you are...very plastic...your plasticity shall show itself. As to 'taking little interest in life' - that is of course a very common confession...It is in life as a game or as the service of a cause that we take a permanent interest, not in life as a mere experience..." At the lower margin of the fourth page he signs, "Josiah Royce."

Royce became Chair of Harvard’s Department of Philosophy in the year he wrote this letter and served until 1898.
Each cartoonist has drawn his lovable character on a 6.75 x 11 tall inch card. The Snoopy and Zonker Harris sketches are signed by their creators, “Schulz” and “G. B. Trudeau.”

**Snoopy Original Sketch Signed with Zonker Harris Original Sketch Signed.**

$1,100

View item #4799 online


Trudeau (b.1948) American cartoonist, best known for the Doonesbury comic strip.
SLUITER, PAULA

Enchanting Etching
Signed, of a fantastical bird, 8vo, 1968.

$1,800
▶ View item #4771 online

The Dutch artist left a career as a nurse and teacher to study painting and etching. Her work, associated with Art Brut, is recognized for fantastical images primarily of nature. Our etching in neutral tones shows a large peacock like bird in profile standing with a small bird, perhaps its baby, in flight in the upper right corner. Signed and dated on the lower right border, “Paula Sluiter ‘68.” The full measurement including border is 5 ¾ x 7 ½ with image measuring 4 3/8 x 6 ¼. Overall condition is very good with slight soiling on border and mounting remnants on verso.

A typed description, in Dutch, of her art by fellow Dutch artist Paul Citroen is included with the etching. Citroen was also art teacher and cofounder of the New Art Academy in Amsterdam. He writes: "Public Reading Room exhibits the graphic work of a very peculiar painter, who is not yet well known in Wassenaar. Paula Sluiter is a real artist who depicts a peaceful world, a world of wonder plants, wonder birds, wonder animals, of children, gnomes, and wonder people. She only started this very own work after she retired as a nurse and crafts teacher towards her 60th year ... I saw her first exhibition in the art circle in The Hague... and was immediately fascinated by the abundance of her fantasy and the authenticity, the genuineness the persuasiveness of her very spiritual, very sensitive work...her fantasy seems to be an inexhaustible... we end up in a fairy tale world and are happy and ...and we accept from her without question...."
The scarce catalogue, in French, of the Surrealists includes small (12mo) printed bust length photographs of each artist whose books the Corti book store sold. The 12 small photographic images are printed on six 12mo sheets, each image facing the catalog page of that artist’s works listed. Included are Maxime Alexandre, Louis Aragon, André Breton, René Char, René Crevel, Salvador Dali, Paul Eluard, Max Ernst, Benjamin Péret, Tristan Tzara, Pierre Unik, and Luis Buñuel. The back cover shows for the first time the well known list of those included among the Surrealists and those excluded. The two sets of lists printed in two columns each are titled, “Lisez: Ne Lisez Pas:” and ends, “Etc., etc., etc....” Surrealist artist Max Ernst (1891-1976) created the etching for the catalog’s cover highlighting Corti’s bookstore. The catalog is composed of fifteen 5 1/4 x 8 1/2 inch pages.

Condition: Overall condition is fair. Covers are 2/3 detached from the rusted staples holding the catalog, rust stains show from the metal, soiled at margins particularly at the lower portion front cover, the catalog as a whole remains in tact. Some chipping and bends to lower right corners throughout a few of which have broken off. Several small pin holes show through front to back.

(1903–93) Dutch artist, recognized for fantastical drawings and identified as an Outsider Artist.
This photographic proof of Pres. Taft in his first year in office sitting at his White House desk is similar to a better known image by Bain that is in the Library of Congress Collection of Bain's photographs. In this image, Taft directly faces the camera. The photo measures 5 1/2 x 8 3/4 inches. Information about the image is incorporated within the proof. On the desk drawer, "Copyright 1909 by Geo. Grantham Bain" shows in white and the lower margin caption reads, "Pres. Taft in White House."

The print is detached from its hard backing, glue stains fairly evenly distributed on verso, and the upper and lower left corners are chipped. Pencil docketing on verso of the mount reads, ""President Taft at this desk in the White house, year 1909."

We have not found this image in our search of Bain photographs of Taft.

