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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]

vn.d.
No date

n.p.
No place

n.y.
No year
We will be exhibiting at

**Brooklyn Antiquarian Book Fair**
September 8–10, 2017

Brooklyn Expo Center
79 Franklin St
Greenpoint, Brooklyn, NY

**Friday, September 8, 5–9pm**
*(opening preview to benefit Rare Book School)*

**Saturday, September 9, 11am–7pm**

**Sunday, September 10, 11am–5pm**
ALECHINSKY, PIERRE

(b. 1927–) Belgian artist who studied illustration techniques, printing and photography. He helped to form the art group, Cobra. Alechinsky also studied engraving and became interested in oriental calligraphy. His paintings are related to Tachisme, Abstract Expressionism, and Lyrical Abstraction.


The booklet is a printed open letter, entitled “Spending Time”, written to a friend named John and shows Alechinsky's work in New York in 1972. It is filled with his thoughts, references to other artists and shows as well as the artist’s group, Cobra, which he had a hand in forming. He reminisces about time he spent living in the Chelsea Hotel in New York. Interspersed are reproductions of his paintings and watercolors, illustrations, and photographs of him at work. He has inscribed the front of the booklet in French in black ink to this friend, and closes with his signature at the end of the printed letter inside.

Item ID: 1235  $250
View this listing on our website
ANTHONY, SUSAN B.

(1820–1906). American civil rights leader who played a pivotal role in the 19th century women’s rights movement to secure women’s suffrage in the United States. She traveled the United States and Europe, and gave 75 to 100 speeches per year on women’s rights for 45 years.

Typed Letter Signed on “National American Women Suffrage Association” stationery, 4to, Rochester, New York, October 18, 1903.

Anthony expresses her support for co-education. She opposed educating male and female students separately because she saw that the education offered to the male sex was superior to that offered to females. As a proponent of co-education and critic of gender segregated classrooms, Anthony writes this letter to Greek scholar E. M. Tomlinson who had apparently asked for her “History of Woman Suffrage,” “Vol. IV cloth.” Anthony thinks she had, “pre-sented the first three volumes to Mrs. [Abigail] Allen twenty years ago...” She asks if Tomlinson has “a set of my Life and Work,” explaining why he should own the books: “you ought to have it so every student could find it on your shelves when he comes to the inevitable moment of writing a composition on the question of woman's rights...”

She addresses co-education vs. same sex education in relation to Alfred University and the University of Chicago. “Alfred was one of the first places that I visited in 1852 and I have watched your institution with a great deal of interest ever since...I do not suppose the question of segregating the sexes has ever been thought of in your college. It is pitiful to see how Chicago University with Dr. Harper at its head is setting an example of segregation. Did you notice that instead of increasing the number of young men of the city and from the East he is 700 short of as many as he has last year? I should think that would be a lesson to him; but none are so bling [likely a typo for blind] as those who will not see, so I suppose he will not charge the lessening of the number of students to his invidious action with regard to women...” She signs, “Susan B. Anthony.” A strong ending to a fine letter on women’s education. Several words in the section criticizing sex segregated classrooms at Chicago are underlined with ink similar to the ink she used in her signature. It is possible Anthony, herself underscored these words.

Alfred University founded in 1836 in Alfred, NY, was co-ed from its beginning. Anthony refers to Abigail Allen whom she met when she lectured at Alfred in 1870. Allen supported women’s rights

“I DO NOT SUPPOSE THE QUESTION OF SEGREGATING THE SEXES HAS EVER BEEN THOUGHT OF IN YOUR COLLEGE.”
causes as did her husband Jonathan Allen, Alfred University's second president. Anthony also mentions her trip in 1852 to her first women's rights convention in Syracuse, NY.

Anthony's correspondent, Edward Mulford Tomlinson (1842–1910), was a professor of Greek at Alfred University and a University Trustee. Alfred, New York, is a town located less than 100 miles from Rochester, where Anthony and the National American Woman Suffrage Association were based.

