ITEM 6: ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING LETTER
1. **ALCOTT, A. Bronson. AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS).** Concord, 8 January 1863. A three-page AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS) on one 9-3/4" x 7-3/4" sheet of paper folded in half to E. G. Dudley(?) apparently about arrangements for a lecture. In part: "If I am not at your house by six o'clock on Monday, you may expect me to appear at the Hall to begin the Conversation at half-past seven as advertised." Alcott was an American teacher, writer, philosopher, and reformer, as well as being the father of Louisa May Alcott. After befriending Ralph Waldo Emerson, he became a major figure in Transcendentalism, founding Fruitlands, a transcendentalist experiment in community living. Letters by Alcott are not common. Creases from mailing; mounted along the edge to a larger sheet of paper. Near Fine. (#021374) **SOLD**
Dear Mr. Roberts,

Thank you for your letter. Unfortunately, I can help you very little myself. There was a little privately printed (on a hand-press by Stephen Spender) book of my poems in 1928. As to the Faber 1930 volume, I have no idea how many copies there were in the first issue.

You may know that Mr. John Heyward (you can reach him at P.O. Box 24, Russell Green, London, W. C. 1) managed an exhibition of first printings, etc., in London. I think if you write to him, he could probably give you all the information you need.

yours sincerely,
W. H. Auden.
3. BARAKA, Amiri (LeRoi JONES). TYPED MANUSCRIPT for the Introduction to HARD FACTS. TYPED MANUSCRIPT (5 pages) of the Introduction to his book of poetry HARD FACTS. Baraka has made several alterations and additions in the text including about 50 words in his hand at the bottom of the fourth page: “The year the class struggle in Blk America became clear & open Segregation [...] & the productive forces loosed in on oppressed [...] just enough to create a vicious verticality, an oppressive class, in collaboration w/ the big bourgeoisie who now sat in the white house openly & picked their toes.” Near Fine. (#021429) $1,000
This is a speech that I will probably have given by the time you hear this at the Robt Treat Hotel, at a testimonial dinner given for my mother Anna Lois Jones, who is retiring from the Housing Authority after years.

I have learned a great deal of what I do know in Newark, or with Nwk. as a base. I was born here, the first generation in the north, after my grand parents and parents settled here, after being driven and called out of the black belt south, which is the homeland of the Afro-American nation in the usa.

During my early years, much of what I learned came from my parents, especially my mother, and my grandparents, especially my grandmother. I learned how and to some extent why they had come to the north. How my small shopkeeper grandfather had gotten ruined in the depression and lost his store on Boston Street, and how my mother had had to leave school pregnant with me, and how my father, during the height of the depression finally lucked up on a job in the post office, in a period when the negroes who ran elevators at bambergers were mostly lightskinned considered an elite, and had their pictures taken in tuxedoes.

My earliest recollection of my mother is of a small very beautiful woman. To me, she was easily the most beautiful woman in the world. And the wisest woman in the world was her mother, Anna Russ, of Bethany Church, whom my grandfather called Ol' Miss, and whom she called P'rett.

All children, especially the boys must think their mothers are beautiful, except in freudian novels, or in the sicker part of the propertyed classes, but there was also, an additional quality that I absorbed early. It was my mother's consciousness, her perception of life around us, that had a great influence on me.

I remember she came to school to fight for me, once against a teacher who thought there was something too strange about this little boy who talked constantly, and had these enormous eyes. She would also fight me when I came up short, like when I told the teachers at school the reason I was late was that we had these enormous snakes in the basement which I had to tend to. Or when I got weak marks in conduct -- the big mouth, it would get laid on hard and regular.
4. BARAKA, Amiri (LeRoi JONES). TYPED MANUSCRIPT: SPEECH AT TESTIMONIAL NOV 7 (ANNA LOIS RUSS) MAMA. TYPED MANUSCRIPT (5 pages) of a speech given by Baraka about his mother and his upbringing. Titled and numbered by hand with several ink corrections, Baraka talks about the influence his mother had on his life. In part: "I have learned a great deal of what I do know in Newark, or with Nwk as a base. I was born here, the first generation in the north, after my grand parents and parents settled here, after being driven and called out of the black belt south, which is the homeland of the afroamerican nation in the usa.... I remember she came to school to fight for me, against the bigots & chauvinists once against a teacher who thought there was something too strange about this little boy who talked constantly, and had these enormous eyes.... She had not only told me about racism, but on several occasions I had seen her do battle with racists. One day we went into a fanny farmer candy store, on Washington St or Halsey St, and the woman in there wanted to call Brazil Nuts, Nigger Toes. I remember the confrontation vividly. Those are Brazil Nuts, Lady, my mother said, turning on her heel, and dragging me out of the place.... When I came back to Newark to live, after College, The AirForce and living in New York, we came talking black power, and my mother did not oppose this line. When the police tried to kill me in 1967 when they succeeded in killing 26 other black people, trying to make newark safe for imperialism, my entire family, was solid behind me -- and I think that event changed us all, and made us all hate injustice and racism a little more intensely." Much more. As far as we know, this was never published. Some edgewear with a large segment of the bottom blank margin of the last page missing. Very Good. (#021430) SOLD

5. BARAKA, Amiri (LeRoi JONES). TYPED MANUSCRIPT: THE BIRTHDAY. TYPED MANUSCRIPT (6 pages) of a short play titled THE BIRTHDAY that takes place in Ghana on 7 March 1957, the day after the Ghana Independence Act took effect. There are several minor ink/pencil alterations in the text, primarily changing one derogatory term to another. The title page has a typed statement in Swahili as well as a notation in pencil by the author: "Njema Shd make certain all usages are right for Ghana Blacks ca. 1957." Stapled to the title page is a typed note signed in type by Asante stating that the play was shown to Mr. Amissah of the Ghana mission to the United Nations and giving his feedback regarding certain derogatory and swear words. Near Fine. (#021428) SOLD
Appreciating what has been said and if we understand correctly, we spoke with Mr. Amisah of the Ghana Mission to the United Nations.

We explained the whole play to him, and these were the words he gave us:

- Nigger = black monkey, monkey, black rascal, darkie
- Crackpr = whitie, white pig
- Damn = Damn
- Goddamn it = Goddamn

Shit = [do not use terms like this]

If we have said anything of value or beauty, all praises due to Imamu Baraka, Committee for Unified Nework Kawaiga and all mistakes have been ours.

Asante

Dear Mr. [Name],

I am in haste as usual and will write later. Let me know tomorrow when one shall be wanted. Shelter the fatina made of chicken could be a decent change?

I am, [Your Name],

[Address]

[Signature]
6. **BROWNING, Elizabeth Barrett. AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS).** [Rome], [April 1859]. Letter SIGNED "Elizabeth B. Browning" on a 3-3/8" x 5-1/4" sheet of paper matted and framed with a portrait to an overall size of 10-1/2" x 8-1/4". Browning has written "43 Bocca di Leone" as a return address. The letter is addressed to a Miss Shepard. In part: "I send the beef-tea, & will you let me know when more shall be wanted -- & whether the gelatina made of chicken would be a desirable change?-- Use me, I beg of you-- I do congratulate you all, out of a full heart--." A postscript: "One word of verbal message to say how she is today." An interesting insight into the domestic side of the famous poet. EBB to Ada Shepard (4382), as published in *THE BROWNINGS’ CORRESPONDENCE*, 26, 117, where the date is given as Sunday [?]10 [April 1859: "Conjectural date suggested by EBB’s references to easily digestible food, doubtless for Una Hawthorne"; and the text is taken from AAA’s (American Art Association) Catalogue, 6 May 1915. Light spotting to letter, some soiling at very bottom of letter covering up part of the words of the postscript. Letter examined out of frame and no other defects observed. Very Good. (#021335) $7,500

7. **BROWNING, Elizabeth Barrett. PARTIAL AUTOGRAPH LETTER (AL) Mentioning The Teachings Of Emanuel Swedenborg.** A partial handwritten letter on both sides of a 4-3/8" x 2-7/8" sheet of paper not signed but @100 words in Browning's hand: "...crowned heads, for instance from the Empress Eugenie, a royal set of steeds in black pearl & diamonds. The power left him on his arrival & then returned, it is said, tenfold. I understand that the spiritual figure, the whole figure, is seen now, but dimly for the most part. The subject holds me as much as it ever did & makes... Yes, I read Swedenborg. Yes, I do not [?] him all. But the heart of him is with the truth, I seem to know." Browning’s name appears below in another hand, along with a date and a record of the note’s provenance: "Given to Mary J. Garland by Mrs. Robert G. Shaw, to whom it was addressed." This appears to be an unpublished section of a letter held by Harvard dated 1 April 1858, picking up at the end of that letter: EBB to Sarah Blake Shaw (4156), as published in *THE BROWNINGS’ CORRESPONDENCE*, 25, 82–84; Some fading of ink in parts, cut unevenly. Very Good.

Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772), Swedish theologian, philosopher, and mystic, was immensely popular among 19th-century intellectuals and artists and a life-long interest of Browning's. She and her husband, Robert Browning, were much influenced by Swedenborg’s teachings. (#021334) **SOLD**
So live that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan which moves
To that mysterious realm where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of Death,
Then go not, like the quarry slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him and lies down to pleasant dreams."
8. **BRYANT, William Cullen. AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT (AM) with SIGNED CARD.** Handwritten conclusion of Bryant's most famous poem and one of the best-known poems of the 19th century—"Thanatopsis"—on a 4-7/8" x 3-3/4" sheet of paper laid down on a slightly larger album size sheet; together with a small calling card SIGNED "William Cullen Bryant" and dated "May 3d 1878. With an engraved portrait of Bryant. Several changes in punctuation from the published version. Any MANUSCRIPT excerpt of this poem, especially such a substantial one as this, is quite rare.

So live that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan which moves
To that mysterious realm where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of Death,
Thou go not, like the quarry slave at night,
Scourgéd to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him and lies down to pleasant dreams.

Near Fine. Scarce and desirable.

"Thanatopsis," written when Bryant was 15 years old and first published in THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW in September 1817, became Bryant's most celebrated poem and is often acknowledged as "the first great American poem." Although the poem remained popular throughout Bryant's life, autograph fair copies are surprisingly rare with only two examples offered at auction in the past 50 years, the last being at Christie's in 1993. (#021355) $4,500
9. **BURROUGHS, John. AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS).** West Park, NY, 24 August 1893. A two-page handwritten letter to Robert Underwood Johnson ("Dear Johnson"), Associate Editor of CENTURY MAGAZINE, on two panels of a 10" x 8" sheet folded in half, SIGNED in full by Burroughs at the conclusion. In part: "I have not written an outdoor article for a long time, except some short papers for YOUTH’S COMPANION. If I ever again write anything suitable for THE CENTURY, you shall have it. I am just now opening the grape campaign [grape harvest?]. This rain today is very much needed.... I climbed Slide Mountain [peak in Catskill Mountains, NY] alone & slept on its summit." Paperclip rust stain at top margin. Near Fine. (#021377) **$450**
mauvaise, par courtoisie, j’est
mouillé réserve, à ce déjeuner
du diable, plus qu’il ne l’aurait
dû, c’est vrai, mais je ne puis
leur reprocher qu’un excès de
reserve. Bon Dieu, hein, trois
sous, trois aux d’un mobilieraton,
un texte serre, et le reste de
l’avance ! Quel culot ! À ce
compte là, je ne fais plus les
pieds à Paris, et je laisse le
métier. T’ai toujours de l’ogive
et des patates ici. C’est mieux
aller à avaler que ce frais.
Je vous serre la main bien
amicalement.

Chez moi,

comme je m’y attendais, Colette qui, à ce déjeuner, n’écoutait
pas, fait explosion en voyant le traité. Fréquemment Veuvey voulant assy
gentil pour me faire envoyer recommandé le précédent traité Plannarion.
A moins que vous ne l’appuyiez avec vous et que nous ne conviennent ensemble
se rendre là-haut ou ne pas faire à F. Abrekk et bien amicalement

[Signature]
10. **COLETTE, Sidonie-Gabrielle. AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS).** n.p., n.d. A two-page AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED "Colette" written in French on both sides of one 8-1/4" x 10-1/2" piece of blue paper to an unnamed friend [named "Henri" in the text] expressing her anger at a contract from her publisher. In part [English translation]: "I received the Flammarion contract.... I could have known earlier, but I am more sensible to the sight than to the ear -- it is such a bad offer and so humiliating, it makes my blood go around in circles. I do not believe that even during my beginning any one had dared to offer me such a disadvantageous contract. I am not going along with it. You are my editor & friend. These two titles give you the right for a third one -- the one of advisor.... My God, Henri ... three years of working and finally blocking out a tight text and then they withhold further advances. What a nerve! Because of that, I will not put a foot in Paris! I quit the business." Handwritten SIGNED postscript written by Colette's husband Maurice Goudeket. Creases from mailing. Near Fine. (#021433) **SOLD**

11. **COOPER, James Fenimore. AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT (AMs) From THE WATER WITCH.** Unsigned handwritten fragment of his working draft of this novel about the abduction of a woman by a pirate. Two pages in dark ink in his small hand, approximately 600 words, on both sides of an 8" x 3-1/4" sheet. With a separate card SIGNED by the author's daughter, also an author, Susan Fenimore Cooper, dated Aug. 1889 and stating: "From the 'WATER-WITCH,' written at the 'Casa Tasso,' Sorrento, in 1828." Cooper manuscript material is scarce in the trade. A few small holes affecting text repaired with tissue, minor scattered foxing and soiling. Very Good. (#021375) **$3,500**
12. **COWARD, Noel. SIGNED PHOTOGRAPH.** A 9-1/2" x 7" silver print of Coward at the piano, tipped at upper edge to slightly larger mount INSCRIBED "For Mrs. Jolly" and SIGNED by Coward. Attractive image in Near Fine condition. (#021365) $350

13. **COWARD, Noel. TYPED LETTER SIGNED (TLS) Giving Advice on Writing for the Theatre.** Boston, 7 November 1936. One page on 8-1/2" x 11" Ritz-Carlton Boston letterhead to Cornelia B. Furbish sending advice to a wanna-be playwright: "I should say it is almost essential to be in some way connected with the theatre before you write for it unless you happen to have an exceptional genius." Bold, dark SIGNATURE. Moderately toned, moreso at extremities; creases. Very Good. (#021367) SOLD
14. CRANE, Hart. AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS) to His Mother. Columbia Hts [New York], 16 November 1924. Very scarce, closely written two-page AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED with superb content two years before the publication of his first book, WHITE BUILDINGS, to his mother, addressed as "Dear Grace." In part: "Another very active week. Luncheon with someone different every day -- and nearly always someone to take up the evening. But I have been so interested in several incompletely poems that I've sat up very late working on them, and so by the advent of Saturday felt pretty tuckered out. There's no stopping for rest, however, when one is the 'current' of creation, so to speak, and so I've spent all of today at one or two stubborn(?) lines. My work's becoming known for its formal perfection and hard glowing polish, but most of those qualities, I'm afraid, are due to a great deal of labor and patience on my part. Besides working on part of my BRIDGE I'm engaged in writing a series of six sea poems called VOYAGES (they are also love poems) and one of these was soon see published in '1924,' a magazine published at -
Woodstock and which I think I told you about heretofore." Crane than writes a poetic paragraph describing the weather and the river before talking about Eugene O'Neill: "O'Neil [sic] has a new play at the Greenwich Village Theatre -- a tragedy called DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS which I'll see sometime this week. He and Agnes were in town for the premiere and I called on them at their rooms in the Lafayette one evening.... He seems to have Europe in applause more than America. That's true of Waldo Frank's work in France, also, where he has been much translated and more seriously considered, far more so, than here at home. The American public is still strangely unprepared for its men of higher talents, while Europe looks more and more to America for the renascence of a creative spirit." Crane is happy to get his mother's letters and rejoices in her having "a lyric evening," dancing and drinking. "I still like to think of those five o'clock booze parties we had in the office and how giddily I sometimes came home for dinner. You were very charming and sensible about it all, too, and I thank my stars that while you are naturally an inbred Puritan you also know and appreciate the harmless gambols of an exuberant nature like my own. It all goes to promise that we shall have many merry times together later sometime when we're a little closer geographically." He concludes: "My -- but how the wind is blowing. Rain, too, on the window now! There was a wonderful fog for about 18 hours last week. One couldn't even see the garden close behind the house -- to say nothing of the piers. All night long there were distant tinklings, buoy bells and siren warnings from river craft. It was like wakening into a dream land in the early dawn -- one wondered where one was with only a milky light in the window and that vague music from a hidden world. Next morning while I dressed it was clear and glittering as usual. Like champagne, or a cold [?] to look it. Such a world! Love, as always, your Hart." Hand-addressed envelope by Crane to "Grace Hart Crane" SIGNED by him with his address. Also with 1964 invoice and letter from bookseller Henry W. Wenning. Especially significant piece of Crane's family correspondence, this letter has often been reprinted, appearing specifically in LETTERS OF HART CRANE AND HIS FAMILY (NY: Columbia UP, 1974), on pp 371-373. And while that book indicates that the original is owned by Columbia University, recent correspondence with Columbia reveals that that published claim is incorrect: this letter somehow escaped Columbia's acquisition of the Crane archive in the 1950s. A key item of Crane's that has been off the market for nearly 60 years. For the four years preceding Crane's suicide in 1932, Grace Crane had not spoken to her son. She nevertheless became his literary executor, devoting her life to promoting his work. Creases from folding, otherwise about Fine. (#021418)  

