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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.

Autograph Letter Signed, 2 pp on one folded 8vo stationery sheet, Konigsberg, Feb. 17, 1854.

Aldridge introduces his correspondent to a potential actor: “I take the liberty of introducing to your notice Herr Lindon a popular Artiste on the German stage. In talent he ranks first flag and deservedly so; in appearance equally suited to the line of characters he personates which are the same as those throughout represented by Mr. Emil Devisent[?]. If it is your intention to introduce the ensuing season a German troupe to the London Public, I take the liberty of strongly recommending this gentleman... to your aristocratic theatre...” He signs, “Ira Aldridge.” To the left, “John Mitchell, Esq.” has also signed. Attached to the third and free page is a paper receipt to Herr Evan Lee of Amsterdam signed by Aldridge in the lower left corner, “Ira Aldridge, Francoi.” Included with a paper visiting card of Mitchell, “Theatre Royal St. James, London...” It would appear that a prior owner incorporated these two items into the letter: The letter is readable though the ink had faded, otherwise in good condition.

Aldridge is honored with a bronze plaque at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon. He was especially popular in Prussia and Russia. In 1852, Aldridge left England and began his first tour of the Continent returning to London in the spring of 1855. He wrote this letter during this first tour. Letters of Aldridge are rare.

$3500. ID#2540
BLAINE, NELL

Lengthy Autograph Letter Signed, 5 pp on 3 sheets of personalized printed stationery, 4to, New York City, March 26, 1972.

She discusses publication of remarks involving other artists, including Hans Hofmann, Larry Rivers, and Robert de Niro, Sr. “I will give my permission to let you publish remarks of mine if you will send me a Zerox [sic] before publication of the parts quoted, so I can make sure its [sic] OK...I've been misquoted in the past and I like to avoid it if possible...Now, about all the material I have. I can't let the old & fragile Hofmann notes out of my hands...” She describes the notes and continues. “If you send me a ck[sic] for this I can have my assistant go to our local store & get zerosxs [sic]...I don't know what to do about the Hofmann student's copied lectures...As Larry Rivers studied with Hofmann so much later than myself – I think you shd [sic] write him...” She gives Rivers' address in Southampton, NY. “He's not much of a letter writer but the appeal of publicity might move him to answer! He studied in 1948 or 9 with Hofmann...I was in P'town that summer & saw a lot of Larry...” She mentions and then suggests her correspondent should write other artists including Wolf Kahn, Peter Kahn, Bob de Niro [the actor's father], Howard Fussiner, Felix Paselis. She comments, “Robert de Niro...is at Westbeth & can write you I'm sure...He's an old friend of mine...” She then continues discussing Hans Hofmann. “Was H. H. a good listener? His hearing was so poor – I can't answer that too well...he knew so much without words about the students. He was such a shrewd judge...most students were like me, extremely appreciative – the criticisms I heard articulated were: ‘too mystical’ unclear language—& difficult to understand...placed emphasis on a system...too analytical...I don't think these people were attentive enough, smart enough or talented enough or dedicated enough... Of course, Hofmann's influence reached beyond his students...his ideas were widespread... Also, as H. was a very prolific painter & many students - the rich ladies collected his work - began in the late 30's and 40's to have an influence too...about my scholarship with H.H. This sort of thing was very quiet and sort of personal. It was known around that if H. liked you and you were poor that he wd [sic] let you work as a monitor (one to a class, tho!) You worked, as I said before. I believe the tuition payment was then very small...” In this letter, she answers her correspondent's questions and ends by offering to reply to additional questions. She signs, “Nell Blaine.” A long, informative and generous letter.

(Blaine studied with the artists Hans Hofmann and Stanley William Hayter. She was a founding member of the Jane Street Gallery in New York City, an early artists’ cooperative, and had her first solo show there in 1945. Her trip to Paris with Larry Rivers in 1950, significantly influenced the development of her bright painting style for which she is recognized.)

$1175. ID#2541
CAGNEY, JAMES

(1899–1986). Academy Award-winning American film actor who won acclaim for a wide variety of roles, including the career-launching “The Public Enemy” and won the Oscar for Best Actor in 1942 for his role in “Yankee Doodle Dandy”.

Typed Letter Signed, 4to, Verney Farm, Stanfordville, NY, Nov. 29, 1975.