Bain (1865-1944) was a photographer who started his photography service in 1898 focused on the newsworthy events mainly in New York City and the east coast. His photographic range was wide covering politics, the arts, sports as well as crime.

(1857–1930) The twenty-seventh President of the United States (1909-13), tenth Chief Justice of the United States, a leader of the progressive conservative wing of the Republican Party in the early 20th century, a pioneer in international arbitration and staunch advocate of world peace verging on pacifism.
Catalog 188
Sale Section
COLETTE, SIDONIE-GABRIELLE

Portrait Photograph Signed and Autograph Letter Signed, in French, rue de Beaujolais, n.d.

[$1,400] $975
[
View item #4154 online

Beautiful gray toned bust portrait showing Colette in three-quarter facial profile, laid onto textured tan art paper and that laid onto beige mount of the photographer, “G.L. Manuel Freres.” She signed the photograph, “Colette.” Art paper and mount have deckled edges, slight bends at corners, soiling on verso of mat otherwise a clean board. The photograph itself measures 6.5 x 8.75 inches and including photographer’s mount the measurement is 10.5 x 14 inches. The fine photograph is accompanied by an ALS that begins without greeting “I trust you will guess how much I detest writing this letter. You are free to tell the truth to those around you, or to announce that I am ill...” She sends her regrets and signs, “Colette.”

Full translation: “I trust you will guess how much I detest writing this letter. You are free to tell the truth to those around you, or to announce that I am ill...” She sends her regrets and signs, “Colette.”


CUMMINGS, E. E. (Edward Estlin)

Original Drawing Signed titled “Flamenco Dancer” Signed, pen and ink, 4to, approximately 8 x 11 3/4 inches, titled in another hand on verso, “Flamenco Dancer.”

[$4,000] $2,800
[
View item #2093 online

Cummings draws a full length figure, wearing a fedora styled hat, looking over her shoulder as she moves forward dancing the Flamenco as the title suggests. Drawn in black ink, the poet who was also an artist signs under the figure, “Cummings,” on a diagonal. Professional repairs have been to reinforce the paper which had a vertical crease from fold, and several margin tears including at left edge at the corner of the left hand. In addition to the title in pencil on verso in another hand, “GBM 540” is also written in pencil on verso.

Our drawing is likely from Cummings’ second art phase as described by the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center on line: “Critics have generally divided Cummings’ career as a painter into two stylistic phases. The first phase, about 1915-1928, was represented by his experimental large-scale abstracts and his drawings and caricatures published in The Dial. During the 1920s Cummings started to drop out of the gallery scene, and he came to view the art establishment as anti-intellectual. The second phase of his art was from about 1928 until his death; this phase was characterized by representational works: still lifes, landscapes, nudes, and portraits.”

(1894–1962) American poet and painter. Recognized as a groundbreaking writer in the field of poetry because of his use and positioning of words, use of syntax and subject matter of his poems.
FREUD, MARTHA BERNAYS


[$3,200] $2,000
► View item #2379 online

Freud writes to the long time family housekeeper, Paula Fichtl, well after the Freud's left Vienna in 1938 to escape the Nazis after the Austrian Anschluss. The Freud family settled in London, in Marsfield Gardens. In full, “My dear, good Paula, Only yesterday I received your letter of the 5th, the first one came much faster. I am sorry that you are freezing so much, but it does not surprise me. One reason is the different climate the other that we are so spoiled in the evenly heated house. Just walk rigorously to warm you. Sure, vacation in the summer would be quite a different story but who knows if it would have worked out. I feel sincerely with you, that your poor father is miserable. Old age altogether is not good, that I know myself. Here winter hasn’t arrived yet. Mr. Green did not come twice, can you imagine? We don’t know whether he is ill or whether his fear of not being as well looked after in your absence causes it. Otherwise, everything goes its regular way. I’ll be glad, however, when you, well rested, will be back in the house fidgeting about. I shall enjoy the thermometer, but don’t spend so much money. We are not that badly off here. Good bye and all the best…" She signs, “from your Old Mother Freud.”