SOLD
1015 N. King's Rd.,
Hollywood, Calif.
Feb. 7, 1942.

David Lord,
2562 Harper St.,
Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Mr. Lord:

Thanks for the copy of Prairie Schooner containing your article about me. I like it very much because it presents the evidence pro and con. Also it has bibliographic value, enumerating, as it does, various studies of me that I have never seen. Among other things I find comfort in Chekhov's comment on the one remark by a critic that impressed him. I think one criticism of me that has stuck longest and most amusingly in my mind is that credited to the late Ring Lardner who is said to have said that I was "the Prince of bad writers." I like that. At least it establishes leadership in that field.

Thank you very much for the copy. If you are ever in this vicinity before the Japanese take charge, do lock me up.

Cordially,

Theodore Dreiser

D.r
DREISER, Theodore. TYPED LETTER SIGNED (TLS) on Being Called "The Prince of Bad Writers". Hollywood, 7 February 1942. Fine one-page TYPED LETTER SIGNED (TLS) on personal letterhead to David Lord regarding an article about Dreiser written by Lord. In full: "Thanks for the copy of PRAIRIE Schooner containing your article about me. I like it very much because it presents the evidence pro and con. Also it has bibliographic value, enumerating, as it does, various studies of me that I have never seen. Among other things I find comfort in Chekhov’s comment on the one remark by a critic that impressed him. I think one criticism of me that has stuck longest and most amusingly in my mind is that credited to the late Ring Lardner who is said to have said that I was ‘the Prince of bad writers.’ I like that. At least it establishes leadership in that field. Thank you very much for the copy. If you are ever in this vicinity before the Japanese take charge, do look me up." The article by Lord appeared in the Winter 1941 issue of PRAIRIE Schooner and was titled "Dreiser Today." It begins: "It is now more than forty years since Theodore Dreiser made his appearance with SISTER CARRIE. Many things have changed since then. Much that was accepted and praised has sunk beyond the verge. Whole schools and periods have dwindled and died. Reputations have come and gone. Stars have risen, have fallen again. But Dreiser remains. His star burns with a more brilliant light than when first it rose, though at the beginning, and for many years thereafter, men were not lacking who said that this was not a star at all, but a mere chance flare." The reference in Dreiser's letter to Chekhov is to a comment the Russian playwright once said "that the only remark made by a critic that had impressed him was that he would die in a ditch, drunk." American journalist Ring Lardner (1885-1933) "did not have a high opinion of Dreiser’s art because of the imprecision of Dreiser’s diction. The brief exchange of letters in early 1932 between the two resulted from Lardner’s reportedly having labeled Dreiser ‘the prince of bad writers,’ though Lardner vigorously denied having used the phrase," (LETTERS OF RING LARDNER, Caruthers). Dreiser's letter was written exactly two months after Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbor during a period when Japan had racked up military victories and the outlook for the United States was bleak. Creases from mailing, minor wear to the top edge. Near Fine. (#021419) **SOLD**
Ossia Trilling Esq.,
The Incorporated Stage Society,
38, Shaftesbury Avenue,
W.1.

Dear Mr. Trilling,

I have your letter of the 8th July and will ask you to convey to the council and management of The Stage Society my appreciation of the honour that they wish to do me in inviting me to become a member of the council.

On mature reflection, however, I feel that I must decline the proposed honour. I have already as many public associations as I can adequately cope with, and I have a strong objection to being a merely nominal member. I feel therefore that it would not be proper for me to join your council unless I could take an active part in the deliberations. I should very much like to be associated in this way with the society, for which I have such high respect, and it is with genuine regret that I feel obliged to decline.

Yours sincerely,

T. S. Eliot

8th July 1938.

Eliot founded and edited the influential literary journal THE CRITERION, which provided a forum for many prominent contemporary writers and was the first to publish THE WASTE LAND. Fine. (#021338) SOLD
17. **FORD, Ford Madox.** **TYPOGRAPHIC LETTER SIGNED (TLS)** to John Crowe Ransom. [New York], 21 October 1938. Single-spaced typed letter on 7-1/4" x 9-3/4" personal "ten fifth avenue" stationery to poet and teacher John Crowe Ransom **SIGNED** "F. M. Ford" about a revised article [not included] he is submitting, likely "A Paris Letter," published in the very first issue of THE KENYON REVIEW, Winter 1939. In part: "I have cut out a good deal but I have also added some other matter.... I can't bear to think of taking up too much of your space and crowding out a lot of young things who are panting to appear.... Anyhow, please cut anything you like and be sure I shall not grumble." Notation in upper blank margin initialed by Ford. Near Fine. (#021385) **SOLD**
18. [FROST, Robert] HOOD, Richard Thomas. SIGNED ORIGINAL ETCHING. A 6-1/4" x 7-1/2" ORIGINAL ETCHING of Frost by Richard Thomas Hood SIGNED by the artist and by the poet. Attractive image of the poet at a somewhat younger age than typically depicted. From the Artists Series created by Richard Thomas Hood (1910-1993), Philadelphia artist and Director of the Pennsylvania Art Project (WPA). Fine. (#021426) $1,000
19. GILBERT, W. S. AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS). South Kensington, 29 November 1881. One-page AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED on 4-1/2" x 7-1/8" personal stationery to Mrs. Lewis. In full: "Do you care to go to the first night of 'ENGAGED' at the Court? I send you two stalls at the chance." ENGAGED, first performed in 1877, was one of Gilbert's more serious plays. About Fine. (#021347)  

SOLD
20. GINSBERG, Allen. AUTOGRAPH LETTER (AL). Boulder, CO, 14 June 1983 (from postmark). On both sides of a letter on 6" x 9" lined paper to Ginsberg asking if he were still involved with the Hare Krishnas, he responds: "Not since 1968-- No-- I like Bhaktivedanta Swami Dispite [sic] his hard-shell Baptist style orthodoxy-- but I don't follow their theistic approach and I do follow Buddhist meditation practice. Take a look at Chogyam Trungpa’s books-- MEDITATION IN ACTION and CUTTING THRU SPIRITUAL MATERIALISM published -- Shambhala Press, Boulder. or see NEW AGE JOURNAL June 1983 for my meditation activities. or read BEGINNERS MIND, ZEN MIND by Suzuki Roshi (not D. T. Suzuki) OK--" With the envelope hand-addressed by Ginsberg with the return address of the Naropa Institute. While not signed by the poet, interesting content. Folds from mailing. Near Fine. (#021436) $600
Dear Mr. Hammett,

Thanks a lot for the latest of your always kind notes. The Falcon seems to be going over pretty well and I think Earle Booth's going to produce it on the stage in the Fall, if I can get time off from the current book to do the dramatization.

The next book, "The Glass Key," is scheduled for publication in September or October, and then "The Thin Man" and "The Darkened Face" in February and August, 1951. Beyond that, deponent saith not.

Best of luck to you with the poetry and otherwise.