Referring to his dancing, Cagney writes, “Dear Joe, It is very gratifying to know that you have the interest and zest to continue laboring in the scholastic vineyards. I get letters from old friends, with whom I played ball and ran against in track meets...One old friend...is seventy-eight years old and is still running. His wife asked him to quit, but he said he could not if he wanted to. The habit was too strong upon him. I guess the habits formed earlier are not to be denied. I still ‘hoof’ more or less regularly, just to try to keep in some kind of shape. That too is a habit formed early...” The enduringly popular actor signs, “Jim Cagney.”

$255. ID#2537
CAMERON, JULIA MARGARET (1815–79). British portrait photographer, known for her portraits of luminaries of her day.


Written before she began her historic career as a portrait photographer, Cameron penned this personal letter in her open hand writing which caused her to finish at the top of the first page in a tighter hand. In part, “I did not forget abt. [?] jour de fete & your disappt. when you could in no way keep it either by your present- or that far better thing your presence…I could only think of Sandwich box brandy flask! but ..you meant Ladies companion—a species of riches every girl is ambitious to have & to hold. They used to be in boxy shapes [she illustrates the shape] but this is very old fashioned & I got some modern ones of year 53 on approval. You can keep any one or return all three by agreement. The little one only 6/6 is I think is as pretty as any & cheap which considering our number of birthdays is not only a virtue but a necessity...” Her handwriting tightens as she gets to the end of the last page and continues on the first page. “which was about 6 months ago he said he would first consult me before negotiation with any one abt. his house...” She signs, “Julia Cameron.” Her correspondent replies on a free portion of the upper margin of page 4 with date, “Sept. 24, 53, Mrs. Cameron, ans! that Doto[?] will pay 14/.”

For its recent exhibition of Cameron's photographs, The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York described her as, “One of the greatest portraitists in the history of photography, who blended an unorthodox technique, a deeply spiritual sensibility, and a Pre-Raphaelite-inflected aesthetic to create a gallery of vivid portraits and a mirror of the Victorian soul.” “Ladies Companion” most likely refers to the “Ladies Companion and Monthly Magazine.” To illustrate its shape, Cameron seems to have drawn a rectangle to show the magazine lying on a flat surface, then scratched over it lightly and drew it again to show it in an upright position. The illustration is small. Her letters are rarely available.

$2300. ID#2538
CHANDLER, RAYMOND THORTON

(1888–1959). Author of crime stories and novels of immense stylistic influence upon modern crime fiction, especially in the style of the writing and the attitudes now characteristic of the genre. His protagonist Philip Marlowe is synonymous with “private detective”, along with Dashell Hammett’s “Sam Spade”.


This letter contract made out for Raymond Chandler states, “Please take notice that your employment agreement with the undersigned corporation dated November 16, 1943, will terminate on February 26, 1944, at the end of said day.” Signed by two executives at Paramount Pictures Inc. and accepted: “Raymond Chandler.” Several punch holes from staples in upper left corner.

Chandler spent nine months at Paramount working with director Billy Wilder on the screenplay of James M. Cain’s novel, Double Indemnity.

$2200. ID#573
Typed Letter Signed, on his blue personal printed address stationery, 4to, La Jolla, CA, “Sep” 7, 1956.

Chandler writes to fellow mystery writer William Gault. “Just a short snort to thank you very very much for the inscribed copy of Ring Around Rosa...I know that some people are paid for quote, because my agent once called me from New York and asked me if I should like to do some and make a little easy dough...As for Mickey Spillane, I have no opinion on any point because I never got beyond page 4 in any book of his I tried to read. The same, I might say, goes for Agatha Christie and several others of the Sacred Sisterhood of Ladylike English mystery writers. I am feeling rather disgusted with life at the moment. One of my girl friends just got herself married to a lunkhead whom I found quite repulsive, and I’m afraid the poor girl has made a mistake. She is a Texas girl, a mystery writer...I guess she is just damn well fed up with living alone. So am I. If there is anything in life I hate it is going out to dinner alone. I could cook it, but that would be worse...I feel like chucking the whole thing and going back to England and become a resident and pay their bloody taxes...Also my secretary has abandoned me for school teaching, a pretty sensible idea on her part...In London I had a hell of a good secretary...She had more brains in one finger than most girls in that line have in both legs....” He signs, “Yours despondently, Ray.” [Partially printed in Selected Letters 1981 and 2000 editions.]

William Campbell Gault (1910–95) was an American writer perhaps best remembered for his sports fiction but also known for his crime stories. Chandler refers to Gault’s crime novel, Ring Around Rosa (1955) which introduced Gault’s series private detective Brock ‘the Rock’ Callahan. Chandler also comments on the books of fellow crime story writer, Frank Morrison Spillane, known as Mickey Spillane (1918–2006) who created the popular detective, Mike Hammer.