Martha and Sigmund Freud were married for 53 years. The first biography of Martha Freud was published in 2006, written by Katja Behling who portrays Freud as loyal and steadfast. The author concluded that Martha Freud, “contributed in no small measure to the extraordinary success of psychoanalysis as it went from strength to strength and spread from Vienna to the four corners of the earth.” Behling writes that, Martha Freud changed after her husband’s death. The first Friday after his [Sigmund Freud] death she lit candles, reviving the Jewish tradition he had persuaded her to drop. I think she kept her religion inside her the whole time. She could have chosen a safe professor to marry and have lived in probably frustrated contentment. But she had spirit and chose a far more rocky, but interesting path, in partnership with the man she loved.” [See review of Behling’s biography in The Guardian online by Hannah Cleaver. Clearly Freud was missing her long time family housekeeper who had started working for the Freud’s in 1929 and who not only accompanied them from Austria in 1938 to London, she did so out of loyalty to the family. As a German non-Jewish émigré, Fichtl was interned in a camp on the Isle of Man at the outbreak of war in 1939 and remained there for nine months [see Psychology Today article “The Imported Brain,” by Christopher Badcock, Ph.D.] Still, she stayed with the Freud’s through the death of Sigmund, Martha and finally Anna in 1982. She then returned to Salzburg, the place of her birth, and according to an article entitled “Freud’s Nanny and Other Nannies,” by Mariza Correa, “ended her life in an Austrian asylum.” Letters of Martha Freud infrequently come on the market.

HILL, DAVID OCTAVIUS & ROBERT ADAMSON


[$5,000] $3,750
► View item #4180 online

Rare image of an early Victorian woman with loose hair photographed between 1843 and 1847. The arresting salt print titled “Prayer” measures 6.25 x 8.5 inches, trimmed at the top with rounded corners, newly mounted on archival mat. The mat improves the presentation of the evenly faded print and also protects it. This photograph was included in Hill and Adamson's, "An Early Victorian Album: The Photographic Masterpieces (1843-1847) of David Octavius Hill and Robert Adamson."

David Brewster taught Adamson the calotype process along with Adamson’s brother John. Trained as a chemist, Adamson established a photography studio which the painter, D. O. Hill joined. Known as Hill & Adamson, the studio was in existence between 1843-47. Adamson's untimely death ended the successful partnership. In the short life of their studio, they produced close to 3000 images. Regarded as pioneers in photography, they explored the artistic elements of photography, particularly portraiture.

HILL (1802–70), Scottish painter; Adamson (1821-48), photographer.

HOLIDAY, BILLIE


[$3,800] $2,850
► View item #2850 online

Holiday writes in pencil, on yellow lined paper, on the back of a letter from , Father Norman O’Connor (1921-2003), referred to as “the Jazz Priest “ because he had been a jazz musician and incorporated jazz music into his sermons on occasion. She begins with her reason for choosing the back of the letter. “Louie, [likely Louie McKay whom she married in 1957] I am writing this on the back of my Prests [sic] letter. You know Father O’Connor Boston. I did a very silly thing I toled [sic] you. You really [sic] must go for that that I got to say Bitch dont [sic] get me wrong I am not angry Just feel sort of cheap and dirty. I am also sure you dont realy [sic] mean to hurt me other wise I would have made a awful [sic] stink...I am going to make a few changes here. We are still frends [sic] I hope she doesnt [sic] break your heart.” She signs, “Lady Day.” Holiday writes on the back of the O'Connor’s letter which reads, “Billie, Excuse paper - just got a copy of your recording in Columbia with [Ray] Ellis - Wonderful...” He asks how she is and if there is anything he can do and signs, “Father Oc.” The album referenced is likely “Lady in Satin” released in 1958 on Columbia Records.

Billie Holiday is an American icon of the music world. Her gifts in singing jazz and blues are legendary, as much for the feelings she put into the songs, as for the songs themselves. She is best remembered for the songs, “Strange Fruit”, “Body and Soul” and “Georgia On My Mind”. Holiday’s letters seldom appear on the market.

(1915–59) [born Eleanora Fagan] American songwriter and jazz singer, also called “Lady Day”. Considered to be the supreme jazz singer of her day, she made recordings with Benny Goodman, Teddy Wilson, and Count Basie. She toured with Count Basie and the Artie Shaw Band. She is admired for her intensely dramatic style of phrasing and diction, the seeming fragility of her voice, and yet its uniquely powerful and moving character.
MUNCH, EDVARD

Scarce Autograph Letter Signed, in German, on small 8vo stationery card, “Sköien near Kristiania,” n.d. but most likely late 1916.