Anthony also refers to the University of Chicago's first president, William Rainey Harper (1856–1906).
Buber writes to Bernard Rang, 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. Buber met Christian Rang at the Potsdam meeting of the Forte Circle. During World War I, Rang was a German patriot, but later his feelings were more in alignment with Buber's. They joined together calling for a reevaluation of Germany's education system and remained friends until Rang's death in 1924.

In part, “I had already heard about you some time ago through Leopold Max. Marxens live as hardworking 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.”

Buber writes, “My help with the highly desirable publication of the literary remains of your father is certainly at the disposal of the editors.” But, in a 1949 letter from Buber to Bernard Rang [see Martin Buber’s Life and Work b Maurice S. Friedman], Buber reproves him “for the liberties he had taken in recasting his father’s writings on Goethe into the form of a ‘dialogue’ between his father and himself...” So, it seems that whatever Buber did send was not, in the end, published with total accuracy.
During 1946 Buber's *Moses* was published in English and he would have finished writing *Paths in Utopia*, as it was published the following year, 1947 and in English in 1949.

Among the people Buber mentions in his letter are Leopold Marx, Walter Benjamin and Ernst Michel. Walter Benjamin (1892–1940) was a literary cultural philosopher, and a big influence on Buber. According to *The Letters of Martin Buber: A Life of Dialogue* by Martin Buber, Benjamin was unable to secure a university position in 1925 and finally left Germany in 1933 to live in various places in Europe. He tried to cross the Franco-Spanish border in 1940, as mentioned in this letter, but could not. The prospect of being extradited back to Germany led him to commit suicide.

Leopold Marx was a friend of Buber's who, along with Otto Hirsch and Karl Adler, created the Stuttgart Judisches Lehrhaus, a Jewish Education Center in Stuttgart.

Ernst Michel, according to *Martin Buber on Psychology and Psychotherapy: Essays, Letters, and Dialogue*, by Martin Buber, was a “sociologist concerned with social and cultural policy, leading figure in progressive Catholicism.” He was a lecturer at the Academy of Labor in Frankfurt from 1922 until 1933 as well as an Adjunct Professor in Frankfurt from 1931–33. Forced to retire in 1933, he trained as a psychotherapist and opened a practice of ‘personal psychotherapy’ in the spirit of Buber’s thought. He wrote and published on psychotherapy and corresponded with Buber, exchanging publications with him.

Item ID: 2179  $750
View this listing on our website
COOPER, JAMES FENIMORE


Our letter holds particular biographical significance including the first public signature with Cooper’s now familiar name, J. Fenimore Cooper. Here he signs, “J. Fenimore-Cooper;” separating the middle and last names with a hyphen. Prior to this, a letter to his publisher, Carey & Lea, dated April 4, 1826, showed the earliest known example of his signature using “Fenimore.” Our letter predates this by eight days.

In addition, our letter reveals other new biographical facts according to Cooper scholar and biographer Dr. Wayne Franklin. Cooper visited Washington, D.C. in March 1826 ostensibly to seek a diplomatic appointment preceding his visit to France. Cooper left for France June 1, 1826. However, our letter reveals that while in Washington, Cooper met the artist, Charles Bird King, who wanted to paint Cooper’s portrait, why Cooper missed his sitting with King, and when Cooper left Washington to return home to New York. Our letter shows Cooper stayed in Washington until at least March 26, 1826, the date of our letter. His time in the city had been verified up to March 12 with uncertainty about his departure date. This letter also indicates that King wanted to paint Cooper’s portrait and the reason that Cooper missed his sitting. Cooper was at the Navy Department for; “some business that called me early to the Navy Department, where, in fact, I was so much engaged, both on that and on the succeeding day, as entirely to forget that I had a face, much less that any one was willing to transfer it to the canvass[ sic].”