$4750. ID#2536

“AS FOR MICKEY SPILLANE... I NEVER GOT BEYOND PAGE 4 IN ANY BOOK OF HIS”
(1791–1883). American inventor, industrialist and philanthropist who founded the college, Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, in New York City, which offered full scholarships to all of its students until 2014.

**Manuscript Letter Signed, 4to, New York, January 12, n.y. but ca 1846.**

The letter to Abiel Abbot Low (1811–93) President of the New York Chamber of Commerce, 1846, requests “that a special meeting of the chamber be called on Saturday the 16th...to take action in respect of the Police of this city...” Cooper signs in full as the fifth signature, “Peter Cooper.” With CDV photograph affixed to a board. Sunning around the margins and remnants of tape on verso, both from having been framed.

$325. ID#2545
Eisenhower (1890–1969) Thirty-fourth President of the United States (1953–61). During the Second World War he served as Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe, with responsibility for planning and supervising the successful invasion of France and Germany in 1944–45. After the war, he served as president of Columbia University, and in 1951, he became the first supreme commander of NATO. Bourke-White (1904–71). American photographer, pioneer of the photo essay and photojournalism. As a photographer for Life Magazine, she was the first female photographer to serve with the US armed forces covering World War II.

Original Photograph, unsigned, Rutgers University, New Jersey, 1950 (as docketed on verso).

The black and white glossy candid photograph by The News captures Eisenhower, when he was President of Columbia University, and Bourke-White on the day they each received honorary degrees from Rutgers, the future U. S. President for Doctor of Laws, and the World War II photographer for Doctor of Letters. The image is copyrighted by The News. The photograph is in good condition.

$225. ID#2551
FEDERN, PAUL

(1871–1950). Austrian psychologist, early follower of Freud, member of his Vienna Society and eventually its vice president until he left Vienna for the United States in 1938.

Autograph Note on verso of Signed Photograph, small 12mo, in German, n.p., n.d.

Under the small head shot, Federn signs, “Dr. Paul Federn,” and writes an explanatory note on the back of the photo regarding the photograph. “Please have two photos of this exact size made for each one of you. The ones here are so blurry. Full [face], lower margin...” Uncommon.

$700. ID#2535
HAMMETT, SAMUEL DASHIELL

(1894–1961). American author of hardboiled detective novels and short stories. Among the enduring characters he created are Sam Spade (The Maltese Falcon) and Nick and Nora Charles (The Thin Man).

Typed Letter Signed, 4to, Aleutian Islands, Feb. 19, 1944

Hammett writes to Army buddy “Gottlieb…your go sounds like a good one, but I don’t think I’d trade places with you. All the good goes aren’t in the States. For instance, I’m now running a post daily newspaper and make my own hours, which means I usually choose to work at night, and we have an eleven p.m. mess for night workers. And then again it’s more than six months since I have (1) answered a rollcall...(2) been in a formation...(3) taken a step as in marching of any kind, (4) tied a necktie around my neck, (5) shined a shoe, (6) had anything inspected, (7) had a crease in any of my clothes, (8) had to bother about whether I was in uniform—we wear whatever we like...(9) paid more than a nickel for a pack of cigarettes, (10) had to look at anybody policing an area, (11) had a lights-out time, (12) had to make a bed...(13) had to bother about how my clothes were hung or what was piled on my shelf or on the floor around my bed, (14)—but that ought to be enough to give you the idea. We salute and we do our work and that’s about all the Army asks of us. The eating and drinking situation has eased up for me, but it would be pretty fine if we could have those evening assemblies of ours again...Oh, well, we’ll probably get together again during our training period for the next war. My antique frame has held up pretty well so far—I guess I’m going to last the war out....” He signs in pencil, “Hammett.” With typed envelope. The letter offers insight into Hammett’s army life. He enlisted after Pearl Harbor and after the US Government dropped age requirements for enlistees.

Hammett was a veteran of World War I where he contracted Spanish flu and tuberculosis. He subsequently pulled strings in order to join up during World War II after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Hammett spent most of the war in the Aleutian Islands, where he edited a popular Army newspaper The Adakian, from 1944 to 1945.

$2750. ID#2539

“I’M NOW RUNNING A POST DAILY NEWSPAPER AND MAKE MY OWN HOURS”
HERZL, THEODOR

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

Autograph Note Signed, in German, 8vo, Frankenstrasse 9, Feb. 3, 1904.