[$6,300] $5,000
▶ View item #4234 online

Munch subscribes to the new art magazine, “Das Kunstblatt,” which featured an article about him in its first issue. “Das Kunstblatt” was a German art magazine, published in Weimar by Paul Westheim from 1917 until 1933. It was an important and influential periodical on contemporary art. The article about Munch was written by Gustav Schiefler with whom Munch had a substantial correspondence from 1902 to 1935. Schiefler wrote the authoritative catalogue of Munch’s graphic work, “Verzeichnis des Graphischen Werks Edvard Munch bis 1906” (Berlin 1907).

Munch’s request to “start my subscription with the first issue” suggests that he was writing in late 1916. In that year, he had purchased and moved into his home at Ekely at Skoien near Kristiania (later Oslo) where he lived and worked for the rest of his life. Munch built onto Ekely to the point of it being a nearly self-sufficient estate. Letters by Edvard Munch with art related content are scarce.

PUCCINI, GIACOMO

Autograph Letter Signed, in Italian, 8vo, n.p., n.d.

[$1,100] $825
▶ View item #4299 online

Puccini writes to his publisher Carlo Clausetti regarding a scene painter. “If you want to call the scene painter and talk to him as we agreed...I shall also talk to the aforementioned. Tell me the time of the meeting by telephoning me...” Signed with initials, “GP.” Overall sunning, several small breaks at top margin and one small pen hole near one letter, otherwise in very good condition.

(1858–1924) Italian composer whose operas, including La Bohème, Tosca, Madama Butterfly and Turandot, are among the most frequently performed in the standard repertoire.
Stein supports the production in Paris of "Carmen – GI version," a U.S. army troop entertainment show put on by soldiers for army soldiers. The story of this show is revealed by its surviving members. Joe Pollock [the Mr. Pollock of Stein’s letter], a retired Philadelphia High School principal and member of the 63rd Infantry Division, along with others in the 63rd, put together a show “right after the military madness of World War II ended in Europe... [when] peace caught them unawares in the south German town of Tuberbischofsheim.” Pollock recalled, “While we were waiting to get shipped to the Pacific to fight the Japanese [which they never did get to], El Stinko and me and a few other malcontents decided to put on a show to entertain the guys. Stein writes to American Captain Rago at the office of the Military Attaché, American Embassy.

She introduces the Captain to the show’s writers and stars in order to get the US military to support the show’s production in Paris and the US. "This is to introduce Pollack and Carmen of the Carmen show. I saw it the other night and I think they do get the indecency, the gaiety, and the sadness, and I think it is very important that it should be given again in Paris and America, but they have plans but they want a little conversation and suggestion and I am sending them to you because I think you can give them some of both, w/ pleasure." Signed, "Always, Gertrude Stein." With holograph envelope that was most probably hand delivered. Tape stains on verso at corners and one small corner tear.

Our letter is paired with a print of the well known photograph by Cecil Beaton of Stein with her life partner Alice B. Toklas taken in 1938, in a wallpapered room, at 5 rue Christine, Stein’s second salon in Paris.

The story is told by John Corr in a news article dated 10-23-1987 and titled ‘A Tough Act To Follow,’ for the “Philadelphia Inquirer.” Corr reports what veteran soldiers told him about Gertrude Stein, “Literary salon-keepers Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas caught the show in Paris and invited producer Pollock and a few others for ‘tea and gingerbread’. The Stein-Toklas appraisal of the performance was a rave: ‘Killing, Killing, Killing.’ The soldiers described the Carmen show. "That slapped-together show ran for seven months, and was the big hit of the 1945 European Theater season.” When Pollock met with Corr and a half dozen other survivors in Philadelphia in 1987, Corr reported that it was the "first full-scale reunion of the cast of “Carmen – GI version, circa 1945.” Included in the cast was jazz guitarist Charlie Byrd. The performers said they just wanted to get out of the pup tents and mud, so they started this show. "We were supposed to do just three shows at the town hall in Tuberbischofsheim... then somebody from division saw the act, and, first thing we knew, we were on the road,” one of the performers told Corr. On the road meant 143 shows in seven months in Germany, France and Italy. The performers told Corr the show was mostly burlesque, with hilarious, irreverent acts, and gave them all a cheerful camaraderie. Stein likely wrote our letter in 1945 after she went back to Paris from Culoz. She left Culoz in December of 1944. In a published letter from Stein to Carl Van Vechten ("The Letters of Gertrude Stein and Carl Van Vechten 1913-1946" by Edward Burns) postmarked 3 Jan. 1945, Stein says they had just moved back to Paris. Our research did not reveal additional information about Captain Rago, Stein’s correspondent.
**WAKSMAN, SELMAN**