Full Text: “Dear Sir, I left under circumstances, that, I feel, render some explanation necessary. You may remember that I appointed Friday as the next day of sitting. On that day I had some business that called me early to the Navy Department, where, in fact I was so much engaged, both on that and on the succeeding day, as entirely to forget that I had a face, much less that any one was willing to transfer it to the canvass[ sic]. However ungracious the apology may seem, I think it fairest to state the simple truth. I did not recollect that I had promised to sit, after leaving you. I saw your habitation on Sunday morning, as I was leaving Washington in the stage. I would not have you impute this failure of memory, to any indifference to the
compliment you were disposed to pay me, or to any want of a suitable degree of self-love on my part, by [for “but”?] to the engagements, which pressed upon me, on the eve of my departure. I had many things of importance to myself to do and to see done, before I left the Country, and which could only be done, at that time & in my own person.

I find Dunlap a good deal advanced in his picture, which certainly promises very well. He has painted the head of Franklin, of which I spoke to you, in very capital style. Indeed, I hardly know a better portrait, anywhere. It makes me regret his age, to look at it. It seems we are to have rival exhibitions this spring, and I hope the public will reap some of the ordinary fruits of competition; though, I confess, that, in my own poor judgment there seems some little difference between the management of a line of stages, and a School for the Fine Arts—Very Respectfully Your Obliged Servant, J. Fenimore Cooper.” In the lower left corner he writes his correspondent’s name, “Mr. King.”

Condition: Normal soiling and folds in tact, paper is evenly sunned.

Item ID: 4373  $3,200
View this listing on our website
CRUMB, ROBERT

(b.1943) American comic artist, musician and writer.

Comic panel on white board drawn in black ink measuring 5 x 7 inches signed with an unusual signature by the artist.

The sketch shows a couple arguing in a restaurant. The caption reads, “She: ‘What?? You’ve never ordered a bottle of wine in your LIFE??’ He: ‘Well, I-uh-I-——’” The sketch is signed, “-CRUMB-” rather than the usual “R. Crumb.” Crumb authenticated sketch and noted that it most likely appeared in an issue of “Weirdo” magazine. Weirdo, a comic magazine, was published by Last Gasp from 1981 to 1993.

Item ID: 4366   $4,500

View this listing on our website
(1905–95) American cartoonist and animator, best known for his work on the Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies cartoons for Warner Brothers. 

**Daffy Duck Original Pencil Drawing Signed, on card stock measuring 9.5 x 6.75 inches.**

This is an excellent facial drawing of Daffy Duck signed by Freleng who was one of Daffy's developers at Warner Brothers. Actual sketch is sharper and darker than website image.

**Item ID: 4363   $485**  
View this listing on our website
(1899–1961) American writer, awarded the Nobel Prize in literature in 1954. He is best remembered for novels including, *The Sun Also Rises*, *A Farewell to Arms*, and *The Old Man and the Sea* for which he won a Pulitzer Prize in 1953. He belonged to the 1920s American ex-patriot community in Paris and was a World War I veteran.

Rare War time Autograph Letter Signed to Martha Gellhorn, 6 separate 8vo pp of tan graph paper, August 6, 1944. This letter is one of a handful of surviving Hemingway letters to Gellhorn. According to her son Sandy Gellhorn, some months before her death in 1998, Martha burned most of her correspondence files, including her letters from Hemingway. Sandy was able to interrupt the process, saving this letter from destruction.

Hemingway writes to Martha Gellhorn who was stationed at the time as a war correspondent with the Allied forces in Normandy but was on assignment in Italy. Hemingway was at Mont. St. Michel recuperating from injuries in a jeep accident caused by a German shell.