Sincerely,

Dashiell Hammett
HAMMETT, Dashiell. TYPED LETTER SIGNED (TLS) Mentioning His Three Greatest Novels. New York, 21 April 1930. One-page TYPED LETTER SIGNED in full to Walter Hammett (who had written initially wondering, incorrectly as it turned out, if they were related). In full: "Thanks a lot for the latest of your always kind notes. The Falcon seems to be going over pretty well and I think Earle Boothe's going to produce it on the stage in the Fall, if I can get time off from the current book to do the dramatization. The next book, 'THE GLASS KEY,' is scheduled for publication in September or October, and then 'THE THIN MAN' and 'THE DARKENED FACE' in February and August, 1931. Beyond that deponent saith not. Best of luck to you with the poetry and otherwise." Written only two months after publication of THE MALTESE FALCON, the letter has some irony to it as Hammett's precision in rattling off titles and publication dates bore no reality to what came to pass. THE GLASS KEY would not be published until 1931; THE THIN MAN did not appear until 1934. As for THE DARKENED FACE, there is a fragment of a manuscript with that title at the Ransom Center. It now appears to have been a planned novel which never came to fruition. Nor did Hammett write a stage version of THE MALTESE FALCON. Instead, the novel was almost immediately adapted to film, released by Warner Brothers as a pre-code 1931 crime drama full of sexual innuendo starring Ricardo Cortez and Bebe Daniels. Ten years later the famed version, John Huston's directorial debut starring Humphrey Bogart and Mary Astor, was released, becoming one of the most acclaimed films of all time. THE SELECTED LETTERS OF DASHIELL HAMMETT 1921-1960 (Richard Layman, editor) were indeed "selected from nearly one thousand letters," yet only a mere four letters date, as this letter does, from 1930, the year Hammett published THE MALTESE FALCON. Light creases from mailing. Fine in a lovely, Fine clamshell box. (#021384) SOLD
Vite mon bonhomme, voici un truc de chasse. Si un oiseau fait la têту ce bâton à l'affleure qui t'empêche de crier en qui peut vouloir à deux, plus vous vous faites de l'air, plus vous ferez votre profit à ce que de cette fille, bonhomme, je suis sincère. J'étais personne en appel qui était un ange. Je suis rentré d'un bon passage de mon. Il n'y a plus moyen avec moi. Il y a bien en heureux sans lui, mais qu'en dis-je? Je veux que vous pensiez beaucoup à sa place.

Victor Hugo

1676
22. **HUGO, Victor.** AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS): *A Moving Letter on the Death of his Daughter.* One-page SIGNED letter in French on 5-1/4" x 8-1/4" mourning paper to Madame de Courbonne with integral address written by Hugo on verso. Written exactly two weeks after the tragic drowning death in the Seine of his pregnant 19-year-old daughter and her husband. From an English translation accompanying the letter: "Your soul, Madame, is a treasure of charity. You have the high and beautiful intelligence that understands everything and that can touch any wound without causing suffering. A tear from you comes from the heart so deeply. Alas, Madame, I am crushed. I have lost a child who was an angel. I thank you. You bend over me and you weep with me. Be blessed and happy in all those whom you love." The tragic death of his daughter, Léopoldine, had a great impact on his work and personality. He dedicated poems to her memory after several years of not writing afterwards owing to the clinical depression he developed following her death. Two small stains in the margin; ink dark and clear. Near Fine.

Madame de Courbonne (1786-1863) was one of the most prominent society figures of Restoration France. She maintained a famous Paris salon where she entertained prominent figures, including not only Hugo but Madame Recamier, Talleyrand, and Lafayette. A contemporary described her hospitality: "This salon is the last refuge of talkers, men and women of spirit or those who claim to have one or who pass for one." (#021389) **SOLD**
23. **JOYCE, James. AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS).** Paris, 24 November 1920. Small (4-1/2" x 6-1/2") AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED "James Joyce" to Madame Yasushi Tanaka (Louise Gebhard Cann) on blue paper integral with envelope which is addressed in Joyce’s hand and postmarked on the verso. In full: "Dear Madam, in reply to your letter I shall call on you on Sunday afternoon next as it seems to be the most convenient time for you. Sincerely yours, James Joyce." Louise Gebhard Cann was a prominent writer and art critic in early 20th century France. At Ezra Pound’s suggestion, Cann wrote to Joyce requesting an interview with him for an article on writers in France set to appear in an upcoming issue of THE PACIFIC REVIEW. Following publication of the "Nausicaa" episode of ULYSSES in THE LITTLE REVIEW the previous year, Joyce’s writing was deemed obscene, and the issue was effectively banned in the United States. It is believed that because of the controversy, the editors then decided to omit any mention of Joyce from the finished article published in the March 1921 issue of THE PACIFIC REVIEW. Ellman, JAMES JOYCE LETTERS III: 32. Close to Fine. (#021432) **$6,000**
24. **LEWIS, Sinclair.** ARCHIVE for Radio Performance of DODSWORTH. Collection of SIGNED contracts along with a copy of the original script for the 6 October 1946 radio performance presented by The Theatre Guild on the Air. Included are a 15 July 1946 two-page contract SIGNED by Sinclair Lewis, Theatre Guild co-administrator Armina Marshall, and Polly Damrosch Howard, widow of Sidney Howard who wrote the script; 2 one-page contracts dated 24 September 1946 SIGNED by Marshall and actress Jessie Royce Landis; a one-page contract dated 13 September 1946 SIGNED by Marshall and actor Walter Huston; a two-page undated contract SIGNED by Marshall and writer Arthur Arent who adapted the script to radio; the 65-page unmarked script for DODSWORTH; and a program from the Shubert Theater for the 1934 Broadway production of DODSWORTH starring Huston. Landis was a character actress appearing in many films including TO CATCH A THIEF and NORTH BY NORTHWEST. Huston won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for THE TREASURE OF THE SIERRA MADRE, directed by his son John Huston. In addition to starring in the 1934 Broadway adaptation of DODSWORTH, he starred in the play's film version released two years later, which was nominated for 7 Oscars. Sidney Howard was nominated for an Academy Award for his adaptation of the Sinclair Lewis novel ARROWSMITH and again in 1936 for DODSWORTH, which he had adapted for the stage in 1934. After dying in a tragic accident, he was the first posthumous winner of an Academy Award (1939) for his adapted screenplay for GONE WITH THE WIND. Scarce collection of original material related to this Lewis production. Near Fine. (#021392) $2,500
25. **LEWIS, Sinclair. TYPED LETTER SIGNED (TLS).** Bronxville, NY, 2 March 1937. One page on 5-3/4" x 6-1/2" personal stationery to Dramatists Play Service ordering "plays mentioned on the enclosed list [not present], as advertised in your latest announcement." Ink stamp of date received at bottom left margin; crease from folding. Near Fine. (#021348) **$200**
26. **LONGFELLOW, Henry Wadsworth.** **AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS): Charming Missive to a Young Boy Named Charlie.** Cambridge, 1867. Superb 4-page **AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED** "Henry W. Longfellow" on a 9" x 7" sheet of paper, folded once, to "My Dear Charlie," a young boy as obvious by the content. In full: "I have been so long in answering your letter, that no doubt you begin to think that I am not going to answer it at all. But you see, I am; and my letter will be longer than yours. It comes very naturally to me to begin with 'My Dear Charlie,' because I have a boy named Charlie. He was in the war; and was shot through the body; but has got well again, and is now in St. Petersburg; and whenever I write to him I begin my letters with 'My Dear Charlie,' just as I do this. I suppose you have a sled; and I wonder of what color it is, and what its name is. I used to have one named the 'Vanguard'; but that was a good while ago, and I do not know what has become of it. And what do you think of this great snow? You may live to be an old man without seeing the like again. It will be good fun for you to make snow houses and forts. I hope you have a wooden shovel, for I really don't know what a boy can do without a wooden shovel in winter. And now, my Dear Charlie, good bye; and remember that all Charlies must be good boys. That will make everything pleasant and comfortable. Your friend, Henry W. Longfellow." With the envelope addressed by Longfellow to Edward B. Haven, a friend of his son Charlie and the father of the young boy named Charlie, likely named after his friend. Haven and Charles Longfellow shared a home in Japan in 1872. Normal folds from mailing; ink a bit light. Near Fine. (#021390) $2,000
Dear Baz,
I've tried not to write until I got more used to everything, until all the pieces of the puzzle fell into place -- but they don't. I won't admit it, even to myself, but I don't like Radcliffe. At least I don't like it now, and I can't see when I will if things go on this way. Oh, everybody's nice enough, all right -- but I keep suddenly breaking off in the middle of a conversation about classes or movies or nothing at all -- you can't imagine how people here can talk for hours about nothing at all -- and saying to myself, 'What does it matter, anyway?' Maybe they feel that, maybe it's something else, but people...