He requests of Mr. Secretary Reich to “Please bring Mr. Kohn 10 Kroner and give it to him.” Signed, “Herzl.” Two punch holes and tears along left margin not affecting the text or signature. On verso is a note written by someone else with the same date.

$2200. ID#357
Ing & William Motter; Platt Lynes, George


Signed Photograph of Ing by Platt Lynes, 71/2 x 9 inches,

Ing is shown almost full length, casually leaning on a wall with clouds appearing partially behind him and lighting his face. Next to his face on the light background, Ing signs, “Regards, William Inge.” The photograph shows Platt Lynes stamp on verso, with pencil docketing indicating Ing as author of Come Back Little Sheba. Minor wear at lower right on edge. Signature in light blue ink.

$1250. ID#2546
JACOBI, LOTTE [JOHANNA ALEXANDRA]


Signed Photograph of Lauritz Melchior by Jacobi and Autograph Letter Signed, in German, by Jacobi, on verso, 12mo, n.p., n.d.

Dressed formally, including medals, the opera tenor is shown three-quarter length. To the right the photographer has signed, “Lotte Jacobi.” Melchior’s name penned as “Laurentz Melchior” under the image. Her letter reads in part, “What happened to the trip to the USA…If you want a Jacobi-photo instead of sending such a wild ‘enterprise…’” Along the side she signs, “Lotte.”

$500. ID#2549
KENT, ROCKWELL


Kent writes to an English professor referring to books of verses he illustrated. “With the exception of The Hunting of the Snark, the Bab Ballads, and such things which I have over and over again thoroughly enjoyed, I must say that ‘enjoyment’ is not the term for the deep emotion...that greater poetry has roused in me, I am not telling you what poems I have enjoyed, but what poems have most moved me....” He continues to reply to his correspondent’s request to suggest a poem for a book. “…there is little sense in mentioning The Odyssey, or even The Ancient Mariner,...his final words to the Wedding Guest, beginning, ‘Farewell, farewell, But this I tell....’and continuing to the end. These last stanzas, following all the poem that has preceded, are to me a deeply moving and convincing a creed for living as I know....” He signs above the typed name, “Rockwell Kent.” Fine insight into Kent’s literary tastes. Paper clip rust stain on verso shows slightly on upper left margin.

Though Kent is better associated with his illustrations for Melville’s Moby Dick and Voltaire’s Candide, his correspondent has apparently made an intriguing request of the artist that he consider his illustrations for Bab Ballads by W. S. Gilbert, and Lewis Carroll’s Hunting the Snark.

$825. ID#2529
KERTESZ, ANDRE


He replies to a teacher’s letter. “I was pleased to learn from your letter that the art of photography was well received by your young students and to their question whether a photographer can be made or is he born, my answer would be that, as in every aspect of life, everybody can learn anything to perfection, however, a piece of art, which is ‘lastingly important’ can be made only by those, who see things the way which is different from the others’....” His correspondent asked for a signed original print to which Kertesz answers, “in my opinion that would not mean too much if your class is really interested in photo. Please accept instead a copy of my book, it contains a variety of moments which I felt worthy to catch—I think in this way more of your students can have the choice to find which to like and enjoy.” He signs above his typed name, “A. Kertesz.” Docketed in the lower left is the title of his short volume of photographs, On Reading, published in 1971. The images capture how people read around the world.

The year Kertesz wrote this letter, 1979, was an important one for the publication of his photographic works. Americana, Birds, Landscapes and Portraits, were published in New York by Mayflower Books Inc.

$625 ID#2543
KERTESZ, ANDRE; DOLIN, ANTON


The 8 x 10 inch image features Dolin dressed “in ‘Giselle’ costume” as noted on verso. The photograph is stamped by the photographer, “Andre Kertesz” with address, and near a corner, stamped, “Ballet Theatre Anton Dolin.” Also on verso, and in addition to his role being identified, Dolin’s name is added in ink in the lower right corner. A bend in one corner and slight breakage to the tip of the opposite corner, slight cracking along the edges and a break on the right margin about one 1/2 inch in from the edge. None of the photograph’s wear affects the central image of Dolin.

$1500. ID#2550


He answers questions posed by his correspondent. “I. My ‘debut’ into science was easy in the sense that it was my prime interest from an early age. It was difficult only in the sense that it required absolute persistence. 2. My early work was financed through a small private income; several years elapsed before my activity was self-supporting. 3. The two accomplishments which seem to me most worthwhile are 1) learning to make a synthetic polarizer for light and 2) working out the new photographic process and camera to go with it which together give pictures directly from the camera....” He signs, “Edwin H. Land.” Docketed in lower left margin is his name and the letter’s date. Framed in beige mat and walnut toned frame with beaded trim.