In part, “Am so glad you are happy and having a fine time and getting some sun. Am sure you will get good stories too and anyway living and being happy is better than stories. Please take everything I say straightforward and do not read in hidden meanings nor insults...Hung around with some flying pals a while then hooked up with an Infantry division... We took 6 SS Panzer bastards prisoner Aug. 2—You may have seen something about it in Aug 5 Stars and Striped... Day before yest while in advance of infantry I got knocked down by a tank shell. Enemy tank then fired on us and on me playing dead by road with machine gun. Threw dirt all over head and cut leaves from hedge all over helmet. They also had at least 2 machine pistols in cross fire on each side of road. Two Germans crawled up to hedge and could hear them talking. Was quite a time...If we had not run into that place first they would have killed many people. Am very good at imitating a dead man under such circumstances... Think instead of piece will write short stories of life in [the infantry] Division. Have good ones and will write them and cable them... The stuff is too wonderful to write as journalism... So I will just write the stories as well as I can. Please do not think I have been being a crazy. Have been working very close to the bull but everything have done has been useful... I am going to stay with it [the Division]. I don't care about being the first into any place nor about ‘the story’. Would rather be with those who
do the fighting in some useful capacity and then go home finally and
write book & be buried in a good country like France which I have
always loved very much anyway and see and love better than ever
did before. Only hope I can write as well about it as I should....” He
signs, “E. Hemingway, War Correspondent.”

Hemingway was a war correspondent for Colliers and was embed-
ded with the US 4th Division that landed on the Normandy beaches
on June 6, 1944. He stayed with the division as they marched into
Paris to liberate it from the Germans on August 25, 1944. As men-
tioned in this letter that if he had to die, he would want to be “buried
in a good country like France which I have always loved very much
anyway....” This letter was written toward the end of Gellhorn and
Hemingway’s marriage. Hemingway had already met his fourth wife,
Mary Welsh.

Hemingway mentions some friends in this letter.
Buddy North (Henry W.R. “Buddy” North) was one of the owners
of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. According to
“Dear Papa, Dear Hotch: The Correspondence of Ernest Hemingway
and A. E. Hotchner,” Buddy and Hemingway “caroused together in
London during World War II....” Hemingway says that Buddy North
is “somewhere around but have not seen him.”

Capa is Robert Capa, the war photographer and photojournalist
who was the only photojournalist at the landing at Omaha Beach on
D-Day. He, too, worked for Colliers and then for Life magazine. He
was a good friend of Hemingway and Gellhorn whom Hemingway
met during the Spanish Civil War. A Youtube video from “atelierdes-
archives.com” shows footage of Hemingway and Capa on Mont St.
Michel in August of 1944 and in this letter Hemingway states, “Capa
is here now.”

Item ID: 4344  $20,000
View this listing on our website
(1911–75). American composer and conductor noted for his film scores. His career began with Citizen Kane (1941) and ended with Taxi Driver (1976).

**Typed Document Signed, 4 pages 4to, on “Columbia Broadcasting System” stationery, New York, Sept. 9, 1949.**

This carbon typed contract signed constitutes “a complete and binding contract between us.” The composer has signed in full on the fourth page under his typed name, “Bernard Herrmann.” Condition: Staple in upper left corner of first page has rusted onto the four pages at the corner.

**Item ID: 4360   $850**  
[View this listing on our website](#)
HERZL, THEODOR

(1860–1904). Viennese journalist and founder of Political Zionism. His pamphlet *The Jewish State* acted as a political rallying call against anti-Semitism that led to the formation of the Zionist Congress.

**Printed Document in German, Memorial Program for “Dr. Theodor Herzl,” 10 July 1904. Size is 6” by 8.5” approximately.**

The document reads, “Funeral Service organized by the Zionist Action Committee and held on 10 July 1904 at the Music Society Hall in Vienna.” The music and speakers are listed. “Starting time 11:30, ending time 1:30.” The names of the choral members are listed along with the music director. The final sentence notes that each presentation will be no longer than 5 minutes. Condition: on evenly sunned thin single page.

**Item ID: 4364  $250**

[View this listing on our website]
(born 1930), American artist. He has been closely associated with Rauschenberg and has followed him in his development out of “Abstract Expressionism” toward “Pop Art”.