A year ago it was -- the sky All misted with white whirled-cream cloud, And where we walked the Queen Anne's lace Made a white cobweb standing proud Yet infinitely fine-spun. Did I know (You asked) that only for one day each year The flower bloomed like this? I laughed And plucked a spray, being then without fear Or premonition. Laughing. Well, last night And someone told me once that May was kind! -- I saw the buds all ready to unfold. No thanks, I'll just sit here, if you don't mind.

27. LURIE, Alison. AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS) with AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT (AM) by a 17-Year-Old Future Pulitzer Winner. Cambridge, [10 July 1943]. Superb, very early three-page handwritten letter on two sheets of 5-1/2" x 6-3/4" sheets of personal stationery to a former teacher and mentor SIGNED "Alison." Lurie, just 17 at the time, had just begun her freshman year at Radcliffe College: "I've tried not to write until I got more used to everything, until all the pieces of the puzzle fell into place -- but they don't. I won't admit it, even to myself, but I don't like Radcliffe." She finds that her fellow students "talk for hours about nothing at all," and her English composition teacher is "a horrid slap-you-on-the-back conservative practical sort of man who goes in for punctuation and research." She discusses dating Harvard men: "they're all exactly the same, every one." With a HOLOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT of a 12-line poem titled "Spider's Web" (likely never published) which Lurie sent with the explanation: "You'll be the first person to see it -- there's no one here I can show it to. I feel so alone." Some 380 words in all. With the envelope hand-addressed by Lurie. Despite her early misgivings, Lurie went on to graduate from Radcliffe. Her first novel was not published until almost two decades after this letter. She won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for her 1984 novel FOREIGN AFFAIRS. Creases from mailing. About Fine. (#021351) $1,500
28. Mérimée, Prosper. AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS). Letter in French of 2-1/2 pages on an 8-1/4" x 10-1/2" sheet folded to make four pages, SIGNED "P. Mérimée," addressed to "Mon cher ami." A rough translation of part of the letter: "I live like the anvil hammered on all sides. M. de Laborde's project was presented by him to the court on Monday, where it will be examined tomorrow. If you find any objections to it, state them.... Should we continue now? Is this the best way to do it quickly and well?" A few minor, small stains; ink dark and bold. Very Good.

An important figure in the Romantic movement of French literature in the 19th century, Mérimée was a pioneer of the novella, his most famous being CARMEN, which became the basis of Bizet's opera of the same name. (#021386)  

SOLD
29. **MILLER, Henry.** ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT SIGNED (AMS) with CORRECTED TYPESCRIPT of CHINA. A 6-page (8-1/2" x 11") MANUSCRIPT COMPLETELY IN MILLER'S HAND and SIGNED by him at the conclusion, with a TYPED MANUSCRIPT of the same in 5 pages with minor ink corrections and Miller's chop at the end. Eventually printed in Miller's MOTHER, CHINA AND THE WORLD BEYOND (1976) by the Capra Press. With a SIGNED copy (#161 of 250) of the book included. Miller records his impressions of a China about which he had only heard and read. "Even as a boy the name China evoked strange sensations in me. It spelled everything that was vast, marvelous, magical, and incomprehensible. To say China was to stand things upside down." Small paperclip rust stain at top of first page of each manuscript. About Fine. (#021346) **$2,500**
with me, and don't keep on saying "Thank you" until I run out of ink. I expect he had only asked me if there was more pen before, because if I went on saying "Thank you" until I had run out of ink, he would not get that silly done today. But I really am very much indebted, and I think the removal from my brain, and the reduction of a short of my brain, and how I am feeling about helping his work will be something about helping his work. Goodnight. He has been talking to me. I am very cross, and I must clear.

Assuming that I do not have more ink, I am asking him to do something about helping his work. This literary situation which I have always wanted to do a good job of getting to speak.

I am most thankful.

The Pen.

P.S. It was his fault about the ink, not mine.

T. P.

Pen. He says that is the best he can do.
30. **MILNE, A. A. AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS) Weeks Before the Publication of WINNIE-THE-POOH.** (London), 29 September 1926. A two-page AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS) on both sides of 5-1/2" x 7-3/8" personal stationery to "My dear Sir" [Vincent Seligman]. Written just weeks before the publication of Milne's most famous work, WINNIE-THE-POOH. This fine letter offers insight into Milne's sharp sense of humor and includes indirect references to his most famous book. Milne refers to a person in his letter as a "cygnet" (a young swan), a reference which may have been in mind as Winnie The Pooh was a blended name created by Milne, being a combination of the name "Pooh," after a cygnet swan they met on holiday, and "Winnie," a black bear cub he often saw at the London Zoo. There is also a lighthearted poke at his publisher, Methuen. In part: "I have arrived safely at the house to which you sent me, and think that I shall like the situation. I wanted to begin a serial story for the DAILY MAIL at once, but the man here said ‘No, there's a letter we must write first,’ and I said ‘Oh, I see,’ and began writing ‘Dear Methuen,’ but he snatched me away from the paper, and said it wasn’t that sort of letter at all, which disappointed me rather because I thought I had got a literary situation. But he promised me we should do some poetry afterwards, and I said ‘All right.’ And of course when he began ‘Dear Vincent,’ I said ‘Oh, know that man well; let me write the letter, while you get the ink off your hands.’ He was terribly pleased with me, and I'm to keep on saying ‘Thank you’ until I run out of ink.... But I really am to say ‘Thank you very much....’ Assuring you, Sir, of my respects, and again thanking you for obtaining me this literary situation which I have always wanted from a cygnet so to speak. Yours faithfull [sic] The Pen. P.S. It was his fault about the ink, not mine. T.P. P.P.P. Now we are going to practise his signature: A. A. Milne. P.P.P.S. He says that’s the best he’s ever done." A delightful letter. Crease from mailing otherwise Fine.

Vincent Seligman was a banker who ran the London bank Seligman Brothers. He and his wife Barbara were close friends of the Milnes. Seligman dedicated his book, OXFORD ODDITIES, to Milne. (#021380) **$2,500**
31. MOORE, Marianne. AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS). Brooklyn, 11 October 1942. Two-page handwritten letter on both sides of an 8-1/2" x 11" sheet of onionskin paper to Philip B. Rice, Associate Editor of THE KENYON REVIEW, SIGNED in full. Moore writes about her review of PARTS OF A WORLD by Wallace Stevens, which would be published with the title "There Is a War That Never Ends" in the Winter 1943 issue (pages 144-147). She states that she is in the midst of work on a manuscript for a friend and would not be submitting any poems with her review. Moore asks if she could also include a review of Stevens's TOWARDS A SUPREME FICTION published by the Cummington Press with her review of the other book as "it seems to belong with the other." In fact she did review both books in the same article. She concludes by thanking Rice for his article in a recent issue of the publication: "We are especially benefitted by the close helpful thinking in your own article. The 'integrative principle' is indeed a comprehensive term. And I am surely under a heavy debt to Randall Jarrell." Creases from mailing, faint paperclip stain at top margin. Near Fine. (#021333) SOLD
32. [MORLEY, Christopher] HOOD, Richard Thomas. SIGNED ORIGINAL ETCHING. An 8" x 11" ORIGINAL ETCHING (image size of 5-3/4" x 7") of Morley by Richard Thomas Hood SIGNED by the artist and by the author. From the Artists Series created by Richard Thomas Hood (1910-1993), Philadelphia artist and Director of the Pennsylvania Art Project (WPA). Hinge tabs at top of verso. Fine. (#021427) 

SOLD
Dear Mr. Ransom:

I'm pleased you could use the story. Some one has called my attention to the fact that on page 29 of that story, I have the character sitting on the fender when I should have her sitting on the bumper. If you could change that before you sent it to the printer, it might save him making the change on the page proofs. That is how much I know about automobiles.