Antibiotics, the term originated by Waksman, are discussed in his heavily annotated Typed Document Signed, biographical content, 4 separate 4to pages, ca 1971; Two Typed Letters Signed, on Rutgers University stationery, each 4to, August 1, 1966, and October 1, 1971.

[$5,600] $4,500
► View item #4207 online

“Selman Waksman: Discoverer of a Wonder Drug 1943,” is the title of the typed document containing the draft of biographical information which he generously corrected. The draft was for the book, “The Laureates: Jewish Winners of the Nobel Prize,” (Tina Levitan, 1960 First edition). Here he edits the section on his biography as explained in his 1971 letter to Levitan. In the letter he notes that “made a number of important corrections and changes. He also writes, “The first announcement of the work on streptomycin was published early in 1944 in the journal Science....” He encloses a “laboratory photograph of myself....” He signs, “Selman A. Waksman.” The article he extensively corrects is titled, “Selman A. Waksman: Discoverer of a Wonder Drug 1943.” He adds the “A” after his first name. The earlier TLS, 1966, to Levitan discusses royalties and production of streptomycin in other countries.

Waksman and his team of researchers discovered a range of drugs to treat infectious diseases, including Streptomycin and Neomycin. Streptomycin was the first antibiotic to cure tuberculosis. He accomplished his work at Rutgers University where he established an institute for the study of microbiology in 1954. It was renamed for him after his death.

(1888–1973) Microbiologist, awarded Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1952, known for his work on antibiotics, developed streptomycin.

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**WHITTIER, JOHN GREENLEAF**

Autograph Letter Signed, three pages 8vo, Centre Harbor, N.H. Written as Quaker date of 7th mo., 20, 1887 (July 20, 1887)

[$880] $575
► View item #1657 online

To a Friend, It is a matter of real regret to me that I am not able to be with you on the occasion of the birthday of our worthy friend, Edwin Thompson [abolitionist]. I have known him as a faithful and self-sacrificing advocate (of) all good causes. More than 50 years ago, I met him at the convention which formed the First Temperance Society in Essex County, and about the same time, at the formation of the Essex Anti-Slavery Society. Since then, his genial face and cheering voice has been rarely missed wherever the Friends of Temperance and Freedom met together. He was always a welcome speaker. Like President Lincoln, he had the gift of story-telling, and his stories were always to the purpose, putting to shame his opponents with ready wit and humor. Through the long Anti-Slavery struggle, his labors were unremitting, but he was always brave and hopeful and, in the midst of persecution, never posed as a martyr. His enthusiasm of humanity was remarkable healthful; there was no whine or cant in it, and he heartily enjoyed it, for it was its own exceeding great reward. It is fitting that we should honor him and congratulate him that his 78th birthday finds him the same cheerful, warm-hearted man we have known so long; and, (it) will not be amiss if we give him some substantial and unsolicited assurance of our esteem and love. O this end, I enclose my mite with the best wishes for his health and happiness. Signed, I am, truly thy friend, John G. Whittier”

Whittier is depicted so often as the gentle Quaker that the fiery politician within him is often forgotten. He declared himself an abolitionist in the pamphlet ‘Justice and Expediency’ (1833) and went to the unpopular National Antislavery Convention. In 1834–35 he sat in the Massachusetts legislature; he ran for Congress on the Liberty ticket in 1842 and was a founder of the Republican Party. He also worked staunchly behind the scenes to further the abolitionist cause.

(1807–1892) American poet and abolitionist.
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