Johns writes to actress Ruth Ford using red felt tip pen on the address side of the card as well as the message side. He draws a wavy line down the center as if to cover the vertical type separating the two sides. “Dear Ruth, I’ve just got back into the city & find things a bit confused - I may be moving into a new place this month crossed out] week. I’ll call you about the Beard next week. I would love to take you to see it if my housing problem is not completely out of hand by then. I hope it will not be but I try to learn to be like Mayor Lindsay, ‘Neither optimistic nor pessimistic.’ As ever, Jasper.” The post card was mailed in an envelope addressed to Ford by Johns in the same red ink. John Lindsay was Mayor of New York at the time.

Ruth Ford was a Broadway actress, married to Zachary Scott until his death in 1965. She then lived in The Dakota, in Manhattan, with her brother, Charles Henri Ford. Charles was a poet and photographer, known as America’s first Surrealist poet. He was the editor of View magazine. Charles was a friend of Andy Warhol. Michael McClure, the beat poet who wrote the play Johns mentions, The Beard, was also a friend of Warhol’s. The circle of beat poets, American Surrealists, and Pop artists in the 1950s and ‘60s arts scene in New York included all of these people as well as Robert Rauschenberg and his partner, Jasper Johns. Michael McClure’s play, The Beard, first opened at the Actor’s Workshop Theater in San Francisco, December 18, 1965 and was regarded as highly controversial. When the play moved to the Fillmore in New York for the 1967–68 theater season, it won two Obie Awards. In the letter offered here postmarked 1968, Johns clearly refers to the New York performance.

Item ID: 4357  $975
View this listing on our website
(1919–62) American comedian, actor and author whose TV comedy shows in particular influenced television comedy.

**Typed Signed Letter, 4to, Beverly Hills, CA. May 31, 1960.**

Referring to his best known character, Percy Dovetonsils, Kovacs writes to his M.C.A. agent regarding a Warner Brothers contract. He adds one holograph correction in the first line which reads, “I had a call today from someone in New York, a [he crossed out ‘the’ and replaced it with ‘a’] record company. The connection was not too good, however I asked them to contact you...they are of the idea that they want a Percy Dovetonsils thing, and I said that I would do it on the one condition that I do it exactly as I want it... Regarding the Warner Bros... I think it is time that they are contacted with this ridiculous letter that they have sent me...and are told that I have now consummated my part in the contractual arrangement... but if they will turn over the art-work which I selected and the tape they can forget the $1,500.00, otherwise they owe me $1,500.00...” He signs, “Ernie.” This letter is accompanied with a letter to his agent from Warner Brothers. Uncommon and desirable. Percy Dovetonsils was one of Kovac’s most popular and memorable characters. Condition: Two punch holes at top margin.

Percy Dovetonsils, the lisping “poet laureate” character that Kovacs played, is one of his most well remembered ones. Created in 1950, Percy Dovetonsils is always introduced with a harp music and sips martinis when he reads his poetry. [examples can be seen on youtube] The record company telephone call that Kovacs mentions to his agent is probably from Vanguard Records. In 1961 Kovacs recorded an album of Percy reading his poetry for Vanguard, entitled “Percy Dovetonsils... Speaks.” According to Josh Mills, interviewed for an article in politico.com on Kovacs and Edie Adams (Mills is her son), the album was never released because Kovacs was under recording contracts with other companies, so he gave it to a Los Angeles hospital. Before her death, Edie Adams was able to get it back and it sat, mislabeled, for some time. Finally, in 2012, after Adams’ death, it was found and released. Kovacs was a brilliant comedian of visual humor and also an author and movie actor. His influence can be recognized in the whacky comedy of Laugh In, Monty Python, and Saturday Night Live.

When he died in a car crash in 1962, Kovacs was at the height of his career, with four shows running on TV and six films out from 1960–61. Shortly before his untimely death he had ended his Take a Good Look TV show and had begun his own series on ABC for Consolidated Cigars (Dutch Masters), The Ernie Kovacs Show.

**Item ID: 1135  $800**

[View this listing on our website]
ROOSEVELT, FRANKLIN DELANO

(1882–1945) 32nd President of the United States (1933–45), Governor of New York (1929–32).