Also, if instead of sending the check for this story to me, you would have it sent to my agent, I would be much obliged. She is: Miss Elizabeth McKee, 30 East 60th Street, New York City.

My application for a Guggenheim fellowship was turned down, I don't know if there is any use in my applying for it again next year or not. I hate to keep bothering people to write recommendations for me as I know it is a nuisance; however, if I do decide to apply again, I hope you will let me use your name as a reference.

Sincerely,

Flannery O'Connor

33. O'CONNOR, Flannery. TYPED LETTER SIGNED (TLS) to John Crowe Ransom. Milledgeville, GA, 2 April 1956. Single-spaced typed letter on one side of a 8-1/2" x 11" sheet of paper to poet and teacher John Crowe Ransom SIGNED in full. O'Connor expresses pleasure that Ransom will publish her story ("Greenleaf" in THE KENYON REVIEW, Vol. 18, No. 3, Summer, 1956) and asks him to change one word: "I have the character sitting on the fender when I should have her sitting on the bumper.... That is how much I know about automobiles." The change indeed was made in the story as published in the magazine. She also mentions that she was turned down for a Guggenheim fellowship and wonders if Ransom will let her use his name again as a reference when she reapplyes. Folds from mailing. Near Fine. (#021332)  

SOLD
O'NEILL, Eugene. **SIGNED PHOTOGRAPH INSCRIBED TO HIS WIFE with SIGNED VAN VECHTEN PHOTOGRAPH OF HIS WIFE CARLOTTA and SIGNED PHOTOGRAPH OF HIS SON.** Fine 7-3/4" x 9-3/4" studio portrait by Pinchot of New York from a 1933 sitting of the brooding O'Neill INSCRIBED and SIGNED by the four-time Pulitzer Prize Winner to his wife: "To Carlotta--/with all my love,/Sweetheart!/Gene/Feb. '35," the year before O'Neill became the first American playwright to win the Nobel Prize. Signed photographs of O'Neill are distinctly uncommon. This is one of the finest in existence. Accompanied by a 6-1/2" x 8-3/4" Carl Van Vechten photo of Carlotta O'Neill with Van Vechten's ink stamp identification on the rear and red ink annotations. INSCRIBED and SIGNED on the front by Carlotta "To Dorothy & Saxe--/Dearest love/Carlotta 1933." Saxe Cummins was editor to O'Neill and William Faulkner among others. Also included is a scarce 5" x 7-1/2" photograph of Eugene O'Neill, Jr., the playwright's eldest son by his first of three wives, Kathleen Jenkins (O'Neill had one other son, Shane, an emotionally unstable drug addict who committed suicide and a daughter, Oona, who was cut out of O'Neill's life when at the age of 18 she married the 54-year old Charlie Chaplin.). INSCRIBED and SIGNED by O'Neill, Jr. to collector LaFayette Butler "with gratitude & best wishes." O'Neill's namesake committed suicide in 1950 at the age of 40, likely not very long after signing this and three years before his father's death. This photograph is tipped at the top verso to a board but is otherwise Fine. Near Fine to Fine and an extraordinary collection. (#012397) **$15,000**
35. POUND, Ezra. TYPED LETTER SIGNED (TLS). Rapallo, n.d.. One-page letter on Pound's personal stationery (8-7/8" x 7") SIGNED with his initials. Apparently a letter to the editor of the TRIBUNE "to print if you like," as Pound has typed in the upper left margin. In full: "Now that the TRIBUNE has (editorial April 17) definitely decided that the American people can not get rich by exporting credit to enable foreigners to export American products, perhaps they cd. take a still more daring step and suggest that the Cubans shd. try a little modern economic thought (either Gesell or C.H.Douglas, for example), and when it had worked on the Cubans we cd. then have a little economic sanity in the home." With one ink correction by Pound. Some raggedness to the edges, typing rather light but readable. Very Good. (#021339) $1,000
36. RUKEYSER, Muriel. AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS). New York, 20 December 1936. Two-page handwritten letter on both sides of personal stationery (7" x 10-1/4") to Philip B. Rice of Kenyon College SIGNED "Muriel." In part: "I'm all over that stage, and would probably be quite unrecognizable to you now, although I'm a lot more recognizable to myself." She asks if Rice had finished his long poem and if she could see it when he did. "I've always been sorry there wasn't another time, so that I might have taken advantage of what you said, and showed you some recent poems. I'm very stuck now in the prose, which went along until I got out of bed, and the stopped short." With envelope addressed in Rukeyser's hand. Folds from mailing. Near Fine. (#021331) $500
37. **RUSKIN, John.** AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS). Landgate, 18 December 1887. One-page AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED "John Ruskin" on a 4-1/2" x 6-7/8" sheet of light blue paper addressed to George Barnard, artist, writer, and from 1843 to 1880, the drawing master at Rugby School. Along with Ruskin, Barnard had been a pupil of the landscape artist, J. D. Harding and was a prominent member of the Alpine Club, known for his Alpine scenes and views of Switzerland. In full: "I am glad of your letter, and that the drawings are secured for the [?]--which will take better care of them than any private proprietor could-- They are [?] [?] of old watercolor paints. --but have too much under work on them to be as interesting as rougher sketches. I hope you may have satisfaction in our arrangements of them." Light crease from mailing with neat paper reinforcement of crease on verso. Fine. (#021337) $1,500
38. SCHWARTZ, Delmore. TYPED LETTER SIGNED (TLS) to John Crowe Ransom. New York, 24 September 1938. Fine, single-spaced typed letter on one side of 8-1/2" x 11" sheet of paper to poet and teacher John Crowe Ransom SIGNED "Delmore Schwartz." In the same year that Schwartz's first book, IN DREAMS BEGIN RESPONSIBILITIES, is published, the 24-year-old author asks about the possibility of teaching at Kenyon College. Before he does so, he thanks Ransom for a letter and states, "I was delighted to hear from Allen Tate last spring that you were to edit a quarterly review (KENYON REVIEW, founded in 1939 by Ransom), which means I am sure that the number of magazines with a genuine interest in literature has been increased by one, and the grand sum is now two" (surely referring to THE PARTISAN REVIEW which published the title story of Schwartz's first book in its 1937 debut issue). He then lists possible essays and reviews he could submit to the new publication in the coming months but states, "I would prefer not to appear in your first number, even if I should be able to send you something suitable by the 1st of November." He describes the various pieces he has coming out that fall and does not wish to "seem to be anxious, eager, voluble, and in a hurry to state my opinions." Lightly toned. Near Fine. (#021323) SOLD
39. **STEINBECK, John.** *Typed Letter Signed (TLS)*. Los Gatos, n.d. [April 1939]. One-page *Typed Letter Signed* in full in ink to Mrs. Holman [Zena Holman, wife of Wilfred Rensselaer Holman of the historic Holman’s Department Store in Pacific Grove, CA], responding to her question about the release of THE GRAPES OF WRATH on 5 April 1939 after it was scheduled for release on the 14th by Viking. Evidently bookstores began selling them earlier, and she has written him directly to ask if she can. Steinbeck writes: "I don't know why they have these release dates which no one keeps anyway. Apparently this book is being sold all over the state. And if one store does it I can't see any reason for others not to." She must have also inquired about a pamphlet she saw in San Francisco. "Enclosed is probably the pamphlet you speak of. I did not know that it was being sold or anything about it except that a few were sent me by Viking. As to the one in San Francisco you speak of, I have never heard of it. It was a pleasure to talk to you the other day. Thank you for your courtesy and for your interest."

![Typed Letter Signed](image)

*John Steinbeck*

Los Gatos, April 1939

Dear Mrs. Holman:

Thank you for your kind letter of April fifth. I don't know why they have these release dates which no one keeps anyway. Apparently this book is being sold all over the state. And if one store does it I can't see any reason for others not to. Enclosed is probably the pamphlet you speak of. I did not know that it was being sold or anything about it except that a few were sent me by Viking. As to the one in San Francisco you speak of, I have never heard of it.

It was a pleasure to talk to you the other day. Thank you for your courtesy and for your interest.

Sincerely,

John Steinbeck

Los Gatos, Calif.