During the 1950s, Land collaborated with others to develop faster versions of black-and-white films, positive-negative and high-contrast films for professional use, and transparencies. Letters of Land are scarce.

$1400. ID# 2322
LIBERACE [WŁADZIU VALENTINO LIBERACE]

(1919–87). American pianist and entertainer, particularly popular in the 1950s to the 1970s.

**Original Drawing Signed, on post card size sheet, n.p., n.d.**

With pen and ink, Liberace has drawn a sketch of his iconic grand piano with candelabra. Above the drawing he writes, “For...from Liberace.” The long swirling “L” crosses the candelabra twice perhaps to emphasize it. A wonderful image.

$275. ID#2552
MANSFIELD, JAYNE


Typed Letter Signed, on her personalized address stationery in her trademark pink color, 4to, March 14, 1962.

Mansfield thanks her correspondent for his kind words about her: “Just a note to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for the warm and factual item in your column of February 12. This is one incident that I regret the publicity involved. Many times I have garnered publicity for myself—many people in this industry have—but never...have I ever caused anyone worry or heartache because of it. There were times during that awful night when I just knew that I would never see my family or children again...In any event, you know me probably better than most of the people who wrote about the accident...” She signs in a bold hand, “Jayne.” In the upper left corner, her name is circled in red grease pencil and “File “is written in the center of the circle.

The letter is written at the time she was loosing her popularity in Hollywood, though she continued to attract large crowds in foreign countries and in lucrative and successful nightclub tours. Knows at the “Blond Bombshell,” Mansfield’s letters are both scarce and desirable due in part to her untimely death.

$700. ID#2544

Signed Photograph of Porter by Platt Lynes, 7 x 9 inches, sepia toned, inscribed in 1939, with photographer’s stamp on verso with notation.

This beautiful image of Porter shows her in evening gown seated in profile with a bouquet in lower left foreground. She is posed next to the floral arrangement looking contemplatively towards the right. She signs in a free area of the upper right corner, “For…From Katherine Anne, Sprint 1939.” “George Platt Lynes” with address is stamped on verso with docketing below in pencil indicating the photograph is that of Porter. An elegant image.

$1800. ID#2547
STIEGLITZ, ALFRED

(1864–1946). American photographer and modern art promoter who was instrumental over his fifty-year career in making photography an accepted art form. In addition to his photography, Stieglitz is best known for the New York art galleries that he ran in the early part of the 20th century, where he introduced many avant-garde European artists to the U.S. He was married for most of his life to painter Georgia O’Keeffe.


“It’s good to hear from you. To know you bursting with energy—the spirit of life. Good to know you are writing and good to know the child is mending and that you have more time for yourself. I feel as utterly useless even though I am on the mend. Is slow work...How stupid for me to have collapsed. When you happen in town...it could be arranged for you to see me....” Signed, “Your old Stieglitz.”

Stieglitz likely refers to the heart attack he suffered in early 1938.

$675. ID#1572

“IT’S GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU. TO KNOW YOU BURSTING WITH ENERGY—THE SPIRIT OF LIFE. GOOD TO KNOW YOU ARE WRITING AND GOOD TO KNOW THE CHILD IS MENDING AND THAT YOU HAVE MORE TIME FOR YOURSELF. I FEEL AS UTTERLY USELESS EVEN THOUGH I AM ON THE MEND. IT’S SLOW WORK...HOW STUPID FOR ME TO HAVE COLLESTED...WHEN YOU HAPPEN IN TOWN...IT COULD BE ARRANGED FOR YOU TO SEE ME...I’M NOT MIND...”

Your old

Stieglitz
(1770–1850). English Romantic poet. In 1813, he moved to Rydal Mount, in the Lake District and lived in Grasmere the rest of his life.

**Autograph Quotation Signed on first page of folded 8vo stationery, Rydal Mount, Feb. 2, 1850.**

Wordsworth writes the last two lines of his *Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood*. The lines written here are somewhat altered from those published. “For me the humblest flower that blooms can give/Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.” He writes the lines, then signs in a shaky hand, “William Wordsworth.” He then writes, “Written for his dear Friend Hannah Cookson.” The text is written in the center of the sheet and has likely been framed as this center section shows the results of sunning. Slight tape stains in upper corners. Otherwise fine.

$2900. ID#2548
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