Photograph Signed as President.

This Harris & Ewing photograph of President Roosevelt measures 7 x 9 inches and is signed on the lower margin, likely during FDR's third term. Located in Washington, D.C., the Harris and Ewing Photography Studio was known as the photographer of presidents. Condition: Slight soiling on margins and visible smudge line in upper right corner. Note that toning on jacket and background appears more prominent in this image. A classic image of FDR.

Item ID: 4359  $1,500

View this listing on our website
RUTH, BABE. [GEORGE HERMAN “BABE” RUTH JR.]


**Superb Signed and Inscribed Photograph of the All America Board of Baseball, 4to (8 x 10 inch) gelatin silver print, Dec. 17-1933.**

Vintage matte-finish photograph showing Ruth seated with several members of the 1932–33 All America Board of Baseball, signed and inscribed to Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph sportswriter Harry Keck in fountain pen, “Regards to my fellow Board Member; Harry Keck, Dec. 17-1933, Babe Ruth”. Ruth’s signature is clear though penned across an unevenly dark background. The photograph reflects baseball history, not only Ruth’s role as an all star player, but also the development of the All Star tradition in its various forms. The MVP awards began in 1931 and the Baseball Hall of fame opened in 1936. On verso, residue of archival tape on upper corners, otherwise condition is fine.

During the late 1920s, Babe Ruth’s agent Christy Walsh came up with the idea of creating the All America Board of Baseball, a council designed to annually honor baseball’s best players at each position. With Ruth as Chairman of the Board, a panel of ten sportswriters (one from each Major League city) was responsible for choosing an All America Baseball Team. The players selected would receive an award in the form of a certificate signed by Ruth and the panel of sportswriters. The All America Board of Baseball was a precursor to the All-Star tradition. This is a notable photograph from the early years of recognizing the best players of a baseball season.

**Item ID: 4369   $2900**

[View this listing on our website]
STEINBECK, JOHN

(1902–68). American novelist. Best remembered for novels about agricultural workers, such as Of Mice and Men and Grapes of Wrath. Also wrote Cannery Row, East of Eden and The Winter of our Discontent. He won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1962.


Steinbeck shares his thoughts about finishing his longest novel, East of Eden, published in 1952. He begins his letter to artist William Ward Beecher, (1921–2006) first thanking him for sending a painting of yellow roses and offering his complimentary opinion of it as well as the artist’s talent. Steinbeck then describes the progress of his novel.

“My own work sails along like a truck. I have only one more book—the 4th [referring to Part 4 of East of Eden] to do and my novel and to a certain extent, my life is over. I think I am not going to be ashamed of it. I have no excuses at all. It is the very best I can do with the equipment—mental, physical and spiritual that I have. It’s the story of good and evil and that is the only story here is. There is no other story—only this as profound approach to it. I think I will be done with my book in 8 more working weeks. The last section will be about 80,000 words long or an average length novel. I am reluctant to finish it because it will be like a kind of death and I will have to be reborn (if I am to live) into an entirely new world of work and thought. I can never repeat nor go over this again. That would be true death. But I am learning from you to carry the external real into a super real. And I think it is good. And maybe, as with the roses, I may be able to make men not pickable but to freeze them in time and space and greatness....”

Signed, “John.” With envelope addressed by hand, signed with his full name. The envelope is browned at the edges and torn where opened along the edge opposite to Steinbeck’s return address; rust mark from paper clip on first page.

William Ward Beecher (1921–2006) lived and worked in Connecticut and New York and was a leading exponent of the School of “Trompe l’Oeil.” Steinbeck wrote East of Eden between January and November, 1951, and like his other novels, the book was turned into a film released in 1955. This novel would be his next to last.

Item ID: 2533    $4,300
View this listing on our website
(1900–67) American actor, appeared in 99 films and awarded two Academy Awards.