April 1939

![Envelope](image)

![Pamphlet](image)

*Enclosed is probably the pamphlet you speak of. I did not know that it was being sold or anything about it except that a few were sent me by Viking. As to the one in San Francisco you speak of, I have never heard of it. The pamphlet he sent—JOHN STEINBECK. PERSONAL AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES—by Lewis Gannett, published by Viking in 1939, 14 pages, is included here. With envelope. Creases from mailing, including the pamphlet with vertical crease. Near Fine. (#021373) $2,500*
Holmwood, November 14. A two-page AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED "A. C. Swinburne" on two adjoining 4-1/2" x 7" sheets to composer Theo Marzials. In large part: "I am afraid I did not answer your note yesterday, & today it rises on my sight like an avenging ghost. As a rule I find it necessary to leave such matters as the publishing of my songs with music wholly in the hands of the publishers, who have their own tariff fixed for the license; but of course I reserve my right to dispense with this in the case of friends, & was never more glad to make use of it than in yours." Marzials created a musical version of Swinburne's poem "Ask Nothing More of Me, Sweet," which became one of the most popular ballads of the 1880s. Creases from mailing. Near Fine. (#021434) $750
41. **TAYLOR, Bayard.** *Autograph Letter Signed (ALS).* One-page letter to a Mrs. Rutherford on a 5” x 7-7/8” sheet *SIGNED* in full by Taylor. In part: "I will look over my sketches, and if there is anything fit, will send it to-morrow. But my portfolio is nearly empty (having left everything at Cedarcroft) and I am not sure that I have any sketch which I can venture to let go into an artist's album." He goes on to express regret that he will not be able to accept her invitation as he has a lecture in Boston. Taylor was a successful poet and America’s first travel writer. Some creasing and wrinkling, a few words in blue pencil in another hand at the top, docketed on verso. Very Good. (#021376) $150
few weeks - say an autumn - but I’m not going to - and I don’t think it will be as much as last summer. I think 75° is probably not so much as the outside. I mean the dewy, windy, and that is some weather. I look forward to it. But it is not as hot as it was in the summer. It is a struggle to exercise. The worst is to keep awake and get rid of the malarial fever. Right now there are no more. Pus in the mouth. 000 for the moment there are no more. Pus is out at Borachs. And you ever know that basket which used to be though in the houses? Well, there is no more. I tried to get the malarial fever to do so. We had to go to the city, and it was at the last time for ten days, and for expenses and more. But now I must go that Major Fox is supposed to have returned to the American Library - or Schenectady?

Chris Blake telephoned - but did not at home. He is depressed. Elling - his friend of one of the English dachshunds. Thoroughly doing. "He's friend of one of the English dachshunds." Thoroughly doing. Class - when the English women put their self out to look Class. I draw the curtain and close my eyes.

Good luck to your work.

Always affectionately,

42. **TOKLAS, Alice B. AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS).**
Paris, 14 February 1947. Superb closely written four-page AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED composed 7 months after Gertrude Stein's death on an 8" x 10-1/2" sheet folded into fours to friend Tony Scott SIGNED "Alice Toklas." With the original envelope addressed in Toklas's hand. Fine letter to Scott while he was attending Pomona College in Claremont, California, studying creative writing. The initial part of the letter gives a critique of his short story "Jeffry - a love story" published in THE CRITERION magazine. In part: "I was waiting to receive THE CRITERION before answering your letter -- it has just come and I have read it. Well my feeling about Jeffry is a little mixed -- some of it is good and well once in a while it is a word that interferes -- sometimes unnecessary and other times wrong -- but you play between the reality and the dream very convincingly.... But what really appalls me is something called critical notes on 'Loss' -- Is it possible that such things are thought and said by men selected to help you write -- it is incredible -- their standard -- their point of view --- their general uneducatedness.... For God's sake Tony --- work out your own salvation -- don't let anyone tell you anything -- don't think you can't do it by yourself -- if the worst comes to the worst wait until you run up against someone who does know what literature is. I hope you are working hard all the time -- its all there is to do. Did Gertrude ever tell you: an artist does not need criticism -- he needs appreciation. It’s what she used to say -- When she was at Radcliffe -- which was at that time an annex to Harvard and so she had her experience of James -- and Munsterberg and Santyana and [?] -- well James Vaughan Moody was a teacher there and he corrected her daily themes. Gertrude said she owed him a good deal because he barely wrote anything -- a question mark here or there -- a word at the end of the paragraph -- but at the end of the theme -- a 'good' or 'better' or 'not as good.' She said it left her alone with her work -- with no audience. And that that was the only way." Toklas goes on to discuss various tributes to Stein and her opinion of them and concludes the letter with some gossip and news about her cats. Faint crease from mailing; envelope with stamp removed. Fine.

Anthony Scott was a playwright and novelist who visited Toklas and her partner Gertrude Stein on a regular basis when he was a G.I. in Paris. (#021408) $1,500
VERLAINE, Paul. AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS). Paris, 1 August 1895. One-page SIGNED handwritten letter in French on 4-1/2" x 6-3/4" sheet to an unnamed politician regarding placement of an article about his book in REVUE ENCYCLOPÉDIQUE. Roughly translated: "I received your check for 4 guineas today and I thank you. The article on your book is at the REVUE ENCYCLOPÉDIQUE, a very important magazine which comes out about the 15th. As soon as the magazine will be printed, I'll send it to you myself. Let me congratulate you on your electoral victory although I take hardly any interest in politics." Matted and framed along with a reproduced image of Georges Rouault’s portrait of Verlaine. Associated with the Symbolist and Decadent movements, Verlaine's poetry was admired and recognized as ground-breaking, serving as a source of inspiration to composers including Gabriel Fauré and Claude Debussy. He died in 1896 at the age of 51 after being ravaged by drug dependence and alcoholism. About Fine and a handsome presentation. (#021413) $1,500
Dear Mr. Quitzan,

Thanks for the spontaneous poem and for all the compliments.

Your poems are clear but often have too many articles & prepositions. Spelled out dialect (gothic, "'coz") makes me nervous, as do the Black Mountain College 'sd.', wh/ & the like. (I know you don't write wh/ in any of those, I hope that you won't in the future.) Sounds jammimg awkwardly ("smooth/six sand") unintentional alliteration are worrisome. Cut the cliches: "famous brew", "busy corner", "energies harnessed", "tunnel vision" etc. The words that we put there ought to WORK; the ones that don't work ought to be cut out. I don't mean 'Too many notes, Mr Mozart' we need all the words we can get but they can't just lie there, gently fanning themselves.

Don't you know Ken Blashfield at the Living Dutch bookstore on Cornell St. just off Central Avenue in Albuquerque? He usually has my books. The poet Larry Goodell works there, you could show him your stuff & sound him out about the idea of your

Philip Whalen was one of the six readers at the first important public manifestation of the Beat Generation, the Six Gallery reading, also featuring Jack Kerouac, Philip Lamantia, Gary Snyder, Michael McClure, and Allen Ginsberg, who famously read HOWL in public for the first time. In 1973 Whalen became a Buddhist monk. (#021431)
45. **WHITTIER, John Greenleaf. AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS).** Amesbury, 3 June 1851. One-page on an 8-1/4" x 10-1/2" sheet of blue paper with a fine, large **SIGNATURE** to publisher James Fields. In full: "My dear Fields, My friend Dr. Baily writes me that William D. Gallagher of Cincinnati is about to publish a volume of poetry, & wishes me to ascertain if you hence could publish it & upon what terms. Thou knows his reputation & standing as a writer --at the least he is the most popular [?] of the Trans-Alleghany authors. I ought to have written thee before about it, but I was hoping to see thee. A thousand thanks for Wordsworth[?]. Am glad to hear that [?] is about to appear in yr [?]. He is full of promise. Drop me a line as soon as possible or convenient about Gallagher: & let me know what is to be the theme of thy Phi Beta Kappa poem." Backed with old paper, wrinkling. Very Good. (#021383) **SOLD**
Dear Mrs. Mitchell:

Your letter made me very proud and happy. It reached me when I was in bed following an operation for appendicitis. I know I thought out an answer to you; perhaps I even wrote it; if so, this is none the less sincere for being a duplicate.

I had myself received from "Cloud Cuckoo Land" the very sense of reality in the past that tells me you have found in "The Bridge". Only all the duties of being a house-master in a boys' school have prevented my reviewing it with "When the Bough Breaks".

For the bridge I started from "Le Carré de Saint-Sacrement", a perfectly delightful comedy in one act by Mériadec.
WILDER, Thornton. AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED (ALS) on the Inspirations for THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY. Lawrenceville, NJ, 24 December 1927. Superb early AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED in full to novelist Naomi Mitchison on both sides of his 5-7/8" x 6-7/8" personal stationery. Wilder writes concerning his recently published Pulitzer Prize-winning novel THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY. In part: "Your letter made me very proud and happy. It reached me when I was in bed following an operation for appendicitis…. I had myself received from 'Cloud Cuckoo Land' the very sense of reality in the past that you tell me you have found in the 'The Bridge.' Only all the duties of being a house master in a boy's school have prevented my renewing it with 'When the bough breaks.' For 'The Bridge' I started from 'Le Carrosse du Saint-Sacrement,' a perfectly delightful comedy in one act by Merimee. I looked at the drawings for the Moscow Art Theatre Musical Studio's production of the Offenbach operetta 'La Perichole.' Then I started to read some early priests' accounts of the country but grew tired … and invented the rest." Wilder then mentions other influences including Santa Teresa d'Avila, his sister Janet, and his twin brother who "died at several hours of age." He mentions how proud he is that so "immediate and splendid an author as yourself should have written me all the way from England." Naomi Mitchison (1897–1999), Scottish novelist and poet, authored over 90 largely historical and science fiction works. Excellent content regarding his inspiration for his best-known novel. Creases from folding, otherwise Fine. (#021358)
47. **WILDER, Thornton. AUTOGRAPH LETTERS SIGNED (ALSs).** Hamden, CT, 1930 & 1935. Two early AUTOGRAPH LETTERS SIGNED to Henzie Browne, wife of British theater director E. Martin Browne on 5 pages, 5-3/4" x 8-1/2" and 6" x 8", dated 20 June 1930 and 11 June 1935. The earlier letter, in full: "Indeed I am very happy that you did write me your generous and encouraging letter. And I’m very glad that you were not disappointed in the book at that particular time: I’ve taken potluck at ship’s libraries many times and only once had a real deck-chair treat = Thomas Mann’s BUDDENBROOKS. I shall think of you two often again this summer, for I shall be at Peterboro from July 10 - Aug 10. Trying to write some plays. I hope some summer we can all meet again (with Christopher too) on that hill. Please give my regards to Mr. Brown and again accept my sincere thanks. Sincerely yours Thornton Wilder." In the second letter, Wilder comments on T. S. Eliot’s plays and the impoverishment of commercial theatre. In full: "Indeed I remember you very well, and it was a great pleasure to receive your generous word about my book. It was a pleasure to know also that you have so large a part in a venture of such importance as the production of Mr. Eliot’s plays. I should like to think that those plays will some day be seen to have had a large part in the renaissance of a theatre with real subject-matter. The commercial theatre grows more and more impoverished in vitality and it is just such works as Mr. Eliot’s and yours that may save it. Please give my regards to Mr. Browne, and accept my thanks again for the kind impulse that led you to write me. Sincerely yours Thornton Wilder." E. Martin Browne collaborated for many years with Eliot first producing many of his plays, including MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL. Creases, otherwise Fine. (#021357) $1,250
48. **WILLIAMS, Tennessee.** _Typed Letter Signed (TLS)._ One-page letter SIGNED "Tom" on 8-1/2" x 11" onionskin to his cousin Jim. In full: "A well-deserved feeling of shame has made me hesitant about asking you if you'd be willing to occupy the house when I set forth on my long journey to the Orient, by way of Texas and such diverse stops as New York and London. Tony Smith's widow, Jane, and her daughter Bebe will be staying here till about Jan. 17th but after that time we have as yet found no one to move in after they leave and I can't bring myself to give the creatures away, or put them in a kennel. As you know, they include Topaze, Cornelius, and a very funny new parrot, Juanita -- the old one Lorito has departed for the great aviary in the sky. If you or Stell -- I mean and/or Stell -- can't take over, perhaps you know of some truly responsible person that could. Do you know the new telephone number here? It is 4-1430. Since we're leaving this Thursday for Texas -- I am entering a hospital briefly under Texas Kate's supervision -- do please drop by or call to discuss all this.

Love,

[Signature]

Some wrinkling and creases from mailing. Very Good. (#021391)

$900
perhaps a little / shrivelled at the top but that / aside, perfect / in every detail, / lovely
as yet what a / deep and suffusing brown / mantle that / unspoiled surface! No one / has moved you / since I placed you on the porch / roll a month ago / to ripen. No one. No one!

Dr. W. J. Williams
9 Ridge Road
Rutherford, N.J.

Perfection:

O lovely apple!
beautifully and completely
rotten,
hardly a contour marred.

perhaps a little
shrivelled at the top but that
aside perfect
in every detail, o lovely

as yet what a
depth and suffusing brown
mantle that
unspoiled surface! No one

has moved you
since I placed you on the porch
roll a month ago
to ripen. No one. No one!

William Carlos

With a two-page cover letter to the editor of FANTASY, Stanley Mayer, on both sides of the poet’s 6” x 7” letterhead. In full: "Dear Mayer: Here's this. Hope it can be of use to you. I'm hard at work at 2nd vol WHITE MULE and so have time for little else -- save my practice of medicine. Yours, Williams. If you use it please send copy of issue in which it appears. Many thanks. W." Faint folds from mailing; small hole in upper right margin of manuscript. About Fine. (#021435)
Dear Mr. Ransom:

I am writing you because of a note I just received from the people in charge of the Annual anthology, MOUNTAIN MOUNTAIN POETRY AWARDS, directed at Occidental College in Los Angeles. It seems they want to reprint my poem, "Robert's Secret in My Hands," which appeared in the Kenyon Review, Winter, 1953. Permission had to be granted by May 1, and, since there was so little time left before that date, I sent them an acknowledgment. I did this without precisely knowing whether or not such a reprinting will cause any difficulty of the copyright for the poem, which presumably holds the Kenyon Review. I assumed that you would have no objection to their using the poem. However, I don't know anything about the copyright policy of the Kenyon Review, and I thought it best to let you know at once. If there is any objection to the reprinting, I wish I could hear from you about it.

The work here is going well. The graduate school is genuinely interesting, and I confess, much more engaging than I ever thought graduate school would be. I have more or less struck up an acquaintance with Prof. Robert Hallman, the executive officer of the English Department, and he is certainly one of the most wonderful men in the region. Furthermore, I am now taking a course in modern criticism from Prof. Jackson Matthews the translator of Valery; and his course is illuminating. You will be glad to hear that Mr. Roethke is apparently over the worst of his illness, and is teaching again. He is as brilliant and stimulating as ever. It is a curious experience to work in his class. He knows, mysteriously perhaps, a thousand practical ways of conveying to students the necessity for formal mastery in poetry. He is capable of taking fantastic pains with a single small exercise; and his exercises, even the small ones, are always difficult and engaging. Finally, I think he is the best reader of poetry I have ever heard, with the exception of Dylan Thomas.

Best regards from everybody. My son is a charmer, and I wish you could see him.

Sincerely,

Jim Wright

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50. WRIGHT, James. TYPED LETTER SIGNED (TLS) to John Crowe Ransom Praising Theodore Roethke. Seattle, 24 April 1954. Fine, single-spaced letter on one side of an 8-1/2" x 11" sheet to poet and teacher John Crowe Ransom SIGNED "Jim Wright" about permission to reprint a poem first published in THE KENYON REVIEW. Wright, 26 at the time, was a former student of Ransom's at Kenyon College and here talks about how engaging graduate school (the University of Washington) is. "You will be glad to hear that Mr. Roethke is apparently over the worst of his illness, and is teaching again. He is as brilliant and stimulating as ever. It is a curious experience to work in his class. He knows, mysteriously perhaps, a thousand practical ways of conveying to students the necessity for formal mastery in poetry. He is capable of taking fantastic pains with a single small exercise; and his exercises, even the small ones, are always difficult and engaging. Finally, I think he is the best reader of poetry I have ever heard, with the exception of Dylan Thomas." Pencil notation by Ransom. About Fine. (#021336) $1,000