**Typed Letter Signed on behalf of George Cukor, 4to on personal printed stationery, n.p., January 16, 1943.**

Tracy writes a letter of recommendation for his friend and film director, George Cukor. The actor recommends the director to make war propaganda films. In 1942, Cukor enlisted in the Army Signal Corps. Cukor was 43 at that time which might explain the reason for Tracy writing to Colonel Melvin Gillette, of the Signal Corps Photographic Center. Cukor directed training and propaganda films for a year after which he was honorably discharged because of his age. Tracy and Cukor had worked together on a number of films before and after World War II. Tracy lists some of Cukor’s films as a way of showing Cukor’s accomplishments. He describes Cukor as, “a man of great intellectual and artistic experience, has a great sense of humor and an enormously quick mind, which seems to me to add materially to his potentialities as an officer. He is a very well educated man...has boundless energy...” Tracy notes in his final paragraph that Cukor understands “human nature.” He signs above his typed name, “Spencer Tracy.”

Item ID: 4340  $525

[View this listing on our website](#)
WELLS, H. G.


Wells writes a philosophical letter to the editor of The Strand Magazine, R. J. Minney (1895–1979) who was also an author and film producer. Minney was the editor of The Strand Magazine from 1941–42, after working at other magazines which published Wells' works. By the time Wells writes this letter to Minney, they had established a long working relationship. At the beginning of the letter, Wells answers Minney's request for a “tiny contribution” for which he has been paid 10 pounds. He, rather sarcastically suggests that he is giving Minney “The gist of a life's experience for” 10 pounds.

The first section of the letter is bracketed “Private & Personal.” Here Wells writes, “My dear Minney, 'Tiny Contribution' indeed. The gist of a life's experience for £10! I like your check. It will take me hours to compose the brief message below...” He signs for the first time, “Y ours H. G. Wells.” What follows can be described as that “gist of a life's experience.” Whether this was intended for inclusion in an article for “The Strand Magazine,” it is difficult to say. It does not appear to have been published.

Wells writes as if he is proofreading his own work as well, with a cross-out correction and periods circled. In his fine hand he writes, “For the future life of the species see my 'outlook for Homo Sapiens'...” recently published in 1942 when this letter was written. He inserts an arrow from the words above to insert “lower case” fonts. He continues, “but if you mean the conscious individual life I see nothing worth carrying over and no means of carrying it over. Conscious life is dependent on a supply of aerated blood to the brain. When that stops we stop. When it weakens or is interrupted we sleep or faint. Yet those whom we have known & loved & who have died may live on in us more powerfully than when they were alive I have done things & not done things in the past year because of the silent influence of X who died fifteen years ago. But we defile & destroy such precious memories [here he is referring to his second wife, Amy Catherine Robbins, whom he called Jane and who had died in 1927] altogether if we finish the foul intervention of Sludge...”
this Medium or if we talk too freely [here Wells has crossed out two words, first “freely” which appear to be misspelled, then above that “Falsely”, then below rewrites “freely” ] and make an egotistical parade of our loss.” He signs a second time, “H. G. Wells,” adding a paraph connected to the “s”.

Around the same time as this letter, Wells was likely working on the last few articles and essays he published, all dealing in some way with the concept articulated here. Wells published a series of essays '42 to 44: A Contemporary Memoir, which also included a thesis he submitted in 1942 to the University of London for the Doctorate of Science. The thesis was on the “Quality of Illusion in the Continuity of the Individual...” In all of these final writings, Wells presents himself as more of a scientist than an artist, not as much a novelist as a thinker. In The Happy Turning, which was published in 1945, he says, “The human mind may be in a phase of transition to a new, fearless, clear-headed way of living in which understanding will be the supreme interest in life, and beauty a mere smile of approval... in a universe completely conscious of itself, Being achieves its end. Wells was remarkable for his foresight and imagination in such famous works as The Time Machine and The Invisible Man. Wells was deeply concerned about society’s future, an interest that led him to seek answers from such political groups as the Fabian Society.

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